

Duke University

Baldwintopia

Late in May I had a group of Baldwin Scholars over to my house for dinner. They were a mix of class years, from rising sophomores and juniors to young alumnae from the classes of 2009 and 2010. We enjoyed dinner and one another's company, sprawled around my living room while a summer thunderstorm raged outside. Odera Umeano '09, Meredith Metcalf '09, and Danielle Brewington '10 were in particularly fine form, holding forth hilariously about medical school, whether their eventual life partners should be taller than they are, and how they hoped their own mothers would someday move in with them to help raise their children (my apologies to their mothers if this comes as surprising news).

At some point in this very funny evening, we started talking about how amazing our graduates will be as they grow into their careers and their post-Duke lives. One of the three young alumnae, I can't recall which one, referred to the world they plan to create as "Baldwintopia." In Baldwintopia, women get paid just as much as their male counterparts and never encounter discrimination. In Baldwintopia, women don't do a disproportionate share of the housework and child care, and manage to combine work and family without enormous stress (apparently with the help of their mothers!). In Baldwintopia, women hold any leadership position they wish, keep their circle of female friends close, and serve as outstanding role models to younger generations. And in Baldwintopia, you can entrust your money management to a fellow Baldwin Scholar, dine in a restaurant with a Baldwin chef, and know that your international flight will be capably



(L to R) Odera Umeano, Meredith Metcalf, and Danielle Brewington: creators of "Baldwintopia"

piloted by a highly trained Baldwin.

Feminist utopias have a long history, from Christine de Pisan's *Book of the City of Ladies* (1405) to Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland* (1915) to Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time* (1976). These literary utopias tend toward the exotic and science fiction – satisfying to read and imagine but not translatable to real life. Most women I know who balance careers, marriage, parenting, elder care, friends, and community responsibilities while trying to preserve a modicum of free time might argue that Baldwintopia is equally unrealistic, though an attractive idea from a group of idealistic young women. While I believe fervently in the transformative power of our program and our Scholars, even I would agree that most of them will not get to live in Baldwintopia.

But then I garnered some new data a couple of weeks later, when Colleen complied and distributed a document with life updates from

most of our alumnae Scholars, classes of 2008-2010. It was 20 pages long and the best thing I have read in years. The Scholars wrote in from around the US and around the world (Ghana, the Netherlands, Australia, Nepal and London). They spoke of jobs gained and lost, of exciting new relationships, ones that continue despite spanning long distances, and others that mercifully ended. Some have just moved to new cities or countries or are about to; some are starting graduate school or searching for jobs. Many reported being very happy; others talked about ongoing struggles with time, money, family issues, employment, and mostly with figuring out what they wish to do with their lives.

What came through most clearly for me was the sense that *they are all writing their own stories*. Some of those stories are still mired in struggle, but all of the Scholars know that they have the right to fulfilling work, equitable and supportive relationships, stimulating travel and memorable fun with their friends. Many have made non-traditional choices, turning down or leaving lucrative careers for personal passions. They wrote movingly of their ongoing connections with one another, of joint vacations and dinners, of admiration for each other's decisions and websites, and of their desire for other Baldwins to visit and share their expertise. They're learning, growing, and changing – just as we would expect from any young college graduate in a complex world.

Their sense of independence and connection, of entitlement to the lives they wish to live, reminded me that their grandmothers – and many of their mothers – did not have so many choices. The women who went before helped create the world our Scholars inhabit now. It may not be Baldwintopia, not yet, but it's pretty great nonetheless. I know our Scholars will continue to push both Duke and the wider world to be as equitable as they can be, but in the meantime I am encouraged by the lives our alumnae are leading. Mostly I am encouraged by their optimism and belief that they can make a difference, by their authenticity and continuing connection to one another and the program. They make us proud.

Donna Lisker, Co-Director of the Baldwin Scholars Program



Donna proudly displays the masterpiece peanut butter and chocolate cake she made for the Baldwin dinner party.

Father-Daughter Weekend by Kristen Lee, Class of 2013

On March 26, thirty-one Dads arrived at Duke for the inaugural Baldwin Scholars Father-Daughter Weekend.

Over the course of the weekend, Dads learned more about the Baldwin program and we engaged in honest father-daughter conversations. We also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, rebuilding a Durham resident's backyard. During that experience I got to see my Dad away from the usual corporate setting that I so often associate him with,

and it was the first time he felt like my friend in addition to my parent.

Because my Dad lives more than a thousand miles from Durham I assumed he wouldn't be able to attend the Weekend. But working around his busy schedule, he managed to travel cross-country to come, and now our relationship is completely different.

Because of the Father-Daughter weekend I now realize that our relationship is changing and though I don't know exactly where it is going, I am comfortable exploring our new friendship and continuing the conversation.

Jasmine Kim (Class of 2012), whose dad travelled from Bangkok to attend, agrees. "Although I spent my whole life with my dad, I got to see many new aspects of him for the first time during this weekend. I am glad to get to better understand my dad."



Top: Habitat for Humanity landscaping project
Bottom: Dads Brett Waterfield, Michael Liu, and Ronald Blocker enjoy a short break.

Baldwin Dads also found this to be a meaningful experience. Joseph Hesbrook, father of Brittany Hesbrook (Class of 2010) wrote, "Our daughters in some ways will always remain our 'little girls' but this weekend clearly demonstrated to us Dads that they are also young women whose capabilities and futures are limitless."

Darren Chapman, father of Julia Chapman (Class of 2010) added, "I enjoyed the weekend; thank you so much for giving me a reason to spend time with my daughter. I was already very proud of her, but this weekend made me even more proud."

A video about Father-Daughter Weekend can be viewed here:
<http://wilweldon.com/baldwins.mp4>

Congratulations, Class of 2010!



Front row (L to R): Danielle Brewington, Julia Chapman, Swathi Padmanabhan, Alden Littlefield, Shari Baker
Middle row (L to R): Danielle Beckerman, Lucy McKinstry, Brianne Connolly, Emily Codik, Neelima Navuluri
Back row (L to R): Sara Friedman, Rachael Moss, Clare Murray, Awa Nur, Brittany Hesbrook
Missing from the photo: Brooke Patterson, Kate Van Buskirk

On May 14, we celebrated the Class of 2010 with a ceremony and celebration in the East Duke Building. We now have 71 young alumnae out in the world!

Commencement is the perfect term for this event as students bring their undergraduate experience to a close and prepare to open the next chapter of their lives, with a firm foundation provided by their families, Duke University, and the Baldwin Scholars program.

Though the struggling economy continues to challenge the Class of 2010, they still did very well. Several of our Scholars start work at organizations including American Infrastructure engineering firm, Abercrombie and Fitch, DLA Piper law firm, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. Others begin graduate/professional school at Vanderbilt, Tulane, Penn, and the University of Texas. One Scholar will join the Peace Corps in Zambia, another works at a Cuban art gallery in Miami, one expects a contract to play professional volleyball in Europe, and another works to be certified as an EMT. We are very proud of all of them.

Unsung Heroine Award

The Unsung Heroine Award, given annually by the Baldwin Scholars, recognizes a woman who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to issues that face women at Duke or in the larger community, but whose efforts have not received formal recognition. Nominees can be Duke undergraduate or graduate students, alumnae, faculty, staff, or retirees.

Eleven individuals were nominated this spring for the third annual award.

A small committee of Baldwin Scholars reviews the nominations and selects a winner. The group could not help but be touched this year by a nomination written by Duke Professor Wesley Kort recognizing the leadership of Woman's College graduate Mary Earle, who presided over the WC Student Government Association in 1966-67!

Dr. Kort wrote, "Mary led the struggle to free women from the restrictions imposed on their undergraduate life, restrictions that lacked counterparts in Trinity College [to include the rule that women could only wear pants during finals]. She was an impressive speaker and provided effective leadership in the liberation of undergraduate women. She had a strong and positive impact because she was intelligent, articulate, and energetic in her leadership. In addition, as a native of Greensboro, she was familiar with the dominant Southern culture at Duke, with its construction of women and their social and cultural roles. I have often thought, over the years, that she did not receive the kind of recognition she deserved, and I am hoping that this is a chance to rectify that injustice."

All nominees were recognized at the Student Affairs leadership awards ceremony in April and received copies of their nomination letters. Mary Earle Chase is featured on the Baldwin Scholars website and the selection committee is very interested in having her visit campus in the fall to talk about her student experience.

Baldwin Alumnae Spotlight:

Tyla Fowler, Class of 2009

Tyla aspires to be a professional food writer. The following is an entry from her food blog, *Learning to Live Without a Microwave... Among Other Things*.

<http://withoutamicrowave.wordpress.com/>

May 20

I joined twitter about three weeks ago. Up until then, I'd been vehemently opposed to tweeting. I just didn't understand. I would roll my eyes when anyone in my vicinity would tweet, thinking that it was idiotic and a waste of time. But I can admit it now: I was wrong. Twitter has



changed my life.

When I signed up, I started following my favorite food bloggers and looking at the people they followed, constantly adding new people to my twitter feed. One of these people was Adam Roberts, the Amateur Gourmet. You may remember him from my post about Compost Cookies, for which he was the inspiration.

Anyway, I started following Adam on twitter, which is how I found out about the 2nd Annual New York City Foodie Photo Scavenger Hunt. I mentioned this quirky scavenger hunt to my friend Sally over dinner one night, and before I knew it, Sally had decided that we were not only going to participate, we were going to win. Nonplussed, I found myself traipsing around New York City for an entire weekend, trying to complete everything on an outrageous list of tasks (if you go to that link, you have to scroll down a little to see the list).

One of these tasks included being kissed by someone outside Whole Foods while holding a sign that said, "Kiss me, I'm organic." I will admit that the list didn't specify the kiss had to be on the lips *or* from a stranger, but I figured ***What's life without a little risk?!***

The risk paid off with a big rush of exhilaration, and I quickly tweeted about my scavenger hunt exploits. (See, here we go, back to the main point – twitter.) I was rewarded for sharing my fun moment on twitter when Adam re-tweeted my tweet. (For those of you who don't speak twitter, that just means that he reposted my post so that everyone following him could see it too. He has 6,836 followers. I have 36.) Knowing he was interested in our progress gave Sally and me the boost we needed to get through the final day of our hunt.

Unfortunately, despite our determination, we didn't win first place. We won second! As our prize, we got to attend Tom Colicchio's charity event, Toast to the Children, which benefits the Children of Bellvue.

We also got to meet the third place winners, Stephanie and Jerry—despite their awesomeness, I don't have a picture with them, it's on Stephanie's camera. But we're glad we got to hang out with them nonetheless. I won't even go into the fact that I brushed up against Tom Colicchio, introduced myself to Dana Cowin, and got to eat tons of incredible food at this event, because I don't want to brag...

Now for the exciting part. If you were scrolling, STOP!

Thanks to my new twitter obsession, I now spend unhealthy amounts of time checking my twitter feed to see what's going on in the world. (Or at least in the world of food, since almost everyone I follow is food-related.)

At the end of last week, Adam tweeted something particularly exciting: "I'm looking for an NYC-based intern to help out with the cookbook." I had read about Adam's new cookbook on his site and within minutes of seeing this tweet, I sent him an email trying desperately to convey my enthusiasm about working on a project like this without actually sounding desperate.

I'm not sure if it was the just-desperate-enough email, my determination to excel in the scavenger hunt, or what, but he emailed me back later that day to set up a meeting. We met on Monday and after about 24 hours, my suspense was ended with the following tweet: "Congrats to my new intern, @tylamfowler. I admire her most because, like me, she doesn't have a microwave." (I'm basically still jumping up and down about it.)

So there you have it, that is how twitter changed my life.

Baldwin Internship Spotlight

Class of 2011 Baldwin Scholar
Morgan Sheppard



This summer I am interning at the Center for Gender Equity at AED in Washington, D.C. AED, the shortened name for what used to be called the Academy for Educational Development, is an organization that works to improve education, health, civil society and economic development in all 50 states and over 150 countries. My program, the Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program (AGSP), was created by USAID in 2004 to improve gender inequities in primary and secondary education in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. With the goal of addressing the constraints to girls' participation, retention and achievement in school, the AGSP has four main components: scholarships, mentoring, HIV/AIDS education, and parent and community participation. Since the program's inception, the AGSP has awarded close to 190,000 scholarships to both girls and boys.

Because funding for the program ends in 2011, I've been brought in this summer to evaluate what the program has done well, how it could improve, and the most effective components that could be replicated in similar development projects in the future. Specifically, my job description includes the broad topics of "knowledge management" and "monitoring and evaluation," so I've been given the freedom to design my own research proposals. My first proposal aims to examine the effect scholarships have had on girls' education at the primary level in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda – all countries where school fees still act as obstacles to their education.

The second Millennium Development Goal aimed to provide free and compulsory primary education for all by 2015. While most countries have by now made this a reality, in many, including the ones in my study, free primary education remains a façade. UNESCO's Monitoring Report on the EFA goals, published in January 2010, found that 72 million children were still out of school in 2007, 54% of which were girls. Studies have also shown that girls are much more affected by the costs of primary education than boys, especially in areas of sub-Saharan Africa. Since restricted family funds for schooling will almost always get prioritized for boys, my study examines the effect scholarships have had on girls' education through four different factors: net enrollment rates, the gender parity index of net enrollment, net attendance rates, and dropout rates (in totals and broken down by gender). By measuring these indicators in AGSP schools over time in comparison with regional data, we'll be able to evaluate whether the program has made a clear difference in girls' access to and retention in primary schools.

I love being able to walk into work every day inspired by the projects going on around me and by a mission statement like this: "AED envisions a world in which all individuals have the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute to the well-being of their family, community, country and world." This summer and in the future, I hope to work toward improving girls' opportunities to fulfill their potential through education.

Be Your Own Kind of Beautiful Fashion Show

As part of the Baldwin Scholars' ongoing body image campaign, Swathi Padmanabhan ('10) suggested a fashion show where all body types were represented and celebrated.

Swathi, with Neelima Navuluri ('10) and Ashley Terrell ('12), found student models and clothing stores and boutiques willing to participate and orchestrated every last detail of the event.

The fashion show was held on a sunny afternoon in late April on the Bryan Center Plaza. The event attracted a large audience and the students collected over \$100 for a donation to The Elisa Project, a non-profit dedicated to the prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

All photos below are courtesy of Maya Robinson, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2011.



(L to R): Neelima Navuluri, Swathi Padmanabhan, and Ashley Terrell

Gifts to the Baldwin Scholars Program

We offer our sincere thanks to the following donors for their gifts; we appreciate their leadership and their belief in all that our Scholars can become. We are especially excited that so many of our own alumnae have chosen to honor the program with a donation.

Megan Braley, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2008
Marian Dickinson, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2009
Andrea Dinamarco, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2008
Merri Estren, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2009
Emily Grey Goldman (T'03)
Pallavi Kansal, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2008
Wendy Marantz Levine (T'95)
Rosanna Myers, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2009
Neelima Navuluri, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2010
Alison Perlberg, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2008
Margaret Taylor Smith (WC'47)
Kristen Stortz, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2009
Laura Welch, Baldwin Scholar Class of 2008

If you are interested in making a gift to the Baldwin Scholars, please contact Donna Lisker at dlisker@duke.edu or, when making a gift to Duke, stipulate that you want it to go to the Baldwin Scholars. Gifts can be targeted toward any area of the program.

Contact us...

We'd love to hear from you!

phone: 919/684-6579

e-mail: baldwinscholars@duke.edu

Best wishes for a sunny and relaxing summer!
Donna, Emily, and Colleen