

[**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	4
GET INVOLVED	7
EVENTS	8
SYNC STAFF	8

**SPECIAL POINT
OF INTEREST:**

- Did you know that in order to use student, faculty, and staff time more effectively, New Student Orientation is moving to a one and a half day model this summer?

CO-OP JOB FAIR: BENEFITING BOTH STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS**By Matthew Rust**

On March 26, 2008, forty select companies from around the nation will arrive on NC State's campus with one common goal: to recruit students for invaluable cooperative education (co-op) experiences. This will be the sixth annual Co-op Job Fair, and the Cooperative Education Program staff is expecting approximately 300 students to attend the event in Talley Student Center.

"In our first year, we only had 20 companies," said Susan Matney, associate director of the Co-op Program, "but now we have to turn companies away."

"When we started I was just happy to get a registration, but now I'm more concerned about making sure we can accommodate the requests from our loyal, key employers," added Tracy Appling-Biel, assistant director of Development and Experiential Learning.

The increasingly popular job fair is where students come to land their first co-op experience, usually for the upcoming summer or fall term. In order to be considered an applicant at the job fair, students must have attended a co-op orientation, submitted a resume online, and met with a co-op coordinator.

The coordinators work one-on-one with each applicant to prepare them for the job fair. Each resume is reviewed by a coordinator before being seen by an employer and students receive tips from their coordinator about professional dress and communication in the recruitment process.

"Employers have consistently told us how much more prepared our students are than what they experience on other campuses," said Appling-Biel.

The co-op coordinators are not the only professionals working to help the students be successful at the job fair, though; the employers help in this process as well.

"So many of the employers will work with the students," said Matney. "Co-op employers understand the developmental nature of this program and how to encourage the students toward success. They'll explain to the students what to be looking for in a good co-op experience."

Engineering majors are typically the most in-demand at the job fair. However, employers are also seeking students from agricultural and life sciences, management, textiles, and chemistry.

"Companies have key schools they go to for certain majors," explained Matney. "Our job fair is reflective of the recruiting trends on campus at large. There have been a lot of successes for those students in non-engineering majors. An employer who they never thought would work ends up being perfect for them."

Most of the students attending the co-op job fair are second semester freshmen and sophomores.

(Continued on page 2)

CO-OP JOB FAIR: BENEFITING BOTH STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS

(Continued from page 1)

“The message is that now is the time to plan things out in order to study abroad, pursue undergrad research experiences, and co-op,” added Matney. “We want to get the freshman in.”

Part of the advantage for getting students interested in co-op early in their academic career is that they are better able to pursue multiple co-op experiences with a company.

“Employers realize the wise investment they make in having students work with them multiple work terms. Students are realizing the importance of this breadth of experience as well,” said Matney.

Employers are better able to assess a student’s potential as a future employee by observing the student over two or three co-op experiences as opposed to just one. Students are likewise better able to observe whether the employer is a good fit for them and the students can better market their skill set and work ethic to the employer.



Cara Doyle, a coordinator in the Co-op Office, meets with a student to prepare for the Co-op Job Fair.

“I always tell students to consider their loyalty to a friend for ten weeks as opposed to a friend of eighteen months,” said Appling-Biel of her efforts to encourage students toward multiple co-op experiences with an employer.

For students who have “co-op”ed three alternating work terms with the same employer have a 90% or better job offer rate.

(Continued on page 3)

**The Co-op Job Fair
will be held
Wednesday, March
26, 2008 from
9:00am – 2:00pm
in the Talley
Center Ballroom**

CO-OP JOB FAIR: BENEFITING BOTH STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS

In addition to increased chances of post-graduate employment, co-op offers several other benefits to a student's pre-professional preparation. All undergraduate co-ops are paid. The average pay is \$16.30 per hour, and most companies increase their co-op salaries when students go back for a second or third work term.

Additionally, Appling-Biel added that co-ops are pre-screened to ensure they will be beneficial to students who pursue them. "Before it can even be posted on the co-op website, our staff reviews it to ensure it will be curriculum-specific and helpful—not just copying papers."

A more long-term benefit is for future engineers looking to take the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Exam. "Most licensing boards require that the four years of experience [needed in order to sit for the exam] be gained under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer," explained Matney, "and many states will accept up to one year of co-op toward that experience pre-requisite."

The mutually beneficial nature of cooperative education for students and employers alike explains why the Co-op Program reports increased demand for spots at the job fair.

"We now have employers contacting us to ask when this event will be occurring" said Appling-Biel, "and we're on the students' radars as well."

The details for this year's Co-op Job Fair and access to the online recruitment system are available on the recently redesigned co-op website (see http://www.ncsu.edu/co-op_ed/).

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK:

DUAP's Co-op Program; Not Just Another Acronym

Acronyms can be beneficial in some cases as we try to speed up our written and verbal communications, but there are also a number of negative considerations, such as ignoring the obvious problem that someone may not know what we are talking about. There is also the real concern that we lose something in reducing a term or a name to a few letters. Take our Co-op Program at NC State for example. What does the acronym of Co-op mean?

Co-op is short for the Cooperative Education Program at NC State. This long-established and very successful experiential learning program has a great record in the placement of students in curriculum specific jobs at very competitive salary levels. One event sponsored by the Co-op Program to achieve this goal is well described by the article in this newsletter titled "Co-op Job Fair: Benefiting Both Students and Employers."

The Co-op Program places our undergraduate students with employers for an average of three work periods (semester and summer sessions). The employer's Co-op work opportunities are matched with the students' field of study, interests, and abilities. These differ from internship programs in that the students experience progressive multiple work terms before completing their degree. In addition, the student's progress during job placement is monitored on an on-going basis by the Co-op staff. All of this sounds good, but how successful is the program?

Here are a couple of bullets showing student success after completing the Co-op Program based on a comparison of matched Co-op and non Co-op students:

- Co-op students exhibit a higher persistence to graduation



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

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

(Continued from page 3)

- Co-op students express a greater satisfaction with their degree upon graduation
- Co-op students are more likely to have a curriculum related permanent job offer within six months of graduation
- Co-op students are more likely to express satisfaction with their first post-graduation job

In addition, Co-op's special relationship with private and public sector employers provides a continuous feedback loop between them and the University regarding the ongoing preparation of our students. Oh, and did I mention that the students earn income to help defray their educational expenses while at NC State University?

Not surprisingly, our NC State Co-op Program is one of the most respected among such programs in the country. It is one of only 12 of the approximately 600 similar programs in the U.S. to have received accreditation from both the Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education and the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. An acronym can never convey the national reputation and success of NC State's Co-op Program.

DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Congratulations to the following individuals for their participation in *Study Circles on Race and Race Relations* winter session (January 15 – February 12, 2008): Frankye Artis, Transition Program; Donna Burton, First Year College; Melissa Simpson, First Year College; and Marcia Toms, Undergraduate Tutorial Center. The sessions were co-facilitated by Roxanna McGraw, Office of Academic Support, Information and Services and Gillian Norton, Office of Equal Opportunity.
- Gabe Wical, director of New Student Orientation, recently attended the Conference on The First-Year Experience in San Francisco.

NEWS AND NOTES

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Student-Athletes: Making a Connection to Service Learning

By Demetrius Marlowe



Student-athletes often get pegged as not being involved in activities outside of their sport. This is one of the biggest myths in college sports today. In fact, at NC State there is a ground swell of student-athletes finding their own way to a number of campus and community activities that support their academic, career and personal development. This article features three of those student-athletes.

February 13, 2008 marked the Tenth Annual North Carolina Campus Compact Conference, hosted by Elon University. The conference brings together hundreds of North Carolina college and university faculty, staff, and students committed to civic engagement. This year, Nadia Absoulhosn (Soph. Women's Soccer), Brian O'Boyle (Soph. Men's Wrestling), and Keri Demar (Soph. Volleyball), gave a presentation titled, "Student-Athletes: Making a Connection to Service Learning." They discussed service-learning skills they have developed through their participation in the Wolfpack Middle School Leadership Conference, General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Challenge Summer Institute, and the Wolfpack Student-Athlete Development Program. The students' session engaged participants with questions concerning the obstacles campuses face with getting student-athletes involved in activities outside of sport. Session attendees reported that class, practice and competition schedules hinder student-athletes from connecting, as well as over-controlling coaches and fatigue. The presentation revealed how NC State has overcome such perceived obstacles by seeking values-based part-

(Continued on page 5)

NEWS AND NOTES

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

(Continued from page 4)

nerships and allowing student-athletes to take ownership of planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of the initiative. They shared how their participation in service-learning has impacted their academic, career, and personal growth. When asked how their leadership skills have been employed, Nadia shared that she is finding confidence in using her leadership style as a member of her teams newly formed leadership council; Brian shared that even though he is injured, he hopes he has been able to share insights to help his teammates achieve their goals through encouragement and one-on-one conversations with team members who are viewed as leaders on the team; and Keri added that she has been able to improve her public speaking skills. The students were able to network with a number of NC State faculty and staff who have also made significant contributions toward furthering the practice of service-learning. The day's journey began

with a van drive over to Burlington while chatting over coffee, juice and bagels. NC State faculty and staff included Pattie Clayton, Bronson Bullock, George Hess, Barbi Honeycutt, Annette Moore, Myra Moses, Sandy Stallings, Randy Thompson, and Bob Usry. This group also presented a session titled "Approaches to Designing and Enhancing Service-Learning Opportunities." The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Kenneth Reardon, Associate Professor at Cornell University, who shared that his city and community planning students were able to garner a contract for over a million dollars for revitalization of the 9th ward in New Orleans.

The students co-presented with Dr. Debbie Reno, coordinator for programs and training with the General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Center at NC State, and Demetrius Marlowe, assistant director of Academic Support Programs for Student-Athletes and coordinator of Partnerships and Development at NC State.

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND SERVICES (OASIS)

Call for nominations for the University Advising Awards

Please nominate individuals for the Barbara Soloman Award, New Adviser, and Faculty Adviser Award, or Advising Administrator Award. Nominations are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 4, 2008, and should be directed to Erin Robinson (erin_robinson@ncsu.edu), OASIS, Campus Box 7577. The provost will present the University Advising Awards on May 1st from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Talley Student Center's Walnut Room.

Advisers Roundtable Discussions

The Advisers Roundtable on February 12, 2008 was attended by fifteen advisers from across campus. Topics discussed included changes to the biological sciences curriculum, physical education courses and minors and suggestions for the Adviser Development Institute. 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>).

Learn More About the Coach Approach to Advising - 2008 North Carolina Drive-In Workshop

OASIS personnel will participate in the 2008 North Carolina Drive-In Workshop, "The Coach Approach to Advising: Enhancing Your Advising Skills to Stimulate Personal and Student Growth," on March 5, 2008 in Greensboro, NC. Faculty and staff members who would like to travel with OASIS to Greensboro may contact Erin Robinson (erin_robinson@ncsu.edu). More information about the drive-in workshop is found online (<http://www.uncg.edu/~whjohnso/2008ncdrive-in/2008ncdrive-in.html>).



Dr. Debbie Reno presenting on student-athlete civic engagement
(Courtesy of the NC Campus Compact and Scott Muthersbaugh)

(Continued on page 6)

NEWS AND NOTES

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND SERVICES (OASIS)

(Continued from page 5)

Faculty and Staff Learn About Advising Transfer and Non Traditional Students

Taylor Holland (Undergraduate Admissions), Roxanna McGraw (OASIS), John Saparilas (Wake Tech), Ivy Talley (OASIS Student Ambassador) and Martha Wicker (OASIS) facilitated the Advising Transfer and Non-Traditional Students workshop on February 21, 2008 as part of the Adviser Development Training Program. Participants explored basic skills used to advise transfer students, the “what, how and why” of transfer articulation and course equivalencies and the transfer admissions process.

Upcoming Adviser Development Workshops

For a comprehensive list of all workshops visit our website: <http://www.ncsu.edu/oasis/OASISCalendar.php>.

Registration is required for all workshops. Please contact Erin Robinson (erin_robinson@ncsu.edu) for more information.



Adviser Training Institute participants discussing students.

- Advising Students with Disabilities, February 26, 2008 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in 2301 Student Health Center
- Technology 101, March 6, 2008 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in FYC computer lab
- Advising as Teaching, March 18, 2008 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. FCTL conference room
- Pre-Law Advising, March 25, 2008 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in FYC Room 201

First Annual Minors Fair Offered at NC State University

As part of the NC State’s Sophomore Week, OASIS sponsored the first annual Minors Fair on Friday, February 15, 2008. Sixty-seven students participated in the event and used the opportunity to interact with campus representatives to discuss their areas of interest. Both academic affairs and student affairs representatives were available to provide information, resources and respond to student questions about minors offered at NC State University.

UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIAL CENTER

After spring break the UTC will be recruiting new tutors for the summer and fall 2008 semesters. Students interested in becoming peer tutors should enroll in ECI 210, Introduction to College Tutoring. Students who wish to tutor writing and speaking should contact Marcia Toms at marcia_toms@ncsu.edu. All tutors must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and at least a B+ in the course(s) they wish to tutor. Please visit our website (http://www.ncsu.edu/tutorial_center/) for further information.

Congratulations to Marcia Toms, the new associate director of the UTC effective March 1st! Marcia’s promotion reflects her new additional responsibility for overseeing further development of products for use by UTC tutors and for dissemination to the tutoring field.

NEWS AND NOTES

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Upcoming symposia announcements!

- NC State Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 21, 2008 from 9:00 am – 4:30 p.m. at the McKimmon Center
- NC State Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium, July 31, McKimmon Center.

GET INVOLVED! VOLUNTEER FOR...

ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM

North Carolina State University's 6th Annual Undergraduate Assessment Symposium

Friday – Sunday,

April 25-27, 2008

Embassy Suites, Cary, NC

Call for Volunteers!

The 2008 6th Annual NC State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium is just around the corner! We are anticipating another exciting event. The Symposium brings faculty members and administrators from around the country to share ideas and learn from each other. Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Walvoord, chair of Assessment Committee, fellow of the Institute for Educational Initiatives, and concurrent professor of English, University of Notre Dame.

We are looking forward to the vital assistance of volunteers to help everyone have the best experience at this year's Symposium. We will need volunteers for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday events.

Volunteers will be responsible for duties such as: set-up, registration, sessions, bookstore, clean-up, receptions. Volunteers will receive free registration to the symposium, including meals and receptions!

For more details on the 2008 NC State Assessment Symposium, please see <http://www.ncsu.edu/assessment/symposium/index.htm>.

Please fill out the volunteer registration form and send it to:

Melissa McConnell, CB# 7105
Flex Lab Building, Module 4
1575 Varsity Drive, NCSU
Or Fax : 919.515.4416

Please register as a volunteer by: March 12, 2008.

MEALS ON WHEELS

DUAP is still in need of volunteers for Meals on Wheels. The following three months are still available: August 25th, October 27th, and November 24th. Please contact Janice Robinson (janice_robinson@ncsu.edu, 515-3037) with your desired date. The division delivers meals along the Gold Route once a month (the fourth Monday of each month) to approximately fifteen households. Two volunteers per date works well; so tell a friend to come along.



The Carolina Ballroom
(Courtesy of Embassy Suites. Used by permission.)

EVENTS

The next DUAP Division Meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2008.

For other events, see the NC State Calendar at

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everyone born in March!!!

Betsy Alexieff, Shannon Brandt, , Allen Dupont, Barbie Windom, Kathy Ziga



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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.