Graduating senior Sarah Muncy, Honors College student and history major, began her research on the evacuations of Britain’s children during the Second World War last spring and this May completed her senior thesis on the topic. Her work focused on the mythology and public perceptions of the evacuations, exemplified through wartime propaganda posters and even popular beloved characters like Paddington Bear. Bolstered by extensive bibliographical research on World War II, Muncy soon realized that the subject of evacuation was often relegated to a footnote or a side discussion and not fully recognized as an important part of the war effort. Muncy felt this limited her scope in terms of understanding what a child actually went through when he or she was evacuated. In an effort to recapture these voices and to place them at the center of a historical study, Muncy reached out to the British Evacuee Association in the U.K. in hopes of finding just a few former evacuees who would be willing to share their experiences of evacuation with her — instead of just a few, she found thirty British evacuees who had been waiting to have their stories told.

When the Second World War broke out in Europe, the British government decided to organize evacuations for the children of Britain’s largest metropolitan cities which the government feared were the most vulnerable to an air attack from the German forces. Over the next four years, over 3.5 million children would be evacuated to the countryside or abroad, mainly to the U.S. and Canada. But the story is much more complicated than that. Experiences varied considerably, with some children having wonderful memories of the countryside and others having to relive the traumas of their evacuations for years to come.

Former evacuees from all over the world have emailed Muncy, and sent letters, articles, interviews, and mementos from that period — black and white photos, letters home addressed “Dear Mummy and Daddy,” even their luggage tags. One wrote her saying he hoped “your mailman has a deep bag.” As she communicated with these former evacuees, Muncy found the focus of her thesis and research was beginning to

“...It’s hugely complex in how we understand childhood, how we understand displaced people, how we understand war and hardship, and from that how to be more empathetic to understanding of displaced people...”

– Sarah Muncy
Our students represent the best of what we have to offer. They continually challenge us to improve and through each individual’s very specific interactions, we have been inspired. When I contemplate my 25 years as a faculty member at this university, I am reminded of the continuous joy and enrichment I have received from the students. Few things can be more rewarding than having a student tell you that they were up all night thinking about an issue discussed in a few weeks earlier, in bacterial physiology!!!

Our Honors students graduated just recently. The largest graduating class of Honors students, numbering 160, received their medals at the medallion ceremony in the presence of their families, the faculty, staff and peers. How magnificent it was. Of these, twenty five students wrote Honors theses and graduated with highest honors. We are so very proud of them all and we wish them all the best as they move onto the next chapter of their lives.

As alumni, I urge you to stay engaged with YOUR Honors College. You have and will continue to influence who we are and how the College evolves. Our webpage will soon feature an Alumni Forum space to connect with one another and let us know when you visit.

Cheers and all the best,

Michael San Francisco,

Honors College Dean

Sarah Muncy will be continuing her work on this project in the graduate program at the University of Cincinnati next year. She has been recognized for her intelligence and scholarly rigor with the Otto Nelson Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year Award by the Department of History and the Honors Academic Excellence Award by the Honors College in May, 2016.
DEPARTMENTAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The Honors College learned this April that it had been selected to receive the Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award for 2016. This award is given annually to an academic unit that demonstrates “unique and significant contributions to the teaching mission of the university and has esprit de corps in its dedication to the education of students.” The Honors College proposal, one of six submitted, was to direct the $25,000 award for support development of new content for the Learning Community Groups (LCG) that accompany the First Year Experience (FYE) courses required of all incoming Honors College students. The College ran a pilot program in fall 2015 to test modules in four FYE sections. The four modules called upon students to discuss race and ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual assault, and micro-aggressions. The pilot program so impressed the LCG mentors and students that they requested it be expanded to all FYE classes and that two more topics: addiction and mental health, be added. This fall will see the introduction of the six modules into all LCG sections. A key part of our proposal was to dedicate a small part of the award fund to publicizing our innovative LCG program among other Honors Programs around the country and also to solicit funds from alumni and other sources to build a special LCG endowment fund to perpetuate the one-time funding from our award to guarantee continuity and improvement of the LCGs.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO FYE/LCG OR OTHER HONORS COLLEGE PROGRAMS, OR TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT HONORS@TTU.EDU.

Honors College FYE Lead Mentor Katie Bishop Leads Round Table Discussion at National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting

In November, 2015, the Honors College sent a group of 3 faculty, 1 advisor, and 1 First Year Experience (FYE) Lead Mentor to present at the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Katie Bishop, an Honors College student who just graduated this May with a degree in Engineering and 2015 FYE Pilot Program Lead Mentor, moderated the TTU Honors College group in the round table discussion that focused on the FYE pilot that will now be expanded to the entire FYE/LCG program. During this round table, Katie helped to direct the discussion, answered questions, presented the students’ perspectives and survey data, and spoke eloquently, intelligently, and professionally about the workshops on race/ethnicity; gender/sexuality; campus safety and sexual assault; and microaggressions. Katie, along with pilot program facilitators Dr. Gary Elbow, Dr. Keira Williams, and Dr. Aliza Wong, and Ms.

Sarah Timmons, senior advisor and coordinator of FYE, discussed some of the strengths and weaknesses of the 2015 FYE Pilot Program, and how they would expand the experience in the future to include workshops on mental health and recovery and addiction.
Dr. Keira Williams Wins the Alumni Association New Faculty Award and the Honors College Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year

Dr. Williams was honored to be named one of the 2015 Alumni Association New Faculty Award recipients due to her incredible work both inside and outside of the classroom. As well, she was selected by Honors College students as the Honors College Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

Dr. Gary Elbow Awarded the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award, the Global Vision Lifetime Achievement Award and named Office of the Provost Integrated Scholar

For his innovation in the classroom and his dedication to making global connections between the university, the community, and the students, Dr. Gary Elbow was recognized with numerous teaching awards. He continues to inspire students and led a group of students on a service learning trip to Nicaragua this May.

Dr. Costica Bradatan Receives Prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award

Dr. Bradatan received the news this spring that he has been awarded a 2016-2017 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to France. An internationally renowned scholar and a vibrant player in the public intellectualism, Dr. Bradatan will be working on his new research project in France during the next academic year.

Dr. Aliza Wong Recognized for Leadership and Mentoring

Dr. Aliza Wong received the Faculty Distinguished Leadership Award in Spring, 2016 for her work in bringing together the university community, faculty, staff, and students. She was also awarded the LGBTQ Ally Award and was named one of the Outstanding Organization Advisors of the Year, and was named one of the Outstanding Organization Advisors of the Year for her work with Eta Omicron Nu (ION).
STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Elizabeth Hash
Class of 2016
Environment and the Humanities, English, and Psychology Major
Rhodes Scholarship Finalist

Hattie Schunk
Senior
Chemical Engineering Major
Barry Goldwater Scholarship

Amanda Miller
Senior
Psychology and Biochemistry Major
Barry Goldwater Honorable Mention

Benjamin Sharp
Senior
Economics Major
Truman Scholarship Finalist

Tristan Russo
Senior
Petroleum Engineering Major
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship

Brittney Dean
Junior
Psychology Major
Gilman Award to Germany

Katia Rodriguez
Sophomore
Mechanical Engineering Major
Gilman Award to Spain

Brian Romero
Junior
Philosophy Major
Gilman Award to Spain

The Honors College Advising Team Received the President’s Excellence Advising Award in 2015

Central to the academic success and retention of Honors College students is the award-winning corps of advisors in the Honors College. In Spring, 2015, Megan Conley, Lori Lightfoot, Sarah Timmons, and Janet Veal received the highest advising honors from then TTU President Dr. Duane Nellis, the President’s Excellence in Advising Award. The Award, which recognizes “excellence in academic advising by faculty and/or staff,” acknowledges the vital and vibrant work of university advisors in ensuring Texas Tech students achieve their academic goals in an efficient, professional, and supportive manner. The Honors College advising team takes that one step further, by truly engaging with our students, listening to them, guiding them not only through the process of majors and minors, but helping them to mature and understand what opportunities are available to them. Our advisors are often the first people Honors College students seek out for advice, mentoring, and understanding. Honors College advisors also go above and beyond by helping to coordinate some of our most prestigious Honors College programs, First Year Experience/Learning Community Groups, Undergraduate Research, Ambassadors, Book Club, Bayless Literacy Program, and many, many more.

Although two of our team members, Megan Conley and Janet Veal, left the College to pursue other goals, we have three new advisors who are dedicated to the intellectual well-being of our students, Cheyenne Belew, Stacy Poteet, and Abel Rios. This team of five advisors continue to help students navigate the Honors College and Texas Tech University with kindness, empathy, and a great deal of intelligence, common sense, and experience.
Siria Bojorquez: Reflections on Thesis Writing

In the preface to her Honors College thesis written in 2015 under the direction of Dr. Gary Elbow, Siria Bojorquez offers an introspective look into how writing a thesis helped to shape a new worldview on hunger, humanitarianism, and the duties of global citizenship.

“When it’s possible”. During my four years as a Texas Tech University Honors College student I have experienced many things that shaped my view of the world. In my freshman year I took a trip to South Korea. The next year I dove into two Texas Tech law classes. In the fall of 2012 I spent a month in the Philippines, and in the spring of that year I took Ambassador Nagy’s African Studies class. During my senior year, Dr. Elbow’s Honors Seminar in International Conflict increased my knowledge of development issues abroad. Finally, my last semester at Texas Tech was spent in Washington DC as a congressional intern. Although this thesis is not my story, it reflects the experiences I have had during my four years at Texas Tech. It is a reflection of what I have learned throughout my college life. It is a product of hard work, faith, knowledge, love and persistent dedication. In the United States anything and everything is possible, even helping those in other countries achieve similar goals.

I am not going to say that I have never known poverty or hunger. I have seen it and experienced it. This of course, played a major role in my decision to write a thesis on United States foreign food aid. Although both my mother and I are United States citizens, it took my grandmother 20 years to get residency and enter the United States. It was only then that my family relocated to the US. I do not remember the hunger that was felt during those times, but I have heard many stories about what it was like to live in constant worry—government assistance in my childhood was a saving grace. In some of the most difficult times it kept my family going. Thanks to much help and hard work, I am finally on my way to becoming the first person in the history of my family to graduate from a college or university, something I now know would have been impossible if not for my United States citizenship.

Although I saw hunger and poverty growing up in a border city, it was not until I was making pounds of kimchi in South Korea, and installing water bottle light bulbs in the Philippines that I realized exactly how fortunate I am to be a United States citizen. During four years I went from the world of the classroom to helping impoverished people, first in different countries, then my junior and senior year, helping children in the poorest areas of Lubbock get through school. Every day I would travel to a local middle school and try to encourage students to do their best, after all, they were American. They could use education as a means to get out of poverty, just as I was doing.

During my junior year in college I took a class that brought all of my studies and experiences together: Ambassador Nagy’s African Studies Honors Class. In the African Studies class once a week we watched videos of children suffering from malnutrition and ill health in Zambia, Guinea, Zimbabwe, the Congo and Somalia. They reminded me of the disturbingly skinny children with protruding bones that I had held a year before during my travels. We have all seen the commercials and ads asking for donations to feed children in Third World countries with round bellies filled with nothing but air. It was in Ambassador Nagy’s class that I learned that many of these donations do not reach those in need (Federal Trade Commission 2014, 201). I have seen the pictures of the children that my mother-in-law to be has on her refrigerator. These are the children she feeds. Sadly, neither one of us knows if the funds she contributes ever reach the children. I quickly realized that no one can function without food, and having people suffering from malnutrition without a proper way to help is as inhumane as any war crime. As William Easterly says, “In a single day, on July 16, 2005, the American and British economies delivered nine million copies of the sixth volume of Harry Potter children’s book series to eager fans. […] There was no Marshall Plan for Harry Potter, no International Financing Facility for books about underage wizards. It is heart breaking that society has evolved a highly efficient way to get entertainment to rich adults and children.” (Easterly 2006, 4).

However, society has yet to find a way to get food to the people who need it.

I set out on a search for an organization that remained true to its word. I knew the Marshall Plan existed, but I wanted to see if it worked in today’s world. After many hours on the computer I...
came upon an organization in the same town as my university. Thanks to the help of Dr. Elbow I stumbled upon Breedlove Foods Inc., a food dehydration plant in Lubbock, TX. Breedlove, created for the dehydration, stockpiling and delivery of emergency food products, is a non-profit that has not only provided food to now over 80 countries (Flocek 2014), but has paved the way for other organizations to do so as well (Sell 2015).

The fact that I was not aware of Breedlove after almost a year of volunteering with their original partner, the South Plains Food Bank, is disheartening. My mind has turned to thinking about the number of citizens who are unaware of the organization in our own backyard and thus are unable to donate to it or volunteer their services. I hope this thesis will help those that are unaware of this organization gain knowledge enough to want to donate to it.

During the fall of 2014, the same semester that I decided to take Dr. Elbow’s class, I visited Breedlove, met Ted Holder, the CEO, and received my first tour of the plant. The amount of work produced in this plant is incredible. It ranges from building and printing their own boxes, to constant scientific experiments served to create “super foods” (Holder 2014). And that was only the beginning. This thesis is the story of Breedlove Foods, Inc. and the International Food Partnership Fund. It advances the notion that something can be done to help those abroad, is being done, and should and will continue. It is living proof that in this country a small drop can create an idea that grows and persists.

As an intern in Washington DC during the spring of 2015 I met with people who were unavailable to me in Lubbock Texas. I gained knowledge about foreign aid development from government agencies and utilized the Congressional Research Service information database on foreign aid. The interviews were conducted in a very informal way. The questions that pertained to each interview were unique to the individual, as the purpose was to uncover more about the Breedlove story and gather the opinions of the individuals who took part in it.

The purpose of this thesis is to inform the public about Breedlove Foods Inc. and its story. I also will demonstrate the importance of international food aid. Additionally, this thesis will provide an example of the true impact that those in the United States can make on a global scale. Overall this thesis reveals the influence that a small organization can have on global society. Breedlove Foods Inc. was able to establish itself and help provide over one million food servings by providing emergency food aid (Flocek 2014). I hope that this story will lead the reader to see the importance behind food aid and also to realize the true potential behind helping others. Nothing can be accomplished without the basic necessities of life; and no one can disagree that it would be inhumane to let others starve.
Questions written by Sabrina DeLeon, Honors College Class of 2016, who just graduated this May with Highest Honors and a degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. Sabrina worked closely with Dr. Cañas-Carrell, who served as her mentor in Undergraduate Research and as her thesis advisor.

Answers provided by Dr. Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell is Associate Professor of Analytical Toxicology and Environmental Chemistry in The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, College of Arts and Sciences. She is also an 2001 alumna of the Texas Tech University Honors College.

1) As an undergrad you participated in undergraduate research and the Honors thesis. Now, I participate in undergraduate research in your lab and you are my Honors thesis director. How does it feel having participated in research and Honors thesis from both sides?

If somebody had told me when I was an Honors undergraduate researcher working on a senior thesis that someday I would be on the other side mentoring an Honors student, I would have thought they were crazy. It has been such a rewarding experience to mentor a fellow Honors student through the whole process! I’m glad that I have been able to provide such an experience for an Honors student. Dr. Susan Tomlinson in the Honors College was instrumental in helping me find my undergraduate research experience and encouraged me to write an Honors thesis. So I’m glad that now I am on the other side and can encourage Honors students to pursue research and complete a senior thesis! It truly is an honor.

2) How has your participation in undergraduate research and Honors thesis impacted you today?

My participation in undergraduate research changed my entire life! Before learning about research, I was dead set on going to medical school. However, after exposure to conducting research and presenting my research, I decided to decline my medical school admission and pursue a Ph.D. instead. Writing an Honors thesis was my first big piece of scientific writing which helped me to develop my writing skills. I was also able to turn my Honors thesis into my first first-author publication a year after I graduated from TTU.
3) What was your favorite Honors class and how did it impact you?

My favorite Honors class was an Honors humanities course. That class was the first time I was introduced to art and classical music! I instantly fell in love with art and really enjoy going to art museums. In fact, when I travel, I look to see if there is an art museum to visit. As a science major, taking this course helped me to become a more well-rounded person.

4) What advice would you give to an Honors student to have a successful college career?

I would advise students to take advantage of everything a college campus has to offer to them from academics to cultural events to athletic events. Take time to do something besides study as it will only enrich your overall college experience. Don’t be afraid to try new things!

5) What advice do you wish you could have given yourself while you were in undergrad?

I wish I could have told myself to be more open-minded as an undergraduate student. I was so focused on doing everything possible to make myself the best candidate for medical school that I forgot to have fun along the way.

SABRINA DELEON

Major: Cell and Molecular Biology
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jaclyn Canas-Carrell, Analytical Toxicology and Environmental Chemistry
Title: Uptake and Translocation of Carbon Nanotubes of Various Size Functionality in Carrots
Abstract: Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are one of the most used manufactured nanomaterials. CNTs are unique because they have the highest tensile strength discovered. Other unique properties that carbon nanotubes possess are high thermal conductivity and the ability to be semiconductors. Research with carbon nanotubes is in high demand due to their potential application in a variety of fields. Carbon nanotubes can be utilized in nanotechnology, micro-fabrication, and material fortification. Because CNTs are being used now more than ever, CNTs are predicted to be released into the environment.

This study compared uptake of various carbon nanotube sizes and functionality in carrot plants. Questions this study answered include: do root tuber plants exposed to soil containing carbon nanotubes take up the carbon nanotubes? Does carbon nanotube functionality have an effect on uptake? Does carbon nanotube size have an effect on uptake? What amounts of carbon nanotubes are taken up into the plant? Where in the plant do the carbon nanotubes accumulate? Does the accumulation of carbon nanotubes in plants translate to people potentially eating toxic foods? To research this project, I conducted experiments growing carrots in soil containing carbon nanotubes of various sizes and functionalities.
KAYLA COX
Major: Honors Arts and Letters
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, Communication Studies
Title: Analysis of Physician-Child-Parent Triad Communication Through a Child-Life Lens
Abstract: This study explores the participation of children in the pediatric healthcare setting and seeks to substantiate the need for greater child participation. Research proposes multiple causations resulting in low participation levels of the child. This paper highlights the implications of Family Systems Theory in relation to the triad dynamic. Analysis consists of data collected through interviewing Child-Life Specialist as they are privy to the doctor-parent-child triad dynamic. The results demonstrate important indicators and factors that both facilitate and take away from a child obtaining an active role as a participant. Additionally, the importance of informing and empowering the child are outlined.

JAANKI KHANDELWAL
Major: Honors Arts and Letters
Title: “The Role of Religion in Russian Literature”
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Anthony Qualin, Classical and Modern Literature and Languages
Abstract: Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment and The Brothers Karamazov and Leo Tolstoy’s War and Peace and Anna Karenina thoroughly explore the ideas of death and resurrection. Both authors depict a particular happiness and joy encountered by their characters when they are spiritually resurrected or when they discover God. This contentment originates from spiritual enlightenment, with which fear and doubts about death are dispelled. Dostoevsky and Tolstoy’s characters are capable of emerging from the mist of mystery that enshrouds death by cultivating a firm faith in God. Both authors reiterate central themes of forgiveness, divine love, and the power of faith in their literature, all of which cultivate resurrection. Resurrection for Dostoevsky and Tolstoy implies the spiritual revival of the characters through suffering, which leads them to nurture a firm faith in God and ultimately provides them with a purpose in life, contentment, and palliation of the fear of death.
TY KINDERMANN

Major: History
Title: "The Great War and Fear: Great Motivator, Great Manipulator"
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Aliza Wong, Honors College and History
Abstract: Through their introduction to a particularly violent and technological war, soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians under occupation during the Great War each experienced a different perspective on the war, and by extension each faced different situations and scenes of fear. This thesis answers the questions about that fear, how did it affect the minds, bodies, and reactions of all those involved, what factors increased or decreased fear's effectiveness, and how did societal viewpoints differ from the individual's experience? This project journeys into the minds of those involved in the Great War, seeking to discover how and when fear struck its victim, how these reactions correlate to their relation to ‘the Front.’

BROOKE WALTERSCHEID

Major: Cell and Molecular Biology
Title: “Ovarian Cancer Early Detection: An Overview of Biomarkers and Devices”
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Maurizio Chiriva-Internati, TTUHSC Internal Medicine
Abstract: As survival rates steadily decrease with the respective stage of epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC), it is crucial to identify EOC at its earliest stages when the chances of response to treatment are higher. In addition to catching the disease in early and generally treatable stages, early detection devices also allow for more time available for treatments. These tests are typically inexpensive and noninvasive. Recently, diagnostics have shifted to point-of-care devices, which allow for bedside, clinical testing using microRNA analysis, microfluidic technology, nanodevices, multimarker assays, and multiplexed panels. These methods are designed to detect various types of cancer biomarkers with high sensitivity and specificity. However, these new diagnostic devices must be able to discriminate malignant tumors from benign neoplasias, inflammation, and other environmental factors. To improve upon present early detection devices for EOC, the current market must be overviewed to evaluate the strengths and weakness of each device, and how the future of early detection devices can aim to solve present challenges.
20th Anniversary Gala
Celebrating 20 Years of the Honors College in 2019!

The Texas Tech University Honors College will celebrate its 20th birthday in 2019. We are planning a long weekend’s worth of events that will pay tribute to the amazing alumni, students, staff, and faculty that have made this College a community. Please stay tuned for more information. And if you would like to help us plan the festivities, we would love to have your ideas, your passion, your excitement! Contact us at honors@ttu.edu.