

[**SYNC**]

A newsletter by the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE DEANS DESK	3
DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT	4
NEWS AND NOTES	5
GET INVOLVED	7
PRIDE OF THE WOLF- PACK AWARD	7
EVENTS	8
SYNC STAFF	8

**SPECIAL POINT
OF INTEREST:**

- Did you know that 22% (72) of the 2006-2007 Pack Promise Scholar cohort entered the First Year College? Currently 16% (52) of the 2007-2008 Pack Promise Scholar cohort entered as FYC students.

ACADEMIC COACHING EXCELLENCE**By Marcia Toms**

As many new students on campus can attest, coaching is not just for athletes any more.

"I think my academic coach is pretty awesome. We can talk to each other about anything," said Rebecca Register, a freshman this year, when asked about her Pack Promise Academic coach.

The Pack Promise program is NC State's formal commitment to access and affordability. "We offer financial aid to accepted students whose families are at or below 150% of the poverty line," explained Tony Patterson, associate director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. This aid guarantees that NC State's neediest students will receive 100 percent of their financial aid requirements through a combination of scholarships, grants, Federal Work-Study employment and need-based loans. Since its inception in 2006, over 300 students have been admitted to the program each year.

While the Pack Promise program is housed within the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs shares the university's commitment to the Pack Promise program by supporting non-financial elements.

The Office of Advising Support, Information and Services (OASIS) houses the Academic Coaching Program for Pack Promise Scholars, which is a personalized support program for the scholars.

"Coaches provide support and encouragement for students and also help students develop, prioritize and focus on their goals," said Roxanna McGraw, director of OASIS. It is available for any Pack Promise Scholar who wishes it.

This support helps students, many of whom are first generation college students, make the transition to college life.

"It gives me a chance to reflect on how well I'm doing," said Register. "I also like being able to talk to someone about my achievements and short comings."

Coaching sessions vary from pair to pair, and also session to session, but one thing is certain, according to McGraw, "Coaching is not advising. We send students to their academic advisers for those



Samara Fleming Burnette and Rebecca Lynn Register (also an Air Force cadet) sharing experiences.

(Continued on page 2)

ACADEMIC COACHING EXCELLENCE

(Continued from page 1)

questions. The coaching session is instead a collaborative, problem-solving process.”

“My coach listened to me as I was making important decisions,” explained Jasmine Bullard, a freshman. “It’s nice to get a more experienced opinion. My roommate is even jealous that she doesn’t get a coach, too.”

In order to provide this useful service to students, all coaches participate in an initial training session and are invited to participate in group training sessions throughout the year. Coach Erin Robinson, assistant director of OASIS as well as a Pack Promise coach, related that the resources provided and the group of people who came together to learn how best to coach students really made the experience rich. Robinson is especially grateful for the quality of training provided.

“I came away not only knowing how to best ask questions that encouraged growth in my Pack Promise students, but also knowing what questions to ask myself to help me meet my own goals,” she said.

Many of the existing coaches would strongly recommend this program, and there is a need for greater faculty involvement. Currently there are over 50 coaches, from academic affairs, student affairs, and colleges, who volunteer their time to work with one or two students a year. It’s worth it, though.

“Our coaching sessions are the highlight of my work week,” says coach Samara Fleming Burnette, who is also the coordinator for retention studies.

Burnette goes on to acknowledge the coaching program even allows faculty and staff at NC State whose work does not provide much contact with students the ability to meet students and the opportunity to make a difference.

Robinson, Bullard’s coach, agrees: “I’m really grateful for Jasmine letting me be a part of her success. It’s so nice to see how well integrated into the university she is.”



Questions about Pack Promise Program?

Contact Julie Rice Mallette at

julie_mallette@ncsu.edu.

Questions about the Pack Promise Academic Coaching Program or want to be a coach?

Contact Roxanna McGraw at

roxanna_mcgraw@ncsu.edu.

(Pictured left) Jasmine Bullard and Erin Robinson celebrating Jasmine earning all As and Bs.

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK: A COACH IS NOT NECESSARILY A CARRIAGE PULLED BY FOUR HORSES WITH ONE DRIVER

In this issue of SYNC there is a great article entitled "Academic Coaching Excellence" by Marcia Toms. In that article Marcia describes the coaching services that are provided to our Pack Promise Students. The services are coordinated by the Office of Advising Support, Information and Services (OASIS), but the coaches come from all over campus.

In the article I was stuck by a quote from Roxanna McGraw, the director of OASIS who stated, "Coaching is not advising. We send students to their academic adviser for those questions. The coaching session is instead a collaborative, problem solving process." There is real distinction between "coaching" and "advising," but there is also some overlap and there is definitely value in collaboration. In working with students, we sometimes become a little specialized in thinking about our responsibilities, however the approach by OASIS regarding the coaching of students can aid in our effectiveness in working with students and with student success.

In addition to advisers and coaches we also have several other categories of individuals who do somewhat similar work with students. This would include instructors (particularly their work outside of class in working with students), mentors (including academic and peer mentors), and a host of professionals working as counselors and as specialists in the area of student affairs. How are the responsibilities and services of these various groups differentiated?

Roxanna has already provided a general definition for coaches in the Academic Coaching Excellence article in this newsletter - "Coaches provide support and encouragement for students and also help students develop, prioritize and focus on their goals." A web definition for an academic adviser is "A faculty or professional staff member trained to help students select courses and plan programs of study for degree or program completion." The Free Dictionary provides several definitions of a mentor including "A wise and trusted counselor." This mentor could be an academic mentor such as a faculty member in the student's discipline or a peer mentor in the form of a fellow student who has been at the University for some period of time and also serves as a role model, as well as a resource, for new students such as the Resident Mentors in many of our Living and Learning Villages. In addition, we have the more structured responsibilities of professionals in our Counseling Center and specialists in Student Affairs.

The emphasis of each of these groups does differ but it is obvious that strict lines of service and support to students do not and probably shouldn't exist. No one should be operating outside their areas of competence and responsibility but the opportunities for some overlap do exist. For example, a faculty member who is mentoring an individual would often have the opportunity to aid the student in developing and focusing on goals for the student. A student's adviser (academic or professional adviser) should certainly offer advice on courses that might benefit a student's success at the University even if the courses are not in the student's major. The list of possibilities goes on and on.

One of the important things to remember is that students tend to have more successful and satisfying college experiences if they are able to interact with adults outside of the classroom. I am including the students who have been trained as peer mentors in the adult category for this comparison. The University is a very complex, confusing, and even intimidating place for students, particularly for first year students. Advisors, coaches, mentors and all of the other helping categories play an important role here in student success.

I titled this article, as "A Coach is Not a Carriage Pulled by Four Horses With One Driver." Instead if



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

(Continued on page 4)

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

(Continued from page 3)

we view the driver as the student and the carriage as the student's progress through the University; then the coach is probably one of the several horses along with the advisers, mentors, instructors, etc. It's also important to note that the horses are not pulling the carriage in the sense that they are directing it, but rather that the horses are providing some of the guidance and support for the movement of the carriage. Ultimately, the student is the driver.

Based on the above analogy, would you like to be one of the horses by becoming a Pack Promise Coach at NC State? If yes, then contact Roxanna McGraw about becoming a Pack Promise Coach at roxanna_mcgraw@ncsu.edu.

DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

NEW STAFF



New Student Orientation has hired two new assistant directors. **Michael Coombes** (pictured left) did his undergraduate work at Miami University (Ohio) and received his graduate degree from the University of South Carolina. He previously served as an assistant coordinator in the Office of Orientation and Transition Services at Illinois State University. His first day was January 10th. **Kathleen Curp** (also pictured left) began on February 1st and she is coming to us from Miami University (Ohio) where she served as the coordinator for New Student Programs. Her undergraduate degree is from Ohio University and she did her graduate work at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Office of Academic Support, Information and Services' advising staff is pleased to welcome back **Candice Fisher** (pictured right), a doctoral student in the Higher Education Administration program, as an academic advising intern. Candice is a full-time NC State graduate student and also works part-time at Meredith College. She serves as a valuable resource to our office and to the students who visit our office.



AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- George Barthalmus, director of Undergraduate Research, has been invited to be the keynote speaker at the first Undergraduate Research Symposium at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and to help them to establish a new Office of Undergraduate Research; April 2-3, 2008.
- Samara Burnette presented the progress of the Advisory Council for Enhancing Student Success (ACCESS) to the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Universal Design for Learning Workgroup on January 31, 2008.
- Arnold Bell, of Co-Op, served on a national committee to revise Constitution/ By-Laws for Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education.
- Liz Brashear, of Co-Op, is president-elect of North Carolina Cooperative Education Association
- Jennie LaMonte presented on Fellowship Advising as the first adviser development workshop this semester on January 23rd to five advisers.
- Roxanna McGraw, director of the Office of Advising Support, Information and Services, participated in The Middle Years: Helping Sophomores and Transfer Students' webcast sponsored by Parents and Families Services. She shared information related to academic advising, changing majors, and availability of articulation agreement resources for transfer students. Ivy Talley, OASIS Student Ambassador, also participated in this event and shared her personal experiences regarding her transfer experiences to NC State University.

(Continued on page 5)

DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(Continued from page 4)

- Spring Entry New Student Orientation was conducted on January 8, 2008. OASIS advisers Mindy Sopher and Mary Alice Tetro presented on the advising resources available to new students via the web and the OASIS office. Approximately 75 students attended the two presentations.
- Mary Alice Tetro has been invited by the Provost's Office to serve as the coordinator for North Carolina State University's contingent for the 2008 Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) summer program, to take place at UNC-Chapel Hill.

NEWS AND NOTES

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

ASPSA is happy to announce that there were 208 Scholar Athletes in the Fall 2007 semester. To qualify as a scholar athlete, a student athlete must earn a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher. The Fall scholar athletes were honored at the Caterpillar Scholar Athlete recognition ceremony during half time of the Men's Basketball game on Wednesday, January 23. The ceremony also highlighted NC State's "Top Ten," the ten highest GPAs earned by student athletes. This year's Top Ten were Jennifer Boyd, John Crews, Stephen Dickens, Ty Roach, Tibor Vegh, Robert Bedsole, Chris Gambino, Mackenzi Payne Ashley Shepard, and Tami Krzeszewski. Nine of the ten students recognized had a total GPA of 4.0!

Mark Your Calendar's....

The 2008 Caterpillar Scholar Athlete Banquet is scheduled for March 26 at the Brownstone Hotel! Invitations will be in the mail soon!

In the Spring 2008 semester, ASPSA started a Re-Connect Program to bring former student athletes back to school to graduate. ASPSA worked with the Wolfpack Club to get funding for tuition, fees, and books. The former student athletes will work ten hours of community service per week in order to earn the funding. Five former student athletes expressed interest, and after completing the application and interview process, four have been selected to participate for the spring semester.

FELLOWSHIP ADVISING OFFICE

Scholarship & Fellowship Advising in the State of NC Gathering

FAO created and managed (with Babs Wise of Duke) a gathering of those involved in Scholarship & Fellowship Advising in the State of NC on January 25. 116 people from 52 public and private colleges and universities in state were invited. Representatives from six major national competitions attended and participated. Faculty, advisors, & administrators from all sixteen campuses are already registered. The UNC GA sponsored the location. Visit the web site below for further information and details regarding this event (<http://mediasite.eos.ncsu.edu/Mediasite/Catalog/?cid=ce51a879-2ef4-46b5-b719-e08670d012f3>).

FAO New Feature

FAO was also featured in the January 2008 news story regarding Goldwater Scholar Brian Clark (see: <http://www.ncsu.edu/newsletter/archive/2008/01/support.php>).

Students Selected!

NC State students selected to represent the University in the Truman Scholarship competition were Bobby Mills '09 (PS) and Ashley Murr '09 (BLS).

NC State students selected to represent the University in the Goldwater Scholarship competition were Ryan Going '09 (ECE and AMA), Lauren Jackson '09 (MSE), Nicole Kroeger '10 (MA), and Glenna Wink '09 (BCM).

NEWS AND NOTES

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (NSO)

New Student Orientation coordinated two orientation sessions for the first-year and transfer students who began at NC State in Spring 2008. The Spring Entry Orientation Sessions were held Friday, December 14th and Tuesday, January 8th and 329 students were in attendance.

The new group of orientation counselors have been hired and are currently taking a two-hour training course (ECD 223, Orientation Counselor Training Course). The staff consists of 31 orientation counselors and 2 student assistants. To see the list of OC's, including other information, go to the NSO web site (<http://www.ncsu.edu/orientation>).

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND SERVICES (OASIS)

The Adviser's Roundtable on January 17 was attended by 26 advisers from across campus. Dr. John Ambrose spoke about the General Education Plan that will be approved by the Provost and the impact that will have on time to degree in various majors. If you would like to see the minutes and review handouts distributed at this meeting please visit our website (<http://www.ncsu.edu/oasis/faculty/roundtable.htm>).

Upcoming adviser development workshops Advising First Generation Students (January 31 from 9-10 in Ricks 308); Academic Enrichment Opportunities for Students: Value Added Resources and Referrals (February 5 from 12-1 in Ricks 308); Advising Transfer and Non-Traditional Students (February 21 from 9-11 in Ricks 308) and Advising Students with Disabilities (February 26 from 2-3 in Room 2301 of the Student Health Center). For more information or to register for any of the workshops, please contact Erin Robinson at erin_robinson@ncsu.edu.

The University Academic Advising Awards reception will be held on May 1st from 12:00-1:30 in the Walnut Room, Talley Student Center. Please anticipate the call for nominations in early February.

OFFICE OF PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

The Office of Pre-College Programs will be hosting the 2008 NC State Information Fair for Pre-College Programs and Summer Opportunities for Youth on Sunday, February 24, 2008, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the McKimmon Center. This event is free and open to the public, so please spread the word!

Students and parents will be able to explore the educational opportunities available at NC State during the summer and academic year, 2008. Representatives from a variety of programs, including design, engineering, leadership, science, technology, textiles, and writing, will be available to answer questions.

Bring your camera! There will be a special appearance by Ms. Wuf! For more information and a list of the pre-college programs, visit our web site (<http://www.ncsu.edu/precollege>).



Ms. Wuf pictured here with Mr. Wuf. (Courtesy of NC State.)

NEWS AND NOTES

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The Office of Undergraduate Research received \$75,000 from the Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. John Gilligan, to provide energy-related semester and summer 2008 undergraduate research stipends at \$1,750 and \$3,700, respectively.

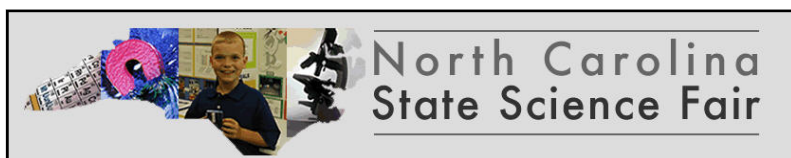
The spring 2008 NC State Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held at the McKimmon Center, all day, on April 21, 2008. The summer Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held at the McKimmon Center, all day, on July 31, 2008.

Six undergraduate researchers will travel with the director to present their independent research at the 3rd Atlantic Coast Conference Meeting of the Minds at Florida State University on April 17-19.

Be on the lookout for the Winter 2008 issue of NC State Undergraduate Research Journal due for distribution by February 1, 2008.

GET INVOLVED!

Judy Day, assistant director in Office of Undergraduate Research, is the director of the State of NC Science and Engineering Fair that will be held at Meredith College on March 14-15. This Fair showcases students from across North Carolina that have won at local and regional science fairs. The Fair needs volunteers to assist with room set-up for projects, student registration, project safety review, room monitors, clerical assistance for awards, and judging. Volunteers are needed from 1:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday and 7:30 - 5:30 on Saturday, but all help is appreciated in the coming days before the event. You can help during any of your free time! This is a great opportunity to let future students interact with NC State representatives. Contact Judy Day for particulars at 513-0848 or judy_day@ncsu.edu. Additional information may be found at the fair's web site (<http://www.ncsta.org/sciencefair>).



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PRIDE OF THE WOLFPACK AWARDS

1ST QUARTER RECIPIENT: MARCIA TOMS



The Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs would like to recognize Marcia Toms of the Undergraduate Tutorial Center as the recipient of the Pride of the WolfPack Award for the first quarter. Marcia received this award for her outstanding efforts with and contributions to the DUAP SYNC newsletter. At the time of the award, Marcia had written over half of the articles published since the newsletters inception. Marcia goes beyond writing by voluntarily serving as SYNC's associate editor, an intensely time-consuming position, on top of her already demanding position as assistant director for the Undergraduate Tutorial Center and coordinator for the Writing and Speaking Tutorial Services. Congratulations Marcia for your contributions in showcasing the many exciting things happening in DUAP!

2ND QUARTER RECIPIENT: MICHELLE CROSSLEY

The Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs would like to recognize Michelle Crossley of the First Year College as the recipient of the Pride of the WolfPack Award for the second quarter. In FYC, Michelle coordinated a competition centered on Da Chen's book *Colors of the Mountain* in which students were charged with writing a commentary or creating a picture that captured Da Chen's values. The selected commentary/picture was then painted as a mural in the residence hall. All participants were offered the opportunity to have lunch with Da Chen, show their creative work and ask questions about the summer reading book. Congratulations Michelle for providing such a creative and engaging activity for FYC students!



EVENTS

The next DUAP Division Meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2008.

For other events, see the NC State Calendar at

<http://calendar.activedatax.com/ncstate>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everyone born in February!!!

Keri Bowman, Samara Burnette, Michelle Crossley , Matthew Rust



SYNC STAFF

Questions or comments? Please send them to 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/>

DUAP,

Remember to submit your news and special points of interest by the 20th of each month. Pictures are always welcomed.