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[Caldwell Fellows] December 2023 Alumni Newsletter

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Fri, Dec 1, 2023 at 10:40 AM



Pictured left to right - Janice Odom, Ben Wooten '06, and Jared Milrad '06. Jared was the speaker at the November Dinner Seminar.

A message from the Director

Fifty-six years ago the founding vision of the Richardson Foundation established servant-leadership as our mission. Growing the mindset, maturity, and practices of a servant-leader is a lifelong process. Engaging the practices that develop skillful servant-leaders is our shared challenge and creative possibility. Our primary method is experiential learning and over time our menu of opportunities has grown to include Caldwell wilderness expeditions, service-learning, internships, SATELLITE, global learning and urban adventures, student leadership teams, and experiential learning grants. Experiences alone, however, do not create growth. Rather it is the presence of mentors and guided reflection that enables deep learning. Thus, closely woven into experiential learning is a relational model of leadership which is Inclusive, Empowering, Purposeful, Ethical, and Process-Oriented. Gerald Hawkins established this practice through personal mentoring and building networks of belonging and opportunity for students. This practice still defines us and you, our alumni, are critical to our relational model.

Our alumni serve as wilderness leaders and professional coaches for our Fellows.

Our alumni bring their wisdom to selecting a new class. (180+ of you!)

Our alumni contribute to our sophomore seminar, monthly dinners, regional visits from our students, coaching, professional networking, and more.

Without relationships, we would be far from impactful.

The essence of servant-leadership is character and character is 'caught not taught'. We want to support your continuing development and the possibilities for our students to learn from you.

We're in the midst of an alumni survey (see the article below). We seek your input on the difference the program has made in your life and your input on our future. I hope you'll take time to share your story with us.

Through relationships, we develop our awareness of self and others.

Through diverse relationships, our worldviews are broadened and deepened.

"The object of human communication is not the exchange of information but the exchange of understanding." (Maria Popova).

Gratefully,

~Janice



2023 Sophomore Seminar teaching assistants. Left to right, Abdullah Zaben, Brodie Smith, Chris Oates, Ella Matischak, Andrew Hammock, Kaeshad Williamson, and Megan Thomas. (Not pictured, Landon Amash and Maia Grace Solomon.)

Tell us your Caldwell Fellows story of impact

We are interested in learning from our alumni about the program's true impact. What differences did the program make in your decisions and direction, career, community, or family life? Whatever name you identify with - an NC Fellow, Caldwell Scholar, or Caldwell Fellow - we need your perspective. We are conducting an in collaboration with NC State's Institutional Strategy and Analysis office. We invite you to anonymously respond to a one question prompt about the impact of the program at

<https://go.ncsu.edu/cf-alumni-feedback>

The feedback provided by you and other Caldwell alumni will help us tell the Caldwell Fellows story and shape the program priorities for the coming decades.

The deadline to complete this survey has been extended to January 5.

At the end of the survey, you will have the option to follow a link to a separate form disconnected from the survey to enter yourself into a raffle. We'll be giving out Caldwell-branded swag and one lucky person will receive a pair of tickets to our 2024 Gala!

If you have any problems accessing the online survey, please email ncsusurveys@ncsu.edu. If you want more information about this initiative, please contact Janice Odom at janice_odom@ncsu.edu.



Dr. Gerald Hawkins, Director Emeritus.

Three Donors Honor Dr. Gerald Hawkins With Gifts to Caldwell Fellows Program

Dr. Gerald Hawkins served as the director of Caldwell Fellows program, NC State's oldest experiential learning and leadership development program, for its first 35 years.

In celebration of the Caldwell Fellows program's 55th anniversary, three generous donors have collectively contributed \$1.2 million to enhance the Gerald G. Hawkins/Caldwell Fellows Program Endowment at NC State University. Led by Matt King '01, an anonymous donor, and

2023 Watauga Medal recipient Cathy Sigal '76—all Caldwell alumni—this initiative aims to honor Dr. Gerald Hawkins, the program's inaugural director. The endowment will provide sustained, flexible resources for the Caldwell Fellows program, supporting core components such as global experiences, wilderness education, service-learning, internships, retreats, and dinner seminars. This combined contribution emphasizes Hawkins' impactful legacy of servant leadership, mentorship, and personal integrity, shaping the program for over 35 years. It has also already galvanized others to give in honor of Dr. Hawkins. The gifts signify a commitment to future generations of Caldwell Fellows, enabling them to "Think Big!", serve others, and contribute to the program's enduring success. If you feel inspired to make a contribution to the Dr. Gerald Hawkins endowment, you can do so at our [Giving Page](#).

Read More



Smiling faces from the 2023 Caldwell Fellows Gala.

2024 Selection Weekend Alumni Engagement Opportunities February 23-24, 2024

This year's Caldwell Fellows Selection weekend will feature multiple opportunities for alumni to engage with each other, current Fellows, and Caldwell Fellows candidates for the Class of 2027.

Friday, February 23rd

- Alumni Welcome Reception. Details to be announced. Stay tuned for more.

Saturday, February 24th Two different engagement opportunities await:

- **Selection Interviews for the Caldwell Class of 2027** - (8:30 am - 3:30 pm; *Hunt Library; breakfast and lunch provided*). Join alumni partners to interview and score Caldwell Class of 2027 finalists. If you are interested in serving as a part of our Selection team, please complete [this short Google form](#) by the end of November and we will confirm your assignment by early-December. This form includes all three stages of the Selection process: online application reviewers (early January), semi-finalist interviewers (February 3 at NC State), and finalist interviewers (February 24 at NC State). Please select all that apply based on your interests and availability.
- **Career Conversations with Current Fellows** - (9:00 am - 1:00 pm; *Park Alumni Center; breakfast and lunch provided*). Participate in a mini career conference with current Fellows. This new event was created by our Majors and Affinities Student Leadership Team and will feature Alumni panels and table discussions facilitated by alumni like you on career and life themes with a holistic approach to the aspects of our life that make for meaning, purpose and fulfillment. We seek alumni from a wide range of career fields and life experiences. If you are interested in serving as a part of our Career Conversations team, please complete [this short Google form](#) by the end of November and we will confirm your assignment by early-December.

If you are potentially interested in both Selection Day interviewing AND the Career Conversations event on February 24, and will trust us to put you where we most need you, you are encouraged to complete BOTH forms.

Evening of Saturday, February 24th - (6:00 PM - 10:00 PM) Join our annual Gala at the NC Museum of Art. (*Ticket Sales Open in December*).

Accommodations for the weekend are available at the State View Hotel.

[Room Block Available at the StateView Hotel.](#)

Join us in shaping the future of Caldwell Fellows and the next generation of leaders!



A scene from the 2023 semi-finalist day.

Call for 2023 Caldwell Fellows Application Reviewers

October 1 the on-line application for the Caldwell Fellows Class of 2027 opened for first-year students at NC State. January 8 the application portal closes and we turn to you for the formidable task of reviewing applications. Key to the effectiveness of our selection process is the participation of alumni and friends whose experience and belief in our mission help identify those best suited to the program.

Now is the time to let us know of your interest in any of the three stages of selection

- Online reviews (mid-January)
- Semi-finalist day (Saturday, February 3 on Main Campus)
- Selection day / finalist interviews (Saturday, February 24 on Centennial Campus)

This brief interest form details the stages and timelines. Express your interest by the end of November and we will be in touch in early December to confirm your role. <https://forms.gle/vxDo6ro83gW9vZXo8>

Want to deepen your connection?

The Caldwell Fellows website has an alumni tab in the main menu of the homepage (<https://caldwellfellows.ncsu.edu/>). The alumni section of the website includes archives of alumni newsletters and alumni stories. It is a work in progress and we welcome your input on what might be useful information to contain there.

Over the years we've had various means to help alumni connect with each other and the program; printed directories, online directories, etc. We know that the lack of a robust, reliable alumni directory limits the potential for connections. The platforms we have used have primarily been provided by the Alumni Association. We are cautiously optimistic to let you know that a new platform is in the works. We hope to have something new to offer you in the near future! Please stay tuned for how you can get plugged in to the new system once it launches.



Fellows gathered at the end of the November Dinner Seminar. Left to right Susannah Weaver, Max Nicely, Lainey Volz, and Caden Miller.

The impact of relationships

The opening article about a relational model of education calls for some examples. Here are a few:

***Anne Powers. (Class of 1990)** radiates connection and seems to know everyone. Among her diverse contributions to the program (she is also a volunteer professional coach) she has mobilized many of you from the Hawkins era to participate in our alumni survey about the program's impact on your life.

***David Frink. (Class of 1998)** is serving as the glue to our professional coaching program. A coach himself, David solicits and guides the annual crew of coaches who work with our current Fellows. In addition to the significant number of professional volunteer coaches in David's network who work with us, we're now up to 11 alumni who have trained or are in training to serve our Fellows.

***Dinner Seminars.** Our monthly dinner seminars are a rich space for connections. Among our fall dinner guests and speakers have been these alumni - **Shelley Smith, Jared Milrad, Med Byrd, Lisa Bullard,** and **Bill Hunt.** Caldwell Dinner Seminars are highly interactive. Alumni at each dinner table joining with our students in dialogue greatly enriches the experience for all. Want to be a dinner / dialogue alumni guest for a spring dinner seminar? Please contact Janice at jeodom@ncsu.edu.

Dinners are on Sunday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Talley Student Union. Upcoming dates are January 21 and March 24.



Caldwell Fellows Program | NC State University | 1115 Pullen Hall | 919.515.3837
<https://caldwellfellows.ncsu.edu>

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