

February 18, 1997

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Duke University Board of Trustees

From: Nannerl O. Keohane

Subject: Summary of Activities

I am pleased to share with you this report on some of the honors, activities, and events involving Duke faculty, students, staff, and alumni since the Board's meeting in December. My brief oral comments at our meeting will focus on just a few issues of particular interest. Of course, if you have questions about any of these items, please give me a call or raise them during my presentation at the Board meeting.

GIFTS

I am most pleased to report that The Duke Endowment has given the university a special challenge award of \$4 million. The gift is part of a generous package of special year-end grants to the university totaling \$8.15 million. The challenge grant will match two-to-one all gifts received by Duke for several high priorities over the next three years. It provides \$3 million for endowment for the Benjamin N. Duke scholarship program, which, as you know, offers both merit and need-based awards for outstanding students from North and South Carolina. The Duke Endowment challenge also provides \$500,000 for endowment for the Angier B. Duke scholarship program, and \$500,000 toward construction of a proposed lecture hall on East Campus.

We are delighted that The Duke Endowment is helping boost Duke's endowment for scholarship funds, since providing financial aid support for needy and meritorious students is among the university's highest priorities. We are confident that the funds will serve as a catalyst to attract new scholarship support from alumni, parents, and friends who share our belief that outstanding students from the Carolinas and around the world should be able to choose and afford a Duke education.

We also have splendid news from the National Science Foundation. Duke is one of ten universities selected to receive a \$500,000 grant to recognize innovation and achievement in our undergraduate program. In awarding this grant, the NSF cited Duke for integrating research and education into all aspects of university life -- from developing discovery-based courses and encouraging transfer of cognitive research results into classroom practices, to introducing graduate students to effective teaching methods under our Preparing Future Faculty Program. The NSF praised the Levine Science Research Center as a model facility for integrating teaching and research, and acknowledged Duke's leadership in incorporating teaching effectiveness in faculty salary, promotion and tenure decisions. We also were singled out for enhancements to Duke's campus networking that provide access to Web-based courses and linkages to faculty research.

This grant will be used across a spectrum of programs designed to link education and research by expanding teaching fellowships awarded to postdoctoral researchers, who will be the faculty of the future. The idea is to share the fellowships between science and engineering departments and our Center for Teaching and Learning, with the fellows serving as a bridge between faculty research and undergraduates. We also plan to develop new approaches to the use of computer-based technology and to create new courses in both the freshman and senior years -- the beginning and end of an undergraduate's career -- which will incorporate research experiences into undergraduate classrooms. Workshops and a national conference on teaching and research will also be part of this program.

This grant is a tribute to efforts by our faculty, the deans of the undergraduate colleges, and many others, to ensure that Duke undergraduate students have a rich array of opportunities to participate in the discovery and creation of new knowledge. We are especially grateful to Dick White, Charles Putman, and members of their staffs, for the preparation of the grant proposal.

RESEARCH

Several members of our faculty have received national and international recognition for significant research accomplishments in recent months.

Associate Professor Andrea Bertozzi, who joined Duke's department of mathematics this fall (and received tenure at age 29), was awarded a prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers during a White House ceremony last month. Bertozzi's award is "the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers," according to the National Science and Technology Council. The presidential awards recognize leading young scientists and engineers who, while early in their research careers, show "exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the 21st century." Bertozzi had previously won an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award that is providing her with \$100,000 a year for three years to advance her research in areas of applied mathematics.

In a tribute to Duke researchers working in older fields, paleontologists Elwyn Simons and Prithijit Chatrath were among eight foreign scientists honored with the Centennial Award for Achievement by the Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining Authority. The award acknowledges decades of research expeditions in which Simons, Chatrath, and their colleagues have collected more than 40,000 fossils in Egypt's Fayum desert. The fossil discoveries have made the Duke University Primate Center's fossil collection the most comprehensive collection of Old World primate fossils in the country, and the largest outside Africa. Simons is a James B. Duke professor in the department of biological anthropology and anatomy and scientific director of the Primate Center, and Chatrath is curator of the Primate Center fossil collections. The National Science Foundation is a principal source of support for the Primate Center.

In a widely publicized study funded by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, cardiologists at the Duke Clinical Research Institute found that elderly patients treated in a hospital for a heart attack were 12 percent less likely to die from the ailment if their doctor was a cardiologist rather than a primary care physician. Dr. James Jollis in the School of Medicine notes the findings have wide implications in view of the current managed care strategies to limit patients' access to specialists. Another project funded by the same Agency compared managed care practices on two continents. Researchers at Duke's Center for Health Policy Research and Education found that patients at high risk for stroke are much more likely to be referred to advanced diagnostic procedures and/or treated aggressively with anticoagulant drugs in America than in the United Kingdom. Dr. Larry Goldstein, associate professor of neurology, says comparisons such as this could have implications for how physicians in both countries treat their patients. These studies indicate the importance of paying close attention to patient outcomes.

Two young researchers, Marie Lynn Miranda and Brack Hale, reported at a conference in Stockholm that waste-to-energy plants, which produce electricity and steam as they burn solid refuse, are competitive alternatives for waste disposal only where economic and environmental considerations discourage landfills. Miranda is a Nicholas School assistant professor of the practice of environmental policy, and Hale recently graduated from the Nicholas School with a master's degree in water and air resources management. Their research has implications for municipal planners and is a good example of the ways in which the Nicholas School integrates science and public policy considerations in environmental issues.

Much of the research mentioned above has resulted from federal support, but Duke also is a leader in establishing productive research partnerships with corporations. A good example of the mutually beneficial effect of these relationships was announced last month. Summit Medical Systems Inc. of Minneapolis will provide \$2 million to endow a professorship in cardiology and a fellowship in information technologies at Duke University Medical Center. This gift is part of a buyout of a joint venture between Summit and the Medical Center. The professorship will be named the Donald F. Fortin Professorship, in honor of Fortin, a former assistant professor of cardiology at Duke, who left to form Cordillera L.L.C., the Duke-Summit joint venture company. These newly endowed academic positions promise to help Duke enhance its excellence in cardiology and medical information technologies. And, in turn, the products of this excellence will be new discoveries that can be commercialized to the benefit of industry and society.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

The implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement three years ago signified the increasing importance of Canada and Mexico to the United States as trading partners and neighbors, and highlighted interrelationships between and among the three countries that go well beyond economics. To study those relationships, Duke has established a North American Studies Center that focuses on Mexico, the United States, and Canada as a region. It is, as far as we know, the only center of its kind that looks broadly at the entire continent of North America.

Frederick Mayer, a professor of public policy studies in the Sanford Institute and the new center's director, says the Center should help to build a community of scholars interested in the broader issues raised by NAFTA. Mayer worked on the staff of former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley during the year NAFTA was debated in the Senate. John Thompson, director of the Canadian Studies Program at Duke, is an associate director of the new center, along with Gustavo Vega-Canovas, a professor at the Center for International Studies at El Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City.

Economic issues in another part of the world were the subject of a two-day conference last month organized by The Center for International Development Research at Duke's Sanford Institute of Public Policy, and by the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies. The meeting focused on tax reform in Russia and its implications for American businesses and investors. About 70 corporate executives, attorneys, academics, accountants, bankers and economists from across the United States attended along with a number of international participants. The keynote speaker was Alexander Pochinok, chairman of his government's Subcommittee on Budget and Taxation and one of the principal authors of Russia's recent tax legislation.

Terry Sanford likes to say, somewhat facetiously, that he became interested in aging when aging became interested in him. The truth of the matter is that Sanford's curiosity about the aging process began when he was president of Duke from 1970 to 1985. Duke has long been involved in many aging-related research projects, and Sanford felt it important to stay abreast of the work being done on campus. His curiosity for the subject continued while, as U.S. senator for North Carolina from 1986-1992, he served on the U.S. Senate Committee on Aging. Sanford's years of reading and learning about aging has culminated with the recent publication of his latest book, *Outlive Your Enemies*. The reader is introduced to a host of issues and ideas that affect older adults, including nutrition, exercise, vitamins, the need for regular doctor visits, and the causes and preventions for many illnesses. In writing the book, Sanford drew on the expertise of 100 works of research, yet -- not surprisingly -- managed to keep the dialogue lively as well as informative. I commend it to all people who think they might grow old someday!

Duke Divinity School professor and noted New Testament scholar Richard Hays offers a new approach to seeking ethical guidance in the scriptures in *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*. It may surprise politicians and activists who quote liberally from Biblical scriptures to support their views on controversial ethical issues to learn that many of those hot topics are not addressed specifically in the Bible. But Hays says that doesn't mean people who obviously are "appealing to the Bible" for answers to questions of contemporary ethics can't find some guidance from within its pages.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Actor and civil rights activist Ossie Davis kicked off a week-long commemoration at the university in January

of the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Davis was the keynote speaker at a service in the Chapel on Jan. 19; he told a full house that while the political battle led by the slain civil rights leader has seen much success, his dream of economic freedom for all has not fared as well. In a thought-provoking address, Davis said American society is heading on a path of division, not by race, but by increasing the disparities of wealth between the haves and the have nots.

The service, which welcomed many people from Durham and surrounding neighborhoods as well as from our campus, was one of the highlights of a number of events at Duke marking Rev. King's life and work. An innovation this year in the Martin Luther King Jr. programming was a series of lunchtime brown bag discussions. These luncheon seminars involved a cross section of faculty and provoked active discussion among the participating faculty, staff, and students on a series of racial and cultural issues. Among those leading the discussions were Lee Baker, assistant professor of cultural anthropology, who spoke on "What is Race?"; English professor Karla Holloway and Kenan Ethics Program Director Elizabeth Kiss, in a conversation about the ethics of race and why people remain silent in the face of racial prejudice; and historian Robert Durden, who spoke about Duke and the South. Students also led a stimulating panel discussion on racial issues at Duke. Special thanks goes to a committee led by C.T. Woods-Powell in the Office of Institutional Equity, and Linda Capers in the Office of Intercultural Affairs, for doing an excellent job in planning this year's program.

A wonderful new book by two Duke graduates is sending schoolchildren across the state on a literary trip to 25 countries and an imaginary world of Xanadu. Children from Australia to Zimbabwe was written by Maya Ajmera and Anna Rhesa Versola and self-published by Shakti for Children, a non-profit Durham organization started by Ajmera that focuses on children's issues and fosters global citizenship and understanding through the arts and media worldwide. The authors say they created the book to teach elementary school children about children in other parts of the world. We have purchased some of these books for distribution to Durham's West End Community Center, one of the target communities in our neighborhood initiative discussed by John Burness at our December meeting. Our new university librarian, David Ferriero, presented the books in a ceremony earlier this month at the Center.

In another development involving the West End Community Center, Duke's Office of Information Technology has donated eight computers, networking, and software to support the Center's after-school programs. Center director, Ronnie McCoy, has praised Duke for this "improvement to our after-school programs for neighborhood kids, many of whose parents work at Duke."

I am also pleased to report a community partnership that addresses the need for enhanced child care services. The university and the YMCA of Greater Durham are nearing agreement to relocate the child care services provided at the current Children's Campus to the new YMCA Early Learning Center under construction in downtown Durham. The partnership will expand child care and family support services available to Duke employees and to the larger Durham community. The Children's Campus currently serves 70 children of Duke faculty and staff, and we annually have a waiting list of employees of several hundred days. The new YMCA program can accommodate 200 children. Of these 200 openings, 120 will be reserved for Duke children, a 71

percent increase from the number of children currently served at the Children's Campus. Duke employees also can apply for the other 80 slots at the Y. The partnership with the Y follows the recommendation by a faculty and administrative committee that called on Duke to expand the child care and related services we offer our employees, and urged the university to consider partnerships with other agencies who share similar objectives. The YMCA program will be led by Children's Campus Director Karenne Berry Mills. The Children's Campus staff also will transfer to the YMCA and the Y also has adopted the Children's Campus philosophy and curriculum. The much-anticipated move is scheduled to take place this summer.

APPOINTMENTS

President Clinton has appointed Norm Christensen, dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment, to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, a high-level panel that makes recommendations about the safe disposal of nuclear waste. The major task facing members of the board will be to evaluate the scientific and technical validity of the Energy Department's site characterization work at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada. In 1998 the DOE intends to assess the viability of the site as a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste. Norm has kept up an active research program during his years as dean, concentrating on the effects of natural and human-caused disturbance on ecosystem structure and process.

Dean William Chafe has invited Professor Jim Siedow to become dean of faculty development for arts and sciences, and Professor Robert Thompson to become dean of undergraduate affairs for arts and sciences. This is part of a reorganization of the Arts and Sciences administration that will take place when Trinity College dean Richard White steps down from that position this summer. As part of the reorganization, Chafe also will assume the title of dean of Trinity College. In creating the new positions, Chafe has focused on integrating issues of faculty development and undergraduate education. This fits well with the university's goals of building upon the growing national reputation of the faculty and at the same time enhancing the undergraduate experience. Siedow, a professor of botany, is well known to the Trustees from his service as the immediate past chair of the Academic Council. Thompson is a medical psychologist who has been involved in undergraduate education for a long time, most recently as co-chair of the Faculty Associates Program. It is a mark of the exceptional environment Duke provides for faculty to cross intellectual and departmental boundaries that Thompson, whose principal appointment is in the Medical Center, will be serving as dean of undergraduate affairs in Arts and Sciences.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Two years ago, federal support for education and research programs of vital importance to our students and faculty were in considerable jeopardy. Fortunately, as a result of intensive education and information efforts by leaders in higher education, the business community, and organizations such as The Science Coalition and the Alliance to Save Financial Aid, the Congress and the Administration have shifted their focus to discussions of prudent investment in education and research as the keys to the long-term strength of the nation. I am encouraged by the degree to which President Clinton is using his bully pulpit to assert the national priority for

education at all levels. The President's statements about research and its importance to the nation's future are also encouraging, although his budget projections are somewhat lower than we had hoped.

At the same time, Republican leaders, particularly in the Senate, are calling for a significant national investment in research -- Senators Gramm, Hutchison, and Mack have proposed a doubling of federal non-military research funding over the next five years. Senator Specter has proposed a doubling of the NIH budget, and Senate Majority Leader Lott has endorsed significant increases in the civilian-based research programs in the Department of Defense. In the House, Congressman John Porter, chairman of the subcommittee with responsibilities for the budgets of a number of education programs and the NIH, is talking about FY98 increases of about 9 percent for the National Institutes of Health. While the President's budget proposes a 2.6 percent increase for NIH, there is widespread belief in Washington that the final NIH number, the principal research agency that supports the work of Duke faculty, will be closer to the 9 percent level proposed by the Republicans.

On the financial aid front, both the President and congressional leaders have put forward bills with significant tax incentives for increased savings for college, including reinstatement of the deductibility of loans for students and their families; and for increasing or making permanent beneficial tax provisions for employees who receive support for their employers to pursue additional education, as well as expansion of both the Pell Grant (Clinton's budget calls for a most welcome 29 percent increase in Pell Grant funds) and work-study programs.

John Burness, Paul Vick, and I visited Washington a few days after the President submitted his budget, and met with members of our North Carolina delegation and a number of Senate and House leaders who have responsibility for decisions on budgets and programs affecting colleges and universities. I was encouraged by these discussions and the increasing recognition of the importance of both research and education to the long-term health of the nation.

At the same time, it is apparent that the need to achieve budget targets by 2002 creates real problems for securing funding for research in a number of agencies such as NSF, DOD, and DOE that provide important support for our faculty researchers. The Administration's budget calls for increases at a level less than inflation for several of these agencies, which have been hit by several years of cuts in real dollar support. Securing significant increases will probably be difficult. Similarly, proposals to reduce Medicare outlays have serious potential implications for funding medical education, an issue I discussed with several of the Washington leaders with whom I met.

CONCLUSION

On all these fronts, and many more, Duke is a vibrant and active place these days. We hope that you have been able to keep track of many of the exciting events, accomplishments and challenges through the Dialogue, the

Chronicle, and Duke Magazine. We also encourage you to visit the campus whenever you have an opportunity - don't confine your time with us to the relatively formal, and very full, days of the Trustee meetings. You are always welcome, and we are eager to have you share with us directly more of the activities that make Duke the special place it is.

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