



HONORS
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

PERIPLUS

Periplus: A circumnavigation; a voyage or journey round a coastline;
an epic journey, an odyssey

The creative talents of honors students arrive before they do. In December each year, Kate Bruce, Bo Dean, Carole Reynolds and I begin to open envelopes containing charcoal sketches, water colors, photography and digital video that accompany the applications to join next year's select group of honor's students. Along with the names and home towns, along the high grade point averages and test scores and along with the hours devoted to service and sports, new creative voices begin to speak through reflective essays and artistic achievement before their actual voices are ever heard. Honors students bring with them more than talents for chemistry, biology, history, math and languages; they bring also their performances as musicians, painters, actors, creative writers and filmmakers. Most will not major in art, theatre or music, but increasingly, their achievements in academic research are paralleled by their creative performances on the stage.

Bill Atwill,
Associate Director

HONORS STUDENTS ACTIVE IN THE ARTS

By Bethany Nuckolls '08

The conductor has not yet appeared on the stage of Kenan Auditorium, but the musicians of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra are already warming up in a dissonance of different keys. Offstage, honors student and featured soloist **Catherine Starek** prepares herself mentally and musically for WSO's first performance of 2008. Her flute joins the *arpeggio* chaos that is the prelude to a Howard Hanson's *Serenade for Flute, Harp and Strings*. This is the skill of the musician—forming music from mayhem.

"Catherine Starek earned a chance to solo with the Wilmington Symphony through some very competitive auditions before a panel of nationally-respected judges," said Steven Errante, conductor of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and professor of music at UNCW. "She is also a member of the Wilmington Symphony and has been an outstanding student both musically and academically."

Starek is only a sophomore, but her musical talent has been flourishing since high school

when she played in Wilmington's Hoggard High School marching band and won the John Philip Sousa Award. Now, studying under Mary Jo White of UNCW's Music Department, she has performed in three honors recitals and with the Oleaner Chamber Orchestra, and has won an award in the prestigious Richard Deas Music competition.

"Dr. White is the main reason behind my decision to study music at UNCW," Starek said. "Music is not just her profession. It is also her passion."

Starek also intends to combine her profession with her passion. This means teaching music lessons and earning a master's degree. And just as her dreams inspired the effort that carried her this far, she continues to aim high in the manner of UNCW honors scholars: "My ultimate dream is to play under John Williams' baton."

Starek is one of many talented students involved with UNCW's Honors Scholars Program. "Honors," says program manager Bo Dean, "is committed to providing opportunities for hon-



Honors junior Catherine Starek performs with the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra

ors students to engage in the arts in their community."

Honors demonstrates its support of the arts by co-sponsoring arts events with other departments, providing tickets for honors students to local events and venues, and integrating these events into the freshman honors course. As these students will attest, the Honors Program has been powerfully present in the arts throughout the year—musically, theatrically and visually.



Angela Conicelli (rt), Kate MacCallum (lt) in *Southern Girls*.

HONORS ON THE STAGE

Perhaps nowhere was the presence of "honors in the arts" more visible than in the theatrical productions performed onstage in the new Cultural Arts Building this past year. Beginning in spring 2007 with *15 Minute Shakespeare*, sophomore **Amanda Horney** played

Ophelia and then starred as Elma, one of the lead roles in *Bus Stop* during the fall semester. Amanda hasn't been the only highly visible honors student in the Theatre Department. Joining her are junior **Angela Conicelli** and freshman **Kate MacCallum**, who played charac-

ters Dolly and June-Adele to rave reviews in *Southern Girls*, a memory play by Sheri Bailey and Dura Temple.

Angela and Amanda will also return to the stage in fall 2008 as members of the cast of Shakespeare's *King John*.

HONORS IN MUSIC



With high hopes of becoming a lawyer, it seems inevitable that sophomore **Will Piner** should push his passion for music to the back burner. Yet, he participates in the UNCW Saxtet and spends Sunday nights in downtown Wilmington playing at Trebenzio's on Front Street where his friends from honors show their support. It is ultimately Piner's love for music that connects him to the Wilmington community and allows his passion to inspire others.

"I want to put the story of my life into sound," Piner explains. "My emotions, experiences, things I've heard

that influenced me all come out in my music."

Freshman **Jared Tabor** says, "The Honors Program has given me a lot of support in the form of student participation." He is referring to the attendance of his fellow students at Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Brass Quintet performances where he plays trumpet and tuba, respectively. Influenced by his older brother's love for music, Tabor now shares with other students that same passion, inspiring his audience through his dedication to the arts.

Other music ensemble students include first-year hon-

ors student **Christina DeFrancesco**, a member of the Wilmington Symphony and first violin of the newly formed UNCW String Ensemble. She is joined there by three other honors freshmen--**Tiffany Strickland**, violin, **Tammy Tran**, violin, and **Kai Feliciano**, viola. The String Ensemble made its performance debut before a huge crowd at Kenan Auditorium as part of the "Dub Idol" competition during Homecoming. In April, freshmen **Lauren Ryan**, flute, and **Heather Page**, clarinet, performed in Kenan Auditorium with the UNCW Wind Symphony, under the direction of Christofer Ackerman.

HONORS IN VISUAL ARTS

For many, the idea of honors conjures up images of brainy young lawyers and mathematicians. Indeed, the Honors Scholars Program at UNCW strives to challenge students academically, but perhaps none challenge themselves as much as those in the arts who must balance both their academics and their art. A double major in her junior year, **Andrea Dingeldein** maintains her grades in marine biology and her talent in studio art. Her paintings, now on display in the honors office, depict the fusion of biological and spiritual elements

of the human form.

"I hope that my art is a reflection of the real core of the people I paint in my portraits. Each person has made an impact on my life, and therefore I am inspired to capture the thing I love most about their soul in a visual form."

Caitlin Brooks, also a junior, pursuing a degree in elementary education, finds art to be a means of relaxation. "When I paint, I get lost," she says. "I could sit and paint for hours." Her paintings, also displayed in the honors office, evoke a different side

of the imagination, one that began as doodles in her high school notebooks. At first, she thought her art would never be more than that. "I became interested in art again when I took a trip to New York City," she said. Both her photographs and paintings rediscover the city as a source of inspiration. **Kim Tolle-son**, a freshman, plans to major in creative writing, but her strong visual eye for composition serves her well.



HONORS ON SCREEN

Joel Davenport '06 received the Department of Film Studies' prestigious 'Overall Excellence in Film Studies award'. For his honors project, Davenport produced a short narrative fiction film, "The Drill," set during a 1950s nuclear bomb drill. "The Drill" has shown at the Cucalorus Film Festival, the Film Gate International Student Film Festival in St. Louis, MO where it received third prize in the narrative category, and the Carolina Film and Video Festival in Greensboro where it won the 'Best North Carolina Student Filmmaker' prize.



HONORS IN PRINT

Travis Watt is a third-year undergraduate double-majoring in English and creative writing. Despite the course load, he's found time to write for UNCW publications, and even gained some recognition as a runner-up in the 2007 UNCW Flash Fiction Contest. His latest creative work appeared in the 2008 spring issue of UNCW's *Atlantis* magazine. Watt modestly describes his

highly imaginative fiction as inspired by "stories about individuals with gaping voids inside them colliding against others for a sense of belonging." He adds that the challenges and encouragement of both administrators and educators in the Honors Program have given him that sense of belonging. "It's a nice, homey sort of feeling."



♪ ON ANOTHER NOTE by Tiffany Strickland '11

Music is a powerful adhesive—able to bring together students from all different areas of specialization. Although the catalogue title of my orchestra class is "orchestra for non-majors," in concert we become the "UNCW String Ensemble".

We are lucky enough to have Steven Errante, conductor of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra, as director of our modest group. Four out of the seven string players in the ensemble are honors freshmen: Christina DeFrancesco, Kai Feliciano, Tammy Tran and myself.

Tammy Tran has been playing the violin for more than five years. She comments,

"I am majoring in chemistry and math but that doesn't stop me from playing my violin. I do like the idea that even though most of us are not music majors, there is still an ensemble that allows us to perform together."

Kai Feliciano, a film studies major, is also a talented cellist. "I played the cello in high school and wanted to pick it up again in college." Kai reveals her insight into being a part of a small orchestra: "You really get to know the other people and know that when you are playing together it is *you* playing together."

The UNCW String Ensemble performed in Beckwith Recital Hall of the Cultural

Arts Building on April 1, 2008. We played a Corelli *Concerto* and a Mozart *Divertimento*.

We invite you to support our musical endeavors and join the ranks of those bound by the common love of music.



BETSY CLINE AWARDED JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP

Betsy Cline, a senior Political Science major in the University of North Carolina Wilmington Honors program and a staff writer for *The Seahawk*, was named a 2008 National Press Foundation fellow. She attended the "Introduction to Washington for College Journalists" program in Washington, D.C., in February. She was one of only 18 students chosen nationally. The Washington program is designed to provide college students interested in journalism with "an overview of Washington and provide tools and knowledge to delve deeper when students return home or land first jobs." Cline has had previous internships with *The Charlotte Observer* and with MSNBC in New York City.



Betsy Cline, Class of 2009

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT: SEAHAWKS AT THE SOUP KITCHEN



BY ABE JOHNS '10

Seahawks at the Soup Kitchen is a UNCW service group created to help students become involved with the Wilmington community through volunteer service. This group helps serve the homeless of Wilmington at the Good Shepherd Center, through its soup kitchen.

In high school, I volunteered at a local soup kitchen with my church, but when I came to college, I was surprised to find no service groups involved in this way. However, with the help of the magical social network called Facebook, I was able to quickly create a group of interested volunteers that presently has 50 members and is still growing. When forming this group I decided to write up the follow-

ing mission statement.

Our purpose is to be a group of UNCW students and friends that:

- Helps fellow Seahawks become involved in the Wilmington community by providing constant, consecutive service opportunities (once a month, at least).

- Performs community service through a local, well-recognized soup kitchen.

- Helps promote awareness of homelessness.

- And provides our service with positive, patient, open and caring attitudes.

On Feb. 16 we began our work with The Good Shepherd Center of Wil-

mington, a non-profit, privately funded homeless shelter and soup kitchen. They have their own mission statement: "...to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and foster transition of those in crisis to independence in the community." We were able to help out during our first visit by preparing nearly a hundred tuna sandwiches and jello desserts. The group did a great job serving lunch and cleaning up the buffet line afterwards. We were even told that the desserts were delicious.

We returned twice more this spring to the Good Shepherd Center soup kitchen and plan to visit other soup kitchens this summer to maintain our goal of serving the Wilmington community once a month. We also participated in April as part of the NCHC Student Service Day. If you are interested in becoming part of this budding service group, feel free to check out our Facebook group, *Seahawks at the Soup Kitchen*.



HONORS ALUMNI NEWS

Elizabeth Cherry (BA French and Sociology, '99) successfully defended her doctoral dissertation—a comparative study of animal rights social movements in the U.S. and France—and was awarded her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia May 2008.

Corinne L. Williams (BS Biology, '01) earned her Ph.D. in biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in June 2007 and is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at UCSB. Her most recent publication is "Autoregulation is essential for precise temporal and steady-state regulation by the *Bordetella* BvgAS phosphorelay" in the *Journal of Bacteriology* (2007).

Sarah Milliken (BS Biology, '03) received her M.D. from the University of Colorado School of Medicine May 2008.

Rebecka Brasso (BS Biology, '04) finished her M.S. in biology at the College of William and Mary in December 2006. She studied the effects of mercury contamination on tree swallows in the Shenandoah River Valley in Virginia. Her article, "The Movement of Aquatic Mercury Through Terrestrial Food Webs," was published in *Science*, one of the leading journals in the field. A paper from her honors thesis was published in 2006. Rebecka is an instructor of biology at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia, and the assistant coach of a under-13 girl's travel soccer team.

Tricia Meredith (BS Biology, '04) is working on her PhD in biology at Florida Atlantic University. Her dissertation is on olfaction in elasmobranchs (sharks, skates and rays), studying how sensi-

tive they are to odors and determining which odors stimulate them the most. As part of her research, she traveled to Hawaii twice and often to the Florida Keys to find interesting shark and ray species for her experiments. Tricia also had the opportunity to work with several documentary crews for National Geographic and Discovery Channel on television programs focused on debunking shark stereotypes and promoting conservation. She was elected as the student workshop coordinator of the student activities committee of the American Elasmobranch Society (AES), and led a student workshop, "The Media and Shark Research" at the 2007 AES meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Her article, "The *polychaete Cirriformia punctata* is chemically defended against generalist coral reef predators," was published in the *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* (2007). Tricia writes, "When I first started at UNCW, I could not even fathom completing an honors thesis let alone publishing my work! That experience has set me on an exciting path as a research scientist, and I couldn't be happier!"

Sarah van Schagen (BA English, BS Marine Biology, '04) is an assistant editor for *Grist: Environmental News and Commentary* in Seattle, Washington. Before joining the *Grist* editorial staff, Sarah wrote for several daily newspapers, and spent a summer at *National Geographic*. According to Sarah, when she's not knee-deep in the world of fact-checking and comma-wrangling, she is immersed in the beautiful marine environment of the Pacific Northwest, donning SCUBA gear in the 50-degree waters or teaching kids about conservation at the Seattle Aquarium.

Ashley Williamson—(BS Psychology, '04) graduated from the Master of Social Work program at East Carolina University in May 2007, got married, moved back to Wilmington, passed the state clinical exam for her P-LCSW license, and started a new job as a mental health clinician at Chrysalis Center, conducting individual, group, family and couples counseling. Before beginning her M.S.W. Ashley worked as an administrative assistant and psychology intern at Chrysalis Center.

Kevin Kolmos—(BS Biology, '05) completed the Master of Environmental Studies Program at the College of Charleston in June 2007. During that time he worked with the coastal shark and red drum tagging projects at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Currently, he is working with the Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction Program performing offshore fisheries research and data collection from North Carolina to Florida. He writes, "I love the field work and experience I am gaining as well as the times spent with the brilliant people that work here. It makes for an exciting work day. I am truly living my dreams. I always think about all my wonderful times at UNCW including the memories made with the Honors Program. I left UNCW and the Honors Program with the experience needed to tackle the real world."

Brandi McCullough—(BS Sociology, '05) is finishing her master's program at UNCG in sociology. She hopes to take some time from school prior to starting a career and "spend time investing in relationships I've put on the back burner for the past three years." Then she would like to work in the field of gerontology, in both

applied and research areas, working directly with persons with Alzheimer's Disease.

Sabryna Sarver (BS English, '05) earned her Master of Arts degree from Georgia Southern University in May 2008. Her thesis is titled, "Creating Aotearoa Through Discourse: Language and Character in Keri Hulme's *the bone people*."

Monica Lassiter-Frazier—(BS Chemistry, '06) began graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill in 2006 in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics in the medical school. She is studying a human protein called hCE1 (human carboxylesterase 1), performing molecular dynamics simulations to learn about how its motions relate to its hydrolase activity. Monica writes, "I can pass along to you that my experience with the entire honors thesis project has more than prepared me for the rigorous type of lab work expected in graduate school while taking classes too. If any of the honors students are considering UNC for graduate school, I would be happy to answer any questions about the school and area. Speaking of that, the work of my honors thesis was published in *Biophysical Journal* (2007)."

Edye Strickland—(BS Biology, '07) has an internship at Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California. She is applying to North Carolina State University's zoology program for graduate study in fall 2008.

Russell Bienas—(BS Chemistry, '07) is in his first year of dental school at the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

GOING GLOBAL: SERVING IN THE PEACE CORPS IN PARAGUAY

by Lauren McCullough '06

I have been serving in the Peace Corps and living in Paraguay for the last year. My work as a volunteer with the Development of Urban Youth project allows me to connect with youth and foster leadership as I provide information to help youth make health decisions in life. Here is a little bit about what I have done and am currently doing.

I teach four classes of English on Saturdays, with a total of 57 students. While teaching English is not one of Peace Corps' main objectives, it is something that many youth want. Mastering English is seen as a ticket to working on a higher level, especially with the rising computer-based job industry. Moreover, it is part of a certificate program contracted through the Peace Corps and the National Ministry of Education. Youth can add the certificate to their resume when looking for work (especially helpful for computers) or applying for a university education.

Running a winter vacation camp kept me busy with 180 children participants from around the neighborhood, but of course I had help. Involving the local youth to be "captains" of the camp, to help plan and organize and lead the games, really showed them how to become better organizers and boosted their self-esteem by doing something worthwhile for the community. More significantly, we played many relay games with both boys AND girls. While this may not seem revolutionary, there is a huge lack of physical activities for girls here. Boys play soccer, but girls do not really participate in organized sports. By showing the community that girls and boys can play the same physical games side by side, we helped to even out the gender inequality that is very much a part of Paraguayan society.

Part of my job is giving life skills presentations and talks in the schools. Right now I am only working with the eight and ninth grade classes to give chats (*charlas* in Spanish) about themes ranging from self-esteem and personal values to drugs/alcohol and safe relationships. When my grasp of the language is more complete, I know my youth better, and I am paired with a Paraguayan organization, I will be giving *charlas* on more sensitive subjects such as sex education, pregnancy and AIDS.

Once a week, I speak on a local youth's radio show on the same types of themes mentioned above. I hope to eventually have my own program and invite nurses or representatives from various organizations to come and speak on a range of topics, from nutrition to available services in the area.

I am starting a garden in my family's yard. I hope this will encourage my neighbors to turn their own yards into a harvest, as vegetables are lacking in the Paraguayan diet.

We are starting a Commission to Better the Neighborhood--"Pro-Barrio". It will mostly consist of fundraising activities to help buy back some of the cable that was stolen from our plaza lights. Hopefully a cleaning project will follow to introduce better trash disposal techniques, such as recycling and burying instead of burning.

There are a thousand different avenues I can take with this job; sometimes it is hard to decide on one! At the moment, my chosen avenue shows the promise of more summer camps and opportunities to offer leadership camps to youth in the area.

Besitos de Paraguay!

~ Lauren



Congratulations to our Graduates



(Students listed here by major, not in order. Photo by Jamie Moncrief)

HONORS IN...

Biology or Marine Biology: Lyndsay Ann Bell, Martin Tomas Benavides, Carol Jean Hett, Thiago G. Lima, Johnathan Daniel Maxey, Caitlin Ann Elizabeth McKinstry, David John McPherson, Carolyn Brodford Odenwelder, Casey Lynn Personius, Lindsey Ann Staszak, Catherine Stuart
Chemistry: Sarah Jane Agey, Lindsey Kate Boroughs, Colleen M. Connelly, Michael Kenneth Harrington, Sarah Kush Higgins, Justin Douglas Isaacs, Andrew Kenneth McGinniss, Sean Edward Miller, Jamie L. Smith, James Svetlovics **Education:** Sara Virginia Moser **English:** Shawna Michelle Lesseur-Blas, Brinkley Elizabeth Wilson **French:** Elana Kristine Nunez **Film Studies:** Devin Paul DiMattia **Music:** Alex David McAllister **Nursing, including Clinical Research:** Rebecca Adams Bennett, Megan Nicole Brown, Shannon Rose Catlett, Kelsey Ellis Decker, Lauran Blair Hardison, Jennifer Lynn Smith, Natalie Ellen Soderholm, Jennifer Strickland **Philosophy & Religion:** Mary Lynn von Aue **Political Science:** Joseph James Paratory **Psychology:** Jason Erik Boye, Robert Miles Hulick, Alicia E. Skorupinski, Katherine Tinker **Social Work:** Taylor Janine Kramer **Sociology:** Brendan M. Roth



(Students listed here by major, not in order. Photo by Jamie Moncrief)

UNIVERSITY HONORS WITH HONORS IN...

Biology or Marine Biology: Elizabeth Ellen Brown, Ashley Michael Cedzo, Cory Lynn Dashiell, Alexandra Stikas Fries, Marian Elena Landon, Christopher J Schulze, Tom Tascone **Chemistry:** Kristin Lesniak **Communication Studies:** Lauren Elizabeth Cribbs, Ginny Tyson **Creative Writing:** Peter Bernard Magellan, Bethany Kate Nuckolls **Criminal Justice:** Holli S. Reeves **Education:** Deanna Alexandra McCollum **English:** William Coleman, Martha Blaine Henderson, Naomi Louise Kemper, Emily Wallwork **Finance:** Mary Catherine Patman **Film Studies:** Joseph Patrick Wade, Christine Carr York **Marketing:** John Seth Johnson **Music:** Gloria Elizabeth Spillers **Nursing:** Elizabeth Lauren Crisp, Donnay Fulton Hall **Physical Education:** Steven Stanley Welc **Psychology:** Rachel Kathlene Graves, Cortney Elizabeth Templeman

Periplus Family

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Bill Atwill
Bo Dean
Abe Johns
Bethany Nuckolls
Tiffany Strickland
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IN YOUR CORNER: KATE BRUCE

Spring semester is the time to reflect on the year and our accomplishments. We dedicate this issue of our newsletter to recognizing many of our students' accomplishments in the arts.

As someone whose only claim to fame in the arts is that I can throw pots and play a few Neil Young songs on guitar, it is a pleasure to see examples of true genius and creativity in music, art and film featured in this newsletter. For some, the love of the arts goes hand-in-hand with their scholarly pursuits and careers; for others, their expression in the arts is avocational. All of these students offer creative ways to express themselves and their ideas in a form beyond the written word. We thank them for sharing their insights, intuition, talent, and imagination.

This year we had a record number of honors graduates; more than 90 students completed honors projects. From biology to film studies to marketing, students joined with their faculty supervisors to explore a topic in depth. Congratulations, students, on your successful projects!

We also welcomed two new additions to our Honors family this year Johnson Akinleye, who joins us as assistant vice chancellor of academic programs, overseeing and advocating for the Honors Scholars Program in the Office of Academic Affairs, and Carole Reynolds, who joins us as administrative associate in our Honors office.

Enjoy the summer!

