I hope this second annual “College Scholars Newsletter” finds you well. Your response to the first newsletter was frankly a little overwhelming. Several of you sent your own news, which we happily include in this issue. Many more of you also volunteered to serve as resources for College Scholars who relocate to your area. That is pure gold. The response to the announcement of the new Laura Bowe Memorial Scholarship was so generous that we were able to both build the principal and award a grant to a deserving scholar for this academic year. That is such a fitting tribute to such a wonderful young woman.

Another heartening example of a College Scholar’s enduring spirit is the new fund established by the Kennedy family in memory of one of our most remarkable alumni, Joe Kennedy. We say more about that below. For all your news, your willingness to help current scholars, and your continued caring about the program, you have our heartfelt thanks. As the alumni of College Scholars, you continue to make a positive difference.

In this newsletter, I want to celebrate in a very selective way the achievements of our most recent grads, to introduce you to a few of our well-traveled current scholars, to let you know how we are ensuring our future, and (last but not least!) to share with you alumni news received since the last newsletter. If you have not yet sent any news of yourself, please take inspiration from those who have.

— Chris Craig

Torchbearers and Others

We would love to tell you about each of our 2006 graduates, but space allows only three. I have chosen our two 2006 Torchbearers and our top graduate in the humanities. As an alumnus, you know that College Scholars is far richer than this small sample indicates, but these three all represent us well:

Eric Matthew Harkness, Torchbearer from Franklin, Tennessee, was a founding Baker Scholar, a founder of VAULT to ensure fair labor standards in production of UT athletic merchandise, and a founding member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Service-Learning Expansion. Eric was SGA’s Senator of the Year for 2 years, a Daily Beacon columnist, and a member of the Undergraduate Academic Council. He was a research assistant for the Center for Business and Economic Research, a North Carrick RA, and a volunteer for Alternative Spring Break. And, of course, that is not the half of it. Eric was and is a great guy who cares about those around him and wants to make their lives better. So we tolerate his love of impossibly cheesy puns and his strange enthusiasms. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa his junior year, Eric is a true policy wonk. His senior thesis, directed by Dr. Christian Vossler in economics, was a detailed plan for a system to trade CO$_2$ production credits among power plants across the whole country. Dr. Vossler expects publication within the year. Eric is now a research analyst in the state Office of the Comptroller, getting a hands-
on sense of how policy is made in state government before returning to graduate school and seeking a career in public policy. Wherever he goes, people will be richer for his presence.

Rahim Manji, Torchbearer from Oak Ridge (and Canada, and points East) was—among many other activities—a Baker Scholar, president of Mortar Board National Honor Society, president of the Honors Student Council, Ambassador Scholars senior captain, and an honors peer mentor. The summer before his senior year, Rahim was an intern in the British Parliament. In the broader community, he was and is an active member of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, a director of Youth Engaged Service, and a sometime board member of the Tennessee Coalition Against State Killing. Rahim’s senior thesis, directed by Dr. Lois Presser in sociology, evaluated the argumentative strategies of pro– and anti–death penalty advocates, and formed the basis of research that he will present this fall at a national scholarly meeting. He is currently doing master’s work in sociology at UT, after which he will pursue one of several opportunities to work on human rights abroad. Those who know Rahim will find this description of him deceptively serious. He is the most easygoing and fun-loving person of great moral authority whom you could ever hope to meet.

At our spring reception for graduating scholars, we were honored to have Dr. Bruce Bursten, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, recognize each of our seniors individually. In his remarks, Dean Bursten stressed that College Scholars is the pride of the college and one of the truly excellent programs in the university. Every scholar contributes to that reputation. Here we single out Nashvillian Paul Julian. Paul, mentored by philosophy professor John Nolt, was designated top graduate in the humanities at spring commencement. Paul’s program, titled “Philosophy and the Environment,” incorporated course work from the departments of philosophy, political science, planning, and psychology. In 2005–06, Paul studied abroad at Oxford as a Udall Scholar. On this side of the Atlantic, he took part in the UT–ORNL Summer Research Internship Program, participating in the 2004 Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy. Also in 2004, he received one of the chancellor’s undergraduate research grants to research the topic “Our Obligations to Future Generations” and write up his results. For fun, Paul has spent a lot of time backpacking and climbing, including solo-hiking 1,100 miles of the Appalachian Trail and climbing throughout the U.S. and in the U.K. and France. We hope he is having even more fun now in the cold, cold north: for his graduate work, Paul chose to accept Harvard’s offer of a full fellowship to study philosophy.
The University of Tennessee has embraced “Ready for the World,” a long-term plan to change our campus culture to increase our international and intercultural awareness. College Scholars have been on board with this idea since Alvin Nielsen and Harry Jacobson founded the program in 1973. In this last year, College Scholars have studied in Accra, Beijing, Berlin, Bonn, Buenos Aires, Calcutta, Dubai, Lima, London, Shanghai, Rio de Janeiro, and some even more exotic places; one of our number, Adrian Zalten, a German jazz pianist and multimedia design student who came to UT to study piano with Donald Brown, proudly lists his foreign study locale as Knoxville, Tennessee. From so many experiences on five continents (no College Scholar has studied in Australia or Antarctica this year), I have asked three current scholars, chosen almost at random, to say a few words about their experiences.

Madeline Bertasi

I arrived in U.S. Customs on July 12, and did not come back up for air until I had the opportunity to travel all around Argentina during my time there. I traveled more than 4,000 miles and accomplished things that I had never before dreamed of, such as hiking on top of a glacier in southern Argentina and hiking to

Madeline hopes to become a lawyer concerned with public policy issues that affect the Spanish-speaking population. Madeline volunteers with our local schools to help Hispanic children and interpret for their parents.

“Like all great travelers I have seen more than I remember and I remember more than I have seen” (Anonymous). Although I cannot take credit for these words of a traveler’s passion, I believe that I can definitely take them as one of my own personal philosophies and apply it to my recent experience as a student abroad at the Universidad Católica de Córdoba in the Republic of Argentina this past spring semester.

I was admitted to the College Scholars Program at the University of Tennessee in the fall semester of 2005. Working with my program mentor, Dr. Fitzgerald, I wanted to concentrate in nonprofit law and public policy in the Americas, with emphases in political science, philosophy, and Spanish. Today I am still on track with this plan; however, I feel that my time abroad bestowed upon me and my College Scholars program a much deeper meaning and intensity. Let me explain.

I arrived in Córdoba, Argentina on March 1, 2006, with a feeling of nervousness, dread, and excitement combined with the factor of twenty-four hours of airline travel. I was greeted at the airport by a 55-year-old Argentine lady that spoke not one word of English (with the exception of the name George Clooney), a taxicab driver, a new culture, and a new way of life. Along with that, I quickly became acquainted with a language that I previously thought I could understand, but I quickly found out differently. My new host mom excitedly took my suitcases from my hands and guided me to the cab, speaking to me very rapidly and not even noticing that all I could do was smile and nod because I could not understand a word that came from her mouth. At this point I had a decision to make—sink or swim. So I dived in and did not come back up for air until I arrived in U.S. Customs on July 12, 2006.

I lived in a house with my host mom and two girls from Finland. They arrived the same day I did and studied with me in many of the same classes at the university. All of my classes were in Spanish, and the majority of the students in those classes were nonnative speakers. My professors were brilliant in that they never uttered a word that was not Spanish and worked with us tirelessly every day to help us understand even the most seemingly basic words and cultural concepts. My life changed drastically from the moment I claimed my baggage; I had to make many changes. The most entertaining was probably becoming accustomed to public transportation, which I had never needed to use while growing up in Tennessee. Every morning I would take the public trolley downtown to go to class. This was quite a routine. I began to try to eavesdrop on people’s conversation in the trolley just to try to become accustomed to different accents and test myself to see if I could understand them. In addition to the different cultural aspects of Argentina, I also encountered other world cultures. I met students from Mexico, Chile, Brazil, England, France, Japan, Germany, Spain, Italy, Finland, and Austria. This was incredible! When we were together would always speak in Spanish; it was an irreplaceable experience to listen to so many different Spanish accents and know that everyone was so dedicated to learning a new language and culture.

I had the opportunity to travel all around Argentina during my time there. I traveled more than 4,000 miles and accomplished things that I had never before dreamed of, such as hiking on top of a glacier in southern Argentina and hiking to
the base camp for the highest point in the Andes mountains. I saw so many wonderful sights and learned so many things about a new culture and about the direction of my own life. I developed a new passion for the Spanish language and culture that directs part of my university career and that will continue for the rest of my life. The experience of so many different cultures intensified my overall passion for people and for the world, and my view of the world has grown larger. As I mentioned earlier, I saw so many things; I have more than 2,000 pictures to document them, though I may not actually remember them all. On the other hand, I remember so many other things that I did not see and do not have pictures of, but I will take them along on my life journey as a part of my soul.

Amy Butner

Amy, mentored by Professor J. P. Dessel, is a typical College Scholar. She is a young woman who loves to knit, wins dance contests, has learned German, and wants to become a professor of Egyptology. Amy pursued her academic dream last year at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

It’s a hot night and I’m drinking iced coffee with friends in a candle-lit cafe at the foot of the Acropolis in Athens. My study abroad is over and picturesque scenes like this will soon be a thing of the past. As I watch people pass in the crowded street, there is one question on my mind: What have I learned from my time in Europe?

The answer at first seems simple. I learned exactly what I came to learn. I went to Berlin last September to study Egyptology, and, despite being in Germany the year it hosted the World Cup, I managed to do just that. I learned two forms of hieroglyphs and was offered a chance to return to Berlin for my graduate studies. In short, all of my academic wishes came true. But the real lesson didn’t come in the classroom; the real lesson came unexpectedly in the streets of Berlin.

It was the night the German soccer team won the game for third place in the tournament. The street behind the Brandenburg Gate was closed to traffic and set aside for the fans. Berlin and I had been celebrating. The festivities had mostly centered on an enormous group of drummers, and when they began a slow march through the streets, the crowd followed.

Hundreds of people from all over the world, most dressed up in their country’s colors, draped in their country’s flag, danced through the streets of Berlin that night. For these few hours it didn’t matter that I was American, and it didn’t matter that I was dancing with people from Kenya, from Pakistan, from Italy. Everyone was smiling and laughing, and the sun rose to see our little world where all that really mattered was keeping rhythm with the drums.

Jaye Sarah Davidson

Jaye (at left) is a senior from Knoxville whose twin passions are documentary filmmaking and the ways in which people express their spirituality through helping the less fortunate. Among other experiences, she has both shot film about and worked with the urban poor in Bogotá and in Kolkata (formerly styled Calcutta.) Her India documentary is the core of her senior project. After graduating in May, she has applied for a Fulbright to return to Bolivia to make a documentary about the work of the Christian social-service group Amor en Acción.

“Study abroad” does not tell the story. Perhaps it would be better put as “live abroad” or even better, “build a life” abroad. When I moved to India in the spring of 2006, everything in Kolkata became my reality; passing rickshaw drivers, celebrating weddings and holidays, playing street badminton and cricket, and dealing in my own limited way with the city’s poverty. The daily life and dealings of Kolkata became part of my everyday life, and as I went along, the city became more and more my home. My host family and my neighbors became my family and my community, and as is the Indian way, I was adopted into their world. Through this adoption I began to see life through Indian eyes. I began to understand more deeply why the society is so hierarchical, why family and community are so valued, why relations with Pakistan are so fragile, and so much else. But everything I had read or heard about India did not become real until I actually went there, and after 4 months I can say I only put my foot on the path to understanding it. Maybe for the rest of my life I will try to understand India, but I will do so in an entirely different way. Studying and understanding India for me now is trying to understand a place full of people that I feel connected to and love. It is coming to terms with a second home.
Laura Bowe Scholarship

In the last newsletter, we celebrated the remarkable spirit of Laura Bowe and announced the new scholarship in her name. We were thrilled this year to acknowledge the first recipient of the Laura Bowe Memorial Scholarship. She is Tamika “Tammy” Fugh, a senior from Memphis. Her program is “Psychology of religion: Use of art and music to evoke religious experience.” Tammy is using her program to try to understand the cross-cultural use of images, music, and theatrical practices and rituals to create a religious experience. Her departmental emphases are in religious studies, psychology, and philosophy, and her faculty mentor is Dr. Gilya Schmidt, professor and head of the Department of Religious Studies. Tammy has studied abroad and collected evidence for her project in sub-Saharan Africa. Here at home, she is part of the Strange Fruit Onstage Production Company and seems to be the busiest student employee at the University Center. After she graduates in May 2007, Tammy will pursue a graduate degree in religious studies.

Joe Kennedy Memorial Fund

Martha Masengill has kindly provided this remembrance of Joe Kennedy, College Scholars, ’81. Joe was both the top graduate in his class and a Torchbearer, but he was so much more. Both for those who knew him and those of you who only meet him now, he gives the finest example of what it means to be a College Scholar.

By anyone’s measure, Joe Kennedy was a true leader. At Holston High School in Knoxville, Joe was president of the student council and valedictorian of his class. He was also an Explorer Scout in a post associated with the Knoxville Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad and a member of its mountain search-and-rescue team. With such exemplary academic and leadership credentials, Joe was awarded the prestigious Neyland Scholarship at the University of Tennessee.
David Wilks Corban, ’76, is practicing law in Houston. He wrote, in part, “I was saddened to learn of Jack Reese’s death. His signature, and Alvin Nielsen’s, still adorns certificates on my office wall. Memories of my time with such men (and their colleagues, including Sarah Blanshei and Lori Burghardt) are still treasures to me.”

Glenn Reynolds, ’82, (J.D. Yale, ’85) now Beauchamp Brogan Distinguished Professor in the UT Law School and a prolific scholar, came to visit with the current scholars. Glenn talked to us about his wildly popular political blog, instapundit.com, and about his latest book, An Army of Davids.

Kristen Cook Tyler, ’82, writes that after graduating she studied art and aging in order to work doing art in nursing homes. She received her master’s in art therapy from NYU in 1986 and last worked in an AIDS residence. She married in 1996, had a daughter, Daisy, in 1997, and welcomed a son, Hudson, to the world on December 17, 2004. She has been staying home with the kids. She does find time to do textile designs for apparel and has sold embroidery designs to Liz Claiborne, Old Navy, Talbot’s Kids, and others. She is also trying to get into licensing artwork and has sold her dad’s paintings to the Company Store and Pottery Barn. After that jam-packed summary, Kristen writes, “Boring? Sounds it, but happy with my suburban life. We are in South Orange, New Jersey, 30 minutes from New York City.” It sounds like an ideal distance and a very full life!

Tambi Brown Swiney, ’85, writes, “In May 2004 I received a Master of Divinity degree from Beeson Divinity School at Samford University. In addition to being a freelance writer and conference leader, I serve as the spiritual emphasis team coordinator for the Next Door, a transitional living and learning ministry that serves women coming out of incarceration. My husband, Paul, and I live in Nashville with our son, Chaney.

Andy Wicks, ’86, will drop by later this fall to help his future stepson get better acquainted with UT. Andy is now a professor in the Darden School (the graduate school of business) at UVa. He has been there for about 4 years after teaching at the University of Washington Business School for 10 years. He is codirector of the Olsson Center for Business Ethics and an academic advisor for the Business Roundtable Institute for Corporate Ethics (BRICE). Andy writes (perhaps too) candidly: “I have had great fun while being down here, including getting to teach executives at the former Worldcom (the ones who didn’t go to jail—that was an eye-opening experience) and traveling to China and Brazil to teach.”

Chase Bramwell, ’87, sent this welcome reply: “I recently started contracting at Procter & Gamble, where I started working after graduating from UT so long ago, implementing/upgrading part of their SAP system. I married a P&G “lifer,” whom I met in NJ/NY about 17 years ago—although it did take her another 4 years to acknowledge my existence, . . . which has probably caused her a lifetime of anguish since. Actually, I’m the trailing spouse, as she was transferred to Cincinnati about 5 years ago, sometimes working hard, sometimes hardly “working” as Mr. Mom to our 7- and 9-year-old boys. Thus, with both of us working and the kids (and 1) involved in soccer—it’s simply sleep, eat, school/work, soccer, eat, and repeat (and, of course, an occasional e-mail such as this).” I hope the e-mails will be more than occasional!

David Tumblin, ’88, responded promptly to the first newsletter, so his news is almost a year old, but it’s still well worth sharing: “I am on a 4-month developmental assignment at the National Academy of Public Administration, heading up an intergovernmental forum of elected officials from local, state, and national government on tax cooperation and collaboration. You might be interested to know that Bill Fox from UT’s business school is an important national asset on this project. After the project ends in two weeks, I’m back at the International Trade Administration as the director of the Office of Planning, which manages strategic planning, organizational assessment, policy, budget (formulation, allocation, and execution), and information technology. See what your program can get you?”

Jamie Notter, ’89, still lives in the metro D.C. area. After a master’s in conflict resolution and positions in international conflict resolution and in training on diversity issues, he started his own consulting firm 5 years ago (www.notterconsulting.com). He and four friends, aka “the Five Independent Thinkers,” have just coauthored a book, We Have Always Done It That Way: 101 Things About Associations We Must Change (www.lulu.com/content/356408). Spouse, Liz, is creating quilts full time, and they are blessed with three beautiful daughters.

Alan Gratz, ’93, has been busy. In addition to writing plays, magazine articles, and a few episodes of A&E’s City Confidential, Alan has taught catapult-building to middle-schoolers,
written more than 6,000 radio commercials, sold other people’s books, lectured at a Czech university, and traveled the galaxy as a space ranger. (One of those is not true.) *Samurai Shortstop* (Dial 2006) is his first book. He is also the author of the forthcoming *Something Rotten* (Dial 2007), a contemporary young-adult murder mystery based on *Hamlet*, as well as an untitled generational baseball novel for middle-grade readers (Dial 2009). Alan lives with his wife, Wendi, and his daughter, Jo, just outside Atlanta, where he enjoys reading, eating pizza, and perhaps not too surprisingly, watching baseball. For more information about Alan, his books, and his schedule of events, check out www.alangratz.com.

Jay Raman, ’97, responded promptly to the last newsletter, so this may be old news for some, but it is good news nonetheless: “My College Scholars program focused on international politics. After graduating from UT in 1997, I went to Harvard Law School. I practiced law in Washington, D.C., for 2 years, and in 2002 I joined the Department of State as a foreign-service officer. I recently completed my first tour in the Dominican Republic, and I’m currently in language training in preparation for my [next] assignment as the assistant public affairs officer in Tallinn, Estonia.” Jay is among those who have volunteered his expertise to help current scholars who plan to follow in his vocation, and we are especially grateful for this kind of support.

Paige Bader Graham, ’99, one of our number who has generously offered to serve as a contact for College Scholars in the Washington area, was not very newsy. She did reveal that she had earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology from George Mason University.

Will Carver, ’00, is practicing law in Knoxville with the firm of Kramer, Rayson, Leake, Rodgers & Morgan. Will continues to show the same energy that some of us remember from his days at SGA president. Among his other kindesses, he sparked the application of one of an excellent College Scholar whom we admitted this spring. We very much appreciate Will’s continued support.

Elizabeth Moore Fox and Christen (Chris) Fox, ’02 (pictured above), had met as freshpeople. (I remember the class.) After graduation, both went to Vanderbilt Law School. One thing let to two. They graduated from Vandy and were married in May of last year. Elizabeth and Chris (he no longer goes by “Christen”) make their home in Atlanta, where he is a general litigator at Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, and she is an intellectual property attorney at King & Spalding.

Lindsey Chamness, ’05, stopped by to catch up this month. She is a bit past the halfway point of her 2-year commitment to Teach for America in an inner-city school in Philadelphia. It is a real education! Lindsey is finishing a master’s at Penn while she is there, after which she hopes to do graduate work abroad before completing her dream of entering government service.

Sandi Shore Entrekin, ’95, sends this update: “After graduation I received a master’s in physical therapy from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. My family and I now live in a rural town in the Dominican Republic, where I have begun a physical therapy site serving children with disabilities and mentoring American students/professionals who have an interest in therapy. (Our family has a blogspot where we posts notes on our life here on the island, http://entrekinupdate.blogspot.com).”

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Sara Pottinger Burke, ’02, writes, “I graduated in 2002 with emphases in political science, Spanish, and women’s studies. I am now in my last year of law school at the University of Louisville’s Brandeis School of Law. I have also since married and am looking forward to a career in public service for those who are unable to afford an attorney (most likely in the areas of immigration law and public interest law).”

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AND YOU?

I hope that this has given you a window on what some of your successors and contemporaries in College Scholars are up to. In the next issue, we hope for some news about you. Please send your news (and pictures!) by e-mail to scholars@utk.edu or by snail-mail to the address below. And please let me know in the same communication if you would be willing to serve as a contact for recent College Scholars graduates who move to your area. Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you.

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The College Scholars Program of the College of Arts and Sciences
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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