Digital Games Research Center Director Michael Young and Ph.D. student Julio Bahamon hosted a visit from Durham Academy Upper School students on Tuesday, April 3rd, 2012. The 13 students and two teachers learned about the NCSU courses and programs in computer games, academic requirements for success in those programs and potential pathways for careers in the games industry. The DA students also met with three computer science undergrads -- Bailey Hayes, Brent Parsons and Patty Shen -- who talked about their experiences as undergraduates in the computer science games concentration and showed a game they're currently developing for use in the Hunt Library as part of CSC2482: Advanced Game Development Projects.

Students also learned about the research projects underway at the DGRC and the role of the university in creating new knowledge for future game technologies. Julio Bahamon provided a demonstration of IC-CRIME, a system under development in Dr. Young's research group that leverages game technologies to re-create crime scenes during real world criminal investigations. Dr. Jasmine Adams, Director of Undergraduate Advising, also met with the students to discuss application processes for college and the significance of academic preparation for a successful career. The visit was part of a class offered at Durham Academy called Play or Be Played, taught by Tina Bessias. In addition to visiting NCSU's Digital Games Research Center, the DA students also visited serious games company Virtual Heroes and entertainment games company Red Storm.

After the event, one Durham Academy student remarked, "I thought that this seminar was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had because it was an opportunity to learn about something that I love but really had no knowledge about."