



UNC CHARLOTTE  
The Levine Scholars Program



[levinescholars.uncc.edu](http://levinescholars.uncc.edu)

# Levine Annual Report 2014 - 2016

# 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 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.



Mr. and Mrs. Leon and Sandra Levine, center, with the Class of 2016.



**Dr. Diane Zablotsky**  
Faculty Director



**Yolanda Coleman**  
Associate Director



**Billy Roosenberg**  
Coordinator of  
Scholar Support  
and Initiatives



**Teresa Wallace**  
University Program  
Associate

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 Message from Directors
- 4 Recruitment and Selection
- 5 We are Scholars
- 6 - 7 Summer Experiences
- 8 Civic Engagement
- 9 Legacy of Leadership
- 10 - 19 Levine Scholars

# Message from the DIRECTORS' OFFICE

What an exciting time! We have recently come through a period of substantial changes, and we cannot wait to share all of our news with you. The most noticeable change is the timing of our Annual Report. Rather than publishing it at the end of the calendar year or early spring, we have pushed it back to late summer. This will allow us to provide an up-to-date review of the academic year and the most recent graduating class. Because of the delay, this report covers fall 2014 through spring 2016 and will include two classes of graduates: the Class of 2015 and the Class of 2016. They are an impressive group of young leaders who are already making their marks around the world.



The Levine Scholars Program (LSP) is expanding in every way. Due to an even more generous gift from our benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Leon and Sandra Levine, we are admitting 20 incoming freshmen each fall, and over the next four years, the program will increase to 80 scholars. We have 65 scholars enrolled for the 2016-2017 academic year – 46 North Carolina residents and 19 scholars representing 11 other states and the District of Columbia.

You will also notice some new faces in the LSP office. Ms. Yolanda Coleman joined the program as Associate Director in June 2015, and Mr. William (Billy) Roosenberg became the Coordinator of Scholar Support and Initiatives in October 2015. Dr. Angela Rajagopalan ended her second year as the LSP Faculty Fellow and culminated her appointment by leading a study abroad honors program to Paris, France. The new faculty fellow, Dr. Heather Smith, will begin her tenure in August. Finally, LSP alumna Kelsey Mongeau '15 has joined the office as our graduate assistant, and we welcomed the addition of a second graduate assistant, Colleen Ryan, at the start of the academic year.

Where are all of these additional students and staff going to live and work? We are pleased to announce our upcoming move to the newly constructed Levine Hall at the end of 2016. This glorious space will house all of the Levine Scholars living on campus for their first two years, juniors and seniors who wish to reside on campus, and other students enrolled in the University's honors programs. There will also be a student lounge, study room, kitchen, two seminar rooms and plenty of work and meeting space for faculty, staff and students. One section of the building will house the LSP offices and the University Honors College.

With each celebration of the program and the graduating scholars we reflect on the generous support of those who contribute to their success. Mr. and Mrs. Levine continue to serve as incredible role models of service and generosity. Members of the UNC Charlotte administration, faculty and staff provide daily guidance and assistance to the scholars. Our growing number of Levine alumni has already begun reaching out to mentor the students coming behind them. We could not have achieved such heights in such a short time without the unwavering support of so many individuals.

There will be a variety of new experiences, programming and adventures in the coming year, but before that unfolds, we hope you enjoy reading about the accomplishments, internships and post-graduation plans of our current scholars and recent graduates.

Sincerely,

  
Diane Zablotsky

  
Yolanda Coleman

# RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF LEVINE SCHOLARS

Finalist Program is always action-packed and has become even more so during the past two years. We now have enough alumni to serve as interviewers, group discussion facilitators and panelists. They have become an integral part of our recruitment efforts and offer authentic narratives on their experiences and journeys. Current scholars also generously share their time to meet and engage with the finalists, answer questions, sit on panels and run a social event to help the relationship-building process. Current scholars often speak of how much they enjoy the program and how exciting it is to go from finalist, to recipient, to scholar.

High school seniors and their parents/guests are welcomed at a reception followed by dinner. We have started the tradition of inviting recipients of the Provost Award for Civic Engagement as our keynote speaker. In 2015, Dr. Heather Smith, Professor of Geography, offered an engaging overview of the campus, community and exciting work she conducts. In 2016, Dr. Jose Gamez, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, introduced our guests to the variety of civic engagement activities conducted by faculty and students and invited the finalists to envision how they can contribute to those efforts. Civic engagement remains a cornerstone of the LSP, and it is vital for finalists to hear about the impactful projects being directed by UNC Charlotte's dedicated faculty and staff.

In addition to participating on panels to welcome the parents/guests of the finalists, LSP parents hosted the first reception for the adults who accompanied their high school seniors to the 2016 finalist program. The warm welcome was appreciated by all, as information and encouragement were exchanged over light snacks at Bistro 49 in the Student Union. This is just one of the many ways that parents of current scholars and alumni contribute to LSP activities.

The number of LSP nominations and applications has increased more than two and a half times since we recruited the inaugural class. For the class of 2020, we received 2,692 nominations and 1,098 completed applications. After the completed applications are reviewed by LSP staff, we continue to rely on the efforts and wisdom of UNC Charlotte faculty and staff to make the difficult selection of finalists. Unsurprisingly, the number of finalists has also increased by more than 30%, and we no longer fit on the third floor of the Student Activity Center or solely in the Student Union for the finalist program. Of course, meeting more students for an increased number of scholarships is a wonderful opportunity, and we will always find room to grow. We are already planning innovative ways to utilize Levine Hall during the upcoming finalist program, as well as looking for additional avenues to introduce finalists to the facilities of individual colleges.

As always, the recruitment efforts have yielded exceptional results as we enrolled 15 and 20 scholars respectively in the classes of 2019 and 2020. Overall, we have a fairly even split of 32 women and 33 men in our current enrollment and continue to have students studying in every college of the University.



Alex Curley '16 (top), Isabel Fee '16 (center) and Addison Goff '17 (bottom) engage with prospective students and their guests during Finalist Program.

# WE ARE SCHOLARS - FIRST AND FOREMOST

Levine Scholars have made their presence felt on the UNC Charlotte campus, both inside and outside the classroom. They are active participants in their lecture and seminar rooms, often giving of their time to tutor other students. The culmination of four years of scholarly work sometimes results in amazing post-graduate opportunities. Austin Halbert '15 was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Research Grant to Sweden's University of Gothenberg School of Business, Economics & Law. Heidi Cope '16 was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Research Grant to Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to study the sexual health of adolescent women in India. Jaden Barney '17 received an Honorable Mention for the Goldwater Scholarship.

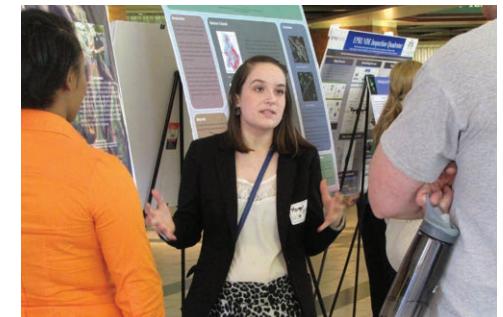
Other scholars have been identified as outstanding juniors and seniors in their majors and colleges. Bethany Hyde '15 won the Pierre Macy Award in French Excellence; Alex Curley '16 won the William States Lee College of Engineering Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award in 2015; Davis Vaughn '17 received the D.W. Simpson Actuarial Award in 2016; Jamie Smith '17 was named the Outstanding Junior in Anthropology; and Casey Aldridge '17 won the Jane Laurent Award in History. Scholars have won Freshmen Writing Awards (Katie Finch '18 and Larry Lardieri '18), and Matthew Lowry '18 was chosen to participate on the Deloitte Tax Team.

One event on campus that bridges the leadership and scholarship efforts of the Levine Scholars is the annual UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference (URC). After hosting the Sustainability Conference on campus from 2011 through 2013, the LSP became a sponsor of the URC and awarded two cash prizes for the first and second best poster or paper presentations focused on sustainability. Each year, members of the Levine freshmen class work with the faculty to coordinate the marketing, logistics and programming efforts of this campus-wide event.

The number of scholars who have presented posters and papers and won awards has increased over the past three years. In 2014, five Levine scholars presented posters: Caroline Brewer '14, Vrushab Gowda '14, Kevin Caldwell '15, Kaitlyn Chapman '16 and Austin Philemon '17. At the 2015 URC, nine scholars presented posters: Kailey Filter '15, Chloe Rodengen '15, Kevin Rodengen '15, Kaitlyn Chapman '16, Katie Waldroup '16, Bailey Allen '17, Jaden Barney '17, Morgan Flitt '18 and Megan Woody '18; five scholars presented papers: Noelle Cornelio '15, Heidi Cope '16, Sarah Whitmire '16, Casey Aldridge '17 and Jaden Barney '17. That year, three scholars won departmental awards and four scholars won awards from the Honors College. In 2016, there were three posters presented by Christie Koehler '16, Quinn Barnette '18 and Megan Woody '18. Four scholars presented papers: Isabel Fee '16, Eileen Jakeway '17, Ryan Mach '17 and Megan Woody '18 – who was on two research teams presenting papers. Quinn and Isabel won awards in their disciplines, Megan won an award in sustainability, and Eileen was a distinguished Atkins Library Award winner for her work.

Scholars have also participated in the Charlotte Research Scholars Summer Program which culminates in a research symposium at which participants present their findings in poster presentations. In summer of 2016, Casey Aldridge '17 worked on a project that resulted in a presentation entitled "Transgender and Jewish in the Classroom: The Effect of Gender Identification and Religious Affiliation on Student Experience," and Eileen Jakeway '17 presented her work entitled "The Pen or the Sword: Intergenerational Models of Authorship in Gabrielle de Coignard's *Imitation de la victoire de Judich* [Imitation of the Victory of Judith] (wr.1573-1586; pub. 1594)," which won first place in the category of Social Sciences, Humanities, Education, Business and Arts.

In addition to presenting scholarly findings at campus conferences, scholars continue to present their work to regional and national associations and societies. Kaitlyn Chapman '16 presented her work on sustainability to three regional societies. Alex Curley '16 presented papers at two national conferences and an international conference in Australia. He also co-authored a paper published in *Engineering Applications in Computational Fluid Mechanics*. Sanjana Prabhu '16 presented her research conducted with the Mecklenburg County Health Department to the American Medical Student Association and the American Public Health Association. Casey Aldridge '17 has presented papers at three regional conferences and has been invited to present his work to the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture in Glasgow, Scotland in September 2016. Eileen Jakeway '17 has also presented her work at state, regional, national and international conferences.



Morgan Flitt '18 discusses her research and poster during the 2015 Undergraduate Research Conference.



Isabel Fee '16, Eileen Jakeway '17, Megan Woody '18 and Quinn Barnette '18 presented posters and/or papers during the 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference.



*Daniel Hicks '18 is one of seven Levine Scholars to complete his/her nonprofit internship at Discovery Place.*



*Thirteen Levine Scholars -- including Isabella Calpakis '17, Megan Woody '18, Erin Coggins '18, Jefferson Cooper '17, Quinn Barnette '18 and Casey Aldridge '17 -- spent three weeks in Stellenbosch, South Africa.*



*Brandon Nixon '16 interned at Google's California headquarters for two consecutive summers.*

## SUMMERS ARE SPECTACULAR

The four summer experiences enjoyed by the scholars continue to transform their academic interests, career plans, global perspectives and strategies for giving back. Starting with the NOLS wilderness backpacking expedition before the freshmen year, students meet challenges and enjoy adventures before they even arrive on campus.

Before their sophomore year, scholars work at local nonprofit organizations for a 200-hour internship. In the past six summers, Levine Scholars have worked with 55 nonprofit organizations that serve a variety of populations and address an assortment of social needs. Scholars have worked with the Arts and Science Council, the Charlotte Symphony and Opera Carolina. They have learned about funding healthcare delivery with the Carolinas HealthCare Foundation and delivering care through the Mecklenburg County Health Department, the American Red Cross and Hospice and Palliative Care. Scholars have worked on environmental issues and sustainability, social justice and advocacy, and the support of children's rights and access to education. The LSP has forged close ties with nine community partners who have hosted at least three scholars over the past six summers (see chart).

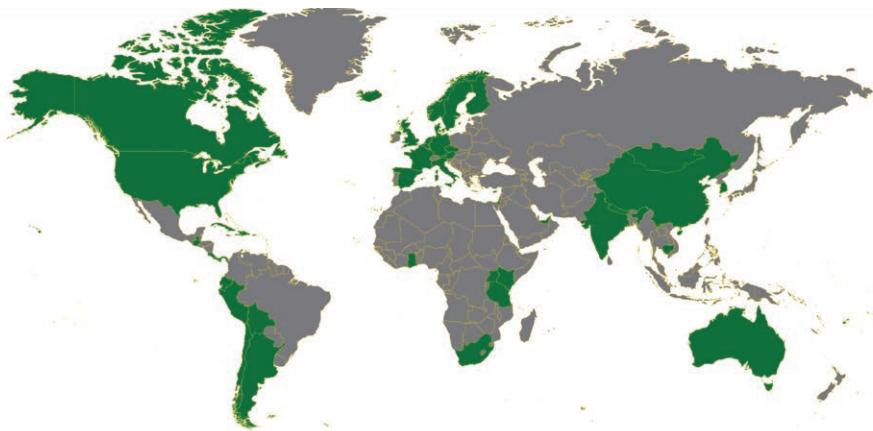
As scholars have looked for pre-professional and leadership summer opportunities

before their junior and senior years, they have explored every region of the country. Over the past five summers, students have lived and worked in 15 states and Washington D.C. sometimes working at nonprofit organizations such as Freedom Schools (Carolina Fowle '17 and Eileen Jakeway '17) and Communities in Schools (Justin Reid '16 and Katie Finch '18). Others have pursued professional socialization and training at companies such as Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia (Addison Goff '17), Unilever (Austin Halbert '15), Johnson & Johnson (Bethany Hyde '15), Google (Brandon Nixon '16) and Apple (Jaden Barney '17). A few have even ventured into local government (Robby Lankford '16 and Jenny Jessen '17), and when possible, secured research positions at other universities (University of Nebraska at Omaha – Sarah Whitmire '16).

Everyone who has graduated as a Levine Scholar has been out of the country at least once. In the past five years, three LSP international trips have allowed scholars to travel as a group to explore social issues and challenges on other continents. In summer 2015, thirteen scholars spent a month studying the healthcare and educational systems in Stellenbosch, South Africa. By focusing on central challenges such as HIV/AIDS and getting first-hand views of the devastating impact that economic and social oppression has on opportunity and daily life, the scholars



Left to right: Kevin Rodengen '15 spent a semester studying glaciers and volcanoes at the University of Iceland. Jenny Jessen '17 traveled to China for a summer program. Vincent Cahill '17 took advantage of the time he spent studying in Prague to travel to other European countries such as Austria. Joneka Percentie '17 spent a semester learning about international communications, gender and sexuality in Seoul, South Korea.



returned invigorated and enlightened. The opportunity to visit South Africa was enhanced by joining other UNC Charlotte students participating in student teaching and exploring urban sustainability.

During their third and fourth summers scholars have spanned the globe and delved more deeply into healthcare delivery, business, engineering and architectural design. Some scholars integrate domestic and international opportunities to get an eclectic look at social problems and how solutions differ between societies. In their quest to become citizens of the world, students have traveled to six continents and 42 countries.

## NONPROFIT THAT HAVE HOSTED THREE OR MORE LSP INTERNS

Care Ring	Heidi Cope '16, Bailey Allen '17, Megan Woody '18, Tyler Rapp '19
Carolinians HealthCare Foundation	Celia Karp '14, Austin Halbert '15, Vincent Cahill '17, Kyle Henson '18, Vidhya Balasubramanian '19
Charlotte Community Health Clinic	Noelle Cornelio '15, Christie Koehler '16, Erica Cherian '17, Seth Flynn '19
Discovery Place Science Museum	Jon Wainwright '14, Bethany Hyde '15, Alex Curley '16, Jefferson Cooper '17, Daniel Hicks '18, Christopher McKinnis '19, Danielle Miller '19
Friendship Trays and Gardens	Kevin Rodengen '15, Addison Goff '17, Quinn Barnette '18
Habitat for Humanity	Jacob Huffman '14, Laura Outlaw '14, Elizabeth Koehler '15, Esteban Mendieta '18, Michelle Rudd '18
Make-A-Wish Foundation	Caitlin Vaverek '14, Chloe Rodengen '15, Isabella Calpakis '17, Megan Lemon '18
Mecklenburg County Health Department	Anna Bawtinhimer '14, Sanjana Prabhu '16, Patrick Butler '19
YMCA of Greater Charlotte	Patric King '15, David Pesce '16, Eddie Angelbello '19

# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DEFINES THE LEVINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM



From top left: Noelle Cornelio '15 used her civic engagement grant to create artwork with children. Erin Coggins '18 received the Newman Civic Fellow distinction for civic engagement. Casey Aldridge '17 has spent much of his undergraduate career advocating for social justice. Levine Scholars prepare meals once a month at Ronald McDonald House. Sarah Whitmire '16 received the Newman Civic Fellow distinction for civic engagement. For his civic engagement project, James Parkhill '16 built a playground for children served by Easter Seals.

Civic engagement projects have flourished over the past three years. The first legacy project launched by the LSP Class of 2014 was Charlotte Dance Marathon. Since then, Anna Swartz '15, Elizabeth Koehler '15, Kelsey Mongeau '15, Isabella Calpakis '17, Michelle Rudd '18 and Danielle Miller '19 have been in executive leadership roles and dedicated financial support to the student organization created to launch this annual event. Through the efforts of hundreds of UNC Charlotte students, the three marathons have raised \$133,646.07. The past two years account for more than \$49,000 each, as scholars gave their time and considerable talent to fundraise for Charlotte's Levine Children's Hospital. While enthusiasm for this event has spread to dozens of student organizations and hundreds of individuals across campus, scholars continue to organize, coordinate and lead the effort.

The second legacy project launched by Kevin Rodengen '15, Jake Emerson '15, Chloe Rodengen '15, Kailey Filter '15 and Patric King '15 was the UNC Charlotte Community Garden. With welcoming hammocks and seasonal plants and vegetables, the garden has become a destination spot on campus and is maintained by the student organization created to sustain it.

Civic engagement grants have taken many forms as students invest in the Charlotte community with local partners. Some students have chosen to invest in the health and well-being of others. Noelle Cornelio '15 held the Patchwork Epiphany project to create artwork with children at the Levine Children's Hospital (LCH). The project included a silent fundraising auction to support the LCH art therapy program. Sarah Whitmire '16 coordinated a research and health education project with women who were being served by Shelter Health Services at the Salvation Army Free Clinic, and Isabel Fee '16 created a garden club and designed and built a therapeutic outdoor space for residents at a nearby assisted living center. James Parkhill '16 created a therapeutic outdoor play space for children served by Easter Seals at the Irwin and Carol Belk Center, and Annika Swanson '15 helped build an additional riding space for children at Kids Rein Therapeutic Riding Stables.

Kaitlyn Chapman '16 decided to leave her legacy in the new Levine Hall by working with Jefferson Cooper '17 through the arduous process of obtaining Green Globes Certification when the building opens. Some scholars focused on education. Katie Waldroup '16 and Robby Lankford '16 secured science curriculum and technology resources to be used by teachers at Oakdale Elementary School. Other scholars invested in artistic endeavors. Jackie Chan '16 and Tanner Parks '16 supported the work of fellow 49er Victoria Byers '16 in a project with local Latino children whose photographs were displayed in UNC Charlotte's Atkins Library. Brandon Nixon '16 hosted an arts showcase at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Cultural that featured the works of his childhood friend.

Civic engagement projects sometimes take unusual turns and require collaboration among several scholars. *The American Workday: Tales of Life and Work in the United States Today* was one such project. Authored by Austin Halbert '15, in conjunction with Laura Outlaw '14 and Vrushab Gowda '14, the book was the culmination of 38 interviews with working adults. It has received endorsements from the Global Engagement Summit and Clinton Global Initiative and can be purchased through Amazon. The proceeds go to support local individuals seeking employment.

Volunteerism at the individual and program level comes naturally to the scholars. Many have continued to volunteer with the nonprofit organizations with which they interned during their second summer. Students have formed lasting connections with The Levine Museum of the New South (Kevin Caldwell '15); The Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (Kelsey Mongeau '15); the YMCA Miracle League (David Pesce '15); Trips for Kids Foundation and DrumStrong Rhythm and Arts (James Dicus '15); Olympic High School (James Budday '16); Urban Ministry Center (Katie Waldroup '16); and Hospice of Charlotte (Ryan Mach '17) – to name a few.

Casey Aldridge '17 illustrates the foundation of a lifelong trajectory in working with organizations dedicated to social justice, access to affordable education, encouraging and enabling citizens to exercise their political rights, and preserving the environment. He has volunteered time and effort to a host of organizations, including Greenpeace, the Feminist Union, Charlotte Environmental Action and Solarize Charlotte.

Collectively the LSP continues to prepare a meal every month at the local Ronald McDonald House. Each class provides a student leader to coordinate the menu selection, food purchase, preparation and service. The ongoing commitment has been masterfully coordinated by Kevin Caldwell '15, Alex Curley '16, Jaden Barney '17 and Larry Lardieri '18.

Sarah Whitmire '16 and Erin Coggins '17 were awarded the Newman Civic Fellow distinction for their civic engagement. Sarah was the first scholar to integrate research, health education and service into her work with homeless women. Erin has immersed herself in the fight against human trafficking. They join three other Levine Scholars in earning this distinction for UNC Charlotte: Jacob Huffman '14, Christina Neitzey '14 and Austin Halbert '15.

## CARRYING ON A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Levine Scholars have continued to take on leadership roles in every aspect of academic and student life at UNC Charlotte. Some do it by holding leadership positions in student government and honor societies. This is exemplified by Austin Halbert '15, who served as president of Enactus; Brandon Nixon '16, who was president of his class in his freshman through junior years; Robby Lankford '16, who presided over Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society; Ryan Mach '17, who has served as president and vice president of the Psychology Student Coalition; and Kyle Henson '18, who is president of Pi Mu Epsilon Math Honor Society.

Other scholars saw a need on campus and created organizations to fill it. Noelle Cornelio '15 was the founder and president of Alpha Omega Epsilon, a sorority for women in Engineering and Science. Katie Finch '18 is the co-founder and co-president of Tan Kap Vini, which supports an orphanage in Haiti and helps maintain literacy programming.

Other scholars find opportunities for leadership by pursuing the social goals which help define their interests and passions. Kaitlyn Chapman '16 chaired the Charlotte Green Initiative, served as a campus Eco-Rep and worked on the Zero-Waste Football Stadium initiative (about which she presented a paper to the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education). For three years, Vincent Cahill '17 has served on the UNC Association of Student Governments as Secretary of State and National Affairs. He is one of three UNC Charlotte Vote Everywhere Ambassadors working to strengthen civic involvement on campus.

Six engineering students have been enrolled in the Engineering Leadership Academy: Bethany Hyde '15, Kaitlyn Chapman '16, Robby Lankford '16, James Parkhill '16, Jefferson Cooper '17 and Daniel Hicks '18. Bethany Hyde '15 was selected the Outstanding Senior in Systems Engineering and Engineering Management, and David Pesce '16 was selected the Outstanding Senior in Mechanical Engineering.

In a completely different arena, Casey Aldridge '17 was selected the Niner Times Rookie of the Year (2014-2015) before becoming the Opinion Editor in 2015.

At the culmination of four outstanding years in Air Force ROTC, Kailey Filter '15 was named the US Air Force Cadet of the Year. She was selected from more than 16,000 cadets for the highest achievement awarded at that level.



Kailey Filter '15 was named the US Air Force Cadet of the Year.

CLASS OF  
**2015**

---



**Kevin Caldwell**, of Charlotte, NC, graduated with a bachelor degree in Religious Studies and continues his time at UNC Charlotte as he pursues a Master's in Geography. Kevin is interested in the implementation of more efficient systems that will make cities more resilient to future challenges, and he is excited to use Charlotte as a laboratory to study the process of the region's rapid urban growth. As a Levine Scholar, Kevin interned with the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, NC and spent two summers working at Mt. Zion Archaeological Excavation in Jerusalem, Israel. Kevin's experience in Jerusalem was formative; excavating more than 2,000 years of material remains facilitated the development of a perspective focused on how the environment mediates social, environmental and economic conflicts. "My experience with the Levine Scholars Program is inseparable from my experience growing up in Charlotte. The Levine Scholars Program provided me the network to integrate myself into the dynamic processes working to make Charlotte better, and ultimately helped me discover my passion in the construction of better places today for our future tomorrow," Kevin reflected. He recognizes the flexibility of the Levine Scholars Program as its greatest strength and appreciates the support it provided him throughout his undergraduate career. "Spending the past four years as a 49er encouraged me to 'stake my claim,' follow my passions and embrace the can-do spirit that defines this place."



**Noelle Cornelio**, of Holmdel, NJ graduated with degrees in Biology and Economics, and a minor in Mathematics. Upon graduation, Noelle began working at Pharmerit, an international pharmaceutical consulting company. She plans on working at the Bethesda, MD branch for two years before pursuing a Ph.D. in Health Economics. During her internship at Market Access Solutions, Noelle performed a cost analysis of osteosarcoma and presented this research at a conference in Amsterdam. Noelle also interned at the nonprofit Aarohi, where she taught basic health literacy to women and children in a remote village in the central Himalayas. "The Levine Scholars Program enabled me to travel across the world to pursue my passions, supported me as I developed new professional goals and surrounded me with the most motivated cohort of students at UNC Charlotte," Noelle said. On campus, Noelle was an active student leader. She was a founding member and president of the UNC Charlotte chapter of Alpha Omega Epsilon, a sorority for women in engineering and the technical sciences. She also led two projects in Enactus, a global student organization dedicated to helping the community through entrepreneurial ideas. She worked in Dr. Christine Richardson's lab and co-authored her first research publication, which demonstrated that DNA double-stranded breaks are repaired by interchromosomal recombination. As an out-of-state student she reminisced, "Attending UNC Charlotte made a Jersey girl fall in love with the South."



**James Dicus**, of Charlotte, NC, graduated with degrees in International Business and Mass Media. James hopes to work abroad in the international business world, utilizing his education in the field of sales or communications. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, James interned with the Charlotte International Cabinet, Charlotte Bobcats, EMCO Charlotte, the website Clture.org and Advacare Pharma in Shanghai. He also travelled to Limoges, France as a delegate for the city of Charlotte. While in Charlotte, James engaged in many volunteer experiences, including leading bike rides with the Trips for Kids Foundation

and developing and implementing a marketing package for Drumstrong Rhythm and Arts Festival. "At UNC Charlotte, I received a hands-on education, steeped in real world experience and geared towards professionalism. The Levine Scholars Program enhanced this education tenfold by pushing me towards excellence and constantly reminding me my education was not primarily purposed at benefiting myself but that I may be equipped to make a positive, tangible change in the world around me."



**Jake Emerson**, of Gastonia, NC, graduated with a degree in Mathematics and a minor in Biology. Following graduation, Jake began medical school at Rush Medical College in Chicago. While he is excited to spend his first couple of years at Rush exploring various specialties, he is particularly interested in surgical oncology. During his time in Charlotte, Jake spent two years researching acute myeloid leukemia in the Hematology/Oncology Laboratory at the Levine Cancer Institute. He also participated in the Cannon Summer Scholars Program, where he studied the connection between asthma and obesity in at-risk populations in the Charlotte area. As a Levine Scholar, Jake explored his interest in building healthy communities through an internship with Sow Much Good, a non-profit organization seeking to ensure easy access to healthy foods for all citizens in Charlotte. His work with Sow Much Good inspired him to use his civic engagement grant to build the UNC Charlotte Community Garden, an on-campus produce garden that supplies students with fresh foods, sustainability education and space for leisure. "Not only did the Levine Scholars Program supply me with the tools to pursue my passions, but it also provided me with a unique array of experiences that helped me to identify the nature of those passions," Jake reflected. His experiences studying abroad for a semester in Panama and volunteering in a small hospital in Tanzania were some of the most transformative. His eyes opened to the value of global medical efforts, and he hopes to impact an international community as a practicing physician.



**Kailey Filter**, of Matthews, NC, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and a minor in Aerospace Studies. Upon graduation, Kailey commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Her first station is Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. She plans to pursue a career in Air Force medicine with hopes of becoming a flight nurse and eventually a nurse practitioner. As a Levine Scholar, Kailey interned with the Service to the Armed Forces division of the American Red Cross. Her international experience included an archeological dig in Jerusalem and a trip to Cuba to study their healthcare system. She also attended Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps field training, once as a cadet and once as an instructor. Kailey was recognized as the recipient of the 2014 USAA Outstanding CTA Award for her work. "The Levine Scholars Program has given me more opportunities than I ever dreamed. I

was able to do anything I wanted with support all along the way," Kailey said. While at UNC Charlotte, Kailey spent most of her time with AFROTC Detachment 592 where she was appointed and served as the Cadet Wing Commander for the fall of 2014. She held a number of leadership positions within ROTC and enjoyed guiding her peers. She also played a role in the UNC Charlotte Community Garden; part of her grant funded the expansion of the garden and the installment of handicap-accessible beds.



**Austin Halbert**, of Shelby, NC, graduated with a degree in Organizational Management and a minor in Economics. After graduation, Austin embarked on a Fulbright Research Fellowship in Stockholm, Sweden. The fellowship will sponsor his research on public-private social change systems. Upon completion of his fellowship, Austin plans to begin his career working with high-impact businesses to design productive social mission strategies. Austin explored his interest in research early on as a Levine Scholar, gaining international recognition as a top student researcher at Education Without Borders in

Dubai. He transitioned from behind-the-scenes research to frontline journalism with his Levine civic engagement project, which involved interviewing 50 diverse workers for a book that raises funds for unemployed citizens' job training. "The Levine Scholars Program encouraged me to dream without reservation, empowering me to pursue experiences that enrich my life and those around me," Austin said. On campus, he gained valuable experience as a member of the Business Honors Program and President of the social entrepreneurship organization, Enactus. Austin was recognized as a Newman Civic Fellow, a delegate to Global Engagement Summit and a participant in Clinton Global Initiative University. He interned with Carolinas Healthcare Foundation, Rotary International and Unilever, and through the Global Business Semester, he visited corporations across Europe, China and India. "From day one, life as a Levine Scholar was wholly transformative," Austin said. "The program has generously shared the resources of the Charlotte community, the platform of a world-class scholarship program and the connection to a thriving group of change-makers within a rapidly growing University."



**Bethany Hyde**, of Saluda, NC, graduated with degrees in Systems Engineering and French, and a minor in Mathematics. After graduation, Bethany began the Information Technology Leadership Development Program, a two-year rotational program, at Johnson & Johnson in Raritan, NJ. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Bethany spent the summer after her freshman year as an intern at the Discovery Place. The following two summers were spent interning at Johnson & Johnson in different roles in Information Technology. Her international experience included studying for a semester in Limoges, France.

Bethany was involved in several different student organizations on campus, primarily the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Society of Systems Engineers. She was also very active in the 49er High Power Rocketry Organization and competed in the 2015 NASA Student Launch Competition as part of her engineering Senior Design project. Bethany was recognized as the Outstanding Senior in the department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management in the Lee College of Engineering. She also received the Pierre Macy Award of French Excellence from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "The Levine Scholars Program was the family I needed to push me both academically and personally toward being the best student, employee and person I could be," Bethany said. "I will always be grateful for how connected I became to the Program, the University and the City of Charlotte."



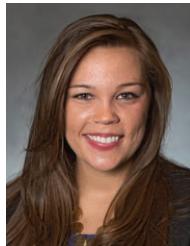
**Patric King**, of Indian Trail, NC, graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering. Upon graduation, Patric began working for a residential structural engineering firm located in the Charlotte neighborhood of Plaza-Midwood. He plans to pursue a professional engineering career by completing the Professional Engineers of North Carolina exam in four years. He hopes to be able to provide structural integrity and peace of mind to the homeowners of the greater Charlotte area. As part of the Levine Scholars program, Patric interned with the University City YMCA. His international experience included an archeological excavation in Jerusalem. "The Levine Scholars Program gave me the tools and experiences to lead a fulfilling life and taught me the importance of the impact we have on others," Patric reflected. His many volunteer experiences included working with the Miracle League of Charlotte and serving on the Charlotte Dance Marathon Leadership Committee. He also lettered as a varsity athlete on the UNC Charlotte 49ers baseball team and was a three-time Hugh McEniry award winner.



**Elizabeth Koehler**, of Mooresville, NC, graduated with a degree in Computer Science. Upon graduation, she pursued a Master of Science in Information and Communications Technology, with concentrations in Project Management and Web Development, at the University of Denver in Colorado. She then plans to work towards her Project Management Professional certification. As a Levine Scholar, Elizabeth focused on Student Government, Charlotte Dance Marathon and her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, where she was able to collaborate on University-related projects and work closely with the Levine Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. After teaching computer lessons in South Africa and working on a professional team at TIAA-CREF in Charlotte, Elizabeth realized her passions are working with others in technical fields. She wants to pursue a career in healthcare project management that results in the development of programs, applications and software that can make the lives of doctors, nurses and patients easier and more efficient. During her time at UNC Charlotte, she also participated in club lacrosse, attended LeaderShape and led the Homecoming Committee for the first-ever football season. "My experience as a 49er would not have been the same without the Levine Scholars Program. It allowed me to immerse myself not only on this campus, but in the Charlotte community as a whole," Elizabeth reflected. "Even though I will be moving across the country, I will take everything I learned here at UNC Charlotte to continue to be a better student, better colleague and better leader."



**Kelsey Mongeau** of Hampstead, NC, graduated with degrees in Public Health and Sociology with a concentration in Social Problems and Policy. She will begin graduate school in UNC Charlotte's Public Administration program in the fall of 2016. During her time at UNC Charlotte, Kelsey interned with Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, Kabale Diocese Community Health Insurance, and the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. "As a Levine Scholar, I was constantly driven to find the way that I would make an impact. With so many amazing peers it is hard not to be inspired to find your own voice." She is proud to have carried on the legacy of the preceding class by taking on leadership in the 2015 Charlotte Dance Marathon. "Dance Marathon allowed me to meet new members and get to know different facets of the 49er family, even into my senior year. This experience proved to me that our campus is more than a collection of students. It is a community excited to build traditions."



**Chloé Rodengen**, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a minor in Sociology. Upon graduation, Chloé accepted a job on a medical-surgical unit with the Carolinas Healthcare System in Charlotte. Chloé plans to eventually pursue a graduate degree and become a nurse practitioner. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Chloé interned with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Western North Carolina and volunteered with the Levine Children's Hospital. She also participated in multiple international experiences including a semester abroad in Canterbury, Kent in the United

Kingdom, an archeological dig in Jerusalem, and a UNC Charlotte Sociology education trip to Manchester, United Kingdom. "The Levine Scholars Program helped me develop into an individual, while using my talents to give back to the community. The program taught me the importance of working as a team while developing more as a leader," Chloé said. She participated in a multitude of volunteer experiences, such as helping to lead Charlotte Dance Marathon to benefit the Levine Children's Hospital and co-founding the UNC Charlotte Community Garden, which was established to provide a sustainable food source for students and faculty on campus. "Being a Levine Scholars and 49er has allowed me to explore the world, follow my dreams and discover who I am. I feel so grateful to be a part of the Charlotte community and give back to the city that has given me so much," Chloé reflected.



**Kevin Rodengen**, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences and a minor in Biology. He intends to spend the next few years after graduation living a nomadic lifestyle as the director of travel documentaries, shedding light on living a life that is true to one's heart. As a Levine Scholar, Kevin focused the greater part of his time on campus creating a student community garden with the goals of creating a space that will foster education in sustainable agriculture and promote student green initiatives. He spent a semester at the University of Iceland studying glaciers

and volcanoes both in the field and in the classroom. He travelled to Israel and Nepal, which further developed his passion for videography. "The Levine Scholarship gave me the opportunity to explore the world, which inevitably became a journey of self-exploration," Kevin recalls. "These experiences shaped me and helped me better understand the impact I would like to have on the world."



**Anna Swartz**, of Reading, PA, graduated with degrees in International Business and Management and with minors in Economics and Spanish. Upon graduation, Anna stayed in Charlotte to begin her career at Wells Fargo Securities, where she joined the Management Associate Program, a two-year rotational program in the Operations Department. Throughout her time as a Levine Scholar, Anna interned with two local nonprofits, the Ronald McDonald House and The Echo Foundation. Anna spent a semester studying Spanish language and culture along with Globalization and Emerging Global

Economies in Sevilla, Spain. "The Levine Scholars Program showed me the value in trying new things and stretching the boundaries of my comfort zone, while providing me support and advice along the way," Anna said. She served on the Leadership Committee of Charlotte Dance Marathon and assumed the role of Executive Director in her senior year. Anna also supported University athletics and her passion for dance as a four-year member of the Gold Dusters Dance Team. "UNC Charlotte gave me the opportunity of being at a big school and small one at the same time. I

obtained a personalized education while still being a part of campus-wide events and traditions."



**Annika Swanson**, of Delray Beach, FL, graduated with a degree in Special Education, concentrating in the adapted curriculum. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Annika interned with Kids Rein Therapeutic Horseback Riding, a Huntersville-based nonprofit organization. With Kids Rein, Annika facilitated therapeutic horseback riding and barn activities, became proficient in equine care and learned procedures for small nonprofit management. Annika maintained an ongoing relationship with Kids Rein throughout her time at UNC Charlotte, using her civic engagement grant to design and create a new riding arena for therapeutic riding sessions. For her international experience, Annika completed an education project in Nadi, Fiji, at the Nadi Centre for Special Needs. There, she worked with elementary-aged students with developmental disabilities and experienced an international approach to special-needs education. "The Levine Scholars Program helped me find and explore unique programs and environments suited to my interests and passion for individuals with special needs," Annika reflected. During her time at UNC Charlotte, she also discovered a newfound passion for health and fitness; she plans to acquire certification as a personal trainer in the near future. Upon graduation, Annika combined her knowledge and passion for Special Education and fitness by pursuing a career in autism therapy and developing educational exercise programs for young adults with developmental disabilities.

## CLASS OF 2016



**James Budday**, of Wilson, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a Computer Science degree and a minor in Psychology. Upon graduation, James began a dual degree master's program with Carnegie Mellon University and The University of Madeira in Portugal to study Human Computer Interaction. As a part of the Levine Scholars Program, he volunteered at nature reserves in Peru and Costa Rica and taught basic computer programming and video-game making at Olympic High School in Charlotte. He interned at Apparo, where he connected local nonprofits with technology solutions to fit their specific needs. "The Levine Scholars Program really opened the doors to the best of what UNC Charlotte and the greater Charlotte area have to offer. The amount of opportunity really is mind

boggling," James said. During his time at UNC Charlotte, James was very involved in the Charlotte Fighting Game Community, where he helped organize events that drew national attendees. Some of these events also raised money for Charlotte Dance Marathon, for which James managed the technological aspects. "Being a 49er has allowed me to pursue everything that I could have ever wanted. I have been able to teach many different age groups, conduct research in areas I find interesting, develop professionally and give back to my community in meaningful ways."



**Jacqueline Chan**, of Matthews, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Finance and a minor in Biology. Jacqueline will begin her position at Wells Fargo Bank as part of the Financial Analyst Program in the Community Lending and Investment Group in Charlotte, NC. As part of this program, she intends on continuing her training in credit analysis through the Credit Management Training Program at Wholesale University. Jacqueline interned at the Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte, where she focused on volunteer recruitment and best practices. She took her experiences abroad to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hong Kong in order to compare and utilize the best practices from both Houses. The following year, she returned to Hong Kong for a marketing internship with a local firm, Pro-Fit Industrial Co. Ltd. The skills she obtained at these internships helped her to partner with a fellow 49er in constructing an exhibition at Atkins Library entitled No Where | Now Here that featured photographs taken by students from a predominantly Latin American population. "It has been an amazing journey to see how the Levine Scholars Program has evolved in the past four years. However, it pales in comparison to the impact this program has made on my life. It not only has provided me with the opportunities of a lifetime but has helped me to discover what I am most passionate about and allowed me to pursue those passions."



**Kaitlyn Chapman**, of Raeford, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Upon graduation, Kaitlyn joined the McAdams Company in Durham, NC as a Civil Engineering Designer. During her time at UNC Charlotte, Kaitlyn's interests in the environment, sustainable development and green infrastructure led to her involvement in numerous student organizations and groups, including the College of Engineering Leadership Academy and the Charlotte Green Initiative, which she chaired for two years. Kaitlyn interned with the University's sustainability office and presented posters at the Association of Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education Conference, the Southeastern Eco-Reps Conference and the UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference about her involvement with the Zero-Waste football stadium initiative. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Kaitlyn spent her summers with the nonprofit organizations Envision Charlotte and the Environmental Defense Fund. She continued these interests by traveling through the Energy Production

and Infrastructure Center's summer exchange program with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany. Kaitlyn used her civic engagement grant to pursue a Green Globes certification for Levine Hall. "I cannot imagine having a more meaningful or fulfilling college experience," Kaitlyn reflected. "I have worked with amazing people and organizations, learned a lot about myself, pushed past my comfort zones and created lifelong friendships in the process."

**Heidi Cope**, of Raleigh, NC, graduated in May 2016 with degrees in

Biology and German and with minors in Chemistry and Public Health. Volunteering in rural India during her junior summer with women's health inspired her U.S. Fulbright grant, "Sexual Health and Arranged Marriage: Mechanisms for Adolescent Women's Empowerment and Wellbeing," which she will begin working on the year following graduation in Delhi and rural Uttar Pradesh. Upon returning to the U.S., Heidi plans to apply to graduate school to become a women's health professional. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Heidi interned with the healthcare nonprofit Care Ring. "Working with underinsured and uninsured populations at Care Ring was my gateway into the public health world," she reflected. "My experience with Care Ring motivated me to pursue other public health opportunities, like working in a research lab on chronic liver disease at Carolinas Medical Center as a Cannon Scholar." At UNC Charlotte, Heidi participated in Model UN and found that representing countries for the World Health Organization committee fostered her passion for women's health, both in North Carolina and internationally. Heidi views her undergraduate career at UNC Charlotte as a pivotal experience that helped shape her interests and passions for years to come.



**Alex Curley**, of Norfolk, MA, graduated in May 2016 with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Physics. From the beginning, the Levine Scholars Program gave him the opportunity to connect with the community through the program's relationship with the Ronald McDonald House. Stumbling into the responsibility as his class' representative, Alex grew close to the volunteer staff and the mission of the House. "It is the little things that can make the greatest difference. Being able to provide a home-cooked meal to families at the hospital may not seem significant, but the families are so grateful to have the network of support the House provides," Alex said. In his senior year, Alex committed to extending the Levine Scholars' presence at the House through his civic engagement grant. Alex interned in the Explore More Stuff lab at the Discovery Place Science Museum where he helped develop the next series of exhibits. He spent two summers in Charlotte researching motorsports aerodynamics and had the opportunity to work on projects including the 2016 SRT Viper ACR. With the help of the Levine Scholars Program, Alex traveled to Australia to present his first conference paper and spent three months working in a wind tunnel in England, experiences that helped launch his career. Alex now calls Charlotte home as he begins his career as an aerodynamics engineer at Stewart-Haas Racing.



**Isabel Fee**, of Charlotte, NC, graduated in 2016 with a degree in Architecture and a certificate in Spanish Translation. Upon graduation, Isabel will pursue a Master in Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. As a Levine Scholar, Isabel explored architectural design through internships at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in Charlotte; Brunzini Arquitectos y Asociados in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Little Diversified Architectural Consulting in Charlotte. Her design studies were coupled with a passion for the geriatric population. Disparate interests came together in the implementation of her civic engagement grant, which allowed Isabel to work with seniors to build a therapeutic outdoor space at Brookdale Charlotte East. "The Levine Scholarship allowed me to travel and explore the things that fascinate me most," Isabel reflected. "The best part was coming back to Charlotte and being able to do something tangible with all that I had learned and experienced." Isabel also served as a peer mentor and class representative within the School of Architecture.



**Robby Lankford**, of Monroe, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Civil Engineering and a minor in Actuarial Mathematics. Robby will return to UNC Charlotte in fall 2016 to pursue a master's in Mathematical Finance with a concentration in Risk Management. Robby also plans to pursue his Actuarial licensure during graduate school and hopes to relocate to Boston upon graduation. As a part of the Levine Scholars Program, Robby interned with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission and an Environmental Conservation NGO in London. He also

studied abroad at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. "Being able to have experiences during the summers unrelated to engineering helped me decide what my next steps would be after graduation. I knew I wanted to branch off from my undergraduate degree, and those experiences ultimately led to the decision to diversify my education," Robby said. During his time at UNC Charlotte, Robby was actively involved in various College of Engineering organizations, including serving as President of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Secretary of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society and Secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



**Christina Koehler**, of Arnold, MD, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Nursing. Upon graduation, Christie began working at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore as a resident in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. She plans to eventually become a family nurse practitioner. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Christie interned at Charlotte Community Health Clinic and spent a summer in an oncology unit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a rural hospital in Ngorongoro, Tanzania. "I draw on the experiences that I have had as a Levine Scholar every day. My international experiences taught me to be

flexible, to appreciate the present and to endeavor to understand other peoples' perspectives - all things that have made me a better nurse and a better leader." During her time at UNC Charlotte, Christie was involved in Charlotte Dance Marathon, where she ran the Public Relations and Marketing Committee. "Being a part of the 49er Nation has been instrumental in my development - the memories made, friendships formed and achievements accomplished have made UNC Charlotte my second home."



**Brandon Nixon**, of Fayetteville, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Philosophy. Upon graduation, Brandon began working at Google as a Human Resource Associate in their People Operations department located in San Francisco. During this time, Brandon also plans to apply to Harvard Business School. As a Levine Scholar, Brandon interned at the Harvey B. Gant Center for African-American Arts + Culture and Google for two consecutive summers. His international experience included an archeological trip to Jerusalem and an existentialism course in Paris. During his time

at UNC Charlotte, Brandon was actively involved in the Student Government Association, where he served as class president for three consecutive years. Brandon also planned and creatively directed several art showcases. "Four years ago, who knew I would be doing art? I could never imagine myself accomplishing so much anywhere else," Brandon reflected. "I am grateful for every single thing UNC Charlotte - and more specifically, the Levine Scholars Program - has given me."



**James Parkhill**, of Concord, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Civil Engineering and a minor in Child & Family Development. Upon graduation, James began working in Charlotte as a Transportation Planner for Atkins Global Engineering. James plans to continue his involvement in the Charlotte community by influencing local issues related to density, growth and equitable transportation. He also plans to apply to graduate school for Transportation and Urban Planning in the near future. As a Levine Scholar, James interned with the Council for Children's Rights in Charlotte as well as the Metropolitan

Transit Authority in New York. His international experience included an internship with an engineering consulting firm in Hong Kong. For his civic engagement project, James worked in Charlotte with Easter Seals at the Irwin & Carol Belk Center to design and build several raised, accessible garden beds and other natural elements developmentally appropriate for children with physical or mental disabilities. "The Levine Scholars Program has been so supportive and individualized for me," James said. "It has helped me develop my interests while also exploring new places - both in Charlotte and abroad. I have made friends to last a lifetime within the program as well as internationally." At UNC Charlotte, James was treasurer of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and a graduate of the Engineering Leadership Academy. "I am very proud to be an alumnus of UNC Charlotte," James reflected. "It has been an amazing experience to be part of the diverse, developing communities of the University and Charlotte."



**Tanner Parks**, of Atlanta, GA, graduated in May of 2016 with degrees in Communication Studies with a track in Organizational Communication and International Studies with a concentration on the continent of Africa. After graduation, Tanner will spend three years working for Young Life in Charlotte. Through the opportunities provided by the Levine Scholars Program, Tanner interned with Young Life, With Open Eyes and Wine to Water. As part of his With Open Eyes internship, he spent a month in Kenya working in the field and conducting research. "The experiences I have had

are simply amazing. The Levine Scholars Program has allowed me to put aside so many of the obstacles that could have gotten in my way and focus on getting the absolute most out of my four years at UNC Charlotte," Tanner reflected. As a dedicated volunteer with Young Life, Tanner worked with students at a local high school, and he was also actively involved in Patchwork Epiphany, an annual art auction that supports the Levine Children's Hospital and Charlotte Dance Marathon.



**David Pesce**, of Germantown, MD, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Math. Upon graduation, David began working at Ford Performance in Concord, NC performing high fidelity NASCAR simulations and dynamic studies. During this time, David remains committed to the Charlotte community as a YMCA Miracle League baseball coach. As a Levine Scholar, David interned as a leadership staff member at the University City YMCA and parlayed this experience into continuous, year-round community involvement. His international experience included three months

at Durham University in the United Kingdom, where he performed Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) in a wind tunnel. "The time in Durham gave me a chance to not only experience different cultures

and broaden my perspective, but also to develop independence and improve my appreciation for beliefs unlike my own," David said. During his time at UNC Charlotte, David served as a teacher's assistant and undergraduate researcher. David also learned the importance of "virtue, diligence, and brotherly love" as a brother and Balanced Man Scholarship Chair of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. "The Levine Scholars Program provided me with a true family away from home, and Sigma Phi Epsilon contributed everlasting brotherhood, both of which will be treasured for the rest of my life."



**Sanjana Prabhu**, of Cary, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a Public Health degree and minors in Biology and Spanish. Upon graduation, Sanjana moved to Raleigh to gain experience in the public health workforce. During this time, she also plans to apply to medical school to pursue primary care. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Sanjana interned at the Mecklenburg County Health Department, where she served as a program evaluator, later sharing her assessment results as a poster presenter at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference in Chicago. Her international experiences

included studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain and spending a summer in Cape Town, South Africa for an internship and a faculty-led program. She also completed her Spanish minor by taking summer classes in Costa Rica. "As a freshman, I never would have imagined that I would spend a summer in Cape Town, such a lively, bright and international city. The pre-medical internship I completed there made for the most fulfilling experience that fueled my interests in medicine and global health," Sanjana said. She also conducted research with UNC Charlotte's Department of Public Health Sciences, working with Spanish-speaking patients with hypertension at Care Ring, a low-cost clinic in uptown Charlotte. On campus, Sanjana served as the Charlotte Dance Marathon Moral Committee Chair for three years, coordinating dances and activities to keep up the spirit of participants during the 12-hour overnight event. "Working with Charlotte Dance Marathon was the most enjoyable way for me to interact with my fellow 49ers," Sanjana said. "It was an unforgettable experience to join a national movement of Marathons and to put Charlotte on the map. It strengthened my commitment to the Charlotte community."



**Justin Reid**, of Kernersville, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Sociology with a concentration in Social Problems and Policy. He plans to take his next step working in long-term care communities for older adults with physical care needs and/or cognitive impairment. During his time as a Levine Scholar, he interned with Communities in Schools, Inc. and Friendship Gardens. He also studied communities and marginalized populations in Manchester, England and Stellenbosch, South Africa. "The Levine Scholars Program gave me the chance to explore how social interaction shapes our world from a

local to an international level. I had the freedom to carve my own path in my chosen field of study but also shared in a wealth of experiences with my peers in serving communities relevant to their own interests." Justin is proud to have used his time as a scholar to cultivate skill and experience in a broad range of subjects to inform his future. "In my time as a Levine Scholar I studied aging, hip-hop, Japanese and social inequality. I helped restore a historic site in England that served as a community center and worked on a farm. I could not have predicted the path I took but each step was a learning opportunity that I hope pushes me to continue to grow every day."



**Katie Waldroup**, of Kannapolis, NC, graduated in May 2016 with degrees in Special and Elementary Education. Upon graduation, Katie began teaching fifth grade at Walter Bickett Elementary School in Monroe, NC while also pursuing options for graduate school. As part of the Levine Scholars Program, Katie interned at Urban Ministry Center in Charlotte, where she built relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness and updated the community resource manual. Her international experience included working in an elementary school and an orphanage in Cusco, Peru, and studying the education system in Stellenbosch, South Africa. "The Levine Scholars Program has given me the freedom to pursue my passion for education. It has given me opportunities to explore the ways culture and socioeconomic status affect student success within and beyond the classroom," Katie said. As a 49er, she also participated in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship as a member, a worship team leader and a coordinator on the executive board. "These people have become my mentors, my mentees, my friends and, most of all, my family. UNC Charlotte has not only given me the tools to become a great teacher, but my time here has made me a better person."



**Sarah Whitmire**, of Wilmington, NC, graduated in May 2016 with a degree in Biology and a minor in Music. Sarah was dually enrolled in the Bioinformatics Professional Science Master's Program during her last year of undergraduate study. She plans to stay at UNC Charlotte for an additional year to complete her graduate degree. As part of the Levine Scholars program, Sarah interned with Shelter Health Services (a nonprofit clinic for women and children residing at the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter), participated in Oral Medicine research at Carolinas HealthCare System and worked in Experimental Neuroscience research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. She has been involved in research since her first year at UNC Charlotte. After starting in organic chemistry research, she joined the Laboratory of Systems Physiology in the Kinesiology Department. For three years, she worked with isometric handgrip exercise and its blood pressure reducing effects. She brought her experiences full circle when she asked to conduct an isometric exercise program at the Salvation Army. She created a community-based research project with the goal of providing a self-sustainable way for the high-risk population to control their blood pressure. "In addition to developing many unique friendships, I have developed leadership skills that will be applicable for the rest of my life," Sarah said. Her international experience included a medical trip to Ghana, where she worked in the local hospitals and leprosy clinics. "Both UNC Charlotte and the Levine Scholars program have helped me have a unique college experience that I could not have dreamed of four years ago," said Sarah. "It has pushed my limits and, given the chance, I would do it all over again."

CLASS OF  
**2016**



**Casey Aldridge**  
Concord, NC



**Bailey Allen**  
Whiteville, NC



**Jaden Barney**  
Venetia, PA



**Vincent Cahill**  
Elkin, NC



**Isabella Calpakis**  
Manhasset, NY



**Jefferson Cooper**  
Greenville, NC



**Caroline Fowle**  
Raleigh, NC



**Addison Goff**  
Gastonia, NC



**Eileen Jakeway**  
Huntersville, NC



**Jenny Jessen**  
Annandale, VA



**Ryan Mach**  
Shelby, NC



**Joneka Percentie**  
Charlotte, NC



**Austin Philemon**  
Monroe, NC



**Jamie Smith**  
Raleigh, NC



**Davis Vaughan**  
High Point, NC

**2017**  
CLASS OF



**Quinn Barnette**  
Belmont, NC



**Erica Cherian**  
Roswell, GA



**Erin Coggins**  
Concord, NC



**Katie Finch**  
Winston-Salem, NC



**Morgan Flitt**  
Gastonia, NC



**Kyle Henson**  
Mebane, NC



**Daniel Hicks**  
Kannapolis, NC



**Gabriella Kroska**  
Onamia, MN



**Larry Lardieri**  
Asheville, NC



**Megan Lemon**  
Towson, MD



**Matthew Lowry**  
Hickory, NC



**Esteban Mendieta**  
Indian Trail, NC



**Michelle Rudd**  
Annville, PA



**Randy Staples**  
Silver Spring, MD



**Megan Woody**  
Matthews, NC

**2018**  
CLASS OF



**Yousef Abdel-Rahman**  
Wake Forest, NC



**Eddie Angelbello**  
Fort Lauderdale, FL



**Vidhya Balasubramanian**  
Cary, NC



**Patrick Butler**  
Raleigh, NC



**Leysha Caraballo**  
Miramar, FL



**Seth Flynn**  
Burnsville, NC



**Beth Kingaby**  
Concord, NC



**Taelor Malcolm**  
Fayetteville, GA



**Christopher McKinnis**  
Pinehurst, NC



**Danielle Miller**  
Downingtown, PA



**Joseph Obeid**  
Huntersville, NC



**Tyler Rapp**  
Mount Holly, NC



**Robert Russell**  
Charlotte, NC



**Lazar Trifunovic**  
Winston Salem, NC



**Sydney Welch**  
Morganton, NC

**2019**  
CLASS OF



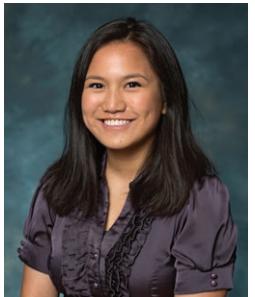
**Kyle Ali**  
Windsor, CT



**Alex Caviness**  
Johnson City, TN



**Christian Chavis**  
Pembroke, NC



**Maria Cruzat**  
Winston-Salem, NC



**Ben Fasel**  
Lewisville, NC



**Kaylyn Groth**  
Seneca, IL



**Reggie Harper**  
Clayton, NC



**Daiana James**  
Washington, DC



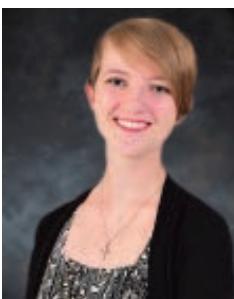
**Riley Jones**  
Denver, NC



**Elizabeth Kay**  
Cary, NC



**Sam Lee**  
Derwood, MD



**Melissa Martin**  
Wake Forest, NC



**Elissa Miller**  
Gastonia, NC



**Sarah Mullen**  
Chicago, IL



**Julia Nelson**  
Cincinnati, OH



**Noah Shaver**  
Mount Pleasant, NC



**Kevin Smith**  
Clayton, NC



**Yesika Sorto Andino**  
Charlotte, NC



**Lauren Tooley**  
Brevard, NC



**Seth Whitley**  
Marshville, NC

**2020**  
CLASS OF



**UNC CHARLOTTE**

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

[levinescholars.uncc.edu](http://levinescholars.uncc.edu)