

Making Law Personal

By Christina Neitzey

Spending ten weeks as a policy intern with the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) in Washington, D.C. proved to be the ideal final summer experience for me as a Levine Scholar. This internship served as a capstone experience that incorporated both my academic studies in criminal justice and my community involvement with children in foster care. Working at CDF further fueled my ambition to ensure that laws are developed, implemented, and enforced, giving everyone an equal chance for justice and a voice in society, especially those whose voices may otherwise remain unheard.

Since its inception in 1973, CDF has grown under the leadership of Marian Wright Edelman, a respected civil rights leader and fireball of passion for social justice. CDF is now an influential advocacy and research organization that works to ensure the well being of all children, especially those facing adversity as a result of poverty, abuse, and neglect.

My work as part of CDF's Child Welfare and Mental Health policy team focused on children in foster care and the unique set of issues that this population faces. The internship combined research, politics, writing, and social justice activism in a way that allowed me to explore the full continuum of legislation, from development through implementation, as well as contribute to the overarching mission of an organization that fuels meaningful social change.

The most rewarding part of working for CDF was seeing "policy in action." A highlight of the summer was helping



UNC Charlotte's Pre-Law Society President, Christina Neitzey, visiting the US Capitol with other students from campus



Christina with her fellow CDF interns in Washington, DC



with CDF's efforts to revamp the federal Adoption Incentive Program and later learning that the drafted legislation was introduced as a federal bill in the 113th Congress; the bill's fate is still to be determined.

Though I spent much of this summer working at a desk, I constantly connected the policy work with specific situations from my personal experiences working with the children who were protected by the laws I spent my days researching. The personal connection I maintained with this internship made it extremely meaningful and interesting to me. This well-rounded experience is one that I am extremely grateful for and that I will continue to build on in the future.



AMERICAN LE MANS SERIES RACE AT ROAD ATLANTA

Flying on the Ground: Researching Motorsport Aerodynamics

By Alex Curley

Nested in the heart of a city captivated by motorsport, UNC Charlotte has developed one of the most renowned motorsport engineering programs in the nation. With multi-million dollar equipment and software in conjunction with an experienced faculty whose backgrounds include Michelin, the Chrysler Group, and Richard Childress Racing, students in the motorsports concentration are mentored by some of the most prominent engineers in the motorsport and automotive industries. Toward the end of the spring semester of my freshman year, I had the opportunity to step aboard the research group of Dr. Mesbah Uddin, an internationally renowned aerodynamics and computational fluid dynamics (CFD) specialist.



Alex admiring the unveiling of the Viper GT3-R, a \$460,000 race-ready Viper designed for experienced amateurs

With no experience in fluid mechanics or aerodynamics, the learning curve was immense as I spent the latter half of the summer familiarizing myself with surface modeling, a computer-aided-design (CAD) technique used to model the complex shapes of vehicle bodies. To learn this technique, I sorted through several hundred million data points obtained from a three-dimensional scan of a 2012 IndyCar and generated an accurate computer model of the vehicle body. The purpose of learning surfacing and generating the model was to ultimately analyze the aerodynamic properties of the IndyCar using the same CFD software that NASA implemented to design and analyze their projects. Working in conjunction with Dr. Uddin's graduate students, a physics student at Davidson College, and an engineer at Ingersoll Rand, we slowly learned the intricate operations of the CFD interface, which relies mainly on coding rather than a complete graphical user interface. After a brief two-week hiatus at the end of the summer months, I returned to campus in the fall to resume my engineering coursework and research.

As if my research project was not enough to quench my curiosity, Dr. Uddin permitted me to observe the operations of his research group, who perform all of the aerodynamic analysis for an American Le Mans Series race team. In essence, I continue to have the opportunity to delve inside the day-to-day functions of the aerodynamics department of a professional race team and work alongside graduate students as a sophomore undergraduate mechanical engineering student.

From Travel to Business: Launching a Career at Ernst & Young

By Laura Outlaw

The shift at the beginning of the summer from a year and a half of studying abroad and exploring over 15 countries to a full-time consulting internship with Ernst & Young (EY) in the Financial Services Office certainly shocked my system. I had to make a challenging adjustment from constant movement and change, thrilling adventures with new friends, generous recycling of outfits, and extensive non-verbal communication, to a windowless room, performing research and creating presentations about retirement plans with corporate professionals wearing black pant suits. However, after the initial shock subsided, my summer with EY proved to be an incredibly rewarding experience.



EY internship training in New York City

With a passion for travel, cultural immersion, and pushing boundaries, I never imagined that I could feel a comparable sense of fulfillment from analyzing performance improvement strategies for a company as I do from exploring Buddhist temples in a Laotian village or hiking through the Australian Outback. Yet during my internship with EY, I consistently felt a sense of accomplishment and self-growth from working with brilliant colleagues, performing under high pressure, and absorbing new information. I realized that although many things were familiar, the challenges were still present, and I was able to learn an enormous amount about my personal and professional abilities in just a few months.

Fortunately, at the conclusion of my internship, EY presented me with a full-time, post-graduation job offer that I accepted. During my senior year at UNC Charlotte, I am eager to spend more time on scholarship activities, community service, classes, and non-academic interests before entering the workforce with EY in Charlotte.

The Sweet Smell of Football Season

By Davis Vaughan

Even though there were hours before the inaugural football game began, I was already blown away by the school spirit at UNC Charlotte. As I walked around the tailgates before the game, I could feel the buzz of energy and excitement radiating off the enormous crowds of students, alumni, and supporters of the university. One thing was for sure – this was going to be memorable.

Game time arrived and the stadium was packed with fans. Because this was the first football game in UNC Charlotte's history, three of my friends and I decided to go all out; we painted our chests to spell out "UNCC," fought our way to the middle of the stands in the student section, and cheered on our team until our voices gave out. It worked. Our Niners pulled out an incredible 52-7 win over Campbell. When the clock ran out, we, alongside hundreds of other UNC Charlotte students, rushed the field to meet our team and celebrate their first victory ever. That was an incredible moment that I will remember forever. To be a part of the inaugural football game was truly amazing!



Levine Scholars Bailey Allen, Jake Emerson, Kevin Rodengen, and Davis Vaughan showing their school spirit for the inaugural football game

Looking back, another one of my favorite moments during the game was when the wave began. It started off small, but each time we tried it, more and more people joined in until eventually we had the entire stadium participating. The wave completely circled the stadium and everyone felt the enthusiasm. The students, alumni, and parents were all participating in the same cheer, which really opened my eyes to see how beneficial football will be in the coming years as a unifying element to UNC Charlotte.



STUDENTS ENJOYING THE LEVINE TAILGATE

I am excited to see how the rest of this season will play out for our team, and I am confident that our reputation will only grow from here. Just remember, whether in football, basketball, or academics, there's nothing finer than a 49er!

The Adventurous Sort

By Kelsey Mongeau

“Oh, so you’re an adventurous kind of person,” the woman at the post office told me as I mailed off my visa application to the Ugandan Embassy. I paused, uncertain of how to respond to this estimation of my character. Me, adventurous? It was never really a label I applied to myself. After all, I’m a picky eater, I still have the same major I applied to school with, and my idea of a fun night out is crocheting at a coffee shop. But then again, tell anyone that you have already spent three weeks backpacking in the Alaskan tundra – so no, you aren’t too worried about how you might get by if the water doesn’t run – and see what they say about what an adventurous sort you are. Still, in my mind at least, I was not headed to Uganda for adventure; I wanted to learn about a developing country’s approach to problems like healthcare delivery, and more than anything, I wanted to be able to give to those who have so much less than I do.

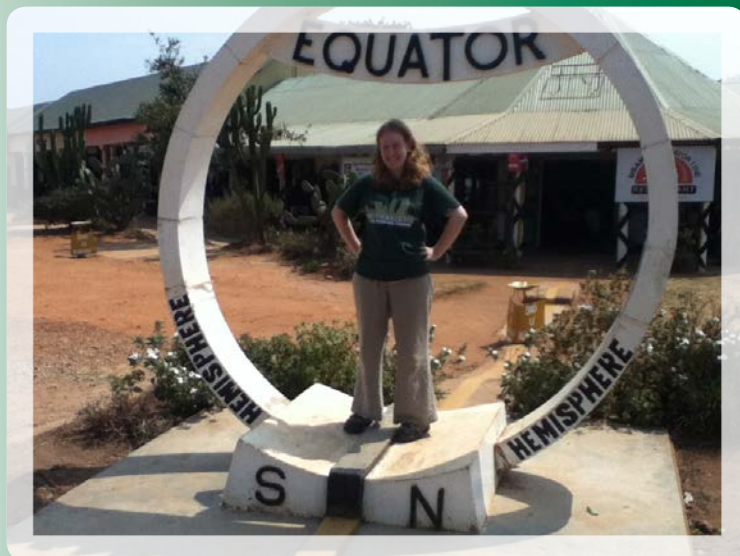
Now that I’ve shared with you that I’m not exactly the adventurous sort, I certainly must say, my trip to Uganda was the adventure of a lifetime. After just two days in Kampala, it was off to Kabale to begin my internship with the Kabale Diocese Community Health Insurance Scheme (KDCHIS) initiative.



Kelsey enjoying the holiday decorations on her walk home

Kabale was strikingly different from Kampala. It is pretty far removed from the resources that urban areas enjoy, but there was a much stronger sense of community. I frequented a regular supermarket, had many of the kids at the local boarding schools ask to be my pen pal, and knew many of my neighbors and always waved to them, even if we did not always share the same language.

My best introduction to the local culture came through the regular field visits to the sites of our various insurance schemes. Since banking is so uncommon, and the most efficient way to spread information is often to bring the message yourself, we went on regular visits to the many schemes. Over the course of my time with KDCHIS, I visited 8 of our 11 schemes and saw firsthand just what



Standing on the Equator - one foot in each hemisphere

an amazing place I had the fortune to work. Everywhere I went, people were so welcoming, offering me food and showing me around. It was not uncommon for me to be snatched up by one of the few English speakers and pointed to the various attractions that village had to offer. During one memorable visit, I was told by at least five people: “that’s the Congo over there.” But then came the sobering addition, “we hear gunshots from over there all the time,” and it is true that I had just passed a camp of Congolese refugees just a few villages earlier.

From my five weeks without functional running water, to my constant battle to secure an internet connection, to families struggling to choose which family members would join the insurance scheme since they could not afford to pay even \$10 per person per year, my time in Uganda taught me so much about how fortunate we are as Americans. My time also taught me that even when things get tough, I can persevere through the challenges.



Taking photographs for new member ID cards at premium collection day for KDCHIS

Small Steps To Make A Big Difference

By Jake Emerson

After spending my first two years at UNC Charlotte exploring a multitude of academic interests and career paths, I was extremely excited to come to the realization that I wish to pursue a career in medicine. So, why not utilize my Levine summer experience to explore the field as deeply as possible and expose myself to the very things that I could be dedicating my life to one day? I have spent the last few months doing just that, and as a result, have been fortunate enough to be involved with a couple of fantastic opportunities.

I spent the summer interning as a Cannon Scholar through Carolinas HealthCare System, which was absolutely transformative. I developed a keen interest in medicine and gained a broader understanding of what it means to work as a medical practitioner or researcher. I shadowed many physicians and surgeons, attended medical conferences and lectures, and conducted a clinical research project, while being mentored by established researchers. The project that I designed observed the influence of obesity on asthma outcomes in at-risk patients in the greater Charlotte area. With the guidance of my mentors, I was able to see my project from conception to conclusion. My research led to a number of significant findings that will hopefully be utilized in the future management of asthma. I even had the unique opportunity to



Jake and Dr. Herbert L. Bonkovsky, Senior Advisor for Research and Director of Liver, Digestive, and Metabolic Disorders Laboratory at Carolinas HealthCare System

present my research at a conference to many of the leading medical researchers in the area.

At the summer's conclusion, I knew that I had found my passion and was motivated to pursue further opportunities during my time at UNC Charlotte. The Levine Scholars Program was able to provide me with just what I was looking for – a chance to work in a lab at the Levine Cancer Institute (LCI). Although I have only been working there for a couple of weeks, it is evident that I have been provided with an incredible learning opportunity. My mentors have unbelievable passion for their work and are truly determined to do one thing: eradicate leukemia to save lives. The opportunity to contribute to such a meaningful group is invaluable to my development as a person and as a professional, and a reflection of the Levine Scholars Program's remarkable ability to provide its students with just what they need to succeed.



Jake presenting his research as a Cannon Scholar to medical researchers in the Charlotte area



Summer in Satoli

By Noelle Cornelio

I flew halfway across the world to intern in the Himalayas over the summer. After the fourteen-hour flight to New Delhi, a six-hour train ride to the base of the foothills, and a three-hour car ride up the mountains, I finally arrived in the state of Uttarakhand where the nonprofit organization Aarohi is based in the village of Satoli.

I chose to intern at Aarohi because of its organizational mission to facilitate “development of rural Himalayan communities through quality healthcare and education, enterprise promotion, sustainable natural resource use, and the revival of traditional culture.” As a biology and economics double major, I am exceedingly interested in the relationship between healthcare and local economics, particularly in the rural setting. Additionally, medicine tends to be focused on treatment of chronic diseases, whereas prevention may have a far greater impact in rural settings. Therefore, I wanted to be involved in teaching young children about nutrition, hygiene, and simple ways to prevent infection, as well as observing and assisting doctors at the rural hospital and health camps at Aarohi.

During my two-month internship, I created artistic and colorful health posters about balanced diets, prenatal care, the importance of hand washing, and healthy habits for expecting mothers and their children. These posters will be used by the Aarohi team to teach in health camps and schools. I also developed health lesson plans for primary school students and assisted in measuring the height and weight of local school children. I was able to observe surgeries, primary care, and antenatal checkups. The care delivered by the Aarohi team dramatically altered the lives of patients and it was impressive to see truly transformative medicine and its impact.

Like all good things, my two-month internship with Aarohi flew by faster than I could say “Himalayas.” I am extremely grateful to have had such an eye-opening experience. My outlook on the impact of medicine has changed dramatically and I hope my small contribution to Aarohi has an impact on health education in that area as well. To learn more about Aarohi, please visit <http://www.aarohi.org/>.

Corporate Exploration

By Austin Halbert

My breath was taken as I looked out of the airplane window to a sprawling New York City. It was a week after returning home from a semester spent across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. I was still in recovery from an invigorating cycle of adventure. Little did I know, the adventure had just begun.

This was the start of my summer as a business development intern for Unilever North America. Securing the internship allowed me to pursue long-term ambitions: to work with a business that changes lives and test my abilities in a high profile corporate environment. My goal this summer was to explore. I was being introduced to a new company, industry, and city – all gold mines for exploration.

Unilever's social missions were largely what drew me to the company. Seeing corporate social responsibility in action throughout the summer cemented my desire to be with a company that makes a positive impact. I believe there is more to business than profit, and I was glad to find that Unilever felt so too.

My site supervisor tasked me with developing a tool to improve the efficiency of planning and interdepartmental collaboration. The nature of my project allowed me to meet executives across the company. By August, I had met with over thirty Unilever employees. These discussions with senior officials were inarguably the most valuable component of my internship.

I also had the fortune of being located just outside of Manhattan. After 20 years of being enchanted by the Big Apple's appearance in countless shows, books, and movies, I came alive when I finally had the chance to experience it for myself.

It would be impossible to briefly summate the memories, life lessons, and inspiring moments that accumulated throughout my internship. The opportunities I have experienced since joining the Levine Scholars Program have allowed me to bring so many dreams to fruition.



*Unilever Intern,
Austin Halbert, in
Englewood Cliffs, NJ*



The Other Side of the Rainbow

By Elizabeth Koehler

When I decided to go to Cape Town, South Africa for my third summer experience, I had no idea what to expect. I had been told about the breathtaking nature as well as the shocking state of impoverishment, but I had no idea about the people I would meet, the work I would do, or the experiences that would completely change me.

In Cape Town, I worked in a township called Vrygrond at a community center called Where Rainbows Meet. At Rainbows, there was a crèche, or daycare, a food line, and community classrooms for everything from sewing to microloans. I would spend most of my time there teaching classes in the computer room: a recycled shipping container that housed what felt like a luxurious setup with twenty-four computers and a projector.



Elizabeth teaching a computer lesson to members of the Vrygrond Township

While teaching basic computer skills to the students at Rainbows, I faced challenges, from working with unfamiliar software programs to not having heat in the middle of winter. On my first day, I was informed that only one out of

thirteen adult students in my class had even turned on a computer before. However, by facing the hardships and local struggles in Vrygrond, I gained an authentic understanding of the cultures and people, expanded my leadership skills, and got the chance to really help others.

During my time in Cape Town, I helped edit and revamp outdated lesson plans, fundraise to build a house for a colleague, host a business breakfast, and work in a crèche. I was able to experience the beauty across the coast, witness the culture in the city, and live with an amazing host family.

Although Carolina soon called me home, it wasn't long after my return to the States that I realized a piece of my heart still resides in Cape Town.



Muizenberg Beach, one of Cape Town's southern suburbs



Weekend trip to Plettenberg Bay

Summer Sketches

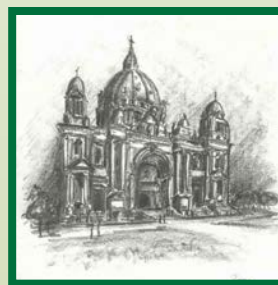
By Evan Danchenka

Twelve weeks, seven countries, three classes, two programs, one wonderful new friend, and a stack of sketchbooks all sum up a memorable summer abroad in Europe.

My venture began with fellow students and professors from the School of Architecture on a four-week, action-packed trek across Scandinavia. From biking through Copenhagen to cruising across the Baltic Sea, we used photography, collage, and sketching to capture the poetics in Scandinavian buildings. We moved fast, as we learned as much as possible about "architecture of slowness."

Next, I set out for Germany with no real plan other than to draw buildings and observe life. I settled into Berlin for fifteen days and quickly filled a sketchbook with a variety of must-see sites and hidden gems. I then headed to Cologne on an overnight train, and by remarkable fortune met a German girl named Babsi, who was also studying architecture. Babsi and her family graciously offered me a place in their home in the historical town of Regensburg, Bavaria for the next several weeks. I got to live as the Germans do in the summer, and I was grateful for the home away from home.

After exchanging parting gifts, I headed to Prague for a three-week architecture program called "Bridging Prague" hosted by the Architectural Institute in Prague (ARCHIP). Collaborating with students from Turkey, Canada, and the US, I designed a pathway for a site along



Berlin Cathedral in Germany



Cologne Cathedral in Germany

the bank of the Vltava River by the Charles Bridge. The program offered insights from professors and local Czech architects on issues of public space, historical sensitivity, and urban policies that no tourist could ever receive otherwise.

The architectural lessons and personal experiences I got on my trip have shaped how I view myself as a designer in the world. With a desire to build on this experience, I hope to go back as soon and as often as possible.



Evan in front of the Oslo Opera House in Norway



From Camp to Campus

By Jefferson Cooper

The day began warm and sunny; it was going to be one of the highlights of the trip as we were to hike along the peaks of the Continental Divide. The views were supposed to be magnificent and the weather terrific as we continued into week four of our twenty-five day expedition in the Absaroka Mountain Range in the backcountry of Wyoming. Our expectations were high as we set off in groups of five without our instructors and made the climb to the summit of the Continental Divide.

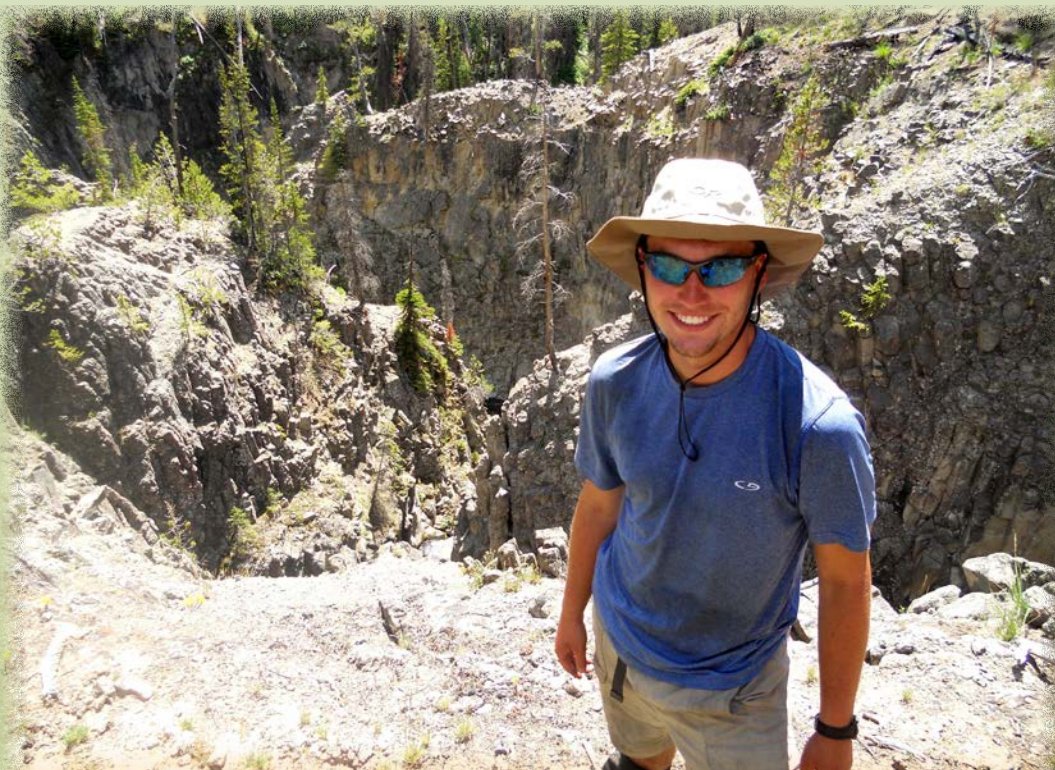
We reached the continental boundary around midday and our moods began to worsen as the skies started to darken. Along the trip, up until this day, we had experienced very little weather that had been less than ideal and we definitely did not expect storms to come on a day as monumental as this. Not to mention that we still had upwards of five miles to hike along the ridge, and the rain had just begun to fall. We dragged along as the wind whipped and the rain struck our faces like shards of ice.



My group was the last to conquer the terrain. Some of us were inflicted with injuries that made the hiking more difficult, but at last we reached the summit to the uplifting sight of our instructors waiting to lead us to camp. In symbolic fashion, the downpour ended and we finished the day's trek in relief.



Our hiking groups learned an important lesson from that day, and the entire trip made us learn about ourselves. Even though we were outside of our comfort zones, we fought through adversity and survived the hardships. We looked out for each other like family. Upon entering UNC Charlotte, we quickly found that the lessons we learned in Wyoming through the National Outdoor Leadership School were transferable to our daily lives on campus. Regardless of the hardships we face in school or any other aspect of life, we can make it to the summit, and succeed if we persevere.



Scholars in front of the Mediterranean Sea at Caesarea Maritima, an ancient Roman port city built by Herod the Great



Levine students who traveled to Jerusalem to participate in the archeological dig

My First Time Abroad By Brandon Nixon

The ringing of a 4:30 a.m. alarm plagued our mornings. Our archaeological dig days were hot and dry (almost a complete contrast to my summer in Alaska), but the sights and sounds of the Old City and its surroundings soon rewarded our efforts. This trip to the ancient city of Jerusalem and participation in the Mount Zion project represented a fairly rare opportunity, one that may occur only once in an individual's lifetime, and one that I am truly grateful for, especially since it was my first time abroad.

I honestly did not know what to expect, but what I learned rather quickly was that even though I am not interested in



Kailey Filter and Brandon Nixon in front of the Mt. Zion sign in Jerusalem



Brandon Nixon and Kevin Rodengen taking a quick break from digging

pursuing a profession in archaeology, the Mount Zion archaeological dig enriched my entire experience abroad. We were not just tourists. Participating in the archaeological excavation added a sense of purpose to our trip and though the labor was strenuous, it made us appreciate our Friday and Saturday breaks and weekend walking tours even more.

I became completely immersed in cultures diverse from my own, while the lectures and hands-on learning environment of the two-week summer

Mount Zion dig site

experience enabled me to gain knowledge and build stamina that would have been impossible in a standard classroom setting. It was truly an honor to work next to Dr. Zablotzky, study under Dr. James Tabor, and participate in the Mount Zion project that will resume in the summer of 2014. For more information visit <http://digmountzion.uncc.edu/>.

From Charlotte to Germany

By Heidi Cope

The morning after my last exam of the semester, I suited up at 6:15 a.m. and started my internship at Care Ring. Care Ring, a healthcare nonprofit in uptown Charlotte, was my first choice as a second summer experience as a Levine Scholar. I was able to give customized structure to my days at Care Ring as I spent time working in the Low Cost Clinic, shadowing a nurse during a home visit for Nurse-Family Partnership, helping market for Care Ring's participation in the Chiquita Classic, and working on company policy. Towards the end of my internship, I was also given an opportunity to serve as a table hostess for Care Ring's annual fundraiser, the Hope for Community Health Luncheon.

After completing my full-time, five-week internship at Care Ring, I quickly prepared for the second half of my summer. Last spring, I was offered a partial scholarship through the UNC Charlotte German Department to attend a Goethe Institut in Germany for three weeks. The Goethe Institut is an educational organization that offers German language and culture immersion courses in various countries around the world. My Goethe experience took place in a very small town called Schwäbisch Hall, in Baden Württemberg, Germany. The center of the city was the size of UNC Charlotte and contained a population not much more than that of the school. I had been to Germany twice before, but it was emboldening and inspiring to confidently know a foreign place inside and out by the time I left.

The Goethe Institut provided a much different experience than my trips to Germany in high school. Rather than being with my host-sister at a German high school throughout the day, I was in a



Kletterpark, an outdoor high ropes course, in Germany

classroom with students from Spain, Brazil, China, and Italy who were also hoping to master German as a second language. The students at the Goethe Institut, numbering over 120, were split up into international German levels after taking a written and oral test. However, the student body came together occasionally for culture immersion trips to Neuschwanstein as well as for our "Goethe Parties" that occurred every Friday night at the school.

After returning to UNC Charlotte for the start of the fall semester, each Goethe scholarship recipient from the university was invited to the German Language and Culture Foundation's event, "Jazz in the Village." Fellow Levine Scholar Jacob Huffman, who also attended a Goethe Institut this summer, joined me there, and together we helped Kurt Waldthausen, the former executive director of the Foundation, announce the newly established "German Day" in Charlotte. It is difficult to compare my experience last summer in Alaska to this past one in Europe, but I do know that I cannot wait to see what my third summer offers through the Levine Scholars Program!



Levine Scholars Jacob Huffman and Heidi Cope in Prague



A weekend trip to the Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, Germany with friends from Turkey and Brazil



UNC CHARLOTTE

The Levine Scholars Program
9201 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28223

The Levine Scholars Program

The Levine Scholars Program is a four-year scholarship that includes full tuition, room and board, a new laptop computer and four summer experiences, including an international experience, which will develop leadership skills and social awareness. In 2010, the inaugural class of Levine Scholars enrolled at UNC Charlotte and an additional 15 scholarships are awarded to high school seniors every year. The Levine Scholarship is valued at \$90,000 for in-state students and \$140,000 for out-of-state students over four years.

Levine Scholars are talented high school seniors from around the United States whose accomplishments epitomize the values of philanthropists Sandra and Leon Levine, including a demonstrated commitment to community service, intellectual curiosity and the capacity for ethical leadership. Through community engagement, mentoring relationships with civic and business leaders in Charlotte, and a rigorous academic program, Levine Scholars develop the characteristics necessary to produce positive change in the communities in which they live and work. Scholars are able to turn their community service interest into actions with community service grants of \$8,000 to support their work in the community.



Annual Levine Beach Retreat in North Myrtle Beach, SC

It is this unique connection to Charlotte - its resources, leaders and challenges - that differentiates this program from other scholarships of its kind. The program is specifically designed to expose Levine Scholars to the urban culture of a thriving city and to engage them in service to address needs of the citizens of Charlotte.