LETTER FROM THE DEAN

This spring we celebrated an Ogden Honors milestone: we graduated our largest class to date, and recruited a record-breaking Class of 2022. Along the way we also hosted a variety of prestigious speakers and recognized students who have gone above and beyond in their studies and extracurriculars in our Spring Award Ceremony.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the exciting things going on at the Ogden Honors College in this issue of the Quadrille. As always, we’d love to hear from you: keep your ideas and feedback coming!

Wishing you and your Tiger family a relaxing summer,

Jonathan Earle
Roger Hadfield Ogden Dean

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On the Cover: 2018 Honors College graduates celebrate after commencement.

Dean Earle speaks to the graduating class of 2018 at the Ogden Honors College Commencement Ceremony.
In an era of “fake news,” the nation’s trust in the media has become uncertain. As a timely response to public concern over reporting validity, Mass Communication professor Len Apcar’s HNRS 2033 Media Manipulation: Frauds, Hoaxes & Fakes class equips Ogden Honors College students with the tools and methods to separate news fact from news fiction.

Apcar, the Wendell Gray Switzer Jr. Endowed Chair in Media Literacy at the Manship School of Mass Communication, and a former senior editor with The New York Times, guides students to tackle questions like “What is fake news?” and “How does it spread?” By studying the evolution of media trust and reliability, as well as recent cases of fake news, the class is honing their ability to become information experts.

“Apcar also gave the class a foundation in the ways that journalism developed to where it is today.

“I wanted to give them a grounding on proper journalistic models,” Apcar said. “We studied the evolution of journalism to the accepted point of objectivity and defined it as a concept and a business model.”

The first case of false information that the class studied took place inside Louisiana. Four years ago, a story about an explosion at a chemical plant in Centerville circulated through the media, but there was no actual explosion – it was fake news. The class looked at this “fake news attack” and studied it as a model for how fake news is orchestrated.

Expanding from the local impact of misinformation, the class looked at the recent 2016 election as a source of case studies. Unfolding events like FBI Director Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation have given the class real-time stories to unpack.

“The challenge in this class was to teach while something is developing really contemporaneously and to ground it as a serious academic pursuit,” Apcar said. “When Mueller’s indictment came down we stopped the class, and we spent a day going through the indictment.”

In addition to studying cases of fake news, the class is actively contributing to the fight against falsehoods by designing the Manship School of Mass Communication’s fake news website, DetectFakeNews.com. The website is an extension of a project by Apcar where he produced a pocket-sized guide on detecting fake news. In a recent class, Mike McCurry, the former Press Secretary to President Bill Clinton, visited the course to talk to students about media bias, social media’s role in political communication and fake news. Apcar showed McCurry the pamphlet he has developed to help the average person understand how to delineate fake news from real news.

“People hunger for information about Detect Fake News. This little card that I walk around with, we’ve passed out thousands,” Apcar said. “And we had this website and it needed to be updated so I thought the class would be perfect for it.”

Apcar is eager to see the results of the student’s efforts on the website and has been happy with the engagement he has seen from his students.

“I wanted a class that facilitated a lot of discussion. I don’t like podium to class lecturing,” Apcar said. “In the Honors classes I’ve taught I get a lot of participation, and I grade on it and encourage it.”
According to Honors College donors Matt and Melissa Juneau, their affinity with LSU runs deeper than most. Between Matt and Melissa and their four children, the Juneau family has a collective nine degrees from LSU, including advanced degrees from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Hebert Law Center.

“When I’m talking about LSU I always make the point that LSU’s kind of in the family,” Matt said. “It’s in our blood.” Matt, a member of the Ogden Honors College Advisory Council, serves as vice president of Corporate Strategy and Investor Relations for Albemarle Corporation. Melissa serves as executive director of The Emerge Center for Communication, Behavior, and Development and is a licensed speech-language pathologist who has a history of working as a therapist with young children. The Juneaus grew up in small-town Louisiana in Avoyelles parish, met in high school, went to LSU together, and got married “The rest is history,” Matt added.

“We believe in the university and the work that it does in education, and the impact on the state,” Melissa explained.

Matt and Melissa recently established the Matt and Melissa Juneau Family Honors Scholarship, which is awarded to high-achieving students in the Ogden Honors College. The award provides $10,000 over four years of academic study at $2,500 per year. This first year, four students from first year to senior are recipients of the scholarship. The Juneaus took some time to share their philosophy of giving and look forward to the future of the Ogden Honors College.

What inspired you to give to the Honors College?

Matt: LSU gave a lot to us, and we think it's important to give back. The Honors College gives an opportunity to where more of the best and the brightest stay in the state, go to school here, and hopefully stay here after they’re out of school, and contribute to Louisiana thereafter. It's the idea of giving something to people who can hopefully create a better future for the state of Louisiana. We’re both very big believers in higher education, huge believers that it is the key to really long term growth and prosperity for individuals and communities, or cities or states. We have the wherewithal right now to give back, and so we're giving back some.

Melissa: We recognize that there’s a need for philanthropy at the university level. Mostly we believe that it allows LSU to offer a unique opportunity for high-achieving students that are looking for a smaller community to excel in and hopefully keep the brightest students from Louisiana here at LSU, but also attract people from outside to look at LSU as a great place to get their education and thrive.

What are your hopes for the Honors College in the future?

Melissa: That it continues to grow and prosper in attracting the brightest students who want to be at LSU, and it has enough support to be able to do that so it can build national notoriety.

Matt: It really goes back to that aspirational goal. We want LSU to be perceived as a great university, period. And we want the Honors College to be perceived as one of the top Honors Colleges in the U.S. — so how do we get there? ■
The LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College graduated 117 students at its graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 10.

Fifty-seven students were awarded College Honors, one of LSU’s highest graduation distinctions. Distinguished guests First Lady of Louisiana Donna Edwards, LSU President F. King Alexander and LSU Interim Executive Vice President & Provost Stacia Haynie delivered remarks. Ogden Honors College students were recognized with a variety of distinctions and awards. 23 Ogden Honors students received the University Medal, given to LSU students graduating with the highest grade point averages. 41 students graduated summa cum laude; 24 students graduated magna cum laude, and 19 students graduated cum laude. 77 students completed an Honors Thesis.
Why do sisters Carmelita “Carmen” Escalante, MD and Consuelo Madere give to the Ogden Honors College? If you ask them, they’ll tell you that, without a doubt, it’s the students.

“One of the most impactful things is when we get to meet some of the students that are going through the program,” Consuelo said. “They give you hope that if we can get intelligent young people that are from Louisiana that can get educated, that those are the future leaders to help bring our state up.”

“These kids are the future: of Louisiana, of the country,” Carmen agreed. “I don’t see how you can live in Louisiana and not have some connection to LSU. I definitely feel an anchor to the institution and to what we’re trying to do so that these young people can have every opportunity to succeed.”

Creating a strong foundation for future accomplishments is a consistent theme with Carmen and Consuelo. “We came from a large family in south Louisiana,” Carmen explained. “My parents didn’t go to college. We were fortunate for doing so well in our lives that we want to give back, and we want others to have the same opportunity.”

In 2017, Carmen and Consuelo set up a scholarship in memory of their late father, Henry Escalante, and his strong belief in the importance of higher education. The Henry Escalante Legacy Scholarship is awarded directly by the Ogden Honors College to first-generation incoming students majoring in science, technology, engineering, mathematics or health sciences fields. It provides recipients with $4,000 over four years of academic study. They also hope that Honors students who come from challenging backgrounds will take comfort in the fact that if they have managed to find success through a good education, so can these students. “You can do it, we did it. If we came from a simple lifestyle and not a lot of financial means, if we did it, others can do it,” Carmen said. “Hopefully that will inspire some of the students in similar environments.”

Both sisters’ attachment to Louisiana and LSU informs their firm belief in giving back to the community that shaped them and, in the future, will shape the state. Their hopes for the College, then, reflect their hopes for Louisiana. “I hope that this is a place that students can continue to grow, and that we are able to, as an institution, support not just the Honors College, but LSU overall,” Consuelo said. “It starts here, and especially with these students that are in this program. You have a chance to come back and do something to bring the rest of the state up. To me, that’s my hope.”

According to Carmen, education is not merely a deciding factor in an individual’s life, but lays the very groundwork for success. “Become the thought leaders in various industries and influence education,” she said. “Because in my view, if you want to be successful, education is a foundation, is a key.”
It is with great sadness that the Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College mourns the passing of Ogden Honors alumna Dr. Cynthia “CC” DuBois on January 2, 2018. DuBois was raised in Ponchatoula, La. Through the Ogden Honors College she received the LSU Honors College Erich Sternberg Memorial Award for academic excellence and breadth of study given to one exceptional student annually. She also won the Outstanding Freshman of the College of Agriculture and the Louisiana State University Outstanding Student award during both her sophomore and junior years. She received the June Martin and Walter Rudd Outstanding Honors Thesis Award for her work on “Understanding Louisiana Patent Production and the Role of Knowledge Stocks on Economic Growth.”

In 2006, DuBois received the highly competitive Harry S. Truman Scholarship, which provides financial resources and support for students who want to go to graduate school and eventually work in the public policy sphere. She also earned a spot on the prestigious USA Today All-USA College Academic Team, a group of undergraduates honored for academic achievements. She graduated summa cum laude from LSU with college honors in 2007 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Agribusiness.

DuBois received her MPP from the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago in 2010, graduating with honors. In 2016, she received the Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship, the most prestigious fellowship awarded to graduate students by Northwestern University.

AN EVENING WITH
Ogden Honors
LEAD WITH PURPOSE

When Ogden Honors alumnus Victor Lashley discusses his outlook on life, he emphasizes how autonomy — that critical factor of self-determination — has shaped his world and his response to it. As V.P. of Global Trade Sales at J.P. Morgan, Lashley's independence and drive have propelled him from south Louisiana to the heart of corporate finance.

A native of Franklin, Louisiana where he attended school with the same 600 people from preschool to 12th grade, Lashley's quiet beginnings shaped him into the type of leader who can connect across a diverse array of individuals and groups. At a young age he was identified as “gifted and talented,” and he remembers how much of an impact being recognized as exceptional had on his confidence as a student. Lashley also owes much of his expansive worldview to his father, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago. A welder by trade who did not have the opportunity to complete high school, his father emphasized that Lashley's job as a child was to focus his efforts on getting an education.

"The mantras in my head as a kid were, ‘We think you're capable,’ and ‘We think that if you work hard, then getting an education is achievable.’ That helped," Lashley said. “Having a father who was not from America kind of opened my mind to recognize that there's more in the world than what I may see in my particular small town." He chose LSU for its wealth of opportunities and the Honors College for its “school within a school” approach that reminded him of his small high school. “I actually liked the concept that I'd be held to higher academic standards,” Lashley said, laughing.

At LSU, Lashley was a member of the E.J. Ourso College of Business where he majored in marketing. He also joined the Louisiana Service and Leadership Program (LASAL) and earned a minor in leadership development. A signature Honors program, LASAL prepares students for leadership roles in Louisiana, particularly in the fields of public service, social justice and environmental sustainability. According to Lashley, his experience with LASAL informed his eventual move to global finance.

“While I was in LASAL, there was a change from outside and a change from within,” he explained. “I recognized the abundant resources in the financial industry, and I think that the right person from inside the industry could potentially redirect and partner those resources to initiatives outside of global finance.”

Lashley’s tenure at the Honors College is marked by his energy and focus on connecting his Honors education with his exposure to the business community. “I had to reflect on what the industry was, what the footprint of the company was, what resources does the company have. I’ve tried to find a way to address the public cause with private resources from within the private sector.”

Eventually, Lashley’s interests led him beyond Louisiana. For two different summers Lashley interned at global finance corporation J.P. Morgan. Initially introduced to the company as a scholarship recipient from high school, he applied and received a paid internship as a sophomore in college.

Lashley returned his second summer and was offered a full-time position at J.P. Morgan upon graduation in 2012, where he adopted a new role every six months. His beginnings at the company led him to positions in prime brokerage operations, pension fund sales, global trade sales, treasury services, corporate banking in Canada and finally trade finance. When he completed his two years, he placed permanently in global trade sales.

Now, living in New York City and working with J.P. Morgan, Lashley still finds the time to partner with Banking on Our Future (BOOF) as part of Operation Hope, an organization that teaches financial literacy to underserved populations. His words of advice to Honors students reflect his relentless lifestyle of leading and giving back, and doing so with purpose.

“If you're unsure what your path is, start having experiences,” he said. “Start volunteering, start getting involved and start looking for internships, whether or not you're doing it to pursue a career in that field. With the resources and the personalized attention you have at the Honors College, it's actually not that hard.”
For LSU Honors program alumnus Kyle Duncan, his intellectual journey began with learning how to write and think critically — skills that he confides have been invaluable for him, both in the study and practice of law.

Duncan, who was recently nominated and confirmed to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, boasts a distinguished law career as both an educator and litigator. At various points he has worked as an appellate lawyer for both Texas and Louisiana, taught at Columbia University and the University of Mississippi School of Law and argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to his confirmation, Duncan was a partner at his own firm, Schaerr Duncan LLP in Washington D.C., where he devoted his time and energy to constitutional law cases, which is where his passion truly lies.

His extensive experience has earned him praise as a confident litigator able to handle high-pressure cases. For instance, in a recent article in The National Review highlighting Duncan’s nomination, Carrie Severino of the Judicial Crisis Network called Duncan “the complete package.”

“I have watched Kyle successfully handle high stakes litigation in courts across the country, including the Supreme Court, and he is a superstar who can translate sophisticated arguments for the general public,” Severino said.

Before he launched his career, however, Duncan attended LSU for both his bachelor's degree in English Literature and his law degree. In light of his recent confirmation and the prospect of returning home to Louisiana, Duncan took some time to reflect on his years at LSU.

Q: What brought you to LSU and the Honors College?
A: I was fortunate enough to get a scholarship to LSU, and this was not only a great opportunity for me to get some help going to college, but also to work on campus. I was immediately recruited to the Honors Program. A couple of my professors encouraged me to take Honors classes at LSU. I found them extremely valuable because of — and really, two things stand out in my mind — they were very small classes, and that they were seminar-style classes. I got to know my fellow students and my professors very well. They were also extremely rigorous academically. I remember having to work very, very hard at writing, in particular. I got a lot of critical feedback from professors in the Honors courses, and to this day I remember that feedback being very rigorous and really helping me learn to be a better writer and a critical thinker.

Q: What are your hopes for current and future Honors students based on your experience there?
A: The first thing I would say is that I had a wonderful experience in the Honors College, and I hope current and future students have a similar experience. The thing that I remember most vividly about my professors in the Honors College is that they pushed me to think critically about anything we were dealing with — whether it was a book, or a poem or whatever else, they pushed me to think critically and to try to express myself as clearly as I could. That was extremely valuable. Entering college, I thought I was a good writer, but I felt like I made huge strides early on in my career at LSU because of the Honors College, and it has helped me be a much better lawyer than I would have been otherwise. That ability to clearly express yourself — it's something that people get to law school and they think that they know how to write and express themselves, but they don't really, and it's because they haven't been pushed to do it. The Honors College at LSU gave me a head start on that for which I am very, very grateful.
Anita Warner, a member of the Ogden Honors College Advisory Council, received her Bachelor's, Master's, and Juris Doctorate from LSU. In an effort to give back to the University that gave her so much, Anita funded an endowed Honors scholarship through her estate planning.

If you are interested in including LSU in your estate, or would like to know how you can make a difference today, please contact Miles Garrett at mgarrett@lsu.edu or 225-578-6868.