

HONORABLY



2024

THE HYPE WAS REAL



In the fall of 2023, the Honors Program held its Sorting Hat Ceremony on the stage of the Ataloa Theatre. From the operatic entrance of the Book of Honors to the chaotic arrival of the Sorting Hat itself, the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center's new Events Coordinator and Technical Director Jamie Davis helped take this signature event of the Honors Fall season to new theatrical heights. Once the Hat magically sorted all new Honorables into their destined houses, each Honorable donned a bandanna

representing the colors of their House (Arete: purple ; Dao: red; Eureka: green; Orenda:blue) and the House Games began. The Bring-Me Game Charades, Trivia, and the Good Sportsmanship battles were hard fought, but Honors Student Association President Reia Storch and the new HSA Leadership Team helped conduct the most intense Rock-Paper-Scissors tournament ever contested.

When the dust had cleared, the night's winner was declared: House Arete.



SPOONS

In July, our biggest ever Leadership Team welcomed incoming, first-year students to the Summer Ice Cream Social, where senior Luke Woodward was crowned Spoons Champion.



In November, we had our largest ever turnout for the Honors Thanksgiving Potluck.. Honorables wrote and colored thank you cards (designed by alum



Katie Cowger) and signed a gratitude banner. Seth Spady's mashed potatoes may have been the most popular dish served.



BOOK 'EM!

In August, the 18th annual Honors Convocation featured “Tiger Talks” by Cas Northcutt (History), who completed a 10-week “Historic Trades” internship at George Washington’s home in Mount Vernon; Delanie Seals (Political Science), who completed a Udall Congressional internship in Washington, D.C.; and Lauren HerrNeckar (Molecular Biology), who spent the summer in the Summer

Undergraduate Research Institute for the Study of Kidney Disease at the University of Texas Southwestern. The keynote speaker, 2023 Honors Teacher of the Year Dr. Mark Felts “dropped bars.” And 1st-year Honorables as well as those launching theses and projects signed their names in the Book of Honors to commemorate their next steps in the Honors Program.

MIDNIGHT LIBRARY?



At this fall's Burkean Parlor, first- and second-year students joined Leadership Team members and EQ faculty on the Ataloo stage to sample hors d'ouvres and discuss questions related to the 2023 Honors Summer Read: Matt Haig's 2020 novel, *The Midnight Library*. A sample question: "Nora [the main character] says it is a basic law of thermodynamics that the universe tends towards chaos and entropy. How might that belief influence someone's life choices?"



Clean Streets . . .

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Honors invited the President's Leadership Class and the Business Leaders Association to collaborate with us on a city clean-up project supported by the city's Beautification Committee. President Wendell Godwin joined us and paid for lunch at Polo's afterwards! Our service was warmly praised on citywide social media.

The Honorable Haunting of Wintersmith Park in October featured high levels of frights and shenanigans followed by treats and gameplay in Faust 159. Orenda won the Halloween Trivia and Arete won the costume contest.

. . . and Haunted Parks.





Seventy-six Honorables and four faculty members formed our largest OKC trip ever! And this year, for the first time, the university paid for us to take a charter bus.

Honorables toured the museum that commemorates the Oklahoma City Bombing, which took place before most of them were born. Afterwards, we enjoyed food from The Collective food hall in downtown OKC, which features 9 different kitchens. Our final stop was OKC Shakespeare in the Paseo, where we took in an outdoor performance of Romeo and Juliet.



Stories to Remember





Showcase Time

Our Fall Showcase featured presentations about:

- 7 One-semester Projects
- 6 Two-semester Theses
- 4 Oklahoma Scholar Leadership Enrichment Program experiences
- 1 National Aeronautic and Space Administration (Huntsville, Alabama) internship
- 1 Brad Henry Scholar Study Abroad experience (University of Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom)
- 1 Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (University of Kansas)





and Back Again

At the Laude Dinner, we honor graduating seniors, Showcase presenters and upper-division Honorable who entered the semester with at 4.0. This year, our featured presenter was Jennifer Barnes Kerns, who graduated from ECU's Honors Program in 2002. Kerns served as a prosecutor for the Chickasaw Nation for three years before joining the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer. Since then, she has served in U.S. embassies and consulates in South Korea, Mexico, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. Her next



assignment will be in Laos.

After talking about challenges she faced as a child, Kerns gave Honors students this counsel:

- 1) Where you're going is more important than where you've been;
- 2) Be kind, be clear, and be collaborative;
- 3) Replace excuses with effort.

Kerns also gave us this bonus tip: if you're going to be in a group photo with the President of the United States, be sure to wear bright colors so you will stand out!