



# Research opens doors

If you're looking for a way to enrich your college experience, a research project may be the answer.

"Research makes the college experience much richer," said Dr. Foster Levy, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities. "You feel like you're accomplishing something, and if you do a research project, I doubt you'll forget it."

One of the main advantages of research is that it gives students the opportunity to do actual work in their field outside of a classroom. "You get to develop your own interests to a very detailed extent in a much more interesting way than sitting in class," Levy said. "It's an opportunity to do rather than hear about."

Hands-on experience isn't the only advantage to research, how-

ever. Students also benefit from networking and meeting other people who are interested in the same type of work.

The staff of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities offers assistance to students by helping them find a project and/or faculty mentor. To offset the cost of a project, students can apply for \$1,000 research grants or travel grants to present research at conferences.

In addition to assisting ETSU students, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities hosts the Appalachian Student Research Forum and Symposium at the Centre at Millennium Park.

For more information on undergraduate research, visit <http://www.etsu.edu/honors/research>

*By Melissa Tauscher*

## *Dates to Remember*

**Dec. 16, 2006**

Commencement ceremonies

**Feb. 16-17, 2007**

TCHC at UT Knoxville

**Feb. 22-25, 2007**

*The Glass Menagerie*

**March 23, 2007**

Honors College social

**April 19-22, 2007**

*Little Shop of Horrors*

**April 17, 2007**

Academic Excellence Convocation

**May 5, 2007**

Commencement ceremonies

**Oct. 27-28, 2007**

Honors College reunion  
All alumni are invited.

# Songer travels world, wrangles HID program



**Professor Songer plans for HID.**

Vancouver, the Amazon, Kenya, Tanzania, Vienna, Prague.

What do all of these have in common? These places either have been or are going to be visited by Marcia Songer, the Associate Director of the

Honor's Program at ETSU as well as the main force behind the Honors-in-Discipline program.

Songer began working here in 1977 after she moved here with her husband who was hired in the music department of ETSU. She has taught English for many years, and

for five years she set up and ran the English Honors-in-Discipline program until she was asked to take the position as Associate Director of the Honor's Program. She was asked to do this because she has "a great appreciation for what honor's programs can do for students."

As Associate Director, Songer oversees all of the HID programs as well as tries to bring in or create new ones. In the past few years, there have been two new programs added and from last spring to this fall, enrollment in the HID programs has jumped from 197 to 238. She anticipates adding more programs and is very pleased with the progress that the HID programs are making.

And as far as what's next on her travel agenda, she is planning a trip to Vienna and Prague next May, and she would love to travel the Silk Road from China to the Middle East one day.

*By Victoria Justus*

# Honors College celebrates first year

Dr. Rebecca Pyles, Dean of the Honors College

The Honors College at ETSU is now one-year old! Since our official beginning July 1, 2005, we've made lots of progress in many different directions. Our honors student population has grown rather remarkably, with a total of 341 student scholars as compared to 240 last year. The increases include exceptional freshman classes in the Fine & Performing Arts and University Honors programs, as well as a new class of great transfer students in our Midway Scholars Program and new students in a variety of Honors-in-Discipline programs across campus.

As expected, our first-year experiences have resulted in some changes. On the basis of student feedback, we rearranged some of our courses to a different schedule and students in the Fine & Performing Arts program are well begun in designing and living their new Roving Artist course. Efforts last year resulted in a tremendous increase in the numbers of undergraduate students across campus involved in undergraduate research & creative activities, including our first two Undergraduate Summer Research Fellows (visit [www.etsu.edu/honors/research/students/spotlight.asp](http://www.etsu.edu/honors/research/students/spotlight.asp)) and over 80 students attending professional conferences to present the results of their projects.

With the help of the Honors College, we sent more students on Study Abroad last year than any previous year; welcomed more international students to campus than ever before, with the help of our International Friendship Families program; began a Research Abroad program; hosted three international delegations at ETSU and signed major exchange agreements with five international partners.

On top of all that...we are happy to have part of our new home occupied---International Programs & Services moved into their new space in the West wing, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Yoakley Hall at the end of 2005 and some of our administrative offices moved into Yoakley 1<sup>st</sup> floor East wing in April 2006.

Plans for this year are expanding, even as I write this! Some of our new projects and programs include:

-THIS (i.e., reviving our biannual Newsletter);

-a week of celebration for International Education Week (Nov. 13-17, 2006);

-initiation of a program supporting innovation in the classroom called the Honors-Sponsored Course program;

-initiation of a student-oriented, searchable database filled with descriptions of research and scholarly projects of our faculty that represent opportunities for student involvement;

-new developments in international partnerships, as well as planning for integration of international educational opportunities for ETSU and international students;

-expansion of recruitment efforts to new geographical areas and educational institutions.

Hopefully, this year also will include renovations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Yoakley Hall to accommodate offices for more of our staff, such as one for Professor Patrick Cronin, Director of the Fine & Performing Arts Program, as well as space for our Honors College Faculty Fellows and International Scholars visiting ETSU. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor renovations also will provide more student space---a study/library, room for a future computer lab, and two seminar-style classrooms.

Another MAJOR project is to celebrate how far we've come with ALL of our honors students, past and present. We are preparing an HONORS ALUMNI REUNION to be held October 26-28, 2007. Yes---we are planning a year in advance. We'll be getting in touch with our alumni by mail and email. If YOU are an ETSU honors alumnus, please get in touch with us and/or visit our Honors College Alumni page (<http://www.etsualumni.org/>) to stay in touch and up to date. For the Reunion festivities, we are planning a BBQ and reception plus a "behind the scenes" visit to the new ETSU Natural History Museum at the Gray Fossil Site. We'll also be inviting all our alums to participate in the traditional "Alumni Return to the Classroom" activities---and considering our alumni, we should make a "clean

sweep" of that program!

Now---for the BIG question: **How can YOU stay or become more involved?** Our college and all our programs are dependent on YOUR help.

One option is, of course, dollars. If you find yourself in the position to provide some financial support, even just a little, we have some truly great programs and wonderful students who could use your assistance. You can designate your donations to a specific program or a specific purpose, for example:

Help a senior honors student with the costs of finishing their Senior Honors Thesis;

Provide support for a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship;

Give either dollars or a piece of equipment needed to help our Fine & Performing Arts Scholars;

Start an endowment in your name or the name of someone who made a difference in your life. The endowment can be dedicated to a scholarship for an honors or international student, a cultural event or lecture, or to support undergraduate research & creative projects through travel assistance or a Fellowship.

Lots more ideas---just call me! (423.439-6076)

Another important way YOU can help is to recommend our programs to families and potential students you know in your community, wherever that may be! Help us get the word out about our great programs, students and opportunities at The Honors College at East Tennessee State University.

Final message is: **Stay in touch and stay involved! By the way you work, feel, contribute, and live your life---you all contribute to our future, as we contribute to yours.**

# Honors College turns out for annual potluck

On Tuesday, Sept. 25, the students, faculty and staff from all programs in the Honors College gathered in the CPA courtyard for the annual honors potluck.

Programs represented included Honors Scholars, Honors-in-Discipline, Midway Scholars, Art Scholars and International Programs.

The potluck, which is held annually, provides a great opportunity for students to meet individuals from other programs. It also gives students a chance to hang out with old friends and Honors College faculty.

This year's Honors College potluck was a great success and enjoyed by many.



Photos taken by Marie Porterfield

# Study abroad feasible option for any student

So you're book-smart. But can you handle an experience that no book can offer? Advocates for the Study Abroad Program at ETSU are ready to begin another year of planning once in a lifetime trips. Will your trip be included?

"Studying abroad is a transforming experience that allows you to see yourself outside of your cultural context. In the end, you learn more about yourself than about the country in which you are studying," said Dr. Maria Costa, director of international programs.

Resources are available that can make the expenses for studying abroad manageable. Every scholarship situation differs depending on where the student is traveling and the amount of financial aid he or she is already receiving.

Tuition, fees, and room and board must be paid to the school to which the student is relocating, but the Hope and Honors scholarships are transferable. There is also an Honors College grant available that is worth

up to \$1,500. In most cases, students are able to live for a semester in another country and have to contribute only a small monetary portion of the overall fee.

Junior year is traditionally the best time to study abroad, but students travel as early as the first semester of their sophomore year.

"It's never too early to start planning," Costa said. "Maybe traveling will not be possible until your junior year, but starting preparations early allows for more options and a less stressful experience."

Besides financial preparations, there are other considerations that must be assessed. There also needs to be time for discussion with family, academic advisors, and students who've returned from studying abroad. A student planning to travel must also understand that he or she is about to undergo a huge change.

"You have to realize that you're not going on a vacation for a couple of months," said Petya Kovachka, an Honors Scholar freshman from Bul-

garia. "You need to adjust completely and incorporate yourself completely into a different way of life. You will have fun, but you're going to accomplish something. Don't go unless you're absolutely sure."

It is now possible for students to study abroad in non-English speaking countries, without completely learning the language. Many schools around the world are offering programs in English, even if that is not the language of the country.

The Study Abroad experience is considered life-changing by many. It is a resume-booster, but more than that, it is the chance to strengthen one's character and gain knowledge that is not attainable any other way.

There are many resources available for students who are interested in studying abroad. For more information, visit the International Studies Web site at <http://etsu.edu/honors/international>. Students can also set up a meeting with Costa by calling 439-7737.

By Taylor Hartley

# A closer look: Dr. Jay Boland

If you ask most students what they do to “get away from it all,” responses run something on the lines of “watch reality TV shows,” or “hang out with friends.” Or possibly even “go to the movies.” Faculty will answer “go out to dinner,” or “spend time with family,” or “anything but grade papers!” So how does the Director of the Honors College get away from it all? He spends time with his wife and three children. He devises new theorems of graphical mathematics. And he runs.

As much a staple of the campus as the hills and hollows, Dr. Jay Boland and his running partners are a familiar sight to ETSU faculty, staff, and students. Rain or shine, early morning or mid-day, bitter cold or unbearable heat, Dr. Boland takes time - *makes* time - to run. “I’ve done it for so long,” he admits, “that when I don’t [run], it doesn’t feel right. It throws everything off.”

A recent injury to his Achilles tendon sidelined him for a while, but surgery and determination - as well as a need for the exhilaration that comes when he hits that perfect rhythm - soon had him out hitting the pavement again. This should come as no surprise from a man who jumped right into teaching at the Naval Nuclear Power School after receiving his B.S. in Mathematics from Worcester Polytech; who attained his Ph.D. from Clemson University and settled right in to ETSU; and who, in the span of six short years, managed to attain the rank of Associate Professor of Mathematics, receive the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award as well as the ETSU Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, pick up the responsibilities of being Graduate Coordinator for the Math department, and then the role of Associate Director for University Honors Programs before both being named Director of University Honors and promoted to full Professorship.

Determination and dedication are an integral part of Jay Boland’s life; dedication to his new family, to his students, to the Honors College, to the mathematics that he so loves - and the determination to balance it all, with the kindness and caring that are such a part of his nature. Rarely does Dr. Boland raise his voice - in class, or out of

it. Admittedly shy outside of the classroom, he finds that he enjoys the dramatics of being center stage when it comes to teaching. His affinity for the complex math he teaches shines through in his classroom, and his respect for and dedication

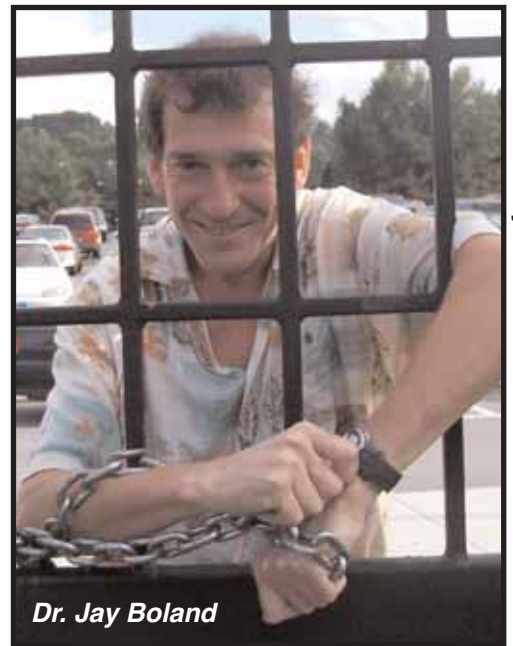
to the students he guides through the Honors College guarantees laughter and familiarity from current students, and frequent return visits by alumni.

The duties of Professorship and demands of Directorship are balanced by the interaction and warmth of family. It doesn’t matter that his wife Tabetha is, as he refers to her, a “math-phobe,” or that only one of his three children currently expresses an interest in the field so dear to his heart - family, with all of its demands and adventures, is a joy central to Dr. Boland’s life.

And if he wasn’t busy enough juggling the responsibilities of teaching with the duties of being a Director and tossing in the demands of family, Dr. Boland is working on a collaboration project with associates in Australia, graciously providing assistance regarding a theorem of his own device, even as he juggles coursework, Directorship duties, and Senior and Graduate Student theses and dissertations.

So on the days when flurries of meetings and papers make it impossible to run, how does Dr. Boland get away from it all? He climbs on his motorcycle and takes his wife for a spin.

*By Tracy Mantell*



*Dr. Jay Boland*

*Photo taken by Marie Porterfield*

*Photo contributed by Lindy Russell*



Earlier this semester, students represented the Honors College at the Pop Culture Conference in Savannah. Check out the story on the next page.

Front: Summer Carr, Lindy Russell. Back: Jewel Aldea, Maleka Khambaty, Jennifer Snyder, Joe Rice, Tracy Mantell, Michelle Hammett, Sarah Culp.

## Arts Scholars

During this year’s Fall Family Festival, the Honors College hosted a “Plaza of Artists.” To see some of the action, visit the following link:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3681604469164347444&hl=en>

# Students represent Honors College in Savannah

Massive trees dripping with Spanish moss. Cobblestone streets and trolley tracks. Ghost tours and fresh-from-the-oven pralines. Welcome to Savannah, Georgia, which in October 2006 became home to the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Popular Culture Association in the South/American Culture Association in the South (PCAS/ACAS) conference.

The Honors College submitted two presentation panels. Both panels, which were chaired by Joe Rice, were accepted. The first panel, entitled “Disruptions of Time & Story in Film & Television at the end of the Millennium” showcased the efforts of:

- **Summer Carr**, Senior Honors Scholar, with “John G. Raped and Murdered My Wife: Time in Christopher Nolan’s *Memento*”
- **Lindy Russell**, Senior Honors Scholar, with “If I Could Turn Back Time: A Look at the Ephemeral in *Angel*”
- **Jewel Aldea**, Honors Scholar Alumna, with “‘This watch was your birthright’: Disjointed Time in *Pulp Fiction* and *Reservoir Dogs*”
- **Joe Rice**, Honors College Curriculum Coordinator, with “When One Life will Not Suffice: Many-Worlds Quantum Theory and *Run Lola Run*”

The second panel featured collaborated papers in which students worked together to theorize, devise, and present their papers. This panel, entitled “Faces of Feminism Across the Globe” showcased the efforts of:

- **Michelle Hammett** and **Maleka Khambaty** (Junior Honors Scholars) with “*Alf Layla wa-Layla* Adapted: A Transnational Consideration of Arabian Nights”
- **Sarah Culp** (Senior Honors Scholar) and **Tracy Mantell** (Senior Midway Scholar) with “Barometric Feminism: Women’s Roles in Society as Animated by Disney”
- **Allyssa Chamberlain** (Honors Scholar Alumna) and **Jennifer Snyder** (Junior Honors Scholar) with “Magic Realism in Eréndira’s Story: Women in the Colonial Space”

During the Friday night Reception, it was announced that Summer’s paper on *Memento* had won second prize. This was Summer’s first conference presentation, which made this an especially memorable experience for her as she accepted the congratulations of not only fellow ETSU members, but of a variety of conference attendees.

Joe and the Honors College stu-

dents took the opportunity to attend a variety of other presentations covering a wide range of topics, while managing to take in some of Savannah’s culture as well. Waterfront shopping and dining opportunities proved plentiful, and a ghost tour in the cool of the night provided insight into some of the city’s history.

By the end of the conference, a wealth of memories had been stored away, from learning the back roads of Georgia after missing a turn (GPS-enabled phones can be a lifesaver in the dead of the night!), to watching the easy-going Joe become increasingly tense when one of his panels arrived a few minutes late, to taking an unexpected tour of the Juliette Gordon Low house during, of all things, a Ghost Walk. The group returned to ETSU having received much more than an intellectual education from this three-day trip.

*Editor’s note: Check out the October 9, 2006 edition of the East Tennesseean for Summer Carr’s article “Honor Students Attend Pop Culture Conference.”*

*By Tracy Mantell*

## Distinguished author offers advice on travel, life

Author and documentary producer Karin Muller visited ETSU on Tuesday, Nov. 14 and took time out of her schedule to talk to broadcasting students and members of the Honors College.

During an *Appalachian Diary* interview to air on PBS, Muller stressed the importance of persistence and maintaining a positive outlook. She referred back to her own experiences in dealing with trying to get her books and documentaries published, especially her first hit, *Hitchhiking Vietnam*.

Muller also emphasized the importance of fluidity in an ever-changing global environment.

When asked where she plans to go next, Muller said it will be wherever the stories lead her. Thus far, they have led her to Japan, the Incan Road and Southeast Asia.

In the colloquium session that day, Muller talked about following her bliss. For her, this means traveling alone and

being able to adapt her story lines to fit the characters and individuals she meets along the way.

She told a story about being alone in the Philippines when the local militia came to question her. They had suspicions that all Americans serving in the Peace Corps were sent by the C.I.A. as spies. At this point, she had two options – stay and more than likely be thrown in prison or flee and automatically be labeled as a spy. She decided to change the paradigm by having coffee prepared for the entire militia when they arrived. In explaining her decision, Muller said, “you can’t shoot somebody you’re drinking coffee with.”

This story was one of many that she used to explain the importance of being able to think yourself out of a problem.

Muller currently lives in North Carolina and was brought to ETSU by the Honors College in recognition of International Education Week.

*By Travis Russell*

# Honors College student council off to strong start

Another Fall semester has begun at ETSU and along with this has brought a new set of students to the Honors College. One of the first topics of business that was attended to by the Honors College was to elect members to the Honors College Student Council (HCSC). This is the HCSC's second year as an official campus organization. Each class in the Honors College, which includes Art Scholars, Midway Scholars, Honors Scholars, and Honors in Discipline and International Programs, voted for representatives of their class for the person that they wanted to represent them in the Honors College.

The 2006-2007 Honors College Student Council Representatives and Officers are:

**Karen Capps**, Junior Honors Scholar. Karen was elected as Co-Vice President of the HCSC and is excited about the potential of the Honors College.

**Ashley Chandler**, Sophomore Art scholar. This is Ashley's 2nd year on the Council, and she was elected the Liaison for the Art Scholars Program.

**Elliot Cennamo**, Honors in Discipline. Elliot was elected as the Liaison for the Honors in Discipline Program who will be informing Marcia Songer of HCSC matters.

**Katie Coppinger**, Junior Midway Scholar. Katie was elected as the Liaison for the Midway Scholars Program. Katie revealed in the first meeting that her uncle is friends with Bob Corker, Tennessee's Republican candidate for the Senate position.

**Taylor Hartley**, Freshman Honors Scholar. Taylor was elected as the Homecoming Representative 2007. She will be working closely with Linda Wyatt for a Homecoming Reunion to commemorate the first Honors Scholars class that graduated in 1997.

**Petya Kovachka**, Freshman Honors Scholar. Petya is an international stu-

dent from Bulgaria. She was elected as the Liaison for the International Program as well as Treasurer of the HCSC.

**Kevin Lane**, Freshman Art Scholar. Kevin was elected as Parliamentarian winning by not only being the only one running for the position but that he knows the Parliamentary procedures from church meetings that he attended while growing up.

**Alisa Livaditis**, Sophomore Honors Scholar. Alisa was elected as the Liaison for Undergraduate Research who will be informing Dr. Frosty Levy of HCSC matters.

**Tracy Mantell**, Senior Midway Scholar. Tracy has been known to double up the load she has to take on as an English major and Midway Scholar, so it is no surprise that she was elected for both Secretary and Historian of the HCSC.

**T.J. Mitchell**, Sophomore Honors Scholar. This was T.J.'s second year in the HCSC and was elected as the 2006-2007 President for the Honors College.

**Sarah Olivo**, Junior Art Scholar. This is Sarah's second year on the HCSC and was elected as Co-Vice President.

**Colin Spaulding**, Senior Honors Scholar. Colin was elected as the Liaison for the Dean of the Honors College. He will be informing Dr. Rebecca Pyles of HCSC matters.

The Honors College Student Council is still new but is working diligently to be an involved campus organization. The Honors College Student Council has been tossing up ideas for a cultural and intellectual event that may include guest speakers and programs that are a positive influence for the entire campus.

When President T.J. Mitchell was asked what he would like to say to the Honors College, he replied, "To

the students of the Honors College, I would just like to say that the Student Council is here for you guys. Everything we do is centered around you all, as it should be. I also want to point out that any concerns or ideas for future events are strongly encouraged. We have representatives from every class; our goal is to be as accessible as possible to what you all want because we need your feedback." The Honors College is full of ideas that can benefit the entire ETSU campus through the Honors College Student Council so talk to your class representative and tell them what you want for them to do for you and ETSU.

An interesting point of news: At the first meeting there was a motion to suspend all rules for Joe to be able to speak freely, as if Joe does not speak freely anyways.

*By Jackie Thacker*

## Coming Spring 2007:

A closer look at Maria Costa and Dr. Foster Levy

More on Pat Cronin and the Arts Scholars Program

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