



# Heeling Hounds

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*MS2 Jenna Beckham and her dog Hatfield bring big smiles to Helen at the Wynwood Assisted Living Community. Hatfield is a true healer, having already helped more patients than I have during two years of medical school.*

**“Heeling Hounds” established to connect local pet owners with area elder care communities.** *A group of medical students recently established a new pet hospitality program in order to encourage area students and professionals to share the love of their dogs.*

Numerous controlled studies have shown that bringing dogs to see dementia patients has beneficial effects on both the patients’ demeanor and health. Specifically, patients become less agitated and aggressive, have less apathy, become more relaxed, and even have a decrease in blood pressure. **More on page 2.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



The spring blood drive on April 6, was a huge success. You all donated approximately 30 pints of blood. Awesome!



Applications for the Medical Alumni Loyalty Fund scholarships are due on April 30.

## Heeling Hounds (cont. from page 1)

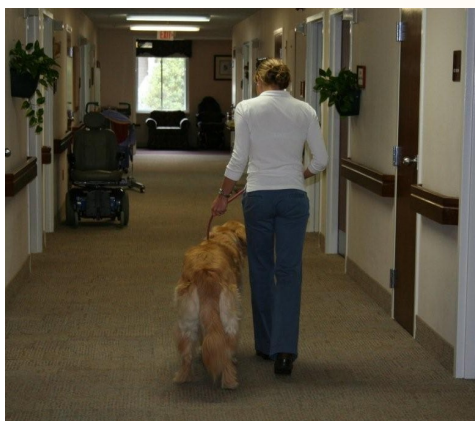


Recognizing the potential benefits of dog interaction with patients, and each of them having loving dogs themselves, a group of three second year medical students – Jenna Beckham, Rachel Little and Olivia Linthavong – wanted to find an opportunity for their dogs to visit and provide these beneficial interactions to local older adult patients. Also knowing that many of their fellow classmates have gentle, affectionate dogs, they were motivated by a Humanities and Social Sciences Selective course, titled “Advanced Leadership in Community Service”, to set up a program in which anyone with a dog can easily get their pet qualified for participating in this hospitality pet program. When Wendy Sapp, Activities Coordinator at Clare Bridge, an Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care facility, was first contacted about the program, she was thrilled. She echoed the results of these aforementioned studies and added that the residents really “connect beautifully with animals”.



The program has established easy access to local memory care, retirement and assisted living communities, including Clare Bridge, Wynwood, Carolina House, Carol Woods and Carolina Meadows, where residents can benefit from pet interaction. In the spirit of UNC Medicine, the program became known as, “Heeling Hounds”.

The website provides information on how to get your pet certified with links to the appropriate forms. Certification is easy and only requires verification of a volunteer dog’s current immunizations as well as a brief but thorough behavioral screen to be conducted by a veterinarian. If the veterinarian approves the dog, then he/she is ready to go visit the local facilities. A list of participating elder care communities and appropriate contacts are also listed on the website. The dog’s owner can set up times to visit with any of the facilities directly.



Heeling Hounds was set up to provide free certification of dogs and to facilitate easy, personal scheduling in order for the owner to be able to establish visits that are conducive to their individual schedules. Though this program was started by medical students, involvement is in no way limited to only this group. Anyone can participate! If you own a dog, or know of a friend’s dog that enjoys giving and receiving love, visit the website to find out more information - <https://sites.google.com/site/heelinghounds> - or contact Jenna Beckham at [jenna\\_beckham@med.unc.edu](mailto:jenna_beckham@med.unc.edu).

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## 2010-2011 Whitehead Officers

Congratulations to the following Whitehead officers for the 2010-2011 academic year.

**MS Co-Presidents:** Allison Serra and Sally Wood

**MS4 Class Presidents:** Megan Jordan and Daniel Verges

**MS3 Class Presidents:** Will Stone and Will Hannah

**MS2 Class Presidents:** Jacob Wang and Nancy Wang

**Senior VP of Curriculum Affairs:** Neil Shah and Kris Swiger

**VP of Curriculum Affairs:** Daniel McMillan and Hannah Yin

**VP of Prospective Student Recruitment:** Josh Wallace and Emily Cohn

**VP of Student Affairs:** Elise Leger and Amit Gupta

**Senior VP of Educational Development:** Harneet Gujral

**VP of Educational Development:** Russell Coletti

**VP of Community Service:** Nesochi Adimora

**VP of Research and Publications:** AJ Rogers

**Chief Mentors:** Rachel Hines, Angela Vandegrift, Nat Bailey, Mastafa Springston

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## Medical Alumni Loyalty Fund Scholarships

The UNC School of Medicine Medical Alumni Loyalty Fund scholarship program was established in 1966 with a modest stipend to six students. Because of generous alumni support, the program now provides over 50 scholarships each year based on need, merit and/or demonstrated leadership. These scholarships represent, as near as possible, full in-state tuition.

One year scholarships are awarded to rising second, third and fourth year students.

A committee comprised of representatives from the Office of Student Affairs, Financial Aid, Admissions, Alumni Affairs and the Medical Foundation of North Carolina select recipients. Criteria for selection include demonstrated financial need, academic achievement, leadership qualities and commitment to service.

Scholarship selection will be made by early June. Selected students will be notified as early as possible. Distribution of funds will be applied toward financial aid package (if applicable) and will be managed by the School of Medicine's Financial Aid Office.

Recipients will be asked to thank the alumni who supported the scholarship. This is accomplished through thank your cards or letters and attending one to two alumni events during the year. Scholarship recipients should realize that they have a responsibility to contribute annually to the Medical Alumni Loyalty Fund at a time which is appropriate to each recipient.

**Deadline for application submission:** 5:00 p.m. April 30, 2010

**Where:** By mail CB# 9530, G050 Bondurant Hall

By email – [medalum@med.unc.edu](mailto:medalum@med.unc.edu)

**Questions:** Contact Jan Lovell at 962-8891 or [jan\\_lovell@med.unc.edu](mailto:jan_lovell@med.unc.edu)

