NC State Receives Presidential Award for Community Service

For its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement, NC State received the Presidential Award, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive, for its commitment to community service. NC State was among 642 schools named to the 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, but was among only five Presidential Awardees nationwide and one of two in the “general community service” category. The award was presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement. The award recognizes institutions that achieve meaningful, measureable outcomes in the communities they serve. The NC State commitment to service can be seen in the 330,000 service hours performed by more than 21,000 students during the 2010-2011 academic year for an estimated $7 million value.

NC State Professor Receives Award for Excellence from Board of Governors

Dr. Stephen P. Reynolds, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor of Physics at NC State, has been honored with an Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Board of Governors. One educator from each UNC system campus wins the annual award, which comes with a prize of $7,500 and a bronze medallion. The Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching is the most prestigious award given to faculty for teaching excellence and was created in 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and encourage, recognize and reward outstanding teaching. A third-generation college professor, Reynolds has taught at all levels at the university, from nontechnical physics and astronomy to specialized courses for advanced graduate students. Reynolds joined the NC State faculty in 1985 and was charged with founding a research group in astrophysics. That group, now numbering nine faculty, is known worldwide for expertise in high-energy astrophysics, with a particular focus on supernovae and their remnants.

NC State Students Receive Goldwater Scholarship

Four NC State students were selected to receive the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for Excellence in Education, the most prestigious award in the U.S. conferred upon undergraduates studying the sciences. The Goldwater Scholarship Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater and to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers. Universities are allowed to nominate only four undergraduate students per year. NC State is one of only four universities nationwide to have four Goldwater Scholars. Other area schools awarded were Duke with two scholars and UNC-Chapel Hill with one scholar. NC State’s scholars are: Richard Deans, Chemistry major and Park Scholar; Ian Thomas Hill, Biochemistry and Polymer & Color Chemistry major and Park Scholar; Heidi Klumpe, Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry major and Park Scholar; and Brinda Monian, Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry major and Caldwell Fellow.
NC State Celebrates 125th Anniversary with Birthday Bash and Year-Long Celebration

On March 7, 2012, NC State celebrated the 125th anniversary of the General Assembly’s creation of the North Carolina Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in Raleigh. After opening with 72 students and six faculty members in a single building, NC State now educates more than 34,000 students and employs more than 7,500 faculty and staff on a campus covering 2,100 acres. In light of our 125 year-long commitment to transforming academic excellence into economic development and outreach in the state of North Carolina, NC State has declared a year of celebration to be marked by numerous special events and three signature celebrations. On April 2, an NC State Birthday Bash was held for the entire campus community. This signature event took place in Reynolds Coliseum and included music, free cake and Howling Cow ice cream, prizes and a vintage photo booth. The ensuing year-long commemoration of NC State’s legacy as a land-grant institution will bring the Wolfpack Family closer together as we celebrate our rich history and heritage.

Museum’s New Nature Research Center to Highlight NC State Faculty

Four key leadership positions at the Museum of Natural Sciences’ new Nature Research Center (NRC) are filled by scientists with faculty appointments in NC State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences and College of Humanities Social Sciences. The museum opens on April 20 and will offer internship opportunities and research experience to both graduate and undergraduate students. As a center of education and research, the NRC will promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for a wide array of diverse audiences. Because the NRC is focused on communicating with the public about science, NC State faculty may be able to leverage the NRC’s resources to address outreach requirements included in grant applications.

Harrelson Lecture Given by Facebook Co-Founder

Hickory, NC native Chris Hughes spoke about how social media has transformed the communication landscape when he gave NC State’s Harrelson Lecture on Monday, April 2 in Stewart Theatre. The lecture featured the publisher and editor-in-chief of The New Republic and co-founder of the social media platform Facebook, where Hughes first worked as Facebook’s spokesperson and later led the product and user experience team. Hughes also served as director of online organizing for President Barack Obama’s campaign in 2007-08. The campaign’s new-media strategy revolutionized the use of the web as a political tool, helping the raise more than $500 million through more than two million small donations.

Service Close to Home

A total of 2,000 volunteers registered to participate in the annual Service Raleigh event on March 24. University and community volunteers spread out across central North Carolina to participate in over 60 service projects. Teams built compost bins, cleared hiking trails, sorted donated furniture, assessed the conditions of neighborhood sidewalks and restored natural habitats for wildlife and scientific research. Organizations that hosted projects this year included the American Red Cross, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Ronald McDonald House of Durham and Trees Across Raleigh. Service Raleigh began in 1998 as a collaborative project between Student Government and Park Scholarships. The event has grown to become the largest student-coordinated service endeavor in the Triangle area.