

**2008-2009 Annual Report
University Honors Program
Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs**

Submitted by: Dr. Larry Blanton, Director

Programs

Changes in scope and/or volume of activities

There were no major changes in scope or volume of activities for the University Honors Program this academic year.

However, it should be noted that the upward trend in our admissions statistics first observed last year has continued this year. For three years we have come close to meeting or have exceeded our goal for the entering class in terms of total number of students.

| Academic Year | Goal | Matriculated* |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 2007-2008 | 150 | 179 |
| 2008-2009 | 175 | 171 |
| 2009-2010 | 180 | 185 |

*For 2009-1010, students who have accepted our offer of admission.
The number matriculated is often lower than those who have accepted.

We experienced a significant increase in the number of students who applied for admission to the UHP.

| Academic Year | Invited | Applied | Admitted |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2007-2008 | 2876 | 452 | 335 |
| 2008-2009 | 2264 | 483 | 338 |
| 2009-2010 | 2445 | 626 | 388 |

As noted last year, our entering groups have become increasingly male (from a nearly 50:50 split in 2003 to 62:38 male:female) and our college distributions are becoming increasingly unbalanced (60% College of Engineering) compared to the overall entering freshman class (which may not be a valid benchmark). We suspect that one trend (more engineers) is driving the other (more males). We also suspect that we lose females to other living-learning communities: including Women in Science and Engineering and Students Advocating for Youth. Students can certainly be members of the UHP and also of WISE or SAY, but the students may be choosing to concentrate on one program. We will be exploring this phenomenon in more detail.

The Honors Village continues to be a great success. It enjoys high return rates by its residents (freshman to sophomore year). It is a key point for recruitment of the incoming students. We have 15 males on the waiting list for the Honors Village for Fall 2009.

The UHP adopted its current form in Fall 2003, which means that we did not begin to see significant levels of program completion until Spring 2008. The initial completion rates are 47% for the 2003 entering group, 36% for the 2004 entering group, and 30% for the 2005 entering group—but 20% of that cohort are still active program participant. In the coming year, we will begin to do more detailed analysis of our entering cohorts to determine year-to-year persistence rates and to identify the reasons for non-completion of the program.

Significant Achievements

1. Thanks to the efforts of Administrative Assistant Dwayne Barnes, we launched a “Brick Campaign” to raise discretionary funds for the UHP. To date, we have sold 30 full-sized and 20 mini-bricks. Total revenue has been \$2,035, yielding \$605 for student programs after paying for bricks. Needless to say, this is a tough way to raise money.
2. R.L. Blanton served once again (fourth year in a row) on the national panel for NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (he was one of only three NC State faculty members on any of the panels in 2009; one of only two in 2008; and the only NC State panel member in 2007). This service has provided him with insight into the NSF GRF process, which he has passed along to NC State students in one-on-one advising and through Fellowship Advising Office information sessions.
3. R.L. Blanton is co-editor with Roman Taraban (Texas Tech University) of *Creating Effective Undergraduate Research Programs in Science: The Transformation from Student to Scientist*, published on June 20, 2008 by Teachers College Press. Reviews (including one in *Science*) have been positive.
4. Our graduates continue to be highly competitive for highly prestigious graduate and professional schools. UHP students were recipients of a Gates-Cambridge and Udall Scholarship, among others.
5. UHP staff members were engaged across campus (see appendix for list of committees and service activities)
6. We continued to implement technology to leverage our staff time and better achieve program goals. This included major server upgrades for our student database system, installation of an information panel in the Honors Village Commons Building, and continued development of the database for Phi Beta Kappa.
7. The UHP provided significant support for the administrative aspects of the campus chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.
8. UHP students presented their research at a number of local, regional, state, and national events. Knowing how many did so and the specifics of their presentations is a continuing challenge that we are seeking to address!

Compact Plan

The priority request from the UHP for the 2007-2010 Compact plan was for funds to enable us to offer additional seminars. We presented data demonstrating the anticipated demand in future semesters for HON seminars and predicting a significant shortfall in available seats. We were delighted that our request was approved. We were to receive permanent budget increases of \$35,000 in each of academic years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. The 2008-2009 increase did

occur, but the funds were taken again in the budget cuts. I understand that the 2009-2010 increase will not occur. Needless to say, the demand for additional HON seminars still exists.

Diversity: Initiatives and Progress

The UHP staff is diverse. Our student group is not. However, we cannot compete for minority students who meet our academic profile in the absence of any merit scholarship money under our control.

Assistant Director Carolyn Veale provides substantial support for minority students, including serving on the African American Coordinating Committee and as the faculty advisor for the Wolfpack Chapter of the NAACP. She provides advisement of African American Campus Student Leaders (Nubian Message Editor, Student Chief Justice, and Presidents and Vice Presidents of various student organizations across campus). She meets regularly with a majority of the African American students in the UHP on a monthly basis. She worked with African American Students in the UHP regarding research and summer opportunities and provided multiple written references for these students.

The Honors Village responded in a variety of ways to the Free Expression Tunnel incident. UHP Staff member Dwayne Barnes arranged a Friday afternoon conversation session to discuss the event and opening doors of communication between groups.

Recommendations and concerns for the future:

(These will sound familiar—most are repeated from last year.)

- The overall Honors situation at NC State needs the oversight of an Honors Council or similar body. There needs to be a common voice to address such things as appropriate recognition of Honors students, H-sections, H-contracts, program review, etc.
- The University Honors Program needs greater visibility amongst the senior administrators at NC State.
- The University Honors Program will never reach its potential for positive impact upon NC State and its students without significant flexible funding. Our students are amazingly talented and innovative, truly educational entrepreneurs. We need to be able to fund their dreams, ideas, and adventures. In fact, I consider this to be a higher priority than having our own recruiting scholarship money. If we had funds to enable our students to pursue their ideas, we will reap rewards that will increase the stature of NC State. The UHP must be declared to be a high priority development target at the University level.
- We will never be able to recruit significant numbers of minority students without having substantial merit scholarship funds under our control. Minority students who meet the academic profile of our program are highly recruited nationally, often being offered full scholarship.
- We do not have sufficient funds to offer enough seminars to meet the needs of our students, both in terms of total overall seats and in terms of disciplinary diversity.
- The proposed enrollment increases for the University overall will necessitate a reconsideration of the UHP enrollment goals. What is the proper size of the UHP, not

only in relation to the size of the overall entering class, but also in terms of delivering on our research and scholarship focus?

- The Visiting Scholar Apartment has been an ongoing challenge, in terms of filling it with someone who will actually do something with and for the students of the UHP.
- Additional budget cuts will seriously endanger the ability of the UHP to fulfill its mission.

UHP Examples for the Five University Focus Areas

Producing leaders for the state, nation, and the world

- A central goal of the University Honors Program is to produce future leaders. Our challenging academic program and our focus on research and scholarship in the discipline help our students to yield students who are competitive for national and international scholarships and fellowships and who are competitive applicants for top graduate and professional programs. NC State's 2009 Gates-Cambridge Scholar and Udall Scholar are both UHP students.
- Assistant Director Carolyn Veale provides substantial support for minority students, including serving on the African American Coordinating Committee and as the faculty advisor for the Wolfpack Chapter of the NAACP. She provides advisement of African American Campus Student Leaders (Nubian Message Editor, Student Chief Justice, and Presidents and Vice Presidents of various student organizations across campus). She meets regularly with a majority of the African American students in the UHP on a monthly basis. She worked with African American Students in the UHP regarding research and summer opportunities and provided multiple written references for these students.
- The Honors Village sponsored the Leadershape Conference for leadership development of undergraduate students for 60 NC State students, at least 3 of whom are University Honors Program or Village students.
- The Honors Village conducted a leadership retreat to Asheville, NC, March 20-21
- The Honors Village provides a number of leadership opportunities for our students, including as peer mentors (known as the Honors Village Fellows) and through service on various Honors Village committees.

Creating educational innovation

- Our HON seminar continues to create permanent courses, including HON 310 (The Creative Process in Science).
- Our continued implementation of information technology solutions to program needs.
- Our experiential learning courses enable our students to be entrepreneurial in their education, crafting customized educational experiences. These include independent research projects, but also projects involving extension and engagement or service-learning activities.

Fueling economic development

- Some UHP Capstone projects have involved patent applications or invention disclosures.

Driving innovation in energy and the environment

- Our HON seminar offerings allow students to explore these areas, including Dr. Robert Bruck's HON 371 (Environmental Science and Technology) and HON 398E: Current Challenges in the Environment.
- Some UHP Capstone projects have involved projects that are energy or environmentally related

Appendix

Campus and other Engagement by UHP Staff Members

Larry Blanton (Director)

- Graduate School representative on three Ph.D. committees (1 in Chemistry, 1 in Agricultural Economics, one in Statistics)
- Member of Ph.D. committees of three students (1 in Plant Biology; 1 in Crop Science; 1 in Higher Education Administration)
- Member, Advisory Board, Center for Excellence in Curricular Engagement
- Chair, Committee on Members in Course, Zeta of NC Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa
- Judge, NC State Graduate Student Research Symposium
- Campus Coordinator, UNC in Washington Program
- Panel Member, NSF Graduate Research Fellowships
- NC State Internal Review Panel, Letters-of-intent for GK-12 Program
- Member of the mentoring committee for a plant biology teaching assistant professor
- Invited speaker, Center for the Integration of Science Education and Research, Texas Tech University, April 2009

Tresa Barlage (Assistant Director)

- NSO Volunteer for 4 sessions during Summer 2008
- Attended North Carolina Honors Conference at Meredith College in September 2008
- Presented program for Association of College and University Housing Officers International (ACUHO-I) Living Learning Conference held in Oct 2008
- Attended NCHC in San Antonio, TX in Oct 2008
- Advisor Development Institute Participant, attending 11 sessions (Focusing on the First Year, Advising as Teaching, Advising 101, Technology 101, Developmental Advising, Financial Aid, Value Added Resources for Advising, Parental Involvement, Students of Color, First Generation Students, and Student Athletes)
- Member, NC State Leadershape Advisory Committee
- Served as CSLEPS ASB student team leader interview selection committee
- Women's Center Chocolate Festival Volunteer
- Women's Center Rape Crisis Hotline Volunteer

Carolyn Veale (Assistant Director)

- Member, DUAP Assessment Team (A-Team)
- Member, Scholarship and Student Aid Committee
- Member, African American Coordinating Committee
- Member, Open House Committee
- Member, Recruiter's Roundtable
- Member, Advisors Roundtable
- Member, Honors Village Advisory Council (HVAC)

- Chancellor Leadership Award Application Reviewer
- Park Visitation Day participant
- CALS WISE Visitation Day participant
- CALS Honors Visitation Day participant
- Engineering Open House
- DUAP vetting process for the STEP program
- Hugh Shelton National Leadership Scholarship Reviewer
- Advisor, Wolfpack Chapter of the NAACP
- Advisement of African American Campus Student Leaders (Nubian Message Editor, Student Chief Justice, and Presidents and Vice Presidents of various student organizations across campus)
- Meet regularly with a majority of the African American students in the UHP on a monthly basis
- Worked with African American Students in the UHP regarding research and summer opportunities and provided multiple written references for these students
- Wake County Public Schools Volunteer
- Academic Coach
- Student Affairs Dissertation Group

Dwayne Barnes (Administrative Support Specialist)

- Part of the test market for the new SIS system.
- Attended SIS Training
- Appointed as Building Liaison for Clark Hall
- Earned CPR and First Aid Training
- Attended the 2008 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference
- Attended the 2008 NC Honors Conference
- Ran an event for the UHP program about speaking out
- Continued finding new avenues to promote the UHP Brick Campaign
- Volunteered to be a part of the 2009 NC Honors Conference committee
- Attended training on Employment Verification Process: I-9
- Member of committee organized to choose the EPA outstanding employee and improve the process

Claude Raines (Business and Technology Applications Analyst)

- Web Developers RD Meetup Group
- Triangle FileMaker Users Group
- Raleigh/Durham Adobe Users Group
- Member of FileMaker TechNet
- Attended FileMaker 9/10 Conference in Phoenix, AZ
- Attended Advanced PHP Training @ Open Source Technology, Inc in Morrisville, NC
- Attended Online course in JQuery (for developing web 2.0 applications)

- Attended MSAccess 2007 class by OIT (as part of the Office 2007 upgrade to support office staff when we move to MSOffice 2007 this summer)
- Attended ITAP (Instructional Technology Assistant Program) To provide online course support for our seminar instructors.
- Attended OIT Expo, which was focused on the way our students (The millennials and now generation Z sometimes referred to as "Generation Me") get their information.

Marquette Russell (Administrative Support Associate)

- Senator for Districts 1 & 2 in the NC State Staff Senate
- Senator on the Elections Committee and Dining Committee for the NC State University Staff Senate 2008 – 2009
- Second year in the MBA program at Strayer University, to obtain a Masters of Business Administration, concentration in Management
- Volunteered for the State Science Fair on at Meredith College, March 27, 2009,