

August, 2004

## Friends of the Baldwin Scholars

Duke University

### Welcome

On behalf of the Baldwin Scholars staff -- co-director Emily Klein, Assistant Director Colleen Scott, and myself -- I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you. I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at Women's Initiative events sponsored by the Duke Alumni Association in seven cities around the country: New York, Washington DC, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Durham. So many of you expressed interest in the Baldwin Scholars, asked how you could help, or requested to be kept informed that we decided to launch a regular e-newsletter. We will let you know how we are progressing every now and again.

As I write this, the campus has a few students in summer session and lots of adolescent campers. In less than three weeks the campers will be replaced by the class of 2008 and their older peers arriving for the fall semester.

We are excited to recruit our first class of Baldwin Scholars and in July, mailed home a brochure to all entering first-year women. It contains a link to our website (<http://baldwinscholars.duke.edu>) and will be the first of many communications to encourage them

to learn more about the program and to apply. We hope to announce our first 18 Baldwin Scholars by November 1.

If you attended a Women's Initiative event you know the basic outline of the Baldwin Scholars: a seminar in the spring semester of the first year, a residential experience on West Campus as sophomores, an internship with an alumna in the junior year, and a capstone seminar in the senior year.

To this outline we expect to add multiple lectures, dinners, service projects, leadership opportunities, study abroad, outdoor challenges, and anything else that inspires our students and us. The Baldwin Scholars themselves will shape the program and help it grow and succeed; we look forward to watching them go and we thank you for your support and encouragement.

Come see us in our beautiful new office (205 East Duke) after September 1, and stay in touch with us. Best wishes for a happy, healthy summer and fall!

Donna Lisker  
Co-Director, Baldwin Scholars



Donna Lisker

## *Perceptions of the self, society, and the natural world – Sociology 49S*



Emily Klein

The first component of the Baldwin Scholars Program consists of a first-year seminar open only to the 18 Baldwin Scholars, to be taught in the spring semester each year. Because this will be their first common curricular experience, we seek to create a supportive environment in which collegiality and respect for diversity of thought will flourish.

Through the course, the students will meet female faculty members from various disciplines who will serve as resources and mentors throughout their college careers. In addition, activities built into the course will help students gain specific leadership skills, such as public speaking and problem-solving.

To help us design the course content, we convened a curriculum committee consisting of dedicated female faculty members from across the university (Claudia Koonz, Susan Lozier, Ann Marie Rasmussen, Susan Roth, and co-chairs Donna Lisker and Emily Klein). Together, we formulated a course entitled *"Perceptions of the self, society and the natural world."*

The course will consist of three components: a humanities unit, a social sciences unit, and a natural science unit, each taught by a female faculty member in that

discipline. The unifying theme of the course is that of changing and/or contrasting perceptions: how, in each discipline, are our perceptions conditioned by the times we live in and the reigning assumptions of our societies?

The course will be taught by Donna Lisker (humanities), Frances Graham (social sciences) and Emily Klein (natural sciences), with Lisker serving as lead instructor. The humanities portion will explore changing perceptions of the self through critical reading of literary texts, likely with a project involving a 'self-portrait' in literary, artistic or other media. The social sciences unit will explore differing constructs of feminist theory developed in the context of different racial/social groups, with activities to develop persuasive public speaking. And the natural science unit, which will include a field trip, will explore changing perceptions of the natural world by contrasting, for example, creation myths and the big bang theory.

We're looking forward to teaching the course, and hope our first class of Baldwin Scholars will find it a rich experience.

Emily Klein  
Co-Director, Baldwin Scholars

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*"...activities built into the course will help students gain specific leadership skills, such as public speaking and problem-solving."*

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## *Recruitment and Selection Process*

Many of our efforts this spring were focused on the process of creating a visual identity for the Baldwin Scholars.

We met several times with women undergraduates to determine what concepts, images and key words they found empowering and inspiring. The results of these focus groups provided the foundation for the print publications and the website.

Recruitment started in April with a bold Baldwin Scholars flyer and a table at Blue Devil Days. As Donna mentioned in her welcome, we also mailed a brochure to incoming first-year women in July.

September will bring a flurry of information sessions, *Chronicle* ads, tabling at the Student Activities Fair and at the MarketPlace, and a feature article in the Duke Parents newsletter. We will also be asking Duke faculty, staff and students to identify first-year women to whom we can extend invitations to apply.

Applications will be due in mid-October. We will be looking for diverse applicants with high self-awareness and leadership potential. Interviews will be conducted after Fall Break and invitations extended by November 1.

*Confidence*  
*Self-awareness*  
*Voice*  
*Passion*  
*Vision*  
*Determination*  
*Strength*  
*Potential*

## *Baldwin Scholars Advisory Board*

The following Duke faculty and staff have agreed to serve on our new Baldwin Scholars Advisory Board. This group will meet periodically to review our progress and to offer wisdom on program-related processes and issues. We're grateful to them for their service!

Andrea Caldwell, Assistant Dean of Students for Leadership and Mediation  
Sheila Curran, Fannie Mitchell Executive Director of the Career Center  
Emily Klein, Baldwin Scholars Co-Director  
Donna Lisker, Baldwin Scholars Co-Director  
Diane Nelson, Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology  
Jean Fox O'Barr, Professor of the Practice and Distinguished University Service Professor, Women's Studies  
Susan Roth, Dean of Social Sciences, Trinity College  
Stacy Rusak, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions  
Colleen Scott, Baldwin Scholars Assistant Director  
Student member, TBD



## *Contact Information*

We would love to hear from you!

Please feel free to contact us at 919/684-6579 or [baldwinscholars@duke.edu](mailto:baldwinscholars@duke.edu).

Visit our website: <http://baldwinscholars.duke.edu>

Office:

205 East Duke, East Campus

Box 90765

We will be moving into this new office space on September 1, 2004. This space has been the office of the President Emeritus for the last ten years. We are very grateful to Dr. Keith Brodie and his staff for making us feel welcome and are looking forward to making this beautiful suite into the new home for the Baldwin Scholars office.