

Duke HUMAN RESOURCES

Box 90496
Durham, NC 27708



Dear DURA Members,

Warmest holiday wishes from Duke! As the year draws to a close, we pause to reflect with gratitude on the enduring contributions of our Duke retirees. Your legacy continues to shape our community in meaningful ways, and we are deeply thankful for your dedication and service.

While an invitation was emailed to DURA members several weeks ago, I want to personally invite you to join us at Duke's annual Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 10th at the Duke University Chapel. We've also included the event details within this newsletter.

May this winter season bring you peace, joy, and time spent with loved ones. Whether you're enjoying a quiet moment by the fire or celebrating with family and friends, we hope your holidays are filled with warmth and happiness.

From all of us at Duke, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a bright New Year!

Antwan-La'Mont Lofton

Antwan-La'Mont Lofton, Ed.D, SPHR
Vice President for Human Resources
Chief Human Resources Officer
Duke University

Greetings and warm wishes DURA Members and friends,

Warm greetings to each of you as we welcome the magical season of winter! This time of year invites us to embrace the spirit of giving, and to renew our commitment to spreading love, kindness, and support—within our DURA community and beyond.

Our recent journeys have been filled with challenges and triumphs, but we are blessed to have our amazing DURA community for support. Let us continue to spread goodwill, volunteer our talents and donate as needed to others. Winter can be demanding on both body and mind, so let's prioritize staying healthy, positive, and connected.

I encourage everyone to stay active indoors with simple exercises and to seek support when facing the “winter blues.” As we prepare for the season ahead, remember the 5 Ps for winter safety: Protect People, Pets, Plants, Pipes and Practice Fire Safety. Stay cozy, stay safe, and stay engaged—virtually and in person. Be sure to check your emails for upcoming social opportunities organized by your DURA Board and representatives.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming gatherings. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a bright, hopeful New Year. Thank you for being such an incredible part of the DURA family. And always remember:

Wake Up. Be Kind. Be Amazing. Be Grateful. Repeat.

Veronica Hopkins Garrett

Veronica Hopkins Garrett
DURA President





DURA Members: YOU'RE INVITED!

We cordially invite you to join Duke staff and faculty at Duke's Annual Holiday Concert.

Duke University Chapel

401 Chapel Drive
Durham, NC 27705

Wednesday, December 10, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Celebrate the season with us at the annual **Duke Holiday Concert** in the beautifully decorated **Duke University Chapel**. Enjoy the festive sounds of the season with the Duke University Chorale. A special gift will be given to attendees ***while supplies last***.

Immediately following the performance, you are invited to enjoy desserts and pastries at the Holiday Reception* while reconnecting with current staff, faculty and fellow DURA members.

Parking is available on a first come basis at the [Bryan Center Parking \(PG4\) Garage](#). An email was sent to DURA members with a parking QR code for scanning in and out of the parking garage at no charge. The parking QR code is valid on 12/10/25 only.

Please note:

- Reservations are ***not*** required for this event
- This invitation is for DURA members only
- Guests are not permitted

**Following the performance inside Duke University Chapel, a dessert reception will be held under a tent on the Chapel Quad. This is a reception style event where limited seating will be available.*

Staying Connected to Duke



Duke News You May Have Missed...

Research Saves Lives

Did you know your taxpayer dollars fund research that improves cancer survival rates, detects and prevents childhood diseases and relieves pain? Research isn't just science; it's about people – your family, friends and community.

How Growing Duke Health is Good for the University and for North Carolina

Dean Dr. Mary Klotman discusses what Duke Health's growth outside of the Triangle means for its academic, research and clinical missions.

Seven Life-Changing Health Breakthroughs from Duke

From daily medications to modern ultrasounds, here are everyday advances that grew out of university research.

Duke Views

A collection of great photographs of Duke learning, research, community engagement, athletics, health care and campus life.

Staying Connected to Duke



Duke News You May Have Missed...

Apex Selected as Home for New NC Children's Health Campus

With the goal of creating a brighter future for our children, North Carolina Children's Health (NC Children's) has chosen a location in Apex for its campus, which will include the only freestanding, independent children's hospital in the Carolinas.

Duke Regional Hospital Ranked #1 in Social Responsibility by Lown Institute

Duke Regional Hospital is ranked #1 in social responsibility by the Lown Institute in a 2025 26 national ranking of acute care hospitals. This is the third consecutive year Duke Regional Hospital has received the top honor.

Here's what clean energy could look like

From finding cost effective ways to transport hydrogen, to investigating biological models of energy conversion, Duke experts are working on cleaner, less expensive energy solutions

New Study Reveals the Frequency of In-Flight Medical Emergencies

A new study led by Duke Health researchers analyzed more than 77,000 in flight medical events reported to the world's busiest airline medical support center.



DUKE EVENT CALENDAR



The [Duke Event Calendar](#) is the primary online resource for promoting campus events, including speakers, conference, performances, exhibitions, athletics and cultural activities. Entries on the Duke Event Calendar are searchable by date, topic, type and group.

DECEMBER CALANDER HIGHLIGHTS

Duke Chorale Holiday Concert with Durham School of the Arts

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 7:00pm 9:00pm Duke University Chapel

Celebrate the season with the warmth and wonder of music at the Duke Chorale's Annual Holiday Concert, directed by Allan Friedman.

Chamber Music at Duke: Fall Chamber Music Recital

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 7:00pm- 8:30pm East Duke 201 – Nelson Music Room

Under the direction of acclaimed cellist Caroline Stinson, Chamber Music at Duke presents an evening of dynamic and intimate performances that celebrate a semester of artistic growth and collaboration.

Taylor Macs Holiday Sauce

Thursday, December 4, 2025 7:30pm 9:00pm Bryan Center Reynolds Industries Theater

Christmas as calamity Ibsen Award winner, MacArthur Fellow, and Pulitzer Prize finalist, Taylor Mac, takes on the holidays to celebrate the season in all its dysfunction.

Kwan Yi: Piano Masterclass

Friday, December 5, 2025 5:00pm 6:30pm East Duke 201 Nelson Music Room

Join us for a captivating piano masterclass with internationally acclaimed guest artist Kwan Yi, Associate Professor of Piano at East Carolina University.

Duke Chapel by Candlelight: Christmas Open House

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 12:00pm 2:00pm Duke University Chapel

All are invited to see the Chapel fully decorated for the Christmas season and listen to familiar Christmas music. Drop in and stay for as little or as long as you'd like.

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 5:00pm 6:00pm Duke University Chapel

At this Christmas Eve Service, the Durham Children's Choir sings and Chapel Dean Luke A. Powery preaches the sermon.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

Dive into the magic of the holiday season in the Triangle area with a plethora of festive activities to enjoy. We've gathered a few holiday events to help you embrace the spirit of the season and make unforgettable memories with family and friends. You can also check out [Day by Day Triangle Holiday Guide](#) for all the Triangle has to offer this holiday season.

Light Up Your Holidays at the DBAP with FestiBull of Lights!

Regular Opening: November 26 – January 3 Time: 5:30-9:00pm every night
FestiBull of Lights transforms the Durham Bulls Athletic Park into a dazzling winter wonderland!

Jolly Raleigh Holiday Market

Shop Local Raleigh is hosting Jolly Raleigh Holiday Market on December 6, 2025, at Raleigh Iron Works, 1101 E Whitaker Mill Rd, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Winter Lantern Walk at N.C. Museum of Art

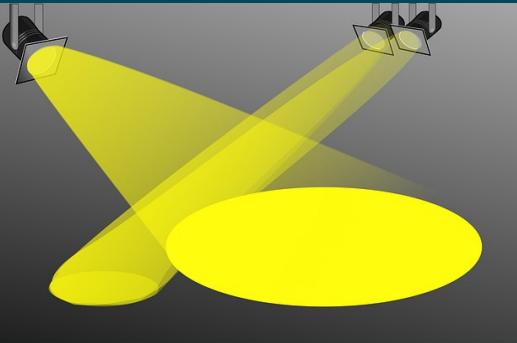
The North Carolina Museum of Art is hosting a Winter Lantern Walk on Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

ArtCenter's 17th Annual Elf Market

ArtsCenter is holding its 17th Annual Elf Market at 400 Roberson Street, Carrboro, North Carolina, on Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



RETIREE SPOTLIGHT



Pat James

Former role: Office Manager

Retired: 2019

Home: Durham, N.C.



What are you up to now?

I am president of a nonprofit inner city baseball league called Durham Triple Play League, also known as Long Ball Program. We have four teams for 13 15 year olds and four teams 16 18 year olds that play each other for the title.

We also hosted the Nike Mid Atlantic Regionals the weekend of July 25. Last year both our junior and regional teams won and went on to play in the Nike world series in Florida. We celebrated 16 years in May.

We play at the historic Durham Athletic Park located at 500 W. Corporation Street, Durham 27701. We have regular season games, tournament playoffs, host conditioning clinics, give out scholarships and encourage academic excellence.

We were Durham's best kept secret, but now the word is getting out around the travel ball circuit. We are under the Major League Baseball umbrella through its Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program. I have had over 3,000 players participating. We are all volunteers working to level the playing field for players on and off the field as we build major league citizens. We are also in need of more volunteers to help run the score board, announce the players as the come to bat and help in concessions.

Any Duke Retirees interested in volunteering can register on our website (<https://longballdurham.com/contact/apply-register/>).

What are you up to? >> [CLICK HERE](#) to let us know your retirement looks like.



Volunteer Opportunities for DURA Members

Volunteering has many benefits, from meeting new people and sharing your skills to feeling needed and appreciated. It also gives you the personal satisfaction of knowing you are helping others. If you want to get involved, consider these Duke volunteer opportunities.

◆ Duke Health Volunteers

Duke Health volunteers can be of service to patients, their families, the staff and the greater community. Please visit each program's web page for more information about current or upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- * [Duke University Hospital](#)
- [Duke Raleigh Hospital](#)
- [Duke Regional Hospital](#)
- [Duke Health Lake Norman Hospital](#)
- [Duke HomeCare and Hospice](#)

◆ The Duke Children's Office of Development

Do you love to greet people at special events? Can you stuff envelopes and packets like no one else? The Duke Children's Office of Development has volunteer opportunities throughout the year to fit everyone's interests and availability! If you have additional questions about volunteer opportunities, please visit the Duke [Children's Development Office volunteer website](#) or contact the Duke Children's Development Office at dukekids@duke.edu.

◆ Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Volunteers play a pivotal role in bringing Duke Gardens to life, assisting with gardening tasks, leading tours, greeting visitors, educating students and more. Please visit the [Sarah P. Duke Gardens volunteer website](#) for more information. Contact the Sarah P. Duke Gardens at 919-668-3694 or GardensVolunteer@duke.edu.



Volunteer Opportunities for DURA Members Continued

◆ Duke Lemur Center

Volunteers are essential to the daily operations here at the DLC. We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities that require different time commitments and focus on different interests.

Visit the [Duke Lemur Center volunteer website](#) for more information.

◆ Volunteer at Duke Forest

As a Duke Forest volunteer, you are directly involved in improving the Forest and helping to carry out their teaching and research mission. Duke Forest's active volunteer program is based around engaging and rewarding long-term volunteer programs that directly assist the staff and the Forest. Visit the [Duke Forest website](#) for more information.

◆ Duke Partnership Platform

The Partnership Platform is a digital hub providing access to resources, data, and service opportunities that facilitate campus and community partners creating connections and amplifying their collective impact.

Visit the [Duke Partnership Platform](#) website for more information.

◆ Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is an inclusive community of nearly 2,000 adults who share a love of learning. By [becoming a member](#), you'll join peers who seek to foster connection, exploration, and engagement. OLLI members can find volunteer opportunities on the [OLLI volunteer website](#).



Duke University Retiree Association (DURA)
Box 90520
Durham, NC 27708

Helpful Contact Information

For retirement benefit questions, or to update your contact information in Duke's system, please contact Duke Benefits at 919-684-5600.

To update your name, home address or email address with DURA, please email DURA@duke.edu or 919-684-9040.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year!

