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## What is OCAP?

By Shirley Townsend

OCAP is the Office of College Access Programs, a program offered by Fayetteville State University, that solely focuses on middle and high school students' academic success.

OCAP is comprised of three separate programs Gear Up, Educational Talent Search, and Upward Bound. Each program has their own goals and agendas but are under the umbrella organization OCAP.

**Gear Up** is a community partnership program that is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The Gear Up program provides early college preparation and awareness services through mentoring, tutoring, counseling, outreach, and other supportive services for students, educators and parents. Gear Up's goal is to seek services that can help enhance students' academic skills and involve parents in the education of their children. The Program seeks to significantly increase the number of low-income students enrolling in and completing college. Gear Up hosts a number of events during the year and summer. The students get the opportunity to attend a residential

camp where they attend workshops, academic classes, receive tutoring and connect with student mentors.

Nikki Massey is the Program Director for the **Upward Bound** Program and it is also funded by the U.S. Department of Education to serve students coming from low-income families. The Program provides academic support services to high school students who meet the federal eligibility criteria. Fayetteville State University's Upward Bound Program is designed to serve four targeted high schools in Cumberland, Hoke, and Robeson Counties in North Carolina. Upward Bound currently serves 56 participants who are striving to enroll in college after completing high school. Each student is provided with academic assistance while enrolled. Upward Bound hosts a wide variety of programs for the participants during the summer and school year. The participants get the opportunity to experience college life by attending residential camps during the summer at FSU as well as informative events held at FSU during the school year. **The Educational Talent Search**

program is also funded by the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of providing educational and academic support services to low-income students in middle and high school who reside in Cumberland, Robeson, and Hoke Counties. Fayetteville State University's Educational Talent Search program is to prepare students for college. ETS strives to create a close relationship with its members and Interim Director Cheryl Adams assures its progress. The staff is required to do constant checkups on each member and provide them with any assistance needed. ETS also provides numerous programs and events during the summer as well as the school year. Events such as "College Readiness Retreat" and STEM Camps are always available to the members along with others.

The Office of College Access Programs at Fayetteville State University

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## The AmeriCorps Vista Project

By Shirley Townsend

Fayetteville State University students were a part of the first AmeriCorps Vista Project this summer. The students used their summer to help support the OCAP programs by serving as AmeriCorps Vista Summer Associates. AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. The program operates through the service of volunteers.

Authorized in 1964 by President John F. Kennedy, and founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993.

VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 45 years.

The AmeriCorps Vista Project's summer associates helped assist academic programs, events, and also served as mentors and tutors. By serving through VISTA, the summer associates had the opportunity to gain new skills, friends, and experiences as well as help youth in the community. During their service, they received a modest living allowance, health care, and other benefits. Each summer associate demonstrated a passion for giving back and helping youth in the community.



Left: AmeriCorps Vista Summer 2012 Associates Richard Wall, Troy Pickens, Appiffany D. Joiner, Tyson McDowell, David Antoine, Danareyn Hamlett, Hydeia Hayes, Trea D. Landry and Shirley Townsend

Courtesy of AmeriCorps Vista

## Golfing in the Fight Against Cancer

By Barron Jamel Green

**Laurinburg** - A loud ping sound silenced the geese flopping over the first hole of the Cypress Creek Golf Links course during the opening of the relay for golf tournament Sept. 8.

This golf tournament, organized by the Butler Manufacturing/BlueScope Building teams, was one of several teams of local businesses and organizations in Laurinburg, that are holding fundraising events leading up to the city's relay for life on Sept. 21 at Scotland High School.

The American Cancer Relay for life is national phenomenon in which communities gather together and walk laps around tracks to raise money and awareness, as well as honor those who have suffered from cancer. Relay for life also reaches across the globe with 4 million people in more than 20 countries participating, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS) website.

Proceeds from the event were raised through the \$200 entry fee per four-man team, advertising and donations from businesses.

In total, 12 teams showed up with the intentions of battling, but not with one another or the challenges of the course, but cancer, which will kill nearly 600,000 in 2012 alone, according to the ACS website.

The tournament kicked off at 9 a.m. with the crackling of hundreds of clubs that banged together in a motorcade of golf carts speeding to the opening hole.

Nearly 50 men and women played the 18-hole course that presented different obstacles to overcome, including the captain's choice, lingo for a method of playing golf and utilizing the teammate's golf ball in the four man team that has the best position after every shot.

Charles Haywood, BlueScope's quality manager, orchestrated the event to include first, second, and third place trophies, door prizes, and lunch following the tournament. Players sat down to steak dinners with all the trimmings to conclude their long day of golf.

Mr. Haywood said that this year's tournament was a success. Every year that the tournament was held the number of participants have increased. The Butler Manufacturing/BlueScope team has organized four events but not consecutively. The last tournament was 2008 and raised \$7,000, according to Laurinburg exchange.com. "The economy has everyone in a financial crunch," he said. But, Mr. Haywood expressed that he "can't wait till next year to play again".

For more information about cancer facts or area relay for life events go to the American Cancer Society's webpage relayforlife.org.