

**University Honors Program
(including the Fellowship Advising Office)
Academic Programs and Services
Division of Academic and Student Affairs
North Carolina State University**

Annual Report: 2012-2013

Submitted by Larry Blanton, Director
1 July 2013

Major achievements, initiatives, or changes to units and programs

FELLOWSHIP SUCCESSES

- 3 Goldwater Scholars
- 1 Udall Scholar (plus 1 Honorable Mention)
- 1 Boren Fellowship (Graduate)
- 1 Boren Scholarship (Undergraduate), alternate
- 1 DAAD Rise Internship in Germany
- 1 UK Summer Fulbright Institute Award
- 2 Hollings Undergraduate Research Scholarships
- 2 Fulbright Student Program Awards (1 English Teaching Assistantship; 1 Research CSIRO Grant to Australia—the only one those awards given in the entire competition)
- 1 Critical Language Scholarship
- 14 Gilman Scholarships
- 25 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship recipients, including those who are either current NC State seniors (7) or graduate students (9) or for whom NC State was their institution of baccalaureate origin (9). An additional 16 students received Honorable Mention recognition
- 1 Finalist each in Churchill, Gates-Cambridge, and Truman Scholarship competitions

“WHEN INNOCENCE CONSTITUTES THE CRIME” CONFERENCE

We partnered with the History Department to sponsor an academic conference, titled When Innocence Constitutes the Crime: Race, Memory and Identity in the South. The conference was developed by UHP student, Honors Village Fellow, and History major Micah Khater. The conference brought together scholars versed in the topics of slavery and Jim Crow Laws. The conference placed special emphasis on the case of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old, African-American boy who was murdered in 1955, which is often considered a pivotal event motivating the Civil Rights Movement.

THE JOURNAL OF REFLECTIVE INQUIRY

We recruited the first editorial board for *The Journal of Reflective Inquiry* (JORI), which 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. JORI is intended to focus broadly and critically how research and discovery happens across and between disciplines. In this way, it attempts to encounter the human side of scholarship and research, as well as the nature of disciplinarity and knowing. The editorial board includes an editor-in-chief, two managing editors, and a design and technology editor. The website, which is still under development is located at the following address: jori.ncsu.edu. The first issue is expected for release in Fall 2013.

UHP CONVOCATION

The second 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 2012 classes began. Dr. Rupert Nacoste, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor of Social Psychology spoke to an audience of nearly 200 students on cultivating the authentic self.

RESEARCH UNPLUGGED

2012-2013 was the second year of our year-long series, Research Unplugged. For most of its existence, Research Unplugged has been focused specifically on inviting faculty to discuss their life and their scholarship. Based on student feedback, in Spring 2013, two of the events featured topical conversations and multiple faculty from different disciplines were invited to participate with students in debating the topic of the day. For 2013-2014 all Research Unplugged events will be the topical format.

Fall 2012:

- Sept. 7: Dr. Gary Comstock, Philosophy
- Sept. 14: Dr. John Goodwin, Zoology
- Sept. 21: Dr. Nora Haenn, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Sept. 28: Dr. Sarah Heckman, Computer Science
- Oct. 12: Dr. Timothy Stinson, English
- Oct. 19: UHP students Michelle Phillips, David Lentz, and Sarah Butz, Engineering and Design
- Oct. 26: Dr. Marian McCord, Textile Engineering and Global Health
- Nov. 2: UHP student Courtney Vaughn, Human Biology
- Nov. 9: Dr. Eileen Taylor and Dr. Joe Brazel, Accounting

Spring 2013:

- Jan. 25: Dr. William Kimler, History and Director of the Jefferson Scholars
- Feb. 1: UHP student Shreye Saxena, Computer Engineering
- Feb. 15: Topical discussion on "Income inequality and poverty" featuring Dr. Steve McDonald, Sociology; Dr. David Zonderman, History; Dr. Paul Williams, Economics
- Feb. 22: Dr. David Haase, Physics
- Mar. 15: Topical discussion on "The politics of gender and sexuality" featuring Dr. Heidi Grappendorf, Women's Center Scholar in Residence; Dr. Karey Harwood, Philosophy and Religion; Dr. Sinikka Elliot, Sociology; Dr. Maria Pramaggiore, Film Studies

- Mar. 22: UHP student Micah Khater, History
- April 5: Dr. Lori Foster Thompson, Psychology
- April 12: UHP student Brian Gaudio
- April 19: Dr. John Blondin, Physics

HONORS VILLAGE RESEARCH GRANT

An Honors Village Research Grant, developed by students in the HV, was approved and will be implemented beginning during the 2013-2014 academic year.

HONORS VILLAGE OCCUPANCY INCREASE

The 2011-2012 academic year was the first time in Honors Village history in which both Bagwell and Becton Halls were filled with UHP students. In 2012-2013, that number increased to include Bagwell, Becton and the third floor of Berry Hall. 2013-2014 marks the first time all three buildings will be filled with UHP students.

HONORS VILLAGE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Dr. Bill Bauer, Teaching Assistant Professor of Philosophy, was Scholar-In-Residence for the Honors Village for a second year in 2012-2013. Dr. Bauer and his family will remain in the Village for 2013-2014 for a third, and final year.

HIGH SCHOOL VISITATIONS

Ms. Carolyn Veale in her role as coordinator of the UHP admissions participated in College Visitation Days at Enloe High School, North Raleigh Christian Academy, and Panther Creek High School.

BASIC PROGRAM STATISTICS

Active Participants: 772 students

Admissions for Fall 2013:

Invited: 2,668 (1,409 Males, 1,259 Females)

Applications Received: 727 (414 Males, 313 Females)

Students Admitted: 397 (203 Males, 197 Females)

Students Matriculating: 179 (105 Males, 74 Females)

STAFF POSITION REDEFINED

We successfully managed the re-titling of Dwayne Barnes' position to University Program Associate, which more accurately represents his duties for the UHP.

Instructional program advances

FRESHMAN HON SEMINARS

For 2012-2013, Honors Village Fellows were placed into freshman HON sections to serve as discussion leaders for the courses, as well as extend the course beyond the walls of the classroom. A number of smaller programs developed out of this arrangement, such as the following:

- “What is Horror?” Dinner. Micah Khater’s cluster meet with Professor Philips of their HON 202 seminar to discuss what is horror? Students had dinner at David’s noodles and discussed the class, the horror genre in novels / film, and how they interrelate.
- Clusters at the NC Museum of Fine Art. Several clusters this month went to the Edward Munch special exhibit at the Art Museum this month in connection with their HON 202 class. Micah’s, Courtney’s, and Ashley’s cluster all went to the museum separately. Dr. Phillips, Dr. Blanton, and Dr. May all attended with their classes to connect the exhibits to their class material.

UHP ACADEMY

In Spring 2013 the UHP launched the UHP Academy (UHPA), which offers students an opportunity to teach and learn from each other, while receiving University Honors Program credit. UHPA is a series of courses 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 topics that matter most to them. 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. Students may earn a maximum of 3 UHP academy credits, which will be counted toward the 12 required HON seminar hours.

The following courses were offered in Spring 2013:

- UHPA 001: The Written Democracy
- UHPA 002: Society Perceptions of Gender and Sexuality
- UHPA 003: Success and the Self

UHP STAFF INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Dr. Larry Blanton: 4 sections of HON 310, “The Creative Process in Science”
- Dr. Tiffany Kershner: 2 section of HON 296, “Words through Space and Time”
- Ms. Carolyn Veale: 1 section of HON 398, “Race, Class, and Eugenics: A Look into the Role Race and Class has played in Eugenics and North Carolina Eugenics”
- Mr. Aaron Stoller: 1 section of HON 398, “The Life of the Mind” and 1 section of HON 398 co-taught with Darby Orcutt (NCSU Library): “Introduction to Academic Publishing.”
- Mr. Brian Peters: 1 section of HON 398, “Leadership”

HONORS CONTRACTS

The UHP office processed 534 Honors Contracts during the 2012-2013 Academic Year. These contracts are utilized primarily by students in the University Scholars Program and in the College and Departmental Honors Programs. The UHP staff worked with the USP staff to promote Honors contract opportunities amongst the faculty and students.

Research, Extension or Service achievements

DANIEL CENTER FOR MATH AND SCIENCE

2012-2013 is the second year that 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 that 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 2012-2013, approximately 40 UHP students volunteered logging around 1,500 volunteer hours (4 volunteers per day, with each volunteer serving a 3-hour shift) for the year.

RESEARCH SPEED DATING

One of the largest and most successful events of the year was Research Speed Dating, which was a partnership between the UHP, the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Honors Village and Student Government. The concept was 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 1/23/13, with approximately 35 faculty and 125 undergraduate students participating. The event won Student Government's "Innovative Program" of the Year for 2012-2013.

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT PRESENT IN ENCORE COURSE

Dr. Larry Blanton organized a course for the Spring 2013 (second session) ENCORE Program. Entitled "Research Adventures by University Honors Program Students," the course involved six UHP students each preparing and making a 90-minute presentation on their undergraduate research project (providing context as well as describing their own research activities). This was the third offering of this course and was the most successful one yet, with a high level of interaction between the UHP students and the ENCORE students.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY BY THE UHP STAFF

Publications

Aaron Stoller. (2013) Educating from failure: Dewey's aesthetics and the case for failure in educational theory. *The Journal of Aesthetic Education*, Vol. 47, No. 1, pp. 22-35.

Presentations

Aaron Stoller. (2013) "Maker's Knowledge: Time, Knowing, and the Creative Act," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Conference, Galloway Township, NJ

Aaron Stoller. (2012) "Learning Justice in the Aristocratic Classroom," South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society Conference, Boone, NC

Aaron Stoller. (2012) "A Leaderless Pedagogy: Lessons from the Occupy Movement," National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Boston, MA

Aaron Stoller. (2013) Invited Panelist. "The Transformation Imperative: Reframing the University," Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, PA

Brian Peters (2013) "Creating True Partnerships: Bridging Gap Between Academic & Housing Depts.," North Carolina Housing Officers annual meeting, North Carolina Central University, Durham

Undergraduate Research Student Supervision

Dr. Tiffany Kershner supervised two undergraduate research projects. Both students presented at the Central States Anthropological Society Conference in St. Louis in April: Jake Thompson: "Call Me "Baby": An Analysis of Word Frequency in Top 20 American Hits" [Note: Jake was invited to submit an abstract to the annual Semiotics society conference] and Brian Gaudio: ""Design-Thinking and Youth Involvement in Asset-Based Community Planning."

Journal Review

Dr. Tiffany Kershner served as a Reviewer for the journal *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment*

Mr. Aaron Stoller served as a Reviewer for *The Journal of Learning Spaces*

National Review Committee Service

Dr. Tiffany Kershner served as a reviewer for the SSRC IDRF (Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship), completing her 4 year term. This involved reviewing annually around 20-25 research grant proposals (10 page proposals) for dissertation research abroad.

Dr. Larry Blanton on the cell biology review panel for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships.

UHP STAFF MEMBER SERVICE TO DASA AND THE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Larry Blanton: Director of Graduate Programs, Department of Plant Biology; DASA Promotion Committee (Chair); DASA Courses and Curriculum Committee (Chair); Goldwater Scholarships nomination committee; Living-Learning Community Task Force; Shelton Leadership Center stakeholder session; Caldwell Fellow review session

Dr. Tiffany Kershner: Park Scholars Enrichment Grant committee; Caldwell Fellows Interview Committee; Park Scholars Interview Committee; Guest Lecture for Language and Culture (Dr. Wallace) and Applied

Anthropology (Dr. Wallace); Pack Promise Coach (2 students); Faculty Advisor for Student Club (Que lo Que)

Mr. Aaron Stoller: Member, Council on Undergraduate Education

Ms. Carolyn Veale: DUAP Assessment Team (A-Team); Scholarship and Student Aid Committee; Open House Committee; Recruiter's Roundtable; Advisors Roundtable; Honors Village Advisory Council (HVAC); 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; CALS Visitation participant; Engineering Open House participant; Experience NC State (participated in a total of 14 sessions); Virtual Experience NC State Video Filming

Ms. Marquette Russell: Team Captain for Wolfpack Gives Back Campaign; Assisted other DASA departments, including the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Mr. Brian Peters: ACPA, SEAHO, & NCHO Program Reviewer; SEAHO Award Reviewer; NCHO: Professional Development Committee (Faculty & Academic Partners Award Sub-committee Chair)

UHP SUPPORT FOR THE NC STATE CHAPTER OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY

The UHP provides administrative and financial support for the NC State Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. This included issuing 276 invitations, processing 78 memberships, maintaining chapter records and databases, planning and executing the membership induction ceremony, and facilitating the visit of this year's PBK Visiting Scholar, Professor Wick Haxton (distinguished physicist from the University of California-Berkeley).

THE FELLOWSHIP ADVISING OFFICE SERVES THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

The University Honors Program provides a major service to the undergraduate and graduate students at NC State through the activities of its Fellowship Advising Office.

Staff and Faculty honors and awards

Aaron Stoller. 2013. Nominee. Division of Academic and Student Affairs Award of Excellence.

Aaron Stoller. 2012. Recipient. R. Randy Rice Service Award for outstanding contribution to Housing and Residence Life at NC State University, North Carolina Housing Officers

Brian Peters, 2013. University Housing Advisor of the Year

In addition, the University Honors Village received the following recognitions:

- Community of the Month: NCSU & SAACURH (South Atlantic Affiliate of College & University Residence Halls), August 2012
- Hall of the Semester, Fall 2012

- Living-Learning Village of the Year, AY 2012-2013

Diversity initiatives and/or progress

HONORS VILLAGE FELLOWS TRAINING

Honors Village Fellow program redesigned to be based on concepts in critical pedagogy. Specifically, the Fellows conducted a year-long dialogue of Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and Myles Horton's *We Make The Road By Walking*, on which they based their practice.

"WHEN INNOCENCE CONSTITUTES THE CRIME" CONFERENCE

See above, under "Major achievements, initiatives, or changes to units and programs"

DANIEL CENTER FOR MATH AND SCIENCE

See above, under "Research, Extension or Service achievements"

FELLOWSHIPS AWARENESS DINNER AND SEMINAR

Dr. Tiffany Kershner and Ms. Carolyn Veale requested and received money from the Parents' Fund to offer a dinner and fellowships workshop for under-represented minority students and faculty members, with the purpose of raising their awareness of fellowship opportunities. Attendance was 43.

As a result of this event Ms. Veale has been asked to return to the African American Coordinating Committee and work with various college representatives to identify high-achieving minority students early on and expose them to the world of Fellowships and other opportunities that high achieving students should be seeking at NC State University.

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS INITIATIVE

Fellowship Advising collaborated with the Study Abroad Office and the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office to provide workshops and mentoring for Gilman Scholarship candidates (a State Department program that provides study abroad scholarships to Pell Grant recipients). This effort resulted in 14 successful Gilman Scholarship applications (a dramatic increase over an average of approximately 2 per year previously).

SOCIAL EQUITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Ms. Carolyn Veale attended this conference, which involved professionals in both the public and private sector and dealt with issues of Social Equity in higher education, K-12 education, and the non-profit and profit sectors.

Fund-raising successes as applicable

FELLOWSHIP ADVISING OFFICE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Last year's Enhancement Grant recipients were hosted for dinner by the donor and made presentations on the experiences made possible by the grant. The donor was so impressed by the students and their accomplishments that she made a second gift to the UHP, which provided funds for a second round of the enhancement grants, for other student travel, for events that promote student-faculty interactions, and for professional development activities for UHP staff.

Mapping Program Accomplishments to the Goals of the NC State Strategic Plan

Goal 1: The success of our students through educational innovation

- Our graduates frequently cite an HON seminar as the best course they took at NC State.
- We seek in the Honors Village to exemplify the ideal of a Living-Learning Community. A number of innovative programs have been implemented to bring true academic scholarship into the context of the Honors Village. Our goal in the Honors Village is to build a community of scholars and to inculcate in our students the ideal of a life of the mind.
- UHP students contribute to the creation of new knowledge via their research experiences. We are enabling them to disseminate that knowledge through a variety of initiatives.
- A student who engages in the pursuit of a major national fellowship is engaged in a highly personalized educational endeavor. The reflection and self-examination that are required to prepare a competitive examination and the exposure to highly critical internal and external review are like nothing else our students have done in their careers. Even if a student does not succeed in the fellowship competition, they have gained significantly from the process and are well-prepared for other competitive endeavors, such as graduate and professional school applications.

Goal 2: Scholarship and research by investing in faculty infrastructure

- HON seminars provide our faculty with highly satisfying and personally rewarding teaching experiences.
- HON seminars have enabled faculty to explore new scholarly areas, resulting in scholarly books, publications, and presentations. Student projects completed as part of a seminar requirement have led to scholarly presentations at regional and national meetings.

Goal 3: Interdisciplinary scholarship to address the grand challenges of society

- The HON seminars feature interdisciplinary explorations of topics.
- The Honors Village brings together students from a wide variety of majors, providing opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas and the development of interdisciplinary teams.
- Our co-curricular programs often feature interdisciplinary topics and provide opportunities for students and faculty members from different disciplines to interact.
- UHP Capstone research experiences can feature an interdisciplinary exploration of a topic.

Goal 4: Organizational excellence by creating a culture of constant improvement

- The UHP seeks constantly to streamline its processes, primarily by leveraging information technology.
- All of our program forms were revised in an effort to improve their clarity.
- We continued to utilize a semesterly survey of our students as part of our confirmation of active status process. The survey responses have alerted us to barriers to student success in

the program and well as providing us with information about the accomplishments of our students.

- The UHP works constantly to identify and remove barriers to student success in our program. Mr. Dwayne Barnes has been particularly effective at developing processes that identify students who have not obtained approval of their UHP Capstone projects. This has resulted in an increase in the number of students completing the program.

Goal 5: Local and global engagement through focused strategic partnerships

- Our partnership with the Daniel Center for Science and Mathematics provides our students with a relevant service opportunity that also provides them with evidence of discipline-related “broader impacts” that are important for success in the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship competition.
- Our partnerships with the academic departments are critical to our HON seminar program.
- Our partnerships with the research and extension/engagement units of the university are critical for providing our students with research experiences.

Information worthy of special note

Instead of highlighting accomplishments of the program, we have chosen to identify two areas of critical need. These are challenging budgetary times, but we cannot allow that to derail the substantial advances that have been made in recent years. We would like to draw the following to the attention of the higher administration:

- The hard work of building a fellowship culture at NC State continues. We must not allow ourselves to be distracted by trivialities such as the administrative location of the office. It sits well in the University Honors Program, where it benefits from substantial staff support and an academic setting appropriate to the fellowships effort. The fellowships effort will require additional personnel support as it grows. It requires the continued support of the higher administration, particularly with regard to appropriate recognition of fellowship recipients and of the faculty committees that identify the university nominees. It requires the support of flexible funds, not only to support the activities of the fellowship process, but also to provide students with the kinds of opportunities they need to have to be successful in the competitions. For the past two years the office has enjoyed substantial support from a single donor. Although that donor is likely to continue the support for the foreseeable future, she has also been making the gifts with the understanding that the success of the students in the activities supported by her gift would encourage others to give. We need the assistance of University Advancement to bring this need to the attention of potential donors. We are confident that the friends of NC State are interested in contributing to its heightened reputation and there are few accomplishments that could heighten our reputation more than greater success in national fellowship competitions.

- The University Honors Program has completed its tenth year in its refocused form that emphasizes research and scholarship in the discipline. We have grown from 95 participants to nearly 800. The Honors Village has grown from one and a half floors of Bagwell Hall to all of Bagwell, Becton, and Berry. The program is highly attractive to top students and is particularly attractive to out-of-state students and their parents. The UHP provides the majority of NC State's fellowship recipients. We provide faculty with the opportunity to have highly satisfying, career-rejuvenating teaching experiences. We are propelling top students into faculty research programs, often as early as the freshman or sophomore year. The UHP should be at the center of NC State's mission to be a premier land grant institution. And yet our budget has been dwindling year-by-year at a rate that has accelerated in recent years. There are many things we cannot do as a result, but a major problem is our inability to offer a sufficient number of HON seminars. This must be addressed.