

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences
North Carolina State University
2008-2009 Annual Report
Jeffery P. Braden, Dean
June 26, 2009**

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) continues to strengthen and expand our university's comprehensive range of disciplines, build research and graduate programs in proven and emerging areas, promote extension and engagement, and integrate global perspectives into its programs. We contribute to **producing world leaders; providing knowledge that impacts energy and the environment; and improving health and well-being.**

Changes in the Service Environment

Over the past five years, CHASS produced an average of 33.2% of student credit hours, 26.4% of the undergraduate degrees, and 21.7% of all degrees produced at NC State. It has done so with only 23% of the faculty, 9.2% of the EPA administrators, and 0.6% of SPA administrators at the university. The numbers tell the story—CHASS produces much more than it consumes for the university's academic mission. Yet, CHASS began the year in deficit (approximately \$2.1M), and as a result stopped all faculty searches, returned additional funds (including incentives provided by early textbook adoption and summer school proceeds) for this year's reversion, and is anticipating additional reductions in state appropriations for the next biennium. Given that CHASS's budget is overwhelmingly allocated to providing and supporting instructional services, reductions have direct and immediate effects on students and faculty.

Despite these challenges, CHASS continues to grow in total numbers and proportion more than any other unit on our campus, with more degree programs (64 degree keys), more undergraduate majors (3,812) and more bachelor's degrees awarded (1,199) than any other college. CHASS also leads the university in developing **undergraduate student leaders**, with

495 double majors who seek a degree in another college. Our most popular double majors include foreign languages and international studies, which enhance students' skills for becoming **world leaders**. CHASS courses will be critical to the new General Education Program for their interdisciplinary content, international proficiency, critical thinking, and written and verbal communication that are critical for **leaders in the 21st century**.

Growth also dominates our **research and graduate programs**. We have continued our success in generating research proposals (64) and garnering awards (46), resulting in more than \$4.4M in new awards to the college. CHASS continues to expand its graduate enrollment (now at 787). CHASS develops **graduate world leaders** through its well-established (e.g., Psychology, Sociology, Public Administration), newly developed (e.g., Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media), and proposed (e.g., Public History, Hispanic Studies, Sociolinguistics) doctoral programs. Professional masters programs thrive in CHASS in areas as diverse as technical writing, international studies, public administration, and the nationally accredited Masters in Social Work program that produces license-eligible **health and well-being** service providers. CHASS's contributions to **scholarship on the environment** and other areas essential to our university and UNC Tomorrow continue to expand at a faster pace than space and funds follow, including three interdisciplinary symposia with national and campus speakers sponsored by our Interdisciplinary Studies.

Compact Plan Initiatives

Two of CHASS's major initiatives were achieved this year with the formal establishment of the Center for Family and Community Engagement and the Institute for Nonprofit Research, Education, and Engagement, through which CHASS (and other NC State) faculty engage in research and extension/engagement activities in all 100 North Carolina Counties. Progress on

other initiatives was stymied by the university moratorium on planning/establishing centers (Forensic Science, Aging in Context, and Public Communication on Science and Technology faculty are active in research and engagement), and UNC-GA's inaction on our proposal for a PhD in Public History. CHASS does not have adequate resources to support faculty travel, for increasing the numbers of professional advisors, and for the ever-expanding demand for additional seats and sections in undergraduate courses; (re)building an adequate funding structure will be our top priority when the climate will allow for new compact planning.

Diversity: Initiatives and Progress

CHASS continues its strong commitment to diversity and community in the context of academic excellence; since June 2008, Dr. Traci Reid (Associate Professor of Political Science) has helped us attend to our commitment in her role as Diversity Coordinator. We attract students of color in higher proportions than the university average, with trends suggesting strong continued progress (e.g., our new freshman class is 21% minority; the majority (51%) of graduate students enrolled in our MSW program are ethnic minorities); our graduating senior survey shows that our students view our support of diversity with extremely high regard. Over the last two years, we hired 30 faculty members, 53.3% of whom were women, and 20% were from under-represented racial and ethnic groups. CHASS faculty also lead the campus in a variety of ways, including leadership of and participation in the NSF-funded Advance grant (to recruit and retain female faculty in STEM disciplines) and organizing a teach-in and serving on the campus committee in response to the Free Expression Tunnel incident.

Instructional Program Initiatives

This year, CHASS reconfigured all of its undergraduate degree programs to respond to the new General Education Program requirements. Although one new degree program (a BA in

Film Studies) was created, we have focused more on consolidating undergraduate degree programs—specifically, we are collaborating with the College of Design to consolidate our Arts Application/Visual Arts emphasis degree with their new Design Studies degree, and we are working to streamline three undergraduate (and three graduate) degrees in Anthropology to match our limited faculty resources. At the graduate level, we are developing and refining professional masters degrees, and creating new graduate certificates.

Research

Faculty in CHASS published 32 books, 106 book chapters, 248 refereed articles, 605 papers at conferences, 38 book reviews, and 99 other works (poems, short stories, media pieces, and technical reports) this year, and have a record number of works accepted for publication (e.g., 54 books, 158 book chapters, 247 articles in press). They also received more than \$4.4 million dollars in new awards from July 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009, representing 46 new awards to nine different CHASS units. As was true last year, the new awards were earned in nearly equal measures to the success of three constituencies: our consistently productive faculty, new mid- and senior-level faculty, and newly active (i.e., first activity in three years or more) faculty. Aggressive recruitment, start-up packages for new faculty that include lab facilities, research equipment, and dedicated graduate assistantships signify CHASS's investment in research productivity have paid substantial dividends—but we risk losing those investments to budget cuts, which will reduce our capacity to support research.

Extension and Engagement

Dr. Walt Wolfram, William C. Friday Distinguished University Professor of English, led CHASS's Extension and Engagement committee which produced a comprehensive report (see http://www.chass.ncsu.edu/docs/extension_engagement/CHASS_EEED_Report09.pdf). A brief selection of CHASS activities related to key themes follows. **Producing leaders for the state,**

nation and world: North Carolina South Asia Studies Center (multiple), Fulbright Fellows (multiple), Triangle Institute for Security Studies (multiple, multi-college). **Educational innovation and access:** Psychoeducational Clinic (serves more than 150 at-risk students annually; on-going services to bilingual charter school), Social Studies Textbook Project, Young Writers' Workshop/multiple writing competitions for K-12 students (English), Teaching the Complexity of the Middle East (workshop for K-12 teachers/History), hosted writing conference for UNC/community college system members (English/First Year Writing Program). **Economic Transformation:** Institute for Nonprofit Research, Education, and Engagement; Liaison for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Madrid, Spain (Foreign Languages & Literatures), rural economic development and international cultural & ecological tourism (Sociology/Anthropology). **Health and well-being:** Complex Trauma: Practices and Innovations with Adults and Children (workshop for service providers/Social Work), culturally sensitive health literacy (Profs. Thomson, Czaja), forensic analyses and victim identification services (Prof. Ross), aging in context (Psychology), development, training, and evaluation for every NC county Social Services program (Center for Family and Community Engagement /Prof. Pennell). **Energy and the environment:** 2008 CHASS Energy Symposium; Sustainability symposia (Interdisciplinary Studies/STS; Prof. Kinsella), CHASS Environmental Group (interdisciplinary), responses to natural disasters (Prof. Birkland). Furthermore, four different proposals led by CHASS faculty members were selected for funding this year through the Extension/Engagement Seed Grant competition.

Faculty Honors, Awards and Recognitions

§ Maxine Atkinson (Sociology): first female at NC State to win the Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University of North Carolina (UNC) Board of Governors.

- § William Adler (Philosophy & Religion): Holladay Medal, and distinction as an Alumni Outstanding Undergraduate Professor.
- § Walt Wolfram (English): NC Humanities Council Caldwell Humanities Laureate, 2008-09 (the first recipient from NC State since Caldwell).
- § John Balaban (English): Medal for Cultural Efforts by the Ministry of Culture, Vietnam, for his efforts to preserve Vietnamese literature.
- § John Kessel: Nebula Award (for the second time) from the Science Fiction Writers of America for his novella *Pride and Prometheus*.
- § Troy Case (Anthropology), Deanna Dannels (Communication) and John Carroll (Philosophy and Religion): NC State University Academy of Outstanding Teachers.
- § CHASS faculty (Booker/History, Porter/English, Reaser/English, Bigelow/Philosophy & Religion, and Hess/Psychology) won College-wide awards for excellence in teaching, advising, research, and engagement.
- § Daun Daemon (English): NCSU Friends of the Library Outstanding Faculty Award.
- § Karen Tharrington (Foreign Languages and Literatures): Teacher of the Year, University Level, Foreign Language Association of North Carolina.
- § Neal Hutcheson (English, staff): Academy for Outstanding Faculty in Extension and Engagement, Emmy Award nomination for Cultural Documentaries.
- § Antony Harrison (English): Distinguished University Professor.
- § CHASS faculty received a variety of fellowships and awards from organizations such as Fulbright fellows (3), Guggenheim (1), national centers and institutes for the humanities (3), and the Bibliographical Society of America (1).

CHASS Student Honors

- § John Coggin (Communication): William Jefferson Clinton Hunger Leadership Award (presented by President Clinton in January, 2009).
- § Josh Eure (English): Dell Magazines Award for Excellence in Undergrad Science Fiction Writing.
- § 102 students eligible for Phi Beta Kappa; 49 graduate and undergraduate students were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi.
- § 50% (22) of the Park Scholars graduating this year had a CHASS major or minor.
- § 92 CHASS students participated in the University Honors program.
- § 300 CHASS students participated in the University Scholars program.
- § 41 CHASS students were Pack Promise Scholars and 25 were CHASS Caldwell Fellows.
- § More than 2,505 CHASS students earned Dean's List honors during the academic year.
- § All three Matthews Medal winners this year were CHASS majors.

Private Sector Fundraising and Advancement Activities

As is true across the country, we struggled with the economy—yet relative to other campus units, we experienced smaller declines in development. Stacy Zearing Director of Development, has been strategic in working to secure substantial gifts. We canceled our semi-annual publication of *Accolades*, instead focusing on electronic media such as monthly newsletters to more than 900 CHASS faculty, NC State administrators, and friends of the college. We rolled out our new website with the CHASS brand firmly established, renewed and revamped our Advisory Board, created the Dean's Circle and MFA Writer's Circle giving groups, and rededicated the remodeled 1911 Building. We plan to hold “meet the dean” events

in the coming year, and hope to secure a substantial gift in support of the newly established Institute for Nonprofit Research, Extension, and Engagement.

Administration

This year saw fewer changes than the previous year, but there were some changes in the administrative team. Dr. Jeff Braden became Interim Dean in May, 2008, and was appointed dean in April, 2009. Matt Enderwick joined us in June 2008 as the Assistant Dean of Finance, but left in May 2009; Amanda Petty stepped in as Interim Director upon his departure. Maxine Atkinson became the Head of the Sociology and Anthropology Department, Tina Hancock became Head of Social Work, and Heidi Hobbs became Director of International Programs.

Recommendations and Concerns for the Future

During 2009-10 CHASS will focus on a number of goals, including:

- § Continuing its core mission while responding to economic challenges.
- § Developing and executing a strategic plan for communications and development.
- § Continuing to invest in the research productivity of our faculty with available funds.

The CHASS budget has not grown as fast as the demands placed upon it. CHASS has expanded its research, graduate programs, certificates, majors, and distance education initiatives to support NC State's Strategic Plan and UNC Tomorrow goals, and now faces significant reductions in financial resources, and continued space limitations for faculty, graduate students, and research activities. Our growth in academics and research attests to our commitment to realizing NC State strategic goals; however, to realize those goals, we will need the combined support of the Provost, the Chancellor, and CHASS faculty and staff. We have demonstrated our capacity for dramatic growth of research, academic programs, and extension/engagement—we need only the means by which to continue our success.