Spring 2014 Calendar

January 13:  
First Day of Spring Classes  
LAH Welcome Back Lunch  

March 10 - 15:  
Spring Break  

March 31:  
Last day an undergraduates student may, with the dean’s approval, drop a class or change a class to pass/fail  

April 12:  
Honors Day  

May 2:  
Last class day  

May 5 - 6:  
Dead Days  

May 7 - 14:  
Final Exams  

May 16 - 17:  
Spring graduation ceremonies  

June 4 - July 9:  
First Year Orientation  

August 25:  
LAH Orientation Bike Rides and Walks  

August 26:  
LAH Kick-off Lunch  

August 27:  
First Day of Fall Classes

From the Director’s desk...

“I just snagged $5,000,” writes one supporter of LAH. “Do you want it directed toward students studying abroad or those engaged in unpaid internships this summer?” Thanks to two other friends of LAH, the program is able to fund two LAH interns this summer at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center. And we are in midst of the happy task of awarding $100,000 in scholarships to help defray the costs for 38 LAH students who will be studying abroad the summer and fall semesters of 2014—Wurzburg, Germany, Lyon, France, Santander, Spain, and Rabat, Morocco—among other destinations. Last October we were able to award $40,000 to students currently studying abroad. Soon we will be providing as many as fifteen $1,000 scholarships for those students engaged in unpaid internships this summer. In short, Campaign LAH, the initiative begun in October of 2012, is working. LAH parents and alumni have contributed over one million dollars, some for immediate use, most to existing and new LAH endowments, the earnings from which will support LAH students for generations to come. The money is important, but equally so is the growing community of LAH parents and alumni. Over 600 are now in touch through Facebook (“Liberal Arts Honors at The University of Texas at Austin”) and LinkedIn (“Liberal Arts Honors- The University of Texas”). This growing group will support LAH, but also the College, and the University, again for years to come. In this issue you will read about several of our donors. I find their belief in the importance of a liberal education inspiring. You will also read accounts of what LAH students, thanks to the support of our parents and alumni, are accomplishing. I welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions (carver@austin.utexas.edu).

Best wishes,

[Signature]
This introduction sounds so very cliché, but the honest truth is: looking back at my freshman year, I never would have imagined myself, four years later, to have spent a semester abroad in Seoul, South Korea. I knew that when I chose my major, International Relations & Global Studies, I would be studying abroad; I had just always imagined myself somewhere glamorous, somewhere I had never been before like Barcelona or London or Paris—but South Korea? No one really fantasizes about visiting Asia, really.

My study abroad case is more than likely different from most; South Korea is somewhere I have already been several times. In addition, I am ethnically Korean. Because of these factors, I was expecting my abroad experience not to come as such a shock to me; however, I was proved wrong. Because Seoul is such a large city that is constantly changing, each visit to the city is a different experience. Crowded streets and traffic, the noise, and smells—an interesting mixture of delicious street food and sordid sewage—will forever characterize the city. However, the fashion, technology, and trends will also be constantly changing factors. My time abroad allowed me to get more familiar with the Korean culture and language that I had not been able to experience growing up in America to parents who immigrated to the U.S. at a fairly young age. In addition, I was lucky enough to have interned during my time in Seoul at the Czech Centre Seoul, which is a center funded by the government of the Czech Republic to spread Czech culture in Korea. Through the internship, I was able to experience what working in a foreign country is like, and it has also prompted me possibly to move back to work in the city for a short period after graduation.

Regardless of where you go abroad, I think all of us who have travelled and studied in another country can agree that the different perspective you gain from the experience is unattainable through any other means. I can think of so many occasions in Seoul when my view on a particular topic, the one I earnestly believed was the opinion that everyone else held as well, proved to be just one of many. A class I took at Seoul National University titled Global Issues and Ethical Thinking opened my eyes to the reality that people will have their own opinions about certain issues based on their personal experiences. A fellow classmate and friend of mine from Kazakhstan had her own views on Stalin; a close friend from Turkey had her strong opinion about the Israeli Palestinian conflict. But a valuable lesson that I learned abroad and through these types of encounters is the danger of a single story. Of course, one cannot expect to attain more than one perspective on every single area or topic, but the important message is to be open to the idea that more than one story for all things exists.

Spoken from the mouth of a true international relations major, I must proclaim that we are all members of an ever-increasing and connected global community. I truly value my experience in Seoul, and I would not have had it any other way.

—Hannah Lee, International Relations & Global Studies/
Next Generation Scholars Program

The Next Generation Scholars Program is a new program run by the Strauss Center for International Security and Law. The goal of the program is to give promising undergraduates the chance to participate in research and to provide them with unique mentorship opportunities.

Every year, the Center chooses some of the top undergraduates from across UT who are interested in foreign affairs and selects them as Next Generation Scholars. The Center pairs the scholars with a faculty mentor from the LBJ School of Public Affairs whose interests match theirs. This faculty mentor assists the scholar in various ways, including by providing research opportunities, career and academic advice, and by sharing their work with the scholars.

Additionally, the Center hosts monthly meetings with the scholars, introducing them to some of the most prominent professors at the LBJ School and the Strauss Center and giving them the opportunity to interact with them in a small group setting. The scholars also participate in diplomatic crisis simulations with the graduate students at the LBJ School twice a year as fully active members and “diplomats”. These simulations give scholars a chance to interact with graduate students as well as current and former ambassadors and to practice diplomacy in a realistic setting.

The scholars are also given the opportunity to attend the Next Generation Texas Conference. This conference brings together Texas leaders in different fields who are concerned with public policy and security and gives them a forum for discussing relevant policy issues and meeting other leaders.

The scholars present the product of their work to faculty and other scholars at the end of the year.

The program allows scholars to develop a deeper interest in different aspects of global policy by researching and discussing to develop writing and research skills relevant to their interests.

Applications to be a 2014-2015 Next Generation Scholar are now being accepted. More information about requirements and the application procedure can be found online at strausscenter.org/nextgen-articles/next-generation-scholars.html

LAH Music Ensemble: The Amorous Paulharmonic

The LAH Music Ensemble is an organization for the musicians of LAH. We gather at weekly practices to maintain our musicianship in a fun and casual environment. Each semester we showcase our instrumental musicians and our vocalists in two or three events. In the winter, we perform at LAH Parents’ Day and at a special Winter Concert; during the spring, we perform at Explore UT, the University’s Honors Day, and a special Spring Concert.

PRE-MED SOCIETY

The Liberal Arts Pre-Med Society meets on Tuesdays in GEA 217 at 7:30 pm. For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please send a message to utlapms@gmail.com.

Foot in the Door Theatre Troupe

Foot in the Door is a student run theatre troupe sponsored by LAH and open to any student at UT. All experience levels and areas of interest are welcome -- we pride ourselves on our high number of first-time actors and directors. In Foot in the Door, working hard and playing hard often coincide as we put together 1-3 full productions each semester.

Agamemnon
April 17, 7 p.m.
April 18, 7 p.m.
April 19 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
April 20 7:30 p.m.

All in the Timing
April 4-6, 8 p.m.
April 11-12, 8 p.m.

As You Like It
April 10-11, 8 p.m.
April 12, 2 p.m.
April 17-19, 8 p.m.
April 19, 2 p.m.
Jagged “databergs,” an environmentally friendly Styrofoam replacement made of mushrooms, futuristic “climate controllers,” glacier water perfumes, black lights, custom ambient music recordings, eerie video installations, a crypt for a carcinogenic plastic, and an abstract, cognitive map—all these and more surround my workspace at the Jones Center. But it gets even better: At Laguna Gloria, sculptural, bubblegum-like blobs of color containing touch-activated theremins populate the grounds. Clearly, my internship with the Contemporary Austin (formerly known as the Austin Museum of Art) has been anything but ordinary. In fact, I would contend my time spent here has been remarkable. Working at both of the museum’s locations has inspired me. This internship has not only helped me to glean key insight into the inner workings of a cultural institution; it has sharpened my creativity and energized my imagination.

I intern for the museum’s Education Department. My position is fluid and flexible; it entails many odd jobs, and none of them is formulaic. Every day brings with it a new assignment. Lately, I have been compiling research for an upcoming exhibition in May. I contribute to the discourse surrounding the exhibition’s works and their presentation by sharing my understanding of the overarching themes linking all the pieces. I also research other contemporary art to develop worksheets or lesson plans incorporating that art. Sometimes, I shadow and assist my boss during museum tours for area elementary school students, and a week from when I submit this article, I should be conducting tours for second graders on my own. While working at the Contemporary Austin, I have helped to set up and facilitate teacher workshops promoting soft sculptures and installation art in the classroom; I have visited local schools to deliver mushroom-growing kits inspired by the current Jones Center exhibition described above, Charles Long’s CATALIN. I have painted for hours during a shift, designing and creating large posters for the museum’s art lab. Everything I do is open-ended. With all of its opportunities and open-ended assignments, this internship gives me the freedom to make my work my own.

One of my favorite experiences interning has been assisting with the museum’s “Second Saturdays” program at Laguna Gloria. The program invites families to come to the site once a month and create something based on the current exhibition. Laguna Gloria featured Pet Sounds by Charles Long: the aforementioned exhibition of purring, gurgling, beeping, bright, amorphous sculptures. Accordingly, the participating families built their own noise-making Theremins, which reacted to light rather than touch. Constructing the Theremins was not easy. The task involved many tiny, sensitive parts. But the toughness of the task made the families’ successes all the sweeter. The children, aged from six to twelve, chirruped with pride as they ran out of the villa to explore the sculptures on the grounds. What particularly interested me was the commingling of art and science. I watched traditional boundaries between disciplines blur and melt away in the name of creativity, and it was fun to see kids learning without strict limitations on their imaginative spirits.

I also enjoyed crafting a lesson plan on site-specific, temporary installation art. Researching a new, exciting medium was interesting, and translating that medium into a lesson teachers could implement with everyday materials pushed me to innovate. Utilizing local artist Hannah Zurko’s installations as a source of inspiration, I constructed a plan calling for colorful tape, garbage bags, cardboard, newsprint, and more. My lesson plan also incorporated interdisciplinary connections, such as ties to science via animal adaptation. Like an arctic animal must grow thick fur to adapt to his environment, installation art must adapt to meet the needs of its space. I saw my lesson plan applied at a teacher workshop, which was wonderful. Upwards of thirty teachers came out to Laguna Gloria to transform the historic site with their own temporary installations. The teachers loved the process; they found it therapeutic. I felt happy to know some of them would put the plan I composed to action in their classrooms.

I have loved my time at the Contemporary Austin. My internship has helped freshen up my perspective, challenge my preconceived notions of art, and encourage me to incorporate my unique point of view into my work. I could not ask for a more stimulating environment for a workplace. Surrounded by creative people and inspiring art, I feel ready to put a piece of myself into everything I do.

—Kendall DeBoer, Art History & English/Liberal Arts Honors
This year’s LAH T-shirt has emblazoned on the back the imperative: “Do It For Pinto.” Parents and prospective students are baffled. Who is Pinto? Alas, Pinto is no longer, but by all accounts, Pinto Carver was a remarkable cat. Physically, he was striking. A Norwegian Forest Cat, he had long black and white hair, weighed fourteen pounds in his prime, and had a distinctive walk, his broad shoulders majestically carrying all before them. By temperament, he was fierce with rival felines and dogs, but gentle with people. All who met him loved him, and being gregarious, he met thousands.

Belonging to a neighbor who could no longer keep him, Pinto came to live with me in the summer of 1977. An ever present companion, he became “my working week and Sunday best,” a way of life, there to console in times of darkness, there to celebrate in times of joy. Pinto loved food and fellowship, the English language and the Longhorns. His reigning characteristic was his sense of humor, and he never tired of the important task of pointing out my foibles and shortcomings. Though he suffered strokes and was blind the last two years of his life, Pinto never lost his good humor or his love for the things of this world. Pinto Carver died on September 17, 1994, age nineteen.

In that year, I pledged $25,000 to establish The Pinto Carver Scholarship, the first endowed scholarship in LAH. Thanks to the generosity of many, the endowment has a current value of $87,000. The earnings from the endowment support prizes—$1,500, $1,000, and $500—for the annual LAH Pinto Carver Writing Contest. I continue to contribute to the endowment as do other friends of LAH, the goal being $200,000 so that we can support writing prizes as well as Pinto Carver Study Abroad Scholarships. If you wish to contribute, please send your check made out to the College of Liberal Arts with Pinto in the subject line. Do It For Pinto!

This last October I received a letter informing me that: “The University of Texas System has officially established the Larry Carver Endowment in the Liberal Arts Honors Program.” I wanted to name this $100,000 endowment for my cat, Cassie, but my wife—and no doubt rightly so—intervened.

Students Act:
LAH Student Recognition

Pinto Carver Scholarship

Pinto Carver Scholarship Winners

First Place
Kendall DeBoer “Generalizing the Abstract: Never a Good Idea”

Second Place
Synneve Williams “An Examination of Fact and Belief”

Third Place
Jordan Smith “Daddy”

Honorable Mention
Enakshi Ganguly “Reincarnation and Resurrection”
Chris Hamborsky “Delusions of Enlightenment”
Samantha Meyer “Proust”
The Parque de la Memoria—the Park of Memory—is located on the banks of the Río de la Plata approaching the northern limits of Buenos Aires. At first glance, it seems like any other public park or plaza. Couples ride their bikes around the park’s perimeter. Small children shout “¡Gooooool!” as they try to emulate the names printed on the back of their soccer jerseys. A group of teenage girls drink maté—a type of green tea ubiquitous in Argentina—while their brothers practice the tricks they just learned on the skateboards under the scarlet ceibo trees. Look closer and you see that it is so much more.

Four stone walls, in the shape of an open wound, stand tall in the middle of the park, weaving a path down to the river between the young soccer players, picnickers, and skateboarders. Upon them are nine thousand names, the confirmed victims of state terrorism—those disappeared and assassinated under Argentina’s final and most brutal military dictatorship that lasted from 1976 to 1983. There are at least 21,000 names missing from those walls, as the country has yet to recover the identities of the majority of those disappeared. The Parque serves to commemorate the lives of these individuals, mainly university students and factory workers, as well as to promote the construction of democracy through education and collective memory.

From my first day as an intern, I knew I would love the time I spent at the Parque. In fact, I ended up spending more time there than I did in class. The people who work there are warm, welcoming, and passionate, and they constantly encouraged me to push my limits as a student of Latin American Studies. While I was there I worked with the Investigation team, translating documents from Spanish to English and uploading photographs and remembrances of victims from newspapers to the central database. Additionally, I worked with the weekend Education team, answering questions from visitors, helping coordinate special events, and assisting with guided tours when necessary.

One afternoon in November, a man walked up to me in the information booth at the front of the park, asking if I knew if a specific name was included on the monument. I told him that I unfortunately didn’t know because I wasn’t familiar with every name included there, but he could consult the public database to find out. He thanked me and then revealed the name he had given me was that of a good friend who was detained with him. “It’s only because of a coincidence,” he said, “that my name isn’t up there, too.”

I don’t remember the man’s name, nor his friend’s, but I remember in that moment, things made sense. As university students, it seems we read everything written on a given topic (I certainly had read enough regarding the dictatorship over the course of the semester), and it’s easy to forget that there are people behind all of those books and articles. Talking with that man reminded me I was able to learn only because I had been standing on the shoulders of 30,000 giants lost to the water of the Río de la Plata and countless survivors and their relatives that resisted a merciless regime. He reminded me why I had chosen to participate in my study abroad organization’s human rights program and had become passionate about human rights in the first place: they matter because people matter, and it’s our duty to work towards a world where we don’t have to build more Parques de la Memoria.

—Elizabeth Gerberich, Latin American Studies/Liberal Arts Honors, recipient of the Peggy Beckham Study Abroad Scholarship
Peggy Beckham

Can you briefly explain your involvement with LAH over the years?
My first involvement with liberal arts honors programs was in 1957 when I began my Plan II path to graduation. What a wonderful faculty from which I was privileged to learn during those years: Drs. Bill Livingston, Willis Pratt, Malcolm McDonald, James Roach, Harry Ransom and Cranfill, to name a few!
After graduation, I kept up with Plan II and the exciting advancements being made in the LAH programs. I joined the LA Advisory Council in the 1980’s and have been involved ever since.

What, in your opinion, is the biggest benefit for students involved in LAH?
To me, the benefits of a liberal arts education are invaluable today with our increasing dependence on technology and science, which tends to make us more single minded and less open to the wonders of the world that surrounds us. A good grounding in the liberal arts makes for a richer and wider view, which I feel is so needed in today’s society as we try to live together in peace and understanding.

What do you hope to see for the future of the LAH program?
I hope to see both LAH and Plan II continue to thrive and attract those strong students who will have the ability to improve our world with positive contributions.

Why do you choose to support LAH?
I support LAH financially because maintaining the high quality of faculty and students that we want requires a stable financial base.

Anything you want to add about our fearless leaders?
We are so blessed to have the present good faculty in our LAH programs. Dr. Larry Carver and Dr. Michael Stoff are exceptional, and we are so lucky to have them at the helm. I grew to appreciate Larry while serving on the LA Advisory Council, and am very sorry I never got to meet Pinto, his beloved cat. However, Pinto is permanently enshrined by a scholarship fund that Larry set up in his honor, and I feel sure that he would still welcome contributions!

Molly Wahlberg, LAH alum, interviewed family member Peggy Beckham about her reasons for supporting Liberal Arts Honors. Molly completed her B.A. in 2011 with Spanish and Special Honors in English/Liberal Arts Honors and her M.A. in Latin American Studies in 2013. She currently works for Google in Austin, TX.

LAH Study Abroad Scholarships
Applications will be due Monday, November 1, 2014 at 5 pm for students planning to study abroad in the Spring 2015 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

LAH Alumni
Please keep in touch with us by joining the LAH Alumni facebook group: LAH Alumni and the LinkedIn group: Liberal Arts Honors - UT Austin. You can also send updates for future newsletters to Linda Mayhew at lmayhew@austin.utexas.edu. We’d love to hear from you!
Student Stories: DC Internships

I made my way to Washington, D.C. in early January. After an incredibly frustrating 36 hours of delayed and cancelled flights and simply trying to get on a plane, I was finally unloading my suitcase in the D.C. Brownstone that would become my snowy home for the next four months.

This semester, I am a fellow in the Archer Fellowship Program. Started by Texas Congressman Bill Archer, the Archer Program provides UT system students with a semester-long exposure to public policy in the nation’s capital. As a fellow, I work 40 hours a week in a federal court in the District, on top of taking 15 hours of classes at the Archer Center. Two months in, this has already been the most incredible experience I could ever imagine. Working in the court is challenging and thrilling, and I’ve met so many influential and genuinely interesting people, both at work and at events around town. Largely, my work includes summarizing news clippings about the U.S. judicial system, as well as preparing briefings for foreign guests, and assisting in research projects that others in the office are working on.

As an Archer Fellow, I live with 39 other UT system students; there is nothing quite like a tiny townhouse buzzing with 16 political and creative minds! Despite our work and class hours, we manage to take in the sights of the District. As a class assignment, we got to see a play in Ford’s Theatre and visit the Lincoln Memorial, reciting Martin Luther King Jr’s “I Have a Dream” speech on those very same steps. Living and working in D.C. has allowed us to see and experience so many things that we otherwise would miss. A few fellow Archers spent an early morning on the South Lawn of the White House for the State Arrival Ceremony of French President François Hollande. Several times a week, I get the opportunity to attend oral arguments at the Supreme Court. I’ve had the opportunity to attend lectures and mock moot trials at the Georgetown University Law Center.

Living and working in D.C. has been an amazing opportunity, and I cannot recommend the program enough. Though there’s not nearly enough barbeque or queso in this town, it’s been a great place to be, and I’m looking forward to finishing out my time here. From finding mentors to balancing time between work, class, and play, being here in D.C. has been the trip of a lifetime.

—Jessica Edmundson, Government & History/Liberal Arts Honors.
Steven Karson: Alumni in Action

I’m not a poet, a historian, a playwright or an economist; I’m an oil and gas accounting software consultant. But, for a brief 4 (5) years, I was all of those things. The Liberal Arts Honors program opened a temporary door to a myriad of lives and let me peer inside before the rest of life began.

Forgive this list, but it shows the diversity of my own experience with Liberal Arts Honors (LAH). I had the opportunity to take a class on economic literature; a class on the Renaissance with the latest translator of The Decameron; a series of reading groups where I encountered Tolstoy, Adrienne Rich, Gunter Grass, and Jonathan Franzen – all of which shaped my reading experience today; a role in the Merry Wives of Windsor through the Shakespeare at Winedale program; a series of demanding workshops and seminars on British colonial history with oversight from the editor of The Oxford History of the British Empire; a job at the Mary Lu Joynes Reading Room, a small library filled with poetry, which hosts guest lectures by Authors, Playwrights, Poets and Photographers; and scholarships to fund both a summer internship abroad in Ecuador and an undergraduate academic journal I helped start on Latin American Studies.

Perhaps these experiences are available to any enterprising student, not one necessarily involved with LAH. It would take time, a thoughtful advisor, and a good deal of situational awareness and foresight for being 18, which I undoubtedly lacked. LAH provided me with everything I needed in an encouraging environment. My experience with the LAH sponsored Foot in the Door Theater Troupe, however, wouldn’t have happened without the program.

I joined Foot in the Door as an excited freshman with no acting experience whatsoever. In my first play I forgot two lines – and I only had twelve. If I had been any other character in the play and forgotten one-sixth of my lines, the play would have been ruined. So I decided that my talents must lay elsewhere and I volunteered to assistant direct for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead. I enjoyed the behind the scenes work so much that when the curtains closed, I convinced the troupe to let me help produce the plays.

The role sounds more illustrious than it was. The dedicated directors shouldered the majority of the work. I just played the role of the facilitator - watching the budget, organizing the lights, the sets, and the labor. And ever since that experience I’ve had an appreciation for theater, stories, words, and the business that facilitate those. Overall, though, I thought the time spent as a producer would just make me part of the small majority that enjoys the behind the scenes portions of DVDs.

To be honest, my job interviews came through my Math major, which is part of the school of natural sciences. But when employers looked at my resume, they would stop on my theater, my poetry, my history. They found those unique. Then they would ask me about leadership positions – only the Secret Service didn’t find the producer credit interesting. And looking back on it now, as I review senior’s resumes at career fair, I realize that Liberal Arts Honors made me a juggler – a juggler of people, dates, priorities and interests. This is exactly what I do today in my role as a consultant. I just stick to software, accounting, oil and natural gas (for now).

So, for me, studying the liberal arts was not the end game it might be for my peers who went on to careers in academia. But most people don’t become great philosophers, authors or economists. The Liberal Arts Honors program complemented my education, gave me a broad perspective and offered a unique opportunity. I feel comfortable giving money back to the program in hopes that some kid thinks it might be worth his time trying his hand behind the curtains.

—Steven Karson, Mathematics & Economics, departmental honors / Liberal Arts Honors
Emily Finkelstine

I am studying abroad in Beijing, China as part of the CET Chinese Studies and Internship in Beijing program. Every week I attend 11 hours of Chinese class along with a 3 hour class about the history, culture, and politics of modern China. I have also been given the incredible opportunity to intern with a non-profit organization called the Starfish Project, which provides counseling, vocational training, housing, and other resources to exploited women in Beijing. This is a dream come true for me, as my ultimate goal after graduation is to move to China and work in the non-profit sector.

I cannot possibly express enough gratitude to Mr. Martin Dies, whose scholarship played a significant role in my ability to accept the invaluable opportunities I have been offered here in Beijing. Because of his generosity, I have the chance to test-drive my ambitions and gain crucial experience working with a Chinese non-profit. Even though the semester is just beginning, I already know that it will be the greatest adventure of my life thus far. Thank you, Mr. Dies, for helping me chase my dreams!

—Emily Finkelstine, International Relations and Global Studies/ Liberal Arts Honors

Ben Pitts

Ben Pitts at the Lunar New Year Flower Market in Hong Kong.

Ben Pitts at the Hebe Haven Yacht Club after a meeting of the Chinese University of Hong Kong’s sailing club.

Emily Finkelstine in front of the Temple of Divine Light in Badachu Park in Beijing, China.
LAH Donors: Martin Dies

Martin Dies says that if he could choose, every student would have an undergraduate education in the liberal arts. A nationally renowned lawyer and the proud father of two Liberal Arts Honors alumni, Mr. Dies considers it essential “that our best students are exposed to the broadest possible education so they can go out in the world and show the importance of critical thought and objectivity.”

Mr. Dies acts on his belief in the importance of liberal arts education by generously supporting liberal arts students at UT, especially those in the Liberal Arts Honors program. He says that he was first inspired to give when he saw how his daughter, Lauren, who will be the Chief Resident at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston next year, flourished as an LAH student. She is now interviewing with the top five children’s hospitals in pediatrics in anticipation of her fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology. Mr. Dies says that Lauren credits her success in medical school and her ability to think critically to both Liberal Arts Honors and her government degree. Her brother, Patrick, who recently graduated with honors from UT Law School and holds an MPA from McCombs Business School, is applying his Liberal Arts Honors economics education at Andrews Kurth L.L.P., a corporate law firm in Houston. The highly successful, yet dissimilar, career outcomes of his children are, to Mr. Dies, “proof of the marketability of a liberal arts degree.” He says their careers also challenge “the concept that the liberal arts are not relevant in business or science,” demonstrating instead that “liberal arts are the foundation for all professions.”

Mr. Dies says his own years as a UT Austin Liberal Arts undergraduate were “pivotal for [his] understanding of how to approach problems and helped [him] at every stage of his career.” Coming from a family of lawyers and politicians, Mr. Dies graduated with a BA in Government in 1971 after serving in the U.S. Military. He then attended Texas Tech Law School and was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1974. Since then, Mr. Dies has become nationally recognized for his expertise in prosecuting cost recovery and asbestos property damage litigation. He is a partner at Dies and Hile, L.L.P in Austin. Mr. Dies also currently serves as Special Assistant Attorney General for the states of Oregon, Arizona, Oklahoma, Arkansas as he represents them in asbestos litigation. In addition to other honors, Mr. Dies is a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. His successful career and personal achievements have inspired him to give back to the University of Texas.

Mr. Dies says, “I sought to get involved in UT again because of the benefits I obtained through my coursework.” He also gives out of a concern for the future. In his words, “liberal arts is more important today than ever,” and society needs more students who graduate college able to provide “critical thought and real understanding.” The many ways that Mr. Dies has touched the lives of LAH students include funding study abroad scholarships, serving as chair of the LAH Fundraising Committee, and leading the Steering Committee for the construction of the new College of Liberal Arts Building, which houses LAH. He, in turn, has been very happy with the impressive qualifications of the LAH student body throughout the years and also commends the program's leadership and vision. “I particularly like that LAH offers freedom to pursue one's own creativity at the same time that it exposes students to a broad range of subjects,” Mr. Dies says.

Finally, Mr. Dies advises current LAH students to take full advantage of all the opportunities LAH has to offer, including study abroad funding and honors courses. Most of all, he says to always work hard because “the more you give now, the more you will get back later in life.” The students of Liberal Arts Honors would like to thank Mr. Dies for his generosity and commitment to the liberal arts. Support like his has helped to make Liberal Arts Honors the premier honors program that it is today.

—Macy Shay, English and History/Liberal Arts Honors
**Post Graduate Plans Class of 2014**

**Jenna Beron** BS in Psychology/Liberal Arts Honors
I’ll be working full-time as an Associate at Gerson Lehrman Group in Austin.

**Gavin Gillock** Government
I have accepted a position with Booz Allen Hamilton in San Antonio and will be working for them on defense market projects.

**Josh Gu** BS in Psychology/Liberal Arts Honors
My summer plans include a little bit of traveling and a lot of sleeping, eating, and depriving myself of all intellectual stimulation before starting medical school in the fall. As of now, I haven’t decided where to go yet.

**Hayden Henderson** Psychology, Special Honors/Liberal Arts Honors
After graduation, I will continue working in the psychology lab on campus and will begin volunteering at the Austin State Hospital. Next January, I will be going abroad to work in a psychology lab and then will attend graduate school for forensic psychology in 2016!

**Jamie Hill** Psychology/Liberal Arts Honors
I’ll be doing Teach For America’s summer institute to prepare to teach high school Spanish in Appalachia next fall.

**Paresh Jaini** Humanities
I will be traveling and enjoying the summer before medical school starts mid-July. My post-graduation plans involve attending the University of North Texas Health Science Center - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, where I will pursue a Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) degree.

**Salimah Jasani** Sociology, Special Honors and English/Liberal Arts Honors
I actually graduated in December, but this summer I will be at Institute for Teach for America. Then, starting in August, I will be teaching Special Education and Secondary English in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Sarah Lusher** English, Special Honors/Liberal Arts Honors
I’ll be moving back up to DFW area and working as a writing tutor while I apply to English doctoral programs for Fall 2015.

**Ann Grace Martin** French
After the program, a friend and I are biking/camping down the length of the Mississippi River, starting at its source in Lake Itasca, MN. We plan to arrive in New Orleans sometime in mid-August.

Post-trip, I hope to start whatever publishing job I’d lined up in either New York or Austin … still working on that (crucial) piece!! I’m applying for a year-long UT Press Fellowship in book marketing and publicity, and that would be my first choice-- however, I can’t say with any certainty that I’ll be chosen. Most likely, this time next year, I’ll be working in Manhattan and living in Brooklyn with friends, very little money, and lots of books. I’m also working to get a 200-hr yoga teaching certification here in Austin; the program is May-June of this year, on the weekends.

**Dominique Trudelle** Government/Liberal Arts Honors and Art History
I will be attending law school, most likely either The University of Chicago or Harvard University.

**Robbie Walls** Economics/Liberal Arts Honors
After graduating this May, I am going to work for Oliver Wyman in Dallas doing management consulting.
Summer Plans

Rachel Abbott 2016
This summer, I will be spending 10 weeks studying abroad in Würzburg, Germany. I will take six hours of German language while I’m there, as well as courses on art history and literature. Once the program is over, I plan to travel through as many major European cities as possible before returning to Austin for the fall semester.

Angie Acquatella 2016
I’m going to Mount Everest and India.

Sara Balagopal 2015
I’m interning this summer with Oliver Wyman in Dallas and I’m so excited about it!

Lana Baumgartner 2015
This summer I’ll be living in San Francisco working with the Foundation for Sustainable Development as a marketing intern.

Charley Binkow 2016
This summer I’ll be studying German language, history, and economics in Würzburg, Germany. While there, I will also travel to Austria, The Netherlands, Italy, France, and the UK.

Chelsey Bravenec 2015
I will actually be working full time this summer at Brian B. Berger M.D. He is an ophthalmologist who specializes in retina and vitreous diseases and runs a retina research institute.

Alicia Chopite 2017
I was fortunate enough to get an internship for this summer, and I couldn’t be more excited! I will be working as the ExxonMobil Community Development intern at The River Performing and Visual Arts Center. I volunteered at the River in high school - they provide art, music, theater, and dance classes to children and teens with disabilities - and I’m looking forward to returning. ExxonMobil gives grants to 60 different Houston nonprofits each year, and each of these nonprofits has an internship position. The duties vary between agencies, but my official title at The River is “Family Arts Coordinator.” For the River, I’ll work with administration to choose songs, write scripts, and assist the nurse in making sure that each child receives his or her medications; I’ll also be in charge of communications between the parents and The River, so I’ll be the one crafting emails and newsletters and such. In addition, the interns at the other nonprofits and I will attend workshops provided by Exxon, and participate in a group service project.

Katie de Alvarez 2015
This summer I will be working as a summer scholar for Deloitte Consulting in the Houston office.

Jessica Dodd 2016
This summer I will be teaching abroad in Mexico with the Uteach program!

Neil Doughty 2017
I will be working as a waterski instructor at Golden Arrow camp in the Sierra Nevadas in California.

Katelynn Evans 2016
I am going to Guatemala for a week in May for a medical volunteer program. Hopefully I can make the most out of that!

Emily Finkelstine 2016
This summer I will be backpacking around China with my family for a bit before heading to Mongolia to teach English with a program called English Language Institute - China (ELIC).

Caleb Freund 2015
I will be studying abroad in Japan this summer.

Ena Ganguly 2017
I am interning in Orissa, India, for the summer of 2014. I will be spending six weeks in two coastal villages, Gopalpur and Markandi. While there, I and three other interns will be educating children by teaching them English and computer literacy. In addition, with the help of an Indian NGO, we will be empowering women through self-help groups, planting kitchen gardens, and teaching them how to sign their names. As project leader, I am extremely excited to travel to my home country and work with the Oriyan people.
**Jeremy Ghadially** Humanities 2015

I’m interning at Triad Securities, a brokerage firm in London, and I am studying abroad at the London School of Economics through the Mccombs short term internship program.

**Kassi Gonzalez** 2016

In Summer 2014, I will be studying abroad in Rome, Italy. I was fortunate enough to be accepted into The Rome Institute of Liberal Arts program for Core Texts and Ideas. In my study abroad program, I will be taking a class entitled ‘Empire and the Soul.’ During the course of this class, I will be studying the role of politics in human life and whether political virtue is the greatest achievement for a citizen in a community. We will review works from Shakespeare, Machiavelli, and Augustine. Additionally, I will be immersed in the Italian language while living and studying in Rome for a month. My foreign language concentration is currently in Latin; however, in Rome, I will have the chance to study many texts, such as St. Augustine’s City of God, that were originally written in Latin. I will have the opportunity of a lifetime to visit and tour the Vatican, as well as attend a lecture inside of the building. There will be numerous excursions and tours of the Roman city, and all in all, I look forward to amazing summer in Italy!

**Chris Hamborsky** 2017

This summer I will be going on a Taglit Birthright trip to Israel with Texas Hillel. I will be in Israel for about a month. I will spend the rest of my summer in Houston, working.

**Alyssa Hernandez** 2016

This summer I will be here in Austin, working on campus as a research assistant for the Child Development in Context Lab as well as tutoring at a non-profit school for children with Autism.

**Xan Ingram** 2016

This summer I will spend a few weeks at home, go on vacation to St. Thomas US Virgin Islands for a week (CAN’T WAIT!!), take Government online, and go to Vancouver, WA for the month of July for a mission trip.

**Paresh Jaini** Humanities 2014

I will be traveling and enjoying the summer before medical school starts mid-July. My post-graduation plans involve attending the University of North Texas Health Science Center - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, where I will pursue a Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) degree.

**Jenna Jones** 2016

I will be studying abroad with the UT Rome Study Program for six weeks this summer! Through this program I will be taking one Italian language course and one Italian culture course.

**Coley Kellogg** 2015

I am taking the LSAT in June, then studying at the London School of Economics in July.

**Elena Keltner** 2017

I’ll be studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina to get the 611D Spanish credit during the first half of the summer.

**Emily Kemp** 2015

This summer I will be interning for Dr. Gilbert’s Lab in Psychology at Harvard. I will be working on studies at various stages of research with Dr. Gilbert, his graduate students, and the other selected interns.

**Destiny Lewis** 2017

This summer I will be taking summer classes and travelling to San Diego for Navy military training. Since I want to be a Naval Officer post-graduation, I am in a sense, interning over the summer.

**Alexandra Lindley** 2016

I am interning on the Greg Abbott campaign this summer.

**Maliha Mazhar** 2016

I will be attending the Instituto San Joaquin de Flores in Costa Rica during Summer Session II! I’m really excited to be immersed in Central/Latin American culture and to improve my Spanish.

**Holly Matecko** 2017

This summer I am interning where I work, the Johnson Center for Child Health and Development here in Austin.

**Samantha Rose Meyer** 2015

I have a very exciting summer! I will be studying abroad at the University of Cantabria in Santander, Spain, for six weeks. Then I will be traveling around Europe for 2 weeks after the program ends. I will explore the South of France.
and Italy. When I return to the States, I will be attending the Dance Marathon National Conference to meet Dance Marathon leadership from around the country, and plan for Texas THON 2015, UTs annual 12 hour dance marathon that raises money for Dell Childrens Hospital.

Jane Robbins Mize 2015
I’m participating in the Plan II/LAH Rome Study Abroad Program!

Grace Palmer 2017
I will be volunteering in a classroom at the Monarch School in Houston for 5 weeks. Monarch students are children who have neurological differences such as autism, ADHD, seizure disorders, Tourette Syndrome, mood disorders, and anxiety disorders. I will also be volunteering at 4 week-long camps for children who have epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, general mental disabilities, and children with cancer and their siblings.

Jordan Pahl 2016
I will be participating in the Moscow-Texas Connections program this summer!

Connor Pursell 2015
I’ll be spending this summer in Turkey doing a three week internship in Ankara and then spending four weeks teaching English.

Arjun Rawal 2016
I will be interning in Alexandria, Egypt, with the Hawaa Project. The internship engages local university students on topics regarding women empowerment, women’s issues, and women’s rights. As a part of the “Presentations Team” I will be conducting a variety of workshops and sessions, facilitating discussions, and mentoring a small group of students on these issues throughout my time with the Hawaa Project.

Clark Reeder 2016
I will be studying abroad in Salvador, Brazil, this summer to taking the last upper division Portuguese class to fulfill a minor in Portuguese.

Courtney Rochvarg Ross 2017
I am interning at Google in NYC for 12 weeks.

Imogen Sealy 2015
I’m going to be an intern at the Project Votesmart organisation.

Emily Smith 2015
This summer I’ll be interning with the State Department for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs! I was supposed to be interning in Qatar, but they’re not sending interns there anymore, so I’ll be in D.C.

Kris Smith-Wright 2017
I will be spending a third summer working as a teacher with Breakthrough Austin. I’m incredibly excited to be a part of this program again, and I’m looking forward to forging strong relationships with students while giving them the skills necessary to be successful in middle school, high school, college, and beyond.

Chelsea Toler Humanities 2016
I am working for Resolve Creative Project House over the summer. We will be working to prepare for the grand opening of Vulcan which is a new event space and dj focused music venue on 6th street. I will also be interning at a patent law firm.

Patrick Wade 2015
I’ll be working an internship in the UK Government in London.

Katie Walsh 2017
I will be getting sunburnt back home in San Antone coaching a summer swim team and concluding the summer with a road trip up East!

Jaclyn Watters 2015
This summer I’ll be spending most of the break studying abroad on a southern-hemisphere schedule in Peru. But during my winter break in July I’ll be getting lost in the rainforest and getting to know one of the wonders of the Ancient World: Macchu Picchu!

Holt West 2017
I will be enrolling in the intensive UT Greek Program this summer.

Elizabeth Willmann Humanities 2015
I am the head teacher for the Summer School at The Hideout Improv Theater. It’s a full-time job, and I’ll be teaching children ages 4-18 the art of improvisational theater! I’m also the associate producer of one of the nation’s largest comedy festivals. It’s called Out of Bounds, and it’s 7 days, and features over 500 performers. It’s August 26th through Sept 1st.
Student Internships: Stuck in the Archives at the HRC

When I registered for the LAH seminar “Technologies of the Book” with Professor Michael Winship, I was unaware that the class would meet in the Harry Ransom Center, UT’s world-renowned archival center and research library. In fact, I had yet to visit the Ransom beyond the first-floor exhibition galleries. Throughout the semester, however, I was exposed a wide-ranging variety of the Center’s materials—from an unforgettable cuneiform tablet to the earliest typeset books and rarest first editions. As the course came to a close, I knew I wanted to continue my engagement with the Ransom Center, so I applied for a year-long internship through the Liberal Arts Honors Program.

After being selected for a position, I was given the opportunity to choose the department with which I would work and ultimately joined Alicia Dietrich and Jennifer Tisdale in Public Affairs. I knew that by publicly representing the Ransom Center, I would be able to develop an understanding of its interaction with and importance to the community. I also hoped that I would be able to explore a wide range of the collections and in doing so, gain a greater knowledge of the scope of the Ransom Center’s holdings.

I was not disappointed. Since August, I have been assisting Alicia and Jen with several day-to-day tasks. In particular, I spend time promoting the Ransom Center’s programs and events through print and digital media platforms. Because of this role alone, I have attended many inspiring events, including readings by celebrated writers James Salter and Billy Collins. I also frequently contribute articles to the Ransom Center’s blog, Cultural Compass. For such articles, I regularly conduct interviews with scholars and authors about their own research—each a testament to the strength of the Center’s collection and the knowledge it preserves. While writing, I’m also often able to root through the archives themselves.

Late last semester, I was asked to write a blog post about the recently published biography Salinger by David Shields and Shane Salerno. After examining the book itself, I left my office to visit the Reading Room and requested to study a folder of Salinger’s letters. I was not prepared for the experience. J.D. Salinger is a great literary hero of mine. His novels and short stories were among the first to exemplify for me the immense power of humor, subtlety, and of course, narrative voice. I soon discovered that his letters bore the same strength of language as his published works and found myself engrossed in the archive until the sun began to set and Reading Room closed.

While my time as an intern is approaching an end, I take comfort in the fact that the Ransom Center’s doors are wide open. Students and scholars—as well as the simply curious—are welcome to study the archives of history’s greatest writers and artists. It also continually contributes to its intellectual community by hosting readings and lectures by outstanding contemporary writers and thinkers and by offering year-round exhibitions on a diversity of topics. I am so grateful to the Public Affairs department, the Harry Ransom Center, and Liberal Arts Honors Program for allowing me the opportunity to contribute to and learn from an institution which simultaneously preserves, promotes, and enhances our global artistic community, past and present.

—Jane Robins Mize, English & Latin/ Liberal Arts Honors Program

Jane Robins Mize in front of the Harry Ransom Center.