



ROSS M. LENCE

1943 - 2006

Dean Ted Estess's Eulogy for Ross Lence

I begin with the salutation that Ross himself used most often: *Salutem in Domine*.

Our teacher and friend Ross Lence was well known and loved for many things: certainly for the clarity and sharpness of his intellect; for the generosity and gaiety of his spirit; for his indefatigable dedication to his students.

In his early years, he was known for the briskness of his step across campus, such that admiring students hurried to keep up; throughout his years, we knew him for the garish colors and shocking patterns of his ties and suspenders.

But perhaps above all, our friend and brother Ross was known and loved for the quickness of his wit; for the merriment and laughter that he bestowed on any gathering, effortlessly, with grace, bite, and kindness. If his greeting was *Salutem in Domine*, his farewell was *Gaudeamus*—Rejoice! Take pleasure in life! Enjoy!

A spirit of *hilaritas* and *felicitas*—that's what our friend gave us. That's what we gladly remember, what we shall sorely miss.

So it is not surprising that every one of Ross' students has some story to tell. One student received his first paper back from the Good Doctor, only to read this comment: "Young man, if we are going to communicate, we are going to have to settle on a common language. I prefer English."

This morning, we have no difficulty finding a common language. And I am not speaking of English. What we hold in common—what holds us in common—is gratitude, respect, and affection for Ross himself.



Photo by Sybil Estess

Ross M. Lence

December 19, 1943–July 11, 2006

*The funeral was held at
St. Anne's Catholic Church on July 14, 2006.*

*A memorial service was held at the A.D. Bruce Religion
Center on December 1, 2006. A reception immediately
following the service was held at The Honors College.*

Farewell to Our Teacher and Friend

The Honors College Remembers Dr. Lence

For you see, Ross Lence had an extraordinary capacity to dispose persons in a common direction, and to constitute community. The means by which he did so was conversation; for conversation, practiced with Ross' wit and generosity, binds persons together. It builds and manifests community.

Anyone who visited Ross in the hospital this past weekend, or anyone who saw him during the year of his illness, witnessed that community. Last evening and again this morning, that community gathered in abundance, present and palpable. Graybeards from the early 1970's are taking interest in current Honors students; graduates from the 1980's are interacting easily with Lencians from the 90's—all of them, students, faculty, and alumni from four decades, immediately connecting, telling their own stories about their outrageous and beloved teacher and friend.

Everything that Ross did had a little bit of *magic* about it.

One Lencian tells of the student who, having been late or absent from class a number of times in the semester, walked up to turn in her final exam. His back turned to her, the Good Doctor was writing something on the board, as she said: "Dr. Lence, you are a horrible teacher, and I want you to know that because of the way you teach, we haven't learned a single thing this semester." And without so much as turning around, Ross replied, "Yes, madam, and you are empirical proof of that."

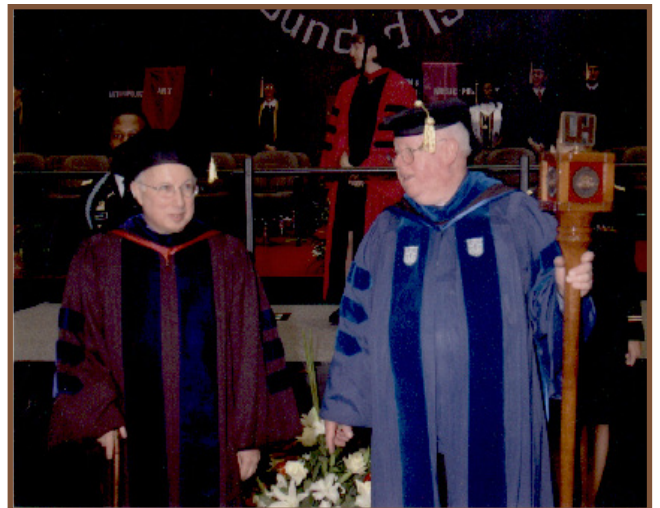
Circero helps us understand the charisma—the spirited gifts—of Ross Lence when he says, "The essence of friendship consists in the fact that many souls . . . become

one." The collegial community of friends that arose around Ross Lence owed much, of course, to his own altogether distinctive qualities: his personality was as winsome and energetic and engaging as one is ever apt to find. Donald Lutz—Ross' close colleague of thirty-five years and a master teacher himself—got it right when he told me earlier this week, "Everything that Ross did had a little bit of magic about it. He was a chariot of fire, a visitor from another place, a gift of God."

Ross was our chariot of fire, our celebrity teacher, the one we showed off, the one whom we sent out to the community, the one in whose radiating light we like to stand, as if to suggest, we are a bit like him ourselves. He was our high star, the one by whom we charted our course and calibrated our compass, pedagogically, intellectually, and morally. But not always politically. Ross was sometimes—well, often—heard to complain about the state of political affairs in the country he so dearly loved. He would snort, "In America, anything is permitted between and among consenting adults except the shooting of firecrackers."

Those of you who studied Greek philosophy with Ross certainly learned that we can measure every art, including the art of teaching, by its product. The monument to the artist is what he creates.

If we would see the monument to Ross Lence, we need only look around this morning at the community that he, as artist and midwife, brought into being. Ross would of course want me to say that he had much help in his life and his work, most notably that of his mother, Nickie. "Big Momma," he sometimes called her. One needs only to meet Nickie to see the source of many of her son's gifts. Over the years, literally



Ross M. Lence and friend Lawrence Curry at a College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Graduation Ceremony.

thousands of students came to her house to converse with her son and to eat her food. They also came for the beer.

Our friend Ross, of course, was a teacher of virtue, a philosopher, a lover of wisdom. But he was, as well, a lover of sights and sounds, and of all things beautiful. His offices at the University were appointed more stylishly than mine, and other faculty members' offices. And I have to say it: he was an impulsive shopper. Once he told me, "Ted, the only things I regret are the things I didn't buy."

Ross was our chariot of fire, our *celebrity teacher*,...the one in whose radiating light we like to stand, as if to suggest, we are a bit like him ourselves.

To be sure, not all students took to Ross: some were unhappy because he wouldn't tell them what they should think. He wouldn't even tell them what he thought. Other students were unhappy because Ross was irreverent. He said things that would get any other faculty member fired. He talked about cannibalism and goats, and you were never quite sure why. He certainly was a trickster. Some students, and probably one or two colleagues and an occasional dean, suspected him of being a diabolical Machiavel. This made him especially happy. But in reality, the wellspring of Ross' irrepressibility, of his merriment and generosity, the ground bass of the songs that he sang, was religious. To him, teaching itself was a religious vocation.

I am speaking of religious in the root sense of the word: re-ligio, a binding together again, as ligaments connect and bind. Ross was bound, first of all, to life itself; to reality and to the structure of the real; but also to country, family, and friends—and to the religious tradition that nurtured him from his mother's arms to his dying day.



Taking a break at a political science conference in Montana.

The inclination of Ross Lence toward the religious is evident in words that he wrote several years ago to the parents of an Honors student who had suddenly, and tragically, died. As was his custom when people were in trouble—and Ross did such things an untold number of times over the years—Ross reached out to those parents. He visited them in their home, attended the funeral service of their son, called them several times, and wrote a note, a portion of which I, in closing, want to share with you.

As is often the case with what a teacher says, these words of Ross return now to their source: "How I wish that some faint words of mine could erase the sorrow in your hearts. How all of us wish for a little more time to reflect and to love life. But God will never abandon those who love him. I am reminded of the immortal words of Catullus on the death of his own brother: *atque in perpetuum, frater, ave atque vale*—and so for all eternity, brother, hail and farewell."



Nickie Lence and Ross Lence on one of their many travels.



1960's and 1970's

Sandra Gross Frieden ('68, German) is Executive Director for Organizational Change Management for the University of Houston System, currently working the rollout of PeopleSoft Student Administration software. <sfrieden@uh.edu>

Jon Doyle ('74, Mathematics) now teaches computer science at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. His book "Extending Mechanics to Minds: The Mechanical Foundations of Psychology and Economics" was published this summer by Cambridge UP. <Jon_Doyle@ncsu.edu>

1980's

Eve Lempert Zeff ('85, Journalism) and husband **Andrew Zeff** ('87, History) are pleased to report that their 6-year-old daughter Savannah has lost her 2 front teeth – just in time for the holidays! Eve continues to work at home as a daily "crisis negotiator" and domestic goddess (not quite Greek mythology, but it is the "human situation"). Andrew is a senior IT technical analyst and most recently enjoyed life as a "virtual employee" for a large human resources outsourcing firm. They wish everyone a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year! <elempert@ztac.com>

Dr. William Langston ('89, Psychology) was recently approved for promotion to professor by the Psychology Department and College of Education and Behavioral Science at Middle Ten-

nessee State University. His textbook for psychology research methods is in its second edition. In his spare time he runs a successful wedding cake company in Middle Tennessee (maplesweddingcakes.com). <wlangsto@mtsu.edu>

Wendy Paris ('89, English) just received her M.F.A. in creative writing, nonfiction, from Columbia University. Her last personal essay was published in *The New York Times* on Thanksgiving weekend, 2006. Wendy married author David Callahan in July 2005. <wendyeparis@aol.com>

Robert McNeil ('90, Biology) has worked at Baylor College of Medicine since 1991, and has been in the department of Pediatric Neurology for almost 12 years. A year ago Robert became the Sr. Research Coordinator for the section, and now primarily works at Texas Children's Hospital assisting physicians conduct clinical research studies into a wide range of pediatric neurological disorders. Robert is married to Evelia, an IT project manager at JP Morgan Chase and they have three children —Evie (7), Annie (4), and Mikie (1.5), and live in Pasadena, Texas. <rmcneil@bcm.edu>

alumni news

1990's

Kim Ballesteros ('90, English & Speech Communication) moved to San Antonio in October for her husband's job with H.E.B. – and they love it! Kim's internet t-shirt companies called *bublove* and *my bub rocks!* are doing very well. Kim designs and sell t-shirts for babies, toddlers and their parents - all inspired by her three-year-old son, Lyle, whom we call "the bub." <kimbosita@hotmail.com>

Craig Larson ('90, Philosophy & Economics; '00, M.A. in Philosophy & M.S. in Mathematics) recently won the University of Houston non-tenure teaching excellence award. Professor Larson, a lecturer in the math department, teaches college algebra to over 500 students each semester. <clarson@math.uh.edu>

Cullen Pendleton ('90, Biology) graduated with honors from The University of Chicago Law School in 2004 and is well into his second year of practice, doing tremendously challenging and exciting work as a patent litigator at a boutique firm in the Sears Tower called Marshall, Gerstein & Borun. Cullen and wife Tabitha are proud parents of Carys (3) and Helen (1). <cullenpendleton@comcast.net>

Alan Matuszak ('91, Management Information Systems) recently accepted a position as Vice President of Software Engineering for eLynx Ltd. in Cincinnati, OH. He and his wife Gretchen recently celebrated their 10th year anniversary this March. The Matuszak family includes 3

children (Hannah 9, Pete 6, Nathan 3).
<alan.matuszak@gmail.com>

Matthew Eernisse ('92, English; '02, M.Ed. in Instructional Technology) works for the Open Source Applications Foundation doing web application development, and has written articles and a book on the subject. In his free time, he runs *Epiphany Radio*, a webcast radio station, and writes a web blog at Fleegix.org. Matthew lives in Houston with his wife, Masako, and their three sons —Hiromasa, Akira, and Yoshi-ki. <mde@fleegix.org>

alumni notes

Fred Ermac ('92, Biology) married his wife Michelle (an optometrist from UH College of Optometry) 2.5 years ago in a beautiful ceremony in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. Fred and Michelle currently live on the north side with their 4-year-old German Shepard, Dax. Fred has a busy private medical practice in Copperfield. <fredermac@hotmail.com>

Joey Lockwood Halm ('92, Music) is in her 11th year at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. Joey and her husband, Joe, both teach at EHS, which is a boarding school (100% residential) that caters to 440 highly motivated kids from 27 states and 17 countries in grades 9-12. Joey teaches orchestra and AP Music

Theory, in addition to running dorm duty, conducting the pit orchestra for the school musical, advising 7 students, and coordinating the pep band. Joey and Joe live at EHS with their children, Abby (11), Ellie (9), and Mac (born 11/14). <JLH@episcopalhighschool.org>

Heather Bonser-Bishop ('93, English) will be starting her own consulting practice, Bonser Bishop and Associates Consulting, specializing in projects and management for nonprofit health and human services organizations. Heather spent the past seven years as Executive Director of the North Coast Clinics Network. <heather@bonser-bishop.com>

Steve Brown ('93, Chemical Engineering) completed the Texas Executive MBA program at the University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business in May 2006 and was named a Kozmetsky Scholar for outstanding academic performance. He was named Vice President of Global Sales & Marketing for Chemstations, Inc. in

2004. <hurricanesteve@hotmail.com>
Tom Dalton ('93, Finance; '97, Law) is working with Deutsche Bank in New York City. His travels take him just about everywhere nowadays, including recently to India and Bangkok. <tomdalton001@hotmail.com>

Rob Gabel ('93, Chemical Engineering) was promoted in November to Senior Vice President of Marketing at LowerMyBills.com, which is one of the top 10 online advertisers in the United States. Rob lives in Los Angeles with wife Vivian and their two children Ryan (3) and Justin (1). Without jinxing anything, they hope to be at the Liberty Bowl this winter and see everyone there! <RGabel@lowermybills.com>

Ginger (Wittkofski) Hagen ('93, Biology) completed her Master's degree from Texas Women's University in Nutrition Science and is a registered dietitian. Ginger is currently working as a part-time faculty member at the College of DuPage teaching nutrition. She has been married for 6 years to Mike Hagen, a graduate of the University of Illinois, and they have 3 children—Amanda, age 3, and three-month old twins, Bridget and Samantha. <gingerlynn15@yahoo.com>

Erich Ploog ('93, Marketing) is a business consultant with IBM Global Services and frequently travels, while also working on a technology project for a large insurance company in the Midwest. Erich is based in Houston and has a house in the Heights, which is both a source of relaxation and frustration on the weekends as he keeps up the maintenance on a home built in the 1950's. <eploog@yahoo.com>

Libby Ingrassia ('94, English & History) is in the second year of her Master of Liberal Studies program at Rice University. She has left the technology business to work as an English teacher for KIPP Houston High School, a public charter school in Houston. Libby teaches 9th grade English to some of the most traditionally under-served students in town. Additionally, she continues to write book reviews, articles, and is working on her fourth book.

<libby@notesgirl.com>

Lani Dunn Ramsey ('94, Interdisciplinary Studies) and **Bill Ramsey** ('93, Chemical Engineering; '99, MBA) recently moved to Akron, Ohio, with their two children, Marissa and Kyle. Bill received a promotion with ExxonMobil Chemical and is now the Global Market Segment Manager at Advanced Elastomers Systems. <laniramsey@adelphia.net>



New York area alumni gathered for dinner on November 20, 2006. Jorgelina Foglietta ('05), Zimuzo Agim ('06), Brenda Rhoden ('98, '05), Sarah Martin ('98), Tina Lee ('98), Josh Breeden ('98), Monica Ankenbrand, Damon Wilkinson ('95), and Nicola Clegg ('98).

Matt Brawley ('95, Radio and Television) is a videographer, editor and director at Houston's PBS affiliate, KUHT-TV, and currently directs the Emmy-Nominated (in 2006), nationally-syndicated program "InnerVIEWS with Ernie Manouse", which is seen on 70 PBS stations around the country. Matt married physical therapist Ingrid Hanna on April 8, 2006, after a five-year courtship, which began at the wedding of fellow Honors alum **Joel Anderson** ('96, Business), where they met for the first time. They currently live in the Heights with their two dogs. <mbrawley@houstonpbs.org>

Elena Romanova ('96, Accounting) and **William Barnes** ('95, Political Science & German) are happy to announce that their daughter, Sophia Willa Romanova Barnes, was born in their home on the morning of June 27, 2006, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

<evr202@nyu.edu>

alumni news

Vibor Paravic ('96, Mechanical Engineering; '06, M.S. in Mechanical Engineering) are moving to U.K., where his wife Shelley will complete her Air Force term as physician in the airbase that is near Cambridge. Vibor is CEO of BONACA consulting and will continue his work in the designing of gas production equipment for off-shore wells. <vp@bonaca.net>

Jennifer (Hewlett) Walthall ('96, Biology) is a pediatric hospitalist and emergency physician and her husband Adam is an anesthesiologist in Indianapolis, Indiana.

They have two children—Joey is six and in kindergarten while Jack is 15 months and has a grin to melt your heart while he destroys everything in his path. Jennifer and Adam look forward to celebrating their 10-year anniversary with a trip to Hawaii next summer. <jdhewlet@iupui.edu>



DC area alumni gathered for brunch with Dr. Ted Estess on November 19, 2006. front row: Scott Greene, Yvonne Dawson ('97), Dominic Nguyen ('01) back row: Liz (Linniger) Greene ('01), Dr. Ted Estess, Noriel Campos ('04), Sabita Soneji ('97), Jesse Rainbow ('98)

Sabita Soneji ('97, Political Science & Mathematics) went to Japan with the JET program for two years after graduating from UH. Sabita then returned to start law school at Georgetown and was offered a clerkship with Judge Gladys Kessler on the DC District Court, where she worked on the largest civil case in American history, United States v. Philip Morris, et al. Sabita now works at Baker Botts in DC, doing litigation.

<sabita_soneji@yahoo.com>

Josh Breeden ('98, Architecture) is currently employed as a Senior Designer at Cherner Design, an architecture and furniture design firm in New York. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) teaching a second-year design studio. Josh is engaged to Monica Ankenbrand (who works for ACNielsen as a Client Development Representative). They plan to marry in Huntington Beach, California, on August 5, 2007. <joshua.breeden@gmail.com>

Tina Lee ('98, Anthropology) and **Damon Wilkinson** ('95, Management Information Systems) moved to Brooklyn in 2002. Tina has completed her coursework for a Ph.D. in Anthropology at CUNY, and received a Wenner-Grenn Foundation grant this spring to do her dissertation research in New York City. Damon remains at Baker Robbins & Company, a technology consulting company providing services to the legal industry, where he's been since 1995. <tina-lee85281@yahoo.com>
<Dwilkinson@brco.com>

the UH GCSW. <christiner@ucphouston.org>
Mindi Morris ('99, Psychology) is a registered nurse working on an intermediate cardiac care unit. She is engaged to marry Capt. Daniel Meeks, who is an instructor at Randolph Air Force Base. Mindi and Daniel currently live in the San Antonio area. <mindimorris@hotmail.com>

Jason Wolfe ('99, Chemical Engineering) recently moved to Chicago after a time in New York with UBS Investment Bank. Jason recently accepted a position as an energy commodities trader for Citadel Investment Group, a hedge fund in Chicago. <jkwolfe@hotmail.com>

alumni notes

Nicola Clegg ('98, Chemistry & Biochemical/Biophysical Sciences) has recently moved to New York City after spending six years in San Francisco and a year in Los Angeles earning a Ph.D. from UCSF. Nicola's research lab relocated from UCLA to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, where her boss is initiating a new program in translational research.
<nclegg@gmail.com>

Sarah Martin ('98, Consumer Science & Merchandising) works for McGraw-Hill Publishers in New York City as the Executive Marketing Manager for Psychology and Education. She is beginning to train to be a yoga instructor this spring, and has recently traveled to Scotland and Prague. Sarah is currently living in the West Village on the infamous Christopher Street.
<sarahjanenyc@mac.com>

Christine Reyes Ellery ('99 English) and **Josh Ellery** ('99, Philosophy; '02, M.A. in Philosophy) celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary with a trip to Italy, taking a week to wander through Rome, Naples, Pompeii, and Florence. Josh is the Assessment and Research Analyst at South Texas College of Law, and Christine is the Director of Camps, Counseling, and Case Management at United Cerebral Palsy. In May 2006, Christine will graduate with a Masters in Social Work from

2000's

Jenny Fransson Björndal ('00, Accounting) is working for the Swedish Attorney General's Office. She is responsible for the budget for the Swedish court system and legal aid. Her job entails politics (i.e. lobbying for more money) and fielding all sorts of questions related to the budget.
<jfransson@yahoo.com>

Magda (Szczesniak) O'Neill ('04, Applied Music) finished the MBA and MA in Arts Administration at SMU. She is now working at the San Diego Symphony in Development and Production. Magda and husband **Justin O'Neill** (who manages HD Cinema Group) live in San Diego, California.

Jose Figueroa ('05, Biology) entered the Yale University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for his one year post-bac research fellowship in fall 2005 and received news in March that he has been accepted to join the Harvard Medical School Class of 2010. <joe_fig2@hotmail.com>

THE COLLEGE'S NEW QUARTERS

It might be hard to imagine an elegant piano recital in the dark basement of the M.D. Anderson Library, the space The Honors College called home for so many years. But in the time since The Honors College moved into its new facilities on the second floor of the library, the new space has been host to recitals, banquets, and a number of speaker series. There is more classroom space, more office space and more gathering space. And as a result, The Honors College is busier today than it has ever been.

Now that the college is firmly established in its new quarters, though, it's worth remembering what came before and what steps were necessary to ensure a successful transition to the new accommodations. In other words, how did we get here?

"When I arrived at University of Houston to direct the Honors Program (in January of 1977), the Honors space consisted of three offices, about 400 square feet," recalls Dr. Ted Estess, Dean of the Honors College. Those modest offices were housed in the East Office Annex, a temporary building that remained from post-World War II days and was located in the open space now behind Melcher Hall.

The Honors College
is *busier* today
than it has ever been.

But the Honors Program had an important ally, working on its behalf. Dr. Barry Munitz, then Chancellor of University of Houston, was committed to honors education, and he made it a top priority to expand it at UH. Clearly the facilities in the East Office Annex could not sustain the anticipated growth of the Honors Program.

"One of the commitments that was made at the time of my coming to UH was that Honors would be given new space," Dr. Estess says. And so Dr. Munitz, with the approval of then President Phillip Hoffman, devoted funds to Honors, not only for hiring new faculty, but also for relocating the quickly expanding program.

The University Honors Program moved into the basement of the M.D. Anderson Library on September 1, 1977, just in time for a new academic year. No longer confined to cramped offices in a temporary building, the program now had some 6500 square feet at its disposal. Now there were more offices for faculty and staff. There were actual classrooms in which to teach. And there was a large communal area for students to gather, for work and for play.

"The basement served us very well," says Estess. "While we were the Honors Program, the space was ideal. But



On February 27, 2006, John Updike visited The Honors College, and

we had fewer students then than we do now." And as the Honors Program continued to grow over the years (eventually becoming The Honors College in 1994), its needs changed. Eventually, the 6500 square feet that seemed so luxurious in the 70's felt a little less grand in the 90's.

By 1996, it was clear that The Honors College and the library both needed new and larger space. When Arthur K. Smith arrived on campus as University of Houston's new president and chancellor in 1997, he quickly decided that efforts should begin towards a planned expansion of the library facilities. With that in mind, work began in earnest on The Mas-

ter Plan for the Library, a proposal that included major renovations and a substantial addition to the library.

These renovations, which included The Honors College addition, were budgeted at approximately \$45 million. Dr. Smith committed \$25 million from the Higher Education Assistance Fund, and the rest was secured from private fundraising efforts. Ultimately, ground-breaking commenced in the spring of 2002.

In the meantime, though, The Honors College had to find another place to call home while its new digs were



spoke to a full house in the Commons about his career as a writer.

under construction. And so boxes were packed, offices were emptied, and The Honors College crossed the campus to another set of temporary facilities. But unlike the East Office Annex that originally housed the Honors Program, these new temporary buildings, located in the Law Center Village, were custom designed for The Honors College. There were decent offices and classrooms. There was even the trademark student lounge with a computer center.

“The trailers really were much nicer than anyone had any reason to expect,” says Jodie Koszegi, Assistant

The Honors College facilities are some *18,500 square feet* on the second floor of the expanded M.D. Anderson Library.

Dean for The Honors College and an Honors College alumna. “They were a little off the beaten path, but they were clean and new, and they worked just fine as a temporary home.”

After 15 months in the trailers, The Honors College was ready, finally, to settle back into a newly renovated and expanded library. But a few changes were necessary first. Some of The Honors College furniture had been around since 1977, when the basement facilities were brand new. Needless to say, this furniture may have worked just fine in the trailers, but it was not exactly an ideal fit for the new space. And so Brenda Rhoden, Honors alumna and current National Merit Coordinator worked with Dr. Estess and Dr. Bill Monroe, Executive Associate Dean of The Honors College, to make sure that the college had new furniture to match the splendor of the new surroundings.

And what about those new surroundings? After the cramped East Office Annex and the dark basement of the M.D. Anderson Library, what did The Honors College have waiting for it as it moved from the trailers of the Law Center Village? Designed by the firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott, The Honors College facilities are some 18,500 square feet on the second floor of the expanded M.D. Anderson Library. The facilities include a conference room, a kitchen, and our own restroom facilities.

There are three seminar rooms, each of which can seat as many as 22 students. Designed with Human Situation discussion sections in mind, these rooms play host to a variety of other Honors classes as well. The Estess Alumni library, named in honor of Dr. Estess, serves not only as a teaching space, but also as a home to special volumes of classic literature and Honors theses, past and present.

And the college now has a large classroom that can seat as many as 80 students, making it possible for Honors to host

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FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jorgelina Foglietta ('05, Political Science) moved to New York City in August 2005 to start school at Brooklyn Law School. Now in her second year, she has gained wonderful experiences through her internships at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and most recently with the Queens District Attorney's Office. Jorgelina plans on staying in New York and hopes to go into international law or criminal law. <pirulina09@hotmail.com>

Zimuzo Agim ('06, Economics & Finance) recently moved to New York to work for Credit Suisse Investment Bank. Zimuzo works in the Global Energy Group. <zimuzo@gmail.com>



Top: Tiffany Brown ('97), Sabita Soneji ('97), and Dr. Ted Estess Middle: Alumni Homecoming Gathering on November 4, 2006: Trey Wilkinson ('92), Todd Ramey ('94), Mike Gapinski ('94) Bottom: Dr. Joel Westra ('98) and Julie (Glasco) Westra ('02)



NEWS

Richard Armstrong

appointed member of The Honors College faculty in fall 2006 from Department of Modern and Classical Languages, recently published *A Compulsion for Antiquity: Freud and the Ancient World* (Cornell UP, 2005)

Sue Collins

Honors political theorist, published *Aristotle and the Rediscovery of Citizenship* this past May (Cambridge UP)

Stuart Long

newly appointed Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and The Honors College, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

WELCOME

Jamie Ferguson

from Indiana University, newly appointed Honors English faculty and instructor in the Human Situation course

Anna Newman

from Baylor College of Medicine, newly appointed Honors biology faculty

Shannon Parrish

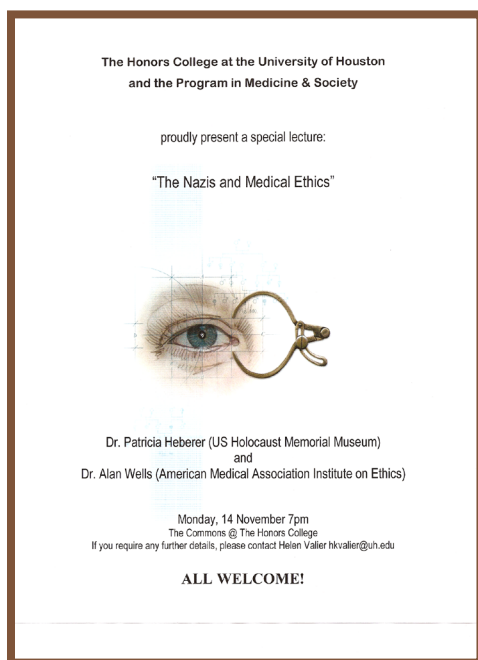
joined The Honors College staff in August as new Director of Development

HONORS ANNOUNCES PROGRAM IN MEDICINE & SOCIETY

Science, technology, and medicine are profoundly important to our understandings of our selves, our bodies and the modern world around us. The Program in Medicine & Society at Houston was established in fall 2005 to coordinate the efforts of Houston's leaders in health studies to reach student and lay public audiences for interaction and discussion of the social impact of scientific and medical advance. Located in The Honors College at UH, the program is directed by William Monroe (Executive Associate Dean of The Honors College), with Andrew Achenbaum, from the Graduate College of Social Work, acting as associate director, and Helen Valier (from The Honors College) as the academic coordinator.

The core faculty of the program is well supported by an extensive network of affiliated faculty from across the UH system, and together they have been able to build a truly interdisciplinary framework for this new venture. By providing public lectures and opportunities for networking between students and professionals, they anticipate the program will nurture a growing community of interests of health-care and health-studies.

An important aspect of the new program is the



The program features a variety of lectures throughout the year to the campus community. Here is a flyer from "The Nazis and Medical Ethics," which took place on November 14th at The Honors College.

18-hour minor in Medicine & Society, which is actually the first minor to be offered through The Honors College. All UH students may pursue the minor, but all are required to take a foundation class, "Readings in Medicine & Society", maintained by Dr. Valier. This course considers the social and cultural meanings of medicine, health, wellness, disease, and disability from a variety of perspectives including historical, sociological, anthropological, and clinical. The focus of the foundation class is primarily on medicine as it is practiced and consumed in the U.S., but always with an eye to the international and cross-cultural context of American medicine.

An important aspect
of the new program is the minor
in Medicine & Society,
the first minor to be
offered through The Honors College.

UH already houses extensive faculty and curricular resources in medical history, anthropology, and philosophy to support the minor, and new courses specifically designed for Medicine & Society students are currently under development. In addition to offering courses in medical history and health studies, program-affiliated faculty also provide academic advising and mentoring to students enrolled in the minor and to a range of pre-medical and pre-health professional students interested in participation with the wider program.

Houston is a city in which health care is an industry and social practice of immense importance, historically, economically, and culturally. The Texas Medical Center is one of the largest in the world and home to two medical schools, two schools of nursing, and a score of programs in the allied health sciences, as well more than a dozen major hospitals, clinics, research laboratories, and other medical facilities. With the medical heritage of this city, and the wide range of medical expertise we are able to draw upon, this new program is off to a flying start.

Office of Undergraduate Research Joins The Honors College

A recent, exciting addition to The Honors College is the Office of Undergraduate Research. Housed in The Honors College, the office supports the research endeavors of all undergraduates on campus. The office is charged with the task of organizing, facilitating, and enhancing opportunities for undergraduate research, and is directed by Dr. Stuart Long, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, the associate dean of undergraduate research and The Honors College, and a long time friend of The Honors College.

Serving as the project manager for the office, Karen Weber supports Stuart in coordinating the programs for the office as well as assisting students in finding and applying for extramural scholarships, such as the Rhodes, Truman, and Goldwater. Karen has a background in working with nationally competitive scholarships at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and enjoys creating a campus culture for these awards at UH.

The Office of Undergraduate Research has several objectives: the introduction of research-oriented curriculum units at the undergraduate level; the administration of the Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) and the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF-UH); and the management of the Senior Honors Thesis Program. The introduction of research-oriented curriculum units will move beyond the simple presentation of research results and activities to the development of formal undergraduate courses, detailing research methodologies employed across the disciplines, issues of research ethics, and the social impact of research.

The SURF-UH program, designed explicitly for UH students, offers a stipend of \$2800 to students of all disciplines and involves close work with UH faculty during a focused ten-week summer period. Important considerations in the evaluation of applicants include past academic performance, the nature and scope of the proposed research, and the relevant impact of the research. This past summer, 47 students participated in the SURF-UH program, which was the second year for this

program. These talented students' projects were showcased at the second annual Undergraduate Research Day, which took place on October 18, 2006 through poster presentations demonstrating their diversified summer research experiences.

The Office of Undergraduate Research also sponsors the Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research, an award designed to honor the practice of mentoring undergraduate research and scholarship. In its 2006 inaugural year, T. Randall Lee, a Cullen Distinguished Professor from chemistry, received the award of \$5,000, which was announced at the UH Faculty Awards ceremony this past April.

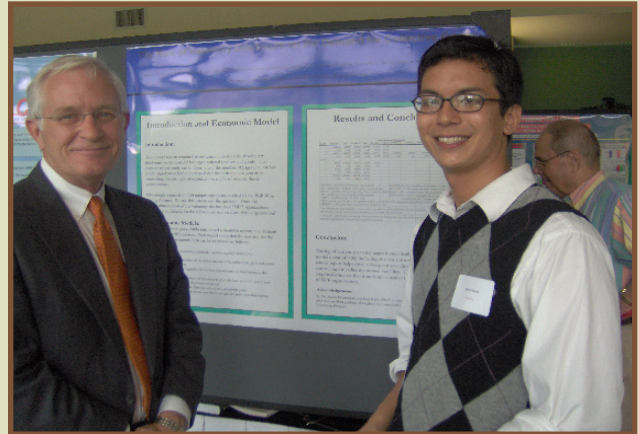
Finally, the Office of Undergraduate Research also assumes responsibility for the management of the University of Houston's Senior Honors Thesis Program. Senior theses represent the culmination of many successful undergraduate research experiences, and the Office of Undergraduate Research is a natural archival location for these documents. More information regarding this and other activities of the Office of Undergraduate Research can be found on their website at www.undergraduateresearch.uh.edu.

Save the Date!

Show your support of
The Honors College and join us in
celebrating the 15th year of
The Great Conversation
to be held March 28th, 2007, at the
Houston Country Club.
Please call Shannon Parrish,
713-743-9973 with any questions.

Undergraduate Research Day at UH

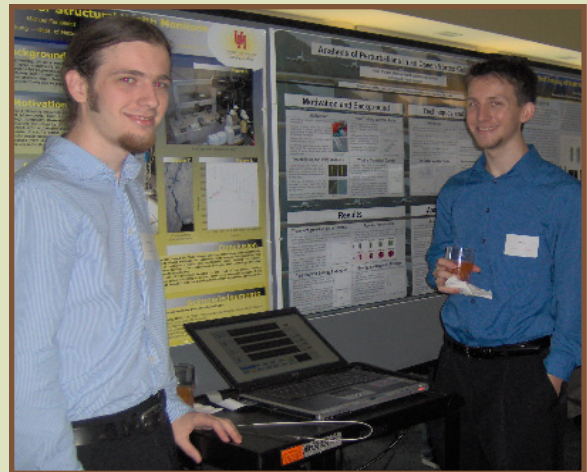
On October 18th, 2006, the participants of UH's 10-week, full-time Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program showcased their summer research projects through poster presentations for the campus community at the second annual Undergraduate Research Day. Provost Donald Foss, Vice President for Research Donald Birx, and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and The Honors College Stuart Long all spoke at the event. Around 200 faculty, staff, and students attended Undergraduate Research Day in support of our 47 undergraduate researchers.



Everette Gardner (Honors College Fellow, Business) and Barrett O'Donnell (business) standing in front of Barrett's poster depicting the role of voluntary disclosure on the demand for collective goods.



Candid shot of the day's events, which was held in the Rockwell Pavilion, M.D. Anderson Library.



Michael Fernandez and Leif Bagge, mechanical and electrical engineering majors, respectively, and members of The Honors College, enjoying the day's activities and the refreshments.



Robert Zaretsky, Honors faculty member in the Modern and Classical Languages Department, was a featured speaker at the Honors College Convocation, held on August 31st.

Dr. Zaretsky was recently promoted to full professor, and has published *Nimes At War* (Penn State UP, 1995) and *Cock and Bull Stories: Folco de Baroncelli and the Invention of the Camargue* (U of Nebraska Press, 2004). His latest book due out next year, entitled *So Great a Noise: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, David Hume and the Limits of Human Understanding* (Yale 2007), is co-written with a former Honors faculty member, John Scott.



Outstanding First Year Honors Student Award recipients for 2006



Honors College students enjoying the college tailgates and the football games, demonstrating their Cougar pride.



From left to right, Hanneke, Aris, Ari, Anna and Athina Economon with current Honors students Meghan Hendley & Jenny Brzowski. The Faber-Economon European Travel scholarship (F.E.E.T.) is an award specifically designed to introduce Honors students to Europe, made available through the generosity of the Economon family.

The Terry Scholars at the University of Houston: Pho Real!

In the fall of 2004, The Honors College in conjunction with the Houston-based Terry Foundation, established the Terry Scholars at the University of Houston. In doing so, The Honors College joined three other Texas public institutions of higher learning in providing a home for this select group of motivated and highly successful students who want to promote leadership and academic excellence and to provide community service on the University of Houston campus.

“We share everything from experiences to textbooks, but most of all we share a deep gratitude to the Terrys for giving us the opportunity.”

— Talia Gaetke

The Terry Scholars at the University of Houston have since grown to a family of 44 and welcomed 15 new students to their ranks this fall. As Talia Gaetke ('08), last year's TSUH Vice-President, puts it, “The Terry Scholars are more than a scholarship group or just another organization. These are my friends, roommates and confidants. We share everything from experiences to textbooks, but most of all we share a deep gratitude to the Terrys for giving us the opportunity to earn an excellent education. . . . I don't think any of us will ever forget swimming in the fountain after our first annual banquet!” Krystal Schulle ('09), asserts, “the Terry Scholars have given me a home away from home.”

In addition to fountain-jumping and social gatherings (eating pho, a Vietnamese noodle dish, is a favorite), the Terry Scholars have become the preeminent community service organization within The Honors College. Now in their third year, the Terry Scholars coordinate or participate in up to two community service events every month. The Habitat for Hu-

manity, the Houston Aids Walk, the Houston Food Bank and the Houston International Festival are just a few of the organizations in which the Terry Scholars have invested their time. As current TSUH President Mary Elhardt ('09) sums up her Terry experience so far, “The Terry Scholars are a bunch of amazing students who find time out of their crazy schedules to serve others! We all enjoy it!”

The Terry Scholars at the University of Houston just celebrated the beginning of their third year on campus with their annual Terry Banquet on October 5, 2006. Among other projects, they're looking forward to participating in the H.O.S.T.S. (Helping Our Students To Succeed) program at Eliot Elementary and adopting a family for the Christmas holidays. For additional information on upcoming service events or to participate, contact Marvin Itzep, Community Service Coordinator, at mitzep_05@hotmail.com or Mary Elhardt, President, at MeElhardt@aol.com.



Group shot at the Terry Banquet of the Terry Scholars and Jodie Koszegi, the coordinator of the Terry Scholars program. “Go Coogs!”

HONORS COLLEGE'S NEW HOME

Continued from page 5

some classes that have traditionally been held in other parts of the campus. Now, Honors sections of U.S. history, political science, calculus and biology meet here in the new space.

“We always wanted more teaching space in The Honors College,” says Dr. Monroe. “We understand that the more time students spend in our space, the more likely they are to be active in the life of the college.”

With that philosophy in mind, the student lounge—now dubbed the Honors Commons—has been re-imagined. Whereas in the past, the Commons shared space with the computer lab, now these are two entirely separate entities. Additionally, the Commons has a grand piano, elaborate audio/visual capabilities, and direct access to the new outdoor foyer. But perhaps the nicest new feature is the simple presence of natural light.

“The basement had a little bit of a Vegas feel to it,” says Honors College Coordinator of Academic Services Andrew Curry. “You were never quite sure whether it was daytime or night, rainy or clear. It’s just nice to have some windows to look out.”

THE HONORS COLLEGE

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a r e t é is published by The Honors College at the University of Houston. The name is a Greek word designating courage in a warrior and civic virtue in the polis. Areté has come to mean excellence in character and action.

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Newsletter designed by Karen Weber

The Commons has played host to a variety of events that might never have been possible in the basement. Internationally known pianist (and Honors College alumnus) Richard Dowling performed a recital here. The Poetry and Prose series sponsored by the library has monthly readings in the Commons. The university-wide advisors meeting was held for the first time in Honors facilities. The Imprint Reading Series continues to host its monthly sessions here, bringing renowned authors like John Updike (winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, the National Book Award, the American Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award) Jonathan Franzen (winner of the National Book Award) and Jeffrey Eugenides (winner of the Pulitzer Prize) to UH to speak.

And so now, after some time in the second floor library facilities, the Honors College welcomes the opportunities that have presented themselves as a result of the additional room and new amenities.

“I’ll always have a certain nostalgia for the basement,” Dr. Estess says. “But I can’t imagine anything much better than what we have available to us now.”

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