

By Casey Aldridge '17

The civic engagement component of the Levine Scholars Program (LSP) is perhaps the most original element of the entire scholarship. It interrupts the typical momentum of the scholarship; instead of the program approaching students with opportunities and ideas, students are asked to approach the program. In the same way, the civic engagement project interrupts the momentum of education altogether. It decentralizes education, reimagining education as something that students own, just as much as their instructors do. Furthermore, it insists upon a kind of pedagogy that is applied, transformative, and rooted in communities. The civic engagement component paves the way for a kind of education that is larger than the classroom, a kind of education that one can only receive through interpersonal interaction.

Over the course of my four years as a Levine Scholar at UNC Charlotte, I would argue that I have certainly been “civically engaged.” However, my engagement has more often than not taken the form of protest or political action. I have campaigned for an independent socialist candidate, interned with Greenpeace Charlotte, worked for the North Carolina Student Power Union, and organized with Charlotte Environmental Action. In the past

Casey, right, marching and chanting at a Black Lives Matter demonstration on campus a week after protests began in Charlotte.

year, I have worked with a student movement for an interfaith prayer facility on campus and have been involved in protests and walk-outs led by Customer 49. In each of these contexts, I came to appreciate that transformative power comes from the people and from marginalized communities in particular, not from money. What use, then, was the civic engagement grant that the Levine Scholars Program had made available to me?

I also marched in the protests of September 2016 in Charlotte, after the killing of Keith Lamont Scott. Again, power emerged not from money or the traditional political avenues, but from the people. The Charlotte uprising changed the Queen City forever, and it was in response to those events that I was able to settle on a civic engagement project for the first time. By the end of that first week of protests, however, I switched my Honors History thesis topic to address the uprising and responses to it among the state, public, and media. With funds made available through the LSP, my civic engagement will translate the ideas behind my thesis work into an exhibit that will be on display in Atkins Library from approximately June 20 until the end of August. The exhibit will include photos, videos, and oral histories prioritizing the voices of students involved in the protests. I also hope to turn the contents of the exhibit into

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an accessible online archive down the road, so that future students, activists, citizens, and historians can learn from the conflict that flared here last September.

In the same way that the civic engagement project interrupts dominant pedagogy, the uprising interrupted the complacency of my life and of this city. The civic engagement project, at its foundation, may interrupt the way we are used to doing things in education, but it need not interrupt grassroots change from below. Nor must the project compete with our professional or academic interests. Part of what I have appreciated the most about the civic engagement process is that it has given me the tools to integrate my activism, my scholarship, and my relationships into one powerful experience. Through my project and grant, I hope to produce an exhibit that synthesizes my academic and activist interests in a way that is faithful to the spirit of those who took the streets last year, and that those who stop by Atkins Library this summer will learn from the voices and perspectives that will be included in the exhibit.



Casey, center, and other members of the student group Customer 49 at a large rally at Charlotte's Marshall Park on September 24, 2016.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE SUMMIT

By Megan Woody '18



At check out, students were given longhorn cookies and macaroons.



Scholars Eddie Angelbello '19, Megan Woody '18, and Morgan Flitt '18 explore Austin, TX.

In November 2016, Eddie Angelbello '19, Morgan Flitt '18, Dr. Zablotsky, and I traveled to the University of Texas - Austin for the annual Undergraduate Scholars Program Administrators Association Scholar Summit. The Scholar Summit brings together students and representatives from merit-based scholarship programs across the nation to discuss their programs, exchange ideas, and learn more about scholarship. We boarded the plane ready to share all the wonderful aspects of the Levine Scholars Program (LSP) and with the desire to learn more about diversity and alumni relations from the more established programs that would be present at the conference.

Friday night the scholars and administrators came together for an evening of dinner and networking. After the formal evening activities concluded, a large group of scholars journeyed to UT's student union for blacklight bowling. As the friendly competition ensued, we each casually discussed how our programs operated, and I began to get a feel for the similarities and differences between the LSP and other merit programs.

Saturday contained the bulk of the program. My favorite portion of the morning was the round-table discussions. Essentially, we were given general programmatic topics such as alumni relations,

community service, or academics, that we discussed for a set time frame with members from various programs. These discussions offered not only a time for me to share the current state of the LSP and hear ideas from other program, but I frequently found myself engaged in constructive dialogue about how to capitalize on each program's strengths to better our individual program structures. By the end of the session my notepad was full of ideas to bring back to campus. More importantly, however, I came away from the discussions thankful for how many opportunities we are afforded through the LSP. Our program tangibly exemplifies our pillars through our work as scholars and affords us unparalleled opportunities to grow and develop each year.

Saturday afternoon a panel of alumni from various programs, including our very own Isabel Fee '16, discussed how to capitalize on your experience in a merit program once you transition into the "real world." As I listened to alumni recollect the impact of their undergraduate experience on their life today, I was reminded that the LSP is not just a part of my life now, it will forever be an integral part of my identity. It has played, and will continue to play, a critical role in my development as a scholar, civically engaged leader, and world citizen.

GIVE US THE BALLOT: Voter Engagement at UNC Charlotte

By Vincent Cahill '17

In the summer of 1964, hundreds of volunteers flooded the state of Mississippi to effect change. Their efforts, organized by civic groups like Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), were designed to highlight the shameful, codified discrimination that defined Mississippi. Obstacles that disenfranchised Black voters from participating in that civic duty were perhaps the most disgraceful. Black individuals were subjected to poll taxes, literacy tests, and complex documentation requirements, and as a result, only 7% of eligible Black voters were registered to vote.

The volunteers who chose to go to Mississippi knew that their work would be dangerous. Their campaign was designed to embarrass Mississippi under the spotlight of national attention, and groups such as the White Citizen's Council and the Ku Klux Klan were equally determined to assert their state's sovereignty and treat volunteers to an icy reception. This particular story concerns three specific volunteers: Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner. Their mission in Meridian, Mississippi was typical of volunteer groups - they would help voters navigate the registration process, document the difficult experiences of Black citizens, and engage in the community.

On June 21st, the three men learned that a church in the neighboring community of Philadelphia, Mississippi had been burned to the ground in the middle of the night. The next day, they chose to see the damage for themselves and record witness accounts. When they completed their work, the young men began to head back to Meridian with the intention of being off the road before nightfall, as the roads were known to be dangerous for volunteers. Unfortunately, their car was quickly pulled over by the local sheriff (a KKK member) for a minor moving violation, and they were detained in the Philadelphia jail until 10:30 p.m. The car leaving the station would be the last time anyone saw the men.

The disappearance of the three volunteers captivated national audiences as nightly news broadcasts circulated the story and weeks went by without a resolution. A tip-off to the police eventually revealed that the bodies were buried near a dam construction site. The national attention focused on the murder case catalyzed the public pressure applied on Congress to pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a bill that would safeguard voting access and non-discrimination and lay the foundation for the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The legacy of the 1964 Freedom Summer is tangible and profound. Beyond voter registration, volunteers created programs whose operations continue to this day - to assist with summer learning (Freedom Schools), literacy (Freedom Libraries), and temporary housing (Freedom House). Furthermore, Andrew Goodman's particular legacy has been consequential to my time at UNC Charlotte.

In a remarkable display of courage and generosity, the Goodman family chose to begin a non-profit



Vincent at a February 2016 voter registration event during a 49ers men's basketball game
- Jon Wainwright '14 updated his registration information!

organization in Andrew's name. The mission of the Andrew Goodman Foundation is to increase civic engagement on college campuses nationwide, primarily through the Vote Everywhere Ambassadors program. Accepted Ambassadors are tasked with building awareness in their respective student populations. Being a participant in the program since the fall of 2015 is one of the clear highlights of my undergraduate experience. In the year and a half since, I have contributed to a team of faculty, staff, and students that collectively accomplished some remarkable goals.

In the spring, we registered over 800 students for the March 2016 primary election and secured an on-campus voting location for the upcoming November 2016 general election. Our work in the fall focused on registering voters, hosting debate watch parties and a speaker series, and encouraging as many students as possible to vote on campus. The on-campus voting location was one of the most active in the county, which is both a point of personal pride and a testament to the civic engagement of the University. Our initiatives the past year were recognized nationally as UNC Charlotte gained the distinction as a "Voter Friendly Campus."

The time and energy that I have invested in my work over the past two years as an Andrew Goodman Foundation Ambassador has permanently changed how I perceive voting - I expect that I will view it as reverently for the rest of my life. Participating in our democracy is a responsibility and a sacred gift, a gift given to us by individuals like James and Michael and Andrew.



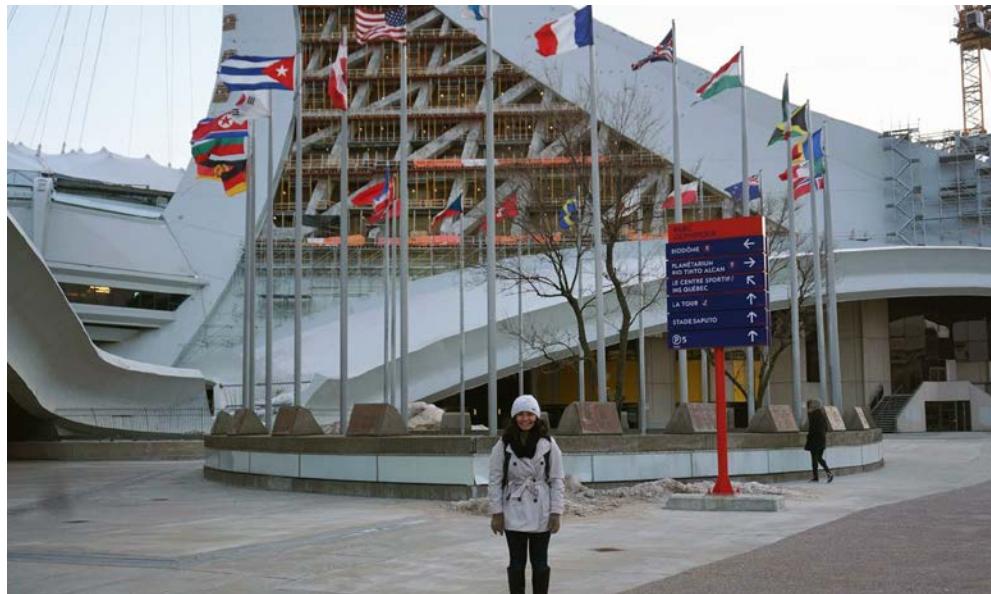
Vincent and other North Carolina Andrew Goodman Foundation Ambassadors participate in a 2015 Moral March in Raleigh.



Vincent guides UNC Charlotte students through the TurboVote registration process prior to the fall 2016 General Election registration deadline.

WHERE WORLDS MEET AND CULTURES UNITE

By Yesika Sorto Andino '20



Yesika outside the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, Quebec.

I have never been considered athletic, but I was able to make it to the Olympics – the Olympics of Model United Nations. Every year, Harvard's Model United Nations team hosts a worldwide conference. This year the conference was held in Montreal, Canada, a city filled with vibrant architecture, a lot of snow, and a rich history that has been embedded into everyday life in the city. While we were able to explore the city and its historical landmarks and famous venues, such as St. Peter's Basilica and the Olympic stadium, we spent the rest of our time in committee.

Model United Nations is seen as a simulation of the United Nations. Each team attending the conference represented a specific country and was placed in various committees. Model UN has various committees that span from the General Assembly, which embodies all 193 members of the United Nations, to the Economic and Social Council & Regional bodies, which focus on centralized topics such as the refugee crisis or cybersecurity. UNC Charlotte represented Norway, and we were in a wide range of committees. I was given the opportunity to represent Norway in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) committee.

One of the things that I enjoyed about the UNHCR committee was that there was not a specific topic; rather, we focused on the current refugee crisis from a broader perspective. This allowed us to have more freedom during debate and resolution writing. The four days that we spent in committee were filled with once-in-a-lifetime experiences. I was given the opportunity to work with people from around the globe, which expanded my perspective on the issues facing our world today. The most memorable moment

during committee was when I was able to present one of our resolutions, which focused on integrating refugees into different communities through education, improving the condition of refugee camps, and aiding vulnerable refugee groups such as women and children. The presentation of our resolution, which was a collaboration between our country, Norway, and other delegations such as France, Poland and New Zealand symbolized diplomacy and the culmination of a long, inspiring four days. I was also able to step out of my comfort zone and speak in front of a large group of people on an issue that has encompassed the international arena, and I will be forever grateful for this opportunity.

The last day in committee was a surreal experience. Even though we had only spent less than a week together, it felt as if we had known each other for much longer. We spent the last hour dancing to music, taking photos, and handing out superlatives. The relationships formed during committee and at social events were life changing. Attending this conference was a unique experience. It has provided me with new friendships that span the globe, a new perspective on how we, as the international community, can aid those escaping conflict, and has furthered my desire to work in the international arena.



UNC Charlotte Model UN Team.

Adventures in Arkansas

By Cassady Schulte '14

It has been just over a year since I packed up all of my material possessions into my little gold Honda Accord and made the 17-hour solo drive to a small town in Northwest Arkansas to start a new chapter of my life. I have said “see you later” to the Queen City hundreds of times before – whether it was to embark on week-long service trips or the 25-day backpacking trip with NOLS, or a summer internship in Bolivia, or most recently, when I spent 11 months doing international humanitarian work with the World Race. But this time felt decidedly different. This time, I did not have a set return date. I did not have a plan for when I would be coming “back home.” This time, I was setting out to make a new home in a place that I had never even visited before. If you were ever a Dixie Chicks fan, cue Wide Open Spaces as you picture me merging onto I-40 and heading west for about a thousand miles. My new home would be a little cottage in downtown Bentonville, just a five-minute walk from the town square and the Walmart Museum. Sam Walton built his first Walton’s 5 & 10 here, and thus, I can officially say that I have lived in the home of Walmart!

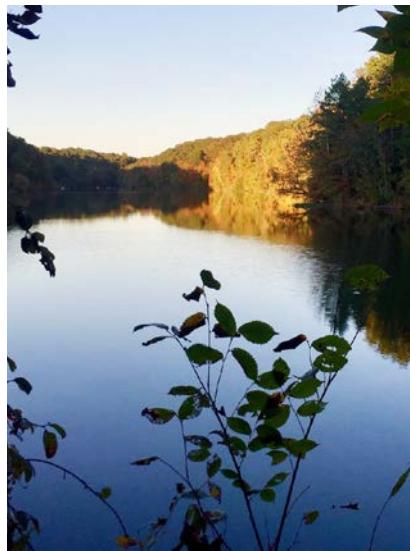
This year has been full of changes and countless lessons in “adulting” that I am still in the process of learning. My first job when I moved to Arkansas was as an assistant teacher at Sunshine School and Development Center, a preschool for children with disabilities. I have had a passion for working with individuals with special needs since high school, and I had the opportunity to cultivate this passion through all of my summer experiences with the Levine Scholars Program, as well as several other volunteer involvements throughout college. I absolutely adored the children with whom I worked, but I have to confess that being a preschool teacher is not for the faint of heart. And although I had spent two months on the

World Race teaching English in a classroom of my own, I realized over the next few months that I would much prefer to work one-on-one with students.

So after about five months at Sunshine School, I decided to take a new opportunity with a program called the Arkansas Autism Partnership providing in-home Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) treatment for children with autism. Making the decision to leave one job for another was a time of intense personal growth for me, as I learned to value my own professional development



Cassady sporting matching company T-shirts with one of her coworkers.



There is a reason Arkansas is called the Natural State! This was taken at a lake in Bella Vista that Cassady enjoys visiting.



The Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs, AR was designed by architect E. Fay Jones and is a popular destination of tourists and locals alike. Its cousin, the Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel, is almost identical in design and is one of Cassady's favorite places to spend a quiet afternoon.

and take initiative to move in the direction of my dreams in a way that I had not done before. I learned a great deal about how to end well at a job, and how to communicate respect and professionalism even as I was choosing to move in a new direction. I was also incredibly blessed to be able to finish out the summer with my class and lead five of our preschoolers across the graduation stage and into kindergarten!

Recently, my adventures in Arkansas have taken another exciting turn and included a move to Fayetteville, which is the home of the Razorbacks and known for its proximity to exceptional hiking trails in the Ozark mountains. The move to Fayetteville was prompted by an exciting offer to further develop my knowledge and skills in ABA at a private clinic called the Northwest Arkansas Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. As an ABA therapist, I have the opportunity to employ evidence-based practices to help individuals with autism lead meaningful and successful lives by influencing socially relevant behavior. I work within a team of therapists and board-certified behavior analysts (BCBAs) to create programs that allow our clients to learn and grow in ways in which many people would be tempted to believe they are incapable. One of my favorite moments of this job was getting to hear a child who was completely non-verbal when we first met call his mother “Mom” for the first time. Moments like this one make every moment of what I do worthwhile!



Exploring New Territory

By Taelor Malcolm '19



Left: Exploring the Grand Palace. Center: Taelor and a few friends posing with Buddha in Thailand's old capital, Ayutthaya. Center bottom: Visiting Bangkok's Chinatown during Chinese New Year. Right: Taelor making new friends at Baan Chang Elephant Park in Chiang Mai.



Maya Bay, a beach and dive site on the coast of Koh Phi Phi Island.



A weekend trip to Kuala Lumpur, and a visit to the Batu Caves.

Some people seemed very afraid at the idea of my going to Thailand. They asked me if I would be able to handle the language barrier, if school would be too difficult, or if Thailand was a safe country for a person of my skin color. Questions like those tend to instill fear and doubt, but somehow they only seemed to increase my desire to explore.

I landed in the Suvarnabhumi airport at 5 a.m. on January 4 after traveling for over 36 hours. Bleary eyed and a little dazed, I made my way through customs and immigration to the airport's taxi stand, where my appointed driver proceeded to tell me, with very exaggerated hand gestures, that he had no idea how to reach the destination I had so carefully printed out. Most taxi drivers in Thailand do not speak English, do not obey the road laws, and though they have smartphones, do not use any kind of navigation software. This is why I reached my destination after two hours of being driven around seemingly aimlessly. I have since learned that the drive should only be 55 minutes long. After being in this country for two months I can confidently direct a taxi driver, order food, and bargain down the ridiculously high prices, all in Thai.

While the university system is different from what I am used to there are really only a few stark differences. I have to forgive each of my professors when they show up five to 15 minutes late every class because punctuality is not really anyone's strong suit here. The classes are a little lengthier, about two hours long, and there is a lot less homework, but the material is not any less challenging. Something that is truly different and came as a surprise to me is

that I have to wear a uniform. There are only a few countries in the world where university students are required to wear a uniform and I just happened to choose one of them. I thought I would hate it, but it is actually refreshing to wake up and know exactly what I am going to wear.

Almost anywhere I look in this country there are creams, face masks, and scrubs claiming to be the best skin whitening product on the market. There have been many people who have stared at me, several people who have asked me to take pictures with them, and sometimes I feel like a fish out of water in a place that is constantly trying to tell me that my skin is strange and not beautiful. This does take a toll on me at times, but I was raised to be confident in who I am. So I still tan on the beach, I stare directly into the eyes of onlookers, and I smile for the cameras.

There are times when I have been frustrated by the language barrier, challenged by my classes, and left feeling isolated by my skin color. However, there are other times when I have been thrilled by the sight of sea turtles underwater while scuba diving, nervous about climbing a cliff face, and dazzled by a beautiful sunset. Times when I have quaked with laughter while riding an elephant, when I have tried a specific type of curry that lit my taste buds on fire, and when I have been content to just lie on a beach with a good book in my hands. I would not trade any of these feelings or moments for any others because to me, you cannot appreciate the wonderful without going through the difficult. Thailand has taught me that each of these emotions and experiences come with exploring new territory.

MY JOURNEY to MEDICAL SCHOOL

By Bailey Allen '17



Dan Gerlach, President of the Golden LEAF Foundation, and Bailey celebrate after Bailey's graduation from the Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program in January 2017. This program allowed Bailey to network with scholars across North Carolina and collaborate with students and community leaders to proactively improve access to resources and opportunities for individuals living in rural areas across the state.

Looking back now upon the past 22 years of my life, I realize that my family, as well as my friends and colleagues, have blessed me with their support and encouragement. I was born and raised in Whiteville, NC – a true embodiment of small town USA. This small, tightly knit community instilled in me a strong sense of familial values and a compelling desire to work towards improving the community that raised me. These intrinsic values and motivations carried me through some of the most difficult obstacles in my journey to become a physician. Now that I am preparing to matriculate in medical school in the fall of 2017, I have spent a great deal of time reflecting on where I have been in the past and thinking about where I will be in the future.

I came to Charlotte in 2013 with a strong aspiration to make an impact on rural communities in North Carolina like Whiteville. At first, this seemed counterintuitive to many people – how could I make an impact on a rural community from an urban setting? This is a question I grappled with throughout my undergraduate career and shaped the focus of my summer internships. How could I, an 18-year-old from small town USA, truly make a difference in my community and even begin to give back to an area with some of the worst health disparities in the state? The answer to this is largely what shaped my journey to medical school.

While in Charlotte, my eyes were opened to the lifestyle, cultures, and beliefs of people I would not be able to meet in my hometown. These social factors shaped the focus of my experiences outside of



Sanjana Prabhu '16 and Bailey preparing to observe surgery during the summer of 2015 at Victoria Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. This internship was succeeded by a faculty-led program in Stellenbosch which focused on exploring health and healthcare in South Africa, and the impact of social and cultural influences on the delivery and quality of care provided.

the classroom – my goal was to compare and contrast the issues people faced in pursuit of healthcare access across vastly different population groups in the state. As a freshman, I interned at public health facilities in both Charlotte and Whiteville to better understand each of these communities and the barriers that limited access to medical resources. I also had the opportunity to spend the summer of 2015 working in a hospital in South Africa and exploring the social and cultural factors that contribute to certain populations not receiving adequate medical care. Through these experiences, I was able to compare healthcare access across urban and rural regions, as well as healthcare systems domestic and abroad, in order to gain a more holistic view of the needs that exist. I observed that many of these needs are universal across a variety of environments, but several are region-specific and can be attributed to cultural practices and the lack or improper distribution of resources.

The Levine Scholars Program enabled me to pursue my interests and passions rather than limiting my scope and forcing me to conform to set standards. This, in my opinion, is one of the strongest aspects of the program and to what I attribute much of my undergraduate success. The staff's support of students, in whatever direction chosen by the student, allows us to grow and flourish in a way that would be impossible elsewhere. During my time at UNC Charlotte, the Levine Scholars Program has become my family away from home and one of the brightest parts of my journey to medical school.

West Virginia STRONG

By Vidhya Balasubramanian '19

Spending a week in West Virginia is not exactly what I anticipated doing for Spring Break. Yet, in the typical Levine way, this unique experience ended up being exactly what I needed for my sophomore spring break. In many ways the United States is a large melting pot comprised of many small subcultures – each with its various customs, traditions, and values. There is a huge misconception that one must pay for an expensive plane ticket and travel halfway around the world in order to experience another culture. For a lot of us this spring break, a short four-hour drive in a UNC Charlotte rental van was all we needed to experience the entirely unique and refreshing culture of Appalachia.

Eleven fellow scholars and I spent the week in Lewisburg, West Virginia, assisting Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity. Whether it was helping complete a kitchen island, painting and hanging doors throughout the house, or using sledgehammers to break down a tool shed, we were all kept extremely busy. The time spent led to bonding between all of us and acquiring many transferable skills that are not easily attained as college students.

Lewisburg is a small town that was immensely devastated by the floods in the summer of 2016. The town lost about 20 citizens and many homes leading to a community that is still recovering from the natural disaster a year later. Habitat for Humanity and the many volunteers played a central role in helping the community get back on its feet. It was extremely fulfilling to spend time in this small town and witness the camaraderie of all the community members as they came together and supported each other in every possible way.

As the first ever Levine Scholars Program Alternative Spring Break trip, I would have to say the week surpassed my highest expectations.



Sophomore scholars Seth Flynn '19, Vidhya, and Tyler Rapp '19 pose on a kitchen island they helped complete.

After our days of service through Habitat for Humanity, we would spend our evenings exploring different pockets of the community. From the American Heritage Music Hall filled with nonstop dancing and live music to the ancient civil war campsite held within Organ Cave, Lewisburg was always exciting. The continuous rigor of college life was perfectly juxtaposed with the energizing week of service and exploration. No matter where the program ends up next year for its second Alternative Spring Break, I know it will be just as amazing of a civic engagement opportunity – one special group of people, one unique place, and one great impact at a time.



Levine Scholars on day one of the Alternative Spring Break trip.



Kevin Smith '20, Kyle Ali '20, Joey Obeid '19, Ben Fasel '20, and Levine Scholars Program Coordinator Billy Roosenberg spent a morning tearing down the roof of an old tool shed.

MAKING MUSIC in ISRAEL

By Alex Caviness '20

At the end of last semester, I was chosen to be part of a group of seven Chamber Orchestra members who would go to Israel to perform with students from Givat Washington Academic College. Needless to say, I jumped at the opportunity to travel and make music. Soon I was in rehearsal preparing for the trip, and before I knew it, I was on a plane heading toward Tel-Aviv. We experienced our first culture shock immediately upon arriving when the driver from the school could not pick us up for another hour because he had to wait for Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, to end.

We made it to the college's campus where we would spend the next week rehearsing for our two performances. We spent most of our time that week in rehearsal, where we learned that not only would we be playing the traditional Jewish orchestral music we rehearsed, but we would also be performing with a jazz arrangement class. This turned out to be a fun surprise as we got to experiment with less conventional orchestra music. Even with all of the time rehearsing, we were still able to visit a musical outreach program in Jaffa where disadvantaged students learn how to play instruments. On top of that, we traveled to nearby cities to go to the beach, see concerts, and enjoy food with the students at the college. Overall, the time we spent at the college was phenomenal.

We had a small concert on the Givat Washington campus for local schoolchildren to watch, but our main performance was in

Alex, left, and his fellow musicians stopped for a photo after their final concert before spending some time in Tel-Aviv.



Alex performing with multiple ensembles in a concert at the Museum of the Jewish People.



the Museum of the Jewish People. We played for an audience of museum-goers and even the composer of one of the pieces, which made for a fantastic time performing. After the final concert, we travelled to Jerusalem for a day to wander through the old city and see the almost surreal UNC Charlotte logo at the dig site outside the old city's walls. To cap off the trip, a group of us routed our return plane through Vienna to spend a couple of days checking out another city. I was able to walk around on my own and enjoy time whimsically exploring before finally making the trip home. At the end of the trip, I am even closer to my friends from orchestra than I was before, and I have had the invaluable experience of making music with peers abroad.

Tan Kap Vini - “A CHILD’S FUTURE”

By Katie Finch '18

Tan Kap Vini (TKV) has been one of the best and most challenging experiences of my college years. Starting, and consequently running, a student organization is no small matter and for my co-founder and I, it was a huge undertaking. Our plan was to create an English-language program for the children at an orphanage we had both worked with in Haiti called Zanmi Beni. We created the organization, gathered a team, recruited members, and established the program, all in a matter of around six months. It was around this time that we learned that the orphanage was no longer able to support the program. So a search for a new partner quickly began.

We knew we wanted to work with high-poverty or at-risk children, but other than that, we were open to anything. Unsure of where to turn, we started doing something that would eventually be the key to our success: we asked questions. We asked everyone we could find. We asked for ideas, suggestions, we talked to random people who did a variety of things in the community, we kept asking. This went on for a month before we stumbled upon a foster care agency called Elon Homes and Schools for Children. We met with the

agency and again, we asked questions. Only this time, we received the answers we were looking for. We found a place we could make a difference.

From there, a flourishing partnership developed. Today, TKV works with foster families from Elon Homes and Schools, and throughout Charlotte, to provide foster parent training workshops, one-on-one tutoring for children, and connections to resources in the community and on campus. With the help of the students at UNC Charlotte, our incredible community partners, Elon Homes and School, and the Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, TKV has the potential to expand to serve many more children and families in Charlotte.

TKV is already making a difference. Our foster parents are gaining a number of skills and resources from our faculty partners and training workshops. The children we tutor are finding confidence and higher rates of success in their classrooms, as well as building lasting relationships with our tutors. We have found a rare group of people who are dedicated to serving these families in our community. We have kept asking questions, it has kept me learning, and, as a result, we have the potential to make a lasting difference in the Charlotte community.

Around the World

Leysha Caraballo '19 Sevilla, Spain

Studying in Sevilla has changed the way Leysha looks at how we live our daily lives. There is value in taking time out of the day to relax at home with family or grab tapas at night with friends. Leysha has learned to slow down and take time to just sit by the river and read or have conversations with friends long after her coffee cup is empty.



Christie Koehler '16 Baltimore, MD

Christie works as a nurse in the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit at University of Maryland Medical Center. She is currently learning about how to care for a patient's holistic health. Recently she moved to Baltimore to be closer to her work and more involved with life in the city. She continues to desire to make a contribution not only in her work but also to the community in which she lives and has plans to become involved with a local senior center. In her free time, Christie can be found exploring her neighborhood with her dog, Luna, or checking out the hiking trails along the Appalachian Trail - mostly recently with Kevin Caldwell '15.



Kevin Rodengen '15

Big Island, Hawaii and Juneau, Alaska

During his trek around the world, Kevin found beautiful work at a retreat center in Hawaii learning the trade of growing edible forests in the jungle of the Big Island. He harvested at least 20 fruits that he had never heard of before. Next, he is off to Juneau, Alaska to be a sea kayak guide in pursuit of his profession in wilderness education!



Randy Staples '18 London, England

It took some time to adjust to the different teaching styles, but Randy is enjoying the independence of being abroad. However, it is very easy to get lost in it. London is the center of the world in many ways. It is the true intersection of every culture on Earth. Anything you want, it is here. He has also been traveling around Europe to Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, Netherlands, and France.





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, 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.



Class of 2017