From the Director

With this third issue of “College Scholars Newsletter,” I am again glad for the opportunity to share with you some of the good news about how the scholars are faring. And I am again frustrated that no newsletter can properly tell the story of what a terrific group of students, leaders, and committed citizens the current scholars are. They inspire me, and I hope this small sampling of what the College Scholars are up to will inspire you a little, as well. Whether you are a graduate or friend of College Scholars, know that the tradition continues, and that it continues because of your legacy of achievement and your ongoing interest. All the students mentioned here, and many other scholars besides, are able to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams only because of the support of our terrific alumni and friends. (This means you!)

This past academic year, College Scholars served in key leadership positions on campus, including the presidency of the Student Government Association, and were recognized with awards for their leadership, notably the Torchbearer Award and Volunteer of the Year Award. In the university’s Ready for the World Initiative, scholars continue to serve as role models for international and intercultural education, studying on every continent except Antarctica. One even braved the exotic land that is our nation’s capital as an intern with the Department of State. But the heart of our program is still the quality of research and creative achievement that happens when a dedicated scholar and a distinguished and committed faculty mentor work together to break new ground. So for this issue, I would like to begin by sharing the good news of some of the scholars’ undergraduate research and creative achievements. After all, these are the opportunities that set Knoxville apart as the University of Tennessee’s flagship campus and make the College Scholars Program unique.

—Chris Craig, director

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What do Harvard, MIT, and UT Knoxville have in common? One thing is the number of recipients of this year’s Goldwater Scholarships in mathematics, engineering, and the natural sciences. The Goldwater, federally funded and nationally competitive, is the premier undergraduate scholarship in these fields. This year our campus had its best showing ever, with three Goldwater recipients and one honorable mention. All four are College Scholars:

Jamie Elise Troupe, a rising senior from Tullahoma, Tennessee, a Neyland Scholar and participant in the Chancellor’s Honors Program, is studying animal behavior (ethology) and cognition with mentor Dr. Susan Riechert, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. She is the latest in a succession of Dr. Riechert’s College Scholars who have earned Goldwater Scholarships. A gifted researcher and an animal-lover, Jamie is logging many, many hours in Dr. Riechert’s lab investigating the link between body mass and aggression, the effects of population density in spiders, and animal learning. After graduation next May, she plans to enter either medical school or a Ph.D. program. Outside the lab Jamie has amassed almost a decade of volunteer work with Horse Play, the therapeutic riding program for physically challenged children. She also enjoys being an instructor for the Knoxville Swing Dance Association (especially when she doesn’t have to lead).

Casey Jameson Williams

Casey Jameson Williams is a rising junior from Kingsport. His program in medicinal and synthetic organic chemistry under mentor Dr. Shane Foister involves courses in both chemistry and biochemistry to provide a research-oriented curriculum rooted in organic chemistry with an emphasis in biochemistry for medicinal applications. The research is based on the synthesis and evaluation of compounds helpful for the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer and neurodegenerative diseases. Casey’s research experience includes...
a Chancellor’s Summer Research Internship with Dr. R. J. Hinde, another stint with Dr. Hinde last fall, lab work with Dr. Foister in spring 2008, and a second Chancellor’s Summer Research Internship with Dr. Foister this past summer. Other academic interests are public writing, philosophy (especially of science), history, environmental biology, and astro- and particle physics. On campus Casey has been an SI leader for Chemistry 120 and a science writer for The Daily Beacon, and he is now UT club baseball president and part of Student Affiliates of the American Chemistry Society. He also enjoys percussion, the outdoors, traveling, tennis, and golf. After graduating in May 2010, Casey plans to complete a Ph.D. or an M.D./Ph.D. and start a research group in medicinal and synthetic organic chemistry at a major research university.

William Bradley (Brad) O’Dell is a rising senior from Newport. His program in structural chemistry under the mentorship of Dr. Fred Schell and Dr. David C. Baker emphasizes chemistry, physics, and mathematics. Brad’s research is currently focused on the structures, solution-state conformations, and hydration characteristics of model cellulose compounds and involves synthetic and structural characterization techniques with particular emphasis on nuclear-magnetic-resonance and neutron-scattering experiments. Besides being an undergraduate researcher in the Baker group and the former Turner group in the Department of Chemistry, Brad is affiliated with the Center for Molecular Biophysics at Oak Ridge National Laboratories and is member of the users’ groups at the ISIS and SNS facilities there. Although Brad is not formally studying abroad, his research has included international travel. Brad is part of the Chancellor’s Honors program and the UT Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. After graduating in May 2009, Brad plans to attend graduate school in either chemistry or physics.

Goldwater honorable mention Elizabeth Jacobs is a rising senior from Knoxville who had her first scientific publication as a sophomore. Under the guidance of Dr. Fred Schell, she is pursuing a program in solid state chemistry and condensed matter physics, focusing on chemistry, math, and physics. Her aspiration is to identify the structure-property relations of the silver fluoride Cs$_2$AgF$_4$ and its barium-doped derivatives using particle physics. This includes sample synthesis, along with X-ray powder diffraction, muon spin resonance, and superconducting quantum interference device characterization techniques. Elizabeth has been involved in undergraduate research in UT’s Chemistry Department since summer 2006; she participated in an ORNL Chancellor’s Internship at the High Temperature Materials facility at ORNL in summer 2007; she traveled to Brookhaven National Lab for X-ray powder diffraction data; and she has made good use of facilities abroad. She spent this past summer working with the Turner group at Sussex (UK) and with colleagues at the University of Glasgow. In her spare time Elizabeth teaches clarinet and drum-majoring. After graduating next May, Elizabeth plans to obtain a Ph.D. in synthetic inorganic chemistry—followed by one or two postdocs—then build a career in research at a university.
We are enormously proud of our Goldwater group. But undergraduate research goes beyond the natural sciences, and in this year’s annual Exposition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement, College Scholars were well represented in the humanities, fine arts, and social sciences, as well. Each year College Scholars receive about half a dozen of the 20 Chancellor’s Summer Research Internships, and those awards have gone not only for work in the lab but also for studying the ancient languages of Crete, producing short films, working on the history of propaganda in American politics, and other projects across the whole spectrum of our college’s intellectual life.

For balance—and because they are great young people—let me note just three outstanding scholars outside the natural sciences who embody this broader sense of research and creative achievement.

**Rachel Grubb**

Knoxvillian Rachel Grubb is a junior scholar and a member of the Chancellor’s Honors Program studying the performance of conducting under the mentorship of James Fellenbaum in the School of Music. Her program focuses on the musical and practical aspects of conducting orchestras and operas. This includes training in conducting, violin, piano, music theory, ensemble leadership, and Italian. As a regular member of the violin section of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Rachel also participates in rehearsals, and she performs in the Knoxville Choral Society. In the last 2 years, she has taken part in four national and international conducting workshops to build her rehearsal skills and the practical knowledge necessary to effectively lead a professional orchestra. Her professional conducting coach is Kirk Trevor, the music director emeritus of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. This past summer Rachel was appointed Mr. Trevor’s assistant conductor for the Missouri Symphony Orchestra, a fully professional touring orchestra that draws musicians and soloists from all over the world. Rachel’s recent guest-conducting appearances in the U.S. include the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Astoria Symphony, the American Youth Philharmonic, the Oak Ridge Civic Orchestra, the University of Tennessee Symphony Orchestra, and Knoxville area choirs. She also recently guest-conducted the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic in the Czech Republic. After graduating in May 2010, Rachel hopes to earn graduate degrees in conducting and go on to audition for jobs as assistant conductor, and eventually music director, for a professional symphony orchestra.

**Amelia Caron Eyzaguirre**

Originally from Houston, Texas, Amelia Caron Eyzaguirre is a senior pursuing a program in the ancient languages and cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean. Her mentor is Department of Religious Studies professor Johanna Stiebert, our resident expert on the Hebrew Bible. With Dr. Stiebert’s guidance, Amelia has designed a program that includes studies in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew; textual criticism; historical linguistics; and cultural anthropology. Her program focuses primarily on Hebrew religious texts and their translation and examines how orthographical and morphological changes, as well as nuances in vocabulary, affect adaptation...
and interpretation. Her senior project, which she has already defended, combines a philological examination of the use of the Hebrew word *nephes* in Biblical texts with a comparative anthropological study of the relationship of blood to the ideas of sanctity and pollution. (Both her committee and the program director were deeply impressed!) Amelia is also interested in Mycenaecology, ancient Near Eastern languages, Babylonia, ancient religions, scandalous Roman emperors, and Neolithic and Bronze Age technology. She is also a navy spouse, and in that role she has traveled extensively in Europe and the Mediterranean. Amelia and her husband have two (ineffably beautiful) children. After graduation in spring 2009, Amelia will begin her graduate work in cultural anthropology at William and Mary, the best graduate program near her husband’s naval base.

**Houston Adair** is a senior from Memphis studying international relations and languages with a focus on the Middle East. With Dr. Robert Cunningham as a mentor, Houston’s special emphasis is competing pressures on Jordanian policy from both the Western international order and significantly non-Western local influences. He is focusing on course work in political science, religious studies, and modern foreign languages and literatures in order to deepen his understanding of international relations and Middle Eastern culture while learning Arabic, Spanish, and French. Houston is spending this entire academic year in Jordan studying Arabic, traveling in the region, and doing research for his College Scholars project on the principal factors affecting foreign policy decision-making in this moderate Arab state. When on campus Houston participates in College Republicans and tutors Arabic at the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center. After graduating in December 2009, Houston will pursue a career in international affairs specializing in Arabic and Islamic studies.

**Citizens, continued from page 7**

Transformation in Africa’s Great Lakes Region: Innovative and Creative Approaches.”

For more information, please check out the Jazz for Justice website at [www.knoxjazzforjustice.org](http://www.knoxjazzforjustice.org). To learn more about Erin and Lindsay’s trips to Uganda, you can find their blogs at [erin.knoxjazzforjustice.org](http://erin.knoxjazzforjustice.org) and [lindsay.knoxjazzforjustice.org](http://lindsay.knoxjazzforjustice.org). Knoxville. Speakers will include prominent Ugandans, a representative from USAID, and top academics. The event is titled “Conflict Transformation in Africa’s Great Lakes Region: Innovative and Creative Approaches.”

For more information, please check out the Jazz for Justice website at [www.knoxjazzforjustice.org](http://www.knoxjazzforjustice.org). To learn more about Erin and Lindsay’s trips to Uganda, you can find their blogs at [erin.knoxjazzforjustice.org](http://erin.knoxjazzforjustice.org) and [lindsay.knoxjazzforjustice.org](http://lindsay.knoxjazzforjustice.org).
College Scholars continue to do us proud with their leadership and service. We here highlight three scholars who were recognized at the Chancellor’s Honor’s Banquet last spring for their work outside the classroom. College Scholars were recognized as Volunteer of the Year (Lindsay McClain, please see article below); as Torchbearer, UT’s highest recognition for undergraduate service; and as an effective advocate for our campus’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) community.

This year, our Torchbearer was John Noel Rader from Cookeville, Tennessee. John, who graduated with a perfect 4.0 average, worked with mentor John Scheb in political science to understand political and economic tensions within the European Union. In his spare time John served as president of the Student Government Association and as executive secretary and treasurer of the Interfraternity Council. He was a member of the Chancellor’s Selection Committee, the UT Strategic Planning Committee, the Alumni Association Board of Governors, and the Baker Scholars Program, along with 14 other committees and boards. During his undergraduate career, he studied abroad in both Madrid and Oxford. Here at home he had two stints in Washington, D.C., as a congressional intern. During his freshman year at UT, John founded the Dippin’ for Dollars organization, which has since raised more than $10,000 for charity. His leadership and accomplishments are exemplified by his selection as one of just 12 Rhodes Scholar finalists in three states. John is now following in the footsteps of his predecessor as Student Government Association president, College Scholar Kristi Bogle, as well as in the footsteps of last year’s Torchbearer from our group, the amazing Beth Wilson. He is attending UT’s College of Law, which will train him for an eventual career at the bar or (more likely!) public service.

The first annual LGBT Student Advocacy Award went to Mitchell Ronningen, who worked with mentor Dr. Mark Hulsether, professor of religious studies, on bases for understanding judgments of sexual orientation in popular culture. Mitchell tailored his College Scholars program to train himself for a lifelong career of LGBT advocacy. Mitchell served as secretary and vice-president/political coordinator of UT’s Lambda chapter. He coordinated World AIDS Day on campus, organized the National Day of Silence, and served as a member of the National Coming Out Day Committee from 2004 to 2006. He also served on the SGA’s Diversity Affairs Committee and was instrumental in getting sexual orientation included in UT’s nondiscrimination clause. The award presenter called Mitchell “an eloquent, effective, and tireless advocate for equal treatment of every individual in our campus community.” Looking to the future, Mitchell has turned down an invitation to spend his winters in the Boston area; he started at Vanderbilt Law School this fall.

Besides their contributions on campus, College Scholars try to make a positive difference in people’s lives in our broader community and farther afield. To showcase this spirit, let me highlight two scholars whose work has been very much “farther afield.” College Scholars Erin Bernstein and Lindsay McClain, both mentored by Dr. Rosalind I.J. Hackett, professor of religious studies, returned in May from their second trip to Uganda. They spent spring semester...
2008 there researching and furthering the initiatives of the Jazz for Justice Project (JfJ). Led by students and faculty members at UT Knoxville (with the collaboration of musicians in both the Knoxville community and northern Uganda), JfJ promotes the power of music for activism and psychosocial healing in war-affected northern Uganda.

While in Uganda, Erin and Lindsay held an internship at the parliament of Uganda, where they learned about the government and its policies in depth. They spent the second half of the semester living and conducting field research in Gulu, the hub of humanitarian assistance in the north. This is an area full of people who have survived the atrocities and horrific violence of the long war between the government and the so-called Lord’s Resistance Army. The people whom Erin and Lindsay are committed to help have responded with inspiring courage to life experiences that are heartbreaking.

Erin’s CS concentration is titled “Reshaping Humanitarianism in Africa.” While in northern Uganda, she worked with the district inspector of schools under the Ministry of Education researching marginalized war-affected education. She is particularly interested in the relationship between the community and school.

Lindsay’s CS concentration is titled “Peace and Reconciliation: Exploring New Approaches to Peace-Building in Africa.” In northern Uganda, she researched the music of the local pop-culture, analyzing the messages musicians are promoting to the masses. Lindsay is not primarily concerned with musicology but with healing emotional wounds. Through her work she hopes to advocate for increased creative use of music and the arts in peace-building and development.

Erin and Lindsay’s work did not stop when they returned to Tennessee. Erin is currently drafting a manual for traumatized teachers in northern Uganda who are teaching traumatized children. The manual will be implemented by the Northern Uganda Girls Education Network (NUGEN), a Ugandan community-based organization that promotes education and provides psychosocial support to children in northern Uganda. Erin is also organizing a workshop on campus this October with the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences and representatives from NUGEN. The workshop will facilitate a conversation on the issues surrounding war-affected education. Through Providence House Publishing, Lindsay is publishing a book of artwork, song lyrics, poetry, photography, and embroidery from northern Uganda that shows the benefits of creativity in peace-building and healing. Both Erin’s manual and Lindsay’s book will be completed in fall 2008.

Along with Dr. Hackett, the duo is also planning for the upcoming Knoxville Jazz for Justice benefit concert. The benefit will feature a number of musicians from Knoxville, Uganda, and other parts of the world, and proceeds will benefit JfJ projects in Uganda. The event will take place on Friday, October 17, 2008, at the former Blue Cats venue in downtown Knoxville.

Lindsay is also organizing a conference for Thursday, October 16—the day preceding the Jazz for Justice benefit—through the Howard Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at UT Knoxville. Speakers will include prominent Ugandans, a representative from USAID, and top academics. The event is titled “Conflict
ALUMNI NEWS

Madeline Bertasi, a December ’07 grad, continues her commitment to shaping public policy to help families in the Americas. Before entering law school, she is taking this year to be an elementary school teacher in Spain, so that she can both work with kids and burnish her fluency in Spanish. Madeline will be employed by the same program of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Education that brought Rahim Manji, ’06, to Iberia last year. Their young students are blessed in their teachers.

Patrick Bolt M.D., ’97, and spouse the Rev. Michelle Warriner Bolt, ’98, finished their wandering years and returned home to Knoxville in 2007. Jack Reese had thought that these two might enjoy each other, and he was right. After graduation, while Michelle was earning a graduate degree in biblical Hebrew at Harvard Theological Seminary and Patrick was finishing an M.D. at Columbia, they exchanged their vows. Then they were on to Chicago, where Patrick spent 5 years as an orthopedic surgery resident at the University of Chicago, and Michelle did other things, including seminary training at Seabury Seminary. After a year in San Francisco, where Patrick spent 5 years as an orthopedic surgery resident at the University of Chicago, and Michelle did other things, including seminary training at Seabury Seminary. After a year in San Francisco, where Patrick had a fellowship at the Spine Institute, they returned to take care of the physical and spiritual needs of we locals. Patrick practices in the Tennessee Orthopaedic Clinic at Fort Sanders. Michelle is an ordained Episcopal priest and serves as pastor of Tyson House, the Lutheran–Episcopal ministry on our campus. To judge from the video postings on YouTube (some made by current scholars), this campus ministry is . . . ahh . . . ebullient. While Patrick and Michelle are engaged in their vocations, they are more engaged in parenting their 2-year-old son, Bay [who is, in your editor’s humble opinion, just beautiful].

Amy Butner, ’07, is learning Dutch. After a flirtation with Berlin, she will finish her graduate work in Egyptology at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Archaeological fieldwork is an integral part of her program, and she is [predictably!] very excited. She will need to be. Her program this term includes studying three ancient languages, Middle Egyptian, Coptic, and Heiratic, in a classes where Dutch is the instructional language.

Last fall Jaye Sarah Davidson, ’07, completed her documentary film on Amor en Acción, the Christian ministry group helping the homeless on the streets of La Paz, Bolivia. After spending much of this academic year doing videography projects here in Knoxville, she has moved to Tallahassee to start graduate work at the Film School at Florida State.

Alan Gratz, ’93, very kindly allowed himself to be dragooned to speak to the College Scholars Seminar last spring and to explain to us the risks and rewards of writing professionally. We are delighted that the rewards have outweighed the risks and that Alan has become established as an important and commercially successful author of youth fiction. (Check out his website at www.alangratz.com.) He seems to produce a good book about every year, with Samurai Shortstop in 2006, Something Rotten in 2007, Something Wicked in 2008, and The Brooklyn Nine set to appear in March 2009. Jack Reese, Alan’s mentor, would be so proud. We are too.

Eric Harkness, ’06, started a new job on Saint Patrick’s Day, and he is excited. After his initial position as an analyst in our state comptroller’s office, he is now planning and research coordinator in the Division of Health Planning in the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. Eric’s group is charged to develop a state health plan that will guide the state in allocation of resources and the overall development of

Michelle, Patrick, and Bay Bolt, with family friend Bunny Bolt

Eric Harkness (center) with his English class
a healthcare system. Since, with only three people, this may be the smallest division in state government, all three wear multiple hats. Eric’s primary areas of responsibility, though, include coordinating state health-related programs to better meet identified needs and to update the standards and criteria for the state’s certificate of need program (CON). When a healthcare provider wants to build a new hospital or add an expensive piece of equipment, they must apply for a CON to demonstrate that they are not adding a service that will only drive up costs without meeting an established need. Eric will soon be meeting with healthcare providers all across the state to discuss updated standards and criteria for open-heart surgery services.

This past summer Eric returned to Slovenia for a second year to participate in an English camp for high-school students. For the past 3 years, Eric’s church in Nashville has partnered with a local church in Slovenia to put on the camp. He reports it was simply a blast, complete with fireworks on the Fourth of July; an amazing race speeding campers around hills, towns, and lakes; and of course, many hours of cultural exchange teaching English and learning about Slovenia. Eric hopes very much to return again next year. In the meantime, however, he is very thankful for Facebook.

Mustafa Hersi, ’02, an alumnus of the University of Chicago Law School, is now practicing with Winston and Strawn LLP. Mustafa has kindly volunteered to serve as a contact for current College Scholars, both African Americans and others, who may be interested in following a similar path in Chicago. Thanks, Mustafa!

Casey Mock, ’05, who is entering his final year at Vanderbilt Law School, stopped by to say hi this summer on his way from an internship in a corporate law firm to a hiking trip in the Smokies. Now that’s a balanced life!

Piper Mullins, ’05, spent a year managing a yarn shop before going on to take a master’s degree in French at Penn State. She will finish in May and is weighing whether to continue from maîtresse to docteur.

Jamie Notter, ’89, has become the vice-president of organizational effectiveness at Management Solutions Plus. His second book, published in 2007, is Generational Diversity in the Workplace: Hype Won’t Get You Results. To see what Jamie is thinking, and what he now looks like (as far as I can tell, he hasn’t aged), see his blog at getmejamienotter.com.

Last year, the spring Phi Beta Kappa initiation on our campus featured a unique program speaker, Dennis Perkins, ’89. Dennis, whom those of us of a certain age remember on stage at UT, continues to act and direct in the Actors’ Coop. In his day job, he is a successful wine merchant; the proprietor of a popular local bistro and wine bar, Table Fifteen (www.tablefifteen.com); the resident wine columnist for Knoxville magazine; and an occasional wine commentator for WBIR–TV. In the time since I had seen Dennis last (too long!) his adventures have included two productions in Debrecen, Hungary, that ran on Hungarian national television and a production of Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men that was the first accurate translation of that text on the Hungarian stage. Stateside, Dennis moved to Chicago for a year back in 2001 and supported his acting habit as a statistical business analyst for a major insurance company while he worked with friends at the Bailiwick Theatre. Their production of Corpus Christi, in which he played two Johns (both the disciple and the baptist), received the Joseph Jefferson Citation for Best Ensemble. By the way, Dennis’s Phi Beta Kappa address was superb. It was an inspiring call to live out the full meaning of a liberal arts education (while avoiding any bulk wines from Australia).

We noted in our last newsletter that Jay Raman, ’97, (Harvard Law, ’02), had joined the Department of State as a foreign service officer. This spring, Jay very generously took time to speak with the College Scholars Seminar after his most recent 2-year posting, in Tallinn, Estonia, before taking up his next posting in the U.S. embassy.

Continued on page 10
in Guatemala City. Several of the current scholars are keenly interested in international relations and the foreign service, and all of us are interested in diplomacy and diplomats. It was a real treat to have Jay share his firsthand view. Muchas gracias, Jay!

Lauren Sutterfield, a December ’06 graduate who returned to her native Texas, is finishing law school at the other UT before pursuing her career in international relations and anti-terrorism. We were proud to see her senior project, “United States Oil Dependency and Foreign Policy,” published in the first number of the Baker Center’s new journal.

David Tumblin, ’88, last spring joined the Transportation Security Administration as the director of workforce analytics, research, and metrics in the Office of Human Capital.

Beth Wilson, our Torchbearer in 2007, seems to have slowed down (ha!). After a senior year in which she served as president of Mortarboard, chaired the Ambassador Scholars, was a most effective SGA senator, led the first international alternative spring break to Mexico, wrote a senior project on undocumented immigrants in Tennessee (soon to be published in the Baker Center’s journal), and taught English as a second language in the summer in Beijing, Beth now relaxes as a recruiter for the Office of Admissions while she continues her studies at UT Law School. Her biggest change since graduation is that she is engaged to a terrific young man, fellow law student Brad Vaughn. Beth’s course of study emphasizes litigation, while Brad leans towards corporate law, perhaps busting white-collar criminals for the Department of Justice. This partnership has potential in many ways! We wish them every happiness.

Ensuring our Future

As Dr. Bruce Bursten, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will cheerfully tell you, the College Scholars Program remains the premier honors program at UT Knoxville. I often note that the current median grade-point average of the scholars is 3.9 on a 4-point scale and that this is the least interesting thing about them. The scholars continue to combine remarkable talent with a genuine passion for learning, to attract our most distinguished faculty members as mentors, and to carry their success and their service into the next chapters of their lives. None of that would happen without the steadfast support of our alumni and friends. Every scholar highlighted in these pages, in fact every scholar in the program, benefits from your generous support. The Joe Kennedy Memorial Fund, named for one of our most outstanding alumni, is a growing resource to help scholars in whatever way they need. The College Scholars Excellence Fund helps to provide everything from reagents for a scholar working on improving the efficacy of antibiotics, to stage props for a dramatic production, to travel to scholarly conferences. And our scholarship funds all serve to bridge the gap between what the HOPE Scholarship provides and what our current scholars need to reach higher goals.

Let me offer you just one example of a scholar for whom your support has made all the difference.

Theresa Diroff, our second recipient of the scholarship established in memory of Laura Bowe, ’99, graduated summa cum laude in May. In the acknowledgements of her senior project, Theresa notes that “being selected
for this scholarship means more to me than any other award I have ever received, and I only hope that I served well the memory of the amazing person the scholarship honors.” I think that hope has been fulfilled. Theresa, a leader in several student organizations, also served as a tutor for high-school students and a volunteer in the child-life program at Children’s Hospital. Her senior project on traditional folk medicine in Mexico, directed by co-mentors Dr. Kimberly Gwinn in plant pathology and Dr. Millie Gimmel in Spanish, required her to learn Spanish, spend a summer in Mexico, analyze herbal medicines in a plant pathology lab, and study the history of Mexican traditional medicine going back to the Aztecs. Her project was recognized for research excellence in both the natural sciences and the humanities and gave her experiences on which she will draw in her planned career as a healthcare practitioner and educator. But before she begins that chapter of her life, Theresa has made a 2-year commitment to Teach for America. This note from her, which I received in August, shows her true colors. I have her permission to share it with you:

“I hope that the summer has treated you well and that you have had lots of time to relax and be with family and friends. I have been quite busy this summer with training for Teach for America. In teaching summer school in Atlanta, I have been able to experience the immense challenges that come with teaching, but I have also been able to experience the incredible rewards, such as seeing the joy on the face of a student who just didn’t think that she was smart until she found that she COULD balance combustion equations or witnessing the excitement of an entire class of high-school students in learning why Mentos added to Diet Coke creates a 6-foot fizz explosion. Teach for America certainly has not been the easiest route to becoming an educator. Often at the institute, as I worked well into the night every night, living on an average of 4 hours of sleep, I thought this training akin to teacher boot camp. I spent many late nights writing and rewriting lesson plans, pouring every ounce of my energy and creativity into finding better ways to introduce entirely too much information in way too little time, but the difficulty doesn’t bother me because this was the challenge that I was looking for. This training program has prepared me to jump into this job with my whole heart and to work like a fool to make a difference in these kids’ lives.”

Laura Bowe would recognize a kindred spirit.

Dr. Hans Jensen

In closing this newsletter, we would like to honor the memory of one of UT’s most outstanding faculty members, a man who was also a good friend of his fellow Dane, our founding dean, Alvin Nielsen.

Dr. Hans Jensen, professor emeritus of economics, died on May 12 in a Danish retirement community in California. He was 88. Dr. Jensen had moved to California to be near his daughters after a career that included 39 years at UT, including 6 years as the head of the Economics Department. The son of Danish farmers, Hans Jensen fought in the Danish Resistance during the Nazi occupation of his country, and his sense of conviction and courage was a hallmark of his life. His combination of intellectual clarity, inimitable (sometimes wicked) Danish wit, and deep concern for interdisciplinary scholarship that reflects the interactions of economics with the social and political dimensions of people’s lives made him an inspiring figure to all of us who knew him. His dedication to his wife of 49 years, Marie, who preceded him in death, and to their three extraordinary daughters inspires in a more fundamental way.

Dr. Jensen requested that memorial gifts be made to the Alvin and Jane Ann Nielsen Memorial College Scholars Scholarship fund. Many of us have already honored that request. If you share our admiration for Hans Jensen, we
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The College Scholars Program of the College of Arts and Sciences

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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invite you to join us in helping College Scholars in this way. The address for contributions to all College Scholars funds is

College of Arts and Sciences
Development Office
2524 Dunford Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-4000
Phone: 865-974-2365
E-mail: casdev@utk.edu

Thank you.