Friends of the Baldwin Scholars

Duke University

Endings and Beginnings

Every May, we graduate another cohort of Baldwin Scholars. I have given seven commencement addresses so far, and though the details differ, the essential messages remain the same: be true to yourselves. Follow that inner voice. Take calculated risks when they feel right. Stay connected to one another and to your community. Believe in your ability to be more and do more than you can possibly imagine.

This year's commencement had special poignancy for me, because I wasn't only delivering this message to our graduates; I was also talking to myself. Many of you heard this news when it was announced in late March: after a wonderful 15-year career, I am leaving Duke to become the next Dean of the College at Smith. Located in Northampton MA, Smith is an elite women's institution, one of the original Seven Sisters. They have offered me the opportunity to be one of their senior leaders, overseeing undergraduate operations and reporting directly to the president. What's more, their entire educational mission could have been lifted from the Baldwin Scholars website (except that Smith predates us by a mere 133 years): they exist to educate women for global leadership. It's my dream job.

Leaving Duke, and particularly the Baldwin Scholars, was a hard decision for me. I have loved my time here, and have had so many opportunities to grow and learn both professionally and personally. The Baldwin Scholars is and will always be my baby. I cannot imagine any achievement will surpass it. But when Smith came calling, they spurred me



Program Director Donna Lisker

to reflect on those commencement addresses and the messages they contain. If I believe them – and I do, sincerely – then I need to model the behavior I encourage in others.

My inner voice tells me the opportunity at Smith will suit me, and that it's the right next step. The strength of that voice will sustain me through all the good-byes and the sadness of leaving a place and people I love. I don't worry at all about Baldwin; the incomparable Colleen Scott has received a well-deserved promotion to the directorship, which she will share with our wonderful faculty director, Ava Vinesett. Under Colleen and Ava's inspired leadership, the program will continue to flourish. I will attend every alumnae event I possibly can, and continue to be as involved as time allows (or until I am politely told to mind my own business). I know I will remain connected to the 180 women who have joined the Baldwin Scholars thus far, and to Ava and Colleen. Things will be different on the surface, but the fundamental principles remain constant.

As I move on from Duke, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the young women who took the leap of faith to become Baldwins, to their parents who have supported them and the program, and to all the Duke alumnae who have given us money and advice and made connections for our graduates. You've been effusive in your encouragement and you have opened up the world for our Scholars. I'm also grateful to the faculty who have nurtured and encouraged them, and to the many staff members at Duke on whom we rely to run our program. First among them is Colleen, who will kill me if I say too much so I will limit myself to this: she is the reason for the program's success and its absolute backbone. I could not have asked for a better partner or friend.

I hope that I will stay in touch with many of you and see you when you pass through Massachusetts. My email is <u>dlisker@smith.edu</u>. My best wishes to all of you for a wonderful summer.

Donna Lisker

Important Gifts to the Baldwin Scholars Program

We offer our sincere thanks to the following donors for their gifts to the program:

Chaele Arkfeld. Class of 2012 Baldwin Scholar
Dr. Germaine Brewington, Baldwin parent
Merri Estren, Class of 2009 Baldwin Scholar
Freddie Mac Foundation (matching gift)
Catherine Joseph, Class of 2012 Baldwin Scholar
Dr. Emily Klein
Dr. Sailiemanu Lilomaiava-Doktor and Dr. Robert Doktor, Baldwin parents
Tricia McKitty, T'92, JD/LLM '95
Ahsha Merson, Class of 2009 Baldwin Scholar
Dr. Jean O'Barr

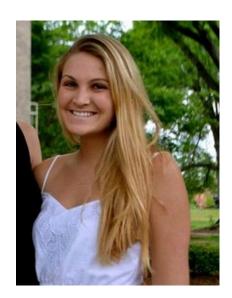
Dr. Jean O Barr Swathi Padmanabhan, Class of 2010 Baldwin Scholar Peter Schwaller, E'89 Michelle Sohn, Class of 2011 Baldwin Scholar Peter and Rosamaria Stafford, Baldwin parents Dr. Judith Touchton, WC'62

Edward and Diane Wright, Baldwin parents

If you are interested in making a gift to the Baldwin Scholars, please contact Colleen Scott at <u>colleen.scott@duke.edu</u> 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.

Baldwin Intern Spotlight: Becky Bauer, Class of 2016

I am spending this summer as an engineering intern at Tesla Motors in Palo Alto, CA. Tesla Motors, though a very well known electric vehicle company, is still considered fairly new; it was founded in 2003. Tesla may be new, but it is helping define an important category of vehicle technology and performance in the automotive industry. The young age of the company and the burgeoning applications of technology contribute to the "start-up" mindset that pervades the Tesla work environment. As an intern this summer, I have been privileged to take part in and experience first-hand the originality, innovation, and passion that the employees bring to the company.



As a member of the Driver Assistance and Autopilot Team, I spend my days

creating, simulating, and analyzing vehicle control under numerous scenarios. From my first day, everyone I encountered was welcoming, supportive, and eager to share their experience and knowledge. Tesla is made up of incredible people from all over the world whose knowledge and skills have been acquired from universities, honed at other companies, and reinforced by personal experiences. By interacting with and working closely with my team members, I have gained huge insights into vehicle dynamics and control theory, and have become much more skilled in data simulation and analysis.

It has been particularly gratifying to see how Tesla treats their interns with the respect and the expectations they have for full time employees. Interns are given important responsibilities and deadlines and are provided with full access to the technological resources they need. Working closely with employees on projects, interns are present in team meetings and are able to continuously present their work. This open environment encourages the flow of ideas, with innovation being a driving force behind the progression of all projects. Every person in the company, whether an employee or intern, is given the opportunity to share their fresh perspective and knowledge. This creates an exciting and efficient work environment that is conducive to quick progress.

It has also been amazing to get to know fellow interns. There is never a dull moment when spending time with peers who share common interests, a sense of curiosity, and eagerness to learn. Conversations over lunch have included topics like how to design our own quadcopter, how to control our apartments with microcontrollers, and how to 3D print a surfboard so we can go surfing on the weekend. It's been incredible to hear about the many different undergraduate experiences of people from all over the world and to learn about their plans for the future.

Congratulations, Class of 2014!

On May 9, we celebrated the Class of 2014 with a ceremony and celebration in the East Duke Building. We now have 122 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.

Several of our Scholars will start work at organizations including IBM, Teach for America, PolitiFact, The Parthenon Group, Microsoft, The McChrystal Group, Illinois Tool Works, and College Advising Corps. One has received a Hart Fellowship for environmental activism in Israel. Three will attend medical school. Others are still formalizing their next step.

This was a class of incredible academic and extracurricular achievement. 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.

Four individuals were nominated this spring for the seventh annual award.

A small committee of Baldwin Scholars reviewed the nominations and selected a winner.

Senior Caroline Kiritsy was recognized for her work as an LGBTQ ally on her athletic team and on the executive board of the Athlete Ally organization.

The selection committee valued the way Caroline has prepared herself and others to stand up in the locker room or on the playing field to challenge injustice. She exemplifies the mission of the Baldwin Scholars and is truly an unsung heroine.



Caroline Kiritsy (center) with Baldwin Scholars Anna Koelsch (L) and Leilani Doktor (R).

Father-Daughter Weekend

In March, we were very fortunate to have 27 Baldwin Dads travel to campus for a weekend. Together with their daughters, they participated in meaningful conversations, learned more about the Baldwin program, and engaged in fun activities like African drumming, service at the Campus Farm, and a field trip to the Duke Lemur Center.

Dads were excited to have dedicated time with their daughters to build or strengthen their relationships.













Reunion for the Class of 2009 Baldwins

We challenged the Class of 2009 Baldwins to return for their 5-year reunion in greater numbers than the Class of 2008, a year earlier. They accepted and met the challenge with 13 of the 18 women attending the weekend events. We held a Friday evening Happy Hour and a Saturday morning panel discussion with the current Baldwins.







Gloria Steinem!

In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Baldwin Scholars program, we extended an invitation to Gloria Steinem for the annual Jean Fox O'Barr Distinguished Speaker Series. She spoke to a sold-out crowd of 1500 students, faculty, and community members in the Duke Chapel on April 15. Following the lecture, she met with the Baldwin Scholars at a dessert reception. Her message was inclusive, inspiring and fierce. We are grateful to the Muglia family for contributing to this very special occasion.







The lecture was recorded and can be viewed here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yPO3gkMAWM

Contact us...

We'd love to hear from you!

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Best wishes for a sunny and relaxing summer!

Donna, Ava, and Colleen