

Chalkdust

the official newsletter of the ECU Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars

Spring 2007 Features

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North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission Visits and Evaluates the ECU Teaching Fellows Program

On November 1st and 2nd, the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission visited Greenville for the required five-year evaluation. Among the members of the Commission present were: Gladys Graves, director of the Teaching Fellows program, Danny Bland, director of Teacher Recruitment for the Teaching Fellows program, and commission members Mrs. Linda Little, Mr. Franz Holscher, Ms. Melissa Churchwell, and Mr. Demond McKenzie. The two-day visit was filled with interviews, observations, and input from students, professors, and alumni. The report of the Commission's results feature many highlights; specifically, our program met all program goals, with minimal recommendations.

Day one of the visit was mainly a flurry of interviews – Chancellor Ballard, Dr. Corbin, former Dean Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, and Interim Dean Dr. John Swope were among the various members of the East Carolina administration who were interviewed about the state of our Teaching Fellows Program. In the afternoon, East Carolina professors and Teaching Fellows talked with the

Commission. The second day of the evaluation included visits to Teaching Fellows Resident Advisors and interviews with the East Carolina Teaching Fellows staff.

The Commission's findings showed that 98.3% of East Carolina's Teaching Fellows agree that our program prepares them academically and culturally. Furthermore, all Teaching Fellows agree that they are "encouraged to participate in political, cultural, and educational events on and off campus" and "opportunities are available to develop leadership skills." Our program was commended in every area, particularly with "The Treasure Chest," extracurricular enrichment opportunities, diversity emphasis, the role of Coordinating Council, and the support from the office staff.

In the future, the East Carolina Teaching Fellows Program plans to expand public school representation on the Advisory Board, add more of an emphasis on ESL seminars, and recruit a more diverse body of students. Also, our program will increase service learning, collaboration with other Teaching Fellows programs, and undergraduate research with faculty. The Commission concluded by stating, "The Team's ratings in

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each area reviewed reflect the program at ECU continues to thrive and several areas of strength are highlighted within the Team's commendations." So, certainly, East Carolina's Teaching Fellows program is thriving; as Dean Swope said in his letter to the Chair of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission, "We are most proud of our Teaching Fellows program and director Mary Beth Corbin, assistant director Martha Parrish, and program assistant Cynthia Dixon. We appreciate the opportunity to have this review and to find ways to make the program stronger."

- Daniel Barnes

Tutoring Updates: Spring 2007

The 69 freshman Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars have been very busy this past semester tutoring with local after school programs. Ms. Courtney Pruett of Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation placed the students at the beginning of the spring semester and visits the programs on a regular basis. Each Fellow and Scholar spent at least one hour each week helping elementary aged children with homework and school projects as well as creative activities for play after homework is complete. This experience has been great preparation for their future Fellow/Scholar tutoring requirements, as well as their future education coursework and eventual practica and internships. The approximate total hours for this semester equal 700 hours. What a great achievement for the freshman class!

The sophomores just completed their Service Learning Projects; they presented their process and products at the annual Service Learning Symposium on Monday, April 9. Ms. Arrington, director of The Little Willie Center, spoke to the group about the importance of volunteering in one's community. Ms. Arrington was also named Pitt County's Citizen of the Year.

The sophomores presented many interesting projects at the seminar. One group led students in small music group ensembles. Another group involved the children in a book drive where the Fellows collected more than 160 books for Carver Library. One group designed lessons around the flag, the military in North Carolina, and supporting our troops as they protect our freedom. The students made cards to send to the men and women in the military. Two other Fellows involved the girls at Operation Sunshine in a presentation about what they wanted to be when they grew up. The Fellows enlisted the help of Dr. Guy, a faculty member at ECU, to show the girls how to realize their dreams. The sophomores have logged tutoring hours at The Boys and Girls Club, The Little Willie Center, Carver Library, Eastern Youth Orchestra, and Operation Sunshine.

The juniors are wrapping up their tutoring for the year. Junior Teaching Fellows were placed in surrounding schools according to their majors. A total of ten hours required were to be completed by the end of the spring semester, to make a total of twenty hours for the entire year. Tutoring placements were handled by Mr. Kurt Garner.

- Talia King

Sophomore Trip: The Outer Banks

Bright and early on February 17th, the sophomore class piled onto a bus to head to the Outer Banks for the day. On the way

"Tutoring was a great way to get hands on experience with students I could be teaching and deal with problems and issues that might arise when I am in the classroom."

- Jason Ramos, Sophomore

*"Even though I woke up not knowing what to expect, it turned out to be a lot of fun."
- Stephen Battise, Sophomore*

there, the bus was quiet as most people were waking up. Our first exciting stop was the aquarium. We saw squids, turtles, alligators and otters. The otters seemed to be the crowd favorite with their silly games. We also got the pleasure of observing the divers in a large tank and asking them questions as they swam with the sharks.

When we left there we headed to the Bodie Island lighthouse. It was breezy outside as everyone took amazing pictures and toured inside the building to gain newfound knowledge about lighthouses, Bodie in particular.

Our next stop was the Wright Brothers Museum. It was exciting as some people found portraits of their ancestors who assisted with flights. We saw models and actual pieces of the flight machines. We also saw a video and walked where the flight took place.

We had a choice at our next stop: we could either go to climb Jockey's Ridge or visit the shopping center right across from the ridge. Seven daring souls climbed to the top of the Ridge and got a thrill from rushing, or jumping, to the bottom. Their shoes were full of sand, but they were full of laughter as they headed back to join the others at the shopping center. Meanwhile, the other Fellows enjoyed shopping; two of them got their "old time" Western-style picture taken.

After that everyone headed to Kelly's for dinner. It was a very classy meal in a gorgeous antique filled restaurant with several entrée choices and fabulous desserts! The bus ride back was full of discussion about the

day's activities and sadness swept over the group as we exited the bus. We were extremely tired and ready to sleep, but we were very disappointed that another day of adventure had come to a close. Stephen Battise summed it up best when he said, "Even though I woke up not knowing what to expect, it turned out to be a lot of fun."

- Marina Bonner

Junior Trip: Boston, Massachusetts

On Wednesday, March 28th, the East Carolina Junior Teaching Fellows and five chaperones boarded a bus and headed to Boston, Massachusetts. Each year the junior class is privileged to take a trip and explore a destination for a few days. This year the juniors chose Boston over the other choices, Atlanta and New York.

The Fellows had wonderful accommodations at the Radisson Hotel located downtown in the theater district of Boston. The hotel was conveniently located near the Boston Commons, Boston Park, and lots of downtown shopping. After settling in their hotel rooms, the Fellows explored the surrounding area as a group. Mrs. Dixon grew up in Boston so had lots of tips and was a great guide. Kurt Garner, one of the chaperones and Teaching Fellow graduate assistant, spent many summers in Boston growing up, so he was great help too. Also, Dr. Corbin attended Graduate School in Boston. After exploring the downtown area and doing some shopping, the Fellows headed back to the hotel to freshen up for dinner.

The Travel Committee arranged for the group to have dinner at the Union Oyster House, the oldest running restaurant in America—established in 1826. The building was originally an old supply store and the history shone through the décor. The food

was excellent, from the scrod (baby cod), shrimp, swordfish, salmon, and the roasted chicken. We had a great server who even gave us some history on the restaurant. To top off a great dinner we had some excellent apple crisp.

On Friday we walked the Freedom Trail with our guide Jeremiah. We learned many interesting facts along the way. Grayson Woodcock was put in the "stocks" as we listened to the absurd reasons the Puritans were placed in the stocks. We toured graveyards and learned about Benjamin Franklin's childhood and John Hancock's extreme dislike of George Washington. Traveling along the Freedom Trail gave us the opportunity to see many historical sites in Boston like Faneuil Hall, the site of the Boston Massacre, and ending our trip with seeing the USS Constitution. We then took a ferry across the Boston Harbor and took the subway to the John F. Kennedy Museum. Afterwards we ate dinner at Joe Tece's. We enjoyed authentic Italian cuisine ending with delicious ice cream.

On Saturday we were given freedom to roam as we pleased in smaller groups. Some chose to explore the campus of Harvard. Others took the time to buy souvenirs for friends and family. A couple of Fellows headed to the New England Aquarium. Still others took the opportunity to go to the Museum of Science and see an IMAX movie and visit interactive exhibits.

Sunday morning came much too soon as the Fellows had to pack their bags and say goodbye to Boston. By the end of the trip many had become new experts on the history of America. Others mastered the underground subway system, also known as the "T." Overall the Juniors had a great time exploring Boston with their friends.

- Karlee Fee

Concessions Trip: Washington, DC

For this year's Concessions Trip, the ECU NC Teaching Fellows traveled to Washington, DC for the weekend. Leaving on Friday afternoon, two charter buses departed East Carolina full of eager Fellows and Scholars and five chaperones, including Mrs. Parrish's father, Mr. Reggie Parker. We spent both Friday & Saturday nights at Hotel Harrington, a historical fixture in the heart of DC. The hotel first opened in 1914 and is conveniently located on Northwest the corner of 11th & E, near Pennsylvania Avenue. Thankful for the great location of the hotel, the Fellows wasted no time setting out to explore the city immediately after arriving on Friday night. On most everyone's agenda was visiting the monuments, memorials, and other historical sites, including the White House, Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

Saturday was a perfectly beautiful day in the city. In the morning, half of the Fellows traveled to the Holocaust Museum while the other went to the International Spy Museum. The group at the Holocaust was fortunate enough to be accompanied by Mr. Parker, who loves history and has a passion for sharing his knowledge. Before and during the walk through the museum, Mr. Parker could be found answering people's questions and providing us with handouts about World War II and the Holocaust. The group at the Spy Museum got the chance to test their skills at being a spy. They crawled through air shafts, examined spy gadgets and

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"The concessions trip is always a great way for Fellows from every class to get to know each other and share a great weekend in a city full of history and culture."

weapons, learned about intelligence training and were challenged about their "identity" at the conclusion of the tour.

The rest of the weekend was free time for the Fellows. Some ventured out to Georgetown for shopping and dining while others visited Union Station, Arlington Cemetery and other key points of interest in our Nation's Capital. The concessions trip is always a great way for Fellows from every class to get to know each other and share a great weekend in a city full of history and culture.

- Ashleigh Phillips

Photo Gallery: Spring 2007 Campus Events

In addition to the major events the ECU Fellows & Scholars have participated in this year, such as the trips and the tutoring experiences, the Fellows have also had the chance to participate in some events that are smaller but still critical parts of the program. For this edition of the *Chalkdust*, we've included photos of some of these events: the December 2006 Holiday Social, the annual Recruitment Day, and the annual Teaching Fellows Talent Show. Recruitment Day was part of a statewide program for helping prospective Fellows choose which school they'd like to attend, but the other events are unique to ECU, and all are dear to our hearts. Special thanks to a wide variety of photographers



2006 Holiday Social

Left: During the 2006 Annual Teaching Fellow Holiday Social, each guest was required to bring one toy for children who aren't as fortunate as some of us are. The turnout was enormous, a great success for the Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars.

Right: The event also had marvelous entertainment. The staff and students alike, both got up and danced their troubles away. With exams out of the way, and the holidays on the horizon, everyone was able to sit back and cut loose.



Junior Trip to Boston, MA

Right: The Junior class poses for a group photo in Boston Commons just in front of the Massachusetts State House.



Concessions Trip to Washington, DC

Below: The Teaching Fellows group that visited the Holocaust Museum is posed below in front of the museum.



Sophomore Trip to The Outer Banks

Left: The Sophomore class take a break to pose for a picture at the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kitty Hawk, NC.





Recruitment Day 2007

Left: During the day, the students participated in an interview skills workshop, where Ms. Catrina Davis explained the ins and outs of perfecting the interviews that they would all be attending in a short amount of time.

Right: Recruitment Day turned out a great amount of prospective Fellows, eager to discover if ECU was the school for them. The entire day was full of different programs to inspire the students to continue their path towards being teachers and ECU Teaching Fellows.



Talent Show 2007

Above: The talent show had a wonderful turnout and fantastic performers. Brandon Woolley, was one of the members, received a standing ovation for the performance of his original piano composition. *Left:* There was music, miming, and the comedic performance of Stuart Lannon, including balancing a table on his chin. Along with the performance of his talent Stuart Lannon, with the help of Dannie Gray, ran sound for the entire Talent Show.

Congratulations!

- Senior Teaching Fellows May 2007 Graduates. Please keep in touch!
- Dr. Mary Beth Corbin, Director, for receiving her Doctorate in Educational Leadership in May 2007! The title of Dr. Corbin's dissertation is "Factors That Influence Rural High Schools Students Decisions Whether to Choose Teaching as a Career Choice."

Alumni Corner

Please send any contact information updates, and any personal or professional updates to Martha Parrish at parrishm@ecu.edu.

You may also visit our website for more information and to chat on our discussion board. www.coe.ecu.edu/teachfel

Thank you to the Communications Committee for submitting the articles and pictures for the *Chalkdust*, and to the *Chalkdust* editor and Communications Co-Chair, Sarah Wittmer for her hard work in putting this newsletter together each semester.

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