

# ANNUAL REPORT





# Dean's Letter



Dear Friends and Family of the Lewis Honors College,

It has been wonderful to return to the Lewis Honors College this year, after serving as the Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. During my absence, Acting Dean Dr. Laura Bryan and I remained in regular contact and so much was accomplished in the College during that time. Particularly significant was Dr. Bryan's initiating the college-wide strategic planning process in which so many of you participated, including faculty and staff from across campus, Honors students, alumni, donors, community members, and parents/guardians of students. In all, over 450 individuals responded to surveys or participated in focus groups, interviews, and group discussions. This past year we have finalized the plan and I encourage you to take a look at it on our [website](#).

In this year's Annual Report, you will read about our remarkable students, faculty, and staff. For example, this spring we graduated our second class of students completing the new Honors curriculum. We awarded the Honors Medallion to 326 students, graduating with 472 unique degrees or certificates. Nearly half of all graduates are going on to professional or graduate schools (for an MD, MBA, PhD, etc.) and the class includes a Gates Cambridge Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar.

Our recruiting season experienced its most selective year accepting 43% of applicants from 40 states and 18 countries and we anticipate one-third of accepted students to join us this fall. Total enrollment in the College is roughly 2,300 students or about 10% of the University of Kentucky undergraduate population. This is an ideal size for an Honors college, to create both opportunity and impact in the university community.

Our outstanding faculty were recognized in several ways this year. Dr. Kenton Sena received the 2023 Great Teacher Award, one of six teachers recognized by the University of Kentucky Alumni Association, Dr. Bryan was elected to serve on the American Psychological Association Board of Educational Affairs, and Dr. Tara Tuttle was elected president of the Kentucky Honors Roundtable. In addition, we hired four new faculty members who will enhance our already excellent teaching available in the College.

Students continue to value the personalized attention afforded by the dedicated Honors advisors and the Center for Personal Development counselors. The team of advisors and counselors helps students maximize their schedules to ensure the completion of 30 credit hours of Honors coursework, explore their purpose, and build personal resiliency.

Finally, we look forward to next spring, when we will host the 2024 Honors Education at Research Universities Conference. This is a significant bi-annual conference that brings together Honors educators and staff from across the country to discuss topics such as pedagogy, recruitment, student success, research, and philanthropy. I am proud that we will be able to showcase the Lewis Honors College at the University of Kentucky and all that we have accomplished together in these first six years. Onward and upward and... Go Cats!

Sincerely,

Christian M. M. Brady, DPhil  
The T. W. Lewis Dean  
Lewis Honors College





## *Mission*

The mission of the Lewis Honors College is to better the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the world by helping students to explore their purpose, develop intellectually, and lead with integrity.

## *Vision*

The Lewis Honors College will provide a world-class Honors experience that is known for the success of its students, the quality of its faculty and curriculum, the respect of its peers, and the economic and social progress of our communities.

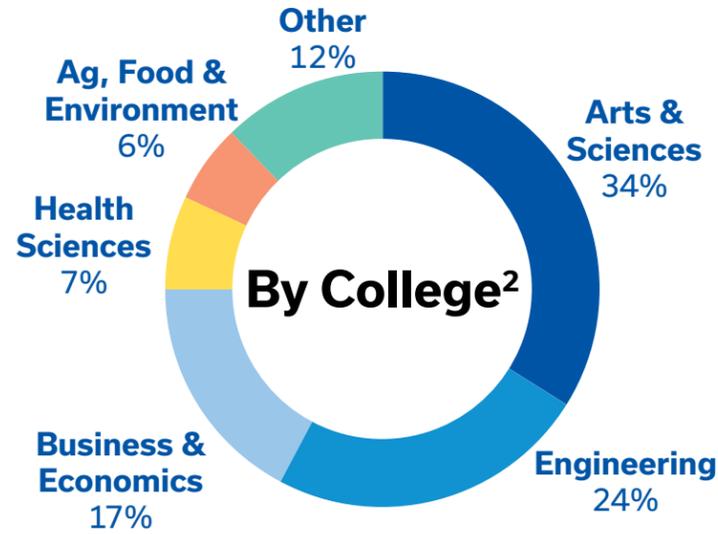
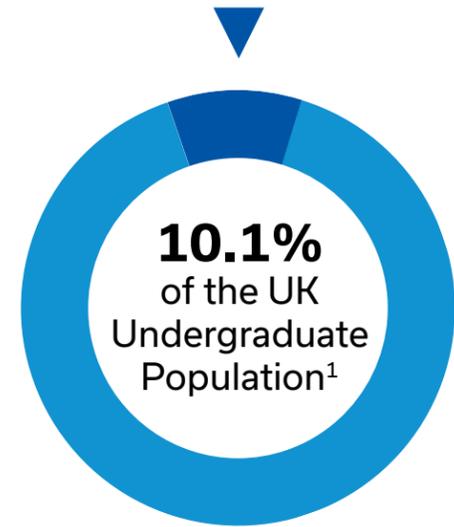
## *Values*

The Lewis Honors College is guided by its core values:

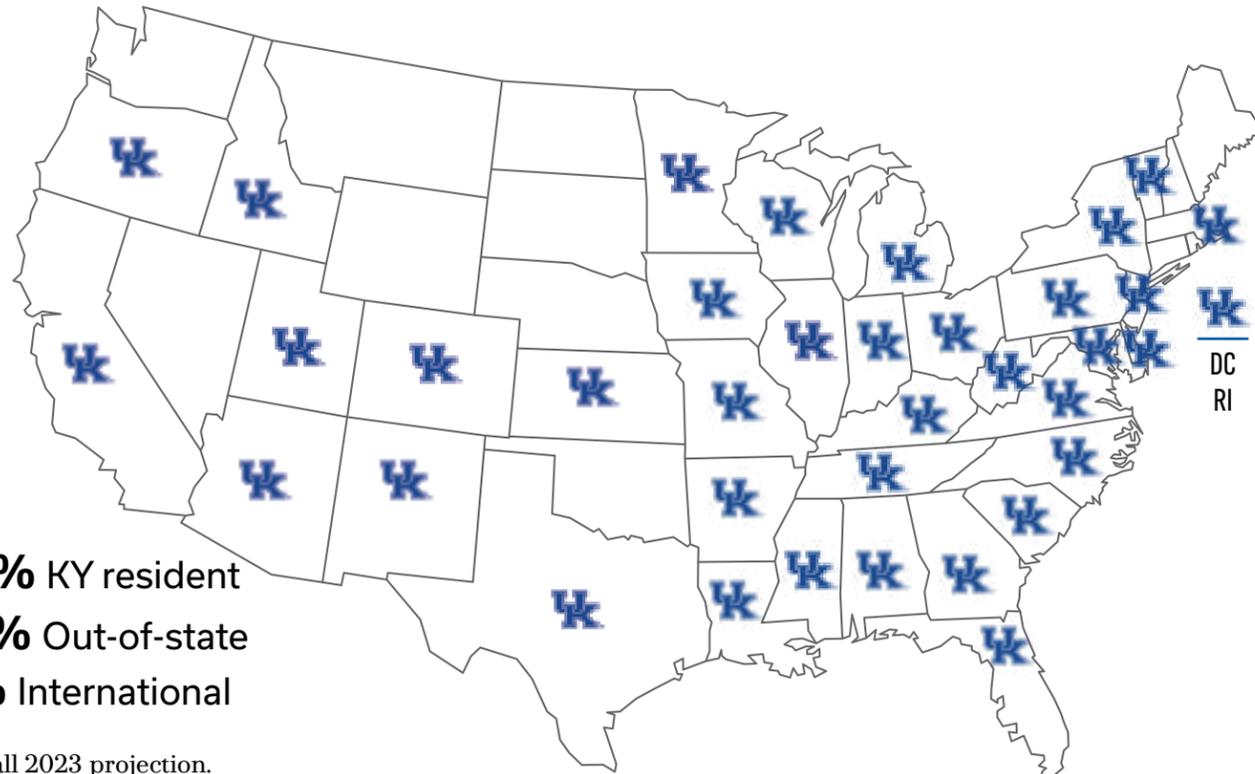
- ◇ Excellence
- ◇ Integrity
- ◇ Innovation
- ◇ Curiosity
- ◇ Mutual respect and human dignity for all
- ◇ Acting against hatred of any person or group
- ◇ Diversity and inclusivity
- ◇ Academic freedom
- ◇ Personal accountability and social responsibility
- ◇ A sense of community
- ◇ Civic engagement and service

# Total Enrollment

**2,317**  
Honors students<sup>1</sup>



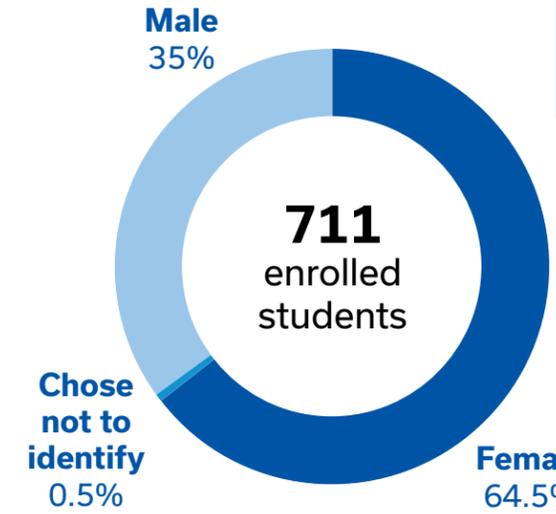
Graduation Rate	Honors <sup>3</sup> Admits	Non-Honors Admits
4-Year	78.7%	52.3%
6-Year	92.8%	65.6%



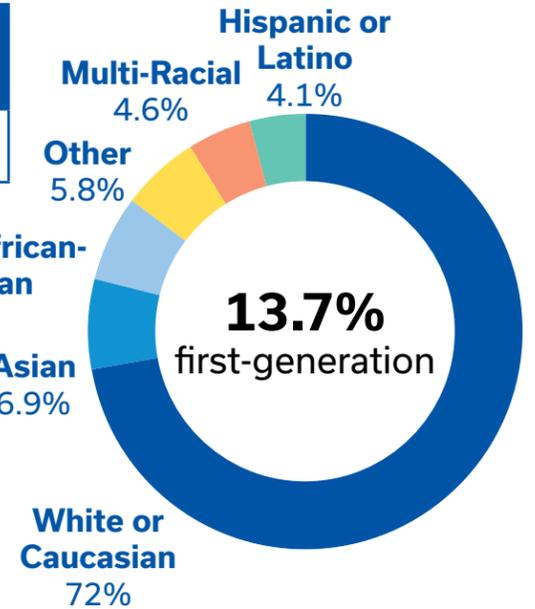
**75.3%** KY resident  
**24.7%** Out-of-state  
**1.2%** International

<sup>1</sup> Fall 2023 projection.  
<sup>2</sup> End of Spring Semester 2023.  
<sup>3</sup> Honors admits who graduated from the given cohort in 2022 regardless of whether or not they finished Honors requirements.

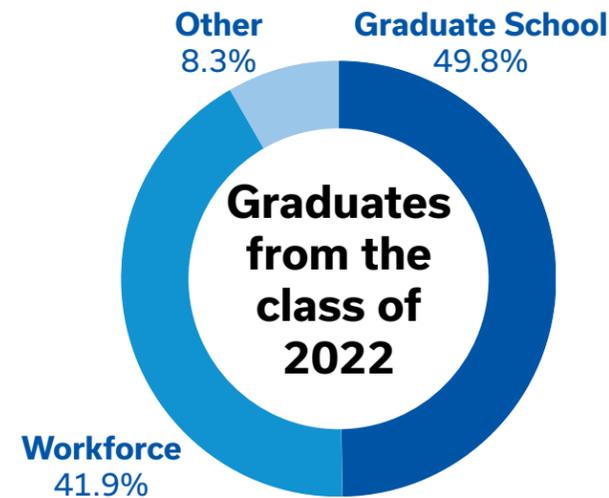
# Admit Fast Facts



Average GPA	Average ACT
3.93	30



# Graduate Outcomes



## GRADUATE SCHOOLS INCLUDE:

- American University • Duke University • Georgetown University • Georgia Tech • Harvard University • NYU • Rice University • University of Cambridge • University of Cincinnati • UK • University of Michigan • UNC • UVA • University of Wisconsin • Vanderbilt University • Villanova University • Washington University in St. Louis

## EMPLOYERS INCLUDE:

- Alltech • Bank of America Securities • Dow Chemical Company • Epic Systems • Ernst & Young • Fidelity Investments • Ford Motor Company • GEICO • General Electric • Lexmark International • NASA • PricewaterhouseCoopers • Procter & Gamble • Sazerac Company • UBS • UK • Windstream Communications

# Faculty Features

## KENTON SENA

One of the 2023 Great Teacher Award recipients, Lewis Lecturer Dr. Kenton Sena, epitomizes Honors teaching in and out of the classroom. Kenton teaches courses such as "Appalachian Natural History," "Restoration Ecology," and "The Ecology of Middle-Earth" where students not only read and analyze J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, but also reforest reclaimed mine sites in eastern Kentucky and improve the environment by picking up trash during Lexington's Water Week.

"An element of Honors teaching is student engagement. In

Honors classes, students have an opportunity to be active participants," Kenton said.

Kenton supplements Honors students' education by organizing a STEM+ speaker series where speakers with science, engineering, and health backgrounds speak to students about the importance of interdisciplinary education in STEM careers and how interdisciplinarity has impacted their careers and enriched their lives.

Additionally, Kenton conducts research for surface mine restoration and urban reforestation that involves students who co-author published



papers. As a result of his achievements in the field of reclamation research, Kenton also received the 2023 American Society of Reclamation Sciences Richard I. and Lela M. Barnhisel Reclamation Researcher of the Year Award.

How does Kenton accomplish so much? In addition to securing grants, Kenton collaborates with Senior Lewis Lecturer Dr. Daniel Kirchner to leverage the Crabtree-Cornell Fund which supports programs and academic inquiry about the environment through the lens of public health, children's health, sustainability, law, the economy, and other areas of intersection between environmental impact and public policy. The fund supported three \$500 grants to students conducting research in sustainability and the environment plus co-sponsored a free public event attended by over 800 people featuring 2022 MacArthur Fellow Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Gathering Moss* and *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Robin's essays serve as a staple in Foundational Seminar HON 140.

## NEW FACULTY



### Julie Boutwell-Peterson

Ph.D. in English and creative writing from the University of South Dakota teaching "Truth, Memory, and Imagination: Finding Your Voice through Creative Writing"



### Adrian Magendzo

The Ruth Jones Lewis Faculty Scholar in Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise with a master's degree from the McCombs School of Business at UT Austin teaching "Business Models for Innovation" and "Technology-Based Entrepreneurship"



### Sherelle Roberts

Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Kentucky teaching "Media and Civil Society"



### Jena Seiler

Ph.D. in interdisciplinary arts and an MFA in studio art from Ohio University teaching "Creative Fielding: Expanding Research through Making"

## LAURA BRYAN

Dr. Laura Bryan, the T.G. Lewis Faculty Scholar in Organizational Behavior, an endowed position in the University of Kentucky Lewis Honors College, was elected to serve on the American Psychological Association Board of Educational Affairs. This national recognition acknowledges Bryan's 30 plus years in higher education with a specific focus on psychology education.



## TARA TUTTLE

The Kentucky Honors Roundtable, a consortium of Honors programs and colleges from institutions of higher education in Kentucky, elected Senior Lewis Lecturer Dr. Tara Tuttle as president.



# Founding Dean's Award

Dean Brady and his wife, Elizabeth, established an award for teaching excellence in Honors.

Senior Lewis Lecturer Dustin Faulstick and Honors Faculty member Daniel Halgin from the Gatton College of Business and Economics received the first two awards.



# Student Spotlights

## KAYLI BOLTON

Kayli Bolton '23 graduated with a biology major and neuroscience minor to pursue a Master of Philosophy in Medical Science (Oncology) at the University of Cambridge. As the recipient of one of 23 Gates Cambridge Scholarships offered in the U.S., Kayli hopes to follow her MPhil with applications to MD/PhD programs on her way to be a physician scientist in oncology.

As a first-generation student from Corbin, KY, Kayli applied for the Lewis Honors College because she "was really excited about the academic and social

opportunities." She appreciated how being part of Honors has helped her maintain a holistic education. "I am interested in science and medicine in my career and having Honors classes that address the role of the humanities in these fields has really broadened my perspective," she reflected.

Kayli also recognized how much the faculty and peers in Honors have taught her in an out of the classroom. As a result, her advice to future/current Honors students is "to seek out people and opportunities. I have interacted with so many people at the University of Kentucky who were eager



to help me reach my personal and academic goals."

She added, "I am extremely thankful for the abundance of opportunities I have been given throughout my undergraduate career and the amazing people who helped me get to where I am today."

Throughout her UK career, Kayli received the Astronaut Scholarship and the Goldwater Scholarship. "Kayli Bolton exemplifies all that is wildly possible with an education at UK," said Provost Robert DiPaola.



## KENNEDY BROWN

Kennedy Brown '23 seeks challenges and strives to excel. "I started taking high school classes in the 7th grade and continued to take Honors and AP courses throughout high school," she said. So naturally joining the Lewis Honors College was Kennedy's next step enabling her to achieve.

While being part of Honors helped Kennedy develop her critical thinking skills, she valued the relationships most. "The Center for Personal Development provided many resources which helped me professionally. I appreciated the personal help with things like my resumes and essays to help me get accepted into internships and graduate school," Kennedy said.

Kennedy graduated with a degree in human health sciences and will be working towards her Master of Science in Nursing at Johns Hopkins University.

During her time at the University of Kentucky, Kennedy conducted research as a Chellgren Fellow and Markey STRONG Scholar. Her most recent research experience involved working with the BREATHE team at UK's College of Nursing, focusing on tobacco/radon risk, as well as the process for lung cancer screening shared decision-making in primary care offices.

She received the William C. Parker Diversity Scholarship and the College of Health Sciences Academic Excellence Award, among other awards and honors including being selected as one of four commencement speakers.

## RAYLEIGH DEATON

Since setting foot on the University of Kentucky campus during a tour, Rayleigh Deaton '23 knew she wanted to join the Lewis Honors College. "The facilities were beautiful, the faculty was amazing, and the quality of curriculum was incredible. I knew that I wanted to make the most of my time at UK, and joining Honors was one of the best ways to do that," she said.

"Honors encouraged me to think creatively and critically, and I truly believe those skills help set people apart in the real world and create more well-rounded individuals. I know that I'll take these skills and abilities honed by my time in Honors into my postgrad career," Rayleigh added.



Upon reflecting on what she most appreciates about Honors, Rayleigh values "the safe and accepting community it fosters. The faculty truly care about their students, and I always felt like my opinions were welcomed and respected, creating an environment of discovery and exploration free of judgement. This also encourages students to be more open-minded about other viewpoints that they might not have considered or even agree with." Clearly the faculty seek to know the students as Rayleigh still keeps in touch with her very first Honors class professor, Dr. Luke Bradley!

Although Rayleigh is from Charleston, SC, she will be spending the summer in Lexington working as a freelance reporter before using the 2023 Fulbright Special Study/Research award to earn her one-year master's degree in Media, Power and Public Affairs from Royal Holloway, University of London.

## HONORS MEDAL CEREMONY AWARD WINNERS

### Raymond Betts Crystal



Amanda C. Martin



Aisley Steubs



Peyton Trey Coburn



Quinn Troia

### Leadership

### Diachun Research



Abigail Mortell

### Diachun Scholar



Bruno Athié Teruel

### Evans Scholar



Mihir Kale

# Honors Advising

A dedicated team of five Honors advisors help students construct academic plans, engage in problem-solving, connect with campus resources, and evaluate various pathways to achieve individual academic goals. Honors advisors act as guides to personal success by working closely with students from the Lewis Launch orientation through completion of the Honors thesis and graduation. They appropriately challenge and support students as they discover their unique path to success. Nearly 2,000 appointments occurred last year.

“Even through changing my major multiple times, my advising team [Honors advisor and CPD counselor] in Lewis stayed the same, making me feel more empowered to explore my interests.  
**Michael Rohs '25**”

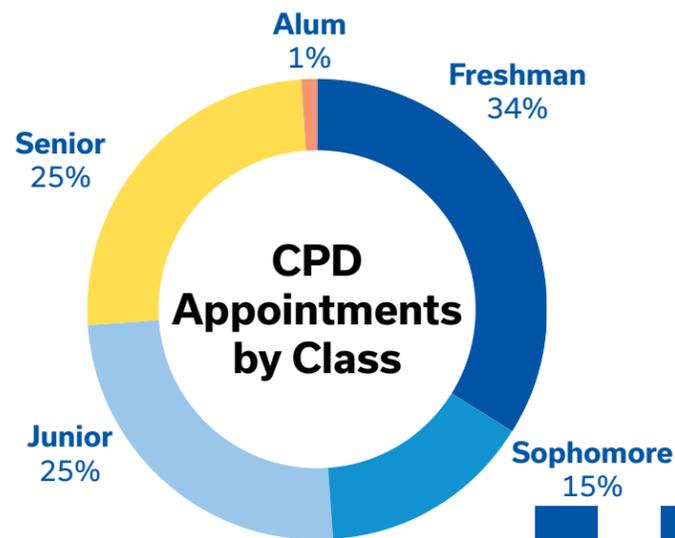
# Center for Personal Development



The mission of the Lewis Honors College Center for Personal Development (CPD) is to partner with students in their exploration of purpose to cultivate self-awareness, well-being, and career readiness. The five CPD counselors take a holistic approach in helping students set goals that promote their success while attending to their overall well-being. Services include individual counseling sessions as well as college-wide events and programs. The CPD also facilitates the Honors Alumni Mentoring Program pairing students and alumni to develop professional skills and positive life habits.

“Resources like CPD events and Honors advising have helped me greatly as a pre-med student.  
**Anna Puderbaugh '24**”

“The CPD has helped me zone in on what my goals are for the future.  
**Diksha Satish '25**”



# College Life

## LEWIS LAUNCH ORIENTATION

To foster a sense of community from the moment new students arrive, the Lewis Honors College offers Lewis Launch, a three-day orientation designed to acclimate students with resources to ensure their success. In addition to having an Honors advisor and CPD counselor, students are assigned a Lewis Launch Leader who is an upper-class student guiding a group of 15-20 new students with the process of adjusting to college.



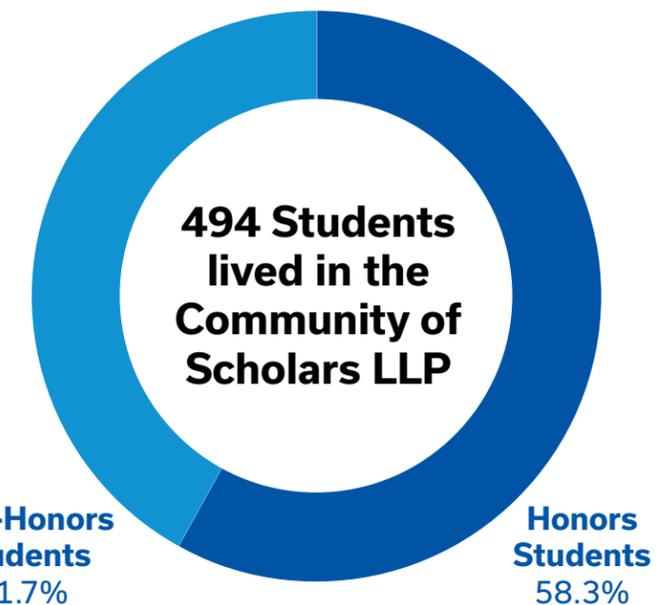
My Lewis Launch Leader...	Strongly Agree or Agree
Was approachable	97%
Was knowledgeable about UK	97%
Helped me feel welcome	96%
Was an effective facilitator	94%
Made my orientation experience enjoyable	93%



“The Honors college has brought me my closest college friends. My core group consists of four of my friends, and we were all in the same Lewis Launch group. We met during orientation, then ended up having tons of classes together, and now do so much as a group. We even went camping at the gorge one weekend!  
**Megan Sutherland '26**”

## COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS LIVING LEARNING PROGRAM

The Community of Scholars (Cos) Living Learning Program (LLP) welcomes Honors and non-Honors students that want to live among like-minded peers who are intellectually curious and prioritize their studies, well-being, and community. The CoS LLP housed in Honors residence halls (Lewis, Haggin, Donovan, and Johnson) is managed by College Life within the Lewis Honors College. The CoS is the second largest among 13 LLPs on campus (Engineering is the largest). The goal is for members of the CoS to become life-long learners as they aspire to live a balanced life in their communities and society beyond the UK experience.



# Honors Experiences

Of the 30 hours of required Honors coursework, students must complete six credits of Honors experiences such as participating in Education Abroad, internships, research, or service-learning.

## EDUCATION ABROAD

Between UK's Education Abroad program offerings and the affiliated Honors portfolio, students gain multi-cultural exposure, leadership, and a new frame of reference for understanding the world and their role in it. The curated Honors education abroad programs include faculty-directed and partner organization opportunities that facilitate study, research, service, or internships worldwide. Through the tremendous generosity of donors, the Lewis Honors College awarded \$50,250 in Education Abroad Scholarships for 2022-2023.



## INTERNSHIPS

Whether here or abroad, internship experiences fulfill an Honors curricular requirement, provide career goal clarity, and build relevant work experience. Students can choose from among many internship-credit courses across campus.



## RESEARCH

Faculty mentorship of undergraduate research is integral to the academic success of all Honors students. Highlights include: 12 of the 14 UK presenters at the 2023 Posters-at-the-Capitol were Honors students, seven of the 20 2023 Commonwealth Undergraduate Research Experience Fellowships were Honors students, four of the new 12 Gaines Fellows were Honors students, three Honors students presented at the Kentucky Honors Roundtable, and two Honors students were named Beckman Scholars.



Lordina Mensah '26 was the first UK student to be accepted into the nationally competitive aerospace Patti Grace Smith Fellowship.

Isha Chauhan '24 received the Astronaut Scholarship and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Rise Internship.



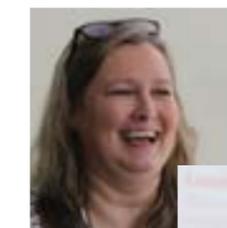
Jessica Lamb '23 received the Alpha Lambda Delta Grad Fellowship plus the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award (UK's highest honor for humanitarian efforts).

Kristen Bailey '26 received the Teach for America Ignite Fellowship which enabled her to work triweekly with several seventh-grade math students. "It was so inspiring to see their growth throughout the semester and, consequently, watch them become more confident in themselves and their abilities," she said.



## SERVICE-LEARNING

**HON 393** allows our student leaders (Honors College Ambassador Team, Peer Mentors, Rising Leaders, and the new Lewis Liaisons) to learn about leadership, service, and higher education in ways that complement their work for the Lewis Honors College. **HON 399** is an option for an independent service-learning project with a faculty mentor. **HON 394** blends a three credit traditional course with a strong community service component.



During Dr. Kim Stoltzfus' HON 394 "Applying Real World Project Management in Service to a Nonprofit," students immersed themselves in a local nonprofit and shared lessons learned about project management, team collaboration, and service on the last day of class.



One of the organizations benefiting from the students' efforts was Girls on the Run.



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