

Duke University

A Change in Leadership

In 2004, Colleen Scott, Emily Klein and I faced an exciting but daunting challenge: building this new leadership program called the Baldwin Scholars from the ground up. President Keohane had given us financial resources and her blessing, but we had to figure out every detail, from how best to recruit our students to what we would teach in the seminars to choosing our logo. We tried to prioritize questions in the order they needed to be answered, and slowly, day by day and month by month, we created the Baldwin Scholars program alongside our students.

It seems like yesterday but it was eight years ago, and now we have a fully established program, with five classes of alumnae. Our first cohort will be returning to campus for their fifth reunion in 2013, and we have already celebrated our first Baldwin wedding with three more on the calendar for 2012. With the program so well established and successful, our faculty co-director Emily Klein decided the time was right for her to step down. She has a sabbatical during the 2012-2013 school year, during which she plans to focus on her geology research. In preparation for that sabbatical, she has relinquished her considerable administrative



Ava Vinesett
New Baldwin Scholars
Co-Director

responsibilities with the Baldwin Scholars and the Nicholas School of the Environment. We're grateful to Emily for her unfailing belief in our students and her particular advocacy for and support of women in the sciences. We will miss her and hope she will stay connected.

When we thought about who might replace Emily as faculty co-director, the first person who came to mind was Ava Vinesett, Associate Professor of the Practice of Dance. Those who attended mother-daughter weekend know Ava; she led the dynamic African Dance workshop with her customary joy and passion. She had even the most reluctant dancers out on the floor. One of the Baldwin moms took me aside afterwards and thanked me for inviting Ava to do the workshop; she said, "Ava has such *presence*."

Many of the Baldwins are familiar with Ava's

presence, as she teaches the humanities unit of the first-year seminar in alternate years. Every time she teaches it is a transformative experience for the first-year Baldwins, who learn from her how to tap their creativity, find joy in movement, and gain confidence in their physical selves. She's a tough but beloved teacher, a winner of the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award and formidable performer in her own right. Ava was a founding member of the African-American Dance Ensemble, led by Chuck Davis, and I once saw her perform with them at an American Dance Festival show so electric I thought it would set my hair on fire. They were mesmerizing.

Ava has already mentored many of our Baldwins, meeting them in their first year and then staying with them as they take her more advanced classes in later years. She's passionate about the students and the program, and we could not be more delighted to have her on board. She's a perfect role model for what we encourage our students to do: identify your passion and then live it, with perseverance, enthusiasm, and grace.

Donna Lisker, Co-Director of the Baldwin Scholars Program

Baldwin Scholars Mother-Daughter Weekend



In March, we hosted our second Mother-Daughter Weekend and we were extremely pleased that approximately 40 moms, sisters and grandmothers could join us for this event.

The weekend featured informal social time, workshops, and teas held at the Washington Duke Inn and King's Daughters Inn.

Baldwin Alumnae Spotlight:

Liz Victor, Class of 2009

Since graduating from Duke in 2009, I have continued to focus on my true passion: understanding what influences young people's thoughts, decisions, and subsequent behaviors, especially within the realm of sexual risk prevention. As an undergraduate, I was able to collect my own data for my senior thesis, investigating the role of identity in understanding risky sexual decision-making. While completing my Masters in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University, I explored the role of religiosity and



spirituality in young adult sexual decision-making. I also had the opportunity to work with children and teens in a neuroimaging lab. When it came time to apply for clinical psychology PhD programs, I immediately had my heart set on coming back to my alma mater. I feel honored to be back at Duke now working under my clinical mentor, Dr. Robert Thompson.

One of the most amazing aspects of Duke's clinical PhD program is that students have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty across disciplines. Recently, I have had the fortune to collaborate with neuroscientist, Dr. Ahmad Hariri, as well as other faculty mentors, Dr. Phil Costanzo in the Clinical Psychology Department and Dr. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong in the Philosophy Department.

Recently I received a pilot grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) through Duke's Transdisciplinary Prevention Research Center to fund a project investigating a framework that Dr. Thompson and I developed for understanding the many factors that influence self-regulation failure and subsequent sexual risk taking in young adults. In our project, we propose that some individuals are particularly sensitive to sexually arousing cues and will experience a decrease in their self-regulation skills after watching sexually arousing videos, resulting in an increase in subsequent risky sexual behavior. We are currently enrolling young adults to take part in a study where they will be asked to engage in two hypothetical decision making tasks, one with monetary choices and one with sexual partner and behavior choices before and after watching sexually arousing video clips. We will be testing the hypothesis that the video clips will induce arousal that will decrease self-regulation skills in such a way that subjects will make more risky sexual decisions after watching the video clips and have a more difficult time delaying gratification with their decisions in the monetary task.

This research will hopefully shed valuable light on the common "heat of the moment" phenomenon that many adolescents cite after engaging in risky sexual behavior, while also providing insight into belief-behavior gaps in young adult decision-

making. This research is also exciting in that it will be the first study to investigate moral identity in the realm of adolescent sexual decision-making and the first to test a risk-resiliency framework using experimental manipulation and physiological data collection.

Simultaneously, as a clinical graduate student, I am also very interested in direct clinical application of my research to adolescents. Therefore, I am collaborating with two pediatricians at Duke, Dr. Richard Chung and Dr. John Moses, to pilot an adolescent health risk screening survey that can be used to facilitate better intervention and prevention communication between primary health care providers and their adolescent patients. In the future, I hope to be able to identify predictors and correlates of risky sexual decision making in adolescents and young adults that can inform ongoing efforts to curtail such behavior and promote the development of more effective individually tailored intervention and prevention initiatives for STDs, HIV, and unplanned pregnancies.

Congratulations, Class of 2012!



On May 11, we celebrated the Class of 2012 with a ceremony and celebration in the East Duke Building. We now have 87 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 Teach for America, Putnam Associates consulting, Karl Storz Endoscopy, the Obama for America campaign, AMIDEAST, and U.S. Senator McConnell's office. Two will begin graduate school at Duke and Cornell. Two have received fellowships to continue researching and practicing their academic passions for an additional year.

This was a class of remarkable 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.

Three individuals were nominated this spring for the fifth annual award.

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

Senior Lillie Carroll was recognized for her work as a Women's Center intern, primarily focused on sexual assault prevention initiatives.

We value the activism, leadership, passion, and commitment to women's issues that Lillie has demonstrated.



Baldwin Scholar Anna Koelsch (R) presents the Unsung Heroine award to Lillie Carroll.

Baldwin Internship Spotlight:

Alana Jackson, Class of 2013



This summer, I am interning with Dance House USA. Dance House USA is a pop-up dance studio and immersion experience that puts student dancers in direct contact with the nation's top choreographers. Participating dancers receive career advice, interact with Broadway and Hollywood casting directors and can receive scholarships to support continued dance education at their home studios and other nationally renowned institutions. Additionally this is an opportunity for students to create original

choreography together with professionals, realize their potential and grow as artists.

It is about access, creating community, and fostering collaboration, helping aspiring dancers realize their dreams are within reach and equipping them to be the best dancers they can be.

Dance House USA was founded by Michael Wudyka, JT Horenstein, and Dani Davis, a Duke alumna who is a Broadway producer and an Emmy Award-winning writer.

As Dance House USA's Managing Intern, I reach out to potential sponsors and am involved with content creation and promotional material. One challenge, since this will be Dance House USA's debut on the world stage, is ensuring that my promotional techniques stay true to the founders' vision of the organization, which I feel is crucial to the success of the project.

I am overjoyed to have been placed at an internship that relates directly to one of my passions. As a rising senior studying how public health and the performing arts intersect, I am committed to advancing the capacity of the creative arts to nourish the soul and enhance wellbeing for individuals and communities. During my past ten years as a dancer and performer, I have been a choir director, showcase choreographer, and songwriter, but none of this would have been possible without individuals who saw the initial spark in me and supported my efforts and development. Although much of my technical training stopped before high school when I became a caregiver, I continue to seek out ways to encourage others through the arts. Being a part of the Dance House vision is an occasion for me to give back. I have the opportunity of a lifetime to take a passion frozen in time and let thaw it out in New York's sizzling heat. Thanks to Dance House, my dedication to furthering my own education in the arts has been revitalized.

When I told Ms. Davis that I feel like a lucky intern, she replied, "No, we're lucky to have you." In a place as new to me as New York, Dance House has become a home to me in many ways, and the most exciting part of the project hasn't even begun. Be on the lookout this fall—Dance House USA may be coming to a venue near you.

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.

Shari Baker, Class of 2010 Baldwin Scholar
Megan Braley, Class of 2008 Baldwin Scholar
Germaine Brewington, parent of Dani Brewington (Class of 2010 Baldwin Scholar)
Merri Estren, Class of 2009 Baldwin Scholar
Leah Hill, Class of 2009 Baldwin Scholar
Wendy Marantz Levine (T'95)
Lucy McKinstry, Class of 2010 Baldwin Scholar
Rachel McLaughlin, Class of 2008 Baldwin Scholar
Meredith Metcalf, Class of 2009 Baldwin Scholar
Oracle Corporation (matching gift)
Swathi Padmanabhan, Class of 2010 Baldwin Scholar
Lisa Richards, Class of 2008 Baldwin Scholar
Meng Zhou, Class of 2008 Baldwin Scholar

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!

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