

CAROLINA *Chronicle*

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

2016



Work That
MATTERS

The University of North Carolina
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The latest issue of the *Carolina Chronicle* covers a lot of ground—literally, in the case of the Off-Campus Dissertation Fellows we feature in these pages. Through generous donors, The Graduate School provides resources that allow graduate students to pursue new knowledge in locations throughout the world. Read about them, and other ambitious students whose research is making a difference right here in North Carolina.

This issue also showcases other ways of sharing knowledge where it's needed. For example, members of the Royster Society of Fellows are providing one-on-one mentoring to undergraduates who are thinking about pursuing a graduate degree. Four members of the Graduate Education Advancement Board are also members of the University's Board of Visitors, and they share their perspectives on "giving back" in meaningful ways.

We hope you enjoy our print publication, and please visit us online for interesting videos about people doing work that matters. Two Carolina faculty members demonstrate that the mentoring bond can span decades. The new Royster Distinguished Professor talks about the enduring value of teaching. And a graduate student in psychology tells us how you really can present a strong dissertation in three minutes.

We have much to share with you and we're pleased to highlight the many ways graduate students, and the people who support their efforts, are making a difference in our world. We hope you enjoy your *Carolina Chronicle*.

Credits

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All photos, except when otherwise noted: Will Owens

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"I've always been
interested in reaching across
interdisciplinary
boundaries."



"The recent financial crisis
has called into question
whether **homeownership**
provides financial security."



"I knew it was going
to be **hard**, but it was
harder than I thought."



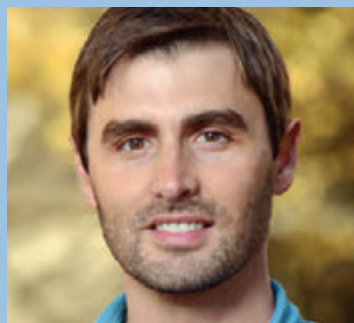
"[**Theory**] is like underwear:
Everyone should have it,
but it shouldn't show."

In this issue...

Work That MATTERS

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*"To have a sharp graduate student ready to work, **motivated** and **skilled**, was very helpful."*



Postgraduate **reflections** page 4

Where they go...



Explore **exit survey** data online





Desinia Miller
Toxicology

Does Ozone Contribute to Diabetes?

North Carolina has made major progress in reducing the formation of the air pollutant ozone. Some counties, though, still exceed current air pollution standards. Ground level ozone has been extensively studied for its harmful effects on the lungs and recently has been suggested as a contributor to diabetes. Doctoral student Desinia Miller examined if and how ozone exposure may change

metabolism and contribute to insulin resistance, which can lead to type 2 diabetes. Overall, Miller and colleagues showed for the first time that air pollutants can produce several metabolic effects throughout the body by activating a stress response pathway that can hinder insulin production.

"The incidence of diabetes has been rising in the U.S., and especially in North Carolina. Her research will have paramount impact on identifying the contribution of environment in growing crises of diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease."
—adviser Urmila Kodavanti, Ph.D.

The Graduate School recognizes STUD

Invasive Shrubs and Forest Management

Native to other regions of the world, invasive plants can disrupt the ecology of natural areas where they are introduced. To determine the effects of these invasive shrubs on the state's forests, doctoral student Dennis Tarasi sampled forested plant communities in North Carolina with varying levels of autumn olive or Chinese privet dominance. His findings showed that the dominance of these shrubs correlated with significant changes in the forests, including the overall loss of native species and a significant decline in young trees. Chinese privet "invasions" corresponded to greater native species loss and structural changes than those by autumn olive.

"Dennis is providing comprehensive and compelling evidence as to the impacts of exotic plant species and the pattern of these impacts across the Carolina landscape. This is work that advances our conceptual framework regarding the impacts of invasive species and, in addition, helps inform managers as to where and how to focus their efforts to control invasive exotics."
—adviser Robert Peet, Ph.D.



Dennis Tarasi
Environment and Ecology

AWARDS



Ashley Johnson
Biomedical Engineering

3-D Printing and Patient Comfort

Current medical practices require diabetics to painfully inject themselves with medicine daily. A sticker-like microneedle patch uses needles so small that they painlessly deliver medication into the skin. Manufacturing hurdles exist—yet an emerging 3-D printing technique called Continuous Liquid Interface Production, or CLIP, has been used to manufacture microneedles 400 times faster than current techniques with improved control over shape. Doctoral student Ashley Johnson tested and performed troubleshooting of early CLIP printers in collaboration with the startup company Carbon3D to improve the printing of parts at a very small scale. Johnson's efforts are contributing to a technology with tremendous potential to improve patient comfort.

"Ashley collaborated with my startup company Carbon3D, providing key insights for biomedical engineering applications and demonstrating the ability of this new approach to 3-D printing to have a resolution 10 times better than traditional technologies." —adviser Joseph DeSimone, Ph.D.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS to North Carolina

Protecting Students from Bullying

Forty-three percent of middle school students and 19 percent of N.C. high school students have been bullied in school, according to 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data. Will Hall, Ph.D., focused on the implementation of the state's School Violence Prevention Act. His findings indicated that educator training about the policy in general and related to the eight protected student populations was largely not carried out. Reporting, investigating and remediating bullying behavior were highest for bullying based on race and then disability, and lowest for bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Responses indicated greater implementation in high schools than in elementary schools.

"His findings from teachers and administrators across North Carolina demonstrate that implementation as intended is rare and that many teachers are not fully informed on who should be protected by the law and how to protect them." —adviser Mimi Chapman, Ph.D.



Will Hall
Social Work

The Carolina Graduate Student

EXPERIENCE

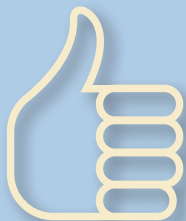
The Graduate School's **EXIT SURVEY** lets graduating students reflect on their time at Carolina, and identifies points of pride and room for improvement. The response rate is **97 PERCENT**.

97%

OVERALL

Graduate Experience

Percentage of respondents rating quality **excellent, very good** or **good**



CURRICULUM

91%

LIBRARIES

96%

MENTORSHIP

79%

PROGRAM

90%

TEACHING

89%

PAYING for School

Top three sources of financial support

MASTER'S

#1 Personal savings

#2 Loans

#3 Personal earnings during school

DOCTORAL

#1 Research assistantship

#2 Teaching assistantship

#3 Fellowship or scholarship



Room for IMPROVEMENT



Assistance in finding employment

Opportunities to collaborate across disciplines



Financial support

Use of RESOURCES

The Graduate School and The Graduate Student Center

55%

University Career Services

45%

Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

41%

Graduate Funding Information Center

33%

The Writing Center

28%

Center for Faculty Excellence

17%

Explore: gradschool.unc.edu/about/data/exit

Wherever

THEIR RESEARCH TAKES THEM

"I hope the university can continue to offer opportunities like this to graduate students in the future."

—Stephanie Gaskill

Privately funded Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowships enable graduate students to pursue new knowledge across the globe

by Lauren Haller

The Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship is open to doctoral students in all graduate degree programs. Students are nominated by their departments and selected through a competitive review process. The award is for one academic semester and includes:

- Tuition and fees
- A living stipend
- Health insurance

What happens when graduate students have the opportunity to extend their research beyond the confines of locally accessible campus resources? The Graduate School's Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship provides just that opportunity to doctoral students at UNC-Chapel Hill. This competitive fellowship enables Carolina graduate students to conduct research across the globe: in the field, in libraries or archives far from the Chapel Hill campus. As a result, they can conduct research of the highest quality that makes significant contributions to new knowledge within their disciplines and around the world.

Most doctoral students commonly support themselves through teaching and research assistantships during their degree programs. Non-service fellowships—such as the Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship—offer doctoral students a means of supporting themselves while away from these standard sources of financial support. For more than 50 years, generous gifts from dedicated donors have enabled ambitious doctoral students to have the opportunity to pursue their unique research interests no matter where that pursuit may take them. The map above illustrates where in the world the Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship has taken doctoral students during the past five years. The work of three recent fellowship recipients is highlighted on the following pages.



"I truly appreciate the opportunities the Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship offered me. Being able to live in Louisiana continuously for six months allowed me to get a real sense of how religion and race intertwine in criminal justice reform efforts at the state level."

Photo by MUSTL Photos/Sid Hastings

Stephanie Gaskill, Religious Studies

RESEARCH SITE

Louisiana State Penitentiary

The Louisiana State Penitentiary (Angola Prison) is a former slave plantation currently renowned for faith-based "moral rehabilitation." Stephanie Gaskill interviewed formerly incarcerated people, prison ministry volunteers, state legislators, judges and prisoners' family members to determine the role religion and race play in state-level criminal justice reform within and outside Angola's walls.

PERSONAL INTEREST

Curiosity about the role religion has played in mass incarceration, fueled by Jerma Jackson's course on African-American history, and reading Heather Thompson's *Why Mass Incarceration Matters*.

INTERESTING FIND

A state senator actually directly referenced moral rehabilitation in a bill he sponsored, and an instructor at Angola's seminary brought the bill to him. Such direct connections between moral rehabilitation and legislative action were unexpected.

GREATEST CHALLENGE

Finding time to interview busy state senators and representatives at length in the heart of legislative season.

MOST REWARDING

Spending time really getting to know the people being interviewed. The face-to-face interviews were much more personal and productive than phone interviews would have been.



Leslie Cofie, Health Behavior

RESEARCH SITE

Rural communities and health-care centers throughout northern and central regions of Ghana

Health facility birth assisted by a skilled birth attendant is considered one of the most important means of preventing maternal deaths. Leslie Cofie interviewed women and health providers in rural areas of Ghana to understand how pregnant women ultimately decide whether or not to use health-care services in delivery.

PERSONAL INTEREST

A desire to work with underserved populations in global health research, and engage in applicable and translational research. Cofie was also born and grew up in Accra, the capital of Ghana, before moving to the United States.

Since fall 2011, fellows have conducted research in 42 locations around the globe.

Argentina	Bolivia	Cambodia	China	France	Germany	Haiti
Belgium	Brazil	Canada	Cuba	Galápagos	Ghana	Honduras
Belize	Burkina Faso	Chile	Ecuador	Gambia	Greece	Hungary



"Being off campus, going abroad and doing this research really affirmed my goals of wanting to be a global health worker. This is something most public health researchers dream of, and I feel very fortunate to have that opportunity."



"You never know how much material might be held in the archives before visiting. I found a wealth of material that I would love to discuss, but simply don't have room for in my dissertation!"



Gina Bombola, Musicology

INTERESTING FIND

Women whose social networks were able to mobilize resources to get them to a health facility during labor were more likely to give birth in health facilities. Community engagement efforts have been effective in improving access to health services and encouraging women to use these facilities.

GREATEST CHALLENGE

Language barriers aside, conducting research in a developing country and experiencing what it really means to be in remote parts of the world. This meant sometimes not having access to simple things that are taken for granted, such as electricity and clean drinking water.

MOST REWARDING

The ability to place findings in their proper contexts, be there in person, design the research and see it through from beginning to end.

RESEARCH SITE

The Cinematic Arts Library at the University of Southern California and Margaret Herrick Library

Gina Bombola dove into the archives at the USC Cinematic Arts Library to look at unpublished studio documents—including scripts, studio production files and publicity materials—to examine how Hollywood's approach to making and marketing operatic musical films reshaped the American public's perception of operatic culture. Bombola explored issues such as gender, ethnicity, class and music appreciation during a period of 20 years.

PERSONAL INTEREST

A lifelong fascination with classic Hollywood cinema and interest in women's history, socially engaged music and film studies.

INTERESTING FIND

The most exciting finds came from Paramount Pictures production files. Paramount kept excellent records, including anything from script drafts to studio correspondence to film budgets. Bombola even found lists of moviegoers' comments from three sneak previews, a rare find even in film archives. These comments illuminate negative responses to what moviegoers felt was World War II propaganda in the films.

GREATEST CHALLENGE

Driving in Los Angeles traffic every day to and from the archives!

MOST REWARDING

Being able to spend time with the materials to gain a comprehensive perspective, even within the constraints of the archives' hours of operations and no-photo policy.

India
Israel
Italy

Korea
Malawi
Mexico

Norway
Peru
Puerto Rico

Russia
South Africa
Spain

Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland

Tanzania
Thailand
Turkey

United Kingdom
United States (26 states)
Uruguay

MENTORING FROM THE START

Royster Fellows help undergraduates navigate advanced degree options

by Sophia Noor Kiser



Caroline Bartlett, left, enjoys a conversation with her mentor, Laurie Graham.

Laurie Graham knows what it means to give back to UNC-Chapel Hill. A member of The Graduate School's Royster Society of Fellows, Graham leads the Royster Advanced Mentoring Program (RAMP). She also personally mentors undergraduate student Caroline Bartlett.

"As someone who mentored undergraduate students in my professional career and who has received mentorship as both an undergraduate and graduate student at UNC, I know the incredible impact mentors can have on the lives and trajectories of their mentees," says Graham, a doctoral student in the School of Social Work.

RAMP is now in its fifth year. This year, 43 Royster Fellows, members of The

Graduate School's select fellowship program, have been paired with 62 Carolina Covenant Scholars, undergraduates from low-income backgrounds who have been admitted to Carolina and have the opportunity to graduate debt-free.

The mentorship pairs met officially at the program orientation organized by Graham and members of the RAMP leadership team. In addition to supporting Covenant Scholars who are exploring the idea of graduate school, this program helps Royster Fellows develop interpersonal and mentoring skills as they support their mentees.

"Had I not found mentors along the way, I know I would not be where I am today," says Graham. "Prior to working with mentors who encouraged me to consider graduate school options, I had no conception of what graduate school could provide or how my skill set may map onto the different routes I could take with graduate education.

"Through RAMP, we hope to provide undergraduates with guidance, support and resources to help them learn more about what graduate education can offer and decide if pursuing graduate school feels like a good fit."

RAMP mentors also seek to demystify the graduate school application process, help provide a window into what it is like to be a graduate student and inform undergraduates about the wide array of advanced degree options.

Bartlett says the program has been a blessing to her. "As an undergraduate, you face many big decisions, and honestly, the future looms over you sometimes. However, the Royster program has allowed me to be

mentored by someone who's been in the exact same place and made the hard decisions that I face. It is really comforting to get Laurie's advice, and I have definitely gained so much from her experience and knowledge!"

***"...the Royster program
has allowed me to be
mentored by someone
who's been in the exact
same place and made
the hard decisions
that I face."***

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Photo by Kristin Preilpp



The **GRADUATE EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD** (GEAB) champions graduate students at UNC-Chapel Hill. Members believe in the importance of graduate education at Carolina and share their perspectives on issues as diverse as advocacy for student needs and forward-thinking professional development. They also provide direct financial support for Graduate School initiatives such as the GEAB Impact Awards (honoring graduate student research of direct benefit to North Carolina) and Summer Research Fellowships (providing crucial support for students in academic areas where summer support is limited).

Pictured above are members of the GEAB:

(front row, left to right) Howard Lee, Fran Meyer, Jean Grainger, Fran Hoch, Burnet Tucker and Linda Dykstra Hylander; and (back row, left to right) Andrew McMillan Jr., Paul Hoch, Lana Dial, Ross Johnson, Carol Smithwick, Charles Holmes, Blair Kutrow, Don Buckley, Ken Smith and Priscilla Taylor.

Graduate Education Advancement Board Members

Penny Aldrich	Frances Hoch	Susan Lord	Thomas Sox
Suzanne Buchta	Paul Hoch	Andrew McMillan Jr.	Priscilla Taylor
Donald Buckley	Charles Holmes	David McNelis	Burnet Tucker
Ivy Carroll	Linda Dykstra Hylander	Francis Meyer	Beth Whitaker
Debashish Chatterjee	Verla Insko	Philip Nelson	GEAB Members Emeritus
Lana Dial	Ross Johnson	Laurie Sanford	Timothy Crowder
Harold Glass	Blair Kutrow	Drusilla Scott	Lyle Jones
Jean Grainger	Howard Lee	Kenneth Smith	Peace Sullivan
Michael Harpold	David Lewis	Carol Smithwick	Charles Weiss

Graduate School Dean Steve Matson presents the 2015 Dean's Award for Significant Contributions to Graduate Education to **Fran Hoch**. This award, given at the annual Graduate Student Recognition Celebration, goes to an individual who has made significant and lasting contributions to graduate education at Carolina. Hoch received her master's degree and doctorate

in Romance languages from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a longtime member and former chair of the Graduate Education Advancement Board and former member of the University's Board of Visitors. Matson said Hoch is "a strong advocate for graduate students and for the ways The Graduate School can most powerfully respond to their academic needs."



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Four members of the Graduate Education Advancement Board (GEAB) provide their perspectives on graduate education as members of the University's Board of Visitors

KENNETH SMITH: Serving as a Resource

Kenneth Smith received his M.B.A from Harvard University and his bachelor's degree in economics from UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar. He was also a Fulbright Scholar, traveling to Malaysia as a part of his scholarship. He brings his international perspective, business acumen and Tar Heel spirit to the GEAB and Board of Visitors. He speaks of the uniqueness of Carolina as a melting pot that combines many academic interests, mixed with an integrity and intellectual passion rarely seen at other universities.

His desire for the GEAB is for the Board to be a resource for graduate students—all in an effort to help graduate students navigate the next step in their careers. Smith is managing director of Park Street Capital, LLC. He enjoys interacting with students and giving back to the school that began his illustrious academic career. Smith provides support for GEAB Impact Awards and Summer Research Fellowships, including creating two fellowships in 2015. Smith is pictured with Andrew Roberts, who received a 2015 GEAB Impact Award.



Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 as of 02.04.16

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\$1,000 or more

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

DEBU CHATTERJEE: Making Authentic Connections

Debu Chatterjee is the founder and CEO of DxContinuum, a California-based start-up company. He says he brings the perspective of an entrepreneur, of a West Coast alumnus from the high-tech center of the country, and of an immigrant who is now a naturalized citizen. Chatterjee, who received his master's degree in computer science from Carolina, says graduate students need a way to connect to professionals "so they can make their work and education relevant to the progress that has been made in the outside world." Chatterjee remembers his own formative experiences as a graduate student at Carolina. "When I first received the brochure, the way it described the department,

the offerings, the faculty, the mission and the University, and then what I realized and experienced when I came—there were no differences. It was so authentic. Carolina and its community is truly what it aspires to be, and the principle of being authentic has supported me really well through my evolving journey as I established my roots in my adopted country." Chatterjee and his wife, Aparna, give generously to The Graduate School's Summer Research Fellowships. "That we could help graduate students in some small way at this point in their lives is something we cherish," he says. Chatterjee is pictured with Matthew Harkey, recipient of the 2015 T.N. Chatterjee Summer Research Fellowship.

Friends *cont.*

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Thank You!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

ANDREW MCMILLAN: Giving Back Across the Board

As an alumnus of Carolina (bachelor's degree in chemistry), Andrew McMillan has always wanted to give back to the University by becoming more actively involved. In his own words: "The GEAB is unique to UNC and serves as a terrific portal to bring in an 'outside the university' perspective on issues pertaining to graduate education at Carolina. While I hold an undergraduate degree from Carolina, I did my graduate work elsewhere. [He received his doctorate from Emory University.] I bring an outsider's perspective to the GEAB; however, I am a Tar Heel through and through." McMillan,

chief operating officer for Jefferson Distributing Company, says he enjoys meeting students and hearing their inspirational stories. "Carolina continues to excel with the quality and caliber of both faculty and students. I am thrilled to be involved with the GEAB, Board of Visitors and the Department of Chemistry as a way to give back to my alma mater and the institution that enabled me to succeed in so many ways, both personally and professionally." McMillan and his wife, Kathrine, support the Summer Research Fellowships, the GEAB Impact Award and the Graduate School Special Fund.



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

HAROLD GLASS: Returning to Mentor

Harold Glass has lived and worked all over the world, but UNC-Chapel Hill remains an important part of his life. He received his doctorate in political science from Carolina, and his experiences in Chapel Hill left a lasting impression. "A person, if fortunate, goes through three key periods in their life: They learn, they earn and they return. As I entered the third phase I was asked to join the Graduate Education Advancement Board, which I agreed to do without hesitation." Glass says he has been fortunate to meet many graduate students through his membership on the GEAB. "That I was able in some way to help them understand what lay before them—at least, how I had

negotiated that path—was of great reward to me. That I was able to help financially so that they could focus on their own graduate education was equally rewarding." Glass is Dean's Professor within Mayes College at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. He and his wife, Holly, have created 32 Summer Research Fellowships during the past five years. The Glasses also provided a gift enabling The Graduate School to establish the Harold J. Glass USAF Faculty Mentor/Graduate Fellow Distinguished Term Professorship, named for Harold Glass' father, which also includes a graduate fellowship for a student chosen by the professor.

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Dozens of friends, colleagues and family members filled the Carolina Inn's Hill Ballroom on October 23, 2015, to honor retiring Graduate School director of development Mary Anne Larson. She joined the University in 1998. During the University's Carolina First Campaign, Larson provided critical leadership to The Graduate School in raising \$19.2 million in graduate student support. Larson is pictured with Mrs. Caroline H. Royster at the Carolina Inn celebration. The Royster Society of Fellows, The Graduate School's preeminent fellowship program, was endowed by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Royster.



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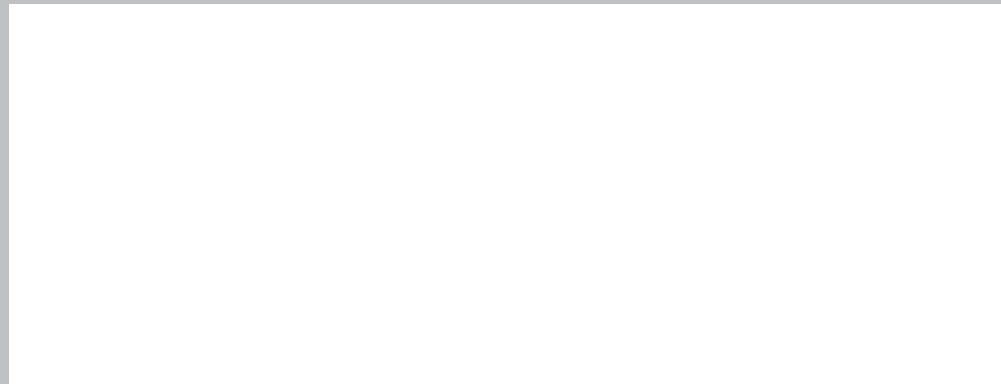
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