

[ **SYNC** ]

A newsletter by the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs

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**ISSUE  
HIGHLIGHT:**

Share the Fellowship Advising Office's information on **page 5** with your students!

**ENGAGEMENT OFF THE COURTS****By Marcia Toms**

"The majority of the world sees Division I athletics through the TV," said Demetrius Marlow, assistant director of the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes (ASPSA), "and they see college athletics as another commercial sport."

Marlow points out, however, that student athletes complete massive preparation before competitions, work diligently on their scholastic careers, and, perhaps most surprising, still find time to be engaged with the community. Research shows that students who are engaged in extracurricular and co-curricular activities have higher retention rates and are more satisfied with their university career.

"There is a misperception that a lot of Division I athletes don't have time to get engaged in such activities," said Marlow. "The reality is that they do have the time, but it must be structured to fit around their other obligations of athletics and academics."

Helping fit opportunities around the student athletes' busy schedules is just one way that ASPSA helps students get engaged. They find and create opportunities for the athletes to reach their goals both on and off the court. Student athletes also become engaged by representing the university.

"They have been especially helpful to the Pre-College Programs," said Kelly Laraway, director of the Office of Pre-College Programs. "The expectations for success that the athletes discuss are important for all students to hear, future student athletes or not."

Student athletes will often speak to middle and high school students about what it means to be a student athlete at a Division I school. They have also designed multiple middle school Leadership Conferences and shared their experiences with others at conferences (for more information on these, see the helpful links at the end of this article).

Student athletes are also engaged globally. Keri DeMar, a junior in Psychology and part of the women's volleyball team, recently went to China on a business delegation through the International Scholar Laureate Program.



Luke Lathan, Football, and Georgia Davis, Cross Country, presenting to the middle school students

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## ENGAGEMENT OFF THE COURTS

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“This trip has made me a better athlete and scholar because I will make the most out of my educational opportunities,” explained DeMar. “Students in China do not take their studies for granted, because it is often so important to their families.”

DeMar also conveyed how this experience has made her well rounded and the lessons learned regarding camaraderie through competition.

“Even though people may be from different worlds and cultures, sport is one event where everyone is on the same page,” she said.

Student-athletes are also involved in global giving. Katheryn Pegg, a senior in nutrition science and a member of the swimming and diving team, was so moved by what she learned about Darfur in one of her classes that she wanted to help. When an opportunity arose to work with Coke to organize a fundraising event, she jumped on the chance.

Pegg, along with other student athletes and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, helped plan and market the event. The fundraising that the student athletes did before and during the concert raised over \$3,000.

It’s clear that student athletes are engaged in so many ways. Their efforts in meeting the intense demands of the community and the world should be appreciated.

“The commitment they make to be ambassadors for our University and beyond needs to be honored,” said Marlow.

To see more on student-athlete conferences, visit:

- Vol. 3 Issue 7: <http://www.ncsu.edu/uap/sync/2008/march.pdf>
- Vol 3. Issue 4: <http://www.ncsu.edu/uap/sync/2007/nov.pdf>

## FROM THE DEAN’S DESK: DUAP – THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

The last issue of SYNC included a feature article about Dean Thomas Conway and some reflections on his 32 years at NC State University. In that interview Dean Conway discussed the changes that had occurred during that 32-year interval (1976-2008), and he also talked a bit about his thoughts for the future of our Division at the University.

Dean Conway reflected on the transition of NC State from being a “good, regional institution” to becoming a “real world-class institution that is participating at very high levels in research and in the academic enterprise.” He also emphasized that it is very important to focus on keeping the people connections during times of change. These connections are wide ranging but the primary emphasis is on the students. As Dean Conway said, we have to advocate for our students.

As we move into this transitional period in which I am serving as Interim Dean of DUAP, you can be assured that my primary emphasis will be on advocating for our students in the Division and

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**“I will make the most out of my educational opportunities.”**

**— Keri DeMar**



John T. Ambrose  
Interim Dean,  
Division of  
Undergraduate  
Academic Programs

## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK: DUAP – THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

*(Continued from page 2)*

for all undergraduate students that have been admitted to NC State. I believe that we have an unwritten contract with any student who is admitted to the University and it includes responsibilities for both the students, for us and for the entire institution.

The student's responsibility is to be a successful student. This includes earning a degree at NC State or making the decision to transfer to another institution. That transfer can be based on the fact that NC State does not offer a degree in a major that suits the student's interests or needs, or that the student would be best suited for degree completion in a different environment. That environment might be a smaller institution, a location closer to the student's family, or a number of other personal reasons.

The institution's responsibilities include helping the student to succeed. Such assistance includes good advising, developing a good relationship between the student and one or more representatives of the University, helping but not directing the student in the selection of an appropriate major, developing and monitoring a reasonable plan of work, and intervening when the student is at risk. We will not always be successful, but we must always try.

In addition to the personal focus on student success, DUAP will also continue to develop and to enhance programs that help to improve student success at NC State. We will continue to develop our First Year College and Honors Village Programs; we will increase course offerings in the First Year Inquiry Program; we will continue to develop transfer procedures that address the needs of students who wish to transfer to NC State; we will experiment with new programs such as a summer bridge program for students in the Transition Program; we will work with our individuals and groups to ensure that our New Student Orientation Program serves the needs of our new freshmen and their parents; and we will coordinate the implementation of the new General Education Program for the entire campus. This is not a complete list but it does give you a flavor of our ongoing and new activities.

At NC State, DUAP does not award the degrees that our students receive, but we do improve students' experiences as they earn their degrees.

## DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

### NEW STAFF

The Undergraduate Tutorial Center welcomes Dana Jablonski as tutor coordinator. Dana originally comes from Pennsylvania where she obtained a bachelors degree in elementary and early childhood education from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. After graduating, she went straight to the University of South Carolina where she received her master's degree in higher education and student affairs. At South Carolina, she was actively involved with the Supplemental Instruction Program, coached academic skills, and co-taught a first-year experience course.



## DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

### CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLICATIONS

- Jennie LaMonte, coordinator of the Fellowship Advising Office, participated in the 2008 National Association of Fellowships Advisors Symposium.
- Samara Fleming Burnette, coordinator of the Office of Undergraduate Retention Services, co-presented with Susan Grant, director of University Housing, on the "Advisory Council for Enhancing Student Success: Creating an Effective and Sustainable Retention Committee" at the Noel-Levitz National Conference on Student Recruitment, Marketing, and Retention, July 16, 2008.
- Kelly Laraway, director of the Pre-College Programs, presented "We are all 100% Smart" to the students in the NC-MSEN Pre-College Summer Scholars Program on July 8 and 9, 2008. She has also been invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the Literacy Council of Wake County.

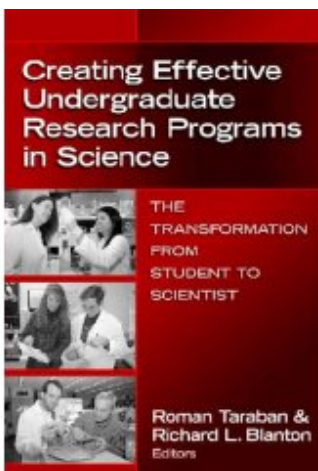
### PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT: LARRY BLANTON IN PRINT!

Dr. Richard "Larry" Blanton (pictured right), director of the University Honors Program and professor of plant biology, co-edited a book released June 2008, *Creating Effective Undergraduate Research Programs In Science: The Transformation from Student to Scientist*, along with Roman Taraban, professor and associate chair in the department of psychology at Texas Tech University and assessment coordinator for the Texas Tech Howard Hughes Medical Institute Biological Sciences Education Program. The book has been described as the first comprehensive, data-based study of the benefits to students who actively participate in authentic science research programs.



The book, available on Amazon.com, features contributors from a variety of institutions who bring together studies of undergraduate research programs. They focus on identifying the successful elements of each program, and then draw valuable conclusions on the effects those programs have on the students. It provides timely information about the organization and administration of programs and the challenges to creating and sustaining viable research opportunities. This essential resource features a variety of perspectives, including those of external evaluators, longtime program directors, participants, and administrators; identifies the characteristics of effective programs and the kinds of gains that faculty and administrators can expect from them; examines the barriers to research opportunities, including lack of departmental and institutional resources and inadequate faculty compensation; and can be used as a primer for creating programs and for determining their effectiveness.

#### Testimonials:



(Click above to go to Amazon.com)

"As someone who only decided to become a scientist because of an accidental encounter with undergraduate research, I can heartily recommend this book to all college science faculty. To help science thrive, we need to provide as many young people as possible with the opportunity to experience our wonderful discipline." –Bruce Alberts, editor-in-chief of science, University of California, San Francisco

"I am so pleased to see this kind of detailed and scholarly work on undergraduate research. It has 'beef and potatoes' that will benefit all of us who are trying to enlarge and improve our hands-on experiences for students. My own life changed dramatically when two different undergraduate research opportunities came my way. I dropped the idea of a career in medicine and jumped into science head first. Creating knowledge...what a great way to wake up, work all day and go to sleep...at some hour. Many thanks to the authors for helping us learn how to provide for, and to motivate, students much better." –George Barthalmus, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, North Carolina State University, Raleigh

## NEWS AND NOTES

### FELLOWSHIP ADVISING OFFICE (FAO)

Each year, NC State has the privilege of nominating, endorsing, or rating candidates for international fellowship and scholarship competitions. Campus deadlines are early in the term, so please don't delay if you are thinking of making an application or would like to encourage someone to apply. Each of these programs is highly competitive. Successful candidates have high GPAs, robust records of accomplishment, and well-articulated goals and aspirations.

In order to learn more about these funding opportunities, students can register online (<http://fao.ncsu.edu>) in the Fellowship Advising Net Gizmo (FANG). Advisees will receive an email confirming their registration in FANG, and suggesting next steps in proceeding with application preparation (so read this email!). Details regarding application submission procedures are included in FANG. This list of programs is not exhaustive. There are many direct-application funding schemes as well, and these are included in a searchable database in FANG. If you know someone who would be eligible for these competitions, please urge them to move forward with the process.

**Churchill** (campus deadline: 2 September, noon; website: <http://www.winstonchurchillfoundation.org> )

The Winston Churchill Foundation awards twelve scholarships and hopes to increase that number to fifteen. The one-year awards lead to the Masters of Philosophy (MPhil), the Certificate of Post-Graduate Study (CPGS in different fields), the Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS in theoretical or applied mathematics), and a Diploma (in Computer Science). Please check out the list of those who have received these awards.

**Marshall** (campus deadline: 2 September, noon; website: <http://www.marshallscholarship.org> )

Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. At least forty scholars are selected each year to study either at graduate or occasionally undergraduate level at an UK institution in any field of study. Each scholarship is held for two years.

**Mitchell** (campus deadline: 2 September, noon; website: <http://www.us-irelandalliance.org> )

George J. Mitchell Scholarships are intended to familiarize and connect the next generation of American leadership with the island of Ireland. The US-Ireland Alliance sponsors a competitive, national scholarship for graduate study by American citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 at institutions of higher learning on the island of Ireland. The scholarships are intended to familiarize and connect the next generation of American leadership with the island of Ireland. Normally, 12 scholarships are awarded each year. Mitchell Scholars must exhibit superior records of academic excellence, leadership and public service.

**Rhodes** (campus deadline: 2 September, noon; website: <http://www.rhodesscholar.org> )

Rhodes Scholarships are open to students distinguished not only in academics but also "in qualities of mind and in qualities of person who offer the promise of effective service to the world in the decades ahead." Applications are sought from talented students without restriction as to their field of academic specialization or career plans although the proposed course of study must be available at Oxford, and the applicant's undergraduate program must provide a sufficient basis for further study in the proposed field. Rhodes Scholars are elected for two years of study at the University of Oxford, with the possibility of renewal for a third year. Each year, 32 U.S. citizens are invited to study at Oxford among more than 90 Rhodes Scholars worldwide.

**Fulbright** (campus deadline: 23 September, noon; website: <http://www.fulbrightonline.org> )

The primary aim of the Fulbright Program is to further mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide. Approximately six thousand grants were awarded in 2007, at a cost of more than \$262 million, to U.S. students, teachers, professionals, and scholars to study, teach, lecture, and conduct research in more than 155 countries, and to their foreign counterparts to engage in similar activities in the United States.

If you are on faculty, staff, or administration at NC State and would like access to FANG, please email Jennie LaMonte ([jennie\\_lamonte@ncsu.edu](mailto:jennie_lamonte@ncsu.edu)), including FANG in the subject line.

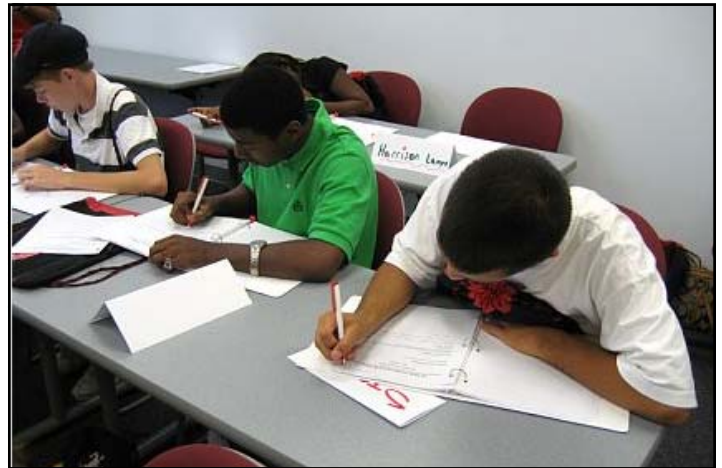
## NEWS AND NOTES

### FIRST YEAR COLLEGE (FYC)

Appalachian State University made a site visit to FYC Village and University Housing on June 16, 2008 to review freshmen living and learning communities, peer mentor staffing and academic initiatives.

### OFFICE OF PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS (OPCP)

On June 22-29, 2008, the Office of Pre-College Programs hosted the first **GEAR UP Experience at NC State** for 26 rising 9th and 10th graders. The program entitled "Developing PACK Leaders," included academic and leadership courses, college success seminars, study circles, and a team project. The academic and leadership courses helped students prepare their personal statements and focused on important leadership principles. Undergraduate Admissions and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid hosted the college success seminars. Study circles and team project planning gave the students an opportunity to explore issues related to college access and success. GEAR UP participant, Heather Gill (pictured below), explains how the summer experience played an integral part in her academic career.



GEAR UP participants working in their PACK Leadership Class.



Heather Gill

"This program has been a great experience and has allowed me to meet other students who have the same hopes and dreams as I do. It has helped me to become more social and outgoing, which will help me when I go to college and have to make friends. Another great aspect of this program is that it has put me in a dorm and forced me to live on my own, as I will when I attend college. It has given me a feel for college life and what it will be like living on campus. When I do attend college I will 'know the ropes' and it will be easier for me to cope with living on my own."

The **GEAR UP Experience at NC State** also featured an information fair on academic majors and careers and several off campus field trips. Students spent an afternoon at the Centennial Campus Wildlife Education Center learning about canines of the Carolinas and wildlife tracking. On the final day of the program, students presented their team project planning proposals. Family, friends, and staff witnessed each student transform from a GEAR UP participant to a PACK leader. For more information on Pre-College Programs, visit our website (<http://www.ncsu.edu/precollege>).

The Office of Pre-College Programs would like to thank the division staff who supported the success of this project.

### UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIAL CENTER (UTC)

The Undergraduate Tutorial Center will offer a variety of tutoring services this fall. Please visit our website ([http://www.ncsu.edu/tutorial\\_center/](http://www.ncsu.edu/tutorial_center/)) to find out more.

## EVENTS



### BIRTH MONTH AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER? HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Megan Albidrez, John Ambrose, Frankye Artis, Donna Burton, Patricia Cellini, Kathleen Curp, Glenda Johnson, Jennie LaMonte, Kelly Laraway, Wendy LeBlanc, George Morell, Katherine Sheridan, Martha Wicker

### STAFF MEETING

The next two DUAP Division Meetings are scheduled:

- Wednesday, August 27, 2008
- Wednesday, September 24, 2008

For other events, see the online NC State Calendar (<http://calendar.activedatax.com/ncstate>).

## SYNC STAFF

Questions or comments? Please send them to [duap\\_sync@lists.ncsu.edu](mailto:duap_sync@lists.ncsu.edu).

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**For more information about DUAP and its units, please visit our web site:**

<http://www.ncsu.edu/uap/>

**Look for the next SYNC publication in October.**  
Remember to send in your news and notes by September 20th.

## SYNC FEATURE WRITER HIGHLIGHTED: MARCIA TOMS



In addition to writing articles for SYNC, Marcia Toms (pictured left) is also the associate director for the Undergraduate Tutorial Center. Her main responsibility is directing the Writing and Speaking Tutorial Services, but she also helps train other subject tutors, keeps the UTC website up to date, and assists with assessing the UTC programs. With her recent promotion to associate director, she is now spearheading the tutor training product development. She recently completed a draft of a tutor training book which will supplement the wildly successful tutor training video products already on the market.

When asked why she volunteers her time to the newsletter, she promptly replied, "I like seeing the connections between all of the units."

DUAP appreciates your service in informing the campus community of its initiatives, partnerships, and programs. Thank you, Marcia!