News From Our Participants

Je'Juan Bryant is majoring in animal science and minoring in poultry science. He received the Cowles Family Scholarship and the Hanns-Dieter Alhusen Swine Education Scholarship.

Je'Juan Bryant: The Difference Scholarships Make

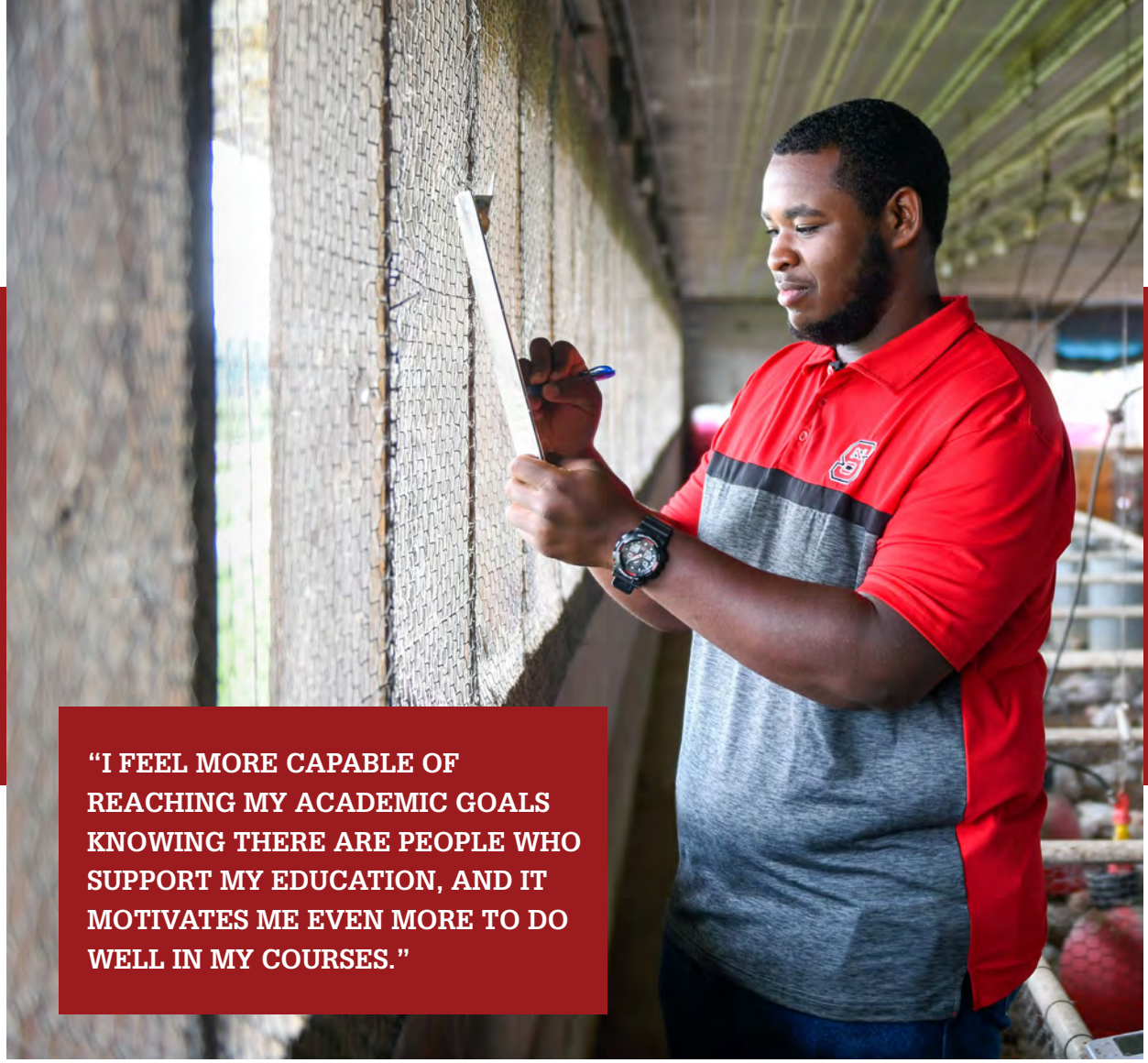
For Je'Juan Bryant, coming to NC State wasn't just about earning a college degree. He wanted to be part of a community twhat was not only committed to academic excellence, but also committed to making a difference in the world.

"Being part of the Pack means having a support system of alumni, faculty and students who are able to relate to your experiences and provide guidance on how to become a more successful individual," Bryant says.

Bryant, a junior majoring in animal science and minoring in poultry science, was the recipient of two scholarships — the Cowles Family Scholarship and the Hanns-Dieter Alhusen Swine Education Scholarship.

Bryant says being the recipient of not one, but two scholarships has meant the world to him. The scholarships allowed him to better afford a higher education.

"Having to worry less about the financial burden associated with higher education makes it much easier to focus on other important things such as grades, coursework, staying engaged on campus, and physical/mental well-being," Bryant says.



"I FEEL MORE CAPABLE OF REACHING MY ACADEMIC GOALS KNOWING THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT MY EDUCATION, AND IT MOTIVATES ME EVEN MORE TO DO WELL IN MY COURSES."

"I feel more capable of reaching my academic goals knowing there are people who support my education, and it motivates me even more to do well in my courses."

And it's not just about bettering himself, Bryant is always willing to help and support friends and classmates.

"If I can lend advice to another student with similar goals and aspirations or if I can help someone understand a difficult concept in a course, I try to do that because I would want someone to do the same to me," he says.

He's also helped with the Feed the Pack Pantry and volunteering at the Agroecology Farm through the Poultry Science Club. One of his favorite ways to support the Pack was as a VetPAC Intern.

"This program allowed me to connect with high school students and potential NC State students and explain the wonderful opportunities that NC State has to offer. I was able to inform parents about life on campus and give advice to incoming students," Bryant says.

Camp in a Box (Caldwell Fellows)

Learning about STEM—science, technology, engineering and math—tends to be a hands-on process. You build stuff, you break stuff and you often work with others to do it. But 2020 turned into a decidedly hands-off year amid precautions against COVID-19, so the Caldwell Fellows' Service NC and SATELLITE summer camps had to adapt.

Service NC, usually a threeweek day camp for Siler City (N.C.) Elementary students in July, went virtual as a "camp in a box," says John Loomis, a junior meteorology and communication media major from Cary, N.C., and a Caldwell leader for both camps.

From their homes, campers used a kit with items like Rubik's Cubes, fidget spinners and Legos to explore architecture, algorithms and other STEM fundamentals. Each day started with a video conference introducing a concept and issuing a challenge for students to work with offline. In the afternoon, the students reconvened online to talk about what they'd learned.

They made connections with the material and with each other, despite the circumstances. "Even though each week started with a bit of awkwardness and uncomfortableness. . .there was definitely a lot to gain from them recognizing that we're all in a similar situation," Loomis says.

Likewise, the SATELLITE (Science and Technology Enriching Lifelong Leadership in Tomorrow's Endeavors) program, which normally brings high school sophomores to campus for five days of tours, talks and science programs, was shifted online in May. The virtual version offered experiments led by professors that allowed students to chime in on next steps and use video presentations to discuss what they were seeing.

"Both of these camps mean so much more to the counselors than just running a summer camp," Loomis says, "because they all teach us something about ourselves, they teach us something about the community around us, and I think that was something that all of us recognized and didn't want to give up on."

"THEY ALL TEACH US SOMETHING ABOUT OURSELVES, THEY TEACH US SOMETHING ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AROUND US, AND I THINK THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT ALL OF US RECOGNIZED AND DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE UP ON"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Roberson named first Suggs Distinguished Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Professor and extension specialist Gary Roberson has been named the inaugural Charles W. Suggs Distinguished Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. The appointment was established through an endowment from professor emeritus Charlie Suggs and his wife, Jane. Their contribution, made in 2018, created the first named professorship in the department's more than 70-year history.

Suggs, one of the first students to graduate from Biological and Agricultural Engineering in 1949, would go on to complete his master's in 1955, and then become the department's first Ph.D. graduate in 1959. He worked for Dearborn Motors, International Harvester, and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station before joining BAE, where he taught for 39 years and retired as professor emeritus.

What makes Roberson's distinction paramount is the instruction he received as a BAE student.
As an undergraduate researcher, he had the opportunity to work with Suggs in the lab and out

in the field. "[Suggs] always wanted to make sure that everybody around him knew what was going on," Roberson recalls. "He was always interested in people's success."

Roberson graduated from Biological and Agricultural Engineering in 1978 and completed his master's in 1980. Looking for a change, he took a job as a product analysis manager for Long Manufacturing NC until 1983, when he was invited back to teach machinery courses for BAE while working on his Ph.D.

"The early phrases that were used to describe precision agriculture," Roberson simplifies, "were farming by the foot and site specific management." Precision agriculture uses a combination of information technology and crop management to form calculated decisions that enable farmers to optimize resources and increase crop output.

As a pioneer in precision agriculture, and the only Biological and Agricultural Engineering precision ag faculty member for many years, Roberson has been an integral part of its growth across North Carolina. "Part of my task is to get information into farmers' hands," he explains. "How do things work? What technologies can be used to our advantage?"

Through the distinguished professorship, Roberson aims to establish a base of technology and resources the department can continue building upon. His attention is directed specifically in the areas of application technology and automation equipment as machines replace manual labor and enable farmers to operate around-the-clock.

Roberson notes major tractor manufacturers are already developing driverless tractors that plant, spray and harvest without an operator even stepping foot in the field, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) autonomously fly over fields assessing crop development over entire seasons.

Last year, he used the Aerovironment Quantix, one of the department's UAVs, to monitor cotton production at Cherry Research Station in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Inserting survey points into the ground to create a field boundary, the UAV took pictures of the field using the exact same measurements to develop a series of maps that show which areas of the field were producing the most cotton and those that weren't. This process, referred to as yield mapping, enables farmers to manage crop inputs and maximize returns.

North Carolina farmers produce more than 90 different commodities, ranking the state among the nation's top states for agricultural diversity. "If we can start seeing more and more ways that we can apply precision ag technologies to a wider range of crops, then hopefully we can enhance profitability," Roberson explains.

Ron Heiniger, professor and extension specialist with the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, introduced Roberson to precision agriculture in the mid-1990s. From there, Roberson researched and laid the groundwork for the BAE program.

"I've been surrounded by some very good colleagues, people that were always willing to assist," he says. "We've got great support from our research stations around the state and that's been a huge difference."

Garey Fox, professor and department head, notes that the Suggs Distinguished Professorship will help continue to build the department's research, teaching, and Extension programming in machine systems and precision agriculture. "Technology integration into agriculture remains one of the future grand challenges in engineering, as we raise the food, fiber and energy needed for a growing population. The Suggs' Professorship helps establish NC State as one of the leaders in the fields of engineering and engineering technology."

"WE'VE GOT GREAT SUPPORT FROM OUR RESEARCH STATIONS AROUND THE STATE AND THAT'S BEEN A HUGE DIFFERENCE."

The Charles W. Suggs Distinguished Professorship recognizes Roberson's 38-year career with the department and his passion for integrated teaching, Extension, and his research program in precision agriculture.

"There is no higher honor I could have than to have Charles Sugg's name in my professional title," Roberson responds. "I consider this the pinnacle of my career."


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Frey Selected for EPA Science policy Post

North Carolina State University engineering professor Chris Frey has been appointed Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science Policy in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development.

The Office of Research and Development is the scientific research arm of EPA. Its research informs EPA decisions and supports the emerging needs of EPA stakeholders, including state, tribal, and community partners.

Frey is the Glenn E. and Phyllis J. Futrell Distinguished University Professor in NC State's Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering (CCEE). His research includes measurement and modeling of human exposure to air pollution, measurement and modeling of vehicle emissions, probabilistic and sensitivity analysis methods, and probabilistic assessment of power generation environmental technologies. Frey will be taking a leave of absence from NC State during his tenure at EPA.

"Chris is a great choice to serve in EPA's Office of Research and Development," says Morton Barlaz, professor and head of the CCEE department. "He has a demonstrated track record of leadership in developing science-based recommendations for environmental policy as part of EPA's Science Advisory Board. It is an honor to have one of our faculty selected for such an important public service position."

Frey's track record at EPA includes serving as member of the agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) from 2008-2012; as chair of CASAC from 2012-2015; and as a member of the EPA Science Advisory Board from 2012-2018.

In 2018 and 2019, Frey played a role in convening an independent panel of experts to review science related to EPA's assessment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for particulate matter.

Ecology Wildlife Foundation Establishes Three Funds to Support Conservation Research

The Ecology Wildlife Foundation Fund in Asheville, North Carolina, has established three new funds that will support an undergraduate scholarship, graduate fellowship and distinguished professorship in the College of Natural Resources.

The undergraduate scholarship and graduate fellowship will support students pursuing a degree in fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology. The distinguished professorship will support a professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, with preference given to faculty with active research in fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology focused on global change and wildlife conservation.

"The three gifts from the Ecology Wildlife Foundation — the scholarship, fellowship and distinguished professorship endowments — individually and as a whole are transformative for the fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology program at NC State University. As human influence on the planet expands, we need to expand resources to address the associated environmental challenges, including those related to conserving wildlife. The gifts' emphasis on teaching students and supporting research related to global change and wildlife conservation will allow the College of Natural Resources at NC State to be a global leader in developing practical solutions to conserve wildlife now and into the future," said Christopher Moorman, professor and interim associate head

of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources.

By supporting individuals at various stages of academia, the college and the Ecology Wildlife Foundation Fund envision that these resources will enhance the spirit of collaboration, mentorship and scholastic support among students and professors with interest in human-induced environmental change, including climate change and urbanization, that affect wildlife and their habitats.

"Brook shares our college's vision that healthy ecosystems are vital to healthy communities, and that wildlife and conservation biology majors are needed now more than ever. By supporting faculty members, graduate students and undergraduate students working in teams, with each level helping to inspire and guide the one coming behind in a ladder of mentoring, she is contributing in the best possible way to training these professionals. Her gift will have a profound impact on our educational programs and our world," said Mary Watzin, professor and coastal resilience and sustainability coordinator in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources.

The Ecology Wildlife Foundation was founded in 1999 by William N. Reynolds II to promote ways of living in harmony with nature by supporting organizations in North Carolina that encourage environmental conservation and education. In 2017 the foundation transitioned to a donor advised fund under the same name, with his daughter Brook Reynolds continuing to provide direction as the advisor.

"My father's mission for the Foundation was to support the symbiotic relationship of wildlife and mankind. Conservation and education were always important to him, but especially education. As I personally got to know some of the professors

"THE GIFTS' EMPHASIS ON TEACHING STUDENTS AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH RELATED TO GLOBAL CHANGE AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION WILL ALLOW THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AT NC STATE TO BE A GLOBAL LEADER IN DEVELOPING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO CONSERVE WILDLIFE NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE."

in the program and learn more about the college, it became more evident that NC State was a natural fit for my father's vision, and mine," Brook Reynolds said.

William Reynolds, who passed away in 2009, was a 1961 NC State graduate, conservationist and hunter. He served in the Coast Guard and was instrumental in founding Forsyth Country Day School in Lewisville, North Carolina, where he donated approximately 30 acres of land for the school's permanent site. He was a member of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and the Tanglewood Park Board in Clemmons, North Carolina.

Reynolds' sincere love of nature was most profoundly expressed in his efforts to preserve the Mitchell River, which is one of the few remaining outstanding resource waters in North Carolina. He loved his mountain home at Devotion, North Carolina, where he taught his family to appreciate the truth and beauty of the natural world.

"My father was very deliberate about including both ecology and wildlife in the name of his Foundation. He was influenced by Eugene Odum's book, 'Fundamentals of Ecology,' and wanted to focus on the importance of healthy and diverse wildlife populations in an ecosystem. It wasn't just about hunting to him. Each animal has its role to play, including humans," Brook Reynolds said.

"I believe everything is interconnected and interdependent. Change in one part of a system will affect other parts, and research in conservation biology helps us to understand changes in ecosystems. Global change is an important area of study that encompasses many different planetary systems, including climate systems, economic systems and social systems. Each system affects the others in a complex web of existence. I see outstanding opportunities for interdisciplinary study and collaborative research in global change," she added.

Need-Based Scholarship Initiative Gets $5 Million Boost

A campuswide, need-based scholarship fund established earlier this year at NC State will get a major boost from two transformational gifts totaling $5 million.

These lead gifts of $2.5 million each from the family of 1977 alumnus Stephen F. Angel and a second anonymous family will bolster a matching pool of funds to encourage even more donors to support the university's Extraordinary Opportunity Scholarship Initiative, said Brian Sischo, vice chancellor for university advancement. Sischo and Chancellor Randy Woodson announced the gifts as part of the university's Sept. 16 Day of Giving: Stronger as a Pack event.

Woodson formally unveiled the launch of the Extraordinary Opportunity Scholarship Initiative in February with the goal of empowering NC State to offer more need-based scholarships to students in every college and major. The initiative's purpose is to help fill the gap between the financial aid students qualify for and what the university can offer. This ensures no member of the Wolfpack is left behind — no matter their background or the hardships they face.

Through the matching pool, a donor who establishes a new Extraordinary Opportunity Scholarship endowment of $50,000 or more is eligible to receive a 50% funding match, increasing their impact.

"NC State University helped shape me in my youth, provided me with a first-class education and prepared me well for the work place," Angel said. "I passionately believe in giving back to the institution that gave me so much, so generations of North Carolinians to come will have the opportunity to attend, learn and grow just as I did. The Angel Family Foundation looks forward to partnering with other like-minded donors to make an education at NC State a reality for these extraordinary students."

Angel graduated from the College of Engineering with a degree in civil engineering. He earned an MBA from Loyola College in Baltimore while working at GE and later joined Praxair Inc. where he became chairman and CEO. After Praxair merged with Linde AG in 2019, Angel became CEO of the combined company, Linde PLC, the largest industrial gases company in the world. Earlier this year, he received the Watauga Medal, NC State's highest academic honor, for his voluntarism, advocacy, leadership and philanthropy.

In addition to the two lead gifts, the new scholarship's matching pool also has recently benefited from $100,000 gifts from Chancellor Woodson and his wife, Susan, and from three-time alumnus Dr. Jim Owens and his wife, Katie.

In addition to major gifts eligible for the matching dollars, gifts of any amount will make an immediate difference for students through the Extraordinary Opportunity Scholarship general fund.

The initiative supports undergraduate access and affordability, creates a stronger Pack and helps develop the next generation of leaders, Sischo added.

"We are so grateful for the leadership of these donors as we work to open doors for more students," he said. "The matching pool of funds will be used to inspire and incentivize other donors to join this important initiative. NC State was established to expand access to higher education, and we're committed to affirming and expanding that vision to empower an even broader group of students from across North Carolina.

"While our university remains very affordable in comparison to other outstanding institutions, we certainly have unmet student need. Bridging the gap will help ensure that everyone who qualifies for admission is able to develop their talents and pursue their dreams here."

The Extraordinary Opportunity Scholarship Initiative is part of the university's Think and Do the Extraordinary Campaign, launched publicly in October 2016. Through early August 2020, this largest-ever NC State fundraising effort had raised more than $1.78 billion for scholarships and fellowships, faculty support, programs and facilities.

By June 30, the end of the most recent fiscal year, donors to the Campaign had established 779 new scholarships and fellowships, already providing funding for 2,000-plus students.

More low- and middle-income students, however, need support. Sischo said that continuing to close this financial gap for current and potential members of the Wolfpack is one of the biggest priorities for the remainder of the Campaign and beyond its Dec. 31, 2021, completion.
"[Some of our students] worry about affording supplies for class, balancing a prescription with buying groceries or finding enough time to study between working as many hours as possible to get by," Woodson said earlier this year when announcing the launch of the Extraordinary

Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. "These students are also tomorrow's leaders. But when the gap between their financial need and what we can offer in aid is too large, it becomes increasingly difficult for too many of our students to achieve their potential."

According to the university's Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, even before the coronavirus pandemic, 73% of NC State's roughly 25,000 undergraduates applied for financial aid and more than 50% of its undergraduates qualified for some form of need-based aid as outlined by federal guidelines. The estimated average annual cost of attendance is just over $24,500, and the average annual student need is more than $16,000.

The university is currently able to meet just below 73 percent of that need, using all sources including scholarships and grants, loans and work-study jobs.

The total unmet annual need for North Carolina residents alone is roughly $35.6 million.

"Among our peer institutions, an average of 64% of undergrads request aid," said Krista Ringler, associate vice provost and director of scholarships and financial aid. "We're in the middle group in terms of what we can offer. Most of our students are working part-time as well, but unfortunately, we see excited, promising students who simply are unable to begin or continue their education at NC State because of financial concerns.

"We've made good progress in this Campaign, nearly doubling the number of students we can help, but we still have a ways to go. We have goals as a university to increase our enrollment of students in underrepresented groups, students who are the first in their family to attend college and students from rural communities. Additionally, the economic situation of many families is certainly becoming even more challenging."

"PHILANTHROPY ELEVATES EVERYTHING WE DO, AND PROVIDING NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS IS TRULY AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE."

Sischo said the Extraordinary Opportunity Scholarship reflects and expands NC State's land-grant commitment to serve the people of North Carolina by applying innovation, driving the economy and, especially, providing an exceptional, accessible education.

"In challenging times, the mission of public universities like ours becomes even more critical," he said. "Philanthropy elevates everything we do, and providing need-based scholarships is truly an investment in our future."

A Healthy Pursuit

As Dhuru Patel graduated high school four years ago with plans to pursue a career in health care, the STEM-based focus and pre-health care study opportunities that NC State offered had him leaning toward attending the university.

His receipt of the Dean and Gail Bunce Scholarship through the College of Sciences sealed the deal.

In the time since he chose NC State, Patel said he has felt the full impact of that scholarship. He has worried less about paying for school, which allowed him to pursue study, extracurricular and service opportunities. Combined, those undergraduate experiences helped cement Patel's decision to attend medical school.

Volunteer work with groups such as Wake Smiles at the Salvation Army, which provides dental care to under-resourced adults in Wake County, and Missions of Mercy, which offers free dental services, gave Patel the opportunity to see health care in action for those that otherwise couldn't afford it.

Most recently, he volunteered as a COVID-19 tester and with a vaccination team, allowing him to see medicine at work in unprecedented times.

"During college my volunteering became a bit more focused on helping to bridge the gap between what some of the community's members need versus what they currently have," Patel said. "It definitely helped push me toward medicine more as well, especially volunteering with medical organizations."

Patel, who grew up in western North Carolina, will receive a B.S. in biological sciences with a concentration in human biology, and a minor in business administration this May.

He is part of the Daniel L. Solomon Scholars Program, named for the College of Sciences' inaugural dean, who spent more than 30 years at NC State before retiring in 2015. Solomon Scholars are selected based on academic achievement, scientific leadership qualities and distinctive life experiences. The program is currently made up

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of 16 named scholarships, including the Dean and Gail Bunce Scholarship.

A pre-medical school track requires not just intensive studies, but also professional and academic activities outside the classroom, such as shadowing and volunteering with medical professionals, he said.

"The scholarship was really a catalyst for my academic development because I was able to focus on that," Patel said.

He also spent the last three years doing research under the direction of Adam Hartstone-Rose, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. The research involved creating three-dimensional models of the skull and mandible of extinct species, then highlighting "bony correlates," the marks on the bone made from interactions between soft tissue and bone, to predict bite force. Patel then compared that to data gathered from living animals.

"Traditionally, the original method would take a 'birds eye' shot of the bottom of the skull and the mandible and manually measure based on the picture, but my project was trying to do this with modern technology in 3-D space," he explained. "We figured that the additional z dimension of the 3-D model would be more accurate than the 2-D original method with a picture, and would thus be a better predictor of bite force."

Patel has been involved with a variety of clubs on campus, and served as a College of Sciences ambassador. In addition to volunteering with organizations focused on health care, he has volunteered locally with both the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and with the Raleigh YMCA's Community HOPE, an academically structured mentoring and literacy program that addresses the individual learning needs of students living in affordable housing communities.

"Service is a nice way to diversify and not just focus on classroom work," Patel said. "Long-term, I hope to give back through the skills that I learn in medicine, working in places like volunteer clinics."

Patel said he'd grown up with a love for science, and in thinking about ways to couple that with an interest in working with people, he decided on medicine. As his early volunteer experiences demonstrate, he thought about dentistry, but ultimately decided medicine would make him happier. Patel said he's not sure yet where he'll focus in medicine but is leaning toward primary care.

He will be the first generation in his family to graduate college. His parents were immigrants who came to the United States to give their kids more opportunities than they enjoyed.

"They really just said, you have this opportunity that we didn't have – if you want to pursue education, do it," Patel said.

As a first-generation student, he had support from the TRIO program at NC State. TRIO is a federal program that helps students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

"I really enjoyed the structure and support that they provided first-generation students," Patel said.

So much so that he became a TRIO Student Support Services STEM peer mentor, pairing him with another NC State student to help that student transition into or through college. And later, he served as a TRIO tutor, tutoring fellow students in microbiology.

"I like being able to use my prior experience and knowledge to help someone else navigate their academic journey," Patel said.

Through that, and so many other experiences, Patel found community at NC State — not just with other students, but with faculty as well.

"It's a very big school, but you don't feel like just a number," Patel said. "The faculty treat you as individuals."

His time at NC State has also shown Patel that the college experience can be about much more than academic development.

"I learned a lot through my major, but I feel like I grew a lot as an individual as well," Patel said. "Relationships with professors and friends have made me more well-rounded and a better individual."

It's something he wants donors to know as they consider supporting scholarships like his.

"The donations that they're making are having an impact on the students themselves," Patel said. "It is positively influencing students' lives in ways that you can't necessarily measure."

Maggie Short's research focuses on agronomic practices in industrial hemp, specifically nitrogen and potassium fertilizer rates.

Maggie Short: NC State Provides Vast Opportunities

There are many reasons why a student chooses to attend a specific college: maybe their parents went there or the school has the best engineering or agricultural program. For graduate student Maggie Short, coming to NC State University was always about endless opportunities.

"Agriculture has always been a part of my life. Both of my parents come from multiple generations of farmers. My sisters and I grew up helping our parents around the farm," said Short, a native of Sumner, North Carolina.

Despite having a background in agriculture, Short had no idea what she wanted to study as an undergraduate student. NC State provided her with options that helped her decide her path.

"I knew I had a multitude of options coming to NC State. I also knew there would be a lot of opportunities for student involvement that would allow me to meet students who had similar interests as me outside of the classroom," she said.

Short quickly landed on a bachelor's degree in plant and soil science with a focus in crop production. After graduating in 2019, she decided to continue at NC State, pursuing a master's degree in crop science.

"I wanted to continue as a graduate student at NC State because of the people I worked with, the professors I learned from, and each opportunity is setting me up for success in my career," she said.

And opportunities have come in all forms for Short, including financial support. Throughout her time at NC State, she's been the recipient of merit-based scholarships related to her studies, career goals and passion for agriculture.

"I am incredibly grateful for these scholarships," she said. "They not only provide relief from financial stress, allowing me to fully focus on my research and classes, but they also assure me that the hard work I'm doing is being noticed and appreciated."

Her research focuses on agronomic practices in industrial hemp, specifically nitrogen and potassium fertilizer rates.

"Working with NC State's Tobacco Agronomy Research group as a graduate student is incredibly rewarding, but it has its challenges," said Short. "We work in the heat and occasional rain and sometimes deal with damaged research plots from adverse weather. Some of the things we have to do are tedious or strenuous, and there are days when it's hard to see the point in any of it beyond the present difficulty. However, we never give up, because we do what we do for North Carolina farmers and the families and communities they support."

Short is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in crop science after completing her master's program.

"After that, I would like to either work as an agronomist, continue in agronomic research, or possibly try something related to agritourism on my family's farm," she said.

As always for Short, the opportunities are there, and the possibilities are endless.

"THEY NOT ONLY PROVIDE RELIEF FROM FINANCIAL STRESS, ALLOWING ME TO FULLY FOCUS ON MY RESEARCH AND CLASSES, BUT THEY ALSO ASSURE ME THAT THE HARD WORK I'M DOING IS BEING NOTICED AND APPRECIATED."

Meurs Receives Distinguished Professorship in Comparative Medicine

Kate Meurs, who first came to the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine as a small animal intern and now serves as the senior associate dean for research and graduate studies, has been named the Randall B. Terry, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Comparative Medicine.

Meurs' ongoing, groundbreaking research broadens understanding of genetic disease in companion animals, information that often has potential to guide treatment of human disease.

A world leader in the field of cardiac disease genetics, Meurs has identified the genetic basis for numerous canine and feline cardiac diseases. Her research has led to refined treatment approaches for conditions ranging from feline cardiomyopathy to long QT Syndrome, a heart rhythm disorder.

"The Randall B. Terry, Jr. Distinguished Professorship in Comparative Medicine will help continue our work in the identification of genetic causes of disease in companion animals and the use of these genetic discoveries to develop plans for both treatment and prevention of genetic diseases," says Meurs. "I am greatly appreciative of this recognition and this opportunity."

The $1.5 million endowed professorship is funded through a landmark $16 million pledge to the

college from the R.B. Terry Charitable Foundation, with $1 million coming from the foundation's overall donation and $500,000 from the college's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund.

The Terry Foundation has endowed several professorships at the college bolstering innovative medical research, including the Randall B. Terry, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Regenerative Medicine, awarded last year to Ke Cheng and the Randall B. Terry, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Translational Medicine for Jorge Piedrahita in 2016.

"I can't overemphasize the impact of Dr. Meurs' accomplishments in comparative medicine," says CVM Dean Paul Lunn. "She has shown how cutting-edge genetic research can have an immediate impact on our understanding of cardiac disease. This is truly authentic translational research and a great example of a professor who practices what they preach."

After receiving her DVM from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Meurs first came to NC State for a small animal rotating internship in 1990, going on to complete a cardiology residency at Texas A&M where she earned a Ph.D. in genetics.

"As an intern at N.C. State, I was exposed to the concept of advancing medical care through research and education," says Meurs. "This was an important aspect of the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine culture as was the expectation for its trainees to make a lifelong contribution to the advancement of veterinary medicine.

Meurs, a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, returned to the CVM in 2011 as a professor and associate dean.

In addition to her research, she has been a force in elevating the college's reputation as an impactful research institution, encouraging cross-disciplinary collaboration and mentorship within faculty and student research and helping guide such projects as the Biomedical Partnership Center.

"I am so proud to work in this community of passionate clinicians, researchers and educators who are all working together to improve the way that we provide medical care to animal and human patients," says Meurs.

"THIS IS TRULY AUTHENTIC TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AND A GREAT EXAMPLE OF A PROFESSOR WHO PRACTICES WHAT THEY PREACH."