



February 11, 2002

MEMORANDUM

**DUKE
UNIVERSITY**

To: Members of the Duke University Board of Trustees

From: Nannerl O. Keohane

Subject: Summary of Activities

I am pleased to provide this summary of activities since our December meeting.

Four Rhodes Scholars

I begin my report with an update on some news you had previously received - that four Duke students have received Rhodes Scholarship. The Rhodes Scholars include three undergraduates - **Alexis Blane, Pavan Cheruvu and Samuel Malone** - and **Christian Campbell**, a third year graduate student from the Bahamas who is studying Caribbean poetry and literature through the Department of English. This is Duke's highest number of Rhodes Scholars ever in one year - the previous high was two. The Rhodes Fellowship program does not keep records on an institution-by-institution basis, but a review of its website reveals that since 1996 (the earliest year available) Duke is one of only two universities (Harvard is the other) to have had as many as four Rhodes Scholars in a single year.

This is quite an achievement for the university, and, more specifically, for our A.B. Duke Scholarship Program. All three undergraduates are A.B. Duke Scholars, which means they were identified in our admissions process as having not only great intellectual promise and ambition; clearly, their intellectual passion and personal growth have been effectively fostered during their four years here.

Over the past several years Duke, the administration and the faculty, with the Trustees' strong support, have taken a number of significant steps to enrich the intellectual climate we offer undergraduates. Duke is encouraging all students, not just those in our scholars programs, to pursue their intellectual interests more ardently. Opportunities presented in our well-known FOCUS program - where freshmen work with senior faculty members on interdisciplinary studies - and in Curriculum 2000 - which provides greater rigor and increased opportunities for undergraduate research and independent study for all students - are bearing fruit.

As professor of English **Melissa Malouf**, faculty director of the A.B. Duke Scholarship Program, notes: "The A.B. Dukes would be the first to tell you that such people are all around the Duke campus - some of them merit scholars, many of them not - in small but forceful numbers. And growing." Faculty Scholar Chair **Ben Ward**, a member of the A.B. Duke selection committee and associate dean for student development adds, "One thing that is true here that can't be said enough is that there is a range of opportunity to do individual work, whether it is writing, lab work, or other studies. This is strongly encouraged by the faculty. And when faculty members find a student with promise, they go to great lengths to make themselves available to the student. That is taken very seriously. It is part of the culture here."

While Provost **Peter Lange**, Deans **Bill Chafe, Kristina Johnson, and Bob Thompson**, and Vice President **Larry Moneta** are working with faculty and student leaders on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of the educational experience we offer undergraduates, both inside and outside the classroom, it is important to step back when our students have the kind of success this year's Rhodes Scholars have had, to remind ourselves that we are making progress in our efforts to offer a singular undergraduate experience.

Admissions

If our application figures are any indication, this trend toward increasing intellectual excitement should continue. Director of Undergraduate Admissions **Christoph Guttentag** reports a record number of high school seniors applied to Duke under both our Early Decision program and regular admission process this year. Duke fills about one third of each incoming class with Early Decision applicants, and the size of this year's applicant pool - a 22 percent increase over last year - enabled the university to admit a group of outstanding students while reserving the usual number of places for regular applicants. Guttentag said there may be several reasons why Duke attracted nearly 300 more early applicants this year, including more effective recruiting and the fact that more students are becoming savvy about the early admission process. Because acceptance rates are higher in December than in the spring, many students who are really committed to Duke try to increase their chances by applying early.

Other leading colleges and universities report a similar trend. While some fill 40 percent or more of their incoming class with early admits, Duke purposefully limits its early admits to 30 to 33 percent of the incoming class of 1,600 because the Early Decision applicant pool is generally less diverse in several important respects, and we want to make sure we have the maximum flexibility in choosing the class that's best for Duke. I will be doing an "Under the Gargoyle" column in the next issue of *Duke Magazine* on this whole issue of Early Admissions, which has been much in the news recently.

As for regular admissions, the admissions office has received more than 15,500 applications - surpassing the previous record of 15,120 in 1987 - with significant increases in a number of groups we had targeted for special attention. We have seen a 21 percent increase in the number of applicants from both North and South Carolina, as well as a 25 percent increase in the number of foreign applicants, no doubt reflecting the fact that for the first time, Duke is offering financial aid to students who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

For the fifth consecutive year, Duke received a record number of applications from members of underrepresented minority groups, including a 12 percent increase among African American students, a 47 percent jump among Native American students, a 6 percent increase in Asian and Asian American applicants, and a 3 percent increase in Hispanic applications. We are most pleased by this latest evidence that word is spreading among strong minority applicants that Duke values diversity and provides a welcoming learning environment. Last year, students of color made up 33 percent of the incoming class. It will be a month or so before all the applications are read, but early indications are that this is the strongest applicant pool that we have yet experienced.

Concerns

Once students have arrived at Duke, we want to assure that they have a fulfilling and secure educational experience. Security has been especially on our minds in recent months.

Duke Police are investigating the report of a sexual assault on a first-year student in Randolph Residence Hall on East Campus late last month, as well as two other incidents - a reported robbery attempt in the Duke Gardens, and an assault on a female student in Perkins Library. While details about the assailants make clear that these incidents are unrelated, they have contributed to a climate of fear for many of our students and their parents. Duke Police have added an additional night patrol team and have offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to a conviction in the Randolph case.

Duke Police are reviewing possible lighting changes on campus. They've also increased patrols of all the East Campus dorms, and checked all exterior dorm doors to make sure they are functioning properly. Several students have taken advantage of the services provided by our Counseling and Psychological Services program,

and when students asked for self-defense classes, we quickly arranged for those to take place. Chief **Clarence Birkhead** and his staff have held a number of sessions for students to go over safety precautions, emphasizing the importance of students' taking appropriate precautions at all times. While we truly believe Duke is a safe campus, we recognize how important it is to deal aggressively with safety concerns. I anticipate that Larry Moneta will discuss safety issues with the Student Affairs Committee at our February meeting.

Graduate School

I know that the Student Affairs Committee will devote a good deal of that meeting to graduate student life issues. At our December meeting, Dean **Lew Siegel** reviewed with the Trustees the challenges and opportunities facing the Graduate School. Siegel reports that one of the exciting initiatives now underway is our participation, along with other leading universities, in the Woodrow Wilson Responsive Ph.D. Initiative. The Graduate School is in the process of creating four divisional roundtables consisting of approximately twelve members selected from directors of Graduate Studies, individual members of the graduate faculty, graduate student representatives, and all members of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty. All doctoral-granting programs and departments are represented on these four roundtables which are focusing on a range of issues facing graduate education. Among the questions each roundtable is being asked to address are:

1. What kinds of information should be made available to all doctoral students and faculty? How should such information be made public and accessible? How can graduate departments/programs and the Graduate School assume more active roles in gathering and disseminating this information?
2. How can graduate departments/programs and the Graduate School adjust teaching assignments to ensure every doctoral student has appropriate pedagogical training? What new models of instruction (e.g., teaching collectives) and technological opportunities will best serve the needs of Duke Ph.D. students? How can we develop opportunities for teaching experiences in diverse settings? How can this kind of instruction/experience be best tailored for students who are unlikely to pursue teaching careers? More specifically, how can the idea of "teaching" be broadened to include presentation of research findings and materials in such a way as to enhance rather than detract from student research efforts in the laboratory sciences? How can we deploy the intellectual resources of our graduate students more effectively?
3. What can we do to provide more robust mentoring for doctoral students? Are there particular ways we can broaden the institutional and extra-institutional resources for student mentoring? What are the special mentoring needs of minority and international doctoral students, and what local/national resources might be available to help address those needs?

Members of the individual roundtables have been charged to carry the discussion of these issues back to their home departments, so that the conversations may be informed by the particular perspectives of individual graduate programs. Reports from each roundtable are expected to articulate the perceived nature of the problems and/or opportunities, and to suggest possible future actions.

Roundtable plans will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty later this spring and, over the summer 2002, a tentative action plan will be submitted to the Graduate School.

We also have good news from the Graduate School on the admissions front. Applications to the Graduate School have risen dramatically from those of the past year, perhaps adding some weight to the theory that graduate applications rise as general economic health declines. We expect to have more than 6,500 applications for the 2002-03 academic year, about 1,000 more than we had for the 2001-02 academic year (an increase of 18 percent). In fact, this increase brings the current applicant pool close to the record 6,700 levels in 1995, an impressive recovery from the low of 5,500 applications in 1999. Of particular note is the increase in the number of Ph.D. applications. Siegel estimates we will receive around 5,750 doctoral applicants, 1,000 more than a year ago, a 21 percent increase.

Among our Ph.D. programs, increases have been particularly dramatic in the Fuqua School of Business (which, at nearly 500 applications, has the largest applicant pool of any doctoral program, up 60 percent this year). We presume this increase reflects the growing distinction of the Fuqua School, as well as the excellent records of both high selectivity and exceptional placement of graduates. Other substantial increases have been seen in the humanities and engineering (up 30 percent this year). The increase in the humanities is notable in part because it represents the reversal of a continuing decline in application numbers which began in the early 1990s and lasted through last year. The overall numbers in the humanities rose from 646 last year to 848 this year. The number of applications to engineering programs this year is at a record high, with 50 percent increases in biomedical and electrical and computer engineering. For the social and natural sciences within Arts and Sciences, applications have risen approximately 16 percent.

With the Trustees' strong support, Duke has made a great deal of progress in recent years in attracting outstanding African-American students to pursue graduate education. The effort, ably led by Associate Dean **Jackie Looney**, continues to bring impressive results as African-American applications are up by 36 percent. We project that we will have 200 or more applications from African-American students for the first time in five years. Another area where we have seen substantial growth in applications is among U.S. citizens. The 3,100 applications from U.S. citizens is some 500 more than last year, and the first real increase since 1995.

Appointments

We are pleased that **Tracy Futhey**, vice provost and chief information officer at Carnegie Mellon University, will come on board next month as vice president for information technology, succeeding Betty Leydon, who left last year for a similar post at Princeton. As Duke's senior officer for information technology, Futhey will lead computing and network technology initiatives that support the university's academic and research missions, a major priority of the Trustees and in our strategic plan, *Building on Excellence*. She also will lead efforts to use information technology to disseminate knowledge and educational programs across the campus and beyond.

I want to acknowledge the strong leadership of Executive Vice President **Tallman Trask** and sociology professor **Philip Morgan**, who chaired the search committee. Futhey was the unanimous choice from a very strong field of 100 candidates; the committee was especially impressed by her desire to build consensus among units that have diverse needs and concerns. She brings considerable experience and a vision for how technology can infuse the academic enterprise that will, I am confident, strengthen the work of our faculty and students. At Carnegie Mellon, she introduced a number of innovative programs that allow faculty, students, and staff to roam anywhere on campus and have e mail and Internet access from a laptop or handheld computer; a wireless laptop checkout program; a campus-wide scheduling system; and major renovations of computer labs and classroom technology. We look forward to similar innovations at Duke in the years ahead.

Duke alumnus **Timothy Pyatt**, who has directed the nationally recognized Southern Historical Collection at UNC, is returning to campus as the university's new archivist, succeeding **Bill King** who, as you know, was our founding university archivist and, for the last 30 years, served as our institutional memory. Pyatt was selected after a national search chaired by Vice Provost for Academic and Administrative Services **Judith Ruderman**. He comes from a long line of Dukies - his father and brother also have degrees from Duke and the Divinity School, and his great uncle went to Trinity College. Working closely with Vice Provost for Library Affairs **David Ferriero**, Pyatt will lead efforts to develop a comprehensive program to capture digitally archival records, both on paper and electronically, before they are lost or deleted. One resource he will be able to tap is a new \$200,000 endowment created by The Duke Endowment to help Archives' operations. The William E. King Endowment for University Archives was announced at a December reception in honor of King's years of service to Duke.

I am also pleased to inform you that Professor **Mark Newman** has been promoted to chair of the Department of

Anesthesiology in the School of Medicine, following a national search. Newman is perhaps best known for research that has led to the development of strategies that protect the brain from the adverse effects of surgery. In the last decade, the anesthesiology department has risen to the point where it now ranks among the top five nationally in terms of research support from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Newman's appointment is the first of six departmental chair appointments in the School of Medicine that we expect to make over the next several months. Searches are currently underway for chairs in the departments of cell biology, obstetrics and gynecology, neurobiology, surgery, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center. These critical searches are occupying a great deal of Dean **Sandy Williams'** time, as well as that of Chancellor for Health Affairs **Ralph Snyderman**. I expect Dean Williams will review with the Trustees at our February meeting the status of these searches as part of his report on the challenges and opportunities facing the School of Medicine and its ambitious strategic plan to ensure that this crown jewel of Duke's academic program remains at the forefront of medical education and research.

Major University Events

We once again had a rich and full schedule of events to mark the week-long commemoration of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Former NAACP chairwoman, Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of slain civil rights activist Medgar Evers, gave the keynote speech at a Duke Chapel celebration on January 20. This year's celebration focused on the partnership between the university and the Durham community. As **Willie James Jennings**, senior associate dean for academic programs at the Divinity School and chairman of the 2002 King commemoration committee, noted, there have been occasional strains in that relationship, but the endurance of our shared dependence and commitment point us toward a hopeful future.

A similarly optimistic view was voiced by Trustee Emeritus Samuel DuBois Cook, who returned to the campus to give the sermon at a wonderful ceremony for the Duke and Durham communities on East Campus that was organized by Walltown Neighborhood Ministries. Cook, Duke's first African-American faculty member and retired president of Dillard University, was a friend of Dr. King's from their undergraduate days at Morehouse College. Cook said King would be proud of Walltown Neighborhood Ministries' mission to create a community where every person can achieve educational, economic, physical, and spiritual well-being. Walltown Neighborhood Ministries is a program of the Divinity School - with support from The Duke Endowment - and five neighborhood churches (three black and two white), who work with residents and other non-profit organizations to revitalize the predominantly African-American neighborhood north of East Campus. The renovated Baldwin Auditorium was the site for this event, which attracted several hundred community residents and university members.

Other campus activities included a talk by Aaron McGruder, creator of the nationally syndicated and sometimes controversial comic strip "The Boondocks;" several screenings of the documentary "Ties That Bind," which shares the reflections of longtime university employees; panel discussions of "Scholarship and Social Activism" and "The Ethics of Racial Profiling;" and a series of lunchtime discussions concerning racial health disparities. The activities concluded with a candlelight vigil service held in Duke Chapel for all university employees, faculty, and students.

On February 13, Dr. Cook will return to the campus to attend the Cook Society dinner at which Trustee Emeritus Susan King, long-time Durham Technical Community College President Phail Wynn, and the new chancellor of North Carolina Central University, James Ammons, will be honored for their leadership and contributions to improving racial understanding and community at Duke and in Durham.

On February 20, Duke will host an historic event. U.S. Secretary of Education Roderick Paige will be joined by five former secretaries of education to discuss teacher shortages, achievement gaps, school vouchers, standardized testing, and other issues that affect K 12 public education in the United States. This will be the first

time that all six living secretaries of education have participated in such an important discussion. The panel will be moderated by former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., whose national leadership in public education is well known.

This unprecedented event is part of a year-long series of events celebrating 150 years of teacher preparation at Duke. While Duke does not have a school of education, we have a proud history of training teachers. Each year, our Program in Education graduates some 30 Duke students who earn the North Carolina teaching certificate. Our Masters in Teaching program generally awards degrees to 15-20 teachers who return to Duke for graduate work. The Program in Education works closely with the Center for Child and Family Policy in the Sanford Institute, and is playing an important role in training hundreds of Duke students who volunteer to tutor and mentor children in the seven Durham public schools with which Duke partners in the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership Initiative. The Program in Education is ably led by Professor of the Practice **David Malone** who, I am pleased to report, has also agreed to chair the Cook Society next year, succeeding David Ferriero.

We are getting many positive responses to a spring lecture series sponsored by the history department that, according to history professor **Syd Nathans**, "explores the lives of people who played a significant role in shaping the 20th century," including Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Joseph Stalin, Jane Addams, Theodor Herzl, Sigmund Freud, and Mikhail Gorbachev. Among lecturers are several of Duke's leading scholars including **John Hope Franklin, Anne Scott, Bill Chafe, John Richards, Warren Lerner, Lawrence Goodwyn, Martin Miller, Ylana Miller**, and former U.S. Ambassador to South Africa **James Joseph** of the Sanford Institute.

Finally, film scholars and historians from across the Southeast gathered at Duke last month to view rarely seen regional films from the 1930s and '40s. Jointly organized by Duke and UNC, the conference included public film exhibitions, talks by film and cultural historians, and a series of panel discussions about various aspects of Southern moviegoing in the years before World War II, including what transpired in African American communities.

The Campaign for Duke

A highlight of our meeting will be a detailed update by Campaign for Duke Co-Chair Pete Nicholas and Senior Vice President **John Piva**. I know they will have some very exciting news. Although the downturn in the economy and the events of September 11 caused a temporary slowdown in philanthropy, the Campaign for Duke continues to make solid progress, with \$1.7 billion already given or pledged. Particularly notable in recent months has been giving to the medical center, the Pratt School of Engineering, the Divinity School, athletics, and the Nasher Museum of Art. Of course, virtually every part of the university benefitted from the year-end \$13.9 million distribution from The Duke Endowment. We are particularly encouraged that the Duke Annual Fund, which had slowed during the fall, also has shown strong signs of recovery in the past weeks, thanks to the leadership of Trustee and Annual Fund chair John Mack, and the good work of Annual Fund director **Sterly Wilder** and her staff.

In January we had two very successful "Celebrate Duke Dinners" involving hundreds of alumni and friends in Philadelphia and then Dallas; a third dinner is scheduled for Washington, D.C., in March. I was pleased that a number of Trustees and Trustees Emeriti (Gary Melchionni, Nancy and Ray Nasher, Morris Williams, and Board Chair Spike Yoh) were able to be with us at these "Celebrate Duke Dinners." As they can report, the mood was upbeat and the affection for and loyalty to Duke of all participants remain very strong. We are optimistic that with the combination of the exceptional leadership of Pete and Ginny Nicholas and the Campaign Steering Committee, and the strong work of our deans and development staff, the campaign will reach its \$2 billion goal by December 31, 2003.

Duke and the Community

Tallman Trask, Senior Vice President **John Burness**, Director of Community Affairs **Michael Palmer**, and I had a very good meeting last week with Durham's new mayor, Bill Bell. As many Trustees know, Bell served for many years as chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and has a long history of working closely with Duke on issues of importance to our community and to the university. We discussed a wide range of issues including plans for downtown redevelopment, the need to ensure that poorer neighbors adjacent to downtown receive similar attention, regional transportation, and crime. Mayor Bell is very much aware and supportive of the many ways Duke is working with the community, especially through our Neighborhood Partnership Initiative which he helped us launch in 1996.

On the subject of the Neighborhood Partnership Initiative, we are excited that a \$698,000 grant from The Duke Endowment to support programs serving residents of low-income neighborhoods near campus will allow Duke to include health care for the first time in the NPI's programs. Promising Practices, an innovative community health care program, developed by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the School of Nursing, and the Department of Community and Family Medicine, in collaboration with community hospitals and county government, focuses on diseases that disproportionately affect low-wealth communities - hypertension, asthma, and diabetes. Promising Practices will soon be expanded to include the Walltown and West End neighborhoods, two of our key partnership neighborhoods.

The goal is to help teach patients how to better manage their diseases, reducing the need for frequent hospital trips. Program clinicians - including practitioners under physician supervision, a screening coordinator, a health educator, and a nutritionist - deliver health care in patients' homes each day without charge. We are also encouraged that the Department of Community and Family Medicine and the School of Nursing are in discussions about other health care opportunities in these neighborhoods.

The grant, the largest The Duke Endowment's Children and Families Initiative has made, includes continued funding for our affordable housing partner, Community Self-Help, and its housing initiatives in Walltown, as well as teen mentoring and youth programming in the West End. It also helps support a new job-training program sponsored by the Visions of Tomorrow Community Development Center at the St. James Family Life Center in Walltown. This brings to \$1.9 million the amount The Duke Endowment has given to the Neighborhood Partnership Initiative over the past five years. In the news clips with this mailing is a splendid editorial from Durham's *Herald-Sun* praising The Duke Endowment and Duke for the work they are doing to support Durham neighborhoods.

In my last report, I was pleased to inform the Trustees that Duke had exceeded its record \$1 million goal in our United Way campaign. I am equally pleased to report that the campus community's generosity has set another record. The Duke University 2001 Food Drive has topped its 25,000 can collection goal by more than 1,000 cans. Sponsored by the Facilities Management Department and Duke Student Government, the food drive will provide meals for an estimated 6,000 area and North Carolina families. Special commendation goes to FMD director Jerry Black and his staff for their leadership of this important effort.

Research News

Chancellor Snyderman reported at a recent meeting about the increase in research grant activity in the Medical Center. The news from the campus side is also very encouraging. Vice Provost for Research James Siedow reports that the numbers for research funding, awards, and proposals have increased, in some cases significantly. In a report to the Academic Council, Siedow focused on Arts and Sciences and the Pratt and Nicholas Schools - the three largest non-medical grant recipients at Duke. For fiscal year 2001, research expenditures in these schools were up 9 percent to \$94.6 million, research awards were up 16 percent to \$107.6

million, and the amount requested in research proposals - a key indicator of future funding - was up 37 percent to \$184.4 million. Success rates were also strong. Arts and Sciences faculty received awards on 43 percent of their federal proposals and 52 percent of their non federal proposals over \$25,000; Nicholas School faculty received awards on 41 percent of their federal proposals and 54 percent of their non federal proposals; and Pratt School faculty received awards on 56 percent of their federal proposals and 64 percent of their non federal proposals. Siedow told the Academic Council that while the prospects for growth are strong, there are signs of potential challenges. One is a gentle shift of funding away from federal agencies to non federal groups. This is noteworthy because federal agencies generally pay higher indirect cost recovery rates, which is important for maintaining the university infrastructure that supports research.

We have been encouraged by the continued strong funding of research for the National Institutes of Health, the principal area of support for faculty research at Duke. President Bush's proposed 2003 budget includes the final year of five-year plan to double financial investment in biomedical research at NIH. We are disappointed, however, that the increase for the National Science Foundation is set at only 5 percent. We also are concerned that the Pell Grant program, the principal federal financial aid program, is held constant in the proposed budget. I will be visiting Capitol Hill and the White House in March with our Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations **Nan Nixon** and John Burness as part of our efforts to be sure congressional and administrative leaders are aware of the importance of the Pell Grant and other financial aid programs for our students, the important research our faculty and students are doing, and the critical role federal research support plays in our ability to make advances that support national defense, new technologies, our nation's economic strength, as well as medical discoveries that improve the quality of lives.

A new book, *Remembering Jim Crow*, and an accompanying set of compact disks, guarantee that one of the most troubling chapters in United States history will not be lost or forgotten. The book, edited by Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Bill Chafe and two other Duke scholars - **Bob Korstad**, associate professor of public policy studies, and history professor **Raymond Gavins** - arises from the oral histories of people who suffered injustices during the Jim Crow era; it is based on a collection of about 1,350 interviews conducted from 1993 through 1997 by graduate students from 13 universities, including Duke, North Carolina Central, and UNC. Korstad said it is important to be sure that current and future historians have ample first person narratives to draw upon when dissecting this period. Their publication received assistance from the staff of the "Behind the Veil" project at the Center for Documentary Studies. Copies of the book and disk set are being made available at local libraries and schools in the communities where the project participants live. In addition, plans are underway to encourage incorporating the materials in classrooms across the country.

Researchers at the medical center have announced a number of major discoveries since our last meeting. A study by Duke oncologist Dr. **Matthew Ellis** showed that a new cancer drug, letrozole, worked better at shrinking breast cancer tumors in postmenopausal women than did the front line breast cancer drug tamoxifen. Patients taking letrozole also underwent fewer mastectomies and experienced a slower rate of cell division than women taking tamoxifen. The study, funded by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., which manufactures letrozole, was unique because it examined the drugs' ability to shrink tumors before women had surgery; usually drugs are administered after surgery to eradicate any undetected cancer cells.

Duke has been selected to be the home of a new national center that will be the first to compile comprehensive information about the oversight of clinical trials at medical centers, and to develop new ways to protect people enrolled in such trials. The project - funded by an \$830,000 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation - should help address public concerns about the information research subjects receive of the risks involved in the clinical trials of drugs and other treatments. The multidisciplinary group includes clinical researchers, industry representatives, Institutional Review Board members, and bioethicists from across the nation. Dr. **Jeremy Sugarman**, director of the Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and Humanities at Duke, says he anticipates the work at Duke should shape discussions and public policy for years to come.

Another Medical Center study shows that oral contraceptives with higher levels of progestin appear to reduce a woman's risk of ovarian cancer. Oral contraceptives have long been associated with a decreased risk of ovarian cancers, and it was commonly believed this reduction in risk was based on contraceptives' ability to limit ovulation. Researcher **Joellen Schildkraut**, of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, reports that progestin levels in the oral contraceptives might be as important as ovulation reduction in preventing ovarian cancer. The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute, the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Defense.

A new phase I clinical trial of a prostate cancer vaccine developed at Duke University Medical Center has shown that the vaccine is able to boost the patient's immune system to fight cancer without causing adverse side effects. The vaccine is made from the patient's own dendritic cells, which are white blood cells that activate the immune system. Dr. **Johannes Vieweg**, an associate professor of urology and assistant professor of immunology, says that while this work was done in prostate cancer patients, this method may work in other cancers as well. Vieweg says the next step is to use fully mature dendritic cells. He cautions, however, that a possible side effect of a more potent vaccine might be that it could overactivate the immune system so that it attacks healthy cells. The study was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the CaP CURE Foundation, and the National Center for Research Resources.

A long-term study supported by the National Institutes of Health shows that stem cell transplants have a 95 percent success rate in treating newborn babies with severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) if performed within the first 28 days of birth. Early transplants also appear to stimulate a more robust and effective immune system. SCID is a rare disorder in which babies are born with little or no immune system, leaving them unable to defend themselves from potentially life threatening infections. The stem cells used for transplant are obtained from the bone marrow of related donors and infused into the baby to generate a "new" immune system. According to Duke pediatric immunologist Dr. **Laurie Myers**, all that is required is a simple test after birth in which researchers count the number of lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell, in a blood sample. Myers notes that 20 years ago, all of these babies would have died. During the past 19 years, Duke has performed stem cell transplants on 117 SCID patients. Of the 21 infants who received their transplants within the first 28 days of life, 20 are still alive and leading normal lives.

A number of ongoing research projects are aimed at improving a patient's quality of life. One study, funded by a \$2.3 million grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education, will assist patients with physical and mental impairments. The researchers, headed by Professor **Frank DeRuyter**, chief of the division of speech pathology and audiology at Duke, will evaluate the performance and effectiveness of assistive technologies that exist as well as those on the planning board. DeRuyter said this field is constantly looking for newer, more up to date technology, but also must examine how existing technologies, like existing wireless communication technologies, are used and how they can be improved.

A unique collaboration between the Duke Museum of Art and the School of Medicine will help sharpen the observational skills of our medical students. By examining a series of portraits from the Renaissance through the 20th century, the students are learning how to look for visual cues in the human face and body, as well as in a person's surroundings, that will help when diagnosing a patient's illness. **Adera Causey**, the museum's university and community educator, reports that medical students are able to examine a painting and take note of such things as a person's stature, skin tone, apparent age, and whether the hands are smooth or calloused, all of which should shed light on the subject of the painting and his or her medical circumstances. Once the students form interpretations of the works, they divide into small groups, and members of the medical staff and a museum staff member help them grasp elements of the painting that may not be readily apparent. While the partnership involving the medical school and museum is new, museum staff have offered similar programs in the past to other university departments, including Duke's writing program and history department.

Stress management programs continue to show remarkable benefits for patients' health as well as their pocketbooks. Medical psychologist **Richard Surwit** has shown that stress management can help control blood sugar for people with diabetes, and has nearly as large an impact on patient health as some diabetes-control drugs. His study was supported by grants from the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases and the National Institutes of Health. Duke psychologist **James Blumenthal** showed how stress management programs reduce cardiac events in the short term. A new analysis by medical center researchers and the American Psychological Association has found a long term benefit as well - that the benefits of stress management seem to exceed those of both exercise and usual heart care in reducing the long term chances of heart patients having another cardiac event. The study also found that the average costs for patients who utilized stress management were \$1,228 per patient during the first year, as compared to \$2,352 per patient for those who exercised and \$4,523 per patient for those who received usual care.

A study funded by the National Institutes of Health links mutations in a protein to an inherited form of Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) disease, a peripheral nerve disease that causes weakness and muscle atrophy in the hands and lower legs. CMT is the most commonly inherited disorder of the peripheral nervous system, and one of the most common inherited disorders in humans. The researchers, led by Dr. **Jeffery M. Vance**, co director of the Duke Center for Human Genetics, say they do not yet understand how defects in the mutated gene lead to CMT, but they hope their discovery will eventually aid in the genetic testing and counseling of potential carriers of the disease.

Finally, research involving animals and plants isolated since 1986 on small islands in Venezuela has yielded strong evidence that predators play a key role in perpetuating the diversity of plants and animals. In a study supported by the National Science Foundation, the researchers studied 10 small and medium sized islands created by a hydroelectric impoundment at Lago Guri, a Venezuelan lake almost the size of Connecticut. A key ecological feature of the islands is the absence of predators. With predators excluded, the numbers of plant eating animals still living on these islands have become overabundant, and the vegetation on the islands is suffering from the dearth of meat eaters. **John Terborgh**, James B. Duke Professor of Environmental Science at the Nicholas School, compared the process at work on the islands to what ecologists have observed in dry regions of the western United States, where cattle, horses, sheep, and goats are allowed to overgraze available grasses, and predictably, grassland is turned into vegetation that animals find it difficult to eat - sagebrush, yucca, cactus, prickly pear, or mesquite. Terborgh says the lack of such predators as wolves, bobcats, and mountain lions in the eastern United States is damaging forest ecosystems. As a result, over-populated species such as white tailed deer, beavers, racoons, and possums end up eating acorns and saplings, reducing forests' normal ability to reproduce themselves.

Awards and Recognitions

In Beverly Hills last month, Duke literature professor and film scholar **Jane Gaines** was named an Academy Film Scholar by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences - an award that will help in her efforts to restore a lost chapter of film history. Only established scholars, writers, historians, and researchers with a significant record of achievement are considered for the grants. Gaines is director of Duke's Program in Film and Video, and has for many years been studying and writing about women who made movies during the silent film era, a period roughly between 1895 and 1920. With support from her \$25,000 Academy grant, she plans to write an overview of the critical and historical work done to date on women in the silent film industry, to be titled "Women Film Pioneers: Their Fictions, Their Histories."

Duke's comprehensive efforts to promote equal opportunity throughout the university and health system has earned an award from the U.S. Department of Labor. Following a routine audit of Duke's equal employment opportunity and Affirmative Action programs, the labor department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs selected the university for its Exemplary Voluntary Effort Award. Duke was one of only 10 federal

contractors in the Southeast region to be selected. The Department of Labor cited a range of efforts in recruitment and promotional opportunities for faculty members and staff, as well as for community-focused initiatives. The projects they singled out included the Black Faculty Initiative, the INROADS internship, internships in the health sciences for North Carolina Central University students, the Summer Research Opportunities Programs for minorities students and undergraduate women, and the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership Initiative.

I am pleased to report that the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights has closed a four-year-old complaint against Duke and praised the university for its commitment to Title IX. A complaint had been filed in 1997 that the university had failed to comply with Title IX's mandate to equitably distribute scholarship dollars among male and female athletes. The Office of Civil Rights has advised us that the materials we provided demonstrated that "Duke has distributed athletic financial assistance to the men's and women's programs in a substantially proportionate [manner], as required by Title IX." Additionally, the OCR noted "major improvements that the university has made in its women's athletic programs ... It is clear to us that Duke's commitment to Title IX makes it unnecessary for OCR to continue monitoring the university's program as it applies to this matter."

Trustees will recall that in June 1997, the National Women's Law Center, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C., filed sex discrimination complaints against 25 colleges and universities, including Duke, alleging the schools had discriminated against women in the opportunity to receive athletic scholarships. According to our most recent figures, financial aid for our women athletes has increased steadily since 1996; 40 percent of the university's athletic financial aid is now awarded to women. In the plan Athletic Director **Joe Alleva** shared with the Trustees last year, scholarships will continue to be added over the next two or three years to bring the women's share of athletic aid to about 47 percent, which is roughly the same percentage of the Duke undergraduate student body that is female.

While we were gratified to have OCR confirm our practices and commitment to Title IX, we also were pleased to learn that Duke was named one of "America's Healthiest Companies" by the Wellness Councils of America and received the council's prestigious Gold Well Workplace Award. The award recognizes Duke's employee health promotion program - LIVE FOR LIFE - as one of the best such programs in the country. I commend Dr. **George Jackson**, director of Employee Occupational Health and Wellness, **Julie Joyner**, manager of LIVE FOR LIFE, and her staff for their outstanding work that has led to this recognition.

"Secretary," a new film written by associate professor of theater studies **Erin Cressida Wilson**, won a competition among dramatic films at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. Adapted from a short story by Mary Gaitskill, "Secretary" is a feature film about a love story between a secretary and her boss. Wilson teaches both play writing and screen writing at Duke. She is an internationally produced and award winning playwright and screenwriter whose plays have been performed at Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Mark Taper Forum, and The Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh.

Bruce Jentleson, director of the Sanford Institute of Public Policy, recently returned from the 38th Munich Conference on Security Policy, where he served as a member of the U.S. delegation that included U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT). Jentleson and government leaders from around the world discussed the global impact of international terrorism, global security and the changing role of NATO. Jentleson is an expert in U.S. foreign policy, with particular expertise in the Middle East. He has served as special assistant to the director, policy planning staff, in the U.S. State Department, and was a senior foreign policy adviser to former Vice President Al Gore.

And, finally, **Nancy Weaver Emerson**, a patient of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center who has been battling breast cancer for the past 19 years, has been selected as the "Cancer Survivor of the Year" by *Coping* magazine. Emerson is also director of major projects and assistant director of development and communications

at the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. She was one of the first volunteers in the Duke Cancer Patient Support program and later served on the program's advisory board.

In Other Matters ...

The Trustees should know of two recent important national studies of importance to higher education. At this week's annual meeting of the American Council on Education, results were announced from a three-year effort to develop a straightforward methodology for institutions of higher education to explain what one year of undergraduate education costs. The project involved some 160 institutions - public, private, research universities, four-year colleges, and community colleges. It was spurred by the report of the U.S. Congress' National Commission on College Costs, which in 1998 strongly urged colleges and universities to provide transparent information so the public could be better informed about why college costs what it does. Two members of the National Commission, including Chair Bill Troutt of Rhodes College in Tennessee, served on the project's steering committee, which included college and university presidents, higher education economists, planners, and budget and administrative officers under the aegis of the National Association of College and University Business Officers. Vice Provost for Finance and Administration **James Roberts** and John Burness were members of the college costs project steering committee.

The complexity of the task, given the exceptional diversity of institutions, different funding formulas of individual states in the public sector, and different missions of the institutions, made this an extremely complex undertaking. The results, however, are encouraging, and several independent experts in higher education finance have indicated their approval of the methodology. In the diverse range of schools in the pilot study, the cost of providing a year of undergraduate education exceeded the tuition charged in virtually every case. All students - even those who pay full tuition - receive a subsidy to support their education; public universities rely on substantial state subsidies, and private institutions provide the difference from their endowments. The study also documents the degree to which the vast majority of dollars are spent on direct educational and student support. Jim Roberts is updating Duke's numbers, and we expect to put them on our website later this spring.

Last month, in New York City, the Business-Higher Education Forum, a partnership of the American Council on Education and the National Alliance of Business, released the results of a two-year discussion between corporate and higher education leaders about the importance of racial and ethnic diversity to our nation's future success. The report, "Investing in People: Developing All of America's Talent on Campus and in the Workplace," uses data from the 2000 census and the results of interviews with corporate and academic leaders over the past two years. It provides a compelling case for the importance of diversity in higher education if our nation is to capitalize on our greatest resource, our people. At a time when programs designed to bring minorities into higher education are being challenged, the strong endorsement of diversity in our colleges and universities from the corporate members of the Forum carries special weight. John Burness also contributed to the work of the Diversity Initiative Task Force. A copy of the report is enclosed with my memo.

In the aftermath of September 11, so many Duke students wanted to learn about the circumstances that gave rise to the terrorist attacks, that faculty members have introduced a number of new courses and raised the enrollment ceilings of several others. Two new courses designed in the wake of September 11 are, "Political Violence in U.S. History" and "Afghanistan: Warriors and Nation Building," both offered by the history department. "Political Violence in U.S. History," taught by associate history professor Syd Nathans, explores such incidents as John Brown's raid, Nat Turner's rebellion, the Boston Tea Party, the Haymarket Square bombing and anarchists trial of 1886, and the white terror of the Ku Klux Klan to determine why people resort to violence. "Afghanistan: Warriors and Nation Building" emphasizes the modern history of the Afghan people and their efforts to build a nation-state in their homeland. Ethnic identity, the influence of Islam, social reform, and the role of women are among the themes being discussed. Taught by history professor **John Richards**, the course covers the period 1750 to the present, with the final weeks focusing on the events leading up to September 11.

In addition to the new classes, at least a dozen existing courses now include planned readings and discussions connected to the recent attacks. And still more courses will be added to the undergraduate curriculum in the fall. "Genocide and Terrorism," for instance, will be taught through the political science department by visiting scholar **Rene Lemarchand**, an emeritus professor at the University of Florida who has written more than 10 books on Africa, human rights, and genocide.

Duke's Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) chapter, which had its social privileges suspended last spring by the Office of Student Development and was placed on probation for the entire 2001-02 academic year, has announced it plans to dissolve. The 70 year old chapter has been under increased scrutiny in recent years for reports of alcohol policy violations, fighting, damage to university property, and hazing of fraternity pledges. An alumni commission was created last spring to oversee the day to day operation of the fraternity, and 33 members were suspended in the past year by national SAE representatives. The national SAE also placed a series of prohibitions on the fraternity. The chapter president said, "if we were to follow everything the national fraternity wanted us to, we wouldn't be the fraternity we wanted to be." Larry Moneta and his staff are working with national SAE representatives and alumni to discuss next steps.

Athletics

The winter sports season is well underway, and a number of our teams, including men's and women's basketball, are having banner seasons. Coach **Gail Goestenkors'** women currently are ranked number No. 5 in the nation, and Coach **Mike Krzyzewski's** men's team is top-ranked. The spring sports season is beginning with the women's tennis team, ranked No. 2 nationally, and the women's golf team, a pre-season No. 1 pick.

I am pleased to report that five Duke players were named to the All ACC Academic Football Team. They were seniors **Ben Erdeljac** and **Mike Hart**, as well as **Chris Douglas**, **Shawn Johnson**, and **Jim Scharrer**. Through the past decade, Duke football has led all Division I-A teams in its graduation rate.

Finally, I am especially pleased to report that assistant basketball coach **Joanne Boyle** has returned to work for the Duke women's basketball team and is making remarkable progress. Boyle's ordeal began on November 28 when she was stricken by arteriovenous malformation - a capillary deficiency in which the flow of blood between the arteries and the veins causes blood vessels in the brain to burst. In addition to receiving excellent medical care at Duke, Joanne credits the power of prayer for her speedy recovery. She received 300 to 400 e-mails of prayer, and only knew about a third of those people who wrote to her. We are delighted that these many prayers have been answered and that she is back to help Coach G lead the women's team to another Final Four.

As always, if you have any questions or want additional information about any items in this report, I hope you will let me know.