

LIBERAL ARTS HONORS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Fall 2016 Calendar

August 24

First Day of Classes

September 23-24

Family Weekend

October 24-November 4

Spring Registration

November 1

Last day to drop a class

November 4-6 & 11-12

Foot in the Door presents:
Twelve Angry Men

November 11-13 & 18-19

Foot in the Door's presents:
Clean-up on Aisle 10

November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday

December 5

Last class day

December 6-7

Study days; no classes

December 8-14

Final Exams

December 15

Residence halls close

December 23-30

UT staff holiday

From the Director's Desk



I write this after coming from the first meeting of LAH 102H, “The Idea of the Liberal Arts,” all 155 members of the LAH Class of 2020 being in attendance. In this class students hear a talk each week from faculty representing the various disciplines of the College, the idea being to introduce them to stellar faculty and their research. Each week the students write a 750 word paper in response to the talk, LAH 102H being the only one hour, pass/fail, class I know in which students write thirty to forty pages in a semester. The course provides a chance for our students to hone their writing skills, but much more. It introduces them to and promotes participation in the LAH community.

Before I gave my introductory remarks,

we had announcements from six LAH organizations, such announcements going on throughout the semester, efforts by our students to involve their fellow students in the rich array of LAH student run activities. In the classroom LAH students hone their critical thinking and writing skills, test their ideas against great works of literature, history, and philosophy, store up the best that has been thought. Much of what will delight and sustain them in the years to come, however, arises from reading and editing submissions to Echo, the LAH literary journal, and then following up with all that goes into funding and publishing the journal; in organizing a mentoring program for our freshmen, an All-Honors Semi-Formal, and a Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag evening on the State Capitol grounds, some of the activities our LAH Student Council is planning this year; participating in “Foot in the Door,” the LAH theatrical group, which will be performing two plays, “Twelve Angry Men” and a student authored work, Nicole Harrison’s “Cleanup in Aisle 10,” this fall semester; playing in the LAH Music Ensemble (you will be hearing them at Family Weekend); organizing

Rousseau and Ransom Reading Groups; and participating in Envision Austin, in which students create and sustain organizations to address needs in the Austin community. In these and many other activities our students learn to lead and to follow, to set priorities and work with one another, manage their time and that of others, while sparking their curiosity, learning humility, and developing lasting friendships. The LAH community, the subject of this newsletter, enables our students, to paraphrase from Michael Roth, the President of Wesleyan University, in his recent book, *Beyond the University: Why Liberal Education Matters*, to take their liberal education beyond the classroom to a “life of ongoing, pragmatic learning that finds inspiration in unexpected sources” and one that increases the capacity of our students to understand and contribute to their world and in the process to reshape it--and themselves. As Elan Kogutt (LAH 2016) put it so well in his speech at our graduation reception this past spring (included in this newsletter): “Our experiences as LAH students, both in and out of the classroom, have instilled a life-long passion to seek out experiences that challenge our point of view, and to pursue growth and face adversity courageously.” I welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions (carver@austin.utexas.edu).

~~Larry



Dr. Carver illustrates a point during the opening lecture for LAH Freshmen in 102H, “The Idea of the Liberal Arts.”



Humanities Program

The Humanities Program offers motivated and curious students the opportunity to develop a unique major around a specific research interest or idea. In this interdisciplinary degree, students have the ability to pull together courses from across the university and connect them under an overarching theme. Because of the flexibility of this major, students study a wide range of topics that go beyond traditional disciplines associated with Humanities, such as arts and literature. While Liberal Arts classes provide the foundation for the Humanities major, many students integrate courses from other colleges. Recent Humanities contacts have included topics such as “Women’s Roles in Globalized Medicine,” Human Rights,” “Children’s Visual Media,” and “Game Theory.” As Honors Students, Humanities major are engaged in research. This unique major culminates in a required honors thesis written during the senior year. The thesis allows students to design a project, conduct in-depth research, and work closely with a faculty supervisor. While Humanities students’ unique majors set them apart, they come together by joining a small, close-knit community within Liberal Arts Honors. The many benefits of the program include individualized advising from the program Director and Academic Adviser, eligibility to apply for LAH scholarships, and access to the LAH computer lab and commons room. If you are interested in learning more about the Humanities Program, contact Linda Mayhew at lmayhew@austin.utexas.edu.



LAH Scholarship Winners

2016-2017 Dedman Distinguished Scholarship Recipients in LAH

The Dedman Distinguished Scholarship Program is a four-year, merit-based scholarship for students with exceptional academic records. With an award of \$25,000 per year with a \$15,000 supplement for study abroad and research, recipients are freed from the financial pressures of college, enabling them to focus fully on their academic studies, pursue their research interests, study abroad, participate in community service, and take advantage of enrichment opportunities at the university and in the city of Austin. Dedman Scholars become part of close-knit community within a large university and receive advising and mentoring from top faculty. Three of the five winners this year are LAH students:



Bethany Burtch
Middle Eastern Studies
Midlothian, VA



Jacob Hood
English
Lubbock, TX



Abby Kuchek
Philosophy
Natrona Heights, PA



Boren Scholarship Winner Anastasia Bradatan

Anastasia Bradatan won a Boren Scholarship to study Hindi and Urdu in India for the 2016-2017 academic year. She will attend AIIS in Jaipur and Lucknow. Only 165 undergraduate students nation-wide were selected for the fellowship. David L. Boren Scholarships and Fellowships are sponsored by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), a major federal initiative designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of U.S. citizens with foreign language and international skills. Boren Awards provide U.S. undergraduate and graduate students with resources and encouragement to acquire language skills and experience in countries critical to the future security and stability of our nation. In exchange for funding, Boren award recipients agree to work in the federal government for a period of at least one year. "The National Security Education Program," according to Dr. Michael A. Nugent, NSEP Director, "is helping change the U.S. higher education system and the way Americans approach the study of foreign languages and cultures."

Trimble Award for Excellence in Writing



Kevin Johnson won the the Trimble Award from UT's Rhetoric Department. The award is \$1000 and recognizes outstanding undergraduate work in nonfiction writing, whether expository, argumentative, or expressive.

LAH Study Abroad Scholarships

Scholarships are available for Liberal Arts Honors students planning to study abroad in the Spring 2017 semester. Students must plan on studying a foreign language while abroad in order to be eligible for funding. Apply online: <http://utdirect.utexas.edu/student/abroad/globalassist.WBX>

Student Reflections: Dorie Kaye

Senior, History major



My LAH journey began before I even started college. I still vividly remember going to my LAH information session in February 2013, unsure and apprehensive about “the big decision.” With a family steeped in Longhorn tradition, I grew up making yearly pilgrimages to Austin for football games, so I was familiar with the campus. But I wasn’t convinced that UT was the right place for me. I thought, “It’s too big for me to be happy.”

Boy was I wrong! After visiting LAH on that chilly February Friday and seeing how happy the students were in this weirdly awesome class called Reacting to the Past, I knew that LAH was the family I needed to thrive at UT.

Now, I’m only eight months away from graduation, and my LAH family has been with me every step of the way. I made lifelong friends during my first semester. I discovered my voice and began singing outside the shower in the LAH music ensemble. I’ve cheered and moaned with fellow LAHers at countless football games. I’ve returned to Reacting as a preceptor, and each time I watch the new freshmen learn from each other, I rediscover what makes this program so special.

LAH has helped me grow in countless ways: as a leader, as a student, and as a friend. As I prepare to make the giant leap to graduate school next fall, I know LAH has given me the foundation I need to succeed. Indeed, it is because of LAH that I have decided to pursue a master’s degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. I want to give incoming college students the same warm, familial atmosphere that I have experienced in LAH.

LAH has been more than an academic program for me. Having the opportunity to learn with some of the most passionate, dedicated, and giving people that I have ever met has inspired me. Thank you, LAH, for being my home at UT.



Dorie in Casey’s LAH 305 “Reacting to the Past” class



Dorie caroling with the LAH music ensemble (2015)

Student Reflections: Rachel Stephenson

Junior, English major



I always thought I was going to end up in a small liberal arts college. I wanted a close-knit, familial student group. I wanted advisers and professors who knew me on sight. I wanted small classes filled with intelligent people I knew personally. Ending up at a university the size of UT would in most situations have crushed those dreams, but not for me, because I had LAH.

My entire life at UT is centered around LAH. Before I even set foot on campus, I met my future roommate and best friend during an icebreaker game on the LAH Facebook page. We met the other girls who would

complete our friend group in the small LAH sections of some classes and officially became friends during LAH Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag at the Capitol. I kept up with my hobbies by joining LAH Music Ensemble and submitting to LAH writing contests. And every semester I feel confident as I go into registration, knowing that the wonderful advisers who know more than just my name have prepared me perfectly.

LAH gave me my first foothold at UT, and as I've gotten older, I've only grown more comfortable in it. These days it's not uncommon to find me lounging with my shoes off in the LAH office, nibbling on food I found in the kitchen while doing a crossword and occasionally floating into Dr. Carver's office for help on a particularly difficult clue. As I've become more well-known and comfortable in the organization, I've also been afforded the opportunity to become a student leader. This year alone, I'm the orchestra director of the music ensemble, the secretary of the student council, a freshman mentor, and the head writing fellow. Giving back to LAH is an incredible feeling, especially because, LAH being so small and cozy, I can really see the benefits of all my hard work playing out. In no other place but LAH would it be possible for me to do so much with people I know so well. It truly is a small liberal arts college here on our massive campus – but without the crippling student debt!



Rachel performing with the LAH Music Ensemble (2015)



Rachel in Casey's LAH 305 "Reacting to the Past" class

2016 LAH Graduation Speech: Elan Kogutt

Elan Kogutt, LAH Humanities/Leadership in Business & Society major, gave the following graduation speech in June 2016 about his formative experiences in the LAH program. Elan is now a management consultant with Accenture in New York City.

When I applied to the Liberal Arts Honors program as a senior in high school, I did not get in. After deferring UT admission and spending a year studying in Israel, I reapplied and was thrilled to be accepted. Speaking at the graduation ceremony four years later, to say the least it feels great to be with you here today. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the times we have shared as Liberal Arts Honors students at UT Austin.

Over the past four years we immersed ourselves in the classroom, maybe sometimes a little too intensely, as in the course *Reacting to the Past*. But then again, how else would we have learned the important lesson – and I know I will take this with me in my post-college life- of how to overthrow a government? It wasn't all anarchy though. In class we also learned that when you study a topic and come to love it, it expands and comes alive. In small and large ways, we took this lesson of passion and applied it to all our studies.

Over the past four years, we have become global citizens, through travel, study abroad, and classroom discussions about issues far beyond the realm of our daily lives. I will forever thank LAH and Professor Marshall Gorges for awarding me the Wise Wanderer scholarship, which gave me the opportunity to go to Ethiopia. There I learned, as I hope many of you also did, that no matter how far you travel you find many more similarities than differences with the people that you meet. Our experiences as LAH students, both in and out of the classroom, have instilled a life-long passion to seek out experiences that challenge our point of view, and to pursue growth and face adversity courageously.

Over the past four years, we have become authors and wordsmiths, where writing and writing and writing is our craft, amassing thousands of double-spaced, Times New Roman printed pages--- bless the LAH printers! And we mastered our craft when we embarked on thesis research and capstone projects. I share your pain and triumph, and I too have a



strange, vague, and wordy titled document under my belt. Through the Humanities Honors program, I produced, “An Analysis of Effective Leadership at The University of Texas at Austin”.

Over the past four years, through our dedication to the liberal arts, we have joined the ranks of Plato or Socrates, holding logic and reason above all else, and honed a powerful weapon --- our mind. Though I am clearly being a bit hyperbolic, it is important that we don't sell our mind short post-college. Our minds can think in various languages and relate disparate ideas in at least 5 disciplines, and navigate a conversation

“Our experiences as LAH students, both in and out of the classroom, have instilled a life-long passion to seek out experiences that challenge our point view...”

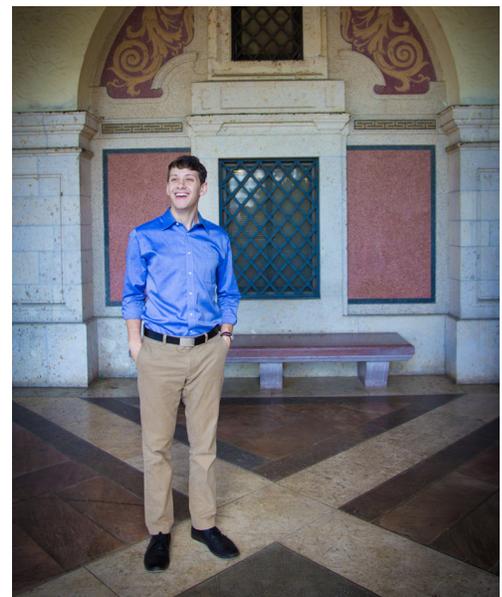
through Ancient Rome to modern political structures in an instant. We have invested upwards of 40,000 dollars and countless sleepless PCL library nights into becoming critically thinking forces of nature! Unleash this at your own discretion, but please, for society’s sake, do it often.

Lastly, as Liberal Arts Honors students we learned HOW to learn, gleaning wisdom from peers, professors and experiences to take with us on the journey. These experiences continue to shape the way that we act and think. One of my college mentors taught me that social change is a marathon, not a sprint. I know we will take the passion, ideas, and friends from this University and honors program with us into the world, and keep on running to make it better.

Thank you Dr. Carver, Stacey, Linda, Mary and the entire LAH staff for all that you do to create experiences and refine minds on the forty acres.



Elan with fellow Humanities majors (above) and overthrowing the French government (below) during the French Revolution game in Casey's 2012 LAH 305 Reacting to the Past class.



LAH Student Service Organization: Liberal Arts Refugee Alliance

In our increasingly connected world, arts play an important role in both shaping the character that defines us and reminding us of our shared humanity.

~President Barack Obama

In the Spring of 2014, the Liberal Arts Honors program held the first annual Envision Austin competition inviting freshmen LAH students to participate in an innovation challenge to create social good. The competition challenges students to identify a problem in the Austin community and propose a solution that harnesses the resources available to students at The University of Texas. The Envision Austin competition promotes a core tenet of the arts and humanities: civic engagement, a commitment to positively impacting the civic life of our communities.

Since its inception, the program has led to the creation of a number of innovative and impactful programs developed by Liberal Arts Honors students. From tackling low literacy rates to destigmatizing homelessness, Envision Austin continues to support student endeavors to positively engage with and affect their community.

As a freshman, I was lucky to have participated in the first Envision Austin competition. My fellow team members – Maral Arslanian, Caleb Cade, Samuel Karnes and Karina Rao – and I proposed a student group that would organize outreach and volunteering opportunities in support of Austin’s refugee and asylee populations. For our efforts and ideas, our team was awarded “Most Impactful Idea” and received a \$1,000 grant to form the Liberal Arts Refugee Alliance (LARA).

Today, Travis County continues to resettle more than 1,500 refugees each year. This is expected to increase as the number of global refugees hits record highs. Most refugees – people legally resettled in the United States after fleeing persecution in their home countries – arrive jobless, with little to no English proficiency and few opportunities for integration as they await social security cards, driver’s licenses, and job permits. Before our organization, there were no other student volunteer organizations addressing the needs of this group.

LARA seeks to not only provide student volunteering opportunities with refugees, but also use our experiences as a springboard to raise awareness on campus about challenges faced by refugees in our community and globally. LARA continues to host the annual Refugee

Awareness Week each spring to engage the campus community on issues surrounding refugees, asylees, and global migration. We hope that our activism will promote an understanding, accepting and welcoming attitude toward refugees in our generation.

Now in its third year as a student organization, LARA ushers in a new executive board this year excited for the opportunity to continue the efforts started by my Envision Austin team several years ago. The weekly mentorship program with International High School students will restart this semester, and volunteering opportunities with Casa Marianella and Multicultural Refugee Coalition will continue to be offered to student volunteers. The first meeting of the Fall semester led by the new executives will be held Thursday, September 8 at 7 pm in WAG 308.

As a cofounder and former volunteer coordinator of the Liberal Arts Refugee Alliance, I look forward to the future of the organization as their work and values become even more integral to our community. For more information about the Liberal Arts Refugee Alliance, visit the organization’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UTliberalartsrefugeealliance/>

~By Sarah Fischer, LAH Senior



Student Reflections: Evan Rathjen

Senior, English major



helped me through my first two semesters as I adjusted to my new life at UT. Reacting to the Past was another breakthrough moment for me. I had never been a part of something that felt so groundbreaking—a new kind of pedagogy that gets students involved in history in ways I had never seen before. LAH gives me access to an amazing array of classes (like Reacting to the Past, for example) and offers scholarships to support my studies both in Austin and abroad. However, the most important part of this program is the people. As the Director of the Liberal Arts Refugee Alliance, a student organization created in LAH 103H and supported by Envision Austin, I have had the privilege to volunteer alongside some of the most dedicated and passionate individuals on this campus, and I am honored to call them some of my best friends.

One of my favorite parts of my day is walking into the Liberal Arts Honors office and feeling completely at home. I get the chance to talk about politics, current events, my classes, or even just my day, over lunch with everyone who wanders in the door. It's amazing to hear the kind of work my peers are doing, the ways they are changing the world, and it serves as constant motivation to continue challenging myself at UT.

When I stepped on to the Forty Acres, I began a completely new journey. I had left all my family and friends, and the town I had spent all my life in, to pursue an English degree at UT. Although I had a lot of challenges my first year as a student, I really feel like the Liberal Arts Honors program was, and still is, my community to go to when I need both personal and academic support. Stacey, Linda, and Dr. Carver are completely invested in my success as both a student, but also as a person. Their care and attention was something that



Student Reflections: Davey Bemporad

Junior, Economics & Government major



As I walked into Pecan Springs Elementary to volunteer that fall afternoon, what I had hoped would be one of the best moments of my college experience was turning out to be the worst. Over the past seven months I had worked tirelessly to create SEAL: Students Expanding Austin Literacy, a tutoring program that places UT student mentors in underserved local elementary schools. My friends Roger Lam, Joe Park, Pai Liu and I had won the “Most Impactful” award at the Envision Austin Civic Engagement Competition the previous spring, and we used our grant money wisely, constructing a website and marketing materials to recruit volunteers. We worked with Communities in Schools to place volunteers in their Reading Buddies program and met frequently with Dr. Carver to make sure we had LAH’s full support. After all this work, my first day of volunteering had come. Though I was a little nervous as I walked down the hall to meet my reading buddy, I saw the bright colors on the walls, the college pennants hanging from the ceiling, and I had a feeling that this was going to be a great experience. Little did I know what was ahead.

The very moment I met my reading buddy, he placed his hand on my chest and pushed. I stepped back. He defiantly looked up at me and said, “You’re not strong, you’re not my reading buddy.” As we began to read together, he resisted every step of the way. He wouldn’t

listen to me or say anything that wasn’t a command or “no.” The most disheartening moment came when one of the other volunteers said, “only 10 more minutes, let’s finish this book,” and my reading buddy overheard. He responded with, “thank goodness, only 10 more minutes!” I had no idea what to do. I left that day feeling like a failure, questioning the program, my involvement, and even the entire SEAL project itself.

While the other volunteers laughed about what a great experience they had, I was filled with doubt. Was SEAL even worth it, this endeavor to which I had devoted so much of my time and energy? Would I be able to sustain what we had created? I reflected on what had brought me to this moment. Through the ups and downs of the entire process creating SEAL, one constant was the invariable support from the LAH program. Dr. Carver had supported us from the beginning through funding and kindness in response to my incessant begging for advice. Professor Casey made it her personal mission to ensure our success, mentoring us through the Envision Austin competition and eventually teaching the for-credit community-based service learning course for SEAL volunteers. I recalled what Sarah Fischer, another amazing LAH student, told me in a meeting about how she began her own LAH sponsored outreach organization, Liberal Arts Refugee Alliance (LARA): “It’s not a matter of happiness, it’s a matter of your impact, and if it’s a positive one, it is worth it.”

With that mantra, I returned to Pecan Springs the next week, and the situation vastly improved. I got a new reading buddy, and my previous buddy received a more specialized tutor. Later that semester, my original reading buddy ran up to me, hugged me, and said, “You are strong. I’m sorry.” But, even if all those things hadn’t happened, I would have gone in everyday and been happy to read to even the most resistant kid, because with LAH behind me, it would have indeed been worth it.

LAH Student Service Organization: **SEAL**

Students Engaged in Austin Literacy

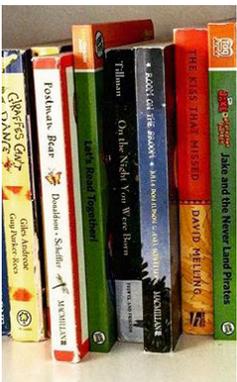
Students Expanding Austin Literacy (SEAL) is a University of Texas service organization that helps kids dive into reading. Our college students volunteer as mentors and educators to small groups of at risk elementary students on a weekly basis. Our goal is to foster an environment that promotes confidence, learning, and an appreciation for community service in both our members and our children.

We have already found volunteers to fill all the available tutoring positions at our partner schools for the Fall 2016 semester. However, if you are interested in volunteering in the Spring, please add yourself to our mailing list at bit.ly/sealmailing. If you would like to help in other ways, such as book drives or raising literacy awareness, please email us at seal.literacy@gmail.com.

Facebook: [facebook.com/SEALaustin](https://www.facebook.com/SEALaustin)

Website: SEALaustin.com

Blog: SEALaustinblog.wordpress.com



LAH Student Organizations: LAH Student Council

The Liberal Arts Honors Student Council is a great way to get involved in the LAH community through service, social, and academic events. Students of all ages and interests make LAHSC an ideal avenue to strengthen friendships with classmates and meeting new people with similar interests. The LAH family is tight knit - and LAHSC is knit even tighter. Our mission to make the college experience more fulfilling, diverse, and fun, while offering leadership positions to our bright and motivated peers. Meetings: Tuesdays at 6pm, location TBD

Officers for the 2016-2017 school year

Co-Presidents - Sarah Fischer and Marlene Renz

Vice President - Justin Fogarty

Secretary - Rachel Stephenson

Treasurer- Lauren Johnson

Social Chair- Caroline Miller

Mentoring Chairs- Emily Bastis, Taryn Turner,
and Carly Williams

Academic Chair- Victoria Fazzino

Service Chair - Helen Heston

Publicity Chair - Marieke Alsguth



LAHSC Co-presidents Sarah Fischer and Marlene Renz



LAH Student Council will be sponsoring the following projects this year:

- Freshmen Mentorship Program, including the LAH Mentor & Mentee Retreat at Zilker Park on September 17, 2016.
 - All Honors Formal in the fall and Liberal Arts Honors Formal in the spring to foster a sense of community among honors students across UT.
 - Global Citizen Scholarship (\$1,000) awarded to an LAH student in the fall for their dedication to service in their community and beyond.
 - AMC Scholarship (\$1,000) awarded to an LAH student in the spring for their involvement in the LAH program. Student-led Rousseau Reading groups in the fall, and professor-led Ransom Reading groups held at the beginning of the spring semester.
 - Volunteering and service opportunities for LAH students, including a monthly volunteering opportunity at Inside Books.
 - Organizing peer-academic advising and study abroad informational sessions for LAH students.
-

LAH Student Organizations: Special Interests



All-Write All-Write All-Write is a creative writing workshop that introduces young fiction writers to literary opportunities and provides them with a space for writing and constructive criticism. At each meeting, we discuss new forms of writing, mention literary journals and competitions seeking submissions, and facilitate writing exercises. We spend the bulk of our meetings discussing students' prose and poetry submissions in small groups. Members submit their work to their small groups the prior week, and they exchange feedback in the biweekly meetings. We invite all serious fiction writers to visit our writing workshop. Our next meeting is on October 8th from 6:30-7:30 PM in WAG 214. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, please contact us at allwritex3@gmail.com, follow us on Twitter [@AllWritex3](https://twitter.com/AllWritex3), or join our Facebook group.

Reacting to History, using the curriculum of a national program called Reacting to the Past, will explore significant events throughout history. In doing so, we research background information about certain time periods, primarily focusing on the lives of important individuals of the time. Each club member will be assigned one of these important people to research and then take on their persona, performing as that person during club meetings. This method of historical reenactment allows members to better understand historical events in a more interactive way than is conventional and allows students to understand how every decision made by their character has the potential to alter the course of history. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Alex Walheim at alex.walheim@utexas.edu



Echo Literary Magazine is an annual publication of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. Each issue contains works of fiction, poetry, and art created by UT undergraduates of all majors and programs. This year's editorial staff includes Miranda Adkins (senior, Editor-in-Chief), Emily Varnell (senior, Production Editor), and Caroline Rock (sophomore, Design Editor). The deadline for submissions is January 31, and the magazine is published at the end of every spring semester. If you are interested in joining the staff or submitting to Echo, email the editors at echolitmag@gmail.com. For more information, follow us at facebook.com/EchoLitMag

Humans of the Forty Acres is a Facebook page which strives to forge a stronger community by documenting the life stories and shenanigans of fellow Longhorns. The page also seeks to empower the individual by highlighting and celebrating the qualities that make each student unique. Upon completing an interview, we upload a picture and an interesting quote corresponding to the interviewed student. I cofounded the page my freshman year with Gauthier Fally and Daniel Orr. As a freshman, I recognized that there was a audience for the page as many of my friends would "like" posts from "Humans of the New York." This activity appeared constantly in my newsfeed and inspired me to try to apply the same concept to our campus. While we currently have a staff of 17 students, we are always looking for talented editors, photographers/videographers and interviewers. Contact Jordan Cope if interested (jordan.sport@sbcglobal.net).



The picture is from the Daily Texan; Photo Credit: Stephanie Martinez-Arndt

Envision Austin Update: Social Innovation Challenge

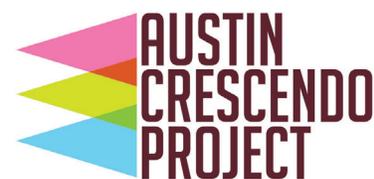
The LAH-sponsored social innovation challenge, *Envision Austin*, encourages students to find innovative solutions to social problems in the community. Winners of the challenge are awarded a \$1,000 grant so they can move forward with their projects. This year's winners include two tutoring projects that pair UT student volunteers with high-school and middle-school students in underserved schools, and a project to raise awareness of and improve understanding of homeless people in Austin to improve services to help them (still under development). *Envision Austin* will mentor these groups as they begin to implement their projects.



Momentum Scholars (Max Bernhardt, Angela Park, Luke Imperial, RJ Franzen and Sunay Nanavati) Momentum Scholars is designed to foster a new generation of well-rounded student leaders. We will supply low-income middle-schools with willing and able volunteers to provide students with supplemental instruction in communication skills, notably writing, speech and debate. We will work within the pre-existing educational infrastructure, effectively filling gaps in status quo curriculums. To find volunteers, we will recruit from LAH, Plan II, English/Rhetoric, and other programs that are writing-intensive. As of September 2016, we have established a partnership with Austin Bat Cave, another 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that helps provide students with creative writing education and expression. We are reaching out to students at UT to become volunteers, hosting a booth at Party on the Plaza in August, and holding our first welcome meeting on September 15th in Jester. If you are interested in Momentum Scholars, contact us at momentumscholarsut@gmail.com.

Austin Crescendo Project (Marianne Koleng, Alper Orkun, Vik Shirvaikar, Jared Lebrun, and Raza Retiwala)

The Austin Crescendo Project is a music mentorship program designed to give low-income high school music students the opportunity to advance their music education through the means of free, volunteer-based private lessons. We will pair college students from the Longhorn Band, as well as the Butler School of Music, with high school students who could not otherwise afford private lessons. The goals of the Austin Crescendo Project are to sustain and advance music education in underserved high schools, create teaching opportunities for aspiring music educators to apply their knowledge, and establish greater bonds between the University of Texas at Austin and its surrounding community. As of September 2016, We have established a partnership with the band program at Reagan High School and are setting up meetings with several Music Fraternity and Sorority groups such as Mu Alpha Epsilon (The Butler School of Music Professional Fraternity), Kappa Kappa Psi (The Longhorn Band Fraternity), and Tau Beta Sigma (Longhorn Band Sorority) to gather volunteers. Contact Alper Orkun at alper.orkun@utexas.edu to join.



LAH Students at Play: Music & Theater Groups

LAH Music Ensemble: The Amorous Paulharmonic

The Liberal Arts Honors Music Ensemble, or The Amorous Paulharmonic, is a group of students who were in orchestra, band, or choir in high school and continue playing at the university level. The ensemble performs various types of music, such as excerpts from classical composers, Broadway hits, TV theme songs, and rock charts from bands such as Coldplay and Queen. Every year, the ensemble plays at LAH Family Weekend, Honors Day, other UT functions, and hosts socials such as holiday caroling and banquets. If you are interested in joining, please contact Dorie Kaye (doriekaye@utexas.edu) or Rachel Stephenson (rasteph@utexas.edu) for more information.



Foot In The Door Theatre Troupe



Foot in the Door is a student-run theatre group affiliated with the Liberal Arts Honors Program at UT Austin led by Executive Producer, senior Victoria Fazzino, and Assistant Producer, junior Greta Unger. We put on four shows a year, with students involved/leading all aspects of the productions. Whether you're interested in acting, directing, or working behind the scenes, there's a place for you with us!

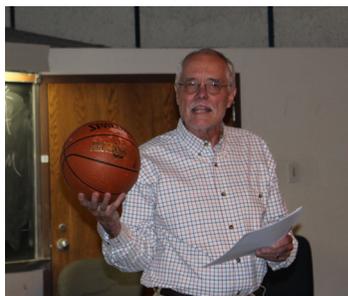
We are very excited for our upcoming fall season, which includes two plays: a gender-blind casting of *Twelve Angry Men*, directed by Jessica Starich and Caroline Culberson (tentative performance dates are November 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th and 12th) and *Cleanup on Aisle 10*, a student-written comedy about a motley group of game show contestants fighting for their grand prize in the aisles of a local Walmart, written and directed by Nicole Harrison and Jordan Smith (tentative performance dates are November 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th and 19th).

To learn more about auditioning and participating, contact Victoria Fazzino at Victoria.fazzino@yahoo.com





Casey's LAH 305 Reacting to the Past



Dr. Carver in LAH 102H lecture



Honors Day Luncheon, Spring 2016



LAH Alumni Network

Please keep in touch with us by joining LAH Alumni Facebook Group (LAH Alumni) and the LinkedIn Group (Liberal Arts Honors-UT Austin). You can also send updates for future newsletters to Julie Casey at jcasey@austin.utexas.edu. We'd love to hear from you!



Giving to Liberal Arts Honors

Help Liberal Arts Honors students pursue academic research, study abroad opportunities, and unpaid internships. You may give to LAH online at <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/lahonors/giving.php>

Of course we welcome the opportunity to meet with you and seek your guidance in assisting the college. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your pledge to:

Kathleen Aronson, Director of Development and Alumni Relations
 UT Austin, College of Liberal Arts
 116 Inner Campus Drive, G6310, Austin, Texas 78712

Liberal Arts Honors and Humanities Program

College of Liberal Arts Building CLA 2.104
 305 East 23rd Street G6210
 Austin, TX 78712
 Phone: 512.471.3458 Fax: 512.232.2886
<https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/lahonors/>

This newsletter is distributed via our website in pdf form.
 Those interested in submitting work for the upcoming issue please contact
 Julie Casey (jcasey@austin.utexas.edu)