

INTRODUCTION

Hello, this is Michael Eure and I'd like to invite you to the Michael Eure Show, featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about variety of interesting topics. You can find this on the Eagle Springs YouTube channel.

MICHAEL EURE: Good afternoon and welcome to the Michael Eure show, we have a very exciting line up of people today and we're going to start off, we just got so much to do we're going to do these quick introductions and we'll start up with Jerry because Jerry does it every time. He is just giving y'all a way to do it.

And this is going to be quick, and we're going to go back and ask you a lot more later.

JERRY GREEN: Hi, my name is Jerry Green.

I'm in my second year here at Wake Tech, I'm majoring in Cyber Security, and I've been working alongside Michael Eure here as a student success coach, student success, Outreach Ambassador. I'm Sorry.

MICHAEL EURE: Thank you. Angelica.

ANGELICA RAMIREZ BLANKS: I'm Angelica Ramirez Blanks. I work in the Office of Career Services.

I am a career coach here and I assist students with exploring their career options, getting them ready for the workforce, everything from mock interviews, resumes, cover letters, you name it, we help them decide their majors and ensure that they have the tools they need to succeed.

MICHAEL EURE: Thank you. And then we're going to Cindy and then Albert and then Sarah. And they are special guests from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

CINDY BOGAN: Hi, I'm Cindy Bogan. I'm Coordinator of Volunteers and Interns at the Museum of Natural Sciences, and I've been with the museum in this position for about 7 years.

ALBERT ERVIN: I'm Albert Ervin. I'm the director of Guest and Volunteer Services. We've existed as a section for about a year and a half now, but I've been with the museum as a staff member for 21 years and I started volunteering back in 1986.

Now, Sarah, I think that we saved the best for last.

SARAH IRIZARRY: Oh, thank you. Hi everybody, my name is Sarah Irizarry. I am the interim Head of Volunteer and Intern Services for the Museum of Natural Sciences.

I also started off as a volunteer with Albert back in 2017 and I've been on with the museum as a staff member in different capacities since 2018.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright, so thank you. And now Sara's going to take us all over to the side, and we're going to look at a link from the student success coaching or student engagement and impact. And this is the first time that we've done it this way. But student engagement and impact, these are all the offices that are associated with us.

So, you want to stop right there, please? We do laptops, food, emergency funds.

We have the Wake Tech Wellness Counselor Pathways Male Mentoring the Nest at the Food Pantry, also the office of Volunteerism and Leadership. And we have a program called Fostering Bright Futures, which works with students that were in foster care and at the bottom, what you see is Michael Coleman, he's the Daniel Student Engagement and Impact and Melody Henderson is Director of Student Support Programs.

And then this is Elaine Hernandez Acosta and she just joined us about a month or so ago and she is the Assistant to the Dean.

So we want to go back up to where it says, 'Student Success Coaching' and just click on that box. And this takes you to the Student Success Coach page, and we're going to want to scroll down a little bit, and I'm going to let you see who all the coaches are this time. Then we would go back because we got some new ones, Sherria Ards is on the Northern Wake Campus with me. And then that is me. And then we have Ashley Wheeler, she's on the Southern Wake Campus.

Enrique Rodriguez is also our women's soccer coach and he's on our Northern Wake Campus and William Young is on the Southern Wake Campus and this lady just came Monday. The bottom two, Sarah Dominguez. She is on the Southern Wake campus at the moment, but she's coming to the Northern Wake Campus when we come back in the New Year because we are doing some renovations. And Ashley Davis right now is on Southern Wake Campus and we are expecting hire five more coaches.

So that is what we do, but I want to go back up a little bit, Sarah, to the resources.

Right there and we want to click on 'Career and Employment Resources' in the middle and this is where we send students to a lot, and we're going to do 'Schedule an Online Appointment.'

Yes, and this is just so students can see how to get there and at the top you see the 'Virtual Determining Major' to the right and then the 'Virtual Clarified Career Goal' and then the bottom left 'Virtual Job Search' and 'Networking.' So this is just things they do, preparing resumes, interviews and they do something specific with our Health Sciences and that's it for today for that.

And then we're going to do a quick PowerPoint that Jerry Green put together for us about the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

And thank you, Jerry. Did a great job and Jerry said he went to that museum. He remembers when he was a little kid. A little boy going there, having fun. So he had fun researching this and can you find that? Yes, thank you.

So, Jerry, do you want to talk about these slides or do you want me to say something, I would prefer that you talk about them since you put them together.

JERRY GREEN: I don't have much to say about this slide, but I know I recognize a lot of the dinosaur skeletons, and a few those pictures in there.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright, so we can just advance to the next. This is wonderful. That's the museum. This is what eat and shop, they got nice food in there, lots of stuff discover, enjoy, and join and go to the next, and this is going to be put in the chat for the audience, so you can go back and see this. 'Natural Exploration Center' next, and I'm running because I know that we got a lot to do. 'Natural Treasures of North Carolina. I don't know exactly what that is, could somebody at the museum tell me what that is?

ALBERT ERVIN: That is an Emerald Tree Boa, and they're found in the Amazon. So the jungles of Central South America.

MICHAEL EURE: OK. Next. Alright, that that looks like a deer. A lot of Santa's helpers. And next, and then we have the dinosaurs that you were talking about Jerry.

JERRY GREEN: I went in this particular room a lot. I think this is like the third floor, I believe, I'm not sure, but I remember going to this room a lot and I was a little kid.

ALBERT ERVIN: The dinosaur with the sharp teeth? That's the Acrocanthosaurus and that's one of our really big feature dinosaurs that were really proud of here at the museum.

MICHAEL EURE: I'm learning, next. Oh, that's a snake of some sort. Tell us about that one Albert says she go about snakes.

ALBERT ERVIN: Well, this looks like it's some sort of a rattlesnake. I'm not sure if it's a Timber Rattler, Cindy might know she's also got a lot of science. Or Sarah. We all, you know, have been here a while and we love this place.

CINDY BOGAN: I believe that's the Timber Rattler, she's very big.

MICHAEL EURE: OK, too big for me. Next. Alright, Nature Research Center. OK. Because your museum is really two buildings joined together, isn't it? OK. And you've got that wonderful glow and it's right downtown, right next to the state capitol, in between the capital and the legislative building, very prominent location.

Next, anybody?

CINDY BOGAN: That's the whale, It's all white whale. It was actually found off the coast of North Carolina and Virginia.

MICHAEL EURE: Thank you. Next. Looks like Jurassic Park, but we'll just keep going because I want to get to y'all, and for the audience, you've got to go to this thing. It's a wonderful place and I think it's basically free. They may have some paid things, and this is the end of this show.

So now we're going to go back, and we're going to start the questioning, I'll be quiet and let Jerry answer some questions.

JERRY GREEN: Yeah, I got a question for us. Sarah Albert and Cindy and Keith, please give us a little bit more detail about yourself and what are some things you'll enjoy and how did you, how did you get to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences? Whichever order you prefer.

CINDY BOGAN: I'll go first. I actually got here via my husband, who actually works here before I did. He is actually the Curator of Malacology.

So we came down here in 1996 from New Jersey and let me tell you what malacology is, first, because some people may not know that, as the study of mollusk, including snails, bivalves, clams, scallops and squid and octopus and chiton, there's a lot of different animals in this right.

So we came down for that. I've volunteered at the museum for many years until about 2008 when I started working here. Yeah, and I've had several positions before I landed in the volunteer position. So, but my background is actually anthropology.

MICHAEL EURE: Next question and Angelica, we're going to ask you to chime in at certain points, but we're directing the question to those three first , OK.

JERRY GREEN: Alright, so we'll talk about the processes for applying for internships and volunteer opportunities at the Museum of Natural Sciences.

MICHAEL EURE: And if you would like at this point, you can ask Sarah to pull up your links if you would like, or you can just answer the question whichever way.

ALBERT ERVIN: I think our Sarah is very qualified to answer that question.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright.

SARAH IRIZARRY: I'm sorry, could you repeat the question again? I'm having some connection issues.

JERRY GREEN: Umm, can you talk about some of the ways for applying for internships and volunteer opportunities at the Museum of Natural sciences?

SARAH IRIZARRY: Yeah, absolutely. So internships, that's the one that's a little bit more straightforward right now. So we do internships for the fall semester, the spring semester, and the summer semester. So our spring semester internships, those applications actually just closed in early November. So we will have our spring interns coming up here in January. So our next internship application cycle for the summer, we will have those opportunities posted on our portal. There should be posted sometime early in January and those applications will close on March the 1st.

So yeah, like searching here, this is our volunteer and intern services portal. So this is where you could find out about our internship deadlines, any of the internship descriptions, all of that stuff is posted there as well as information about our partner internships.

Because right now we are actually in the application process for the DOA internships, so that is a paid internship through the Department of Administration is \$12 an hour, hours a week for ten weeks over the summer at the museum actually is hosting 12 out of the 97 internships hosted across the entire state.

So on that, I went head on our partner internship page, pulled out all of the ones that are specifically going to be hosted at the museum, and there's also links on there to DOA about the requirements as far as GPA, the big things you have to be a permanent state resident of North Carolina, you have to hold at least a 2.5 GPA, and you have to be enrolled in classes for the fall.

So not only do we have our 12 internships, but there's internships all over the state in a lot of different capacities, and it's all sponsored through DOA, which is really awesome because we don't always have the opportunity to host paid internships and we love this program. As far as volunteering is concerned right now, we are in a big holding, maybe pattern with a lot of things that are going on, so we recently had the opportunity to host a couple of virtual recruitment sessions because on both the internship page and the volunteer page of the portal, you'll see that there is a little button that will take you to the volunteer application where the internship application and we accept volunteers on like a rolling basis. But it really depends on what our supervisors need, because not only is the museum comprised of researchers, educators, there's also people behind the scenes. There's folks in guest services. There's folks in communication.

There's people in all sorts of different capacities because it takes a lot of different people to keep the museum running, so we love to have volunteers and all those different areas. So we're hoping, fingers crossed the big 'maybe' of everything, is that will be able to start having more regular recruitment sessions, hopefully by the, you know, early next year, if numbers keep trending in the right direction, I know some of our educational spaces really rely on our on our volunteers and our interns, and we're hoping to be able to welcome more people here soon.

But like I said, all that information I tried to keep the portal updated. So all that stuff is online

MICHAEL EURE: Alright, and to the audience, yes, if you have any questions, please ask them in the chat and at this time I'm going to ask the question, but I'm going to ask it of Angelica.

Now that you heard all of that, can we kind of encourage our students to go to Career Services to get their resumes ready and do these actual applications? Is that some a service you provide?

ANGELICA RAMIREZ BLANKS: Yes. 100% yes.

So we definitely encourage all students to come to our offices as often as they need. We can definitely help them get their resumes, cover letters ready, do some mock interviewing so that they're prepared for these opportunities.

And also, I think Sarah's story about how, and Albert, for that matter, the fact that you all started off as volunteers, is a really powerful message too, to students just to say if you're interested in these fields, get involved how you can on a volunteer basis and then who knows they can open up into some amazing career opportunities. So absolutely, send them all our way.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright. And we like to ask a lot of questions, but when we have one from the chat or the we like to ask that. So we have a question for Laura that might be our friend Laura Bethea. So you know her, Jerry, so ask that question.

JERRY GREEN: So Laura Bethea says "Love these internship opportunities available throughout the state. What key factors or attributes are you or are you are considering as you are hiring your interns?"

SARAH IRIZARRY: You guys want me to take that one?

MICHAEL EURE: Yeah.

SARAH IRIZARRY: OK, so that application process that is all done through the Department of Administration, so that is something that we just get the word out to our supervisors, that DOA's accepting project proposals and luckily we got all of our proposals accepted, which is just really awesome. But I know from screening interns for that program myself, some of the big things, things like you're availability is really important because depending on whatever it is you're doing, especially with the museum particular, we are open from 10-5 Tuesday through Sunday.

So typically volunteers and interns are in the building between those hours, but there are other areas, like in our animal husbandry, where they primarily work in the mornings, so they need people that are available in the mornings. So that's something that, you know, that's something that could really be a deciding factor as to whether or not folks get to the point where they can potentially be interviewed.

Uh, and the thing to remember there too is that even if don't think that this, I'm trying to get the best way to say this, like I would say it just apply for the things you're interested in to start there, because we've had plenty of interns in our own internal programs that, you know, we saw

their applications and on paper they just did not look very great. They didn't look good at all, but then they got in there and they had something that you can't really put on paper. They had that drive to get better and to do better, and they showed up and they kept showing up and they improved themselves over time. And that's also something especially in a lot of the different capacities where you're working with the public that is so much more important than you having taken a specific class or have a very specific set of skills.

The important thing is that you want to show up and you're there to do work, and that really speaks for itself.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright. And we have a lot. Well, we have a few more questions and I want to announce to the audience that are used to the 12 or 12:30 that we're going to do this like a class like last time, and we're going to be here until at least 12:50.

So we're going to do a break at 12:30, and we're going to give you a quick entertainment piece, and I think you'll enjoy it.

So right now I'm going to ask Sarah, can you put some questions? More questions, Enrique Rodriguez, he's the newest success coach and as I said earlier, he is the woman's soccer coach. So you want to ask that? Terry?

JERRY GREEN: Enrique asked, "is there any age limit for volunteering?"

SARAH IRIZARRY: Absolutely not. We have a minimum age to volunteer with our program. You have to at least be 18, but a maximum age... we love to have everybody come on and volunteer with us. We do have a separate program for our teens that are under the age of 18.

MICHAEL EURE: Chris is the head of our engineer electric engineering transfer program. Go ahead.

JERRY GREEN: Chris asked, "What Volunteering opportunities does the North Carolina Museum have for engineering students?"

ALBERT ERVIN: Well, that's a harder question to answer. You know, we do have a wide selection of opportunities for folks, but we also encourage people to think really outside the box.

So we have an Exhibitions Department and they do a lot of really creative work that, while it might not be specifically about engineering, would probably could utilize some of the skills that engineering major might have.

So I encourage you to really look at all the opportunities and think, you know, how does my skill set or my interest, my passion fit in with the opportunities that are available at the museum. If you're interested in coming to the museum, you know we have folks that do administrative work, is very important to keep the place running.

We have folks and as I said, to exhibits work, we have folks that work in research and collections, so people that work with the, you know, collecting the specimens that are foundational for our research institution as well as a lot of other things. So and the thing is to be aware that that changes all the time because as some volunteers move away or decide to move on to other opportunities in their lives, new things open up all the time. And our Sarah is super good at keeping that portal updated. She's, you know, what's on there is what's available right now. So take a look at it.

MICHAEL EURE: And I will try again. Let's get the other question. I'm trying real quick. We do have skilled trades well, so when he his department is called Biopharmical, they have changed. Biopharmaceutical engineering. What is the next word? I don't know best skills. Best is what stands for. Best technology and trades or trades and technology.

So all of those opportunities, because I don't build these spectacular exhibits and they might be able to help in those ways.

Alright, I'm going to be quiet. Ask the from Sonya.

JERRY GREEN: Sonya Hayes asks "Are volunteer opportunities offered in all departments at the museum, or are there specific departments that generally have volunteers?"

MICHAEL EURE: All right. And I think Sarah is having a little bit of technical difficulties. So, she definitely wants Sydney for Albert to answer this question.

CINDY BOGAN: OK, I'll answer that question. Most of our department, the sections of the museum, actually do have volunteers from time to time, more often our Education Department, a section has the majority of the volunteers and our Living Collections. But we also have a lot of volunteers in our Research and Collections, but a lot of our researchers are also professors at local universities and so a lot of times they actually take their own students first. So we don't get as many volunteers, but one of our people, Bucky Gates, was working teaching classes at Wake Tech in paleontology and brought in some Wake Tech students the last couple of years.

MICHAEL EURE: And we were really excited to be introduced to all of you. You never know who you know that's going to throw your name out there, but I was thinking like that that you wanted to work with Wake tech and for our students.

If you are thinking about questions, please ask them in the chat because Angelica has a cool, cool giveaway as Sonya said last time to give you and you want to win this, but you need to ask questions to win.

So I'm going to let Jerry go to the next question and my question y'all can do later, I think he alluded to... Are you associated with other sites, not just in Raleigh, but your museum itself that you have satellite locations?

ALBERT ERVIN: Yes, we do. We have a regional network of museums across the state. We have a new site that joined us this fall in Greenville, NC. There is another site of affiliated with them in Contentnea Creek, Just a few miles away. And we also have Prairie Ridge here in Raleigh. So that's another satellite site in Raleigh, which you can go to.

That's our outdoor Education Center. And then of course, we have our branch in Whiteville, NC, so that's down South. It's actually due South of Raleigh, but it's in the eastern part of the state. So if you look at a map, it's due South and it's worth, where Sarah lives, is halfway between, you know, where Sarah is and Fayetteville. So she's she go to either of our locations if we have a special event for a need for that.

But what's interesting is we have interns and volunteers at all of these locations.

So if you're someone who is a student at Wake Tech but you have family in one of these other locations and you wants to do volunteer work for interning for a short period of time at one of these locations, there's some of those options for you too.

So eventually, we're hoping to have our regional network continue to grow across the state and be able to provide services to people all over North Carolina.

MICHAEL EURE: We have a little while to go about 7 minutes before we do our halftime, and we're going to have a good time. It won't be the Super Bowl, but it'll be close enough. You'll be happy.

So you want to ask another question, Jerry?

JERRY GREEN: Yeah. Question for Sarah, Albert and Cindy.

What are some interesting activities that are currently planned for the museum?

ALBERT ERVIN: Well, either of you can chime in, you know I'm always happy to talk, but right now we've got a special exhibition. It's called exquisite creatures, and it's going to be here through March of next year.

So that's one thing that you know can come any day that we're open and take a look at this beautiful exhibition. It is where art and science meet. Now there is a fee for that, an admission fee.

We also have 3-D movies that we play on days that we're open and that also has a fee but almost everything else that I'm seeing is free.

And so we have ongoing programming at the museum, so I would encourage you if you if there's a day you're looking at coming to the museum, go to our website at naturalsciences.org

and in the top banner click on events and then look for the link to our events calendar and it will show you anything special that's going on the particular day that you're interested in coming.

And just like Sarah updates the volunteer portal volunteer portal, our folks also update that part of the museum so that people can check it out.

Oh, and there's and if you could can back up one screen. I guess this is not a rolling thing now.

Yeah, there you go... So that's Exquisite Creatures. And then of course, we have our own podcast. So you can check those out and then of course coming up there's a big project that we're working on called Dueling Dinosaurs and that is due to open up when we get that part of the building built. But it's a really cool exhibit that's going to be about a T-Rex and a triceratops that were, umm, caught in stone in what we believe is this, you know, they were in a battle to the death, and this is one of the first times that this is really been found in the fossil record.

We kind of them have known they lived at the same time, but we, you know, they've not been actually caught in the throes of battle, so to speak.

And again, this is a story as we understand it, our researchers are going to spend many, many years chipping away at the rock to figure out if those two dinosaurs really did die at the same time in the same place, or if their bones were just deposited in the same place, so it's, it's still a mystery and we're going to be working on finding that out, but it seems like it's a really compelling story.

So keep coming back over the next few years and this this project is, like I said, a really big thing that's happening. We're going to be adding to the Nature Research Center, and once we open, this is going to be a great opportunity for volunteers who are interested in paleontology come and help us to share that story with the public. And I'm sure there's going to be internships as well for that. So, you know, keep posted. Keep looking for that, but we know we're going to need a lot of help to tell that story.

Cindy or Sarah, you have anything to add to that?

CINDY BOGAN: I was going to add, with visiting us, I would say the best time to come is on the weekends because parking is free in the area, cause usually during the week there are there is a parking lot that's really close by. There's also street parking and you have a parking deck behind that needs to Research Center, but all those options are paid. So weekends, that is the time that I always encourage people to come because it's a lot easier to park downtown and the parking is free.

MICHAEL EURE: All right, we're getting really close, but I know we have some questions in the chat from some students and Angelica is going to be paying attention so she can decide who gets that prize.

So Sarah can put him up Laura Bethea she's not a student, but we could do her real quick, first, Jerry.

JERRY GREEN: Laura Bethea says. What do you perceive to be some of the most unique, out-of-the-box, internship or volunteer opportunities currently available at the museum. OK.

MICHAEL EURE: Cindy?

SARAH IRIZARRY: That's hard.

CINDY BOGAN: That's a very hard question. We think they're all normal, but a lot of people think they're all out of the box.

So I mean, for us the it's just a normal day, I mean we walk in and you know some was talking about the sick snake or you know the sloth got out or you know the sloth doesn't get anymore.

SARAH IRIZARRY: Yeah, but you know, so those are just common occurrences, you know, so they're all kind of out of the box for something.

MICHAEL EURE: Thank you. Next question, Jack Miller.

JERRY GREEN: Jack, says can you describe what interning would be like at the museum.

SARAH IRIZARRY: That's another hard one Cindy, because it really depends on what your internship is. But the thing that I would say is kind of like Cindy was describing, but you know our normal is a lot different than most people's normal. It's just the fact that you really have to come in expecting the unexpected. I mean, even just, you know, in Guest Services that our information desk, we'll have people come in... Somebody will come in with a box of rocks and they swear that they're fossils or shark teeth or something, and they want us to do something with it, right that second.

I know with the History Museum when they first had their Pirate Fest, their pirate festival events, we had people coming into the museum who were cosplaying as pirates and we had to remind them that they can't walk around the museum cosplayed as pirates with a very realistic-looking weapons.

It's really uh, It's such a mixed bag and I know I don't know about the two of you, but sometimes I have a really hard time describing exactly what my job is. To people in general because it can, like, you know, range the gambit of all sorts of different things outside of whatever our job description is. But I would say the common thing with all of those internships is being able to share the joy of the museum being able to share your love of science with the public. That is probably one of the biggest common threads for most of our internships and volunteer opportunities as well.

CINDY BOGAN: Yeah, interns will also learn a little bit from their supervisors and then do a project or many small projects during the time of their internship. So they could be doing curation in the research and collections we got the we have over a million specimens in our research and collections. Anywhere from little tiny snails to big sharks that are in tanks that are 12 feet long.

Uh, I mean, there's just a variety. It's just a touch of variety of things that they could do, depending on where people have interest.

ALBERT ERVIN: You know, if you're someone who really loves just talking to people, interacting with the public. So if you're someone who is in hospitality, guest services is a great place for folks like that because we have a chance to talk to under normal circumstances, we'll have over a million people a year come in our museum. And so being able to greet those people, welcome them to the museum, let him know all the different things that we offer on the various floors in the museum, as well as knowing enough about the volunteer program and the research to share that with them as well. It's a great opportunity to really share your passion and love for science and just welcoming people to our wonderful facility.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright, we're going to take a break now. We got some more questions; we know and we're hoping students will stay. And if you would like to identify yourself as a student, some of you I know, like, I mean Jerry. But let's do a little half time concert.

If you could do the last link that you received, and this is from a football game at Duke University and it's the marching band from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

And it starts at 25 seconds in and it ends at one minute and 25 seconds. So hopefully Sarah can find that and put it up and I think you will enjoy it.

And there we go. So, let's get that party started.

And I think you might turn it up a little bit, Sarah.

And while they are playing, I will say that North Carolina A&T is the number one public HBCU in the United States. And they are the number one producers of engineers.

They also have a school of agriculture so, and as they say "before agriculture says, there was no culture."

And they're going to do the A&T block in conjunction with Duke University. So that's what A&T does. You've got to go visit sometime, it's a great place.

Sarah is going to put this link in the chat if you want to look at the whole thing. So thank you.

So now we're ready to go back to some questions and I think we have some in the chat.

Amata Whitt. I'm not getting that right, but do you want to go ahead and do that, Jerry?

JERRY GREEN: Yes, she says. Are there virtual options for both the volunteering or internships?

SARAH IRIZARRY: Uh, so we actually did have a couple of virtual internships available for the spring semester. We had one with our Natural Center. Who they're currently closed at the moment because of the construction for Dueling Dinosaurs that they have like an internship class where they do a lot of the sorts of things that they go over in their typical in person internship. They do that online, but they also do things like preparing resumes, things like that in the class... And Cindy please jump in if I'm missing anything.

So, we had the Naturalist center of our head of technology was looking for interns. He was having them do the projects in areas like web development, GIS, bioinformatics and I think one more. He had a very long list of potential projects for his interns.

We also had a science communications virtual internship through our Whiteville branch because they look for students to help them with different types of science communication. So that might be putting together things for their social media. Doing more science communication with education, so they have a lot of different projects for students that way.

And then virtual volunteering opportunities, and we don't have any at the moment that I know of, Cindy and please correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that there were a couple of areas that had volunteers virtually while we were closed down.

CINDY BOGAN: We also have our system science projects. We have many, many systems science projects and that's through our research and collections and people can go out there and a lot and most of those are actually virtual projects that they can do.

MICHAEL EURE: OK. And we're going to have some comments, but before then I want to ask question because on the last Saturday of January ya'll do these rockets outside, which reminds me of our engineering program, but do you plan on doing that and will you be open Thanksgiving weekend or Thanksgiving?

ALBERT ERVIN: Well, lucky for us, we're closed Thanksgiving Day. So we get to go have Turkey like everybody else, but the day after Thanksgiving, we're open back up for the public will be open that whole weekend, and then the next time we're closed, we're going to be closing Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Sunday and Monday after.

So, we're close four days at Christmas and then we'll be closed a few days at New Year's... we closed New Year's Day as well. I believe we're closed the day after New Years. That's further out, Josh.

But as far as the event you're talking about in January, that's called Astronomy Days and it's our only festival of the year that is typically a two-day festival.

Most of our things like Bug Fest, Darwin Day, Reptile & Amphibian Day are single-day festivals, but at the very last weekend of January every year we have Astronomy Day.

So that's where we, that would be a great time for engineering students to come out and check out the Rockets and that sort of thing.

Just recently we had an in person Darwin Day for the first time in a year and a half that we had a, you know, big, you know, in-person event here at downtown Raleigh, we've had a smaller event out at Prairie Ridge. But the Darwin Day was in person outside the Plaza in front of the museum because we're still trying to be really cautious with COVID.

We don't want people coming to visit us and being in masses of people and getting sick, so I'm not sure what the final decision is going to be come January. We're trying to be follow the science to be very responsive. You know, if things are back to normal, hopefully we'll have an in-person event and hopefully we'll be able to let people, you know, come in the museum.

But we're going to have to wait and see what the science tells us.

So again, you know, check that events page on our website and we'll be putting information there when we know what it is. I think the decisions not quite made yet on that one, but it's a fun, fun day. It's one of my favorites.

MICHAEL EURE: And Jerry, I know you have a lot of questions, but let's get some comments from the audience at this point.

Kevin Brown. He's our Associate Vice president in Enrollment and Student Services, so go ahead, Jerry.

JERRY GREEN: Kevin Brown says that's really interesting, I look forward to seeing that.

MICHAEL EURE: Thank you, Kevin.

Sonya Hayes.

JERRY GREEN: Sonya says 'Dueling Dinosaurs. Super cool. I'll be checking this out.'

MICHAEL EURE: Laura Bethea.

JERRY GREEN: Laura Beathea says 'love the halftime show, go NC A&T.'

MICHAEL EURE: Sonya Haynes.

JERRY GREEN: She also says, 'I visit the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences at least once per year. I love it.'

MICHAEL EURE: Laura Bethea.

JERRY GREEN: She also says, 'Happy National Career Development Month.'

MICHAEL EURE: And thank you, Laura and all of Career Services for partnering with the Michael Eure Show and Eagle Stream to help celebrate. And they have a lot of events. It's not just this, and I'm going to ask Angelica, can you talk about some of the other events you have coming up for national Career Development Month?

ANGELICA RAMIREZ BLANKS: Definitely. So we have a lot of opportunities for students to just engage in wherever they're at in their career journey. We just had an event with a NASA where we did a virtual tour of their Jet Propulsion lab and they have an amazing interactive website that if you were unable to join us, you can visit. We have all the information online and you can take a look around and get a better idea of what that facility looks like.

We have an upcoming one with Amazon, so join us for that virtual tour. I'll have to look at the dates for these. I'll definitely put up for you. I'll put them in the chat, so that Sarah can post them.

But the Career Services office is always available to students. There's our website; careerstop.waketech.edu.

We have open career lens labs where you can pop in and get some advice on your major on what different career options you have with your degree program, different institutions you can transfer to... all kinds of information.

And of course here on our site you can use those two buttons there the orange and blue buttons to schedule an individual appointment, if you'd like some more individual attention, we can do these virtually or on any one of our campuses with a qualified career coach. So we definitely welcome and encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity. We are here to help you.

We understand it can be an anxious process and stressful. You can be overwhelmed by, 'I don't know what I want to do' or 'I just took this because I know the money's good or there's lots of jobs there, but I don't know what to do with it or I don't really like it.' All of those feelings are okay we welcome them. We're here to help you out. Just feel free to pop on by.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright, thank you. And we have another comment, and this is Jack Miller. He's

a student, I believe. I know Jack, you want to do that, Jerry?

JERRY GREEN: Jack Miller says, 'I haven't missed the museum in about 8 years I've ever gone there as a kid and really enjoying it.' I feel the same way.

MICHAEL EURE: Go ahead, Jerry. You were going to say something?

JERRY GREEN: Oh no, I just said I want to go again.

MICHAEL EURE: Yeah. And that means that this means there was doing something right and it's very exciting because sometimes people think of museums and very stuffy places where people walk and look. But I remember many years ago going to that museum that you're representing and there was a tropical rainforest in there, and I would just go back two or three times a week just to walk through there. I mean the work that you do is just awesome. At this point then we have another question, Jerry.

And the students that you continue asking questions, you still got a chance to win the cool, cool, giveaway.

Go ahead, Jerry.

JERRY GREEN: Yeah, Cindy Albert asks 'What advice would you give to someone who thinks they might be interested in having a career at the National Science Museum or similar institution?'

ALBERT ERVIN: Well, I'm going to tell a quick story on myself. So the first time I ever came to our museum, I was six years old and I'm 54 right now. A few months I'll be 55. So you can do the math, it's very long time ago I fell in love with this place. And then when I came to, I went to NC State, but I also took classes at Wake Tech back in the day too, so I'm an alum. And I just really love this place.

I've always loved it and so I started volunteering here and as soon as I was a freshman at NC State and have never left. So I would say if you really are not sure what your career path is going to be, try out different internships. Do volunteer work. Go and do the thing you think you're going to want to love to do and find out how much you love it before you spend, you know, your whole academic career focused on something and then find out, well, I don't really like doing it. I thought I did, but I don't.

So, you know, come see us, come volunteer with us, be an intern with us or some other organization. It's the best learning experience to possibly have.

MICHAEL EURE: And one thing I would say to the Wake Tech students, we do have a co-curricular transcript that goes with your academic transcript. So all of your volunteer experiences and internships go on that transcript.

And if you wanted to transfer less issues, NC State, for example, if they're going to see that you're a student leader or that you're a volunteer, you're the kind of student that they'd want. So, you want to take advantage of these opportunities. You're very fortunate to live in Wake County and Raleigh, and even if you have family out in the far reaches, you can share this information because I believe this students are all ambassadors.

And Jerry Green, you have been an excellent Student Success Coach and Outreach and ambassador. I have had great students working with me and I think that they are the leaders that we need to empower them to know that they can go out and share this information.

So I'm going to be quiet and let us see if we have a last question for Jerry.

But before we do that, no. I'll wait till you finish because I'm going to get everybody to give that information. But Jerry, you can go ahead and ask that last question.

JERRY GREEN: I think I think that's what the last question relates to.

How can students or other individuals get in touch with you, for each of you.

MICHAEL EURE: Yeah, you can start, Angelica, Angelica.

JERRY GREEN: Angelica can start.

MICHAEL EURE: The Albert and Sarah.

ANGELICA RAMIREZ BLANKS: Absolutely. My email address is there on screen, so it's arblanks@waketech.edu. You can also email career services and all of our contact information is on the Wake Tech website.

MICHAEL EURE: And before you go, Cindy, I did want to say this. We do translate this into a podcast that people can't see, but they can only hear it. So when you give your contact information, you probably need to say the letters or the number. Whichever way you did.

Alright, Cindy.

CINDY BOGAN: Okay, I can be reached at cindy.bogan@naturalsciences.org. Make sure it's natural sciences with an S, plural, because otherwise it doesn't get to me. But you can always reach me there and I will answer your questions as quickly as possible

MICHAEL EURE: Albert.

ALBERT ERVIN: Sure. So, my email address is albert.ervin@naturalsciences.org. You can also go to our website which is naturalsciences.org and look up the staff contact list and you can find any of us there as well.

MICHAEL EURE: And also, I want to remind the audience all of these links are in the chat and you can go back and get that at any time because it will be safe perpetually in YouTube.

Alright Sarah.

SARAH IRIZARRY: Sorry... my audio is somehow getting worse. So, if I have a delayed response that's why, but my email address is sarah.irizarry@naturalsciences.org sciences plural like everybody else's email. I also wanted to mention that all the portal there are links to contact the Volunteer Coordinator and the Internship Coordinator, so if you click the volunteer contact the Volunteer Coordinator, that will take you to an email for Cindy. Contact the internship coordinator that will take you to an email with me.

MICHAEL EURE: OK. So we're all going to be at 12:50 in three minutes.

So we're going to kind of ask Angelica, if we have any more questions or comments and if we don't, maybe Angelica, would you like to wait till the very end after all you have the opportunity to do your closings or would you like to do it now?

ANGELICA RAMIREZ BLANKS: I think if the students are done asking their questions, we can award it now. If there are any further questions, then I'll leave that opportunity.

MICHAEL EURE: OK, well, there are no more questions.

ANGELICA RAMIREZ BLANKS: OK. In that case, I believe our lucky winner is Jack Miller. Thank you so much for being so engaged this afternoon with us. If you could please email me with your Wake Tech email address again, you can reach me at arblanks@waketech.edu and you are the winner of a \$50 Visa Gift Card.

MICHAEL EURE: Congratulations Jack.

Alright, you can't win it if you're not in it.

So at this point I'm going to ask, and we're going to start with Jerry. Then we're going to do Angelica and then Albert and then Sarah.

You can just give us your closing statements.

JERRY GREEN: I just want to say, I'm happy to be a part of this discussion. I haven't been the museum in a long time, but I, with all the opportunities internships I kind of wanted to get more involved and might want to come down to the visit sometime soon.

MICHAEL EURE: Alright. And Angelica.

ANGELICA RAMIREZ BLANKS: I just want to thank you all for involving career services and Michael Eure, you're such a proponent of our office and we really appreciate that. To all the students who were able to come today. Please do engage with our office. We are here to help you and please do follow Albert, Sarah and Cindy's wonderful advice about following your passions... Going for those things that you're really interested in, that is how you land the job, where you are happy to wake up in the morning, I'm and make your way there.

So, this office is here to support you, and we hope you'll join us either in office for an appointment virtually or at one of our Career Lens Path.

MICHAEL EURE: Cindy.

CINDY BOGAN: I want to thank you for inviting us to be part of this podcast. This is a first for us actually, and I hope we have a whole lot more chance to partner with Wake Tech.

MICHAEL EURE: And I'm going to be one of those advocates through not just Career Services, but particularly in our Natural Sciences areas. And maybe you can come visit some classes virtually and I think that would be awesome for us.

CINDY BOGAN: That would be awesome.

MICHAEL EURE: Thank you.

Alright, Albert.

ALBERT ERVIN: I just want to say thank you, Michael, for inviting us today and giving us a chance to share out what we're doing and how we can collaborate. I'm really grateful for this beginning of this new relationship that we're establishing. When we had the idea earlier this year, I was very excited and I'm surprised we, you know, had not done this before. So I'm really grateful to keep moving forward together.

MICHAEL EURE: I'm surprised as well, not just because of the museum, but Wake Tech, in Wake County is a very prominent institution, very large with 10 campuses and 20-something thousand degree seeking students and , fifty thousand Workforce Development students. We need to reach out more as as well.

And our new thing is Reach 'N Rally, so we're reaching out to you, and we're going to rally, rally, rally. We're going to get these students excited because I'm excited.

Alright, Sarah, go ahead.

SARAH IRIZARRY: Alright, I just wanted to echo what Albert and Cindy said that, you know, thank you for having us on.

You know, I was having some technical difficulties over here, but everybody please come down.

Visit us. Come down to the museum. Come see it, museum. We are free to the public comma, experience it. Come see dinosaurs. Whatever you're really interested in, and also know that at any point if you stop by the guest services desk, ask for one of us, we are just right upstairs.

We work directly with the guest services and we can be down there in a couple minutes and we love to welcome folks in the museum, share our excitement and our interests, and just get more people excited about getting involved with the museum. But with science as a whole, so I'm very excited to see for our partnership with over here.

MICHAEL EURE: I'm excited and I'll Enrique you know we're going to get the athletic department involved. You need to bring that one of soccer team down there. They can volunteer or they could just visit.

I think a lot of students at Wake Tech are not really from Wake County, and that's important to know. People move here every single day and Wake Tech just gets on the radar and we get students that have children. This is a wonderful place where you could take your children. You got friends that you don't have a lot of places that are safe, you can visit. This is a place you can go. Very spacious. Take advantage of it.

You live in Raleigh, but you need to be more of Raleigh. And when I say Raleigh, I mean the Triangle.

I'm I mean we need triangle lights from Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Holly Springs. All the places... Cary... everybody needs to go.

So, we're about finished and we just want everybody to wave goodbye and audience... Remember, this is something that you can share and get people involved.

So thank you so much.