

CAROLINA *Chronicle*

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

2014

A woman with dark hair in a braid, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and a brown utility vest, stands in a field of tall, thin grass. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The vest has a clipboard with a patterned cover and a water bottle in a pocket. The background is a soft-focus field of similar grass.

LANDSCAPES **CHANGE**
Carolina Responds

You hold in your hands the first print issue of the *Carolina Chronicle*. We instituted exciting changes in our communication with alumni this year to take advantage of all the ways we can share stories with you. The result is this print publication as well as more engaging and interactive digital content that enables us to connect with you better than ever before.

If you want to see visually arresting photography and feel the pages between your fingers, this issue will delight you. If you want frequent content that keeps you up to date with Carolina happenings, digital editions of *Carolina Chronicle* will appear in your email inbox. If you want to watch videos that show our graduate students in action—such as the lively conversation between Dean Steve Matson and graduate student Kiran Bhardwaj—visit our website carolinachronicle.unc.edu to explore digital features.

Much as the media landscape has changed, landscapes around North Carolina and the world change. Our graduate students rise to the challenge with solution-focused research. Carolina graduate education itself is also dynamic—evolving to better serve students and advance knowledge. In this issue, we share the behind-the-scenes stories of two new doctoral programs introduced this year. Other features highlight the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of graduate education of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Please send your comments or suggestions to carolinachronicle@unc.edu.

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carolinachronicle.

A Conversation with the Dean

carolinachronicle.unc.edu/bhardwaj-matson

Kiran Bhardwaj, 2013-2014 president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, talks with Graduate Dean Steve Matson about everything from the role of mentorship to the future of graduate education.

Video by Leon Godwin and Jon Kasbe



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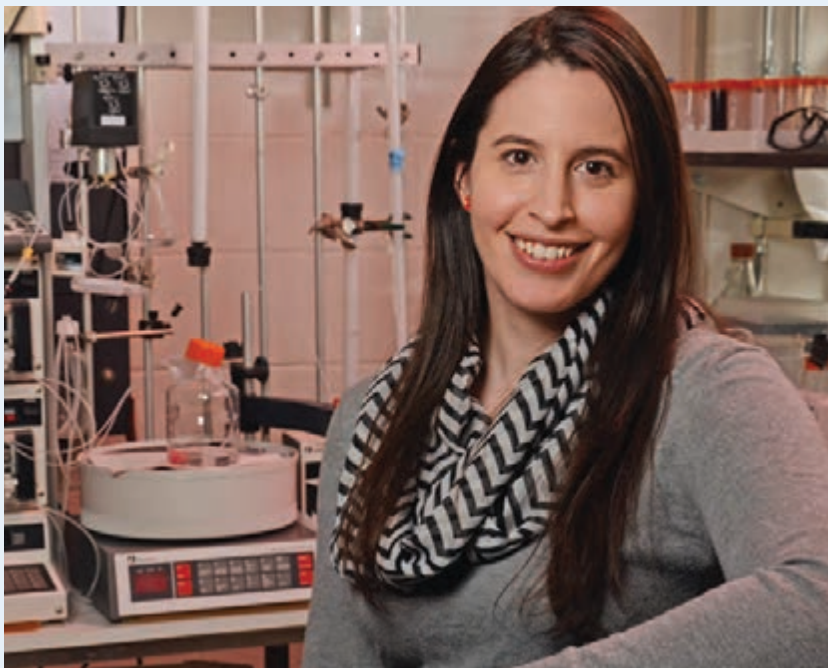
New interdisciplinary Ph.D. explores many facets of America

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Friends of graduate education support student success



unc.edu



Shrinking Blood Clots, Saving Lives

carolinachronicle.unc.edu/aleman

Watch doctoral alumna Maria Aleman in her lab conducting research to improve cardiovascular health.

Video by Jess Clark

See where other Carolina graduate alumni have landed, and tell us your story

gradschool.unc.edu/footprints



Meet all 20 recipients of the 2014 Graduate Education Advancement Board Impact Awards

carolinachronicle.unc.edu/impactawards2014

Will Robin was recently named the inaugural Scholar-in-Residence for the N.C. Symphony

carolinachronicle.unc.edu/willrobin

Get to know the first six American studies Ph.D. students at Carolina

carolinachronicle.unc.edu/amstudies

It's a fact...

The college of arts and sciences is the youthful heart of the university, the professional schools are its skillful arms, and the **GRADUATE SCHOOL** is its **CROWNING GLORY.**²

—Franklin Porter Graham, in his inaugural address, 1931

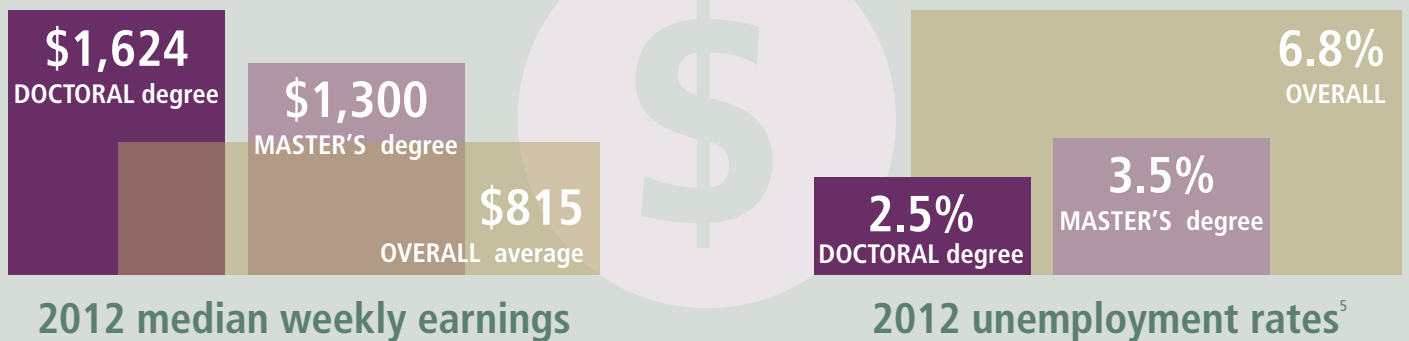
Number of **CAROLINA** graduate alumni whose **DISSERTATIONS** have been recognized as the **BEST IN THE NATION** since 2011:

2¹

The research-centered graduate model used in the U.S. originated in **GERMANY.**³

2.5 million

Projected increase in jobs requiring an advanced degree by **2018**⁴



A Look Back at **CAROLINA**⁶

1853

First recorded mention of graduate degrees

1899

First women receive graduate degrees

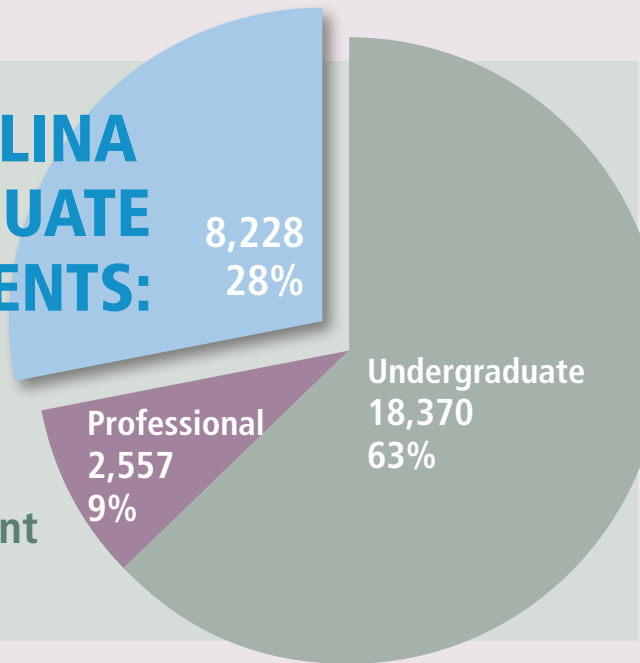
1903

Creation of The Graduate School at Carolina

1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 19

CAROLINA GRADUATE STUDENTS:

28% of Total Enrollment in 2013⁷

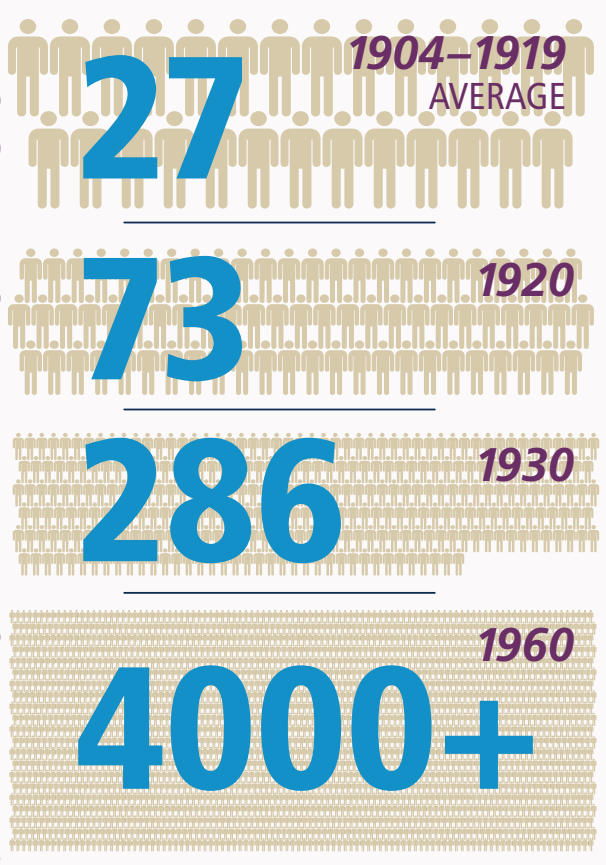


@PhreePhood

UNC students can follow this Twitter account to find "PHREE SUSTENANCE" on campus.⁹



UNC GRAD STUDENT ENROLLMENT⁸



Number of applications submitted for 2013-2014 attendance at UNC-Chapel Hill

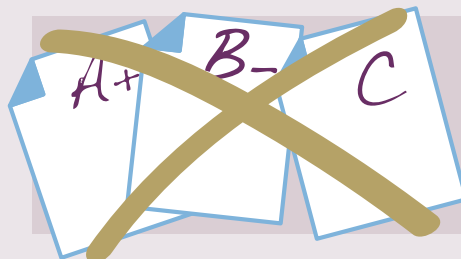
13,573¹⁰

Programs Offered at **CAROLINA**¹¹

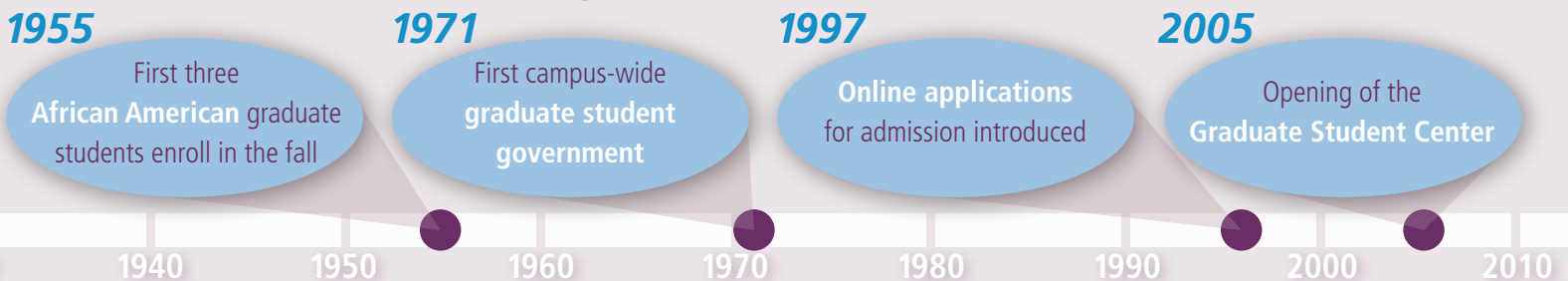
66 DOCTORAL
102 MASTER'S

The **RESEARCH TRIANGLE** in North Carolina is home to one of the **HIGHEST CONCENTRATIONS OF PH.D.'S IN THE COUNTRY**, including many **CAROLINA** alumni.¹²

10% NATIONAL INCREASE in INTERNATIONAL graduate students who enrolled from 2012 to 2013¹³



CAROLINA GRADUATE STUDENTS do not have numerical GPAs. They earn grades of H (High Pass), P (Pass) or L (Low Pass) rather than A, B or C.¹⁴



⁴ fgereport.org ⁵ bls.gov ⁶ Pioneer to Powerhouse, The Foundian ⁷ registrar.unc.edu ¹² uncnnews.unc.edu ¹³ cgsnet.org ¹⁴ handbook.unc.edu

Research of Note

by Laura Lacy

Each time he identified the piece of classical music drifting through the car's speakers, teenager Will Robin earned a dollar. Robin's uncle created this exercise for the pair's weekly drive to rehearsals for the wind ensemble in which they both performed.

While Robin, now a third-year Ph.D. student in musicology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, did not initially earn much money during these drives, he did gain a valuable appreciation for classical music. "That was my initial introduction to the larger classical music canon," Robin recalls.

Two summers spent at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, a program associated with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, furthered his enthusiasm. "Everyone there knew more about classical music than I did, so I was in a rush to catch up." His interest piqued, he continued his study of classical music at home. Later, while an undergraduate at Northwestern University, Robin realized that while he did not want to play an instrument professionally, he did want to make a career out of his love of music, which led him to study musicology.

After graduating and spending a year in Berlin researching postwar German avant-garde music, Robin entered the Department of Music at Carolina to earn both a master's and a doctoral degree. The Graduate School helped recruit him by offering him a fellowship in the Royster Society of Fellows.

Robin's master's thesis traced the course of two hymns by Austrian/French composer Ignaz Pleyel to see how they traveled from Europe to post-revolutionary America. He turned this work into a forthcoming article for *The Journal of Musicology*. In this article, Robin examines the influence of Reverend Joseph Stevens Buckminster and linguist John Pickering, both intellectuals and socio-economic elites of the early 1800s. The two men were involved in hymnody reform as a

way of establishing a new culture for a new nation. Traditionally, an interest in music during this time was seen as a pursuit of the middle class rather than the elites, Robin explains.

"I was able to discover that these people were fascinated with music. They placed it within the broader project for American cultural uplift emerging right around the end of the 18th century. America suddenly found itself as an independent nation striving to compete culturally with European powers. This research allowed me to place music into that cultural project, where it hadn't necessarily been before," he continues.

For Robin's dissertation, he will study American contemporary classical music by conducting three case studies. The first will be about the early years of the Bang on a Can collective in New York City, which was founded in 1987 and continues to shape the music scene today. The second will involve a small independent music label in Iceland called Bedroom Community. Robin hopes to travel to Iceland to study the process of recording an album. Finally, he will research the yMusic ensemble, which commissions pieces by composers in addition to backing up various indie-rock bands.

Carolina has been the ideal place for Robin to conceptualize and conduct his research. In addition to a welcoming and supportive cadre of graduate students and generous funding that enables him to focus on his research, he has found wonderful mentors in the faculty. "When I came to visit Chapel Hill, I got the sense that the faculty was truly engaged with their graduate students. And that impression hasn't changed at all since I've been here."

Will Robin was recently named the first-ever Scholar-in-Residence for the North Carolina Symphony. Read more about his Symphony honor at carolinachronicle.unc.edu/willrobin.



In addition to pursuing his research, Will Robin also finds the time to write for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and his own blog Seated Ovation, among other outlets. Follow Will on Twitter @seatedovation.

IMPACT

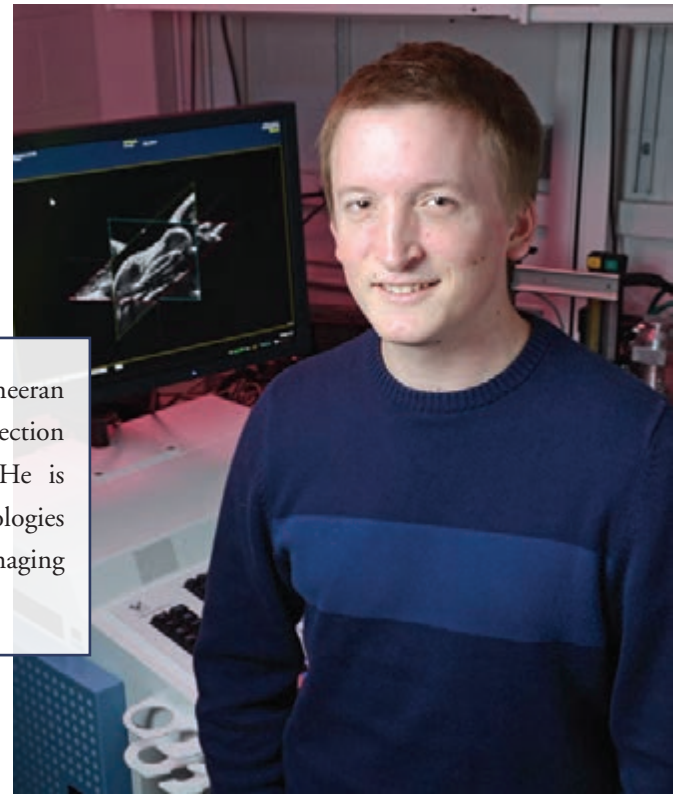
Graduate Education Advancement Board IMPACT AWARDS

recognize student research that helps North Carolina



Master's degree student Candy McClernan worked with a Durham company to produce hard-to-replicate vintage fabrics for costume designers. Her innovative process is getting the attention of professional regional theaters in the state and beyond.

Doctoral student Paul Sheeran seeks to enhance cancer detection in rural N.C. counties. He is focusing on creating technologies that make ultrasound imaging more effective.



Global Change Impacts in the Lower Roanoke River

— Anna Jalowska, *Marine Sciences*

The Roanoke River is the largest river entering Albemarle-Pamlico Sound. The floodplains and deltaic environments of the Lower Roanoke are valuable ecosystems that provide N.C. coastal communities with recreation, fisheries and storm protection, and play a crucial role in carbon and nutrient cycling. These vulnerable ecosystems are at the nexus between global changes taking place in the watershed and in the coastal ocean.

Doctoral student Anna Jalowska's research investigates sediment distribution and storage in the Roanoke River channel, floodplains and delta, under changes associated with human impacts (like land clearing and river damming), and climate change factors such as accelerated sea-level rise and possible increased intensity of tropical and extratropical storms.

Jalowska has collected and analyzed samples and cores from

different parts of the Roanoke River watershed and combined the results with studies of historical and modern maps and images. Her findings indicate that the role of floodplains and delta in processing materials from the watershed has changed dramatically from its natural state dominated by burial to a human-modified state dominated by erosion.

Jalowska's research findings will add vital knowledge to the conservation and restoration efforts in the Lower Roanoke watershed.

"Anna's research is at the frontier of global change science and what it will tell us about North Carolina and the future of its coastal areas," said adviser Brent McKee, Ph.D.

Read about all Impact Award recipients at carolinachronicle.unc.edu/impactawards2014

Dr. Nurse

By Jess Clark

NEW Doctor of Nursing Practice degree HELPS NURSES bridge the gap between RESEARCH and PATIENT CARE

Valerie Idada-Parker had questions. As a nurse practitioner in the psychiatric emergency department at UNC Hospitals, she had plenty of experience and education, but she still found herself wrestling with why her addiction patients kept relapsing. Even though she followed the recommended programs, she wasn't seeing the recoveries she wanted in her patients.

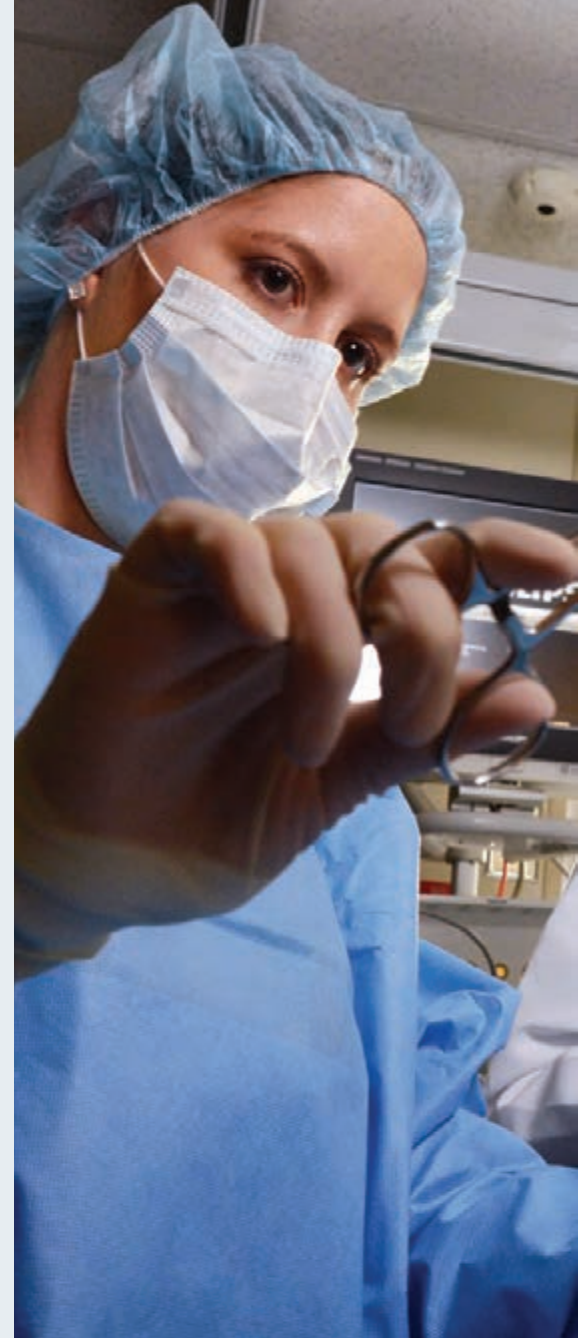
While there is substantial addiction research available, health care providers aren't always making the best of it in their daily practice. "It's not working," Idada-Parker says.

That's why Idada-Parker decided to continue her education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned her previous degrees. She enrolled in the new Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) program, which teaches higher-level clinical skills and deeper concepts than Idada-Parker learned at the master's level. To bring its students to the pinnacle of nursing practice scholarship, the DNP program steeps its students in the literature. For Idada-Parker, that means the DNP program allows her to ask—and to answer—her questions about relapse.

Idada-Parker says the DNP program gave her "that thing that was missing" in her work as a nurse practitioner: an ability to critique and evaluate research to make sure that it's evidence-based. After only a few months, she has already identified research that she can apply

to her own practice to help improve outcomes for her addiction patients. "What I have found is that we put all of our patients together, and you can't do that. Not everybody is ready. Not everybody is motivated at the same level," says Idada-Parker.

Through an extensive literature review, Idada-Parker found that health care providers should separate patients into groups based on how ready they are for change and give them care tailored to their needs. The most exciting part of Idada-Parker's exploration of the literature is that since she maintains her position





▶ Brissie (right) teaches Sprouse how to set up a central line kit.

◀ Part of Brissie's (left) role as a nurse practitioner is to teach residents and medical and nurse practitioner students like Ashley Sprouse skills and concepts required to manage patients in the UNC Hospitals Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit.

Left to right: Cathy Madigan, Megan Brissie, and Valerie Idada-Parker, members of the inaugural class of DNP students at the School of Nursing.



at UNC Hospitals, she can immediately make improvements to the patient care she and her colleagues provide. “I hope I’ll be a change agent,” Idada-Parker says.

After she graduates, Idada-Parker plans to continue in her role as a health care provider, and at the same time, write evidence-based policy. Idada-Parker says policies must be connected with real experience of patient care. “You can’t do one without the other,” Idada-Parker says.

The DNP program is among the newest in The Graduate School. Its first 13 students enrolled in August of 2013. Program director Debra Barksdale says the need to create a program at UNC for the highest degree in nursing practice emerged within the last 10 years. “The rationale was that health care and health care systems were becoming increasingly complex. There was additional knowledge that those in practice needed to be effective in improving health outcomes,” says Barksdale. As Idada-Parker’s experience illustrates, the program is practice-focused and gives students the mentorship and instruction they need to become leaders in the nursing profession.

Megan Brissie also chose to enter the program because it bridges boots-on-the-ground patient care with the pragmatic application of clinical research.

“Gone are the days of ‘We’ve always done it this way.’ Now we’re on to ‘What is actually the best practice?’” Brissie says.

Brissie’s focus is on best practice in neurocritical care. While earning her master’s, Brissie became fascinated with acute neurological disorders. She remembers a woman who came into the acute care unit with symptoms of a stroke. The doctors and nurses acted quickly, and the woman made a recovery that Brissie says she will never forget.

“The next day, she was able to wave at me as I entered her room,” Brissie says—the awe

apparent in her voice.

Brissie hopes that the best practices she studies in the DNP program will allow her to achieve equally dramatic recoveries in her future patients.

Cathy Madigan had different reasons for enrolling in the DNP program. The DNP not only trains nurses in the highest level of hands-on care, it also prepares nurses to become leaders in important roles outside of clinical practice, such as administration and organizational leadership.

Madigan already knows a lot about being a leader. She’s the current vice president and associate chief nursing officer at UNC Hospitals. Still, she says the DNP program has a great deal to offer her.

“You get to focus on something that really interests you,” Madigan says. She’s using her time in the program to look into how diversity is connected to patient satisfaction and tie her findings into the work she’s already doing at the hospital. Madigan says that the mentorship and instruction she receives from her professors is top-notch and that the faculty has been open to collaborating with her on her projects. “It’s like having a microcosm of the smartest people in the nursing profession right in my backyard.”

NEW VOICES telling the AMERICAN Story

By Laura Lacy

New interdisciplinary Ph.D. explores many facets of America

“Isn’t it great that in the very first year we attracted students from such a variety of backgrounds and with such different interests?”

—Joy Kasson

M.E. Lasseter

Lasseter claims the South as her hometown, so it’s no surprise that several areas of study related to the region interest her. The list includes, but is not limited to, hemispheric studies, popular culture, race, space, migrations, religion and belief, and memory. “You could probably sum this up as ‘ghosts,’” she says.

What does “AMERICAN” mean?

Answering that question is a nuanced and expansive task for scholars in American studies.

“People think they know what it means when we talk about America, but there are hundreds of different definitions and perspectives,” explains associate professor Patricia Sawin, director of graduate studies in the Department of American Studies at the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With the creation of a Ph.D. program in the department, a new generation of scholars will explore some of these meanings.

The program only recently welcomed the inaugural cohort of six doctoral students in the fall of 2013. The foundations of the new program, however, evolved over decades at Carolina.

The University already had a thriving interdisciplinary undergraduate American studies program with strong concentrations as well as a prestigious master’s program in folklore, says Joy Kasson. Kasson, a professor of American studies and English, was the former chair of the Department of American Studies and spearheaded the development of the new program.

“All the pieces were there,” says Bernard Herman, professor of American studies and current department chair.

During Kasson’s tenure as chair, the faculty began to “fill out the offerings” with graduate courses. “We all had a dream of a Ph.D. program,” she remembers. They took initial steps to fulfill that dream by hiring the

faculty necessary and seeking support from the administration, which they received. In 2008, when the American studies and folklore programs merged to form the

Department of American Studies, a committee continued the process.

“Early on, we discussed what the shape of a Ph.D. program in American studies at UNC would look like. What special qualities would it have? A really successful Ph.D. program would draw on the strengths of the University, broadly considered. We crafted our proposal to emphasize signature strengths,” explains Kasson.

Carolina’s strengths in the field were many. “The elements that make us stand apart are folklore, American Indian studies, Southern studies—they’re particularly distinctive. And the new digital humanities initiative is also at home in the department,” Herman says. “The program plays to the historic and established strengths and to a commitment for engaged scholarship and the kind of collaborative work that is

really characteristic of Carolina.”

These strengths make the program especially attractive to certain scholars. “If someone wants to study, say, 19th century American

literature and culture, UNC would be a great place. On the other hand, a scholar might also want to go to Yale or Harvard to study those things,” Sawin says. “But if someone wants to study the folk revival or changing perceptions of blues in the American South or the emergence of Lumbee identity or changes with the Eastern Band of Cherokee, this would be a much more logical place.”

In addition to emphasizing established strengths, the program focuses on preparing students for the next step, whether they

Elijah Gaddis

A native North Carolinian and a graduate of Carolina’s folklore master’s program, Gaddis returned for the Ph.D. program in part because of the faculty’s commitment to community “both within the department and University and, crucially, outside of it.” He researches the eastern North Carolina plantation landscape as both a place and a larger cultural construct.

Rachel Gelfand

A former radio deejay, Gelfand was intrigued by the program’s attention to music and popular culture. The Southern Oral History Program aligned with her interest in oral history. Documentary studies, women’s studies, queer studies and memory studies are other interests Gelfand hopes to incorporate into her coursework and research.



From left to right: Mathew Swiatlowski, Rachel Gelfand, Josh Parshall, Elijah Gaddis, Elijah Heyward, III (Not pictured: M.E. Lasseter)

Josh Parshall

Conducting oral histories in the South, Parshall formed an interest in Texas branches of the Workmen’s Circle. This national Jewish fraternal organization thrived in the early 20th century and was characterized by politically radical values and a commitment to Jewish causes and Yiddish language and culture. At Carolina, he researches Yiddish-speaking Jewish immigrants in the early 20th century.

choose to continue as college professors or work in the public sphere. Or perhaps both. “The end game for doctoral work used to be to teach in the academy. The field has changed dramatically and, I think, for the better. We’re now looking at something that is much more dynamic and much more hybridized—new configurations such as the curator-teacher or the policy analyst-teacher. We wanted to do something that would really recognize those shifts,” Herman continues.

The plan for the program garnered notable support from the Carolina community, both on campus and off. “There was a lot of enthusiasm and support

for the new doctoral program from UNC-Chapel Hill. We also had some very farsighted donors who could see the benefits of the new degree we were proposing,” Kasson say. “It was important to have these different kinds of support.” Herman emphasizes that The Graduate School was a “powerful, supportive advocate” during the creation process.

And, of course, several other very important people were intrigued by the proposed program—applicants. The first year, the program received more than 40 applications for the five spots available. The acceptance rate was so positive that ultimately six students were taken rather than five, and all of the accepting students were among the admission committee’s top eight applicants. “It says a lot about the quality of a place that

that could happen in the very first class,” Herman affirms.

While the second cohort of students has not been finalized yet, the program received nearly 70 applications.

The six doctoral students who began this fall each come with unique backgrounds and interests that make them special, Kasson

Elijah Heyward, III

Heyward researches the religious and educational practices of the Gullah culture of the South Carolina Lowcountry. He’s excited to examine the Wilson Library’s collection of papers from the Penn School, founded in Heyward’s hometown of Beaufort, S.C. in 1862 “to educate formerly enslaved sea island inhabitants.”

says. The students themselves have become strengths of the program.

“We’ve got a very diverse group with different interests,” Kasson explains. “Yet the theory of this program is that people with different interests will stimulate each other and teach each other.”

The American studies Ph.D. students each answered a series of questions about their backgrounds and interests for the Carolina Chronicle. Read what they had to say at carolinachronicle.unc.edu/amstudies.

Mathew Swiatlowski

While at UMass-Boston, Swiatlowski used the Southern Folklife Collection archives at Carolina. He researched his master’s thesis on reissue record labels and their role in the cultural memory of early 20th century blues and country music. When choosing a Ph.D. program, Swiatlowski wanted to continue his study “where all the stuff lived.”

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The **GRADUATE EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD** (GEAB) supports The Graduate School and the University through proactive advocacy and generating funds for graduate education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During the fall 2013 GEAB meeting, Chancellor Carol L. Folt (pictured right) shared her perspective on the importance of graduate education at Carolina and the ways in which the graduate programs are essential to the University's research strength. Pictured below are (left to right) Harold Glass, Ken Smith, Tom Sox, Fran Meyer, Burnet Tucker, Bob Laport, Verla Insko, Don Buckley (vice chair), Fran Hoch (chair), Drusilla Scott, Penny Aldrich, Beth Whitaker, Jean Grainger, Ross Johnson, Ivy Carroll, Howard Lee, Suzanne Buchta, Priscilla Taylor, Phil Nelson and Mike Harpold.



Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 as of 03.06.14

The Graduate School

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Thank You!

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2013 GEAB Impact Awards recognized research benefiting North Carolina

Penny Aldrich, left, presents award to Zachary Kerr.



Ross Johnson, left, congratulates Liheng Cai.



Jessica Sorrentino, left, explains her research to Don Buckley.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The **Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship program** provided summer support to 34 graduate students in 2013.

Fellowship benefactors and other honorees met fellowship recipients at a fall reception in honor of this remarkable partnership.

Chris Hakkenberg (environment and ecology), left, the Kevin Satsky and Judith Thorn Summer Research Fellow, speaks with Suzanne Buchta.



Harold Glass, far left, funded 10 Summer Research Fellowships in 2013 and is pictured with some recipients of his fellowships.



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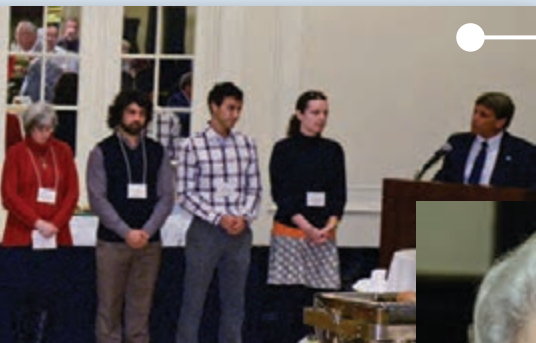
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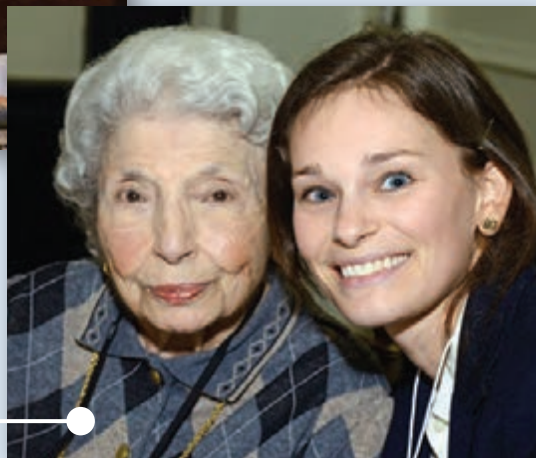
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Fellowship recipients prepare to share their appreciation and the highlights of their summer research.



Charlotte Agger (education), right, pictured with Thelma Zaytoun, was the recipient of a Thelma Zaytoun Summer Research Fellowship.

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