

Annual Report, 2003-2004  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
North Carolina State University

Submitted by:  
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In 2003-04, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) has made significant overall progress on the institutionalization of a College-wide commitment to interdisciplinary teaching, research, and service; development of several proposals for new degree programs, both undergraduate and graduate, including the first distance education-delivered, degree-completion program to be offered by CHASS; an increase in the diversity of College staff and student populations; and growth in the level of externally-sponsored research in the College. And, most important, CHASS students continue to excel as a community of achievers.

**Changes in the Service Environment**

To offset the effects of a statewide budget crisis, the College explored innovative ways to implement reductions without adversely affecting the CHASS mission or the classroom experience of NC State students. The College developed a set of principles to inform decisions about the allocation of scarce resources throughout the College:

- CHASS will not sacrifice long-term goals in making short-term cuts;
- The College will execute targeted cuts, rather than across the board cuts which weaken every program and activity;
- The College will maintain commitments to new faculty because they represent an investment in the future of CHASS; and
- The College will retain departmental staff and operating budgets essential to support the core missions of teaching and research.

Consistent with application of these core principles, the College eliminated state-appropriated support for three CHASS extension and engagement activities, while refocusing these initiatives and exploring non-state-appropriated sources of funding:

- *Humanities Extension and Publications.*
  - o The CHASS commitment to extension and engagement has broadened to include social sciences and humanities disciplines, extending the historic role of faculty outreach to the schools to the development of more organized seminars and programs that will involve larger numbers of teachers in the schools.
- *Center for Information Society Studies.*
  - o Associated faculty members in the Departments of English and Communication are collaborating on the development of an innovative new Ph.D. in Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media. This collaboration will carry forward elements of the CISS mission and purpose.
- *North Carolina Japan Center.*
  - o Activities of the Japan Center continue with the support of non-state-appropriated resources. In addition, the College has expanded its commitment to international programs, including programs focused on East Asia.

### **Enhancing the CHASS Commitment to Interdisciplinary Programs**

CHASS has a long history of involvement in interdisciplinary teaching and research. The College aims to strengthen its current efforts, and expand its commitment to interdisciplinary programs, in order to better serve the needs of NC State students and our society. We are also committed to making interdisciplinary programs available to diverse and geographically dispersed populations, through distance education.

Following the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Interdisciplinary Programs, during the 2003-04 academic year, CHASS completed the shift away from a divisional model, to an integrated model in which responsibilities for delivery of interdisciplinary programs are now shared by departments across the College. Administration of interdisciplinary programs has been relocated to a newly renamed Office of Academic Affairs and Interdisciplinary Programs within the Dean's Office. Effective July

1, 2004, the Division of Multidisciplinary Studies (MDS) will be disbanded. Current MDS faculty members have been reassigned to existing academic units based on the negotiation of individual memoranda of understanding. The College will continue to offer all of the academic programs currently housed in the Division of Multidisciplinary Studies.

### **Diversity: Initiatives and Progress**

The College has a long-standing commitment to recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and staff of color. During the past year we have increased the percentage of students of color enrolled in the College from 13 percent to 18 percent. We have increased the percentage of staff of color in CHASS from 14 percent to 16 percent. The departure of two faculty members caused a decrease in the percentage of faculty of color, from 16 percent to 14 percent. The recruitment of two new faculty for next year – one African-American and one Asian – will begin to offset our loss in this area.

The CHASS Office of Diversity Programs monitors progress toward degree of African-American, Native American, and Hispanic students. We have launched a longitudinal study, the CHASS Success Project, to monitor the progress of two cohorts of African-American students and provide support to enable these students to perform well and graduate on time. The first student cohort graduated in May 2004. Of the 15 students identified in this cohort, eight graduated in four years. Their four-year graduation rate of 53% is higher than the University average of 35.4%, and also higher than the CHASS four-year graduation rate of 40%.

### **Instructional Program Initiatives**

The College developed proposals for, or implemented, several new academic programs across a variety of disciplines, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs and innovative distance education offerings:

- Masters degrees in French and Spanish (To be implemented in fall 2004).
- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (To be implemented in fall 2004).
- Ph.D. in Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media (Proposal has been forwarded to UNC-Office of the President).
- Masters of Social Work (Intent to Establish is in process).
- Interdisciplinary undergraduate major in Africana Studies (Intent to Establish expected in fall 2004).
- B.A. in International Studies (Intent to Establish expected in fall 2004).
- Leadership in the Public Sector, a degree-completion, distance-education-delivered interdisciplinary undergraduate program (Proposal underway, in collaboration with DELTA).
- Online courses in Professional Writing (To be implemented in fall 2004, in collaboration with DELTA).

### **Research**

CHASS faculty have been active in externally-sponsored research. Faculty members across the College have received 40 awards totaling \$3.6 million dollars through May 24, 2004. (The comparable figure at this time last year was \$2.9 million dollars.)

In collaboration with the Graduate School, the Office of the Provost, and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, the College supports the university-wide Research Ethics Program. Led by Dr. Gary Comstock, Professor of Philosophy, this initiative builds on previous university and National Science Foundation support for research ethics courses and seminars for graduate students and faculty across the campus.

The Institute for Nonprofits continues its strong growth. We hired Barbara Metelsky as Executive Director of the Institute in August 2003. Since her arrival, Barbara has developed a governance structure for the Institute, supported the introduction of a new undergraduate minor in Nonprofit Studies (fall 2004), increased the involvement of CHASS faculty in Institute research and program development, and actively supported private-sector

fund-raising. The A.J. Fletcher Foundation has acknowledged their continued support of this project by fulfilling the second \$250,000 installment of their \$1 million dollar pledge.

### **Extension Initiatives and Public Service Activities**

Extension and engagement are at the core of our mission, and the spirit of the “Engaged Liberal Arts” is central to activities and programs throughout the College.

Highlights include:

- CHASS worked with 4-H to reposition the social studies curriculum, focusing on digitizing teaching materials associated with the social studies textbook project to make them widely available to public school teachers.
- Our visiting professorship with SAS Institute marks its second year. We are exploring ways to expand this collaboration into a long-term, multifaceted program.
- Walt Wolfram, of the Department of English, in collaboration with the NC Language and Life Project, produced “Mountain Talk,” a documentary on Appalachian English, which aired on public television across North Carolina in February 2004. Viewer response was so overwhelmingly positive that UNC-TV re-broadcast it in April.
- The Creative Writing Program hosted a series of public events this year, including a public reading by acclaimed author Alice Sebold and statewide poetry and short story contests.
- Through public events and media involvement, our faculty continue to help communities across the state understand world events, particularly the aftermath of the war in Iraq and the upcoming U.S. Presidential Election.

### **Faculty and Staff Honors, Awards and Recognitions**

Notable accomplishments this year include:

- 11 CHASS faculty were honored with College-wide awards, for excellence in teaching, advising, research and engagement.
- 5 CHASS faculty won University-level awards.
- Two CHASS staff members were nominees for University Awards for Excellence.
- English professor Lucinda MacKethan of the Department of English received the 2003-2004 Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence.
- The Department of Political Science and Public Administration won the University’s Department Award for Teaching and Learning Excellence.

- As a whole, CHASS faculty published 43 authored books. Of particularly wide acclaim were English professor Elaine Orr's memoir, *Gods of Noonday: A White Girl's African Life*; and Communication professor Robert Entman's *Projections of Power: Framing News, Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy*.

### **Student Honors and Activities**

We are proud of our student achievers:

- More than 2000 students earned Dean's List honors in 2003-04.
- 15 students participated in Alternative Spring Break, a unique service-learning experience through which they worked in needy communities throughout the world.
- 76 students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this year.
- 53 students held prestigious Park Scholarships in 2003-04.
- Brandon C. Whitney, a junior majoring in biological sciences and political science, was named a Morris K. Udall Scholar. Whitney was one of 80 recipients of the honor nationwide.
- CHASS was one of two colleges in North Carolina to award a new Public Relations Scholarship established by Epley Associates/Public Relations.

### **Private Sector Fund-Raising and Advancement Activities**

The CHASS goal for the comprehensive campaign is \$12 million over a seven-year time frame. CHASS set a private-sector fund-raising goal of \$1.3 million dollars for the current fiscal year. As of the end of the third quarter, the College has raised approximately \$1 million dollars, putting us at 78 percent of our goal for the year. Our total credited for the campaign is \$6.4 million dollars, or 53 percent of the goal.

Building on our June 2003 CHASS Board Retreat on Bald Head Island, we worked this year with our board members to further develop CHASS campaign goals and strategies. We followed up with Board-member hosted focus groups to review and rate CHASS prospects, and had additional campaign-related meetings with the CHASS Board and the CHASS campaign co-chairs in fall 2003 and spring 2004. These meetings were helpful in

drafting the CHASS campaign case statement, which was presented for discussion with CHASS department heads in April 2004.

### **Administration**

CHASS welcomed two new department heads this year: Dr. Ruth Gross, professor of German and former department head and dean of liberal arts at the University of Texas, Arlington, assumed leadership of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. In January 2004, we welcomed Dr. Michael Pendlebury as the new head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Dr. Pendlebury hails from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he served as professor of philosophy and head of the Department of Philosophy. CHASS also has recruited 11 tenure-track faculty members, in disciplines as diverse as Communication, English, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work.

In 2003-04 CHASS expanded the portfolio of the Associate Dean for Research to include extension and engagement. The College also appointed Dr. Akram Khater, associate professor of history, to the newly created position of Director of International Programs in CHASS. Finally, effective June 30, 2004, Dr. Gail O'Brien, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, returns to the Department of History after long and distinguished service in the CHASS Office of Academic Affairs. Dr. O'Brien has made impressive contributions to the College and the University over many years. Dr. Laura Severin, professor of English, assumes the newly retitled position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Interdisciplinary Programs effective July 1, 2004.

### **Recommendations and Concerns for the Future**

College priorities for 2004-05 are: expanding the CHASS commitment to interdisciplinary programs; exploring new approaches to faculty recruitment, team-teaching,

and curriculum development; considering new college-wide diversity initiatives; and revising procedures and criteria for reappointment, promotion and tenure.

Additional activities will include:

- Continued refinement of College and department compact plans;
- Search for new department heads in Political Science and Public Administration, and Sociology and Anthropology;
- Continued focus on the bond build-out (especially renovation of Withers Hall and the 1911 Building), meeting near-term space needs associated with the addition of new faculty, and planning for Bond II (with special emphasis on the needs of the department of Psychology);
- Major attention to the comprehensive campaign to ensure CHASS is well-positioned for the public phase;
- Implementation of a strategic plan for information technology and distance education (including Leadership in the Public Sector);
- Active participation in the University-wide review of General Education.

In conclusion, this has been a challenging year, but a rewarding one as well. CHASS has continued to successfully recruit top faculty and students. We have increased the level of sponsored research in the College. Through the compact planning process, we have emphasized the College's commitment to interdisciplinary programs and partnerships with other Colleges at NC State. All of this has happened despite budget cuts. The support of the Provost's Office in the past year has been especially important in our successes. Morale remains high in CHASS, and we look forward to continued collaboration with our colleagues and partners to advance the reputations of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and North Carolina State University.