

**REPORT BY PRESIDENT NANNERL O. KEOHANE
TO THE DUKE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

May 10, 1996

Commencement

This is always an exciting time of year, and I welcome you back to the university to take part in it. Thanks to Joe Jackson and his grounds department for making our campus so beautiful. Thanks, too, to Dr. Wilder and his office, to the University Secretary, to Student Affairs, and to many others for months of planning and preparation for this weekend's culmination of a highly productive academic year.

On Sunday, Jane Alexander will deliver the commencement address as we celebrate the successful conclusion of academic careers for 1,558 undergraduates and 1,700 graduate and professional students -- including those who finished last September and December. The noted actress and chair of the National Endowment of the Arts will receive an honorary degree along with North Carolina Central University Chancellor Julius Chambers, business leader and philanthropist Frank Kenan, Trustee Emeritus Daniel Tosteson, and Cambridge University Vice Chancellor Sir David Williams.

This evening we will have the opportunity to thank Rex Adams, who will be leaving the Board next month to become dean of the Fuqua School of Business, and Doug Hicks, Richard Moore and Jim Warren, whose terms as Trustees end in June.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tom Keller who, as you know, is finally being allowed to retire as dean of the Fuqua School. Tom's leadership during the past 22 years has brought Fuqua into the top ranks of the nation's business schools. His service to Duke has been great, and we wish him well.

Appointments

I'm very pleased to report that Professor Karla Holloway will become director of the African and Afro-American Studies Program on July 1. As you know, she is now serving as acting director of that very important program. And we're already seeing the fruits of her labors. Under her guidance, the number of courses offered by the African and Afro-American Studies Program increased from 21 to 40, and a certificate in graduate studies in the field was approved two months ago. Professor Holloway was instrumental in recruiting Paula Giddings, one of the nation's leading scholars of black women's studies, to a joint appointment in Women's Studies and African and Afro-American Studies. With Professor Holloway's appointment, the program will realize its potential as one of the premier intellectual centers for African and Afro-American studies in the country.

Professor Bruce Kuniholm, professor of public policy studies and history and an a specialist on U.S. policy in the Middle East, has been appointed Duke's vice provost for academic and international affairs, effective August 1. Kuniholm, who will be returning this summer from a two-year sabbatical in Norway and Turkey, will fill the position currently held by Professor Peter Lange, professor of political science. Lange is becoming chair of the department of political science. Kuniholm's appointment is important in our continuing efforts to become a part of the world community. Lange has done an outstanding job in leading Duke's internationalization program, and Kuniholm will build on his achievements.

Student Honors

Two Duke juniors have been selected as Truman Scholars, a scholarship program established by Congress in honor of President Truman. The awards went to Maria Sanders of Fort Mitchell, Ky., and Bill Schloss Jr., from Sumter, S.C. The awards provide up to \$3,000 for a student's senior year and up to \$27,000 for graduate study in preparation for a career in public service. In addition, Duke was one of 17 colleges and universities nationwide to be selected as a 1996 Truman Scholarship Honor Institution. This new award was established to acknowledge outstanding contributions to the Truman Scholarship Foundation. Since the Truman competition began in 1977, Duke has had 22 Truman Scholars.

The Truman awards followed the announcement that Duke senior Elizabeth Ayer has been selected for a prestigious Winston Churchill scholarship to study next year in England. Ayer, a computer science and math major from Los Angeles, is expected to attend Churchill College of Cambridge University in the fall. She is one of 11 American students to win the prestigious Churchill scholarship this year, which includes about \$14,000 in tuition and \$9,000 in living expenses. She also is the 12th student chosen from Duke since the program began in 1963, making Duke one of the most successful of the 55 institutions participating in the program.

Shawn Salvant, a Gulfport, Miss., native who is majoring in English, won a Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies. Salvant, who is completing an honors thesis in English, will use his Mellon fellowship to fund a year of graduate study at the University of California at Berkeley.

Carlos Bagley, from Jonesboro, Ga., has been awarded the Wallace Wade Scholarship, which will support his graduate study at Duke in preparation for a career in medicine. He hopes eventually to specialize in the field of surgery and to pursue research and teaching interests. As you know, the Wallace Wade Scholarship honors students who have lettered in one of several sports while undergraduates at Duke and who are continuing their studies in a Duke graduate or professional school. Bagley distinguished himself as a team leader and three-year starter in football.

Today's issue of Dialogue highlights some of our most outstanding seniors, and some of the honors they received. There also is an interesting article in Dialogue this week looking at our first year of experience with East Campus as a freshmen campus.

Admissions

On the admissions front, Christoph Guttentag reports that our Class of 2000 is coming together very nicely. Our yield -- the percentage of admitted students who choose Duke -- will probably be about the same as last year, as will the average SAT scores. While it's still too early to come up with definite numbers, our goal is to have an entering class of 1,610 next fall.

It appears that we will have more Asian American students in the Class of 2000 than in the Class of 1999 but fewer African Americans. We also appear to be down in the number of Hispanics in the new class but up slightly in the number of bi-racial students. Once again, North Carolina will lead the home states; New York is second, followed by Florida, Virginia, Maryland, California and New Jersey. Virginia and Maryland are new to the top five, at least in recent years. It's interesting to note that the Class of 2000 will have more children of alumni than last year (157 this year; 137 last year). We also expect more siblings than last year.

Notables

The Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy was transformed into a town hall April 13 for a televised forum

featuring the two top Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate. Harvey Gantt and Charles Sanders discussed issues ranging from health care to education in the Fleishman Commons, which lends itself very well to such exchanges. The forum was part of the "Your Voice, Your Vote" project sponsored by a group of six daily newspapers, five commercial television stations, the North Carolina Center for Public Television and a group of public radio stations. Duke sponsors of the forum were the offices of public affairs and the president. We hope to be able to provide facilities for a similar event between Mr. Gantt and Senator Jesse Helms this fall.

Two days later, Senator Bill Bradley addressed a large crowd in the Fleishman Commons as the first Lester Crown Lecturer in Ethics. Bradley said his vision for this country is a "pluralistic, multiracial, multicultural, multiethnic democracy where people not only vote, but participate ... a democracy with a growing economy that takes everybody, not just a few, to a higher ground." Bradley also urged the audience to consider the moral and spiritual dimensions of their lives, something "deeper than material possessions."

A week or so earlier, Professor William Raspberry also discussed the moral fiber of Americans during the inaugural Kenan Distinguished Lecture, presented by our new Kenan Ethics Program. In his talk at the Fuqua School, Raspberry said that if people pretend to be the type of person they admire, or pretend to be better than they really are, they will be amazed to find out how much better they actually can become.

The Nicholas School of the Environment held its first Alumni College April 12 and it was a rousing success. The two highest profile speakers from Washington were Kathleen McGinty, the chair of President Clinton's Council on Environmental Quality, and Jack Ward Thomas, the chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Both are at the forefront of the raging federal debate over how, or how not, to manage the environment. And both were at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy to share their experiences and observations with Nicholas school alumni, faculty, students and board of visitors members. The event-filled Alumni College weekend culminated in a festive banquet in the Levine Science Center officially naming the school in honor of the Nicholas family.

Primatologist Jane Goodall spoke at a benefit April 27 celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Duke Primate Center. The "Evening at the Forest" event was attended by more than 400 people. Goodall's talk was preceded by a daylong festival at the Primate Center and followed by a reception at the Bryan Center.

Research at Duke

Research at Duke continues to command attention across the nation. On April 16, Duke pharmacologist Mohamed Abou-Donia reported in Washington that experiments with chickens show that harmless doses of three chemicals used to protect Gulf War soldiers from insect-borne diseases and nerve-gas poisoning are highly toxic when used together. This may explain the wide array of symptoms known as Gulf War Syndrome that have affected an estimated 30,000 Gulf War veterans. Chickens, by the way, were selected for the studies because their susceptibility to neurotoxic chemicals more closely resembles that of humans than other animals.

In another medical center study that garnered national attention last month, Duke researchers told the American College of Cardiology that after years of treatment, black heart patients died at a significantly higher rate than did white patients. Dr. Eric Peterson said the increased mortality appears largely due to two factors. Black patients tended to suffer from other diseases such as diabetes and hypertension that affected their survival. And black patients did not receive the same aggressive treatment that whites did.

There also is some promising research getting under way here as part of the nation's war against AIDS. Duke researchers and physicians are set to launch a multipronged attack against the virus that causes AIDS, and they will employ clinical strategies never before tested. Using a \$4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, two sets of experiments will be conducted that aim to annihilate the virus from infected patients as much as possible, and to then rebuild their immune system.

One of several studies of elderly Americans by Kenneth Manton and James Vaupel at Duke's Center for Demographic Studies was mentioned by President Clinton in his fiscal year 1997 budget, under the heading of "Strengthening Health Care." The president cited a report in the New England Journal of Medicine in which the two demographers wrote that Americans who reach the age of 80 have a longer life expectancy than their counterparts in Japan, England, France, and Sweden. One reason, they wrote, is that older Americans receive better health care than the elderly in other countries.

Gifts

The past few months have been very good for the university. First, the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga, Tenn., awarded the Center for Documentary Studies a \$10 million grant to help fund a permanent endowment of DoubleTake magazine. It was one of the largest philanthropic contributions to an American publication. We are deeply grateful to the Lyndhurst Foundation for its generous support of the Center for Documentary Studies.

I am very pleased to report that fellow Trustee Morris Williams Jr. and his wife, Ruth, have pledged \$1 million toward renovations and additions to East Campus recreational facilities. This is the largest individual contribution to the \$5 million project, which will be completed this summer. Since Morris and Ruth, as well as several of their family members, have been deeply involved in the life of Duke University for many years, it's especially gratifying to have them take the lead on a project that is so important to students and the quality of their lives here.

And just yesterday, I had the pleasure of announcing that Ernest and Mildred Mario have donated \$1.9 million to research and education in the Levine Science Research Center, and eventually to an endowed chair in the Fuqua School of Business. The endowment gift will initially support the Developmental, Cell and Molecular Biology Group in the Levine Center; after ten years, it will endow the Gregory Mario and Jeremy Mario Professorship in the Fuqua School, named after the Marios' two sons. In this farsighted gift, Ernie and Millie have truly captured the intellectual breadth of the modern research university. Their support will help faculty and students in this fundamental scientific field explore new discoveries together. And in the next century it will support excellence in a field that is critically important to bringing new medicines to market. We are deeply grateful for this visionary generosity.

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Dave Phillips and his family are donating \$1 million to Duke to establish a lectureship that will bring national and international leaders from business, government and public life to campus. The S. Davis Phillips Family Distinguished Lectureship will expose Duke students to a variety of ideas that will help broaden their global perspective. An important part of educating the next generation of leaders is offering students a realistic view of the challenges, responsibilities and opportunities they will encounter in their careers. This lectureship will help us enhance that dimension of our students' education.

John J. Mack and his wife Christy have given \$1 million to Duke to help students from his hometown of Mooresville and the surrounding regions of North Carolina attend the university. The Alice Azouri Mack Scholarship Endowment Fund is named in honor of John Mack's mother, who had a strong belief in the importance of education and a love of North Carolina and Duke. This endowed scholarship represents the Macks' belief in a Duke education, and their interest in helping us increase the appeal of Duke for students from that region of North Carolina.

Federal Update

President Clinton signed an omnibus appropriations bill April 25 approving the fiscal 1996 budget. Agencies funded under this bill that are of particular interest to us include the National Science Foundation, Department of Education, Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, NOAA and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The NSF, which is Duke's second largest source of grant support for research outside the medical center, received the hoped-for \$40 million in addition to \$3.18 billion agreed to in conference. The total appropriation for NSF is the same as last year. The National Institutes of Health, which is the major source of grant support for research at Duke, had its appropriation of \$11.9 billion approved in January. It represented a 5.7 percent increase over last year's funding. In the Department of Education, Javits Fellowships were funded at a level of \$5.9 million, compared to \$6.8 million in fiscal 1995. Because of the large number of continuing fellows and uncertainties about future funding, no competitions will be held this year for new fellowship awards. Since the Harris Fellowship program was terminated, Javits and the Graduate Assistantships in Areas of National Need (GAANN) are the only remaining federally supported fellowships for graduate study in the humanities.

Overall, departments and agencies upon which Duke depends fared relatively well during this arduous budget process. But the outlook for fiscal 1997 and beyond is worrisome. Support for science research is projected to drop by a range of 11 percent to 29 percent across various agencies as Congress works to balance the budget by 2002. While President Clinton has recommended modest research increases for these agencies in his fiscal 1997 budget request, Republican leaders have made clear their resolve to stand by the 4 percent spending cut outlined in last year's budget resolution. These cuts will have to come from discretionary spending and will in turn have the potential to impact a variety of programs at Duke. Clearly, we will need to continue to talk with members of Congress about the importance of federal funding for science and technology as a crucial investment in the nation's future.

In other areas of concern to us, tax reform and health care-related issues have been the subject of recent hearings on Capitol Hill, although we believe that major changes in the tax system or Medicare/Medicaid are unlikely to be proposed before the November elections. Professor Charles Clotfelter was among those who testified May 1 before the House Ways and Means Committee on the impact of proposed tax reforms on tax-exempt institutions and state and local governments.

Sports

On the sports front, I am happy to report that once again, the Duke football team received the CFA's Academic Achievement Award for 1996. This was based on a 87.5 percent graduation rate for football players who matriculated in the fall of 1990. This was the fourth year in a row we have won the award and the eighth time since the award was established in 1981. No other school has done as well. Congratulations to our coaches, the athletic department and, most of all, to our student-athletes who make it all possible.

It has been a very successful spring for men's and women's tennis, which both again won ACC championships, and for men's and women's golf, which both have qualified for the NCAA tournament. And our baseball team is on a pace to set a new school record for the most wins. We'll be hosting the ACC baseball tournament next week at the Durham Bulls Ballpark.

And that, Mr. Chairman, concludes my report.

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