

[SYNC]

A newsletter by the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs

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SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- 87% of all students who participate in Cooperative Education graduate from NCSU within seven years.
- The First Year College and the Transition Program hosted their First Annual Conference on the Enhancement of Undergraduate Education this April.

HUSTLING FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

By Melissa McConnell

Sophomore NC State student Susanna Rankin always thought she would eventually apply to veterinary school. Her experiences doing undergraduate research here at NC State in the Zoology Department have changed her mind.

"I knew I wanted to do research in college," Rankin said, "but after I started doing it, I realized I really loved it. It has made a positive influence in inspiring me to go on to grad school instead of professional school."

Susanna Rankin is just one of eight NC State students who attended the First Annual "Meeting of the Minds," an ACC sponsored conference featuring undergraduate student researchers and hosted by Clemson University on April 24-26, 2006.

Rankin presented a poster on her research entitled "Domestication & Genetic Contribution of Zebra Fish." She has worked over the past year and a half with Dr. John Godwin and Dr. James Gillian, professors of Zoology, researching Zebra Fish behavior.

Dr. George Barthalmus, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, encouraged her to present her work.

"Events like the ACC conference really get our kids motivated about their undergraduate learning experience," said Dr. Barthalmus. "It is important to promote opportunities like this around campus to help students make connections and discover scholarly research."

In addition to the ACC conference, Dr. Barthalmus has worked diligently to provide even more opportunities for students to get involved in discovery-, inquiry-, and creativity-based learning.

On April 18, 2006, the Office held the 15th Annual NCSU Undergraduate Research Spring Symposium at the McKimmon Center. This year, 295 students from NCSU presented their research, a significant increase from 160 students just last year.

The Office also hosted the first Annual State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research



NC State students presenting their research.

HUSTLING FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

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Symposium on November 11-12, 2005. This event featured research presentations across multiple disciplines from state and private colleges and universities as well as community colleges. Seventy-five NC State students presented their research.

“Introducing scholarly research, especially in the first year, will help students in whatever disciplines they choose to pursue,” said Dr. Barthalmus.

Keeping up with the demand and fund-raising for such activities are a major focus of Dr. Barthalmus’s time; he is already busy writing and preparing grants for next year’s events.

“You really have to hustle,” Dr. Barthalmus explained. “Many of the companies I speak to contribute to a lot of institutions. It is important to bring their attention to the wonderful skills and talents of students right in this area and events like our undergraduate research symposium are a perfect way to do it.”

The summer will continue to keep Dr. Barthalmus busy as he prepares for another year advocating for students and building opportunities for them to showcase their abilities.

For Susanna Rankin, the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research has been a rewarding experience.

“I think the Office of Undergraduate Research is so awesome,” Rankin said. “Dr. Barthalmus is really dedicated and always interested in the students and the work they are doing. I feel so lucky to have this kind of program here at State.”

FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

It is with a great deal of pleasure and some sense of urgency that I welcome you as a reader to the inaugural edition of SYNC, the newsletter of the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs (DUAP). Several months ago during a conversation with the dean of one of NC State’s colleges, I posed the questions – “What do you think about [DUAP’s] involvements,” and “What could we be doing better.” The answer was a reality check for me, especially since I had just agreed to assume the role of dean of the Division.

What my colleague told me was, “In all honesty, I can’t say I know enough about what the Division does to give you a good answer.” For a division, which has existed for more than a decade and was formed specifically to serve the university community, the dean’s answer was a clear challenge to develop more effective modes of communicating who we are, what we do, and how we get it done.

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“I feel so lucky to have this kind of program here at State.”



Thomas Conway
Dean
Division of Undergraduate
Academic Programs

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That conversation prompted a set of discussions leading up to the development of SYNC. In this and subsequent editions, our goal is to spotlight the broad range of services offered through our **information programs** – the Virtual Advising Center and New Student Orientation; our **student adaptation programs** – the First Year College and the Transition Program; our **academic support programs** – the Undergraduate Tutorial Center and the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes; and our **academic career enhancement programs** – the University Honors Program, First Year Inquiry Courses, the Undergraduate Research Program, Undergraduate Fellowship Advising, and the Cooperative Education Program.

There's more to our programs than their names alone can convey, and we look forward to each opportunity to highlight student, staff, and faculty achievements associated with each program. There's also much more to our campus citizenship that we want to share with you. Join us in each edition as we put who we are and what we do into SYNC.

“There's more to our programs than their names alone convey.”

DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Dwayne Barnes is a new administrative assistant for the University Honors Program. He comes from the Industrial Extension Service on Centennial Campus. Dwayne has been with the university for over six years and has received a Pride of the Wolfpack award. Dwayne's B.S. in Communication is from Atlantic Christian College.

Pamela Steinke, the new assistant director of Assessment, holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from UC-Davis and has held faculty appointments and administrative positions in assessment at Lincoln Land Community College and Central College.

Carolyn Veale is the new assistant director of the University Honors Program. She comes from the College of Education where she served as Assistant Director of Students Services and College Coordinator. She has two undergraduate degrees (Public Relations and Political Science) and M.Ed. (Adult and Community College Education) from NCSU. She is currently in the Higher Education Administration Doctoral Program at NCSU.



Carolyn Veale is the new assistant director of the University Honors Program.

DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Katrin Baker, associate director of the University Honors Program, co-presented with Jim Whitaker from University Housing on the Honors Village at the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Annual Convention in Indianapolis, I.N.
- George Barthalmus, director of Undergraduate Research, gave the keynote at NCSU's Sigma Xi Banquet in late April. The speech was entitled "Discovery-, Inquiry-, and Creativity-based Learning...RESEARCH."
- Lauren Brown, academic adviser in the First Year College, has been selected as an Outstanding New Adviser Certificate of Merit recipient in the Academic Advising-Primary Role from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) as part of the 2006 National Awards Program for Academic Advising. This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students and who have served as an adviser for a period of three or fewer years. Brown is one of six academic advisers honored with this award in this category in nation-wide competition this year.
- Allen DuPont, director of the Office of Assessment, recently presented at the Association of American Colleges and Universities General Education Conference and the Conference on the Enhancement of Undergraduate Education Conference in Wilmington.
- Jacqui Hawkins-Morton, FYC assistant director, received the Provost's University Award for Excellence.
- Andrea Irby, director of Advising Central, was awarded the National Academic Advising Association's 2006 Service to the Technology in Advising Commission Award. This NACADA award was established to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to a particular commission. Andrea will be recognized at a special ceremony in October in Indianapolis at the National Conference. Andrea was also a member of the Opening Plenary Panel on Transfer Students at the Conference on the Enhancement of Undergraduate Education in Wilmington.
- Roxanna McGraw, director of New Student Orientation, Gabe Wical and Katie Uhrin, also of NSO, presented "Using Assessment Results for Continuous Program Improvement for New and Transfer Student Programs" at the 2006 NCSU Assessment Conference in April.
- Also in April, Roxanna McGraw presented at the Conference on the Enhancement of Undergraduate Education. The title of the pre-conference session was "Project Management for Student Service Professionals."
- Mindy Sopher, academic adviser for Advising Central, received the Joan "Chad" Skinner Award for Outstanding Service from the Farmhouse International Fraternity. She also received a Friends of the Center Award from the Center for Leadership Ethics and Public Service for "outstanding dedication to our mission and our students."
- Pamela Steinke, assistant director of the Office of Assessment, and Samara Fleming Burnette, coordinator for retention studies, will be co-presenting at the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education's International Assessment and Retention Conference in June.
- Katie Uhrin recently completed her internship experience with New Student Orientation and will receive her Master of Education in Counselor Education in May 2006. Her primary responsibility was to design and implement programs such as academic success, computing services, and career exploration workshops for transfer and nontraditional students.

NEWS AND NOTES

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENT ATHLETES (ASPSA)

The Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes honored over 250 student-athletes at their annual Caterpillar Scholar Athlete Banquet on Wednesday, April 5. ASPSA Director Phil Moses, Dean of Undergraduate Academic Programs Thomas Conway, Athletic Director Lee Fowler, Provost Larry Nielsen, and John Bettner from Caterpillar all acknowledged how much the academic honorees do to represent NCSU in the best possible way.



Celebrating the student athletes' scholastic accomplishments.

The evening was also an opportunity to recognize three individuals from the NCSU campus who have continued to go beyond the call of duty in regards to supporting all of NCSU's student-athletes. Associate Registrar Michelle Johnson, Director of College of Education's Library Media Center Anne Akers, and First Year College Director Carrie McLean were all awarded "Friends of ASPSA" plaques commemorating their contributions to the lives of student-athletes.

As proud of all the awards and honorees as ASPSA and NCSU are, everyone involved with the lives of student-athletes are not surprised. The students continue to impress, both on and off the field, and ASPSA looks forward next year to honoring more.

ADVISING CENTRAL

Advising Central hosted Penn State for a full-day visit in early May. They demonstrated their use of the RightNow Web Software for advising, orientation, distance education, admissions and more.

ASSESSMENT

In early April, the Office of Assessment held its Fourth Annual Undergraduate Assessment Symposium at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Cary, N.C. More than 350 participants and presenters from across the country attended this year's Symposium, comprised of approximately 80 presentations. Symposium handouts and presentations are available online at <http://www.ncsu.edu/assessment/symposium/handout.htm>.

Special thanks to Dean Conway and Associate Dean Ambrose. Also, thank you to all the volunteers who made this Symposium a success, including: Rob Barton, Tracy Appling-Biel, Arnold Bell, Samara Fleming Burnette, Roger Callanan, Pat Cellini, Evelyn Clegg, Kyle Huff, Andrea Irby, Roxanna McGraw, Jacqui Hawkins-Morton, Katie Uhrin, Kathy Wallace, Gabe Wical, and Carmen Newkirk-White.

FIRST YEAR COLLEGE (FYC)

The First Year College ended its tenth year with a bang! It broke ground on a new three-story building that will be ready for use in the summer of 2007. This facility not only will allow for more students to live in the FYC Village, but also clearly demonstrates the administration's long-term commitment to FYC. Additionally in 2006, the FYC received recognition with a Certificate of Merit as an "Outstanding Advising Program" by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). The FYC was selected as one of two programs to be honored with this award in a nationwide competition this year.

NEWS AND NOTES

UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIAL CENTER (UTC)

The Undergraduate Tutorial Center hosted its Third Annual Tutor Celebration on May 2, 2006. It was a gorgeous day to share Ben and Jerry's ice cream outside in the Burlington Lab Arboretum and say "thank you" for the many accomplishments of peer tutors this year. Each year, tutors have an opportunity to earn College Reading and Learning Association Certification by completing both tutoring and training hours. This year 51 tutors earned level one certification (10 hours of training, 25 hours of tutoring), 75 tutors earned level two certification (20 hours of training, 50 hours of tutoring), and 35 tutors earned level three certification (30 hours of training, 75 hours of tutoring).



Student tutors enjoy end-of-year celebration.

GET INVOLVED: "MY PURPOSE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK PROGRAM..."

By Roger Callanan

Mom and all of us had been wrestling with her Alzheimer's Disease for a number of years. She no longer really remembered Dad, who'd passed ("passed" is so much more journey-oriented than "died," but, in fact, he died) 12 years earlier. Her memory of him had been lost, even though he was her first lover, best friend, her spouse for 53 years with whom she'd raised seven children and fostered several more. On a good day, she'd recognize me. There were good days.

Like most families, theirs had been a life full of laughter and stories, odd events they chose to think of as "blessings," and tragedies they chose to interpret as "God's will." When Mom "passed" last year, and actually even before she died, my spouse and I participated in the "cleaning-out" process, an inevitable obligation of those left behind. We went through dozens of dusty boxes, stuff accumulated by two busy people with very full lifetimes, sorting out what would go to this or that grandchild, son, daughter, friend, local library, church or Goodwill – and what would get thrown away. (A lot got thrown away!)

In the deepest corner of the shed – not even in the house – was a box of trophies and faux marble plaques, evidence that Mom, for example, had won the Lincoln Lawn Ladies Golf Tournament in 1968, or been president of the St. Mary's Altar Society, or earned second place in a 1979 Las Vegas blackjack tournament at the MGM – and so on. Similarly for Dad, there were the gold-plastic and chrome-plated golf and bowling trophies, topped with sports figures that, now with missing or broken arms, were more Venus de Milo than Sammy Sned. The box of silent, broken trophies eventually got thrown away.

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GET INVOLVED: “MY PURPOSE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK PROGRAM...”

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There was a time (ok, sometimes – in weak moments - there still is a time) when I wish I had more walnut plaques, blue ribbons, embossed awards and certificates, and trophies with “Mini-me” figures to put on my mantle or den wall (if I had a “den”). I would want some clear evidence to mark my life’s path, proof that I’ve accomplished great and wonderful things. A little applause now and then might feel real nice. Then – I remember ... “The Box.”

My parents did accomplish great and wonderful things; they did make a difference; they did leave their corner of the universe a better place for their having been here. But nothing in “The Box” represented any of this. The impact my parents had made was evidenced by the sometimes clear – sometimes imperceptible - effect they had on those around them; certainly on their children and close family; likely on those whose lives intersected theirs, briefly touching and spinning on. Awards and medals are unable to represent the impact they had – that any of us have on those around us. I’m convinced that the impact we have on others, however small, are the real treasures, the silent applause. Nothing to store away in the attic, nothing set on a shelf needing to be dusted, nothing for my children to sort through someday in a box in the shed.

“My purpose for participating in the Alternative Spring Break is ...” to create invisible trophies by influencing the lives of those around me: the students, the leaders, the children – even my own children, as they see me prepare for these journeys and when they listen to the stories I’ll be bringing home to them. It is in service to others and in modeling for them to serve as well, that we fill the trophy cases of our lives.



Better than a box full of trophies!

[MAY 2006 EVENTS]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 University Advising Awards	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 News and Notes, and Staff Highlights due for June SYNC	11 Honors Baccalaureate Celebration	12 GER Task Force Meeting	13 Spring 2006 Graduation
14	15	16	17 Division Director's Meeting	18	19	20
21	22 Summer Session I begins FYC Staff Development Retreat	23	24 Division Staff Meeting FYC End of Year Celebration	25	26 GER Task Force Meeting	27
28	29 <i>Memorial Day</i>	30	31			

HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS

- 5/3: University Advising Awards, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Talley Student Center, Walnut Room.
- 5/10: June SYNC Submission due to Samara Burnette.
- 5/11: Honors Baccalaureate Celebration, 7:30 p.m., McKimmon Center.
- 5/12: GER Task Force Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Talley Student Center, Board Room.
- 5/13: Spring 2006 Graduation, 9:00 a.m., RBC Center.
- 5/17: Division Director's Meeting, 3:30 p.m., 308 Ricks Hall.
- 5/22: FYC Staff Development Retreat, 8:30-5:00 p.m., Doggett Center.
- 5/24: Division Staff Meeting, 8:30–10:00 a.m., Talley Student Center, Walnut Room.
- 5/26: GER Task Force Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Talley Student Center, Board Room.

PRIDE OF THE WOLFPACK AWARDS

Show your pride by nominating Division of Undergraduate Academic Program's colleagues for the 2006 Pride of the WolfPack Award! This "on the spot" award is designed to recognize NCSU employees for special or unique contribution to their college or unit.

DUAP will be selecting four recipients this year. The first award recipient will be announced at the next division meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2006. Contact Roxanna McGraw (roxanna_mcgraw@ncsu.edu) for the nomination form, if you do not already have this information. The nomination deadline is Friday, May 12th. Nominations will be reviewed by the DUAP Selection Committee.

When writing your nomination, please highlight how your nominee fits in all or some of the award criteria, including quality of work over a period of time, delivery of services to students and staff, improvement of businesses processes or standard operating procedures in your unit, development of new initiatives, and customer service to students and campus partners.

Past recipients of this award are showcased below. You may find your name among them next!

2005 RECIPIENTS

Gainey, Marc

Langston, Barbara

McLean, Carrie

Rust, Matt

2004 RECIPIENTS

Bowden, Mary

Clegg, Evelyn

Robinson, Janice

Wicker, Martha

Wilson, Lori

2003 RECIPIENTS

Artis, Frankye

Foley, Sandy

Gottlieb, Jackie

Walker, Yvette

Ward, Caryn

Wood, Denise

SYNC STAFF

Questions or comments? Please send them to samara_burnette@ncsu.edu.

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

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

**Thank you for
your help in
getting this first
publication out.**

**We hope you
enjoy it!**