

# With Honors

Volume 16, Number 2

The University of Louisville UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Spring/Summer 2003

## from the director—

Just what is the University Honors Program at U of L? This is a question with many answers.

Here we spotlight highlights of Honors. But be assured that like any complex program, there is much more to discover about Honors than a few short stories can provide.

Travel seminars are a favorite Honors-related opportunity. Honors offers underwritten international and national seminars with travel-related fieldwork. Last December students and faculty traveled to India. Travel opportunities abound at U of L with options so numerous -- some with scholarship or tuition exchange support -- that it is impossible to detail all of them.

Coursework is the centerpiece of Honors. We offer 40 to 50 Honors courses and seminars each semester. In past issues of With Honors we have highlighted a number of classes with the stories available under Honors e-Zine online at:

<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/honors/Ezine.htm>

The fall and spring Honors course listing is also located at our website.

The historic Honors House at the center of campus where most classes meet also houses a computer lab, the advisors, a scholarship and fellowship advisor, my office where students often stop by to chat, and a reading room for study, socializing and food preparation. Additional offerings include Honors orientation, Honors housing at the center of campus, the Board of Overseers Professional Mentoring Program, Honors Scholar designation, priority registration and -- truthfully I could go on and on about what we offer students in Honors -- you need to come and discover for yourself.

Dr. John Richardson, Ph.D.  
Director  
University Honors Program  
University of Louisville



Students visit an elementary boarding school for girls and meet with the principal, center, during on-site field study for the India International Honors Seminar trip.

## Culture Shock on a Delhi Street

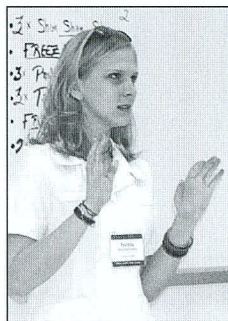
Patricia ElizaBeth Pollock '04  
Communication and Political Science majors  
Fine Arts/Photography minor

There we were, riding down a busy street in Delhi on our way to see the Rajghat, when I saw something that will stay with me for a lifetime. (The Rajghat is where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated in 1948.) We were traveling in an auto-rickshaw, a three-wheeled covered motorcycle that has a two-person bench in the back and one driver. Suddenly the smooth trip slowed like a traffic jam. I peeked my head into the front part of our carriage to see that we were stuck, at a turtle's pace, behind none other than an elephant slowly stomping his way down a four-lane street of

downtown Delhi. It was in that moment that I experienced one of the best forms of culture shock.

This is what India was like for me, something new around every corner. After studying the history of a place, you know the facts, but you don't get a real feel for what it's like to be there. The air is thicker in India with the leaf burning pollution and there is a thin layer of dirt all around. But it was beautiful and so romantic to wake up in such a different world every day. For part of our two-week trip we stayed in the palace of the former King of Dhrangadhara. Every morning, I woke up early to climb to the rooftop and watch the vultures perched in the tops of the trees. And there were peacocks running wild

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India article author Patricia ElizaBeth at the Kentucky Honors Roundtable presents one of her two papers. A student with diverse interests, she here delivers "The Shim Sham: a Swing Line Dance."

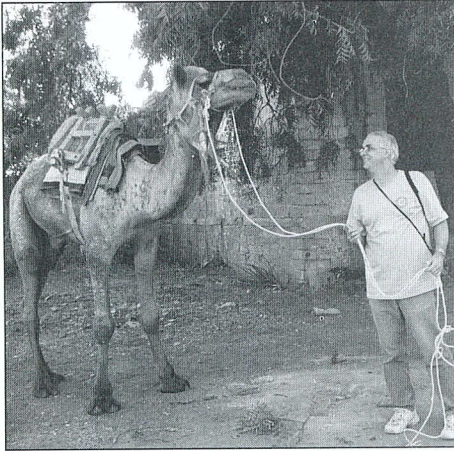
At right, henna-mehndi paint dries making henna art of the hands. Legend predicts that the longer wedding day paint lasts, the luckier the marriage.



[Photo by Patricia ElizaBeth Pollock]

## Culture Shock

from page 1



[Photo by Lynda Richardson]

all over the palace grounds, never letting me get close enough to touch them, but always hanging out long enough for me to be in awe. It was perfect, like a fairy tale. We rode carts pulled by camels into the sunset as villagers and their small children ran behind to see our strange pale faces.

One day, while in Delhi, a friend and I looked up to see a half dozen monkeys jumping from tree to tree, some of them with infants hanging on tightly to their bellies. They made their way up and down the neighborhood avoiding the heavy traffic of the streets below.



[Photo by Patricia ElizaBeth Pollock]

During the international India seminar, Honors Program director Dr. John Richardson, above left, undertook a challenge even greater than heading up the University Honors Program. The group loaded up in camel carts in Dhrangadhara at the palace.

At left, Heather Doolittle (Nursing School) with Anu pets a baby sheep at the dam in Gujrat.



Seminar group photo taken at Fatehpur Sikri Palace/Fort in Agra, India.

The seminar class was called "Royalty in Indian History," taught by Dr. John McLeod of the history department. Dr. McLeod, quite an expert on India, is skilled in speaking one of the numerous languages. In the classroom we toured ancient India, learning who came to power and how. We read about the motivations of the former kings and were educated on how these kings faced giving up their titles upon the democratization of India in the 20th century. It was so interesting to learn about people like Shah Jahan and visit some of the places that were built under his command.

We visited the Taj Mahal in all its glory and various forts and palaces built hundreds of years ago. We ate exotic foods and wore Indian clothes to get a better feel for the culture. When taking Dr. McLeod's class I had no idea how amazing it would be to see all of these things first hand. I saw a desert for the first time, the Little Raan, and got to experience an outdoor toilet with nothing but thorn bushes to shield my bare bottom from the people traveling the streets nearby.

It's hard to name the most beautiful or exotic thing that I saw while in India. I could say that it was the evening that we watched hundreds of women washing their clothes in a river. It could have been watching the sunset, from a jeep window, over the desert. I might even say that my favorite moment was when some of the young men who were with us in Gujrat to look after us captured a baby sheep and goat for us to play with. (Thank you Anu and Deepak.) But I don't really know. I do know that we wouldn't have been able to take this trip without the University Honors Program seminar class and Dr. McLeod. Thank you, once again, for making this period of my life the best so far.

*With Honors* is published by the University of Louisville's University Honors Program.

Director, John Richardson  
Editor, Ruth Spangler

Visit our website at:  
<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/honors/>

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**Expect the unexpected. Honors' third advisor, Dr. R, appears at far left with the camel.**

## Classy Advising and

# Four Years of Friendship

The University Honors Program prides itself on the quality of its academic advising. It is holistic, inviting, consistent and keeps on giving. When your advisors are also friends, e-mailing from Africa or stopping by to chat after you graduate is as normal as picking up some advice from Ann, Melissa or Dr. R at the photocopy machine while you are an undergraduate. There are plenty of formal counseling appointments, of course, but informal advising abounds.

Students self-select the counselor with whom they feel most comfortable. But as students get to know each counselor, questions tend to be directed toward the advisor closest at hand.

Dr. John Richardson, the Honors Program director, and our academic counselors, Ann Slider and Melissa Stordeur, serve as academic advisors. Dr. Patricia Condon, associate director, heads up the fellowship and scholarship office also in the Honors House.

Easy access to advising and an ongoing, four-year relationship with a counselor means that Honors students receive continuous support from freshman orientation through the senior honors project. Advising offices in the Honors House clustered near the Honors classroom and computer lab provide the instant access that only a small community setting can deliver. It is the Honors House setting and the interactive Honors events that allow advisors quality time with students.

Fittingly, the academic backgrounds of the advisors are diverse. Dr. Richardson (often referred to as Dr. R) teaches chemistry as well as directing the Honors Program. Ann Slider, with degrees in housing and environmental design as well as art history, has served

as a teaching assistant at U of L during her graduate studies. Melissa Stordeur, whose intellectual life is focused in history and sociology, has served as an academic counselor first in Arts & Sciences, then Education and now University Honors. While associate director Dr. Patricia Condon is not an official academic advisor, students often do check in with her about academic goals. Dr. Condon is a U of L graduate where she earned an M.A.; she received her Ph.D. in art history from Brown University.

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**Easy access to advising and an ongoing, four-year relationship with a counselor means that Honors students receive continuous support.**

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Honors students enrolling in one of the 40 to 50 Honors classes or seminars offered each semester must meet with an Honors counselor to obtain permission to register for a specific class. This 20 to 30 minute appointment each semester offers Ann, Melissa or Dr. R the opportunity to discuss career prospects and learning styles as well as academic interests and goals.

"We provide holistic counseling including academic, career and person-



Disha Pancholi meets with academic counselor Ann Turner Slider. Students self-select their academic counselor when they sign up for advising appointments.

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al goals" is the way Melissa describes the process. "We may talk about how they performed in the past and how they enjoy the teaching style of individual faculty members."

Ann wraps up academic counseling by asking "How are things otherwise?" Usually students then move on to discuss other aspects of college life. The conversation may turn to how work schedules and class schedules are integrating, National Student Exchange or study abroad programs or even the challenges of getting children to day care each morning.

Dr. R, Ann and Melissa offer advice about research opportunities, double majors and minors, graduate and professional schools, internships, and other work experiences and skills related to particular professions. Another part of the extended formal and informal counseling experience are discussions about community service, extracurricular activities, leadership roles and stress management.

The third academic advisor, Dr. John Richardson, is the Honors Program director. A popular and busy teacher whose classes and advising schedule fill quickly, Dr. R has recently led the Honors Program through many creative changes. Asked what is unique about Honors advising, he promptly responded "We are able to provide personalized advising to students in a wide variety of majors and disciplines." Richardson is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada, with Bachelor of Science (Honors) and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry.



Honors academic counselors not only advise students on classes, they also plan and participate in activities. Here Melissa Stordeur, at right, helps make valentines during a February chocolate fondue, Valentine's Day event. During the day students made over 150 valentines that were later delivered to a nearby nursing home.

Honors Program advising is supplemental to departmental or school advising. The continuous quality of advising from Honors that guides students from freshman through senior year adds an important dimension to its substance.

A student who has met regularly with an Honors advisor and has also participated in regional or national conferences with the advisor, or has traveled with them on an international or national seminar -- for example, the city of Rome or a theater seminar in New York City -- has the advantage of an advisor intimately knowledgeable about his or her interests and talents.

Besides advising and arranging activities and travel events, Melissa and Ann are responsible for a host of University Honors Program activities.

Melissa oversees the Honors Scholars program as well as the senior

honors projects. She provides support and direction to Honors students who are also advised by faculty mentors from the student's major department. The Honors Scholars Program, established three years ago, currently enrolls about 200 Honors students. Successful Honors Scholars will complete at least 24 credits of Honors course work by graduation as well as maintain a cumulative 3.5 GPA. Upon graduation, "University Honors Scholar" is noted on the student's transcript and diploma.

The highly regarded Overseers Professional Mentoring Program is guided by Ann. During the 2002--2003 academic year, a record 84 students participated in this carefully constructed program offered to juniors with a GPA of 3.5 and above. A comprehensive story about this program is available at our website at:

<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/honors/Ezine.htm>

Fun is the other dimension of our academic advisors' work life. Melissa and Ann -- with student help and ideas -- organize parties, projects and social activities -- the notable all-night Halloween party, Valentine's Day chocolate fondue feast and finals study bash illustrate the type.

But frankly, be forewarned.


Ann, whose aspect seems fairly quiet and serious, has a wicked, deadpan humor that can momentarily draw you in, then in a twinkling you both will be in torrents of laughter.

Melissa seems to have been born under a creative star -- or maybe creative galaxy would be more correct -- with ideas whirling about the center. When you come to talk with Melissa, come ready to imagine and create.

University Honors Program


UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE  
*dare to be great*

Advising




"The Honors advisors lead me to explore options for a future career and offer their kindness always."  
Jennifer Hughes  
December '03  
Biology

Seminars



"As soon as we got off the plane I knew that nothing I had ever learned in any book or course lecture could have ever taught me the unique experience of African culture."  
Angela Orend-Cunningham  
Kenya Seminar  
Sociology '02

Community



"The Honors Program has brought me in contact with some very good friends, teachers, and of course the great advisors."  
Disha Pancholi  
Biology and Poly Sci '04  
Honors Volunteer Program  
Coordinator

Getting Acquainted

Q & A

Honors Courses

Newsletters

Honors e-Zine

OSDP

Competitive

Scholarships and

Fellowships

Senior Honors Project

Contact

## Visit Us!

<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/honors/index.htm>

See our 2003-2004 course listing, the Honors biweekly, online newsletter *The Current* as well as the Q&A page. Also look for *With Honors e-Zine* filled with articles about Honors including the Overseers Professional Mentoring Program, learning communities, new facilities for Honors, our scholarships and fellowships advisor and a great deal more.

2002-2003

# University Honors Thrives

## Honors Campus Culture

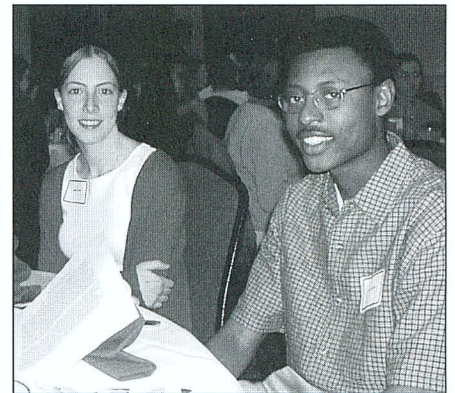
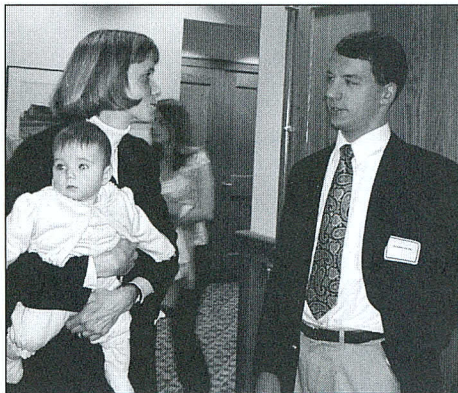
During the weekend leading up to the fall semester, Honors freshmen engage in a campus culture class introducing Honors students to each other, Honors, the campus and Louisville. Here Yindong Yu (Engineering) from Shanghai, China, enjoys the company of former Louisville mayor Charles Farnsley. In spring 2002, Yu won third grand award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) as well as four first place awards for his project "Computer Recognition of Emotion in Speech." ISEF is the world's largest pre-college science competition.



[Photo by Patricia ElizaBeth Pollock]

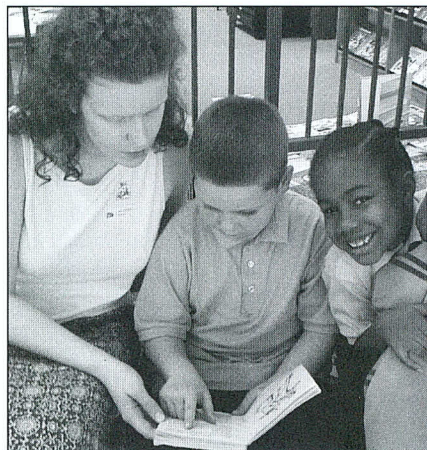
## Honors Scholars Banquet

Honors Scholars meet each semester at the University Club to hear presentations for the upcoming Honors seminars. Dr. Julie Bunk, near right, with her daughter Arabella, talks with Nick Kuchle (Chemistry) of Fort Thomas, Ky. Dr. Bunk, one of the Honors Faculty Fellows, will co-teach "The Land of the Rising Sun: Traditional Japan in the 21st Century" during the spring 2004 semester. At far right, freshmen Candace Flint (Biology) and Yetu Yachim (Engineering) chat before the Honors Scholars Banquet.



## Honors Volunteer Program (HVP)

Honors students volunteer for many projects during the year. Among the most popular activities are elementary school tutoring and the World's Largest Halloween Party at the Louisville Zoo. At near right, Stephanie Baker (Engineering) reads with students at Breckinridge-Field Elementary.



[Photo by Patricia ElizaBeth Pollock]

## Overseers Professional Mentoring Program

Far right, significant senior year scholarships are awarded to participating juniors based on mentor nominations. Mentee participants for 2002-2003 listen carefully to scholarship recipients from 2001-2002 as they talk about the benefits and activities of their mentee experience.



## Research and Honors Conference Papers

U of L undergraduate research resources take many forms. Here Natalie Kenner (Biology, Spanish) from Union, Ky, delivers a paper on "The Day of the Dead" at the Kentucky Honors Roundtable conference in February at Morehead State University. The Southern Regional conference held in April and the national conference in Salt Lake City last November accepted U of L Honors papers and posters. In April university-wide undergraduate research presentations showcase student work. Undergraduate and Honors funding resources help support student research. In addition, summer research opportunities (SROP) sponsored by U of L's graduate school provide undergraduate students with focused summer research experience.



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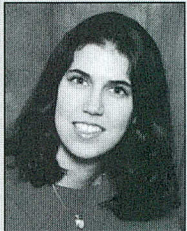
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## Winning Ways, U of L Honors Students Score

As the spring progressed, U of L University Honors Program competitors for major scholarship and fellowship programs began to receive word of their successes.

### Truman Scholar



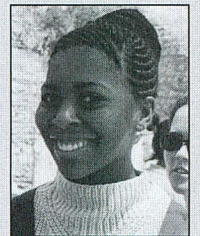
**Elizabeth Sawyer**

**Truman Scholar** Elizabeth Sawyer of Louisville competed with 238 other finalists to win one of 76 scholarships. The merit-based Truman Scholarship is a \$30,000 grant awarded to undergraduate students to attend graduate or professional school in preparation for a career in public service.

**Three Fulbright Teaching Assistantships** have been awarded to graduating seniors. SaMee Burrage of Paducah and Seabrook Jones of Louisville will be going to South Korea to teach conversational English to secondary school students. Chris Kenner of Union, Ky, will be teaching the English language and American studies to high school students in Germany. Each of the Fulbright scholars will also engage in individual research.

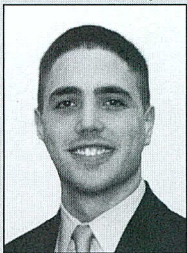
**English-Speaking Union Scholarships (ESU)** Summer 2003 scholarship competition winners have been announced, with U of L candidates Emil Jeffers of Louisville and Jennifer Hughes of Bowling Green, Ky, as finalists and Tessa Townsend of Morningview, Ky, as an alternate.

### Fulbright Awards South Korea



**SaMee Burrage**

### Fulbright Award Germany



**Chris Kenner**

### English-Speaking Union Scholarships



**Emil Jeffers**



**Jennifer Hughes**



**Tessa Townsend**



**Seabrook Jones**