

**2009-2010 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

Significant changes occurred this year as a result of the budget cuts:

- (1) The Honors Baccalaureate and Celebration of Academic Excellence was canceled. This was a student and faculty award ceremony held on the Thursday evening prior to spring commencement. However, most of the recognitions at the event occurred elsewhere, including at the Commencement ceremony itself. Therefore, it was difficult to justify continuing the event in the midst of the budget crisis. We do need to decide upon the long-term fate of the Honor Baccalaureate.
- (2) The budget cuts also resulted in the loss of the funds we had available to support the study abroad and research experiences of our students.
- (3) The UHP assumed the duties of the Office of Fellowship Advising. This was brought about by the departure of the full-time fellowship adviser and the subsequent loss of the open position. Although assistance was provided by the Office of Undergraduate Research (George Barthalmus and Judy Day) and by UHP staff members Dwayne Barnes and Marquette Russell, the bulk of the duties of the Fellowship Adviser fell on Larry Blanton in assuming the role of campus representative for the various fellowship programs. Needless to say, it was impossible to maintain the level of activities established by the former full-time fellowship adviser (information sessions, scouting for prospects, etc.). Instead, Dr. Blanton's efforts had to be focused on those competitions requiring campus nominations. Results from these efforts will be summarized below.

We continue to experience upward pressure on the size of our incoming class. There was an unexpectedly higher yield from our admitted student population, so our Fall 2010 entering class will be a record-high 203 students. Here are the admissions statistics for the past four years:

Academic Year	Goal	Matriculated*
2007-2008	150	179
2008-2009	175	171
2009-2010	180	186
2010-2011	180	203

*For 2010-2011, students who have accepted our offer of admission.
The number matriculated is usually slightly lower than those who have accepted.

The size of our incoming group is dictated by three factors: (1) the number of seminar sections we can offer for the incoming students; (2) the number of spaces available in the University Honors Village, our associated living-learning community; and (3) our ability to provide our

students with additional seminars and research opportunities. We had planned for 9 sections of HON 202 to accommodate 180 incoming freshmen. The larger incoming group has led to a second section of Dr. Blanton's HON 310 course having to be offered to accommodate the additional students.

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 14 males and 1 female on the waiting list for the Honors Village for Fall 2010.

Significant Achievements

1. The Honors Village was selected as "Village of the Year" by the students of the Inter-Residence Council.
2. The UHP hosted the North Carolina Honors Association meeting, which was held in SAS Hall on Saturday, October 3; the 70 participants were from institutions across the state.
3. R.L. Blanton served once again (fifth year in a row) on the national panel for NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. 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. His presentations led to a dramatic increase in the number of applications submitted by NC State graduate students; as a result we enjoyed a significant increase in our number of graduate students receiving fellowships.
4. UHP students continue to be highly competitive for highly prestigious graduate and professional schools. UHP students were recipients of a Goldwater Scholarship and a UNCF/Merck Undergraduate Science Fellowship. Two UHP students were selected as the inaugural recipients of research fellowships from the ACC-Inter-institutions Academic Collaborative. Four current or former UHP students were recipients of National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships; three current or former UHP students were recognized with Honorable Mention.
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. The implementation of an on-line registration system for the Phi Beta Kappa chapter greatly increased the efficiency of the chapter's membership process. The UHP continues to provide significant administrative and financial support for the campus chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.
7. UHP students presented their research at a number of local, regional, state, and national events.
8. NC State nominated two students for Marshall Scholarships, one for a Mitchell Scholarship, one for a Rhodes Scholarship, and one for a Churchill Scholarship. None of those applications led to awards. We processed nine applications for Fulbright Scholarships; two received awards and one is an alternate. In the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship competition, 13 current or former undergraduates and 8 of our current graduate students (undergraduate degree from elsewhere) received fellowships. There were a total of 25 Honorable Mentions.
9. The UHP processed 591 Honors Contracts as a service to the departmental/college honors programs and the University Scholars Program.

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 lost permanently in the budget cuts; the planned 2009-2010 increase was canceled. We are unable to offer sufficient seminars for our students.

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 meeting regularly with a majority of the African American students in the UHP (usually 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.

UHP Staff Member Dwayne Barnes graduated from the Equal Opportunity Institute.

Recommendations and concerns for the future:

- We owe it to our top students to provide high-quality fellowship advising services. The success of our students reflects positively on the reputation (and ranking) of our institution, so this is an investment that is worth its cost. It is absolutely essential that we restore the fellowship adviser as a full-time position, ideally situated within the UHP, which can provide administrative support and supplemental advising assistance (as well as providing a mechanism for continuity of the effort).
- 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?
- We lost our funds to pay the rent on The Visiting Scholar Apartment, and so have turned it over to University Housing (we hope temporarily) to be rented out for short-term housing. The future of the Visiting Scholar Apartment as a UHP program is uncertain.
- 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.
- Assistant Director Carolyn Veale provides substantial support for minority students, including serving on the African American Coordinating Committee and meeting regularly with a majority of the African American students in the UHP (usually 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 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 serve as an incubator for new course offerings. A recent example is Dr. Gary Comstock's HON 294 seminar, "On the Human," an outgrowth of his National Humanities Center fellowship.
- 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.
- A local patent attorney delivered a workshop on intellectual property to the HON 310 seminar, resulting in three of the students in the seminar being offered summer internships with the firm.

Driving innovation in energy and the environment

- Our HON seminar offerings allow students to explore these areas, including Dr. Robert Bruck's HON 290 (Ecological Systems), 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

Selected Points from the Foregoing

- In Fall 2010 we will welcome our largest incoming group yet: 203 students. Average M+V SAT of 1362. Average unweighted high school GPA of 3.76. Six valedictorians. 12 salutatorians.
- We owe it to our top students to provide high-quality fellowship advising services. The success of our students reflects positively on the reputation (and ranking) of our institution, so this is an investment that is worth its cost. It is absolutely essential that we restore the fellowship adviser as a full-time position, ideally situated within the UHP, which can provide administrative support and supplemental advising assistance (as well as providing a mechanism for continuity of the effort).
- 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 are unable to offer a sufficient number of seminars to our students. We were scheduled to receive two permanent increases in funding for seminars (\$35,000 each), received and lost one and never received the second.

Appendix

Campus and other Engagement by UHP Staff Members

Larry Blanton (Director)

- Member of Ph.D. committees of two students (1 in Plant Biology; 1 in Higher Education Administration)
- Member, DUAP Courses and Curriculum Committee
- Member, Honors Village Advisory Council
- Chair, Committee on Members in Course, Zeta of NC Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa
- President, North Carolina Honors Association
- Judge, NC State Graduate Student Research Symposium
- Panel Member, NSF Graduate Research Fellowships
- Preliminary Stage Reviewer, HHMI Undergraduate Grants Program
- Member of the mentoring committee for a plant biology teaching assistant professor
- Taught PB/BIO 414 (Cell Biology) to 151 students, Spring 2010
- Taught HON 310, Fall 2009 and Spring 2010

Tresa Barlage (Assistant Director)

- Pending

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)
- Member, University Dining Committee (elected chair for 2010-2011)
- Chancellor Leadership Award Application Reviewer
- Park Visitation Day participant
- CALS WISE Visitation Day participant
- CALS Honors Visitation Day participant
- Engineering Open House
- College of Education Spend-a-Day
- DUAP vetting process for the STEP program
- Hugh Shelton National Leadership Scholarship Reviewer
- Alumni Association's Legacy Admissions Day
- Advisor, Wolfpack Chapter of the NAACP
- 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
- Worked with Honors Village on Community Service Project (Raleigh on Ice) to benefit the Raleigh Rescue Mission
- Academic Coach
- Pack Promise Instructor
- Advising Development Institute
- Admitted to Graduate Certificate in Counselor Education Program
- Taught HON 398, “On Being Ethical”

Jordan Luzader (Honors Village Community Director)

- Pending

Dwayne Barnes (Administrative Support Specialist)

- Graduated, Equal Opportunity Institute
- Building Liaison for Clark Hall

Claude Raines (Business and Technology Applications Analyst)

- Nominated for the newly forming “Accessibility Advisory Work Group,” a standing committee of the University IT Committee
- Member of the new DUAP IT Group and the newly revived DUAP IT Committee
- Expanded tech support to cover Lantech duties for Clark Hall and other tech support for various DUAP departments
- Establish a new Remedy queue for DUAP to facilitate IT support
- Continued participation in the ongoing “Diversity Film Series” workshops
- Participating in OIT’s internal “Web Hosting” pilot study
-

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 – 2010
- Third year in the MBA program at Strayer University, to obtain a Masters of Business Administration, concentration in Management
- Clark Hall Team Captain for NC State SECC
- Wake County Elections Judge