

**ANNUAL REPORT
HONORS PROGRAM AND VISITING SCHOLARS COMMITTEE
2009-2010**

The Honors Colloquium, *Demystifying INDIA*, was our major public offering last year. This series explored India through a range of topics as large and varied as the country itself. The Colloquium was coordinated by Professors Ruby Roy Dholakia, College of Business Administration; Nikhilesh Dholakia, College of Business Administration; Arun Shukla, College of Engineering with the assistance of Deborah Gardiner of the Honors program. Presenters included well-known journalists, historians, authors, and International figures from across the globe. The colloquium closed with a performance “*Celebrating India through Dance*” presented by Neena Gulati and the Triveni Ensemble and others.

Our spring Colloquium was *Classroom without Borders*. Gail Faris, Assistant Director of the Women’s Center and Student Life, taught a class on poverty and housing featuring a number of URI based experts. The students then spent spring break working on a Habitat for Humanity project in Birmingham Alabama, supervised by Gail. This experience was so successful in building community among the students that we have decided to repeat it in spring 2011.

The annual Honors Undergraduate Research Conference was held in Lippitt Hall on May 4, 2010. Forty students presented their projects on fifteen different panels. This included projects from all the undergraduate degree granting colleges, offering an impressive array of departments and programs. The titles of the projects along with the names of the faculty sponsors are available as Appendix B to this report. Associate Honors Director Carolyn Hames organized the conference with the assistance of Deborah Gardiner.

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 2009-2010 follows.

A. Eligibility Standards for 2009-2010

The standards of eligibility for students to participate in Honors Program course work were changed for both incoming and continuing students. All freshmen graduating in the top 10% of their high school class or receiving a Centennial scholarship were invited to take Honors courses. Beginning with the class of 2013, sophomores, juniors, and seniors must have earned a 3.3 GPA to remain eligible (up from 3.2). Under special circumstances, these requirements may be modified with permission of the Director.

Sophomore students with at least two honors courses and 3.3 or better GPA were offered early registration this semester. This is a pilot program designed to meet one of the criteria of a “fully developed honors program” according to the standards of the National Collegiate Honors Council. To qualify these students must meet with an Honors advisor and commit to a declaration of intent to complete the honors program. We thank Associate Provost Dean Libutti for his help with this initiative.

Many high performing students are insufficiently aware of the opportunities that exist in Honors. Last year we initiated a Faculty Honors Advising Liaison program intended to link students with faculty members in their departments/colleges who could help them integrate honors courses into their program requirements and encourage them along the way. We are grateful to these 34 faculty for making this possible, and will continue to expand this network. This year we intend to take new steps to reach 2nd semester freshmen who have performed exceptionally well and to continue

our cooperation with University College in providing information relevant to decision making for first and second year students. Associate Director Walter von Reinhart continues in his role as advisor to freshmen and sophomore honors students and is the primary Honors contact for University College and the Admission office. Walter also served estimably as Acting Honors Director while I was on sabbatical in spring semester.

B. Courses and Enrollment

During the Fall, 2009 semester, the Program offered thirty-four Honors courses in addition to Senior Honors Projects and Administrative Internships: twenty-two 100-level courses, the 200-level Colloquium, nine 300-level tutorials, and two 400-level Senior Seminars.

In the Spring, 2010 semester we offered twenty-two Honors courses in addition to Senior Honors Projects and Administrative Internships: fourteen 100-level courses, the 200-level Colloquium, three 300-level tutorials, and four 400-level Senior Seminars.

Student enrollment in Honors classes was 540 during the Fall, 2009 semester and 336 students during the Spring, 2010 semester. These figures are based on post-drop mid-semester rosters. For Fall, 2010, thirty-nine Honors courses in addition to Senior Projects and Administrative Internships are offered.

C. Faculty

The Honors faculty is drawn from seven of the University's colleges. See Appendix A for a list of those who taught Honors courses in 2009-2010.

Over the past several years we have consciously attempted to increase the disciplinary diversity of our course offerings while retaining the liberal arts core of the Honors program. We are pleased that some of the professional colleges have significantly increased their participation in Honors and look forward to working with all of the deans and department chairs to make the program more accessible to high performing students across the disciplines. We intend the Honors Program to be the premier inter-disciplinary teaching site on campus.

New courses in 2009-10 included:

- an introductory honors education course taught by Jay Fogelman,
- "The Atomic Bomb" with Frank Heppner,
- "Climate Change Through Earth History" taught by Rebecca Graham,
- "Science and Drama" led by Travis Williams,
- "Designing Sustainable Solutions for Developing Communities with Vinka Craver and Tom Boving,
- "Historical Perspectives on Women and Health" with Andrea Rusnock,
- "Power of the Word: Prisons in Arts/Arts in Prisons" led by Karen DeBruin,
- "Physics of Sports" taught by David Heskett,
- "Animals, Agriculture and Food Policy" with Michael Rice and Becky Sartini,
- "Ethnographic Writing" taught by Kim Owens, and
- "Victoria Wolff and the Novel: Ethics, Subjectivity, Truth" taught by Stephen Barber.

Several new and exciting courses, as well as old favorites, are being offered this year.

D. Honors Colloquium

In addition to financial support from the Honors Program, sponsors in support of the Fall, 2009 Honors Colloquium were:

URI Sponsors: Office of the President, Office of the Provost, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration, College of Engineering, College of Environment and Life Sciences, College of Human Science and Services, College of Pharmacy, University College, Division of University Advancement, Office of Administration and Finance, Office of Information Services, Multicultural Student Services

The URI Honors Colloquium has grown into a statewide and nationally recognized forum for contemporary issues demanding scholarly attention and debate. The URI Department of Communications and Marketing has succeeded in achieving public visibility and widespread coverage for the Colloquium. 2009-10 was the first year that the Colloquium was web-streamed live on the URI homepage. This will continue, as will archiving of most public lectures for more widespread use. The Colloquium also is wonderfully supported by the URI Publications Office, which produces the copy and art for the posters, flyers, and brochures.

I thank the Fall 2009 Colloquium Coordinators, Professors Ruby Roy Dholakia, College of Business Administration; Nikhilesh Dholakia, College of Business Administration; and Arun Shukla, College of Engineering for their time and creativity in conducting such an outstanding series of events and teaching the co-related Honors Colloquium class for 60 honors students. Deborah Gardiner managed the logistical and business aspects of the Colloquium with patience and efficiency.

The Fall 2010 Honors Colloquium, *RACE* kicked off on September 14, under the direction of Professor Lynne Derbyshire, Communication Studies; Gail Faris, Associate Director, Women's Center; Professor Rae Ferguson, History; Associate Professor Kyle Kusz, Kinesiology; Associate Professor Kendall Moore, Journalism; and Assistant Professor Ian Reyes, Communication Studies. Presenters include Majora Carter, Environmental Justice Advocate, MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, and President, Majora Carter Group; B.D. Wong, Tony Award-winning actor, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*; and Duana Fullwiley, Assistant Professor of African and American Studies and of Medical Anthropology, Harvard University, just to name a few.

For Spring, 2011, the Honors Colloquium: *Classroom without Borders*, will be directed by Gail Faris, Assistant Director, Student Life/Women's Center.

The Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee has selected for the Fall, 2011 Honors Colloquium: "Are you Ready for the Future?" to be co-coordinated by Professors Peter Cornillon, URI Graduate School of Oceanography; Jean-Yves Hervé, Computer Science and Statistics; and Judith Swift, URI Coastal Institute, Communication Studies.

A call for proposals for Fall 2012 was distributed to the campus community in October. This will be the 50th URI Honors Colloquium. We hope to work with various groups on campus to make this a truly special series.

F. Awards and Endowment

The Honors Colloquium has two endowed lectures thanks to the help of Tom Zorabedian and Dean Winnie Brownell. We hope to work closely with Foundation Director Glen Kerkian and his staff in development centered around the 50th Honors Colloquium as well as more general support for the Honors Program.

G. Visiting Scholars

Foundation funds were frozen for 2009-2010. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Alumni Association for a small grant that allowed us to continue some programming. We worked with Vice Provost Laura Beauvais to arrange contact with undergraduates for the Provost's International Distinguished Visiting Scholars.

H. Senior Honors Projects and Undergraduate Research

Senior Honors Projects were presented at the eight annual Honors Undergraduate Research Day on May 4, 2010. The student conference scheduled concurrent sessions throughout the day for humanities, social science, natural science, and professional college projects in Lippitt 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. Associate Director Carolyn Hames serves as the major advisor to students completing the Honors program and is the main organizer of the annual research conference.

I want to express sincere appreciation to these faculty sponsors who devote their time to mentoring the senior honors students. Their contribution is particularly remarkable in that twenty-five of these faculty members were not teaching an honors course in 2009-2010. Together with the forty-nine honors faculty teaching HPR courses, this brings the total number of faculty participating in the Honors Program during 2009-2010 to seventy-four (74).

We continue to assist Karen Markin of the Division of Research and Economic Development on the Undergraduate Research Awards. This program, generously funded by Vice President Peter Alfonso and Provost Donald DeHayes, provides support for undergraduate research across the University, whether students are in Honors or not. I also wish to thank Provost DeHayes for his continued commitment to supporting student research in the Honors Program.

I. Spring Honors Celebration and Awards Ceremony

The Spring Honors Celebration and Awards ceremony was held on May 4, 2010 in Lippitt Hall.

J. Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee 2009-2010

The members of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee during the past year were: Professor Richard McIntyre, Economics, Director, Honors Program; Jose Amador, Natural Resource Science; Mona Florea, University Library; Professor Gerry Tyler, Political Science; Associate Professor Professor Chet Hickox, College of Business Administration; Professor Edmund Lamagna, Computer Science and Statistics; Nik Dholakia, Coordinator of Colloquium ex officio; Joelle Harrington, undergraduate student; Vidhi Shah, undergraduate student; and Kai Chang, graduate student.

K. Honors Student and Faculty Initiatives

Kathleen Maher was hired in Summer 2009 as Assistant Director for National Fellowships and Academic Opportunities. Kathleen coordinates the work of the Health Professions Advisory Committee and serves as advisor for students applying for National Fellowships.

The Student Advisory Board met on a bi-weekly basis throughout the year and advised the Director on a number of program issues. The Board also organized two potluck dinners for students and a Burger and Bowl event for students and faculty.

L. Major Scholarships

Assistant Honors Director Kathleen Maher became National Fellowships Advisor in Summer 2009. The list of awards we prepare students for is on the honors website at www.uri.edu/hpr/Scholarships.html Interested students should be encouraged to make an appointment. Kathleen's office is 300C Lippitt Hall and email is kmaher@uri.edu

National and prestigious scholarship winners for 2009-2010 were

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Brian Bonk (Chemical Engineering)

HONORABLE MENTION

Justin Schumacher (Pharmacy)

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Margaret Frost (Political Science/Spanish)

MICHAEL P. METCALF AWARD

Megan Nepshinsky (Environmental Science/Marine Biology)

M. Pre-Health

Assistant Honors Director Kathleen Maher chairs the Health Professions Advisory Committee. She has initiated several changes that have strengthened pre-health advising. The campus chapter of the American Medical Student Association has been re-started and has attracted many members. A chapter of Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students has also been organized. We had the first ever acceptance to the Mt. Sinai Humanities and Medicine program, Mary McGunigle, the only public university student accepted into that program last year; our first ever acceptance to Mayo Medical School, Jessica Adefusika; and Jason Bowman, the only public university student accepted into Brown Medical School's early acceptance program.

All three of these students were also Honors students, underlining the very real synergy between the two programs. To further encourage pre-Med students to become involved in Honors we are offering honors sections of organic chemistry and biochemistry this year for the first time. Kathleen has developed a system of peer mentoring and group advising sessions. We hope that these new offerings will allow our pre-med students to achieve even greater success.

Along with these successes have come significant problems due to understaffing. We are actively working with faculty and staff from the College of the Environment and Life Sciences and University College, as well as the Provost, to improve not only pre-Med but all pre-Health advising at URI.

N. Honors Housing

Housing is available to upper class students on the 4th floor of the Garrahy apartments. There was significant excess demand for the 44 beds on that floor. We hope to expand Honors Housing opportunities in the near future.

Richard McIntyre, Director
URI Honors Program

Appendix A Honors Teaching Faculty, 2009-2010

The following faculty members were selected to teach Honors Program courses during the **2009-2010** academic year:

College of Arts & Sciences: Associate Professor Stephen Barber (English), Professor Charles Collyer (Psychology), Assistant Professor Karen DeBruin (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Lynn Derbyshire (Communication Studies), Professor Alain-Philippe Durand (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Victor Fay-Wolfe (Computer Science & Statistics), Assistant Professor Mary Healey Jamiel (Communication Studies & Film Studies), Professor David Heskett (Physics), Professor Galen Johnson (Philosophy), Assistant Professor Kristin Johnson (Political Science), Professor Leonard Kahn (Physics), Assistant Professor William Krieger (Philosophy), Professor Edward Lamagna (Computer Science & Statistics), Professor James Lewis (Mathematics), Assistant Professor Naomi Mandel (English), Professor Arthur Mead (Economics), Assistant Professor Kim Owens (College Writing Program), Assistant Professor Michael Pennell (College Writing Program), Professor Emeritus Arthur Stein (Political Science), Professor Judith Swift (Theatre & Communication Studies), Professor Michael Tammaro (Physics), Associate Professor Kathleen Torrens, (Communication Studies), Professor Walter von Reinhart (Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), Professor Robert Weisbord (History), Assistant Professor Travis Williams (English), Professor Thomas Zorabedian (Development).

College of Business Administration: Professor Robert Comerford, Professor Gordon Dash, Professor Ruby Dholakia, Professor Nik Dholakia, Assistant Professor Chet Hickox, Professor Kate Jelinek.

College of Engineering: Assistant Professor Vinka Craver (Civil & Environmental Engineering), Professor Arun Shukla (Mechanical Engineering), Professor George Veyera (Civil Engineering).

College of the Environment and Life Sciences: Associate Professor Thomas Boving (GEO), Associate Professor Marta Gomez-Chiarri (FAVS), Professor Frank Heppner (Biological Sciences), Professor Thomas Husband (Natural Resource Science), Professor Roger LeBrun (Plant Science and Entomology), Professor Michael Rice (FAVS), Assistant Professor Becky Sartini (FAVS).

College of Human Science & Services: Jay Fogleman, Jr. (Education), Associate Professor Kyle Kusz (Kinesiology).

College of Nursing: Associate Professor Carolyn Hames (Nursing).

Graduate School of Oceanography: Professor Steven D'Hondt (Oceanography), Assistant Professor Rebecca Robinson Graham, (Oceanography), Professor Arthur Spivack (Oceanography).

Charles T. Schmidt, Jr. Labor Research Center: Professor Scott Molloy (Labor research).

Student Life: Gail Faris, Assistant Director (Student Life/Women's Center).

Appendix B Senior Honors Projects, 2009-2010

Honors Undergraduate Research Conference, 2009-2010

May 4, 2010

Session I: 9:00-10:15

Rm. 302 D Chair: Alain-Philippe Durand

Carolyn Durand
Sponsor: Guo-ming Chen

A Comparative Study of Self-disclosure in Face-to-Face and Email Communication between Americans and Chinese

Marjorie Johnson
Sponsor: Karen DeBruin

Integration in America: French and Chinese Exchange Students at the University of Rhode Island

Rm. 401 Chair: Alison Roberts

Derek Brockmann
Sponsor: Alison Roberts

*Investigating the Relationship between the Cytoskeleton and Cell Wall in Developing Buds of *Physcomitrella patens**

Virginia Lai
Sponsor: Alison Roberts

*Heterologous Expression of *Porphyra Yezeonsis* CESA Gene in *Physcomitrella Patens**

Megan O'Brien
Sponsor: Chris Lane

Comparative Mitochondrial Genomes: Red Algal Parasites

Rm. 402 Chair: Libby Miles

Thomas Barkman
Sponsor: Stephanie Dunson

Advanced Studies in the Graphic Novel

Sarah Payne
Sponsor: Heather Johnson

Writing, Illustrating, and Publishing a Children's Book

Nevan Richard
Sponsor: Thomas Husband

A South County Almanac

Rm. 403 Chair

Andrew Karanikolis
Sponsor: Alfred Killilea

The Future of Criminal Justice in America

Dylan Lynch
Sponsor: Alfred Killilea

A Turbulent Debate In The Ocean State

Katharine McAllister
Sponsor: Alfred Killilea

Exposure

Session II: 10:30-11:45

Rm. 302 D Chair

Erin Shea

*Sponsors: Kristin Johnson
& Barbara Meagher*

*Globalization & Its Impact on Culture: A View
from the Cataban Case*

James LeShane

Sponsor: Kristin Johnson

The Future of the Rhode Island Economy

Rm. 401 Chair: David E. Fastovsky

Sarah Bolton

Sponsor: Dr. Susan Hannel

Reinterpreting Ancient Egypt through Fashion

Talene Kachigian

Sponsor: Linda Sebelia

Cooking with Tal

Jennifer Paquette

Sponsor: Jayne Pawasaukas

Ballroom Dancing Choreography

Rm. 402 Chair: Leonard Kahn

Brian Bonk

Sponsor: Angelo Lucia

*Coupling Molecular Simulation with Bulk-Phase
Thermodynamic Properties*

Kristina Camarena

Sponsor: Brad Seibel

*Citrate Synthase and the Visual Interactions
Hypothesis*

Peter Jzyk

Sponsor: Leonard Kahn

*QuikSCAT Analysis of Hurricane Force
Extratropical Cyclones in the Pacific Ocean*

Rm. 403 Chair:

Jeffrey Chiv

Sponsor: Kathrine Paquette

*Addressing a Lack of Palliative Care Resources
for ICU Patients and Families*

Daniel Martin

Sponsor: Galen Johnson

*The Post Secret Phenomenon: A Contemporary
Application of Existential Psychotherapy*

Session III: 12:00-1:15

Rm. 302 D Chair: Art Stein

Jessica Adefusika
*Art Stein
& Vanessa Quainoo*

*Understanding the Brain Drain in the African Sponsors:
Diaspora: a Focus on Nigerian Migration*

Justine Egan
Sponsor: Charles Collyer

*Are Violence-Tolerant Individuals Susceptible to
Involvement in Violent/Risky Acts?*

Rm. 401 Chair:

Kristina DiSanto
Marion Gold

*Computer Energy Use: How Does Awareness Sponsor:
Impact Behavior?*

Angela Lang
Sponsor: Andrea Paiva

Memory in the Role of Eye Witness Testimony

Armine Tahmassian
Sponsor: Lilla Samson

*Art in Our Surroundings: An Exploration in
Recycled Art*

Rm. 402 Chair: Michael A. Rice

Marisa Nixon
Sponsor: Judith Swift

*Facilitating Behavior Change of Coastal
Communities in Regards to Climatic Hazards*

Adam O'Brien
Sponsors: Judith Swift

*The Interstate Highway System and the American
Road Culture*

Kathleen Slocum
Sponsors: Regina Bell

Campaigns from the Classroom to the Boardroom

Rm. 403 Chair:

Richard Bell
Sponsor: Timothy Henry

*A Question of Restraint: Exploration in the Face of
Danger*

John Rooney
Sponsor: Bob Comerford

A Ethical Orientation of Future Business Leaders

Katherine Swick
Sponsor: Bob Comerford

*Designing a Model of an Online Business and
Writing a Business Plan*

Session IV: 1:30-2:45

Rm. 302 D Chair:

Jenna Moschetto
Sponsor: Charles Collyer

3rd Grade Bullying Assessment

Ardith Wood
Sponsor: Charles Collyer

Using Art to Teach the Methods of Nonviolence to Elementary Students

Rm. 402 Chair:

Lauren Houle
Sponsors: Alicia Curtin

Language Barriers in Healthcare

Andrea Russell
Sponsor: Kathleen Gorman

The Role of Pharmacists at the Intersection of Healthcare and Hunger Issues

Faith Adewusi
Sponsor: Kathleen Gorman

Exploring Health through the Lens of Homelessness

Rm. 403 Chair: Jeffrey Bratberg

Andrea Bakalakis
Sponsor: Gregory Paquette

Hematological Neoplasms: Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia

Jesse Butler
Sponsor: Cynthia Taylor

Generation RX: A Biocultural Analysis of Cognitive Enhancing Drugs in Academia

Maria Kluzek
Sponsor: Jeffrey Bratberg

Pharmacist Led Interventions to Increase Influenza Vaccination Rates Among Hospitalized Patients and Healthcare Workers