

30 April 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Duke University Board of Trustees

FROM: John F. Burness

RE: Summary of Activities

I'm pleased to share these highlights of some of the major Duke news events and honors since the trustees' February meeting.

We all are very pleased with the news announced earlier this month by North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper that David Evans, Collin Finnerty, and Reade Seligmann were innocent of all charges in the so-called "Duke lacrosse case." In an unprecedented statement, Cooper not only reported that there was "no credible evidence" for the charges that had been brought by Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong against the students, but he characterized Nifong as having pushed forward "unchecked" where "caution would have served justice better than bravado." Nifong will have his own "trial" on 12 June before the State Bar, which has charged him with serious ethics violations in his administration of the case. I know the trustees will have an opportunity to discuss the lacrosse issue at your meeting.

### Commencement

The campus community eagerly anticipates commencement, at which our graduating students will receive their degrees, along with our four distinguished honorary degree recipients—computer scientist Anita Jones; South African church leader Peter Storey; Tony Award-winning dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp; and Florence Wald, founder of the American hospice movement. As you know, the commencement address will be given this year by one of the world's leading business figures, General Motors CEO and your fellow Trustee **Rick Wagoner**.

I'm confident the trustees will also be pleased to learn that **President Brodhead** will present this year's commencement address at Fisk University on 7 May. We are told that C-SPAN plans to cover President Brodhead's speech.

In addition to his many meetings with alumni during Reunions Weekend and at Duke Conversation events in Boston, Atlanta, Charlotte, New York, the Triangle, and Chicago,

President Brodhead has also spent time in Washington, meeting with national leaders and advocating for university priorities and higher education. In late February, he joined University of North Carolina System President Erskine Bowles, North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities President (and Duke alumna and parent) **Hope Williams**, and North Carolina Community College System President Martin Lancaster for a day of meetings with congressional officials. President Brodhead and his colleagues met with U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, and our two U.S. senators from North Carolina, Duke alumna **Elizabeth Dole** and Richard Burr, to discuss the importance of increased federal investment in financial aid and research programs, as well as a number of policy issues under consideration as part of the Congress' Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. During those meetings, President Brodhead had an opportunity to emphasize many of the initiatives that Duke has undertaken in recent years with the Durham Public Schools. Senator Clinton, in particular, was impressed with Duke's efforts to help teachers cope with the burgeoning Latino population. You may recall that in the last three years, Duke has initiated new partnerships with the public schools, including a teacher mentoring program designed to address the rapid turnover of teachers who leave the profession; a scholarship program for students in our Master's of Arts in Teaching program who commit to teach for at least two years in the Durham schools; and, innovative programs for teachers to learn Spanish. This year, more than 20 teachers from schools in the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership have taken Spanish classes with Duke professors. Along with Durham Public Schools Superintendent Carl Harris, these teachers are headed in June to Guatemala for a week of intensive language immersion, with Duke covering the costs of the program.

Of course, there has been considerable talk in Washington and around the country about the need for tightened regulations in response to concerns about college lending practices. While Duke's financial aid practices have been reviewed carefully by our auditors and Duke is not implicated in the current controversy, there are many efforts to promote national changes to lending regulations that could have a substantial effect on Duke and our students. **Chris Simmons**, our associate vice president for federal relations who was recently named to the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Washington, is monitoring these issues carefully.

Duke's leaders not only visit Washington to help educate and inform government officials about the importance of federal support for education, research, and access. We also bring them to the campus and to Durham so they can see first-hand the many productive ways that federal dollars are being used at Duke.

In March, Duke Medicine Chancellor **Victor Dzau** and his colleagues welcomed our U.S. Congressman **David Price** to see some of our modern research facilities. Dr. **Richard Frothingham**, director of the Global Health Research Building, and others gave Congressman Price a tour of the new Global Health Research Building and explained its mission to study infectious diseases, conduct state-of-the-art biodefense research for the nation, and provide biosafety contributions to the Research Triangle region.

Chancellor Dzau continues to promote the links Duke Medicine is making between the social and economic sectors. He recently met with National Institutes of Health Director Elias

Zerhouni and Senator Burr at the Senator's Health Care Economic Summit held in Durham in late February. The event, which was coordinated by **Paul Vick**, Duke Medicine's associate vice president for government relations, and his staff, included a presentation by Dr. **Rose Ritts**, executive director of the office of licensing and ventures, about opportunities for licensing and business development in the health care field.

### **Knowledge in Service to Society**

In recent years, Duke has established a number of major new institutes that have as part of the missions, bringing knowledge generated at Duke to the attention of public policy makers and the public more generally. These include the Global Health Institute, the Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy, the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, and others. Faculty members in the Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy **Robert Cook-Deegan** and **Susanne Haga** have advised Senators Burr and Barack Obama on a bill the Senators have introduced—S. 976, Genomics and Personalized Medicine Act of 2007—which would support more of the kind of research that Duke and other leading research universities' faculties have been pursuing to use genomic science to adapt treatment to individuals. The legislation “aims to advance the study of human genes and their functions to better predict patients' susceptibility to certain diseases or conditions, and better customize drugs and medical treatments to meet patients' unique needs.”

The Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, under the leadership of James B. Duke Professor of Biogeochemistry and Dean **William Schlesinger** has taken out a series of “info-tisements” in *The New York Times*, which identify major challenges to the environment and approaches to address them and others and showcase important research of Nicholas School faculty. **Scottie Cantrell**, the able assistant dean of marketing and communications in the Nicholas School, has directed the information programs. She reports that this experimental approach has been a great success at driving people to an on-line site, the Nicholas Environmental Notebook. More stories will be written throughout the year and loaded on-line alongside the ads at <http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/notebook>. Meanwhile, the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, in collaboration with Environmental Defense, is producing a guide to help landowners and policy makers create consistent, credible greenhouse gas offsets as a tradable commodity in rural regions of the United States. Institute Director **Tim Profeta** is distributing executive summaries of the guide on Capitol Hill, and Duke Press is slated to print a hardcover version of the guide this June.

The Duke School of Law recently launched two new clinical programs to provide legal advice for those who can't afford it. In its inaugural year, the Appellate Litigation Clinic, led by Professors **James Coleman** and **Catherine Fisk**, and Alton & Bird Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science **Erwin Chemerinsky**, has taken on two appeals. Professor Coleman also founded the Wrongful Convictions Clinic to work on overturning convictions where there are claims of actual innocence. Developing clinics that address public policy challenges and provide valuable training opportunities for our students has been a priority for A. Kenneth Pye Professor of Law and Dean **Katharine Bartlett** during her tenure as dean. The law school now sponsors eight such clinics, up from two in 2002.

Similarly, Duke's work to help improve public policy and government administration is not limited to this country. Director of the Sanford Institute **Bruce Kuniholm** reports that the Duke Center for International Development, which is housed in the Sanford Institute, will work with as many as 100 high-level government officials from India this summer, and again in 2008 and 2009, for an innovative mid-career training program. Duke, Harvard, and Syracuse were the only three U.S. universities selected by the Indian government for the program, a first for the Indian Administrative Service. DCID was selected in part due to its continuing success with executive education for Chinese government officials.

### **DukeEngage**

Since the university announced DukeEngage in February, to consideration attention in the higher education press and the media generally—including *The New York Times*—a good deal of work has been done to develop a foundation to help make this a flagship program for the university's commitment to linking knowledge, practice, and service a success. **Eric Mlyn**, inaugural director who will officially assume his new post on 1 June, has been working to establish a pilot DukeEngage program involving 60 students this summer. Through DukeEngage, which will officially launch in summer 2008, the university will fund an intensive service experiences for any student, and some initial global, national, and local prongs of this massive volunteer coordination are already in place. **David Schaad**, professor of the practice of civil engineering, is organizing a group of students to help continue the Pratt School's engagement in cleaning up and rebuilding the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Another group of students will travel to Kenya with **Sherryl Broverman**, associate professor of the practice and co-faculty director of DukeEngage, to found a boarding school for girls. Associate professor of public policy **Kate Whetten** will lead another group to Tanzania as part of our Global Health program. DukeEngage is also focusing closer to home. **Sam Miglarese**, director of community engagement in our Office of Community Affairs, and **Elaine Madison**, director of the Community Service Center, have been coordinating with Durham organizations to develop a local set of pilot internships this summer. The projects range from working with sickle cell anemia patients in Southwest Central Durham to providing summer camp curriculum and development support for organizations in the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership.

### **Ethics Education**

DukeEngage is an extension of the university's longstanding and growing commitment to civic engagement and service learning. Some of Duke's early institutional commitments to this kind of learning originated from work at the Kenan Institute for Ethics. As you know, on 9 April, Provost **Peter Lange** named **Noah Pickus** the Institute's new director. Pickus is widely recognized for his scholarship and policy work on immigration, citizenship, and national identity, and has served as the interim director since **Elizabeth Kiss** became president of Agnes Scott College in July 2006. Under Pickus' leadership, Kenan will concentrate on infusing ethics into university life—an area where Duke has already made significant inroads.

**Jo Rae Wright**, dean of the Graduate School, reports that the university's program for training graduate students in ethical research practices was identified as a model in a recent publication of the Council of Graduate Schools. Duke was the first school to require responsible conduct of research training for all doctoral students; this past year **David Bell**, senior associate dean, and **Douglas James**, director of academic support programs, expanded and enhanced Duke's

centralized training program in the Responsible Conduct of Research by promoting department-based and interdisciplinary RCR forums and increasing the offerings relevant to humanities and social science students.

### **Transforming Campus Culture**

Since the release of the Campus Culture Initiative report in February, Provost Lange and George B. Geller Professor and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs **John Simon** have been meeting with hundreds of students, faculty, and many groups to determine the best way to implement recommendations from the committee. Some of their initial findings and ideas will be discussed at the trustees' May meeting. You know that President Brodhead has established an important new position of dean of undergraduate education to better integrate the multiple dimensions of the undergraduate student experience. **Peter Burian**, professor of classical studies, is chairing the search committee, which will recommend several internal candidates to Provost Lange by May.

This year, we have seen several examples of students creating new initiatives to alter their own social culture. The Nasher Museum of Art continues to be a crucial part of that transformation. More than 1,300 students showed up for "Nashquerade," a masquerade ball on 13 April organized in part by co-chairs of the student advisory board **Emily Rotberg**, a senior, and **Anne-Marie Angelo**, a graduate student in history. Students danced and mingled among two new exhibits: "Irwin Kremen: Beyond Black Mountain," a retrospective of more than 160 works done by North Carolina resident and Duke emeritus professor Kremen; and "Street Level: Mark Bradford, William Cordova, and Robin Rhode," an exhibit of three up-and-coming artists inspired by urban landscapes. Mary D.B.T. and James H. Semans Director of the Nasher Museum for Art **Kimerly Rorschach** emphasizes that engaging Duke students on as many fronts as possible—educational, cultural, social—is essential to the Nasher's mission, and big social events like Nashquerade have become a key part of that strategy. Events like Nasher parties and the Duke Plays library gala, which many trustees attended at the February meeting, are becoming staples of an inclusive social scene generated largely by students that incorporates culture, history, and fun.

Students have also focused on small-scale events. With financial support provided by President Brodhead, the Duke Conversations program was started in 2005-06 to offer undergraduates opportunities for intimate discussions with individuals they invite to campus. Guests speak without an honorarium, but the President's office pays for the person's travel and lodging costs. The program ballooned from 36 conversations in 2005-2006 to 154 conversations this year. Recently elected Young Trustee **Ben Abram** hosted several of these conversations, which included Director of the Guggenheim Museum Thomas Krens, National Public Radio media critic David Folkenflik, former president of Rock the Vote Jehmu Green, and assorted community activists, corporate professionals, and others.

This year for the first time, students, led by senior **Daniel Bowes**, Duke Student Government Community Liaison, organized an event to recognize outstanding employees who make the lives of students more pleasant and productive during their time at Duke. Students nominated more than 140 employees who do everything from bringing in home-cooked food and teaching them to cook Latin food, to helping them find the books they need at the library. Seven employees were

honored at a luncheon in Von Canon where they received special plaques and a slew of donated gifts. President Brodhead congratulated them, as did Duke Student Government president **Elliott Wolf**. Bowes, incidentally, recently won a coveted Autry Fellowship from MDC, a Chapel Hill-based organization that promotes social and economic equity in the South.

### **Employee Communications Efforts Recognized**

Three years ago, an extensive university-wide study led by Associate Vice President for News and Communications **David Jarmul**, called for Duke to significantly increase its internal communications programs. Since then, considerable progress has been made. This past year, with President Brodhead's and Executive Vice President **Tallman Trask**'s strong support, the university has worked to strengthen its internal communications as part of efforts to develop a stronger university community. **Paul Grantham**, director of human resources communications, and **Geoffrey Mock**, manager of internal communications, have led the effort. DukeToday, the university's on-line magazine for employees, recently revamped its site, offering more interactive features and clearer navigation. A new monthly employee newspaper, *Working@Duke*, was created a little over a year ago under the leadership of **Leanora Minai**, senior communications strategist in the Office of Communication Services, and it also been well received by the community. We are particularly proud that the year-old publication is a finalist in four of seven internal communications categories for the Lawrence Ragan Communication Awards competition for 2007. Winners in last year's competition included companies such as Southwest Airlines, Barnes & Noble, Sony, and American Express. Out of nearly 500 entries, *Working@Duke* is one of five finalists for the grand prize, the top honor for best employee publication. In January, *Working@Duke* was featured in Ragan's "Showcase" section of January's *Corporate Writer & Editor*.

The Office of Communication Services also introduced quarterly forums called Primetime to provide a venue for staff to hear directly from senior administrators on significant issues and events at Duke and to engage with them on issues of interest to attendees. The first two forums, respectively featuring Provost Lange and Vice President for Human Resources **Clint Davidson**, each drew crowds of about 300 employees. President Brodhead is scheduled to participate in the next Primetime in June.

### **Strengthening Faculty and Research**

The Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy, led by Nanaline H. Duke Professor and Director **Huntington Willard**, announced in early March the establishment of the new Center for Systems Biology, which will nurture interactions between experimental scientists and theorists with a common interest in biological systems. It builds on the work of the Biological Networks Group at Duke, which over the last three years has provided an incubator for collaborations in areas related to systems biology. The Center for Systems Biology is directed by **Philip Benfey**, Paul Kramer Professor of Biology.

The Franklin Humanities Center continues to attract national recognition for its leadership. FHI Director and Professor of English **Srinivas Aravamudan** has been elected president of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes. CHCI, which includes more than 150 humanities centers internationally, will move from its current home at Harvard University to the

Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke. The Consortium's International Board of Directors will meet at Duke for the first time in fall 2007.

**Mark McCahill**, a researcher who helped make the Internet more usable in its early days, is coming to Duke from the University of Minnesota. McCahill has been a leader in technology studies for several decades. His appointment symbolizes the degree to which Duke has established itself as an international leader in the field. The Ruth F. DeVarney Professor of English and Interim Director of the Franklin Institute **Cathy Davidson** has worked with the MacArthur Foundation to sponsor the first international conference for HASTAC, Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory. The April conference, "Electronic Techtonics: Thinking at the Interface," brought together scientists, artists, educators, scholars, and policy makers to explore the impact of the digital world on learning.

The conference was deliberately based in downtown Durham and introduced participants to the renaissance underway there by holding receptions in new downtown restaurants and art galleries. Serendipitously, the timing of the conference coincided with the Nasher Museum of Art's first installation of works of art in downtown Durham. The opening of "From the Root," a public art project that alludes to social activism in North Carolina and the world, was celebrated with a party downtown in a new public space called Rigsbee Hall. Both these events followed another highly successful year of the Full-Frame Documentary Film Festival in downtown Durham, which Duke committed last year to sponsor for three years with a \$300,000 grant from the President's office. The festival reportedly sold 4,000 more tickets than last year and once again attracted visitors from around the nation.

University faculty recently elected Professor of Political Science and Public Policy **Paula McClain** chair of the Academic Council—making her the first African American to hold the post. McClain's research interests focus on minority group politics, particularly social and political competition between minority groups, and urban politics. You might recall from my previous reports that she recently received national attention for a study exploring the dynamics of relations between blacks and Latino immigrants in American cities.

### **Admissions**

As **Christoph Guttentag**, dean of undergraduate admissions, reported in February, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions received 19,170 applications this year, the second highest number in our history. From that number, 3,300 students were admitted during Regular Decision, in addition to the 470 admitted during Early Decision. Christoph reports that this year is the most selective admissions process since records began being kept in the 1950s. More than 45 percent of admitted students boasted SAT scores had scores between 1500 and 1600. Of the admitted students reporting a class rank, more than 30 percent were ranked first in their class, and 85 percent were ranked in the top 5 percent of their class.

Throughout the month of April, the admissions office focused its efforts on yield—matriculating admitted students. In addition to the traditional recruitment programs, the admissions office also sent a number of personalized email messages and postcards to all admitted students. This year, for the first time, students received a DVD originally commissioned by the law school, but modified for an undergraduate audience and their parents, that focused on the flourishing art and

cultural scene in Durham. Also for the first time, admitted students who checked their decisions on-line were greeted by a video of current Duke students sharing their own memories about the excitement they felt upon hearing of their own admission to Duke.

Recognizing that today's generation of students is attuned to very different and rapidly changing communication delivery systems, Duke also implemented several "new media" recruitment initiatives. Working with our consultants from Edelman, we developed a micro web site for admitted students ([www.duke.admissionsgenie.com](http://www.duke.admissionsgenie.com)). The special site features videos introducing students to Duke spirit, engagement, Duke life, faculty partners, the arts at Duke, and interdisciplinary studies. The site enables admitted students to read profiles of current students and link to other important information about the university, including DukeEngage. Students are also invited to submit their own videos for posting on the admitted student website, and they can post comments about the Duke-created videos. Three hour-long on-line chats were held throughout April, with topics focusing on student affairs, academic advising, and life as a Duke student. **Kathy Phillips**, associate director for undergraduate admissions, and **Susan Kauffman**, director of special projects for public affairs, have overseen these substantial new projects. Admissions also tapped into an extensive alumni base. Working with **Sterly Wilder**, executive director of alumni affairs, and her colleagues, more than 1,600 young alumni were identified and volunteered to talk about their Duke experiences. Admitted students who chose to be contacted were matched with alumni on the basis of hometown or academic interest. Using a dedicated web site, alumni and students were able to communicate on an ongoing basis throughout the month of April. Prospective students have until early May to enroll, but we are confident that the class of 2011 will be one of Duke's strongest ever.

### **Financial Aid Initiative and Development Update**

Rick Wagoner has not only been busy writing his commencement address, but he also has been active in making sure that Duke's \$300 million Financial Aid Initiative is a success. As you know, Wagoner co-chairs this important effort with Trustee Emerita **Sally Robinson** to provide permanent endowment to support the more than 40 percent of Duke undergraduates receiving some form of financial aid. As I write this, more than \$220 million has been pledged toward that goal, including a wonderful \$5 million gift from Trustee **Paula Crown** and her family, which was announced in March. As part of this effort, DUBAC (Duke University Black Alumni Connection) has been co-hosting events across the country to encourage endowment giving to the Reggie Howard Scholars program, which supports outstanding students of African heritage. Wagoner, Robinson, and **Susan Ross**, the FAI director, are confident the FAI will meet its goal by the end of 2008.

Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Development **Robert Shepard** reports that in addition to strong progress with FAI, fundraising for the university as a whole continues to run slightly ahead of last year's fiscal year record. As of late April, Duke had received \$294 million in cash receipts.

### **Awards**

Duke's success in admissions and fundraising is a strong indicator of people's confidence in the university and its mission. Duke faculty, students, and staff have racked up an impressive slate

of awards and honors this year, making it clear that confidence is well deserved. Let me mention a number of them.

Dr. **Robert Lefkowitz**, James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, won the 2007 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, America's top prize in medicine. The honor, which is seen by some as a possible precursor to the Nobel Prize, recognizes Dr. Lefkowitz for discoveries of how receptors transmit signals from hormones, drugs, and other stimuli to trigger action within the cell. His work helped give rise to a new and rapid phase of drug development, including many of today's most commonly used prescription drugs. The research was supported, in part, by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

**John Hope Franklin**, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, was presented a lifetime achievement award this past weekend by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, the nation's two oldest learned societies. He received the Public Good Award for his contribution to the advancement of learning and for being a champion of civil rights in America. This award comes on the heels of the Kluge Prize, the humanities equivalent of a Nobel Prize, which Professor Franklin received this year for his lifetime of leadership.

Men's basketball head coach **Mike Krzyzewski** and Trustee **John Mack**, CEO of Morgan Stanley, were among the four recipients honored at the 6th Annual Ellis Island Family Heritage Awards this past week. Mack and Coach K join previous Duke winners of the award, Chancellor for Health Affairs **Victor Dzau** and former Chancellor **Ralph Snyderman**. The award honors immigrants or their descendants who have made significant contributions to America.

**George Christie**, James B. Duke Professor of Law, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Athens. A Duke faculty member since 1967, Christie is an expert in the areas of torts and jurisprudence, and widely published in both.

Arts and Sciences Professor **Karla F. C. Holloway**'s many contributions were recognized this month at a joint meeting of the College Language Association and the Pan African Book Festival when she was presented an award from the City of Miami and Miami Mayor Manuel Diaz for "standing up to power through impassioned leadership and fierce intellectual scholarship."

Two junior faculty members have been awarded National Science Foundation Early Career Awards, which recognize outstanding teachers and scholars who are likely to become academic leaders. Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Shivnath Babu** was honored for a project on problems posed by the increasing complexity, scale, and dynamics of networked computing systems. And Assistant Professor **Rebecca Willett Lu** of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was recognized for her research on information processing and its many applications.

**Ian Baucom**, professor and chair of English, won the 2007 Historians of British Art Book Prize for co-editing *Shades of Black: Assembling Black Arts in 1980s Britain*. The collection of essays combines cultural theory with anecdote and experience, as contributors how the work of the

black British artists of the 1980s should be viewed historically and examine what “black” means in post-colonial Britain.

As part of the Graduate School’s emphasis on mentoring relationships, three faculty and three graduate students were recently recognized. **Herbert Edelsbrunner**, Arts and Sciences Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics; **M. Susan Lozier**, Professor of Physical Oceanography, Earth & Ocean Sciences; and **Laurie Shannon**, E. Blake Byrne Associate Professor of English and Associate Professor of Theater Studies, won the faculty awards. And **Lawrence Boyd**, biomedical engineering; **Adam Hartstone-Rose**, biological anthropology and anatomy; and **Kristina McDonald**, psychology and neuroscience, have been selected to receive the first Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring Student Awards. These individuals are modeling the student-teacher relationships that Duke continues to develop.

Nicholas School graduate student **Liz Forward** has won a 2007 Luce Scholarship. The scholarship provides funding for her to live in Asia for a year where she’ll work with local communities to promote sustainable forest management practices. Forward will graduate from Duke in May with Master’s of Forestry and Master’s of Environmental Management degrees. The Luce Scholars Program provides support for 15 young Americans to live and work in Asia each year.

Several Duke undergraduates have also been honored nationally for their academic achievements. Seniors **Chloe Chien** and **Andrew Longenecker** were named to the *USA Today*’s second All-USA College Academic team. Senior **Joseph Babcock** was named to the third team. Chien, a native of Myanmar, is a biology major and serves as editor-in-chief of *Saturday Night*, a publication which anonymously recounts tales of sexual assault on campus. Longenecker conducted research in a laboratory at Pratt and Whitney Space Propulsion in West Palm Beach, Florida, on upper-stage rocket engines. He worked on these engine types to improve design flaws in the combustion chamber. Babcock, who is majoring in chemistry and biology, is active on campus as co-editor-in-chief of *Vertices*, a science and technology journal, and editor-in-chief of *The Blind Spot*, Duke’s literary magazine for science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction.

## Research

Amid the award winners at Duke are faculty doing work that will surely qualify them for future accolades. Much of their research focuses on a common theme throughout Duke’s culture: applying knowledge in useful ways.

The Sanford Institute of Public Policy recently began a study doing just that. Researchers from the Institute are partnering with about a dozen African-American churches in Durham on the African-American Health Improvement Project. In Durham County, the death rate for minorities with diabetes is nearly three times that of non-Hispanic whites. Through the study, which is funded by \$1.5 million from the National Institutes of Health, **Sherman James**, Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy Studies, is developing community-based and culturally appropriate techniques for helping diabetics manage their health.

In yet another interdisciplinary collaboration, Professor **Holly Dressman**, Barbara Levine Professor of Breast Cancer Genomics **Joseph Nevins**, and Professor **Geoffrey Ginsburg**, along

with Associate Professor **John Chute** of the Duke Adult Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Program, developed a blood test to rapidly detect levels of radiation exposure in the event of a nuclear catastrophe, so that potentially life-saving treatments could be administered to those people who need them most. Their research findings were published in the 3 April issue of *PLoS Medicine*. The research was funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Laurie Shannon also won a Guggenheim fellowship for her book project, *Zoographies of Knowledge in Early Modernity*. This project takes up the history of animal classification (including the invention of dog breeds) in order to re-examine early modern notions of humanity and polity. Shannon is also the recipient of an Andrew Mellon Fellowship at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Researchers on a Duke University-led expedition to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean this month are sharing daily observations with students from middle schools and high schools worldwide via a blog and web site created by the Nicholas School. Lee Hill Snowden Professor of Geology and Senior Associate Dean **Emily Klein** is leading the expedition, which is part of a hands-on science education program called GLOBE, or “Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment.” NASA and the National Science Foundation are providing funding.

Professor of Public Policy Studies and Law **Joel Fleishman**’s book *The Foundation: A Great American Secret—How Private Wealth is Changing the World* sparked new dialogue about accountability in the domain of charitable giving. The book has been widely reviewed and referenced nationally—including by *The Economist*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Bloomberg News, and Slate.com—and Fleishman has been featured on numerous radio broadcasts and C-SPAN’s Book TV. Fleishman’s examination of the role of philanthropies in public policy continues through the Duke Foundation Impact Research Program.

Biomedical Engineering Assistant Professor **Adam Wax** and his colleagues have developed a light-based probe that serves as sort of an “optical biopsy” instrument. They reported in the March 2007 issue of *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* that their fiber-optic device reliably differentiated in less than a second between healthy and precancerous digestive tissue taken from the stomach and esophagus. If the preliminary success is confirmed through clinical trials, such a device could ultimately provide a particular advantage for early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer in cells that line internal organs. The story was picked up by at least 95 outlets across the country, primarily television stations in markets of all sizes. The research was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Science Foundation.

### **Athletics**

Duke athletic teams have once again scored their own sets of honors. Going into the final few weeks of the school year and the spring athletic season, several Blue Devil teams are poised to make national championship runs.

The men’s lacrosse team, under the leadership of Coach **John Danowski**, has posted a wonderful season. The team won both the ACC regular season championship and, this past weekend, the ACC Tournament, scoring seven goals in the third period to defeat Virginia 12-9 in the

championship game. Going into the national tournament, the team is ranked No. 2 in the country. This was a stellar year for both Coach Danowski and his son **Matt Danowski**, who is co-captain of the team. The former was named ACC Coach of the Year, and Matt was named ACC Player of the Year.

Led by head coach **Kerstin Kimel**, the women's lacrosse team is also a contender for a national title. After starting the season with an 11-2 record with eight wins against ranked opponents, the team is ranked third in the country.

Women's golf is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation, led by sophomore **Amanda Blumenherst**, who is ranked first in the nation and has won three of the four tournaments she has played this spring. Blumenherst won three consecutive tournaments to open the spring, a school record. Head Coach **Dan Brooks** hopes to lead the team to its fifth NCAA championship.

Duke wrestling closed out its season with notable performances from the head coach **Clar Anderson** and several of his athletes. Coach Anderson won the Bob Bubb Coaching Excellence Award for Division I wrestling, which recognizes not only the skills that are taught on the mat but also the leadership and mentoring of young student-athletes. Senior **Daniel Shvartsman** finished his Duke career with a third place finish at the ACC Championships, ranking ninth on the all-time Duke wins list with 149 over four years. Sophomore **John Barone** also placed third at the ACC Championships.

And, of course, while we were sad to see Coach **Gail Goestenkers** leave Duke for the University of Texas, we were delighted that **Joanne McCallie**, the 2005 national women's basketball coach of the year and head basketball coach at Michigan State University, will be our new women's head coach. Coach McCallie has already won the hearts of the Duke community. Women's Division I Player of the Year **Lindsey Harding** was the first player selected in the WNBA draft, reflecting her exceptional career at Duke. While she and **Alison Bales**, who also garnered numerous accolades this year, will be graduating, Coach P (as McCallie is known) has a strong team returning and an impressive incoming class in her efforts to lead the team to its first-ever championship.

Finally, we all were saddened by the death of long-time men's golf coach **Rod Myers** who passed away in March after a long illness. During his 34 years at Duke, Myers coached 16 All-Americans, nine Academic All-Americans, 24 ACC championship teams, and three ACC individual champions. He exemplified the best of Duke athletics and will be missed.

I hope you have found this report of selected highlights to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like additional information about any of the items in this report.