

# duke PARENTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR DUKE UNIVERSITY PARENTS & FAMILIES

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## Class of 2008 Baldwin Scholars Announced

Duke University is proud to launch the Alice M. Baldwin Scholars program, a new four-year leadership program for undergraduate women. Named for the founding dean of Duke's Woman's College, the program was created in response to Women's Initiative research findings. Baldwin Scholars' goals include building critical-thinking, problem-solving and leadership skills; developing a strong network of female peers; helping women identify their ambitions and passions; and giving women voice to change the culture at Duke and in society.



Eighteen women from the Class of 2008 have been selected to participate in the inaugural class of Baldwin Scholars. Each year, 18 more first-year women will be selected, eventually reaching a full capacity of 72 members.

Participants will take an academic seminar together during the spring semester of their first year, live together on West Campus and complete a service project their sophomore year, intern with a Duke alumna their junior year and take a capstone academic seminar their senior year. In addition, Baldwin Scholars will have mentoring opportunities with Duke faculty, alumnae and upperclass women through individual interaction, lectures, dinners and social activities.

The program requirements are purposefully flexible so that Baldwin Scholars can be students in Trinity or Pratt, major in any academic discipline, study abroad, participate in athletics and join other extra-curricular activities.

Through the application and interview processes, the selection committee sought diverse applicants who have high self-awareness and leadership potential.

### Baldwin Scholars, Class of 2008:

Aislinn Affinito	Claire Lauterbach
Kelley Akhiemokhali	Rachel McLaughlin
Natalie Basile	Anita Pai
Regan Bosch	Alison Perlberg
Megan Braley	Lisa Richards
Kamaria Campbell	Rachel Shack
Andrea Dinamarco	Vanja Vlahovic
Sarah Gordon	Laura Welch
Pallavi Kansal	Meng Zhou

## A message from the president...

Dear Duke Parents,

I am pleased to write this, my first of many notes to you, as I have just finished my fifth month as President of Duke. I am not certain how long I will be considered new in your eyes, but I hardly feel that way anymore given the pace at which the fall semester has progressed. It has been a time of challenge and growth on campus as we have been having very good conversations lately surrounding local, national and international events, and I could not be more pleased with the way our students are conducting themselves. If the sign of a successful education is the ability to engage in stimulating dialogue then we are surely on pace with our aspirations.

It was my pleasure to welcome many of you to campus a few weeks ago for Parents' & Family Weekend. We are pleased to report that we had a record-setting attendance. If you were able to attend and take advantage of the many programs and events that were scheduled over the weekend, I hope you gained a good picture of what daily life is like at this great place. Hopefully you also went away from that weekend knowing that your son or daughter is in good hands.

As you look forward to your student's return for the winter break, I know you will want to learn firsthand about her or his experiences at Duke. I hope your student will share news of many opportunities and explorations, intellectual and social. I imagine that you will marvel at how quickly your child is developing into an independent and capable young adult. But rest assured that your growing Duke student's need for family support and attention remains strong, though different than it has been until now.

I wish you the best for a peaceful holiday season and hope that I will have the chance to meet many of you in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

Richard H. Brodhead

For more information, please visit the following websites:

<http://baldwinscholars.duke.edu>

[http://www.duke.edu/womens\\_initiative/](http://www.duke.edu/womens_initiative/)

<http://www.duke.edu/web/Archives/history/abaldwin.html>

Or contact the Baldwin Scholars office:

phone: 919/684-6579 • e-mail: [baldwinscholars@duke.edu](mailto:baldwinscholars@duke.edu) ■

## Pre-major Advising at Duke

by Jerry Oster

A key message delivered to new students by the pre-major advisors they encounter in their first weeks on campus is that Duke isn't high school.

"Students starting their college careers might expect their academic advisor to serve the same function as a high-school guidance counselor," says Michele A. Rasmussen G'99, assistant dean of Trinity College and director of the Pre-Major Advising Center (PMAC). "In actuality, the ideal advising relationship is dynamic and highly individualistic, with the student engaged in the process and not just a passive recipient of the advisor's knowledge."

According to Trinity College Dean Robert J. Thompson, Jr., vice provost for undergraduate education, "Advising is not only collaborative; it is also as a form of teaching. We try to teach some of the same analytic and planning skills we hope students will acquire through the curriculum: how to make appraisals of themselves; and how to make reasonable plan of what they can accomplish."

Rasmussen directs 125 advisors whose responsibilities include being well informed about the curriculum, academic policies and procedures, and university resources; and being able to articulate the goals of a liberal education. Advisors are encouraged to meet with their advisees at least two or three times a semester. "We also want there to be contact throughout the semester via e-mail so that advisors can let their advisees know about events like the majors fair or the study-abroad fair," Rasmussen says.

A challenge for advisors is that many Duke students have clear career goals from the moment they arrive on campus. According to Rasmussen, this is "actually a great opportunity to sit down with the students and help them understand that at Duke there's no such thing as a pre-med or pre-business or pre-law major. These conversations often lead to a conversation about the rationale behind Duke's curriculum. We really want them to understand that when they graduate, regardless of their degree and professional aspirations, they're going to have quantitative skills, foreign language skills, and writing and research skills that will make them very attractive to employers, recruiters, and graduate schools."

PMAC advisors also help students deal with an issue they may never have confronted in their academic lives — low grades. "A student who gets the first D of his life on first-year fall-semester midterms may be extremely reluctant to try and get help," Rasmussen says. "His advisor helps him understand that the Academic Resource Center (ARC) is a resource we have for a very real reason — because college-level work is very demanding, especially at Duke." ARC provides individual conferences and group workshops on classroom and study skills and strategies, individual peer-tutoring sessions, and services for students with diagnosed learning disabilities.

Trinity College students must declare their majors mid-way through their fourth semester "We ask them to assess how well they've achieved certain learning objectives and to show the progress they've made towards satisfying the general-education requirements," Rasmussen says. "The pre-major advisor takes a careful look at what the student has written down and makes sure that it looks sensible. Finally, the student's file is transferred to the major department, so when they're planning for next semester for their courses, they're going to be working with a major advisor and not with us." ■



**Is your student considering Fraternity or Sorority Membership?**

**Interfraternity Council  
Formal Recruitment  
begins January 14, 2005**

**Panhellenic Association  
Formal Recruitment  
begins January 6, 2005**

**Fraternity & Sorority Life**  
*On-line registration is currently underway!*  
<http://deanofstudents.studentaffairs.duke.edu/greeklife>



## CIEMAS Opens Doors

by Deborah Hill

The Center for Interdisciplinary Engineering, Medicine and Applied Sciences (CIEMAS) opened on schedule in August 2004, more than doubling the Pratt School of engineering's teaching and research space. To engineering faculty and students, however, the four-building, 322,000-square-foot complex is more than bricks and mortar.

Under construction since May 2002, CIEMAS features undergraduate teaching and hands-on project labs, state-of-the-art research facilities and "intellectual collision spaces" where faculty, staff and students can work together.

CIEMAS supports teaching and research efforts in bioengineering; photonics and communications systems; integrated sensors and simulators; and biologically-inspired materials science and engineering. It also expands the Pratt School of Engineering's partnership with the School of Medicine, providing laboratories for collaborative research in healthcare, genomics and biotechnology. CIEMAS also houses Pratt's professional masters degree program in engineering management and entrepreneurship in collaboration with the School of Law and the Fuqua School of Business. ■

Visit Parent & Family Programs on the world wide web at:  
<http://deanofstudents.studentaffairs.duke.edu/>

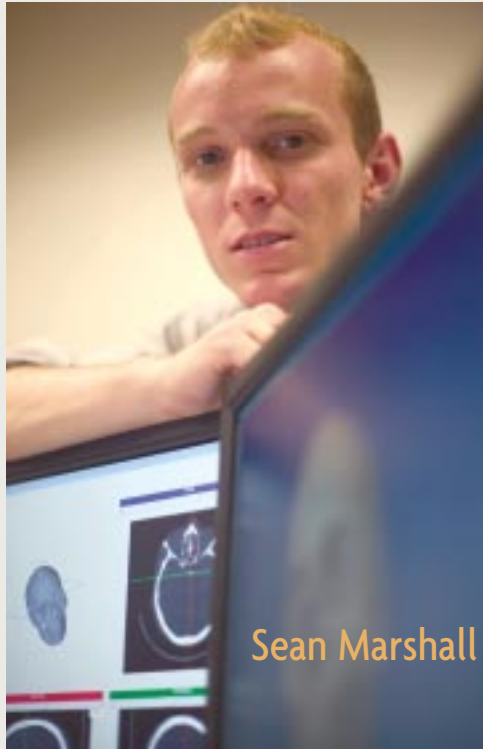


# Designing Replacement Parts for Human Skulls

by Gabriel Chen (Trinity '05)

When you have a hole in your head, three weeks is just too long to wait for a skull patch, according to senior biomedical engineering student Sean Marshall.

Imagine this scenario: A car-accident victim arrives unconscious at a hospital on a stretcher and part of his skull is damaged beyond repair. Modern medicine can design, manufacture and implant a prosthesis to patch that hole, but the process currently involves a neurosurgeon, a prosthetist, and a sculptor, and takes up to three weeks.



Marshall, from Florida, is determined to cut down on that waiting time. This summer, he worked at the Duke Biomechanics lab to research cranial malformations and the development of a database of normal cranial indices. He collaborated with researchers in biomechanics, radiology, and a plastic surgery.

"The ultimate goal of my research is for me to design a computer program that would save us money and time by taking the data to create the skull piece that the sculptor sculpts," said Marshall, who is double majoring in biomedical and electrical engineering.

Marshall started work at the end of May 2004 and is building his computer program from scratch. He continues to work on his research as an independent study through the fall of 2004.

"I came to Duke because of its excellent BME program. It helps that the campus is beautiful too. Every day, I walk from my Central Campus apartment through the gardens to get to class, and admire the scenery at the same time."

As for his future plans, Marshall said that he may work for Teach for America for two years before going to law school to specialize in intellectual property law. He wants to teach before going back to school, and also earn income while still being able to travel during summers. But more importantly, he wants to do the program that seeks to eliminate educational inequity nationwide because he loves teaching.

"My mom is a teacher," Marshall said. "Also, during high school, I was an assistant teacher for a class of students who struggled a lot with their class work. I hope to help the less privileged in education."

In the summer of 2003, Marshall worked at the Biophysics lab in the Duke University Eye Center. He helped develop prototypes for an agent that would be applied to fiber optic light guides, and that would allow light to be emitted more diffusively, aiding ophthalmologists in surgery.

While he enjoyed his "first engineering job experience," Marshall said he was more interested in how devices in the lab were patented.

"The particular lab I worked for gets a lot of patents for the devices they make," he said. "While working there, I realized that researching was not something I wanted to do in the future. I was more interested in the patenting aspect of it, and as such, would hope to do intellectual property law."

Marshall will graduate in the Spring of 2005. ■

If there's one thing your  
son or daughter  
should do for their career, this is it:

## Come to the second annual Duke Career Week January 23-29, 2005

- One whole week of exploration and career discussions
- Dozens of opportunities to meet over 150 alumni, whose only goal is to help students
- Moderated panel discussions on 30+ career fields: something for everyone
- Mentoring dinners with faculty, graduate and professional students, and alumni
- Wine tasting and etiquette dinner for seniors
- Summer jobs and internship fair
- Duke University Improv performance on careers
- Terrific website with biographies and contact information for all presenters and mentors

Harness the value of a Duke education and Duke connections. Career Week 2005 is a unique opportunity for first years, sophomores, juniors and seniors!

See who's coming to Career Week and encourage your student to sign up at [www.dukealumni.com/careerweek](http://www.dukealumni.com/careerweek).  
Registration for events starts January 3, 2005.

**Have a question?**  
Email [dukeparents@studentaffairs.duke.edu](mailto:dukeparents@studentaffairs.duke.edu)  
and we'll help you figure it out. We promise a  
prompt and helpful response.

**Duke Career Week**  
Come as you are...leave inspired.  
January 23-29, 2005  
Register online: [www.dukealumni.com/careerweek](http://www.dukealumni.com/careerweek)

## New Coalition Begins

BlueSPARC is Duke's new campus-community coalition to prevent alcohol-related consequences. Led by a full-time organizer in Duke's Dean of Students Office, BlueSPARC focuses on preventing the consequences of high-risk drinking, which include academic problems, physical and mental health problems, property damage, physical injury, physical assault, sexual assault, and involvement with the police or campus security. With multiple collaborators in the Duke and Durham communities, the BlueSPARC coalition focuses on building relationships and educating the community to promote a culture that actively prevents high-risk drinking, and more generally to create a healthy, safe, and supportive environment for college students to learn and grow both socially and academically.

The BlueSPARC Leadership Team began meeting in September 2004 to select strategies for the Duke community to implement in an effort to reduce alcohol-related consequences. Members of the leadership team include student leaders as well as faculty, staff, and community members in the fields of health care, law enforcement, student affairs, public relations, and substance abuse prevention. BlueSPARC is part of a statewide study funded by a three-year grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and conducted by researchers at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Duke is one of five universities in North Carolina to receive funding from the grant for a campus-community coalition.

Parents and families are an important part of the Duke community. The BlueSPARC Leadership Team would love to hear from you! To share your ideas, questions, and concerns, or to learn more about BlueSPARC, please contact Claire Feldman-Riordan, Campus-Community Organizer, at [clairefr@duke.edu](mailto:clairefr@duke.edu). ■

## Subscribe to eDuke

Getting the latest news about Duke is as easy as opening e-mail. The university has developed "eDuke," a set of electronic communications that are available for free through a single online subscription form.

The three types of e-mail updates are:

**"eDuke daily,"** which provides the latest information from Duke's Office of News and Information;

**"eDuke media clips,"** which highlights the latest news media reports about Duke - from local TV broadcasts to national networks, and from the New York Times to the International Herald Tribune; and

**"eDuke monthly,"** which provides the month's top news about Duke, along with information on topics of interest to individual subscribers.

To subscribe to one or more of the three eDuke communications, simply complete the subscription form available at

<http://www.eduke.duke.edu/subscribe.php> ■



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<https://mailman.studentaffairs.duke.edu/mailman/listinfo/dukeparents-announce/>

## Helpful Phone Numbers

Parent and Family Programs	<b>919-684-3511</b>
Dean of Students Office	<b>919-668-DUKE</b>
Student Health	<b>919-681-WELL</b>
Residence Life & Housing Services	<b>919-684-4304</b>
Counseling & Psychological Services	<b>919-660-1000</b>
Duke Police	<b>919-684-2444</b>



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