

THE HONOREAD

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

Honors Program Launches Alumni-Student Mentoring Network

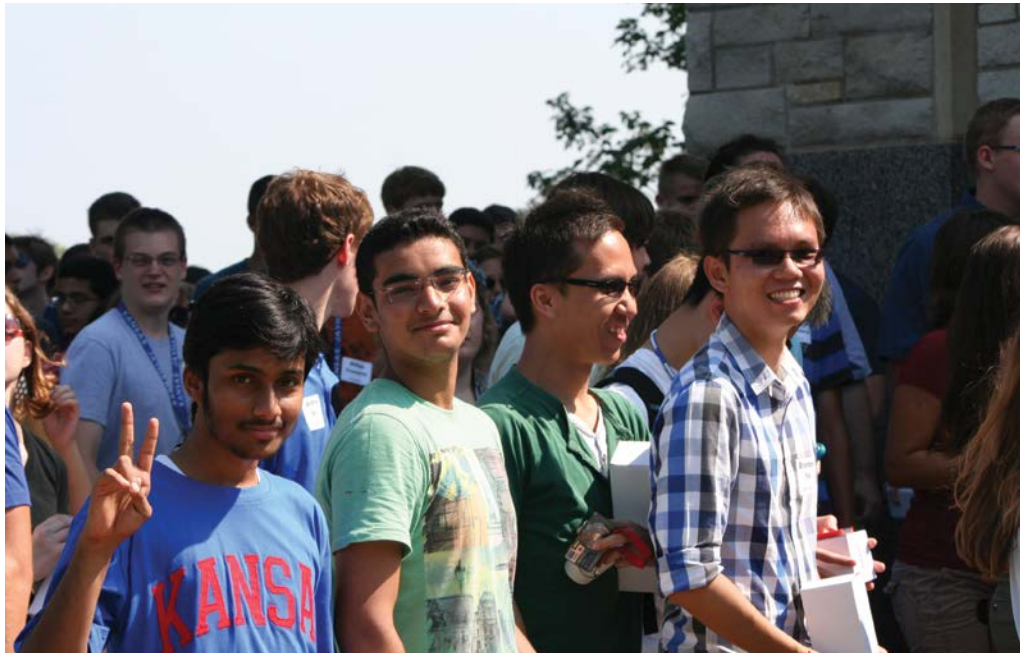
The University Honors Program prepares students to excel both academically and personally. With the launch of the Honors Program's new alumni mentoring network, in addition to taking Honors classes, participating in research and studying abroad, students will be able to learn more about career development and post-graduate options.

Ed Healy, the Honors Program's coordinator for student development, is matching Honors alumni with Honors students. He is working to ensure that the pairings are personalized and individualized for effective mentoring.

Jeff Stowell, a 1997 Honors Program graduate and member of the Honors Advisory Board, has been matched with Aley Brown, an Honors Program student majoring in business.

Aley operates her own blog, which is a profitable website, and she hopes to continue to be an entrepreneur. Jeff is an entrepreneur, who works with entrepreneurs daily, and he became an alumni mentor as a way to give information to students that he did not have access to as an undergraduate.

WALK UP THE HILL



New Honors students participated in the Walk Up the Hill, at this year's Honors Convocation, before classes began. The University Honors Program has expanded to increase the number of incoming students by 45 percent, from 275 to 400, and to include more international students. The expansion is a way to lure more high-caliber students to KU, who often go elsewhere if they are not accepted into the Honors Program. See "From the Director," page 2 for more information about the Program expansion.

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This will be my last column as Director of the University Honors Program. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as director for the past five years. As I have said many times, this is the best job on campus. But after almost 40 years of teaching, most of those years at the University of Kansas, I have decided it is time to move on to the next phase of my life. There have been many changes in the program over the past five years, and I look forward to seeing the Honors Program continue to grow and prosper in the coming years.

This year has brought unprecedented growth to the program. With support from the Provost's Office and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we had an influx of funds that allowed us to increase the size of the first-year class by almost 50%. Even though the class is larger, the quality of this group remains as outstanding as ever. Many students who likely would have gone elsewhere for college chose KU because they were admitted to the Honors Program. We already have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and energy of this class. They filled the Union Ballroom for Freshman Convocation, and their attendance at Honors Program events has been impressive. They show great promise to follow in the footsteps of our outstanding current students and alumni.

In order to ensure that these students have the same high quality honors experience as previous classes, with the additional funding we

FROM THE DIRECTOR

have added two more full-time staff and four more Honors Faculty Fellows. Our new coordinator for student development has developed a number of new programs, including an Honors LinkedIn group and an Honors alumni mentoring program. I hope you will consider joining both. And don't forget to "like" us on Facebook. We have been able to expand the number and breadth of curricular and co-curricular programs for students, providing even more opportunities for professional and personal development. **As the program continues to grow, support from alumni and friends becomes even more important.**

In April 2012, KU launched Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas. As part of this capital campaign, the University Honors Program set a goal of raising \$100,000 annually to fund additional opportunity awards for students to do something extraordinary.

Although the goal was not met entirely last year, we did receive many gifts that allowed us to support more students. Some wonderful examples of what our students did with these gifts are featured in this newsletter. **With the growth of the program, even more students will be applying for these awards and more support from alumni and friends of the Honors Program will be needed to ensure that they too, will be able to benefit from one of these experiences.** The 100 little Jayhawks you see throughout this newsletter represent the 100 students who will have the chance to do something interesting and important this year if we meet our annual goal of \$100,000 with your support. On their behalf, I send my thanks.

KATHLEEN MCCLUSKEY-FAWCETT



The Honors Program convened its first Medical Mixer this fall, inviting local medical professionals – including physicians, nurses and pharmacists – to meet with Honors students interested in health-related careers. The event was done in collaboration with the Jayhawk Health Initiative, which was founded by Honors students to give students in health majors real-world experience, including international medical missions. Here, Patrick Parker, director of pharmacy at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, chats with Honors students at the Medical Mixer.

*Mentoring Network,
continued from page 1*

"That kind of mentoring didn't have a supported infrastructure, despite the fact that there are many KU grads who are very successful business people and entrepreneurs," Jeff says. "What the Honors Program is doing now in terms of trying to provide a connection to mentors outside the traditional academic expertise of those within the University is filling a pretty significant gap in the student experience. I wanted to be a part of that."

Aley and Jeff have just begun to meet this fall, but Aley already is craving the information – and even constructive criticism – that her mentor may have to offer.

"I think having a mentor to give me advice about expanding a business and about the security of my own investments will be extremely valuable," she says.

Jeff says that it is helpful for entrepreneurs like Aley to be able to ask questions or brainstorm ideas early on, so they can more fully understand and develop their businesses.

"Employees and customers fully expect that you have all the answers all of the time. That is an outsized expectation; it's literally NEVER true, but there is no safe place to go with questions or ideas without seemingly jeopardizing your company's culture or position in the marketplace. I hope I can offer that safe place," he says.

Ed sees well how mentoring complements both the students' education and their Honors experience.

"The mentoring is good for the students' personal and professional growth. We want to figure out what they want to do, so they don't get stuck in a job that doesn't make them happy," he says.

Ed has created an Honors network on LinkedIn for alumni to connect, in addition to e-mail and Facebook

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WHY WE GIVE: JIM and BEVERLY CAROTHERS



Beverly and Jim Carothers

Professor Jim Carothers and his wife Beverly have been intertwined with the University Honors Program for decades. But the past four years, they may have been as happily connected as ever, as their granddaughter, Kelsey, graduated from the Honors Program this past spring, in interior design.

To show their appreciation for Kelsey's education and experiences in the Honors Program, the Carothers have made a generous contribution in honor of Kelsey. Jim and Beverly say that Kelsey really benefited from the Honors Program, and they wanted to extend those benefits to other students with their gift.

"I've known the range of things that the Honors Program can do for people since I started teaching in the seventies. The Honors Program is a place where a donation can do some good. Even a small award changes students' lives. And, we get satisfaction, because we hear from the students and what they are doing because of it," Jim says.

Beverly says she spent a lot of time traveling with Kelsey and her younger brother as children, when

they went places for their dad's job. She hopes that Honors students will have travel opportunities because of their contribution, as well.

"As much as the money is absolutely essential, the very thought that there are other people who are your cheering section and recognize what you have achieved is important, too," Beverly says. "When you travel abroad and immerse yourself in a culture, you invest yourself in the world."

Jim says he has seen many students transformed by recognition from the Honors Program. A couple of his students in the 1970s earned undergraduate research awards and were able to concentrate on Honors research projects and essays, instead of working summer jobs to earn money.

"Just that much of a contribution encouraged them to go on with their academic careers, which they did. The amount of money that Honors gives is appreciated by the students," he says.

Jim and Beverly both have seen that Honors students benefit from their surroundings outside the classroom.

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It turns out that getting called on in class by the instructor can lead to more than just the right answer to a question – it can spark the answer to an opportunity as well.

When University Honors Program seminar instructor Jeff Weinberg pointed to then-freshman Emerson James during class and told Emerson he could go study at an all-girls school in South Korea, Professor Weinberg got his attention. Emerson, now a senior double-majoring in finance and East Asian Language and Culture, called his parents and told them he was thinking about studying in Korea. They didn't believe that their introverted, musical son could be serious. But he was.

That summer, he began taking Korean language classes in preparation for a year studying abroad in South Korea. Emerson arranged to study at two different schools, so he could fulfill his KU coursework, while expanding his Korean language skills. He obtained funding from a KU alumnus in South Korea, as well as from the Honors Program, to pay for his studies.

My impression is that they are more dedicated and more intelligent. I like being in an environment of smart people for sure.

He returned to KU for the spring semester of his junior year, which was last spring, and immediately began searching for an opportunity to take him back to South Korea in the summer. The South Korean donor who had helped pay for his schooling there agreed to take him on as a summer intern at his magazine company, which publishes the Korean versions of the likes of *Esquire* and *Harper's Bazaar*. So, he headed back this past summer.

Despite language and cultural barriers, Emerson helped launch

MEET EMERSON JAMES

a revamped website as well as social media outlets for the magazines. He also did translation work for some of the publications' celebrity interviews.

His experiences in Korea were both very challenging and very rewarding.

"When you're in Korea and you're a 6'2" white guy who speaks Korean, you're always different," Emerson said. "It is interesting to think about how I treat people after that experience."

Emerson credits not only Weinberg but also the Honors Program for helping him knuckle down and focus on his potential career interests. He came to KU thinking he needed to be a doctor, and his Korea experiences sent him on a completely different path. He will graduate in the spring of 2014 and is researching career options.

"The Honors Program is something a student has to do himself. It offers you the opportunity to take hold of your academic career. The professors all want to talk to you, but they don't hold your hand," he said.

From the moment Weinberg pointed to him in class, Emerson understood that, "People want to help you and see you succeed. You have to take advantage of it."

His introduction to the Honors Program and Honors students came in an Honors physics class.



Emerson James, featured in *Korean Esquire*

"Everyone in the class was so much farther advanced than me. It was a good class, because the professor expected a lot from us," he said. The professors, like Weinberg, have taught him a lot, but so have his fellow Honors students.

"You sit down in class, and you meet students. My impression is that they are more dedicated and more intelligent. I like being in an environment of smart people for sure," he said.



Katie Stites in Agra, India

MEET KATIE STITES

“If you’re paying attention when you walk into an Honors class, the students are so eager, listening to the professor, engaged, ready to learn and so excited about college.”

Her studies in India gave her a feel for what it would be like to do research in graduate school for environmental studies. Her additional, Honors-funded travels helped her understand how other people live—including Honors student Alyssa Ong, whom Katie and Chris visited in her hometown of Malaysia. Katie credits the Honors Program faculty, particularly Kala Stroup, with pushing her.

“They really help me bring all my interests together into a couple of things I want to do,” she said. She also has connected with other Honors students like Chris and Alyssa through Alternative Breaks and Honors classes.

“I always feel the most inspired when I’m in an Honors class,” Katie said. “If you’re paying attention when you walk into an Honors class, the students are so eager, listening to the professor, engaged, ready to learn and so excited about college.”

At times like right now as she is deciding on and planning her career, she said she was also very thankful for the Honors staff and advisers.

“We have access to great advisers and mentors. My Honors advisers ask me, ‘Have you thought about this?’ They are pushing me,” she said.

Katie’s older brother also was in the Honors Program, and she is a 4th generation Jayhawk. She will graduate this spring, and she is continuing to hone in on her career options. Nonprofit work and/or environmental work are both on her list – and no doubt that her Honors advisers will continue to open her up to what her Honors education can bring.

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In her travels this summer, Honors student Katie Stites learned some important cultural lessons: Don’t talk to or smile at strangers in India. But please do smile and talk in Thailand, or they will think you are rude.

Katie, a senior global and international studies major, studied abroad in India this summer to learn about different ecological regions of the country. Thanks to funding from the Honors Opportunity Fund, she extended her travels to other parts of India, Thailand and Malaysia, and learned so much more.

Her trip and studies in India involved traveling with A Tree, an NGO, and seeing firsthand the different climates and ecologies, to learn about wildlife and human interaction with the environment. “India is fighting to protect the environment, but they also want to preserve the traditional way of life. That is the main source of conflict in the region,” Katie said.

Most of her cultural lessons came after the ecological lessons, when she and fellow Honors student Chris Rice traveled to New Delhi, the Taj Mahal, Bangkok, coastal Thailand and Panang, Malaysia.

To help create transformative experiences for students like Emerson James and Katie Stites, 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.

DANI ONIONS,
Washington, D.C., Internship

Now: First-year law student, University of Kansas School of Law

As a KU Honors student: had an internship with U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

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

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."

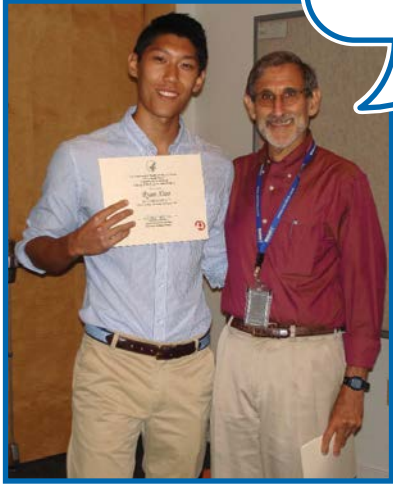


RYAN XIAO, Internship, University Scholars

Senior, majoring in biochemistry

As a KU Honors student: did an internship at the National Institutes of Health, does biology research at KU

“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.”



RYAN STEELE, Opportunity Fund

Junior, majoring in human biology and pre-med

As a KU Honors student: worked in a health clinic in Guatemala

“Everybody in the program is driven. You’re never going to meet anyone who isn’t constantly pushing themselves. But at the same time, they want to see their classmates succeed. That is the level of community that Honors classes and the Honors Program provide. I have never second-guessed my decision to come to KU.”



LEIGH LOVING, Opportunity Fund

Junior, Majoring in biology and pre-med

As a KU Honors student: founded the Jayhawk Health Initiative, to give students in health majors hands-on experience and opportunities to care for others

“The Honors Program has provided me with an education, that I personally believe, is one of the best in the nation. With the backing of the Honors staff, Jayhawk Health Initiative had an incredibly successful first year, which gave me a multitude of learning experiences that will serve to benefit me in my future career as a doctor.”



WILL DALE, University Scholar, Stroup Internship Fund

Senior, 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."



KATIE STITES, Opportunity Fund

Senior, majoring in global and international studies

As a KU Honors student: studied ecological regions of India and traveled through India, Thailand and Malaysia

"I always feel the most inspired when I'm in an Honors class. If you're paying attention when you walk into an Honors class, the students are so eager, listening to the professor, engaged, ready to learn and so excited about college."



EMERSON JAMES, Korea Scholarship

Senior, majoring in finance and East Asian language and culture

As a KU Honors student: studied abroad in South Korea and did an internship at a South Korean magazine company

"When I came here from high school, I was arrogant. Honors showed me that this is not high school anymore. They're not going to make you succeed; they'll let you fail. People want to help you and see you succeed. You have to take advantage of it."



SARAH KRAUS, Opportunity Fund

Junior, majoring in environmental studies and East Asian language and culture

As a KU Honors student: researched eco-villages in Cleveland and attended a climate-change seminar in New York

"Doing research really helps you guide your own passion with academics. I find the Honors Program to be very flexible. I can make my own schedule and forge my own path."



HANNAH SITZ, Truman Scholar, Stroup Internship Fund

Senior, 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."



ALEXIS KNUTSEN, Critical Languages Scholarship, Foreign Language and Area Studies, University Scholars

Senior, majoring in classics

As a KU Honors student: studied in Oman and Jordan, taught English classes to Muslim women at the local Islamic Center

"The biggest thing the Honors Program has done for me was to set me up with a mentor through the University Scholars program. I also have had help with the scholarships I've applied for. And the professors I've met through the Honors Program are willing to meet with me and talk to me."



THORNTON THOMPSON, Gates Cambridge Fellowship

Now: Ph.D. student in cell biology at University of California-Berkeley

As a KU Honors student: did British Summer Institute, cancer research at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and biology research at KU

"I can tell you with all enthusiasm that my Honors classes my first year opened up an intellectual world for me that I had never encountered or imagined. The Honors Program also provides a platform for personal interactions among people you wouldn't normally get to become friends with, across disciplines."



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JENNIFER ROBERTS

Keeps the Honors Program “Rock”ing

For about 10 years, Professor Jennifer Roberts has tried not to put her Honors geology students between a rock and a hard place. Now as a new University Honors Program Faculty Fellow, she is eager to have more opportunities to show Honors students that geology is not all about rocks – and KU is not a hard place.

“There’s geology in a whole lot of places that you don’t think about, until you open your eyes,” she says.

“It’s pretty exciting to come up with creative classes for the Honors students. To be this focused is something I would normally do with graduate students.”



Jennifer, associate professor of geology, is teaching an Honors seminar this fall based on her Arctic research on the island of Svalbard that she worked on this summer. In collaboration with Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, she is studying methane flux in permafrost, and she brought back some permafrost and soil samples for her students to test and monitor throughout the semester.

It’s pretty exciting to come up with creative classes for the Honors students. To be this focused is something I would normally do with graduate students.

“Atmospheric methane concentration has increased globally in the past 50 years, but particularly in Arctic permafrost. We are working to put together predictive models of what will happen if the temperature warms and creates more soil in the Arctic,” she says.

She is eager to learn along with her Honors students what the samples will tell them. From teaching Honors Introduction to Geology, she has a sense for the kinds of experiences that Honors students expect and appreciate.

“My impression is that there is just a lot more critical thinking

and willingness to delve into the material and consider it at a lot deeper level. I have seen a lot more thoughtfulness and engagement from the Honors students,” she says.

Jennifer began advising Honors students this summer, so she had a “crash course in the KU Core” right off the bat. She is interested to have the opportunity to be involved with

Honors students one-on-one as they chart their coursework.

“It is great to open students up to all the possibilities we have at KU. There is still a lot of variability in Honors students between those who have a path and those who don’t,” she says.

When not flying to remote Arctic islands for her methanotroph research, Jennifer enjoys cooking – particularly spicy foods from her native New Mexico – reading and shopping for shoes. She has two children, Cameron (6) and Archer (3 ½).

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Award Fund Established for Retiring Honors Program Director

The University Honors Program Advisory Board has created the Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett Outstanding Contribution Award, in honor of the director, who will retire January 1. The purpose of the award is to recognize Honors students who demonstrate leadership, innovation and engagement in the Honors Program.

“I’ve been so inspired by particular students who have made contributions to the program that will be long-lasting. All are high achievers who do well in class and research, but some leave long-lasting marks on the program. I am honored that the Board has established this wonderful award to recognize these special students,” Kathleen says.



Mentoring Network, continued from page 3

Ed has created an Honors network on LinkedIn for alumni to connect, in addition to e-mail and Facebook networks. He says the response on LinkedIn and from alumni contacting him to be a part of the mentoring program has been impressive.

"I want people to want to be involved. I feel like it's an individualized program and specialized enough that the alumni will know about the students' hopes," he says.

Mentors and mentees have just begun connecting in the past month, and plans are for the network to continue indefinitely for current and future Honors Program students. If you are interested in being an alumni mentor or want more information about the program, contact Ed Healy at honors@ku.edu.



She hopes that the award will be given to students who leave a legacy with the Honors Program that will affect other students or create opportunities for other students. She would like the award to be presented each year at the Honors freshman convocation, so that incoming students will be inspired to be involved and contribute to the Honors Program.

Kathleen is thrilled that the Advisory Board has established this fund, in part because it reflects a learning experience she had as an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota, studying child psychology. Because, at that time, most of the advising by faculty was focused on graduate students, she and some of her classmates developed a peer advising program for child psychology majors, so that they could receive personalized guidance for their academic paths.

"Early on, I realized that undergraduates can have a lot of impact on a

Why We Give, continued from page 3

"The great thing about the Honors Program for the students is that they become acquainted with other students outside their academic interests. That is why Nunemaker is special. The classes are not just a bunch of specialists talking to each other, but people who bring different perspectives," Jim says.

Now they can honor Kelsey and help future Honors students achieve their goals.

To help create transformative experiences for Honors students, go to www.honors.ku.edu and click on "Give to the Honors Program."



program," she says. "The Honors Program is a good place for students who understand they have a great idea and can make it happen." Kathleen, a professor of psychology at KU since 1985 and Honors professor since the 1990s, has seen students propelled into careers and disciplines by their interactions with faculty.

"We have an impact on the people we mentor. Undergraduates are at an age where they are trying to figure out what they are doing with their lives, and faculty and staff can have a profound impact. I'm grateful to my own mentors and grateful for the opportunity I've had to mentor so many wonderful Honors students. Their accomplishments continue to amaze me," she says.

And now, thanks to the Board and Kathleen, they may be rewarded for their extra efforts.

To contribute to the Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett Outstanding Contribution Award, go to www.honors.ku.edu and click on Give to the Honors Program.



Honors Program Director Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett with Sesame Street character Murray at a recent KU Alumni event in New York City.

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