

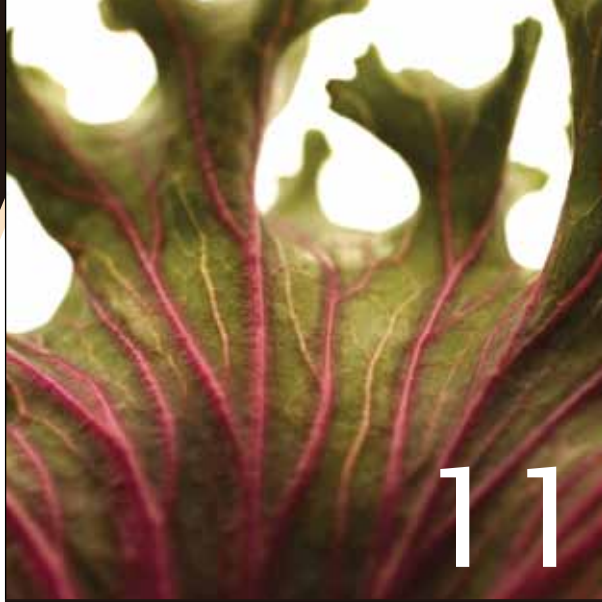


THE HONORS COLLEGE  
2013



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

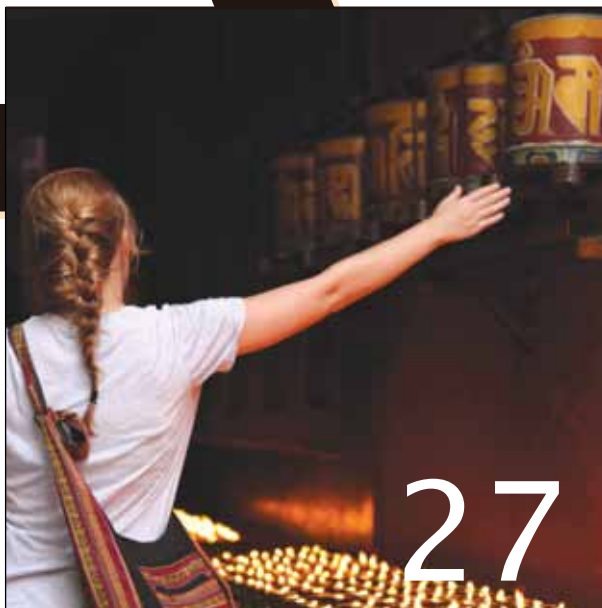




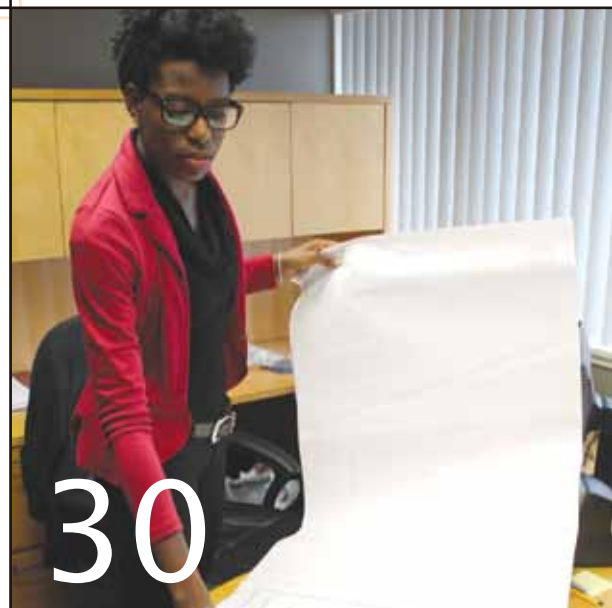
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12



27



30

### *Startups 101*

Honors students with big ideas can dream big thanks to “serial entrepreneur” Jeff Amerine’s “New Ventures” honors course. See p.12.

### *Field Notes*

Read up on a toxic protein with powerful potential; a low-tech, no-frills anemia test (no lab needed); and feast your eyes on full-size paper gowns inspired by Grimm’s *Fairy Tales*. These honors student research stories and more, p. 19.

### *Pencils Down, Pointers Up*

Honors alumni are returning to campus to teach, mentor and inspire the next generation of honors students. Honors alumna Hannah Breshears ('13) reports, p. 29.

- 2 Dean’s List
- 3 On Campus
- 11 Pop Quiz
- 16 Class Notes
- Big Picture Courses*
- 27 Honor Roll
- Dharma Donation*
- 29 Alumni Profiles
- 34 Alumni Updates
- 40 Road Trip

#### **On the cover**

Honors art major Emily Chase constructed three life-sized paper gowns for her honors thesis, including *Husk*, 2012. Burned rice paper, Copic marker, thread, electric lanterns. Photo by Emily Chase.





NWA Media/Andy Shupe

## Top 10 Experiences In Our New Digs

**M**OOCs and other forms of on-line learning are the big new thing right now, and the U of A is making its mark in this area. Today's honors students may take some of their courses online, but when it comes to building community on campus, bricks-and-mortar initiatives are still essential. The new Honors College quarters in Ozark Hall and the wonderfully remodeled Hotz Honors Hall make the point especially well. We have added staff to expand student learning and community building experiences in both buildings. Our new graduate assistants have developed programs ranging from faculty-led dinners for students to a community art project involving a tessellation of the Hog. As our honors students, faculty and staff happily settle into these wonderful new spaces, I offer you my list:

### Top 10 Experiences In Our New Digs

1. Hearing the WOWs as honors students see the Ozark honors lounge for the first time. Some say "Harvard!" – others say "Hogwarts!"
2. Seeing the Pomfret community being reborn among freshmen honors students in Hotz, without the walk up the Hill!
3. Dishing out ice cream to a standing-room-only crowd of honors students in Hotz Honors Hall, after their first day of classes.

4. Enjoying the Back to School Bash in the Ozark courtyard with 200 or so honors students.

5. Watching a group of honors freshman and their student mentor stake out a place in the Ozark lounge for a meeting.

6. Giving the tour of Ozark to a group of honors faculty who stopped by to see our new digs. It's THEIR home too.

7. Seeing my first-grade granddaughter "teaching" at the front of the auditorium in Ozark. She'll be an Arkansas honors student before you know it!

8. Taking in the view of campus from the "penthouse" (9th floor study room) in Hotz Honors Hall and the view of Old Main from my office in Ozark Hall. (Chancellor Gearhart is jealous.)

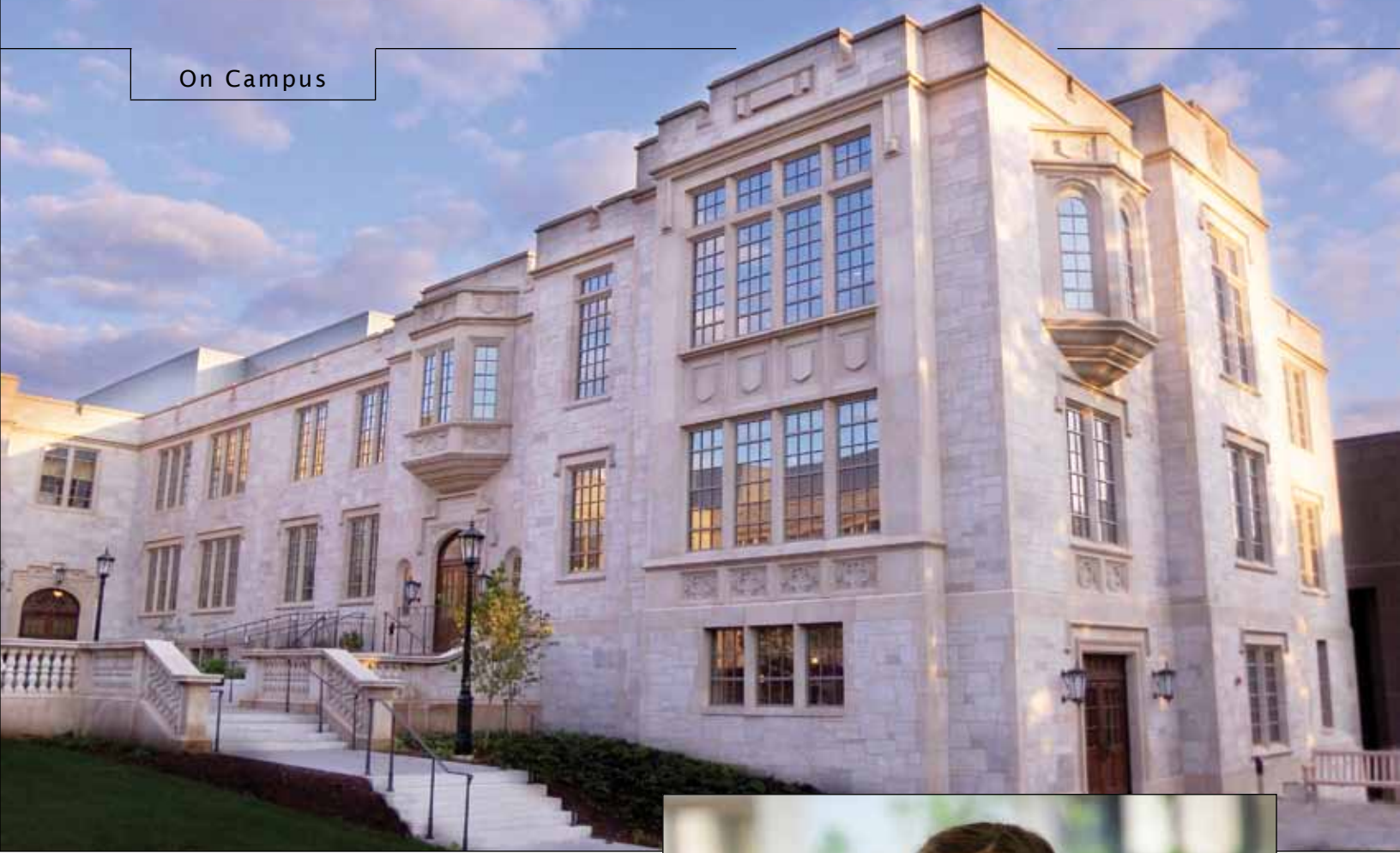
9. Hearing a skeptical honors prospect tell Maribeth Lynes, "I AM going to apply to Arkansas!" after touring Hotz and Ozark. (Her mom smiles but is smart enough to say nothing.)

10. Knowing that after 11 years the Honors College has a home and a great new residence hall for freshmen students. Thanks to all those who made it happen!

*Bob McMath*

Bob McMath  
Dean of the Honors College and  
Professor of History

On Campus



## Welcome home to Ozark Hall ...

Following four years of planning and two years of painstaking restoration and construction, we have moved into our new home, a 21,000-square-foot addition to historic Ozark Hall. Robert A.M. Stern Architects of New York City, renowned for designing buildings for the nation's most prestigious and beautiful university campuses, designed the Honors College addition in collaboration with Arkansas firm Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson Architects.

Middle: Ozark Hall was rededicated to serve a new generation of students, faculty and staff on September 26, 2013. Bodenhamer Fellow Rachael Pellegrino spoke on behalf of honors students.

Below: More than 200 honors students showed up for this year's Welcome Back Bash, held for the first time at Ozark Hall.



Russell Cothren



Shelby Gill

## On Campus



Clockwise from left: Another first: this year's Convocation featured an open house in Ozark Hall. It was fun watching the students discover their new spaces in Ozark Hall.

The spacious honors lounge is a great place to study, read and hash out projects.

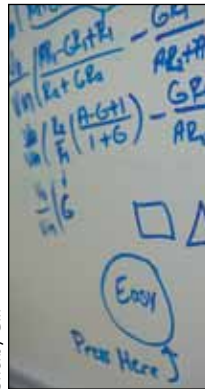
Our new facilities made a very favorable first impression on the 500+ exceptional high school students and parents who attended Convocation.

Hanging out at the Welcome Back Bash.

Middle: The break-out study rooms are also getting heavy use.



Shelby Gill



Shelby Gill



Photos by Russell Cothren



## ... and hello Hotz

This is not your parents' Hotz Hall! Almost 50 years after it first opened in 1964 as a women's dormitory, Hotz Hall has been completely revamped to provide up-to-date accommodations for 400+ first-year honors students. SCM Architects of Little Rock worked closely with Honors College and housing staff to design a dorm that would foster community, starting with two-person rooms that encourage students to interact and form friendships in common areas.

Middle: Honors senior and Hotz resident assistant Andrew J. Powell does the honors at the Hotz Rededication Ceremony, while members of the Hotz family and administrators look on.  
Below: Hotz RA Jervae Franklin (left) and senior Honors College fellow Kelsey Ferguson chat at the ice cream social held on the first day of classes.

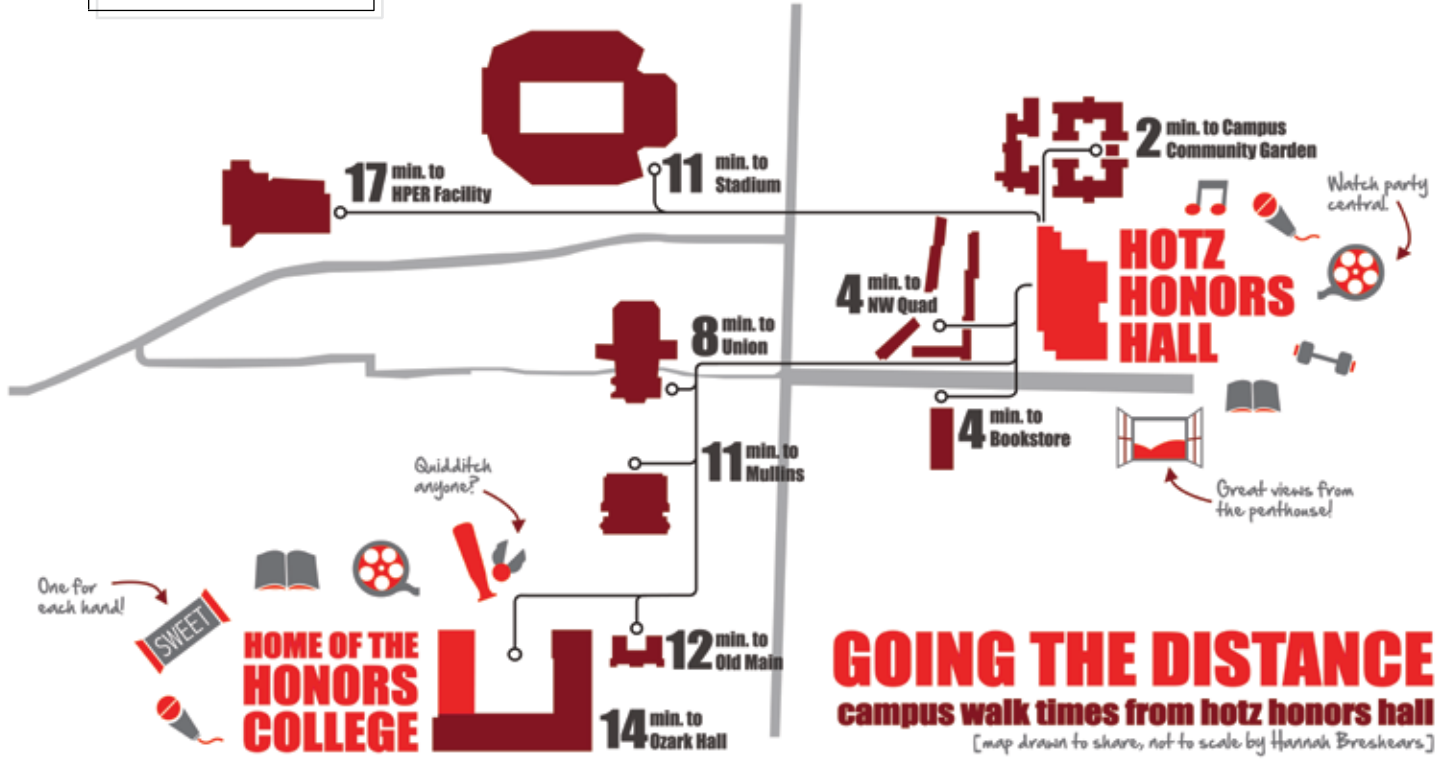


Shelby Gill



Shelby Gill

On Campus



Top left: Hotz residents Vaish Ramini, Josh Parisi, and Christine Tan study in the common area.  
Top right: (Clockwise from top left): Lennon Dycus, Vaish Ramini, Selina Baner, Mollie Robinson, Taylor Oglesby, Sam Goll and Nic Norwood enjoy Hotz' theater.  
Bottom right: The penthouse view of campus from Hotz.



Photos by Logan Webster



# UA HONORS COLLEGE

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS (2002-2012) WELCOME

## *A Fine Time Was Had By All*

Last year the Honors College turned 10, and to celebrate, we invited honors alumni, students, faculty and friends to a birthday bash headlined by a call to action from legendary primatologist and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace.

Our thanks to the Distinguished Lectures Committee, then headed by honors students Autumn Lewis and Tyler Priest, for working with us to bring Dr. Goodall to campus!

More than 450 registered to attend, and alumni traveled from Seattle, Los Angeles, Boston and Washington, D.C., to help us celebrate.

The day began with a private tour and lunch at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, where our knowledgeable guide discussed the collection's highlights and the museum's innovative architecture.

Later that day, more than 300 alumni, faculty, staff and students gathered at the Gardens for

barbecue and birthday cupcakes.

It was very chilly – in the 40s! – for early October, but good food, good company and swinging jazz by the Claudia Burson trio warmed things up considerably.

It wouldn't be a birthday party without presents. We awarded door prizes – books by Dr. Goodall – to alumni with the most majors and minors, the most countries visited as an undergraduate, and most miles

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10 Celebration continued on page 9



Stuart Clarke

*Every single day, we make an impact on the planet. Millions of tiny choices, made with consciousness of the future, can make a change. Doesn't every one of us in this room care about our great-grandchildren or our friends' great-grandchildren?*

---

DR. JANE GOODALL  
primatologist and conservationist

# RETRO-SPECT 10N

A LOOK BACK AT THE 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

41°

Low temperature in Fayetteville on Oct. 5, 2012



3 Number of musicians who performed at the barbeque



336

Number of birthday cupcakes served

6,000+

Estimated number of people who attended Jane Goodall's lecture

**Photos page 8, top left:** Alice McMillan ('12), on left, and the rest of the group take in Norman Rockwell's *Rosie the Riveter*. Bottom left: (L-R) Stephen Coger ('08), Stephen Ironside ('10) and Kendall Curlee listen as the museum guide discusses Alexander Calder's *Trois noirs sur un rouge*. Right: The guide explains the structural system that supports the museum's bridges.

**Photos page 9, clockwise from top left:**

The crowd enjoys barbeque and birthday cupcakes; Liz France ('06), at left, and husband Brian McCue visit with Laurie Jakosky ('05), with Kelly Carter in background; Terry Vo ('07), left, and Bertha Gutierrez ('07); Dr. Goodall greets the crowd in Barnhill Arena.



Photos by Kelsey Ferguson





# 1st

Rank of Jane Goodall on the list of speakers we wanted to bring to campus

# 1,645

Greatest distance, in miles, travelled to attend (from Seattle)

# 3

Number of door prizes (books by Jane Goodall) presented at the barbeque

# 1

Private tour of Crystal Bridges for Honors College alumni, faculty and staff.



# 325

Birthday presents (free t-shirts for all who attended the barbeque)

# 2

Number of homecoming alumni who shared their career experiences with current students



# 458

total registrations



traveled to attend. All who registered received a free t-shirt.

At the end of the day, Dr. Goodall welcomed the crowd of more than 6,000 with a series of “pant hoots,” the distance call chimpanzees use in the wild. Clutching Mr. H, her plush toy monkey who accompanies on her international travels, Dr. Goodall emphasized the need to link the clever human brain with the human heart, and how each and every one of us can make a difference each and every day.



Mary McKay



Photos by Stephen Ironside

## Lee Bodenhamer Honored

University of Arkansas alumnus Lee Bodenhamer has improved the lives of thousands in Arkansas and beyond, first as an innovative businessman who created wealth and financial security for retirees, and more recently through volunteer service and his Bodenhamer foundation, which has supported numerous public health and education organizations. The University of Arkansas honored Lee Bodenhamer this year by bestowing a Doctor of Arts and Humane Letters at the spring 2013 Commencement ceremony.

Bodenhamer's contributions to his alma mater have been many, with perhaps his most enduring legacy being the Bodenhamer Fellowship program. He established the Bodenhamer Fellowship in 1998 to keep Arkansas' best and brightest high school students in Arkansas, and to strengthen the academic environment at the state's flagship university. So far 109 incoming freshmen have received Bodenhamer fellowships, now valued at \$70,000 over four years.

Lee Bodenhamer was born and raised in El Dorado, Ark. by a single mother who expected him to go to college at a time when this was less common. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in business at the U of A before moving on to Harvard Business School. He earned his Ph.D. and taught at Harvard before launching a retirement annuities company, First Variable Life, in 1968. He later founded Meridian Management Co., an investment management firm, working there until his retirement in 2000.

Today, Bodenhamer, his wife



*After a lifetime in finance, Lee's investments are now the Bodenhamer fellows, and with his leadership, he's ensuring compounded returns for all of Arkansas.*

— BEN HOOD

Bodenhamer Fellow, B.S.'02

Beverly and his children take a keen interest in the Bodenhamer fellows, meeting with current fellows regularly and attending performances and presentations by Bodenhamer students and alumni whenever possible.

"After a lifetime in finance, Lee's investments are now the Bodenhamer fellows, and with his leadership, he's ensuring compounded returns for all of Arkansas," said Ben Hood, a Bodenhamer Fellow who earned B.S. degrees in computer engineering and physics, *summa cum laude*, in 2002. "Dr. Bodenhamer providing me a scholarship to the U of A is close to the greatest gift I've received in my life. However, it pales in comparison to the gift he's given all

of the Bodenhamer Fellows, to be a mentor and a friend."

Upon accepting the honorary degree, Bodenhamer described his life as a "great adventure," marveling at the advances in the field of medicine as just one example of what can be accomplished through education and collaborative effort.

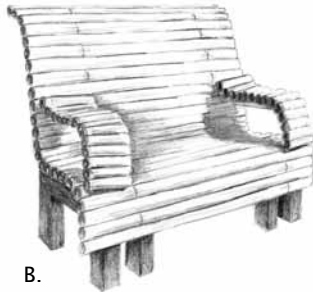
"My wish for those of you graduating today is this," said Dr. Bodenhamer, smiling warmly at the class of 2013. "At the beginning of the 22nd century, 87 years from now, as you 23-year-olds are celebrating your 110th birthdays in good health, perhaps with a few replacement body parts, and in a world that has learned to sustain its human population, I hope that you can look back and say, 'my life has been a great adventure, too.'"

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ...

This year, our questions are inspired by honors student research and creative work.



A.



B.



C.

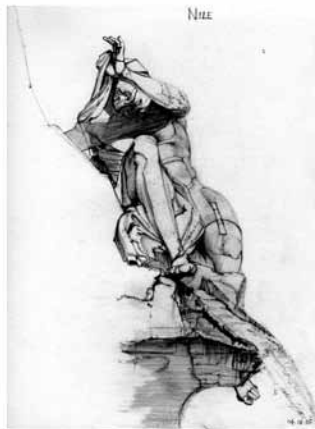
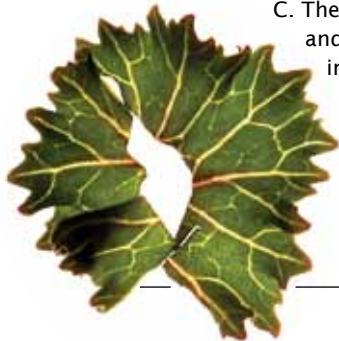


D.

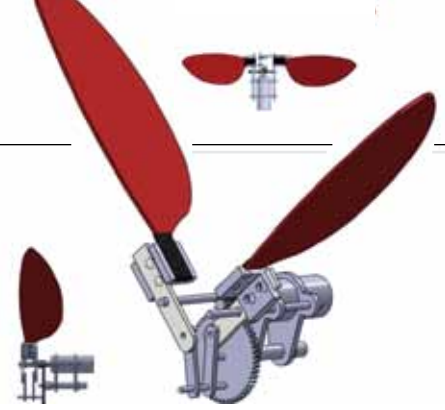
1 Which chair is actually comfortable to sit in? *Extra credit: Identify which chair was designed by an honors architecture student.*

3 Which of the following is NOT true about this photograph of a lettuce leaf:

- A. It demonstrates positive curvature.
- B. A Pringle's potato chip exhibits the same type of curvature.
- C. The student's photograph and honors thesis were inspired by his faculty advisor's brown bag lunch.
- D. The curvature of this lettuce leaf relates to the field of differential geometry.



4 An honors student sketched this detail of a famous fountain in Rome. Identify the fountain. *Extra credit: Why is the head of this figure draped in cloth?*



2 Mechanical engineers are looking to a time-tested technology - insect flight - to design micro air vehicles (MAVs) that achieve high mobility, hovering stability, increased stealth and efficient flight at low speeds. Which of the following aerodynamic effects help insects produce lift and thrust forces in flight that are 2 to 12 times their body weight?

- A. Spiral leading edge vortex
- B. Clap and fling mechanism
- C. Rotational lift
- D. Wing-wake interactions
- E. All of the above.

5 Which was more accurate in predicting the 2012 presidential race, Twitter or traditional polling firms?

*Extra credit: Where can you find Honors College theses online?*

source was when Bernini designed the fountain in 1651 (10 points extra credit).  
 5. Twitter (20 points). Matt Seubert (B.S.B.A. in business economics, *summa cum laude*, '13) used TtAC, social listening technology created by local startup firm DataRank, to gather and analyze millions of tweets about the election, and then compared shifts in online data to changes in traditional polling numbers in his honors thesis. Seubert's model outperformed most polling firms, which were, on average, 5% wrong regarding the election outcome. For more on Seubert's research, see p. 23.  
**Extra credit:** You can find honors theses online at [arkive.nark.edu/collections](http://arkive.nark.ark.edu/collections) (10 points). Click on Undergraduate Research, then Undergraduate Honors Theses. Currently there are almost 300 theses in the archive, dating back to 2005.  
**Scoring:**  
 A for effort 0-5  
 Cum laude 26-50  
 Magna 51-75  
 Summa 76-100+

in mechanical engineering, *cum laude*, '13) used a rapid prototyping machine and a DC motor-gear system to construct a prototype flapping wing micro air vehicle inspired by the unsteady wing aerodynamics found in insects. He then used a wind tunnel to evaluate the effect of gust on the prototype.  
 3. The answer is A. (20 points). Both the lettuce leaf and, less healthily, a Pringle's potato chip, demonstrate negative curvature. Objects have negative curvature when, within any given distance, there is far more material than there would be on a surface with zero curvature. Such as anything that can be made from a flat piece of paper. Jeff Gwaltney (B.S. in mathematics, *cum laude*, '09) explored the growth of negatively curved surfaces in his honors thesis. His beautiful photos are a nice plus!  
 4. Ayodele Ysuf (B.Arch., *cum laude*, '06) sketched the *Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi* (Fountain of the Four Rivers), located in the Piazza Navona, during a semester at the University of Arkansas Rome Center (20 points). The figure shown represents the Nile; its head is draped because no one knew exactly where the Nile's

1. Okay, granted, perhaps the options here are weighted towards some of the more uncomfortable seating options dreamed up by designers, including Frank Lloyd Wright (C. Robbie Chair, ca. 1908), Gerrit Thomas Rietveld (A. Zig-Zag chair, ca. 1932-34) and Carlo Volf (D. Stick Chair, ca. 2000). Clearly, option B, the Extension chair designed by honors alumna Amy McCarty (B. Arch., '07) and design partner Samantha Smith (B.S. in Architectural Studies '06) could bear sitting in for longer than five minutes (20 points). The chair, which could expand from 24" to 42", was constructed from refrigerator boxes, shellac and a whole lot of Elmer's glue, and won a 2006 Innovation Merit Award in a competition sponsored by the American Institute of Architecture Students. Illustrations by Leigh Caruthers Prassel  
 2. The answer is E; all of the above (20 points). While the kinematics and morphology of flapping wings are well understood, significant questions remain with respect to the control and power requirements necessary for reliable, consistent operation. Brett Hillier (B.S.

## Startups 101 by Kendall Curlee

Picture an Arkansas farm boy with a head for figures and a bent for tinkering, who shifts from racing “rock crawler” jeeps to fixing them, eventually building prototype vehicles powered by natural gas to save on fuel. That would be Shelby Feurtado, an honors finance major who came into the “New Ventures” honors entrepreneurship course with a patent-pending invention and a 20-page business plan. Tania Schmitfranz, an international business major and black belt taekwon do instructor, enrolled in the class armed only with ideas – about 10 of them, most focused on fitness. Other honors students signed on with the idea of using Twitter to steer college students to local business specials and proposals for developing smart phone apps.

Ideas? Not a problem for this group. Settling on marketable, scalable new business plans is more of a challenge. That’s where Jeff Amerine, a self-described “serial entrepreneur” (see sidebar, p. 15) and his new honors entrepreneurship course come into play.

### Lean Canvas

It all starts with the lean start-up canvas, a full-page diagram that helps would-be entrepreneurs select stand-out business ideas. At the second class meeting, Amerine and his students subject a campus food truck to the lean canvas test. They state the problem – lack of



Photos by Ryan Klintworth

Tania Schmitfranz makes the case for The Green Tray, a service that would help schools provide healthier meals.

meal options, long lines – then discuss costs, revenue streams, customer segments, marketing. The discussion gets lively when the students consider the “Unique Value Proposition” – in essence, what makes this idea stand out?

One student spins the idea of the food truck as a learning laboratory for business students, and another proposes going to local farmers for fresh, locally-grown produce. “But maybe your student customers are going to want food fast and cheap, in which case you’re going to go with a big company like Chartwells,” Amerine points out. “Stay in tune with the big problem you’re trying to solve, and let the customers guide you,” he emphasized.

### Pitch Practice

After weeks of finessing their lean canvas and presenting their business ideas to Amerine and classmates, it’s time for the students to pitch on a larger scale. The students have 15 minutes to sell their idea to a tough audience: Steve Brooks, a local attorney who brokers startup deals; David Moody, an “angel” investor in new businesses; and Walton College faculty and staff. The winning team will represent the University of Arkansas at the Values and Ventures Business Plan Competition at Texas Christian University.

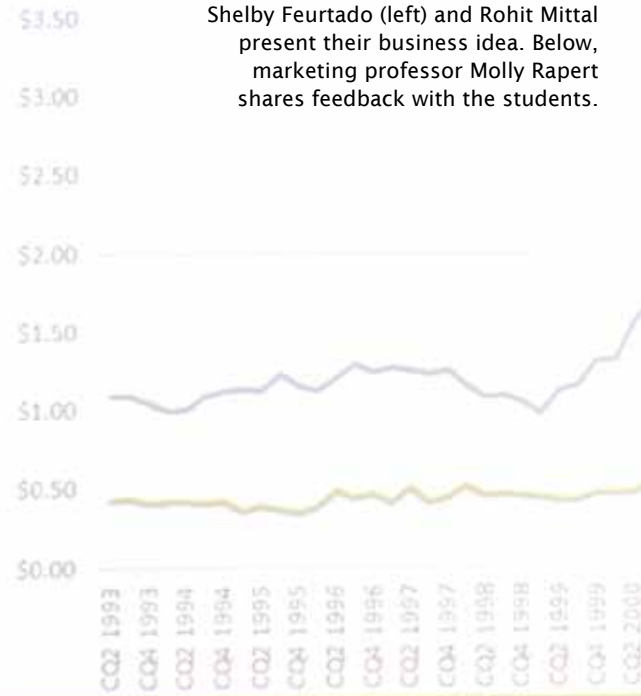
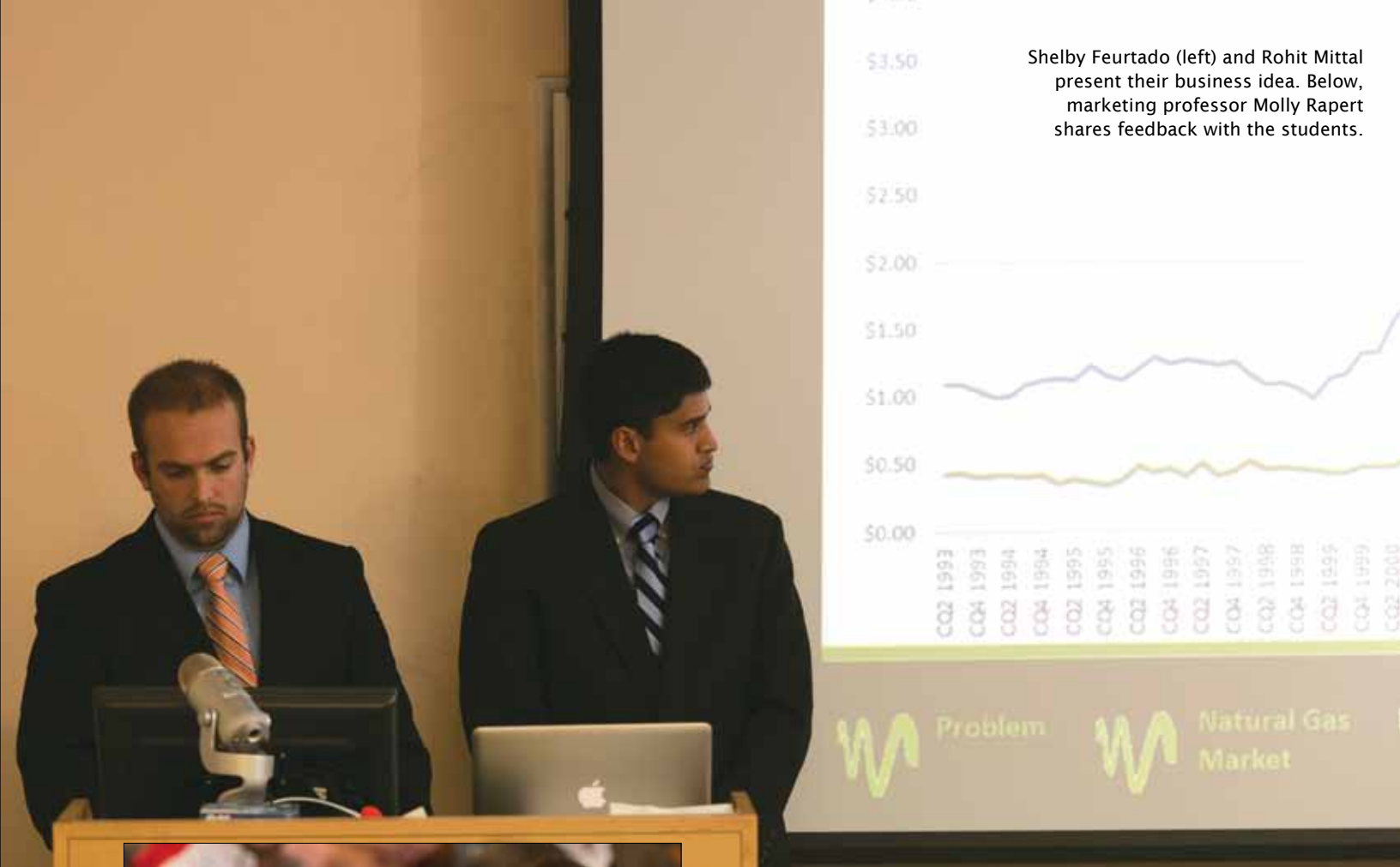
First up is The Green Tray, a service dreamed up by Tania Schmitfranz’ team. Their big idea is to target private schools in the South, perform nutritional audits and menu assessments, then match schools with healthy food providers, who traditionally have not marketed themselves well. “We live in the fattest part of America – the gut of America,” Schmitfranz says. “We’re addressing unmet needs; there’s

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*CNN Money reported that nearly 300 startups have launched in Northwest Arkansas in the last five years, raising more than \$190 million in funding, and Forbes magazine recently heralded Northwest Arkansas as a “hotbed for start ups.”*

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Shelby Feurtado (left) and Rohit Mittal present their business idea. Below, marketing professor Molly Rapert shares feedback with the students.



no competition.”

It’s a timely idea, but a somewhat intangible one, and Steve Brooks hones in on a weakness they’ve struggled with: “Can you summarize what you provide in a nutshell?” he

asks. David Moody wants figures that show the return on investment for the food providers and the schools. “Do the students do better on tests? Is the faculty more productive? How about prestige?” he asks. Jeff Amerine queries, “How do you stay in the game, once you’ve made the match?”

The other frontrunner team in the class, Natural Gas Solutions, steps up to present. Their

business focuses on the invention Shelby Feurtado cobbled together in his parents’ garage, which compresses the natural gas used to heat your home into auto fuel. Once

the variable vehicular compressor is installed in your car or truck, you can plug it in, turn your engine on to idle, and fill your tank in as little as six minutes. Priced at \$2,500, the team estimates that owners would pay off their investment in just one year.

Their presentation is polished, emphasizing the sustainability of natural gas fuel and dollars-and-cents savings. The questions come thick and fast, about safety, installation, target markets. Then Moody asks the killer question: “What happens to existing car warranties?” There’s an answer to that, a costly one: the owner would have to buy a \$6,000 conversion kit to use the device and not void car warranties.

It’s a setback for Nat Gas Solutions. “Now you’re looking at the price of a used car to invest in this system,” Amerine says. “\$2,500, that’s a slam dunk. But add \$6,000 – for \$8,500 I could get a two-year-old Nissan Versa.”

Startups continued on page 14

The Green Tray team will represent the U of A at the TCU business plan competition.

**Team Amerine**

Throughout the year, Amerine brings in buddies who are active in Arkansas’ start up scene to share their experience with his students.

There’s Ryan Frazier, a 25-year-old former student of Amerine’s whose big idea is to filter and analyze social media chatter to give companies real-time feedback on their products. His company, DataRank, is making a profit after just one year, has built an impressive roster of blue-chip clients, and has grown from three employees to seven, all recent U of A graduates. “We started a company a year ago and it still exists – you can do it too,” Frazier encouraged the students.

Other guest speakers include Dan Sanker, an investor whose supply chain management firm, Casestack, reached \$100 million in sales this year; Steve Brooks, the transaction attorney, who devotes an evening to patiently explaining the various forms of the term sheet – the document that spells out what rights an investor gets for gambling on a new company; and Jeanette Balleza, director of the ARK Challenge, the

business accelerator that packs one to two years of startup experience into 14 weeks.

“The students aren’t just getting me – they’re getting a network of people,” Amerine said.

**Scorecard: No Prizes ...**

Nat Gas Solutions is the one team from Amerine’s class selected for the prestigious annual Arkansas Governor’s Cup competition. They make it to the final round in the innovation division, armed with a compelling prop: the gleaming, baby blue Variable Vehicular Compressor, cradled in a Rubbermaid box. They have completely revamped their presentation following a practice run earlier that week, and they’ve addressed the problem of the steep, \$6,000 converter by rolling it into auto financing, resulting in immediate monthly gas savings for their target audience, truck drivers. The team does well, ably fielding the judges’ questions on manufacturing, scaling the business and liability. But ... no go.

“We lost to a team that had a life raft for people training for marathons,” Shelby Feurtado admitted ruefully, adding, “The judges had a hard time wrapping their heads around the technology.”

The Green Tray team also came up short at the business plan competition in Fort Worth. “There were people there from all over the world, and they were a lot further along in the process than we were,” said Tania Schmitfranz. “They had a product out, and they were selling it.” Although prizes didn’t pan out for Green Tray, Schmitfranz credits her experience in the class with charting a new career direction. This fall, she began graduate studies in community health promotion at the U of A, with the goal of creating health and wellness initiatives in institutions. “Health has always been a core part of my lifestyle, and Jeff took note of it. His encouragement helped me realize, that’s what I need to do with my life,” she said.

**... But New Businesses? Maybe**

Most of the students in Amerine’s class graduated and moved on to grad school and jobs with good companies, putting their entrepreneurial dreams on hold. But some of them continue to explore their options. One of Schmitfranz’ teammates, Alex Clark, has turned down several job offers to continue work on the Green Tray concept. And Feurtado, who landed a dream job with Merrill Lynch in

*The students aren’t just getting me – they’re getting a network of people.*

— JEFF AMERINE  
director of technology ventures



Steve Brooks, transaction attorney; Jeannette Balleza, director of ARK Challenge; David Moody, “angel” investor



Tom Davis, Jake Ehrenreich, Shelby Feurtado and Rohit Mittal pose for a photograph after competing in the Governor's Cup competition.



Logan Webster

Fort Smith, was approached recently by a product development team at a major company in the natural gas industry – thanks to some behind-the-scenes networking with a highly placed alumnus. “They tested the idea and said, ‘holy cow, this could work!’” Feurtado said. “We’re in talks there, and we’ll see where it goes.”

*CNN Money* reported that nearly 300 startups have launched in Northwest Arkansas in the last five years, raising more than \$190 million in funding, and *Forbes* magazine recently heralded Northwest Arkansas as a “hotbed for start ups” buoyed by Walmart, Tyson, J.B. Hunt, and something a bit more intangible – the area’s “Midwestern/Southern hospitality.” Amerine calls it the “secret sauce,” and thanks to his unflagging support and network of well-connected friends, U of A undergraduates can get a generous helping of encouragement and an early start on entrepreneurship.

## THE SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR

Jeff Amerine, director of technology ventures at the University of Arkansas, is a direct-gaze, firm-handshake kind of guy, quick on his feet and good at selling a story. The son of a career Air Force pilot, he grew up moving all over the map. “It was never in my DNA to be an entrepreneur,” he recalls. “I wanted to fly planes or be an astronaut.” An award-winning high school science project that harvested solar energy gave him an early taste of running with an idea, and after holding leadership positions in three Fortune 500 companies, Amerine struck out on his own as a self-described “serial entrepreneur.” Over the course of 23 years, he helped create, finance and deploy seven start-up ventures in the telecommunications and information technology sectors.

Since coming to the University of Arkansas in 2008, Amerine has focused his energy on launching students rather than startups. His undergraduate entrepreneurship courses are modeled on the highly successful graduate program led by



Jeff Amerine

Carol Reeves, the university’s associate vice provost for entrepreneurship, whose students have raised \$25 million in funding and launched 10 viable businesses that employ almost 100 Arkansans in high-wage jobs.

The New Ventures course is just one facet of Amerine’s efforts to encourage startups in Arkansas. He also participates in Innovate Arkansas, a state-funded program to mentor new businesses in Arkansas; helped to develop the ARK Challenge, a boot camp for new businesses; and founded Gravity Ventures Arkansas, a tech-focused investment fund.

“You have to stay active, keep your finger on the pulse, or you get stale pretty quickly,” he said.



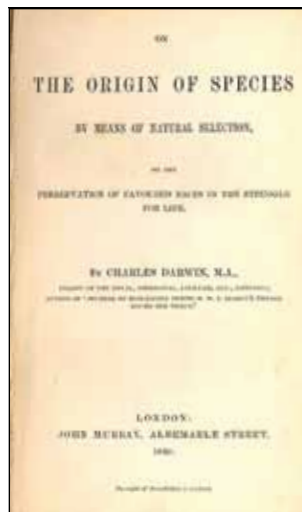
William McComas with a Galapagos giant tortoise.

## Big Picture Courses

The Honors College has been kickstarting interdisciplinary inquiry since 2006, funding the development of courses on topics such as the drug development process and music, language and thought. The impact of these grants can be seen in courses that continue to flourish today, such as the service learning program in Belize, where students drawn from five colleges work together on initiatives ranging from water filtration to micro-finance loans for female entrepreneurs. To date, the Honors College has helped to develop 30 interdisciplinary courses with more than \$500,000 in startup funding. Here is the latest round of new courses available to honors students:

### The Darwin Course

*Faculty: William F. McComas, science education; Vince Chaddick, law; William Etges, biology; Daniel Kennefick, physics; Mary Leigh, English; Jack Lyons and Barry*



*Ward, philosophy; Angie Maxwell, political science; J. Michael Plavcan, anthropology; Richard Sonn, history.*

Ten professors from a variety of specializations across campus will bring a rich brew of perspectives to this course designed to examine the history of evolution, from Charles Darwin's voyage on the

*It is fine to educate scientists and humanists, but not so fine if those in these two communities are able to look at the world in only one way. This highly interdisciplinary course is designed to give students an opportunity to examine one of the most important ideas in human thought from as many vantage points as possible.*

— WILLIAM MCCOMAS  
Parks Professor of Science Education

H.M.S. Beagle to the Scopes trial to continuing aftershocks in science classrooms today. In addition to learning about Darwin and the science of evolution, the course is strategically designed to demonstrate that the most complete view of any discovery, event or person can only be achieved through the use of an interdisciplinary lens.

### **Cultivating Interprofessional Collaboration to Improve Health Outcomes**

*Faculty: Nan-Smith Blair, nursing; Sara Collie and Yvette Murphy-Erby, social work; Ana Bridges, psychological sciences.*

In this service learning course geared for honors students seeking



S. Beer, *Rainy Season in the Tropics on View in Frederic Church's Tenth Street Studio*, New York, New York, c. 1866, stereograph, 3 1/4 x 6 3/4 in., OL.1985.814, Collection Olana State Historic Site, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



William Merritt Chase, *Studio Interior*, ca. 1882. Oil on canvas, 28 1/16" x 40 1/8". Courtesy Brooklyn Museum. Chase painted his Tenth Street Studio in the portrait.

careers in the health professions, students will partner with doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, pharmacists and therapists at clinical agencies in the area to promote effective, collaborative patient care, particularly for those who may fall through the cracks in the current healthcare system. The course is designed to increase awareness of the roles, responsibilities and ethics governing diverse health care workers and give students a “real world” understanding of how interprofessional health care teams work together.

### **The Tenth Street Studio Building Digital Reconstruction: Visualizing a Chapter of American Art**

*Faculty: David Fredrick, classical studies; Tom Haggood, art.*

In this course, students draw from archival materials to digitally recreate New York City's Tenth Street Studio, where major figures in the Hudson River school of painters created and exhibited their work. Constructed with game engine technology, the recreation will allow an immersive, real-time

walk-through experience, with links to information about the studio, its occupants and the social context of 19th-century New York. The students will conduct library research and view artwork at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art as part of this project.

### **Health and Gender in Sub-Saharan Africa**

*Faculty: Sabrina Billings, world languages, literature, and cultures; Kristen Jozkowski health, human performance, and recreation; Andrea Arrington, history.*

This course will challenge students to consider how Western, biomedical approaches fit, and don't fit, in addressing public health issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. Case studies on topics such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, breastfeeding/infant nutrition, female circumcision, water-borne diseases and reproductive health will help students understand how different cultural norms and especially, gender, impact ongoing public health crises.

### **Food Chemistry: An Honors Section**

*Faculty: Philip Crandall and Nathan Jarvis, food science; Ed Clausen, chemical engineering; Dennis Beck, educational technology.*

In this pilot project, honors students in an existing food chemistry lecture and lab course will develop and share web-based learning modules, thus leveraging the university's investment in costly “wet chemistry laboratories.” Interdisciplinary teams of chemical engineering and food science students may use these virtual labs to increase understanding of topics such as enzyme reaction rates, which are hard to visualize in the physical world.

Courses continued on page 18



*Sous-vide* steak and caramelized onion mashed potatoes were prepared using molecular gastronomy techniques.

### **Opera, Nations and Empires**

*Faculty: Martin Nedbal, music; Laurence Hare, history; Jennifer Hoyer, German.*

This course provides a cultural-historical overview of the changing concepts of the Western “self” and the non-Western “other” as reflected in six German-language operas, beginning with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (1782) and concluding with Franz Lehar’s operetta *The Land of Smiles* (1923). In each of the selected works, students will uncover the ways in which European artists constructed national identities through appeals to peasant folklore and a mythic past. At the same time, we will consider how those images were shaped through exoticist portrayals of the Orient.

### **Molecular Gastronomy**

*Faculty: Joshua Sakon, chemistry and biochemistry; Ya-Jane Wang, food science*

This course will explore new cooking approaches pioneered by the molecular gastronomy movement, which encourages the use of scientific methods and equipment in the kitchen. Working with a variety of foods – breads, meringues, steaks, jams and cheeses – students will study the chemical and biochemical reactions that take place in the kitchen and embrace new cooking techniques based on the fundamental principles of chemistry.

## Investigating Arteries

As far as fitness tests go, this one looks pretty low-key. The student volunteer lies flat on his back, enveloped in a sleek, black, tube-lined suit while honors kinesiology student Erin Dougherty sits nearby, monitoring readings on her computer screen and keeping a watchful eye on her subject. At 30 minutes, she records his core and skin temperatures, heart rate, blood pressure, and perhaps most significantly, assesses his arterial compliance (elasticity) by using a Doppler ultrasound to measure pulse wave velocity. With this baseline established, she twirls a dial. Within a few minutes, the student flushes red; then he starts to sweat. That's 120-degree-water pumping into the suit, and Dougherty's goal is to raise his core temperature to 101 degrees Fahrenheit – without him lifting a finger.

The point of this exercise is to eliminate exertion when considering factors that contribute to arterial health. "We know exercise can be good for arteries, but we don't know why," Erin Dougherty said. "Almost all exercise heats you up, so maybe it's the heat. That's why we're looking at heat, not exercise, in this model."

For her honors thesis, Dougherty participated in a pilot study led by Matt Ganio, an assistant professor in health, human performance and recreation, on the effect of heat stress on arterial compliance in smokers. Arterial compliance is a key component of cardiovascular health: "You want arteries to expand with each heartbeat, absorb the shock," Ganio said. "They're like



Honors kinesiology major Erin Dougherty and faculty mentor Matt Ganio conduct a test in the human performance lab.

rubber bands – over time, they get stiff, putting more pressure on vessels near organs."

This new study builds on an earlier study by Ganio that established that if baseline arterial compliance in healthy individuals is good, there won't be a great deal of change when subjects heat up. Individuals who had lower arterial compliance (i.e., poor arterial health) at baseline had greater changes with passive heating. Based on that finding, Dougherty hypothesized that passive heat stress would improve arterial compliance in smokers, whose poor arterial health is well known, to a greater extent than non-smokers.

Early tests indicate that the opposite might be true. "More subjects will need to be tested to confirm this finding," Dougherty

said. "One possible explanation is that central nervous system activation during heat stress was greater in smokers, overriding the effect of nitric oxide, a vasodilator that is released in response to stress." Future studies would measure the effects of both passive heat and exercise on smokers and non-smokers.

The ultimate goal is to better understand the mechanisms that improve arterial health for various populations. Ganio expects to publish the study, with Dougherty and several graduate students as co-authors, once more data has been collected. Funding for this research has been provided in part by the Honors College and the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, the major research component of the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of 2000.

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*We know exercise can be good for arteries, but we don't know why. Almost all exercise heats you up, so maybe it's the heat.*

ERIN DOUGHERTY  
honors student

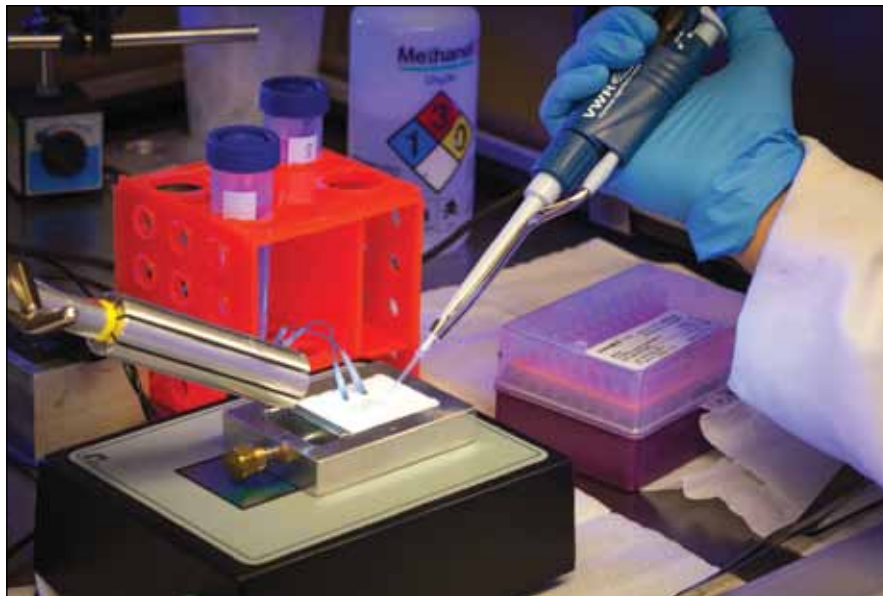
## *From the Insides of Earthworms*

Mathias Bellaiche gazes at a stainless steel box just slightly larger than a deck of cards. Inside the box, a Teflon block juiced by two electrodes cradles a Teflon strip that is punctured with a tiny hole and painted on both sides with lipid layers. He gingerly extracts some protein from a small vial – “It’s highly toxic,” he warns – and puts a few drops in the water bathing the strip. And then he waits, periodically glancing at his computer monitor.

Bellaiche, a biophysics and biophysical chemistry major, is patiently building on a remarkable discovery made by Daniel Fologea, one of his faculty mentors: a protein, harvested from the gut of earthworms, that produces an ionic current when light shines on it. “This is really remarkable in proteins,” Bellaiche said. “We know of only one other class of non-photosynthetic proteins that reacts to light, in your eye, and it has a completely different structure than our protein.”

Today, he waits for the protein to drop into the lipid bilayer covering the tiny hole in the Teflon strip: when it does, current is produced. But as often as not in the two months he’s been running this experiment, Bellaiche is playing a waiting game. “It’s really frustrating when nothing works,” he admits. “It’s annoying, because sometimes it wants to work, and sometimes it doesn’t want to do anything.”

This experiment is worth the wait, though, because the potential applications for the protein are broad, including saltwater purification and pharmaceutical synthesis. “Right now, insulin is made with E.coli cells that you have to isolate and purify; if you could use this protein as an energy source



Photos by Russell Cothren



Honors biophysics and biophysical chemistry major Mathias Bellaiche at work in the laboratory.

for biosynthesis in test tubes, there would be no need to worry about bacteria,” Bellaiche said. Perhaps most significantly, the protein may be a potential source of renewable energy. “If you had a huge planar bilayer of the protein, you could theoretically stick a plug in it, kind of like a solar cell, which could be used as an alternative to fossil fuels,” he said.

Bellaiche’s job, and the subject of his honors thesis, is to observe and describe this protein: how long it takes for current to build and dissipate in response to light, how much current it produces, and what color it responds to most strongly. Gregory Salamo, the Joe N. Basore Professor in Nanotechnology and Innovation, is serving as his faculty

mentor in collaboration with Ralph Henry, chair of the biological sciences department, and Fologea, now an assistant professor at Boise State.

Bellaiche has been involved in hands-on research since his freshmen year, exploring topics ranging from cholesterol super lattices in cell membranes that can lead to atherosclerosis to nanocarriers that deliver targeted treatment to cancer tumors. He’s long been interested in using physics and chemistry to observe and describe how the world works, and is fascinated by biology: “I like how you can go from inanimate particles – protons, electrons and neutrons – to life. It’s almost magical,” he said. This year Bellaiche was named a Barry Goldwater Scholar, which recognizes the nation’s top students in mathematics, science and engineering.



Russell Cothren

The \$10 test for anemia uses the centrifugal force of a spinning bicycle wheel to separate red blood cells from other blood components, so that anemia may be diagnosed at a glance.

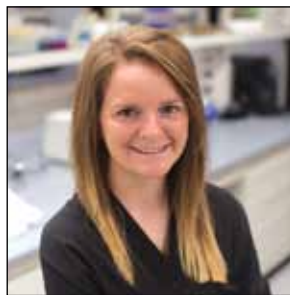
## *Pedal Power*

Three biomedical engineering students have developed a low-tech, no-frills test for anemia that costs \$10, fits in a small box, and runs without electricity. Their secret? They rely on the centrifugal force of a spinning bicycle wheel to separate red blood cells from other blood components, so that anemia may be diagnosed at a glance.

“Two billion of the world’s population are anemic, and many live in underserved areas,” said Katelin Cherry, an honors student from Oklahoma City, Okla. who led the team. “Bicycles are everywhere around the world and can be used anywhere, so it’s a good design idea.”

Cherry and team members Peter Kleindl and Anh Vu were selected to present their senior design project at the 2013 Beyond Traditional Borders National Undergraduate Global Health Design Competition hosted by Rice University last spring.

The students worked more than nine months on the design, guided by Jeff Wolchok, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering. An early concept using a hand-cranked motor was considered and dismissed before they hit on the



*Bicycles are everywhere around the world and can be used anywhere, so it’s a good design idea.*

————— KATELIN CHERRY  
honors biomedical engineering student and team leader

bicycle wheel in a “group think” session with Wolchok. The design consists of three parts: a tube carrier that holds standard blood collection tubes, a carrier holder that clips onto a bicycle spoke, and a centrifugal detection system that consists of a compression spring, battery, and LED circuit that is attached to the wheel with electrical tape. Once the blood sample is drawn and the carrier holder clipped to the bicycle spoke, the user hops on the bike and pedals. As centrifugal force increases, the carrier holder slips down the spoke and snugs into the detection apparatus. A light comes on to indicate that the appropriate centrifugal force has been reached, and then the user pedals some more – about 20 minutes, the students said.

“We’re trying to improve the device so that there’s not so much user demand – more force with less fatigue,” said Peter Kleindl, a senior from Joplin, Mo. who has spent hours cycling in the highest gear to test the device.

The students worked through five iterations of the design, and hope that another team of students will further refine the idea in the future.

“For me, it’s not just the design process that’s been rewarding,” said Anh Vu, an honors student from Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. “We hope, eventually, that there will be organizations that can use our design.”

The students’ trip to Houston was supported by the College of Engineering and Rice University.

## Post-Colonial Parvenus

Graced with Chinese-pagoda-style pavilions and elaborate fretwork, Boissiere House is just one in a parade of confectionery-colored “Painted Ladies” that line Queen’s Park Savannah in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The 1904 cottage delights the eye and offers clues to Trinidad’s colonial past and complex social structure.

“The house was built by Charles Boissiere, a cocoa planter and *gens de couleur libre* who had traveled to Europe’s Grand Exposition and studied the Chinoise and Art Nouveau styles,” said Leniqueca Welcome, an Honors College fellow from Trinidad and Tobago. “All of the houses along the Savannah were done by aspirational people who wanted to show where they were

situated in the social hierarchy.”

Welcome’s honors thesis examines the ways in which Trinidadians have used architecture to express identity from the turn of the last century until now – a complicated business in a country whose 500-year colonial history began with the arrival of the Spanish in 1498, followed by Caribbean French slave owners, free colored cocoa planters, British sugar planters, and East Indian capitalists.

“The class structure became more and more complex, with race, capital and religion all playing a role,” Welcome said. “That’s why the house became so important –you needed that visual signifier.” Her thesis focused on four eras: the 1900s, when newly wealthy cocoa planters looked to European models to broadcast their success; the

1930s, when a new “Afro-Saxon” class, disenchanted with wartime oppression, stripped away ornament to break with the colonial past; the 1960s, when newly independent elites looked to North American modernism as a symbol of power; and today’s ornate McMansions built by the latest group of successful newcomers from East India. Welcome also examined the ways families of more modest means adapted architectural details for their homes to assert their identity and status.

Welcome’s research has been guided by architecture professor Gregory Herman and enriched by extensive fieldwork in Trinidad, including interviews with an anthropologist, a cultural historian, and architects.

“Leniqueca has made an important step toward a fuller understanding of Trinidadian

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Welcome continued on page 23

Boissiere House,  
Port of Spain,  
Trinidad





## Twitter vs. Gallup by James Brown

For most college students, Twitter is a quick way to stay in touch. But for political science and economics major Matt Seubert, it provided the bedrock of a thesis probing the dynamic intersections of politics and social media.

Under the direction of William Schreckhise, associate professor of political science, and Robert Stapp, clinical professor of economics, Seubert catalogued the 2012 U.S. presidential election by utilizing DataRank, a Fayetteville-based start-up company specializing in the analysis of online conversation about consumer products.

Using TTAGG, DataRank's software for gathering online conversation and analyzing its sentiment, Seubert examined social media activity about the upcoming election and compared it to campaign progress as measured by polls. "It started as a neat side project at work," he recalls of his thesis idea. "I had a vested interest in politics as a political science major, and it eventually grew."

The project bore fruit. After the election, Seubert found that many polling firms had been, on average, 5% wrong regarding its outcome. TTAGG, by contrast, had been much more accurate. "The model forecast President Obama receiving 50.54% of the vote, and actual

results showed him garnering 51.1%. Online data was generally successful outperforming most polling firms," Seubert said.

Yet the work was not easy, especially considering its sheer scope. "The biggest challenge was the fact that there's an enormous universe of information – we processed millions of pieces of data, and we had to find a way to put it all into a display reflecting reality," Seubert recalled. Unexpected results also arose, necessitating detailed exploration of polling methodologies to explain divergences from expectation.

Despite the hurdles, Seubert's research provided numerous insights into political trends and how they are analyzed. "The discrepancies between the poll predictions and the actual election results show that polling firms will frequently be biased in one direction or the other," he says. "You're trying to explain a difference between expectations and reality."

For Seubert, the research process has paid off handsomely. He currently holds a full-time job at DataRank as lead analyst. In the way of longer-term benefits, he's found a doorway into a new and rapidly growing field. "It's very interesting to be at the front of this space," he says.

As for expanding his thesis research, Seubert is already well

contributions to the architecture of the Americas, a significantly understudied area," Greg Herman said.

The question that began Welcome's research – what is Trinidadian architecture – has proven difficult to answer, especially given that the Amerindians who were there originally have been marginalized by European settlement.

"Everything is imported, adapted, hybridized," Welcome said. "We're always searching for Trinidadian identity. I started my research asking that question, and the truth is, it kind of all is – that's the conclusion I'm coming to in my research."

Welcome's work is especially important because Trinidad's historic homes are falling into disrepair, including Boissiere House.

That gingerbread extravaganza, a testament to Charles Boissiere's yearning for European culture, is currently for sale, and there is concern that it may be sold and replaced by condominiums, given its prime location. Welcome's research helps shine a light on the significance of Boissiere House and others like it.

*The discrepancies between the poll predictions and the actual election results show that polling firms will frequently be biased in one direction or the other.*

— MATT SEUBERT  
honors political science and  
economics major



## Extraordinary Objects



*I want to create objects that intrigue and surprise the viewer.*

EMILY CHASE  
honors art major

Honors College Fellow Emily Chase has been folding, sewing and sculpting paper for several years. Her works in paper range from a flock of origami cranes that were installed in the Arkansas Union to three exquisitely crafted, life-sized paper gowns that comprise her honors thesis. She cites her grandmother, a quilter, and her mother, a painter, as inspiration for her work with the medium.

“Growing up, their creation of expressive objects from ordinary materials fascinated me,” she said. “I’m interested in juxtapositions between ordinary materials and extraordinary objects, what objects seem to be and what they really are. I love to take something so mundane and everyday and do something unexpected with it.”

Over the course of 18 months Chase painted, cut, scraped, pricked and scorched various aspects of the paper garments, which lure and provoke the viewer with unexpected details. A quilted paper spine and ribs form the back of *Hollow Bones*, confining painted birds suspended within the bodice. In *Husk*, which was inspired by the tale of Sleeping Beauty, a delicate tracery of blue veins/vines painted within are revealed when the gown is illuminated. The caped, black and crimson *All in Knots* reveals the figures of Red Riding Hood and the wolf through an intricately cut forest scene.

Historical costume and the rich visual language of fairytales inspired these works, but with the encouragement of her faculty mentor, Kristin Musnug, an associate professor of art, Chase explored the deeper themes embedded in the tales and her own emotional processes, as well.

“Professor Musnug helped me to step back, look at what I was doing, and why I was doing it,” Chase said. “She’s amazing at pushing me to look at things in new ways.”

Chase’s unusual honors thesis also helped her win a Windgate Fellowship, which provides \$15,000 in support of her career. Chase is the first U of A student to win this national award funded by the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, which annually recognizes 10 students with exemplary skill in craft. Chase used her award to study three-dimensional paper techniques at the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, N.C., and to travel to New York City and Japan.





Photos by Emily Chase

Above and right: *Hollow Bones*, 2012.  
Pacon paper, interfacing, acrylic paint, air-dry clay, thread.  
2'6" x 2'6" x 5'3".  
Top and left: *All in Knots*, 2013.  
Drawing paper, rice paper, paper tape, vellum, spray paint, acrylic paint, copic maker, ink, electric lantern, 5' x 5' x 6'.



Students Chris Wilbanks, Haley Jernigan, Maggie Jo Pruitt and Doug Wolf discuss recycling options with Mark Kinion, Ward 2 alderman for the City of Fayetteville.

## *To Sort, or Not to Sort?*

The City of Fayetteville will have the right tool to evaluate the cost of recycling thanks to the work of students in a class led by Jennie Popp, professor of agricultural economics in Bumpers College, and teaching assistant Gina Niederman.

Last spring six honors students from the class presented a report to the City Council on a spreadsheet tool they developed that allows the City of Fayetteville to estimate the cost of its current curbside sort recycling system. Their work capped a semester-long study of various recycling options and provides the city with an important data resource as it considers implementation of single stream recycling, which does not require curbside sorting.

The student report was based on an analysis prepared by R.W. Beck, Inc. that was commissioned by the City of Fayetteville in 2008.

"The firm reported cost findings related to a number of the city's recycling efforts, but the city did not receive a copy of the spreadsheet tool, thereby making it difficult to replicate the analysis in the future," Popp said. The report was presented

to the city in 2009, but due to the recession that hit at that time, the city took no action.

"Our job was to rebuild that analysis so that the City of Fayetteville will have a tool, free of charge, to analyze the costs of curbside sort recycling, using current figures," Popp said. All of the students in the class helped to analyze the Beck report and develop a new model, she emphasized, but "the honors students' job was to pull it together succinctly – prepare the final report and present it to the City Council at the agenda session."

Thanks to multiple practice sessions, the students presented their findings with polished ease, addressing multiple factors that may come into play, such as environmental costs of transporting recyclables to a sorting facility outside of the city, impact on local jobs, education of the populace and rates of contamination associated with different recycling options.

"Taking a semester's worth of work and putting it into a 15-minute speech was fun," said Doug Wolf, an environmental, soil, and water

sciences major who wore his lucky tie – an eagle soaring over the American flag – to the presentation. "Some of the information pointed one way, and all of us have our own bias, but there's a bigger picture, and other considerations that need to be taken into account."

Following the students' presentation, Don Marr, chief of staff for the City of Fayetteville, told the group: "I'm thrilled with the tool. This is the first time we've actually had a spreadsheet that captures the cost of service – it will be a phenomenal help when we go to our rate study." Brian Pugh, waste reduction coordinator for the City of Fayetteville, emphasized the dollars-and-cents savings represented by the students' work: "We paid Beck \$100,000 in 2007-08. Now each year we're going to be able to plug in current budget costs and get updated cost per household for our curbside program. It's a great value to the City of Fayetteville – the students have saved us multiple thousands of dollars."

## Dharma Donation

Rachel Atterstrom is 23, and before snagging her current job at the British Consulate in Houston, she was living at home, spending her days serving mimosas to clients in a North Dallas hair salon and her evenings mailing out résumés. Hardly the typical profile for a benefactor, but last spring, just one year after earning her bachelor's degree in English literature and political science, *cum laude*, from the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, Atterstrom made a gift to her alma mater. Her \$500 check was earmarked to help another student participate in an experience that she said “opened a gateway”: the Tibetans in Exile Today (TEXT) program. English professor Sidney Burris and Geshe Thupten Dorjee, a Tibetan Buddhist monk who teaches courses on Tibetan culture and Buddhist philosophy, created TEXT in 2008. They send 20 students to Dharamsala, India for six weeks every other summer to record and preserve the stories of Tibetans living in exile. The program is popular with students but the price tag, which includes \$2000 plane tickets, is steep for many of them.

When asked why she chose to give now, Atterstrom spoke of her own struggles with finances as a student.

“I was a Pell grant recipient, I worked three jobs, and I had a scholarship,” she recalled. After taking a course with Burris, Atterstrom decided she wanted to participate in TEXT, and began the scramble to round up funding. She applied for a scholarship, but didn't get it, and was ready to give up on the idea when her uncle, who is also her godfather, stepped forward to cover the cost of her plane ticket.

“I call him my fairy godfather,”



Cell Birke

The 2011 TEXT trip was a life-changing experience for alumna Rachel Atterstrom.

she quipped, “and really, I'm doing this in his honor. I had a wonderful experience – I wasn't worried about being on a budget, or missing something because I didn't have funds.”

The TEXT group that Atterstrom traveled with in 2011 became especially close.

“That was a special year,” Sidney Burris said, attributing it to chemistry. Atterstrom was charged with organizing logistics, making sure that everybody gathered in the right place, at the right time – often 6 a.m. in the morning.

“Students like her are the ones who make the trip work,” Burris said.

When asked how the trip changed her, Atterstrom mentioned an interview that was eye opening.

“He was in his 20s, close to my age, wearing a t-shirt that featured a rapper from the 90s that I might wear, and he wanted to go back to Tibet and teach,” Atterstrom recalled. “I realized that we're not that different, and that I've been

very lucky. I had this sense that the opportunities that are available to me should be available to everyone.”

Atterstrom recently began working as a chancery associate at the British Consulate in Houston and hopes to provide ongoing support for the TEXT program. Clint Shoemake, a friend of Atterstrom's who participated in the '11 TEXT trip, is also exploring the possibility of appealing to all TEXT alumni to donate just \$10 a year to create a scholarship to support students who want to participate.

“Gandhi said, ‘whatever you do may be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it,’” Burris said. “That sums up the spirit of the TEXT trip: do what you can, wherever you are, at the moment.”

“It's easy, as a young person, to get caught up in making money, finding a place to live, and saving,” Atterstrom summed up. “You have to start with the things that are most important, and prioritize them. The world is a lot bigger than myself, and that's easy to forget.”

## Honor Roll

This year Honors College students continued to excel in winning nationally competitive awards. Congratulations to the following honors students and to the professors and staff who mentor them:

### GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP

This award grants cost of tuition, board and travel to pursue graduate studies at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom; only 39 students were selected nationwide.

- + **Mariel Williams** - Anthropology, Spanish  
*mentor - Peter Ungar*

### WINDGATE FELLOWSHIP

This award is given to student artists working in a craft medium or process; only 10 students were selected nationwide.

- + **Emily Chase** - Art  
*mentor - Kristin Musnug*

### TRUMAN SCHOLAR

This award recognizes students who aspire to careers in government and public service; only 54 students were selected nationwide.

- + **Nathan Coulter** - Economics, Political Science  
*mentor - Janine Parry*

Finalists include:

- + **Autumn Lewis** - Economics, Political Science  
*mentor - Jeff Ryan*
- + **Rachael Pellegrino** - Anthropology, Chemistry/Biochemistry  
*mentor - T.K.S Kumar*

### GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

This award recognizes outstanding mathematics, science and engineering students planning careers in scientific research.

- + **Mathias Bellaiche** - Biophysical Chemistry, Physics  
*mentor - Greg Salamo*
- + **Toby Bothwell** - Mathematics, Physics  
*mentor - Salvador Barraza-Lopez*

### GILMAN SCHOLARS

The Gilman Scholarship provides funds for study abroad.

- + **Randol Caja** - International Relations/Asian Studies
- + **Sandra Carrasco** - Industrial Engineering
- + **Clair Finke** - International Business
- + **Jennifer Holmes-Smith** - Civil Engineering and French
- + **Sara Kouchehbagh** - International Relations/Middle East Studies
- + **Katherine Mullendore** - Kinesiology
- + **Carolina Valdizon** - International Business
- + **Hope Washispack** - Supply Chain Management

Summer 2013 Scholars include:

- + **Elaina Blando** - Psychology
- + **Mary Anna Davis** - Art
- + **Logan Jones** - Physics
- + **Andrew Powell** - Communication
- + **Raina Rush** - Biological Sciences

### J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

This program awards grants for research and teaching assistantships in foreign countries.

- + **Chelsea Burris** - German, International Relations; Germany  
*mentor - Kathleen Condray*
- + **Katelin Cherry** - Biomedical Engineering; Malaysia  
*mentor - Jeff Wolchok*
- + **Kahlilah Fleming** - German; Germany  
*mentor - Kathleen Condray*
- + **Matt Owns** - History, Spanish; Spain  
*mentor - Lynda Coon*
- + **Lydia Thompson** - Anthropology, Latin American Studies, History; Mexico  
*mentor - Kirstin Erickson*

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE FELLOWS

Recipients are awarded three years' support for graduate studies in all scientific disciplines.

- + **Tyler Bowman** - Electrical Engineering  
*mentor - Magda El-Shenawee*
- + **Kristin Kovach** - Chemical Engineering, Physics  
*mentor - Greg Salamo*
- + **Raymond Walter** - Economics, Math, Physics  
*mentor - Laurent Bellaiche*
- + **Derrek Wilson** - Physics  
*mentor - Surendra Singh*

Honorable mentions include:

- + **Danielle Frechette** - Biological Engineering  
*mentor - Jamie Hestekin*
- + **R. Spencer Shinabery** - Chemistry  
*mentor - Nan Zheng*

### UDALL SCHOLARSHIP

This award is given to students who show outstanding potential and commitment to pursuing careers related to the environment.

- + **Andrea Love** - Environmental, Soil, and Water Science, Communication  
*mentor - Lisa Corrigan*

Honorable mentions include:

- + **Emily Albert** - Communication, Political Science  
*mentor - Bianca Rowlett*
- + **Katie Dunn** - Landscape Architecture  
*mentor - Judy Brittenum*
- + **Doug Wolf** - Environmental, Soil, and Water Science  
*mentor - Kristofor Brye*

## *Pencils Down, Pointers Up* by Hannah Breshears

As the University of Arkansas Honors College settles into its new home and begins its second decade on campus, a growing number of honors alums are returning to campus to take their place on the other side of the classroom, as professors. “We are building a very strong tradition of undergraduate honors education here at the university that actually predates the creation of the Honors College in 2002,” said Bob McMath, dean of the Honors College. “The fact that these alumni are coming back to campus to teach today’s honors students speaks to the quality of the experience we offer.” Though the latest crop of professor-alumni

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*I know a little bit about what it’s like to sit in these seats. It’s like coming home in many ways.*

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STEPHANIE SCHULTE  
communication assistant professor

represent vastly different fields, each has cited the prestige and support of the Honors College community as key factors in their decision to return to campus.

### Stephanie Schulte

“The Honors College has expanded massively and beautifully since its inception,” according to communication

assistant professor Stephanie Schulte, who graduated from the university in 1998. “This place is so different from what it was when I was a student,” she remarked, “but I know a little bit about what it’s like to sit in these seats. It’s like coming home in many ways.”

Schulte’s path to the classroom has not been straight. Along

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Profiles continued on page 30

Stephanie Schulte, '98, communication assistant professor





Kathleen Condray, '94, German program head

with degrees in communication, German and gender studies from the U of A, followed by a master's degree in media and public affairs and a Ph.D. in American studies at George Washington University, you will also find stints as an opera make-up artist, factory worker, and researcher for Radio Free Asia listed in her personal job history. "It took me a long time to figure out what I wanted to do, but nothing has made me happier than talking about ideas," says Schulte, who encourages her students to take the crooked path and to make productive mistakes.

Her new book, *Cached: Decoding the Internet in Global Popular Culture*, reflects this refusal to commit to a single discipline, and is being touted as the most culturally sophisticated history of the Internet yet written. "The book grew out of a dissertation project, and tries to imagine what we think the Internet is at any given moment—a toy for teenagers, a weapon, a facilitator of globalization, or a marketplace?"

The topic is fascinating and contentious, especially with regard to social media. Schulte wrote the last chapter of her book while streaming news coverage of the so-called "Facebook Revolution" in Egypt, an incident that only fuels her thesis. "I was watching these newscasters talk about the uprising as if Facebook had caused it, and arguing about how Twitter factored in," said Schulte. "It's an incredible intersection of culture and policy that's being mediated by technology and news."

Schulte takes a similar approach to technology in her courses by filtering longstanding communication questions through past and present media. "I try to reach students where they are," said Schulte, "so we talk about cyborgs, or contact lenses with LCD monitors in them, or Google glass, or whatever it is that's happening in the moment and we think about them historically...we take the temperature of contemporary technology and trace the ideas back

to their origins."

For the past two years, Schulte and her husband were pleased to accompany new Bodenhamer Fellows on the traditional trip to Washington, D.C. Thanks in part to the Schultes' connections, the fellows have enjoyed opportunities to tour the back halls of the State Department, gain research access to the Library of Congress, and sit in on a budget meeting at the Washington Post. "We lived in the city for several years, so it's exciting be able to share what we loved about the area with these young students," Schulte said. She is the honors advisor for the communication department, and is continually impressed by the intellectual curiosity of her students. "You come in every day and know that they are going to challenge you," said Schulte. "It's so much fun."



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*I didn't know any German at all until I was an 18-year-old freshman at the university.*

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KATHLEEN CONDRAY  
German program head

### Kathleen Condray

“I didn’t know any German at all until I was an 18-year-old freshman at the university,” recalls Kathleen Condray, one of the Honors College’s most lauded language professors and current section head for the German department. “I was actually a biology major when I decided that German was a lot more fun, which didn’t sit well with my parents at the time.” She went on to earn master’s and doctoral degrees in German at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, working in doctoral studies at the University of Regensburg and the University of Vienna before returning to her alma mater in 1999.

Condray was recently awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Grant and plans to spend part of her sabbatical at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität at Freiburg im Breisgau in Germany. Prior to her Fulbright, she is working on a new book examining *Das Arkansas Echo*, a weekly German language paper published in Little Rock from 1891 to 1932. The monograph will investigate several important historical years for German-Americans, a group whose influence in the state Condray hopes to illuminate with her research. “There is so much about European immigration to the state that has been lost, or has yet to be uncovered,” said Condray, whose own grandparents were first-generation German immigrants.

A former Sturgis Fellow and one of the earliest faculty members of the Honors College, Condray often brings her personal research into the classroom and is celebrated

for her decidedly non-traditional teaching methods. “Every day can’t be a song and dance, but I try to do something unique in each class period,” said Condray, who has been known to recreate a German town in the classroom to replicate shopping with Euros and metric measures. Last spring, students from Condray’s German Conversation course tested their vocabulary with a campus scavenger hunt translating direction words on the fly in pursuit of sugary prizes. “The class is a survival guide for study abroad,” said Condray. “We teach them the vocabulary they need to know to read a map, open a bank account, and even shop for groceries.”

A perennial pragmatist, Condray is adamant that her students not only be successful in German, but also combine their language skills with knowledge in other fields. “I want my students to be employed after college, so I am constantly nagging them to expand their educational horizons through internships doing research, work, or study abroad,” she said. “Part of what I do is have long conversations with students. It’s not enough to simply graduate anymore, so what are we going to do to set you apart?”

With 74 recommendation letters on file from last year alone, Condray is a proven advocate for her students, inside the classroom and out. “They know that I know them, and that I will help,” says Condray, whose students often return the favor by writing for her “What Can I Do With That?” blog. Designed to showcase the lesser-known applications of a German language degree, Condray

uses the blog to capitalize on the blossoming network of alumni from the German language section. “You name a field that our students want to go into, and we probably have an alum who’s doing it already. That’s a powerful resource that can give our students greater perspective as they enter the workforce,” she said.

### Kelly Sullivan

“When you graduate from a place like this, you want to come back,” said industrial engineering professor Kelly Sullivan, who returned to campus to teach in August of last year. “I have a lot of respect for these people,” said Sullivan, who pursued his Ph.D. in industrial and systems engineering at the University of Florida, but is thrilled to be back in his home state.

“For some reason my mindset was to graduate as fast as I possibly could, and I did so in 3.5 years,” said Sullivan. While he enjoyed the things he was learning in the classroom, he quickly realized that the professional world of engineering wasn’t for him. “I love being able to explore the things that I’m interested in,” said Sullivan. “On that level, research really clicked with me.” With three significant projects in the works already, Sullivan is quickly building a name for himself in the field.

Words like “national security,” “nuclear material,” and “limited resources” fall comfortably, if carefully, from Sullivan’s lips as he expounds on his most recent research. “If you’re going to place sensors that detect nuclear material along a border, but couldn’t place them everywhere, where would you put them?” he asked.

While there is a whole series of optimization issues that go along with this, Sullivan is using network interdiction problems to determine how to best leverage

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Profiles continued on page 30



Kelly Sullivan, '06 (left), assistant professor of industrial engineering, meets with graduate student Orkun Baycik.

our own intelligence against smugglers, who may not know as much about the country as we do. The young professor was joined by graduate student Orkun Baycik in his endeavors last year, and looks forward to bringing undergraduate researchers into the field as his work progresses.

As one of the newest members of the faculty, Sullivan is enjoying the academic lifestyle. "The normal load is a bit more than what I'm doing," said Sullivan, "but I am teaching an undergraduate course, called Applied Probability and Statistics, that was one of my favorites as a student, so that has been a lot of fun." While the sheer volume of students is a bit challenging, he is

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*I want it to be very apparent that I care about their success. I'm here to help.*

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KELLY SULLIVAN  
industrial engineering assistant professor

learning quickly. "I want it to be very apparent that I care about their success," said Sullivan of building relationships with his students. "I'm here to help."

Though there has been a bit of turnover since Sullivan was a student, most of the professors he recalls from his undergraduate years are on hand to advise and encourage him. "It's still hard to call former professors by their first name, especially former chancellor John White, but they've been

as welcoming as possible," said Sullivan. Dr. Chase Rainwater, who joined the engineering faculty in 2009, is another university alum that received his doctoral degree from the University of Florida, and has become a peer mentor for Sullivan. "It feels like I've been following him around for 10 years!" exclaimed Sullivan. "The tenure track has some pressure-packed years at the beginning, so it's nice having people to ask who aren't far removed from that."

## *Service Abroad and At Home* by Shelby Gill

Honors College alumnus Spencer F. Lucker has studied and worked in Europe, Africa and South America thanks to his Bodenhamer fellowship and graduate studies at the Clinton School of Public Service. Now he's applying lessons learned around the world a little closer to home, through advocacy work for the Mississippi Delta region.

Lucker was immersed in service work as early as elementary school. His parents are licensed counselors and social workers, and he recalls being raised watching public service in action. "I'm an only child, so I was on board at an early age," he said.

Lucker's passion for service grew stronger as he studied international relations, Spanish and international business at the University of Arkansas. Study abroad in Spain, Greece and Italy "equipped me with cultural competency," he said. He also credits Latin American Studies courses and a "Creating Democracies" course taught by Donald Kelly with helping him to understand what it takes to support communities in developing their civil society and local economy.

"One of the most important contributions that the Honors College awarded me was the breadth of classes that I was able to take and the exposure to experiences that have allowed me to relate to anyone – to have a bigger picture of how our society functions," Lucker said.

While at the University of Arkansas, Lucker left his mark on much more than Senior Walk. He helped to rebuild the Sigma Nu fraternity by developing a culture "centered on service – not just one big event a year." He also worked with Angela Oxford, director of the



Spencer Lucker ('10) presents the Delta Regional Authority's media strategy at the organization's annual meeting.

Center for Community Engagement, to raise more than \$50,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through a series of campus events.

After completing degrees in international relations/European studies and Spanish in 2010, Lucker attended the University of Arkansas' Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock, Ark., where he obtained a Master of Public Service degree. "The Clinton School brought all the masters programs I was looking at into one program that had me on the ground, working with communities, and that really sealed the deal for me," Lucker said.

Lucker is currently based in Washington, D.C., but has returned to his Arkansas roots thanks to his work for the Delta Regional Authority, an independent federal agency charged with stimulating the economy in the Mississippi River Delta region. In his roles as digital communications manager and

policy advisor, Lucker publicizes the agency's key initiatives and supports the agency's efforts in certain policy areas. For example, the Delta Regional Authority is currently working to ensure that the smaller public ports along the Mississippi River are being maintained so that larger shipping barges and container ships can safely dock. Without the funding to dredge these ports, ships bypass smaller ports for larger ports. "A huge part of these cities' local economies are based on port traffic," Lucker said. "If they're not able to accept shipments they're economically stunted."

Lucker added that the agency is constantly looking for opportunities to attract investment and train the workforce of the Delta so that the region can create manufacturing and other industry jobs.

"It's definitely a slow process, but I think we see progress every day," he said.

## Alumni Updates

**Penney Berryman**, B.A. in sociology, *cum laude*, '03, earned a Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in 2006. She currently works as a manager at the National Business Group on Health.

**Meredith Brown**, B.S. in nursing, *summa cum laude*, '11, is a registered nurse in the neuroscience intensive care unit

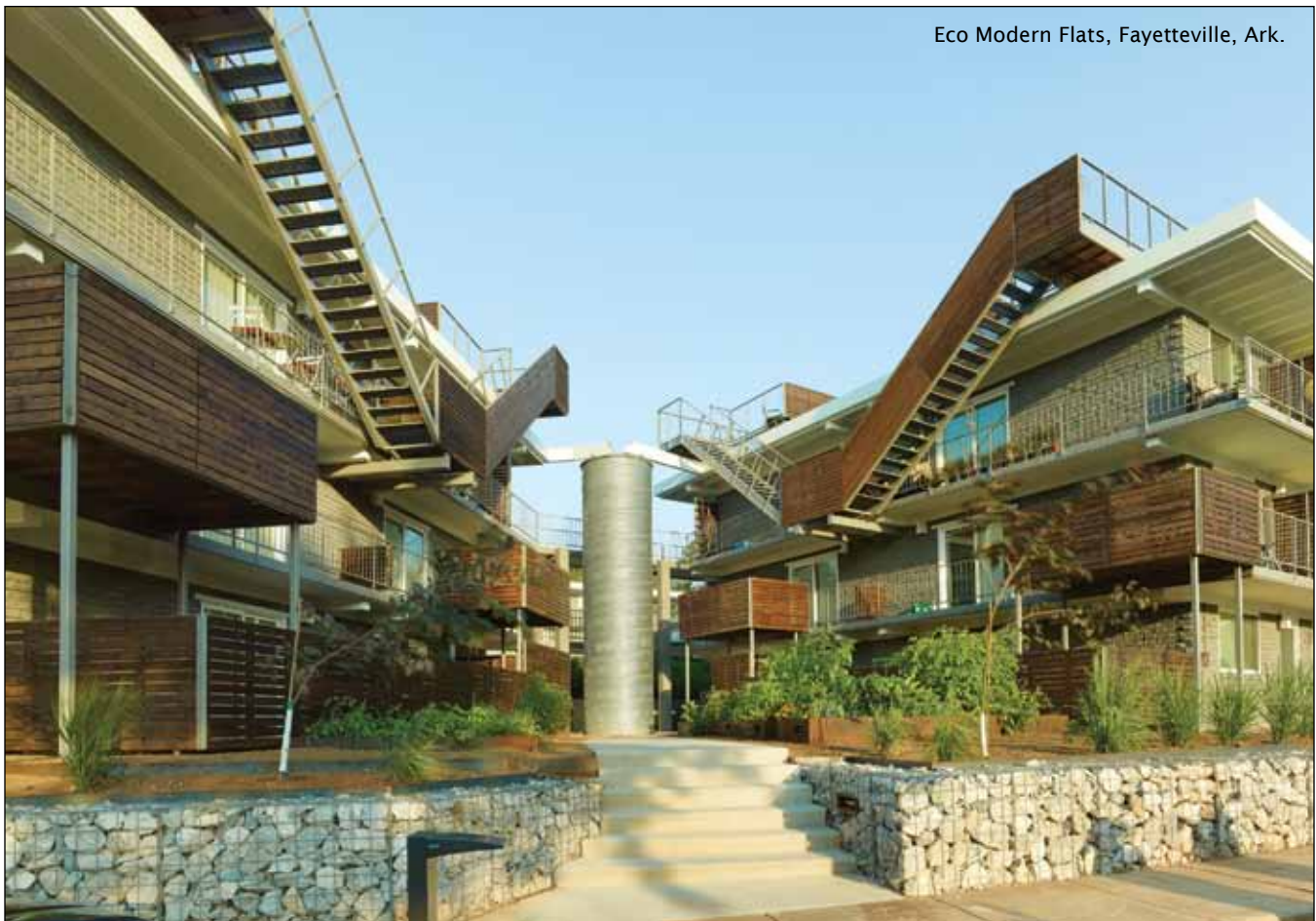
at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

**Bradley Cheatham**, B.S. in food science, minor in agricultural business, '05, is a senior food technologist at Simmons Foods in Siloam Springs, Ark.

After completing a master's of accountancy at the University of Arkansas, **Seth Claus** (B.S.B.A., accounting, *cum*

*laude*, '06) is a manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers, currently working a two-year tour in London.

**Drew Cogbill**, B.A. in chemistry and music, *summa cum laude*, '06, earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Design and Technology from Parsons The New School for Design in 2009. He is employed as a senior producer at Small Planet Digital, a digital agency based in New York City that specializes in



Eco Modern Flats, Fayetteville, Ark.

Photo by Timothy Hursley

**CHRIS BARIBEAU**, B. Architecture, *cum laude*, '03, is the principal architect and co-founder of Modus Studio, a Fayetteville-based architecture and prototyping firm responsible for many award-winning, sustainable designs in Northwest Arkansas. Projects that have won significant recognition include Eco Modern Flats, Green Forest Middle School and the firm's own 15 Church office building. Chris' firm has recently expanded to accommodate new business, creating jobs for talented designers, including two Honors College alumnae, **SUZANA CHRISTMANN** (B. Architecture, *cum laude*, '12) and **HANNAH BRESHEARS** (B.S. in architectural studies and B.A. in history, *magna cum laude*, '13). Chris embraces simple, low-tech design solutions to improve the lives of his clients and was awarded the American Institute of Architects Arkansas Emerging Professional Award in 2011.



Photo by Denise A. Gray

**MICHAEL HARTMAN** (B.A. in art history and German, *summa cum laude*, '13) is the McDermott curatorial intern for European art at the Dallas Museum of Art. He was also selected to receive the 2013 Lioneld Jordan Fellowship in Labor and Working Class Studies. The fellowship was awarded by the University of Arkansas Libraries' special collections department to support his research on the impact of post office murals produced during the Depression era and funded by the Works Projects Administration.

At left, Hartman examines a painting in the Smith College Museum of Art collection.

mobile application design and development. He writes: "I would be more than willing to connect with students interested in digital/mobile careers or with students interested in New York. I would also enjoy connecting with other New York-based Honors College alumni."

**Brandon Corley**, B.S.B.A., marketing management, *cum laude*, '08, is employed as an account executive at Sullivan Branding, where he serves as lead on the firm's Hampton, Homewood Suites, and Hilton Garden Inn accounts. He writes: "Through the Honors College I met some amazing people and teachers who helped mentor and advise me throughout my student and professional career. I consider [associate professor of marketing] Dub Ashton to be one of the most impactful relationships I made in my time there."

**Jeffery Dean**, B.A. degrees in physics and philosophy with a minor in religious studies, *cum laude*, '06, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas. He is also employed as a research associate at the Office of Innovation for Education in the College of Education and Health Professions at the U of A. He writes: "We are tasked with providing strategy and recommendations to the state Department of Education as we transition to the next generation of testing and accountability."

After earning a master's degree in the history, philosophy and sociology of science, technology and medicine at the University of Cambridge, **David Deitz** (B.S., biophysical chemistry, B.A., philosophy, political science and European studies, with a minor in mathematics, *summa cum laude*,

'06) spent four years working for Virgin Care, one of England's largest privately run healthcare businesses. He has recently taken a new position as corporate business development manager for Abu Dhabi Health Services Co. He writes: "One thing that has always really stuck with me throughout life and as I travel is the 'H2P' curriculum – in terms of the information learned and how to appreciate and analyze cultures. I also have to credit the summer European studies trip that I took after my freshman year for completely changing my life – without it I wouldn't have decided to spend 10 years living in Europe!"

**Keely Dye**, B.A., economics, international relations, and European studies with a minor in political science, *summa cum laude*, '12, is employed with the British

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Alumni continued on page 36

## Alumni Updates

**TAMARA HENSHELL** (B.S. in education, communication disorders, *summa cum laude*, '13) began graduate studies in communications disorders at the U of A this fall. She plans to work as a speech-language therapist upon completion of her degree.

Henschell used these boxes to study and compare the imitative behavior of children with autism and typically developing children, the subject of her honors thesis. For more on her research, visit [coehp.uark.edu/colleague/12154.php](http://coehp.uark.edu/colleague/12154.php).



Brooke Calligan

Consulate-General in Houston, Texas in the trade and investment division. She wrote: "I was fortunate enough to have an internship with the consulate the summer before I graduated. I found this to be an amazing opportunity to see a new area and to be exposed to the employment opportunities in international relations ... without my internship, I would not be employed today."

**Dawn Elkins**, B.S. in animal science, *cum laude*, '06, earned a master's degree in animal breeding and genetics in 2008 and a Ph.D. in genetics in 2013, both from Iowa State University. She is currently a postdoctoral assistant there and is seeking an academic position in dairy cattle genetics/physiology.

**Rachel Fiori**, B.A., classical studies, *magna cum laude*, '04, completed her medical degree in the recently established community-based psychiatry track at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and is board certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. She treated students at the Pat Walker Health Center on campus after completing her training. This year, she took on new responsibilities as one of two psychiatrists on staff at Springwoods Behavioral Health, an inpatient psychiatric hospital in Fayetteville.



**LAURA JAKOSKY**, B.S.B.A. in marketing, *magna cum laude*, '05, is the public relations manager for the Home Robots division of iRobot.

Jakosky is responsible for iRobot's global image and travels frequently between the company's offices in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Inspired by participation in the Tibetans in Exile Today program, **Leann Halsey** (bachelor's degree in social work, *magna cum laude*, '09), created Pennies for Partnerships, an outreach program of the Tibetan Cultural Institute of Arkansas that has raised more than \$12,000 for Indian families subsisting on an average income of \$1 a day. Halsey recently organized a dinner that raised more than \$3000 for People Feeding

People, a program she developed that distributes organic rice grown by Tibetan farmers to impoverished Indian and Tibetan families. This spring Halsey will take on a new role as program/business manager for the Fayetteville Farmers Market.

**Thomas Hauskey**, B.S.B.A. in accounting and finance, *cum laude*, '09, earned a Masters in Accountancy at the University of Arkansas Graduate School of Business. He is now employed as an Assurance Senior Associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC.

**Douglas Lindsey**, B.A. Music/trumpet performance and music education, *magna cum laude*, '08, earned a masters in trumpet performance from the Yale School of Music and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in trumpet performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently employed as a trumpet professor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, where

he oversees a flourishing trumpet performance and studio program.

**Kevin Lollar**, B.S. in microbiology, *summa cum laude*, '02, earned an M.D. from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2006. He is board certified in otolaryngology and currently works as a physician and surgeon with Hannibal Regional Medical Group. He has nine publications and has participated in two medical missions, one for cleft lip/palate repair in Kijabe, Kenya and the other for earthquake relief in Haiti.

**Christopher Long**, B.S. in biological engineering, *summa cum laude*, '03, earned a joint MD/PhD from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 2011. He is currently a radiology resident at Duke Hospital.

**Patricia Lopez**, B.S.E. in childhood education, *summa*

*cum laude*, '10, is an elementary school teacher in Springdale, Ark., where she was selected to participate in a district curriculum writing initiative to address the new Common Core State Standards.

**Alice McMillan**, B.S. in business administration, *cum laude*, '12, is the Director of Economic Development & Tourism for the Springdale Chamber of Commerce.

**Lillian McRae**, B.S. in architectural studies with a minor in history, *cum laude*, '12, works as an intern architect with Jameson Architects in Little Rock, Arkansas. At Jameson, she works on historic preservation and adaptive reuse projects throughout the state, including a restoration of the façade of the Conway County courthouse in Morrilton, adaptations to a storefront office space on the historic square of Pocahontas, and

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Alumni continued on page 38



Following graduation last May, **MIKE NORTON** (B.S. degrees in agricultural business and poultry science, *summa cum laude*, '13) took a rural policy internship with the White House Domestic Policy Council. Currently, he is an intern with the Delta Regional Authority (see p. 33), and with Congressman Steve Womack, who represents Northwest Arkansas in Congress.

Norton channeled Grant Wood's *American Gothic* while volunteering in the White House garden with White House pastry chef Bill Yosses.



**COREY THOMPSON**, B.S. in mechanical engineering, *cum laude*, '09, earned a Master of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Arkansas in 2011. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in microelectronics and photonics at the U of A. Thompson also helped to develop EverClean Coating Solutions, a low-cost, self-cleaning antireflective coating that increases solar cell efficiency.

Thompson, second from left, and his EverClean teammates placed first in the Innovation Track and third overall in the 2013 Arkansas Governor's Cup Competition. Carol Reeves, U of A associate vice provost for entrepreneurship and honors faculty member, is second from right.

preparations for upcoming work on the Taylor House, located on Hollywood Plantation in Desha County.

**Katherine Merriman**, B.S. in biological and agricultural engineering, *magna cum laude*, '05, earned an M.S. in agricultural and biological engineering from Purdue University and is currently employed as a hydrologist at the U.S. Geological Survey.

**Blain Overstreet**, B.S. in accounting, *cum laude*, '06, earned his J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 2009. He is employed by Jack Nelson Jones & Bryant, P.A. as a multi-department associate of the firm's transactional and litigation divisions, with tasks ranging from acting as counsel to Arkansas-based investment banks to representing financial institutions in various types of litigation.

**Tara Reid**, B.S. in business administration, *cum laude*, '02, earned a master's in business administration from the University of Arkansas in 2003. She now works as a Research and Insights Manager for Australia-based company oOh!media.

**Hunter Riley**, B.A. in economics, international relations and political science, *summa cum laude*, '07, is employed as director of the Ambassador Program and Veterans Fund at SoFi, an organization providing college loans. He also recently worked with Team Rubicon, a veterans emergency response team, in tornado cleanup in Moore, Oklahoma.

**Emily Puckett Rodgers**, B.A. in cultural anthropology, *summa cum laude*, '05, works as the open

education coordinator for Open.Michigan, a University of Michigan initiative that enables the campus community to find, use and share educational content with the wider global community. For her commitment to "democratic and open access to resources both within and beyond the university" she was recently named one of *Library Journal's* 2013 Movers and Shakers.

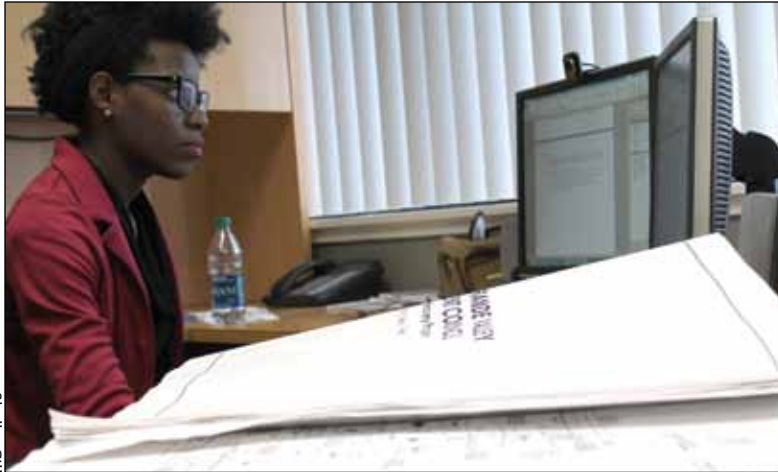
**Talha Sheikh**, B.S.B.A. in accounting and computer



**TERRY VO**, B.A. in international relations with minors in Asian studies and Japanese, *cum laude*, '07, is completing a master's degree in governance and public policy at the University of Queensland thanks to a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. She was recently named one of 33 Brisbane International Student Ambassadors for 2013. During their one-year appointment, ambassadors use a variety of social media and digital tools to communicate their experiences. You can follow Terry at [tvo320.wordpress.com](http://tvo320.wordpress.com).

Vo learned to surf while pursuing her master's degree in Australia. Here, she is checking out the waves at Byron Bay.





Shelby Gill

**ADEOLA YUSUF**, B.S. in industrial engineering, *cum laude*, '13, is an industrial engineering intern with the Community Resource Group, a nonprofit community development organization based in Fayetteville, Ark. Her current work involves project management for a series of residential construction projects for low-income families in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

information systems, *cum laude*, '03, is a senior manager in audit services with DeVry, Inc.

**Cheryl Silveri**, B.S. in biology with a minor in general business, *cum laude*, '09, currently works as a management consultant and manages two startup companies. She is in the process of applying to graduate programs in business.

**Aaron Strobel**, B.S. in biological engineering, *cum laude*, '08, earned his M.D. from UAMS and is currently employed with the University of Colorado Internal Medicine program.

**John Terry** (B.A. in classics and history with a minor in German, *summa cum laude*, '08) is pursuing a Ph.D. in history at the University of Virginia. He plans to teach at a university or private high school after completing his doctorate.

**Emily Thames** (B.A. in art history with a minor in history, *cum laude*, '10) completed a master's degree in art history at the University of North Texas and started doctoral studies in art history at Florida State University this fall.

**Lauren Thomas**, B.S. in biology, *magna cum laude*, '05, went on to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Oklahoma State University in 2009. She is currently employed as a veterinarian.

**Courtney Walsh**, B.A., English, *magna cum laude*, '04, earned a J.D. from the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She currently works as a staff attorney for the Arkansas Supreme Court.

**Lauren Wilson**, B.A. in English and history, *magna cum laude*, '11, is pursuing an M.A. in missiology from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is employed with Faith Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and recently moved to Limoux, France to serve as a missionary.

**Leslie Yingling**, B.A. in journalism and political science, *magna cum laude*, '05, earned a Master of Journalism at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in public policy, with an emphasis

on K-12 educational policy, at the University of Arkansas. As the director of College Access Initiative and Diversity Affairs Outreach with the U of A Office of Diversity Affairs, she facilitates college readiness outreach to underrepresented students across the state and contributes to academic retention efforts for minorities on campus.

After earning his B. Arch. degree, *cum laude*, in '06, **Ayo Yusuf** earned his master's in urban design at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Currently an urban designer at Perkins Eastman in New York City, he is managing the firm's effort to create long-term plans for five community redevelopment zones – areas devastated by Hurricanes Irene, Sandy and Tropical Storm Lee. In his spare time, Ayo makes and sells chocolate truffles infused with rose petals, vanilla, dulce de leche and black tea. "The work that you do with urban design tends to take a long time. With the truffles, you get instant gratification, and that helps me deal with the day to day," he said. Ayo donates 15% of his truffle sales to worthy causes.

## Postcard from England

*Last summer Christopher Queen, an honors English major from Sherwood, Ark., chalked up a few important firsts: first plane trip, first visit to a beach, and first time to completely immerse himself in another place and time. He hopes to use his firsthand experiences of England's great cathedrals and the Globe Theater to bring Chaucer and Shakespeare alive for high school students someday. Here is an excerpt from his post to the Honors College blog:*

Salutations from London, England! My name is Christopher Queen, a soon-to-be junior at the University of Arkansas, and I am writing to you from the beautifully temperate United Kingdom.

Very recently, I realized that I have learned in a way that most people will never get the chance to experience. I have been immersed in a culture, and more importantly, an entire time period.

Dr. Quinn, my instructor for this trip, has taken the utmost care to bring a period mistakenly called "The Dark Ages" into plain, bright sight. Classes were centered on texts from the Middle Ages and were bolstered by in-depth class discussion. Interspersed between our discussions, we would take trips to historically relevant sites throughout the United Kingdom. My personal favorites were Canterbury and York, each with their own magnificent medieval cathedrals. Under the soaring Gothic ceilings and with the ornate reliquaries of various saints in sight, I gained a sense of wonder not unlike that of a medieval pilgrim ... I'll never be able to replicate such informative experiences, but I'll hold those instances very dearly.

Incidentally, this trip marked



Top, Christopher Queen on the beach at Lindisfarne. Left, York Minster. Right, Durham Cathedral at sunset.

a few firsts for me as well. It is the first time I have ever travelled via airplane. It is also the first time I've ever stepped foot on a beach of any kind. The medieval fortress at Lindisfarne provided the very first beach and ocean I've ever had the chance to see.

I hope to attain my teaching license within the next few years and teach English in secondary settings. Having participated in this study abroad, I am now prepared to teach the period literature with

firsthand experience of its locations and contexts. This is the most invaluable part of this trip to me. Now, I am able to say that I walked through the very same halls that the pilgrims of Chaucer's opus sought so desperately. I am able to say that I've watched Macbeth on the (reconstructed) stage of the Globe Theatre. I've gotten as close to the Middle Ages as is humanly possible, and I plan to teach it with that same sort of attitude.



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**Last Look:** Here's a sampling from our Instagram feed. **Extra pop quiz:** find photos of two honors students and two honors alumni who contributed to this issue and email your answers to [kcurllee@uark.edu](mailto:kcurllee@uark.edu). First person to submit correct IDs gets a cool prize!



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