

SHINE & RISE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT







UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**
THE HONORS COLLEGE

William Monroe, Dean

SHINE & RISE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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Honors College Students Develop Purpose

In the grandeur of the Great Pyramid of Giza, people, minibuses, and even camels look miniscule, dwarfed compared to an ancient giant. It is difficult to even capture the structure's magnificence in photos. Yet placed carefully front and center of the pyramid, so as to get it in frame, is a palm sized stuffed cougar with a University of Houston logo printed on its front. An Honors student quickly takes a picture. Shasta steals the show yet again.

Over the years, Honors College students have contributed to the practice of taking the Cougar mascot along on travels in a tradition dubbed "Travels with Shasta." By now, Honors students have photographed Shasta in front of countless performance halls, museums, and heritage sites worldwide. It's not surprising that Honors has made our mascot so well-traveled. After all, the influence of the Honors College begins in its "fishbowl" classrooms, but spans from community work in Third Ward, to internships in Washington D.C. and service learning in dozens of countries. With so many options, getting hands on experience as an Honors student is never a question of how, but rather when?

I was only a sophomore when I decided it was my time to venture out of the classroom. After spending time organizing programming with the Middle Eastern refugee community in Houston, I applied to the Houston Scholars program to secure funding for an Arabic language immersion course abroad. The Office of Undergraduate Research, staffed with Honors faculty, coached me through my first-ever funding proposal. Before I knew it, I was on my first international adventure to Meknes, Morocco to begin my Arabic language training. That summer was the most educational time of my life. I was immersed in a completely new culture and engaged closely with local communities in my host city. That experience instilled a keen interest in global issues which I continued to explore throughout my college career.

The Honors College nurtured my fascination and led the way as I continued to learn and serve my community. The Arabic language skills I gained because of the Houston Scholars program allowed me to interact with foreign diplomats while I interned at the U.S. Department of State. Honors faculty guided me as I led the Model Arab League team as head delegate at UH's first international

Model Debate conference in Cairo, Egypt, where we represented Syrian National Coalition, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine to name a few. The Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships read draft after draft of my application to the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to India. Honors was there every step of the way, to offer mentorship, support, and guidance as I enriched my own academic experience and simultaneously employed my Honors education to offer service in communities around the world.

The Honors College is a place where higher education is not safe guarded in an ivory tower. It is a place that, in times of uncertainty, extends opportunity to its members as stepping stones to equity. Honors students are special because they consistently apply their education to help others in their communities. Therefore, throughout college, Honors students undoubtedly gain experience, merit, and exposure. Most importantly, by being encouraged to step out of the classroom and into the world, Honors College students develop purpose.

Hina Uddin ('19)

HONORS MINORS



Creative Work



Leadership
Studies



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Energy and
Sustainability



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Medicine & Society



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Phronêsis:
Politics & Ethics

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လူပါမက အိပ်မက်ကပါ
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ပုတီး ကမ မင်္ဂလာပါ အိပ်မက် ကတော



Creative Work

The Creative Work minor is dedicated to the notion that brilliant ideas rarely come to fruition without interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches. In 2019, Creative Work expanded its interdisciplinary and collaborative offerings to include FrameWorks, which offers students an opportunity to undertake critical inquiry through the lens of the Humanities. A year-long program, FrameWorks invited students to write an article-length essay on the subject of their choice, as long as it broadly interprets the annual theme (2019-'20: "Wall," 2020-'21: "Unknown"). The program provides workshops, one-on-one faculty mentorship, a cohort of supportive peers, and culminates in an annual Symposium, as well as the *FrameWorks* publication of undergraduate articles.

In May, students travelled to Pittsburgh, the subject of our signature capstone class, Artists & Their Regions. In November, a group explored Austin, Texas, which is featured in the new Creative Cities offering. Students became immersed in the creative climate of both places. In Pittsburgh, they investigated the diverse art spaces and innovative spirit of the Steel City. In Austin, they learned from people and resources at locations including BookPeople, the iconic indie bookstore; UT's Harry Ransom Center, and Blanton Art Museum; Ellsworth Kelly Austin building; and – for an international perspective – the Consulate General of Ireland.

Honors College Minors

Leadership Studies

Through a combination of interdisciplinary coursework and experiential learning, students in the Leadership Studies minor explore leaders and leadership theory. Leadership Theory and Practice, the signature course, asks students to read, analyze, and write about ethics, politics, and rhetoric as presented in the works of thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Xenophon, Shakespeare, Hume, and Kant.

Students receive leadership skills training and practice their emerging skills in real-life applications such as student government, mentoring opportunities, and community organizations. In addition, students hear from leaders in government, industry, the nonprofit community, and the arts in the weekly speaker series, Grand Challenges Forum.







Energy and Sustainability

The Energy and Sustainability minor takes an aggressively interdisciplinary approach to the study of sustainable energy systems, integrating perspectives from engineering, economics, business, architecture, design, public policy, and education to address the complex issues of energy security, global climate change, and environmental stewardship. Students learn to think creatively and independently about the most significant issues of the 21st century through courses in an array of disciplines, including business, engineering, the natural sciences, architecture, economics, political science, and history.

The program provides students with opportunities to meet and learn from industry innovators and leaders through its vibrant visiting scholars and speaker series. Graduates have found that the interdisciplinary approach and academic rigor of the Energy and Sustainability program prepared them well for careers in the energy-dominated economy of the Houston region.

Medicine & Society

Though many people associate honors education with the liberal arts and humanities, nearly 70% of the Honors College's 2019 entering class had declared majors in engineering, business, and the natural sciences and mathematics. The Medicine & Society minor offers its over 400 students an interdisciplinary understanding of health and health care through academic courses, research, student internships, public conferences, and visiting speakers.

Affiliated faculty from the University of Houston College of Medicine and other health care institutions prepare future health professionals to become skilled communicators, accomplished critical thinkers, and creative innovators. Students play integral roles in solving today's biggest health care challenges at the local, national, and global levels.

Representative courses include Introduction to Health Systems, in which invited speakers help students explore the nature and necessity of interprofessional approaches to health care research, practice and education, and a Health and Human Rights course exploring the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis and culminating with a month of humanitarian fieldwork in Amman, Jordan.



Weight-for-length Reference (and Z-score) 0-5 years

Age (years)	Weight (kg)	Z-score
0	3.2	0
0.5	7.0	0
1	9.0	0
1.5	10.0	0
2	11.5	0
2.5	12.5	0
3	13.5	0
3.5	14.0	0
4	14.5	0
4.5	14.8	0
5	15.0	0

Weight-for-height Reference (and Z-score) 5-19 years and above

Age (years)	Weight (kg)	Z-score
5	19.0	0
6	22.0	0
7	24.0	0
8	26.0	0
9	28.0	0
10	30.0	0
11	32.0	0
12	34.0	0
13	36.0	0
14	38.0	0
15	40.0	0
16	42.0	0
17	44.0	0
18	46.0	0
19	48.0	0

Percentage of WHO benchmarks

Age (years)	Percentage of WHO benchmarks
0-5	100
6-11	100
12-19	100

MAGGI

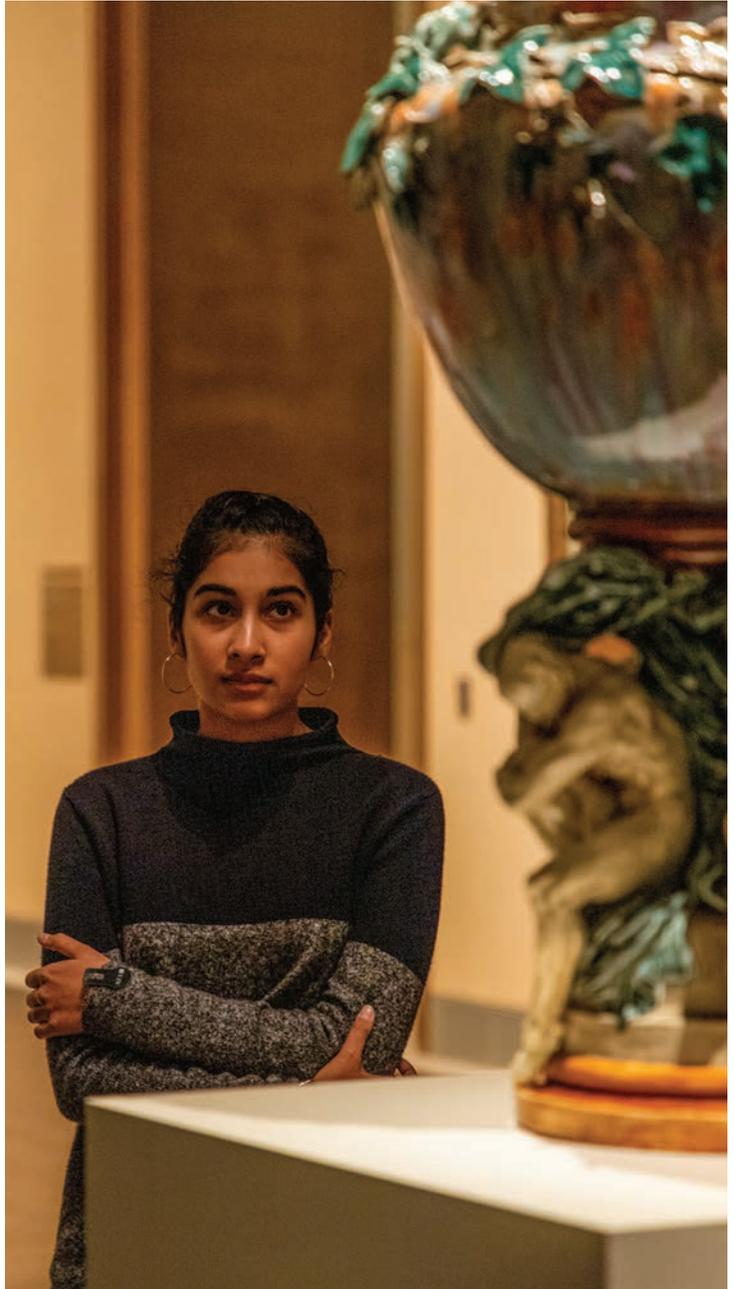


Phronêsis: Politics and Ethics

Phronêsis coursework and seminars prepare students to be the leaders and citizens of a self-governing political society by providing them with a strong foundation in classic texts that inform current issues as well as the most profound, enduring questions of public life. Students of any major may choose the minor in politics and ethics, but it is especially recommended for those engaged in pre-law studies.

In 2019, *Phronêsis* joined with the Department of Political Science's Tocqueville Forum in Ideas and Institutions to host a Constitution Day lecture, funded by the Jack Miller Center. The collaboration also received \$6,000 from the Institute for Humane Studies to host a lecture series on freedom of speech and intellectual Inquiry.

Honors College Minors



HONORS Curricular Programs



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Bauer
Business Honors Program



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Honors
Engineering Program

Bauer Business Honors Program

The Bauer Business Honors Program combines a solid liberal arts foundation from the Honors College with specialized business curriculum, academic services, social and networking events. The program is available to members of the Honors College who are also business majors or minors. Students are provided one-on-one academic advising sessions that are tailored to the individual's need. The honors-level classes of less than 25 students also provide students with many opportunities to get to know each other, their professors, alumni, and potential employers. Connections with Bauer Honors graduates and Houston employers can make the difference in a future job or internship search.



BAUER

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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CAREERS HAPPEN

Honors Engineering Program

Since 2010, the Honors College and the Cullen College of Engineering have offered the Honors Engineering Program (HEP) to Honors College students with majors in engineering. The HEP is a challenging program, that, in true Honors College fashion, emphasizes team-based, project-oriented learning in small classes.

Designed to promote innovative thinking, the HEP offers students Honors-level engineering courses in smaller classroom settings taught by leading Cullen College faculty. Students test the engineering concepts they learn through hands-on activities such as building an infrared detector or programming and constructing a robot. This hands-on approach fosters creative, open-ended thinking and cutting-edge design within a rigorous academic engineering curriculum.

HEP students make industry connections through mentoring opportunities with industry professionals, meetings with industrial partners, and field trips to engineering companies and sporting events.



HONORS CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS



24

Service Learning



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Undergraduate
Research



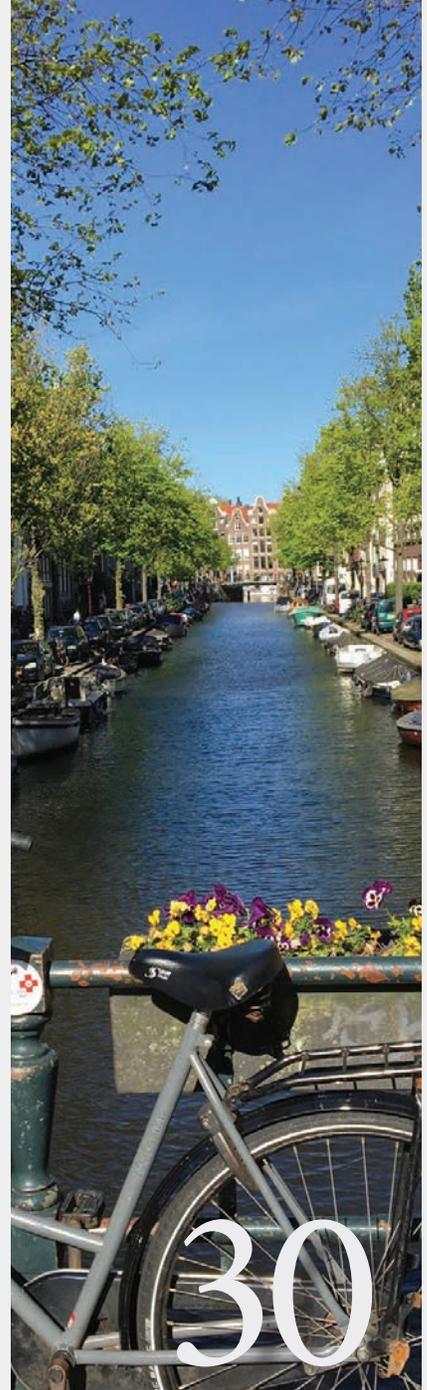
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Speech & Debate



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M-Level Programs



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Learning Abroad
and Away

Service Learning

Bonner Leaders Program



The Bonner Leaders Program empowers students to develop, implement, and lead long-term, sustainable service projects that combat the effects of poverty in the local Houston community. Bonner Leaders dedicate 5-10 hours each week to their service work, focusing on issues in healthcare, food security, and education.

With its partners, Briscoe Elementary, Foster Elementary, and Shearn Elementary, Bonner Leaders tutor and mentor fifth grade science and seventh grade writing students. They also volunteer at Stephen F. Austin High School and KIPP Sunnyside High School, they provide SAT and ACT preparation, and college mentoring for high school students.

In partnership with the Houston Food Bank, New Hope Housing, and Riverside United Methodist Church, Bonners manage biweekly food markets serving Third Ward community members and families at New Hope Housing.

In total, 73 Bonner students average 350 hours of service per week, channeling the transformative power of service learning to improve the lives of fellow Houstonians and create collaborative connections between the University and its neighboring communities.



Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH)

DASH aims to provide real-world activities to give context for the collection and interpretation of data that results in more effective learning. In turn, that interpretation informs the planning and execution of projects to achieve desired outcomes. DASH students compile, interpret, and apply information to make positive, meaningful change in the world around them.

Through asset-mapping, logic models, studying statistics, and seeking community input, students address a variety of issues facing the surrounding Third Ward community and Greater Houston area. Current project partners include the Primary Care Intervention Center, Community Family Centers in Harrisburg, United Health Partners Health Clinic, Fundacion Latinoamericana de Accion Social Clinic, Cuney Homes, El Buen Samaritano Clinic, Aids Foundation Houston, and elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Houston.

Honors in Community Health (HICH)

The HICH program is a student organization that attracts undergraduates from a range of majors and includes many students in the Honors College Medicine & Society minor. Students in Honors in Community Health collaborate with those in the Data Analytics program on a variety of community-focused, project-based activities, foremost of which is the Community Health Worker Initiative (CHW).

CHW training allows UH students and members of the surrounding community to earn state licensed community health worker certifications. In 2019, the Honors College was approved as a CHW Training Center, bringing on more instructors at more sites, and graduating close to 60 CHWs. Nearly 300 people attended the CHW conference in November. HICH also launches and manages service projects, such as the first Diabetes Prevention Program at New Hope Housing.



Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Major Awards (OURMA) welcomes students from all disciplines to complete undergraduate research and to apply for competitive scholarships, fellowships, and internship opportunities. In addition to increasing the number of students participating in faculty-mentored research from across the University, 2019 saw the most recipients of national fellowships and major awards in school history.

OURMA introduced the fundamentals of research by exploring the theme of flooding in Houston to nearly 50 rising sophomores and juniors through the two-week Houston Early Research Experience (HERE) program. The second cohort of Mellon Research Scholars participated in a two-week graduate school preparation “boot camp.”

UH Mellons also attended the Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series featuring Ta-Nehisi Coates, toured Arte Público Press, and learned about their work recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage. Supported by a three-year, \$500,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation with the the goal of building a diverse academy in the humanities, these students continued on to complete a full-time summer research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor and received support for their graduate school applications in the fall.

The Houston Scholars welcomed its second cohort and doubled the size of the program to 24 students. Houston Scholars investigated the theme of “Urbanization: Preparing Houston for the 21st Century” and participated in the first ever Houston Scholars Research Week in early January.

OURMA also supported 82 students pursuing faculty-mentored summer research projects through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), and 55 students during the 2019-2020 academic year through the Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS). Many of these students not only completed intensive research projects, but also went on to receive national fellowships and major awards.

UH celebrated a historic, record-breaking year in 2019, with 12 outstanding students receiving Fulbright awards for research and teaching, the most awarded in any given year in the school’s history, and was subsequently named a Top Producing Fulbright Institution. UH students also won two prestigious Goldwater Scholarships and the University’s second Udall Scholarship. By offering advisement for major award opportunities, OURMA increased the number of UH students receiving national fellowships from 31 to 55 and brought national recognition to not only the Honors College, but the entire University.

Speech & Debate



UH student debaters are as diverse as the University student body itself — participants represent a wide range of age, classification, and experience. Some have participated in debate since middle school, and some have never done any debate at all.

The UH Policy Debate team participates in National Debate Tournament-Cross Examination Debate Association style intercollegiate competitions. Teams do a tremendous amount of research on all sides of the current year's issue, not knowing pre-competition which side of an issue they will be assigned.

Approximately 35 UH students competed in 12 tournaments in the last academic year.

Each January, UH hosts one of the largest high school debate tournaments in Houston, the Cougar Classic. Three hundred students from 50 high schools across four states participate, along with 100 judges, coaches, and observers. UH also works closely with the Houston Urban Debate League, hosting other tournaments and sending members of the debate team to middle schools and high schools. These events bring students to campus, allowing them to get a taste of college life.

Local media and television outlets regularly call on members of the speech and debate team to comment on matters of free speech and civic discourse.



M-Level Programs



Participation in model debate programs — Model G20 Summit, Model United Nations, and Model Arab League — provides students the invaluable opportunity to research and debate the many social, economic, cultural, and political issues facing world leaders as they work to build strong, sustainable, and balanced economies for their citizens.

Students develop and hone their skills in multilateral negotiations, public speaking, coalition-building strategy, and diplomacy, while also attaining a

richer understanding of the dynamics of international affairs. Model debate is open to students of all academic majors. Through their participation, M-level delegates become leaders with competencies that will serve them well in their future endeavors.

In 2019, the UH delegations were recognized with the highest honors for their representation of Russia and France at the third annual MG20 Summit at American University in Washington, D.C.



Tunisia

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Abroad



Europe

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Abroad



Barcelona

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Abroad



Jordan

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Abroad



Galápagos

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Abroad



Virginia

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Away



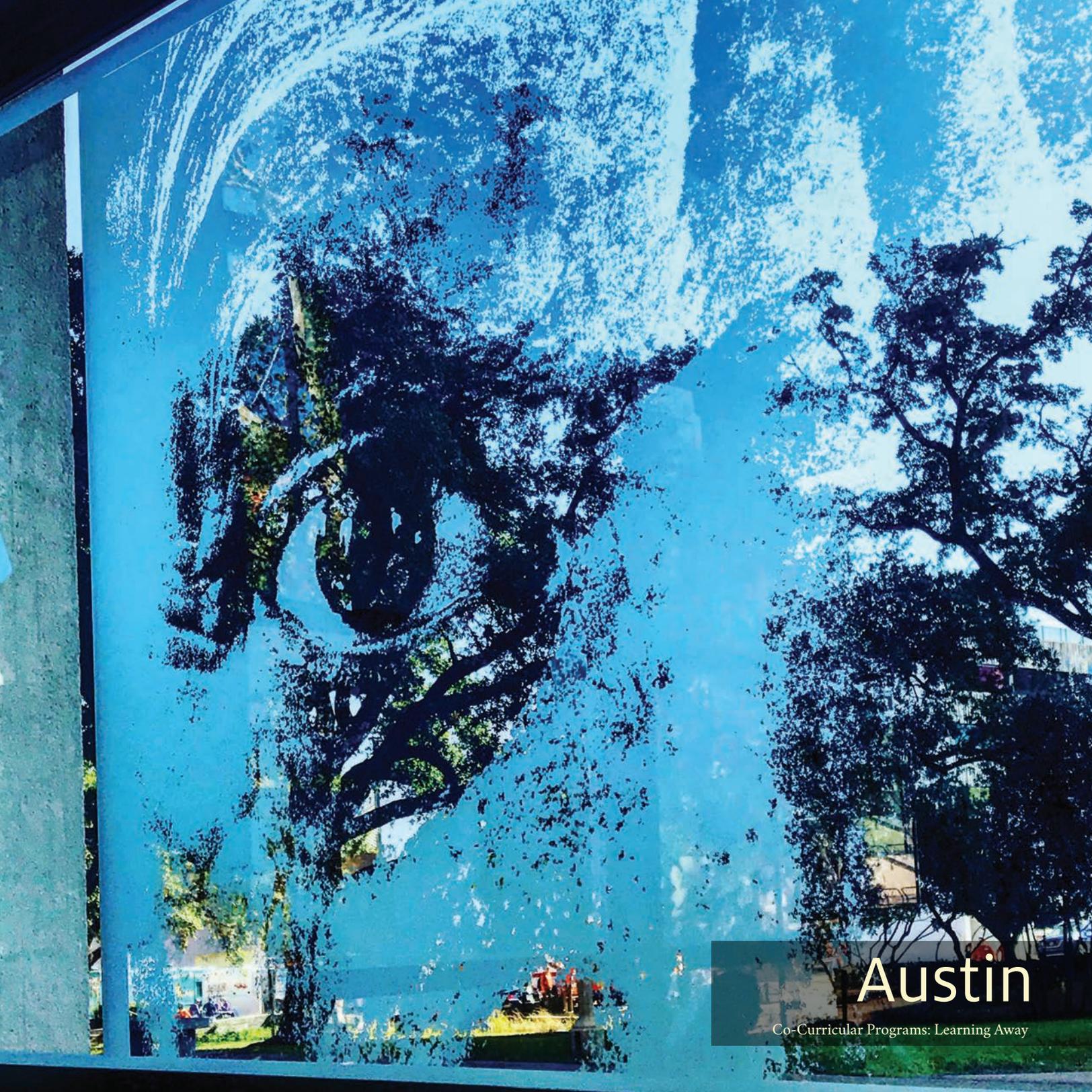
Chicago

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Away



Pittsburgh

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Away



Austin

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Away



Washington, D.C.

Co-Curricular Programs: Learning Away

Letter from the Dean



Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends,

Shine and Rise is an annual report, a gathering up of the Honors College experiences of the previous year. As dean it is my privilege to highlight the broad learning, unscripted discoveries, and creative work of our students. I hope you have enjoyed reading about some of the many intellectual adventures and beyond-the-classroom engagements of our Honors College students, staff, and faculty this past year. From the reading/thinking/writing formation of *The Human Situation* to the outstanding community work of the Bonner Leaders and the Honors in Community Health program, from the interdisciplinary pedagogy of the minors to the experiential learning of study and service abroad, an honors education at the University of Houston is a model of excellence and inclusion. We mustn't become smug and rest on our laurels, but our collaborations with campus and community partners create a rich tapestry of learning and doing figured forth by the entire Honors family. Our work makes

the world a better place and of our work we can be proud.

Willa Cather writes in *The Song of the Lark*, “There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm.” We are now in the midst of learning in a storm, a perfect storm of global pandemic, social and political unrest, and financial crisis.

We move ahead with hope through uncharted waters. We remain committed to justice with the conviction that excellence and equity are inseparable partners, two sides of the same coin. An honors education at the University of Houston is about empathy, compassion, responsibility, kindness, and kinship. We learn from books, from teachers, from each other, and increasingly from persons and places seen, acknowledged, and respected as if for the first time. We learn with the conviction that, if we set aside our unconscious prejudices and unexamined certainties and do the hard work, we can know better, understand better, be better. And we will.

At the beginning of this 2019 issue of *Shine and Rise* you heard from Hina Uddin who speaks eloquently of developing purpose through exposure and awareness. She describes the College as a place where education is taken beyond the classroom and beyond what I like to call “the hedgerows,” though unlike a tony, crosstown neighbor, the University of Houston doesn’t have hedgerows. We are part of our community and proudly so. We do not send to know for whom the bell tolls; we know that when it tolls, as it has been all too often, it tolls for us.

In this time of uncertainty, please remember: We are a human and humane community that shares and compares diverse values and experiences as well as ideas. The Honors College is a welcoming place for everyone. We will be here for you.

In hope and friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill



Graduation Banquet

The Honors College celebrated its 2019 graduates at the Houstonian Hotel with dinner and recognitions that included the Senior Thesis awards, Areté awards, and graduation medallions. It was also an evening for celebrating amazing experiences and the creation of friendships that will last a lifetime.





The Great Conversation

In 2019, the College celebrated its 27th Great Conversation gala. The award-winning fundraiser was held for the first time on the UH campus at the newly built Fertitta Center.

Award-winning scholars and experts led discussions on a host of topics ranging from popular culture to political humor.



2019

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The Life of the College

MINORS

Creative Work
Energy and Sustainability
Leadership Studies
Medicine & Society
Phronêsis: Politics & Ethics

CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

3+2 Honors Medicine & Society/Nursing
Dual Degree Program (UT-Houston)

3+3 Honors Phronêsis/Law
Dual Degree Program (UH Law)

Honors B.S./M.D. Dual Degree Program
(UT Health and UTMB-Galveston)

Honors Biomedical Sciences

The Houston Premedical Academy
(Baylor College of Medicine)

Honors Engineering Program

Bauer Business Honors Program





CO-CURRICULAR UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCES

Bonner Leaders Program
ePortfolio Program
Grand Challenges Forums
Learning Abroad and Learning Away Programs
Service Learning Programs
Data Analytics in Student Hands (DASH)
Honors in Community Health (HICH)
M-Level Programs
Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency
Houston Early Research Experience
Houston Scholars
Nationally Competitive Scholarships
Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship
Senior Honors Thesis
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
UH Speech and Debate Program



The Life of the College

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Common Ground Teachers Institute
Cougar Junior Scholars Summer Camp
Phi Beta Kappa Summer Academy

ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETIES

Omicron Delta Kappa
Phi Beta Kappa
Phi Kappa Phi

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bleacher Creatures
Club Theater
Great Conversation Student Committee
Honors Advocates
Honors Ambassadors
Honors College Mentorship Program
Honors Dodgeball

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