



# SCHOLAR STORIES

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## Scholars lead campus to 'Unite in Fight'

### Sophomore Scholar class leads to Clemson cancer research endeavor

At a February 18 summit with more than 50 Clemson faculty and administrators, the second-year National Scholars shared their vision to unite campus researchers in the fight against cancer.

"Unite in the Fight: Connecting Clemson Cancer Researchers" evolved out of a sophomore National Scholars Program leadership course taught by economics Prof. Bobby McCormick and Business and Behavioral Sciences Dean Bruce Yandle. Due to their personal experiences with cancer and many of their interests in medicine, the students chose a

group project that would connect the dozens of Clemson faculty who focus on cancer research.

"When we began planning, we anticipated a few professors meeting with us for an hour or so,"

said Lauren Smith, one of the leaders of the effort. "We never imagined that so many diverse faculty would be able to attend

a three-hour meeting."

Prior to a luncheon presentation by bioengineering professor Dr. Karen Burg, two Scholars led a focus group that included VP for Research Chris Przirembel

**There's no reason that the problems of the world cannot be solved right here at Clemson.**

President James F. Barker

and faculty from animal and veterinary science, biological sciences, nursing and public health

sciences.

"This entire effort was just a first step in a larger conversation that will continue across campus. Our

goal was to introduce the researchers to each other and plant the seeds for future collaboration," said sophomore Scholar Christen Smith.

One of the first steps the group is taking is to compile a comprehensive inventory of all Clemson faculty conducting cancer-related research.

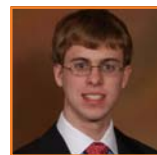
The Scholar planning team was excited to find support for their endeavor from Clemson's top administrators. "There is no reason that the problems of the world cannot be solved right here at Clemson," said President James F. Barker.

### Summary of Unite in the Fight focus group findings on reverse side.



## 2005 Scholars selected

10 men, 9 women hail from 12 states



**William Allen**  
Lovett School  
Atlanta, GA



**Mark Boerckel**  
United Township HS  
East Moline, IL



**Nikhil Bumb**  
Southside HS  
Greer, SC



**Kristina Catani**  
Bishop Eustace Prep  
Sewell, NJ



**Shannon Edd**  
Mayo HS  
Rochester, MN



**Ben Garrison**  
Brazoswood HS  
Lake Jackson, TX



**Randy Gelhausen**  
Warren T White HS  
Dallas, TX



**Michael Griswold**  
East Lincoln HS  
Denver, NC



**Lesli Kiedrowski**  
Sheboygan Falls HS  
Sheboygan Falls, WI



**Laura Kulikowski**  
Parkland HS  
Laurys Station, PA



**Ioana Lupascu**  
Spring Vally HS  
Columbia, SC



**Andrew Park**  
Baylor School  
Chattanooga, TN



**Lori Pindar**  
Lugoff-Elgin HS  
Sumter, SC



**Craig Rawe**  
Ashbrook Sr. HS  
Gastonia, NC



**Suzanne Sawicki**  
Leon HS  
Tallahassee, FL



**Mindi Summers**  
Midpark HS  
Middleburg Hts., OH



**Ben Ward**  
Irmo HS  
Columbia, SC

No pictures available

**Achieng Adongo**  
Hammond School  
Orangeburg, SC

**Jeremy Zhang**  
Governor's School for Science & Math  
Simpsonville, SC

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### 2005 GRADUATE PLANS

**Jenny Alley**

Marketing at Georgia

**Katherine Chisholm**

International public health at Boston, Emory, George Washington or Tulane

**Mark Gramling**

Molecular/cellular pathology at Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill or Vanderbilt

**Jacob Hicks**

Computer science at Duke, Georgia Tech, Princeton, Purdue, Stanford, UC-San Diego, UNC-Chapel Hill or Utah

**Will Sams**

Particle/nuclear physics at Duke, Cal Tech, Georgia Tech, Maryland, MIT, Princeton, Stanford or UC-Berkeley

**Clarice Seifert**

Medical school at Baylor, Case Western Reserve, Johns Hopkins, MUSC or Washington U. in St Louis

**Will Spink**

Divinity at Covenant Theological Seminary

**Mike Stadnisky**

Infectious disease at Tulane, UC-Berkeley, Uniformed Services U or Virginia

**Jeff Young**

Computer science/electrical engineering at Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech, Kansas, Maryland or Virginia Tech

**Joe Ziska**

Economics at Clemson

### Clemson University NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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## Unite in the Fight: Initial focus group findings

### Increase collaboration and communication between cancer researchers

Develop a thorough cancer research inventory...a website dedicated specifically to cancer research, listing all current projects and giving contact information for the researchers involved...regular meetings, formal and informal gatherings, and focus groups should be organized.

### Define niches and identify strategic advantages

Encourage researchers to utilize existing resources and build on existing research ...take advantage of local and state resources in strategic partnerships that may include increased and more formalized collaboration with local hospital systems and other local and state research centers and institutes.

### Identify funding opportunities

Seek funding from NIH, other federal institutions...find smaller sources of funding...use "non-traditional" funding sources, such as the Department of Defense.

### Develop a marketing plan

Become a viable "brand name" in cancer research ...attach the Clemson name to research being done outside of the University.

## 2005 National Scholars Weekend



National Scholars Weekend was not all interviews and group seminars. Entertainment included **Mark Boerckel's** impromptu magic shows for **Lesli Kierdrowski** and **Kristina Catani** (left), and Tigeroar featuring senior National Scholar **Mark Gramling** (below, in hat).



President **James Barker** welcomed finalists and their families to a reception in the President's Home (above left, with **Mindi Summers**) and presented all finalists with a copy of recent best-seller **Blink** (above right, with **Lori Pindar**).

### Discussion series focuses on books, current events

Several Scholars have led an effort to schedule informal discussions on a monthly basis.

The first discussion in November 2004 focused on the then-recent Presidential election.

Already in the Spring semester, groups have read and discussed Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged and Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart.

Prompted by recent controversy around women in math and science, Scholars will meet with Dean Jan Murdoch and bioengineering professor Karen Burg to discuss this issue.



### Off to 'Turtle' Class

Biological Sciences professor Jerry Waldvogel has been teaching what 15 Scholars affectionately refer to as "turtle class."

This Spring seminar is a prep course for a week-long tour of the Galapagos Islands in May 2005.

(And if you're wondering, they know that there are actually tortoises in Galapagos -- "turtle" is just more fun to say.)