

NCCU

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

SPRING 2012

UHP INAUGURATES LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY

In the fall of 2011, UHP inaugurated its reconstituted Living and Learning Community in Annie Day Shepard Hall. The dynamic community has many new and enriching features for students, including a technology-enhanced smart classroom where students can engage in webinars and teleconferencing, access to the latest computer technology, including iPads, MacBooks, and laptops, an in-house residential library furnished by UHP with 200 inspirational and intellectually-enriching books, and several other amenities that contribute to an enhanced learning environment for students. Through collaborative

efforts with Residential Life, the UHP Living and Learning Community has created an intentionally intellectual and social environment for the honors students. Not only are honors students able to share in the rich experiences provided for them in the UHP Living and Learning Community, but they also have easy access to the University Honors Program Office, which is now located on the ground floor of the residence hall. In addition, students have enjoyed the central location of the community at the heart of the campus, which promotes the university's priority of "Student Success" as modeled by the University Honors Program.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UHP INAUGURATES LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY	1
MR. NAAHP 2011-2012: CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ	1
SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR	2
UHP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: JET PITCH	2
CHANCELLORS SCHOLAR AWARD: CHARLOTTE CRONE	3
MARTIN LUTHER KING MEMORIAL TRIP	3
MISS NCCU 2012: HARMONY CROSS	3
RETIREMENT: MRS. GLORIA CHAMBERS	4
FRESHMAN FEATURE	4

ABOUT UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM:

- The University Honors Program (UHP) provides high achieving students with a vital community and valuable resources to prepare them for intellectual initiative at the highest level and for engaged leadership in a global society.

Learn more about UHP at:
<http://www.nccu.edu/honors>

MR. NAAHP 2011-2012: CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ

Every year, the National Association of African-American Honors Programs holds a conference whose purpose is to promote and advance honors programs at HBCUs across the nation. Among this coalition of HBCU programs, the University Honors Program's very own Christopher Lopez was elected Mr. NAAHP for the 2010-2011 academic year to serve as ambassador of all NAAHP member schools. Mr. Lopez emphasizes that forging relationships is instrumental to facilitating one's personal and professional development. He said this conference gave him the opportunity to do just that, while also diversifying his network with students from other institutions who share his am-

bition and his goals. Reflecting on his NAAHP experience, Mr. Lopez said "if you weren't in UHP, you probably wouldn't have heard about the conference." In November 2012, Mr. Lopez had the privilege of being the student keynote speaker for the 2011-2012 NAAHP conference in Hampton, Virginia. UHP was his "bridge to an incredible opportunity," he said. He credits UHP Director, Ansel Brown, and Administrative Assistant, Gloria Chambers, with pushing him to run for the position. Mr. Lopez says he is eager to reach out to the rising freshman class to get them maximally engaged and transfer to them rewarding experiences he's enjoyed as a member of UHP.



Ansel Brown, UHP Director



Christopher Lopez

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR INTERNATIONAL STUDY

In the early Spring 2012 semester, UHP students had the rare opportunity to travel to Austria to attend the Salzburg Global Seminar’s Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention Initiative. The initiative is an ongoing research project that has been developed in cooperation with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Austrian Foreign Ministry to investigate links between Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention. UHP has a global vision with a motto of “Preparing World Changers.” How can you change what you don’t know? The

Salzburg Global Seminar was a great way for students to begin increasing their knowledge of the world around them and to begin developing a global conscious. UHP Business major, Noredia Akwara, was one of our students who had the opportunity to experience the conference. “It was an amazing experience,” she said. She reflected on how students were able to travel through the neighborhoods of Salzburg, walking in places where major world events occurred, and just knew it was going to be a memorable experience. UHP looks forward to sending students again in upcoming years.



Chaz Berry



UHP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: JET-PITCH

A unique career opportunity is on the horizon for members of the University Honors Program. Jet Pitch, a premium web-based profile system that features students in a new and dynamic way in front of top companies and graduate schools across the world, has come to NCCU. It allows recruiters to cost-effectively expand their reach by providing direct access to elite candidates from college campuses such as NCCU. Jet

Pitch has recently worked with the University Honors Program to spotlight some of the brightest minds and motivated leaders on campus. On Tuesday, March 27th, select students from UHP attended filming sessions that prepared them for the development of their very own personal marketing websites, free of charge this year to UHP students. “UHP made it possible for me to participate in this opportuni-

ty. It inspired me to utilize Jet Pitch as part of my career development” says senior, Chaz Berry. Jet Pitch is indeed unique. UHP has already begun to put NCCU students on the map for prospective employers and graduate admissions officers. For all interested students and friends of the University Honors Program, please visit the UHP Jet Pitch page at: www.jetpitch.com/NCCU



CHANCELLOR’S SCHOLAR AWARD: CHARLOTTE CRONE

Charlotte Crone is the 2012 recipient of the University Award for Academic Excellence. The Chancellor’s Award for Academic Excellence recognizes a graduating student who has maintained a 3.8 GPA for seven semesters while rendering real service to society. Charlotte, 29, maintained this GPA while being married to her husband, Tim, and being a full time mother to her three children: Jack (8), Ellie (7), and Spike (7 months). In addition

to her studies as a Pharmaceutical Science major, she home schools her two older children. Charlotte is not only an exemplary student inside the classroom, but outside as well. Charlotte has gone beyond the call of duty. Most notably, she developed and implemented a program to address the epidemic of obesity in children that received international attention. Former President Bill Clinton took a personal interest in the project, and

offered high praise in a Good Morning America segment that covered her work. [\(Watch Video Here\)](#) Charlotte also gave interviews to ABC News and People Ireland and New Zealand Magazine, and media outlets that featured her work. UHP proudly salutes our own Charlotte Crone on her success, and wishes her the best in all her future endeavors. Congratulations Charlotte!



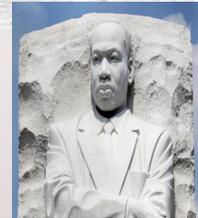
Charlotte Crone, a UHP Pharmaceutical Sciences major, with her family.

MARTIN LUTHER KING MEMORIAL TRIP

The University Honors Program took a weekend trip to Washington, DC for the inauguration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in October of 2011. The trip was an inspiration to students who witnessed the unveiling of the first African-American honored with a memorial on the National Mall. Students also did a tour of the Capitol building and House chamber, where they

discussed the vision of Dr. King to change the world. This was a moving discussion for the students, who are preparing to fulfill the UHP motto of nurturing and preparing world changers. Students were led by Director Ansel Brown in reflections on how they can learn from the legacy of Dr. King to impact the world. In the words of one student attending, “[I]t’s imperative we reflect on

those whose foundations we build on, to never forget the sweat, tears, and blood which binds that foundation, and let our actions reflect our appreciation for the way that has been prepared for us...” While in Washington D.C., UHP also visited the Holocaust Museum, the Smithsonian Institute, and a cultural night of dining at Maeza Ethiopian Restaurant.



MISS NCCU 2012: HARMONY CROSS

Serving as the 2012 Miss NCCU, Harmony Cross is a rising Senior majoring in Public Administration and a member of the University Honors Program. Harmony is from Syracuse, New York, and is now living on NCCU’s campus, where she works as a Resident Assistant. After a challenging freshman year, Harmony found new inspiration to do something different. She became proactive, pursuing various ways to enhance

her NCCU experience, and after achieving a 3.5+ GPA, she joined UHP as part of fulfilling her personal undertaking to hold herself to a higher standard. Her campaign for Miss NCCU was successful, in part due to the tireless efforts of fellow UHP members. Since her recent crowning as Miss NCCU, Harmony competed against 35 students from other HBCUs for an opportunity to be 1 of 10 Campus Queens featured in

Ebony’s September 2012 issue of Campus Queens. Since its inception, Ebony has celebrated and supported the nurturing of young Black women. Ten crowning beauties grace the pages of the magazine and UHP’s Harmony Cross was selected to be one of them! You can visit Harmony’s Ebony Magazine profile at:

www.ebony.com/campusqueens/26



Harmony Cross

UHP GRADUATING SENIORS ARE SOARING!

On Saturday, May 12th, North Carolina Central University awarded bachelor’s degrees to 536 students in O’Kelly Riddick Stadium. Among them was UHP’s Alejandro Espitia. Espitia, an international student from Colombia and captain of the NCCU tennis team, graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Art in Political Science. On August 28th, he will begin orientation for law school at the University of Pennsylvania. His interest in law school was inspired by a UHP sponsored event

called “So you want to go to law school?” A model student in and out the classroom, Alejandro’s resume of accomplishments not only reflects his commitment to academics, but also the community. He has served many hours as a tennis teacher for children from low-income families. While reflecting on his experience at NCCU with UHP since his sophomore year, Alejandro expressed his gratitude for the investment people like UHP Director, Ansel Brown, made

towards his success. “[Director Ansel Brown] has been an outstanding mentor, UHP is an incredible program” he said. He believes the structure of UHP makes students feel special about their accomplishments, and it is in this way he feels it acts as an agent for facilitating self-efficacy in students. As Alejandro spends his summer preparing for this milestone, UHP wishes one of its own the best. Great job, Alejandro!

Alejandro Espitia

MRS. GLORIA CHAMBERS' RETIREMENT, THANK YOU MRS. CHAMBERS!!!

On April 20, 2012, the University Honors Program recognized Mrs. Gloria Chambers for 18 years of service. Approximately fifty of Mrs. Chambers' closest friends, family, co-workers, former bosses, and students attended the event. The celebration was held in the lobby of the Annie Day Shepard Residence Hall. Students and other guests reflected on Mrs. Chambers' time here at North Carolina Central University. To many, Mrs. Chambers has been more than just an advisor, as she acted as the mother of the University Honors Program. Mrs. Chambers has worked on the campus of NCCU for twenty plus years and will be missed by the entire university. Although she is retiring, she plans to still help the honors students in the future. The University Honors Program is grateful for Mrs. Gloria Chambers!

THANK YOU MRS. CHAMBERS!!!

Sincerely,
The University Honors Program



“ P R E P A R I N G W O R L D C H A N G E R S ”

FRESHMAN FEATURE: KERSTIN DE LA TORRE

From Henderson, NC, UHP student Kerstin De La Torre is a rising Sophomore attending NCCU on a full scholarship. Kerstin is a double major pursuing a degree in Chemistry with a concentration in Pre-medicine and in Physical Education with a concentration in Exercise Sports Science. Since coming to NCCU, Kerstin has taken on a course load of 17 credits per semester and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She recently finished her one-year term serving the student body as a Senator in the Freshman SGA Council. She now has aspirations of becoming the SGA Vice-President. In her free time, Kerstin enjoys salsa dancing with the NCCU dance group “Los Salseros.” As a UHP member, Kerstin says she enjoys the culture of success cultivated by the environment of the UHP Living and Learning Community. She also expressed her appreciation for the focused at-

tention UHP members continually receive from the program, while receiving updates about opportunities for personal and professional development (whether they be high profile internships, networking events, or scholarship information). Kerstin believes UHP is a great support structure for those who possess the audaciousness required for overcoming status quo and achieving higher standards. Kerstin has also been doing hands on work in the lab with chemistry professor, Dr. Chatterjee. Kerstin already has her sights set on going to medical school to either become an M.D. or a D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy). As an M.D. or D.O., she is interested in working with children, while also incorporating services for physical therapy into her medical practice.



Kerstin De La Torre

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