



# UHP Friends

*A newsletter for parents, alumni, and friends of the University Honors Program at North Carolina State University*

**Summer 2008 Volume 1**

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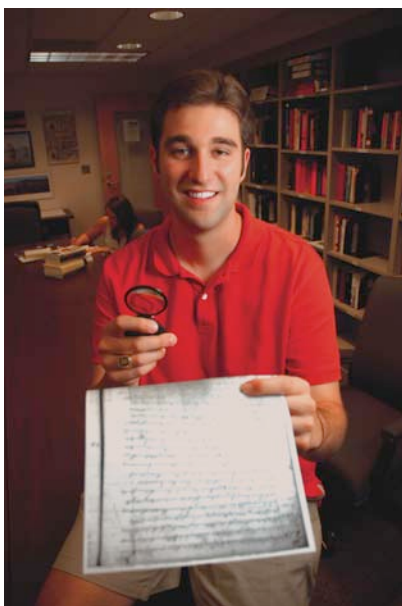
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## Undergraduate Research: Where Can I Begin?

A number of current UHP students from various academic disciplines are spending their summer engaging in undergraduate research and scholarship. From the east coast to the west coast, from NASA to Research Triangle Park, UHP students are all over the country and abroad making tremendous strides in undergraduate research.



When you think of research you may have images of laboratories, microscopes, petri dishes, and introverted scientists.

One may think of biotechnology, cancer biology, nanoscience, the AIDS epidemic, global warming, or alternative fuels. These topics are all cutting edge research topics, but students in the University Honors Program are encouraged to go even further by broadening their understanding of research and how it applies to their particular interests.

The UHP is marketed to high achieving students from all academic programs. The UHP challenges its participants to brainstorm about any activity that would allow them to form new knowledge. Sites for research opportunities are virtually limitless, including laboratories, museums, manuscript collections, archeological sites, oral history archives, and libraries. Research involves traveling to foreign places to understand the influence of place and time on an author's work, involves conducting surveys, interviews or focus groups. It may entail creating a new design, understanding the context of a musical composition by learning to play period instruments, and exploring the different production techniques for dramas.

By now you should have a clearer understanding of what we mean when we say research. Research is the generation of new knowledge. Research can be conducted in every scholarly discipline. Undergraduate research means that the un-

dergraduate student is beginning to engage in the magnificent deed of generating knowledge, an opportunity that wasn't popular or readily available for the undergraduate student ten or twenty years ago. Being on the cutting edge and thinking outside the box when it comes to research is not just a notion, it is strongly encouraged and supported in the UHP.

UHP students who engage in research work closely with faculty members or experienced professionals in the field. UHP students move beyond the traditional means of passively obtaining knowledge in the classroom to embarking on an experiential learning experience that potentially knows no limits.



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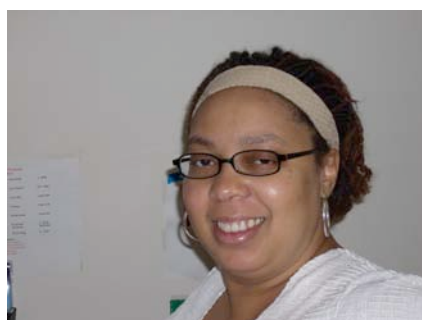
In this edition of UHP Friends the University Honors Program the UHP staff would like to welcome our new Friends, the Fall 2008 incoming students and parents . Thank you for the opportunity to lead, serve, and support.



**Dr. Larry Blanton**  
 Director

Years with the UHP: 6 years  
 Hometown: Lake Charles, LA

Interesting Fact: Dr. Blanton has lived in 12 different cities ranging from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Lubbock, Texas. While living in Cambridge, England he often ate lunch in the same room as renown theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking.



**Ms. Carolyn Veale**  
 Assistant Director

Years with the UHP: 2 years  
 Hometown: Lewiston, NC

Interesting Fact: Carolyn has three degrees from NC State University.



**Mr. Dwayne Barnes**  
 Administrative Support Specialist

Years with the UHP: 2 years  
 Hometown: Kings Park, NY

Interesting Fact: Dwayne is a big fan of the Carolina Hurricanes. Outside of work he is the Executive Director of Carolina Gold, an all age drum and bugle corp.



**Ms. Tresa Barlage**  
 Assistant Director

Years with the UHP: 1 year  
 Hometown: Versailles, OH

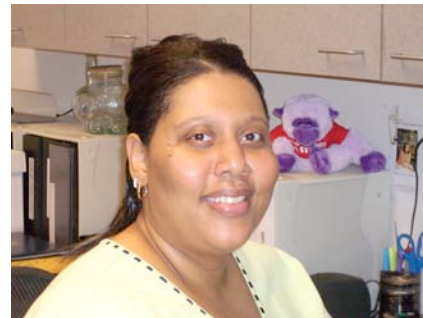
Interesting Fact: Tresa is one of six children.



**Mr. Claude Raines**  
 B/T Applications Analyst

Years with the UHP: 5 years  
 Hometown: Raleigh, NC

Interesting Fact: Claude is a jazz saxophonist.



**Mrs. Marquette Russell**  
 Administrative Support Associate

Years with the UHP: 2 years  
 Hometown: Rocky Mount, NC

Interesting Fact: Marquette is a musical vocal performer (lyric soprano), currently pursuing a MBA, and is a staff senator.

## A Message from the Director

Welcome to NC State and welcome to the University Honors Program! Your choosing to participate in the University Honors Program marks you as a student who seeks to go well beyond the traditional university experience. You are interested in subjects other than your own specific areas of interest. You are interested in exploring connections between disciplines. You are interested in participating in the creation of new knowledge. You are interested in doing more as you pursue your university education.

The University Honors Program exists to support you in your quest to build an undergraduate education that will propel you to great things in your post-graduate careers. As a member of the UHP, you join a community of fellow students who are similarly motivated to extend the boundaries of their undergraduate educations. The experiences of the returning and graduated UHP students will show you what is possible, motivating you to set similarly high goals, and encouraging you to pursue unique, life-changing opportunities. Your HON seminar instructors will challenge you, extend you, and enlighten you. The UHP staff will help you to identify opportunities at NC State and around the nation and world that will result in the unique undergraduate education that you are seeking.

At some point, we hope early in your time at NC State, you will connect with a faculty mentor who will serve as your guide to the research methodologies and questions of your chosen field. As a member of the UHP, the identification of this research mentor should be your highest priority goal, and you should be seeking ways to involve yourself in the knowledge-creation process from your first day on campus.

In the UHP literature, we describe ourselves as "a program of high expectations." We have high expectations of you. We also have high expectations of ourselves, to do all that we can to help you reach a level of achievement that will rank you amongst the very best graduates from NC State, competitive for national scholarships and fellowships, and for nationally ranked graduate and professional schools.

You are about to embark upon a great adventure. We are privileged to be part of that adventure and look forward to celebrating your achievements!

Dr. Larry Blanton



## UHP<sup>3</sup>: The UHP Parent Organization

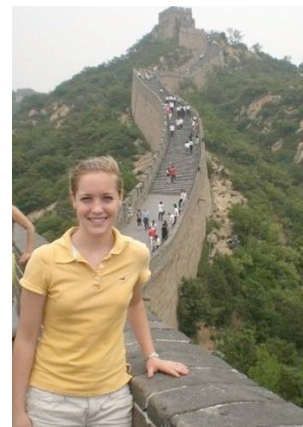
The parents and family members of the UHP incoming students have the opportunity to become a member of UHP<sup>3</sup> (University Honors Program Proud Pack Parent) at summer orientation. Incoming students are asked to register family members or any individual that the student deems appropriate to receive news involving all the exciting opportunities and accomplishments that abound for UHP students. UHP<sup>3</sup> members will periodically receive UHP Friends (UHP official newsletter), emails, and invitations to special programs as well as invitations to support the endeavors of the UHP. We strongly encourage all students to register their parents in UHP<sup>3</sup> - they will continue to be key partners in supporting your academic success.



## Food for Thought: Dine with a Professor

The Dine with a Professor program is a simple yet effective opportunity that UHP students can take advantage of. UHP participants can invite a professor to share a meal with them or a few UHP students in Clark or Fountain dining halls. Students should make a reservation for the "Dine with a Professor" card (the card is used to pay for the professor's meal) by contacting the UHP office online [www.ncsu.edu/honors/dine\\_info.htm](http://www.ncsu.edu/honors/dine_info.htm) or by phone 919.513.4078. After enjoying the con-

versation and food, simply return the card to the UHP office. Please note: Student participants are required to use their own personal meal plan to cover the cost of their meal.



## First Year UHP Student Convocation

The 3rd Annual First Year UHP Student Convocation will take place on Saturday, September 27, 2008 in the Talley Student Center Ballroom. The UHP Convocation is a celebration of excellence specifically for incoming UHP students and family members. The program features a pinning ceremony that officially welcomes students into the University Honors Program. The previous events have been a huge success with more than 350 students, family members and friends of the University Honors Program in attendance. The program is held in conjunction with Parents & Families Weekend, an fall annual event sponsored by the Office of Parents & Families Services.



# Looking Ahead...

*The official 2008-2009 academic year is only weeks away. A few events are already on the 2008-2009 calendar. Please encourage your UHP student to stay up-to-date regarding upcoming programs and events by visiting our web page and reading email messages from the UHP Office.*

**New Student Orientation**

*June 30 - August 1*

**Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium**

*July 31*

**UHP New Freshmen Move into Village**

*August 14*

**Village Freshman CORE Retreat**

*August 15*

**Wolfpack Welcome Week**

*August 15 - 24*

**University Convocation**

*August 18*

**First Day of Class**

*August 20*

**Service NC State**

*August 23*

**UHP Freshmen and New Student Convocation**

*September 27*

**Fall Break**

*October 9-10*

**Thanksgiving Vacation**

*November 26-28*

**Last Day of Class**

*December 5*

**Final Examinations**

*December 8 - 16*

**Fall Graduation**

*December 17*

**Winter Holiday**

*December 24 - January 2*

*University Closed*

## Annual Giving

NC State is among the leading universities in the country. NC State provides a world-class education at a great value. Programs such as the University Honors Program provides students with exceptional opportunities. Opportunities like this would not be possible without the generous support that is received from alumni, parents and friends. Gifts provide critical funding that is needed to support exceptional teaching, research, and outreach programs that are essential to the land-grant mission of NC State. Allow your Annual Gift to support the University Honors Program. Please reference the UHP advance number (149146) on your gift. For more information visit the Annual Giving website at: <http://www.ncsu.edu/annualfund/>.

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