

Duke University

Welcome

“Say Something”

Most new visitors to West Campus comment on something those of us who work here don't even notice anymore: the oversize benches that dot the residential quad. Every self-respecting Duke student knows their purpose: they are for lounging in nice weather, for expressing pride in one's fraternity or selective house, and for burning in a bonfire to celebrate a big basketball victory. Because selective living groups are disproportionately male, most of these benches have become men's space over the years. Alumnae from the 1980s tell stories about the gauntlet they faced when walking down the quad: men sitting on the benches would hold up numbers from 1 to 10 to rate their attractiveness. That doesn't happen often anymore, fortunately, but building a bench is still a male activity.

When the first class of Baldwin Scholars moved into their section in Crowell Quad, they were determined to change that. They wanted a bench, and they wanted to build it themselves, with no help from male friends. In the fall of 2005 they did just that, securing the lumber from a local home-improvement store, renting the necessary power tools, and then devoting a day to building it. The bench differs from the norm in several ways: it has a large crown on the back (cut out with a jigsaw), it is painted bright red with a black B, and it has the phrase “say something” painted across the front. Our



Bench building – Fall 2005

class of 2008 Baldwin Scholars (now juniors) adopted that phrase as their unofficial motto, a reminder to themselves to speak out and not to accept the status quo.

As the program has grown from the initial 18 to its present size of 54 women, there have been many opportunities to “say something,” some taken and some not. The Baldwin Scholars all want to make a difference on campus, and they think and talk a lot about the best ways to do that, both individually and as a group. One great example from this fall is the “Mind the Gap” project. Baldwin Scholars Sasha Stein '09 and Julia Chapman '10 decided to have wristbands made with that phrase engraved on them. They wanted students to think about the gap between their personal values and their behavior. Over one week this term, Sasha, Julia and many other Baldwins distributed the wristbands to any student or employee willing to write a personal pledge about how they wanted

to change their behavior. Some focused on academics, or on personal health, or on social behavior. A construction worker pledged to be a better father. The Baldwin Scholars distributed more than 900 wristbands in all – an excellent way to “say something” and to remind everyone to honor their personal ideals.

Far more challenging for the students – and for all of us – is speaking up as individuals when we hear a peer or a friend say something troubling. I have had numerous conversations with students over the years who tell stories of hearing a racist joke, or a sexist rant, or of walking into a male friend’s room and seeing pornographic images on the wall. How do you say something in that situation, knowing that you may be met with ridicule? Why not just smile and say nothing and wait for the subject to change? Most of us do the latter – but how might the culture change if we were brave enough to say, “I don’t find that funny” or “I think that’s inappropriate”? Everyone at Duke is paying close attention to campus culture at this moment, but it will not change significantly until students get comfortable challenging their peers. We hope the Baldwin Scholars will lead the way in this effort, and are trying to give them the necessary tools to do so through all aspects of the program.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2007. As always, let us know if you will be in the area and come see us. Our Baldwin Scholars are always happy to “say something” to supportive and interested alumnae and friends.

Donna Lisker, Co-Director of the Baldwin Scholars Program

Parents and Family Weekend – October 2006



Odera Umeano '09 (center)
with her mom and sister



Liz Victor '09 with her dad

We planned our second annual reception to meet the parents of the Class of 2009 on October 28, 2006 during the University’s Parents and Family Weekend.

It was a great opportunity for us to meet the people we had heard so much about!

Fundraising Dinner in NYC!



Vanja Vlahovic '08 (left) and Sarah Sham '09 represented the Baldwin Scholars at the dinner.

Dani Berthiaume Davis (T'88) generously offered to host a fundraising dinner for the Baldwin Scholars.

In October, we met 25 influential Duke alumnae and guests at the Harvard Club in Manhattan.

We would like to thank those who attended for their interest in empowering Duke undergraduate women.

We extend an extra special thanks to Dani for her energy and commitment to the Baldwin Scholars program.

We look forward to her campus visit in February!

Mind the Gap

The Baldwin Scholars held an event in September about the “Sex and Scandal at Duke” article that appeared last summer in *Rolling Stone* magazine. We were concerned about the way that undergraduate women were portrayed and how incoming first-year women perceived the message. Approximately 40 first-year women attended the event, which started with a panel discussion with 8 diverse Baldwin Scholars and then proceeded into small group discussions. The “Mind the Gap” project was born in one of those discussions.

The idea was to create a wristband that would remind the wearer of the gap between values and behaviors, a gap that was portrayed clearly in the *Rolling Stone* article.

The pledge reads in part, “This wristband serves as a tangible reminder of your personal commitment to be honest to yourself. By wearing it, you are taking ownership of your actions and helping to increase respect on campus. You are helping to bridge the gap between self-awareness and action.” Nearly 1000 wristbands were distributed in November on the Plaza.

This project was funded by the Baldwin Scholars, Campus Culture Initiative, Women’s Center, Panhellenic Association, and the Freeman Center for Jewish Life.

Class of 2010 Baldwin Scholars profiles

Meet the third class of Baldwin Scholars! This class features students from thirteen U.S. states, Canada, and the Dominican Republic. Academic interests include international law, medicine, biomedical engineering, politics, architecture, and international business. Outside the classroom, the Scholars are involved in varsity volleyball, field hockey, cross-country, Duke Chorale, Duke Student Government, Black Student Alliance, community service, lampworking, Tae Kwon Do, club sports, and *The Chronicle*.

Shari Baker is from Wheaton, Maryland. She is interested in public policy, teaching, and child and family issues. She performs with Dance Black and tutors at the Emily Krzyzewski Family Life Center.

Danielle Beckerman, from Cos Cob, Connecticut, was a water polo player and pole-vaulter in high school. She dreams of becoming a photographer for *National Geographic* so she can tell a story through a lens. Danielle is considering Public Policy and Economics majors.

Danielle Brewington hails from Durham, North Carolina and attended the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. She is pre-med and considering a psychology major. She also performs with Dance Black and is thinking of joining the Duke University Equestrian Team.

Julia Chapman, from Spartanburg, South Carolina, is a student in the Pratt School of Engineering. She participated in the Genome Revolution FOCUS program and is pre-med. Julia has already started an initiative on campus for students to “Mind the Gap” between their values and behaviors.

Emily Codik is from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She writes for *The Chronicle* and participates in Mi Gente.

Brianne Connolly is a Pratt engineer from Woodbridge, Virginia. She is focusing on Civil Engineering with a certificate in Architecture. At Duke, she participates in Project Build, club swimming and lacrosse, and Circle K.

Sara Friedman is also a native of Durham, North Carolina. Sara loves sports and plays club basketball at Duke. She has already held an internship at ESPN. Academically, she is interested in English, psychology, and political science.

Brittany Hesbrook, from Santa Fe, New Mexico, attended the United World College international high school in Mexico. The school consists of 200 students, representing 90 countries. At Duke, Brittany participated in the Global Health FOCUS program and practices Tae Kwon Do.

Alden Littlewood, from Metairie, Louisiana, has staffed an arts summer camp as a lampworker. Her academic interests are in biology, English, and art history.

Lucy McKinstry is from Lexington, Kentucky. Lucy took a year off after high school to travel and to have some unique experiences, including community service in Kenya. Following her interest in environmental issues, she participated in the Engineering Frontiers FOCUS program.

Rachael Moss, from Cypress, California, is a varsity volleyball player at Duke and was recently awarded ACC’s Freshman of the Year honors. She is also interested in the Duke Political Union and Bench and Bar organizations.

Clare Murray, from Pelham, New York, was a three-sport athlete in high school. At Duke, she is focusing on her passion for community service through participation in Project Child. Her academic

interests are in history and art history.

Neelima Navuluri, is from Hobbs, New Mexico. Neelima is pre-med and dreams of becoming the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). At Duke, she is involved with Red Cross and Diya, the South Asian cultural group.

Awa Nur is from Fairfax, Virginia but was born in Somalia. She is interested in politics and third world issues and would like to work through the United Nations on problems pertaining to Africa. She is a senator in Duke Student Government (DSG) and is involved in Black Student Alliance (BSA).

Swathi Padmanabhan, from Gahanna, Ohio, participated in the Genome Revolution FOCUS program and is considering a Public Policy major. She is an accomplished violinist and tutors in the Durham public schools.

Brooke Patterson is a varsity field hockey player from Emmaus, Pennsylvania. Her academic interests include sociology, history, and markets and management.

Jessica Tung is from Aurora, Ohio. She is interested in economics and Chinese culture with possible career goals in international business. Jessica is a member of the Students Organization Finance Committee (SOFC) through DSG, Key Club, and the Asian Students Association (ASA).

Kate Van Buskirk, from Ontario, Canada, is a member of Duke's varsity cross-country and track teams. She is interested in women's issues and also sings with the Duke Chorale.

Plans for Spring, 2007...

We have invited Naomi Wolf to give a public lecture at Duke on Tuesday, February 20 as the second annual event of the Jean Fox O'Barr Distinguished Speaker Series. Ms. Wolf is best known as the author of the landmark book, *The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women*.

Special thanks to Laura Ellen Muglia (T'76) for her generous sponsorship of this speaker series.



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.

Margaret Taylor Smith '47

Emily Grey '03

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

Fun photos from Fall semester events...

Jehmu Greene, past president of Rock the Vote and current National Director of Project Vote spoke on campus as part of Campus Life's Election Affection program and Community Service Week.

(left to right) Kelley Akhiemokhali '08, Jehmu Greene, Meng Zhou '08, and Lindsay Bayham '09.



(left to right) Katie Wear '09, Roshen Sethna '09, Merri Estren '09, and Aubrey Bonhivert '09 enjoy front row seats at the Jehmu Greene lecture

Marian Dickinson '09 (right) with her Baldwin mentor Rachel Shack '08 at a social event.



Contact us...

We'd love to hear from you!

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Best wishes for a happy new year!
Donna, Emily, and Colleen