



The Transfer Times



February 2012

Durham Technical Community College Transfer Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 6

Campus Recruiters Visit Durham Tech

Students interested in learning more about undergraduate transfer admission, financial aid, and student services at any of the following schools are encouraged to stop by and visit with recruiters and admissions officers who will be visiting Durham Tech's campus. Visit the links on the Virtual Transfer Center page at www.durhamtech.edu/transfer for information on these and other four-year institutions.

At Durham Tech:

North Carolina Central University (NCCU)

Keisha Mark, Admissions Counselor
Location: Collins Building Foyer, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
February 7, April 10, March 13, May 8

North Carolina State University (NCSU)

Roger Sims, Admissions Counselor
Location: Transfer Center, Phillips Building, room 303, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. February 16, March 15, March 29, April 19

Meredith College

Cricket McCoy, Admissions Counselor
Location: Collins Building Foyer, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
February 27, March 26, April 30

North Carolina Wesleyan College

Brooke Richardson, Admissions Counselor
Location: Collins Building Foyer, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
February 15, March 21, April 16, May 22
Location on April 11: Wynn Center, College Cafe

Winston Salem State University (WSSU)

Regina Watkins-Brim, Admissions Counselor
Location: Collins Building Foyer 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
February 6, March 19, April 11

DeVry University

Jill Thompson, Admissions Counselor
Location: Collins Building Foyer, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
February 8

Fourteen DTCC Students Take On Spring Honors Program Projects

The Durham Tech Honors Program Committee accepted 14 honors project proposals for Spring 2012. The mission of the Honors Program at Durham Tech is to provide "advanced opportunities for learning, leadership, and service within the arts and sciences curriculum for academically



motivated students to enrich their (and others') experience in the classroom, on campus, and in the community and to prepare them for meaningful participation in the global economy." The Arts, Sciences, and University Transfer Department launched the Honors Program in Fall 2011, with students completing honors projects in CHM 251 and ENG 261.

To participate in the program, students submit a proposal and an academic reference letter. They must be finished with all developmental course work prior to the semester in which they attempt an honors project. Students apply by the end of the second week of the semester and are notified about whether or not their proposals are accepted by the end of the third week. They have the rest of the semester to conduct in-depth research on a topic related to the course in which they are attempting the honors project, under the guidance and direction of their instructors.

This semester, honors project topics include neurogenesis (the creation of new neurons) in the adult hippocampus; organic food and

whether it is really "healthier" for humans; geological mapping of Orange County's Eno River and surrounding areas; the economics of slavery in the decades prior to the American Civil War; using differential equations to model masses and springs; Mahler's theory of separation-individuation; and the literary contributions of Joseph Conrad and Samuel Beckett.

In addition to turning in completed honors projects, participants will present their work and methodology to other students and faculty at Honors Forums to take place at the end of the semester. If you are

interested in learning more about the Honors Program at Durham Tech, see www.durhamtech.edu/honorsprogram and look for upcoming information on Honors Forum dates and locations.

NC Space Grant Applications Due February 24!



The **North Carolina Space Grant** offers \$1,000 scholarships and fellowships for community college students interested in pursuing undergraduate and graduate work in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Last year, more than 20 students received awards, including one student from Durham Tech. **Applications are due February 24, 2012.** For more information, and an application, see ncSpaceGrant.org/opps/students.htm



Lee Ann Spahr, ASUT Math Chair and Leader of the TechTonics, Retires After 22 Years



On January 31, after 22 ½ (notice that fraction) years of service to Durham Technical Community College, ASUT Math Chair and Instructor Lee Ann Spahr retired. Known across the state as an outstanding instructor and administrator (she was awarded the 2011 Mathematics Excellence Award by the North Carolina Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges, NCMATYC), Ms. Spahr brought a positive attitude and enthusiasm to all she did at the College. She was feted by both of the college presidents under whom she served at Durham Tech, as well as by past and present colleagues, in a series of tributes last week. *The Transfer Times* caught up with Ms. Spahr before she left; here's what said:

TT: How did you come to be chair of Mathematics at Durham Tech?

LAS: I began college with hopes of being a music major, but after trying to teach piano to a group of children for a few months, I decided that maybe I should rethink my career aspirations! I switched my major to Mathematics, earned a Bachelor's degree at Campbell University and a Master's degree at NC State University, and taught math full-time at NC State for eight years. At the end of that non-tenured position, I was fortunate enough to be hired at Durham Tech as a full-time math instructor. After the subsequent retirement of my supervisor here at DTCC, I became the Mathematics

Coordinator and eventually the Mathematics Chair.

TT: Some people embrace math; others cringe at the word. Have you always been a math wizard?

LAS: No, I am not a math wizard, but I have always enjoyed mathematics, especially trigonometry. People are different, and we all have different gifts. For years, I have told struggling math students that I understand and empathize with their feelings, because swimming is my downfall. I have taken swimming lessons numerous times, and despite Herculean efforts, I am still virtually a non-swimmer.

TT: Durham Tech's Math League has done really well in state and regional competitions. What can you say about their winning record?

LAS: I can say that I do a really good job of applauding their successes!! I am so proud of our faculty and students; we have the best math students and math faculty in the state of North Carolina, and I cannot stop telling people how proud I am of their accomplishments!

TT: You have been a key part of the TechTonics -- Durham Tech's official faculty/staff band. Does being mathematical help you with your musical interests, and vice versa?

LAS: Yes, for years I have been fascinated by the inextricable link between music and mathematics. I have done a lot of research on this topic, and I even presented a paper at a national conference regarding the relationship. At this point, we know there is a strong correlation between music and mathematics, but it is still largely an undetermined and inexplicable phenomenon.

TT: You've been at Durham Tech for 22 ½ years. What will you miss?

LAS: Oh goodness, I will miss everyone. I love the students, the faculty, the staff, and the

administration! I have so enjoyed my time at Durham Tech, and I am looking forward to coming back for frequent visits!!!

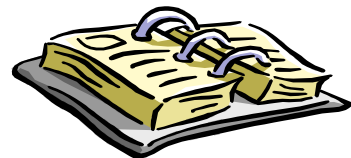
Faculty and staff of the Arts, Sciences, and University Transfer Department wish Ms. Spahr a happy, healthy retirement.

STEM Scholarships: Don't Miss This!

The SanDisk Scholars Fund is offering \$1 million in scholarships for women, Latinos, and African Americans interested in pursuing careers in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Read more and apply at

<http://www.sandisk.com/about-sandisk/press-room/press-releases/2012/2012-02-01-sandisk-announces-annual-scholarship-program>



Upcoming ASUT Events

Poetry Hour: Faculty from the Foreign Languages discipline (Shannon Hahn, Lance Lee, and Svetlana Yokum) invite the DTCC community to share poetry in a variety of languages to celebrate "Discover Languages" month on Monday, **February 13**, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Phillips 325.

Science Seminar Series: On Wednesday, **February 15**, Kevin Guskiewicz, Kenan Distinguished Professor and Director of the Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Research Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, will speak at 3:30 p.m. in Collins 278. Pre-seminar refreshments will be served in the lobby to the auditorium.

Transfer Info Sessions: Learn about seamless transfer to a four-year college or university at the Transfer Center, Phillips Building, room 303, on Monday, **February 13**, at 5:00 p.m. or Tuesday, **February 14**, at noon.