

# Female, minority applicants decline for '98-'99

By Sarah Rackley  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Think you've got a lot of work at midterms? The Office of Admissions is in the midst of sorting through approximately 6,400 applications for about 965 spots in the Class of 2002. Applications are down this year from 6,700 last year. The five percent drop in applications is the first decline in recent years.

Although regular application numbers are down, the number of early-decision applications and admissions is up. A strong applicant pool allowed the admittance of 240

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early decision applicants, up from 225 last year.

"Early decision went very well. As far as numbers and quality we have seen so far, we have been very

pleased," said Martha Allman, an associate director of admissions.

Interest in the university in the form of mailings, campus visits and requests for information over e-mail also increased during this school year. After the process of making admittance decisions is complete, admission officers will investigate the disparity between interest and actual applications to the university. "My major concern is getting the class admitted and the financial aid decisions out," said William Starling, the director of admissions and financial aid.

The numbers of minority students and North Carolinians applying has

declined, but the largest drop in applications from a group of students has been from women.

"We have almost exactly the same number of men's applications as we had last year, and almost all of our total decline is in the area of women's applications," Starling said.

Starling said he did not think the Plan for the Class of 2000 affected the decline in applications because the number of applications has not decreased since the plan's inception in 1996. The main difference in the university in recent years is that now prospective students can see how the Plan for the Class of 2000

is working, rather than just hearing projections, he said. Starling did not link tuition increases associated with the Plan for the Class of 2000 with the decline in applications for similar reasons: Applications were up several percentage points for 1996 and 1997. "Applications are cost-sensitive, but I think the university has continued to say that for students who need money, we have a lot of financial aid," Starling said.

Approximately 2,600-2,700 students will be admitted this spring, and 34-38 percent of these students will enroll, according to Starling.

"It's fun to be part of an office (whose) primary responsibility is to

organize and participate in activities that will generate an applicant pool from which we can choose a good class," Starling said.

"We try to put together a class on a variety of fronts that will combine with the faculty in a way that will provide the optimum learning environment and growth for the student and the university," he said.

Final decisions on admission will be made by the end of March after two to ten admissions officers read each application.

The application deadline was Jan. 15, but the admissions office expects to receive as many as 150 late applications.

## Volunteers serve over break

By Travis Langdon  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

With Spring Break all but here, the Volunteer Service Corps is preparing to embark upon its annual Wake Alternative Break, in which about 70 students will participate.

The program, which began at the university six years ago, is entirely student organized and aimed at the goal of offering students a relatively inexpensive trip to one of five major U.S. cities to offer assistance to their communities.

Wake Alternative Break was modeled after a similar program called Breakaway, which has been offered at Vanderbilt University in past years.

However, last year the university's program officially joined Breakaway, giving it access to the organization's database.

This modified system allowed VSC officers seniors Jeff Alpert, Erin Graves and Ross Samchalk to organize trips to sites that were previously unavailable in Florida, Charleston, S.C., and Washington.

Other groups will also visit Boston, Oklahoma, New Orleans and South Dakota, as they have done in prior years.

VSC was very pleased with the number of students who applied for the opportunity to participate in the program and is trying to set everything up for six full trips.

"We filled every trip, so it ended up being about 70 students who will be going in groups of nine to 11. We normally fill our trips, but it was a great turnout this year, and we had very few drops so it wasn't hard to keep full. We also had a good representation from all of the different classes," Graves said.

The projects range from environmental cleanup to community outreach, and the groups will work with several local organizations at the sites.

The students going to South Dakota and New Orleans will both work with the YMCA, and in New Orleans the students will also work with Volunteers of America.

In Boston, students will be offering aid at the East End House, a shelter for homeless mothers and their children.

The Washington trip is also urban-oriented, although this group will be helping local missionaries at several houses for critically ill people without money for health care.

The trip to Florida is directed toward environmental, rather than community, volunteering. This group will be working with The Nature Conservancy to help clean beaches and other outdoor areas.

Accommodations vary with the different sites.

"We work out housing specifically with each trip, so everyone is doing different things. The group in Florida will be camping out. In South Dakota and New Orleans, students will be sleep-

ing at the YMCA. Another interesting setup is the one for the group in Boston. Those students are staying in the barracks of a Naval yard. Other groups are doing different things," Alpert said.

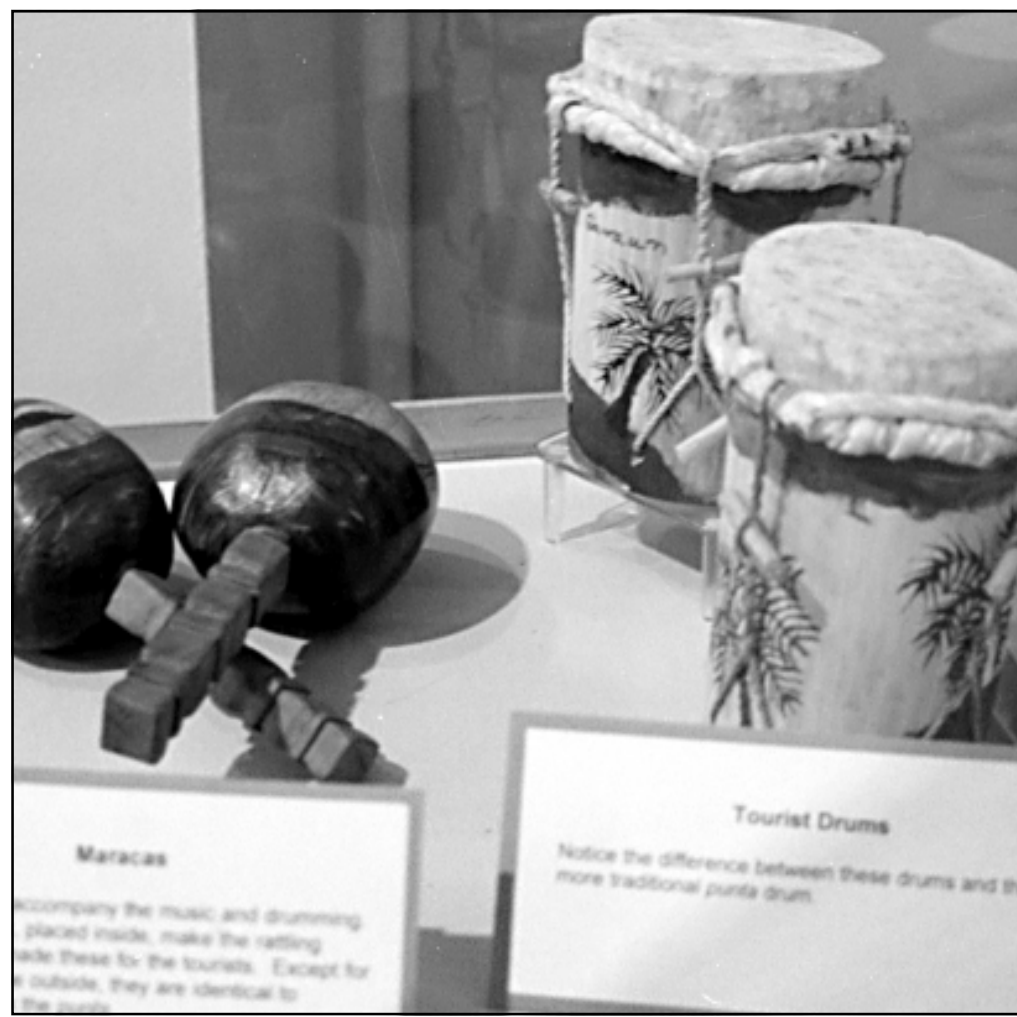
The trip cost each of the participants \$150, which will be pooled to pay for the necessary investments for the groups. The groups will travel in vans that VSC acquired from a rental agency.

"Certain trips have specific needs," Samchalk said. "First of all, the trips that are further away have higher charges by the van service, because they charge by the mile. The fee also covers the students' food, as well as the camping supplies needed for the Florida trip. We're also making T-shirts and putting some money in an emergency fund."

As the trips approach, VSC is enthusiastic about its participants' chance to offer service through the program.

Having only a few minor details to attend to, the group leaders anxiously await the upcoming break.

"Two students in each group will serve as leaders, and their main role has been keeping in contact with their different sites and making sure that things are set up as far as directions, lodging, making sure there's enough work to do for the week and things like that. They've also coordinated meetings for each of the groups to sort of break the ice and get to know each other. Other than that, everyone is just waiting to go," Samchalk said.



Ashley Twigg/Old Gold and Black

### Museum maracas

The maracas and tourist drums above are part of the Museum of Anthropology's exhibit, "Keeping Culture: A Rite of Passage Among the Garifuna of Roatan Island," March 3-April 9.

## BRIEFLY

Campus organizations may have their announcements listed by sending e-mail to [news@ogb.wfu.edu](mailto:news@ogb.wfu.edu), faxing to Ext. 4561 or writing to P.O. Box 7569. The deadline for inclusion in each week's paper is 5 p.m. Monday.

### MBA program offers information session

An information session about the Charlotte MBA program at the Babcock Graduate School of Management will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 10 at 1 Morrocroft Centre at South Park in Charlotte. The program is designed to meet the needs of rising professionals who have at least five years of managerial experience and who want to earn an MBA degree on a part-time basis.

For more information, call (704) 365-1717 or (888) 925-3622.

### LEAD plans Adopt-A-Freshmen program

Leadership Excellence Application and Development is beginning an Adopt-A-Freshman program with the goal of facilitating the social transition for freshmen.

The 1998-99 school year will be the pilot year. Anyone interested in becoming a mentor may pick up an application from the office of Mike Ford, the director of student development, Benson 317 or call freshman Erin McGeehan at Ext. 1211 for more information.

### Anthropology offers Yadkin field school

The department of anthropology and the Archeology Laboratories will conduct an archeological field school from May 19 to June 27. The focus of this year's excavations will be a late Woodland Native American village on the Yadkin River.

The field school is open to undergraduates who have completed one course in anthropology and it carries eight credits.

Anyone interested may contact

Joe Woodall, a professor of anthropology at [woodaljn@wfu.edu](mailto:woodaljn@wfu.edu) or graduate student Roger Kirchen at [kirchrw4@wfu.edu](mailto:kirchrw4@wfu.edu) or Ext. 5117.

### City of Joy program recruits volunteers

Applications for the City of Joy Scholars Program to Calcutta, India, are available on the door of the Volunteer Service Corps office, Benson 345. The deadline is March 23.

Interested freshmen, sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply.

A team of 10 students, a returning student and a faculty member will travel to Calcutta over winter break and volunteer for 17-19 days in conjunction with the Missionaries of Charity.

For more information, please call junior Winston Tilghman at 896-0828 or Paige Wilbanks at Ext. 4549.

### Field School focuses on anthropology

The Overseas Research Center will be conducting its summer Ethnographic Field School on the tropical West Indian island of Roatan this May 19 through June 9.

Students will conduct independent research and gain experience in many aspects of cross-cultural study.

Those interested should call senior Kevin O'Brien at Ext. 6352 or David Evans, a professor of anthropology, at Ext. 5276, or e-mail him at [dkevans@wfu.edu](mailto:dkevans@wfu.edu).

### Hearn scholarship applications available

Applications for the Thomas K. Hearn Jr. Scholarships for Excellence in Leadership and Service are

available in the office of volunteer services, the Information Desk in the Benson University Center and the provost's office, Reynolda 204.

Rising seniors who have demonstrated leadership and service to the university and have at least a 2.75 grade point average are eligible to apply.

Applications should be submitted before 5 p.m. March 16 in the provost's office or mailed to P.O. Box 7328.

### Huffman House seeks resident applications

Huffman House is accepting applications for residents for 1998-99.

Huffman promotes individual endeavors in all areas of campus life while providing a community atmosphere.

Applications are available in the Huffman main lounge or at <http://www.students.wfu.edu/Huffman> and are due March 17. Huffman will be smoke-free in 1998-99.

### Psychology professor to speak with Philos

Christy Buchanan, an assistant professor of psychology, will lead discussion at the Philomathesian Society's next lunch lecture at 11 a.m. March 17 in the upper dining area of the Pit.

### German scholar to deliver series lecture

"Sex Differences in Mathematics: Theoretical Issues and Some Empirical Findings" will be the next lecture in the department of psychology's Colloquium Series.

Olaf Koeller, from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, Germany, will

speak at 3:15 p.m. March 18 in Winston C.

A social will follow in Winston 236. The department of education is co-sponsoring the event.

For more information, call Ext. 5424.

### CARE needs students for Swing into Spring

CARE's annual Swing into Spring will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. March 18 in the Magnolia Room. The group needs volunteers to spend time with the local elderly it has invited to dinner. For more information, call freshman Kirstin Johnson at Ext. 1661.

### Romance languages to sponsor lecture

Geoffrey Ribbons, a professor at Brown University, will deliver the lecture "Some Alternative Views on the Modernismo/ Generation of '98 Debate" at 7 p.m. March 19 in Scales 102.

For more information, call the department of Romance languages, which is sponsoring the talk, at Ext. 5487.

### International relations scholarships open

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship applications are now available. The Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarship is for one year in an academic setting, and the Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship is for three months of intensive language training and cultural immersion.

Applicants should call Susan Faust, an assistant to the senior vice president, for additional information or to set an appointment.

Students are ineligible if they, their parents or their grandparents

are Rotarians. Applications are due March 20.

### Literary magazine seeks submissions

*Three to Four Ounces*, the student literary magazine, is accepting submissions for this semester's magazine. It accepts poetry, short prose and original artwork (including black-and-white photography).

The selection process will take place the week of March 23. Submissions should include the student's name and campus P.O. box and should be sent to P.O. Box 7247 or left at the magazine's office, Benson 502.

Anyone with questions should call Ext. 5291.

### Students invited to Caribbean field school

Applications are being accepted for the university's annual Field School in Caribbean Archaeology, which will be held May 24 to June 18 on San Salvador Island, the Bahamas.

Students will study at the Pigeon Creek Site, a large settlement dating from A.D. 800 to 1500.

Freshmen and sophomores are eligible to apply for tuition assistance.

The course is offered through the anthropology department.

To obtain the project packet, contact Mary Jane Berman, an associate professor of anthropology and a director and curator, at Ext. 5827 or [berman@wfu.edu](mailto:berman@wfu.edu).

### Famine will educate, raise funds for hunger

The Division of Student Life and Intervarsity will sponsor a "30-hour Famine" March 27-28 to raise money to combat world hunger.

The program is part of World Vision International's campaign.

For information about participating in the fast or donating money, call senior Lilly Bekele at Ext. 1457.

### Sitarist Ravi Shankar will give free concert

Students, faculty and staff may pick up free tickets March 17 and 18 at the University Theatre Box Office for sitar player Ravi Shankar's April 30 performance.

Students who present their university IDs may get one ticket each, and faculty and staff may get two tickets each. A limited number of tickets will go on sale to the public March 23. For more information, call Ext. 5757.

### Organizations eligible for humanity award

The Student Government Appropriations and Budget Committee is offering a monetary award for an organization that exemplifies the university motto, *Pro Humanitate*.

To be considered for the award, an organization must submit a one-page report to the Appropriations and Budget box in the SG office, Benson 304, before April 3. The report should summarize the project as it relates to the university's motto.

For more information, contact junior Kevin Carter at Ext. 1448 or senior Amy Speas at Ext. 1291.

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