

# With Honors

Volume 18, Number 2

The University of Louisville UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Summer 2005

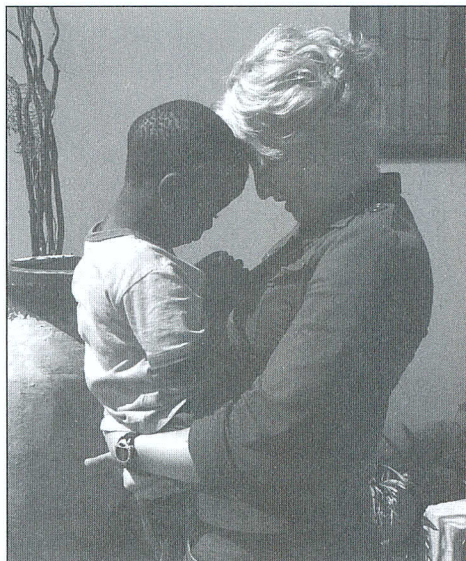


Members of the Overseers International Seminar "Shaping Identity: Lessons from Post-Apartheid South Africa," taught by Professor Joy Carew, visited the Drum Cafe in Capetown during the subsidized fieldwork segment of the course. Students are, from left, Melissa Grieshaber (elementary education), Kelly Schaller (history, humanities, German minor), and the story author, Chris Cunningham (political science, sociology); in back is Ruthie Schmelz (biology).

## Winds of Change in South Africa

By Chris Cunningham  
Political science, sociology

As I peered over the ledge of the old lighthouse sitting on Cape Point to observe the treacherous Atlantic waters below, I was met by the same ferocious winds that for centuries made the Cape of Good Hope impenetrable. The gusts knocked me back, and I was forced away and turned around. Cloaked by the fog and clouds of the Cape before me lay the dream and beauty of South Africa. The hooded view of the Cape's rocky range invoked this nation's struggle to realize its own dreams now that apartheid has been dismantled. I found this theme often illustrated when my classmates and I visited South Africa as part of Professor Joy Carew's "Shaping Identity: Lessons from Post-Apartheid South Africa" Honors *continued on page 3*

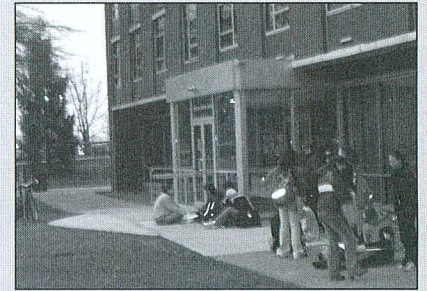


Katherine Valentine (fine arts, religious studies minor) and the other members of the South Africa seminar visited an orphanage in the township of Khayelitsha.

### Our Numbers Up

## Banner Year For Honors

Most folks know that U of L basketball is on a roll, but Cardinal academics are grabbing attention too. The Honors score board shows the number of Honors students up, ACT numbers up and national fellowship and scholarship numbers also on the rise.



It's just after 7 a.m. with campus lighting still glowing in the background when eager Honors students line up at the door of the new Etsorn Honors Center to sign in for advising appointments.

Honors Program participation is up by 500 since 2001, to 1,200 students. Honors-eligible applicants have more than doubled to 1,050 this spring. Honors facility space doubled in the fall of 2004. The freshmen class ACT scores shot up to 23.5, a rise directly linked to the large numbers of incoming Honors students. Honors Fulbright Scholar numbers have been rising with three Fulbrights in spring 2003 and five in 2004. Increased choices in Honors classes and seminars have brought class offerings to more than 100 each year.

Citations reflecting undergraduate academic excellence are also up. Nationwide, the *Wall Street Journal* rated U of L as among the top "feeder" institutions to America's most elite graduate schools, and the

*continued on page 5*

## National Fellows and Scholars



**Ashley Gray**  
Pickering Fellow  
Foreign Affairs Program



**Shannon Jefferies**  
Research Fulbright  
United Kingdom



**Jamie Izlar**  
Research Fulbright  
Dominican Republic



**Jeanelle Sears**  
Research Fulbright  
Egypt



**Jennifer Ward**  
Boren Scholar  
Brazil



**Lindsay Zoeller**  
Boren Scholar  
Jordan

**THOMAS R. PICKERING**  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOW  
Ashley Gray

### FULBRIGHT AWARDS

**Jamie Izlar**  
Research Fulbright, Dominican Republic

**Shannon Jefferies**  
Research Fulbright, United Kingdom

**Jeanelle Sears**  
Research Fulbright, Egypt

**Casey Rickard**  
Fulbright Teaching Assistant  
Alternate, Taiwan

### DAVID L. BOREN SCHOLARSHIP

**Jennifer Ward**  
Boren Scholar, Brazil

**Lindsay Zoeller**  
Boren Scholar, Jordan

**Kimberly Powers**  
Boren Alternate, Ukraine

### JET SCHOLARS (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program)

Erik Glowark  
Sarah Rose

### English-Speaking Union Scholar

Kelly Schaller, United Kingdom

### FINALISTS

#### Gates Cambridge Finalist

Brandon Kellie

#### Truman Finalist

Bill Brammell Jr.

### HONORS ALUMNI NEWS

#### Boren Graduate Scholarship

SaMee Burrage, South Korea

#### The Paul and Daisy Soros

#### Fellowship for New Americans

Nirav Shah

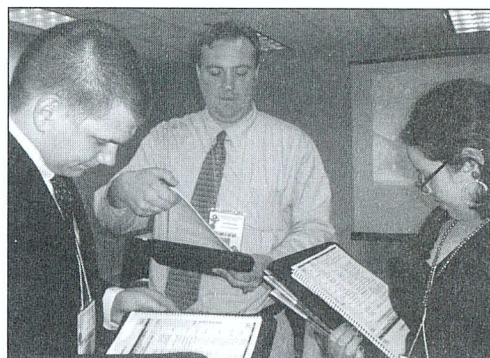
## Honors Conferences, Research

Opportunities to engage in research and in Honors conferences abound at U of L. Twice a year students sign up to participate in the Kentucky Honors Roundtable (KHR) hosted by Kentucky universities across the state. The conference allows students to present papers and projects on any topic. All Honors students, from those who are beginning presenters to those completing Senior Honors Projects, are welcome to participate.

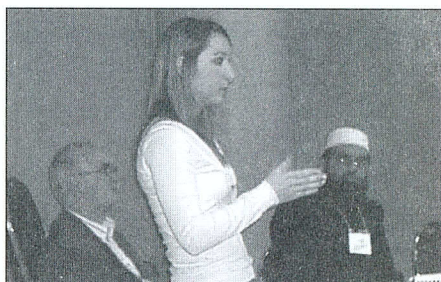
Many of those who present at KHR also travel to the Southern Regional Honors Conference (SRHC) in the spring, which is held at various sites throughout the South. In addition, the National Honors Conference is open to Honors student conference participants. The Honors Program covers all fees and travel costs associated with Honors conference participation.

In midwinter, U of L students travel to Frankfort to present Posters-at-the-Capitol for state legislators. In April, a University-Wide Undergraduate Research symposium offers the opportunity to present and celebrate undergraduate research.

Summer Research Opportunities (SROP) for undergraduate students offer summer research support stipends, mentors, housing and presentation events to provide undergraduates the chance to explore research interests.



Andrew Grubb, academic advisor Luke Buckman and Clare Gervasi Kalb look through programs at the Southern Regional Honors Conference in Baton Rouge, La., March 31 through April 2.



Dr. John Richardson, Honors Program director, and Ali Mian listen as Jennifer Squires presents at KHR.



KHR, hosted by U of L in February, offered presenters six friendly venues as well as interested listeners in the Honors facilities classrooms and Student Activities Center (SAC) conference rooms.

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## Winds of Change in South Africa

*continued from page 1*

Seminar. An exciting and spirited future lies behind the haze that might otherwise obscure the potential of South Africa.

Up the coast from Cape Point and only miles away from Cape Town's luxurious waterfront quarters, we visited the township of Khayelitsha, where housing built from aluminum siding and automobile doorframes provides warm homes to affable residents. Down the street, in an orphanage where more than forty children and infants overcrowd into two residences not big enough to house one family, the toddlers joyously ran around us in a dusty backyard, while a two-year-old child flipped one student's sunglasses on and off.

In Soweto, a township outside Johannesburg and the most populated black urban residential area in the country, the attitude of the community is similarly optimistic. The people we met were genuinely excited to now have electricity, while neighborhoods are so tightly united that crime is minimal and Africans young and old alike crowd the streets to talk about their days. As we drove by, one student remarked that she had never seen so many people in front of their houses, "just shooting the breeze."

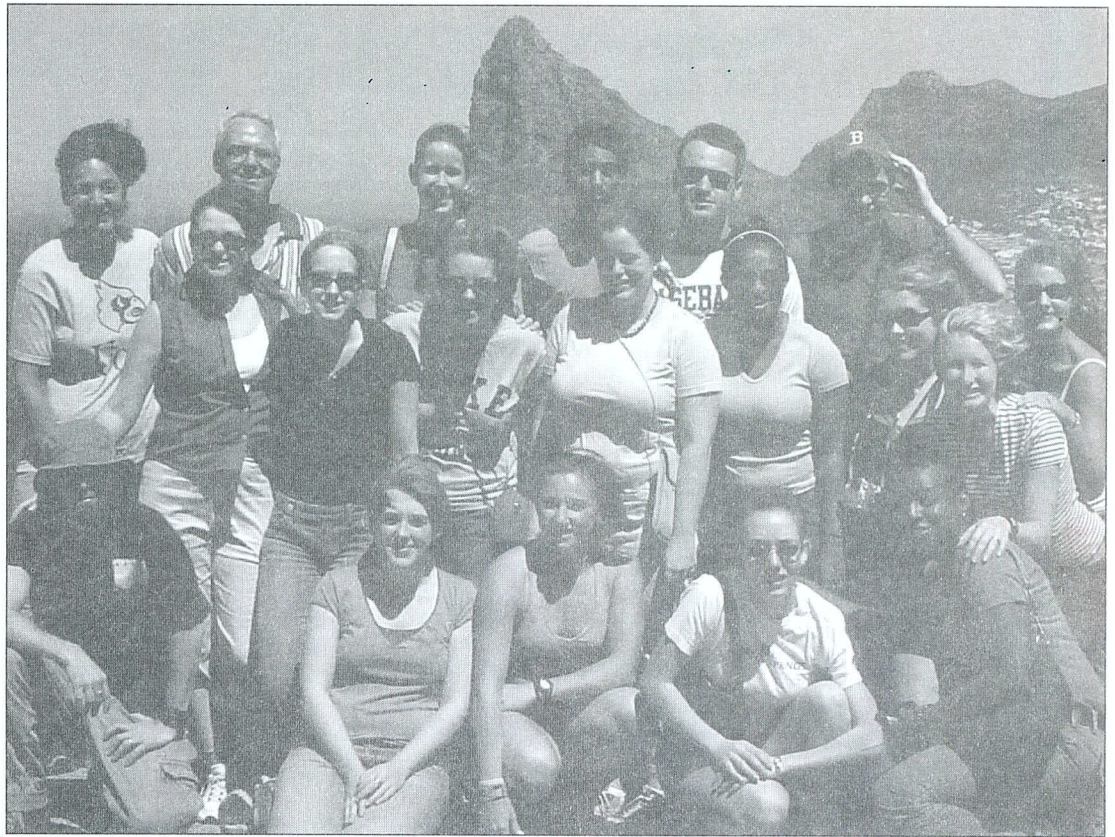
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*If you want to do something in life  
that is right and compassionate and good,  
then get over here quickly and  
help us out with this thing!*

Professor Brian O'Connell, Vice Chancellor, University of Western Cape

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While in Soweto, we visited a humble but extraordinary little house in the Orlando West neighborhood. The home where Nelson Mandela raised his children before he was imprisoned for twenty-seven years is no larger than an American living room, making it all the more remarkable that in such a small house lived such a large man. I walked into the family quarters, and found a framed Mandela proclamation vowing never to give up in the struggle against apartheid. A week later, I stood in front of Mandela's next home, cell number five in Robben Island Prison. The room



Seminar members, faculty and staff pictured in front of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

was hardly large enough to lie down in, the walls empty and barren. But far from representing the horrific delineations of apartheid, the lonely cell embodied the dream of what South Africa could be.

"Hope, without an object, cannot live," Professor Brian O'Connell implored with a thick British accent and a smile. "South Africa must be that object." Professor O'Connell, vice chancellor of the University of the Western Cape and a former leading voice against apartheid, spent a few hours with us discussing the new challenges that face South Africa today. In particular he warned of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has swept across Sub-Saharan Africa and has infected over five million South African citizens, more people than in any other country. Professor O'Connell is leading several university campaigns to raise awareness of the disease, and has turned to university students and faculty to lead the fight against this deadly challenge, including us. "If you want to do something in life that is right and compassionate and good, then get over here quickly and help us out with this thing!"

We awoke the next day to the news that Nelson Mandela's son had died of AIDS. The reporting newspaper devoted nearly its entire front page to the story and a large picture of a grieving Mandela. The cover page underscored the realization that the death of Mandela's son was not his tragedy alone, but a tale of heartbreak for all of South Africa. Just as in previous struggles, Mandela called for his compatriots to confront this newest enemy. I brought that newspaper back with me, along with a few rocks from Robben Island and notes from my conversations with different African citizens. They are my proof of South Africa, the object of hope.

**Prominent Thinkers Meet with  
University Honors Students**

**A Chat with Mr. Mummy, Questions for  
the Head of the British School of Rome,  
Coffee and Cookies with  
The Titanic Discoverer**

Throughout the year the Liberal Studies Project offers Honors students the privilege of personally meeting with scholars who are among the great minds in their fields. Four of the six visitors are pictured here with Honors students including Dr. Wande Abimbola, renowned for his work in Ifá thought, Yorùbá theology and traditional culture; Dr. Robert Ballard, discoverer of the legendary *Titanic*; Dr. Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, one of England's leading classicists; and Egyptologist Dr. Bob Brier. Sean McKinney, who attended each of the spring events, briefly reports on Dr. Ballard's visit.

*People in failure avoidance are people who are into success avoidance.*

-Dr. Robert Ballard, *Titanic* discoverer

By Sean McKinney  
Anthropology

One of the world's preeminent oceanographers and famed discoverer of the legendary *Titanic*, Robert Ballard, Ph.D., came to the University of Louisville on Feb. 15, 2005. He was here as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar, a program sponsored by the Liberal Studies Project under the direction of Dr. John Hale. Dr. Ballard served as director of the Center for Marine Exploration at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute for thirty years.

During the afternoon, Dr. Ballard gave lectures to groups of students from the fields of anthropology, archaeology, geography, geology and liberal studies. A special presentation was given for students in the University Honors Program, which was held in the Honors House reading room. Dr. Ballard spoke of the quadruple major he acquired while in college, which included physics, chem-

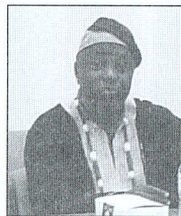


Dr. Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, director of the British School at Rome and one of England's leading classicists, visited Louisville to talk about saving the ancient city of Herculaneum. From left are Tiffany Coffey (Spanish), Cynthia Ailiff (English), Dr. Wallace-Hadrill, Sean McKinney (anthropology) and Katie Widener (English, humanities).



Dr. Robert Ballard, center, discovered the legendary *Titanic* and is one of the world's foremost oceanographers. He conversed with Honors students in the Honors House reading room. The exclusive personal visits for Honors Program students were sponsored by the Liberal Studies Project.

istry, geology and math. "So I think at your age right now, the most important thing you can do is take as many different kinds of classes as you can, to discover if you like the taste," he explained. Dr. Ballard impressed the importance of approaching any scientific field of study with a holistic viewpoint and not to be too specialized in any one thing. He mentioned that while teaching at Stanford, the head of the college told him, "The students that do best are the students [who] go to the seminars of other disciplines." He told the students that at some point in their lives they will need to, "find [their] strength and polish it."



Early in the year, the Liberal Studies Project sponsored a Lunch and Learn event for Honors students with Dr. Wande Abimbola, a native of Nigeria who is renowned for his work in Ifá thought, Yorùbá theology and traditional culture. At right above is Egyptologist Dr. Bob Brier, affectionately called "Mr. Mummy" for his well-known TV program featuring the first traditional mummification in 2,000 years. Brier chats from left with Grant Turner (political science) and Cheryl Caskey (art history, anthropology minor).

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

Director, John Richardson, Ph.D.  
Editor, Ruth Spangler

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

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# 2004-2005 Is a Banner Year

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Fulbright Association identified U of L as ranking seventh in the nation -- alongside schools such as Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Northwestern University -- in the number of students receiving Fulbright English teaching assistantships for 2004-2005.

**Honors Conference** Freshmen Allison Martin (chemistry) and Ashley Bhavalkar (marketing) presented at the Kentucky Honors Roundtable (KHR) conference hosted by the U of L Honors Program and at the Southern Regional Honors Conference in Baton Rouge, La.

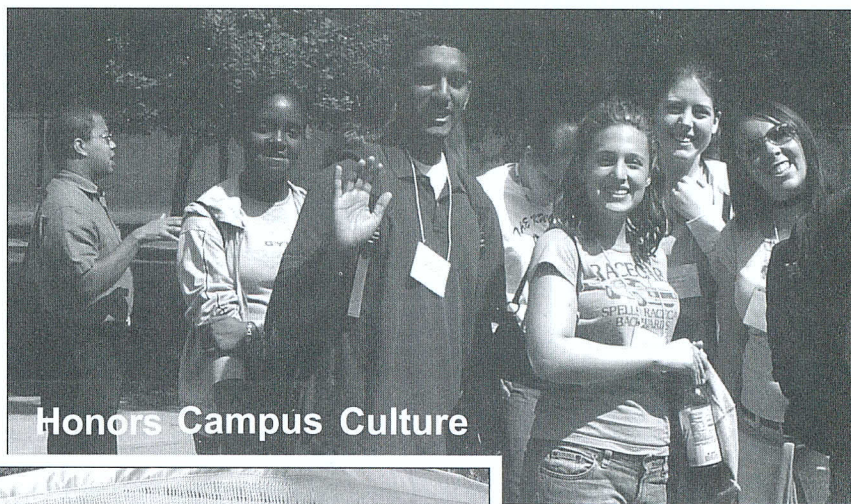
**Honors Campus Culture** During a two-day event before school starts, the Honors Program introduces participants to academic life, Louisville and each other.

**Honors Post-Seminar Holiday Dinner** Dr. Tom Byers invited seminar members to join him at the end of term for a holiday dinner at his home following his class "Postmodernism and Film." From front are Dan Nelson (English), Haley Groves (art history), Anna Byers and her father Tom Byers.

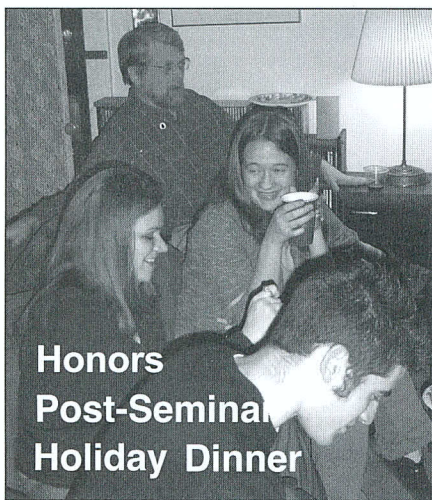
**Presidential Surrey** Honors student drivers of the presidential serry are, from left, Lane Hibbard (English) and Stefanie Bumpus (chemistry). The serry brought President Ramsey to the ice cream truck between the Honors House and the Etscorn Honors Center as it was distributing goodies on a warm day.



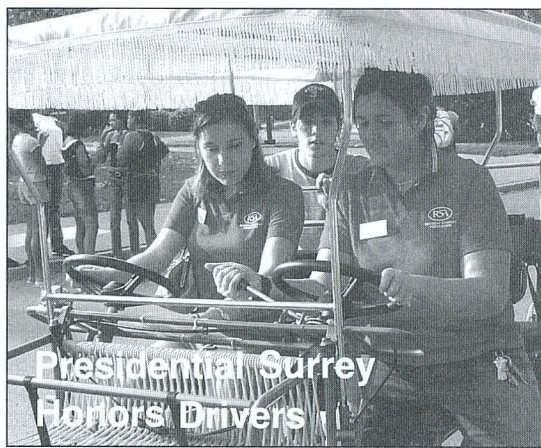
Honors Conference



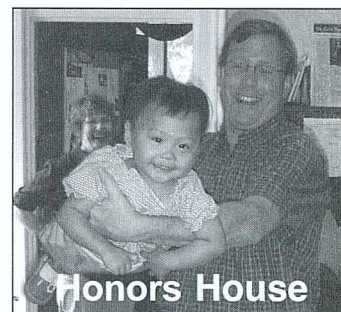
Honors Campus Culture



Honors Post-Seminar Holiday Dinner



Presidential Surrey Honors Drivers



Honors House



Honors Volunteer Program



Honors Seminar

**Honors Volunteer Program (HVP)** HVP at work at the Louisville Zoo for the World's Largest Halloween Party, from left, Nicole Hodges (biology), Kayley Larkey (French, history, religious studies minor) and Paria Majd (psychology and biology).

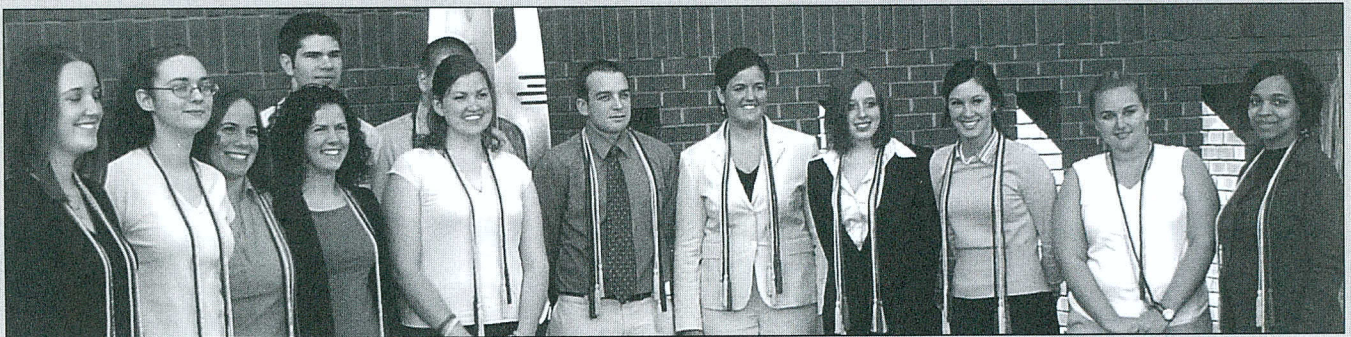
**Honors Seminar** Dr. Alan Leidner's "Fairy Tales" seminar, a WR course focused on the classic literary fairy tale, found an appropriate sunlight-dappled seminar setting for a September afternoon class.

**Honors House** Honors faculty member Dr. Michael Johmann played airplane with his brand-new daughter Molly as he introduced her to the Honors Program.

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## With Honors

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Thirteen of our 24 Honors Scholars for 2004-2005 pose for a photo following the awards ceremony held April 26 at U of L's Rauch Planetarium.

## Record Year for Honors Scholars

The Honors Scholars program, the lead academic program for the University Honors Program, graduated a record 24 Honors Scholars in 2004-2005. A student who graduates as a University Honors Scholar signs on after the first semester in which a 3.5 or higher GPA is achieved, and takes a minimum of 24 credit hours of Honors coursework. Frequently, University Honors Scholars graduate with Honors credits far beyond the required minimum. Active Honors students take one Honors Program class per year for a total of 12 credit hours.

### 2004-2005 University Honors Scholars

University Honors Program students who graduated as University Honors Scholars this year are Sarah Alford, Laura Barclay, Stefanie Bumpus, Jordan Carroll, Cheryl Caskey, Mary Furmanek, Andrew Grubb, April Halleron, Lavinia Haynes, Shannon Jefferies, Brandon Kellie, Brenessa Lindeman, Matthew Morris, Erin Mulrone, Daniel Nelson, Kelly O'Malley, Laura Page, Chelsea Patterson, Beth Payne, Elizabeth Russell, Amanda Scheldorf, Jeanelle Sears, Leah Tune and Kelly Williams.