

WINTER 2012-2013

THE HONOR READ

NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HONORS PROGRAM

FROM THE DIRECTOR

one hundred *for* one hundred



The fall has brought gorgeous weather to the KU campus and with it another class of outstanding new students to the University Honors Program. I continue to be amazed by the accomplishments of our students who not only excel in the classroom but are leaders across campus and in the community, and do extraordinary things in research and scholarship, and service both here and abroad. Several examples that illustrate those accomplishments are found throughout this newsletter. **All of these students received financial support from the Honors Program with gifts from alumni, friends and the university. We want to be able to expand the opportunities our students have to do exciting**

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Chuck France/KU Marketing Communications

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón (left) listens intently while Honors student Sarah Stern (foreground) asks him a question. Danny Anderson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is seated next to the President. Honors students had an exclusive, private meeting with Calderón when he visited KU in September. See article on page 2.

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From The Director, continued from page 1

work and I need your help to do that: Thus the 100 for 100 headline.

In April, KU launched Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas. As part of that capital campaign, the University Honors Program has set a goal of raising \$100,000 to provide 100 more students with stipends to do something extraordinary. The costs associated with research, study abroad, internships, conference travel, etc., have risen over the years and for many of our students, lack of financial support prevents them from having one of these transformational opportunities. That is where I need your help. Please look at the pictures and stories of the students featured in this newsletter. They have been able to do great things because the Honors Program has provided financial support. **Unfortunately, every semester we have many students forced to forgo wonderful opportunities because we do not have sufficient funds.**

The 100 little Jayhawks you see throughout this publication represent the 100 students who will have the chance to do something interesting and important if support is available. **Many of our students have been able to do wonderful things with support of alumni and friends of the University Honors Program. I hope 100 more will be able to do so in very near future.** Thank you for your support.

KATHLEEN MCCLUSKEY-FAWCETT

Colombian President, KU Alumnus Meets with Honor Students

KU alumnus Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, president of Colombia, held an exclusive, private conversation with University Honors Program students on his first visit to KU since he graduated in 1973.

President Santos Calderón met with Honors students in a small room at the Lied Center. Seated in an armchair next to College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Danny Anderson, and wearing a Jayhawk lapel pin on his sport coat, Santos Calderón thoughtfully answered questions from the group of engaged students.

Many Honors students were missing class to have the opportunity to interact with the sitting head of state, and Santos Calderón seemed to relish being at KU, among some of its best students. For their part, the Honors students received a firsthand

Appropriate for the setting, Santos Calderón spent a good part of his time with the Honors students talking about education, which he said should be “a permanent process.” “Education should start when you are born and should end when you are dead,” he said.

Before taking questions from Honors students, Santos Calderón dispensed some advice.

“Always follow your intuition. Always stick to your values and principles – they are a map you can use when you are confused. Persevere. Life will hit you hard, life sometimes is unjust, and you have to continue. Instead of looking back, look forward,” he told the group.

Honors student Sarah Stern, a strategic communications and Latin

“Education should start when you are born and should end when you are dead”

perspective about Colombia, while surrounded by an impressive array of Colombian security, Secret Service, KU Public Safety, local law enforcement and members of the international press corps. Santos Calderón’s memories of KU were fond and fresh.

“My years here are memorable, and so that’s why I’m so happy to be back after 40 years. The many things I learned here, I have applied to my country. I appreciate so much the values and principles I gained here, something I’ve been using throughout my career,” Santos Calderón told the group.

American studies major, who has traveled in South America, asked Santos Calderón how his time as editor at his family’s Colombian newspaper, *El Tiempo*, gave him a perspective as president.

“Journalism is a balcony that lets you study everything, and it was useful for me,” Santos Calderón said. “I don’t get exasperated as journalists, the watchdogs of society, do their job. It’s like a bath of cold water early in the morning – it wakes you up and keeps you alert.”

Stern said she thought his response was very interesting.

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Why I Give: Lavon Brosseau

Lavon Brosseau and her late husband, Jack, have chosen to support KU and the University Honors Program with an estate gift, even though neither of them attended KU. Brosseau is a former Coffeyville high school teacher and Cloud County Community College teacher who lives in Concordia.

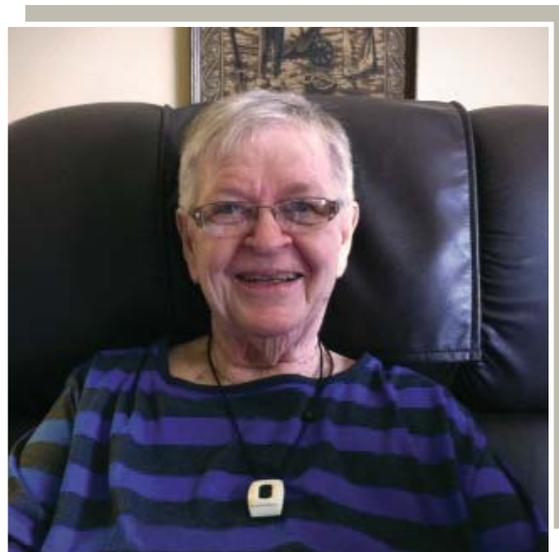
Brosseau hopes that others will follow her in contributing to the Honors Program.

"I believe in education and in the profound importance of teaching," she said. "The generosity of others made a college education a reality for me, but for many students it is beyond their financial reach. My sharing with others enhances my life and is a blessing that sustains me every day."

Jeff Weinberg, Honors faculty fellow, is a former student of Mrs. Brosseau's and a longtime friend. In addition to her estate gift, Mrs. Brosseau made a contribution to the Honors Program last spring in honor of Mr. Weinberg, when he joined the Honors staff.

"I think Jeff is one of the finest ex-students I have ever had," said Mrs. Brosseau. "I think the Honors Program is perfect for him because he's very intelligent, and he's a wonderful teacher."

Weinberg said he was deeply appreciative of the gift from Mrs. Brosseau. "Lavon Brosseau was a gifted teacher, and along with her late husband, Jack, she has dedicated her life to providing educational opportunities and enhancing the educational environment for countless numbers of students," said Weinberg. "Her passion for life, her vision for the future and her life-long friendship are constant inspiration to me."



Lavon Brosseau

Dynamic Faculty Duo Helps Honors Students Achieve Goals



Kelly and Tara Welch

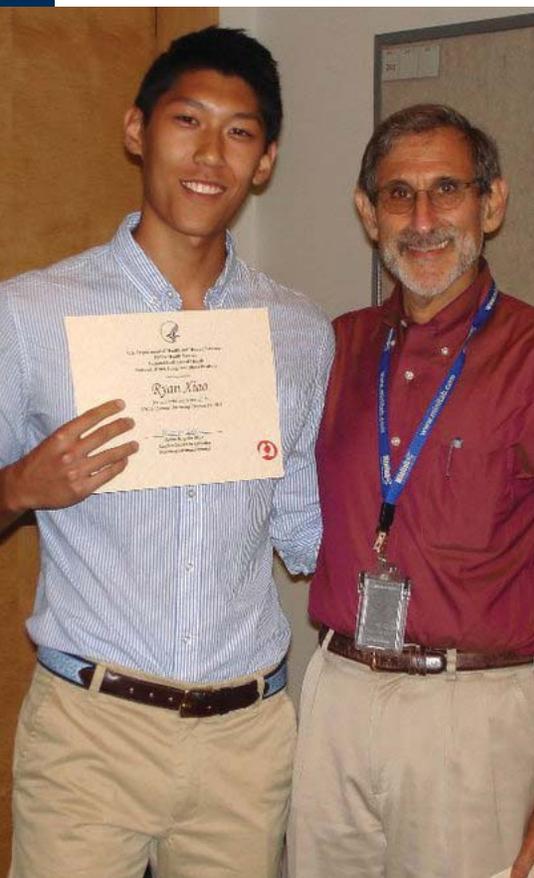
Drs. Tara and Kelly Welch have made a long-term commitment – both to their marriage and to the University Honors Program. The Welches have been a part of Honors students' lives since they came to KU in 1997. Tara is associate professor of classics, and Kelly is a lecturer and teaching fellow in the School of Business.

Although their fields are distinct, Tara and Kelly each have one very important accomplishment that appeals to many Honors students: a Rhodes Scholarship. One of the many ways they help guide Honors students is by serving on KU's national scholarship selection committee and advising students applying for national scholarships. Does it take one to know one? The Welches were part of the team that helped Honors student Kelsey Murrell win a Rhodes Scholarship earlier this year.

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MEET RYAN XIAO

Ryan Xiao was in the University Honors Program just a short time before he realized the benefits of the Honors network.



Ryan Xiao, at the end of his internship with the National Institutes of Health.

Ryan, now a junior from Lenexa majoring in biochemistry, was a freshman applying for summer research opportunities. Aiming high, he applied to the National Institutes of Health, thinking it was a longshot. But Dr. Paul Hwang, an Honors alumnus and former University Scholar, saw “KU Honors” on Ryan’s resume, and gave him a call. Ryan spent that summer at the NIH in the Department of Translational Medicine.

He says his Honors adviser, Dr. Vicki Corbin, first encouraged him to pursue research as an undergraduate, something Ryan had not thought about.

“With the Honors Program, they facilitate opportunities for you. They encourage you in tons of different ways, to explore different things. The faculty and advisers are really helpful,” he says.

Ryan continues to take Dr. Corbin’s advice and does research at KU during the school year, working in Haworth Hall with Brian Ackley to track how neurological synapses grow and develop. He and Dr. Ackley observe *c. elegans* worms, which are transparent, allowing the researchers to watch the axons align and grow.

In his sophomore year, Ryan was selected as a University Scholar for Mickey Imber’s seminar, “Fifty Years of Non-Fiction.” Ryan says the

“With the Honors Program, they facilitate opportunities for you. The faculty and advisers are really helpful.”

seminar and accompanying readings were an “amazing experience” that helped him broaden his views.

KU was not at the top of Ryan’s list of colleges initially. He was applying to Ivy League schools and trying to get farther from home. He somewhat grudgingly attended the Honors Program spring reception in his senior year of high school, only to be very impressed by the Honors students, faculty and staff.

“I knew there were good things I could do through the Honors Program, plus good scholarship opportunities,” he says. “I realized if I came here, I could do cool things too.”

In addition to his research, Ryan is an Honors Ambassador and volunteers every week in the emergency room at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

He plans to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. and either continue studying the brain or oncology. Future Honors students can only hope he might come across their résumés someday.

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Dynamic Faculty Duo, continued from page 1

The scholarship committee is but one way the Welches work to help Honors students be their best.

Tara, who has taught Honors courses in classics since her first year at KU, encourages students to study abroad and helps them find funding to do so. She enjoys making connections with and among Honors students.

“I always push students to stretch themselves and take advantage of what KU has to offer”

“I’ve been known to just hand people books,” Tara says, motioning to the densely packed bookshelves that line her office. “I always push students to stretch themselves and take advantage of what KU has to offer.”

Kelly, an Honors adviser, says that Honors students stand out from the crowd in the School of Business.

“The top performers in my classes are Honors students. If they’re not an Honors student, I tell them to become an Honors student because of the opportunities afforded them,” he says.

Kelly, who also managed investments for the Kauffman Foundation for four years, advises Honors finance students and says that he has learned from the students as much as they have learned from their classwork.

“When you have top-notch students like Honors students, they don’t want to be told the process; they want to ask why it is right,” he says.

Tara says that teaching Honors classes has inspired her to be creative in her approach.

“Honors classes have much less lecturing and much more discussion,” she says.

The Welches live on 40 acres in rural Douglas County with their three children: Kate, 7, and 4-year-old twins, Dan and Selene. They spend their free time playing outside with the kids and riding their two horses on their property.

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MEET DANI ONIONS

When she was applying to colleges, Dani Onions was “intent on getting as far away as possible” from Shawnee, Kan.

Now that she is a senior in the University Honors Program, majoring in women, gender and sexuality studies and political science, Dani cannot imagine what her life would be like if she WEREN'T in Kansas. She says that because she has been at KU since her sophomore year, she is making an impact on middle- and high-school curriculum, helping Kansas family farmers, and counseling abused women, all while earning top grades in Honors classes.

Having spent her first year of college at a private school in Chicago, Dani has made all of these inroads in just three years at KU in the Honors Program.

“KU has an environment that is hard to replicate – you get the benefits of a large research university, but the Honors Program has tiny Nunemaker, which is like its own community,” she



Dani Onions with U.S. Senator Jerry Moran from Kansas, during her internship in Washington, D.C.

affect farms in their states. About a week before she left Washington, D.C., the regulations were withdrawn.

In Honors, your peers aren't competing with you for GPA, but instead they're challenging you and inspiring you.

says. “In Honors, your peers aren't competing with you for GPA, but instead they're challenging you and inspiring you. Everyone is doing their own thing, but they are supportive and encouraging.”

When Dani first came to KU, she benefited from some of that support and encouragement when she met Honors Program Associate Director Chris Wiles. Now, she credits him with propelling her toward career goals and new experiences.

“Dr. Wiles has been my catalyst,” she says. “He convinced me to go for a semester in D.C., which is hands-down the best thing I've done at KU.”

Last spring in Washington, D.C., Dani worked for Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas. She solicited and read all of the responses from senators across the country, about how the Department of Labor's proposed regulations would

Fresh off her political success, Dani returned to Kansas and obtained an internship with the Willow Domestic Violence Shelter in Lawrence – something she had been rejected for prior to her time in the nation's capital. She has worked with the shelter and its residents, familiarizing herself with domestic abuse issues.

In September, she found out that the shelter received a grant she had helped prepare: to create a teen dating violence prevention program for middle- and high-school students. She says that most states require substance-abuse awareness and prevention in schools, but very few require, or even have, domestic violence awareness in schools.

“The shelter is like the emergency room – we can try to fix things up, but we can't stop her from being abused in the first place,” she says. “We wanted to see if we can stop abuse before it starts with potential victims and abusers. Kids need to know that stalking, harassment and threats are abuse.”

Dani is continuing her internship with the shelter to create and implement the prevention program for schools.

She is applying to law schools and dual-degree J.D./public administration programs. She hopes to use her law degree to help advocate for women, and she also aspires to be involved with state-level politics. In which state? Kansas, of course.

To help create transformative experiences for students like Ryan Xiao and Dani Onions, go to

www.honors.ku.edu

and click on

“Give to the Honors Program”



one hundred for one hundred

Honors students rely on private gifts to fund their transformative opportunities. All the students featured here have been able to have such experiences. The 100 little Jayhawks on these pages represent 100 more students awaiting their chance to do the same, if we meet our \$100,000 goal.

We will continue to share their stories so you can see how your contribution benefits our talented Honors students.

Kindly use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift or give online at honors.ku.edu

Honors students of today and tomorrow thank you for your support.

GREG LOVING,
J. Michael Young Opportunity Fund

Now: Works for Exxon Mobil, will attend Harvard Business School

As a KU Honors student: Attended energy summit at M.I.T., started KU Energy Club, traveled to Guatemala to install water filters in homes

"At a lot of small liberal arts schools, I wouldn't be able to do engineering—and I definitely wouldn't be able to do a double major.

The Honors Program allowed me to do that, and [engineering professor and Honors alumnus] Bryan Young set it up for me."

KELSEY MURRELL,
Rhodes Scholar, Rudkin Undergraduate Scholarship for International Interdisciplinary Research Experiences

Now: Studying at Oxford University

As a KU Honors student: Studied abroad three times – Costa Rica, Peru and London; attended the MultiEthnic Literature of the United States conference

"Without the Honors Program, I don't think I would have even qualified for an experience like this [Rhodes Scholarship], let alone gotten it. The Honors Program really provides a closer-knit intellectual community of people who demand more from you, expect more from you and push you."



JULIA BARNARD, Development Grant
Rhodes Scholarship finalist

Now: Works for Hillel, University of Texas

As a KU Honors student: Worked in Cambridge, Mass., with National Book Award winner and author, Jonathan Kozol

“A lot of my friends told me the Honors Program makes KU feel smaller, and I’ve found that’s true. The other students are so cool, and not just in an academic way – they’re your support for everything. I’m in class with people who are just as interested as I am.”



STEPHANIE JIAN, Development Grant

**Now: First year Optometry student,
University of California-Berkeley**

As a KU Honors student: Traveled to India to study the education system

“The experience you have in the KU Honors Program rivals what you’ll get at any top university in the country. There are a lot of resources here, plus there is individual attention that you may not get at other schools. It’s not just about classes; it’s about them helping you create the whole college experience.”



ANN NZUKI, University Scholar

**Now: 1st year medical student,
KU Medical School**

As a KU Honors student:
Traveled to Africa to study
Applied Behavioral Science

“When you are interacting with other people who are like you, you motivate each other to reach higher. A lot of people in Honors have a lot of the same classes, so it has helped me to build relationships with other people.”



WILL DALE, University Scholar, Stroup Internship Fund Junior, majoring in English

As a KU Honors student: Participated in PBS 50th anniversary re-creation of the Freedom Riders, did an internship at the U.S. Department of Education

“Without the Honors Program, it would have been a lot harder to have found another community that is as supportive and useful in my undergraduate career. Honors classes, particularly, provide me with an inclusive, safe space to discuss critical issues. My peers push me into uncomfortable conversations that make me grow as a student, an academic, and an advocate.”



SARAH STERN, Opportunity Fund, Global Scholars

Senior, majoring in strategic communications and Latin American studies

As a KU Honors student: Studied abroad in Paraguay and researched microfinance loans in rural communities, studied abroad in Brazil and published a volume of photographs of life in the slums

“Anything I want to do, there’s someone at KU who wants to help me. The Honors Program is a smaller part of KU that makes things accessible and possible. I found a way to make KU work for me.”



KEVIN SONG, Jensen-Dannelly Fund, Goldwater Scholar

Now: Pursuing Ph.D. in biophysical sciences, University of Chicago

“The Honors faculty really helped me a lot to win the Goldwater Scholarship. I think that’s the primary reason why I won. I was paired with five different professors in different disciplines, and they all gave me insights about what should be on my application.”



SCOTT MITCHELL, Undergraduate Research Awards

Now: First year M.D./Ph.D. at KU Med

As a KU Honors student: Did bioengineering research and Mayo Clinic internship

“I absolutely wouldn’t have had the chance to do the programs I’ve done if it weren’t for the Honors Program. I could have gone to college a lot of different places, but the professors and students here – I’m a product of them.”



HANNAH SITZ, Stroup Internship Fund
**Junior, majoring in psychology
and strategic communications**

As a KU Honors student: did the Coro
summer internship in public affairs

"I like that the Honors classes are smaller
and geared toward Honors students
who want to get more out of a class.
The professors want to cultivate you as
a person outside of class."



SIDA NIU, Honors Opportunity Fund

**Senior, majoring in chemical
engineering and pre-med**

**Early admission to medical school
at KU Med**

As a KU Honors student: did an
internship with the Kansas Health
Institute, comparatively researched
world health systems

"All of my gen ed classes were filled
with Honors students. It was nice to
be surrounded by motivated peers
and learn what others are doing so
I can apply it to my own learning
experience. It helped me to motivate
myself to do better and strive for
higher things."



MICHAEL TETWILER, Honors Opportunity Fund

Second-year medical student at KU Med

Traveled to Guatemala to assist children with KU
medical students

"The Honors Program challenged me academically
in ways that no other part of my education had,
and for that I will always be grateful. Through
engaging and challenging coursework, my
Honors classes have left me with what I feel
will be an insatiable lifelong curiosity and desire
for understanding."

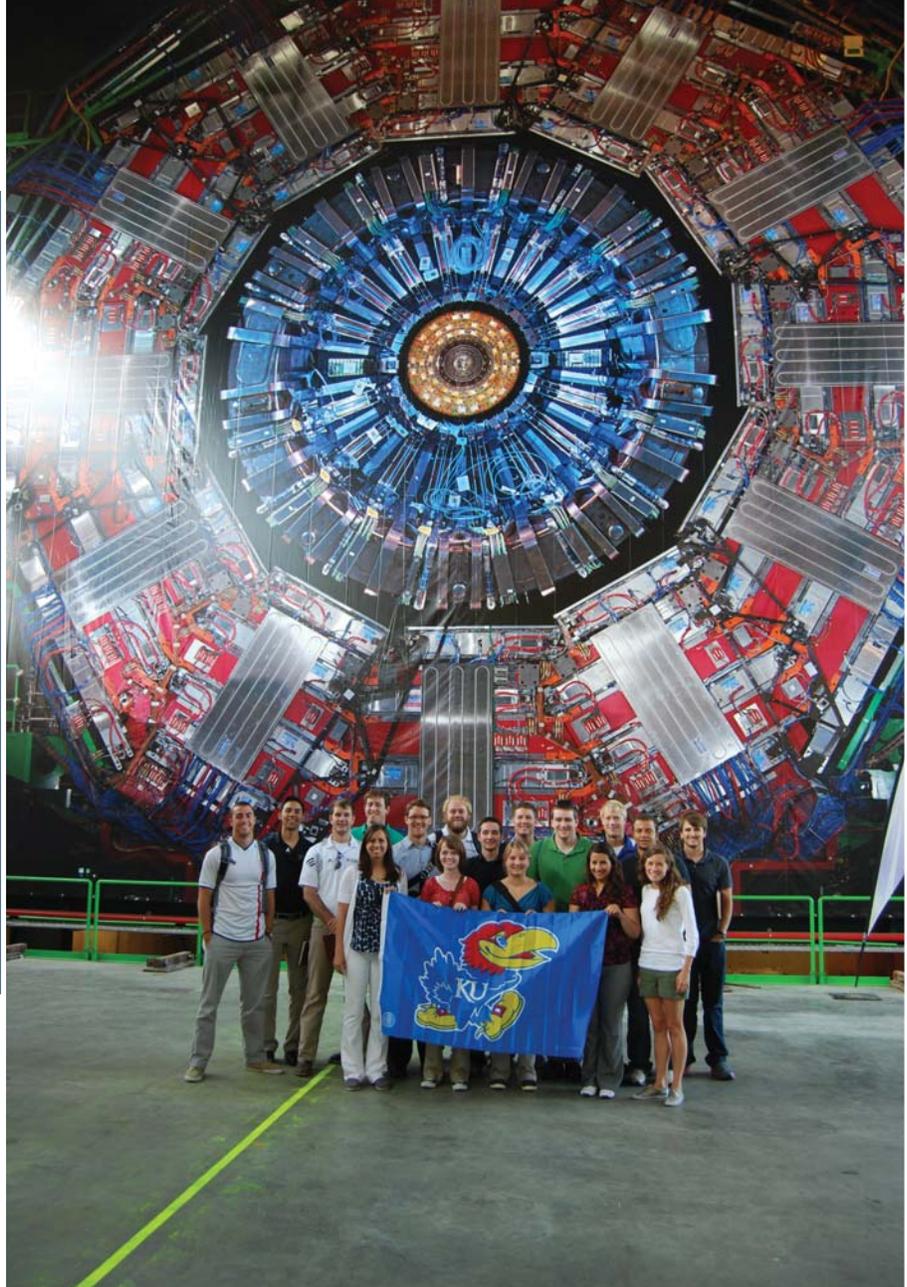


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Before descending into the depths of CERN, students in the Self Engineering Leadership Fellows Program, including several Honors Program students, show their KU pride in front of an actual size photo-replica cross-section of the Large Hadron Collider that resides several hundred feet below them under the landscape of Switzerland and France.

The students are: front row, from left, Jamie Branch, Emma Watson, Camille Fittell, Gelareh Samandi and Hanna Cosgrove; middle row, from left, Matt Vestal, Matt Fowler, Erik Deddens, Chris Hudson, Hayden Maples and Gave Bliss; and back row, from left, Hans Walther, Austin Smith, Matt Werner, Luke Ezell, Matt Toft and Ryan Poff. All are seniors in the School of Engineering and the trip was part of the Capstone Experience as part of their participation in the SELF Program.



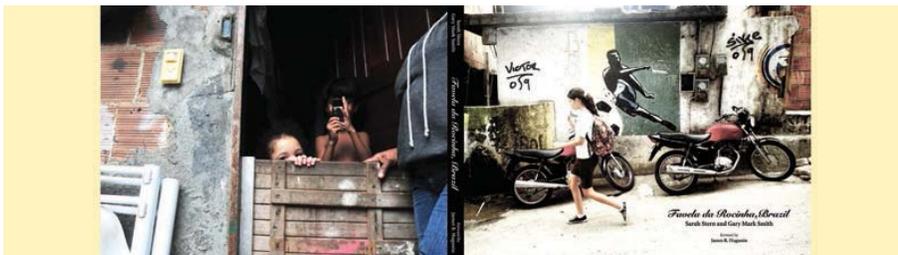
Honors Student Collaborates on New Book

University Honors Program student Sarah Stern collaborated with renowned street photographer and KU alumnus Gary Mark Smith on a recently released book, *Favela de Rocinha, Brazil*.

The book compiles images and essays from their three-week trip to the Brazilian slums of Rio de Janeiro in the summer of 2011, to document the slums' cultural significance, ahead of the international spotlight for the 2014 World Cup and

2016 Summer Olympics. Stern, a senior majoring in strategic communications and Latin American studies, and Smith, who has been a professional photographer since 1978, risked gang violence to document life in the favelas, or slums, of Rio de Janeiro.

The book is available from The Raven Bookstore in Lawrence and online at www.rocinhathebook.com.



The cover of *Favela de Rocinha, Brazil*, photographed by Honors student Sarah Stern and professional photographer Gary Mark Smith.

Colombian President, continued from page 2

“Before we pick our career, we have all these different experiences, so it is interesting to see how his experiences contributed to how he is as president,” she said.

Honors student Will Dale asked the president how he sees his role in improving Colombia’s foreign relations.

Santos Calderón responded that when he was inaugurated, Colombia was about to go to war with Venezuela. He sent a message to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez three days after Santos Calderón’s inauguration, asking to meet with him.

“I said, ‘We are about to go to war, why don’t we set up some rules of engagement? Let’s respect each other and work together.’ This has changed the whole geo-diplomatic scene,” he said.

“My years here are memorable, and so that’s why I’m so happy to be back after 40 years.”

Dale said that he could sense Santos Calderón’s connection to the United States in his diplomatic strategy.

“Colombia, in essence, becomes a gateway for the U.S. to reach out to these countries in an effort to maintain or create better relationships,” Dale said. “His answer made sense. President Santos Calderón is U.S.-college educated. It seems natural that he can become a mediator.”

After his time with Honors students, Stern presented Santos Calderón with an Honors medallion. Santos Calderón then held a press conference that included local and national media outlets. He spoke at a public event at the Dole Institute of Politics later in the day, where he received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. Then, he and his family left on a Colombian 737 jet from the Lawrence Municipal Airport, en route to the United Nations in New York City.



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HONORS PHONE (785) 864-4225

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