

2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT
UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

SUBMITTED BY:

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6/2/14

Shape your life

Promoting student success through personal responsibility in a supportive environment

Honors opportunity advising

All UHP students are given an Honors opportunity advisor to help them identify their passions and navigate special opportunities at NC State. In addition to the numerous hours that Opportunity Advisors spend meeting with students throughout the year, all incoming freshman are required to have a 1-hour session with their opportunity advisor that focuses specifically on maximizing their NC State experience and their experience in the UHP.

OPEN YOUR MIND

Promoting student success through educational innovation and intellectual growth

High-impact practices

The UHP continues to be a leader in the development and implementation of high-impact practices on campus. In 2008 George Kuh identified ten high-impact educational practices that have a significant impact on undergraduate students' educational and personal growth: first-year seminars and experiences; common intellectual experiences; learning communities; writing-intensive courses; collaborative assignments and projects; undergraduate research; diversity/global learning; service and community-based learning; internships; and capstone courses and projects. HON students, by virtue of its curriculum, participate in a significantly higher number of high impact experiences than other students on campus.

First-year seminars & experiences (HON 202)

This academic year, the UHP had nine freshman HON sections (enrollment of approximately 185 students). 2013-2014 marked the second year that Honors Fellows (upperclassmen peer mentors) were placed into all sections to serve as discussion leaders for the courses and to mentor the freshmen in the courses, who were considered a "freshman cluster". The HON seminar instructors work collaboratively with the Fellows to develop ways to better integrate the curriculum and co-curriculum using the vehicle of the freshman HON seminar. Numerous out-of-class engagements with the HON seminar instructors resulted from this arrangement.

Common intellectual experiences

> UHP Convocation

The third annual UHP convocation, modeled after the historic "Aims of Education" address at the University of Chicago, took place in SAS Hall the evening before Fall 2013 classes began. Dr. Mary Schweitzer, Professor of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric sciences spoke to an audience of nearly 200 students. Students and faculty gathered following the talk to discuss the topic further.

> Research Unplugged

2013-2014 was the third year of our year-long series, Research Unplugged, a series of student conversations the UHP holds each semester that serve as a way to connect current research and scholarship to problems of interest to the UHP community. Rather than a traditional panel discussion of faculty speaking to students, "Research Unplugged" is a dialogue between friends where faculty

participants serve to bring a level of expertise, nuance, and gravity to the conversation that would not be possible otherwise.

Fall 2013:

- Aug. 23: "Genetically modified food" with Dr. Fred Gould and Dr. Sophia Kathariou
- Sept. 6: "Education reform" with Dr. Peter Hessling and Dr. Bonnie Fusarelli
- Sept. 20: "The future of energy" with Dr. Bill Kinsella and Mrs. Marcy Bauer
- Oct. 4: "The Affordable Care Act" with Dr. Virginia Aldige
- Oct. 25: "Artificial Intelligence" with Dr. Bill Bauer, Dr. Dennis Bahler, and Dr. Ron Endicott
- Nov. 15: "The ethics of service" with Dr. Tiffany Kershner, Dr. Tim Wallace, and Mr. Mike Giancola

Spring 2014:

- Jan. 10: "Bees, pollination, and colony collapse disorder" with Dr. John Ambrose and Dr. Sue Carson
- Jan. 24: "Science and pseudoscience" with Dr. David Austin and Dr. John Hubisz
- Feb. 7: "Open access and the politics of academic publishing" with Mr. Will Cross and Mr. Darby Orcutt
- Feb. 28: "The role of the humanities and social sciences in culture" with Dr. Maxine Atkinson, Dr. Jeff Braden, Dr. David Zonderman
- Mar. 21: "Fellowships unplugged" with Dr. Tiffany Kershner
- Mar. 28: "Hydraulic fracturing" with Dr. John Fountain
- April 4: "The future of NC State" with Chancellor Randy Woodson

> Cavedwellers

This year, Dr. Stoller partnered with Dr. Sandy Kessler, Associate Professor of Political Science, to form a philosophical reading group called "Cavedwellers." The group explores topics emerging from Plato's "Allegory of the Cave," which focuses on the purpose of life and education. The group met a total of 9 times in Spring 2014, with an average of 30 students in attendance. The group read works by Plato, Aristotle, Allan Bloom, Dostoevski, and Camus.

> UHP Completion Ceremony

We held UHP completion ceremonies for our graduating students in both the Fall and Spring semesters. The Spring event was the largest yet, with more than 200 attendees

Writing intensive courses / collaborative assignments and courses

HON seminars are designed to expose students to ways of knowing in different disciplines, to the implications of new knowledge, to the interconnections between different fields. All HON seminars have the following characteristics: interdisciplinarity; discussion-focused; writing- and reading-intensive; focused on research, discovery, and inquiry (an examination of the scholarly nature of that discipline); innovative instruction. The majority of seminars require collaborative assignments and/or portfolio or other cumulative assignments as part of the course.

- For 2013-2014, the UHP offered a total of 37 HON seminars with a total enrollment of approximately 750 students.

Undergraduate research

All UHP students are required to engage in undergraduate research as part of their 6-credit-hour Capstone requirement. Most far exceed this minimum requirement.

- In Summer/Fall 2013, 201 UHP students reported being in engaged in non-Capstone related research.
- In Summer/Fall 2013, 54 UHP students presented their research at a disciplinary conference or published their research in a disciplinary journal.
- In Spring 2014, 181 UHP students reported being in engaged in non-Capstone related research.

- In Spring 2014, 42 UHP students presented their research at a disciplinary conference or published their research in a disciplinary journal.
- 48 students (135 SCH) registered for HON 298, Honors Independent Research. Many students will register for the comparable course in their home department or college.

Diversity/global learning

UHP students are given the option to substitute 3 of their 12-hour HON seminar requirement for a significant study abroad experience. Students choosing this option are required to write a substantial paper which asks them to think reflectively and critically on their experience.

- In Summer/Fall 2013, 50 reported being involved in a study abroad experience.
- In Spring 2014, 20 UHP students reported being involved in a study abroad experience.
- 22 UHP students filed Honors Study Abroad contracts to earn UHP credit for their study abroad experience.

Service and community-based learning

The UHP includes extension-based research and community-based learning as part of its curriculum.

- In Summer/Fall 2013, 227 UHP students reported being engaged in Cooperative Education or an internship.
- In Spring 2014, 80 UHP students reported being engaged in Cooperative Education or an internship.
- Two students (6 SCH) enrolled in HON 395 ("Honors Cooperative Education") to reflect their engagement in an independent research project as part of their cooperative education experience.
- Two students (6 SCH) enrolled in HON 397 ("Honors Extension and Engagement") to reflect their engagement in an independent research project as part of an extension or engagement experience.

Capstone courses & projects

All UHP students are required to complete a 6-credit-hour self-directed research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. These projects typically occur between a student's junior and senior year.

- 34 students (102 SCH) enrolled in either HON 498 or 499 related to their Honors Capstone research experience. The majority of students will use senior design or departmental research or thesis courses as their UHP Capstone courses.

UHP Academy

UHP Academy (UHPA) entered its second year in 2013-2014. The program offers students an opportunity to teach and learn from each other, while receiving University Honors Program credit. UHPA is a series of courses which are taught by students, for students. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, UHP students teach semester-long S/U courses to other UHP students on self-selected topics. The UHP Academy is a course system internal to the UHP at NC State. This means that UHP Academy courses are NOT credit bearing courses at NCSU, and will not be reflected on a student's academic transcript. However, UHP Academy courses DO count for credit toward requirements of the University Honors Program. The following courses were offered in 2013-2014:

- UHPA 004: Public understanding and misunderstanding of medical science
- UHPA 006: Historical conspiracies of the 20th and 21st century
- UHPA 005: Controversial topics in agriculture
- UHPA 007: "God is Dead!": the consequences of Nietzsche's philosophy on the individual and society
- UHPA 008: The power of power

BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

Promoting Student Success Through Engagement

Daniel Center for Math and Science

2013-2014 marked the third that the UHP has formally partnered with The Daniel Center for Math and Science to provide undergraduate student volunteers during the academic semester. The Daniel Center is a local afterschool center which works with at-risk and disadvantaged youth to help them become more proficient in math and science and more motivated to succeed, as well as expose them to opportunities for success. For 2013-2014, approximately 50 UHP students volunteered, logging approximately 1,500 volunteer hours (4 volunteers per day, with each volunteer serving a 3-hour shift) for the year.

The Journal of Reflective Inquiry

This year, *The Journal of Reflective Inquiry* (JORI) entered its second year. JORI is a national student-run undergraduate journal housed within the University Honors Program at NC State University that publishes work related to the general topic of research-in-progress. The 2013 editorial board presented JORI at the North Carolina Honors Association annual meeting. It also applied for and received an ISSN number and finalized its website (jori.ncsu.edu). Its first CFP was released in Spring 2014, and submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.

Honors Village

The Honors Village continues to model its mission of the academic integration and knowledge creation. The 2013-2014 academic year was the first time in Honors Village history in which all three buildings (Bagwell, Becton, and Berry) were filled to capacity with UHP students. Highlights from the year include:

Scholar-In-Residence

Dr. Bill Bauer, Teaching Assistant Professor of Philosophy, was Scholar-In-Residence for the Honors Village for a third year in 2013-2014 for a third, and final year. Dr. Bauer continued to maintain an active presence in the community through activities such as conducting dinner discussions, holding logic contests, and participating in UHP and Honors Village leadership opportunities.

Honors Village Research Grant

An Honors Village Research Grant, developed by students in the HV, was implemented during the 2013-2014 academic year. One grant was awarded to a soil science project, which will be conducted over the summer. The student will give a lecture and presentation on the topic in Fall 2014.

Serve the University

Providing Leadership for Student Success

Honors Admissions

The University Honors Program continues to be a recruitment tool for the larger university in attracting and retaining high-achieving students.

> Admission profile

The UHP received a record number of applications for the fall 2014 incoming class. A total of 947 applications were received. The admissions breakdown is as follows:

- Invited: 2,989 (1,568 Males, 1,421 Females)
- Applications Received: 947 (501 Males, 446 Females)
- Students Admitted: 444 (228 Males, 216 Females)
- Students Matriculating: 199 (115 Males, 83 Females)

> High school visitations

This academic year, Assistant Director Carolyn Veale participated in the College Eve event at the North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM) and college days at North Raleigh Christian Academy.

> Prospective students weekend

In collaboration with Assistant Director Carolyn Veale, the Honors Village hosted an overnight visit for prospective UHP students, which was scheduled in conjunction with Engineering Open House. Approximately 200 students and family members attended the dinner and overview sessions.

Honors Contracts

The UHP continues to provide administrative support for the Honors contracts system (Honors contracts are mostly used by students in the University Scholars Program and in the various disciplinary Honors programs), processing a total of 645 Honors contracts (an increase of 90 over last year).

Phi Beta Kappa

The UHP continues to provide significant administrative and financial support for the Zeta of NC Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, processing 197 invitations and 64 acceptances. In addition, the UHP organized and provided logistical support for the visit to NC State by a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, Professor Birgitta Whaley from the University of California-Berkeley.

Research Speed Dating

This year the third annual Research Speed Dating was held in Talley Student Union. The event is a partnership between the UHP, the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Honors Village and Student Government. The concept is to get students more closely connected to faculty research and scholarship across the university by providing an informal way for faculty, students and staff to network across all disciplines. The event was held in Talley Ballroom on in February 27, 2014, with approximately 30+ faculty and 200+ undergraduate students participating.

Dining partnership

The Honors Village (via the Quad Area Council) partnered with University Dining to improve Clark Dining Hall. 43 students from QAC hosted representatives from University Dining to explore how Clark dining might better suit students. Through this conversation, several food changes in Clark (ex: fresh fruit) were added to the menu. Dining then partnered with QAC for a few small programs to test out food products they may implement in the dining halls across campus.

UHP staff leadership

The UHP staff continues to be a university model of the successful integration of scholarly activity, professional service, and student engagement. Highlights from this year include:

> Aaron Stoller, Associate Director

Degree awarded

- Ph.D. from the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought at Virginia Tech.

Academic publications

- (2013) Learning justice in the aristocratic classroom. In S. P. Southall (Ed.), *South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society Yearbook: 2012* (pp. 78-87). Boone, NC: South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society.

Academic presentations

- (2014) Colloquium, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, March 2014
- (2014) Invited session chair for Richard Shusterman, "Somaesthetics and the Art of Eating" at John Dewey Society meeting at the Society for Advancement of American Philosophy annual meeting, Denver, CO, March 2014.

Professional presentations

- (2013) "Conflict, Dialogue, Transformation: Thinking Pedagogically About Community," National Collegiate Honors Council meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2013
- (2013) "Creating student-centered pedagogies," North Carolina Honors Association meeting, Boon, NC, October 2013.

Service to discipline

- Reviewer. *The Journal of Aesthetic Education*, The University of Illinois.
- Reviewer. *The High School Journal*, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Reviewer. *The Journal of Learning Spaces*, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Member-at-large. South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society.
- Member. Diversity Committee, National Collegiate Honors Council.

Service to university

- Member. Council on Undergraduate Education.
- Member. Academy of Outstanding Teachers selection committee.
- Directed reading in philosophical aesthetics. Ishan Raval, Philosophy.
- Honors thesis advisor. Kalavik McNamara, Spanish Language and Literature: *Deweyan approaches to language learning*.

> Carolyn Veale, Assistant Director

Service to university

- Supported both the MSEN and SATELLITE programs by speaking to underrepresented students about college readiness.
- DUAP Assessment Team (A-Team)
- Scholarship and Student Aid Committee
- Open House Committee
- Recruiter's Roundtable
- African American Coordinating Committee (AACC)
- Chancellor Leadership Award Application Reviewer
- Shelton Leadership Scholarship Application Reviewer
- Host for the Shelton Leadership Conference
- Study Abroad Scholarship Award Reviewer
- Park Visitation Day participant
- College of Education High Achieving Students Visitation Day

- Engineering Open House participant

> Brian Peters, Community Director for the Honors Village

Professional presentations

- (2014) "Adjusting the Conventional View of Student Supervision: Adopting a New Methodology Based on Student Staff Feedback," NC State Housing Assessment Institute.
- (2013) "Critical Pedagogy in Residential Communities," North Carolina Housing Officers meeting.

Service to discipline

- Reviewer. Professional Awards, South East Association of Housing Officers.
- Member. Professional Development Committee, North Carolina Housing of Housing Officers

Service to university

- Historian. NC State Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta Chapter of North Carolina

Ensure Sustainability

Developing and Stewarding Resources for Organizational Excellence

The UHP has always been a "learning organization" that learns from its experiences and seeks better and more efficient ways to manage the program and its processes. We were a leader in the old Undergraduate Affairs/Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs in the implementation of technology to improve efficiency. Those efficiencies enabled us to weather personnel reductions and enhanced our ability to monitor student progress in the program. We have been working with DASA IT services to move to a record-keeping system that will be integral to the university's Student Information System. This will not only ensure the sustainability of our student records, but will also enable our students to monitor their own progress in the program.

The increasing academic profile of the entering freshman class will result in an increasing demand for our program. Our entering class has been limited to 180-190 students for several years. By this point we had expected to be approaching 250 students in our entering class, but we are not able to offer sufficient seminars for the entering students. The UHP has great potential to help recruit the best students to NC State, but we need to be in the position to say "yes" to more students so that we don't become a negative factor in student recruitment by saying "no" to students who would otherwise come to NC State.

Nor can we offer sufficient seminars for the continuing students, where we continue to have an estimated minimum 300 seat (15 seminars) shortfall. We have partially met this challenge by promoting our experiential courses and their equivalents as substitutes for an HON seminar. We can explore other options for satisfying HON seminar requirements, but the seminars are the academic heart of the program and are key high-impact practices, so there is some minimum number of HON seminars in which every UHP student should participate.

We have benefitted from significant annual gifts from a single donor and are beginning to see contributions from our alumni and even our current students. The UHP should be an attractive target

for a major donation. We have been engaged in conversations with the DASA Development Officer to explore strategies for major fund-raising.