



Fall Newsletter

Message from the President

Daniel Norris

4th Year Biological Sciences, History

Hello all Thomas Jefferson Scholars past and present. This is your friendly neighborhood President Daniel Norris. And I know I can speak on behalf of the current Jefferson Scholars and say how excited we all are to have a newsletter just for Jeffersons! In the first issue of this newsletter as well as in the following issues we want to keep everyone well informed. That means you too alumni! The Jefferson Scholars organization is a fast paced organization, but we still want to let you know what is happening and keep you all in the loop, so to speak.

“We have been involved in a lot this semester and it is turning out to be another great year.”

We have a wonderful group this year, and we have already done so much throughout this semester. We just returned from Charleston, South Carolina the location of our fall trip. It was a blast! We have also represented Thomas Jefferson well at numerous fundraising events. We have had fundraising events around the community like scooping ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery, and we gained a portion of the profits one night at a local Mexican restaurant called Cueva De Lobos. Plus we have lots and lots of things planned. It is also important to keep in touch with friends in Jefferson Scholars, and we do this by doing awesome social events too! We are currently doing an inter-cultural cuisine tour on Hillsborough Street before Jefferson meetings. Our palettes have enjoyed our tour thus far! Service is also very important to our organization and so we built a shack for Habitat for Humanities’ Shack-A-Thon and painted it in true N.C. State style: with brick! We have been involved in a lot this semester and it is turning out to be another great year. I know that we will have another great semester in the spring and I encourage all of you, current Jeffersons and Alumni, to become more involved in this wonderful organization and stay in touch.

Building Relationships during the Charleston Trip

Wendi Jiang

2nd Year Plant and Social Science, Sociology

This past October, I was fortunate enough to be able to go to Charleston with the Jefferson Scholars for our fall trip. Charleston itself was fantastic. The weather was perfect, we got to eat amazing seafood, and tour a really incredible historic town.

“[A] great opportunity to really get to know some of our newest members who we otherwise don’t get to see on a regular basis.”

However, the real value for me came in the hours spent with everyone else. Running around and getting lost in a town no one was familiar with was a fun and great opportunity to really get to know some of our newest members who we otherwise don't get to see on a regular basis. I know that personally, I made a lot more friends on this trip and made me much closer to all of the Jeffersons!

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An Opportunity to Get to Know Upperclassmen

Ted Rives

1st Year Biological Sciences, Psychology

Midway through my first semester at NC State, I was beginning to get more comfortable with my life as a college student. I had gotten to know my fellow Thomas Jefferson freshmen fairly well and really liked Dr. Beckman's class. Our trip to Charleston, however, gave me a new appreciation for the program. On the trip down to South Carolina, I began to talk more with the older Jeffersons and



Freshman (left to right) Nick Scarff, Ted Rives, Gracie Blackley, Bryan Moffitt, and Charles Harless.

found that we have a lot in common. As the weekend progressed, I was able to bond with the entire Jefferson group. Not only did I become friends with the upper classmen, but I also had a lot of fun with the other freshmen. After such a great weekend I know that my next four to five years at NC State will be incredible. The Thomas Jefferson Scholars are a unique and interesting group, and I feel that they will guide me to a great future.



Another Great Trip with the Jeffersons

Ben Cook

5th Year Biology, Spanish

As you may know, the Jefferson Scholars always do a trip in the fall, our educational trip. Being a super senior, I have had the luxury to go on five educational trips. This fall 2010, we went to Charleston, SC and had an amazing time. We took the tour of Ft. Sumter and had time to tour downtown Charleston. We were able to enjoy some local food, especially seafood at "Aweshucks."



A group of Jeffersons enjoying seafood and good company at "Aweshucks".

Dr. Kimler was also very helpful in identifying butterfly species as we passed a garden in downtown. That Saturday evening we enjoyed a stand up comedy group. They researched some facts about TJ and put them in their show. The scholars also had great bonding time on the van rides there and back, go NC State vans. Bonding, learning, and growing closer together. The Jefferson Scholars always excel in these areas on our trips. Great time in Charleston, SC; sad it will be my last. GO JEFFERSON SCHOLARS!!!!



A group of sophomores gathered around a canon at Fort Sumter.

WARMING TREE PROJECT



Initiated by Sophomore Michael Atkins, the objective of the Warming Tree Project is to provide an opportunity for the NC State community to donate coats, scarves, gloves and hats to homeless families and other families in need. As dual majors in CALS and CHASS, the Thomas Jefferson Scholars have initiated their campaign in Patterson Hall. Thanks to the encouragement of the CALS Dean's office, the first tree is installed in the entry lobby of Patterson Hall. Other installations around campus will follow in the next few weeks.

Want to help?

Visit Patterson Hall, donate warm clothing items such as gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, warm socks, muffs, etc. to hang on the Warming Tree.

In turn, the items will be donated by the Jeffersonians to homeless shelters.

SHACK-A-THON

Every year NC State campus organizations get together to build "shacks" and raise money in a contest to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Each organization is responsible for manning their shack 24/7 for an entire week. The Jefferson Scholars partner with the Benjamin Franklin Scholars to create a shack and raise money. This year our shack was painted to camouflage with the rest of the buildings on campus—it was made of brick!

Passing Time During Shack-a-thon

Jami Benson

1st Year Biological Sciences, Spanish

"One of my favorite experiences on campus has been becoming friends with the Freshman Jeffersons. We have grown to be a tightly knit group and we enjoy spending time together. One of our favorite experiences was the Shack-a-Thon. We had a great time raising money for Habitat for Humanity while getting to know each other and some of the upper-classmen at the same time. Gracie and Nick played guitar and serenaded Bryan while others played corn hole. Dana and Kaitlyn sat back and relaxed while Nick and Charlie taught Gracie and I how to skateboards. We all laughed together at silly jokes and the crazy lyrics coming from the guitar duo. We took a field trip to the Creamery to top off the sweetness of the evening. It was perfect fun and a memory we will all cherish. Thank you Jeffersons for bringing all of us together!"



Having fun watching over the Shack!

A Freshman Experience

Kaitlyn Rogers

1st Year Human Biology, Spanish

This fall semester has flown by for the freshman class of the Thomas Jefferson Scholars. It's incredibly hard to believe it's been more than two and a half months since we were all sitting in a small room in Gardner Hall waiting for our "Plants in Folklore, Myth, and Religion" class to begin. Dr. Beckmann walked in wearing his rainbow flip flops and the first words out of his mouth were "you know you are allowed to talk to each other right? This class is supposed to allow you to get to know each other." As fate would have it, the class has given us the opportunity to get to know each other much better, and social events with the Jefferson have given us a chance to prepare together for the class. Coincidentally, the night before every single test in that class we've had a Thomas Jefferson event that gave us the opportunity to socialize together and, ostensibly, study.

Every year NC State hosts Shack-A-Thon, a fundraising event for Habitat for Humanity. Various organizations build shacks in the brickyard and people live in them 24 hours a day for one week. The night before our first test in "Plants in Folklore, Myth and Religion" was the freshmen's night to stay in the shack for Shack-A-Thon. As 10 o'clock rolled around we all clustered outside the shack with our laptops and binders, passing around the flashlights as we tried to work our way through the study guide. By midnight we'd given up on studying and made our way to The Creamery for milkshakes.

We spent the rest of the night climbing trees, skateboarding through the brickyard, playing games and singing songs from Glee. We finally went to sleep around 4:30 in the morning, only to wake up a few hours later for classes. Needless to say, we all rolled into class that afternoon clutching coffees and sodas, completely exhausted but more or less ready for the test.

Our next study session was a Thomas Jefferson fundraiser at Cold Stone Creamery. I'm sure we made a strange sight, with all of our binders and laptops perched precariously on laps and wobbly tables, bundled up in coats and eating ice cream. We had commandeered three tables near the door in the hopes of finding a wireless signal. What we found instead, however, was the freezing draft which blew through every time someone opened the door. Nevertheless we worked our way through both the study guide and our ice cream sundaes and managed to get back to our dorms to sleep (or play video games as the case may be).

Our next test for the class will be a take home exam and there are no Thomas Jefferson events before that one, but there are rumors we will be having a Christmas party shortly before our final exam so, who knows, maybe we will all take 30 minutes to study Norse mythology while sipping apple cider and eggnog.



A group of Freshmen in Charleston

FACULTY ADVISORS



Dr. Gerry Luginbuhl



Dr. Robert Beckmann



Dr. John Riddle



Dr. William Kimler



Dr. Gerald Elkan

LAUREN FORBES: RECIPIENT OF THE PICKERING FELLOWSHIP

Lauren Forbes

5th Year Environmental Science, Political Science

Last spring I spent my exam week stressing over the most important interview I have had to date. I had been selected as a finalist in the Thomas R. Pickering Undergraduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship program and would be traveling to Washington D.C. to compete against 40 other finalists for a seat in the 17th cohort of Foreign Affairs Fellows. The interview process was a full day of interviews and essay exams. By the end of the day, my exhausted mind and a sinus infection had me feeling fairly pessimistic about my chances. When a Fed-Ex package arrived on my doorstep a week later, I was more than amazed that I had been accepted to the program. I must have read the letter three or four times before I began shrieking and then calling my family to share the big news. A month later I was back in D.C. to “sign my life away” to the Foreign Service at the Pickering orientation.

The Pickering Fellowship has provided me with an incredible opportunity. I am receiving financial support for my last year at NC State and will receive similar support for my graduate studies. I hope to attend Duke University next year to pursue a Masters in Global Environmental Policy. I will have the opportunity to participate in both a domestic and overseas internship with the Department of State during the next two summers. When I have completed my graduate studies, I will begin bidding on jobs in the Foreign Service where I hope to work on international environmental policies in Central or South America. While I am enjoying my last year as a member of the Jefferson Wolfpack, I am very excited to take the next steps towards my career abroad serving both the United States and the environment.

Zoo Keeping in South Africa

Trisha Gooding

4th Year Zoology, Psychology

This past summer, I had the incredible opportunity to hold a 3-month internship in Midrand, South Africa. My unpaid position was a Zoo keeping International Intern for Lory Park Zoo and Owl Sanctuary. I participated in food preparation, cleaning, animal husbandry, enrichment, training, education, conservation, hand-rearing, and even veterinary and clinic duties. I spent my first two months working with the Feline members of the zoo. For my last month I switched to birds, which was an entirely different scenario that actually provided me more scars than the cats. I worked with the owls as well as a few birds of prey. The zoo also serves as a sanctuary for the exotics that often find themselves in the homes of exotic-pet-trade supporters. Working with them can be compared to special needs animals, since many of the birds have serious physical and mental conditions from being treated poorly or by uneducated owners. I got to experience much of what South Africa had to offer me in that I visited another Jefferson who was in Cape Town, attended a rugby match, sailed in the Indian Ocean, camped in Kruger National Park and of course attended a World Cup game. An incredible experience that was much better spent than taking courses in sweltering building during the summer stuck in Raleigh, NC.

Traveling Across Europe

Tracy Turnbull

5th Year Agricultural Education, International Studies

I studied abroad in Florence, Italy this past summer and I plan on going to France, England, and Wales over spring break to complete my research on globally involved North Carolina agriculture. I am studying NC exports and how to maximize their benefits for our state and the university.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Last year the Jefferson Scholars enjoyed taking a trip to the Asheboro Zoo! Pictured to the right are sophomores posing on a rhinoceros: (left to right) Wendi Jiang, Lindsay Holman, Ashley Kirby, and Tess Wells.

Stay updated with Jefferson activities, past and present, by visiting the website:

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/student_orgs/jeffer/



