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The Newsletter of The Honors College at the University of Houston

Vol. 25 No. 1

## Ted Estess Steps Down as Dean

*In The Human Situation*, the signature course for the University of Houston's Honors College, students learn that one of life's constants is change.

A very real example of that lesson comes with Ted Estess' announcement that he will step down as dean after leading The Honors College—and before that, the Honors Program—for more than three decades.

"I've been doing it so long, some of my colleagues are calling this an abdication," he said, jokingly.

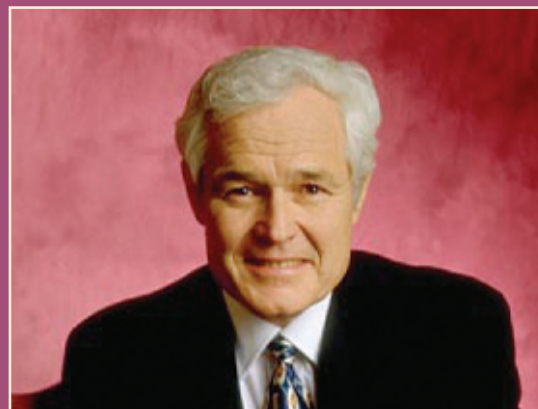
Estess took the reins in 1977 and will officially conclude "the best job on campus," as he calls it, this summer. "I'm not doing this because I'm disappointed or discouraged or even tired. I just have a strong sense that it is time for a change," he explained.

Estess will remain on The Honors College faculty as a Professor of English and holder of the Jane Morin Cizik Chair. A search advisory committee will be named shortly and a national search will get under way for his successor this spring. Provost Don Foss has applauded Estess' development of the university's "outstanding honors community" into "one of the premier such organizations in the country."

Since hearing of his transition, many persons have written to express their gratitude for the leadership that Dean Estess has given to the College over the years. One graduate wrote, "I know that I am not alone in my gratitude for the education that the College allowed me to receive many years ago."

*Story continued on page 8*

## Dean Estess Returns to Faculty



*Top picture: Dean Ted Estess; Bottom picture: Dean Ted Estess with wife Dr. Sybil Pittman Estess at the Great Conversation, 2007.*

## Public Square & Honors Announcements

### PUBLIC SQUARE

**Michael Chabon:** Pulitzer Prize recipient lectured in the Honors Commons on September 10th. Chabon is the author of well-known novels such as *The Wonder Boys* and *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*.

**Julie Andersen:** Wellcome Trust Research Associate at the University of Manchester lectured on the life span of persons with disabilities for the Medicine and Society Program in the Estess Library on October 3rd.

**Richard Powers:** Best-selling author and recipient of a MacArthur Foundation “genius” fellowship visited The Honors College on October 15th. *Operation Wandering Soul*, *Gain*, *Plowing the Dark*, and most recently, *The Echo Maker*, are some of his best known works.

**Joseph Gaines:** Tenor performer and Honors alumnus performed a recital in the Honors Commons on October 16th.



Joseph Gaines and his accompanist, Robert Brewer

**Dominique Barthélemy:** Professor of History at the Sorbonne in Paris presented a lecture entitled “The Origins of French Chivalry” on October 29th in the Rockwell Pavilion.

**Robert Jensen:** Associate Professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas lectured on media and the Middle East in The Honors College on November 7th.

**Elizabeth Alexander:** The poet, essayist, playwright, and professor of African-American studies at Yale University lectured on the art of writing on November 12th. Ms. Alexander is a winner of the Jackson Poetry Prize from Poets & Writers.

### HONORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New President at UH:** On November 5th, Renu Khator was appointed President of the University of Houston and Chancellor of the UH System. For more information on Dr. Khator, please visit [www.uh.edu](http://www.uh.edu).

**The Department of Energy:** The DOE selected the University of Houston-led Lone Star Wind Alliance as a partner in the development of one of the nation’s first facilities for developing and testing large-scale wind turbine blades to be utilized for offshore wind power generation.

**Andrew Curry:** We bid Andrew Curry good bye and good luck as he heads to Buffalo, New York. Andrew served as coordinator of academic services in The Honors College for 8 years, and will be missed by all.

**Elizabeth Shephard:** Another farewell goes to Elizabeth as she begins a new position with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at UH. Elizabeth was an admissions assistant for the college for 5 years.

**Sue Collins:** Dr. Collins received a \$15,000 grant in support of a new program in Politics and Ethics. For more information, see page 16.

#### Babies, babies, babies!!!

Congratulations to **Brenda Rhoden**, Coordinator of Constituent Relations in the College, and her husband Coby on the birth of their son, George Colten Rhoden, III, who arrived on November 8th. Also congratulations to **Jamie Ferguson**, Honors faculty member in English, and his wife Kinga on the birth of their son, Jacob Harmon Ferguson, who was born on August 29th.



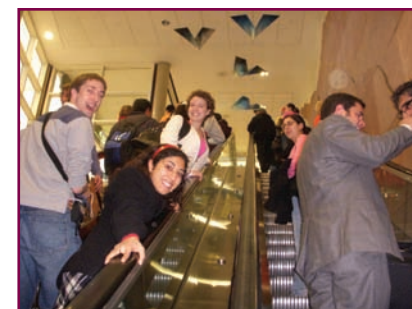
Coby and Brenda Rhoden with their new baby, George Colten Rhoden, III

## Honors in the Mile-High City

*In October*, Honors administrators, faculty, and students from across the U.S. gathered in Denver to participate in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s 42nd conference. This annual conference offers attendees the opportunity to learn about Honors at other institutions, exchange ideas, and network. For the 10 student delegates from The Honors College, the conference was four days of non-stop learning and excitement. Having spent months in preparation, our students presented on topics essential to the Honors experience. One presentation discussed the importance of the Human Situation course in building community not just within each year’s incoming class but across the decades. Another addressed the importance of building relationships within The Honors College and how those relationships serve as a safety net for new and continuing students. A third presentation focused on the College’s successful student exchange last spring with Colby-Sawyer College, a small private liberal arts college in New London, New Hampshire. Each presentation was well received and sparked dynamic conversation among students and administrators alike.

The conference, however, was not all work. As with all NCHC conferences, an exploration of the city was an essential part of the overall experience. The Honors delegation enjoyed outings to the Denver Mint, the Capitol building, and the 16th Street Mall, a featured downtown shopping venue. The group ventured to several of the city’s more interesting restaurants, including Soup Man (of *Seinfeld* fame), the Rock Bottom Brewery, the Wazee Supper Club, and the Rialto Café, where they were joined for dinner by Honors alumnae Sara Farina (BS, ‘00) and Mariah Fryar (BA, ‘99), and Sara’s fiancée, Steve Colvin.

All in all, the 2007 NCHC conference was a tremendous success, and inspired our delegates to begin planning for the 2008 conference in San Antonio. Aly Capetillo, a senior economics major, summarized his experience this way: “NCHC exemplifies one of the most important pillars of an education in Honors: the open sharing of ideas within the academic community. The conference was a great opportunity to meet people from other honors programs and learn from their experiences.”



NCHC Student Attendees: Aly Capetillo, Jonas Chin, Brittani Ingram, Kaleb Fulgham, Sara Gabler, Derek Goodwin, Arman Jahangiri, Rita Sirrieh, Mina Tabatabai, and Ellen Thomas. Faculty and Staff Attendees: Ted Estess, John Harvey, Jodie Koszegi, Andy Little, and William Monroe

HONORS STUDENTS  
IN SPORTS



**Shelby Scott**, a junior Honors psychology major, was named to the Conference USA Women's Soccer All-Academic Team.



**Islara Rodriguez**, named an Outstanding First Year Honors Student, is the captain of the varsity soccer team.

*Shine & Rise Honors!*

*Shine and Rise*, created by Houston artist Randy Twaddle, is an exciting new addition to The Honors College. The large-scale diptych, which is prominently displayed in the Commons, was executed in charcoal. Each panel of this impressive piece measures 9 feet tall by 13 feet wide. This is the latest in Twaddle's Reversal Drawing series in which clichéd expressions are altered, enabling the viewer to read and consider the phrases in a different context.

The Honors community honored the artist at a reception on November 14th in the Commons. For more information on the piece, please visit Twaddle's blog at <http://shineandrise.blogspot.com/>.



For a press release on the piece, please visit DABFOTO at [www.dabfoto.com/](http://www.dabfoto.com/).

*In Memoriam, Joel Shickman*



*The Honors* community lost a beloved member, **Joel Shickman**, on November 17, 2007, at 9:42 a.m. At 37 years of age, Joel died of leukemia and leaves behind his wife, Honors alumna

Heather and three boys, Coleman, Miles, and Ellis. A funeral service was held for Joel on Monday, November 19th, at Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, Texas.

*Below is an excerpt from the eulogy that Rabbi William Gershon gave at Joel's funeral.*

I first met Joel on the *bimah* on my first High Holy Days in 1998. I walked onto the *bimah* and there was this young guy conducting the choir. He had a glow and a smile on his face. It wasn't long thereafter that Joel and I began to meet.

Joel was my *talmid muvhaq*,  
the most important student  
I have had as a rabbi.

Joel was my *talmid muvhaq*, the most important student I have had as a rabbi. When he told me he was applying to rabbinical school, I was thrilled. When he was accepted to both JTS and the UJ, I was so proud and I knew that the Jewish people would never be the same. He sought out the best in Jewish music and traveled to CAJE and was a member of Hava Nashira, and quickly became respected in the world of Jewish music.

Our Tradition teaches that ultimately life and death are in power beyond our comprehension and understanding. I know it is of little solace at this dark moment, but perhaps the miracle is that the community came together in unprecedented ways to hold up Joel and his family. Perhaps the miracle is that Heather and the boys will in time go on with their lives and that Joel's memory will sustain them. Perhaps the miracle is that our community survives despite the death of one of our most cherished sons.

Joel believed deeply in miracles. He prayed for them and fought for them.

Ultimately, there are times when we can not control events; there is no adequate answer to explain why a person is taken from this world at a young age. The words of Y'shayihu, Isaiah, come to mind: "My thoughts are not your thoughts; My ways are not your ways. For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than yours."

The author Robert Nathan wrote: "For hearts are most aware of beauty which has suffered most; and beauty is even more beautiful when it looks out at the world through eyes of courage." Joel's courage was as amazing as it was inspiring. We knew that Joel was very ill. We knew that the bone marrow transplant might not fully take. We knew of the perils of his condition. But none of us were ready to accept the stark reality that Joel might die. We wanted to believe in the power of prayer. We wanted to believe in miracles.

Joel believed deeply in miracles. He prayed for them and fought for them. But as the Talmud teaches *Ain somchim 'al hanes*, Don't rely on miracles. Hope for them, yes; pray for them, yes. Amen.

## The Carothers Family

*There is a long-standing tradition of siblings who have chosen to spend their undergraduate years with us at The Honors College. We thought it would be fun to check-in with one of our beloved Honors families, the Carothers, to see where they ventured after Honors and what they are doing now.*

**T.C. Carothers** graduated in 1992 with a B.A. in Chemistry, a B.A. in Spanish, and a minor in math. He wrote a senior honors thesis in Spanish. T.C. attended UT Southwestern Medical School upon completing his undergraduate career. He is currently a pediatric ophthalmologist practicing at the Virginia Eye Institute in Richmond, Virginia.

**Krista Carothers** graduated in 1995 with a B.A. in English and a minor in music. She completed a senior honors thesis in English. Krista earned her master's degree from the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. She is currently the environmental editor for *Conde Nast Traveler* and lives in Connecticut with her husband, cartoonist Jim Meddick, and their son Jack.

**Katie Carothers McBain** graduated in 1998 with a B.A. in music and a minor in chemistry. She wrote a senior honors thesis in music. Katie completed her master's degree at the Eastman School of Music and is in the process of completing her Doctoral Degree of Musical Arts at Eastman. She lives in Rochester, New York, with husband, UH alumnus Jeremy.

**Jim Carothers** graduated in 2003 with a B.S. in civil engineering and a B.A. in English. After completing a MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Arkansas in the spring, Jim began law school in the fall of 2007 at the University of Chicago.

*If you and your family would like to share your "life after Honors" with us, please contact Karen Weber at [kweber@uh.edu](mailto:kweber@uh.edu).*



*The Carothers Family: Krista with Jim Meddick, Jim, Tom, Sandy, Katie, & Jeremy*

## Honors Homecoming 2007



## NOTES FROM DEVELOPMENT

*Ring in the new year* with the Great Conversation! **Ted & Sybil Estess** and **Murry & Meryl Cohen** have graciously agreed to chair the celebration this year. Honors graduates **Mike Gapinski**, **Karen Webster**, and **Trey Wilkinson** are lending efforts to increase alumni participation. By now, alumni will have received a letter and possibly an encouraging shove from a fellow alum with information about The Great Conversation, which is scheduled for April 9, 2008. Now in its 16th year, the Great Conversation raises over \$200,000 each year to support scholarships and programs in The Honors College. Please call Shannon Parrish at 713-743-9973 or write [sparrish@uh.edu](mailto:sparrish@uh.edu) if you have any questions, if you would like to make a donation, or if you would like to attend. We look forward to hearing from you!

**HONORS ON THE ROAD!** Dean Estess hosted three alumni gatherings this semester: in Seattle on 9/16/07, Albuquerque on 10/27/07, and Los Angeles on 12/6/07. Deans Bill Monroe and Jodie Koszegi also hosted a gathering in Denver on 11/2/07. If you live in these areas and we missed you, please contact Shannon Parrish to update your information! This spring, Honors will travel to New York and other cities to be announced later.



*Back row from l to r: Stephanie Anderson, Elizabeth Rosenthal, Amy Grooms, Kevin Britt, Lee Grooms, Bryon Smith, Stephanie Kastner, Michael Adcock, Cindy Schuster, Ted Estess; Front row from l to r: Jeff Friedrich and daughter, Al Lore and friend Scott Adams, Dusan Balic and son*

**THE HUMAN SITUATION LIVES ON IN NAPA VALLEY!** In October 2007, a group of alumni visited Napa Valley and stumbled upon a familiar sign. They kindly sent it to us and let us know that Honors is never far from their hearts.



*From l to r: Mark Brokowski, Trey Wilkinson, Andy Webster, Karen Webster, Damon Wilkinson, Tina Lee, and Todd Ramey*

**THE HONORS COLEGE ANNUAL FUND.** Many thanks to all of you who have heeded the call and graciously donated to The Honors College Annual Fund. To date, we have received \$18,769—congratulations Honors! The Annual Fund provides funds that serve students in The Honors College.



*Picture from the L.A. alumni gathering in December*

*Your generosity continues to impact the future of The Honors College. If you are interested in learning more about our funding priorities and how you can help, please contact Shannon Parrish at 713-743-9973 or [sparrish@uh.edu](mailto:sparrish@uh.edu).*

Dean Estess Steps Down Cont.

Another wrote, “The many things I have to be thankful for—my wife (and fellow Honors graduate), our child, my career, our friends—all directly relate to, or have ties back to The Honors College.”

“The large number of deeply personal responses that I have received,” Dean Estess said, “are of course immensely gratifying and encouraging.”

Although Estess said he’s “still trying to get it right” after three decades, that’s not false modesty so much as an acknowledgment of the changing and challenging nature of building and maintaining such an ambitious operation.

“I’ve been doing it so long, some of my colleagues are calling this an abdication!”

“The responsibilities of my position have evolved over time, along with The Honors College itself,” he said. “Perhaps that’s one reason why the position kept me so interested and engaged for so long.”

Estess traces the program’s evolution in four phases. The first was, of course, making and executing plans for enhancing the Honors Program that existed when he arrived at UH in January of 1977.

“We were faced with locating appropriate faculty and building a suitable curriculum. The core for the curriculum began with—and I’m pleased to say still includes—our team-taught ‘Human Situation’ course, which is modeled somewhat after the ‘Great Books’ approach,” he said. What formed such choices was the fundamental philosophy about undergraduate education.



“In the College we share a belief that education is not simply about the accumulation of a certain number of degree hours but needs to include a collegial interaction of faculty with each other and with undergraduate students,” he said. The Honors College, then, has never been a purely academic exercise interested only in its own esoteric pursuits. “We have,” Estess said, “made a continuing effort to link liberal education to the professional schools.” In its early days, he said, “Nearly half the Honors student body was made up of engineering students.”

The second phase of Honors’ development focused on establishing its own “small college” identity. To that end, Honors established its own areas in the residence

halls and built its own programs and academic advising units. But the biggest element was the “spectacular increase” in the number of National Merit Scholars and other outstanding students recruited to participate in Honors.

“In little more than a decade,” he recalled, “starting in the mid-1980s, we saw a steady increase in the enrollment of National Merit Scholars, essentially starting from scratch and enrolling up to 70 new Scholars a year.”

The third phase has been to expand the external focus of Honors, developing creative partnerships with the community and maintaining relationships with the ever-

growing number of Honors alumni. “Our longtime supporters and donors and the truly amazing array of our graduates who have gone on to academic, professional, and business careers are, ultimately, the real assets and real success of this enterprise,” Estess said.

Finally, the most recent development has been the most visible—the construction of a dazzling and expansive new home for Honors on the second floor of the recently remodeled M.D. Anderson Library. This comes after many years of being housed in cramped quarters in the library’s basement. But, like the ugly duckling transforming into a swan, The Honors College now boasts one of the university’s most impressive venues.

“Our Honors College is one lever we have for enhancing academic excellence at UH.”

“Functionally, the new space was a major improvement,” Estess said, “and it allows us to develop an even stronger sense of community. Beyond that, however, it has enhanced our profile on campus and created even more pride for our alumni. It is also an important recruiting tool for potential students and their parents.”

As he prepares to leave the dean’s position, Estess looks forward to “more time for reading and writing and teaching,” but is committed to continuing his relationship with The Honors College and supporting his successor.

“Our Honors College is one lever we have for enhancing academic excellence at the University of Houston,” he said. “I am confident that the College will continue to serve the University in that way.”

*Based on a story by Eric Gerber,  
Director of University Communication*

## 1960s

**Sandra Gross Frieden** ('68, German) is Executive Director for Organizational Change Management at the University of Houston, where she also teaches German film. <SFrieden@UH.EDU>

## 1970s

**M.H. "Butch" Cersonsky** ('76, Political Science) is scheduled to teach a course at the University of Houston Law Center in the spring. He is also a partner at Alonso, Cersonsky, & Garcia, P.C. <BCer53@aol.com>

## 1980s

**Mary Evelyn Sorrell** ('81, Art) resides in Texas, and is an Assistant Director of the Center for American History at UT, in charge of the Winedale Historical Center. She previously worked as the Executive Director of the Holter Art Museum in Helena, MT, and as Curator of the art gallery at University of Wisconsin-Stout. The Winedale Center was donated to UT by Miss Ima Hogg, who also donated her Houston home, Bayou Bend, to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. <mesorrell@austin.utexas.edu>

**Joe Zinecker** ('82, Electrical Engineering) is now the Program Director of the Future Combat Systems' MULE Program at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Dallas, developing the Army's first large robotic combat vehicle. The MULE will be the cover story in the March 2008 *Popular Mechanics* magazine. <joe.zinecker@lmco.com>

**Hilda A. Gentry** ('83, English) coordinates curriculum and instruction as a Reading/Language Arts Specialist in the Southern Region of the Houston Independent School District (HISD).

<hgentry@houstonisd.org>

**Joanne (Ames) Graves** ('83, Hotel and Restaurant Management) and her husband are retired in Poulsbo, WA, where she is the youth director at the Poulsbo Sons of Norway. Over 100 children dance in her Scandinavian folk dance program. Joanne's oldest child started college this year.

<rain4days@embarqmail.com>

summer. A frequent contributor to print and electronic media, Pamela appeared four times on KHOU Channel 11's Great Day Houston this past fall. She recently updated her website, [www.roomredo.com](http://www.roomredo.com).

<pamela@roomredo.com>

**David Keith Cobb** ('87, Political Science; '93, J.D.) was the Green Party candidate for President of the United States in 2004. He now serves as a fellow with Liberty Tree: Foundation for a Democratic Revolution ([www.libertytreefd.org](http://www.libertytreefd.org)) and as campaign director for Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County ([www.duhc.org](http://www.duhc.org)). <david@duhc.org>

## alumni news

**Richard Dowling** ('85, Music) recently released two new CDs: *Rhapsody in Ragtime* and *Romance and Revelation*. Dowling continues to travel the country performing under the auspices of The Piatigorsky Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing live classical music to underserved audiences across America. He is also continuing his work as a senior editor for Masters Music Publications, a division of E. F. Kalmus & Co., Inc., one of America's largest and oldest sheet music publishing companies.

<pianistNYC@aol.com>

**Pamela Previte O'Brien** ('86, French) continues to enjoy owning her own decorating company, Room Redo, which celebrated seven years in business this past

**Andy Kischitz** ('87, Finance and Economics) is currently teaching math and reading at an elementary school in Harvard, Massachusetts. Andy has been a stay-at-home dad for the past four years, so he is excited to get back in the work force once again. His sons (Alex & Nick) are doing well in school and have both become voracious readers.

<akischitz@comcast.net>

**Steve Slawson** ('87, Electrical Engineering; '89, M.S. in Electrical Engineering) was named Director of International IT Services, Eastern Hemisphere at Occidental Petroleum Corporation. He is responsible for the regional delivery of all IT services. He has relocated to Abu Dhabi. <steve\_slawson@oxy.com>

**John Royal** ('88, English and Radio & Television) is staff attorney for Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman in Houston, TX. He is also a sports columnist for the Houston Press.

<jwroyal@flash.net>

**Karen Adkins** ('89, Philosophy) married attorney Brian Moore, and they have two young kids. Karen recently became Associate Dean of the College at St. Regis University in Denver.

<kadkins@regis.edu>

**Kevin O'Gorman** ('89, German) will serve as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center in the spring semester. His course will focus on the international law of foreign investment. Kevin, a partner at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP in Houston, practices in the field of international arbitration and litigation. He was recently recognized by Chambers USA as one of the leading international arbitration lawyers in the United States.

<kogorman@fulbright.com>

San Antonio and the Hill Country.

<hookerballesteros@yahoo.com>

**Mitch Miller** ('91, Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences) and Amina Miller celebrated the birth of their daughter Nadia on May 5, 2007. Mitch received his Ph.D. in biophysical sciences in 1995. Amina graduated from the Baylor College of Medicine and is now practicing medicine.

**Joey Lockwood Halm** ('92, Music) is enjoying a year on sabbatical from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. She has begun a M.S. in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola College of Maryland. She and her husband, Joe, are very much enjoying their two girls (10 and 12) and baby boy (1).

<JLH@episcopalhighschool.org>

## alumni notes

**John Bode** ('89, Political Science) and partners have established the firm of Martin, Bode & Werner, P.C., a law firm concentrating on oil, gas, and mineral title opinions, acquisitions, and divestitures of producing properties.

<Jcbode@aol.com>

**Derby Davidson** ('89, Chemical Engineering) has cut back his work schedule to 20 hours per week and is loving the opportunity to spend more time with his daughters Jasmine (9) and Jadzia (6). Derby specializes in investigation and remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater for Kleinfelder, a nationwide, employee-owned, geotechnical, environmental, and materials testing firm. <derbyche@sbcglobal.net>

**Wendy Paris** ('89, English) gave birth to Alexander Paris-Callahan on November 17, 2007, in Poughkeepsie, NY. She reports that everything is great, though fatiguing. Alexander arrived on his due date, a feat only 3 percent of babies accomplish. He is clearly a future Honors student. <WendyEParis@aol.com>

## 1990s

**Kim (Hooker) Ballesteros** ('90, Speech Communications) and her family are loving their new life in San Antonio. Kim keeps busy chasing after her four-year-old son, Lyle, and making t-shirts for her online company, [www.bublove.com](http://www.bublove.com). Her latest venture is [www.AlamoMama.com](http://www.AlamoMama.com), an online resource and community for creative, hip mamas in

**Nels Highberg** ('93, English) is in his fifth year as an assistant professor in the Department of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Hartford. He also recently took over as director of the First-Year Reading and Writing Program. <drnels@gmail.com>

**Geoff McIntyre** ('93, Accounting) has been working as a search consultant at Southwest Search in Dallas, since May, 2007. Geoff is a CPA who now prefers to find jobs for CPAs with high quality companies. He has been married to his wife Sarah for seven years. They reside in Richardson, TX, with two boys, Joshua (6) and Samuel (3). <gmc\_13@yahoo.com>

**Karen Bredehoeft McCarley** ('94, Interdisciplinary Studies; '00, Counseling) is a school counselor in Pasadena ISD and is currently serving as the district coordinator for the GEAR UP grant. GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. The central focus of the grant is to get more students academically prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. Karen and her husband Troy live in Seabrook with their three year-old twin boys.

<KMcCarley@pasadenaisd.org>

**Craig Enochs** ('94, Psychology) was named one of 2008's Best Lawyers in America by *Derivatives Law*. <cenochs@jw.com>

**Jill (Schulz) Alexander Essbaum** ('94, Creative Writing and French) had her third collection of poems, *Harlot*, published by No Tell Books in October, 2007. The book can be found on the web at [www.harlotpoems.com](http://www.harlotpoems.com). Jill splits her time between Zurich, Switzerland, and Austin, Texas. <jilly@essbaum.com>

**Bob Lichenstein** ('94, Russian Studies) has returned to Birmingham after a two-year stint practicing law in Washington, DC. He joined the law firm of Haskell, Slaughter, Young and Rediker in an of-counsel position. His oldest daughter, Rachel, is in 9th grade, and twins, Robert and Lizzie, are in 5th grade. <RML@hsy.com>

**Hettie Richardson** ('94, Sociology) was promoted to Associate Professor of Management at Louisiana State University's Ourso College of Business in August, 2007. She also serves as co-advisor for the management department's doctoral program and holds the Milton J. Womack Professorship for Developing Scholars. <hricha4@lsu.edu>

**Tanya (Barauskas) Dorff** ('95, Biology) is a medical oncologist, specializing in genitourinary cancer at the Angeles Clinic and Research Institute in Los Angeles.

Tanya was recently awarded a grant to study an herbal treatment for biochemically recurrent prostate cancer. She is also conducting trials with immune therapy and testosterone therapy. Tanya and her husband Michael have a 2 1/2 year old daughter, Zoe, who is the light of their lives! <tanya\_dorff@yahoo.com>

**Michael Barnes** ('95, English and Classical Studies) teaches ancient Greek, Latin, and a variety of courses in translation in the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he recently received the Provost's Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching Award. He is also the editor of *Classical and Modern Literature*. In June of 2006, Michael married Anatole Mori, who is also on the classics faculty

at MU. They live in the country outside Columbia with their pets.

<BarnesMH@missouri.edu>

**Eric Hoggard** ('95, Biology) is in his first year working at the University of Minnesota as a pediatric radiologist and an assistant professor of radiology. He finished his fellowship training in pediatric radiology at Stanford in June. <hogg0007@umn.edu>

**Monica Jacobs** ('95, Economics) recently joined the law firm of Kelly, Hart & Hallman, LLP in Austin.

<monica.jacobs@khh.com>

**Eric Moya** ('95, English) recently accepted a position as Dean of Integral Education at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California. He and his family (wife Colleen and daughter Logan) will be leaving Albuquerque, NM, and will be moving to Big Sur in early January. For the past 11 years, Eric has been in private practice as a mental health counselor and manual therapist. He has lectured internationally on the subjects of manual therapy and the ethics of touch.

<eric.moya@att.net>

**Tammy H. Vu** ('95, Biology) is proud to announce that she opened a solo OB/GYN practice in September, 2007. Royal Oaks OB/GYN is connected to the West Houston Medical Center.

<thvu73@yahoo.com>

## alumni news

**Jonathan Williamson** ('95, Political Science and Psychology) is Chair of the Department of Political Science at Lycoming College and was recently elected to serve a four-year term on the City Council in Williamport, PA, where he lives with his wife, Jessica, and two children, Madison and Tyler.

<Williams@lycoming.edu>

**Carol Witovec Neslony** ('95, Accounting) and her husband, Glenn, celebrated their daughter Rosemary's one-year old birthday on October 12, 2007. Carol is a CPA and is also working on her alternative certification to become a middle school English teacher. For now, though, she is very much enjoying staying home and raising her daughter.

<carolann8606@comcast.net>

**Nivine Zakhari** ('95, Industrial Engineering; '96, M.A. in Industrial Engineering; '06, J.D.) passed the July 2007 Florida Bar Exam while on a technical consulting engagement at the Florida Department of Health. Nivine expects to start practicing law in Florida in the spring. <nivine@zakhari.com>

**Britt Anderson Parker** ('96, Art History) received a M.S. from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at The College of William and Mary. She currently works at VIMS where she is a marine science program supervisor managing a large project monitoring water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. She recently launched a website for the program, [www.vecos.org](http://www.vecos.org). Britt married Frank Marshall Parker III, a Ph.D. candidate in marine science in October. During her tenure at VIMS, she has been lucky enough to deploy twice to McMurdo Station Antarctica for field work!

<britt@vims.edu>

**Jeremy Eggert** ('96, Chemical Engineering; '00, M.B.A.) and his wife Lisa celebrated the birth of their second child on August 31, 2007. Alexander Charles Eggert was born near St. Paul, MN, where Jeremy currently works for one of the largest global adhesive manufacturers as a global sourcing manager. Alex's birth follows that of his sister, Lorelei Kaye, who was born June 20, 2003, in Irving, TX.

<Jeremy.Eggert@hbfuller.com>

**Domenic Ippolito** ('96, Electrical Engineering) started law school at the UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) last year after a 10-year career in software development. He expects to practice patent litigation after graduation.

<domenic@berkeley.edu>

**A.J. Rader** ('96, Physics and Mathematics) is an assistant professor at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He works in the relatively new field of computation biophysics.

<andrew.rader@gmail.com>

**Lynn Delavictoria** ('97, Accounting) is currently an accountant at Duke Energy International, handling their Peru and Ecuador regions. This is her first international experience, and she is really enjoying learning about different cultures and having the opportunity to work on her Spanish. Lynn still plays tennis, though not as much as she'd like to! <lynnndela@hotmail.com>

**Sabita Soneji** ('97, Political Science and Math) finished clerking for Judge Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in August, 2006. As a clerk, she worked on a more than 1700-page opinion for *U.S. versus Philip Morris*. Now she works at Baker Botts' DC office, focusing on white-collar trial work, including the Scooter Libby case. Between jobs, she spent a month in South Africa, Botswana, and Zambia. <sabita\_soneji@yahoo.com>

**Nicola Clegg** ('98, Chemistry and Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences) is currently doing cancer research at Sloan-Kettering in NYC. She recently ran the NYC Marathon with a time of 3:53:50. <nclegg@gmail.com>

**Brodi Fontenot** ('98, History) and his wife Yvette welcomed their daughter Hazel on September 6, 2007, in Washington, DC. <brodifl@yahoo.com>

**Phillip Freeman** ('98, Music) has been hired as a member of the Houston Symphony. <phillipfreeman@gmail.com>

**Andrew Stubinski** ('98, Radio and Television) has worked in Los Angeles since the summer of 1999, and has held a number of jobs in the entertainment industry, including working with Fox Sports and E! Entertainment. He recently began a new position as an editor at Big Picture in the spring of 2007.

<astubinski@gmail.com>

**Chris Brewster** ('99, Accounting) works for the law firm of Lloyd Goselink, P.C., in Austin. His practice consists of electric utility and electricity market matters before the Public Utility Commission, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, and the legislature. He and his wife had their first child, Lucy, in June.

<CBrewster@lglawfirm.com>

**M. Dilshad Kasmani** ('99, Economics and Political Science; '03, M.A. in Economics) and **Nichole (Vinson) Kasmani** ('02, Psychology) celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary in November. Dilshad received his J.D. from the South Texas College of Law and is working as an associate in the Houston office of Andrews Kurth LLP. Nichole teaches 9th grade world geography at the Houston Academy of International Studies.

<dkasmani@mindspring.com>

**Jesse Rainbow** ('99, History) is a graduate student at Harvard University. He recently published articles in the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* and the *Journal for the Study of Judaism*. <rainbowjesse@yahoo.com>

## 2000s

**Stephanie (Coker) Meyers** ('00, Health Education; '03, M.Ed. in Health) is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Nursing at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She also teaches undergraduate and graduate nursing students in maternity nursing

and women's health care. She has a son, Spencer, who is almost three years old.

<Stephanie.E.Meyers@uth.tmc.edu>

**Anne Rinn** ('00, Psychology) moved back to Houston from Kentucky in June and married Jud Merritt. She now works as an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Houston-Downtown. <RinnA@uhd.edu>

**Michelle Slater Koran** ('00, Theatre) is happily married and living in Houston with her husband Jaime and their three children Sebastian (6), Nicholas (4), and Makayla (1). Jaime is an orchestra director for Clear Creek ISD. Michelle is a full-time mom.

<joyridefive@yahoo.com>

**Bernadette Barbee** ('01, Political Science) is an attorney with the Houston law firm of Hirsch & Westheimer, P.C., in the litigation section. Her sister, **JoAnn (Barbee) Cresap** ('01, Mathematics), who is now married to Patrick Cresap, just passed her CPA exams and is an auditor with Deloitte & Touche in Dallas. <bbarbee@hirschwest.com>

**Lisa Cooley** ('01, Political Science and Graphic Communications) will be opening a contemporary art gallery in New York's Lower East Side in January. <lisa@lisa-cooley.com>

**Sandra Kirkpatrick** ('01, Political Science) and her spousal equivalent, Christopher King, settled down in Tulsa, Oklahoma a year ago. Sandra is currently working as a data analyst at Hilti's North American headquarters in Tulsa. <academicanarchist@yahoo.com>

**Lisa (Linney) Heallen** ('01, Finance) is the Director of Advancement at The Regis School of the Sacred Heart in Houston. <llinney@theregisschool.org>

**Ellen (Simonson) Bowman** ('01, English Creative Writing) married Tony Bowman in May of 2005. She lives just outside Washington, DC, and is an online editor for *The Motley Fool*. <ellen\_simonson@hotmail.com>

## alumni news

**Susan (Barra) Lemmon** ('02, Psychology) and husband Brian Lemmon ('04, Architecture) celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary on November 11, 2007. Brian is in his first year of employment with Kirksey Architects and Susan is in her fourth year of work with Every Nation Ministries. <write2sue@gmail.com>

**Tim Bell** ('02, Mathematics; '05, M.S. in Applied Mathematics) and **Fiona Wolstenholme Bell** ('02, Electrical Engineering) are married. (Tim thinks she wanted a shorter last name!) Tim teaches math at a local high school and college

in Houston, and Fiona is now an attorney for Heim, Payne, and Chorush, LLP. <fewolst@hotmail.com>, <fight4thhomeless@hotmail.com>

**Chalon Clark** ('02, Finance) graduated from The University of Texas School of Law in May, 2006, and passed the July 2006 Texas Bar. He is completing a two-year clerkship with the Honorable Jerry Buchmeyer, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. At the completion of the clerkship in August 2008, he will join the law firm of Clark, Thomas, and Winters, P.C. to practice in their litigation section. <Chalon\_Clark@txnd.uscourts.gov>

**Chris De Young** ('02, Electrical Engineering; '05, M.S. in Electrical Engineering) is currently working at Invocon, Inc., in Conroe, TX, on a target missile for the Aegis BMD program. He married Renea Sturm in December. Chris is actively involved in Hope Church in Clear Lake, serving as a deacon. <chris.deyoung@gmail.com>

**Julie (Glasco) Westra** ('02, History) has accepted a position as an associate in the commercial litigation section at Dickinson Wright. She will begin working at the firm's Grand Rapids, MI office in January. <joel.westra@gmail.com>

**Steve Jackson** ('02, Computer Science) and his wife Laura Lowe Jackson ('04, Psychology) just returned to Houston after a four-year stay in Virginia Beach. Steve continues to do software and network engineering for SFA, Inc, working on U.S. Navy R&D in communications automation. <action8@hotmail.com>

**Bill Kelly** ('02, Political Science) now serves as Chief of Staff to State Representative Ellen Cohen. Bill previously served as Cohen's Campaign Manager in 2006. Prior to working for Cohen, Bill worked for State Representative Hubert Vo in 2004 and for Mayor Bill White's campaign and administration. <Bill.Kelly@house.state.tx.us>

**Melany Morrison** ('02, Psychology; '05, Family Therapy) is working at the Montrose Counseling Center as a marriage and family therapist associate and licensed professional counselor intern. She works with survivors of hate crimes. Melany leads groups, provides therapy, and conducts presentations on anti-violence in the GLBT community. <melanyjmorrison@comcast.net>

**May Shek** ('02, Chemical Engineering) recently accepted a two-year assignment with Shell to work in Calgary, Canada as the Refinery Economist for the Sarnia Refinery. <may.shek@gmail.com>

**Sylvia Peng** ('03, Finance) has been in New York since 2004 and is currently a financial analyst at JPMorgan Chase. She is also a volunteer at a microfinance organization called Project Enterprise in Harlem and sings in the Collegiate Chorus. Their first performance this season, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, was held at Carnegie Hall. <sylvia.peng@gmail.com>

**Xiaodan Mao** ('05, Hotel and Restaurant Management) works in Houston at Nevada Gold & Casinos. She is also currently pursuing two Master's degrees, one from the Bauer College of Business and the other from the Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management. <maxxiaodan@gmail.com>

**Sara Javed** ('06, Chemistry) is a 1st year medical student at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Missouri. <sarajaved84@hotmail.com>

Send your alumni notes to Brenda Rhoden at <bjrhoden@uh.edu>.



## *Phronesis: A New Program in Politics and Ethics*

*Have you ever* wondered what justice is? Or the nature of freedom? Did you once read Plato or Machiavelli or Jefferson and begin to think about the power of the political authority and its effect on your life and happiness? Did Tocqueville perhaps spur you to consider the character of democracy, the problem of individualism, or the proper relation between politics and religion?

These kinds of fundamental texts and questions will be the focus of a new program of studies in Politics and Ethics established by The Honors College in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The program's name, *Phronesis*, is the Greek word for prudence or practical wisdom, the quality distinctive of good citizens and political leaders. Drawing on the foundation provided by the Honors gateway course, The Human Situation, the curriculum aims to attract high-achieving undergraduates interested in issues of ethics and politics, to give them a strong foundation in clas-

sic texts that address these issues, and to prepare them to be leaders and citizens of a self-governing political society.

The new program is housed in The Honors College as an interdisciplinary minor, established with the cooperation of faculty in political science, philosophy, and classical studies. Students of any major can choose from a variety of courses in political theory, philosophy, and classics to qualify for a minor in Politics and Ethics.

We are very excited about this new opportunity for students to investigate central issues of ethics and politics and to deepen their understanding of the texts and questions to which they have been introduced in The Human Situation course. Interested students should contact the program's director, Professor Susan Collins, or Honors College academic advisor, Mr. Andy Little, for further information.

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