



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



CAROLINA CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLAR GRADUATES 2005 and 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR:

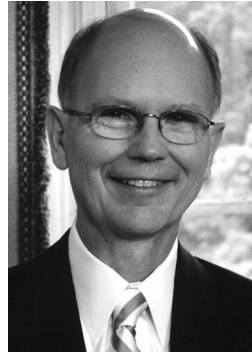
At Carolina we strongly encourage students to give back to the community – to practice public service and make it a habit from the time they arrive until long after they leave.

In 2003 the Carolina Center for Public Service started a program for students who wanted to earn the designation “Public Service Scholar” by logging at least 300 hours of public service, undertaking training and academic courses with a public service component, and putting together a final service portfolio.

The Public Service Scholars featured in this publication represent the first 57 graduates of this outstanding program. They put in more than 22,000 hours of service, and they met the rigorous training and academic course requirements. They set the standard for future students enrolled in the program.

We are proud of all of our Carolina students who take the time to serve others and particularly proud of the students who make the commitment to become a Public Service Scholar. We are confident that as they leave Chapel Hill, they will continue the proud tradition of service and engagement they have demonstrated while here.

As you read about these outstanding graduates, you will see that their efforts have contributed to improving the lives of countless individuals and communities throughout North Carolina and far beyond. We hope their stories will impress you and inspire you to make a difference too.



James Moeser
Chancellor, The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

We are very pleased to share the outstanding work of the Public Service Scholars featured in this publication made possible by the support of the Donald P. Kanak family. No doubt you will agree that the students embody the tradition and culture of service here at the nation's first public university. Many organizations and individuals have been important to the success of the program. Although it would be impossible to list them all, there are a few who deserve special attention.

First, former Provost Dick Richardson started the ball rolling when he asked the Carolina Center for Public Service to develop a way to formally recognize students who performed exemplary public service. He has remained a supporter and champion of the program, and for all that, we want to thank him.

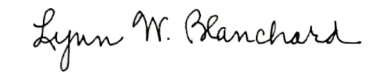
Strowd Roses, Inc. provided the initial funds to establish the program, and they granted us additional resources to develop mechanisms for keeping up with its amazing growth, including our on-line reporting database. Their support has been key to the success of this effort.

The University Registrar's Office has been integral to the Public Service Scholars Program. Importantly, they became much more than the folks who helped put the logistics into place. They were real champions of making it happen and have helped with big and small details all along the way.

Others here on campus include Chancellor James Moeser, Provost Robert Shelton, the Campus Y, APPLES Service Learning Program, and the Faculty Council, to name a few. All these partners can claim part of the success and popularity of this endeavor.

Saving some of the most important for last, we want to thank the numerous community agencies and their representatives who work every day to make a difference and to support those who want to do the same. They provide the opportunities, models, mentorship and support for untold numbers of Carolina students.

We congratulate and honor the students presented here and thank all those who have made it possible. We can all be proud of what has been accomplished.



Lynn W. Blanchard, MPH, PhD
Director, Carolina Center for Public Service

PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS PROGRAM CAROLINA CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Launched in January 2003, the Public Service Scholars Program provides a framework for Carolina students who want to explore service opportunities, learn new skills and link their academic experience to making a difference in their community. As these students work to improve the quality of life for people in our community and state, they help Carolina continue its proud tradition of service as the nation's first public university.

The program is open to all full-time University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill students with at least four semesters remaining. Program requirements include:

- 300 documented hours of service
- Two service-learning classes with a grade of B or better
- Approved training in four identified skill areas
- Creation and public presentation of a Service Portfolio
- An overall GPA of 2.5 or higher to achieve "Special Recognition in Public Service"
- An overall GPA of 3.0 or higher to achieve the official status of "Public Service Scholar"

Students fulfilling these criteria will be recognized by:

- Notation of their public service achievement on their official academic transcript
- Listing in the commencement program
- Certificate of achievement and a letter from the Chancellor
- A special event honoring their accomplishments
- Carolina blue and white cord to wear at commencement

CLASS SUMMARY DATA

Class of 2005, the Inaugural Class
16 graduates
6,403 total hours of service
Average of 402 hours per graduate

Class of 2006
41 graduates
16,341 total hours of service
Average of 399 hours per graduate

Double Major: Nutrition And Biology
Hometown: Greensboro, NC



Yung-Lin "Judy" Chang

I believe that one of the best ways to address the wide-ranging public health issues of concern as a college student is through education. During my freshman year, I volunteered with World Camp, an organization which teaches children in Malawi about issues such as HIV/AIDS, nutrition, and the environment. After my junior year, I participated in a study abroad program focused on international nutrition in Peru. The program allowed me to participate in projects educating mothers about proper infant feeding practices. These experiences opened my eyes to the incredible needs of people in developing countries – problems that stem not only from poverty, but also from deeply-ingrained social and cultural beliefs.

To help address the problems back at home, I interned at the Guilford County Department of Public Health and N.C. Prevention Partners (NCPH). At the health department, I helped with the implementation of a community walking program, which promotes physical activity among workers in downtown Greensboro. At NCPH, I worked on Winner's Circle, a program that encourages restaurants and snack companies to offer healthier options and helps consumers make healthy

choices. These experiences have shown me that although the obesity epidemic seems insurmountable, programs started on the community level can significantly affect the health of many people.

After I graduate, I will be entering the Peace Corps in Africa. My assignment will focus on nutrition, breastfeeding promotion, and HIV/AIDS prevention education. This will give me an opportunity to learn more about how these issues affect individuals' lives and to work towards a demonstrable change, even if only in a small village. While I am cautiously optimistic about the changes that such programs can make, I am sure that my service experiences throughout my time at Carolina have provided me with invaluable knowledge and insight that will allow me to be a more effective Peace Corps volunteer.



Jennifer Duke

While interning for judges Susan C. Taylor and David Lee, I was able to observe a dispute over payment for services rendered. The night before the verdict, I read over the jury instructions for the case and showed the judge what I found. The plaintiff's attorney was not up-to-date on his jury instructions, which cost his client \$80,000. After seeing the outcome of the case, I am determined that when I start practicing law, I will never be the type of attorney that loses money for a client simply because I didn't research current laws.

While enrolled in the scholar's program, I attended a program called W.I.L.D. (Women in Leadership Development conference). While there, I attended a workshop on effective communication, where I learned skills to help me work with different groups. One skill I learned was how to ask for changes in someone's workplace without personally offending them. Another skill I learned was how to combine different personalities to produce the most beneficial outcome. I was able to use both of these skills as vice president of the North Carolina Student Legislature, where I helped the president run things more smoothly, benefiting the whole delegation.

Upon entering the program, I hoped to give back to the community while at the same time enriching myself. After doing this program, I hope to continue my public service. After working as an intern for Judge Taylor, I know that when I become an attorney I will sponsor an intern because I know how rewarding it can be for both people involved. Because of my experience with Judge Taylor, I also have decided to become a prosecutor for the state of North Carolina and give back to my community through successful prosecution of criminal cases.



Double Major: Political Science and Sociology
Hometown: Kure Beach, NC



Kevin Feltes

Double Major: Public Policy Analysis and Economics
Hometown: Lisle, IL



A memorable service experience I would not have had without being a Public Service Scholar occurred after a hurricane damaged much of North Carolina, I believe in the spring of 2004. The Center organized an expedition to a couple small towns near the coast for hurricane cleanup, and I signed up to go without knowing anyone else who was participating. Lynn Blanchard led our crew boldly from the pre-dawn hours until late at night, helping residents to haul branches, clear lawns and cut down trees. For me, the day characterized my experiences as a Service Scholar: making friends, meeting remarkable people with unique needs, serving alongside inspiring individuals, and having a good time doing it.

Coming into the PSS program as a sophomore, I wanted to find new ways to become involved in serving the community, having enjoyed doing community service through church and Scouting in high school. My mindset in performing service was largely focused on giving of myself, not on helping a certain group or advancing a particular cause. I wanted to learn about the world, the problems that needed solving and the ways organizations functioned in providing services.

My experiences during the past two years have satisfied these goals and also helped me to form new goals as I graduate college. Through alternative break trips with APPLES, serving non-English speakers on campus and the homeless off of campus, I've seen and learned a lot about the need for public servants locally and nationally. The PSS program has motivated me to keep at it, opened my eyes to new worlds and trained me to solve social problems more effectively. My goals coming out of college are more focused on specific community needs that I can dedicate myself to more fully. Most importantly though, the PSS program has made public service a habit in my life, one which I think will stick with me for a long time.



Joseph David Hoyle

Throughout high school and the first two years of college, I had few service experiences and I joined the Public Service Scholars program without understanding what would be required to finish. Now, I cannot imagine my life without a weekly commitment to others and my experiences have helped me choose a career in medicine.

The Public Service Scholars program has broadened my horizons in many ways. For instance, the skills trainings brought me in contact with new strategies and people. My learning experience with hundreds of service-minded students at the 2004 North Carolina Compact Conference was inspiring. I attended workshops that emphasized communication and minority issues, which are important for a doctor. My service experiences have been even more important in developing my heart for medicine and community, especially my service with the UNC Platelet Donor program and with local community organizations such as Githens Middle School and Pregnancy Support Services.

Most of my service experiences also have been fun. One particularly memorable experience was co-organizing the children's events, "Yo Corro," at the annual road race to benefit the Latino services center in Carrboro, El Centro Latino. The day of the event, I put on my Carolina blue hair, grabbed

a bullhorn and directed a team of volunteers and crowd of youth through a series of fun races and piñata breaking.

Of course, service has been more than finding a career and having fun. Service has connected me to my community, both inside and outside of the University. Recently, I was selected to receive the J. Maryon Saunders Award because of my contributions to the development of loyalty and good will in the University community. The Public Service Scholars Program has inspired me to approach service in a holistic manner. This program has facilitated an experience that has prepared my heart and mind for a career in medicine and life of service.



Major: Biostatistics
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Durham, NC



Major: Psychology
Hometown: Winston-Salem, NC



Jovian Irvin

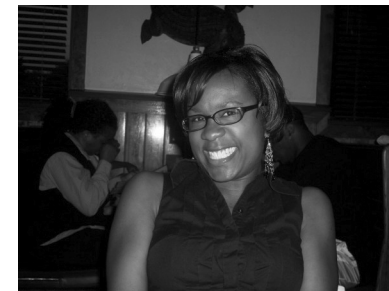
My participation in the Public Service Scholars Program has been a wonderful addition to my Carolina experience. The program's requirements have challenged my personal growth and development, and my overall expectation and experience of public service. The majority of my service work has been with our University's Stone Center and under the auspices of senior class president.

My senior year I had the privilege to work with the Communitarity Youth Program. Communitarity is a part of the Stone Center's Social Justice and Community Outreach Programming. The Social Justice and Community Outreach programs connect the work and resources of the Stone Center with outside communities and seek solutions to socio-economic and other inequalities that affect many African American's quality of life.

Along with my experience in Communitarity, I have had the invaluable opportunity to serve our University and community in the role of 2005 senior class president. Through my work with the senior class, I have acquired the diligence, energy and creativity it takes to continuously provide service to others. In addition, I have learned the value and importance of being an advocate for others. During our struggle with the administra-

tion to invite a commencement speaker who would best represent students as well as faculty, I gained persistence and determination, and began to truly understand what it meant to advocate for others who had no voice.

Throughout my work with Communitarity and the senior class I have come to see service in a different light. I understand now that service is a continual act that is often hard to document because of its intangible nature. Service to your fellow man can be in the form of a passing conversation or diligent craftsmanship. Regardless the act, both might perform as service to others. Most importantly, I have learned that earnest service is evident through one's passion and commitment to a cause.

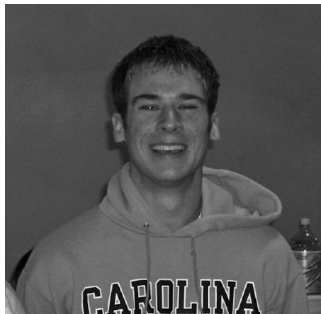


Wesley Joines

Almost four years ago I arrived in Chapel Hill to begin my college education. Entering college as a business major, I wanted to be a financial planner so that I could assist individuals and families in planning for their financial futures. However, in contrast to the rural Western NC community that I call home, Chapel Hill and surrounding areas provide almost limitless opportunities in public service engagement. These opportunities provided life-changing experiences that caused me to add Public Policy Analysis as a second major, and ultimately, change my career path. I discovered my strong interest in health policy by working and volunteering in Washington, D.C., and with Triangle United Way's Health and Wellness Committee, UNC's Student Health OUTreach (SHOUT), the Orange County Mental Health Association, and NC Prevention Partners.

During the first semester of my sophomore year at UNC, I lived in Washington, D.C., and worked with a health policy consulting firm. It is here where I whetted my appetite for health policy knowledge, and decided that my career path would be within the health policy realm. Essentially, I was confronted

with our country's problem of not providing access to care for the estimated 46 million U.S. citizens without health insurance. Upon my arrival back in Chapel Hill, I became involved with many stakeholders in the health policy arena, including the Orange County Mental Health Association. I also took as many classes as possible relating to health politics/law and wrote my senior honors thesis on how North Carolina's trade-displaced, who also find themselves labeled "high-risk" and are uniquely discriminated against when it comes to paying their substantially higher health insurance premiums (into the thousands of dollars/month).



Double Major: Public Policy Analysis and Business Administration
Hometown: Lenoir, NC



Major: Anthropology
Minor: Social and Economic Justice
Hometown: Clyde, NC



Genevieve King

I spent 10 weeks during summer 2003 with the nonprofit World Camp for Kids in Malawi, Africa. In Malawi, I conducted educational camps for rural youth on issues such as HIV/AIDS, environmental awareness and nutrition.

Malawi lies in Sub-Saharan Africa, which consists of a little more than 10 percent of the world's population, but is home to about two-thirds of all people infected with HIV. Because of their greater biological susceptibility to the disease and the societal restrictions that put them at a greater risk of infection, women are particularly at risk of being infected. A few of the other volunteers and I took on the task of developing a program that encouraged Malawian girls to stand up for themselves and overcome the extreme societal oppression jeopardizing their health.

We approached the task of creating a program to empower Malawian women delicately, taking into consideration the immense cultural barriers between U.S. and Malawian ideas of gender. It was unreasonable for us to present drastically new ideas to the girls and tell them they must immediately

make considerable changes in their lifestyles. Our goal was to gradually improve the girls' self-esteem and provide culturally feasible solutions to protect their rights.

We came up with a program that provided feasible steps toward gender equality and encouraged pride in womanhood. The program included discussion about why we as women are valuable, about female role models, and about ways girls can protect themselves and say no to boys' sexual advances.

To this day female empowerment as a means to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of the issues I feel most passionately about. My hope is that the program helped young girls build their self-confidence and instigated a desire within them to stand up for themselves and fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



Lauren Kucirka

Solidaridad is a non-profit Honduran-based organization that works to “make life better for the children in Honduras.” I first began volunteering in Honduras in summer 2002. We helped set up a toy room in the children’s malnutrition ward and spent hours each day playing with children who in many cases had been hospitalized for weeks or months. This gave us a chance to interact with their parents and relatives. We became involved in public health education, talking to parents about a variety of issues such as how to boil contaminated tap water or how to recognize and treat dengue fever.

When we returned to UNC in the fall, we wanted to accomplish two goals: to help Solidaridad’s causes in any way we could and to educate people about the health problems Hondurans face. We started Solidaridad-USA, a UNC student organization, so we could work on these projects throughout the year. We recruited other UNC students interested in international health issues, and with their help held several fundraisers to contribute to Solidaridad’s causes.

As part of each fundraising event, we made it a priority to educate people about the issues involved: poverty, malnutrition and the conditions of hospitals in Honduras. We also recruited UNC students to travel to Honduras for one month during the summer so that they could volunteer to help Solidaridad’s causes and witness firsthand the problems developing nations face.

Summer 2005 was the third summer we brought a group of volunteers to Honduras, and I hope this organization will continue after we graduate. I will continue working with these issues after I graduate, as I am entering the field of public health with a focus on international health. I hope that as a professional in this field I will be able to promote preventive health measures that might benefit large numbers of people in the developing world.

Double major: Biology and Anthropology
Hometown: Kernersville, NC



Major: English
Minor: Social and Economic Justice
Hometown: Fort Pierce, FL



Jennifer Manis

When I graduated from high school, people constantly asked me, “What are you going to study in college?” Five majors and four years later, I have finally settled on majoring in English and minor-ing in Social and Economic Justice, but my goal has always been to “just help people.” When the Public Service Scholars first began, I signed up, excited by the opportunity to serve and learn in a recognized program. While my classes at UNC have filled my mind with valuable knowledge, the experience I have gained through service is far more valuable. As my constant switching of majors testifies, I have spent my four years at UNC searching for a career and for my place in the world, and I have found one through my service here at UNC.

My junior year I began volunteering at Sunrise Corner, a preschool for children whose mothers are participating in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. I have always loved working with kids, but through my time working with these children I realized that I more than love working with kids — it is my passion. Not only do I want to work with kids, but I specifically want to work with children who are disadvantaged because of circumstances beyond their control.

From my experiences in the scholars program, I have decided to continue in service work and have applied to the Peace Corps for after graduation. I have truly been inspired by my participation in the Public Service Scholars program. Now, as I graduate from college, I don’t know where I’ll be in the coming years, but I do know when the question arises, “What are you doing after you graduate?” I can honestly say that I will be helping people. Public service will continue to be a focus in my life, just as it has been during my years at Carolina.



Briana Snyder

When I first entered the Public Service Scholars program, I did not know what to expect. Only once I joined the program did I realize how much it had to offer and how much I had to learn. I met some wonderful people through this program and made some great contacts for the future. The skills trainings helped me enhance my abilities as a leader and make the most out of my volunteer experiences.

After only a few weeks in the program, I formulated some goals for my service experiences. Most importantly, I wanted to make a difference. Even if I helped one child read a book she could not before, I would feel I had succeeded. I also wanted to learn something about myself through my work with others. I found that giving of yourself is often the best way to give also to yourself. Finally, I wanted to meet people and make lasting contacts with them. As a senior in my final semester of the program, I feel I have fully achieved all of these goals. However, that does not mean I will stop striving toward them.



I will make a concerted effort to continue my volunteer work as an adult. I know only a handful of adults today that routinely engage in public service outside of their paid jobs, and I want to be one of those people. I applied to the Teach For America program this year, largely as a result of my experiences in the Public Service Scholars program. Through this program, I hope to make a difference with my students, as well as make a lasting change in the structure of our nation's public education system.

Major: Ancient/Medieval History
Minor: Biology
Hometown: Baltimore, MD



Elizabeth Sonntag

Throughout college, I volunteered with the Catalyst Committee through the Campus Y. Catalyst brings high school students from across rural North Carolina to UNC for one weekend a year to discuss social justice issues and how they can bring change in their own communities. I was immediately impressed by the dedication of my fellow committee members and the students who attended the conferences we planned. I met many individuals who were incredibly selfless and altruistic, and I learned what incredible things people are able to accomplish with a good heart and a little hard work.

The most valuable lesson I learned, however, was the definition of what public service meant to me. Public service is not just building houses, picking up trash or tutoring children. Public service is often administrative. Doing the preparation and the paperwork and the networking is no less important than being the one on the frontline.

Everyone has different strengths and interests, and during the past four years through my public service, I have discovered mine. I enjoy helping other people be successful. Next year I will continue to work for youth empowerment. I have accepted an offer to join the Teach For America Corps in New York City. I will spend at least the next two years teaching secondary science in one of the nation's neediest schools. I have no doubt that this likely will be one of the most difficult tasks of my life. I am confident though that with a sincere heart and an open mind, I will be able to motivate my students to excel and take pride in their accomplishments.



**Major: Public Health,
 Health Policy and Administration**
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Cary, NC

Catherine Norah Kirby Tanner

As a volunteer through the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD), I lived with a Nicaraguan family and worked in the local hospital for eight weeks. Although trained as an Emergency Medical Technician, my title there was “gringa” and I did whatever they needed of me, from prenatal counseling to sutures.

In a country where a physician makes \$1,200 US a year, poverty defines everything. With a lack of food, materials and education, many people live in inhumane conditions that are unacceptable. I cannot become accustomed to allowing people to live like this, whether they are in Nicaragua or North Carolina. I know I did not have to go to Nicaragua to help others, but in doing so I gained an invaluable experience that has just begun to change my life. My immediate plans include attending medical school at UNC-CH and continuing to raise money, awareness and medical supplies for the people of Ciudad Sandino. When reusable supplies costing only \$120 can triple the number of necessary surgeries available each week, I feel it is my responsibility to act where the hospital cannot and raise the funds so readily

attainable in the United States. Once I become a physician, I will expand my capacity to help people and programs in similar situation, both at home and abroad, and I will be able to help in a way that engages my intellectual energies and scientific curiosity as well.

Working through FSD exposed me to new problems that are prevalent worldwide. My new awareness has inspired me to continue working with healthcare problems throughout the world.



Major: Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Rutherfordton, NC



**Double Major: Communications Studies
 and Recreation & Leisure Studies**
Hometown: Asheboro, NC



Zachary Underwood

One moment during a service experience that really hit home in my mind that I made a difference was a celebration dinner at a Methodist Church in Clyde, NC. I was there helping to do Disaster Relief Work with APPLES. At the dinner, a group of individuals stood up and spoke about the disasters that had happened in the area concerning flooding. They were touched and thankful for my group's help in the disaster area. The group of individuals provided us with a homemade dinner and some of them gave us hugs. Other individuals were teary eyed as they found that their houses would be rebuilt soon. I was touched that my service made a difference in their lives.

By completing Public Service Scholars I have in a way become an advocate for initiatives encouraging public service at every school that I visit. I find myself asking questions to officials about the feasibility of starting a public service program that would encourage students to partake in this awesome opportunity. So far I have not found a program similar to the one at Chapel Hill and I believe that it is a program that should be expanded to other state universities.

I have really been blessed to be able to have this opportunity and expand my horizons as an individual and a volunteer. The big question that I am approaching now is “So what?” From Public Service Scholars, I have found that I have the skills necessary to approach an ever-changing world and be better able to help individuals on whatever level necessary. I have become a better leader, a better listener, and more responsible individual and I believe I have acquired skills necessary to help me in my career in Higher Education as an administrator.



Denise Wilkerson

One issue I have addressed through service is childhood poverty. I have enjoyed working with children since I was young, and I think it is important to serve those living in poverty because these children need so much. Two of the organizations with which I have volunteered were Orphanage Outreach and Seawell Elementary School. With Orphanage Outreach, the children with whom I worked have been abandoned by their parents, have parents who have died, or have parents who cannot take care of them. The classrooms in which I volunteer at Seawell Elementary are Head Start classes, which is geared towards children in poverty. With each of these organizations, I have helped with education by reading to and teaching children and helping to run camps and classes.

Although poverty is a cycle for many people, there is hope. The most important way for people to serve children in poverty and break the cycle is through education. Going to a good school, learning a trade and job skills, having good health care and nutrition, and living in a safe environment are important steps toward moving out of poverty. I plan to pursue these by someday opening

a combination children's home and school for kids who would otherwise not have many opportunities and whose parents cannot or will not care for them well. In such an environment, I hope that children who may have had trouble thriving with parents or foster parents will come together to become a family and to help one another learn and grow. I would like to help children in poverty live in a better situation and have better schooling than they otherwise would. It is unlikely that poverty or hunger will be eradicated anytime soon, but I would like to take a few steps to help those that I can.

Double major: Philosophy and Psychology
Hometown: Durham, NC

Major: International Studies
Minor: Cognitive Science
Hometown: Highlands, NC



Claire Young

My first week at UNC, I remember listening to an official outline the three pillars of the institution: teaching, research and public service. Knowing that UNC was the first public university to be established in the U.S., I was eager to continue to engage in these activities at a place with such a strong legacy in service. Though I participated in several activities before the advent of the Public Service Scholars Program in Spring 2003, the structure of the program provided a sense of depth and purpose that had not been fulfilled in my previous activities.

The rewarding activities I have pursued as a part of this program have been serving as a program assistant for a microenterprise project for refugee women, as a presenter in local elementary school classrooms teaching children about modern Egypt, and as a tutor/mentor for at-risk youth who have been suspended from middle school.

The combination of domestically and internationally focused service projects I have completed as a Public Service Scholar has been particularly influential in helping me to determine who I am, what I want to do in life and how to make that happen. Whereas my initial goals in joining the program was to have structure and purpose in my service, my experiences have enabled me to see how to incorporate a spirit of service into my career plans. My experiences also led to me being awarded a Harry S. Truman Scholarship for graduate studies pursuing a career in public service. As of now, I hope to obtain an M.A. in Law and Diplomacy from Tufts University, and I eventually hope to pursue a profession in either intelligence or diplomacy.



Shirin Elyse Zarrinnam

I primarily worked with three organizations during my time at UNC. For one year, I worked with Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina (APPCNC). This wonderful non-profit is working hard to make North Carolina a place with fewer teenage pregnancies and more support for those who are pregnant. Through teen parent networks, trainings for other non-profit workers, and working with the state and national legislatures, they extend their aid across the state.

I also worked with Tutoring Against Tobacco, a division of Carolina Cancer Focus. This student group goes to local middle schools to tutor twice a week. While tutoring, volunteers develop a relationship with the students. At the end of the semester, we give tobacco media awareness trainings. The kids love the interactive presentations and have a memorable experience.

The majority of my time at UNC was spent in the General Alumni Association's Hill Alumni Center. The GAA works to keep all Carolina students, faculty and friends connected. I worked with the

Student Membership Program, and so I worked on a wide variety of programs. My primary event was Charity Day, a day where we raise money for a local non-profit by putting on a carnival and getting donations from local businesses

When entering the Public Service Scholars program, I was excited to learn more about ways to help out on campus and in Chapel Hill. I was surprised to find that the program was more than just a resource for finding service opportunities. The trainings helped me in areas where I was lacking knowledge and my service learning classes opened me up to issues that I had never really thought about and could share with others. I will never forget my service experiences here at Carolina, and certainly intend to continue in public service after I graduate!

Double Major: Psychology and Sociology
Hometown: Dallas, TX



Rezwan Ahmed

Before enrolling in the Public Service Scholars Program at Carolina, I wanted to take advantage of any opportunities that were available to me and experience UNC to its fullest. As I did in high school, I wanted to join an assortment of organizations so that I could gain exposure, and participate in fulfilling the different missions towards which each group strived. By doing so, I thought I could discover more about myself as an individual.

When I entered the PSS program, my service goal mirrored my intentions for college as a whole. Thus, I wanted to participate in different charities, help different community agencies, and learn about the non-profit sector. My service during my time at Carolina includes having been a Service Co-Chair for Circle-K, an organization that teaches their members about service, leadership, and fellowship, working as a volunteer at a hospital in Kentucky, participating in an APPLES Alternative Spring Break, and taking part in beneficial skills training like the Leadership Transition Dinner.

Through these incredible experiences, I have learned one valuable lesson – go in with an open mind. I have discovered that you should expect to receive as much as you put in for a service. If you are enthused, you will remain content, regardless of the outcome. Even if the service is a “failure” (though I do not consider any such), you have gained critical knowledge that will help in your future endeavors. As a Public Service Scholar, I have come to understand the quote that Mahatma Gandhi once said: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”



Sumeet Banker

As a Public Service Scholar, I've been able to participate in a wide variety of public service and advocacy activities with a variety of local and international community agencies. One particularly meaningful experience took place when I traveled to a poor region of India to do work to help improve the healthcare of the region. While interning in a charitable hospital, I worked with area doctors and community members to establish a rural disease prevention program, a mobile health clinic of sorts, to spread awareness about simple public health measures that could be put in place to empower villagers to take control of their health through prevention and precaution.

We traveled to various villages and performed simple tests for blood pressure and glaucoma, while distributing information regarding proper sanitation and hygiene that could help to ensure the health and safety of the villagers and their children. Our impact was quickly felt, as many of the villagers realized the ease with which they could control their health and prevent major hospital costs.



The Public Service Scholars program has been a tremendously valuable part of my undergraduate career. It has allowed me to draw connections between the public service I perform now and the public service I wish to perform later in my life. I had previously failed to realize how I could apply my strong ethic of public service later in life. However, with aspirations to attend medical school and become a physician, public service now seems like a natural part of the career. The program helped me to realize that I can mold my career to fit my current interests, regardless of the title and reputation of the profession.

Major: Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Raleigh, NC



**Double Major: Communication Studies
 and Linguistics**
Hometown: Winston-Salem, NC



Jennifer Burkey

One of my most memorable volunteer experiences occurred while I was tutoring adult English as second language students. I had been working primarily with a woman who had recently immigrated to the US from India. On one of the more challenging days, she seemed to have forgotten all her vocabulary over the weekend. I suppose that my aggravation was expressing itself in my tone of voice as I once again corrected her for identifying a nose as a tooth, when suddenly she reaches across the desk and pokes me gently in the nose while saying something in her native language. She was trying to teach me!

This turned into a new game that we played any time we had the chance. I would tell her what an object was in English, she would repeat it and tell me what it was in Punjabi. This experience of me teaching her while she taught me is one of my favorite service memories. I am proud of the progress she made and feel that it was the most worthwhile service experience I have had because I know our time together was essential to her quest for attaining literacy and an ability to express herself in English.

My experience with the PSS program has been wonderful; I have learned a lot about service through trainings and APPLES and I have been encouraged to continue service throughout my life. I think one of the best attributes about the program is that it has kept me involved in the community and allowed me to work with populations I may never have met. It has opened my eyes to new and wonderful community programs as well as needs that I had previously overlooked.



Allison Carr

As a Public Service Scholar, I participated in serving many different local organizations, as well as communities outside of Chapel Hill. One memorable international service experience was working with a small village in Honduras. I worked with three other UNC students painting church benches and school desks. The people we worked with had very few possessions and were very proud of what they did have.

While we were painting, all of the children wanted to help out and many of the women twice my age would take the paint brush from my hands and motion for me to take a break. I do not speak any Spanish but the experience was special because it did not require verbal communication. Our actions showed our commitment to the families we were serving and their expressions communicated their gratitude.

Beyond the service component, the Public Service Scholars Program has been a motivating force for me to seek out trainings and courses at

UNC that have given me skills that I will be able to use in many ways. In particular, the service-learning courses were great opportunities to connect academic experiences to the world outside of the classroom.

I am thankful that I have had the chance to be involved in the Public Service Scholars program and have been able to utilize the program as a means to document my interests and mold my various service activities at UNC into a cohesive and interrelated experience. In the future, I hope to continue to seek out opportunities to contribute to my community.



Major: Environmental Science
Hometown: Raleigh, NC



Double Major: Child Development and Family Studies
Minor: Linguistics
Hometown: Rochester Hills, MI



Jessica Erin Clemens

My service has been primarily focused on elementary age children, especially those with special needs. For one semester, I volunteered in the Autism classroom at Ephesus Elementary School, assisting children with daily work and creating new activities for them. This experience helped to teach me about individualizing education for every student, so that all students can benefit in each classroom.

As a complement to my direct service experiences, I took a Psychology service-learning class on Autism Spectrum Disorders. We were able to learn about people with autism and then apply that information directly in our community placements. Without the service component of this class, it would not have been as meaningful because we would have learned only the textbook version of Autism, instead of how it really looks in the real world.

The Public Scholars program has helped to teach me about prioritizing my service. There will always be more opportunities than I can possibly take advantage of, and so looking for those that complement my skills and abilities is a necessity. I have focused my service over the past four years

on children with disabilities, which is my passion. I feel that this focus will help me in the future, because doing something you love and are passionate about helps continue the service for a lifetime.

Service has always been a part of my life, and participation in this program seemed automatic. This naturalness of service has continued to my post-graduation plans as well, as I will be entering the Peace Corps in July to teach special education in Jordan. After this is completed, I plan on staying active in my community.



Emily Cupito

As a Public Service Scholar, I have been able to capitalize on the opportunities Carolina provides for student engagement. My activities have included alternative fall break trips, teaching a course, interning with a non-profit, serving as chair of the Reflections Committee and facilitating reflection sessions for students and professors. Beyond the university, I have volunteered with a number of community organizations including Lutheran Family Services, the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, and Horton's Kids, a non-profit in DC that tutors and mentors inner-city youth.

Each service experience came with its own adventures, trials and surprises. I had days when I was on top of the world because I had impacted the lives of others and days when I questioned everything, uncertain if I had ever made the slightest bit of difference. Over the past four years, I've gotten past the stage of thinking of community service as just something good to do. This philosophy ignores the

fact that community service is hard, sometimes grueling work. At some point during every volunteer activity, I have had to question myself and my conception of the world. At times, I've been frustrated, burnt out, deeply upset and uncontrollably angry. And yet, these deep feelings have also compelled me to action.

My road of service and leadership has not been easy, but it certainly has been fulfilling, meaningful and inspirational. I have learned so much from those with whom I have worked — both in the community and on campus. However, my road of service is not coming to an end; rather, it is just beginning. I have come a long way in four years, but I have a lifetime of growth yet to come.

Double Major: Public Policy And Economics
Hometown: Greensboro, NC



David Edwards

Major: Epidemiology
Hometown: Durham, NC



The first agency to which I devoted most of my time while a Public Service Scholar was the Carolina Children's Clinic. The Carolina Children's Clinic was a pediatric clinic administered by a nurse from UNC Chapel Hill Hospital. I must regretfully use "was" as the clinic closed its doors at the end of last year after ten years of operation. My role was to design and implement a health education program for the mothers.

The second agency with which I volunteered was the National Disaster Medical Service. This organization operates within the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is on-call to deploy to the sites of national disasters to set up field hospitals. While I have been studying for my medical degree, I have been a member of the logistics branch of the organization and responsible for setup, supply, and removal of our mobile hospital facilities. Missions that the NC DMAT has been involved with recently include the events of September 11, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina.

Service has always been something I have done, back to my earliest days as an undergraduate. What the Public Service Scholars Program then did for me is to help me organize my the time I spent in service, encouraged me to seek academic courses relevant to service, and connected me to a network of peers involved in public service. As my time has grown more limited, these opportunities have helped me to become more effective in the service opportunities that I pursue.



Courtney Enlow

I started working to address the issue of sexual violence when I trained to be a Companion at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center. Few people are willing to admit that sexual violence occurs, and even fewer are willing to openly discuss it. Given the current statistics, this disregard clearly does not solve the problem, but rather exacerbates it. At some point in her life, one in five women age 18 or older in North Carolina has been sexually assaulted. Clearly, North Carolina can no longer afford to stay silent about rape.

Policy changes need to be undertaken to help prevent sexual violence from occurring and to aid survivors of sexual assault. Recommendations for dealing with this complex issue include adding age-appropriate sexual assault language into the primary and secondary education curriculum, encouraging all state universities and colleges to implement blind reporting systems where students can report to offices such as student health, and creating a Victim's Assistance Fund at each state university and college.

The previous recommendations are unlikely to solve the problem of sexual violence because that is a larger societal issue. However, I am hopeful they will work towards empowering survivors to recognize sexual violence when it occurs and encourage them to get support.



Double Major: Public Policy And Economics
Hometown: Cary, NC



Major: Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Concord, NC



Carrie Gibbons

Of all the rewarding experiences I had as a volunteer, a particularly memorable service experience through which I feel I made an important impact was tutoring a young boy as a volunteer with the Project Literacy committee of the Campus Y. I was able to work with this 7th grade student through the duration of the semester and grew to care deeply about his success and future.

I was able to help him with his math and writing, but more importantly, I feel that I contributed to his confidence level by continually encouraging him. I answered his questions about college and made it clear that he too could go to college if he worked hard and set goals. It was a very rewarding experience for me because I felt that the student gained something out of our relationship and may go on to challenge himself more because of our discussions.

Now that I have finished the PSS program, my goals are to continue to serve the community and address the problems and needs I have learned about during my time in the Public Service Scholars Program. My participation in service activities, service-learning courses, and skills trainings has influenced my future goals by providing me with knowledge and understanding of important community issues and ways of getting involved to make a difference. I have gained a stronger sense of compassion and empathy as a Public Service Scholar and will strive to continue making community service an important component of my personal and professional life.



Josh Glasser

A memorable organization for which I worked was the Tu Du Peace Village in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Tu Du Peace Village is a residential facility for orphans living with the after-effects of Agent Orange poisoning. Many of the children have been abandoned by their families because they present an economic burden and a social stigma. The Tu Du Peace Village allows the children to have some semblance of a normal life: the kids interact with one another, go to school, and play with toys. However, they do not receive much in the way of adult attention, and so some of them have behavior problems. My role as an intern was to engage with the children, playing games with them and using my limited Vietnamese (plus sign language!) to teach the children good behavior.

When I first joined the PSS program, I knew that I enjoyed public service, but I was not sure where service would take me. However, through my amazing experiences, I have realized that there is a lot that needs fixing in the world, and that I can make a big difference by creating programs that serve at the community level. Therefore, I have decided to commit myself to a life in public service.



I will spend the next couple of years working and gaining experience in the service field, before returning for a graduate degree. From there, I hope to design and implement community development projects in the nongovernmental sector. If I am skilled enough and fortunate enough, I hope to operate my own nongovernmental organization (NGO) one day.

Double Major: Political Science And Public Policy
Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC



Double Major: Philosophy And History
Hometown: Miami, FL



Ian Benjamin Goldfarb

My work with North Carolina Student Legislature, the first wholly student-run organization in the nation to emphasize civic and legislative training for high school and college students, is by far what I consider my most important community service activity. It is unfortunate and quite troubling that today many students are apathetic about politics and do not understand the legislative process. NCSL has helped to make students more politically aware through active participation, inspiring speakers, and an Annual Session. As a leader within the organization, I have helped teach a class in UNC-CH on the Legislative process and have successfully led chambers during our most important showcase to the General Assembly.

When I entered this program, I set goals to become more well-rounded, more empathetic to others, and a more complete person. I am glad to say that those goals have been achieved, but only partly. I now realize that these are life goals, which require a life of service. Through my service, I realized that

public servants, teachers and politicians alike, help to make this world a better place. I also realized that the law can ease this process and can help those whose plight is far greater than my own. As such, I wish to become an attorney. While this goal is one I have had for years, my interest in law has been markedly defined by my public service and I now wish to help those in the greatest need by working on International Human Rights law.

Kevin Henderson

As a Public Service Scholar, two organizations I have been involved with are El Centro Latino and Nourish International. El Centro Latino provides direct services to members of the Latino community in Orange Country. I contributed as a teaching assistant for the ESL program, and by helping out with English lessons and classroom activities.

In contrast, my work with Nourish International has been more administrative. The mission of Nourish International is to manage student-driven fundraising ventures to support sustainable, international projects focused on economic development to both alleviate poverty and to develop socially-responsible student leaders. As a member of the founding board, I helped to establish the mission of the organization, directed an alternative fall break trip, initiated a gardening project a local women's shelter, and researched international projects in addition to volunteering at local fundraising ventures.



When I initially joined the PSS Program, I wanted to meet like-minded students and formally develop my public service experiences. However, although I definitely accomplished these goals through the program, my goals for service in the future are different. Now I more clearly understand the necessity of public service and realize that some forms of service more significantly affect individuals than other forms.

In the future, I would like to choose a single organization that addresses a significant need in the community and devote my time to not only volunteering but also assisting in administrative duties. Temporary volunteer experiences may be useful in the short-term, but longer volunteering experiences have a greater impact on targeted individuals.

Major: Chemistry
Hometown: Cary, NC



Megan Holly

Double Major: Art History and American History
Hometown: Tempe, AZ



The Alternative Spring Break to Wilmington, North Carolina was certainly my most memorable service project. The group spent the time working with a local outreach center, a free health clinic, and a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. I can remember no other time when I was able to dedicate myself to service so completely and that reason alone made the trip rewarding. Additionally, it was on this trip that the movement for SPROUT (Student Poverty Reduction Outreach) was formed. The focus of SPROUT has been establishing and now operating a VITA site in Orange County. I had been privileged to contribute to the development of SPROUT, from its foundation in Wilmington to full implementation of the VITA site this spring.

When I entered Carolina as a freshman, I brought with me a long resume of community service done at my local church, high school, and National Honor Society. I certainly had made a commitment to "doing good," but I also had a very vague

notion of what that good entailed. It was through the experiences I sought out at Carolina that I came to understand good service as carrying significant responsibilities.

I sought out these experiences, because of the nudge I received from the Public Service Scholars program. Therefore, while it would be wrong to assume that I would not have completed 300 hours of service without the Public Service Scholars program, I would not have gained so much knowledge from that service without the program.



Christopher Horvat

In an effort to explore the human side of medicine and public service, I signed up for an APPLES alternative spring break trip to Atlanta to study urban issues. During one night we spent in a homeless shelter to help cook dinner and check people in and out, I had a long conversation with Jon, a homeless man who had been laid off and was living on the streets. I realized that most people who see homeless individuals like Jon do not try to understand him or the social problems that led him to a life of homelessness. I also recognized that my listening to Jon's story with great sensitivity and allowing him to vent his frustrations to me made him feel less alienated. As a Public Service Scholar, I have been forced to acknowledge living conditions that are often obscured by affluence or attributed to character flaws of those who must endure such poverty.

I had another formative experience as a volunteer in the pediatric malnutrition ward of a public hospital in Honduras. I spent many hours with Samy, a four-year-old girl suffering from Kwashiorkor malnutrition. I helped to ensure that she received sufficient protein and a regimen of vitamin supplements.

As I prepare for a career in medicine, the skills that I have gained through public service as an undergraduate will be invaluable. Service has provided me with a constructive way to delve outside my comfort zone. I know that I possess the opportunity and drive to help many people, to teach them and to learn from. I look forward to the future, when I can combine new technical knowledge with a genuine interest in serving others.



Major: Chemistry
Minor: Social and Economic Justice
Hometown: Spruce Pine, NC



Katherine Hunt

Double Major: Journalism & Mass Communication
and Spanish
Hometown: Charlotte, NC



Whether teaching geometry to sixth-graders, clearing trails in Battle Park, or cooking spaghetti at the Ronald McDonald House, I have enjoyed serving the community through the Public Service Scholars program. Through my work with the Public Service and Advocacy Committee of Student Government, I have organized projects and service days to help students to get more involved in the community.

In the spring of 2005, I helped coordinate a trip to western North Carolina to do flood relief work. I went with a group of 20 UNC faculty members and students (many of whom were also Public Service Scholars) to the town of Clyde, where hurricanes had caused severe water damage. We brought gloves and work boots, planning to clear out trailer-park debris, but poor weather forced us to change our plans. The agency with which we were working found us a new task-- to sort clothing that people had donated to flood victims. We entered a cold, garage-like warehouse to find and overwhelming mounds of clothing in trash bags. By the end of the day, the warehouse was lined in perfectly organized boxes of clothes, and we volunteers had learned valuable lessons about effective service.

The Public Service Scholars program provided more than just a framework for my public service projects: it was provided a home for me at UNC. At a University of over 26,000 students, it's often difficult to find a niche, but I am so fortunate to have found mine with the Carolina Center for Public Service and the Public Service Scholars Program. I have loved being a part of a group of passionate students, dedicated to community service and activism.



Shanna Jefferson

Poverty in America? This seems like a paradox in the richest country in the world. However, as of 2004, over 13 percent of the US population lived in poverty. Of course, an immediate and permanent solution does not exist. However, programs and policies do exist which will improve the quality of life for the most impoverished Americans. The most effective, yet underutilized, of these policies is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Estimates are that up to 25% of those who qualify for the EITC do not claim it. For tax year 2005, this could mean up to an additional \$4400 in income. Furthermore, the EITC lifted 4.4 million people out of poverty, including 2.4 million children out of poverty in 2003.

The EITC, established in 1975, is a federal refundable tax credit for low-to-moderate income individuals and families with earned income. The refundable component of the EITC is important because it allows those with no personal federal income tax liability to benefit. In addition, the EITC is different from traditional welfare programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), formally AFDC (Aid to Families with

Dependent Children), in that recipients must have earned income. The EITC has several important purposes: to reduce the tax burden on low-to-moderate income workers, to supplement their wages, and to make work more attractive than welfare. Families used the income to become self-sufficient and thus improve their livelihoods.

Through National Student Partnerships of Durham and the assistance of the Bryan Fellowship and Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, I've been able to gain a greater understanding of poverty and more specifically the EITC. Now that my undergraduate career comes to end, I hope to work even more in the community to improve social and economic justice and "make work count" for all.

Major: Public Policy
Minor: Social and Economic Justice
Hometown: Allendale, SC



Double Major: Interdisciplinary Studies
and International Studies
Hometown: Memphis, TN



Mark Laabs

My work with the Campus Y began my freshman year as co-chair of the Table Talk committee, where I worked to cultivate meaningful dialogue between students, faculty, and the Chapel Hill community. Later, I worked in a variety of executive positions, dedicating myself to supporting my peers in pursuing humanitarian goals that never ceased to inspire and amaze me. Abroad, I was able to delve much more deeply into direct service, working with issues of youth development in Cape Town, South Africa and Kaikohe, New Zealand. While located around the globe, each organization of which I was a part had a mission of developing young people, and it was my privilege to serve and learn amidst a company of incredibly dedicated individuals.

I take particular pride in the work I have been able to do in Kaikohe, New Zealand. A town of about four thousand, Kaikohe is one of the most impoverished communities in New Zealand by traditional measures. As a result, four distinct youth programs chose Kaikohe as the community in which to pilot

an integrated implementation of their programming. In the midst of this process, I came in to serve in a consultant role on the ways in which the four programs could collaborate more effectively. Out of my work and that of a few of my colleagues, a new leadership structure for service in the community of Kaikohe has emerged that promises to have profound and far-reaching effects on the Kaikohe community.

My time at Carolina and as a member of the Public Service Scholars Program has caused me to expand my definition of service and more clearly discern what it is about service that has attracted me and what my service will look like in the future.

Janaka Lagoo

The two community agencies that I have devoted the majority of my efforts to over the past four years are SEARCH (Society for Education, Action, and Research in Community Health), located in the Indian state of Maharashtra, and the UNC Hospitals Birth Partners Program.

One of my most memorable service experiences revolves around my creation of mother-daughter sex education workshops at SEARCH. The following commentary provides insight into the work that I conducted, as well as the lessons learned: Young girls, back from an entire day of work in the fields, settle cross-legged on the floor. They are tired but interested. Following close behind the forty girls are seven mothers, less eager and more skeptical. We begin asking the girls key questions about their sexual health, the current level of communication with their mothers, and examples of individual misconceptions and fears regarding sexual health. They open up with poignant anecdotes and questions. From the back of the room, a young girl is walking towards the door. I nervously ask her

where she is going. She turns and replies, “I am going to get my mother. She needs to hear this.” The girl’s words often resonate in my ears. They prove to me the importance of empowerment.

My philosophy regarding public service and my future goals has been sharpened through my involvement with the Public Service Scholars Program. Through a keen awareness of the importance of collective action, I am dedicated to a life of public service. Thus, through my life and future career I will strive to contribute, as I empower others to also become catalysts for change.

Double Major: Economics and Anthropology
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC



Amy Lambert

Major: Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: North Little Rock, AK



Serving as college buddy director and activity coordinator in Best Buddies has undoubtedly been the one activity through which I believe I have most impacted another individual. Best Buddies is a student organization at UNC that strives to enhance the lives of local adults with mental and physical disabilities by providing one-to-one friendships with college students. From one person to an entire club, I feel that I have made a difference over my four years at Carolina.

At the most basic (and yet, the most important) of levels, my buddy Emily has blossomed with my involvement in Best Buddies. When I first met her she was a remarkably shy and passive individual. This has changed. Since my enrollment in Best Buddies, Emily has greatly increased her social network. She has befriended many of my friends and others in her own workplace. She takes pleasure in the amount of people she knows and the phone calls she receives from new acquaintances during the holidays.

Spending time with Emily has impacted me too. Although meetings, exams, and papers are important, hanging out with Emily reminds me that these monotones are not as valuable as the daily interactions we have with others. Oftentimes, I glimpse a devotion that is not unlike what I witness in my family. Joy radiates from her, and I cannot believe I evoke these emotions. Our meetings touch me deeply and compel me to continue working for her and for the program.



Joanna Long

Two of my most meaningful experiences as a Public Service Scholar were volunteering with a program called Cross Cultural Solutions in Tanzania and Peru. In Tanzania, I taught at a school that specifically served orphans who had lost their parents to AIDS or Malaria. I contributed by being a volunteer teacher for one month. Most importantly, I showed compassion and love and tried to give the kids hope and a purpose for their incredibly trying lives.

The next summer I spent a little over a month in Lima, Peru. There I worked at Los Martincitos, a center for abused and neglected elderly in one of Peru's largest shantytowns. Los Martincitos serves meals and provides a safe place for the abuelos (an affectionate term for the elderly in Peru) to receive basic medical services, as well as find fellowship, recreation, and a supportive network of peers. I also visited some of the abuleos at their homes. I found that my greatest purpose at Los Martincitos was to provide companionship to the abuelos. My greatest gift there was often to just dance and sing with them and listen to their stories.

My experiences as a PSS have allowed me to define my passions and goals. I have seen the strength of the human spirit that is kindled and made to thrive through the compassion and care of others. And as much as they have gained strength from me, I have gained it back tenfold from them.



Major: Exercise and Sport Science
Hometown: Clemmons, NC



Major: Nursing
Hometown: Wade, NC



Elizabeth Ann McLaurin

As a member of the Public Service Scholar Program I have served as a volunteer with Carolina Pediatric Attention Love and Support (CPALS) and UNC Hospitals. CPALS is a student organization that pairs students with chronically ill children. The students serve as mentors or “pals” to the children during their visits to UNC Hospitals for various treatments and hospitalizations. As a volunteer with UNC Hospitals, I spent time in the Pediatric Playroom and Pediatric Emergency Room. In each of these areas, my role was to provide diversion and comfort to the patients and their families.

Through my service I feel that my involvement with CPALS had the most impact. My freshman year at Carolina I was paired through the organization with a 5 year old leukemia patient, Sakiah. Over the next two years I made countless visits to her hospital room during her hospitalizations including numerous sleepovers, visits to the clinic after class for her chemotherapy treatments, and visits to her home in between her treatments in Chapel Hill. Getting to know Sakiah and her family has been one of the most remarkable experiences of my life.

For me my involvement in the program was so much more than completion of a certain number of hours or requirements, it was about filling a personal desire to be involved and make a difference in the lives of others. By pursuing volunteer opportunities in healthcare settings I further validated my decision to pursue a career in nursing. Reflecting on my experiences I feel that my professional career as a nurse will be shaped by the interactions I had with the patients and families I came into contact with.



Kamal Menghrajani

My first foray into the realm of service at UNC was through an organization then called 'Hunger Lunch'. I got really excited about the group and its work during my first year, and become its co-chair as a sophomore. In 2004 another student and I led a team of 8 people to a village in the Andes mountains of Bolivia. Partnering with Save the Children, we set up a microirrigation system with the community there; we diverted a river, dug out a tank, created canals, and so forth. The purpose was to allow the villagers to grow alfalfa; with more basic grain, the villagers could feed more cows; with more cows, the villagers would have more milk for their children and more beasts of burden. In this way, we helped them established a sustainable source of income without disrupting their lives, westernizing them, or intruding on traditions.

The service-learning course I took as part of my APPLES alternative spring break trip to Atlanta also drove this point home. The trip was focused on hunger and homelessness, and in the course we learned about the Atlanta area, reasons why there was a high-density of impoverished people, and

solutions that people around the city were enacting to help people help themselves. I realized that poverty isn't some abstract, foreign concept — it's something that goes on around us everyday, to regular people, like us.

My main focus at Carolina has been service to alleviate poverty, an issue about which I knew almost nothing before I came here. Now, thanks in part to my work with the Public Scholars Program, I am a transformed person, and will remain an advocate for global poverty reduction for the rest of my life.



Major: Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Charlotte, NC



Abigail Michaud

Major: Business
Hometown: Nashville, TN



From the moment I stepped off the plane in Malawi I knew I was going to stand out. Not only am I a mzungu (white person), but I also stand 5'9" with long blonde hair and blue eyes. I certainly don't resemble your typical Malawian.

We spent the next three days at each school teaching and answering questions about HIV/AIDS, sex, the environment, and anything else the students wanted to know. We opened ourselves up to them, and they in turn shared their stories with us.

My summer in Malawi opened my eyes to the growing problem of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. It's one thing to read statistics and know how many millions of people the disease is affecting, but it's completely different to spend time with, and actually feel a part of a culture that cannot thrive because of the disease. I feel it's my responsibility to tell about what I saw, and about the amazing people I met. I have a duty to change the future for the children in Malawi.

The AIDS epidemic kills 6,600 people a day and already over 17 million have died. It leaves children without parents, communities without their leaders, and makes it difficult to create economic growth with such a low life expectancy. It's a grim situation, but there are solutions or beginnings of solutions to the problem. First is education. Next, drugs need to be more accessible at rates people can afford. Finally, the wealthier countries need to make a monetary commitment showing their belief in eradicating HIV/AIDS. Not everyone may have a chance to visit the warm heart of Africa, but everyone can be a part of the solution to eradicate AIDS.



Matthew Miglarese

Over the past two years that I have been a Public Service Scholar, I have volunteered at agencies that serve very different communities — the community in the Chapel Hill school system, the ethnic community of Hispanic immigrants to North Carolina, and the global community through service abroad. Many of the projects in which I participated brought together more than one of these communities as co-recipients of acts of service, showing me the similarities between groups often thought of as distinct.

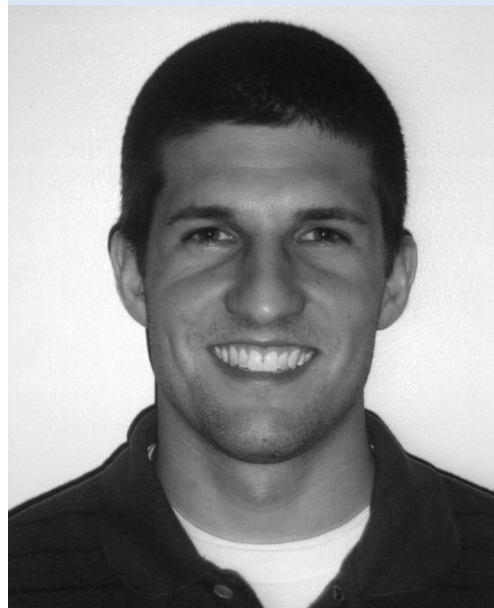
For example, I volunteered at El Centro Latino, performing tasks ranging from intake and referral to fundraising and publicity. Through each type of work, I helped El Centro pursue its mission of providing direct social and educational services to the Latino community in Orange County. Although I worked primarily with adults at El Centro, I better understood many of their concerns because I had previously volunteered with the after-school program at Carrboro Elementary: the program's goal was to spark an interest in education in children who were not currently performing at grade level. For many children, language barriers caused this poor performance, meaning that there

were many Latino children enrolled. The problems these children faced often were closely related to those of their parents.

I first enrolled in the Public Service Scholars program for the purpose of structuring my volunteering so that I would remain committed to it until I graduated, but the Program certainly fulfilled its mission by cultivating in me “the commitment and skills to serve long after I graduate.” The simple act of performing service caused me to reconcile my Christian faith with my lifestyle and to see service not as a resume builder, but as a chance to actually embody the values that I hold as most important.



Double Major: Public Policy Analysis and Political Science
Hometown: Raleigh, NC



Nicholas Minter

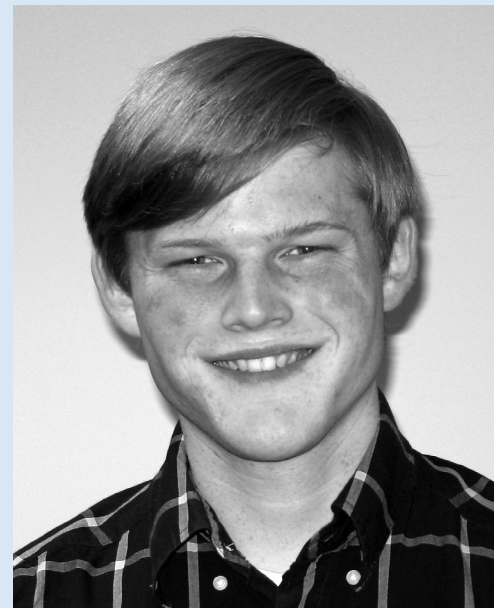
I never could have predicted the profound effect that the public service I performed under the guidelines of the PSS program would have on my life. I can honestly say that not only am I more informed, more educated, and more open-minded because of the public service I have performed while in college, but I am more complete as well.

My public service experiences in college have exposed me to the feeling of making a real difference in the community. In the spring of my junior year, the Orange County Literacy Council approached me and asked me to do a survey of Orange County's English and a Second Language (ESL) services. The OCLC, whose mission is to achieve “100% literacy” in the surrounding region, is considering broadening its current services, which focus heavily on literacy tutoring, to include ESL. The result was a small policy brief on the issue of ESL services in Orange County and a recommendation to focus all efforts in the northern part of the county.

I have also come to realize the profound impact that time and attention can have on individual lives. I began to understand this concept working in the DC office of Senator Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina in the summer of 2005. Speaking with dozens of constituents a day who were attempting to channel their concerns to the right people, I began to realize exactly how real their problems were. This understanding began in DC, but has bloomed in Chapel Hill during my senior year. I have recently begun tutoring a 1st generation Jamaican immigrant who is in his 40s. Being around him has allowed me to realize that making a difference in one person's life is often quite easy and worthwhile.



Double Major: Public Policy and Geography
Hometown: Fayetteville, NC



Alexandra Montealegre

The Hispanic population is growing faster in much of the South than anywhere else in the United States. According to the U.S. Census, between 1990 and 2000, North Carolina's Hispanic population grew 394%, the largest of any state in the Union. In the newly settled areas of the South, the Hispanic school-age population grew by 322% between 1990 and 2000. Armed with this knowledge, I decided to get involved in Hispanic outreach programs here at UNC. A major problem plaguing this community, particularly in the Triangle, is lack of education. This refers not only to formal academic training, but also to a lack of familiarity with American institutions.

I began to volunteer with Las Guapitas in the fall of 2003 precisely because of this concern for the Hispanic population in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. My vision and goals coincided with the mission statement of the group: to help, educate, and empower middle-school aged Hispanic girls. Our activities for any given year included parents dinners in the fall and visits to UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Wilmington in the spring. Every week we addressed issues like self-esteem, body image, education, healthy relationships, etc.

By having a diverse group of volunteers (both Hispanic and non-Hispanic), we were able to make these issues relevant to the girls, while still being culturally sensitive. Our greatest endeavour however, was to promote higher education. While middle school may seem early, we believe it is important to instill a value for education as young as possible, because in many cases these girls were getting the opposite message at home. It was my goal to at least try to instill in the girls in Las Guapitas that higher education was an option.

Double Major: Political Science and History
Hometown: Miami, FL



Stacy Moretz

Major: Nutriion
Minor: Spanish
Hometown: Boone, NC



Over the past few years, I have spent many hours in the Inter-Faith Council (IFC) Community Kitchen. Volunteering as Cook, Server, and Meal Monitor, I have met some amazing guests at the IFC Community Kitchen. Volunteering at IFC allows me to cook and serve others, something that I find joy in, and it also allows me to meet and listen to people in our community who are often overlooked.

The most influential volunteer experience that I have had occurred during Alternative Spring Break 2005. Along with 25 other students in Lutheran Campus Ministry, I traveled to a community just outside of Guatuso in northwestern Costa Rica. Participating in homestays, working alongside the Maleku men to build a community building, and holding camps for children in the region, I was exposed to a culture and a way of life that I have never before experienced. Our hosts showed more generosity than I could have imagined, opening their homes, welcoming us to their tables, and spending their time showing us their way of living. On one particular afternoon, we were invited to a one-room schoolhouse where we talked openly

with community leaders about the struggles that they face each day and that their people have endured for centuries. The experiences shared with our Maleku friends while in Palenque Sol have shaped my future goals. As of now, I plan to travel back to Central America, after I gain credentials in the field of nutrition, to live for several years and to work with issues of malnutrition in rural and underserved populations there.

Looking back, I realize how fortunate I have been to participate in such a variety of service projects, opportunities that have allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone and to use my time and energy to help others within their community.



Shannon Ryan O'Shaughnessy

The two groups that I have worked with the most with since I've come to Carolina are Dance Marathon and Alpha Phi Omega.

Dance Marathon is a year-long fundraiser which culminates in a 24 hour show of support where participants stand on their feet to show their commitment to the families and children of the N.C. Children's Hospital. DM raises funds for families "regular expenses," or things for which they generally would not have the money.

Alpha Phi Omega is a National Co-Ed Service Fraternity. We are dedicated to training students to become tomorrow's leaders through Leadership, Friendship and Service. APO has four areas of service which we are dedicated to: Service to the Community, Campus, Nation and our Fraternity. As of last semester, fall 2005, we also did service for the international community by joining the Carolina Earthquake Relief Coalition (CERC), which raises funds and awareness for the tragic earthquake in South Asia.

One particularly memorable public service experience I had was when I volunteered at the Special Olympics Fall Games with the Senior Marshals Service Committee. While I was volunteering, I became very close to some of the teams of participants. My favorite part about this volunteering experience was when three teams which I had bonded with during my day of scoring Bocce Ball, were all receiving medals for winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the games. They were so happy and so excited and I was the epitome of a proud friend. It was a really moving experience!

Through Public Service Scholars, I learned about the need to recognize your own personal strengths and then figure out the best way to put those to good work and practice through different campus organizations and community agencies.

Major: Journalism and Mass Communication
Hometown: Charlotte, NC



Double Major: Biology and Spanish
Hometown: Raleigh, NC



Christina Paniccia

My true passion for public service arose my junior year of high school when, following a near-death car accident, I was hospitalized for nearly three months. During this time, my family and I were completely inspired by the goodness of humanity. We were greeted by volunteers with home-cooked meals, hand-knit blankets, and get-well cards. I discovered first-hand what a difference a small act of generosity can make in someone's life and I was determined to make every effort to give back to the community. Therefore, when I attended the PSS orientation and discovered the mission of the CCPS, I felt right at home.

I felt an extreme sense of empathy for anyone suffering from illness or disability and therefore began volunteering at Wake Medical Center. One memory that stands out in my mind is counseling a 5-year-old girl who was self-conscious about her scars from surgery. In response, I will never forget the smile on her face when I showed her my own "battle wounds" and explained that scars are something to be proud of; they're a symbol of strength.

Following graduation, I plan on applying to a Physician's Assistant program and continuing to actively engage in these types of public service. Engaging in public service has contributed significantly to my personal growth and maturity as an individual.

In return for serving the community, I was able to identify my passions, gain interpersonal skills, and open my eyes to some of the realities of the multi-dimensional world around me. Although I believe that I would have participated in public service regardless of my enrollment in the PSS program, the program provided the structure, motivation, and positive reinforcement that are essential to maintaining commitment and enthusiasm. I could not imagine my experience at Carolina without the enrichment of the Public Service Scholars program.



Stephanie Poole

During my time as a Public Service Scholar, I have worked with numerous community and campus organizations. I have worked with University Center for International Studies (UCIS) to launch the first “student day” of International Education Week to raise awareness and appreciation of UNC’s international landscape. I have also participated in focus groups, spoken to University advisory boards, presented at a conference in Alabama, and publicized international events. I have also volunteered with a program that is housed under UCIS, the K-12 International Outreach Program, which provides free educational presentations to North Carolina public schools.

As a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity at Carolina, I have volunteered with Special Olympics children’s soccer, Habitat for Humanity, Orange County Family Violence Prevention Center, local elementary schools, UNC Children’s Hospital, UNC campus Lost & Found, Project Homestart, Ronald McDonald House, and community nursing homes. I have also served as APO Service Chair, where I developed and organized service projects for all members. Through these experiences I have gained confidence and a deepened value of public service.



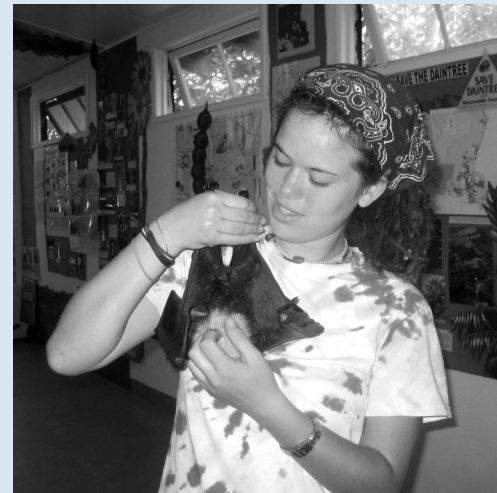
When I began the Public Service Scholars Program, my goals were to give back to the community in any way I could. As I prepare to graduate, my goals are to carry what I’ve learned in my four years at Carolina onward and to become a leader in improving society. I would like to one day use the business knowledge and service experiences I gained at UNC to successfully lead an international philanthropic organization or initiative. I will not forget the experiences and the lessons I have acquired at Carolina and with the Public Service Scholars program, and I plan on putting them to good use in the future.

Major: Business Administration
Minor: Spanish
Hometown: Efland, NC



Jessica Potter

Double Major: Journalism and Spanish
Hometown: Raleigh, NC



The idea to work in the non-profit sector crept upon me slowly. I came to Carolina thinking I was going to be an advertising major. I imagined being famous or wealthy, and really good at what I did. Then I found something that was better than being famous or wealthy, and that I could be really good at. I don’t know how it started or what turned on the light in my brain, but I do know that volunteering in the community was a great step.

I started out with environmental organizations and one-time volunteering, then moved into committees and public relations campaigns for nonprofits such as NCPlenty and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center. I pulled weeds and I learned about plants for the N.C. Botanical Gardens. I wrote letters and conducted surveys for a save-the-rainforest group in Australia (AUSTROP). I helped children make paper plate faces at a Smart Start gathering. I hooked kids up to a rock-climbing wall or set up tents at local festivals. Through the course, Promoting Change Through the Nonprofit Sector, offered by the Carolina Center for Public Service, I gained a better understanding of the grant process and feel like a useful part of team. I see now that every weed I pull or brochure I write is one step in a broader mission of bettering this world.

It’s amazing how different it is to look at the non-profit sector as a place to work instead of a place to volunteer. I find lasting connections between what I’m doing now and what I want to do in the future. Being a Public Service Scholar has solidified my resolve to help people not only in my extra hours, but as my main professional goal. I can only hope to change someone’s life like they’ve collectively changed mine.



Jeremy Ray

My first public service experience on campus was with the UNC Hospitals Platelet Donor Program. Platelets are donated to patients undergoing treatment for cancer, leukemia, severe burns, blood disorders, open-heart surgery, or organ transplants. The demand for platelets is significant as UNC Hospitals transfuses an average of seventy-five patients with platelets per week. My platelet donations have met a significant need; often being used within just days of my donation.

Another particularly meaningful service experience for me was my work as a tutor with SHINE, Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders. SHINE links college students with older immigrants and refugees seeking to learn English and navigate the complex path to U.S. citizenship. I have also tutored for ESL classes offered through Durham Tech at the University Methodist Church.

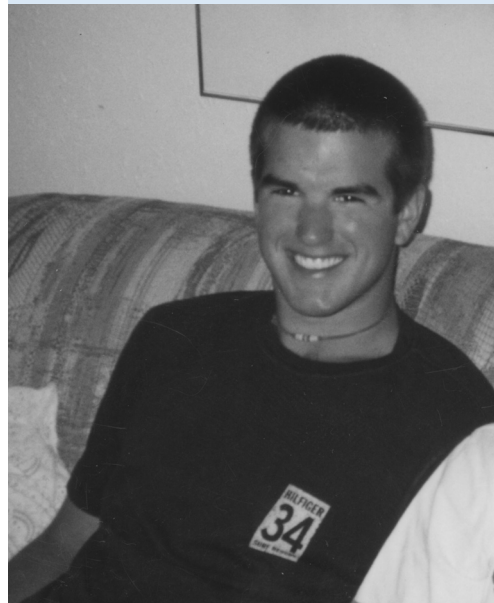
Over the course of a year, I spent time with a gentleman from China named Lei. We talked about the broad range of issues he and his wife faced living in the United States. They had never owned a car before moving to the United States, so when Lei's wife received her driver's permit, I spent time riding in their newly purchased car with her and Lei

and helped her with her driving skills. These service experiences along with an APPLES Geography service-learning class have given me the opportunity to help and form relationships of trust with people of a variety of different ages and nationalities.

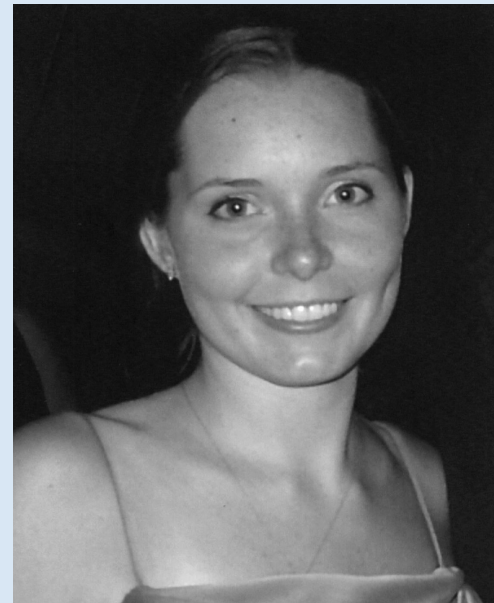
When I first entered the Public Service Scholars Program I had no specific service goals other than the fact that I wanted to serve. I now have the goal of making service a part of my life on a weekly basis even after college. Participation in this program has shown me that public service is one of the most important things anyone can do in their life.



Major: History
Minor: Exercise and Sports Science
Hometown: Winston-Salem, NC



Double Major: Biology and Religious Studies
Hometown: Kings Mountain, NC



Kimberly Robertson

The men's night shelter of Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Atlanta provided one of my first intimate experiences with the complexities of homelessness in America. Through an APPLES Alternative Spring Break program, I was able to spend a week in March 2004 along with 12 other UNC students learning about poverty and homelessness in America. We were faced with statistics, organizations, ideologies, and programs that addressed a plethora of issues accompanying poverty.

In the crevices surrounding Peachtree Street and just beyond the World of Coke, a completely different world exists — one in which the struggle for basic needs is taken day-by-day. The line distinguishing homelessness suddenly became blurred as I realized that it can not be equated to the lack of a roof and walls. Homelessness stems from innumerable factors, some of which are controllable like the things we buy and the lifestyles we choose, while others are much less manageable and seem to be engrained in the structure of our society. Our hearts were moved and we learned how to truly serve. None of these experiences was comparable to the personal conversations and very basic relationships established that night in Atlanta and through similar experiences in the following years.

Since March 2004, I've returned to Georgia as a Public Service Scholar and have engaged in similar experiences in Greensboro, North Carolina. Despite the intensity of these trips, I've been most affected by the hours spent on the benches on Franklin Street conversing with the men and women who live there. They lack homes and finances and clearly there is room for service in those ways, but another type of service is desperately needed as well — one easily offered through a shared meal or a conversation on a sunny afternoon.



Jonathan Saas

During my time at Carolina, I have been involved in a large number of service events and organizations. Each has taught me something different about service, myself, and others. Through a Spanish service-learning class, I served as an English Second Language (ESL) tutor at a local middle school. This service provided insight into the difficulties faced by immigrants that can make academic and other types of success more difficult. The Safe Zone skills training allowed me to gain a greater understanding of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer community and break down stereotypes of this population. This training has helped me in my interactions as a Resident Advisor and in personal friendships as well.

As a Rape Crisis Advocate with the Community Counseling and Crisis Center in my hometown of Oxford, Ohio, I worked with sexual assault survivors and/or their family and friends to provide emotional support, information about sexual assault, and to help the survivors know his or her legal rights. I have been in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at UNC for four years and held positions of Alfa Flight Commander and Wing Commander. When I graduate from Carolina, I will become a commissioned officer and hold the rank of second lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Each service experience has helped open my eyes to the opportunities and challenges faced by others and helped to shape my service and leadership style. In the future, I will continue to focus on serving the Hispanic/Latino community and have a positive impact on the individuals and community around me. The Public Service Scholars program has given me the opportunity to pursue service work that I am passionate about and will continue to pursue after I graduate.



Double Major: Philosophy and Psychology
Hometown: Oxford, OH



Major: Latin American Studies
Minor: Creative Writing
Hometown: Lexington, MA



Matthew Saldaña

I began the Public Scholars Program unsure if I would be able to complete all of its requirements, but saw it as a personal challenge. Over the years, my vision of public service has expanded tremendously. I founded Other Words Magazine in the fall 2005 as an alternative source for literary expression with the support of the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence. While planning the magazine's direction, my staff and I made its focal point the "Sex Section," an unprecedented venue for frank discussion about sex and professional information about sexual health. With the guidance of The Center for Healthy Student Behaviors (CHSB), Planned Parenthood and Safer Sex Initiative we coordinated public service information with editorial content. I will take the experience of Other Words with me as a reminder of my potential to affect change as a writer and publisher. I never knew that I could turn magazine publishing into a public service endeavor!

Throughout my time at Carolina, I have also tutored several UNC staff in English as a Second Language (ESL) through the campus organization, The Carolina Language Partnership (CLaP). In addition, I have worked with the Chapel

Hill-Carrboro School System, teaching ESL to students in elementary and middle school. Taking an APPLES Spanish Conversation service-learning class was invaluable for this service. The Spanish conversations skills that I attained in the class have helped enormously in gaining the respect and trust of the individuals with whom I have worked.

I am currently volunteering on an organic co-op in Cuba, something I could have never imagined doing when I came to college. Regardless of my future career path; teacher, writer, publisher, farmer, I will continue to volunteer my time as I have done at Carolina. I thank the Public Service Scholars Program for its encouragement and recognition.



Meera Shah

I entered the PSS program because I wanted an organized way of engaging in community service. It forced me to look above and beyond to find work that I was passionate about and could really make an impact through. During my four years at Carolina, I have spent my many hours working towards HIV prevention on and off campus.

On campus I have worked with the Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC), an organization that does HIV/AIDS advocacy work and education about HIV/AIDS, safe sex, and other related issues. Last summer I had the opportunity to pursue my passions on a global scale when I traveled to Malawi with World Camp for Kids, a nonprofit organization started in 2000 by two undergraduates at UNC. World Camp for Kids teaches children in rural schools and street shelters in Malawi and Honduras about HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition, gender equality, environmental awareness, and human rights.

I have met a valuable network of people through the Public Service Scholars Program who have helped me learn about more ways to get involved and actively pursue the career path I have chosen.

My experience with World Camp in Malawi was incredible and has helped me frame the next couple years of my life. I gained hands-on experience with public health work and realized the important connection between education and clinical healthcare. This summer I am going to Honduras in order to help establish World Camp for Kids' first program in Tela. I plan to pursue a Masters in nutrition for a year before I attend medical school and continue to work in a global health setting.



Major: Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Rockhill, SC



Naman Shah

Major: Environmental Health Sciences
Minor: Chemistry
Hometown: Cary, NC



Globally, infectious diseases are on the rise. Propagated by modern trade and travel, they now transcend national and even transcontinental confines. Twenty prominent diseases including tuberculosis, malaria, and cholera have re-emerged or spread geographically since 1973, often in more virulent and drug-resistant forms. Infectious diseases are not only significant causes of mortality, but are responsible for substantial morbidity and disable hundreds of millions of people. This is an immense tragedy when well-proven, cost-effective interventions exist. Communicable diseases disproportionately affect young children and the poor. This cruel disparity makes infectious disease control a matter of justice, not one of simple charity.

My interest in infectious diseases arose from an effort to combine my passions for science and service. As a child I had jaundice, typhoid fever, and repeated bouts of malaria. My experiences with infectious disease began with tuberculosis protein research in the School of Medicine. To gain firsthand experience I worked as a Public Service Scholar with Save the Children in Bolivia. After having gained technical expertise and made original contributions to the field, I collaborated with

the US Navy Medical Research Unit in Cambodia. Recently, I launched my own study on markers of malaria drug resistance in Guyana.

Combating infectious disease requires an understanding and application of underlying biological, epidemiological, and operational factors. We need more resources devoted to understanding key systems for priority diseases. This will lead to critical technologies including vaccines, drugs, and diagnostic tools. Improved surveillance is necessary to accurately understand the distribution of disease burden, risk factors, etc, and effectively allocate scarce resources. These pursuits will enhance our capabilities against infectious diseases but ultimately sociopolitical resolve and a commitment to social justice will determine the outcome of any global endeavor.

Julia Foster Shalen

I always knew that health care access was a very important issue in our country. However, growing up with two doctors as parents, I never thought about what would happen to my family's finances if I got sick. I assumed that the hospitals my parents worked for would always take care of me and that when I recovered I would come back to the same circumstances I had left. It was only when I came to UNC that I began to understand the impact of illness and to see the people whose lives were effected.

During my second semester, I participated in the UNC Dance Marathon for the first (but definitely not last) time. The UNC Dance Marathon, to which I dedicated a majority of my time as a Public Service Scholar at Carolina, exists solely to help the families of patients in the North Carolina Children's Hospital. Through the "For the Kids Fund," the Marathon pays for any expense that a family may incur that is not covered by a generic health insurance policy. The money raised can be used for such expenses as gas, food, bills, mortgage payments, plane tickets and anything else a family may need so that they can focus on the child's recovery rather than worrying about the cost of the

hospital stay and how it will impact their finances. Through this experience I was able to really grasp the devastating effects of having a sick child and constantly having to worry about their health and your expenses.

While the Marathon's main purpose is to fund-raise, I think that in doing so, we show how much Carolina students care about the issues surrounding affordable health care and shed light on the problems with our current health care payment policies.



Major: Psychology
Minor: History
Hometown: Mill Valley, CA



Major: Business Administration
Minor: Public Policy Analysis
Hometown: Marietta, GA



Tracey Allison Steele

During my junior and senior years of high school, I tutored students at an inner city elementary school. Every Wednesday afternoon, I'd spend a couple hours reviewing the day's reading and math lessons with the students. This volunteer project opened my eyes to some of the inequities within the U.S. education system. The elementary school at which I tutored was overcrowded and lacked adequate resources; many of classrooms had 30 students to one teacher and the books were ripped and tattered. As a result, many of the students did not receive the time or attention they needed to keep up with their work. When I began working on a weekly basis with these students and saw them improve, I knew this was a cause to which I wanted to dedicate myself.

In college, I continued my service as a direct response to the widening educational achievement gap among affluent students and students from low-income families and minority backgrounds. As a Public Service Scholar I tutored students at a local elementary school in Durham and mentored adolescents at the Durham County Youth Home.

Strengthening the education system is an extensive, but not impossible process. There are a number of ways to improve the current system of education. These strategies include tutoring, vouchers, incentives, sanctions and increased funding. Accountability is key in devising any sort of plan of action. The educational achievement gap among affluent and disadvantaged students affects all Americans, for the underachieving students of today should become the responsible citizens, future leaders, tax-paying workers, and public influencers of tomorrow. It is necessary to arm these students with the same knowledge passed on to their affluent peers.



Jason Scott Warner

As a Public Service Scholar I have volunteered in three different elementary schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School System. During this time I have noticed that minority students (either racial or linguistic) are often split up into classes with only other members of their respective “groups.” Because of this, children are not being exposed to the wide variety of peers that attend their school. Consequently, this creates an ignorance about other people and cultures that could otherwise be ameliorated with greater integration among classes.

In response, I created my own non-profit organization, Carolina STRIDES, to help raise awareness about issues of diversity in the Chapel Hill community. Since its inception three years ago, members of the organization have done more than one hundred presentations in local elementary and middle schools teaching children about the various

cultures from which they come. To reach out to high school and University students, I co-founded a free, day-long conference called “The UNITY Summit” sponsored by Carolina STRIDES. The Summit serves as a forum for young adults to discuss issues of race and diversity that affect our lives daily. Even after I graduate, I know that Carolina STRIDES will continue to reach out and increase awareness of diversity issues throughout the Chapel Hill community.



Major: International Studies
Minor: French
Hometown: Hendersonville, NC



Major: Exercise and Sports Science
Hometown: St. Pauls, NC

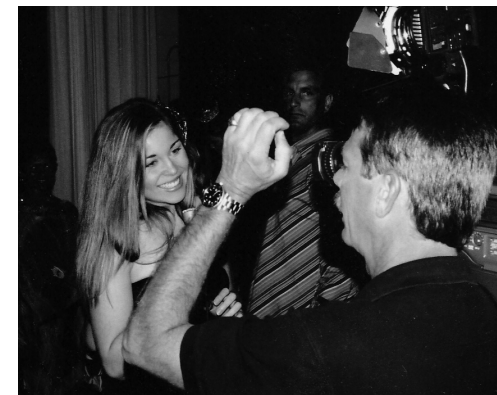


Erin Jane White

I have served in many different areas of the volunteer community, including soup kitchens, the Miss North Carolina Pageant platform program, Special Olympics, Walk-a-thons, and fundraisers. By far, Project HELP (Helping the Elderly Live Productively) has been one of my most significant projects. My weekly visits of helping to prepare meals, decorating their homes for the holidays, taking them grocery shopping, or just sitting and listening to their thoughts and opinions, has helped me to develop strong friendships.

One summer I volunteered with the Cumberland County Special Olympics and I designed a talent show for the athletes. The young man who won the competition was blind, autistic and 50% deaf in one ear. I held a radio up to his hearing ear while he performed his song. He had such a beautiful voice! After we announced that he had won, through his tears he mouthed to his mother, “I did it mom, I just won.” I think that moment defined what it meant to be a volunteer. To see the complete picture of success and joy in someone who gets doubted so frequently by society changed my life.

I joined the Public Service Scholars Program to motivate me to stay involved on campus. I realize now that I have learned a lot about the logistics of service and the importance of spreading awareness on the need for service in this and surrounding communities. This program isn’t about staying “involved,” it is about learning who you are and tapping into your resources to help bring about change. Even if the change one makes seems insignificant, a small drop can make a ripple that can disrupt an entire puddle. Thanks to this program I did more than just stay involved, I made ripples.



STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

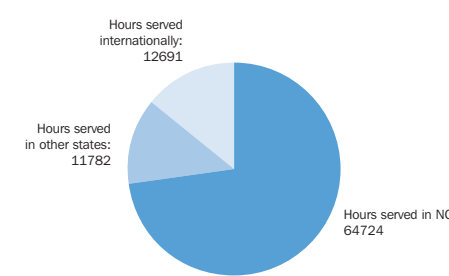
Since its inception, the Public Service Scholars Program has grown not only in student enrollment (from 78 students in Spring of 2003), but in high regard both on and off the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus. The following statistics demonstrate the diverse backgrounds and interests of the students, and provide information about their training and service.

TOP TEN MAJORS OF PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS 2005-2006

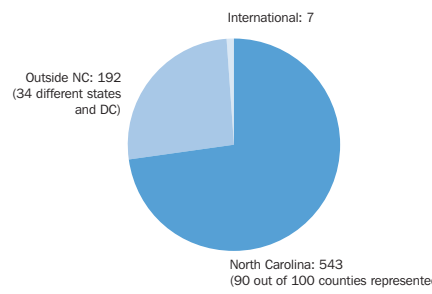
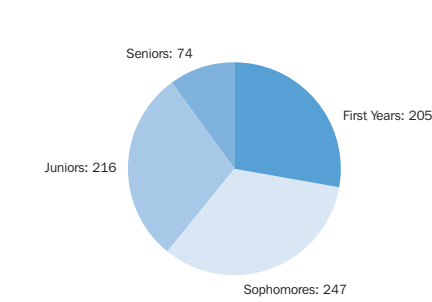
PSS represent 50 majors — approximately 75% of all majors offered at Carolina.

1. Biology
2. Undecided
3. Business
4. International Studies
5. Political Science
6. Psychology
7. Journalism & Mass Communication
8. Chemistry
9. English
10. Sociology

PSS SERVICE HOUR DATA AS OF 2006



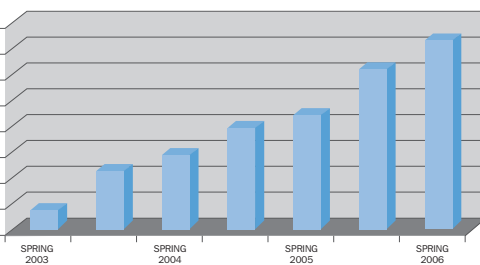
PSS ENROLLMENT DATA AS OF 2006



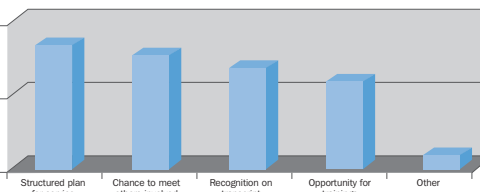
SKILL AREAS IN WHICH STUDENTS COMPLETE TRAININGS

1. Advocacy / Community Organizing
2. Financial Management
3. Fundraising and Grant Writing
4. Diversity and Cultural Awareness
5. Effective Communication
6. Ethics
7. Organizational Leadership and Management
8. Service-Specific Training

TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS PROGRAM PER SEMESTER



WHAT ATTRACTED STUDENTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS PROGRAM?



Hundreds of community agencies and their representatives have provided invaluable opportunities, mentorship and support to the Public Service Scholar graduates. Listed below is just a snapshot of the variety and scope of agencies with whom the Public Service Scholars have worked:

A Helping Hand	Estes Hills Elementary	North Carolina Museum of Art
A New Day Juvenile Day Reporting Center	Family Violence Prevention Center	Orange County Parks and Recreation
AMA Global Health Committee	Foundation for Sustainable Development	Orange County Partnership for Young Children
American Cancer Society	Githens Middle School	Other Words
American Heart Association	Habitat for Humanity	Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council
Animal Protection Society of Orange County	Heartwalk	Project Kaikohe
Asheboro High School	Highlands Biological Station	Question Why Empowerment Centers
Best Buddies	Himalayan Health Exchange	Residential Services, Inc.
Better World Books	HomeStart	Ronald McDonald House
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Durham	Horton's Kids, Inc.	Ruimveldt Children's Aid Center
Blue Devil Triathlon	INBio, National Biodiversity Institute	Servant Center
Camp Celebrate	INROADS	Seva Bharati
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation	Inter- Faith Council	Solidaridad
Carolina Meadows	International Student Volunteers & AUSTROP	South Orange Emergency Medical Services
Carr Court Head Start	K12 International Outreach Program	St. Thomas More Church
Carrboro Elementary	Jumptime - Mary Scroggs Elementary	Sunrise Corner
Catholic Parish Outreach	Kay Reid Fulkurson Child Development Center	TEACCH Preschool
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	Lake Eden Arts Festival	The Foundation for the Development of Needy Communities
Charles House	Las Guapitas	The Learning Center
Christian Appalachain Project	Lost Mountain Middle School	Tu Du Peace Village
Culbreth Middle School	Make-A-Wish Foundation	U.S. Department of State
Dream Sports Soccer	McDougle Middle School	UNC/ Henderson County Public Schools
Durham Jaycees	Merlefest	Veerayatan
Durham Nativity School	Muscular Dystrophy Association; Raleigh	Women's Health Project
Durham Tech	New World Foundation	YMCA
El Centro Latino		
El Pueblo		
Eric Montross Foundation		



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ABOUT THE CENTER

The Carolina Center for Public Service engages and supports the faculty, students, and staff of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in meeting the needs of North Carolina. The Center strengthens the University's public service commitment by promoting scholarship and service that are responsive to the concerns of the state and contribute to the common good.

In all our efforts, the Carolina Center for Public Service seeks to build partnerships throughout the University and the state. In addition to the Public Service Scholars Program, our activities include fellowships and grants for faculty and students, a Public Service Awards program, an online Public Service Database, hosting the Chancellor's annual Tar Heel Bus Tour and a weekly public service listserv.

The Center relies on private gifts to sustain and grow its programs. If you are interested in supporting the Public Service Scholars Program or other programs of the Center, please contact:

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