

THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS NEWSLETTER

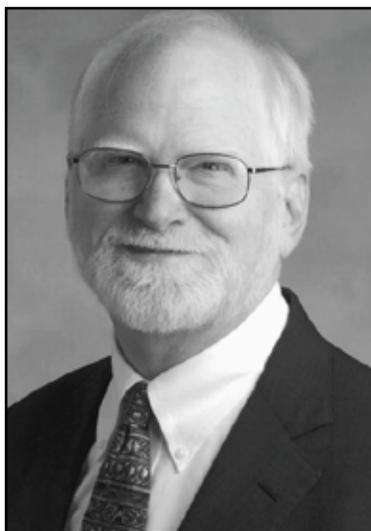
THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Volume 1, Number 1 · The University of Tennessee, Knoxville · Summer 2005



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Let me introduce myself. I am Chris Craig, a classics professor and for this last year the director of College Scholars.

Since coming on board, I have thought again and again of what Sir Isaac Newton said about standing on the shoulders of giants. He got that right. The first three directors, Harry Jacobson, Jack Reese, and David Tandy saw to it that College Scholars has remained “the crown jewel of undergraduate education in the college,” as Dean McSween called it at our spring reception. So, even though I have served as a Mentor for a bit more than 20 years, the prospect of actually directing College Scholars was a little scary. As it turns out, I have never had more fun. The current Scholars are very bright, highly motivated, interested in everything. (Sound familiar?) One of our May graduates will be studying Sanskrit at Berkeley, another will be studying international relations at the University of Chicago,



CHRIS CRAIG

another will be studying international environmental policy at Santa Clara, and another is already established here in Knoxville as an independent filmmaker. There are also those headed for law school and medical school here in Tennessee and elsewhere. And the list goes on.

One of the things that all these scholars have in common is a desire to know more about you, the College Scholars alumni. From my talks with several of you who are still in Knoxville, I gather that you feel the same way: thus this first occasional College Scholars alumni newsletter. I hope that it will become a way for alumni to keep in better touch with one another and for current scholars to see the possibilities that their futures can hold.

The last page of this newsletter asks for information about you. Please

don't be shy. We expect our second newsletter to have a hefty section of alumni news. While waiting to hear from you, for this newsletter I have chosen almost at random a half-dozen scholars whom I met in my first year. I want you to meet them, too, so that you will have a sense of where the program is today.

My hope is that this virtually random selection of a half-dozen current scholars will give you an appreciation of your worthy successors. The energy, excitement, and astonishing variety of interests that are hallmarks of College Scholars continue as strong as ever.

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A FEW FACES



Alex Perkins is a rising senior whose program is called computational ecology, which emphasizes course work in the departments of ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB), mathematics, and computer science. Alex is mentored by two of the most distinguished members of our faculty, Dr. Susan Riechert (EEB) and Dr. Louis Gross (math, EEB). Alex aims to become a university professor. His research interests include applying quantitative methods to biological problems and contributing to the scientific base of environmental policy. He has been conducting research since his freshman year, working with Dr. Riechert to investigate the interactions between the social spider *Anelosimus studiosus* and spiders of other species frequently found in *A. studiosus* nests. For his senior project, Alex plans to incorporate the results of his empirical research into a mathematical model in order to understand the ecological mechanisms responsible for cooperative behavior in *A. studiosus*.

Not only has Alex spent a great deal of time conducting research, he also has been employed as a resident



ALEX PERKINS

assistant for University Housing and a teaching assistant for the Division of Biology, besides volunteering with TeamVOLS and promoting environmental causes with SPEAK. In addition to earning several scholarships at UT, Alex also has won a national competition for the Morris K. Udall scholarship for students pursuing excellence in national environmental policy, as well as the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for students entering careers in scientific research.

This summer Alex will investigate biogeochemical and vegetational responses to an experimental manipulation of ecosystem warming at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Gothic, Colorado. Alex has already spent a summer studying abroad in Spain and hopes to spend more time abroad in the United Kingdom before graduating in December 2006. Before entering graduate school Alex plans to realize his lifelong dream of through-hiking the Appalachian Trail.

When asked where she is going next, May graduate **Lindsey Chamness** responded, "That is a very good question."

Lindsey arrived at the University of Tennessee in the fall of 2001 and immediately planned to do what we encourage all College Scholars to do, study abroad. In August 2002, she traveled to Seoul, South Korea, where she attended Yonsei University for the next two semesters.

During that time, Lindsey sent a long-distance application back to the College Scholars Program. She wanted to create a program of international relations and was accepted by College Scholars that spring to pursue a just such a program.

When Lindsey arrived back in Knoxville, she began formulating her senior thesis even though she was only a junior. She devised an oral history project that would involve traveling back to the Korean peninsula and went through all the necessary steps



LINDSEY CHAMNESS



to get approval and prepare for her research project. Her project required the help of no fewer than three research advisors, all of whom served as her co-Mentors: Dr. Yang Zhong (political science), and Drs. Kurt Piehler and George White (both in history).

Lindsey then spent 10 weeks of the summer of 2004 in Seoul interviewing Korean citizens and American soldiers stationed there. She was able to collect 17 audiotaped life interviews and two less formal interviews. After returning from Korea, she transcribed and edited all of the interviews. Those transcriptions amount to more than 430 pages of documents and make her project one of the fattest, as well as one of the most impressive, in the collection.

Lindsey graduated in May with an emphasis in international relations, East Asian studies, and military studies. She does not yet know whether her future lies in the private or the public sector, but she expects that to become clear this year, while she brings her talents to kids in Philadelphia in the Teach for America program.



ERIC HARKNESS

Eric Harkness, who will graduate in May 2006, is a campus activist who combines a good, caring heart and a great sense of humor with the mind of a policy wonk. He is pursuing a program in public policy and sustainability studies, focusing on potential public-policy solutions for the structural inhibitors of our society's attaining sustainability. His Mentor is Dr. Mike Fitzgerald (political science).

With emphases in political science, economics, and sociology, Eric has developed two academic initiatives to study social and environmental sustainability. As the founder of the UT–East Knoxville Urban Sustainability Community Partnership Project, Eric is bringing together a coalition of UT students and faculty members and community residents to develop a service learning model for UT and East Knoxville to benefit each other. To make this happen, Eric is studying the histories, perceptions, and potentials of the human and organizational elements involved to understand how to grow a sustained community of diverse partners.

Eric has also designed an incremental cost analysis study of U.S. and Japanese energy regulation to determine which policies might

maximize both environmental and economic gains. Through his analysis of environmental and economic indicators, Eric hopes to develop a measure by which to gauge the environmental sustainability of each regulation considered. The study will use software developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to examine the cost-effectiveness of thousands of potential policy combinations and regulatory intensities to offer policymakers a series of “best buys,” or regulations that maximize environmental sustainability while minimizing costs.

Outside the classroom Eric is busy with a host of activities. He is the founder of VAULT, an organization that aims to ensure that products used at UT are not manufactured in sweatshops. He serves as a resident assistant in North Carrick Hall; he sits on the Issues Committee in the Office of Student Activities; and he is a driving force in SGA, where he is committed to reforming student government to hold its members more accountable for achieving results. For fun Eric plays drums in a small jazz ensemble, enjoys a good read now and then, and makes a slew of late-night food runs with friends throughout the week.

Rahim Manji, a rising senior is a graduate of Oak Ridge High school in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Since coming to UT in the fall of 2002, he has gotten involved in many facets of campus life that have helped him realize his passion for people, the law, and public policy.

A FEW FACES



He began his first year at UT by getting involved with the Student Government Association's Freshman Council, as well as with the UT Ambassador Scholar program. Later that same year, Rahim applied to be a College Scholar, intending to study psychology, communication, the law, and—in particular—how these three disciplines illuminate criminal behavior and society. In this vein, Rahim pursued a Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Grant to study the differences in how the law treats malfeasance and nonfeasance. Rahim wanted to research why in 46 states a bystander can walk by a person being held at gunpoint and have no legal duty to call for help. His research culminates this summer as he works to introduce legislation in the state legislature to fight what he sees as a moral loophole in our legal system.



RAHIM MANJI

This year Rahim was named the team captain for the UT Ambassador Scholar program, the chair of the Meditation Club, and a Baker Scholar, and he has recently been elected chair of the University Honors Council for the 2005–2006 academic year. This summer, he is in London doing an internship in the

British Parliament. Next year Rahim will apply to law schools all over the country while he continues his work on nonfeasance for his College Scholars senior thesis in order to (in his words) “raise public awareness of the injustice of our current antiquated laws on the duty to act.”

Cookeville High School in 2001. Upon arriving in Knoxville, she plunged headfirst into the course work required of medical-school applicants. As a sophomore, Anna developed an interest in biomedical research. After speaking with upperclassmen involved in research, she realized that in order to complete a research project of any size, she would need more time than was allowed by the college's general curriculum. Upon being admitted to the College Scholars Program, Anna joined Dr. Mark Sangster's laboratory in the Department of Microbiology and began planning her senior thesis.

Dr. Sangster came to Knoxville from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and still had many connections with

the faculty there. After Anna was accepted to the Pediatric Oncology Education Program at St. Jude, Dr. Sangster arranged for her to work in Dr. Richard Webby's laboratory in the Division of Virology. It was in Dr. Webby's lab that Anna's senior project began in earnest, starting with generating recombinant influenza viruses. It was also while she was at St. Jude that Anna developed a passion for pediatric oncology; she intends to pursue a career in the field. Upon returning to Knoxville,

Aнна Hollmann, another of our May graduates, hails from Cookeville, Tennessee, and graduated from



ANNA HOLLMANN



**ANNA HOLLMANN, TEAM PRESIDENT, AT
A UT EQUESTRIAN TEAM EVENT**



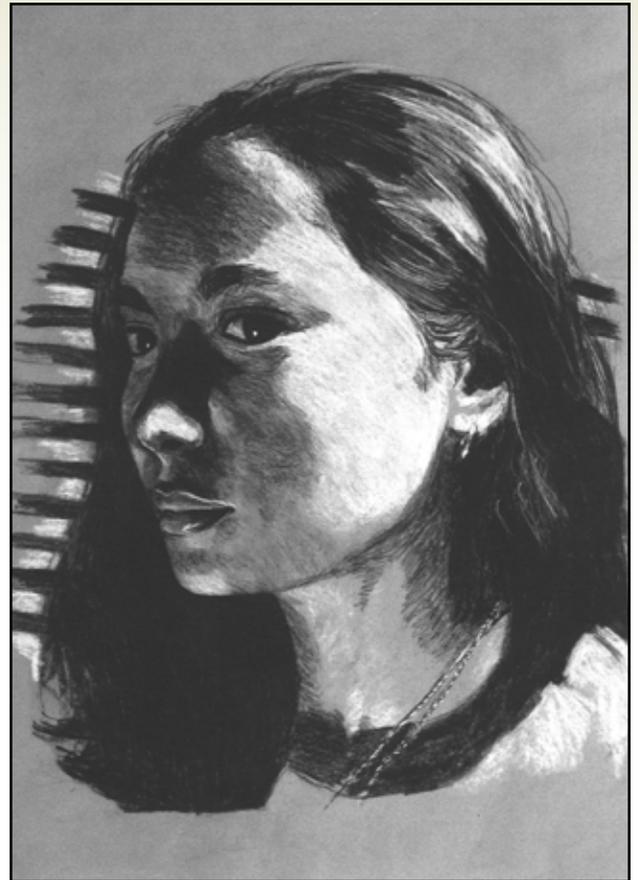
SONIA JACKSON

Anna completed the immunological study of the viruses she generated in Memphis. After finishing some minor experiments over the summer, she will submit the research for publication in a scientific journal.

Anna has served as a resident assistant, a member of the Issues Committee, the president of the Equestrian Team, and a member of the UT SportsClubs' executive council. While most College Scholars end up in Phi Beta Kappa, Anna was inducted as a junior. As a senior she was selected to receive a Chancellor's Citation for Professional Promise. Before starting medical school in the fall, she will serve as the head resident for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences summer program for high-ability high-school students.

Sonia Jackson, a rising junior, was admitted to College Scholars last fall with a concentration in illustration and writing. Reared mostly in Houston, Texas, Sonia has for the past several years been residing full time in Knoxville. She chose to attend UT both because it is located close to home and, more important, because she is confident in the strength of university's programs in her field of interest. Sonia's program is designed to prepare her for a career in producing children's books, embracing both illustration and writing. Her plan is that through this program she can prepare herself as a professional artist while she learns about storytelling and how she can apply techniques and genres so as to be understood by a young audience.

Sonia's mentor is Professor Marcia Goldenstein, of the painting and drawing area in Arts and Sciences' School of Art. Her program includes a variety of two-dimensional approaches to art, together with a study of literature. Sonia's senior project will be to complete an illustrated children's book for which she will create both the text and the illustrations. When she completes



Reproduction of a self-portrait by Sonia (original is in color)

a bachelor's degree, Sonia plans to seek a career in children's book publishing as an illustrator and writer. She plans to attend graduate school in one of the areas she needs for her specialty.

Sonia is now a self-employed portrait artist and muralist. This summer she will design and create a mural for the Knoxville Center for the Deaf. Sonia is a pianist, and she has studied theater design, with a primary interest in set design.



ENSURING OUR FUTURE



financially able, she would establish a scholarship to help other students in need of aid. She did not expect to be doing so as a memorial to her daughter's life, cut short by a terminal illness in October 2003. Through the efforts of Sandy and Laura's partner, Will Pedigo, the Laura Bowe Scholarship is being built to benefit students in College Scholars who have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion and advancement of women's education and their contributions to society.

Laura had a distinct passion and enthusiasm for life and education. She was an accomplished viola player, an intellectual, a caring person. She was a College Scholar, combining studies in Spanish and music and studying abroad for a year in Spain. Laura represented the University of Tennessee class of 1999 as the top graduate in the humanities, with a 4.0 GPA. Upon graduation, she fulfilled a year of service in AmeriCorps, teaching reading skills to inner-city children in Nashville. Laura continued to teach Spanish at Antioch Middle School, then at Head Magnet Middle. It was in August 2002 that she was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout the time Laura dealt with health complications, she continued to support others, and her spirit was not debilitated. Laura's leadership through life's greatest challenge marked her as a powerful example and educator.

Through the remarkable generosity of the alumni and friends of College Scholars, including many of you, we are able to offer several merit-based scholarships, including the Alvin and Jane Ann Nielsen Memorial Scholarship, the Richard and Ann Ray Scholarship, the Charles E. Jett II Memorial Scholarship, the Dwight and Katy Wade Scholarship, and the Florence Sanders Jones Scholarship. These scholarships are essential for the continued strength and vitality of the program. The most recent scholarship fund, the Laura Bowe Memorial Scholarship, has just started this year. An article about Laura appeared in the most recent issue of *Higher Ground*. I found it uplifting, and wanted to reprint a shorter version here.

Laura Bowe was always a straight-A student. So Sandy Gordon, a single mother raising two daughters, was confident her daughter Laura would have no problem getting a scholarship for her college education. But when no scholarship offers arrived for Laura, she was devastated. Laura and her mother called, wrote letters, and e-mailed to help find scholarship money, eventually locating for Laura a scholarship in her dream program, College Scholars. Sandy made a vow to herself that day, that when she was

It was the College Scholars program at UT that truly enriched Laura's life. Her partner, Will Pedigo, also a College Scholar, reflected on her experiences. "Laura's education at UT was most greatly marked, strangely enough, when she took the opportunity to study abroad in Madrid. The culture, its people, and their diversity all excited her. Her studies in Spain gave her the ability to immerse herself in a different atmosphere and bask in a new environment. I think she loved language studies partly because learning another language, in itself, is a symbol of acceptance and appreciation for others."

Will believed that this time studying abroad also provided Laura with the strength to battle the difficult times. "I think her experiences adapting to life in Madrid, together with her open spirit, helped her more gracefully adapt to the loss of her health, and allowed her to retain the core of who she was even at her last moments."

After Laura's passing, her mother discovered a box filled with Laura's journals. As she was reminiscing about her daughter, Sandy noticed one entry in particular, "My Life," written in October 1999, in which Laura had recorded a list of things she wanted to accomplish in her life. As she read through Laura's hopes and dreams for the future, on the last page her daughter had written that she wanted



to establish a scholarship for the College Scholars program at UT. While Sandy and Will had been working hard to establish a memorial for Laura, it was not until finding this journal that they realized this scholarship was also a goal of Laura's. "The College Scholars program enriched her life in more ways than anyone can imagine," Sandy said.

To contribute to the Laura Bowe Scholarship in College Scholars, or to any of the program scholarships mentioned above, please contact the Development Office:

College of Arts and Sciences
Development Office
26 Alumni Memorial Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-1320
Phone: (865) 974-2365
E-mail: casdev@utk.edu



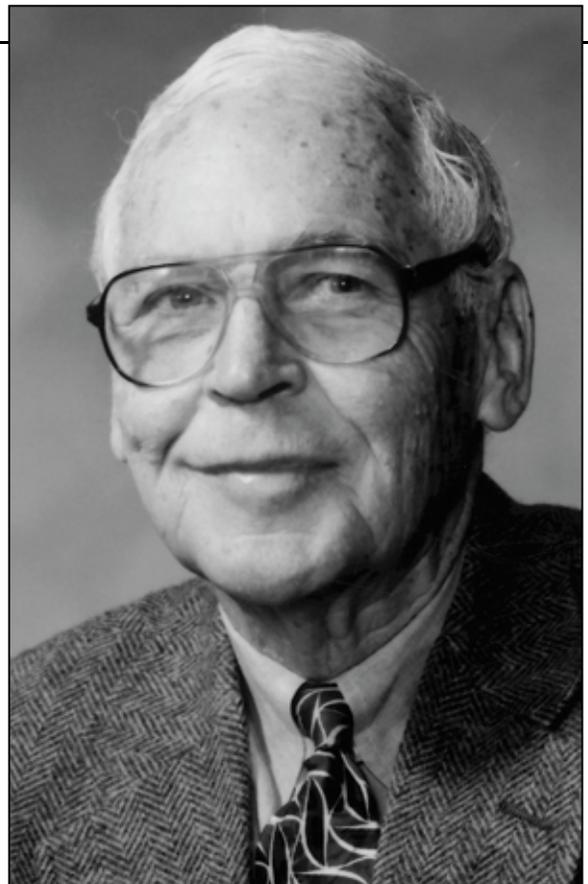
A FINAL WORD

English professors like to explain that the final position is most emphatic. So it is only fitting that we note here the passing of our mentor, friend, and former leader Jack Reese.

The stories about Jack would fill more than another newsletter. Fond reminiscences about him will appear in the fall 2005 *Tennessee Alumnus*, and that will be well worth keeping. Jack joined the faculty as an English professor in 1961, and was soon singled out for his extraordinary gifts. He was our chancellor from 1973 to 1989, when he became chancellor emeritus and was named a University Professor of English. That year he also began his decade as the director of College Scholars. One hundred ninety-four Scholars graduated on his watch. All who worked with him came to know him as a man of clear academic vision and genuine concern for the best interests of his students, both as scholars and as human beings. He was the kind of person that each of us hopes we can become.

If you would like to honor Jack Reese, the family requests that contributions be sent to the library endowment named for him at the address below:

Jack E. Reese Library Endowment
612 Hodges Library
1015 Volunteer Blvd.
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-1000



JACK E. REESE



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THE COLLEGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM OF
THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
VOLUME I, NUMBER 1 • SUMMER 2005

ALUMNI NEWS

Our journalistic motto is WE'LL PRINT ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS. Please send your news (and pictures!) by e-mail to scholars@utk.edu or by snail-mail to the address below. (Please be sure to include your e-mail address, if you have one.) 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.

Chris Craig
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