



**DUKE
UNIVERSITY**

November 20, 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Duke University Board of Trustees

From: Nannerl O. Keohane

Subject: Summary of Activities

I am pleased to provide this report of activities since our October meeting.

As you know, the semester has been devoted to planning in each of our schools and across the university. At each stage of the plan's development, we have benefitted greatly from your probing questions and thoughtful counsel. Now that the penultimate draft of the university plan is before you, including the plans of the individual schools, we anticipate a lively discussion.

At the November meeting of the Executive Committee, we discussed the relationship between the academic goals identified in the long-range plan and the Campaign for Duke. Based on the extraordinary success of the Campaign, with the Executive Committee's support and a strong recommendation from the Campaign Steering Committee, we will seek your approval for an increase in the goal of the Campaign for Duke.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

We have experienced a spectacular autumn with the foliage across the campus matching the best New England has to offer. Despite some dreary weather and even an early snow, thanks to the good work of our grounds department, led by Joe Jackson, the campus was particularly lovely for Homecoming this past weekend, as we welcomed back several thousand alumni and members of their families. Speaking of the grounds, the Duke Grounds team won the Grand Award in the School or University Grounds category from the Professional Grounds Management Society earlier this month, following up on Jerry Black and the Facilities Management Department receiving The Award for Excellence in Facilities Management last year.

While much of Homecoming Weekend was devoted to socializing and networking, we also celebrated a number of important athletic milestones. On Friday, our #1-ranked Blue Devils defeated Villanova in the preseason NIT for Coach Mike Krzyzewski's 500th victory as our men's basketball coach. Joe Alleva and I, with Mickie Krzyzewski's support, were pleased to announce that in honor of his years of leadership and devotion to Duke, the floor in Cameron Indoor Stadium will henceforth be known as the Coach K Court. On Saturday, alongside the loss in Wallace Wade Stadium to North Carolina, we celebrated Duke football's future with the groundbreaking for our new football building, thanks to the generosity of Trustee Spike and Mary Yoh and many others. On Saturday evening, we honored trustee emeritus John Forlines for his many contributions to Duke, including a significant gift to Athletics, and then celebrated as Coach Gail Goestenkors' #3-ranked women's basketball team defeated William and Mary in Cameron.

ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

With the events of the weekend barely behind us, on Monday we launched one of the most important academic initiatives in Duke's history, the interdisciplinary Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy. The five centers of the \$200 million-plus IGSP will bring together medical researchers and scientists in biology, physics, chemistry, computer science and engineering who are working to advance fundamental basic knowledge of genome science and technologies along with Duke scholars in business, economics, ethics, public policy and religion who can help advance our understanding of the ethical, political, social and economic issues associated with the genomic revolution. Following an afternoon symposium featuring reports from the heads of the five centers, we formally launched the IGSP with a speech by Dr. Richard Klausner, the director of the National Cancer Institute about the incredible potential which unlocking the human genome presents for understanding the causes of cancer and identifying therapies. Following Dr. Klausner's talk, there was a fascinating panel discussion involving ethicists Hank Greely from Stanford and Arthur Caplan from the University of Pennsylvania, N.C. State Chancellor and former member of the National Science Board, Marye Anne Fox, and Congressman John Edward Porter, the leading congressional champion for biomedical research. I was especially pleased to be able to report to the several hundred people in attendance that Trustee Emerita Mary Semans, chair of the Duke Endowment Board, had informed me that the Endowment's education committee will be recommending to the Endowment's Trustees a \$1 million gift to support the work of our new Center for Genome Ethics, Policy and Law.

While its official dedication will not be until next February, we were excited last month to open the new John Hope Franklin Center in the beautifully remodeled Hanes Annex. I must confess that I was skeptical that this drab brick former dormitory could ever be elegant, but under Executive Vice President Tallman Trask's leadership, the architects and contractors have done a superb job in making the interior of the building a facility worthy of the distinguished James B. Duke Professor emeritus for whom the center is named. It is modeled after John Hope's vision for scholarly collaboration across ideas and diverse issues. The Center, which will be home to fifteen Duke programs spanning the humanities and social sciences, has as its mission addressing the critical issues of our time and investigating complex social problems through a range of historical and philosophical perspectives. Just as the interdisciplinary approach that characterizes the IGSP promises to help society understand and devise policies, laws and approaches to a set of the most complex challenges and opportunities humankind will face, the interdisciplinary Franklin Center holds exciting promise for helping us learn from the past so that we can build a more humane society for future generations.

I know the trustees will be pleased to learn that John Hope Franklin's contributions to scholarship and to American Studies were recognized by the American Studies Association, which has awarded him the Bode-Pearson Prize. The Prize, which is awarded only periodically in recognition of exceptional achievement, is one of the oldest and most prestigious awards in the field of American Studies. It is fitting that John Hope, the most distinguished chronicler of the history of African American life, has received this latest recognition.

DIVERSITY AND CAMPUS LIFE ISSUES

The trustees have given high priority to providing a welcoming environment for an outstanding and diverse student body. A recent survey reported in the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* shows that Duke has assumed a leadership position among the nation's top universities in its efforts to recruit outstanding African American undergraduate students. The survey found that Duke ranked first among the nation's leading private colleges and universities (and trailed only

UNC-Chapel Hill among top private and public institutions) in the percentage of African Americans in the freshman class; 10.5 percent of our freshman class is African American following last year's record of 10.2 percent. We are aggressively recruiting outstanding minority students from across the country and it is gratifying to see these efforts bearing fruit.

Our long range planning effort has also identified the importance of recruiting outstanding students from other countries to Duke. The society in which our students will be expected to provide leadership will increasingly be global. This year, we launched for the first time the Ambassador Duke Scholarship fund for International Students, a fund-raising program to help us attract and support highly qualified students to Duke from other countries. To date, we have raised some \$1.7 million; in the past, constraints on our resources restricted our need based financial aid programs exclusively to American students. This year, 3.42 percent of our full-time undergraduate students are from other countries, up from 2.32 percent just five years ago. The Fuqua School under Dean Rex Adams' leadership has recognized the implications of the global economy for training the next generation of business executives. In addition to establishing its groundbreaking GEMBA program and to launching our first overseas campus in Germany last year, Fuqua leads all of the nation's top business schools in the percentage of students from other countries.

While the Mercer case, where our post trial motion is under review by the presiding judge, brought a good deal of negative attention to the university, Duke's latest compliance report under the federal Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act shows Duke is making steady progress in increasing the amount of athletic scholarship support for women. In accordance with the plan Director of Athletics Joe Alleva reviewed with the trustees last year, the percentage of scholarship dollars awarded to female athletes will soon match the percentage of female enrollment. The report, issued in October, showed that 37.9 percent of the \$6.8 million awarded to student athletes in the 12 month period ending October 15, went to women, up from 35 percent in the previous 12 month period and 31.7 percent in 1998. We are, of course, highlighting the need for athletic scholarships in our Campaign for Duke, with 34 of these intended for women athletes. To help celebrate 30 years of intercollegiate varsity sports for women at Duke, approximately 1500 graduates who have been involved in women's sports over the last three decades have been invited to attend a celebration on campus next April. It should be a wonderful event.

We continue to struggle with issues surrounding alcohol. A thoughtful report on student life at Duke was issued last week by Dean of the Chapel Will Willimon. You will recall in 1992, Will, at President Keith Brodie's request, spent several weeks trying to assess a number of issues associated with our students' out of classroom life. His condemnation of the drinking culture on campus and his observation of the anti-intellectual tone of our undergraduate campus life were widely publicized and a wake-up call. This fall, I asked Will to reprise his study of eight years ago. His latest report, a copy of which is in your materials for our meeting, raises equally troubling issues about the degree to which the University has avoided its responsibility to hold students accountable for their behavior. It decries the absence of faculty involvement in students' lives out of the classroom. While he praises many of the steps we have taken to improve residential life, he also challenges us to do better in keeping with the vision for the education we offer students as articulated by James B. Duke and President Few. We will be discussing the report widely on campus in the months ahead.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Our faculty continues to garner impressive recognitions. Let me cite a few that have occurred recently.

Professor of Romance Studies and Literature Alice Kaplan was nominated for the National Book Award for her non-fiction entry, *The Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach*. The book explores the post-World War II trial in France of Brasillach, a noted intellectual who was sympathetic to the Nazis. He was the only person executed in France after the war for crimes directly related to his words rather than actions.

Professor Emeritus Orrin Pilkey, of the Nicholas School of the Environment, has received the Geological Society of America's 2000 Public Service Award for contributions that have "materially enhanced the public's understanding of the earth sciences, or significantly served decision-makers in the application of scientific and technical information in public affairs and public policy related to earth sciences." Pilkey, who "retired" in September 1999, has continued to direct Duke's Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines and to advocate for sensible coastal development.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR DUKE

The Campaign for Duke continues to exceed the ambitious goals we set when the Trustees approved its \$1.5 billion five-year goal in October 1998. Thanks to the superb leadership of co-chairs Pete and Ginny Nicholas, and the hard work of deans, volunteers, and the development staff, we passed the \$1.3 billion threshold in gifts and pledges in just two years. With the calendar year about to end, we expect to announce a number of major gifts in the coming weeks and months. Some received since our last meeting bear special mention.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has given Duke two grants totaling \$2.35 million, one to support a program of postdoctoral fellowships and the other to fund the university's continued participation in an undergraduate fellowship program to increase the number of minority students in doctoral programs. \$2 million will support the Mellon Lecturing Fellows Program, in which 245 postdoctoral students in the humanities and social sciences will take part in a comprehensive program designed to develop their intellectual life and academic careers through seminars, mentorships and other activities. Provost Lange expects that with the Mellon grant, we will be able to attract an increasing number of outstanding post-doctoral candidates to campus whose responsibilities will include teaching undergraduate writing courses. In return, the fellows will receive mentoring from our faculty to prepare them to assume top-flight academic positions in their fields at the conclusion of their post-doctoral studies.

We announced last month that the university has established the Lester Crown University Professorship in Ethics with a \$2 million gift from the Crown and Goodman families of Chicago. The Crown Lecture in Ethics continues to bring thought-provoking speakers to our campus, and the Lester Crown University Professorship has paved the way for an important category of faculty chairs whose holders incorporate scholarship from many disciplines in their teaching. We are grateful for the Crown and Goodman families' leadership and support for these important university priorities.

The School of Medicine has received a \$1 million gift to support research at the Duke Arthritis Center. The anonymous donor, a retired alumnus of the School of Medicine, specified that the gift be used to fund research on polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR), an inflammatory condition that

causes severe pain and stiffness in the shoulders and hips, and can cause fatigue, weight loss and low blood count. The causes of PMR are unknown, but it is thought to be an autoimmune disorder and usually strikes women 50 years and older.

RESEARCH

Provost Lange has appointed long-time Duke faculty leader and biology professor James N. Siedow to be Vice Provost for Research, effective January 1, 2001. Jim Siedow has been one of Duke's best teachers and an outstanding plant biologist whose work in his field has led him to national leadership roles in a number of academic research associations. As the University's senior research administrator, he will oversee Duke's research initiatives, including exploring potential new areas for research; overseeing campus-wide research planning efforts; facilitating the transfer of technologies from Duke laboratories to the commercial sector; fostering collaboration among research units, and administering the university's research policies. We are looking to Jim, a former chair of the academic council, to help expand partnerships between Duke and other North Carolina research universities and with industry, with a special focus on the Research Triangle Park. Given the priority our long-range plan gives to major investments in the sciences and engineering and to fostering inter-institutional collaborations, Jim's appointment comes at a critical time. We are grateful to Graduate School Dean Lew Siegel who has been serving as Interim Vice Provost for Research since Charles Putman's death.

The faculty Jim Siedow will be working with continue to provide groundbreaking research that is improving our world. A new study funded by an Arts & Sciences Research Council grant may help therapists find better ways to treat adult victims of childhood sexual abuse. Lead investigator in the study is Elizabeth Krause, a third year doctoral student in psychology.

New studies by Duke Medical Center researchers have revealed that the particular parent who contributes a defective gene can determine whether or not his or her child acquires autism. This sophisticated genetic analysis for the first time suggests that a phenomenon known as genetic imprinting is at work in autism and appears to be an important factor in the disorder. The researchers point out that autism is an extremely complex disease with a wide spectrum of behavioral manifestations and it is likely that other genes or environmental factors are involved. The work, funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health, was reported by Allison Ashley-Koch, a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Human Genetics.

A team led by G. Allan Johnson, director of Duke's Center for In Vivo Microscopy, believes they have developed a new method that may ultimately lead to the detection of lung disorders such as emphysema long before symptoms are apparent. Since 90 percent of the lungs' volume is air, using the latest non-invasive techniques to detect subtle pulmonary damage presents formidable challenges to doctors. In studies with rats, a form of helium gas in conjunction with the latest in magnetic resonance imaging technologies created detailed images that allowed researchers to distinguish normal tissue from the early stages of emphysema in the rats' lungs. The research is funded by the National Center for Research Resources and the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

An international team of scientists, led by structural geologist Jeff Karson of the Nicholas School of the Environment, left Bermuda November 22 on a four week expedition to an underwater mountain in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Karson is one of the expedition's three co-principal investigators. With support from the National Science Foundation, the research submarine Alvin

from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will take investigators thousands of feet deep to explore the 12,000 foot mountain's features. Researchers from eight institutions hope to answer some of the many remaining mysteries about how earth makes new skin. Nick Bacher, a graduate student studying paleoclimatology and geochemistry, Heather Hanna, a graduate student in igneous petrology and geochemistry, Peter Rivizzigno, a graduate student in structural geology, are participating in the study.

The Nicholas School of the Environment has also been awarded a \$625,000 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to renew its Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship support for the next five years. The fellowship identifies and supports future leaders dedicated to conserving the environment in the United States. To date, fellowships have been awarded to 19 Nicholas School students who are pursuing Master of Environmental Management degrees.

Researchers from Duke and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill hope to better understand the connection between life stress and the pursuit of health care through a \$2.9 million study of HIV patients in six southern states. The study, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health with support from the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Nursing Research, will follow 1,000 people over three years, tracking their health, attitudes and treatment patterns. Kate Whetten-Goldstein, Assistant Professor at Duke's Center for Health Policy, Law and Management and primary investigator, says the findings may break down barriers that hinder efforts to reduce the spread of HIV in the south and the mortality rate.

By stimulating a facial nerve that extends into the brain and disrupting the cycle of seizure activity, Duke researchers have discovered a promising new way to alleviate epileptic seizures. Experiments in rats also involved testing the concept of a "brain pacemaker," which could be reduced to a small device that could detect potential seizure activity and stimulate the nerve to prevent seizures in humans. Their findings offer hope of greatly improved seizure control for epileptic sufferers whose disorder is resistant to anti-epileptic medication or surgery. The research was led by Miguel Nicolelis, associate professor of neurobiology, and was funded by the Klingenstein Foundation.

In research that was widely reported in the news media, Professor Nicolelis also collaborated with other researchers in testing a neural system on monkeys that enabled the animals to use their brain signals -- as detected by implanted electrodes -- to control a robot arm to reach for a piece of food. The scientists have even transmitted the brain signals over the Internet, remotely controlling a robot arm 600 miles away. Their recording and analysis system, in which the electrodes remained implanted for two years in one animal, could form the basis for a brain-machine interface that would allow paralyzed patients to control the movement of prosthetic limbs. This extraordinary work was supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Office of Naval Research. I am told that beyond the traditional news coverage, the story was also the subject of an instant Harris Poll over the internet. In a link to the current election problems in Florida, one respondent asked, "how many monkey brains connected to electronic probes does it take to mess up a butterfly ballot in Florida?"

By mapping developing visual systems of newborn ferrets, Duke neurobiologists have uncovered evidence challenging the long-held view that the brain's circuitry is largely wired by experience. They contend that much of the circuitry is inborn, with experience acting merely to preserve and enhance existing connections. Graduate student Justin Crowley and Howard Hughes Medical

Institute investigator Lawrence Katz's work was supported by the National Institute of Health and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Frank Sloan, J. Alex McMahon Professor of Health Policy and Management, was lead author of a book that concludes that lawsuits may be the most effective weapon for reducing alcohol-related offenses. In the book *Drinkers, Drivers, and Bartenders: Balancing Private Choices and Public Accountability* (University of Chicago Press), a Duke team reported on their analysis of the effects of policies aiming to cap excessive alcohol use and driving under the influence of alcohol. Of the three categories of policies, they conclude that the threat of a civil lawsuit wields more clout than either criminal law or administrative regulations. The work was funded in part by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

In the November 7 issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Duke neurobiologists Beau Lotto and Dale Purves report the visual system perceives color based not on the light that actually reaches the eye, but on the reflectances and illuminances that usually would have generated the stimulus in the past. It is the latest in a series of papers proposing that visual perception is an intricate collection of reflexes similar to the familiar 'knee jerk' response. The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is based on the familiar illusion that color can appear quite different, depending on its context.

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

The semester has not been without tragedy and sorrow. On October 16, Life Flight pilot John Holland was killed when his helicopter crashed on a return trip from Burlington. He was the only person on board, and witnesses said he took heroic action to avoid hitting homes near the crash site. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash. Both the Medical Center and the firm, which operates Life Flight and employed Holland, have turned over all available information to the NTSB, and we await its report on the cause of this tragic accident. A moving memorial service attended by several hundred people, including many Hospital leaders and staff, was held in Duke Chapel a few days after the funeral.

While Duke's new Institute for Genomic Sciences and Policy incorporates many disciplines, the implications of genomic engineering have attracted the attention of the art world. The first artist to create a genetically altered mammal as part of his work visited Duke in early November for a symposium on his work and its implications. Eduardo Kac received widespread media attention when the director of the French government lab where his *GFP Bunny* was genetically engineered declined to release the albino rabbit, which appears white in daylight but glows green under ultraviolet light. The symposium focused on the ethical questions raised by Kac's work and the implications of genetic engineering and biotechnology for the future.

Ordinarily, our library works very hard to preserve books, but a novel exhibit at Perkins Library is doing exactly the opposite. Xu Bing, a Chinese modern artist, has created an installation at Duke that features live beetles consuming books made of cured tobacco leaves. The exhibit is located in the foyer of the Perkins Library. The sealed case at the center of the room features large books made of cured tobacco leaves. Tobacco beetles, which live in the leaves, are expected to consume the books during the course of the exhibit, which runs through December. Assistant Professor of Art History and curator of the exhibit Stanley Abe says Xu Bing "is an artist with subtlety, wit and a remarkable ability to produce works of stunning visual beauty, as well as tantalizingly ambiguous meanings."

The Divinity School has reached agreement with John Wesley College, a theological school in South Africa that will send Duke students and faculty to John Wesley College and in turn will serve as host for their academic counterparts beginning in the 2001-02 academic year. Selected Duke students will make a two or three-week "pilgrimage of pain and hope" to South Africa beginning next summer. Student placements lasting three months to a year are in the planning stages. In addition, some divinity faculty members will spend portions of their summers teaching students at John Wesley College, which is located in Killington, near Pretoria.

Associate Professor Eric Mlyn, Director of the Burch Programs and Assistant Director of the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been named Director of the new Robertson Scholars Program at UNC and Duke. The search committee, chaired by former UNC Vice President Wyndham Robertson, consisting of faculty and administrators from Chapel Hill and Duke, recommended Mlyn's appointment to UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser and me. The program, which will begin next fall, is funded by a \$24 million gift announced last June from Julian H. Robertson, Jr., and his wife Josie. Professor Mlyn's intellectual interests and experience in leading innovative programs that enrich the undergraduate experience make him an ideal choice to be the inaugural director of the Robertson Scholars Program. The program will bring together outstanding Carolina and Duke students for special seminars, service-learning projects and study-abroad opportunities. Robertson Scholars will spend much of their time on both campuses, including one semester in residence at the other university. Building collaborations with UNC's campuses is a priority in our long range plan, and the Robertson Scholars program is an important step forward for our students.

The \$1.3 billion bond referendum to build facilities for North Carolina's community colleges and the campuses of the University of North Carolina was overwhelmingly approved by the voters on November 7. With a special gift from an anonymous alumnus who had seen the op ed I had written in the State's major papers endorsing the bond referendum, I sent a letter to some 21,700 Duke alumni in North Carolina urging them to support the bond issue. While we compete aggressively in the athletic arenas, we cooperate in many ways; as I said in my op ed and in the letter to alumni, a strong UNC System is important to Duke. UNC President Molly Broad deserves a great deal of credit for her leadership in persuading the General Assembly to establish the bond referendum and for leading a statewide campaign, with strong business support, to ensure the referendum's success. I am told it is the largest vote in support of a higher education bond issue in our nation's history.

IN THE COMMUNITY

There is much good news on the community front. For the first time, contributions from campus and hospital employees topped \$1 million this fall for the University's United Way campaign. We expect to reach our \$1.1 million goal as late pledge sheets and donations are tallied. This is the sixth consecutive year that our employees' generosity has broken records. Duke also reached new levels this fall in overall employee participation - 22 percent - and the number of campaign volunteers, which topped 800. Vice Provost Judith Ruderman, Assistant Vice President Dan Rodas and Duke Hospital Associate Operations Officer Pat Meadows did a wonderful job in leading this year's successful campaign.

There is other good news on the community front: Forest View Elementary School, one of the seven partner schools in which Duke students and faculty have been extensively engaged through the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership Initiative, has been selected as the top

entrepreneurial school in North Carolina. The award was presented by Governor James B. Hunt to Principal Toni Hill at a dinner honoring 11 entrepreneurial schools from across North Carolina for creative approaches to achieving educational excellence. In accepting the award, Principal Hill included the school's partnership with Duke as one of the reasons for her school's many accomplishments.

And finally, two of Duke's mentoring and tutoring programs with the Durham Public Schools - Partners for Youth and Partners for Success - will be recipients of \$200,000, thanks to funding to the City of Durham from the federal government. The grant was announced by Congressman David Price at the Lyon Park Community Center in the West End neighborhood. Congressman Price's office worked with community leaders to secure the appropriation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

We look forward to seeing you on campus in a few weeks. As always, if you have questions about any of the items in this report, please let me know.