

Houston Futures

Preparing Foresight Professionals



SUMMER 2012

Faculty Head Dr. Peter Bishop Making Teaching About The Future A Top Priority

The past few months have seen the many actions and futures thinking endeavors of faculty head of the Houston Futures program Dr. Peter Bishop finally growing fruit as his dream to make learning about futures studies just as much important as learning about history has gone on the road.

Dr. Bishop provided training in foresight or futures studies to teachers from all over the world in Washington DC, June 25-27. The session involved 20 teachers who taught at independent schools in 13 different countries supported by the Office of Overseas Schools at the US Department of State. This training is part of his overall initiative to introduce futures thinking into all schools high and University of Houston program.



Dr. Bishop also has offered training sessions for teachers of the gifted and talented this summer in the Houston, Fort Bend and Clear Creek education districts with teachers from Houston, Katy, and Pearland school districts. He also helped the Mendoza School, the undergraduate business school at Notre Dame University, to introduce a required course in futures studies.

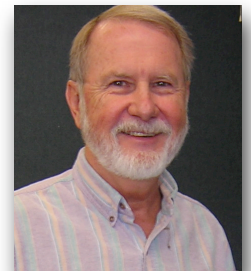
Former Faculty & Houston Futures Board Member Dr. Oliver Markley Receives Prestigious Futures Studies Award

The Journal of Futures Studies has awarded Houston Futures board member and former faculty [Dr. Oliver Markley](#) their inaugural Jan Lee Martin prize of 2011 for his essay titled "[Research and Action toward the Upside of Down](#)"

The award was established by the late futurist Jan Lee Martin, reflecting her desire for futures studies to more effectively communicate futures theories, methods and approaches.

Oliver Markley is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the graduate program in Studies of the Future at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) before its move to the main campus at the University of Houston. Before UHCL, he was a principal investigator and consultant with the Management and Social Systems Group at the Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International), where, among other research studies, he led the pioneering

"Societal Consequences of Changing Images of Man" project with Willis Harman, the mythologist Joseph Campbell, Duane Elgin and others.



Dr. Markley is a past President of the Central Texas Chapter of the World Future Society, and a fellow of the World Futures Studies Federation as well as the author of numerous books on futures studies including *Changing Images of Man*.

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
FUTURES
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No one can predict what will happen tomorrow, but the Futures Program at the University of Houston (UH) provides students with the tools to imagine possibilities. UH students are trained to anticipate significant changes and to develop the skills necessary to influence those changes.

Our trained futurists help organizations address these concerns by focusing on forecasting and planning for discontinuous and transformational change; by analyzing rapid alterations in external environments; and by applying futures thinking to increase the chances of achieving preferred futures.

Houston Futures Students & Recent Graduates Finding Luck In The Job Market With Promising Futures Careers

The Spring and Summer of 2012 has been an exciting time of transition for some of Houston Futures' current students and recent graduates as many have found great opportunities to use their futures studies skills learned at UH in the workforce.

Some students have gone directly into futures and futures-type work such as recent 2012 graduate and former graduate assistant to the program [Emily Empel](#) who turned a recent internship at the Walt Disney Company into a full fledged working futurist/analyst position in the Future Workforce Insights area where she will be helping in the company's pursuits of

trend analysis, horizon scanning, and scenario immersion into the near future.

Following a dynamic presentation at the 2011 World Futures Society conference on the future of alternative currency current student [Heather Schlegel](#) turned her words into a job with Swift, a global leader in the financial industry. After years in the technology industry, Heather managed to fit her knowledge of film, tech, and futures into a great new career where she has given talks to global leaders on the future of money and has even produced and written multiple futures short films.

Current student [Sean Daken](#) has decided to create a whole new direction on his own by working with startup Kula Causes Inc. to become the first global currency for giving. With over a decade as an analyst and product manager at some of the top technology firms in the country, Sean has put all his recent efforts to turn Kula into a force for global good that hopes to empower both customers and businesses for philanthropic social change.

The Houston Futures family is happy to see our students making a difference in their careers and looks forward to hearing more great news.

Houston Futures Graduates New Strategic Foresight Practitioners This Past May in Houston in Class At Ballpark

[Houston Futures](#) graduated another class of would futurists with its eighth [Certificate in Strategic Foresight](#) conference in 2012 this past May in Houston.

Thirty four global strategy leaders from governments, consulting companies, marketing agencies, and other captains of industry learned the gospel of futures from Houston Futures lead faculty [Dr. Peter Bishop](#) and Executive in Residence [Andy Hines](#). The conference had a special location, staged in the confines of Minute Maid Park, home to Major League Baseball's [Houston Astros](#). The group learned the fundamentals



of futures studies from history to methodologies to scenario development and worked together to devise multiple alternative futures for everything

from the future of the Eurozone, online education, and agriculture. Congratulations to another great new group of futurists!

Houston Futures Shorts... Executive in Residence Andy Hines was featured on PBS Houston 8's [The Future of Houston](#)... Houston Futures grad Jim Lee's new book, [Resilience and the Future of Everyday Life](#) just published this past July... Graduate [Lee Shupp](#) has just accepted a position as a futurist with [The Futures Company](#) following 14 years at the marketing firm Cheskin... Houston Futures welcomes back graduate Ross Shott after 3 years at [Singularity University](#); he is now running CEO of the [Conrad Foundation](#) which is working to challenge high school students to create innovative products... The [100 Year Starship Symposium](#) Will Be Coming to Houston in September; It's a great futures exercise that brings tons of ideas and people

World Futures Society's Annual Futures Conferences Well Represented By Faculty, Alumni, Students in Toronto This July

WorldFuture 2012
Dream. Design. Develop. Deliver.

July 27-29, 2012 • Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

Preconference Courses: July 26-27, 2012 • Professional Members' Forum: July 30, 2012

Click Here For More On [WorldFuture 2012](#)

The University of Houston's Futures Studies programs always is well-represented at this year's World Future Society General Assembly. The event is being held in Toronto from July 27-29 at the Sheraton Centre with over 1,000 participants expected.

Futures Studies' faculty, alums, and Advisory Board members are leading four one-day pre-conference courses that include the following:

- Introduction to Futures Studies, **Peter Bishop**
- An Insider's Guide to Foresight Consulting: A Case-Study Approach
Andy Hines (with Riel Miller)
- Scenario Planning: How to Build and Use Scenarios, Alum **Adam Gordon**
- Wiser Futures: Using Futures Tools to Better Understand and Create the Future
Advisory Board Member **Clem Bezold**

They are also leading nine regular conference sessions, joined by current students as well:

- The Best of Houston Futures, Dr. Peter Bishop, moderator:

- o **Jason Swanson**, Student, Learning Management Systems: Machines That Think
- o **Josh Lindenger**, Student, Locative Media: The Internet Always Knows Where You Are
- o **Emily Empel**, Graduate, and **Heather Schlegel**, Student, A Systems Model of the Demographic Transition

Also featured are these exciting talks:

- Chemical Brain Preservation: How to Live "Forever," Alum **John Smart**
- The Future of Shopping: An Immersive Experience, Alum **Emily Empel** & Current Student **Heather Schlegel**
- Global Futures Collective Intelligence System Advisory Board Member **Ted Gordon (with Jerry Glenn)**
- Our Role in Shaping the Future, Alum & Former Faculty **Jennifer**

Jarratt (with John Mahaffie)

- Scouting the Future with the Implications Wheel, Advisory Board Member **Joel Barker**
- The Evolution of Integral Futures, Faculty **Terry Collins** and **Andy Hines**
- Primary Care 2025
Advisory Board Member **Clem Bezold**
- Models of Futures Education for the 21st Century
Alum **Verne Wheelright** (with others)
- Networked Government: The 21st Century Agency, Alum **John Jackson**

World Future 2012 is emphasizing interdisciplinary thinking and world-class learning opportunities throughout the entire conference this year that focuses their efforts on "do it yourself" futuring.

We are pleased to see our community well represented and look forward to a great conference!

Alternative Perspectives, Fall 2012's Brand New Futures Class, Hopes To Bring New Views For Understanding the Future

Houston Futures is pleased to be able to offer a new elective this fall called "Alternative Perspectives on the Future." It will bring together "different" concepts and methods for understanding, mapping, and influencing the future.

The class will focus some on students' personal development as a futurist, exploring values, world views, and styles and will explore two newer perspectives/methods in some depth – Causal Layered Analysis and Integral Futures – giving them fuller and more focused attention. The class will also look at some visionary thinking tools, such as Future Time Travel, Appreciative Inquiry, and Presencing. Many alum

might remember Oliver Markley's Visionary Futures class which the class will bring back some elements from that.

The course also gives us a greater opportunity to discuss the philosophical implications of studying the future. This semester will apply these tools to some "big questions" about the future, at the same time, will maintain a focus on application, looking at "newer" approaches such as Action Research (not really all that new!)

You know you have a good topic when people want to help! One of our grad students, Dennis Coffey, is

helping us build the course as part of his Master's Project this summer.

Dennis is already an accomplished scholar and university professor, who is doing the futures degree because it's interesting. He has really taken an interest in Integral/CLA/creativity and has helped our program grow into these areas.

Former grad student, Terry Collins, now an Adjunct with us at UH, has emerged as an Integral Futures scholar and is going to help teach the class this fall with Executive in Residence Andy Hines; now that's teamwork. The Houston Futures program is really excited about this great new entry to its already great courses.