From the Director:

It's official! The LSC Kingwood Honors Program is now The Honors College at Lone Star College Kingwood. After almost two years of planning, The Honors College welcomed its first group of 15 Chancellor's Fellows to campus this fall. Many of these students were at the top of their graduating high school class, and as you get to know them through the pages of our newsletter, you'll see that many of them joined the Honors College to stay close to home and still get the benefits of a university caliber education.

While the Chancellor’s Fellows are the most visible sign of change to our program, we have dramatically restructured the campus experience for all Honors students. We have a new emphasis on undergraduate research, providing students the opportunity to work closely with faculty on independent projects and present that work at local and regional conferences. We are also expanding our Honors course offerings and are welcoming new Honors faculty in the classroom and as mentors to students. Honors College students are now eligible for personalized advising and new staff has been hired to support our enhanced program offerings. Changes have occurred outside the classroom as well as we have developed an extensive co-curricular program for students that includes monthly colloquia, workshops designed to help students transfer and secure scholarships, and cultural enrichment events.

Despite all that is new, our focus continues to be on students. I encourage you to see who they are, where they went, and what they do.

David Putz, PhD
Director, The Honors College at LSC Kingwood
As a Senior at Summer Creek High School, Honors College Chancellor’s Fellow Class of 2014 Taylor Chimney was unsure where she wanted to attend college. She took dual credit courses through Lone Star at her high school, and after speaking with LSC Kingwood College Connection Advisor Trina Lowery about the research opportunities and small class sizes in the LSC Honors College, she decided it would be a good fit for her.

Taylor says that The Honors College has afforded her opportunities to which she otherwise wouldn’t have had access. Despite this being her first semester, she has not only been challenged academically, she has also become a part of a well-knit, culturally diverse community. After completing her Honors Degree at Lone Star Taylor planned to transfer to the University of Houston and major in Marketing, but after taking a trip to Stephen F. Austin through the Honors College she has become unsure of her previous transfer plans. She found the trip very informative and was able to experience another potential option in the furthering of her education. While she is still committed to Marketing, Taylor is now much more open to potential transfer schools which she attributes to the Honors College.

Zach Hough, Economics major and 2013 graduate of Hargrave High School in Huffman, decided to attend Lone Star Kingwood because he felt it had excellent opportunities to develop as a student before attending university. He was nominated to join the Honors College by Professor Nora Diaz and has found it immensely helpful in mastering his academics, learning what steps are needed to reach his professional goals, and allowing him to meet professionals with jobs in the field he wishes to work.

This semester Zach is working on an Honors Contract with Economist and Professor Shuang Xu to study how the economic activity of particular variables-- the price of gas, national interest rates, stock prices (of the two largest college textbook publishers), college tuition, and the price of logging lumber--influence the price of college textbooks.

After earning his Associates at Lone Star Zach plans to transfer to either the University of Texas at Austin or the University of Houston.
Katharine Farrar, Honors College Chancellor's Fellow Class of 2014, In Her Words

My name is Katharine Farrar. I graduated from Porter High School in Porter, TX. I am a Mathematics major, planning to transfer to the cougar red campus of the University of Houston.

The Honors experience, this first semester, has been rigorous. The Honors teachers have been diligent in their teaching and very patient when their students sometimes struggle to come up with answers—something, I’m sure, anyone appreciates in the Humanities class at Kingwood! It’s refreshing to see teachers who are passionate about their work. Their excitement gives their subject excitement no matter the field, and this is a refreshing change from other teachers past experienced.

The class environment here, in the Honors College, is of the sort I’ve always appreciated and craved: students and teachers alike finding great value and interest in the education they both receive and give to each other. I’ve taken classes where this atmosphere was lacking, where apathy was the norm, and the energy, draining, but this doesn’t describe my Honors courses.

I chose to participate in the Honors College for the proximity to home, the quality of faculty that I had known before my first semester, and the generous financial package associated with being a Chancellor’s Fellow of the college. The benefit of beginning higher education without student debt is without question. I look forward to my coming semesters here.

Adrianna Joseph is in her final semester at Lone Star College, and says it’s been quite the journey for her since she packed up her life and drove 2,000 miles away from her home in California. She says she did not expect to become so close to the LSC Kingwood community, however, after completing Dr. Joan Samuelson’s British Literature, she was encouraged to supplement her degree with Honors coursework.

After meeting other Honors students, Adrianna wanted to be more than just a student, she wanted to be involved. She took Dr. Jay Theis’ Texas Government which had a Public Achievement component that involved the Splendora High School community. She also participated in Alternative Spring Break which, she says, was an unforgettable experience. This semester she is working with Professor Amber Lara-Williams on an honors contract which will put her Spanish skills to the test when it comes to Spanish literature and its correct cultural translation into English.

Adriana plans to complete a Bachelors of Arts in Advertising at the University of Houston.
John Dethloff is a professor of English, and he has been teaching at LSC-Kingwood for seven years. He teaches courses in composition & rhetoric (honors and non-honors), creative writing, humanities, and literature (honors and non-honors). As a student, he majored in psychology at the University of Houston, then, only a year from graduating, realized that his heart belonged to literature and that he enjoyed writing more than anything else. So he went on to receive an MFA in English/Creative Writing from the University of Notre Dame, where he met his wife-to-be, Nora. They now have two lionesses of little girls – Josephine, who is four, and Rebecca, who is one. While not playing and wrangling with them, Professor Dethloff enjoys the un-professorial pleasures of European soccer (he follows the English Premier League, Italian Serie A, and UEFA Champions League, and he is a huge Juventus F.C. fan). He also enjoys playing classic video games (Mario, Zelda) as well as trying to conquer the universe through an all-night game of Risk, Star Wars Edition. For Professor Dethloff, teaching honors is an honor and a responsibility. He joined the Honors College faculty because it reminds him of the best experiences he had when he was in college: professor and student engaged in scholarship together, learning from each other in a challenging, stimulating environment. Overall, his goal is to provide his students with a quality liberal arts education.

What We Teach: The Rhetoric of Disobedience

John Dethloff will be offering ENGL 1302 Composition and Rhetoric II in the upcoming Spring semester after longtime Honors faculty Joseph Minton made the decision to step down from his Honors teaching position. Professor Dethloff isn’t new to Honors, however. He is currently teaching a literature course exploring the development of the concept of Hell as a literary device.

In the upcoming semester, Professor Dethloff will be following the guidelines of a standard ENGL 1302 course for his new Honors section. Students will learn rhetoric through the perspective of citizenship in the 21st century by examining civil disobedience and issues that they find relevant today. Professor Dethloff is also incorporating a number of supplemental materials for his course, including the novel V for Vendetta. At the end of the course, students’ research will culminate in an Honors project to be presented at a collegewide Honors Day.
Since leaving Lone Star Kingwood Krystal Broussard (AA ’11) has made some very exciting changes to her life. Immediately after graduation, she lived and went to school in Corpus Christi, TX for two years. Two semesters before graduation she switched her major from Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Philosophy to Accounting, which, by any standard, is a big change. She subsequently found herself on the move again, this time traveling north to Denver in August of 2013. More recently she transferred to Colorado State University, started working as a staff accountant for a multilevel federal construction company, and managed to survive all four seasons in Colorado despite never even seeing, much less driving in, snow until last October! She is completing an accelerated degree program through CSU where she takes two classes every eight weeks simultaneously until graduation, which takes place August 2015.

Krystal says her time in the honors program in Kingwood prepared her for the hard work she has had to put in since moving. Over the last year she uprooted and reestablished her life, started a new career, and transferred to a new and aggressive degree program. Her time at Kingwood helped her, above all else, learn how to manage her time. Krystal says that is the whole reason she is successful with such a demanding schedule today.

We are glad to hear Krystal is doing well. She was one of the top graduates in her class, earning the Distinction level of recognition. We wouldn’t be surprised if she is an equally distinguished CSU graduate.

Where Can You Find Our Graduates?

Jacob Abajian, Trinity University
Christian Arnold, University of Houston
Teresa Wells, Stephen F. Austin
Amos Zimmerman, Baylor Medical
Corey Lenon (AA ’12)
In Her Own Words

My success at LSC-Kingwood was due to several professors. Mr. Joseph Minton was my English professor and in the two semesters that I took his English classes, he taught me to be a better writer. Dr. Jay Theis was instrumental in guiding me to become a mentor coach for Public Achievement at Quest Early College High School. I was a co-mentor of five amazing high school students and in our time together we had one of the most successful projects that year for Public Achievement. After graduating from LSC-Kingwood, I continued my degree plan at the University of Houston-Downtown where I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Study in Urban Education.

The time I spent at Lone Star College-Kingwood and the University of Houston-Downtown were busy as I balanced attending both schools while I was a Humble ISD substitute teacher. The two years that I spent teaching were invaluable in that it allowed me the opportunity to find my niche in the education system. I have to say that my education at both schools prepared me for the position that I currently hold at Timberwood Middle School. I am currently a sixth grade Reading English Language Arts teacher. My future plans are to start my master’s degree in the fall of 2015.

Like many of our graduates, Corey continues to be a strong supporter of Honors education. Thank you Corey for taking the time to share your story with us!

Have an alumni story that you want to share? Then contact Dr. Putz at dputz@lonestar.edu. The Honors College wants to hear from you!
A Word on the Honors Student Organization

The Honors Student Organization (HSO) is an on campus club that is dedicated to enriching the experience of academically focused students at the LSC Kingwood campus. The goal of the HSO is to provide educational opportunities for students enrolled in the Honors College at LSC Kingwood and to other students who are striving to expand their knowledge and experience at the college. For students who want to add community service or leadership experience to their college resume, the HSO is a great place to get it!

The HSO had an active presence on campus during the fall semester. Members participated in Club Rush at the beginning of the semester and Oktoberfest, when else but the month of October, where they participated in a college wide pumpkin carving contest.

This semester the HSO “adopted” as its community service organization Family Time of Humble. Family Time provides services for victims of domestic and family violence and late in the fall the HSO will help the group prepare for their Thanksgiving lunch. The HSO will continue to partner with Family Time in the spring semester. At its October meeting, HSO members learned from a Family Time representative that family and domestic abuse happens everywhere and can happen to anyone.

It’s not all school and service, though. HSO members took to the track, the racing track that is, at the Houston Grand Prix for their fall social. Students spent the day racing and playing games, and most importantly, building long lasting friendships that will remain after they leave LSC Kingwood.

Photos on this page: Top right, HSO members at Houston Grand Prix; Center; center left, HSO members at Houston Grand Prix; Bottom right, HSO 2014-2015 officers.
The mission of the Honors College at LSC Kingwood is to enrich the academic experience of the college’s academically talented students. The program provides students with a different learning experience inside the classroom, and we add to that experience by providing students with numerous opportunities for experiential learning that takes place outside the classroom. Our transition to an Honors College has only enhanced our ability to provide our academically strongest students with the best possible first two years of college.

This fall, students in Dr. David Putz’s EDUC 1300 class participated in an OxFam Hunger Banquet on campus. Sponsored by the college’s Center for Civic Engagement, guests to the dinner were seated according to randomly assigned social classes. While a few students were seated at tables and had lasagna for dinner, the majority of students, much like the majority of the world’s population, sat on the floor and ate rice from a bowl and had water from a bucket.

Students in other Honors classes were also exposed to co-curricular learning opportunities. As part of his Humanities class on Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln, Dr. John Barr took a group of students to the Houston Museum of Natural Science for an extensive personal tour of the museum and Professor Betsy Morgan’s BIOL 1406 Honors class visited the labs at the MD Anderson Hospital in the Medical Center.

The big event this semester, though, is the preparation for Kingwood’s first ever Honors Day. We are expecting nearly 30 students to present their in class or Honors contract work at this campus undergraduate research conference. Students have been working all semester on their projects, many of them under the guidance of faculty mentors Dr. Thilo Schimmel, Professor Jay Whatley, Professor Shuang Xu, Professor Amanda Childress, and Dr. Jared Miller. Look for more information about Honors Day in our next newsletter!
This fall the Honors College at Lone Star Kingwood welcomed its first cohort of Chancellor’s Fellows to campus who receive one of the most generous financial packages LSC offers its students. This competitive, merit-based award covers up to 15 hours of in-district tuition and fees and up to $600 of textbook costs. In addition, students are provided with a $600 stipend and have the opportunity to participate in an international capstone trip their final semester at LSC. While at LSC, Chancellor’s fellows complete a rigorous academic program focused on undergraduate research. The Honors College at Lone Star is now setting the standard for honors education at community colleges.

The application process for the award is rigorous as well. Students who are recognized with a Chancellor’s Fellowship must first submit a written essay and provide three letters of recommendation before they are invited for an interview with Honors faculty members. We not only want to ensure students are a good fit for LSC Kingwood; we want to ensure Kingwood is a good fit for students.

Even before they started taking classes this fall, the Honors College hosted a reception for the 15 LSC Kingwood Fellows and their parents. While parents received a short orientation and tour of campus, the Fellows had the opportunity to have any last minute questions before the start of the semester.

With an average SAT score of 1160 and an average high school GPA of 3.6, LSC Kingwood’s Chancellor's Fellows represent the majority of LSC Kingwood's feeder high schools, and some of its most academically competitive: Porter, Summer Creek, Atascocita, Kingwood, and K-Park. Our Fellows come from a variety of backgrounds and have a diverse set of academic interests, including law and international relations, marketing and communications, medicine, park and wildlife management, education, and business. These are students that we will definitely hear about once they graduate from LSC Kingwood and move on into the world.

Photos this page: Top left, the 2015 LSC Kingwood Chancellor's Fellows; bottom right, 2015 Chancellor’s Fellows Katelyn Munro and Chance Knight.