ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES CELEBRATES OUR DONORS AND STUDENTS

Scholarships and Awards Brunch
The Rizzo Center
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Saturday, November 5, 2016
# 2016 Department of Allied Health Sciences Scholarships and Awards Brunch

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- Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation
Dear Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to thank you for attending the Department of Allied Health Sciences’ tenth annual celebration of our student scholarship and award recipients and our generous scholarship donors. We depend on private financial support to advance our mission to improve the quality and accessibility of health care for the people of North Carolina and the world. At the heart of the department’s success in producing the nation’s leading allied health professionals for over 40 years is a set of key program values that guide faculty, students, and alumni:

**Exemplary Teaching**: To produce excellent health care practitioners and researchers who are prepared to provide leadership to their disciplines and their future work settings;

**Innovative Research**: To conduct research and generate new knowledge that will inform future practice and policy in allied health disciplines;

**Patient-Centered Clinical Practice**: To advance the art and science of clinical practice with a focus on patient outcomes and quality of life. The financial support of our donors continues to help us meet the increasing needs of our students who are not fully state supported and to address our key program values with vigor, integrity, and an outstanding level of quality on the part of our students, faculty, and staff. We greatly appreciate the ongoing generosity of our donors in advancing the overall mission of the Department of Allied Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

Respectfully,

Stephen R. Hooper, PhD
Professor, Associate Dean and Chair

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**Department of Allied Health Sciences Divisions**

- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
- Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
- Physician Assistant Studies
- Physical Therapy
- Radiologic Science
- Speech and Hearing Sciences

**Additional Centers and Offices**

- Center for Human Movement Science
- Center for Literacy and Disability Studies
- Office of Research
DEPARTMENT OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS BRUNCH

NOVEMBER 5, 2016, 10:00 A.M. UNTIL NOON

Brunch and mingling (10:00 AM)
Please help yourselves to the brunch buffet

Opening remarks (10:15 AM)
Dr. Stephen Hooper, PhD
Professor, Associate Dean and Chair

Student speaker (10:30 AM)
Lindsey Walker
Division of Radiologic Science

Student scholarships and awards presentation (10:35 AM)

Brunch and fellowship time (10:50 AM)

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Baccalaureate Degree Programs:
Clinical Laboratory Science
Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science
Radiologic Science

Masters Programs:
Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
Molecular Diagnostic Science
Occupational Therapy
Physician Assistant Studies
Radiologic Science
Speech-Language Pathology

Doctoral Programs:
Audiology (AuD)
Human Movement Science (PhD)
Occupational Science (PhD)
Physical Therapy (DPT)
Speech and Hearing Science (PhD)

Professional Certificates:
Radiography
UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association’s Allied Health Sciences Fellowships

The Allied Health Sciences Student Fellowships are supported through a generous gift from the UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association. The fellowships are awarded to deserving allied health students who, in addition to having financial need and scholastic ability, exhibit characteristics of emerging professional excellence.

Emily Robinson
Division of Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Circleville, Ohio
Personal statement: Throughout my life I have been surrounded by veterans, especially in my immediate family. These close relationships and knowledge of their experiences sparked my interest in veterans, and I chose to obtain a master’s degree in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling so I could help this population. Once I receive my degree, I hope to make a difference in veterans’ lives through assisting them with their readjustment to the community after returning from the war environment. Specifically, I want to help veterans with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). I am gaining experience with veterans and increasing my knowledge on how to best help them, which will tremendously improve my counseling abilities for veterans in the future. Thank you to the donors for making this scholarship possible so people like me can continue their service in the community. I appreciate the selfless act of providing scholarships so myself and other recipients can further our education and make a difference in the world!

Christopher Watson
Division of Radiologic Science
Hometown: Fayetteville, North Carolina
Personal statement: I came to college not knowing what I wanted to study. I considered a variety of options, but after a lot of deliberation, I could see myself leaning toward a career in health care. After I made that decision, it was just a matter of finding something that I enjoyed where I felt like I could make a difference. Once I heard about the Division of Radiologic Science and did some shadowing, I felt like a career in medical imaging was the degree I would like to pursue. I think that as a radiologic technologist you have the ability to touch peoples’ lives and be a light in some of their darkest times. Whether I am with a patient for five minutes or over an hour, I always strive to make a patient’s time with me as pleasant as possible. It is our shared responsibility to provide the strongest patient care possible, and I believe that I exhibit some of the characteristics that make me a good fit for the job. As I move forward with my senior year, I’m excited about the opportunity to continue to learn and grow as a person. I’m very thankful and humbled that the donors deemed me to be deserving of such a generous and prestigious award, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for me within this field.
Myra Bowman
Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
Hometown: Lexington, North Carolina
Personal statement: The value of occupational therapy was instilled within me at a young age. I grew up witnessing the challenges my brother faced due to his autism spectrum disorder as well as the transformational role occupational therapy played in his life. However, it wasn’t until I completed my first internship in China that I realized that I wanted to be an occupational therapist, too. From that point forward, I invested in as many opportunities as I could so that one day I might arrive where I am now. From professional conferences to completing two more international internships, I was convinced occupational therapy was how I wanted to leave my mark on the world. Now that I am in UNC-CH’s OT program, it feels like my dream is finally being realized. While I have yet to fully determine in what area I aspire to practice, I am fully confident this program I am in now will equip me to be an excelling professional regardless of the practice area I choose. Therefore, I would like to express my abounding gratitude for this fellowship as it allows me to both continue pursuing my dream and the freedom to do so without constraint. Truly, being a recipient of this fellowship is an honor, and as it empowers me to achieve my goals, I cannot wait to see where my pursuit of occupational therapy will take me.

Anna Zembo
Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences
Hometown: Westport, Massachusetts
Personal statement: Since my early days as a dance instructor, I have recognized my affinity for working with children, specifically children with unique challenges and abilities. My favorite students were often those whom other instructors found challenging to have in class, and I relished the opportunity to find ways to make those dancers succeed and enjoy dance. Speech-language pathology has proven to be a rewarding career path that allows me to work closely and creatively with individuals, who with a little extra support, can achieve success. During my time as an undergraduate I found myself especially drawn toward working with children with autism spectrum disorder and plan to continue this focused interest in my graduate and professional work. I was fortunate as an undergraduate to have opportunities to work with children on the spectrum in clinical and research settings, honing my skills and learning more about their needs and perspectives as individuals. This time and experience allowed me to explore combining my creative interests in dance and movement with my passion for serving the autism population, expand my interest in research techniques, and cultivate connections with faculty and families that will continue to support me into my professional career. I plan to continue this commitment to engagement in my graduate work and am grateful to have this generous scholarship to help support me in that aim. For me this funding represents the ability to devote more time and energy into enriching my academic, research, and clinical work here at UNC-CH and expand my experiences, helping me become a well-rounded future speech-language pathologist.
**UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association Physician Assistant Fellowship**

**Gabrielle Neri-Mynatt**  
Physician Assistant Studies  
**Hometown:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I have always been passionate about giving back to others. Working in a clinical setting showed me that becoming a physician assistant was the best way for me to be involved in the care of people here in North Carolina. After attending the UNC-CH PA program, I am confident that I will be able to provide the best care possible to my patients.

**Sean Rankin**  
Division of Clinical Laboratory Science  
**Hometown:** Dallas, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Throughout my life I have always had a love for science. Whenever confronted with an unknown, I would always ask why and how. Through my studies I found that the why and how could be answered with the study of genetics and molecular sciences. Thus began my passion for genetics. Discovering all these astounding advances that happen every day within the field of genetics solidified my desire to make that my career. As important as my love for genetics though is my desire for my career to be one devoted to helping others. Molecular diagnostics lets me merge those loves, staying at the forefront of scientific advancement and aiding in diagnosis, prognosis, and monitoring of patients. Every day, hundreds (if not more) patient test results are sent out that help other members of the health care teams decide the best courses of action for the patients. With my love for the advancement of science, I hope to one day be able to develop new assays that could be used to help patients. I would like to thank my donors, as their generous scholarship will help me this upcoming year to complete my master’s program and begin my career in this fantastic field.
Deanna Sipes
Division of Physical Therapy
Hometown: Bethesda, Maryland

Personal statement: I was first exposed to physical therapy when my grandmother was diagnosed with an illness that required her to be in long-term intensive physical therapy. The determination that the therapist had is the reason that she is able to function at the level that she does today. Watching these physical therapists motivated me to pursue physical therapy. Physical therapy truly became my passion when I started to work with the Special Olympics and at a pediatric therapy clinic. With both of these experiences I had the privilege to work with incredible athletes and patients with a variety of different intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. Through these experiences, I was able to not only discover my passion of working with young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but also learn a great deal about the importance of family, support, friendship, and physical activity. My interest took an international turn when I traveled to Central America to volunteer my time first on a more general basis, and then specifically for physical therapy. In countries where the general population lacks basic needs, individuals with disabilities are often forgotten and don’t receive the assistance that they require. I hope to volunteer my time to establish a network of free providers within impoverished countries to provide the care that these individuals so greatly require. I am incredibly grateful to my donors for their generosity. With their assistance I have been able to participate in activities such as mentorship programs for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, service trips to assist individuals in under-served areas, and the Guatemala physical therapy trip that served as one of my main draws to UNC-CH. These opportunities are incredibly important to me as they allow me to learn in a practical setting outside of the classroom while simultaneously assisting the local population.
The June C. Allcott Fellowship

In her life, (1916-1996), June C. Allcott was a gardener of friendships. She explored the world as a traveler, weaver of baskets, culinary adventurer, designer of jewelry and clothes, as a guidance counselor at UNC-CH, computer explorer, music and art lover, and friend. June Allcott helped students expand their potential at UNC-CH and make career choices. She had a particular place in her heart for those interested in the health fields. Fellowships are awarded to students who demonstrate exemplary, ongoing community service.

Julie Eyster
Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Hometown: Durham, North Carolina

Personal statement: I did not know what occupational therapy was until I became a teacher. For the last five years, I watched occupational therapists work with my students and their families. One occupational therapist identified participation barriers and modified my classroom to make it more accessible. Another therapist assessed handwriting strengths and deficits and led students through exercises to improve hand strength. For students with special needs, daily living skills and functional skills are just as important as academics. Learning to read is just as important as learning how to go through the lunch line. I feel passionate about functional skills and want to help equip students with the skills they need to function at school, at home, and one day at their workplace. After five years in the classroom, I decided to pursue a degree in occupational therapy. I am very thankful for the June C. Allcott scholarship for helping make that possible.

Thorpe/Mitchell Diversity Leadership Development Award

The Thorpe/Mitchell Diversity Leadership Development Award honors Drs. Robert L. Thorpe and Brenda Mitchell. Dr. Thorpe served as a mentor to countless students and faculty members as a professor in the Division of Radiologic Science from 1973 to 2007. He was associate chair/AHEC director in the DAHS from 1986 to 2001. Dr. Mitchell currently serves as the DAHS associate chair for student services and has been AHEC operations director for the department since 2001. She has also been a faculty member in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences since 1996. Thorpe and Mitchell are passionate about mentoring and encouraging others to excel and achieve their highest goals.

Ariana Najera
Division of Clinical Laboratory Science

Hometown: Durham, North Carolina
Allene W. Alphin Clinical Laboratory Annual Scholarship

Kay Alphin Johnson ('68) and her husband, Marvin, made a generous gift to establish the Allene W. Alphin Clinical Laboratory Scholarship in honor of Kay’s mother to assist and reward a student at UNC-CH studying to become a clinical laboratory scientist.

Ellen Tuck

Hometown: Greenville, North Carolina

Personal Statement: I became interested in the Clinical Laboratory Science program at UNC-CH at an early age. As a child, I admired my parents for choosing the clinical laboratory science career path. It is a profession they are passionate about and also enables them to have an important role in a health care team. As my interest in laboratory work and the clinical field developed, I looked to pursue my education in a way that allowed me to help others as my parents had done. With this degree, I hope to follow in their footsteps and channel my interests to performing laboratory tests to aid physicians in the diagnosis of patients in North Carolina. I would like to thank Kay Alphin Johnson, Marvin Johnson, and the Division of Clinical Laboratory Science for their generous donation in memory of Allene W. Alphin that relieves some of the financial stress of the program. This scholarship will enable me to become one of the clinical laboratory scientists that I have admired since childhood and hopefully inspire others to join the field.

Jesse C. Alphin Clinical Laboratory Annual Scholarship

Kay Alphin Johnson ('68) and her husband, Marvin, made a generous gift to establish to the Jesse C. Alphin Clinical Laboratory Annual Scholarship in honor of Kay’s father to assist and reward a student at UNC-CH studying to become a clinical laboratory scientist.

John “Jack” Agres

Hometown: Waxhaw, North Carolina

Personal Statement: What do horseback riding, soccer, and a place called Piney Mountain have in common? While it may not be obvious, each has shaped the way I perceive the world and have inspired me to pursue clinical laboratory science. Over the past eight years, each of these has been a way that I have assisted carrying out the therapeutic and behavior support plan for individuals with disabilities. While discovering the clinical lab science program at UNC-CH was an accident, it has significantly changed the direction of my life. Thankfully, the days of large lecture halls and boring professors are behind me. I am so thankful for the professors in the clinical lab science division for pushing me beyond what I thought was possible. Academic rigor has shaped not only my view of myself, but also my future plans. While my future plans are currently hazy at best, the ideal situation would be to move to Australia to work in a clinical lab and experience a new culture. I am so thankful to Kay Alphin Johnson and Marvin Johnson for providing funds for me to expand my horizons in the field of clinical lab science.
Molecular Diagnostic Science Corporate Partner Program Scholarships

We are pleased to offer Molecular Diagnostic Science (MDS) Corporate Partner Program Scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year thanks to the generosity of our founding platinum and gold partners in the MDS Corporate Partners Program: Abbott Molecular, Hologic, Laboratory Corporation of America, Roche Diagnostics Corporation, and ZeptoMetrix Corporation.

Lauren Frady
Hometown: Columbia, Maryland
Personal statement: At a young age, I lost my grandfather and cousin to cancer within days of each other. Ever since, I have felt a strong desire to be involved in the prevention and treatment of cancer. This led me to seek positions in various research labs where I examined signaling pathways and novel chemotherapeutics for brain tumors. Over the course of the seven years that I participated in the research process within these labs, I learned that my work was far removed from the patients affected by these tumors, and I wanted to have more of an impact on diagnosis and treatment. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship and the opportunity to pursue a career that will allow me to make an impact in the lives of so many individuals facing serious health concerns.

Sean Rankin
Hometown: Dallas, North Carolina
Sean’s personal statement is on page 7.
RPLA Clinical Laboratory Science Annual Scholarship

The Raleigh Pathology Lab Associates (RPLA) Clinical Laboratory Science Annual Scholarship seeks to increase the number of highly qualified laboratory practitioners in the future by helping current CLS students with the financial burden of higher education.

Toritseju Kpenosen
Hometown: Durham, North Carolina
Personal statement: I have always had a passion for science, with a specific interest in human physiology and pathology. During my first two years at UNC-CH, I worked as a research assistant in a neuroscience laboratory. It is here that I realized that a laboratory setting would be the best environment for me to explore my academic interest. Thus, I decided to pursue a degree in clinical laboratory science. This degree allows me to be of service to my community by playing a vital role in diagnosing patients. I hope to one day work in a medical laboratory, alongside physicians and other medical personnel. Since starting this program, I have realized more fully the rewarding nature of this career path. Due to a childhood injury, I have personally experienced the emotional toll of extended hospitalization. Because of this experience, I am excited at the possibility that I will one day be able to ensure that patients get out of the hospital quickly and back home to their families. I am extremely grateful to be receiving the Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates Scholarship. Thank you for this generous investment into my future.

Susan Lanning-Taylor Loyalty Fund Annual Scholarship

A gift from Susan Lanning-Taylor ('85) and her husband, Steve, has provided funds to assist and reward a second-year student at UNC-CH studying to become a clinical laboratory scientist. Lanning-Taylor scholars are chosen by the CLS faculty based on their potential for contributing to the CLS profession, academic excellence, personal characteristics, and financial need.

Amanda Vergnetti
Hometown: Waxhaw, North Carolina
Personal statement: From a young age, I have been fascinated by laboratory work and been drawn to hands-on sciences. When I was in the seventh grade, my science teacher asked me to be a lab tech. What this meant was that I would come in early to run experiments with the teacher before class so that I could then be free to float around the room during the actual class time and help my fellow classmates with the experiment as was needed. This middle school experience was when I first realized how much I enjoyed hands-on experiments with procedures and quantifiable results. Years later, in college, when I was accepted to the clinical laboratory science program at UNC-CH, I knew I had found my niche. Last year, I sincerely enjoyed learning about laboratory testing of all sorts, both in lectures and labs led by knowledgeable and experienced professors. This year, I have the privilege of taking what I have learned into the field as I go through rotations in many different labs at multiple hospitals in the Triangle area. UNC-CH’s CLS program is preparing me incredibly well to enter into a full time laboratory position when I graduate. This is a role that I am very excited to fill as I know that it is much needed in the medical field. I am thankful for the contribution of the Lanning-Taylor Scholarship as it has played a part in allowing all of this to happen and has allowed me to pursue the career path that I became fascinated with nine years ago as a seventh grade lab tech.
Louise M. Ward Scholarships

A bequest from the estate of Louise M. Ward, a former director of the UNC-CH Division of Clinical Laboratory Science, has provided funds to assist and reward students at UNC-CH studying to become clinical laboratory scientists. Louise M. Ward scholars are chosen by the CLS faculty each year based on their potential for contributing to the CLS profession, academic excellence, and personal characteristics.

Matthew Lillis
Hometown: New Bern, North Carolina
Personal statement: As a child, I was always interested in going into medicine. My mother worked in medical offices, so I was grateful to be able to see how medicine affected people in the best ways possible. As I grew up and took part in the CSI popularity surge, I realized how much the laboratory appealed to me. Years later, I realize that while the turnaround times in CSI may be exaggerated, the lab is still a place that calls to me. Clinical laboratory science was the best major that I could have hoped for coming into college. It was, and always will be, a better fit for me than biology. With this degree, my work can directly affect patients. The work that I will start next year will matter to myself and to others. Thank you to the Division of Clinical Laboratory Science for selecting me as a Louise M. Ward scholar. I'm honored and incredibly grateful. This scholarship is invaluable to me as a senior CLS major. With this honor, I'll be able to more effectively focus on my studies and clinical rotations. Again, thank you for the opportunity to represent my division as a Louise M. Ward scholar. So far, my last year at UNC-CH has been my best yet!

Jessica Beynor
Hometown: Barnstable, Massachusetts
Personal statement: Any time I had my blood drawn as a child, I always asked where the samples went. I was never one to look away; I always wanted to watch all the science going on. The laboratory realm was a mystery to me, and my curiosity never left. I began researching what it meant to work as either a biologist or chemist in a laboratory and wasn't quite satisfied. When I learned of the clinical laboratory science program here at Carolina, I knew this was the perfect balance of biology, chemistry, and medicine for me. With this program I no longer have to choose between the divisions but can study an extension of the biology and medicine, while providing the basis for treatments in most fields of medicine. I can help save lives while exploring my love for science in the laboratory. With this realization, the CLS program was a perfect match. Following my graduation from the CLS program, I plan to work in a pathology lab to cement my skills as a scientist and then to continue my education onto graduate school. I dream of working in a laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the effect of new viral diseases on the body, as this specifically has always fascinated me. This scholarship means so much for me to have the monetary means to continue my education, but also to have an extended support system as I enter this exciting field. So thank you to Louise M. Ward for her generous scholarship, and to the committee who selected me. As an out-of-state student science student with a few more years of school to look forward to, I am very grateful for every bit of financial assistance I am lucky enough to receive during my time here at Carolina.
Jay Stringer  
Hometown: Helena, Montana  
Personal statement: I entered the CLS program at UNC-CH after obtaining a PhD so that I could transition my career from basic biology research to health care. This career change was a difficult one and the coursework was and has still been a challenge. However, these challenges will allow me to use the scientific skills I gained before and during this program at UNC-CH to benefit patients and future students in this extremely important field. The ability to improve a patient’s life in real time is an enormous benefit of the CLS career path that I would never have obtained through research. I am honored to receive a Louise M. Ward Scholarship from the Division of Clinical Laboratory Science, and this award reinforces my drive and commitment to strive for excellence in patient care. This award emphasizes the payoff of hard work, and I will repay this award many times over throughout my years of service in the health care field.
Dr. Mark C. Fleming Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology Annual Scholarship

Mark Fleming (’98) has made a generous gift and commitment to the division to fund the Dr. Mark C. Fleming Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology Annual Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving student with financial need and promise for future clinical excellence. Dr. Fleming currently serves as regional vice president for behavioral health with Corizon, the largest health care company of its kind providing medical, mental health, and pharmacy services to state level department of corrections and county jail programs across the nation. He is also a Captain in the United States Army National Guard serving as a psychologist. Dr. Fleming’s areas of research interest and clinical expertise include trauma, severe mental illness, multicultural counseling, co-morbidity, the mental health needs of incarcerated individuals, the psychology of men, and an integrative approach to the mental health needs of his clients. Previously, Dr. Fleming served as an assistant professor in the Department of Individual and Family Studies and as assistant director for the Center for Counseling and Student Development at the University of Delaware. Upon leaving the University of Delaware, he served as the director for the Center for Counseling and Student Development at Coppin State University. Dr. Fleming received his bachelor’s in psychology with a minor in African-American Studies from UNC-CH and holds a master’s degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and Counseling from UNC-CH. He received his PhD in Counseling Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University.

William S. Futch
Hometown: New Bern, North Carolina
Personal statement: When I recently spoke with Dr. Fleming, we discussed the value of diversity and justice, as well as the importance of these principles in the context of their global, social, and individual implications. We came to agree that rehabilitation counselors---and in many ways people in general---maximize their altruism when their moral and ethical commitments transcend professional boundaries. When we come to understand the profound inseparability of individuals from their environments, solely treating individuals or solely addressing structural injustices are revealed to be insufficient in creating lasting change. If we neglect structural injustice by only treating the individual, we sustain a paradigm where new individuals replace the old and consequently health care professionals are rendered reactive rather than proactive. However, if we neglect individuals and only address structural injustice, we abandon those who continue to face difficulty, even within a revised system. Thus my career in academia and mental health counseling aims to reconcile these problems by both standardizing theoretical orientations while preserving person-centered treatment, and implementing progressive psychological sensibilities in public systems. These adjustments are intended to produce a system where individuals will be better equipped to regulate themselves rather than relying on professionals. With these goals in mind, I intend to pursue my doctorate in clinical psychology, with a specific concentration in philosophical and theoretical psychology.
Richard H. Peters Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology Annual Scholarship

The Richard H. Peters Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology Annual Scholarship was established by Jay Peters in loving memory of his father. Richard H. Peters was born in 1920, in Toledo, Ohio. He attended Scott High School and transferred to Hill School to complete his high school education. This prepared him for the challenges of Yale University, where he majored in political science. Mr. Peters attended graduate school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and earned his law degree. After passing his boards, he moved to Cincinnati and began work as a public defender. He eventually moved back to Toledo and practiced law until the time of his death in 2001. His son, Jay, attended UNC-CH and completed his education as a Rehabilitation Counselor and Psychologist in 2000.

Caitlin Chizmar

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
**Personal Statement:** There are two things in this world that I truly love: helping people, and dogs. I cannot express how eager I am to begin a rehabilitative counseling career that enables me to combine my passions. I currently volunteer for a nonprofit service dog organization that allows me to observe the life changing benefits that come from the unconditional love of highly trained service dogs. I am honored to help raise, socialize, train, and then integrate these specialized canines with veteran and active duty service members and adolescents with physical and mental disabilities. During my studies at UNC, I will be performing research on service dogs to spread awareness of their limitless capabilities, and to reduce the negative stigma associated with seeking help for mental health. I aspire to become a licensed professional counselor and implement new and unique therapeutic interventions for service dogs to positively impact the lives of individuals with disabilities.

UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association’s Allied Health Sciences Fellowships

Emily Robinson  
**Hometown:** Circleville, Ohio  
**Personal statement:** Emily’s personal statement is on page 6.
Marlys Marie Mitchell Scholarship

As the founder of the program in occupational therapy at UNC-CH, Dr. Marlys Mitchell exemplified thoughtful and innovative professionalism. Funded through a generous estate gift from her husband, the Marlys Mitchell Scholarship commemorates her contributions to the field. Dr. Marlys Mitchell was a leader in occupational therapy at both state and national levels. She received the Suzanne Scullin Award for Professional Contributions to Occupational Therapy in North Carolina in 1979 and the American Occupational Therapy Association Award of Merit – the highest award bestowed upon professional members – in 1979. Marlys was a leader in establishing national training programs to develop occupational therapy in the schools (TOTEMS) and work transitions programs (PIVOT). She served on the AOTA Executive Board as Chair of the Commission on Education and chaired the AOTA Program Advisory Committee, serving as a resource to other educational programs.

Lauren McCarthy
Hometown: Asheville, North Carolina
Personal statement: I have always been drawn toward a field in which I could help others experience the wonders this world has to offer. When I was first introduced to occupational therapy, I knew I had found the perfect fit. Previous work with adults living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias provided me with a view into the importance of meaningful engagement. Over the last year I have learned to expand these ideals to other practice areas in hopes of helping individuals coming from a variety of backgrounds. In particular, I have gained a better understanding of the need for occupational therapy services for those affected by cancer. As I continue to learn from our incredible faculty and other specialists within this field, I hope to continue to help build a larger knowledge base to best serve this population. With this background, I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of such an innovative scholarship. I thank Dr. Marlys Mitchell for her generous contribution to the ever-growing field of occupational therapy and more specifically to my own learning endeavors. This award will allow me to continue working to benefit the vast occupational science, occupational therapy, and oncology communities.

Sara Peña
Hometown: Durham, North Carolina
Personal statement: Prior to entering the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, I studied in Cuba where I learned two everyday expressions: No es facil (it’s not easy) and hay que resolver (one must resolve). Although these phrases signify the adaptability and resourcefulness of the Cuban people, they also resonated with me in wanting a profession that matched innovation and resourcefulness to make a difference in the lives of others. UNC-CH's OT program aligned perfectly. As a future practitioner, I hope to one day marry my interests in working with Latin American immigrant populations in either a school or hospital setting. I am extremely grateful to the division and Mitchell family for the scholarship, which will support my continued studies as well as continued work with UNC-CH's Institute for the Study of the Americas and Latino Migration Project.
Increasing Diversity in Occupational Therapy Scholarship

Pursuing a passion to increase diversity in the occupational therapy profession, Stacy Wilson ('10) created an annual scholarship in 2012 that seeks to spread awareness of the OT profession to under-represented groups. The goal of the scholarship is to increase the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the OT program and profession. This scholarship is now funded through contributions from Mr. Wilson and other alumni.

Leslie Riley
Hometown: Durham, North Carolina
Personal statement: I love teaching and watching people learn new things that inspire them. After spending three years in a Head Start pre-kindergarten classroom and watching an occupational therapist work one-on-one with the students in my classroom, I realized that I could have an immense impact on childrens’ lives by becoming an occupational therapist. As a student of the UNC OT program, and recipient of the diversity awareness scholarship, my horizons have been expanded to areas of practice that go beyond the classroom. I hope to use my degree in occupational therapy to work in populations that are underserved and in settings that are untraditional. I am grateful for the opportunity the diversity awareness scholarship has given me in partnering with a vulnerable student population at UNC. It has been an inspiring, and rewarding experience. With this scholarship, I will be able to focus on encouraging minority students to pursue a degree in occupational therapy. By adding their unique and valued minority perspective to occupational therapy practice, they will enhance the quality of occupational therapy intervention.

UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association’s Allied Health Sciences Fellowships

Myra Bowman
Hometown: Lexington, North Carolina
Personal statement: Myra’s personal statement is on page 7.
The June C. Allcott Fellowship

Julie Eyster
Hometown: Durham, North Carolina
Personal statement: Julie’s personal statement is on page 10.
Dr. Jerry Lambiente Radiologic Science Loyalty Fund Annual Scholarship

The Lambiente Annual Scholarship was established through the generosity of Robert and Lauren Noble (’89). Dr. Jerry Lambiente (Retired Colonel, United States Army) was born in Brooklyn on September 27, 1912, and died on February 12, 1999. He was married to the late Jean Reavis Lambiente. He attended New York Military Academy in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, and then went on to attend the University of Notre Dame. After completion of his undergraduate degree, he attended Creighton University Dental School in Omaha, Nebraska, and shortly thereafter enlisted in the United States Army. Lambiente served in World War II and the Korean War and retired in 1971 after 31 years of distinguished military service. He possessed an appreciation for education and a desire to share with others. As a result, his philanthropic activities included numerous monetary and historical artifact contributions to the University of Notre Dame and the University of Nebraska.

Julia Schwabrow
Hometown: Snow Camp, North Carolina
Personal statement: I have always found helping others rewarding, but it was not until babysitting a little girl named Lilly that I realized caring for others was something I wanted in a career. Lilly has cerebral palsy. I enjoyed supporting her, witnessing her progress, and I still value the time I spent with her. These are some of the main reasons I began exploring careers in the medical field. While in high school, I shadowed radiologic technologists in the radiology department at Alamance Regional Medical Center. This led me to pursue the medical imaging program at UNC-CH. Throughout this program, I have already cared for patients. With this degree, I hope to continue providing kind and compassionate care while being part of patients’ diagnosis and treatment processes. I am very grateful that I have been selected to receive the Lambiente Scholarship because I have considered applying to a radiation therapy program so I can be more involved with the treatment process of patients. Cost was a major concern in my decision, but now I am going to apply for the radiation therapy program and plan to use this scholarship money toward the program. The radiologic science program has already given me so much, and I will always be thankful and proud to be a part of it.
Buddy Clark Loyalty Fund Radiologic Science Annual Scholarship

Dr. Ernest Spangler and his wife, Jean, endowed the Buddy Clark Scholarship through The Medical Foundation’s Loyalty Fund. Spangler decided to create the scholarship to honor the important role that Clark and other radiologic technologists played in his career and in improved patient care.

Jessica Meyers
Hometown: Vandalia, Missouri
Personal statement: I have known since I was a small child that I wanted to pursue a career in health care. Having always looked up to and idolized my mother, her experience in health care furthered my interest, however, I remained unsure of my niche within the field throughout most of high school. Amid my uncertainty, my mom immediately stepped in and began helping me scout different careers at the hospital. She exposed me to radiology and even found someone for me to shadow for a day. I was instantly fascinated with it. With my degree in medical imaging, I hope to give people the great quality care they deserve while also ensuring the radiologists receive the images they need to make an accurate diagnosis each and every time. This scholarship will allow me to worry less about money while granting me the time and ability to focus on what matters most: excelling. Words cannot fully express my gratitude in receiving this scholarship. This award will go a long way in aiding and improving my performance in my field, and I am as thankful as I am fortunate.
Tina D. Robbins Memorial Award

The Tina D. Robbins Award is given to a graduating student who has demonstrated high ethical standards and a genuine concern for his/her patients and fellow man.

Kristin Sloan Riley
Hometown: Mebane, North Carolina
Personal statement: As a graduate of the radiologic science program, this program provided me with an admirable career path that led me to two positions at Alamance Regional Medical Center and Duke Regional Medical Center in computed tomography. The program taught me how to be an effective communicator with people of all cultures and ethnicities, identify and solve complex problems, operate intricate machinery, and provide quality patient care. These professional skills supplied me with a sense of self-worth and fulfillment because my life-long passion has always been to aid those in need. Receiving the Robbins Award at graduation was a humbling experience to know that my instructors recognized me for my ethical and resilient performance while in the program.

The Phyllis Ann Canup Pepper Radiologic Science Memorial Fund Scholarships

This fund was established as a tribute to Phyllis Ann Canup Pepper’s lifetime and career in radiologic technology. She was born in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, a daughter of Blanche Bebber Canup and John Lewis Canup. Following graduation from A. L. Brown High School, she became one of the earliest radiologic technologists to graduate from UNC-CH, completing her training in 1955. She joined the Department of Radiology at UNC Hospitals after graduation and later served as chief technologist until 1962. She then went to Charlotte to become the chief technologist at Presbyterian Hospital. She remained at Presbyterian Hospital until her marriage in 1969. This fund was established by her husband, Francis D. Pepper, Jr., MD, a 1956 graduate of the UNC School of Medicine. Funds earned by this endowment are distributed into equal parts. The fund provides support for students through the scholarships and for the radiologic science program through the advancement fund.

Danielle Kristen Isetts
Hometown: Mooresville, North Carolina
Personal statement: As a people-person who wanted to make a difference, the medical field has always been an easy fit for me. However, it was not until I saw the imaging department in my local hospital that my interest became focused in medical imaging. The radiologic science program here at UNC-CH has given me an enormous amount of opportunities. I have explored the complex field of medical imaging, gained hands-on experience giving medical care, and interacted with a wide variety of patients and medical personnel. I will use the education and training from this division to continue on in my medical imaging journey and become a nuclear medicine imaging specialist. This area of imaging looks to be extremely challenging and rewarding, and I am excited for what lies ahead. I am incredibly honored and thankful to the Department of Allied Health Sciences and the Phyllis Ann Canup Pepper Grant for this award. This will give me the opportunity to move forward in my career, provide high-quality medical care, and touch the lives of many people to come.
Lindsey Walker  
**Hometown:** Waxahaw, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Throughout my childhood I was drawn to the medical field. Many years later when it came time to choose a major, I struggled to find where my strengths and interests would best be used in a career where I could make an impact on other’s lives. I firmly believe that God leads you to the place where you should be. After spending a year at UNC-Wilmington, I transferred to UNC-CH where my heart truly belonged. After bouncing around between nursing and education, through the grace of God and a friend’s input, I was led to radiologic science. Within the radiologic science program, I have learned of my love for cardiac care that I never knew I had. Continuing on the path I am now, I hope to become a registered cardiac-interventional technologist and further help diagnose and treat those with heart-related illnesses. I am extremely thankful and grateful for the opportunities and experiences the Phyllis Ann Canup Pepper Radiologic Science Scholarship will allow me to have. As a result of receiving this scholarship, I will have the opportunity to more thoroughly engage in the radiologic science program and better focus and empathize with my patients who are going through similar, life-altering events.

Christopher Watson  
**Hometown:** Fayetteville, North Carolina  
Christopher’s personal statement is on page 6.
Latonya Brown-Puryear (BS ’93, MD ’99) and her husband, Jerome Puryear, have established this scholarship to support deserving students enrolled in Division of Radiologic Science programs. The scholarship, which will be awarded annually with preference given to minority candidates, is intended to serve as an expression of gratitude to all those who have supported the Puryears in their academic pursuits and enabled them to make their dreams come true. Brown-Puryear is a native of Whiteville, North Carolina, and graduated from Whiteville High School in 1989. As a UNC-CH undergraduate, she earned her bachelor’s in radiologic science and was the recipient of the 1993 Faculty Award for Excellence in the division. Brown-Puryear worked in the Radiology Department at UNC Hospitals from 1993-1995 before entering medical school at UNC-CH. She completed her MD in 1999 and accepted a residency in internal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. While there, she met her husband who was a radiology resident. After finishing their residencies, they relocated to Miami, Florida, where she completed a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and he completed fellowships in Neuroradiology and Vascular and Interventional Radiology. Longing to be closer to family, they relocated with their children to Ohio where they both joined private practices. Prior to establishing the Drs. Jerome Puryear and Latonya Brown-Puryear Endowed Scholarship at UNC-CH, the Puryears endowed minority medical school scholarships in honor and in memory of their loved ones.

Felicia Branch

Hometown: Henderson, North Carolina

Personal statement: There are many health and educational disparities that plague the African-American community. Growing up, I experienced these disparities first hand. In accompanying family members to the doctor for their yearly checkups and diagnostic exams, I always wondered why the health care professionals seldom looked like me. Aside from finances, I believe that one of the many reasons many people in my community fail to follow through with their treatment plan, is because they do not connect with or trust their health care provider. At a young age, I knew I had the capacity to help and invoke change, however I did not quite know how. I entered Carolina searching for ways to aid in and contribute to patients’ health care experience as an undergraduate student. UNC-CH’s radiologic science program is providing me with the support, skills, and confidence needed to be a competent health care professional and help patients navigate through the health care system. My clinical experience has challenged me to think rationally and quickly to complete a set of tasks so that patients can receive correct treatment as soon as possible. Post-graduation, I hope to facilitate diagnostic processes by improving patient education working as a cardiac catheterization imaging specialist. It is my belief, that my presence and passion in the health care field will help bridge the gap that exists between health care professionals and the underrepresented minorities who visit them. Receiving the Brown-Puryear scholarship means so much to me. It is this kind of support that encourages passionate people to achieve extraordinary things. I am most grateful.
Amanda DePalma
Hometown: Fredericksburg, Virginia
Personal statement: Deciding to go to college was nerve racking for me. My parents never finished college and my brother never went, so I had no one for guidance. I was accepted to several universities, but ultimately decided to attend a local community college to get my associates degree instead. This way I could remain close to home while I took classes and remain in my comfort zone. However, while there I realized not only was I not afraid of these classes, but I loved the challenges they presented me. I’ve always wanted to help others since I was 12 years old when I got my first x-ray I knew exactly what I wanted to do when I grew up; I wanted to be a radiographer. And now, with a few years of classes under my belt, I know that goal is within my reach. I’m filled with excitement at the prospect of going further and being able to help people in their times of need. I offer a huge thank you to the donors for this scholarship support.
More than 30 Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences alumni and faculty members responded to the call to create the division’s first AuD Annual Scholarship in 2011. The audiology scholarship ensures the AuD program (which has risen to #3 in the most recent U.S. News and World Report ranking) has the resources it needs to maintain its record of excellence, attract the best applicants, and provide students with the best educational opportunities.

Kaylene King
Hometown: Derry, New Hampshire
Personal statement: My passion for the field of audiology actually began with two wonderful speech pathology patients I worked with while volunteering at a rehab hospital in Bradford, Massachusetts. Both women had suffered a stroke that impacted their ability to communicate. During our appointments, they would listen enthusiastically as I shared stories with them and light up with their own story to tell, but would become frustrated when their thoughts would come out jumbled and unclear. Seeing how defeated they felt when they could not communicate what they were thinking or feeling made me realize how much we take for granted when we listen to the world around us and respond with our own thoughts every day. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity that will allow me to further my education in the field at one of the top institutes in the country. Through this scholarship, I will be able to expand my knowledge in all aspects of the field through the diverse clinical placements available in and around Chapel Hill. I truly appreciate this opportunity and hope to someday provide care and support for patients and their families as they tackle the difficulties and frustrations as well as celebrate the triumphs they encounter throughout their time with me.

UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association’s Allied Health Sciences Fellowships

Anna Zembo
Hometown: Westport, Massachusetts
Personal statement: Anna’s personal statement is on page 7.
The Robert W. Peters Award for Excellence in Research Endowment

The Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences established this award Fund to annually recognize a student who has demonstrated excellence in research. The award is named in honor of the late Professor Robert W. Peters, who joined the faculty of UNC-CH in 1969 and founded the Institute of Speech and Hearing Sciences, which later became a division in the DAHS. Dr. Peters chaired the academic program in speech and hearing until 1981 and taught coursework in psychoacoustics, fluency disorders, and research design. His research focused on auditory and speech perception, sensation and perception, and stuttering. He previously worked as a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi where he served as Departmental Chair of Speech and Hearing Sciences and as research administrator for the University. In 1981 and 1982 he was a visiting research scholar in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Cambridge in England.

Ching Yi (Ginni) Lam
Hometown: Hong Kong
Personal Statement: It has been my life-long aspiration to touch peoples’ lives and serve them in a way that will promote optimal understanding among different individuals. As a devoted believer in Christ, I witnessed windows of opportunity opening up for me in a seamless and predestined fashion which led me to pursue the field of speech-language pathology. Through a missionary outreach program I came in contact with the underserved communities in Hong Kong who were in dire need for speech and language supports. I was then able to align my passion for service with my strengths in communication and research to venture into this growing discipline. My vision for the future of speech-language pathology is to establish strong international alliances and pool together resources and expertise to provide skilled training and education across the world. I wish to become a driving force in promoting this field as a global citizen and advocate for a service approach that is person-centered, family-focused, and culturally sensitive. Clinically, I hope to specialize in adult rehabilitation that spans across therapy domains in cognition, speech, and language. I am particularly interested in neurologically based communication disorders such as aphasia and motor speech disorders. I also intend to participate in continued skill exchange and transfer efforts with the Chinese International Speech-Language and Hearing Association (CISHA) in Chinese-speaking countries in the future. I am grateful for the Robert W. Peters Award as it enables me to disseminate my knowledge and experiences more effectively to broader audiences and to exercise clinical excellence in my practice.
Millicent Blair Arnett Memorial Speech-Language Pathology Annual Scholarship

The Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences created the Millicent Blair Arnett Memorial Speech-Language Pathology Annual Scholarship Fund at The Medical Foundation of North Carolina in the summer of 2013 to accept contributions in memory of Millicent. Contributions will be used to fund a scholarship that will be awarded annually to a deserving UNC MS-SLP student. Millicent Lavon Blair Arnett was born October 12, 1972, in Charlotte, North Carolina. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from UNC-CH in 1994 and her master’s in speech-language pathology from UNC-CH in 2002. A warm and caring person, Millicent dedicated her life to serving children. She was also an ambassador for her profession, encouraging many others to pursue careers as pediatric speech-language pathologists. Millicent died May 22, 2013, leaving two beloved sons and an extensive legacy of inspiration and care.

Amy Munekata
Hometown: Matthews, North Carolina
Personal statement: I have always had an interest in medicine, but received my bachelor’s degree in Hispanic linguistics. My combined love for medicine and linguistics lead me to discover speech-language pathology as a career and I have grown to love it even more during my time at UNC-CH. During my future career, and I hope to facilitate the Spanish-speaking community’s access to speech-language pathology services by creating tailored therapy treatments for both monolingual and bilingual patients. I am truly grateful to receive this scholarship as it is allowing me to travel to professional conferences this year so that I may present my current research projects about bilingualism and more importantly, learn from other experienced speech-language pathologists.

Diversity Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology

The Diversity Scholarship in Speech-Language Pathology seeks to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups pursuing a master’s degree in SLP. The goal is to enhance the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and gender diversity of our program and of the profession. The purpose of this fund is two-fold: 1) to increase the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and gender diversity of the SLP program by providing scholarships to students from under-represented groups, and 2) to support recruitment activities aimed at attracting individuals from under-represented groups to academic programs offered within the division.

Shakeia Burgin
Hometown: Union Mills, North Carolina
Personal statement: As the first person in my family to attend college and now to work toward a master’s degree, I feel that it is imperative to share my passion and inspire others who come from circumstances similar to my own to pursue their own dreams as I have had the opportunity to do. Receiving the Diversity in Speech-Language Pathology scholarship will allow me to maximize my own potential as I work to make my own dreams come true. I hope to work with children on the autism spectrum to develop alternative and augmentative communication solutions and to treat comorbid swallowing and feeding difficulties in that population. My goal is to help these children and their families have the best quality of life possible, and I could not achieve that goal without this generous support.
The Adult Communications Disorders Annual Scholarship was established through the generosity of Amy Chaney Heffern (‘86) and John Heffern (‘83) for a student interested in any aspect of adult communication disorders. Amy received her bachelor’s in 1984 and master’s in speech and hearing sciences in 1986, and John received a bachelor’s in economics in 1983 and an MBA from the Kenan-Flagler Business School in 1988. Amy has a private practice serving adult clients in the Princeton, New Jersey area primarily contracting with University Medical Center at Princeton. She is also in the process of founding the Central New Jersey Laryngectomy Support Group in conjunction with the local American Cancer Society to provide support, education, and community outreach to individuals with laryngectomies and their families. John is a managing partner and senior portfolio manager at Chartwell Investment Partners in Philadelphia.

Nancy Vallejo
Hometown: Stuart, Florida
Personal statement: My interest in adult communication disorders began when I witnessed a family friend receive speech rehabilitation after suffering from a stroke. Observing his communication improvements and his family’s appreciation as a result not only encouraged me but also inspired me to further explore the connection between language and the brain. While shadowing speech pathologists in different environments, I discovered my preference to work in the rehabilitation setting with patients who had a language disorder called aphasia. Through my academic and clinical work at UNC-CH, I have discovered how neurogenic communication disorders, such as aphasia, can be incredibly detrimental, affecting the physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational areas of someone’s life. In turn, I have been inspired to collaborate with nursing students in order to create a mental health program for those with aphasia. Overall, my goal is to alleviate difficulties in as many areas as possible through my work as a researcher and skilled clinician and making a positive impact within the field of adult communication disorders. I want to personally thank Amy and John Heffern for establishing the Adult Communication Disorders Annual Scholarship and providing me with the opportunity to pursue this passion.

Michelle Fronzaglia
Hometown: Huntersville, North Carolina
Personal statement: The decision to join the dynamic, growing, and fascinating field of speech-language pathology stands as one of the most rewarding decisions of my life. I have spent much of my life exploring how the body produces, receives, and comprehends sound through my training as a vocalist at UNC-CH as an undergraduate, and continuing into my graduate studies. I am excited to continue learning about the voice in order to prevent and rehabilitate voice disorders. Since graduation, I have had opportunities to work as an au pair in France and as a music specialist at a preschool, settings where I witnessed the effects of caring and engaged caretakers helping children communicate effectively. We often employed creative means of communication when spoken language was not plausible, either because a child’s language (or my French) had not developed far enough. My studies at UNC-CH allow me to continue embracing my passion for working with children.
Though I am not sure the exact path that my career will take, UNC-CH’s program provides me with all of the skills and tools to foster my growth so that I can provide the best care possible. I am consistently blown away by the dedication and enthusiasm the professors and staff at UNC-CH show for their work and for education. I am privileged and honored to be a part of this excellent Carolina tradition.

**Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship**

The Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship was established through the generosity of Lauren Graves Madden ('05) in memory of her aunt, Janice. Born in 1956, Janice graduated from Martinsville High School in Martinsville, Virginia, and attended Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond before transferring to Averett College (now Averett University) in Danville, Virginia. There, she received her bachelor’s degree in education with endorsements in several core areas, such as mathematics and reading, and her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction. She also earned an endorsement in administration and supervision from the University of Virginia. She worked in many capacities for the Martinsville City School System for 26 years, teaching special education and mathematics, serving as an educational diagnostician, and coordinating community outreach. She further demonstrated her love for teaching the youth in her community by frequently delivering the children’s sermon at her church. Janice’s journey in educating children ended with her passing in 2005. The creation of the Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship in Janice’s honor and memory will continue her legacy of dedication and love for teaching children.

Leah Baumgart

Hometown: Muskego, Wisconsin

Personal statement: From the moment I was introduced to the field of speech-language pathology, I was enthusiastic about pursuing it as my career. It is crucial for all individuals to have effective means of communication, so to have the opportunity to help people with this aspect of their lives is very meaningful and rewarding. During my time in UNC-CH’s graduate program, I have gained knowledge and developed clinical skills in my areas of interest through practicum placements in the surrounding community. I hope to one day work in a children’s hospital with infants in the NICU and young children who have impairments in feeding and swallowing. After several observation experiences and a practicum placement at UNC Children’s Hospital working with this population, I am more confident than ever that this is the path I want to pursue. I am so grateful to be a recipient of the Janice Rebecca Pettie Bowles Scholarship from the division, as it will allow me to continue in an academic program that I love. I have already been incredibly blessed by the faculty members, courses, research opportunities, and real world experiences at UNC-CH, and I look forward to all that is to come.
The Rebecca Rule Womble Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship was established through the generosity of George Womble ('68) in honor of his wife, Rebecca Rule Womble, who graduated with a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology in 1972 from the division. "I was so very glad George established the scholarship in my name, and I am glad to share this honor with my cousin Sally Rule Taylor in whose name we previously funded a scholarship," said Rebecca. "It is wonderful to be able to pay it forward since I myself was the recipient of a scholarship when I had the privilege of enrolling in the master's program at UNC-CH, and subsequently graduated with the inaugural class. I have also greatly enjoyed serving on the division's advisory board and celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2010. Getting to know Drs. Peters and Roush has been an honor and no doubt explains in part why this program has become one of the best in the country/world! My experience in the field was limited as other opportunities opened up for me including motherhood, women's ministry, and mission work. But I know the incredible impact that the field of speech and hearing sciences can have, and we delight in helping some deserving students pursue their calling."

**Sarah Plascyk**  
**Hometown:** Charlotte, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** My journey toward a career in speech-language pathology began when I was 10 years old and my younger sister, Shannon, was born with Down syndrome. Shannon has enriched our lives in so many ways and made my entire family come to appreciate the meaning of unconditional love in ways we never expected. However, I owe another debt to Shannon: She allowed me to realize my passion for working with individuals with disabilities. While my calling for working with children with developmental disabilities has long been known to me, it was only recently that I discovered an equally compelling passion for working with adults with acquired speech, language, and swallowing disorders. Throughout the extensive and varied clinical opportunities available to me during my time at UNC-CH, I was able to not only reinforce my interest for working with children but I was also able to discover the joy and gratification of working with a population with entirely different communicative needs and abilities. I am extremely grateful to have received the Rebecca Rule Womble Speech and Hearing Sciences Annual Scholarship and would like to thank all of those who have made it possible and who have supported me throughout my time at UNC-CH. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to further my passion to improve the lives of children and adults with communication needs.
Rebecca Irene Sande Scholarships

A $757,000 bequest from the estate of L’Vir Sande of Salisbury established the Rebecca Irene Sande Scholarship Fund in Physical Therapy at UNC-CH in 2002, allowing the division to offer scholarships to prospective students. Income from the fund established in honor of Sande’s wife, Rebecca, produces scholarships awarded annually to physical therapy students with financial need. Mr. Sande was a pioneer in radiologic medicine and was widely published in that field. In the late 1980s, he became physically incapacitated and received physical therapy. It was this experience, coupled with a love of the Carolina campus and its students, that led him to designate the scholarship for PT.

Monica Anderson
Hometown: Hickory, North Carolina
Personal statement: I am very honored to be the recipient of the Rebecca Irene Sande Scholarship. I pursued a career in physical therapy because it is the perfect blend of both the science behind human movement and the more personal component of working with patients one-on-one to help them achieve their goals. It is a privilege to be part of a profession that focuses on optimizing the quality of life for individuals. As a third-year physical therapy student, I am humbled by the incredibly gifted and talented professors, mentors, and peers who surround me and fuel my passion for physical therapy. Receiving this scholarship motivates me to excel academically and take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities this program has to offer. I have enjoyed all of my experiences during my various clinical rotations and am sure I will have a fulfilling career no matter what population I serve. I know the knowledge I have gained through this program will enable me to give high-quality care to the patients with whom I will have the privilege to work. I would like to thank the donors for their generosity and willingness to help me achieve my goals.

Jon Benjamin Buchanan
Hometown: Thetford, Vermont
Personal statement: It has been a long road to the UNC-CH physical therapy program but also the greatest decision I have ever made in my life. After returning to school at the University of Vermont and working with professors, physical therapists, and patients in a variety of settings, I realized the true range and scope of what the profession of physical therapy has to offer. To me, nothing is more valuable than the ability to motivate and empower others to make lasting positive changes in their lives. I am truly blessed to be a part of the UNC-CH family where I can pursue this passion to its full extent and am tremendously honored to be a recipient of the Rebecca Irene Sande Scholarship.
Sarah "Kate" Finegan  
**Hometown:** Huntersville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** My desire to pursue physical therapy stemmed from one of the most difficult times in my life. Though I have never had the experience of being a patient, the experience of being a caregiver showed me how impactful physical therapy is on quality of life. When I think about optimizing movement and the human experience, I see the two as interconnected and completely unique to each person. As a future physical therapist, I am excited to be in a field where I can build relationships with my patients and help them regain and return to what is important to them. With my degree, I hope to work within the realm of neuro physical therapy. I have always been intrigued by the interrelatedness of the nervous system and the human experience. I also enjoy the challenge that comes with treating patients with neurological diseases and disorders, as no two cases present the same. UNC-CH’s dedication to service is something that I admired when applying for schools, as service has always been one of my most highly held values. In the past year, through my work with the Student Health Action Coalition, I have gained a deeper understanding of the profession, and I have learned a lot about the numerous barriers to health care that exist. I look forward to being able to continually live a life of service as future PT. I am incredibly honored to have received the Rebecca Irene Sande Scholarship, and I am immensely grateful to be supported by a family that has had such a profound impact in the field of medicine. This scholarship has allowed me to branch out and challenge myself in the last year, and I can’t wait to see where the next two years take me.

Yana Ginzburg  
**Hometown:** Elizabeth City, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I moved to America at the age of nine. The elementary school that my parents enrolled me in initially wanted to set me back a grade. I never dreamt that one day I would be in a position that would afford me the opportunity to pursue a graduate degree. Although the road that has led me to where I am today was at times difficult, it is the reason that I have come to see challenges as opportunities in disguise. I seek to be challenged. I want to be pushed beyond my limits, learn as much as I can, and excel academically and clinically. Physical therapy is an opportunity to challenge others – whether it is in relation to physical capacity, health and wellness perceptions, or patient resilience. Thus, my primary long-term goal is to be an effective clinician – one who is able to challenge yet simultaneously motivate patients to restore function. In addition to this, I intend to be a lifelong learner who seeks and consumes appropriate literature to treat patients to the best of my ability. I also hope to partake in research projects and contribute to the body of knowledge regarding movement as well as effective physical therapy practice. I am grateful for the ability to pursue these goals with the aid of this scholarship.
Honorée Dakar McGraw-Beauchamp

Hometown: Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Personal statement: I entered my undergraduate years with intentions of making a career out of helping others by pursuing a degree in psychology. After graduating I found myself working in the field of mental health as a counselor in a long-term treatment facility for incarcerated and mentally ill teenagers. Although my experience as a counselor taught me a tremendous amount about behavioral psychology, I desired to work in a field that took a more holistic approach to patient care. After in-depth research into health care related fields, talks with various health care professionals and reflection into my own past experiences with injury and illness, it was clear to me that physical therapy was the field where I could have the greatest positive impact on patients. I feel immensely honored to be a recipient of the very generous Rebecca Irene Sande Scholarship. This scholarship has significantly decreased my financial burden and has allowed me to better focus on becoming a compassionate and competent physical therapist.

Terra Osmon

Hometown: Nags Head, North Carolina

Personal statement: I have not always wanted to be a physical therapist. In 2010 my interest in physical therapy became evident while on the inpatient rehab floor of WakeMed Rehab Hospital. I was satisfying my CNA clinical rotation, a pre-requisite for the nursing program at Wake Tech. I had recently withdrawn from classes at NCSU due to burnout, a result of the academic pressures from my rigorous college schedule and trying to cope with my mother’s worsening condition from her ongoing battle with cancer. But in that moment I awakened. My life has been an ongoing transformation since that moment six years ago. I finished my undergraduate degree at UNC-Wilmington with a degree in exercise science and applied to graduate programs during an off year working at home. I am currently in my third and final year of PT school at UNC-CH. I have an exciting and purposeful career ahead of me, and I am most grateful! When I graduate I plan on working in a hospital, either in acute care or inpatient rehab. I continue to have a soft spot for rehabilitating elderly adults, and I can see working with geriatric populations in my future. Diligence, hard work, and an excellent education from UNC-CH have made it possible to pursue my dream career. Though it has been a costly pursuit, I am fortunate for what financial contributions I have received. I want to thank the family and donors of the Rebecca Irene Sande Scholarship for your generosity over the last three years. This annual scholarship has allowed me to partake in educational opportunities I would not have otherwise experienced. Last year I was able to attend APTA’s Combined Sections Meeting (CSM), our professional conference in Anaheim, California. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather with other physical therapy students and professionals around the nation and learn about the latest evidence in our field. It was also very exciting as it was my first time to California and first time west of Tennessee! This event inspired my learning and interest to attend future conferences, such as this year’s NCPTA Fall conference in Greensboro. It is because of your annual gift that I am able to have these experiences. I am grateful for your gift, generosity, and continued support. I cannot say it enough: Thank you, thank you, thank you!
Lukas Sand
Hometown: Excelsior, Minnesota
Personal statement: Growing up in Minnesota, I always had a passion for movement, mostly to keep my body warm in the frigid winters. This passion drew me to pursue both a bachelor’s of science in athletic training and a master’s of science in medical anatomy, which taught me a lot about the human body, kinesthetics, and the drive for recovery. During my undergraduate experience, I suffered, and went through rehab to recover from a traumatic brain injury. This was a huge turning point in my life, which led me toward a deep interest the field of neurological physical therapy. As I looked through schools, I noticed that Carolina has highly esteemed staff with knowledge of that field. With great thanks to the generosity of the Sande family, I will be able to make the most out of my education here at Carolina. I will use my diverse background, optimistic attitude, personal medical history, drive to learn, and the knowledgeable faculty to become the best neurological physical therapist I can be.

Lindsay Saunders
Hometown: Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Personal statement: As someone labeled physically disabled by society, I am well-acquainted with the trials and tribulations those with physical impairments face on a daily basis. I was drawn to the field of physical therapy by a strong desire to be for others what my therapist was for me. I strive to be a source of knowledge, encouragement, and skill for children facing similar journeys. I hope to one day own a multidisciplinary pediatric clinic. If I can change the life of one child, I will have achieved my career goals.

Megan Schilter
Hometown: Cedarburg, Wisconsin
Personal statement: I have always had an interest in the medical field, but my interest in physical therapy was only realized late in high school when I took a gross anatomy class. The human body’s miraculous complexities were fascinating to me, and I loved learning about the biomechanical and neurologic systems that work together to create human movement. Physical therapy is a profession that draws on so many factors that influence bodily health; its depth and scope extend far beyond movement alone, yet they always return to the concepts of functional mobility and quality of life. As a future doctor of physical therapy, I will have the privilege of helping and treating people who are physically impaired. Bringing them back to a state of health, whether it be musculoskeletal or neuromuscular in nature, will inexorably improve their quality of life. This scholarship helps me pay for the expenses that inevitably accompany higher education. I am grateful to the generous donors who are assisting me in this program; without their financial contributions, I would not be able to pursue this career. With graduation less than a year away, I anticipate the opportunities I will have to pay it forward through my work, the patients I treat, and through support of future students like myself.
Natalie Stein  
**Hometown:** Statesville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I want to personally thank you for your generous scholarship gifted to me. I am so honored to have been chosen for this award and grateful for the aid it has provided me as I further my education into a field I am so passionate about. I am now in my second year of schooling, and my time studying and practicing physical therapy has only reinforced the passion I had when I first decided to be a physical therapist. I love how this field allows you to better a person’s quality of life through human movement and exercise. The generosity of donors like you make it possible for me and many other students in my program to pursue our dream of becoming physical therapists. I hope to uphold all of the qualities the Sande family found in their physical therapists and provide patients with the same great experience the Sande family once had. Thank you again for this generous gift!

Jessica Anderson  
**Hometown:** Durham, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I have always had a passion for learning and have always understood the opportunities that come with having an education. During my undergraduate years as a Morehead-Cain Scholar at UNC-CH, I interned in a rural clinic in Ecuador and at the National Institutes of Health, where I was able to witness the positive impact knowledgeable clinicians can have on a local and national scale. While my path to pursuing a degree in physical therapy was not a direct one, I feel confident that this field will best facilitate my desire to improve the quality of life of others, specifically those with neurological disorders. I am extremely grateful for the support provided by the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and their creation of the MS STEP UP program. I aspire to be an expert in MS, and thankfully the educational resources and learning opportunities provided by the MS STEP UP program will allow me to accomplish this goal. I hope to foster increased awareness and knowledge of MS within the Latino population, and to develop educational resources for health care professionals, caregivers and those living with MS to ensure optimal care is always provided. This scholarship has allowed me the time to focus on my clinical skills so that after graduation I will be able to treat patients with MS in any setting, serve as a resource for colleagues, and be an advocate for MS-related issues.

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**UNC Physical Therapy MS STEP UP Scholarships**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Carolinas Chapter, provided funding to establish the UNC Physical Therapy Multiple Sclerosis Scholarship Curriculum for students who will specialize in working with individuals with MS. The program, now designated as the MS Standardized Training and Education Program with University Partners (MS STEP UP: UNC PT), was founded by UNC PT faculty member and Carolina alumna Angela Rosenberg, PT, DPH. The program seeks not only to produce clinicians with a thorough understanding of MS, but also to educate the physical therapy community at large and create a curriculum model that can be emulated by other physical therapy programs nationwide.
Whitney Wilson Huryta

Hometown: Cornelius, North Carolina

Personal statement: Physical therapy has made a tremendous impact in my life by enabling me to pursue goals that I would not have otherwise been able to achieve. I have also seen the impact of physical therapy in the lives of those whom I love and with whom I have worked. My previous experiences have made me excited for the opportunity to graduate with my doctor in physical therapy so I can influence the lives of others in a meaningful way. Specifically, I am passionate both for the niche of neuroscience and general outpatient physical therapy. Through the MS STEP UP scholarship program, I have been able to further my knowledge and skills in working with patients who have multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions. Also, through the many service opportunities that UNC-CH and my church community have provided, I have also further developed my passion for working with those in underserved populations. Upon graduating, I intend on practicing in areas where I can strategically leverage my skills as a therapist to serve these populations. The scholarships that I have received, both the MS STEP UP scholarship and the Whitehead scholarship, have enabled me to more fully focus on my studies and developing my skills as a professional. I am very grateful for the generosity of the donors and the role that this financial assistance has played in studies and professional development; thank you!

Jessica Reynolds

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Personal statement: I am extremely grateful to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for their generous scholarship. As an MS scholar, I’ve had invaluable opportunities to learn more about the disease process and its effects. I’ve worked with inspirational patients and physical therapists during my clinical rotations, and I’ve gained a greater understanding of the challenges of MS. I’ve also met countless individuals who are passionate about finding a cure. I’ve gained so much respect for the MS Society and the wealth of resources and support that they provide, as well as their contributions to critical research. This fall, I joined over 1,000 cyclists for Bike MS, a two-day 150 mile ride in North Carolina that raised over $1 million for research, programs, and services. Among the participants were family members, friends, and even individuals living with MS. I have always had a passion for problem solving alongside others as they persist through challenges and surpass their goals. The MS scholarship has allowed me to pursue my passion while working with incredibly committed individuals facing complex challenges. After graduating, I will continue to advocate for patients with MS by educating and collaborating with colleagues and partnering with the MS Society. The symptoms of MS can challenge one’s ability to function safely and independently, and we as physical therapists need to take the time to understand the disease process and its unique effects on each patient and his or her family. We need to listen to our patients’ goals and concerns, and we need to use evidence-based treatment methods to ensure that patients with multiple sclerosis have access to the care and the resources that they deserve.
Andrea Stewart  
**Hometown:** Durham, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I am interested in not only understanding the disease and cellular processes underlying changes in the nervous system but most importantly how to make a direct positive impact in individual patient lives. I made the transition from basic research to physical therapy to more directly help others with neurological disorders, such as multiple sclerosis, stroke, and Parkinson’s disease. I knew I had made the right decision to become a PT when I first shadowed in a clinic and worked with an MS patient on range of motion, balance, and gait. I gained a rich appreciation for how important skilled PT was for his movement and quality of life. I have continued to reach out to patients with MS and enjoy helping each work toward their goals for optimal health. I am very grateful to be awarded the UNC MS STEP UP scholarship. I would like to thank the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the National MS Society for making the scholarship possible as well as the division. I look forward to learning alongside expert therapists and health professionals in the acute and outpatient rehab settings where I will gain first-hand experience with neuro patients and build evidence-based clinical skills so that I can make the biggest difference for patients and their loved ones. The MS STEP UP program will also help prepare me to become a certified neurologic specialist later in my career. I hope to eventually work at a neuro rehabilitation clinic and to advance clinical PT research for neurological diseases, including MS.
The Karen St. John Scholarship in Physical Therapy

A perpetual, annual gift from the St. John Charitable Education Trust, established by the late Karen K. St. John (’79) and her late husband, is providing generous support for student scholarships, as well the Division of Physical Therapy’s facility, equipment, and faculty research needs.

Kip Andrew Stromberg
Hometown: Providence, Utah
Personal statement: Upon entering my college education, I wanted to pursue a career that would help many people improve their lives. Physical therapy fits that mold in that it is a profession dedicated to improving the human experience through optimizing movement. I decided to pursue a degree in physical therapy because I knew it would further my knowledge of the human body and give me more tools to best improve peoples’ quality of life. I have also learned to treat the whole patient and to not just focus on the patient’s injury/condition. This program has done a great job of preparing me to provide the best patient care. I plan to use my degree to become an outpatient therapist who can provide help to patients of all ages from the high school athlete to the weekend warrior. I’d like to thank the donors for the generous donation which will help me to reach my goal of becoming a great physical therapist.

Martha Kalisz
Hometown: Deerfield, Illinois
Personal statement: I am incredibly fortunate to be earning my doctor of physical therapy from UNC-CH due to the incredibly talented professors and students who surround me every day, challenging and encouraging me. As a future physical therapist, I look forward to merging my empathy and compassion with my love for the sciences and problem solving to connect with others on a daily basis. I feel so honored to attend such a respected and well-rounded program and to have received the Karen St. John Scholarship and the Judy A. White Professional Development Award. These generous awards will allow me to continue to take advantage of the numerous opportunities that Carolina offers to grow professionally and personally.

Christopher Green
Hometown: Concord, North Carolina
Personal statement: The success of a skilled physical therapist is often attributed to an intimate mixture of art and science. As a former professional performing musician, I understand the discipline and dedication required to develop a skill. My passion as a music teacher also made me appreciate the art of communication. As a physical therapist, I hope to draw on these previous experiences and combine them using the best available evidence to provide exceptional care to my patients. I believe that continuing to hone my listening and comprehension skills is essential to serving my patients effectively. Upon earning my degree, my goal is to join a large hospital system in North Carolina, specializing in orthopedic physical therapy. My hope is to eventually assume a leadership position wherever I work in order to affect positive change in our health care delivery at the highest possible level. I am extremely honored and appreciative to be awarded the Karen St. John Scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year.
The Vanessa Louise Hall Memorial Scholarship in Physical Therapy at UNC-Chapel Hill

The division received a very generous gift and commitment from Louise and Paul Hall, of Durham, to create an endowed scholarship for physical therapy students in memory of their daughter Vanessa who died tragically in 1998 after being accepted into UNC-CH as a high school senior. Vanessa’s career goal at the time was to become either a physical therapist or a pediatrician. The first Hall scholarship was awarded in 2009. More than 400 physical therapy alumni and friends made generous gifts to reach the $100,000 UNC PT Class Challenge Campaign goal in 2013, matching the $100,000 gift from Paul and Louise Hall to build the scholarship endowment to more than $200,000.

Elizabeth Lynch  
**Hometown:** Burlington, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Even before knowing that I wanted to become a physical therapist, my heart was set on spending my life surrounded by children. Combining this passion with a love of human anatomy and a personal experience of the positive impact a PT can have on a patient, I know without hesitation that I am meant to pursue a career in pediatric physical therapy. From a professional development standpoint, I aspire to become certified as a pediatric specialist and work to serve children and their families with excellence. I also desire to partner with parents and caregivers to provide education and resources for meeting the needs of their children. I have found that children are often undervalued in today’s society, particularly those with disabilities, and I hope to use my physical therapy career as a platform to exude the message that all children are resilient and inspiring human beings who bring incredible worth to this world. I am extremely honored to have received the Vanessa Louise Hall Memorial Scholarship, and I am grateful to the Hall family for their generosity and support in helping me to earn an excellent physical therapy education at UNC-CH.

Brennan Ehlinger Visser  
**Hometown:** Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I have known for many years now that physical therapy is my passion and something I can see myself happily doing for the rest of my life. Two years of PT school have shown me the versatility therapists have and that the settings and types of people I could work with are endless. My school-based rotation in New Hanover County and acute care rotation at Duke Regional Hospital, although very different in nature, have shaped what I see for my future as a physical therapist. As a pediatric therapist, you get to interact with kids who are facing more challenges than you will ever experience in your lifetime, and you get to play a small part in helping them overcome those challenges or even find ways around them. As a therapist in the hospital, you get to be there and work with patients from the very beginning, right after something traumatic or life-altering has happened to them, to make a huge impact on their life. In combining these two, my goal is to work in inpatient pediatrics. I am honored to have been chosen for the Vanessa Louise Hall Memorial Scholarship. Your generosity makes it possible for me to carry on Vanessa’s legacy as someone who cares for others and makes a real difference in the lives of children and their families.
Judy A. White Professional Development Awards

The Judy A. White Professional Development Fund was established in 2006 by an anonymous donor to promote the professional growth and development of Carolina Physical Therapy students and faculty members in honor of long-time faculty member Judy White. In choosing the Judy A. White Professional Development Award recipients each year, the division director gives preference to candidates who share Judy’s tireless commitment to the profession of physical therapy.

Cheyenne Hilton
Hometown: Mount Holly, North Carolina
Personal statement: I am so grateful for recognition with the Judy A. White Professional Development Award. I know in this phase of our careers that students tend to be so focused on academics that our professional growth is often not a priority. However, this is the best time for us to explore all that goes into our profession and find our niche where we can contribute. I am thankful that this award acknowledges and promotes that development among students.

Stacy Harris
Hometown: Morehead City, North Carolina
Personal statement: This is my second year in the physical therapy program; my interests currently include geriatric and acute care PT. While in the DPT program, I have had the opportunity to participate in an interdisciplinary service learning trip to Tyrrell County, to become involved with the Allied Health Ambassador program, and was elected as treasurer for the Student Physical Therapy Association. I am so grateful to be able to have these experiences while in graduate school, and funding such as this scholarship allow me to be able to participate fully. Thank you to the donors and the scholarship committee for selecting me to receive this award.

Ali Serrani
Hometown: West Rutland, Vermont
Personal statement: Acceptance into the doctor of physical therapy program at UNC-CH has been my greatest achievement thus far. I was elated to find that I would learn from some of the most influential professors, clinical instructors, and researchers in the country while I made lasting memories with the greatest classmates I could ever ask for. The first year of the program exceeded my expectations and provided me with greater knowledge, memorable experiences, and relationships that will last a lifetime. Hailing from a small town in Vermont, I was concerned about the size of the institution and the surrounding area, yet I was pleasantly surprised when I immediately learned how welcoming the UNC-CH community is. With a background in athletic training, I hope to work with athletes of all activity levels to return to a higher level of function with physical therapy. I know that my education at UNC-CH will provide me with the tools necessary to achieve the goals I set as a future physical therapist. This award is an honor and is helpful in the pursuit of my education. Thank you very much.
Molly Miller  
**Hometown:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Inspired by my own experience with physical therapy as an overactive middle-schooler with a low back stress fracture, as well as my mother’s physical therapy background, I pursued my dream of becoming a physical therapist. As an undergraduate at UNC-CH, I studied Exercise and Sport Science and Psychology to intertwine my interests in the body and mind. These interests guided me to enjoy treating both orthopedic and neurological patients, and I hope to pursue a career in both areas. To me, being a physical therapist is not a job, it is a career, a passion, and a constant commitment to learning new ways to provide optimal care. My goal is to provide holistic patient-centered care to all patients, especially those who are underserved, disadvantaged and chronically suffering in the hope of helping them achieve a higher quality of life. I am so thankful for the scholarships I have received, both the Vanessa Louise Hall Memorial Scholarship and Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship and feel honored to have received such generous gifts. These scholarships will allow me to pursue supplementary learning opportunities such as attending conferences and purchasing much-needed study materials for our national exam. Being a part of the UNC-CH physical therapy family is a privilege, and I hope to give back one day in return for the generosity of these donors.

Martha Kalisz  
**Hometown:** Deerfield, Illinois  
**Personal statement:** Martha’s personal statement is on page 40.
Betsy Crawford (’09) made a generous gift and commitment to the Division of Physical Therapy to create the Diversity Scholarship in Physical Therapy, which seeks to increase the diversity of students pursuing PT careers. We are also thankful to other alumni and friends who have contributed to this fund. The Diversity Scholarship in PT was first awarded to a deserving student for the 2008-09 academic year.

Bart Satterfield
Hometown: Knoxville, Tennessee
Personal statement: Growing up, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in health care. I was unsure of the particular field until I saw the impact that physical therapists make in the lives of their patients each and every day. Having the opportunity to have face-to-face interactions with patients is a luxury that most health care providers are not afforded. I get a great sense of accomplishment seeing a patient come in with an injury and seeing the progression they make as they recover. I have learned that the psychosocial component of overcoming an injury is just as important as the tissue healing. Upon graduation, I hope to work in either an inpatient rehab setting or an outpatient orthopedic setting. I would also like to volunteer with an organization, similar to the Student Health Action Coalition, so I can treat the underserved population. My family did not have health insurance until I was in high school so I understand the burden of not being able to go to the doctor due to the cost of the office visit. Thankfully, during that period we were able to find a free clinic that treated us. It would be an honor to serve those who, like me, were less fortunate. Thank you so much for allowing me to be awarded the Diversity in Physical Therapy Award. This scholarship will definitely help ease some of my financial stress. This award really means a lot to me.

Bria Dunn
Hometown: Lewisville, North Carolina
Personal statement: Growing up, I always knew I wanted help others by working in health care. Until my sophomore year of college, I had strongly considered pursuing either medicine or pharmacy, having known several African-American practitioners. After researching and deciding that I was actually most interested in physical therapy, I began to pursue shadowing opportunities and quickly noticed a lack of diversity among clinicians that was also evident during the graduate school admissions process. While there is so much to be learned from people unlike yourself, there is also a sense of belonging and comfort that comes from being surrounded by individuals with whom you share a racial identity. I am proud that the Department of Allied Health Sciences and the Division of Physical Therapy continue to take seriously the need for diversity in the classroom and the clinic. I am also grateful to the award donors who share similar values.
Jennell McIntosh  
**Hometown:** Greensboro, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Physical therapy is a unique profession because it works to not only improve the quality of life of others but it also can boost the confidence of those it influences. Physical therapists get to be cheerleaders, clinicians, role models, teachers, and even friends for our patients throughout their journey to achieving their goals. The versatility of the field of physical therapy, as well as the chance to help people realize their potential, were the deciding factors for me when I decided to pursue my doctor of physical therapy. I am so honored to have received the Howes Family Scholarship and the Diversity Scholarship in Physical Therapy to facilitate my journey to becoming a physical therapist. The field of physical therapy is in need of a more diverse body of clinicians who better represent the patient population, and these scholarships will allow me to make strides toward fulfilling that need. I plan to become a pediatric physical therapist upon completion of my education. Thanks to your generosity I am able to focus on doing just that while helping people live their life to the fullest.
The family, friends, and colleagues of Charlotte Money Beatty created this scholarship in her loving memory after her passing in 1993. The scholarship is open to all students with particular attention being given first to minority students and second to students expressing a desire to pursue a career in pediatric physical therapy.

Anthony Pastore  
**Hometown:** Mooresville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Growing up in a family full of health care professionals, the desire to provide care to others was ingrained in me from a young age. To me, there is no higher calling. To be an integral part of an individual’s unique journey toward recovery is something I am eternally grateful I have the opportunity to do. Human movement has the power to combat a large range of health conditions and is essential to the health and wellness of our society. As such, I am honored to call myself a future physical therapist who will have the chance to change lives for the better. Dr. Hamm was known for his genuine and compassionate care as well as his diagnostic skills. The Rose and Dave Hamm Scholarship is given to those with promise for future clinical excellence, and so it is for this reason that I will strive to honor his memory and embody the qualities for which Dr. Hamm was known. Upon graduation, I hope to complete a residency in order to further hone my skills as an orthopedic physical therapist and bring me closer toward achieving clinical excellence. I have had the pleasure of calling North Carolina home for most of my life and look forward to serving this community for years to come. I’d like to personally thank the Hamm family for this generous gift and hope that I can earn your respect and praise throughout my future works as a physical therapist.

Lindsay Saunders  
**Hometown:** Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Lindsay’s personal statement is on page 31.
Howes Family Scholarship in Physical Therapy

Dr. Cathy Lynn Howes, who graduated from UNC-CH’s physical therapy program with a master’s degree in 1996 and a Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2014, and her parents, Alvin and Shirley Howes, have made a generous gift to endow the Howes Family Scholarship in Physical Therapy Fund at The Medical Foundation of North Carolina. The Howes family provided funding for a deserving student with financial need and an interest to practice pediatric physical therapy.

Jennell McIntosh
Hometown: Greensboro, North Carolina
Personal statement: Jennell’s personal statement is on page 45.

Louis and Eleanor Duquette Human Movement Science Annual Scholarship

The Duquette scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who is enrolled in UNC Chapel Hill’s Doctoral Program in Human Movement Science. The Louis and Eleanor Duquette Human Movement Science Scholarship was established through the generosity of Colonel Thomas L. Duquette, a 1991 graduate of the HMS program, in honor of his parents. Louis and Eleanor Duquette, of Connecticut, were native New Englanders who instilled the virtues of hard work and the value of education in their children. Though they have both passed away, through this scholarship, their legacy lives on.

Matthew Harkey
Hometown: Lincolnton, North Carolina
Personal statement: As a clinical athletic trainer, I was aware of the immediate negative impact of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury on the lives of many people. However, it was not until I began my research career that I realized the severe long-term consequences of acute knee injuries: osteoarthritis. As a doctoral student in the Human Movement Science Curriculum, my research has focused on obtaining a better understanding of neuromuscular and biomechanical outcomes following ACL reconstruction and how they relate to early development of osteoarthritis. The Louis and Eleanor Duquette Scholarship is important to me as it will allow me to focus on finishing my dissertation which aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how healthy knee cartilage responds to common activities of daily living. Successful completion of my dissertation will hopefully springboard me into a research career that will allow me to identify specific therapeutic targets that will aid clinicians in decreasing the development of osteoarthritis following ACL reconstruction.
The Max Gitterman Pediatric Physical Therapy Student Scholar Award Fund

The Max Gitterman Pediatric Physical Therapy Student Scholar Award was established by Amy and Daniel Gitterman in honor of their resilient son Max Asher. The award will be presented annually to a student who has expressed an interest and commitment to pediatrics in the physical therapy program.

Courtney Bowers  
Hometown: West Jefferson, North Carolina  
Personal statement: Physical therapy is a profession that enables individuals to simply be the best version of themselves. What initially intrigue my interest in physical therapy was the firsthand experience I received in rehabilitation through the eyes of the patient. My physical therapist was encouraging and committed to my plan of care, and at that point I knew I also wanted to motivate others to live an abundant life. UNC-CH’s Division of Physical Therapy has further validated my decision, and it has taught me how to provide the best possible care through patient-centered practice. As I pursue my career as a future physical therapist, I plan to work with the pediatric population. More specifically, I hope to move back to western North Carolina and work with premature infants in the neonatal-ICU. Pediatric physical therapy will enable me to think outside the box and use my knowledge foundation as well as my creativity to make a difference. Furthermore, I will be able to use my skills to integrate specific movements and make those movements fun and inviting. With the Max Gitterman Pediatric Physical Therapy award, I am able to further my physical therapy education and pursue my dream of one day making a huge impact on the pediatric population.
The Sara Fowler Anderson Scholarship in Physical Therapy

The Sara Fowler Anderson Scholarship in Physical Therapy was created thanks to the generous commitments of her husband, Dr. Ted Anderson, and their daughters, Megan Anderson Phillips and Lauren Anderson Bean, as well as Sara’s family, friends, and colleagues. The fund honors the life and career of Sara Fowler Anderson, a 1981 graduate of the program. Sara’s physical therapy career spanned three decades prior to her death in 2012. She enjoyed providing services to a wide spectrum of those in need of physical therapy, from infants and children in early intervention programs to seniors in retirement facilities, from those requiring home health care to those receiving inpatient care. She frequently expressed her appreciation for the education she received at UNC-CH and the association she maintained with her professors.

Amanda Doty
Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico
Personal statement: My path to the UNC DPT program has been a life-long journey. When I was a child, I knew I wanted to spend my life in a profession that allowed me to help people. However, I had no idea what field was suited best for me. Shortly after turning sixteen, my sister and I were on our way to school and were rear-ended by a semi truck. Luckily, neither of us was seriously injured, but my doctor referred me to a physical therapist. The physical therapist I saw was kind and took special attention to fully evaluate me. She found that I have scoliosis and helped me overcome the injuries from my accident and the daily pain I experienced. This experience set me on my path to where I am today. During the past two years in the physical therapy program at UNC, I have learned how to provide individualized care to each patient, providing treatments that improve their movement ability, enable them to function at their optimal level, and prevent disability. My ultimate aspiration is to work with patients who have suffered neurological injuries, particularly in the areas of traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and stroke rehabilitation. I hope to get a job working at a research hospital where I can deliver evidence-based physical therapy in the inpatient rehab setting. I am incredibly grateful for this scholarship because it lessens the financial burden of being a full-time student. It allows me to focus my time and attention toward becoming a skilled therapist who can help improve the quality of life of my patients.
Amanda Friedline Weber  
**Hometown:** Howell, Michigan  
**Personal statement:** I was drawn to the profession of physical therapy because of the magnitude of impact and the vast spectrum of individuals and walks of life their skills and knowledge can reach. Pursing the profession of physical therapy was a career change for me, but I am humbled and grateful to be a part of the PT program here at UNC-CH that has such a rich history and reputation. While I am still unsure of the exact setting or patient population I want to work with, I know that I entered this field to provide holistic, patient-centered care and to try and restore patient function and independence. I have been blessed to have had wonderful clinical experiences thus far that have further energized my desire to be a part of this profession. I thoroughly enjoyed my inpatient rehabilitation rotation working on the spinal cord injury team and found it extremely challenging and rewarding to help these individuals redefine their independence. I also loved my outpatient orthopedic setting where I was able to use my manual therapy skills to provide patients relief. My last clinical rotation will be in pelvic floor dysfunction and lymphedema, where physical therapists can have a drastic impact in an area of need that is often taboo. No matter where I end up, I know that helping patients regain control of their lives is vital to improving their overall quality of life, and I am looking forward to being a part of it. I wanted to thank the donors of the Sara Fowler Anderson Scholarship for their extreme generosity. This scholarship will allow me to continue to volunteer my skills and time to community health programs, seek out additional continuing education opportunities that will further advance my skills and knowledge, and participate in a cultural learning/service learning trip to Guatemala.

Elizabeth Huber  
**Hometown:** Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Like many other aspiring physical therapists, I learned firsthand of the incredible influence a physical therapist can have on one’s life when I was a patient after suffering a significant soccer injury during high school that left me in a wheelchair for eight weeks and in rehabilitation for months. However, it was not until I took a semester off from undergrad to volunteer in a physical therapy clinic in the Dominican Republic that the profession truly began to stand apart from other health care professions in my mind. It was in that tiny, understaffed, under-equipped clinic where I had the incredible, yet humbling, opportunity to work with children and families who had almost no access to health care, let alone to physical therapy, which was viewed as a luxury. Yet, having experienced and studied over the past two years the countless ways in which physical therapy is essential to improving lives, I am inspired to use the education and skills with which UNC-CH has equipped me to positively effect the individuals with whom I work in the future, whether that be in an underserved area or not. It is with great honor that I accept the Sara Fowler Anderson Scholarship. I cannot even begin to express my gratitude toward her husband, Dr. Ted Anderson, and their daughters for their generosity. After reading about Sara, she seems to have been the embodiment of the physical therapist that we all strive to be—one who cares deeply for her patients and uses her intelligence and skills to change lives for the better. I will strive to serve others well with the preparation I receive while pursuing my doctorate degree, and in doing so, hopefully honor Sara’s legacy, as well as her family who made this scholarship opportunity possible for me.
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Kenan Physician Assistant Program Educational Enhancement Fund

The Kenan Physician Assistant Educational Enhancement Fund was established in 2014 by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust. The fund supports a PA rural health care initiative, PA scholarships, an Advanced Medic Instructor Training Program for active duty Ft. Bragg Special Forces Medics, and a Veteran Student Services Program.

Marc Difronzo
Hometown: North Charleston, South Carolina
Personal statement: The Physician Assistant Studies program will be intense and a definite challenge, but I look forward to it. Being able to expand my knowledge of the human body and then be able to apply it tangibly to improve a person’s life displays selfless service and is a value that embodies the role of a PA. With this scholarship, I will be afforded the opportunity to attend UNC-CH’s inaugural class and learn the skills needed to take care of people in my community. I am truly appreciative for them having faith in me and can’t wait to pay the favor forward by giving back to my community. After completing the physician assistant program I would like to return to medicine in my civilian and military career specializing in emergency medicine. Emergency medicine will be the most rewarding due to fast pace and timely critical decisions that will affect a person’s life.

Eulalia Barajas-Graham
Hometown: Pembroke, North Carolina
Personal statement: Being accepted into the UNC-CH Physician Assistant first class has been a dream come true. I have acquired such a passion for medicine and hope to someday return to my home in Pembroke, North Carolina. Serving my community has always been a priority to me. I am so honored to have received this scholarship. I am very humbled and grateful to have been a recipient of the scholarship and hope with this financial assistance to continue my journey in becoming a successful physician assistant.

Richard Cowan
Hometown: Durham, North Carolina
Personal statement: As a medic in the military, I had the opportunity to not only treat fellow service members but also travel to underserved and impoverished regions throughout the world and provide medical care to those who needed it most. This was a very humbling and rewarding experience that solidified my desire to continue caring for others and pursue a career in medicine as a physician assistant. Being a part of UNC-CH’s first physician assistant class is an honor and privilege that will teach me the skills I need to become a quality health care provider and also allow me to help build a successful program for future PAs to come. I am forever grateful for this generous gift that will help ease the financial burden and allow me to focus on achieving my goal and continue making a positive impact on the lives others.
Natalie Ford  
**Hometown:** Hamptonville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Growing up in rural North Carolina has given me a passion for helping others by pursuing a career in health care. I understand the difficulties many people face when seeking medical attention. Accompanying my father to numerous medical appointments gave me the opportunity to see compassionate, experienced physician assistants at work. They inspired me; like them, I want to provide effective and efficient health care to patients from varying backgrounds while building relationships and providing preventative care. I am grateful and honored to receive this scholarship. This generous gift from the Kenan family will help me pursue my passion to help others in rural North Carolina through effective health care.

Mary Garner  
**Hometown:** Floyds Knob, Indiana  
**Personal statement:** I feel honored and grateful to have been selected as a 2016 Kenan scholar. I graduated from Bellarmine University in 2011 before pursuing my master’s degree in biology at the University of Louisville. I knew that I was interested in health care, but did not know which field I wanted to join. During this time I was working as a phlebotomist, which helped to shape my desire to work with patients in the clinical setting. I had the opportunity to work with several wonderful, caring physician assistants whose guidance helped me to decide that their career and patient care was what I hoped for in my own life. Being accepted into the inaugural physician assistant program at the UNC-CH is truly a blessing. I am excited for the opportunity to learn and grow as a person and student over the next two years.

Kami Harris  
**Hometown:** Raleigh, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** My motivation for being a physician assistant is rooted in my desire to use what I learn along with my love for people to make a positive contribution to the world. Donors, your generosity has helped to make this a reality. Thank you for investing in me and the future of the PA profession.
Katlyn Joyner  
**Hometown:** Yadkinville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I have always had a strong passion for the medical field and my personal and professional experiences over the past several years have led me to the physician assistant program at UNC-CH. After graduation I hope to be able to work in a medically underserved area in North Carolina and provide people with quality health care that they would not normally have access to. I am very honored and grateful to have been selected as a 2016 scholar and would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone at the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust for their generosity.

Johnny Pitts  
**Hometown:** Franklin Springs, Georgia  
**Personal statement:** I would like to express my gratitude to the new UNC-CH physician assistant program and the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust for providing me with the opportunity to advance both my educational and career goals. As a former Navy Corpsman, I am excited about the opportunity to build upon the skills I learned in the military and expand my medical knowledge as a physician assistant. In keeping with the mission of school, I look forward to the future prospect of working to reduce the shortage of medical providers in my rural community and in underserved populations abroad. As an honored recipient of the this scholarship, this generous gift will go a long way in helping my family and I help fulfill the vision of the UNC-CH PA program.

Codie Wiley  
**Hometown:** Burlington, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I have been working toward becoming a physician assistant for many years, and I am so excited to see all of my hard work come to fruition at UNC-CH. As a military spouse, I know firsthand the need for medical providers in both military facilities and rural areas and cannot wait to fill that role. I am truly grateful for such a generous scholarship from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust to aid me on my way to becoming the compassionate PA I hope to be.

Daniel Taylor  
**Hometown:** Apex, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** My career as an athletic trainer has been one filled with excitement and variety. I have enjoyed meeting and working with many personalities, learning from various health care providers and benefiting from their knowledge along the way. All of the aspects of my career as an athletic trainer that I love translate perfectly into becoming a PA. Being able to be an integral part of a health care team and making a difference in the lives of the patients I treat is what makes my job fulfilling, and I am very excited for the opportunity at UNC-CH to continue that work as a PA. The scholarship immediately allows me more freedom financially and will help me be able to serve in a capacity that fits my goals as a health care provider upon graduation.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Physician Assistant Scholarship Fund

Dave Manning
Hometown: Spring Lake, North Carolina
Personal statement: I spent 20 years serving my country first in the Navy, then later in the Army. During that time I was able to grow and foster a deep understanding and love for medicine. As I progressed through my military career, I was very fortunate to have great medical providers help to guide and mentor me as I moved from duty station to duty station. Two of the most memorable ones were physician assistants. I was able to really see how they interacted with patients and demonstrate their empathy and caring toward the needs of their patients. This helped guide me toward the career path in medicine I wanted to take: the role of a PA. It has been a long road for me to get to this point, one close to 15 years, but my passion for being a quality provider has helped me to endure. Now that I have finally been accepted into UNC-CH’s inaugural PA program, my passions and dreams are that much closer to finally coming to fruition. I am extremely grateful for this generous donation from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. This gift will help greatly in reducing the financial stresses of a two-year graduate program.

Angel Legare
Hometown: Evans, Georgia
Personal statement: I am extremely honored to be chosen as a recipient of the 2016 Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Physician Assistant scholarship. I am also thankful for their dedication to give back to the veterans of the United States military. It was during my service as a flight medic in the United States Air Force that I realized I wanted to be a physician assistant. The Air Force training and experience galvanized my desire to pursue that dream and to understand that being a physician assistant was the role I was always searching for. I worked closely alongside physician assistants, witnessing their role and the importance they play in health care. The medical knowledge and skills I obtained as a flight medic only gave me a thirst to learn more. I am ready to open a new chapter, to challenge myself, and to fulfill a dream I have had since my early years as a flight medic. With this scholarship I have the opportunity to pursue my education and have some of the financial burden lifted while I work toward my goal. I sincerely appreciate the generous donors whose contributions help support my efforts toward becoming a physician assistant. I am looking forward to the year ahead and to the future.
Traci Little  
**Hometown:** Burlington, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I have been very fortunate to serve my community as a physical therapist, paramedic, and soldier. My next vision is to combine these skills and experiences as I train to become a physician assistant. The first step to improving both health status and prevention is education. I look forward to becoming a physician assistant, which will allow me to advance outcomes as a leader in health care. I would like to thank Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina for funding this scholarship which will reduce financial burdens, allowing me to take on the exciting academic challenges of the physician assistant program.

Christopher Orange  
**Hometown:** Jacksonville Beach, Florida  
**Personal statement:** Becoming a physician assistant is a career that is tailor-made for me. This ever-evolving and growing profession is particularly suited to my desire to learn and to be continually challenged while practicing medicine. This has been a goal that I’m now on the verge of achieving. I am grateful to great people who have helped guide and mentor me along the way. To be the beneficiary of someone’s largesse in the form of this scholarship is very humbling to me personally and makes me feel once again that I am embarking on a shared journey to truly impact, innovate, and improve health care in our communities. To also know that a great company such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina has the vision and foresight to invest in me personally along with UNC-CH’s physician assistant program as a whole is truly inspiring. This scholarship will allow me to focus on what’s important—my studies and curriculum—and not on what’s urgent—the immense financial burden that accompanies them. To conclude, I would simply like to say thank you sincerely from the bottom of my heart.

Bruce Ward  
**Hometown:** Fayetteville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I have 20 years of experience as a military medic working in Africa, the Middle East, Central America and the United States. I performed as a primary care provider and fell in love with medicine and helping other people maintain good health in the Army. Although the pay was low the reward and job satisfaction were enormous; if possible I would have done it for free. Now with the help of this scholarship and UNC-CH, I can pursue, as a civilian, a truly great opportunity to one day work as a physician assistant.
Smith Family PA Scholarship for Veterans

John Curtis Carr  
**Hometown:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I started doing research into physician assistant programs and saw UNC-CH as a new and upcoming program on the list. I was immediately interested and began checking the website, almost daily, to see when I’d have the opportunity to officially apply. I have friends who are at UNC-CH, and I knew the medical school was really good. Then, I learned how good the School of Nursing, the School of Pharmacy, and the School of Dentistry are, and when Dr. Chelminski told me I’d been accepted and asked if I wanted to be part of the program, I said of course, and I’m so excited to be here. Thank you to donors who made this scholarship possible.

UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association Physician Assistant Fellowship

Gabrielle Neri-Mynatt  
**Hometown:** Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** Gabrielle’s personal statement is on page 8.

UNC Physician Assistant Endowed Scholarship Fund

Riti Shah  
**Hometown:** Fayetteville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** As a member of UNC’s inaugural Physician Assistant program, I am honored to not only receive a scholarship that will allow me pursue my life’s dream, but also to be a part of history! My commitment to pursuing a career as a physician assistant is strongly rooted in a desire to invest in each patient’s physical and emotional welfare. As a former HIV clinical researcher, I was able to connect with patients on a vulnerable, honest, and life-changing level. These experiences served as my primary motivation to be more involved in the day-to-day care of patients. I greatly appreciate this scholarship because it will allow me to pursue my education, and better serve my community.
Nihon Kohden Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science Annual Scholarship

A founding gold partner in the 2012 UNC Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science Corporate Partners Program, Nihon Kohden has generously provided a merit-based scholarship. Nihon Kohden is Japan’s leading manufacturer, developer, and distributor of medical electronic equipment with subsidiaries in the USA, Europe, and Asia and distributors in nearly every country in the world.

Brandon Byrd
Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina
Personal statement: My decision to become a sleep technologist was based on my desire to help people. One thing I know how to do well is sleep! I figured why not help others achieve quality, restful and restorative sleep that they deserve. I knew that this was an area of health care that I could strive in and that I would truly enjoy. My hopes for obtaining my degree in Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science are that I can use the knowledge I gain to provide better, and the most up-to-date health care techniques to my patients. I believe that the people we serve deserve the best quality care we can provide, and obtaining this degree are a step toward doing just that. I want to thank Nihon Kohden for providing this opportunity to obtain a scholarship; doing so shows the dedication that they have for the students, as well as the people we will be caring for now and in the future. Receiving this scholarship is a special privilege, one that will allow me to perform better academically by removing the stress of financial burden from my plate. I will be able to use these funds toward buying books, software and other necessities necessary while obtaining my degree. Again, please let me thank both Nihon Kohden, as well as the NDSS scholarship committee for allowing me this opportunity. It is much appreciated.

Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science Annual Scholarship

A generous gift from the UNC-CH Neurodiagnostic and Sleep Science program’s medical director Bradley Vaughn and his wife, Karen, provided funding for the inaugural merit-based scholarship to assist and reward a deserving student studying in the program.

Shannon Robbins
Hometown: Wilmington, North Carolina
Personal statement: I have been in the field of sleep medicine since 2006. I am currently employed in a fairly newly developed pediatric sleep/epilepsy monitoring unit at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in my hometown of Wilmington. I have worked with adults until the past two years when I really found my niche in pediatrics. As a teaching hospital, we constantly have an influx of new students learning sleep and neurodiagnostics. I am hoping this degree will expand my knowledge and experience. Learning neurodiagnostics will help me be more flexible not only in my department but in the hospital itself. I’d like to send a heartfelt thank you to the donors for their very generous donation to the program. In a family with three of us in college this semester, this a very welcomed gift and surprise of a blessing. Thank you so much and God bless you!
Tempur-Sealy International Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science Annual Scholarships

A founding platinum partner in the 2012 UNC Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science Corporate Partners Program, Tempur-Sealy has generously provided funding for this academic year. Tempur-Sealy is focused on developing, manufacturing, and marketing advanced sleep surfaces that help improve the quality of life for people around the world.

Marta Rog  
**Hometown:** Bradenton, Florida  
**Personal statement:** A little over 10 years ago, I read an article about REM behavioral disorders and I found it fascinating. I decided to research the degree at a local college and applied for the two-year polysomnography program. I still remember the very first time that I observed a patient with a REM behavioral disorder. It was even more intriguing especially since I understood the clinical aspect of the disorder and other sleep disorders. Over the summer, I was privileged to learn about the neurodiagnostic field from several talented preceptors at UNC-CH, and I found it very educational and inspiring. Once I graduate in May 2017, my ultimate goal is to work to expend the neurodiagnostic department at the hospital where I am currently employed, apply all the knowledge and experience that I gained over the past two years, and become the director of the neurodiagnostic and sleep department. I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Tempur-Sealy Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science Scholarship. Thank you for supporting students like myself. Your generosity will allow me to continue my education and be one step closer to achieving my goals.

Guadalupe Cruz  
**Hometown:** La Puente, California  
**Personal statement:** I got introduced to the sleep medicine field by fate in 2007. My sister chose her senior project on sleep paralysis and I accompanied her to a sleep center for her volunteer hours. I was fascinated by it all, and my interest was so noticeable that I was offered a job as a sleep tech trainee. Almost 10 years later, I remain in the field continuing my education to further myself as a sleep technologist. I was grateful to be accepted to the Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science (NDSS) program, which is the first of its kind, not only nationally, but internationally as well. The NDSS degree is providing me with the advance training necessary to become a leader and a well prepared sleep professional who is capable of taking on new and greater challenges in the field. Having the privilege to be a recipient of the Tempur-Sealy Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science Scholarship provides me with the means and further motivation to invest in my career goals. Some of my goals are to open doors to possibilities of furthering my education, seeking the opportunity of getting involved in sleep research, as well as taking on a management position in a sleep center. Ultimately, I will pursue the challenge of running my own sleep and wellness center to address not only sleep disorders but also include a focus on health promotion of comorbidities associated with sleep. I feel very fortunate and truly thankful to Tempur-Sealy for the honor of being the recipient of their 2016-17 scholarship.
Crystal D. Trotter-Berkley  
**Hometown:** Fayetteville, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** When I was a respiratory therapy student, I was given the opportunity to go to the sleep center for a clinical rotation. From that very first night, I knew when I graduated I would specialize in sleep. I was fascinated by all that the world of sleep entails and how it encompasses several fields of medicine such as neurology, pulmonology, cardiology, psychiatry and more. Over the years, I have seen this field continue to grow and make advances. With this degree, I hope to become a part of that advancement by performing research or by becoming an educator. I would like to thank the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation for sponsoring my education with this scholarship. Their generosity will allow me to continue to pursue my studies, succeed in achieving my goals and become a leader in the field of Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Sciences.
Amanda Meyers  
**Hometown:** Mebane, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I would like to start by thanking the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation for this scholarship. I know there was a very competitive pool of applicants and it just means that much for to me that I was chosen. I have been in polysomnography for going on nine years and I love it. When I first began in sleep I honestly didn't know much about it. I had been in health care for years before that, but I had never really heard of sleep, or sleep disorders. It intrigued me and that is why I first applied, and I am so glad I did. I have learned, and continue to learn, so much while being a registered sleep technologist. Going back to school to get my bachelor’s degree was a dream of mine and the Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Science program seemed like the most logical step for me to take. I hope it will provide me with the knowledge to take my career to the next level. I would like to use my degree to move up in the workforce and become a manager of a sleep lab. I have also considered pursuing a master’s degree after I have completed my bachelor’s degree. This scholarship is helping me make my dream a reality. I am proving to myself that I can do it, and showing my two boys that you should never give up on your dreams, even if it takes you a little longer to achieve them. Again, thank you so much!

Nicole Childers Walton  
**Hometown:** Conniver, North Carolina  
**Personal statement:** I was 26-year-old single working mother when I decided to go back to school. That year, I was accepted into a dental hygiene program. It was the same year the electroneurodiagnostics program began at Catawba Valley Community College. I spent one semester in dental hygiene and was questioning my whole career choice. I decided to switch major and was accepted into the END technology program. My first day in class, I was hooked. I loved learning about the brain, what it does, and what happens when things go wrong. I have been working in EEG for nine years now and I find it rewarding and intriguing. When the Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Sciences program became available to continue my education, I was interested, but also fearful of how I could make it fit into my schedule of work and family. This past year, I realized I wasn’t getting any younger, and wanted to get the education that opens up more opportunities for my career path. The distance education program makes it possible to build upon my skills as a technologist and attain a lifelong dream of a bachelor’s degree. This scholarship, I view as an investment in myself and am deeply humbled by the award. As much as I love my job in the hospital setting, I envision my own business of monitoring EEG studies from home, in home ambulatory EEG’s, or even working in research for Alzheimer's disease. I know I have the ability to accomplish the goals I set forth in my career. I am proud that someone else recognizes that potential in me and is giving me the opportunity to prove it.
Thank you to our esteemed donors!

Student scholarships would not be possible without you.

We hope to see you at next year's celebration.
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