

To: Jo Allen, Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs  
From: Larry Blanton, Director, University Honors Program  
Date: 8 June 2004  
Subject: University Honors Program Annual Report, 2003-2004

### **Major Achievements in 2003-2004**

- Inaugurated the newly designed UHP, welcoming 96 entering students at the beginning of the fall semester and 28 students at the beginning of the spring semester. The total number of active participants in the UHP during the year was 399.
- Inaugurated the Honors Village, a living-learning community located in Bagwell Residence Hall. The community included 52 first-year students (mostly UHP participants, but a few were the preferred room-mates of UHP students) and 7 returning UHP students who served as mentors. An early move-in and orientation session (“The Inaugural Flight” of the Honors Village) was organized by the mentors, UHP Assistant Director Katrin Baker, and University Residence Life Coordinator Jim Whitaker.
- Participated actively in the Quad Dorm Renovation Review Committee. The project will result in significant new programming space for the UHP: a visiting scholar apartment in Bagwell Residence Hall and a conference room and multipurpose room in the proposed “Honors Village Commons” building.
- Offered five sections (4 in the fall semester, 1 in the spring semester) of HON 201 (“Inquiry, Discovery, and the Arts”), the first year seminar for students entering the program. Total enrollment of 111.
- Offered 14 HON seminar sections (8 in the fall semester, 6 in the spring semester) with a total enrollment of 201. Three seminars were approved for permanent numbers: HON 341 (J. Carroll’s “Time Travel”), HON 342 (M.K. Cunningham’s “Contemporary Religion”), and HON 351 (M. Soroos’s “American Values from a Global Perspective”).
- Received approval for HON 395, “Honors Cooperative Education.” Worked with Arnold Bell to develop guidelines, forms, and procedures. We had our first enrollments (3 students) in the spring semester.
- Received approval for HON 397, “Honors Extension & Engagement.” Worked with Mike Davis and Ted Morris (Extension & Engagement) and Patti Clayton (Service Learning, FCTL) to develop guidelines and forms and devise recruitment strategies. We had our first enrollments in the spring semester (2 students). Both of those students presented their projects at the annual Extension & Engagement Symposium.
- Worked with the Council on Undergraduate Education to revise the HON seminar approval process to match the new GER review process and to ensure that HON seminars would appear in the on-line lists of courses that fulfill specific GERs.
- Engaged in numerous discussions to determine more effective strategies for recruiting faculty to teach HON seminars.
- The Director made presentations on the UHP to the Academic & Administrative Coordinating Group, the Academic Associate Deans, the Undergraduate Coordinators, the CALS Undergraduate Coordinators, and the Inquiry-Guided Learning Symposium, and on the Honors Village to the Student and Campus Affairs Committee of the NC State Board of Trustees.
- Developed an Honors Ethics Certificate program in cooperation with the NC State Ethics Program and offered an Ethics Retreat, which was attended by 12 students.
- Continued to develop the headquarters of the UHP on the second floor of Clark Hall, purchasing furniture, making the entire floor wireless internet capable, providing “Nomad” network ports in common areas, rationalizing the locks, and beginning a decorating project.
- Established a discretionary fund account with the NCSU Foundation and received our first donations (total: \$3,500). Wrote a development plan and held our first event to build relations with potential donors and resource persons in the community.
- Reviewed and revised Honors Contracts and rationalized the approval path for contracts. The UHP office processed a total of 401 Honors Contracts for students in the UHP, USP, and disciplinary honors programs.
- Reviewed and revised the forms and procedures for HON 298 (Honors Independent Research). A total of 52 students registered for HON 298 during the academic year.
- Organized the Honors Baccalaureate and Celebration of Academic Excellence.
- Participated in the new online common application (the “Apply Yourself” system). Revised our application review procedures. Engaged in discussions with various constituencies on future modifications to the application process.
- Developed Assessment Plans for the UHP and the Honors Village.

- Continued the development of the UHP web site to make it the primary source of program information. Key developments included the creation of a form download section, an on-line application for students invited to apply for the Spring semester, a bulletin board for student communication (also used for ticket distribution), and a program calendar.
- Hosted gatherings of small groups of UHP students with Professor Alan Kors (the campus Phi Beta Kappa lecturer), Mr. Louis Blair (Truman Scholarships), novelist Dennis Lehane, and two Pulitzer-prize winning photographers. The meetings with Mr. Lehane and the photographers were thanks to our cooperative relationship with the NCSU Library.
- Supported student enrichment efforts by awarding 12 Study Abroad scholarships and 7 UHP Undergraduate Research Awards.

### **Diversity Initiatives**

We worked to assure disciplinary diversity amongst our program participants, so that the University Honors Program would truly be for the whole university and not just a few of the colleges. The distribution amongst the colleges of the entering group of UHP students closely matched that of the overall entering class of first-year students. We were also proactive in selecting students from rural high schools.

Our mid-year selection process, which was based upon performance in the first semester at NC State, was successful in enrolling additional minority students into the program.

The Honors Village mentors held two diversity events as part of their programming, one focused on the culture of India and the other on the culture of Native Americans.

### **Major Short-term Goals**

- Gain approval for a permanent full-time computer/media/database support staff person (July 2004).
- Gain approval for a new oversight structure for the UHP, including a clarification of the relationship of the UHP to other honors programs and honors-like programs on campus (July 2004).
- Complete the reorganization of OUFA and determine its relationship to the UHP (July 2004).
- Produce a new recruiting brochure (September/October 2004).
- Continue to improve our program web site (ongoing process).
- Develop a customized database for UHP student records (August 2004).
- Organize a parents support group for the UHP and begin recruiting parents for the group during new student orientation (July 2004).
- Work with Janice Odom (Caldwell Fellows/Scholars) to organize an event that will bring together all programs for high-achieving students to explore areas of common concern and potential cooperation (organized by August 2004; event to be held in mid-fall).

### **Major Long-Term Goals**

- Re-examine the first-year experience for UHP students and develop a structure for that experience that is sustainable and can be readily scaled-up.
- Continue to develop a strong offering of permanent r-seminars that meets the curricular needs of the UHP students. Work to assure that ongoing efforts with the GERs do not adversely impact the UHP.
- Create unique and diverse opportunities for all UHP students to engage in research.
- Manage web sites and databases that are informative for all users.
- Promote the UHP to a wide audience through web site developments, program literature, presentations to campus groups, and development of partnerships with campus and community entities.
- Implement the UHP and Honors Village Assessment Plans.
- Pursue implementation of the UHP Development Plan.
- Develop and pursue a UHP Recruitment Plan.
- Continue to participate in the planning of the Quad Dorm renovation. Develop a long-term plan for the Honors Village.
- Develop a consistent image for the University Honors Program.

### **Staff Contributions**

Larry Blanton, Director

- Attended the National Collegiate Honors Council annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. November, 2003.
- Attended the Undergraduate Assessment Symposium organized by the UGA Assessment group.
- Organized the Anselme Payen Award Symposium for the Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division of the American Chemical Society and presented a paper at the symposium.
- Met with dozens of individuals across campus to familiarize myself with NC State and to explore areas of common concern and interest.
- Elected to full membership in the Graduate Faculty.
- Served on the Ph.D. committee of Utku Avci, Department of Crop Science
- Elected as Vice President (President-Elect) of the Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.
- Represented NC State at a planning meeting for the UNC General Administration's Washington, D.C. Internship Program

Denise Wood, Associate Director  
(see her OUFA Annual Report)

Katrin Baker, Assistant Director

- Member of the Bagwell, Berry, and Becton Residence Halls Renovation Committee, Scholarship and Student Aid Committee (SSAC), and the Wolfpack Welcome Week (formerly ABCs of NC State) Committee

Yvette Walker, Administrative Assistant

- Completed Pathways, Supervisory Track
- Completed training sessions in: Administrative Portal and Apply Yourself Training (SSAC); PeopleAdmin Training in progress
- Member, Groupwise 6.5 LANtech testing committee
- Attended Personnel Connections, LanTech, AST, Administrative Portal Focus Group meetings

Janice Robinson, Administrative Secretary

- Completed training sessions in: Administrative Portal and Travel Policies and Procedures
- Coordinator of UGA's Meals-on-Wheels project
- Attended 2004 Conference of the NC State Council on the Status of Women

Karen VanDreumel, Office Assistant IV

- Completed training sessions in: Travel Policies and Procedures, Apply Yourself (SSAC), Administrative Portal, and Groupwise Retention; PeopleAdmin Training in progress
- Attended AST Meetings