



## NOLS<sup>tal</sup>gia

By Julia Nelson '20

*Julia standing atop Angel Peak at 12,359 ft in elevation. During the descent of the peak, the hikers had a snowball fight.*

“You’re doing what?!”

This was the reaction I received from family and friends when I explained my plans for the tail-end of summer 2016. Through NOLS, I was to backpack the Wyoming Wind River Range for 24 days, hiking a bit over 100 miles with a 50-pound pack on my back carrying everything I would need to live in the wilderness. I was not sure what I expected. I had hoped that I would be ‘good’ at it, and I envisioned the trip as a getaway of sorts where I could postpone worldly responsibilities until I was off to college. I am so glad I was wrong. Nothing could have prepared me for what was to come. NOLS is the toughest feat I have accomplished in my life with rewards to match the intensity. The struggles and eventual triumphs of NOLS molded me into a stronger leader and an overall better person.

As a class, we were broken down and built back up; united as a family. In the beginning, we were a troupe of strangers who were a bit shy and overly polite to each other. We hiked. Our legs got stronger, and the bond between us got strengthened. Our

endurance grew, our friendship grew. In the end, it was as if I had known my fellow scholars for years as opposed to just a few weeks.

After hiking anywhere from three to nine miles every day, we would look forward to camp time to highlight our day. Those positive moments varied from enjoying a well-deserved hot meal to stargazing under the expanse of the unadulterated western sky to being greeted by Billy Roosenberg’s (Levine Scholars Program’s Coordinator of Scholar Support and Initiatives) everlasting smile.

A personal favorite of mine were the peak ascents. At the top of a mountain 12,000 feet high, I could see everything laid out before me. Our hard work, sweat and tears were visualized through the expanse of wilderness we had already passed. I could also see the miles of where we were headed and the unknown excitement and anticipation of what that space held. I am so fortunate to have experienced something that humbling and awe-inspiring.

The skills and values I took from NOLS are transferrable to all aspects of my life in the front country. I learned that a journey is

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just as important, if not more so, than the destination. And on that journey I learned that while the weight on my shoulders would not get lighter, I would get strong enough to bear it.

At the end of it all, I could not help but feel a tinge of sadness and the onset of nostalgia creeping in as my plane lifted me up out of the west and back home to Ohio. I was reassured, though, with the knowledge that the next time I traveled across state borders,



Hiking North toward Lizard Head Mountain to set up camp near Bear Lake



(From left) Julia, Sarah Mullen '20, Lauren Tooley '20, Riley Jones '20 and Alex Caviness '20 warm up after wading in a lake during the first day of their independent student exhibition



(from nearest to furthest) Lauren Tooley '20, Sarah Mullen '20 and Riley Jones '20 during their independent student group exhibition

# Time Well Spent at Time Out Youth

By Beth Kingaby '19

When I stumbled across this small Charlotte nonprofit across the street from Amelie's, I felt I had found not just an internship, but a home. Time Out Youth is Charlotte's premiere LGBTQ youth center and is dedicated to fighting the good fight for these kids. The center provides everything from housing for youth who have been kicked out of their homes and free mental health counseling services, to open mic nights and drop-in DJ'ed dance parties. The center exists to provide a safe social space for youth to be called by their preferred name and gender pronouns, to not have to hide their identities and to access resources designed to help them succeed. When I first visited the center, receiving a tour from someone who would later become my internship supervisor, it felt as though I had tripped and fallen down the rabbit hole. With each new youth I met, I could see the difference Time Out Youth was making, and I knew I had to be a part of it.



Beth participating in an LGBTQ support campaign at UNC Charlotte in May 2016



Protesting North Carolina's Bathroom Bill with Spectrum, UNC Charlotte's LGBTQ organization

I would be seeing my Levine family again and starting the next chapter of my life at UNC Charlotte. Becoming a college student in an unfamiliar area was a bit less daunting now that I had the experience of chasing a black bear away from camp and climbing three mountain peaks. I found comfort in the fact that I would have the support of the amazing people with whom I have traversed to the ends of the earth.

Throughout my internship, I discovered how useful disassembled potpourris of skills can be in a small nonprofit. Speech and debate prepared me to work the front desk and integrate newcomers into the space and broadcasting class gave me the fluency in Adobe Premiere needed to design the entire visual experience for the 25th Anniversary Platinum Gala presentation. I sat in on meetings with Planned Parenthood and The Comedy Zone, learned about STD testing and healthcare in the queer community, and organized culturally immersive events for drop-in hours. This internship gave me the opportunity to hone skills both behind the scenes and in direct interaction with youth.

Of all the hours I spent at Time Out Youth, my favorites were those spent with the kids. Whether we were doing henna or stage makeup, discussing the most recent political outrage, building a four-foot Jenga tower or recovering from the attack in Orlando, the center's youth have an inspiring sense of community and trust that I hope to someday create in my workspace - whether it is a classroom, lecture hall, writing desk or Capitol Hill. The air was abuzz with respect and love, and the work I did - even the paperwork - felt like it was pushing the world toward a better place. After a long, marvelous summer with Time Out Youth, I developed significantly as a professional, yes, but even more as a person. I know that I am better for it, and I hope with all my heart that Charlotte is, too.

# BEHIND THE BATON

By Austin Philemon '17



Austin Philemon conducting at the Miami Music Festival

**M**ost people go to Miami for things like sun, sand and luxury hotels. However, the life of a musician is far from “most people.” I spent a heated July in Miami inside the terra cotta buildings of Barry University, attending the conducting institute at the Miami Music Festival.

It is a typical activity in the life of a music student to attend one of many summer festivals around the world to improve their craft as an artist even off the clock of the academic year. The Miami Music Festival, while only in its third year, has quickly joined the ranks of many of the country’s greatest music festivals such as Aspen and Tanglewood.

The festival had various programs for orchestra musicians, opera singers and pianists, in addition to the conducting institute of which I was a part. The institute was run by program coordinator Maestro Jacomo Bairros and co-taught by two guest teachers – Maestro David Effron, emeritus of Indiana University, and Maestro Larry Rachleff of Rice University. Daily activities included classes on score study and preparation, conducting labs and video review sessions, resume workshops, talks on how to behave during a rehearsal, and how to be a good public figure for an arts organization.

One of the trickiest parts of learning to conduct is, unlike a normal musician who gets to spend many hours a day with his or her instrument, a conductor only has a very small amount of time to actually work with an orchestra. As student conductors, we spent most of our time in sessions learning how to study scores and practicing technical motions. This is all so that we would be absolutely ready to work as smartly and efficiently as possible during the short time a conductor has in front of an orchestra.

Conductors are often under greater amounts of pressure than any other leader. Conductors must always be incredibly prepared, knowledgeable and have solid reasoning and logic in every decision

they make. Maestro Effron told us multiple stories of conductors being booed off of the podium by orchestras during rehearsal because they felt like their time was being wasted or that they were being treated unfairly. My experience of standing in front of an orchestra during the program taught me to always come in with a plan and to be continually thinking on my feet, reacting to the situation – or else my 10 minutes on the podium would quickly become very scary.

One of my most inspiring moments of the program was when, after days of intense study, I was finally able to get on the podium and conduct a movement from Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 6 in front of a small orchestra. At first it felt a bit like driving a car for the first time, but as I got into the music and began to connect with the ensemble before me, everything changed. With the confidence that I had a complete knowledge and understanding of the music, I was able to get comfortable and open up myself to the crowd of people in front of me, making eye contact with players and sending nonverbal signals back and forth. The communication was a kind of fast-paced symbiosis which I have never known. Of course, it all lasted about 80 seconds before Maestro Rachleff stopped everything and began demonstrating to me the proper way to bounce my baton on beat three so as to more accurately show the kind of dance-like feel I wished to depict.

My experience at the Miami Music Festival was a unique summer experience to say the least. Along with the 15 other conducting students, I received a high level of instruction and grew in my musicianship. I also gained a much fuller understanding of just how hard the job of a conductor really is. For this reason, I encourage you to take a moment the next time you enjoy an orchestra’s music to appreciate just how much is happening behind the seemingly simple wave of a stick!

# 750 Miles Away

By Kyle Ali '20



*Kyle (center) with Noah Shaver '20 and Kevin Smith '20 at the Chancellor's Dinner*



*Kyle (right) enjoys the Panthers v. Steelers game with other members of the Class of 2020*

I could not be happier with how I transitioned from high school to UNC Charlotte. I already feel at home and am lucky enough to have an amazing support system at home and here on campus. When I first found out I had been selected as a Levine Scholar, I was ecstatic, but I was also nervous, scared even, about how I would fit in with my fellow scholars and the rest of the student body. The idea of moving from a school with only about 1,000 students to one with 28,000 was frightening yet exhilarating. With the Levine Scholars Program, all those fears were laid to rest. I started school with a cohort, a new family that I would not trade for the world. I have NOLS to thank for that.

Spending over three weeks in the wilderness, isolated from society and free of technology, allowed me to grow very close and form deep bonds with people who were complete strangers to me at the start of the course. I realized that many of the other freshman scholars shared the same concerns in regards to taking the next step in our academic careers. I cannot say it went seamlessly because every transition has its hiccups, especially one as large as moving from high school to college. Being from Connecticut, I had to come to terms with going to school 750 miles away from home. I

would not have as many opportunities see my family as some of the other students, and I will not be visiting home until winter break. I found comfort in the fact that I would be with a group of like-minded students who would support me and help work through any homesickness I felt.

The change in academic rigor and structure was another aspect of the transition to UNC Charlotte that took some getting used to. In high school, I woke up, went to school for six or seven hours and then came home. It was all very structured and regulated with little free time. In college, there is much more freedom and with that freedom comes the responsibility to take care of myself. My parents are not here to wake me up in the morning in case I sleep through my alarm or remind me when I have an appointment. I have learned how to manage my time and utilize the endless number of resources available on campus in order to ensure that I never feel overwhelmed. The Levine Scholars Program has helped me immensely with my transition to college, and I am proud to call UNC Charlotte my home for the next four years.

# FROM PARIS WITH LOVE AND THE LSP FACULTY FELLOWS

By Seth Flynn '19

Prior to this summer, my only international experiences involved highly Americanized cruises – where the ports reeked of consumerism and the local culture was watered down to pander to tourists who would gleefully trash the beaches and bays. The only authenticity stemmed from the expedition guides, who led us on glass-bottomed kayak tours or into hidden crystal caves; they seemed genuinely interested in sharing their countries with visitors. Eager to immerse myself in a different culture for more than a week, I chose the Arts and Architecture program in Paris because several fellow Levine Scholars, Crown Scholars and University Honors Program students were going, and I wanted my first taste of international independence to be tempered with familiarity.

The course was led by Dr. Angela Rajagopalan, the Levine Scholars Program Faculty Fellow for the past two years. During her term, she developed and spearheaded the Paris Summer Study Abroad, which was the Office of Education Abroad's first honors-level course offering. The program was intended to provide a deeper level of communication and interaction between campus honors programs. I reached out to Dr. Rajagopalan for a reflection on the trip, and she responded warmly with, "I loved having such a bright, engaged and fun group with very diverse disciplinary interests. While I taught eight non-majors about art, French history and stylistic developments, they shared insights on engineering, music and other topics and asked questions that made me think about my own material in new ways. I feel very lucky to have had a flexible group of intrepid travelers; open to new foods; new experiences; and diverse visual, literary and aesthetic traditions."

Of course, we visited the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, but we were also able to see places and collections not frequented on typical tourist visits such as the Musée Marmottan, which houses the world's largest Monet collection. Provost Joan Lorden and the Assistant Provost of International Programs Jöel Gallegos joined us halfway through the program for visits to the Arc de Triomphe and Musée D'Orsay followed by a delicious dinner at La Relais Gascon, which I am convinced serves the best escargot in Paris.

Dr. Heather Smith is assuming the role of LSP Faculty Fellow for the next two years. Dr. Smith began her foray into urban social geography by earning a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and later a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of British Columbia in Canada. With the Levine Scholars Program, she will be applying her participatory research skills to aid scholars with the envisioning, construction, implementation and evaluation of their civic engagement grants. For the last decade, nearly all of her research projects have included an engagement approach; she values building equitable partnerships with the community, allowing for the incorporation of personal experiences and perspectives into her research. Dr. Smith believes that a greater impact can be made through well-developed actions and interventions designed to fulfill a common interest. This is best accomplished by identifying the needs and skillsets of the community. She looks forward to sparking creativity and facilitating meaningful projects with the scholars.



Heather  
Smith

Levine Scholars, Crown Scholars and University Honors Program students at the Sacré Coeur in Paris



The view from the Palais de la Berbie in Albi, France

In addition to working with scholars on civic engagement, Dr. Smith will serve as an advisor for study abroad opportunities. She was the Faculty Director for the study abroad program at Kingston University in England, where she oversaw the partnership with UNC Charlotte and worked with the geography department to develop a synergistic relationship for programmatic expansion. Her experience with creating successful programs at Kingston carried over to the Shanghai Summer Study Abroad, open to Levine Scholars and other UNC Charlotte honors students, to East China Normal University; in fact, she traveled to the university as part of the scouting team. With her contributions and guidance, the program evolved from a great idea into a concrete plan, complete with several tracks of study to attract students from different academic disciplines.

# A Sojourn in Seoul

By Joneka Percentie '17



Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul

It was late February and although the harshest part of winter had passed, this night was particularly frigid. I managed to buy a bus ticket from the airport to the other side of town where I would stay the evening. The airport shuttle bus passed the flashing lights in Gangnam, swerved recklessly through the city traffic, and finally dropped me off at my destination. I nervously thanked the driver in Korean as he lifted the three suitcases that made the 7,000-mile journey with me, and with a quick bow I was left standing alone on a bustling main street wearing the heaviest coat I owned. My first night in Seoul, South Korea was so surreal, almost cinematic.

Seoul was on my dream list of places to visit one day. When considering where to study abroad, I jokingly added it to my list, hardly believing that I could convince my family I would spend four months literally on the other side of the world. But when I discovered Ewha Womans University, one of the largest and most prestigious in the country, and heard great stories from my cousin who lived there for nearly two years, I slowly made up my mind. The decision did not come without fears and anxieties, the biggest one being what it would be like living as a young Black woman in

the most homogenous country in the world. Yet, I resolved that if I let the fear of encountering anti-blackness determine where I would travel, I could not even leave my front door. I made up my mind, completed the seemingly endless forms and applications, and started my journey to South Korea.

Studying at Ewha was incredible. The campus was absolutely stunning and my classes were equally challenging and enjoyable. International Communication was easily my favorite class. Our professor's background as Seoul's CNN Correspondent gave my class a wealth of real-world application for the theories we read about in our textbook. Our professor even used a class period to explore cultural locations in the heart of Seoul, like Cheonggyecheon and Dongdaemun Design Plaza, seamlessly tying in our lessons on communicating internationally.

With all of that being said, I only had classes Tuesdays through Thursday giving me plenty of time to explore. Whether it was visiting dog cafés and study cafés (you can find so many themed cafés in Seoul), walking around cherry blossom festivals, shopping

at underground malls or discovering new artists at university spring concerts, there was always an exciting way to use my free time.

As much as I loved the city life, two of the most memorable parts of my semester in Korea were trips outside of Seoul to Busan and Jejudo. Busan is a beautiful coastal city in the southern part of Korea. A five-hour bus ride brought me and my friends to the iconic beaches, high-rise hotels and luxurious apartments, and all of the delicious street food that Busan offered. But it was not the touristy things that made the trip the most satisfying; it was visiting one of my closest friend's parents, getting to see where she grew up and hearing about all of the things that made Busan home and close to her heart. My trip to Jejudo, the largest island off of the Korean Peninsula, was even more thrilling. I met up with a friend there and spent nearly a week visiting the island's beautiful beaches and museums, hiking, trying unique seafood dishes, learning sayings and phrases in the local dialect, and meeting her friends and family. The slower pace of the island was so refreshing compared to the hustle of Seoul, and it felt liberating to have my own little getaway.

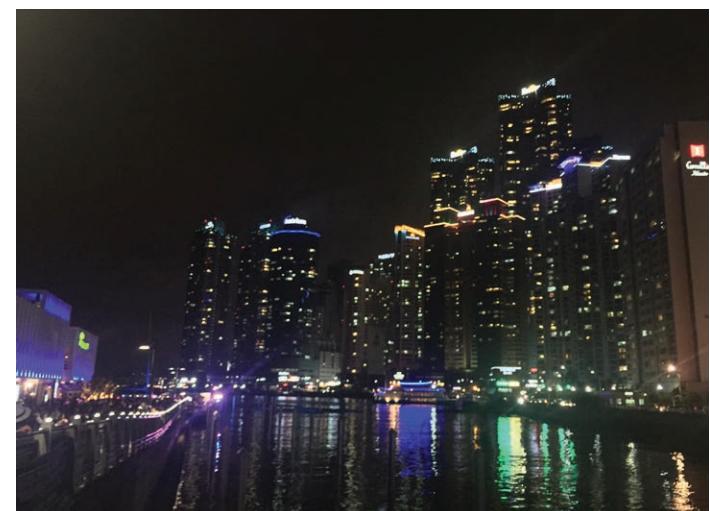
It is hard to reminisce about my time in Korea without also remembering the challenges and obstacles that I faced. Even as my comfort level in speaking Korean progressed, I still struggled to make natural conversation with people I met at coffee shops or at a school events. I started to miss those small, daily interactions with random people. Looking back, the most challenging thing was not the language barrier, but never being able to blend in. I quickly grew accustomed to the stares and hearing the Korean word for "foreigner" said around me, but I could never get rid of the on-edge feeling I got when going out – always feeling somewhat on the outside even after months of living there.

Despite the challenges and being so far outside of my comfort zone, I learned a lot about myself and matured tremendously during my semester in Korea. I gained newfound resilience and independence in the time that I was there. I missed the familiarity of home, my old routine and sweet tea – but I found a home and so much love in Korea. I felt so conflicted and sad once it was time for me to make my return to Charlotte.

My last night in Seoul was similar to my first. I found myself in the crowded streets of Gangnam, still dazzled by the bright lights of restaurants, karaoke rooms and nightclubs. But that last night was much warmer. I was with friends whom I had quickly grown to love, and I spent the entire night longing for just a little more time in the dreamlike city.



*Eating unlimited Korean BBQ with friends in a suburb outside of Seoul*



*View of the Bay 101 in Busan*



*Striking view of the hike up Seongsan Ilchubong in Jejudo*

# Women + Girls Research Alliance

By Morgan Flitt '18

It was eight a.m., and I was surrounded by 30 boxes filled with tote bags, 20 different potted plants, and event staff asking me questions so often I did not have a chance to coherently think. It was the day of the long awaited Women + Girls Research Alliance 2016 Summit, and although I had been treading water for the past two months, the waves were swelling and crashing harder and stronger than ever the day of the event. This is a summit I had spent months stressing over the details and navigating from the insignificant to the significant - from what food would be served, to the color of centerpieces, to how the group of women-owned businesses should set up their celebration for the end of the night. These were questions I spent hours answering, but as I stood at the beginning of the big day, it felt as though there were more questions now than ever before.

I had been interning with the Women + Girls Research Alliance since early in my sophomore year. I somewhat innocently applied to the position, knowing that I had little experience with event planning and a strong passion for the organization's cause - to



*Experts from around the community gather to discuss issues of women's economic mobility and ways to combine research, policy, and practice to reach better outcomes.*

engage researchers and scholars from around the country to look into the issues surrounding women and girls. Not only do they research and report, but they also ask questions of what policy and practice could address the problems those researchers uncover. When I applied, I had no clue about the transitions the alliance was undergoing, but as my year with the organization concluded, I was so grateful to have been part of the movement into bigger and better visions. My time spent with the alliance was marked with great company, sizable questions and the pressing pursuit of answers to those questions. I was honored to have had such a large role in planning the summit, which was successful in bringing a more diverse community together than it ever had before. Through all the stress and anxiety of planning and executing the event, the mission, vision and passion of the leaders and community surrounding the alliance was always enough to carry us forward. When the night ended, I was overwhelmed with pride as I picked up pieces of cupcake wrappers and crumbled programs. To have worked for a program and people you believe in and are inspired by is a privilege many never enjoy, and working with Women + Girls Research Alliance affords me that privilege every day.



*Helping the vendors who contributed to the Women Owned Business Pop Up Celebration to end the 2016 W+GRA Summit*

# Austin City Limits

By Isabel Fee '16

Greetings from Austin, TX! After graduating from UNC Charlotte and the Levine Scholars Program with my Bachelors of Arts in Architecture just a few months ago, I made the move out west to pursue the next chapter of my design studies as a graduate architecture student at the University of Texas.

For a Charlottean in the Austin city limits, there has been an abundance of sites to see, foods to try (cactus anyone?), people to meet and music to hear. The live music capital of the world, Austin's soundtrack includes festivals such as Austin City Limits and a number of cult local radio stations that I am really coming to appreciate.

As a student I have had a great start; I spend my days working as a tutor for student-athletes and in the studio, studying a variety of advanced electives. From the Architecture of the American Dream to a research seminar where we construct lost modernist furniture, I am challenged and eager to learn. In my search for a graduate program, it was important to find a school that would allow me to continue the experience I had in the School of Architecture at UNC Charlotte, where inspiration was always on high and I was part of a creative, focused and rigorous group of peers.

This semester in my main studio course we are designing a series of projects for Emergency Medical Services, moving in scale from a small motorcycle outpost to a large fire station. The process is

very exciting, as we are charged with imagining the possibilities of an infrastructure and healthcare system of the future. I draw heavily on the experiences I created as a Levine Scholar. Service in the community, summers spent in Argentina and the implementation of my civic engagement grant in healthcare all contribute to how invested I feel when working on design to meet human needs.

I am thankful for the commitment to scholarship, leadership and service instilled in me while in the Levine Scholars Program and am off to continue in this spirit in my next chapter in Austin.



Early concepts and study models for the design of an EMS Motorcycle Station



Isabel in the courtyard of Goldsmith Hall, the Architecture building at the University of Texas at Austin

## NONPROFIT KNOWHOW: My Second Summer Internship Experience

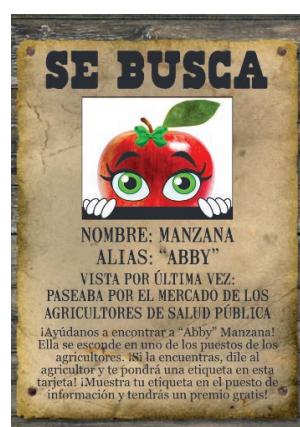
By Patrick Butler '19

This past summer I was able to intern at the Mecklenburg County Health Department. I started with only knowing that I wanted to pursue a career where I could help people. To what extent and in what way - I had no idea. Someone recommended that I try the Health Department because they "do it all." It was not until my first couple of days on the job that I realized how true that statement was. The people at the Health Department are always working behind the scenes and striving to make the community a more healthful place. They say if you cannot tell they are there, that means they are doing their job right! From establishing a new farmer's market to going on restaurant inspections to being a part of several grant writing projects and board meetings, I learned and experienced a great deal. I particularly enjoyed the many shadowing opportunities available, which provided an unparalleled perspective into specific careers. By the end of the 200 hours, I decided to add Public Health as a minor.

Through your nonprofit internship, chances are you will meet some of the central leaders of your organization and their partners. They tend to be very effective at what they do. They can offer sage advice, be potential connections for your civic engagement project and are just really interesting people with whom to have a conversation. You also learn that while working at a nonprofit can be hectic at



A poster I made to promote the Farmer's Market



The same poster in Spanish

times, you are enduring it all with one big, extended family. You will become flexible as meetings can shift even an hour before they are supposed to start and sitting in on board meetings at 8 a.m. may tempt you into trying coffee (if you are not already addicted). Conference calls and various projects will become a temporary part of life. You will always find something to do, and people will almost certainly appreciate your help or input. I loved my internship and will continue to volunteer with them in the future. They are - and most nonprofits seem to be - full of hard working, passionate people invested in changing their community for the better.

# A Little Goes a Long Way

By Eileen Jakeway '17

My longstanding volunteer commitment to the University City Regional Library made it the perfect fit as a community partner for my civic engagement grant. The primary goal of my grant project is to supplement the library's services in areas that lack the workforce or resources to adequately support the library's patrons. After discussing a variety of possibilities from technology tutoring to tax advising, the library's volunteer coordinator and I concluded that the most realistic and useful idea was to offer a series of college preparation workshops for the students and individuals interested in applying to college in the near future. Additionally, the second component of the grant is the construction of a permanent resource center that includes SAT/ACT prep books and software, college and scholarship guides, as well as Advanced Placement study guides that any student can check out from the library.

To address applicants going through this year's application cycle, I developed six workshops for the fall semester dealing with a variety of themes. The first was a general overview of higher education in the United States; the second detailed the college application process; the third will be an essay writing and editing workshop; the fourth a presentation on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other forms of financial aid; the fifth will be centered on the resources and tools available to search for scholarships and grants; and the sixth will be the culmination of the entire program and take place during the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) North Carolina Application Week, which is a period when the application fees for many state schools will be waived. During this week, I and other volunteers will be in the library's computer lab every evening to assist students who are completing their applications.

As of the writing of this article, the first two workshops have taken place, and they were already huge successes! I have been happy to see that a smaller-scale, local project can have a large impact on the community without raising money or necessitating the involvement of many people. Just in the first two sessions, it has become apparent that there is a huge discrepancy in the amount of support high schoolers receive in their schools, and, even in the best of situations, many facets of the process are implied without being formally stressed or explained. I hope that, in some small way, these workshops can address that need for transparency and clarity for local students and bring a sense of calm to the stress associated with college applications.

Already I sense that the civic engagement project presents not only a way to connect with the library's community, but also within



Eileen (third from the left) with workshop volunteers Elissa Miller '20, Melissa Martin '20, Sara Eudy '17, Yesika Andino '20 and Reggie Harper '20.



Melissa Martin goes over how to put together a resume with prospective college applicants.

the Levine Scholars Program itself. The freshman class of Levine Scholars, in addition to Sara Eudy, a fellow English major in the English Honors Program, have proven invaluable as volunteers; their participation has greatly enhanced the quality of the presentations by providing additional information, personal anecdotes and diverse experiences that show the many different ways of applying to college. Thanks to the library's convenient location and the enthusiasm of the volunteers, it is my hope this project will extend beyond my time at UNC Charlotte to maximize both the grant's impact and the Levine Scholars Program's involvement with the University City Regional Library.

# Around the World

## Quinn Barnette '18 Jerusalem, Israel

For five weeks, Quinn joined Operation Groundswell – a program dedicated to cultivating knowledge of social and environmental issues in a way that is both ethical and proactive – in Israel. "Studying conflict in the Middle East was both overwhelming and enlightening as I finally got to put human stories behind the headlines we see every day."



## Anna (Bawtinhimer) Laughman '14 Greenville, NC

Since graduating from UNC Charlotte, Anna spent a year at the Levine Cancer Institute with breast cancer outreach initiatives. She is now in her second year at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, where she is enjoying medical school and her continued involvement in community-based service leadership as an NC Schweitzer Fellow and LINC Scholar.



## Evan Danchenka '14 New York, NY

After an incredible year of architecture and light festival installation work in Baltimore, MD, Evan moved to New York to join the architecture firm Gensler. He is learning about architectural consulting and the design methods that will matter for the future of cities.



## Caitlin Vaverek '14 Geneva, Switzerland

While working for UNESCO's International Bureau of Education in Geneva, Switzerland, Caitlin collaborated with Ministries of Education to develop policy guidelines for inclusion and equity that are used in teacher training programs around the world. "Spending a summer on the shores of Lake Geneva gave me the opportunity to learn the internal operations of a United Nations organization and gain practical professional experience in my field."





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# The Levine Scholars Program

The Levine Scholars Program is a four-year scholarship that includes full tuition, room, board and four summer experiences, including study abroad, which will develop leadership skills and social awareness. In 2010, the inaugural class of Levine Scholars

enrolled at UNC Charlotte and approximately 20 scholarships are awarded to high school seniors every year. The Levine Scholarship is valued at \$105,000 for in-state students and \$155,000 for out-of-state students over four years.

Levine Scholars are talented high school seniors from across 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.

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.



*Levine Scholars Class of 2020*