

# Wenerationio

THE HONORS NEWSLETTER

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## CAB Renovations and Deck Opening

By Douglas Dyer

Named for UTA's founding Dean of the Honors College, Carolyn A. Barros, the CAB Reading Room and Computer Lab is a study space reserved specially for those in the Honors College. Students come to the CAB to read up on their favorite topic, unwind with a cup of coffee or tea, and attend the countless events held in the space and put on by the Honors College. Fitted with modern group desks, a small library of texts ranging from Darwin's *The Origin of Species* to entire Senior Capstone Projects, and a fleet of other fundamental student resources, the CAB serves as a hub for enriched minds as well as a sanctuary from the stresses of daily life.

And it just received an upgrade.

"I just started going to the CAB last week, but I already love it so much! It's such a great place to study and meet other Honors students"-Makayla Thompson, Sophomore Honors Interdisciplinary Studies Student.

The CAB's previous flooring and furniture were installed in the 90s when the UTA Honors Program became the Honors College and had become exceedingly worn down over years of use. Renovations replaced these dated features with luxury vinyl tiles, new chairs, and sturdy state-of-the-art tables fitted with outlets all coming together for a classy, professional theme. Even with these upgrades, the CAB itself only seats about 40 students, compared to over 1000 members of the Honors College in total, and because College Hall is a historic building, additional space can't be added to the building itself. So, to address this issue, a deck was built simply extending College Hall. The deck is protected from the sun by surrounding trees and overlooks the busy streets in front of the University Center, providing a pleasant area to rest and take in the campus energy.

This issue is called "Planting Seeds for the Future" and contains themes of plants, spring, and overall growth to reflect the aspirations of the students for a better and brighter future.

Honors College Director and supervisor of the CAB's renovations, Perri Turner, had this to say about the addition: "We thought a deck would offer a beautiful additional place for Honors College students to study and have events." Similarly stating that "We do feel like students will take advantage of the renovated CAB now that we are all back on campus."

The community in the CAB is just as welcoming as its physical environment, with kind messages and funny notes omnipresent on the room's whiteboards. For example, toward the beginning of the Spring semester, a student began writing weekly fun "facts" about actor, James Franco, that produce smiles on the faces of many students.

Khushi Piparava, Freshman Honors Engineering Student: "It's a very cozy room that's helped me make a lot of friends! I always look forward to the 'James Franco fact of the week' and Coffee Mondays!"

The CAB is a popular spot for events such as the Tie Dye Party, St. Patty's Day cupcake decorating, and weekly Coffee Mondays as well as simply hanging around, studying, collaborating, and tutoring. Recently, there is an ever-flowing revolving door of Honors students coming in and out of the CAB, putting the room's renovations to good use. As awareness of the CAB's update spreads to more and more students, the CAB is sure to become more popular than ever! Perri Turner: "Hopefully all Honors students will enjoy the new space and look!"



# Holi: The Festival of Colors

By Ishita Sunil

Holi is an event that is nationally celebrated in India and Nepal along with Indians and Nepalese around the world. It marks a time on the Hindu calendar as a new beginning as well as the arrival of spring. It signifies a time for many families to begin a new season, fresh starts, and a vibrant new future. It is a time where love and friendship are celebrated by smearing colors on the people you love, respect, and adore. Everyone who plays Holi goes out in all white clothes allowing the color to show the most and brightest. The first person you smear color on is usually the one you love the most.

On March 10th, the Indian Maverick Society partnered up with the Nepalese Student Association, both prominent organizations at UTA, to celebrate the festival of colors at the Library Mall. Participants were given a white shirt to change into along with a few packets containing an assortment of colors. The fun began when Bollywood music was played on speakers. With almost 200 students in attendance, colors were thrown in the air and on the faces of loved ones while attendees danced to the music. Because this campus is so diverse, other students of diverse cultures and ethnicities, not just Indian and Nepalese students, were invited to attend and get a taste of one of India's most well-known festivals. The Indian Maverick Society and the Nepalese Student Association heavily publicized the event with posters on their Instagram pages as well as on the executive board members' pages. Students from the Honor's college were found playing on the grass, throwing colors on friends and classmates, and enjoying themselves.

India is a remarkably diverse country, but Holi is one of the annual festivals that brings everyone together regardless of gender, sexuality, age, and religion. The history behind the celebration of Holi is tied to mythology. While there are many versions in various parts of India, one of the most common stories is related to the defeat of evil. There was once a powerful king and devil named Hiranayakshyap who desired to be a god and sought to be worshipped by everyone. When the King's son, Prahlada, chose to worship another god, Vishnu, the King was filled with rage. Despite instilling cruel punishments on his son, Prahlada remained devoted to his god. Infuriated, the King asked his sister Holika to kill his son. Holika tricked Prahlada into sitting on a pyre with him, While she covered herself with a cloak Prahlada remained exposed. As the fire started to grow the cloak flew from Holika and protected Prahlada. Prahlada was saved from the King because of his constant dedication to Vishnu. For this reason, Holi began with a Holika bonfire to indicate the eradication of evil.

The concept of smearing color on the faces of loved ones arose from another legend about a different God. The color of Lord Krishna's skin turned blue after a demon poisoned his mother's breast milk. Krishna's mom then asked Radha, a close companion of Krishna, to smear any color she wanted on Krishna's face to cover up his blue skin. This tradition then expanded, making it one of Holi's best-known traditions.

While each region may have its traditions, rituals, and customs, Holi is one day in the entire year we come together to celebrate ourselves, our accomplishments, loved ones, and the eradication of evil from our lives.

# Honors Day at UTA

By Imogen Hofer

On Friday, April 15th, the Honors College hosted a new event: Honors Day at UTA. This event, open to all students, was a fun way for Honors students to meet and mingle while also allowing each student to learn more about the Honors College and everything it has to offer. Filled with fun games, a live musical performance, an obstacle course, and snacks, of course, the college put on an entertaining event for everyone.





I attended, and even though it was starting to wind down by the time I got there, there were still groups of students enjoying the band, talking, and laughing together, and helpful information tables to teach about everything the college has to offer.

This new event came about in place of the college's 20th birthday. Ms. Spaulding said that they "were inspired to celebrate the history of the Honors College and expand [their] reach on campus." A lot of work went into putting together the event that we all saw. After "months of planning" and brainstorming ideas pulled from different departments and organizations across campus and staff experience, the college staff put on a solid showing that was enjoyable for everyone involved. Altogether, they had "over 230 people in attendance," and students had the opportunity to connect not only with current Honors students but with "other UTA students who were not familiar with the Honors College." This event was, hopefully, not a one-time deal, though. Ms. Spaulding said that they are "looking forward to hosting subsequent events" and "taking student suggestions into consideration" for the future.



If you missed out, I talked to several students who attended the event. Although everyone had praise to give the many various aspects of Honors Day, according to popular opinion, the real highlight of the afternoon was the ice cream, provided by Pokey O's. Beyond that, though, students loved the games, bouncy house, obstacle course, and live music, which were local UTA student bands. I think the best summary of why the event was so remarkable came from freshman Tiffany Vargas. She said that "it felt different from any other event that we have here at UTA and in the Honors College" because it was "very lively and welcoming." Though students had plenty to laud when it came to why the event was so wonderful, several students echoed sophomore Teresa Le's assessment that adding "more events or program booths" would be helpful because many students "don't know about the rest of the opportunities [the] Honors [College has] to offer."

Overall, Honors Day at UTA was a fantastic way for students to meet each other in a fun and relaxing setting where people could interact and learn about a few of the programs the college offers. By opening its doors to everyone, not just Honors students, everyone at UTA had the chance to come and find out more about what makes the Honors College so unique.

# The Philanthropy Major

By Steven Shaw

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “philanthropy” as the active effort to promote other individuals’ welfare. The word draws its roots from ancient Greek, literally translating to “the love of man.”

The Department of Communication’s new Philanthropy major and certificate appeal to students seeking to commit their careers to serving mankind, particularly through nonprofit and charity management. The programs are designed for students who are passionate about social issues and want to devote their degree to making change.

In 2015, professional philanthropist John Harvey, who built a reputation over a 20 year career, wrote an article for The Alliance Magazine describing the importance of university education for an aspiring philanthropist. He wrote that degrees in anthropology, political science, social work and law can all give students skills needed in the field.

UTA’s Philanthropy degree combines relevant skills from these degrees into one major, emphasizing public speaking, nonprofit management, writing, and opportunities to work with real nonprofit organizations in their classes.

This semester, students in Philanthropy courses have been involved in multiple humanitarian projects on campus as part of their course work. These include helping the Movin Mavs’ Wheelchair Basketball Team increase awareness and raise funds for the program following their 10th National Championship win, and organizing a toiletry donation drive for Genesis Women’s Shelter in Dallas.

UTA is one of the few universities offering a Philanthropy major, and the future of the industry is promising, according to Madison Ray, the department’s academic recruiter.

The nonprofit sector is the third largest-growing job market in the U.S, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex houses over 20,000 nonprofit organizations, according to the National Center for Charitable Statistics. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics says fundraising jobs are growing at a rate three times faster than the national average. From charity organizations to government settings, there will always be a need for employees in philanthropy, Ray said.

Dr. Megan Fitzmaurice, the Philanthropy major’s sequence coordinator, said she regularly receives emails from nonprofit leaders in the area asking to recommend graduating students for their open positions.

Skills learned in the major can apply to any field, Ray said, but specifically, philanthropy where students will need persuasive skills to fundraise through correspondence, presentations and events. The degree sets the foundation for careers in program managing, grant writing, marketing managing and fundraising.

Philanthropy majors take major-specific courses such as Fundraising and Development (PCOM 3301) and Strategic Social Media Communication (PCOM 3320). These Philanthropy classes are meant to teach students what it takes to run a real nonprofit, Fitzmaurice said.

“Students will walk away with skills and experiences they can put on their resume as well as a network of non-profit professionals to consult with as they build their careers.”

“Though many nonprofit employees have business/management degrees, a degree in Philanthropy will specifically teach students nonprofit-management skills,” Ray said.

From the outside, the degree might seem closely related to a degree in Social Work or Business Management, but the key differences lie in the different majors' focuses, Fitzmaurice said. Philanthropy focuses on meeting community needs from a communication and leadership perspective, where Social Work has a clinical emphasis and Business Management is more financially oriented.

Ray said a certificate in Philanthropy is a great option for any major to consider, and fits on a wide-range of resumes. Students must take four classes to earn the certificate: two Philanthropy classes and two electives from a list of English, Communication and Business courses. The certificate complements degrees such as Social Work, Nursing, Theatre Arts, Special Education and Environmental Science.

The program launched in 2020, and has recently been picking up popularity. The Honors College has yet to graduate a student with an Honors degree in Philanthropy, but the future of the program is promising.

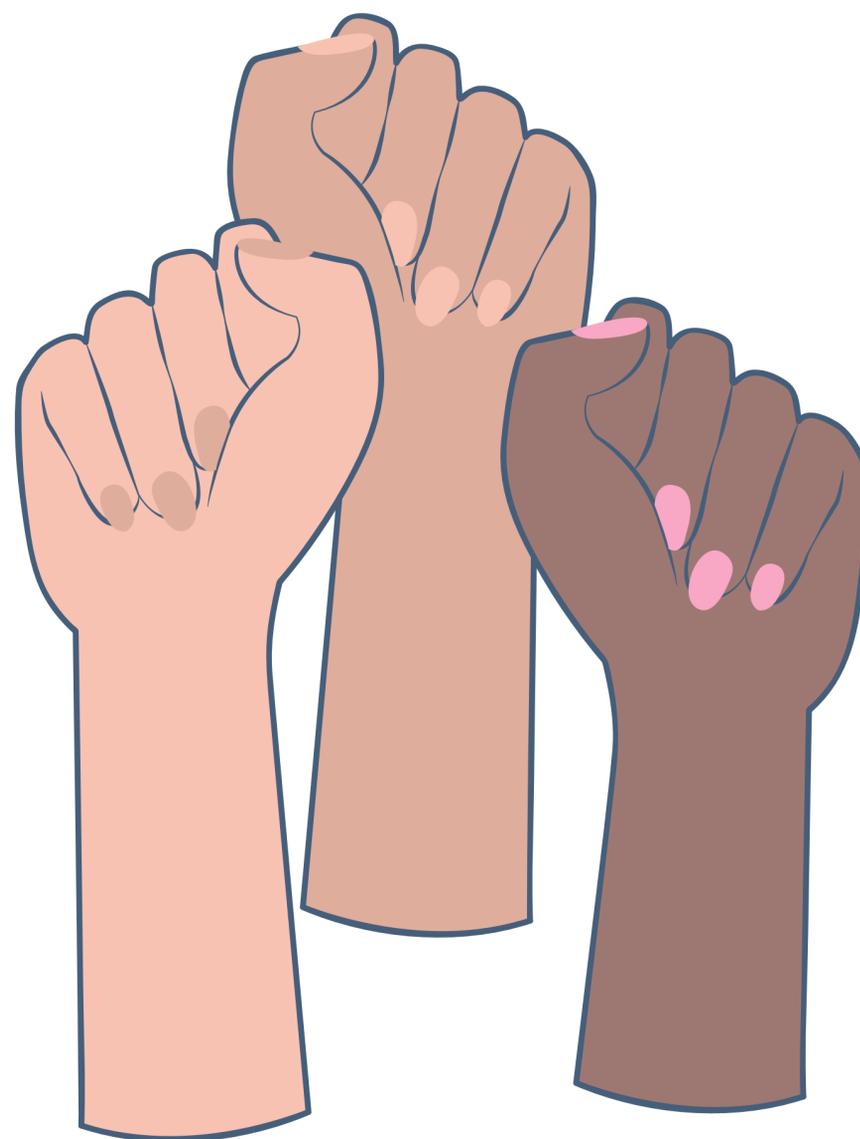
UTA offered a variety of events for students to attend to learn about and celebrate the month. Some events included a panel discussion, 9 to 5 The Musical, performed by the Maverick Theater Company, and several guest lectures and Q&As with activists and distinguished women. As a newly declared Women's Studies minor, I took the opportunity to celebrate Women's History Month my way. I blended my love of women authors, books with strong female protagonists, and works focused on women's perspectives by doing a feature series on books highlighting these on my book Instagram page.



# Women's History Month

By Imogen Hofer

Ever since Women's History Month got its origins in 1980 by a declaration from Congress that authorized the president to declare a Women's History Week, the country has been celebrating the impact of women throughout history. In our current day, this week has stretched to a month, and every year, more and more events and outreach occur to teach about the influential impact women have had in our history.



The entire goal of Women's History Month is to look toward the future. Freshman Peyton Holder summarized the importance of this month when she said that "having an entire month dedicated to recognizing the impact of women on history not only honors the women that came before us by sharing their stories." She continued by reminding us that it "gives us a chance to reevaluate society and see what other opportunities can be made available for women today." In our time, women have so many more opportunities and freedoms than in the past. It is important that we take this time to honor all the contributions from women that have been disregarded in the past, and, by viewing these fundamental pieces of our past, we can look forward to the future and focus on what changes still need to occur. Breanne Solis, a senior, discussed why she believes that women's issues are so important and echoed the fact that she is "glad that there are women who are stepping up to the plate to bring up the issues that need to be talked about" and that "we need people who are going to do what's best for womankind." Everyone deserves a voice that will continue to advocate for them, and sometimes, the best way to work towards a better future is by remembering the past.

One of the most vital things about history that I can attest to as a history major is that it allows us to learn and grow and teaches valuable lessons nuanced with bad times as much as the good. When we choose not to look back and face the reality of our past head-on, it is impossible to fix those mistakes and move on better and stronger than before. When asked about any ideas she might have for ensuring that these stories are taught, freshman Stephanie Orona said that "[she believed] it would be a nice idea to go over [a] story... once a week over lunch...like a story-time" on campus. Sharing and remembering these stories is of paramount importance no matter what time of the year it is, and as more students, and the university itself, find ways to celebrate and start new traditions, we have the chance to build a better tomorrow where everyone's stories are told and all receive the same opportunities.

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