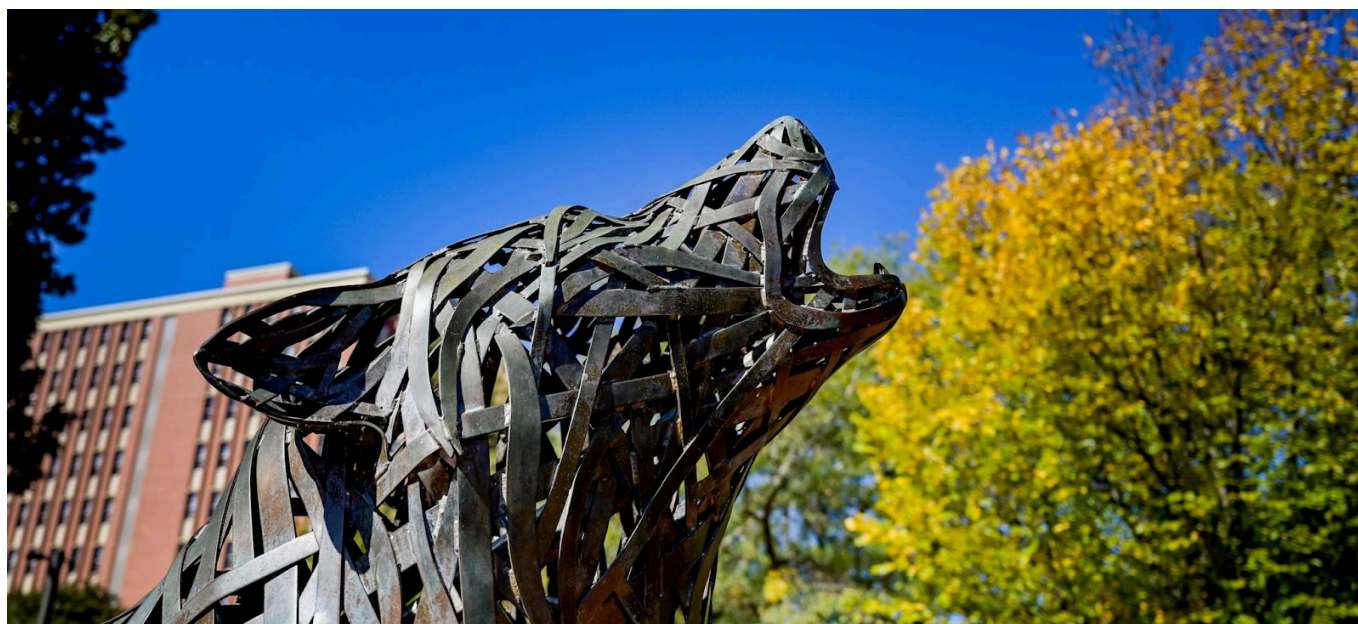


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Day of Giving 2025: A strong day for Caldwell Fellows

Alumni support on the Day of Giving provides income for the annual programmatic budget. Once again, the shared efforts of this alumni community were generous, **yielding \$175,616**. Our targeted fund, **The Gerald Hawkins Endowment**, will generate income for the program for years to come. Our students earned bragging rights (and the bonus money) for having the most student donors (98 gifts). Additionally, two students found hidden wolves, earning us \$1,000; one student won the student referral link challenge, earning the program another \$1,000, and one student earned us \$400 by answering questions about the Day of Giving.



Shack-A-Thon: Donation link open through this Friday

For nearly three decades, NC State students have turned support for affordable housing into a competition through Shack-A-Thon. Caldwell Fellows have consistently been among the top fundraisers on campus. Shack-A-Thon was last week, but contributions to Habitat for Humanity through their giving link are open through this Friday (April 4). The Fellows are currently in second place; they appreciate your support!

[Donate now](#)

Alumni Involvement 2025-26

Being a Caldwell Fellow is a lifelong journey. We have been hearing requests for an increase in the offering of impactful experiences in leadership development in the company of this fine community. Read more below about upcoming opportunities.

If you would like to contribute to planning these events and potentially more as part of an alumni education team, please contact Janice.



Caldwell Dinner Seminars

Our seminars are highly interactive, and the presence of alumni greatly enriches our shared learning. We are reserving up to 8 seats per seminar in the coming year with the ambition of an alum at each dinner table to share in the evening's conversation with our Fellows. All dinner seminars are on Sunday evenings, 5 - 7 pm. A signup form in the near future will allow you to select when you'd like to attend. Our 25-26 dates are August 24, September 14, October 19, November 13, January 11, and March 8.



Selection & Alumni Weekend

February 20 - 22, 2026

- **Alumni Conference:** We've heard you. For 2026, we return to our full-day Alumni Conference on Friday of Selection Weekend. Join us for a professional conference focused on the lifelong pursuit of servant leadership on Friday February 20, 2026. A conference planning team is forming. If this interests you, please contact [Janice](#).
- **Selection Day:** Saturday February 21, 2026. Serve as an interviewer OR spend your day with current Fellows for conversations on vocation. Our students range across all colleges at NC State and are hungry to hear your stories of college to career, your path (however smooth or bumpy), and what you learned in the process.
- **Gala:** Saturday evening, February 21, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm at the NC Museum of Art.



Walk the Camino de Santiago

May 11 - 23, 2026 (*anticipated dates*)

For two weeks in May, join us to walk the Camino de Santiago across Northern Spain. We'll have two walking teams: students and alumni. The teams will have parallel routes and intersect for meals and conversation at several points along the journey. Newsletters this summer will provide details and allow you to claim a spot. Stay tuned for more details.

Brightcrowd online directory update

Thank you to the 466 Alumni who have completed profiles in our online book and directory. **We just added photos from all 50 Caldwell Fellows Wilderness Trips** (1985 Everglades - 2024 Boundary Waters). A big thank you to Jerry Barker and Anne Powers for pulling this together. The pictures are organized by year and trip. To view the pictures, sign into www.brightcrowd.com and click "photos" in the upper right corner.

Coaching Survey

The Caldwell Fellows program has recruited, encouraged, and sponsored CF alumni to receive coaching certification (CPC) for the past 4 years. The current cohort of 5 alumni will graduate in July, bringing the number to 16 who have completed the program-sponsored training. The original intent with these alumni coaches was (and still is) to work with the current Caldwell Fellows. Coach trainees have also provided coaching to young alumni (10 years or less since graduation). The significant interest in coaching from young alumni, coupled with our own life and career trajectories, tells us that ALL of our alumni could be interested in the opportunity to be in a coaching relationship. We are reaching out to gauge interest. In addition to the gift of coaching, this also provides an opportunity to (re)engage with groups of your fellow CF alumni.

We look forward to hearing your response!

Theresa Mooney Freeman (1985), Lauren Welch (2004), Molly Widmyer Binder (2009)

Coaching Survey

Alumni Updates

- **Alli Walton '00** (Computer Engineering) received her first patent this past January.
- **Vikram Sen '84** (Architecture) moved to Berlin in 1986 after meeting his wife Gabi, an NC State German teacher who received a Fulbright in 1985. He works as an architect at Kramer, a subsidiary of state-owned developer HOWOGE, designing social housing and commercial spaces, and trains work/study students.
- **Jenna Pye '14** and **Rob Horner '07** serve as alumni wilderness trip leaders for the program. They were married last fall.
- **Kenny Beaty '90** (Aerospace Engineering) retired from Takata/JSS in January 2025 after 30 years. He and his wife, Monica, are traveling to catch up with old friends.
- **Lexi DeFalco '20** is a training specialist with NC State Human Resources. She served as advisor for an NC State Alternative Service Break Trip to Peru. Current Fellows Andrew Hammock, Grace Sullivan, and Megan Aljian were part of her team.
- **John and Lisa Vance '07**, who first met as NC State students on a Alternative Service Break trip to the Dominican Republic more than 20 years ago, joined the western North Carolina Alternative Service Break trip along with five students, two co-leads, and a graduate advisor.
- **Charlie Acharya-Harless '15** and his wife Neha welcomed a son, Ahaan, in January.

Do you have life updates you'd like to share with our community? Fill out the form below.

Share an update



Message from the Director

Money is a powerful force. We each have a story about our relationship with money.

I was raised in a family of six where we had, thankfully, enough of what we needed. My parents' Depression era childhoods embedded in them, and subsequently me, a frugal outlook. I grew up wary of money. From age 10, I found ways to earn money, which I dutifully saved. I was determined to pay my way through life. I was averse to spending money and thought warily of those who overspent or measured personal worth by money. Then, in my thirties, I heard a speaker whose story with money significantly mirrored my own. Her insight was that being burdened by the fear of spending money is another end of the spectrum of being controlled by money. What an unexpected aha!

With a new lens, I became less obsessed with frugality and more aware that my values of generosity, lifelong learning, and joyful living can align with how I use my resources. It was a freeing insight.

The Day of Giving and Shack-A-Thon in the same week ignited my reflection on money. How we use the resources in our control is one of the most powerful indicators of our core values. We owe our existence to the values of the Richardson Foundation, who in the early 1960s envisioned the development of talented, committed university students for servant leadership as a path of positive social impact. They poured their resources into their values and vision, and 57 years later, thanks to the spark of that initial grant combined with the vision of the Caldwell scholarship and countless donors, here we are.

The capacity to give across our community is relative, and it is one of the ways the Caldwell Fellows mission is shared. We recognize and honor that career paths vary widely in their compensation. All levels of contributions are valued and celebrated. An astounding number of alumni and friends include the Caldwell Fellows program in their philanthropic giving. Sharing the financial work to keep the vision of Caldwell Fellows alive is one of the values that binds our community. We are named for a role model, not a benefactor. In true land-grant style, we are a community of shared purpose and responsibility. My gratitude is deep for the generosity of resources, spirit, and purposeful living you all embody.

Janice



Caldwell Fellows Program

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Use his link to [**Share Caldwell Fellows Alumni News**](#) and watch for the alumni news feature in upcoming newsletters.