

To: John Ambrose, Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
From: Larry Blanton, Director, University Honors Program
Date: 31 May 2005
Subject: Annual Report, 2004-2005

Programs

- **Recruiting and Admissions:** In cooperation with our campus partners, we implemented changes in the on-line NC State merit application system to overcome the situation we faced last year, where many of the students we were considering were not, in fact, interested in the UHP. We came much closer this year to meeting our goal. Subtle changes in our process also resulted in many fewer adversarial conversations with students and parents. We also increased our communications with the colleges, taking into account their scholarship offers in making our admissions decisions, thereby leveraging our efforts to our mutual benefit.
- **Curriculum:** A new seminar for first-year UHP students, HON 202 (Inquiry, Discovery, and Literature) was approved; we learned that the students would be better-served by this seminar satisfying a literature GER as opposed to the visual and performing arts GER of the original first-year seminar, HON 201. Our collaboration with the Department of English was highly successful in creating an exciting array of HON 202 offerings and in drawing new professors into Honors teaching. HON 321 (Physics of Music) was approved as a permanent course; HON 398 (Honors Special Topics) was approved and will allow us to offer seminars outside the GER categories.
- **Honors Village:** The Honors Village renovation began. The Honors Village mentors for 2005-2006 were selected. We will institute new curricular offerings that will connect courses with the learning-living community. Our “Stories from the Quad” project has raised awareness amongst NC State alumni of the Honors Village project and has yielded anecdotes that we will use in future publicity efforts.
- **Service to the University:** The UHP not only serves its participants, but also the entire campus community. New initiatives included the **UNC in Washington Program**, which will have its first group in summer 2005, the **Beckman Scholars Program** (R.L. Blanton is the Principal Investigator/Project Director on this 3-year, \$115,800 grant. It is noteworthy that there were only two new awards—NC State being one of those—amongst the 14 grants awarded in 2005.). Continuing initiatives that provide services to the entire campus include the **Fellowship Advising Office** (R.L. Blanton served as interim director and the office returned to the oversight of the UHP); the **Honors Baccalaureate and Celebration of Academic Excellence**; and **Honors Contracts** processing—our office processed 287 honors contracts for University Scholars, University Honors, and departmental Honors students.
- **Information Technology Investments:** We have made major investments in information technology, including hiring a permanent web developer, developing three new web sites (Fellowship Advising, Beckman Scholars, UNC in Washington), utilizing a new in-house admissions contacts database; and beginning to develop our own customized databases for Honors student records and advising.

Compact Plan

- The major Compact Plan initiative implemented during this past year was the Honors Village renovation. The residence halls will be ready for occupancy by the beginning of Fall 2005, with the new Honors Village Commons building following in late Fall. This includes a visiting scholar apartment, the use of which is still being contemplated.(i.e., is it to be occupied by short-term visitors, long-term visitors, or a faculty member hired by the UHP?)
- It should be noted that the UHP Compact Plan dates from the period prior to the refocusing of the program that was implemented in Fall 2003. Hence, the Compact Plan is out-of-date and in several areas not even applicable to the “new” UHP.

Diversity

- Provided financial support for campus diversity programs: Multicultural Affairs Freshman Honors Convocation; 33rd Annual Pan-Afrikan Festival; Human Rights Week (Chris Abani visit).
- Director represented the UHP at the African-American student visitation day.

- Our supplemental admissions process (of students after one or two semesters at NC State) continued to enroll additional minority students into the program.
- We added an African-American male as a permanent staff member.

Staff

Larry Blanton, Director

- Attended the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Attended the Reinvention Center National Conference in Washington, D.C.
- President, Zeta of North Carolina Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa
- Unit Coordinator, State Employees Charitable Campaign
- Appointed to Task Force on Student Enhancement Programs
- Member, Honors Village Administrative Council
- Member, Scholarship and Student Aid Committee
- Member, Holladay Medalist Review Committee
- NC State campus coordinator, UNC in Washington Internship Program
- Program director, Beckman Scholars Program at NC State
- Interim director, Office of Undergraduate Fellowship Advising
- Taught BO 414 (Cell Biology)
- Member, Ph.D. committee of Utku Avki (Department of Crop Science, NC State)
- Selected as the faculty inductee for the NC State Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi (Spring 2005 induction)
- Received R. Randy Rice Service Award from the North Carolina Housing Officers

Katrin Baker, Associate Director

- Attended American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Annual Conference, Nashville, TN; Joint presentation with Jim Whitaker of University Housing: *Honors Village Mentors: Enhancing NC State's Living and Learning Experience*
- Attended Living Learning Programs and Residential Colleges Biennial Conference, Bloomington, IN; Joint presentation with Jim Whitaker of University Housing: *Creating Mentor Positions in Living-Learning Programs: A partnership between the Division of Undergraduate Affairs and Student Affairs at NC State University*
- Member, Honors Village Administrative Council
- Member, Scholarship and Student Aid Committee
- Member, Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid Merit Award/Scholarship Review Committee
- Member, Coordinator of Undergraduate Fellowship Advising Search Committee
- Member and Wolf Stop Volunteer, Wolfpack Welcome Week Planning Committee
- Member, Study Abroad Scholarship Review Committee
- Received R. Randy Rice Service Award from the North Carolina Housing Officers

Jennie LaMonte, Coordinator of Undergraduate Fellowship Advising

- Hired into position on May 23, 2005

Yvette Walker, Administrative Assistant

- Attended Scheduling Officers Training Workshop
- Financials 8.4 Upgrade Acceptance Testing Participant (Certification received in Vouchers, Requisitions, Journals, Billing and Travel Reimbursement)
- NCSU Accounting Certification Series (Receipt Centers, Non-Student Accounts Receivable, Interdepartmental Transfers, and Credit Card Collections; The University's Accounting System and Chart of Accounts, Internal Controls, and Account Reconciliations; General Ledger Accounting, Imprest Accounts, and Monitoring Tools)
- Cost Sharing for Contracts and Grants Research Projects Workshop
- Cost Accounting Standards
- Study Circle on Race and Race Relations (Certificate received)
- Admissions Pros Training

- Meals on Wheels Volunteer

Claude Raines, Business and Technology Application Analyst

- Appointed to permanent position
- Member, UGA IT committee
- Chair, UHP IT Needs Survey Sub-committee
- Traveled to Boston, MA for FileMaker Pro 7 training in application development and Server/Application setup, management and administration
- Began PathWays Leadership Program

Janice Robinson, Administrative Secretary

- Financials 8.4 training (Journal, Requisition, Travel, and Voucher sessions)
- Assisted with the 2005 NC State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium
- Received a Pride of the Wolfpack Award
- Coordinated UGA's participation in Meals on Wheels

Karen VanDreumel, Office Assistant IV

- Financials 8.4 training (Travel, Vouchers, and Requisitions)
- Served on Search Committee for Director of the First Year College (support staff and voting member)
- Began coursework for degree through Lifelong Education (Fall 2004: PSY 200; Spring 2005: ENG 101)

Recommendations

- Fill our open Assistant Director position and anticipate doing so in the near future. This position is critical to our developing a more proactive recruiting effort and to developing long-term relationships with top high schools in North Carolina and nearby states.
- Upgrade our web presence and convert as many of our processes as possible to web-based forms and databases. This is not only to improve our efficiency, but also to enable us to fulfill our goals of matching outstanding students with unique and outstanding opportunities.
- Flexible funds are desperately needed to help with the development of the Honors Village, to cultivate donors, and to provide unique opportunities for our students.
- Revise our Compact Plan so that it reflects the UHP in its current form.
- Determine how the UHP relates to the campus-wide Honors effort.
- Rejuvenate the Honors Council and determine how it relates to the UHP and to the campus-wide Honors effort.
- Determine how we will use and finance the Visiting Scholar apartment in the Honors Village.