

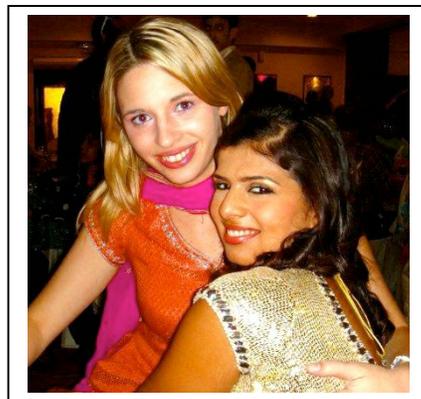
Duke University

Mentoring

Some of my most treasured friendships in college were with women a year or two ahead of me in school. They knew more than I did about which classes to take, which clubs to join, and which parties to attend or avoid, and they shared their knowledge freely and generously. At one time, such friendships across class years were routine at Duke, but the creation of an all-first year East Campus – which builds wonderful unity among classmates – has had the unintended consequence of diminishing such friendships. In the Women's Initiative report of 2003, undergraduate women repeatedly expressed the desire for connections to older female peers outside the sorority system; we therefore made mentoring a priority when we started the Baldwin Scholars.

Since our first class had no older Baldwins to mentor them, we hand-picked a diverse group of upperclass women leaders and dubbed them Giles Mentors (in honor of the Giles sisters, the first women to graduate from Duke's predecessor, Trinity College). In subsequent years, we have carefully assigned each new first-year Baldwin Scholar to one of the sophomores in mentoring pairs. When that first-year becomes a sophomore, she gets a "baby Baldwin" of her own while maintaining her connection to her own mentor, and her mentor's mentor. We took our fourth class of Baldwin Scholars this fall, and now have 18 "families" of four linked across the class years.

Colleen Scott and I typically make the mentoring matches shortly after we've completed Baldwin selection, and we look forward to that day each year. By then we know the sophomores well,



Vanja Vlahovic '08 (left) and Sarah Sham '09

and it's fun to imagine them in relationship with our new first-years. Sometimes we go for the obvious matches – we pair Pratt students, for example, to lessen their isolation as women in engineering – but other times we bring together women with shared interpersonal styles or eccentric interests. Each year we've had a pair we privately think of as the "two most likely to be bailed out of jail," because we know they'll have such fun together (though, thankfully, no one has yet required that particular intervention!). Sometimes a pair will have little in common on the surface, but we think they will be good for one another because they see the world differently.

Most of our pairings work well and a gratifying number are spectacular, with both students telling us that we made the perfect connection. A few have not clicked, though usually the students find other Baldwins they feel more connected to. Let me give a favorite example: in the fall of 2006, Dani Davis '88 kindly offered to host a fundraising dinner for us in New York City. We took two Scholars with us as speakers: Vanja Vlahovic '08 and Sarah Sham '09. Vanja and Sarah were not a

mentor/mentee pair and had only met once or twice, but they share avid interests in art and travel and the connection between them was instantaneous. By the end of the trip they were fast friends, by the end of the week they were talking and text-messaging daily, and seven months later Vanja traveled to Mumbai for Sarah's sister's wedding.

When these connections become deep personal friendships, the kind that sustain so many women throughout their lives, we know we have given our Scholars something priceless. Nothing makes us happier than to hear Baldwins tell us that they went to their mentor or mentee (or grand-mentor or grand-mentee; the language gets very complicated!) for advice, especially because these relationships might never have existed outside the program. But they also go beyond the purely personal. Vanja completed her Baldwin internship this past summer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, an internship Sarah now plans to seek for summer 2008 because Vanja's experience was so wonderful.

Though Vanja worked in many aspects of the museum's operation, her principal sponsor was Thayer Tolles, Associate Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture – who was a class ahead of me at Williams College and is one of the treasured friends I mentioned at the beginning of this piece. I met Thayer when we were 18 and 19 respectively; we shared a hotel room on our spring training trip for rowing. I was a green freshman and she seemed impossibly sophisticated to me. Who would have predicted that 20 years later we would not only still be friends, but she would mentor one of my students?

We want our Scholars to absorb this lesson. Their Baldwin friends, mentors and mentees will be a valued part of their lives even across distance and changing circumstances. Not only should they stay connected to them, but they should make a practice of "reaching back" to help younger women in their chosen careers. We want to encourage their instincts to be generous with their time and their advice, and we especially want them to see other women not as competitors but as allies and friends. They may not refer to their subsequent mentors as "Grandmama" – as Brittany Hesbrook '10 calls Anita Pai '08, usually in ringing tones across the quad, to the surprise of those around her – but they will have made mentoring a habit due to the training and support they received in the Baldwin Scholars.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2008. We look forward to seeing many of you at our mother/daughter weekend on April 11-13 or at our first Baldwin graduation on Friday May 9.

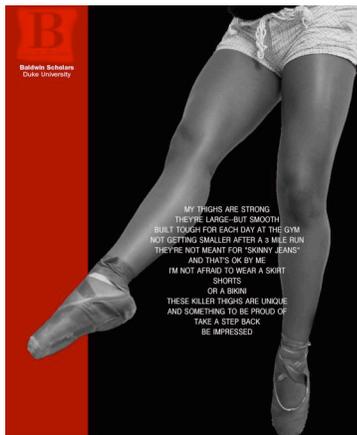
Donna Lisker, Co-Director of the Baldwin Scholars Program

The Baldwin Body Image Poster Campaign

Last April, the Baldwin Scholars brainstormed several projects that would positively impact the Duke community. One idea was a body image poster campaign, similar to the recent Nike ads, where women proudly display body parts. Inspired poems were quickly written about thighs, stomachs, arms, and abs. The first installment, featuring thighs, will be seen across campus in January. The poem, written by Liz Victor, Class of 2009, and poster photos are featured below.

Special thanks to Baldwin Scholars Odera Umeano, Meredith Metcalf, Tyla Fowler, and Danielle Brewington for their initiative in getting this idea off the ground.

My thighs are strong
They're large but smooth
Built tough for each day at the gym
Not getting smaller after a 3 mile run
They're not meant for "skinny jeans"
And that's OK by me
I'm not afraid to wear a skirt
Shorts
Or a bikini
These killer thighs are unique
And something to be proud of
Take a step back and be impressed



Class of 2011 Baldwin Scholars profiles

Meet the fourth class of Baldwin Scholars, Class of 2011. This class features students from twelve U.S. states, with a few born in foreign countries. Academic interests include electrical engineering, human rights, genetics, political science, writing, art and art history. Outside the classroom, the Scholars are involved in varsity lacrosse, Chapel Choir, Project Child, chemistry research, dance, and radio.

Cassi Carley hails from Sewickley, Pennsylvania and plays lacrosse at Duke. She is interested in film, politics, and medicine. In addition to being a 3-sport athlete in high school, Cassi was involved in dance and gymnastics.

Rui Dong is a student in the Pratt School of Engineering, majoring in biomedical engineering. She moved from China to Solon, Ohio when she was five years old. Rui is a pianist and also sings with Duke's Chapel Choir.

Corinne Horn, a native of St. Charles, Illinois, is also a Pratt student, considering majors in mechanical and electrical/computer engineering. Corinne participated in the Project WILD pre-orientation program and is a member of the Healthy Devils peer education group. Corinne has also distinguished herself as a US Rubik's Cube champion!

Kathryn Hutchins, from Jamestown, North Carolina, is pre-med and is working towards EMT certification. She is considering a Classical Studies major and a study abroad experience in Sicily. Kathryn is an active member of the Native American Student Association.

Ryan Ingram is from Cohasset, Massachusetts. Ryan was a competitive gymnast for thirteen years. At Duke, she is involved with the Community Service Center and the WISER project for building secondary schools for girls in Kenya.

Morgan Kearse is from Durham, North Carolina, and attended the North Carolina School for Science and Math. She is pre-med and interested in genetics and breast cancer research. Morgan participated in the intense Common Ground retreat, sponsored by Duke's Center for Race Relations.

Brooke Kingsland, from Scituate, Massachusetts, spent her junior year of high school abroad in Italy. She is interested in Art History, Markets and Management, and Psychology.

Elizabeth KonKolics grew up on a horse farm in Parkton, Maryland. At Duke, she is involved with Best Buddies, house council, and East Campus Council.

Ji-Hyeun Kwon moved from South Korea to Burke, Virginia in the sixth grade. She is passionate about human rights and hopes to have a career with the United Nations.

Rosa La Cerva is from Santa Fe, New Mexico. She took a gap year after high school to work and travel. On campus, she participated in the Humanitarian Challenges Focus program and is involved with Amnesty International and the Buddhist community. Rosa is also writing her memoir!

Chantel Liggett, from Riverdale, Illinois, is interested in creating a Program II course of study in human sexuality. She is active in WISER and Dance Black.

Amanda Morrall is from Kansas City, Missouri. In high school, she provided radio commentary at sports events. At Duke, Amanda has gotten involved at WXDU radio, Black Student Alliance and house council.

Snayha Nath, from Cary, North Carolina, also participated in the Project WILD pre-orientation program. She is interested in chemistry research and is a first-year representative to the Community Service Center.

Menaka Nayar grew up in Oman and went to high school in Richmond, Virginia. Academically, she is interested in international economic development. Menaka participated in the Visions of Freedom Focus program and she dances with DefMo.

Maya Robinson, from Bethel, Vermont, spent her junior year in India. She is a photographer and co-founded a non-profit organization called Change the World Kids.

Morgan Sheppard hails from La Canada, California. She is active with Project Child and the Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship. Academically, she has an emerging interest in Africa.

Michelle Sohn is from a military family that currently resides in Monterey, California. She has continued her interest in high school debate and participates in Duke's mock trial and moot court organizations. Michelle is also an avid golfer.

Allie Speidel is from Manlius, New York and is a varsity swimmer at Duke. She is a Biomedical Engineering major in the Pratt School and is pre-med. Allie's interest in art gives her an innovative edge in engineering.

Feminist Majority Foundation Conference



Three Baldwin Scholars attended the "From Campus to Congress: Women of Color Creating Change" conference in Greensboro, NC in September.

(left to right): FMF President Eleanor Smeal, Andrea Dinamarco '08, Kelley Akhiemokhali '08, Sharon Obialo, Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun, and Shari Baker '10

Opting Out?

Dr. Pamela Stone, Duke alum, sociologist and professor at Hunter College, came to Duke in October to talk about her research and her new book, *Opting Out? Why Women Really Quit Careers and Head Home*.

Approximately 50 undergraduate women attended her lecture and participated in small group discussions. The event was designed to introduce Baldwin Scholar applicants to the women in the program and to the issues we find important.



Plans for Spring, 2008...

We have invited Helen Thomas to give a public lecture at Duke on Tuesday, February 5 as the third annual event of the Jean Fox O'Barr Distinguished Speaker Series. Ms. Thomas is a legendary journalist and was a member of the White House Press Corps for 57 years.

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
Bonnie Corwin '82

Emily Grey '03
Barbara Washburn '64

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.

Contact us...

We'd love to hear from you!

phone: 919/684-6579

e-mail: baldwinscholars@duke.edu

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