



HONORS COLLEGE

The University of Texas at Arlington

August 15, 2011

To our new colleagues:

On behalf of the staff of the Honors College, I write to welcome you to the University of Texas at Arlington.

Enclosed in these orientation materials is a flyer briefly describing UT Arlington's Honors College, an academic unit that works closely with the other schools and colleges to provide a challenging academic experience for high-achieving undergraduates. Although most of our students are self-selecting, many apply for admission because a professor has suggested to them that they would find membership intellectually worthwhile. I encourage you to be on the lookout for such students and to refer them to our advisors. Aside from the enhanced learning experience that the Honors College provides (including the opportunity to do original research for their senior project), the Honors designation on their diplomas can work to their advantage when applying to graduate school or entering the workforce.

While the College offers a number of courses each semester that are designated exclusively for Honors students, most of our 600 students accumulate their 21 hours of Honors coursework in regularly scheduled courses by contract with a tenured or tenure-track professor or full-time lecturer (typically this entails an extra assignment or assignments negotiated at the beginning of the semester that will justify the value-added requirement). If a student asks that you contract a course with him or her, I hope you will be receptive to the request.

In the senior year an Honors student works closely with a faculty mentor in his or her major on a substantial project (the equivalent of one 3-hour course) that is the capstone of the Honors experience. This is typically a thesis, but there are other options (e.g., internship, community service learning project, study abroad for at least one semester). Here again, you will be doing our students an important service if you work with them on this valuable endeavor—and you yourself are likely to find the experience very rewarding.

For further information please visit www.uta.edu/honors/. Better yet, come visit us in College Hall so that the staff and I can welcome you to the university in person. In the meantime, please accept my very best wishes for every success in your first year at UT Arlington.

Sincerely yours,

Karl M. Petruso
Dean and Professor of Anthropology