

Rhode Island College Honors Program
Annual Report: 2014
May 9, 2014

The 2013-14 academic year has been a very successful one for honors at RIC. The program has adapted to the new General Education Program, with honors courses in the categories of First-Year Writing, First-Year Seminar, and Connections now fully integrated into the honors sequence.

The enrollment of in-coming freshmen for September, 2013 was robust, but, as of this date, both the numbers of applications reviewed (225 and counting) and of paid-deposits for Fall 2014 (55) are unprecedented. It is also notable that applications to the program from outside the contiguous Rhode Island area, indeed, from around the country, have increased markedly. (Applications were even received from Pakistan and Katmandu.) Requests for honors housing have risen proportionately, and another honors class has been added for the Fall to accommodate the increased numbers.

At the other end of the cycle, outcomes were similarly impressive. Twenty-nine students are graduating this May with General Education Honors. Twenty-five students, from 13 different departments, are graduating with Departmental Honors (with another half dozen set to finish in the Fall), 11 of whose projects were supported by grants from the Anne and Bob DeStefano Undergraduate Research Fund. Eight students are graduating with College Honors. The level of academic achievement among the graduates is notable. Among the 29 General Education Honors graduates, 5 are graduating cum laude, 10 magna cum laude, and 14 summa cum laude. The GPAs among departmental honors recipients are equally impressive.

One other development this year is the retirement of the current director after 32 years heading the program. Going forward, honors will be in the capable hands of Professor Rebecca Sparks from the Mathematics/Computer Science Department.

Spencer Hall
(Once but not future) Director of Honors