

# HONORABLE NEWS

SPRING 2011

## A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR-DR. BETH MULVANEY

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Dear Honors Community,

Springtime is one of my favorite times of year. I love leaving the wretched winter weather behind and welcoming the abundant colors, sounds, and smells of spring in North Carolina. Yet, this much –anticipated reawakening is bittersweet because it means we will soon bid our seniors farewell (but hope they return to visit!). This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to our graduating class of 2011 as well as to our mid-year admittance students that joined the Honors Program in January 2011.

I am writing this note on the day following Celebrating Student Achievement Day (April 15, 2011). Yesterday was a glorious day in many ways. Besides the gorgeous weather, the day was filled with ample demonstrations of the strength of Honors students on the Meredith campus. In fact, there were so many honors students presenting and performing that I couldn't make it to each one, however, if you didn't see me personally, rest assured that I had another pair of eyes and ears to report back to me. Congratulations on your well-earned successes!

One of the “global” strategies for the Honors Program is to help raise the academic climate across campus. From my perspective, Honors students help raise the academic climate on Meredith's campus in multiple settings. I see it working on CSA Day, in the leadership positions you hold on campus, in the organizations you support, and the service you contribute.

Finally, I encourage you to join us in congratulating our Class of 2011 at a reception to honor these outstanding Seniors on Tuesday, May 3 in the Alumnae House. It is an Open House; please drop in between 3:30 and 5!

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- May 2: Honors Exam Breakfast (8:30am—11:30am)
- May 3: Senior Reception Open House (3:30pm—5:00pm) **Drop in!**
- May 8: Commencement
- August 17: First day of classes for 2011-2012
- September 23-25: Fall Honors trip to Asheville, NC



ADIÓS!

**Hannah Marie Allen**

**Major:** English

**Thesis Topic:** "Tolkien's Elves: An Exploration" - discussing Tolkien's race of elves and the literature and life experiences that inspired him to create them.

**Plans after Graduation:** My plans after graduation are to join a professional folk dance company in Europe and then eventually return to grad school for physical therapy.

**Favorite Memory about the Honors Program:** Either our freshman year trip to Charleston, or helping out with Scholarship Weekend, or making a movie with my friends in our Romantic Comedy honors colloquium. (Can't pick just one!) :)



**Courtney Angers**



**Major:** English

**Thesis Topic:** "Self-Sufficiency and Social Reform: What Did Emerson Think?"

**Plans after Graduation:** teach a lively bunch of middle school kids either math or language arts!

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** Getting to know my best friends on my first Honor's trip to Charleston, SC.



**Ashley Ausley**

**Major:** Social Work  
**Minor:** Criminal Justice  
**Thesis Topic:** Alternatives to Juvenile Incarceration: Program Effectiveness versus Public Opinion

**Plans after Graduation:** Attend UNC-CH for Master's in Social Work

**Favorite memory or event surrounding the Honors program:** FOE events and Trip to Charleston



**Ellen Suzanne Carter**



**Major:** Communication

**Minor:** Psychology and Ethics & the Public Interest

**Thesis Topic:** "Communication Patterns and Attitudes in the Relationships and Marriages of Children with Divorced Parents"

**Plans after Graduation:** Human Resources job in the Raleigh area

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** The trip to Hilton Head sophomore year!



**Marian-Kathryn Cranford**

**Major:** Dance, Private Studio Teaching



**Liza (Mary) Fisher**

**Major:** Business Administration

**Minor:** Spanish, Marketing

**Thesis Topic:** Blogging as a Marketing Tool

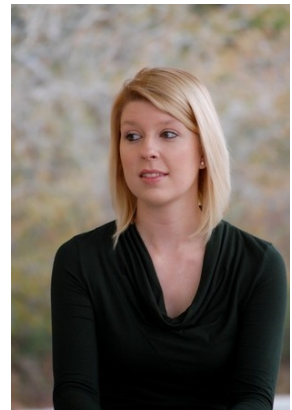
**Plans after Graduation:** Traveling! I'm hoping to get involved in some volunteer work abroad.

**Favorite Memory about the Honors Program:** I always had fun on the fall trips. I loved spending time with my

friends away from school and exploring new places!



**Keaton Fonvielle**



**Major:** Accounting

**Minor:** Ethics and the Public Interest

**Thesis Topic:** The Ethics of Torture

**Plans after Graduation:** I will be starting a job with Credit Suisse in investment banking.

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** Presenting my honors thesis at CSA day. It really showed me just how much I have learned and grown since I first arrived at Meredith.



**Brittany Forlidas**

**Major:** History, Licensure, Social Studies, 9-12

ARRIVEDERCI!

**Thesis Title:** "The Times They are A' Changing: The Development and Demise of Haight-Ashbury District"

**Plans after Graduation:** Move to Washington, DC and work for Close UP

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** all of the fall trips, but specifically the trip to Charlottesville.



Caitlin (Anne) Griffin



**Major:** Psychology & Spanish

**Thesis Topic:** "The Effects of Gender, School, and Residence on Achievement in the Argentine University."

**Plans after Graduation:** Get a job/internship in a non-profit, social-work related agency while applying to MSW (Masters in Social Work) programs

**Favorite memory about the Honors program:** Favorite Honors memory--getting to know everyone for the first time in Charleston, SC :) that's when I realized just how lucky I was to have been accepted into this amazing program!

Erin Huber

**Major:** International Studies, Professional Writing and Design

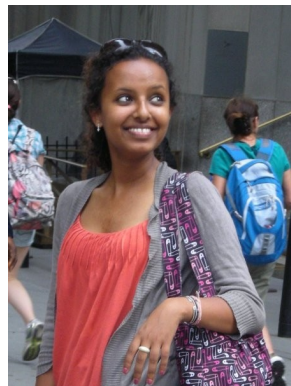
**Thesis Topic:** "Cambodian Genocide," and "Writing a Novel"

**Plans after Graduation:** Unsure right now.

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** Bicycling around Ocracoke.



Bethy (Bethlehem) Mekonnen



**Major:** Chemistry and Biology

**Thesis Topic:** "Plate Based Method of Measuring Oxidative Stress"

**Plans after Graduation:** I will be attending Yale Medical School

**Favorite memory about the Honors program:** Our trip to Charleston during my freshman year is my favorite memory, among many others

Katelyn Moore



**Major:** Studio Art & Psychology

**Thesis Topic:** "The Effectiveness of Teaching Design Skills on Self-Esteem in Adolescents"

**Plans after Graduation:** Will be attending The George Washington University Art Therapy Graduate Program this Fall 2011.

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** My favorite memory surrounding the Honors Program was the trip to Hilton Head my sophomore year.



Brittany Morrison



**Major:** Business Administration

**Minor:** Human Resource Management

**Plans after Graduation:**

"Leadership Development Program" with BB&T



Sarah Beth Phelps



**Major:** International Studies and Mathematics

**Minor:** Spanish & Statistics

**Thesis Topic:** "The Ethics of Globalizing Medicine: Informed Consent"

**Plans after Graduation:** Either to attend UNC Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Public Health or to take a year off to travel!

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** I loved all of our Honors Trips! My favorite would have to be Charlottesville. I enjoyed the friends that I made and the fun that we had on the ropes course.



AU REVOIR!

Spencer Powell

**Major:** Theatre



Kristen Reel



**Major:** Child Development, K-6 licensure

**Thesis Topic:** "Emergent Writers and Social Classroom Strategies"

**Plans after Graduation:** Find an elementary teaching job somewhere in NC!

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** I loved the trip to Charlottesville, VA. It was fun to walk across a high wire, "borrow" apples from Thomas Jefferson's orchard (see picture), eat s'mores around the bonfire, and create an interesting piece of art in the woods.



Samantha Rice

**Major:** Dance, Dance Education with K-12 licensure



Lilith Spry



**Major:** Psychology

**Thesis Title:** "The Effect of Learning Methods on Performance and Self-Esteem"

**Plans after Graduation:** In the fall I will be attending the School of Education at the College of William & Mary for their two year Community Counseling Master's Program

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** Being able to meet other people during the Honors trips.



Chelsea Stith



**Major:** Performance (B.M.) & Composition (B.A.)

**Thesis Topic:** "Madness and the Muse: The Influence of E.T.A. Hoffman on Robert Schumann's Writing and Music"

**Plans after Graduation:** I'm planning on attending Appalachian State University to pursue a Masters Degree in music therapy.

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** There are too many to choose from! Playing foosball with Dr. Grathwohl in Ocracoke was fantastic, but so was winning the three-legged race at Honors Stunt and eating early with my breakfast crew three times a week before honors CHE 111 freshman year. My favorite memory, however, has to be playing in Meredith's Honors piano ensemble, Octavia!



Carly Stoneman

**Major:** Biology (B.S.) & Chemistry (B.A.)

**Minor:** Math, Statistics

**Thesis Title:** "Conversion of Secondary Amines to Imines Using Common Organic Reagents"

**Plans after Graduation:** University of Kentucky Pharmacy School

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** I think this is a common favorite among everyone, but I loved the Charlottesville trip because the challenge course pushed me. I think if I hadn't been around such supportive women in our honors program, I probably wouldn't have walked on that log high in the air. That whole trip brought everyone closer!



Mary Woessner



**Thesis:** “A comparative analysis of pre- vs. post-season fitness and performance in addition to player perception of fitness in DIII women’s collegiate volleyball and cross country teams “

**Plans after Graduation:** I have been accepted with an assistantship into a 2-year Masters program at UNC Chapel Hill for Exercise Physiology and will attend in Fall of 2011.

**Favorite memory about the Honors Program:** My favorite memory in the Honors program was traveling to Charlottesville for the Honors Trip in 2009. I made so many new memories, and I created lasting friendships with amazing women that I know will continue for long after graduation.



**Julia Wolff**

**Major:** Political Science

**Minor:** International Studies



**Katie (Kaitlin) Woolard**



**Major:** Psychology

**Minor:** Ethics and the Public Interest & Religious and Ethical Studies

**Thesis Topic:** “The Effects of the Facial Feedback Response on Pain Tolerance”

**Plans after graduation:** I will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University pursuing a Master’s of Science in Occupational Therapy.

**Favorite memory or event surrounding the Honors Program:** My freshman fall Honors trip to Charleston, SC.



**Brittany Wuester**

**Major:** History

**Minor:** Political Science and Public History



**WE WILL MISS YOU!**

**Summer in Asia**

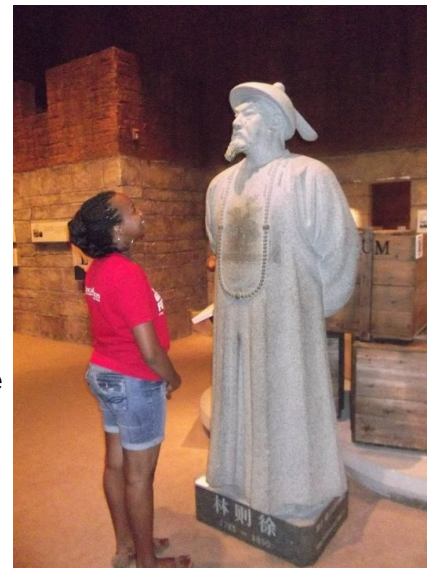
by Kagure Wamunyu

“Ūtathiaga oĩ nyina nowe mũrugi” is a kikuyu saying that translates to, one who does not travel thinks her mother is the best cook. I viewed the world from my perspective, and I did not realize how much more the world had to offer and how much there was to see until I travelled. I got a chance to come to college in the United States which I call my first study abroad experience in college. My perceptions about the U.S while growing up in Kenya were greatly influenced by TV, movies, news, and from reading books and magazines. However, as the saying goes, “Hollywood is not America.” What I had imagined is not what I saw, and this was a bit shocking for me. Just like I was eager to learn about the new country I was in, I met people who were eager to learn about my country. The questions I was asked about Kenya and Africa in general made me realize that just as I had had my perceptions of the U.S, people too had their own perception of Africa and like mine, were quite off. I came to realize that one has to travel in order to understand and know how people live. I knew that I wanted to study abroad in a country that people were talking about and a country that was shaping the global economy. I chose to go to Hong Kong which is a special administrative region of The People’s Republic of China.

I studied abroad through the University of Hong Kong, Summer Institute: Asia as the Global Future. The program was designed to teach undergraduate and graduate students about the growth of Asian countries as economic, political and cultural powers. The regions we focused on were Main land China, Hong Kong, South Korea, India and Japan.

## Summer in Asia by Kagure Wamunyu, continued

We had professors, ambassadors and, diplomats from these countries share with us their knowledge and experiences about their home nations. Perhaps, one of the most exciting things about the program was that it was made up of about 80 students from all over the world. The lecture hall discussions were enriching because of the diverse views of the students. The program consisted of two weeks of lectures and field trips in Hong Kong, one week in mainland China and one week in South Korea. A typical day began by gathering downstairs with friends at one of the residence halls of the University of Hong Kong. We then walked for fifteen minutes to the lecture hall where we would have a lecture from 9.30am to 11.00am followed by a thirty minute group discussion on assigned readings and then another lecture session until one o'clock. After lunch we had one more lecture and the day ended with a field trip. I got to see the beautiful hilly city of Hong Kong. Its people speak English and Cantonese so it was easy for me to get by. The city is very diverse with people from around the world. It was during the world cup season, and being in a city with people who are crazy about soccer, made watching soccer very enlivening. I have never been adventurous with food, especially meat, but being somewhere new forced me to get out of my comfort zone I actually enjoyed the food. We went to Macau, the Las Vegas of Asia, by ferry. Macau is also a special administrative region of China and the people speak Portuguese and Mandarin. We learned about the Casino industry and its effects on the people and had the opportunity to tour casinos. I gambled and lost the few coins I had in my pocket; clearly gambling was not for everyone. Our next destination was mainland China. We studied under Fudan University in Shanghai and Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. While in Hong Kong, we had learned so much about China and we were finally getting a chance to experience the place. The most interesting thing about the lectures in China was getting to note the difference between the perspective with regards to the Chinese economy, politics and social challenges as held by professors in China compared to the professors in Hong Kong. It felt like we were learning about two different countries. Perhaps what made Shanghai very enriching was that the World Expo was being held there, and I got the chance to attend. Visiting pavilions of different countries just increased my desire to travel and to want to learn about the different countries. I added French Polynesia to my must-go-list. In Shanghai, people asked for my autograph, parents asked me to take photos with their children, and people wanted to touch my hair. These incidents were very amusing to me because I could relate to them as I had grown up in a place where everyone looked like me so anyone different was captivating. Hangzhou on the other hand was very different from what I had ever read or heard about Chinese cities. It was green and beautiful with trees and flowers in the city. I went for a week without Facebook, Youtube, Google and reading blogs because of internet censorship in China. Our last destination was South Korea. My most memorable experience in South Korea was visiting the Demilitarized Zone which is the buffer zone between North and South Korea. It was exciting to be in a place I had heard so much about and seeing the soldiers of the U.S and South Korea ready to go to war with the North Korean soldiers made me feel like I was in a movie. The atmosphere was a bit tense which made the trip even more exiting. I left Korea with one question in mind; why did I see more Italian restaurants in Seoul than Korean restaurants? Even the cafeteria in Yonsei University, the institution that was hosting us, had two Italian Cafeterias.



My experience while abroad helped me to grow intellectually and to see the world from a different perspective. One of my main reasons for picking the "Asia as the Global Future Program" was to understand the growing Sino-African relationship, and I am glad that I got to learn more about it as it affects the future of my country. I would encourage anyone to study and travel abroad. Every country is different from what we read or hear about in the media. My view of Asia has greatly been enriched because of the wonderful people I met, the friendships I developed, and the things I got to see.

# WELCOME

## MID-YEAR ADMIT HONORS STUDENTS

### Kelly Lane Griffin

Hometown: Roanoke Rapids, NC  
Major: Child Development, B-K licensure

Minor: Spanish

Hobbies: Transfer Student Advising, MAYC, Alpha Lambda Delta, KON

About me: I love cheerleading, dancing, and tennis. My favorite color is purple. I want to be a preschool teacher. I am going to study abroad in Italy for three weeks this summer in the Child Development Program.

### Miranda Jacobs

Hometown: Elmira, NY  
Major: Political Science  
Minor: Psychology

### Tamana Naheeme

Hometown: Kabul, Afghanistan  
Major: Economics  
Minor: Math  
Hobbies: reading, swimming, traveling, and yoga  
Favorite Movie: My favorite color is white, the best book I've ever read is *Taliban Shuffle*. I excel at Mathematics. My family is my everything!

### Fanny Njie

Hometown: Latikunda, Gambia  
Major: Biology  
Hobbies: listening to music, drawing, and being outside  
About me: I wasn't born here but I've been here more than half of my life. I want to go into medicine and I love little kids. I like meeting new and different people!

### Liliana Pagano

Hometown: Graham, NC  
Major: Studio Art and Fashion Design & Merchandising  
Minor: Business Administration and Theater  
Hobbies: reading, swimming, traveling, and yoga

### Hawa Tuli

Hometown: Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania  
Major: Biology  
Minor: Sociology (maybe)  
Hobbies: Creative writing and learning new recipes  
About me: I love traveling, making new friends, and challenging myself to be the best I can become.

### Hillary Verrilli

Hometown: Clinton, NC  
Major: Biology  
Minor: considering Psychology or Spanish  
Hobbies: hanging out with friends and family, traveling, going to the beach, attending NC State football games, cooking, watching movies, and running.  
About me: Both of my parents have worked in the medical field and I plan to follow in their footsteps as an occupational therapist. Another fact about me is that I will be studying tropical ecosystems this summer in Costa Rica!



## 2011 SCHOLARSHIP WEEKEND ROUND-UP

This year's annual Scholarship Weekend, which took place on campus February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, saw an incredible 131 attendees hosted by students and professors from various departments on campus. While many current students have volunteered to interview, escort, direct and host the attendees in the past, this was the first year for the class of 2014 to be volunteers rather than attendees at the event. Some highlights of the weekend included the abnormally lovely February weather, speeches from various students at both the opening Chapel session and at dinner, a slideshow of Meredith events and traditions that prospective students can look forward to, and a game night hosted in the Cate center for both current and prospective students. Cecelia Blair, a current Freshman, spoke alongside Senior Katelyn Moore and President Dr. Maureen Hartford in the Chapel. (quote from Cece)

Attendees then progressed to various information sessions led by alumnae, students, and faculty where they learned and participated in discussions about growing technology, study abroad, and undergraduate research. It was also at this time that attendees were interviewed for various departmental scholarships, presidential scholarships, and the honors program by student-faculty teams.

After a long day of interviews and information sessions, everyone seemed excited for a more casual dinner where attendees were able to interact with current students over a delicious meal organized by Scott Lamond in Belk Dining Hall. Here we heard from two current students, April Richards and Chelsea Stith whose speeches while very different, both left the audience with exciting experiences to look forward to when they begin their journeys at Meredith College. April, a current sophomore, entertained the crowd with her hilarious account of being stuck in the elevator during her Scholarship Weekend two years ago. Chelsea touched on many various experiences she has had in the four years she has been here and inspired a deep fondness for Meredith College felt by all in attendance.

After dinner current and prospective students had the option to go to a game night in Cate center. Several large groups of students played "signs," some played Apples to Apples or "celebrity" and some just sat and socialized, getting to know current students and hearing about their favorite Meredith experiences.

### Statistics from this year:

Invited:		Accepted as of 4/20/11	
Art:	18	Art:	6
Honors:	105	Honors:	42
Interior Design:	9	Interior Design:	3
Music:	<u>10</u>	Music:	4
Total**:	131		

\*\*Some were invited for both Honors and talent area

### Quotes from students that attended the weekend:

"The weekend was great!"

"I enjoyed spending the weekend at Meredith, but especially loved being able to sit in a class on Monday morning."

"I had a wonderful experience at Scholarship Weekend. I met my future roommate there and I cannot wait to come to Raleigh and become an angel! Thank you for all the things everyone does to make Scholarship Weekend so amazing!"

"This weekend was amazing;) I found my roommate, made amazing friends, and had a great time. Even if I don't get into the Honors Program, it was still a wonderful experience!"

"I can't wait to become a part of the Meredith family!"

"Scholarship Weekend helped finalize my decision on college choices."

"I really enjoyed all of the sessions that we had especially the one about studying abroad. I'm glad to know now that is an option for me. I think that actually sitting in on a class helped me get a feel about what college would be like. "

"Scholarship Weekend was amazing! It was a beautiful weekend and I enjoyed it very much. I also think it was a very good idea to split the entire group into smaller groups for the information sessions. It helped students become more familiar with the students on a smaller level."

"I had a lot of fun and the Meredith Girls are wonderful! I hope to be able to attend here in the fall!"

## Look who the Honors Program is assisting through KIVA lending!

Using proceeds from our Flapjack Fundraiser in the fall (2010), the Meredith College Honors Program has chosen to support two women entrepreneurs.

### Dora Bendit from the Phillipines

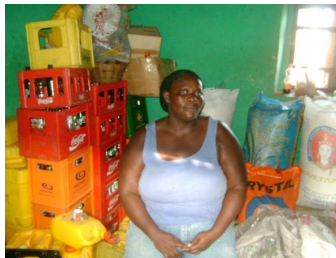


The Honors Program loaned \$250 (which was the remainder of the loan requested) to Dora Bendit from the village of Kulasihan, Lantapan, Bukidnon, in the Phillipines. She is 39 years old, married, and has seven school-aged children. To make a living, Dora owns and operates a sari-sari (variety) retail shop. While not the only means for generating revenue, the main source of income for the business comes primarily from buying and selling canned goods, instant noodles, detergents, shampoo, soap & ready-to-wear clothing in the local community. Dora has been engaged in her business for more than five years and earns approximately 14,000 PHP a month for these activities.

In 2009, Dora joined HSPFI to gain access to financial services to help improve her living situation and ability to engage in business activities. Dora has successfully repaid a previous loan of 15,000 PHP from HSPFI. This previous loan was used to purchase additional inventory and working capital. Dora is requesting a new loan of 20,000 PHP, which will be used to purchase additional products, such as canned goods and junk foods. This loan will be the sixth loan taken out by Dora from HSPFI. She plans to use the additional revenue generated from the business to improve/expand her business.

For more information, visit: [http://paypal1.kiva.org/lend/292086?\\_te=ty](http://paypal1.kiva.org/lend/292086?_te=ty)

### Adjoa Bodei from Ghana



The Honors Program has chosen to loan \$100 to Adjoa Bodei of Ghana who sells food items such as rice and oil. She sells soft drinks as well at Abbina, a village near Elmina in Cape Coast. She is married to a carpenter, and is blessed with three children. Adjoa is requesting a loan to enable her to buy other varieties of food items that her customers need. The new profit will be saved to build a shop. Adjoa is sitting close to some bags of rice, crates of minerals and gallons of oil. F

or more information, visit: [http://www.kiva.org/lend/293129?\\_te=ty](http://www.kiva.org/lend/293129?_te=ty)

## IDS-398A, Environmental Art:

### Ethics & Spirituality

The Honors Colloquium "Environmental Art, Ethics, and Spirituality"- focuses on understanding what nature is and our relationship to the natural world. Students explore these ideas by looking at artworks from the beginning of time to the most current art that centers on nature and uses it as the medium. Students focus on the creative proc-



**9:30-10:50**

**TUESDAY/THURSDAY**

**PROF. WARNER**

using natural on-site materials to create works that communicate their relationship with nature while simultaneously exploring their spiritual awareness. Students from Spring, 2010 commented that their outlook on life and nature was positively affirmed and achieved a heightened spiritual consciousness. A highlight of the last year's colloquium was the guest appearance of International Eco-artist- Patrick Dougherty!

### Fall 2011 Honors Trip to Asheville, NC

This trip will feature many educational opportunities, like visits to historic sites and mini-courses with some of our most popular faculty members! A feature of our trip will be a summer reading book that will focus on some tantalizing aspect of the western North Carolina region (the subcommittee has not finished their selection yet). There also is a possibility of selecting a local Asheville author, who we might invite to join us. There are still more details to be determined and we would love to hear your ideas!

- ◇ Reserve your space with a \$25 deposit by Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and save \$15 on your trip (reducing your trip cost to \$135; balance of \$110 will be due by June 15, 2011).
- ◇ Take advantage of this \$15 savings by submitting a non-refundable deposit of \$25 to Deb Laube in Joyner 115 by May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ◇ After May 6<sup>th</sup>, the trip cost goes up to \$150, and registration will be based upon availability.
- ◇ All balances are due by June 15<sup>th</sup>. There may be additional activities to choose from that will add to the cost to the trip, but they will be **ONLY OPTIONS**. There will be no other required additional costs, except for one meal (a dinner).

## Oh, what a year!



#### Honors Program Office Directory

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