



# Southeastern Louisiana University

## Honors Program

Fall 2011 Newsletter



### The Program

- Excellent, committed students
- Outstanding Faculty
- Small, interactive classes
- Broad perspectives on learning
- Academic and social activities and opportunities

### Contact Us

103 Meade Hall  
985.549.2135  
honors@selu.edu

SLU Box 10489  
Hammond, LA  
70402

## Achieving Goals

In a famous speech at Rice University given on 12 September 1962, President John F. Kennedy challenged America with a new national goal saying,

*We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because the challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win....*

Less than seven years later, on 21 July 1969, Americans were glued to their televisions and watched as we attained this goal when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon.



By setting this national goal, President Kennedy put into motion a series of events that would drive American scientific research and industrial development to create the tools, techniques, and technology to take man to the moon and return him safely to Earth. Importantly, the benefits derived from America's space program are many and diverse: new weather forecasting techniques; new medical techniques; advances in computer technology; better tires, brakes, and designs for automobiles and aircraft; advances in solar power; inexpensive and portable radiation hazard detectors; even WD-40!

For us, as individuals, goal setting is a very good thing. Having specific goals helps provide one with direction and motivation. We all need to set personal goals because these, too, will "serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills." As a student, a primary goal is the successful completion of your degree; but, beyond obtaining your diploma, you should also recognize the ancillary benefits you derive from striving to achieve that goal. The ancillary benefits of the space program were new and improved technologies that impact all of us on a daily basis. What are the ancillary benefits of a college education? By committing yourself to taking advantage of all that Southeastern has to offer, you will find that you see the world and your place in it differently, that you understand that the challenges facing our nation and our world are multi-faceted, and that black or white answers generally do not exist.

Helping you to achieve this deeper vision and understanding is a primary goal of the Honors Program. By having you participate in classes that encourage and expect you to engage in the content, by encouraging civil discussion and informed debate both in and out of the classroom,



and by asking you to participate in a senior research experience or creative endeavor, the Honors Program offers you the tools to become a leader in your community, nation, and world. Decide today to make earning an Honors Diploma a challenge that "is one that you are willing to accept, one you are unwilling to postpone, and one which you intend to win."

Find us on the web at [www.selu.edu/honors](http://www.selu.edu/honors).



Dr. Kent Neuerburg,  
Director

## Director's Note

The past year has seen significant changes to the Honors Program. The former five-Path program has been replaced. There are multiple reasons for these changes. First, this past spring, the Liberal Arts Studies degree was discontinued directly impacting two of our five Honors Paths. Second, we have been working for over a year in updating our curricula based on the results of student surveys and a review of current best practices in Honors education. This spring the University Curriculum Council approved a major redesign of the Honors curricula. We now offer two paths to achieve an Honors education: the University Honors Diploma and the University Scholars Diploma. The University Honors path is designed to provide the exceptional student with a broad, multi-disciplinary Honors experience, while the University Scholars path is designed to provide the superior student with a focused, discipline-specific Honors experience. These new programs include a new, broader Honors core consisting of courses in the Arts, Biology, Communications, English, and History. We have also introduced new special topics Honors courses at the 300 and 400-level. For more details on the new curricula, see the *2011-2012 General Catalogue* or come by the Honors Office.

Another big change that took place this past year is that our office now administers both the Honors Program and International Initiatives. So any questions regarding our new Honors curricula or one of our many exciting study abroad programs can all be directed to our office. Speaking of our office, we should finally note that we have moved our office to 103 Meade Hall. We invite you to drop in and say "Hi!"

## Recent Activities

► Fall 2010 saw thirteen students recognized with the Sophomore Honors Distinction Award for attaining at least a 3.5 GPA and at least 12 hours of Honors courses in their first 60 hours of collegiate work. At the awards ceremony, our students heard from Dana Meidinger Morse, an Honors alumnus, who spoke on what her Honors experience has meant to her.

► As part of Multicultural Awareness Week and in cooperation with the Office of Multicultural and International Student Affairs, the Honors Program co-sponsored a panel discussion entitled *Islam and the West*. This discussion was a great opportunity for members of the Southeastern community to learn about a religion that is helping to shape regional, national, and international policies. The panel consisted of Dr. Erkan Kurt, Muslim Theologian at the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue in Houston; Dr. Margaret Gonzalez-Perez, Professor of Political Science at Southeastern; and Ms. Ann O'Connor, graduate student in Communications at Southeastern. The audience heard background information from each of our panelists and then had the opportunity to ask questions. It was an informative and lively conversation!

► Seven students presented their senior theses. The theses represent the breadth of interests of the Honors students: Communications Sciences and Disorders, English, French, History, Marketing, Psychology, and Spanish.



Katelin Langley presents her Senior Thesis on social networking as a business strategy

► The Honors Club Sponsored the Senior Awards Banquet in the Student Union. At this banquet our graduating seniors were recognized for their efforts and presented with their Honors cords.

## Opportunities

There are many special opportunities available to Honors students. The Honors Office regularly receives information about awards, events, and activities that may be of particular interest to Honors students:

Sophomore Honors Distinction Award  
Phi Kappa Phi Outstanding Honors Student Award  
McNair Scholars Program

Trips and residential experiences  
Honors credit for Study Abroad courses  
Phi Kappa Phi Scholarships

## What you can do for Honors

There are many ways that you can help us to keep the Honors Program growing and thriving.

- ◆ The Honors Program is always happy to hear from Honors students and alumni. We appreciate your feedback as to how you feel the Honors Program has benefited you and in what ways the program might be improved. It is your continued input that makes it possible for the Honors Program to continue to evolve.
- ◆ We appreciate your talking with high school and beginning college students about the benefits of the Honors Program. Your recommendations can mean so much to students considering participation in the program. You can, of course, direct any interested students to the Honors Office. We will be happy to discuss options and opportunities with them.
- ◆ If you are interested in offering financial support, please contact the Southeastern Development Foundation at 985-549-5544 or toll free at 866-474-4438.