

# The Explorer



*Redwine Honors Program Alumni Newsletter*

## *In This Issue*

**Dr. G's Corner**  
A word from our Director

**The Explorer**

**In the Classroom**  
Faculty Highlights

**Grimmest of them All &  
The Nature of Philanthropy**

**Sammy's Kingdom**  
Current Students Highlights

**Homecoming Champions**

**Prestigious**  
Featured Alumn

**Dr. Stacia Haynie**

**Special**  
In this Issue

**GPHC @ MSU**

## **Redwine Honors Program**

Midwestern State University  
3410 Taft Blvd., Bridwell Hall 112  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308-2099  
940.397.4534  
honors@msutexas.edu



## The Explorer

Hello Redwine Honors Program Alums!

Welcome to the redesigned Honors Program newsletter. Well, the last few years have been a whirlwind. As many of you know we were housed in the Moffett Library. As part of the remodeling of the library we were relocated to Bridwell Hall, which now houses the West College of Education. This process took roughly two years and included a temporary stop in the Dillard College of Business Administration and then significant remodeling and furnishing to create the new improved Honors Lounge in 112 Bridwell. Although the move was a major step up for the Honors program it produced significant disruption to a number of the program activities. This, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, led to restrictions on a number of social activities, which are thankfully behind us.

*cont'd p.3*



## Grimmest of them All

Last Spring Dr. Lee Gagum taught **Grimmest of them All** a humanities course that explored the influence of fairytales on contemporary popular art. The course focused on the Grimm Brothers fairytales and examined how they have influenced the human condition. The course highlighted how these fairytales have been adapted over time in a variety of different cultures and media forms. The course details how Germanic folktales have provided the foundation for the modern Manga and Manwa graphic comics.

Her interest in transculture studies stems from her multicultural background. Dr. Kyung Lee Gagum was born in South Korea. Dr. Gagum and her family moved to Germany and she spent her formative years Germany.

*cont'd p.4*

## Homecoming Champions

The majority of our Fall 2023 program activities originated with Homecoming participation. After three weeks of holding honors Homecoming workdays until 10pm, we were awarded overall Homecoming champions for the first time in Redwine Honors program history. A foundational element of the hard work we witnessed was a general respect for the honors community and a desire to prove our commitment to our university. Along with the overall award, the 2023 Homecoming court elections had six out of eight members as honors students, including the Homecoming King and Queen.



*full article p.5*

With COVID fully behind us the Honors program has grown into its new home. This wonderful space for students that a small kitchenette, conference table and chairs with whiteboards for study and meeting space, a new and improved couch for the emergency naps between tests, and a video display screen for class meetings. As you can see, this is a very comfortable space for the students and they use it regularly.

The Lounge serves as everything from a study or social space, to a meeting room and, of course, work space for the Homecoming Champions activities. The Lounge is typically the social center for all things Honors.

The program's Director and Coordinator offices are also located in the Lounge, providing us with ready access to the program's staff. We have also started displaying Honors students' original works of art in the Lounge. If you are ever on campus, please stop in and say hello and visit our new space.

In addition to our relocation, we also made some curriculum changes to the Honors program. Over the last decade we have seen a major expansion of the dual credit or high school students completing college courses while in high school and this proliferation was leading to some of the best students being unable to participate in the honors program. In response we revised the program curriculum and also started a two-year program for transfer and core complete students. This change, in conjunction with the debut of the Redwine Honors Presidential Scholarship, a \$10,000 annual scholarship for students entering the university from high school, represents major modernization in the program.

## THE HONORS LOUNGE 112 BRIDWELL



## The Explorer cont'd

Pictured below, Honors students are fully active in their community. The program engages in a number of service initiatives each semester.



In the next few editions of the newsletter we will profile a number of these accomplishments. If you happen to be on campus please stop in and visit the Redwine Honors Program (112 Bridwell).



cont'd from p.2

We have also developed a subcommittee system that operates under the direction of the Honors Program Student Council (HPSC). This system plans and implements all of the program's service, social, fundraising, and advertising efforts and all first semester students serve on one of these subcommittees. This system, coupled with the requirement to attend at least one HPSC general meeting a semester, has developed a vibrant community that provides the foundation for our students' success in college. This structure earned the program the distinction of being named the 2022 James L. Stewart Service Award Recipient and the Overall Winner of the 2023 Homecoming Spirit Award.

The program's commitment to service in the last few years is one of the accomplishments that I am extremely proud of. During the fall of 2020 we started the Redwine Community Garden behind the Wellness Center. We grow vegetables that we donate to the Mustangs Pantry for food insecure students on campus. We have been able to raise money as well over the last few years and donated to several charities, such as Hospice of Wichita Falls and UNICEF to support relief efforts for Ukraine College students. We also regularly support P.E.T.S., a low cost animal clinic, with donation drives and events such as the one last March in which we built dog houses for them. We also regularly create holiday cards for our friends in the local nursing homes and of course support university initiatives such as Fantasy of Lights, Mavericks Day of Service, and Sikes Lake Cleanup.

To support these efforts the students have developed a number of fundraising activities. These include selling Honors themed merchandise. If you would like to support HPSC by purchasing an Honors shirt you can visit their site by clicking on the QR code on the bottom left.

Most importantly, keep exploring your world!

Steve Garrison, Ph.D.  
Director, Redwine Honors Program



*Grimmest of them All (cont'd)*

She came as a young adult to the USA to study and then paused her studies to serve in the US Army for seven years.

After receiving her PhD. in Transcultural German Studies from the University of Arizona in 2017, she joined, as a Teaching Assistant, the Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages & Literatures at UNC at Chapel Hill. In August 2019, she then joined the World Languages and Cultures Department at Midwestern State University Texas as an Assistant Professor of German.

The class was well received by the students. Some students chose to dress up as their favorite fairytale character for their final presentation so it included a little fun as well. Not only was the class enrollment full, but I heard numerous students comment that this was their favorite course at MSU.



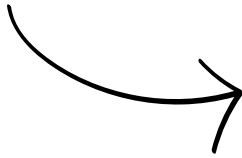
## The Nature of Philanthropy

This past fall we offered **The Nature of Philanthropy**, a course that examines the operation of a non-profit organization. Taught by Sonia White, the class examined how non-profits functioned and the students learned how to evaluate the viability of each organization. Honors students were given \$25,000 from a donor and were charged with determining the best way to allocate these funds to local non-profits. The class culminated with an awards ceremony in which the students announced their financial awards to representatives of the selected non-profits.

Sonia White is the Director of the Center for Nonprofit Management and Leadership at MSU and has always thrived on helping people. She says, "I love getting to know my students and to share my expertise and knowledge with them. I want to help my students be successful and learn the real-world, hands-on skills which will lead to that success." She has over 10 years' experience as a nonprofit consultant. One of her areas of expertise is federal grant writing, and she has successfully written grants totaling over \$20 million for nonprofits. Sonia is a native Texan but has consulted and worked with nonprofits from all over the country. She is currently a Ph.D. student in Business Management at the University of South Alabama.

The students greatly enjoyed this course. A number commented that it was a really good experience to be helping others while also completing their course requirements. This course has increased student support for local non-profits in the Honors program.

Hi, I'm Andres Revis, the current President of the Honors Program Student Council and Chairman of the Honors Officer Council.



With over half of the academic year having already passed, I thought now would be a great time to update everyone on our yearly goals and how we have worked to achieve them. We began the Fall 2023 semester with clear goals that defined all of our HPSC activities, and these included solidifying the distinct honors identity, ensuring a dominant campus presence, and facilitating a communal mentality that inherently provides for program accountability and success.

These goals exist to further our key ideal that honors students should not only feel like the leaders on campus, but that should be known and unquestionable. With the intention of abiding by these ideological foundations, we began our event planning process with careful and meticulous attention.

The past semester has also seen an increase in attendance, fundraising, social media engagement, and overall efficiency. We are also lucky to have an incoming group of honors students eager to make their mark on a growing and changing HPSC community. There has not been a time in MSU Texas history where students wanted to be a part of the honors community more than right now.

With the time my administration has left we are working to reform our governmental structure to properly suit our everchanging program. This includes properly understanding positional responsibilities to reflect the capacity our students have to go above and beyond. Simultaneously, we are finding ways to mentor first-year students into becoming officers and maybe even the next President. These ideas run concurrently with goals of boosting morale and facilitating professional development. The continuation of a stable and growing Honors Program Student Council resides in finding new ways to tap into the innate capacity of our students. The goal is to have a system of accountability that fosters creative success while maintaining the signature culture of the honors community. We look forward to the improvements we have planned and how our future students can utilize them to their absolute benefit.

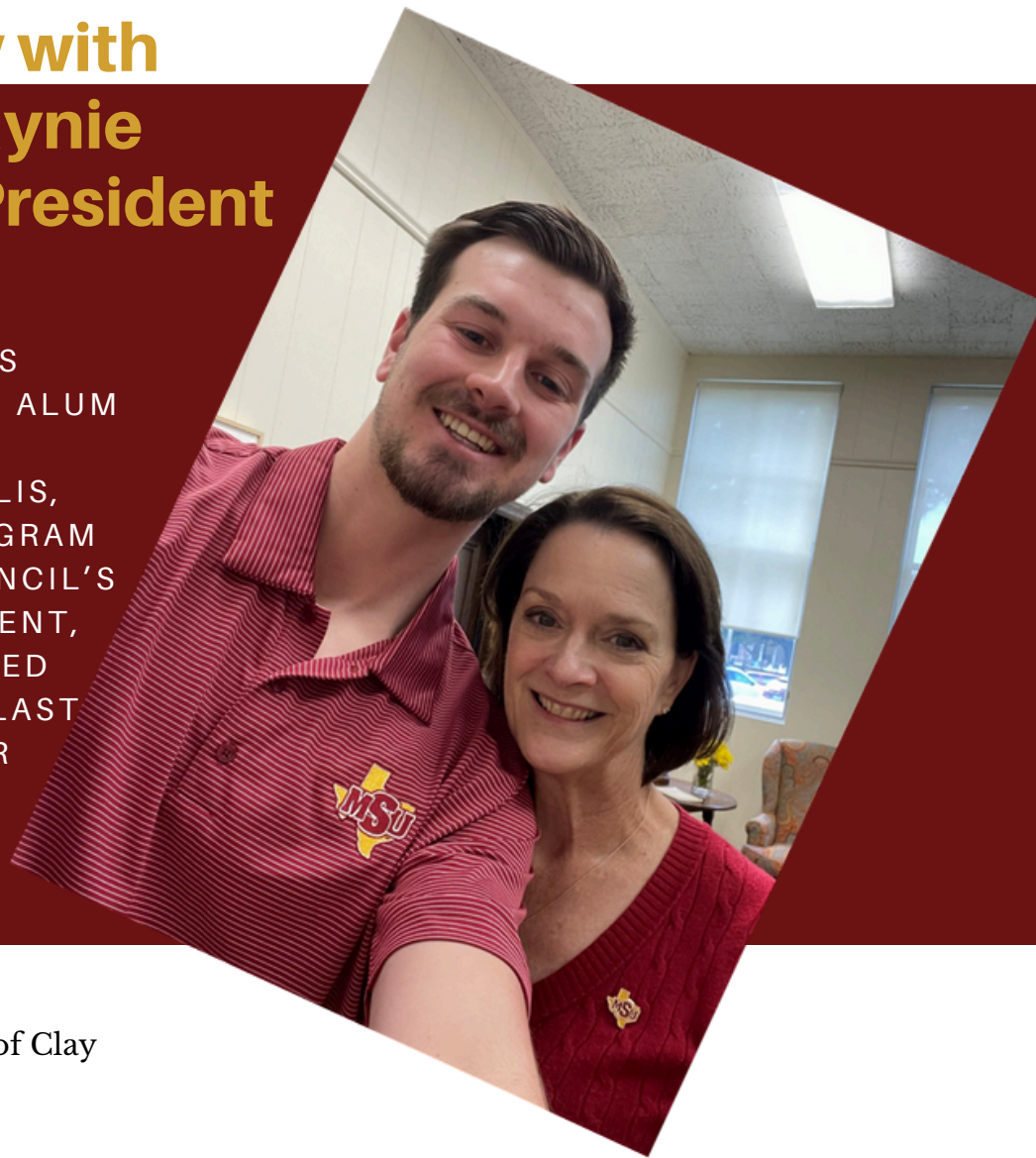


- 2023 Homecoming Court
- Freshman Lord: Todd Smith
- Freshman Lordress Jalecia Thompson
- Sophomore Man: Quintan Ringwald
- Junior Duke: Brandon Goins
- Homecoming King: Colten Ellis
- Homecoming Queen: Zetta Cannedy

# An Interview with Dr. Stacia Haynie MSU Texas President

HPSC VP'S  
SPOTLIGHT ON ALUM

COLTEN ELLIS,  
HONORS PROGRAM  
STUDENT COUNCIL'S  
VICE-PRESIDENT,  
INTERVIEWED  
DR. HAYNIE LAST  
OCTOBER



*Where are you from?:*

Henrietta TX County Seat of Clay

*What are you doing now?:*

So I am president of my alma mater which is an unbelievable honor...when I graduated with my master's degree in political science here and went on for my Ph.D., the goal was always to be faculty member here I just had to spend 33 year at LSU and hold another title to be able to achieve that goal. So I feel very, very fortunate. Very full circle I was actually a student worker in the president's office.



*How did the RHP contribute/prepare you for your current career?:*

I was an Honor student and graduated with honors. I wrote my thesis on The shroud of Torin.

And I loved being able to take the honors courses. The honors program at the time did a great job of challenging us as students. But I think it really prepared me...one of the aspects of the program I appreciated was understanding multiple sides of an argument. One of the great advantages of college is you get to meet people who don't look like you or don't think like you or have the same beliefs as you have. And it helps you to think about, why do I have this perspective? And by the way, that's one of the critical aspects of a democracy is tolerance.



*If you could teach an honors class that was outside your area of interest what would it be?:*  
 I actually just taught an honors course last fall at LSU at it was focused around courts winners and loser, why do you win in court and why do you lose, and it was just fabulous  
 Probably University leadership and what that requires.



I may not agree with you, but it's important your right is also respected. And I think college is terrific because you just have this fabulous community around you from all these different countries and different states. And you get to appreciate those perspectives that can challenge your own perspectives about things and then that helps you any time you're thinking about a problem or a challenge or an issue. To think holistically about it and certainly as I've moved into leadership positions that has been really helpful. That skill set started here and has served me incredibly well.



*Whether past or present, what's your favorite MSU tradition?:*  
 I will say I love the card board boat race. I thought that was fantastic and I loved that there were so many student organizations doing it. And I loved that the organizations were so engaged.... for me, of course, it was play production.

*Favorite RHP memory?:*  
 Honestly, I think it was working on the thesis and having a faculty member work with me on sources and thinking through writing. That exercise, just the whole of it, stem to stern getting it done having to meet deadlines, having to get it finished, having to get it approved, I loved that. Which is probably why I'm an academic.





*If you could embark on a city as text experience where would you go?:*

Certainly Agra in India which is where the Tai Mahal is, it is stunning but also Johannesburg in South Africa....But it would also be fun to go back to Henrietta. And things that you think you know. And I've learned, oh, I didn't know. That could be fun to. There's no place like home.

*If you could be any animated character who would you be and what would be your super power?:*

Pippy Longstocking. She was always happy and always made other people happy

*And last, some words of wisdom for the students, what motivates you?:*

I know from my experience the transformative power of higher education. If you look at the difference in the US and other countries, I believe our economic advancement was because of investment in public education....The ability to be a part of a student's journey to the life well lived.

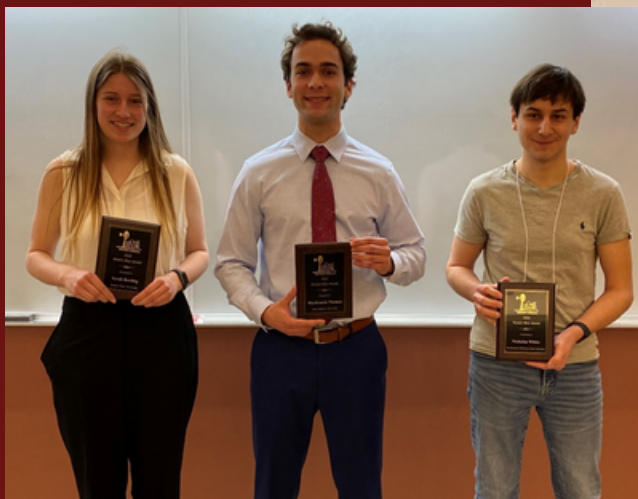




Spring 2023 the Redwine Honors Program had the honor of hosting the Great Plains Honors Council (GPHC) conference on the campus of MSU Texas. GPHC is the regional honors organization for programs located in the Great Plains or Midwestern region.

Although we are an active participant in the council, this marked the first time we were able to host the conference in Wichita Falls. It was an amazing experience to share our beautiful campus with our honors student friends.

The conference was held March 10-12, 2023 and organized around the theme “Powered by the Liberal Arts”. GPHC drew 272 participants from 32 higher education institutions ranging from the University of Missouri-Kansas City to Sul Ross State University in Alpine TX. During the weekend’s events we saw an amazing range of student research presented. This included 46 posters presentations on Friday evening that examined topics ranging from crypto currency reform to an mRNA vaccine for HIV. From these poster presentations, eight were selected as recipients of the John Britt Poster award for students above and below the 60 credit hour level in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Professional, and STEM categories (pictured below). Saturday began with the announcement of our Dennis Boe paper award winners for the over and under 60 hour category (pictured below). This included such interesting topics as Epigenomics in Childhood Onset Diabetes Therapy to Manichaeism in Rebecca West’s “Indissoluble Matrimony”.





As the day continued we saw 112 oral presentations ranging from “the Relationship between the Amygdala and the Prefrontal Cortex in Social Anxiety Disorder” to “the Impact of the Digital Divide in Education” producing what one honors director commented was “the best thematically organized oral panels he had witnessed at GPHC”.

Following our Saturday presentations we then embarked on a GPHC tradition, the excursions. Students explored the geology of the Wichita Mountains, learned the importance of the Seymouria at the Whiteside Museum of Natural History, studied the local habitat at the Riverbend Nature Center, perused the Wichita Falls Museum of Art, studied the Great Plains at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton and learned about author Larry McMurtry’s connection to the area on Dr. Greg Giddings’ tour of Archer City.

We also partnered with P.E.T.S. Clinic to build 27 dogs houses for the non-profit animal clinic. Saturday evening culminated with an evening in the Caribbean that included a catered Caribbean meal accompanied by the MSU student Steel Pan Orchestra.



**WE ALSO MANAGED TO HAVE SOME FUN ALONG THE WAY. DURING OUR LUNCH BREAK SATURDAY, DR. JEFF STAMBAUGH, DEAN OF THE DILLARD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, HOSTED AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR THE VISITING STUDENTS.**

Overall the 2023 Great Plains Honors Council conference was a success and marked a clear return to normalcy following the two year absence of the in-person conference due to the pandemic.

GPHC, including 158 student presentations and posters, demonstrated that Honors education is alive and well in the Great Plains region and on the MSU Texas campus

# MSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS

ERNUEL TONGE..... 2023  
 EXZIYAH GREENLEE...2022  
 HUNTER ORDNER...2021  
 AMANDA THRELKELD...2020  
 HANNA GEBEL...2019  
 MAI TRINH...2018  
 LUKE ALLEN...2017  
 MEGAN PIEHLER...2016  
 JOSEPH HADAWAL...2015  
 EMILY BADOT...2014  
 KRISTEL HAZEL...2013  
 KYLE CHRISTIAN...2012  
 ASHLEY GRAVELLE...2011  
 LIAM GUTHRIE...2010  
 CHELSEA HUMPHREY...2009  
 JONATHAN ABEL...2008

ERIN KATHLEN SHORT...2007  
 LAURA RACHAEL KAIR...2006  
 MARIE IBARRA...2005  
 ADAM MCMAHEN...2004  
 SHONNA DIGGS...2003  
 NYIAN FARRELL...2002  
 JEFFERY (MARK) FLEMING...2001  
 JENNIFER VEITENHEIMER...2000  
 DANIELLE RONEY...1999  
 PAUL MUSSACHIO...1998  
 JASON LAWRENCE...1997  
 JAMIE BENEFIELD...1996  
 PAUL (ANDREW) FLEMING...1995  
 MELISSA MILLER...1995  
 CHANDRA RODGERS...1994  
 CODY COLE...1994



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?  
 WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT  
 YOUR JOURNEY AFTER LEAVING  
 MSU.  
 IF SO PLEASE TELL US HERE

THANK YOU TO  
 THE REDWINE  
 FAMILY FOR  
 THEIR GENEROUS  
 SUPPORT FOR  
 THE PROGRAM

2023-24 HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS  
 ANDRES REVIS...PRESIDENT  
 COLTEN ELLIS...VICE PRESIDENT  
 MACIE WELLS...SECRETARY  
 QUINTAN RINGWALD...TREASURER  
 SYDNEY MACDONALD...SOCIAL MEDIA LIASION  
 BRANDON GOINS...SGA SENATOR 1  
 JACKSON REDDING...SGA SENATOR 2  
 FIRST YEAR AMBASSADOR...MADYSN BUTLER  
 FIRST YEAR AMBASSADOR...RYKIR EVANS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023  
 AUGUST AND FALL GRADUATES

BRYLEE GRUBB ERWIN (PSYCHOLOGY)  
 AUTUMN ROACH (SPORTS & LEISURE STUDIES)

MADELYN ANDERLE (MANAGEMENT)  
 ADDISON ELLIOTT (MANAGEMENT)  
 EXZIYAH GREENLEE (FINANCE)  
 ABIGAIL HURST (NURSING)  
 ABBY MATTHEW (BIOLOGY)

