



UNC CHARLOTTE  
The Levine Scholars Program

2017

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# Levine Annual Report

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# Message from the Director's Office

There was a special feeling four years ago when we walked into Scholar Orientation and saw, for the first time, the full contingent of Levine Scholars. The waiting was over. All four cohorts were in place. Scholars felt energized and complete, excited for what was to come. Now, members of those four classes have graduated. Some have continued their education and earned graduate and professional degrees; others are launching and navigating their careers. They live on both coasts and in many states in between. Some have been working in the Charlotte area, and a few stop by for lunch from time to time. Our alumni eagerly help current scholars in need of internship, career or post-graduate advice; and many return in February to meet and interview prospective scholars.

When we hold Scholar Orientation this fall, the room will be filled with four different classes. Though the faces around the room will be different, many things will remain unchanged. NOLS stories will be shared and compared, seniors will reassure freshmen that all will be well, and the energy level will be high. However, there will also be some incredible changes. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Levine, class sizes have increased. We will begin the new academic year with 73 scholars, adding 23 freshmen with the class of 2021.

Levine Hall (pictured on the back cover) now serves as the residence for Levine Scholars and other honors students at UNC Charlotte. The Levine Scholars Program (LSP) administrative offices are now located in Levine Hall – proudly occupying the Richardson Office Suite, named in honor of Dr. Mike and Kelli Richardson. Staff and scholars love the new building, especially the seminar rooms, student study lounge, and social gathering spaces.

Scholars continue to inspire and achieve. They travel and study around the world, serve as leaders both on and off campus, and find new ways to give of their time and talents. Scholars have implemented civic engagement grant projects with nonprofit partners throughout Charlotte, and undergraduate research is becoming another LSP hallmark.

As we begin the program's eighth year, we celebrate the accomplishments of current scholars; thank the many people who support the students and contribute to the program's success; and wish the Class of 2017 every happiness and success as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

Enjoy!



Diane Zablotsky



Yolanda Coleman



Chancellor Phil Dubois (left) with Mr. Leon Levine at the Levine Hall Dedication in April 2017.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Scholarship and Research
4-5	Civic Engagement
6	Leadership
7	International Perspective
8	Recruitment and Selection
9-15	Levine Scholars

# Scholarship and Research

Over the past several years, the number of scholars pursuing opportunities to conduct research and present their findings continues to increase. One of the programs co-sponsored by the LSP is the annual UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference. It has become standard practice that members of the freshmen class are responsible for the logistics of the conference, as well as marketing and advertising. As a freshman, Davis Vaughan '17 designed the logo for the conference and it is still in use today. Because she was a 2016 Atkins Research Award winner, Eileen Jakeway '17 was one of three student panel members addressing the attendees about her undergraduate research experience. Two scholars, Casey Aldridge '17 and Joseph Obeid '19 presented papers; while four scholars Casey Aldridge '17, Ryan Mach '17, Erica Cherian '18 and Elizabeth Kay '20 had posters.

For the first time, UNC Charlotte sent seven students to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Memphis, TN. Dr. Zablotsky and LSP Faculty Fellow Dr. Heather Smith accompanied Casey Aldridge '17, Eileen Jakeway '17, Quinn Barnett '18, Megan Woody '18 and three other honors students to the conference for their presentations.

Several students have been working with faculty members at UNC Charlotte and elsewhere during the past summer. Gabriella Kroska '18 and Joseph Obeid '19 conducted research in the UNC Charlotte Summer Research Scholars Program, culminating in their poster presentations at the program's conference. Erica Cherian '18, Larry Lardieri '18, Eddie Angelbello '19 and Seth Flynn '19 are members of research teams. Vidhya Balasubramanian '19 served as a pre-editor for the journal *BioResources*.

In coordination with Dr. Smith, the LSP worked with the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and the Academy for Population Health Innovation (APHI) to launch a competitive undergraduate research initiative. The initiative is designed to provide scholars with tangible research and related experience early in their undergraduate careers. They work as team members on an on-going project in public health and/or urban dynamics. This opportunity is open to scholars in all years regardless of major and accommodates those interested in quantitative, qualitative and/or community based research.

In addition to research activities, scholars participate on University teams focused on inquiry and debate. Model United Nations continues to be a favorite team with scholars Yesika Sorto Andino '20 and Samantha Lee '20 participating in conferences in Charlotte, Atlanta, GA and Montreal, Canada with distinction. Several scholars also joined UNC Charlotte's Mock Trial team.



Casey Aldridge '17, Megan Woody '18, Eileen Jakeway '17 and Quinn Barnett '18 attended the National Conference on Undergraduate Research along with others from the University.



Class of 2020 members Yesika Sorto Andino, Kyle Ali, Kevin Smith and Elissa Miller helped plan UNC Charlotte's Undergraduate Research Conference.



Ryan Mach '17 presented a poster at the UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference.



Joseph Obeid '19 presented his research at the UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference.

# New Partners in Civic Engagement

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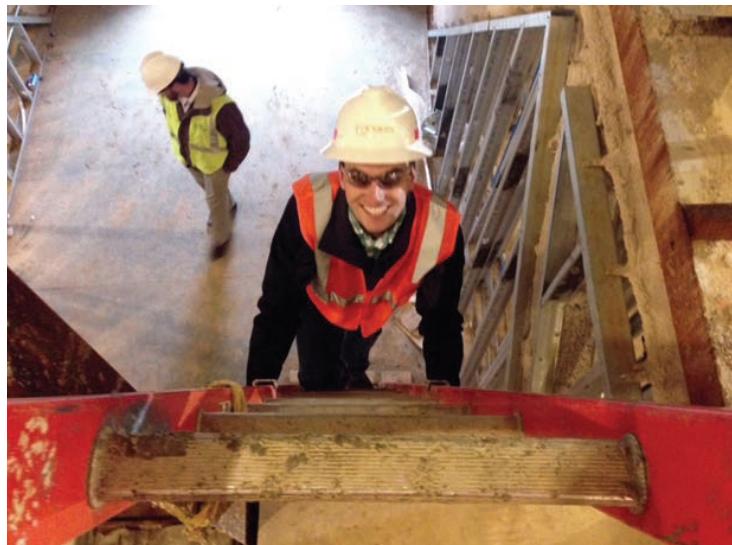
Following the example of our benefactors Sandra and Leon Levine, scholars remain committed to developing their own strategies for uplifting our communities. Individually they serve as tutors and mentors to younger students at every level. They work on the Charlotte Green Initiative, educate about human trafficking, help refugees get acclimated and volunteer at local clinics. They continue to prepare a meal at Ronald McDonald House once a month for families with loved ones receiving care at the Levine Children's Hospital, and once again worked with hundreds of UNC Charlotte students to raise over \$50,000 at the fourth annual Dance Marathon.

Members of the Class of 2017 collaborated with 15 organizations for their civic engagement grants. If you would like to see the fruits of some of their labor, visit UNC Charlotte's Atkins Library; take a stroll through Uptown to see the mobile beehive at Discovery Place Nature; check out the website for the Not in My City project; or walk through the Kings Mountain Historical Museum. Some of the projects focused on other groups, such as the middle school students who received leadership training and the high schoolers who attended college prep workshops at the local library or enjoyed their first full-length opera. Some of the projects

launched by the graduating seniors will be carried forward by younger scholars, increasing their sustainability and impact.

Spring Break 2017 marked a first for the program; we hit the road to make a difference. Dr. Zablotsky, LSP Coordinator Billy Roosenberg, volunteer Richard Smith and nine scholars spent a week volunteering with the Almost Heaven chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Lewisburg, WV. The group worked with local volunteers to tear down and remove an old garage to make room for an additional housing site. They also worked on the interior of another house – painting, hanging doors and closet shelves, and constructing a kitchen island. When they were not wielding hammers, crowbars and paintbrushes, they enjoyed the local culture at a music hall, bowling alley and restaurant.

Several new organizations are being developed under the leadership of current scholars. The Special Olympics College is an effort to connect UNC Charlotte students with those with special needs. Tan Kap Vini (TKV) is an organization founded by Katie Finch '18 and designed to work with Elon Homes and Schools for Children. Several scholars have volunteered as tutors and trainers to work with



From left: Vidhya Balasubramanian '19, Vincent Cahill '17 and Lauren Tooley '20 (not pictured) partnered to organize a day of service at UNC Charlotte. Jefferson Cooper '17 and Kaitlyn Chapman '16 (not pictured) worked to ensure that Levine Hall received a Green Globes certification upon opening. Addison Goff '17 (left) and Caroline Fowle brought beehives to Discovery Place Nature.

children and foster parents. Katie is working with faculty member Dr. Bruce Taylor and community leaders to broaden the mission and reach of TKV.

Erica Cherian '18 became the sixth Levine Scholar to receive the Newman Civic Fellow designation from the North Carolina Campus Compact. Over the past three years, she has integrated her studies in biology, psychology and Spanish with laboratory work with Dr. Pinku Mukherjee and extensive volunteer efforts at local free clinics. Erica is spending the summer of 2017 conducting research at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN.

## CLASS OF 2017 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GRANT PROJECTS

SCHOLAR	PARTNER	PROJECT
Casey Aldridge	Levine Museum of the New South UNC Atkins Library	Charlotte Protests Exhibit and Archive
Bailey Allen (Erica Cherian '18 and Seth Flynn '19)	Charlotte Community Health Clinic	Health Literacy App Development
Jaden Barney (with Larry Lardieri '18)	Levine Scholar Program Race Matters for Juvenile Justice	Dismantling Racism Scholars Leadership Development
Vincent Cahill (with Vidhya Balasubramanian '19 and Lauren Tooley '20)	49er Food Pantry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Salvation Army Center of Hope	Service Charlotte - Annual Campus Wide Community Service Event
Isabella Calpakis (with Erin Coggins '18 and Sydney Welch '19)	Present Age Ministries	Not in my City - End Human Trafficking Initiative
Jefferson Cooper (with Kaitlyn Chapman '16)	UNC Charlotte	Levine Hall Green Globes Certification
Caroline Fowle and Addison Goff	Bee Downtown Discovery Place Nature	Installation of Mobile Beehives and Educational Event
Eileen Jakeway	University City Public Library	College Preparedness Workshops
Ryan Mach	Rights Move for Youth and Albemarle Road Middle School	Capturing Leadership among Middle Schoolers
Joneka Percentie (with Morgan Flitt '18)	The Possibility Project	Uncovering Charlotte through Oral History and Mentorship
Austin Philemon	UNC Charlotte Department of Music Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools	La Boheme Opera, Community Performances
Jenny Jessen	UNC Charlotte	Campus Rest and Reflective Space
Jamie Smith	Kings Mountain Museum	Kings Mountain Historical Museum Storage Improvements



Kyle Ali '20 looks on as Joseph Obeid '19 works on the roof of a house during the program's first Alternative Spring Break Trip.



Nine scholars spent a week in Lewisburg, WV volunteering with Habitat for Humanity during the LSP's first Alternative Spring Break Trip.



Ben Fasel '20 hauls away debris from an old garage the group tore down to make room for a new house.

# Leadership Takes Many Forms

Many scholars are fortunate to have talents that extend far outside the classroom. Some share their love of sports. Megan Lemon '18 coached a Girls on the Run team; Eddie Angelbello '19 plays UNC Charlotte Club Baseball; and Riley Jones '20 is a member of the Running Club. Others are musicians like Alex Caviness '20, who plays with the Jimmy Chavis Band, sang with the Queens University Choir, and played in Israel with the UNC Charlotte Chamber Orchestra. Jenny Jessen '17 and Patrick Butler '19 enjoyed spreading some joy as members of Free Flower Fridays at the McMillan Greenhouse.

Students serve the University through the Student Government Association (Vincent Cahill '17, Morgan Flitt '18 and Robert Russell '19) or the Judicial Board (Randy Staples '18). Daniel Hicks '18 and Michelle Rudd '18 enjoy membership in the Engineering Leadership Academy, while Vincent Cahill '17, Caroline Fowle '17, Addison Goff '17, Riley Jones '20 and Lauren Tooley '20 participate in the Business Honors Program. Others provide leadership through disciplinary-based student organizations. Bailey Allen '17 was president of Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society; Eileen Jakeway '17 was active in the Early Modern Paleography Society; Ryan Mach '17 served as president of the Psychology Student Coalition; Kyle Henson '18 is president of the Math Honors Society; Seth Flynn '19 has been active in EyeCare Optometry Club; Christopher McKinnis '19 and Danielle Miller '19 continue in the Student organization of Meteorology; Riley Jones '20 is in the Actuarial Science Club; and Maria Cruzat '20 is secretary of the International Club.

Casey Aldridge '17, Leysha Caraballo '19, Christopher McKinnis '19 and Elissa Miller '20 exhibit their writing, photography and editing talents through the *Niner Times*. Others express themselves through other artistic outlets: Daiana James '20 (Radio Free Charlotte); Yesika Sorto Andino '20, Samantha Lee '20 and Melissa Martin '20 (Sanskrit). Samantha Lee also helped create the Niner Book Club, while Reggie Harper '20 is one of the inaugural members of the Charlotte Collegiate Institute.

The list is long but not comprehensive. Students often lead as officers and spokespersons, while others devote time and energy through Greek Life, interest groups and faith-based activities. Underclassmen continue to be leaders in Charlotte Dance Marathon. Some serve as executive directors and committee chairs, while others quietly raise funds or do less visible jobs, such as tech support. The national election provided new opportunities for involvement. Vincent Cahill '17 was a student leader in the 49er Democracy Experience, and Yousef Abdel Rahman '19 and Eddie Angelbello '19 registered students and others on campus to vote and assisted at the on-campus polling location during early voting and on Election Day.

Every year several students participate in the annual Scholar Summit sponsored by the University Scholarship Program Administrators Association (USPAA). Morgan Flitt '18, Megan Woody '18 and Eddie Angelbello '19 represented the LSP at the meetings in Austin, TX, where they also enjoyed seeing the city with Isabel Fee '16, who is earning her master's at The University of Texas at Austin.



Violinist Alex Caviness '20 performed in Israel with the UNC Charlotte Chamber Orchestra.



Leysha Caraballo '19 served as a staff photographer for the *Niner Times*.



Megan Woody '18, Eddie Angelbello '19 and Morgan Flitt '18 took some time to soak up the local culture while attending the annual USPAA Scholar Summit in Austin, TX.

# Gaining an International Perspective

Levine Scholars continue to travel the globe. Sometimes they travel together, exploring a new place in an explicit context with a faculty member, and other times they strike out on their own, eager to make their way independently. As the program equips students to broaden their definition of community and appreciate the commonalities and differences among various societies, we also look forward to the fresh perspectives and deeper understandings with which the scholars return.

In summer 2016, former Levine Faculty Fellow Dr. Angela Rajagopalan, led an International Honors Seminar to Paris, France. Five Levine Scholars (Daniel Hicks '18, Larry Lardieri '18, Leysha Caraballo '19, Seth Flynn '19 and Tyler Rapp '19) joined Dr. Rajagopalan and other UNC Charlotte undergraduates to explore "Art and Architecture in the City of Light." Together they saw the sights of Paris, Chartres and Versailles and discovered the wonders of the Musee du Louvre, Chartres Cathedral, Palace of Versailles and Musee D'Orsay. They enjoyed French cuisine, breathtaking art, and the wonders of one of the world's most beautiful cities through an art historian's expert guidance.

We always miss scholars who study abroad for a semester or year, but a deep immersion gives our students a more comprehensive understanding of their disciplines and the places they choose to live. Ten scholars spent semesters abroad: Quinn Barnett '18 and Megan Lemon '18 (Costa Rica); Randy Staples '18 and Beth Kingaby '19 (Great Britain); Katie Finch '18 and Danielle Miller '19 (France); Gabriella Kroska '18 (Chile); Leysha Caraballo '19 and Patrick Butler '19 (Spain); and Taelor Malcolm '19 (Thailand).

Students also span the globe for Spring Break trips and summer exploration, and every Levine Scholar continues to enjoy at least one international experience.



Taelor Malcolm '19 made many new friends during her semester in Thailand.



Patrick Butler '19 traveled throughout Europe and north Africa during the semester he spent in Spain.



Danielle Miller '19 took in all the beauty France had to offer during her semester abroad.



Levine Scholars and other University honors students explored "Art and Architecture in the City of Light" with former Levine Faculty Fellow Dr. Angela Rajagopalan.



Randy Staples '18 attempted to take a ride on the Hogwarts Express while in London.

# Welcoming a New Class

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The Finalist Program continues to be one of our most exciting events, and it continues to get bigger and better. This year we were able to utilize Levine Hall for registration and a new Student Activities Showcase. Current scholars coordinated an informational session to introduce finalists to the organizations and opportunities awaiting them at UNC Charlotte. The event was designed to answer two frequently asked questions: Do scholars have time to be engaged in activities outside of academics, and what kinds of activities interest them most? Posters and informational tables were set up by scholars eager to discuss student organizations, faith-based opportunities, athletics, Greek life, student government, service and the arts. It was a robust introduction into student life at UNC Charlotte.

Faculty, staff, alumni, current scholars and their parents all participate in the Finalist Program. After finalists and their parents arrived for registration and the Student Activities Showcase, they took a tour of the residential side of Levine Hall to see the scholars' brand new living space. Sunday evening culminated in the welcome dinner where they dined with UNC Charlotte administrators, faculty and scholars.

Finalists and their parents are engaged in a variety of ways to introduce them to the scholarship program and the University. Informational sessions on study abroad, NOLS, academic opportunities and scholar experiences are coupled with small group conversations, interviews and a student social. Parents of the finalists meet parents of current and alumni scholars who generously give of their time to answer questions at panel sessions and host an afternoon social.

The LSP continues to attract more nominations and applications from a diverse pool of high school seniors. This past year, we received a record 1,200 applications. After several rounds of review, 76 finalists were invited to campus for the two-day Finalist Program. We are pleased to welcome 23 freshmen into the Levine class of 2021; 16 are joining us from across the state, while seven scholars are coming from Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Puerto Rico and Virginia. They will begin their studies in five different colleges, and join 50 current Levine Scholars at the start of the academic year.



*From top left: Daniel Hicks '18 and Erica Cherian '18 engaged finalists and their guests during Sunday's reception. Psychology professor Dr. Jim Cook delivered the keynote address at the Finalist Program dinner. Elise Lyght '21 speaks with English professor Dr. Mark West during the Finalist Program dinner. Scott Christensen '21 engages scholars, faculty and fellow finalists during the Finalist Program dinner.*

# CLASS OF 2017 Senior Biographies



**Casey Aldridge**, of Concord, NC, graduated in May 2017 with a degree in Religious Studies and History, with minors in Political Science and Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. In September, Casey will begin a three-year Master of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, where he has been offered the Presbyterian Leadership Award. As a part of the Levine Scholars Program, Casey interned with Greenpeace Charlotte, completed a visiting scholarship at the University of Glasgow's Study of Socialist Theory and Movements Network; studied abroad in Stellenbosch and Cape Town, South Africa; and traveled to Jerusalem and the West Bank as an Interfaith Peace-Builders delegate. "Before traveling with my cohort to Wyoming the summer before college, I had never flown," Casey said, "but again and again the Levine Scholars Program put my education into my own hands, letting me integrate my academic interests and activist inclinations, allowing me to follow them even when they took me to the other side of the world." On campus, Casey involved himself in student activism with the North Carolina Student Power Union and Customer 49. He also traveled to Brussels in 2014 with UNC Charlotte's Model United Nations team and served for two years as Opinion Editor of the Niner Times. "Both my parents graduated from UNC Charlotte, and both of my dad's parents worked for several years on this campus," Casey said. "This University has given a great deal to my family, and my family in turn has given a great deal to the University. Because of that, this community feels like family, and I am so blessed to be a part of Niner Nation."



**Bailey Allen**, of Whiteville, NC, graduated in May 2017 with a degree in Biology and a minor in Public Health. Bailey will begin medical school this fall at the UNC Chapel Hill's School of Medicine and is also considering pursuing a Master of Public Health degree. After earning an MD, he plans to remain in North Carolina to practice medicine in underserved regions of the state and advocate for making healthcare more accessible and affordable. As a part of the Levine Scholars Program, Bailey interned with Care Ring in Charlotte; the Columbus County Health Department in Whiteville, NC; and with Victoria Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Through these opportunities he was able to gain first-hand experience working directly with patient populations across rural and urban settings, both domestic and abroad. "I am confident that the knowledge and experiences I gained through my summer internships shaped my perception of patient-centered care on both a local and global scale. These skills will directly contribute to my future success as a physician and advocate for those in need." During his time at UNC Charlotte, Bailey was involved with undergraduate research in Dr. Pinku Mukherjee's lab. He was also involved with various student organizations on campus, most notably serving as president of Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society. My time at UNC Charlotte was unlike anything I could have imagined before enrolling in college. I am confident that this University fosters excellence among its students, and I am proud to be a part of the 49er family for life."



**Jaden Barney**, of Venetia, PA, will graduate in December 2017 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and minor in Women's and Gender Studies. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Jaden interned at Project Scientist, a local non-profit seeking to increase girls' interest in STEM fields. Through her non-profit internship, Jaden connected with UNC Charlotte sociology professor Dr. Elizabeth Stearns, with whom she collaborated on starting an IRB-approved research project in conjunction with Project Scientist, UNC Charlotte, and Harvard Pear Institute in order to study Project Scientist's methods in exciting girls about STEM. Jaden was also involved in mechanical engineering research, working with Dr. Stuart Smith on precision metrology systems and received a Goldwater Honorable Mention in 2016 for her undergraduate research. Jaden has interned twice with Apple in Cupertino, CA - summer 2015 with the AppleTV Systems Quality Assurance team and spring/summer 2016 with iPhone, Apple Watch Product Design team. She returned to Cupertino in summer 2017 for a second product design internship. Jaden also spent a portion of summer 2016 studying abroad in India through Operation Groundswell. While there, she studied gender and religion and learned from local activists and non-profit organizations. On campus, Jaden works for the Multicultural Resource Center as a Student Council member, facilitating workshops for students on diversity issues. She is collaborating with Lawrence Lardieri '18 on a civic engagement project that seeks to train incoming students on race equity and open a discussion about ethical volunteerism. She hopes to pursue an engineering industry position while remaining active in race equity and diversity advocacy, with a focus on STEM fields.



**Vincent Cahill**, of Elkin, NC, graduated in May 2017 with degrees in Chemistry, Economics, and Political Science. Upon graduation, Vincent moved to New York City to join the law office of Davis Polk & Wardwell as a Litigation Legal Assistant. After working in the city for a few years, Vincent ultimately intends to apply to law school. Vincent directed his extracurricular activity to voter engagement initiatives, UNC Charlotte Student Government Association (SGA), and UNC Association of Student Government - a state-wide student government organization for the UNC System. "I particularly enjoyed working with student groups, staff, and campus administration to make incremental improvements to the UNC Charlotte student experience, and I am most proud of the SGA campaign to transition graduation robes from black to 49er green," Vincent said. Vincent spent the spring semester of his sophomore studying abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. "My semester in Prague was one of the most remarkable experiences of my life. The ramifications of its recent communist history were present in the city's architecture, its culture, and my course curriculum." Vincent spent his summers at the Carolinas HealthCare Foundation, completing economic research at UNC Charlotte, and working as a Field Organizer for the Roy Cooper for Governor campaign. "Being a Levine Scholar opened every door for me to pursue my academic and civic interests; I could not be more grateful for these four years."



**Isabella Calpakis** of Long Island, NY, graduated in May 2016 with degrees in Economics and Communications and a minor in Public Health. Upon graduation, Isabella will be traveling to Greece to work at Ionian Village before moving to New York City in the fall for a full-time job. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Isabella interned at Make-A-Wish Foundation in Charlotte, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in New York City, the City of Charlotte mayor's office, and Ryan Seacrest Studios at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte. She

spent the spring 2015 semester at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus and summer 2015 studying abroad at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. "Without the help and support of the Levine Scholars Program, I would not have been able to gain the global perspective I now have," said Isabella. Isabella served on the Executive Board of Charlotte Dance Marathon, where she was awarded Top Individual Fundraiser in both 2014 and 2015. She founded UNC Charlotte's first chapter of Orthodox Christian Fellowship and now serves on the national board as the Public Relations Chair. "UNC Charlotte has become home for me and will always hold a special place in my heart."



**Jefferson Cooper**, of Greenville, NC, will graduate in December 2017 with a degree in Computer Engineering. Jefferson will remain at UNC Charlotte to complete a master's degree in Electrical Engineering, which he began as an early entry candidate during his senior year. Upon earning his master's, Jefferson hopes to secure a position in the consumer electronics industry. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Jefferson interned at Discovery Place in Charlotte and spent a summer assisting with graduate research in UNC Charlotte's Department of Electrical Engineering. He also studied abroad at the

University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. "The Levine Scholars Program has given me the motivation to not only excel in my area of study, but also to branch out and become a more well-rounded student. I would have never travelled to South Africa to study healthcare without being encouraged to explore new places and ideas." While at UNC Charlotte, Jefferson served as the emcee for Cru, as well as vice president of the Student 49er club. "My time at UNC Charlotte has empowered me to be the best person I can be. The friendships I have formed and the memories I have made will remind me that Charlotte will always be home."



**Caroline Fowle**, of Raleigh, NC, graduated in May 2017 with degrees in Economics and Spanish and a minor in Chinese. Upon graduation, Caroline will move to San Antonio, TX to begin her two-year assignment as a Teach For America Corps Member. She will begin her teaching career in San Antonio's public school district while gaining her teacher licensure. Caroline developed her foreign language skills, which she hopes to use to support English learning students and families, through her many international experiences. She spent a semester abroad in Santander, Spain and another in Santiago, Chile. She

also studied Mandarin as a Fulbright-Hays Scholar in Beijing and Guangzhou, China for six weeks. Her internship teaching middle school math at a nonprofit in Mississippi was a pivotal experience in her professional development. "I fell in love with teaching that summer, and the Levine Scholars Program gave me the tools and support to make my internship possible. Our scholarship program is committed to incorporating exploration into our undergraduate experiences. I was never put into a pre-professional box, so I had room to grow and discover new interests. These unique experiences transformed my career path in a truly exciting way." Caroline was a four-year member of the Business Honors Program and partnered with Addison Goff '17 on their civic engagement project to bring honey bees to Discovery Place Nature.



**Addison Goff**, of Gastonia, NC, graduated in May 2017 with a degree in Marketing and a minor in Public Health. Upon graduation, Addison moved to New York with plans to pursue a career in marketing. As part of the Levine

Scholars Program, Addison interned with Friendship Trays, where she helped launch their new urban farm and create promotional materials for Charlotte's meals on wheels program. She also spent a summer in New York City as an editorial intern at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. There she worked alongside magazine editors to organize and plan the annual American Made Program. Addison spent a semester studying abroad at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England. Returning to England the following summer, she also studied international journalism and entrepreneurship at the London School of Economics. "I attribute the majority of my personal growth and development to these international experiences, which never would have been possible without the guidance and financial support of the Levine Scholars Program," Addison said. During her time at UNC Charlotte, Addison served as a committee chair for Dance Marathon and helped launch the Community Garden with fellow scholars. She was also an active student in the Belk College of Business, where she was a member of the Business Honors Program and was honored as a Face of Belk College. "I have loved watching this campus grow and seeing our school spirit evolve throughout my four years here. The pioneering energy on campus is contagious, and I am excited to follow along and see what the future 49ers will accomplish."



**Eileen Jakeway**, of Huntersville, NC, graduated in May 2017 with degrees in French, German, and English Literature, and a minor in International Studies. Following graduation, Eileen will begin pursuing her Master of Studies in Modern Languages as an Ertegun Graduate Scholar at the University of Oxford. One of her most influential summer experiences was her participation in the Charlotte Research Scholars program, during which she was able also to travel to the National Library of France in Paris to complete a capstone thesis on the French poet Gabrielle de Coignard. Eileen learned about diversity in South

African primary education while studying abroad in Stellenbosch, South Africa and supplemented her literary coursework by studying German poets for four weeks at the University of Bamberg in Germany on a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service. Eileen feels that her participation in the Levine Scholars Program (LSP) has uniquely positioned her for graduate school due its versatile and individually oriented nature. "Without the support of LSP, I would never have taken control of my education in the way that I did during the last four years. All of the research experience I have acquired as an undergraduate was independently arranged and would not have been possible without the constant encouragement from the program to do whatever I felt was necessary to achieve my postgraduate goals." Eileen was heavily involved with the Early Modern Paleography Society, a student organization that works on transcribing early modern manuscripts, and with the University City Regional Library, where she volunteered as a tutor for four years.



**Jenny Jessen**, of Annandale, VA, graduated in May 2017 with degrees in Geography and International Studies with a Development concentration, as well as a minor in Urban Studies. Jenny plans to enter the workforce after graduation to gain real-world experience in city planning and urban design before returning to school to pursue a master's degree in landscape architecture, community and regional development, or urban design. As a part of the Levine Scholars Program, Jenny interned with Freedom School Partners in their financial development office; University City Partners, where she researched the successful implementation of light rails and development around newly-constructed light rail systems; the City of Centerville, OH, where she worked in the planning department on a

variety of projects including one to revitalize an old shopping center; and UNC Charlotte's Landscape Architect, where she provided a student perspective on the Belk Plaza redevelopment and several other projects. "The Levine Scholars Program emphasizes connection and transformation, and I love that this program has allowed me to physically transform the campus and create new connections through my internships." Jenny's international experiences included a semester in Siena, Italy, where she studied culture, language, and food; and two weeks on UNC Charlotte's pilot trip to Shanghai, China, where she studied the urbanization and economic transition of the city. While at UNC Charlotte, Jenny served as a Sorority Recruitment Counselor for the Panhellenic Association, as well as the vice president of Philanthropy and Airband Chair for Sigma Kappa Sorority. She was also an active member of Charlotte Dance Marathon, OpenStreets 704, and Free Flower Fridays with the McMillan Greenhouse.



**Ryan Mach**, of Shelby, NC, graduated in May 2017 with degrees in Psychology and Philosophy, as well as a minor in Urban Youth and Communities. Ryan will stay in Charlotte to work with local NGO's on social inequalities present in school systems. He also plans to pursue a master's degree in Counseling. As a Levine Scholar, Ryan completed summer internships with Hospice Care, Right Moves for Youth, and Urban Ministry Center. He also studied abroad in Stellenbosch, South Africa. "Charlotte is in such a unique place in its development, and I was honored to work with organizations that had such an impact on that development," Ryan said. During his time at UNC Charlotte, Ryan was president of the Psychology Student Coalition, and a member of organizations such as Dance Marathon, Psi Chi, Customer 49, and The Community for Philosophical Thinkers. Ryan was also a research assistant in the StressWAVES Behavioral Lab, a Disciplinary Communication Consultant for the Psychology Department, a Personality Assessment Assistant for the University Career Center. He volunteered with several nonprofits, including Hospice, Right Moves for Youth, and Second Harvest Food Bank and performed spoken word with local artists in and around the Southeast.



**Joneka Percentie**, of Charlotte, NC, graduated in May 2017 with a degree in Mass Media Communication and minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies. Joneka will remain in Charlotte to pursue volunteer work as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, seek further writing opportunities, and continue working on her civic engagement project. "One of my most rewarding undergraduate experiences was working with Morgan Flitt '18 on our civic engagement project, Uncovering Charlotte. Collecting and documenting women's contributions to Charlotte through multimedia storytelling was exciting and life-changing; I could not have picked a better way to close out my undergraduate career." As a Levine Scholar, Joneka interned with Safe Alliance as a domestic violence court advocate, Colorstock as a communication fellow and contributing photographer, and For Harriet as a writer and editorial assistant. Joneka spent a semester studying communication and gender studies at Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, South Korea, and part of a summer studying health and healthcare in Stellenbosch, South Africa. On campus, Joneka worked with the Office of International Programs to coordinate and support programs such as International Festival, International Women's Day, and International Education Week – where she created and presented a workshop on the unique experiences of Black students while studying abroad. "Working with organizations on campus such as the Office of International Programs and the Multicultural Resource Center really helped shape my identity as a 49er. Each moment brought me closer to the UNC Charlotte community, whether it was interacting with other students through diversity trainings or putting up flyers and exploring different areas across campus."



**Austin Philemon**, of Charlotte, NC, graduated in May 2017 with degrees in German and Organ Performance. After completing his studies at UNC Charlotte, Austin plans to pursue a master's degree in Organ Performance at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. Austin hopes to get plugged into the music scene in the northeast and seek out a variety of solo and collaborative performance opportunities. As a Levine Scholar, Austin interned with a local opera company, where he learned about budgeting, logistics, and working with performances. As part of his civic engagement grant project, Austin produced, designed, and conducted a full opera, which put all of those real skills he acquired as a freshman to use. "UNC Charlotte could not have been a better environment to learn these skills, as it is an institution that very much encourages taking holding of your environment and making it your own." Outside of coursework, Austin enjoyed creating and organizing silent movie screenings with live music for members of the community, and trying new foods throughout Charlotte and around the world.



**Jamie Smith**, of Raleigh, NC, graduated in May 2017 with degrees in Anthropology, Organizational Communication, and International Studies with a concentration of Europe, as well as a minor in Spanish. She is currently pursuing a master's in Accounting at UNC Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School. As a Levine Scholars, Jamie traveled to Israel and Cyprus to attend archaeological field schools, and spent semesters studying abroad at Kingston University in London and Universidad de Cantabria in Spain. "Going abroad and gaining experience in communities that were vastly different than mine gave me a refreshed perspective on life. I first and foremost seek to understand people as they are in their context, which has made me a better global citizen." She also interned at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, UNC Charlotte's Office of Education Abroad, and Novant Health's Internal Communications Department. During her time at UNC Charlotte, Jamie was involved in Sigma Kappa Sorority, Charlotte Dance Marathon, and Lambda Pi Eta Communication Studies Honor Society.



**Davis Vaughan**, of High Point, NC, graduated in May 2017 with a degree in Mathematics for Business along with concentrations in Actuarial Science and Finance, and minors in Computer Science and Chemistry. Davis will remain at UNC Charlotte to pursue a master's degree in Mathematical Finance with a concentration in Computational Finance. He plans to then look for a job in Charlotte at the intersection of finance, mathematics, and data science. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Davis interned with Sterling Capital Management and spent a month exploring the urban and rural areas of Bolivia. "The internship experiences I had as a Levine Scholar allowed me to narrow my focus from chemistry, to mathematics, and finally to computational finance – a field that suits me perfectly." During his time at UNC Charlotte, Davis started a tutoring business, Acquired Knowledge Tutoring, that helped dozens of students in a variety of subjects. "Running a tutoring business was incredibly rewarding. I was able to make an impact in other students' lives, while simultaneously improving my own communication skills and learning to manage and schedule other tutors." During his senior year, Davis worked as an intern for DataCamp, creating online courses to teach the R programming language using financial examples, and was the co-author of the R package, tidyquant, with the mission of providing the fastest, most scalable, and user-friendly package for financial analysis in R.



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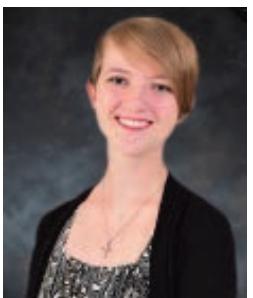
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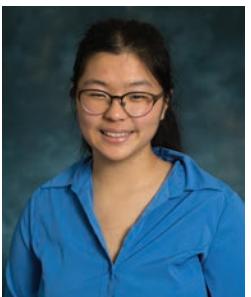
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