From the Director:

Summer is usually a quiet time on college campuses. There are fewer students taking classes, faculty and staff take summer vacations, and for those of us who find ourselves at the college during the hot Houston summers, a quieter campus provides opportunity for reflection on both the past and upcoming year. Summer is also the time when we say goodbye to our graduates and begin preparations to welcome a new group of students. This past May, six of our students received their diplomas and are beginning the next stage of their academic journey, and I have to say, this is one group of students that left their mark not only at the college, but on me as well. I expect this group of graduates will do great things as they move forward because they certainly have a long list of accomplishments here. I also expect that our next group of students will leave their mark on the college as well. We have a great incoming group of leaders for our Honors Student Organization and I look forward to getting to know our newest cohort of students that will be starting classes this fall.

As you read through our newsletter, you will hear from two of our May graduates, Amos Zimmermann and Gillianne Ardoin as well as two of our alumni, Jana McKelroy ('09) and Shobhit Keswani ('10). Two of our current students, Rachel Herrera and Nayely Zamudio will also share their stories about their honors experience at the college. I think that you will see that all six of them share a desire to challenge themselves academically, and that the honors program not only provides them with that challenge, we provide them with a community of other talented students looking to get the most out of their education. It has been a privilege not only working with these six students, but all of the students in our program.

David Putz, PhD
Director, Honors Program
When **Amos Zimmermann (AS ’11)** first registered for classes at Lone Star College-Kingwood, his counselor informed him of the Honors Program and he “jumped at the chance” to enrich his college experience. He enrolled in Dr. Skelton’s English and Dr. Clark’s Anatomy and Physiology classes and was immediately hooked by the small class sizes, the depth of learning, and the care demonstrated by the professors and fellow students. Since those first two classes, Amos took honors classes every semester and became engaged as an active member and later as an officer in the Honors Student Organization.

Upon embarking on his college career, Amos entertained lofty aspirations, yet he says he felt quixotic and suffered from self-doubt. His participation in the Honors Program “proved instrumental in removing all the immediate obstacles” to his academic progress. Close contact with honors’ professors and students allowed him to become involved in various service projects, many of which he planned himself. He also took advantage of other academic opportunities such as Model United Nations. All of his experiences have made it possible for him to transfer to The University of Texas at Austin with the generous support of the Jack Kent Cooke and Terry Foundations. He will begin classes in the fall, majoring in Human Biology. Following the completion of medical school, he plans to deliver health care to underserved communities as a physician.

By joining the Honors Program and LSC Kingwood, **Gillianne Ardoin (AS ’11)** was, as a returning student, able to benefit from the camaraderie and support provided by a variety of motivated and wonderful people. She says there were ample opportunities to work with other students, and the community environment provided by the program surpassed her friendship networks. Her honors courses and her faculty relationships opened doors for her, including getting accepted to the University of Texas School of Nursing in the Houston Medical Center.

As a future nurse, Gillianne says she found the challenges set by the Honors Program both significant and extremely rewarding. **Dr. Mike Clark**, professor of Anatomy and Physiology, in particular, helped her develop the mindset necessary to succeed as a nurse. Her year of Anatomy and Physiology, she says, would not have been possible without his guidance and inspiration.
Nayely Zamudio
In Her Own Words

As a pre-med Biology major, it is important to me that I challenge myself as much as possible now so that I may be better equipped to handle my future endeavors. I am more than positive that the Honors Program at Lone Star College-Kingwood has already been of great benefit to my success. It has taught me skills that I know will be useful at Kingwood, when I transfer to a larger university, and for the rest of my life. I am currently looking into the University of Houston and the University of Texas at San Antonio as possible transfer universities. However, regardless of where I go, I am certain that I am better prepared for success than I was before.

I initially heard about the Honors Program from my academic advisor when I registered for my classes my freshman year. As she explained what it entailed in further detail as well as the benefits that it encompassed, I decided it was definitely something that I wanted to be part of. I joined, and I absolutely loved it! I have the privilege of taking smaller, more focused classes that are taught by the most amazing professors on campus. Because of the smaller classes, there is a tight knit environment between the students and the professors that allows for more comfortable and challenging class discussion. I have been challenged by the program and have thoroughly enjoyed every second of it.

Ultimately, I am waiting to see which schools offer me scholarships before making a final decision.

Who We Are: Students

The quality of the LSC Kingwood Honors Program Rachel Herrera most enjoys is the small student to teacher ratio. She says the small classes make the environment more relaxing and enjoyable.

Rachel joined the Honors Program because she heard other students talk about how much they enjoyed taking Honors classes and how much more they were getting from an Honors class verses a regular classrooms setting. She also joined because of the different opportunities such as scholarships and recognition during graduation that are available to students.

Rachel is currently enrolled in the ADN program and will be taking advantage of the new honors component that will be added to the program this fall. Rachel wants to become a nurse because, she says, it is a rewarding career where she can help save lives. Her future goals include receiving a Masters as a Nurse Practitioner in Pediatrics and transferring to the UT Health Science Center or Texas Women’s University in the Houston Medical Center.

The Honors program also gave Rachel the opportunity to make friends with fellow students in the program. Most importantly, she says, she has met some incredible professors that really made her enjoy attending class and learning so much more than she would have expected at a community college.
Steve Davis is a native of Houston’s east end, and the first person in his family to finish high school, let alone attend college. He attended the University of Houston through almost his entire academic career, finishing his doctoral requirements save the dissertation in that History department in 1984. That was the year he came to LSC-Kingwood, which was the year of its founding. Over the twenty-seven years since, Steve has taught primarily the survey courses in U.S. and Texas history and since 2001 he has offered courses on the History of Rock and Roll and the Beatles. Alongside his classroom duties, he chairs the Social Sciences department.

What does this say about why Steve teaches for the Honors program? On one level, he says it’s a contribution he can make to an institution that has done so much for him, a form of payback if you will. But he says there’s a selfish impulse as well. Honors classes give him a chance to work with the best and brightest of our student body. These are truly elite sections that provide great intellectual stimulation for teachers as well as students. Steve believes deeply in the democratic mission of this college which is to open its doors to the every member of this community to give them a chance to realize their full potential. Our Honors classes are a vital part of that objective and he is “indeed honored to teach them.”

What We Teach: The “Other” America

Our Honors History 1301 and Psychology 2301 will combine for the first time to create a learning community for the fall 2011 term that will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Students will be required to enroll in both courses, and the learning community environment will provide students with greater opportunity for participation on the areas of focus than in a traditional class. The two classes, taught jointly by Professor Peggy Lambert and Professor Stacy Walker, will meet for a combined three hours twice a week with the first 90 minutes covering content from American History and the second 90 minutes covering General Psychology.

The two courses will put particular emphasis on an analysis of the voices of Americans who are often left out of the more traditional American story, such as women, ethnic and religious minorities, and the mentally ill. Students will be expected to make class presentations on a regular basis and take quizzes over supplemental readings. There are no major exams, and the course will culminate in a major research project. The learning community will be a great introduction to honors coursework at Kingwood. Students who complete required coursework will earn six hours honors credit.
Shobhit Keswani (AS ‘10) is currently enrolled in the pre-med Biology program at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. While he was initially afraid of the move, as a student coming from Lone Star College-Kingwood, he says the transition was fairly smooth. SFA is about the same size as LSC Kingwood, and he likes the atmosphere, the students, and the faculty at the Nacogdoches university. Shobhit also joined the SFA Honors Program and immediately began making contributions to the program. The school has been a good fit for him. The SFA Honors Program gives him the option of working closely with a professor on an honors contract or earning credit through honors sections. Wisely Hall is the dorm just for students in the honors program, and students who live in the dorm, he said, get to live with a variety of people with different interests and goals but who share a similar amount of zeal and passion for their education.

When he isn’t taking advantage of the social opportunities provided by the SFA Honors Program, Shobhit is preparing for a combined MD/JD degree. Ultimately, he wants to pursue a career in emergency medicine. He also wants to be involved in the policies and decisions regarding healthcare and medicine. He says that his passion is helping people through the science of medicine, but his true love is fighting for what’s right when it comes to health care and patient rights.
Jana McKelroy (AA ‘09) graduated from LSC Kingwood in 2009 and transferred to the University of Houston’s Honors College. She felt the pull to get involved with the Honors College almost immediately. She learned at Kingwood that the best way to experience her education was to make it her own.

In spring of 2010, Jana became involved with the UH Center for Creative Work’s Ekphrastic Art Exhibition and Dionysia, an annual event that celebrates the great books and ancient Greek festivals. She even had a film exhibited for the festival. In 2011, she again submitted a film, *Aegisthus: Story Untold*, which was also exhibited and later accepted as a finalist for the UH Visualization Festival. Jana also spent the year busy working as the Production Manager for the Dionysia’s production of *Agamemnon*.

This summer, Jana studied abroad for two weeks in Ireland, and upon her return, will begin research for her Senior Honors Thesis, a full-length documentary on the concentration camp at Theresienstadt. She will graduate with two full BA degrees, one in History and one in Psychology. She is minoring in Creative Work.

Jana says her time at Kingwood was the most rewarding time in her life. The leadership skills and opportunities she received were the foundation that got her where she is today. The aspects she enjoyed most about the LSC Kingwood Honors Program were the classes and the professors. Not only did she find herself completely prepared to move on after graduation, she made connections with people that will continue the rest of her life. Her favorite course was Literature of the Holocaust with Dr. Joan Samuelson where she said she found her true calling and the focus for her future graduate work in Holocaust Studies.

Jana continues to work on the LSC Kingwood campus as a supplemental instructor and feels great pride walking around campus and seeing HSO t-shirts on new people. She loves that she is still able to be involved with the Honors Program at Kingwood and give something back through the Honors Alumni Association. Jana did an incredible job building both our Honors Program and Honors Student Organization and we appreciate her continued commitment to honors education!
A Word on the Honors Student Organization
From Rick Westover, HSO President

This semester was a very busy one! Not only did we join Honor Program’s activities, like the "Conversations with..." series, the first annual Honors Workshop, and the Honors Social, but we had a few activities and service projects to help fill the semester for our Honor students. For the activities we were able to decorate a float for the annual Mardi Gras parade on campus. We had a group of HSO students who braved the rain to walk and throw beads to the crowd. Not even a heavy downpour could dampen our enthusiasm! We also had a bowling party to end the semester! It was a great time of relaxing and relieving stress before the finals.

Our Book Bytes continued this semester with a look at American society and government. The first book was *The McDonaldization of Society* facilitated by Professor Tony Foster and the second book, *Overthrow*, was led by Dr. Jay Theis. On the service side, we were unable to run our book drive this semester as we were trying to figure out the best company to use. We did have a team for the Kingwood/Humble Relay for Life and had 24 team members raise over $530. We also did our first ever San Jacinto River Cleanup. The club also voted on our first ever "Student of the Year." The winner was Shelley Peterson! She has been instrumental in some of our service projects, and has been the driving force on the book drive. She was always available and ready to participate with all our HSO activities! Good job Shelley, and thank you!

We had a great year but say good bye to a wonderful group of officers. I would like to wish Keelie, Amos, and Musbah all the best in their next endeavor. There is a new group of officers taking over for next year and I know that Cory, Karen, David H, David A, and Krystal will be able to do a wonderful job with the club!

Photos on this page: Boys in the Band at Relay for Life (top right), San Jacinto River Clean Up crew (top left), Incoming HSO President Coralyn McAnally (bottom left)
As a second-time delegation member, Keelie Barrow (AA '11) served as the head delegate for the combined group of National Model United Nation students from the LSC-Kingwood, Montgomery, and Tomball campuses. This is the fourth year that Kingwood has participated in the week long NMUN conference, and the first time the Kingwood delegation consisted entirely of Honors Program students. At the conference, each school represents a country that is a member of the United Nations and the three LSC groups were selected to represent the country of Nicaragua. Our delegation served on seven different committees covering topics such as women’s issues, land mines, and xenophobia.

Unlike other students who spent time discussing committee issues and drafting resolutions, Keelie was responsible, as head delegate, for making sure that her delegation members had the tools they needed to succeed. Sometimes that was as simple as grabbing a cup of coffee for a member who woke up too late to have time to stop on the way to a meeting. Other times, she found herself doing research on a topic that had come up on discussion. Because the delegation worked so well together under Keelie’s leadership, the students brought home a “Distinguished Delegation” award and were only one of two community colleges to receive such recognition. It wasn’t all work, though. Students had the opportunity to explore midtown Manhattan on the last day of their trip.

Three other Kingwood Honors Program students joined Keelie in New York: Angela Shively, Brandon Swaringim, and Amos Zimmermann (AS ’11). Angela served as chair of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) which is exceedingly rare for a student from a community college and next year she will serve as a paid staff member of NMUN as the Assistant Director of the Commission on the Status of Women. Congratulations Angela!

Photos on this page: Angela Shively chairing ESCWA (top left), a tired Kingwood delegate (center right), Brandon Swaringim (bottom left)
The Honors Program once again had a semester full of academic and social activities for students. February was a busy month and included a visit to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. **Dr. Joan Samuelson** took a group of students enrolled in her Literature of the Holocaust class to the Houston Holocaust Museum (left). The trip is always an emotional experience for students and ends with the opportunity to meet with a Holocaust survivor. February closed with the annual Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Council Spring retreat. Hosted by San Jacinto College, students were treated to a reception in the historic Lancaster Hotel in downtown Houston before attending a performance by the Houston Symphony at Jones Hall.

March was a quiet month but our busy calendar resumed in April with a visit to the University of Houston hosted by the UH Honors College. Kingwood grad Jana McKelroy (AA ’09) and fellow UH Honors Ambassadors gave students an overview of the Honors College and a tour of the UH campus. The trip helped several students realize the UH Honors College would be a good fit for their final two years of school. In late May, a small group of students attended the LSC Kingwood Theatre Department’s production of “Assassins”. After the performance the department hosted a talk back session with the company actors. Thanks to **Professor Eric Skiles** and his actors and all the faculty and students who made this semester a success!

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**New “Conversations” Honors Discussion Series Starts**

This past spring the Honors Program started a new theme-based discussion series “Conversations with…”. The theme for spring was political ideologies which introduced students to different political belief systems, including socialism, liberalism, conservatism, and libertarianism over the course of four meetings. Faculty from the college facilitated the hour-long discussions by first providing the basics of each system before turning to policy specifics and a question/answer session. Thanks to our faculty for doing a fantastic job sharing their knowledge with students.

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**Get Ready for these Fall Events!**

- Afternoon at the Menil
- Southeast Texas Cajun Weekend
- Club Rush
- Oktoberfest