

**ANNUAL REPORT
HONORS PROGRAM AND VISITING SCHOLARS COMMITTEE
2004-2005**

The highlights of our honors year began with an outstanding Fall, 2005 Honors Colloquium coordinated by Professor William Lynn McKinney (Dean, Human Science and Services) and Professor Kathleen Gorman (Psychology; Director of the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America) on the topic of "Food and Human Rights: Hunger and Social Policy." Speakers included David Beckman, Christiane Amanpour, Ben Cohen and many more distinguished scholars or experts. We also brought to campus as the URI Foundation Distinguished Address a remarkable address by Jeffrey Toobin in April, 2005 on "Talking Law in Plain English." The highlight of the year on the honors student side was an end-of-year day-long undergraduate research conference featuring thirty-eight senior honors projects, and thirty-five seniors completing the Honors Program, all of whom were honored at the annual Spring Honors Convocation.

The URI Foundation Distinguished Address by Jeffrey Toobin was part of the day-long celebration on April 6, 2005 of the designation of the University of Rhode Island as one of three Truman Foundation Honor Institutions in the country for the year 2004. This award recognizes selected colleges and universities that have consistently nominated student winners of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship and have promoted public service through their institutional programs and missions. The day's events included an afternoon reception for the URI Truman Scholars, dinner and presentations at the house of President Carothers, the premier of a film highlighting the URI commitment to public service directed by Matthew Paquin (2004), and presentation to President Carothers of the Truman Foundation Honor Institution Award by Louis Blair, Executive Secretary of the Harry S. Truman Foundation. URI has had eleven Truman Scholar winners, all of whom were invited back to campus for the day's events. They are (those marked with an asterisk were in attendance on April 6th): Brendan T. Franzoni (2004)*; Gregory F. Hughes (2003)*; Jonathan L. DiMuro (2001)*; Daryl Finizio (1998)*; Ellise M. Mussington (1993)*; Shelley A. Costa (1992)*; Michelle A. Foley (1988); Robert B. Hackey (1985)*; Sheila L. Wahl (1983); Elizabeth M. Rolando (1982)*; Pauline A. Vaas (1980)*; Randi Frank (1977)*.

The Truman Day's events were organized by Acting Honors Director, Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science) and Associate Director and Coordinator of Scholarships, Professor Cheryl Foster (Philosophy) in collaboration with a committee of faculty and administrators. The work of Professor Alfred Killilea (Political Science) in mentoring and supporting Truman Scholarship candidates and winners from the earliest days of URI applications was given special recognition by Louis Blair and many others, and is noted with gratitude by the Honors Director, as is the work of Associate Director Cheryl Foster.

In more routine matters, the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee 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 2004-2005 follows.

A. Eligibility Standards for 2004-2005

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 QPA. Under special circumstances, these requirements may be modified with permission of the Director.

B. Courses and Enrollment

During the Fall, 2004 semester, the Program offered twenty-six Honors courses in addition to Senior Honors Projects and Administrative Internships: sixteen 100-level courses, the 200-level Colloquium, seven 300-level tutorials, and two 400-level Senior Seminars. In the Spring, 2005 semester we offered twenty-eight Honors courses in addition to Senior Honors Projects and Administrative Internships: eleven 100-level courses, twelve 300-level tutorials, and four 400-level Senior Seminars. Student enrollment in Honors classes was 394 during the Fall, 2004 semester and 380 students during the Spring, 2005 semester. These figures are based on post-drop mid-semester rosters. For Fall, 2005, twenty-two Honors courses in addition to Senior Projects and Administrative Internships will be offered totaling 550 seats.

The Honors Program office keeps a data base of students who are participating in the Honors Program during their undergraduate years, which for 2004-2005 included the classes of 2004-2008. 868 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.

C. Faculty

During the **2004-2005** academic year, the following forty-eight (48) URI faculty members taught Honors Program courses: ***College of Arts & Sciences:*** Professor Mark August (Communication Studies), Kristine Cabral (Communication Studies), Professor Dean Clark (Mathematics), Professor Charles Collyer (Psychology), Professor Nancy Cook (English), Professor Linda Davidson (Communication Studies), Professor Lynne Derbyshire (Communication Studies), Professor Victor Fay-Wolfe (Computer Science & Statistics), Professor Cheryl Foster (Philosophy), Professor Mark Genest (Political Science), Professor David Gitlitz (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Kathleen Gorman (Psychology), Professor Frank Heppner (Biological Sciences), Professor David Heskett (Physics), Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Professor Leonard Kahn (Physics), Professor Valerie Karno (English), Professor Maury Klein (History), Professor Linda Levin (Journalism), Professor James Lewis (Mathematics), Professor Lisa McClure (Communications Studies), Professor Naomi Mandel (English), Professor Richard McIntyre (Economics), Professor Arthur Mead (Economics), Professor Elizabeth Miles (English), Professor Scott Molloy (Labor Research Center), Professor Kendall Moore (Journalism), Professor Joanne Mundorf, (Communication Studies), Professor Ronald Onorato (Art), Professor Daniel Pearlman (English), 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 Daphne Wales (Communication Studies), Professor Robert Weisbord (History), Professor Thomas Zorabedian (Development); ***College of Human Science & Services:*** Professor Gene Knott (Human Development & Family Studies), Professor William Lynn McKinney (Education), Professor George Willis (Education); ***College of Nursing:*** Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing); ***College of the Environment and Life Sciences:*** Professor José Amador (Natural Resources Science), Professor Roger LeBrun (Plant Science and Entomology), Professor Howard Ginsberg (Plant Sciences); ***Center for Nonviolence and Peace***

Studies: Dr. Bernard Lafayette; **Graduate School of Oceanography:** Professor Steven D'Hondt (Oceanography), Professor Arthur Spivack (Oceanography).

The following faculty have been selected to teach Honors Program courses during the **2005-2006** academic year: **College of Arts & Sciences:** Kristine Cabral (Communication Studies), Professor Dean Clark (Mathematics), Professor Charles Collyer (Psychology), Professor Linda Davidson (Communication Studies), Professor Alain-Philippe Durand (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Victor Fay-Wolfe (Computer Science & Statistics), Professor Rae Ferguson (History), Professor Crystal Fonseca (Communication Studies), Professor David Gitlitz (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Frank Heppner (Biological Sciences), Professor David Heskett (Physics), Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Professor Julia Johnson (Professor Leonard Kahn (Physics), Professor Dean Clark (Economics), Professor John Leo (English), Professor James Lewis (Mathematics), Professor Naomi Mandel (English), Professor Richard McIntyre (Economics), Professor Arthur Mead (Economics), Professor Kendall Moore (Journalism), Professor Ronald Onorato (Art), Professor Arthur Stein (Political Science), Professor Judith Swift (Theatre), Professor Michael Tamaro (Physics), Professor Gary Thurston (History), Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science), Professor Yngve Ramstad (Economics), Professor Walter Von Reinhart (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Robert Weisbord (History), Professor Thomas Zorabedian (Development); **College of Business Administration:** Professor Laura Beauvais; **College of Human Science & Services:** Professor Gene Knott (Human Development & Family Studies), Professor George Willis (Education); **College of Nursing:** Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing); **College of the Environment and Life Sciences:** Professor José Amador (Natural Resources Science), Professor Roger LeBrun (Plant Science and Entomology), Professor Howard Ginsberg (Plant Sciences); **Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies:** Dr. Bernard Lafayette; **Graduate School of Oceanography:** Professor Steven D'Hondt (Oceanography), Professor Arthur Spivack (Oceanography).

With the support of the Office of the Provost, Deans, and Chairs, twenty-three (23) 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 Victor Fay-Wolfe (Computer Science & Statistics), Professor David Gitlitz (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing), Professor Frank Heppner (Biological Sciences), Professor Charles Hickox (Management), Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Professor Leonard Kahn (Physics), Professor Sandra Ketrow (Communication Studies), 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

As highlighted above, Professor William Lynn McKinney (Dean, Human Science and Services) and Professor Kathleen Gorman (Psychology; Director of the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America) coordinated the Fall, 2004 Honors Colloquium, on the topic of "Food and Human

Rights: Hunger and Social Policy.” The list of outstanding speakers began with an address given by David Beckmann, president, Bread for the World. Prior to becoming the president of Bread for the World in 1991, Beckmann worked for fifteen years as an economist for the World Bank, playing a prominent role in the area of poverty reduction. Among others, additional speakers in the Tuesday evening Colloquium series were Christiane Amanpour, CNN chief international correspondent; Anuradha Mittal, founder and executive director of a new policy think tank, The Oakland Institute, and previous co-director of Food First, Institute for Food and Development Policy; Janet Poppendieck, director, Center for the Study of Family Policy, Hunter College, New York and author of *Sweet Charity?: Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement.*; William Quigley, director of the Law Clinic and Gillis Long Poverty Law Center at Loyola University, New Orleans; and Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben & Jerry’s Homemade, Inc.

Honors Colloquium special events included a panel discussion, introduced by Joel P. Rawson, senior vice president and executive editor of *The Providence Journal* and moderated by columnist M. Charles Bakst, with the participation of Governor Carcieri, the Providence Chamber of Commerce, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, and The Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College School of Social Work, as well as a truly remarkable exhibit titled “Excess: Food as Metaphor and Other Strategies of Consumption,” which was curated by Judith Tolnick, director of the URI Fine Arts Center.

In addition to financial support from the Honors Program, major grants in support of the Fall, 2004 Honors Colloquium were made by the URI President’s Office, URI Office of the Provost, URI College of Arts & Sciences, URI College of Business Administration, URI College of the Environment & Life Sciences, URI college of Human Science & Services, URI Division of University Advancement, URI Multicultural Center, URI Office of Student Affairs, URI College of Pharmacy, *The Providence Journal*, Theta Chi Fraternity, Edward W. Bouclin, URI College of Nursing, URI Multicultural Center, URI Office of Student Affairs, URI Women’s Center, URI Women’s Studies Program and URI Partnership on Food, Hunger, and Nutrition.

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, and Jan Wenzel, with the support of Robert Beagle, Vice President for University Advancement, has succeeded in achieving public visibility and widespread coverage for the Colloquium. The Colloquium also is wonderfully supported by the URI Publications Office which produces the copy and art work for the posters, flyers, and brochures.

This report takes note, with deep gratitude, of the commitment of time and work made by the Fall, 2004 Colloquium Coordinators, Professor William Lynn McKinney (Dean, Human Science and Services) and Professor Kathleen Gorman (Psychology; Director of the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America).in conducting such an outstanding series of events and teaching the correlated Honors Colloquium class for 60 honors students.

The Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee has selected for the Fall, 2005 Honors Colloquium: “Contemporary Sport: Healthy Pursuit or Obsession?” to be co-coordinated by Professor Yngve Ramstad, Chair, Economics and Daniel Doyle, Founder and Executive Director, Institute for International Sport.

A new experimental alternative Honors Colloquium was added to the Honors Program curriculum in Spring, 2005. The purpose is to offer honors students a more experiential, academically enriched learning opportunity without the focus on 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, 2005, Professor Ron Onorato (Art) and Professor Nancy Cooke (Department of English) directed an Honors Colloquium titled "Memory's Site: Identity and Place in the 21st Century. The Colloquium complemented weekly readings and discussions with first-hand field work at historical sites, buildings, graveyards, and museums, guest lectures, and round table panels.

For Spring, 2006, the alternative Honors Colloquium will be directed by Professor Roger LeBrun (Plant Science and Entomology) and Professor Howard Ginsberg (Plant Sciences) on the topic of "Emerging Infectious Diseases."

E. URI Foundation Distinguished Visiting Scholar

The URI Foundation Distinguished Scholar Award is made to a scholar who has not only achieved prominence in his or her academic discipline but also has done work that has gained the attention of the educated public. The selected distinguished scholar gives the annual URI Foundation Distinguished Address each Spring semester. As highlighted above, the recipient of the 2004-2005 Award, Jeffrey Toobin, CNN legal analyst and Staff Writer, *The New Yorker* presented a well-received and very well-attended address in early April, 2005 on "Talking Law in Plain English."

F. Endowment and Awards

An additional gift was made to the Honors Program Endowment by Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Brown, in memory of Mrs. Brown's mother, Professor Grace B. Sherrer of the URI Department of English who gave the first Honors lecture at the University. Cash awards from the Sherrer endowment were made to seven outstanding Honors Program seniors. Based on the academic excellence of the 2005 senior honors class, this was the second time in the history of the Honors Program that all the awards were made to graduating seniors. Awards are based on GPA, steady progress toward completion of the Honors Program, and additional noteworthy achievements. These were announced at the fifth annual Spring Honors Convocation on May 12, 2005.

Two new endowment funds have been established for the Honors Program under the leadership of Dr. Tom Zorabedian, Senior Development Officer, supported by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Winifred Brownell. They are the Eric F. Kumpf Memorial Humanities Honors Student Endowment and the Paul I. Abell Memorial Honors Student Award.

G. Visiting Scholars

The HPVS Committee received requests totaling \$5,810 for Visiting Scholar presentations for 2004-2005. Seventeen awards were made, totaling \$4,350; 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 thirty-eight Senior Honors Projects (HPR401/402) during 2004-2005. Some of the project titles were: "The Needs of Children from the Experts Themselves," "The Obligation of Prisons to Prisoners Regarding Transsexualism, Aids, and Mental Illness,"

“Mentoring Future Engineers,” “From Bach to the Bird: Senior Music Recital Journal and Research,” “The World Turned on its Head: Student Activism in Rhode Island During the 1960s and 1970s,” “Unfettered Georgia: An Exhibition of Images of a Former Soviet Republic,” “Stalin’s Unconscious Mission: A Construction of Russian Nationalism,” “Identification of *CesA* Genes in the Marine Red Alga, *Porphyra yezoensis*,” and “Comparison of the Photosynthetic Response to Temperature between Two Intertidal Macroalgae: *Grateloupia doryphora* and *Chondrus crispus*.”

Senior Honors Projects were presented at the third annual Honors Undergraduate Research Day on May 11, 2005 organized by Associate Honors Director, Professor Richard McIntyre (Economics). The student conference scheduled concurrent sessions throughout the day for humanities, social science, natural science, and professional college projects. Each senior completing a project also contributed an abstract to a booklet of abstracts available in the Honors Center.

The following thirty-five (35) faculty served as sponsors for the Senior Honors Projects (HPR401/402) during 2004-2005: Professor Harold Bibb (Biological Sciences), Professor Donna Bickford (Women’s Studies), Professor Martin Bide (Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design), Professor Brian Cardany (Music), Professor Emily Carrington, (Biological Sciences), Professor Stan Cobb (Biological Sciences), Professor Francis Cohen (Student Life), Professor Stewart Cohen (Human Development and Family Studies), Professor Elizabeth Connors (Communicative Disorders), Professor Alain-Philippe Durand (Languages and Literature), Professor Cathy English (Nutrition and Food Sciences), Professor Ellen Flannery-Schroeder (Psychology), Professor Paul Florin (Psychology), Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing), Professor Mary Healy-Conlon (Film Studies), Professor Chet Hickox (Business Administration), Professor Valerie Karno (English), Professor Alfred Killilea (Political Science), Professor Tony Mallilo (Animal and Veterinary Sciences), Professor Tania Martuscelli (Languages), Professor Scott McWilliams (Natural Resources Science), Professor Libby Miles (College Writing Program), Professor Scott Molloy (Schmidt Labor Research Center), Professor Norbert Mundorf (Communication Studies), Professor Barbara Pagh (Art), Professor Lynn Pasquerella (Philosophy), Professor John Poggie (Sociology and Anthropology), Professor Allison Roberts (Biological Sciences), Professor Brad Seibel (Biological Sciences), Professor Evelyn Sterne (History), Professor Judith Swift (Communication Studies), Professor Ryan Trimm (English), Professor Robert C. Tyce (Ocean Engineering), Professor Stephen Wood (Communication Studies), Professor Yajiong Xue (Management Information Systems).

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 thirty of these faculty members were not teaching an honors course in 2004-2005. Together with the forty-eight honors faculty teaching HPR courses, this brings the total number of faculty participating in the Honors Program during 2004-05 to seventy-eight (78).

I. Spring Honors Convocation

The annual Spring Honors Convocation was held on May 12, 2005, with Professor Carolyn Hames (College of Nursing) as guest speaker, and included a luncheon. The Sherrer prizes were awarded (cf. section F above) and Senior Honors Projects were presented in the form of a booklet of abstracts prepared by the students. A film was premiered that was created by the honors students highlighting the work and achievements of Associate Honors Director and Coordinator of Scholarships, Professor Cheryl Foster (Philosophy), who would be leaving the Honors

Program and Office of Scholarships to return full-time to the Philosophy Department beginning in 2005-06.

J. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee

The members of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee during the past year were: Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Director, Honors Program; Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science) Acting Director, Honors Program; Professor Valerie Karno (English), Professor Michael Rice (Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science), Professor Richard McIntyre (Economics), Professor Sarina Wyant (Library), Professor Jerome Adams (Human Development and Family Studies), Professor William Lynn McKinney (Dean, Human Science and Services), *ex officio*, Co-Coordinator of the Honors Colloquium, and Professor Kathleen Gorman (Psychology; Director of the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America), *ex officio*, Co-Coordinator of the Honors Colloquium.

The Honors Director takes this opportunity to express his sincere gratitude to Professor Gerry Tyler (Political Science) for stepping in so effectively as Acting Honors Director during his sabbatical leave in Spring, 2005.

K. Honors Student Initiatives

Under the leadership of Honors Associate Director, Professor Richard McIntyre (Economics), an informal association of honors students organized “Get Off the Bus” in Spring, 2005, a panel discussion on March 1st featuring viewpoints of URI students who have recently returned from study abroad experiences. The panel provided campus outreach and leadership for honors students.

An honors student art exhibit was mounted in Lippitt Hall by honors senior, Lisa Lahr, displaying her photographs of the Republic of Georgia. These were taken during her travel and study in Georgia in summer, 2004, supported by a Metcalf Grant from the RI Foundation. A well-attended gallery talk was held on March 30th, 2005.

L. Major Scholarships

With the leadership of Professor Cheryl Foster (Philosophy, Honors Program Associate Director), the National Scholarships Office continued to make its home in the Honors Center during 2004-05 and students were mentored in applying for all the major national and British scholarships. National and prestigious scholarship winners for 2004-2005 were:

- David Viola '06, Environmental Plant Biology
Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for Excellence in Science
- Theresa Smith '07, Coastal and Marine Policy and Management
Morris K. Udall Scholarship for Environmental Leadership
- Sarah Schumann '04, Marine Affairs
Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship to Chile
- Ernest Rheume '06, History and Anthropology
Michael P. Metcalf Memorial Award (The Rhode Island Foundation) for Experiential Education

- Robert Hanson '06, Political Science
David Boren Scholarship to Russia, National Security Education Program
- Michael Abbey, Graduate Student, Marine Affairs and Community Planning
Presidential Management Intern Program
- Lisa Lahr '05, English
North American Nature Photography Association College Student Scholarship
- The University of Rhode Island
Truman Foundation Honor Institution for Excellence in Public Service

As mentioned above (section I), Dr. Foster has left the Honors Program and Office of Scholarships to return full-time to the Philosophy Department beginning in 2005-06. In response to this pending departure, the Provost requested Acting Honors Director Gerry Tyler (Political Science) to undertake during Spring, 2005 a strategic planning initiative that would 1) propose an interim arrangement for the Office of Scholarships, and 2) determine the future relationship between the Scholarships Office and the Honors Program. To that end, a series of three meetings were convened led by Professor Gene Knott (Human Development and Family Studies) who served as consultant, the last of which took place in June, 2005 with forty-seven members of faculty, staff, and administration. On this basis, a detailed report, titled "Re-Envisioning the Relationship between the Scholarship Office and the Honors Program," was submitted to the Provost for future action. Without attempting to summarize all the recommendations included in the report, in general it recommended maintaining the Honors Center as the organizational and physical location of the Office of Scholarships as well as hiring a full-time Coordinator of Fellowships and Undergraduate Research. Strategic planning for the future of the Office of Scholarships is ongoing.

During 2005-06, major scholarships will be managed by faculty committees and chairs. While recruitment of some scholarship committee chairs is ongoing, to date, the committee chairs are:

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

Fulbright and Boren Scholarships: Honors Associate 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)

Interested students should be referred to the relevant committee chair. Information regarding each of the major scholarships with a link to that scholarship's home page may be found on the Honors Program web site: http://www.uri.edu/honors_prog/scholarships.htm.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen A. Johnson, Director
Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee

