

**ANNUAL REPORT
HONORS PROGRAM AND VISITING SCHOLARS COMMITTEE
2006-2007**

As always the Honors Colloquium was our major public offering last year. The Colloquium was coordinated by Professor Stephen Wood, Communication Studies; Professor Paul B. de Mesquita, Psychology; Professor Joseph Parillo, Music; on the topic of "Songs of Social Justice: The Rhetoric of Music." Presenters included Chuck D., Tom Paxton, Tricia Rose with AS220, Utah Phillips and Faith Petric, Buffy Sainte-Marie and many more activist musicians who discussed and performed their music, emphasizing the power of music to shape political and social experience.

The highlight of the year on the honors student side was an end-of-year day-long undergraduate research conference featuring forty-nine senior honors projects, and fifty-three seniors completing the Honors Program, all of whom were honored at the annual Spring Honors Convocation.

Honors has moved into temporary quarters in the former Roger Williams Dining Center. We hope to return to the refurbished Lippitt Hall in 2008.

The Honors Program continued to offer a wide range of stimulating Honors courses, promote scholarship opportunities, sponsor undergraduate research projects, and provide financial support for noted scholars to come to URI for special presentations to students, faculty, and the public. A brief informational report describing specific activities of the Committee for 2006-2007 follows.

A. Eligibility Standards for 2006-2007

The standards of eligibility for students to participate in Honors Program course work continue to be the same: Freshmen must have graduated in the top 10% of their high school class or present a letter of recommendation from their principal or guidance counselor. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors must have earned a 3.2 GPA. Under special circumstances, these requirements may be modified with permission of the Director. Because over two fifths of high schools no longer rank students we are looking into new ways to invite entering freshmen to participate in Honors.

A new initiative in 2006-07 was a partnership between Honors and Talent Development, in which students completing their Summer Pre-Matriculation program with a GPA of 3.2 or better are invited by the Honors Program Director to take Honors courses in their first semester. We are evaluating the results of this initiative. We are participating in an NSF grant proposal with Manbir Sodhi and Mercedes Rivero Hudec of Engineering through which the Honors course "Engineering and Everyday Life" could be taught during the Summer Talent Development Program

B. Courses and Enrollment

During the Fall, 2006 semester, the Program offered thirty Honors courses in addition to Senior Honors Projects and Administrative Internships: seventeen 100-level courses, the 200-level Colloquium, nine 300-level tutorials, and three 400-level Senior Seminars. In the Spring, 2007 semester we offered twenty-seven Honors courses in addition to Senior Honors Projects and Administrative Internships: thirteen 100-level courses, eleven 300-level tutorials, and three 400-level Senior Seminars. Student enrollment in Honors classes was 467 during the Fall, 2006 semester and 333 students during the Spring, 2007 semester. These figures are based on post-drop mid-semester rosters. For Fall, 2007, Thirty-four Honors courses in addition to Senior Projects and Administrative Internships are being offered with 585 student registered as of September.

The Honors Program office keeps a database of students who are participating in the Honors Program during their undergraduate years, which for 2006-2007 included the classes of 2006-2010. 775 registered URI undergraduates in these class years have participated in Honors courses during their undergraduate career, bringing the program above the national norm for participation involving at least one-fourth of Honors-eligible students in Honors course offerings.

We are consciously attempting to increase the disciplinary diversity of our course offerings. The colleges of Engineering and Business have significantly increased their participation in Honors and we welcomed a new Senior seminar this fall from Tom Husband of College of the Environment and Life Sciences. We plan to increase honors offerings in the professional schools while retaining the liberal arts core of the Honors program.

C. Faculty

Honors faculty are drawn from seven of the University's colleges and the Center for Non-Violence and Peace Studies. See appendix A for a list of those faculty who taught Honors courses in 2006-07. With the support of the Office of the Provost, Deans, and Chairs, twenty (20) members of the URI faculty currently hold three-year limited joint appointments between the Honors Program and their home departments. These faculty members are providing a stable core for Honors course offerings and planning. Those holding limited joint appointments with Honors are: Professor José Amador (Natural Resources Science), Professor Laura Beauvais (College of Business Administration), Professor Lynne Derbyshire (Communication Studies), Professor Alain-Philippe Durand (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor David Gitlitz (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing), Professor Frank Heppner (Biological Sciences), Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Professor Leonard Kahn (Physics), Professor Roger LeBrun, (Plant Science and Entomology), Professor James Lewis (Math), Professor Naomi Mandel (English), Professor Richard McIntyre (Economics), Professor William Lynn McKinney (Education), Professor Arthur Mead (Economics), Professor Ronald Onorato (Art), Professor Arthur Stein (Political Science), Professor Judith Swift (Communication Studies), Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science), and Professor Walter Von Reinhart (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature).

D. Honors Colloquium

In addition to financial support from the Honors Program, major sponsors in support of the Fall, 2006 Honors Colloquium were the URI President's Office, URI Office of the Provost, *The Providence Journal*, the URI Division of University Advancement, URI College of Arts & Sciences and the URI College of Business Administration. The URI College of Human Science & Services the URI Multicultural Center, URI Office of Student Affairs, and URI Women's Studies Program provided additional sponsorship.

The URI Honors Colloquium has grown into a statewide and nationally recognized forum for contemporary issues demanding scholarly attention and debate. The URI News Bureau under the leadership of Linda Acciaro, Director of Communications, has succeeded in achieving public visibility and widespread coverage for the Colloquium. I would like to especially thank Jan Wenzel who is always prompt in responding to our needs. The Colloquium also is wonderfully supported by the URI Publications Office, which produces the copy and art work for the posters, flyers, and brochures.

I thank the Fall 2006 Colloquium Coordinators, Professor Stephen Wood, Communication Studies; Professor Paul B. de Mesquita, Psychology; Professor Joseph Parillo, Music for their time

and creativity in conducting such an outstanding series of events and teaching the co-related Honors Colloquium class for 62 honors students.

The Fall 2007 Honors Colloquium, *China Rising*, kicks off on Sept.18, under the direction of Profs Tim George (History) and Yan Ma (GSIS).

The Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee has selected for the Fall, 2008 Honors Colloquium: "Global Environmental and Biological Change" to be co-coordinated by Professor Steven D'Hondt (Graduate School of Oceanography)

A call for proposals for Fall 2009 will be distributed to the campus community after mid-semester this fall.

A third alternative Honors Colloquium has been added to the Honors Program curriculum for Spring, 2008. The purpose is to offer honors students a more experiential, academically enriched learning opportunity without the need to run a large public program. A second purpose is to provide greater flexibility in programs of study for honors students who study abroad during the Fall semester. For Spring, 2008, the alternative Honors Colloquium will be directed by Professor Alain-Philippe Durand (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), and Professor Naomi Mandel (English) on the topic of "Extreme Literature." This will feature Chris Cleave, author of the novel *Incendiary*, as writer in residence.

F. Awards and Endowment

Cash awards from the Grace B. Sherrer endowment were made to six outstanding Honors Program students. Awards are based on GPA, steady progress toward completion of the Honors Program, and additional noteworthy achievements. These were announced at the sixth annual Spring Honors Convocation on May 2, 2007: David Gadon (Philosophy), Katherine Guilfoyle (Biological Sciences), Meghan Skira (Economics & Spanish), Damien Gresko (Accounting), Dan Cummings (Philosophy), Dylan Moore (Political Science & Communication Studies)

The Honors Program and the Honors Colloquium are both included in the Capital Campaign and we look forward to working with Foundation Director Glen Kerkian and his staff in this endeavor. As planning for the new Lippitt Hall reaches its final stages we will be preparing proposals to fund the planned multimedia Colloquium classroom and enhanced space for the National Scholarship Office. We would like to thank Tom Zorabedian and Dean Winnie Brownell for both their strategic and tactical help in developing new sources of funding for Honors.

G. Visiting Scholars

The HPVS Committee received requests for Visiting Scholar presentations for 2006-2007. Five awards were made, totaling \$1,950; these represented a range of departments, colleges, and disciplines. Although most of the grants are of necessity for small sums, their cultural and intellectual enhancement of the community is considerable. The Committee has provided co-sponsorship with several departments and programs. The Committee always encourages applicants to seek partial funding from other sources.

H. Senior Honors Projects

The Program sponsored forty-nine Senior Honors Projects (HPR401/402) during 2006-2007. Senior Honors Projects were presented at the sixth annual Honors Undergraduate Research Day on May 1, 2007. The student conference scheduled concurrent sessions throughout the day for humanities, social science, natural science, and professional college projects in Ballentine Hall. Each senior completing a project also contributed an abstract to a booklet of abstracts available in the Honors Center in Lippitt Hall. Presenters and titles are listed in Appendix B along with faculty sponsors. I thank Mark Higgins and the College of Business Administration for their generosity.

The Honors Director expresses sincere appreciation to these faculty sponsors who devote their time to mentoring the senior honors students. Their contribution is more remarkable in that forty-three of these faculty members were not teaching an honors course in 2006-2007. Together with the forty-six honors faculty teaching HPR courses, this brings the total number of faculty participating in the Honors Program during 2006-2007 to seventy-five (75).

I. Spring Honors Convocation

The annual Spring Honors Convocation was held on May 2, 2007, with Bernard Lafayette, Jr. (Director of the Center for Non-violence and Peace Studies) as guest speaker, and included a luncheon. The Sherrer prizes were awarded (cf. section F above) and Senior Honors Projects were presented to guests in the form of a booklet of abstracts prepared by the students.

J. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee

The members of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee during the past year were: Professor Richard McIntyre (Economics), Director, Honors Program; Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science), Professor Jerome Adams (Human Development and Family Studies), Bryna Wortman (Theatre), Professor Theodore Walls (Psychology), Professor Joseph Parillo (Music), *ex officio*, Co-Coordinator of the Honors Colloquium, Julia Monaghan (undergraduate student), Christopher Barrett (undergraduate student), and Kevyn Goodrich (graduate student).

K. Honors Student and Faculty Initiatives

The Student Advisory Board was reconstituted and met in April to discuss programming ideas. We are working actively with Mark Lane, Director of Garrahy Apartments where the Honors Living, Learning Community is located, to develop programming there.

For the first time we are offering Honors Courses in Providence. Two courses are to be offered in Fall and three in Spring semester this year. Contingent upon resources we hope to expand these offerings and are considering the possibility of a Spring colloquium in Providence for Spring 2009.

A new position of Assistant Director for National Fellowships and Academic Opportunities has been created. Unfortunately, budget rescissions made it impossible for fund the position immediately. We are currently engaged in a search and hope to have the position filled in January.

L. Major Scholarships

During 2006-07, faculty committees and chairs managed major scholarships. I would like to thank them all for their time and energy.

British Scholarships (Rhodes, Marshall, Gates): Professor Gilbert Suzawa (Economics)

Fulbright and Boren Scholarships: Associate Honors Director Richard McIntyre (Economics)

Truman Scholarship: Professor Lynn Pasquerella, Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Research and Outreach (Philosophy)

Goldwater Scholarship: Professor David Heskett (Physics)

Udall Scholarship: Professor Dennis Nixon, Associate Dean, CELS

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship: Galen Johnson, Honors Director (Philosophy)

National and prestigious scholarship winners for 2006-2007 were:

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for Excellence in Science

- Elana Viola (Chemistry/Electrical Engineering major, Mathematics minor) – winner
- Rosalinda Fortier (Mathematics / Physical Oceanography) – honorable mention

Morris K. Udall Scholarship for Environmental Leadership

- Rachael Gately (Animal Science and Technology) -- winner
- Jessie Dyer (Environmental Science and management -- honorable mention

Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship

- Melissa Lake (English / German) -- winner
- Sharon Ruggieri (Mechanical Engineering / Spanish) -- winner

Presser Scholarship in Music

- Mark V. Maguire (Music) – winner

Research Experience for Undergraduates Award, National Science Foundation

- Bridget Druken (Mathematics) -- winner

National Science Foundation Graduate Scholarship:

- Meghan Skira (Economics / Spanish) -- honorable mention

Our National Scholarships director is Walter von Reinhart, Associate Professor of German. Interested students should be directed to him in Lippitt 208 (waltaire@uri.edu)

Respectfully submitted,

Richard McIntyre, Director
URI Honors Program

Appendix A Honors Teaching Faculty, 2006-07

The following faculty taught Honors Program courses during the **2006-2007** academic year:

College of Arts & Sciences: Mark August (Communication Studies), Kristine Cabral (Communication Studies), Professor Dean Clark (Mathematics), Professor Charles Collyer (Psychology), Professor Paul Bueno de Mesquita (Psychology); Professor Alain-Philippe Durand (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Victor Fay-Wolfe (Computer Science & Statistics), Crystal Fonseca (Communication Studies), Professor Frank Heppner (Biological Sciences), Professor David Heskett (Physics), Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Assistant Professor Jennifer Jones (English), Professor Leonard Kahn (Physics), Professor James Lewis (Mathematics), Professor Pat Logan (Communication Studies), Professor Arthur Mead (Economics), Associate Professor Libby Miles (College Writing), Assistant Professor Kendall Moore (Journalism), Joanne Mundorf (Communication Studies), Professor Ronald Onorato (Art), Associate Professor Joseph Parillo (Music), Assistant Professor Michael Pennell (College Writing), Professor Arthur Stein (Political Science), Professor Judith Swift (Theatre), Professor Michael Tamaro (Physics), Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science), Professor Walter Von Reinhart (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Robert Weisbord (History), Professor Stephen C. Wood (Communication Studies); Professor Thomas Zorabedian (Development); **College of Business Administration:** Professor Laura Beauvais, Assistant Professor Bing-Xuan Lin, Professor Robert Comerford, Professor Kate Jelinek, Professor Ruby Dholakia; **College of Engineering:** Professor Manbir Sodhi; **College of Human Science & Services:** Professor Gene Knott (Human Development & Family Studies), Professor George Willis (Education); **College of Nursing:** Associate Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing); **College of the Environment and Life Sciences:** Professor José Amador (Natural Resources Science), Professor Roger LeBrun (Plant Science and Entomology), Howard Ginsberg (Plant Sciences); **Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies:** Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr.; **Graduate School of Oceanography:** Professor Steven D'Hondt (Oceanography), Professor Arthur Spivack (Oceanography).

Honors Teaching Faculty, 2007-08

The following faculty have been selected to teach Honors Program courses during the **2007-2008** academic year: **College of Arts & Sciences:** Kristine Cabral (Communication Studies), Professor Charles Collyer (Psychology), Professor Alain-Philippe Durand (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Victor Fay-Wolfe (Computer Science & Statistics), Crystal Fonseca (Communication Studies), Professor Timothy George (History), Professor David Gitlitz (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Cynthia Hamilton (African & Afro-American Studies), Assistant Professor Mary Healey Jamiel (Communication Studies), Professor Frank Heppner (Biological Sciences), Professor Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Assistant Professor Jennifer Jones (English), Professor Leonard Kahn (Physics), Professor James Lewis (Mathematics), Professor Pat Logan (Communication Studies), Professor Yan Ma (Graduate School of Library & Information Studies), Assistant Professor Naomi Mandel (English), Professor Arthur Mead (Economics), Associate Professor Libby Miles (College Writing), Assistant Professor Kendall Moore (Journalism), Professor Alfred Killilea (Political Science), Professor Norbert Mundorf (Communication Studies), Professor Ronald Onorato (Art), Associate Professor Joseph Parillo (Music), Assistant Professor Michael Pennell (College Writing), David Prentiss (Philosophy), Professor Wendy Roworth (Art) Professor Emeritus Arthur Stein (Political Science), Professor Judith Swift (Theatre), Professor Michael Tamaro (Physics), Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science), Professor Walter von Reinhart (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Robert Weisbord (History), Professor Stephen C. Wood (Communication

Studies); Professor Thomas Zorabedian (Development); **College of Business Administration:** Professor Laura Beauvais, Assistant Professor Bing-Xuan Lin, Professor Robert Comerford, Professor Kate Jelinek, Professor Ruby Dholakia; **College of Engineering:** Professor Manbir Sodhi; **College of Human Science & Services:** Assistant Professor Claire Kapstein (Textiles, Fashion Merchandising & Design), Professor George Willis (Education); **College of Nursing:** Associate Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing); **College of the Environment and Life Sciences:** Professor José Amador (Natural Resources Science), Associate Professor Larry Englander (Plant Science), Professor Thomas Husband (Natural Resource Science), Professor Roger LeBrun (Plant Science and Entomology), Howard Ginsberg (Plant Sciences); **Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies:** Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr.; **Graduate School of Oceanography:** Professor Steven D'Hondt (Oceanography), Professor Arthur Spivack (Oceanography); **Charles T. Schmidt, Jr. Labor Research Center:** Professor Scott Molloy (Labor research).

Appendix B Senior Honors Projects, 2006-07

Session I: 9:30-10:45

Rm. 101 Chair: Art Mead

Brent Buxton

Sponsor: Richard McIntyre

Prioritizing Foreign Aid: Comparing the Welfare Impacts of Health and Microfinance Programs

Meghan Skira

Sponsor: Richard McIntyre

China and Latin America: A Match Made in Trade Heaven or Dependency Reloaded?

Adam Crawley

Sponsor: David Abedon

International Development Education

Rm. 102 Chair: Deborah Grossman-Garber

Valerie Kitchin

Sponsor: Sheri Wills

Lasser Voir: Experimental Film Revealing the Dichotomy of the Mind

David Vidich

Sponsor: Sheri Wills

A Narrative Study of Expression in the Medium of Film

May Peckham

Sponsor: Matthew Frankel

Toward Salvation: Italo Calvino's Wakeful Phenomenology

Rm. 113 Chair: Walter von Reinhart

Amethyst Brell

Sponsor: Charles Collyer

Beliefs of Violence-Sensitive and Violence-Tolerant People

Nicole Miga

Sponsor: Charles Collyer

Our Weakest Warriors: Child Combatants

Christopher Comer

Sponsor: Bruce Hamilton & Sheri Davis

LIVING PROOF: The Truth about Arts Education Funding

Rm. 114 Chair: Mary Healey

Amma Marfo

Sponsor: Tom Zorabedian

The Evolution and Impact of Documentary Films

Daniel Goniprow

Sponsor: Stephen Wood

Where Have All the Protest Songs Gone?

Alex Hershey

Sponsor: Paul de Mesquita

Music, the Non-Governmental Actor Changing Political Policy: Have We Failed The Power of Music?

Session II 11:00-12:15

Rm. 101 Chair: Carolyn Hames

Katherine Guilfoyle
Sponsor: Carolyn Hames

Recruitment and Retention of Childhood
Bereavement Center Facilitators

Bethany Quirk
Sponsor: Carolyn Hames

Evaluation of Children's Bereavement Groups

Kristen Gloumakoff
Sponsor: Carolyn Hames

Students Sharing Feelings of Grief: An
Elementary Curriculum on Loss

Rm. 102 Chair: John Soares

Kaitlin Lambert
Sponsor: Galen Johnson

Cross- Cultural Care: Ghana

David Gadon
Sponsor: Galen Johnson

Nietzsche's Doctrine of Eternal Return

Tighe Flatley
*Sponsors: Michael Vocino and
John Soares*

The Convenient Alliance: President Reagan and
Pope John II, Old Warriors

Rm. 114 Chair: Jackie Webb

Marla Cunningham
Sponsor: Karen Stein

The Denial and Destruction of Female
Self: A Literary Analysis

Emily Mirek & Stacey O'Donnell
Sponsor: Katherine Peterson

A Comparison of Pyronin Y-Methyl
Green Stain and Methylene Blue Stain
For Somatic Cell Count in Sheep Milk

Amy Wynia
Sponsor: Scott McWilliams

Importance of Early Successional Forest for
Wildlife in Southern New England

Rm. 113 Chair: Richard McIntyre

Nicole Morell
Sponsor: Barbara Meagher-Smith

Are Television News Programs Becoming
Nothing More Than "Infotainment?"

Jessica Rusack
Sponsor: Barbara Luebke

Communicating with Students Via
E-mail: Creating No Excuse for "There's
Nothing to Do On Campus"

Kaitlin O'Hara
*Sponsor: Albert DellaBitta
And Linda Lyons*

The Rhode Map to Success: the Exploratory
Student's Guide to Choosing an
Undergraduate Major

Lunch 12:15-1:30

Session III 1:30-2:45

Rm. 101 Chair: Judith Swift

Adam Mellion
Sponsor: Richard McIntyre

The Moral and Legal Aspects of Protecting
Human Rights: Or, How I Learned to Stop
Worrying and Love the Intervention

Victoria Goff
Sponsor: Judith Swift

Darfur: Genocide in the 21st Century

Katherine Modzelewski
Sponsor: Judith Swift

The Paper Trail: Paper Use and Disposal
at the University of Rhode Island

Richard Ryan
Sponsor: John Burkett

Crisis in the Former Soviet Union and
Eastern Europe

Rm. 102 Chair: Lars Erickson

Amber Castle
Sponsor: Alain-Philippe Durand

The Future of Pharmacy: A Comparison
of the French and American Model

Kelly McBrien
Sponsor: Alain-Philippe Durand

Globalization and the French National
Identity: Why the French are So
Reluctant to Adapt, and How This Affects
Their Business Relations with the Rest of
the World

Kristen Murphy
Sponsor: Alain-Philippe Durand

Baudelaire's Double Life: Bipolar
Disorder and Opium Dependence

Jenna D'Amico
Sponsor: John Grandin

Hao Bu Hao? A Survival Guide for
Zhejiang University

Rm. 114 Chair: Roger LeBrun

Michaela Maynard
Sponsor: Roger LeBrun

A Medical Mission: Healing Wounds, Improving
Health and Discovering Hope in Honduras

Jennifer Lalli
Sponsor: Roger LeBrun

Newport Restoration Foundation's Historic
Houses of "The Point"

Cassandra Craig
Sponsor: Joann Hammadou-Sullivan

Teaching English in the Dominican Republic

Rm. 113 Chair: Jayne Richmond

Suchismitta Datta
Sponsor: Brenton DeBoef

Synthesis of Polythiophenes using
Oxidative Coupling

Frank Palladino
Sponsor: Lubos Thoma

Some Open Questions on Modulo Classes

Danielle Duquette
Sponsor: Cheryl Wilga

Mechanics of Suction Generation During Feeding
in Little Skates

Session IV 3:00-4:15

Rm. 101 Chair: Joanna Norris

Rachel Furman
Sponsor: Robert Manteiga

The Tragedy of Death in the Pursuit of
Spiritual Immortality, and the Physician's
Response

Alexandra Arnold
Sponsor: Carolyn Hames

Rhode Island Family Court and the Best
Interests of Children

Nicole Gunderson
Sponsor: Kathleen Gorman

The South Kingstown Hunger Free Initiative

Rm. 102 Chair: Judy Van Wyk

Katuska Perez
Sponsor: Richard McIntyre

Mobilizing a Community: A Collaborative
Effort Against Gentrification in Providence

Kara Halpern
Sponsor: Larry Rothstein

Electronic Filing: Changing Our Court's
Filing System through the Internet

Christina Parente
*Sponsors: Dennis Hillard &
Bongsup Cho*

Forensics: Crime Scene Investigation
Case Closed

Rm. 114 Chair: Jody Lisberger

Megan LeBoeuf
Sponsor: Walter von Reinhart

The Power of Ridicule

Kacey Silvia
Sponsor: Barbara Pagh

Perpetuality in Print: Musing Nature in
Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*

Rm. 113 Chair: Paula McGlasson

Laura Gifford
Sponsor: David Howard

From Script to Stage: *A Costume Designer's Perspective*

Bradley Orleck
Sponsor: Al Killilea

A Pre-Apocalyptic Masterpiece

David Colannino
Sponsor: Jennifer Jones

Sparagmos