

Stone Program inspires again

BY ALEXANDRA MENDOZA
AND SIEDAH HUNTER

The 2009 Chuck Stone Program kicked off as the 12 participants from various locations arrived, with no one sure what to expect. The first night was spent getting to know everyone and communicating about each other's interest in journalism.

During the week, students learned about campus life, made lasting friendships and improved as journalists.

"The way I was writing before [the program] isn't the way journalists are supposed to write," Chad Richardson said. "I was writing like a creative writer before and not a journalist."

Monday had various speakers, such as UNC Assistant Professor Ryan Thornburg who gave an introduction on how to blog. Blogging quickly became an important aspect of the program that offered participants a chance to write in their own style on a daily basis.

"My favorite part of the whole [program] was visiting the Daily Tar Heel and doing the blog," Katia Martinez said. "With the blogs, we have so much more liberal creativity."

Later that night, participants continued to get to know their roommate and prepared to write a personality feature on that person. Throughout the next day, everyone worked with professors on writing strong leads and concise articles.

"The hardest part was I wanted to do [my roommate's] quotes justice...I had great quotes but I still had to write transition sentences," Jaimie Kaplan said.

Students worked hard into the night developing the final draft of the personality feature. Along with improving their writing, participants also received lessons on other areas of journalism, such as photojournalism. Photographer and UNC-graduate Stacey Axelrod provided information on this area.

"I've always wanted to do something with photography," Kailey Smith said. "She showed me ways to think about the camera that I hadn't thought of before."

As the night progressed Axelrod provided a 5-minute documentary presenting photos from when she had studied abroad through UNC-Chapel Hill and encouraged participants to do the same in college.

"I think I probably will [study abroad]," James Carras said. "All I know is that everyone I know that has done it highly suggests it."



PHOTO BY JAMES CARRAS

As Siedah Hunter admires Michael Jordan's professional uniforms, Megan Carroll examines his collegiate attire at the UNC Basketball Museum.

Professor Emeritus Chuck Stone, the man behind the development of the Chuck Stone Program, also stopped by during lunch midweek. Participants were able to interact with him and learn about his experiences as a journalist.

This year's Chuck Stone participants brought various talents to the program. Certain students benefited more from learning about photography while others were intent on improving their writing. While studying journalism, participants also developed strong bonds with those around them.

"We have a lot of time together and we're all here for the same reason so we all understand each other and it has helped us bond more quickly," Lierin Peña said.

With current funding from a grant from the Gannett Foundation, the Chuck Stone Program began in 2007. Professor Napoleon Byars hopes to continue expanding the program and incorporate more multi platforms, including radio, in the future, as well as extend the length of the program.



PHOTO BY JAIMIE KAPLAN

On the way to the museum, Ari Hires talks amongst her newfound friends from the program.

THE MIX



VIVIANA BONILLA LÓPEZ
San Juan, Puerto Rico

JAMES CARRAS
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

MEGAN CARROLL
Cary, N.C.

ARI HIRES
Lorton, Va.

SIEDAH HUNTER
Enfield, N.C.

JAIMIE KAPLAN
South Setauket, N.Y.

KATIA MARTINEZ
Cary, N.C.

ALEXANDRA MENDOZA
Fairfax, Va.

LIERIN PEÑA
Houston, Texas

CHAD RICHARDSON
Liberty Township, Ohio

DETORIA ROLLE
Harrisburg, N.C.

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PHOTO BY MORGAN ELLIS

Viviana Bonilla López uses digital audio recording to document Professor Chuck Stone's visit. Stone shared various stories about his adventures as a journalist, which includes interviewing Malcolm X.

The man behind the bow tie

BY DETORIA ROLLE
AND ARI HIRES

Chuck Stone walked into the Granville East Cafeteria sporting his Brooks Brother wardrobe and notorious bow tie. The Walter Spearman Professor, who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, paid the Chuck Stone Program participants a visit.

Upon arrival, there was a sense that a man of great achievements had arrived. The sense of amazement was evident even before the interview, where he spoke about his life and his connection to UNC at Chapel Hill and his other life experiences.

"I was originally an officer in the Army. Then I went to work for an investigative newspaper in Chicago," Stone said.

While working for the investigative newspaper, Stone did what he believes to be his greatest accomplishments. He single-handedly convinced 71 murder suspects to confess their crime to him. He also got Jojo Bowen, a murderer who held six hostages, to surrender after two days of negotiating.

"Jojo said that he would only talk to Chuck Stone. He had four guns smuggled in before our negotiations started so I had to be careful. The mayor actually called my wife and asked if I was going to be all right," Stone said.

Stone also made many friends in high

places as a well-known and trusted journalist. One of his friends, in which he met through an interview, was an African-American leader Malcolm X.

Stone's interview is one of historical importance because it was one of the last interviews with Malcolm X before he was assassinated.

"I thought it was really cool that he talked to Malcolm X right after the pilgrimage to Mecca," said Chuck Stone participant Kailey Smith.

Self-described as militant and outspoken, he came across humbled and gracious. Stone expressed both humility and pride in having a program named after him in honor of his accomplishments.

"I give my condolences to all of you for having to be at a program named after me," Stone said with a laugh, expressing his sense of humor and modesty at the same time.

Stone's encouragement came from his mother. Her strong will and drive was what Stone wanted to emulate.

"I am what I am because I am an extension of her," said Stone. "My mother was a big force in my life."

Stone's lighthearted manner charmed everyone in the room. He discussed his appreciation for diversity in a way that inspired all participants. Stone also explained

his involvement with merging diversity and the media, as well as encouraging younger generations to share the same interests.

"I noticed a lack of black journalist in the industry while traveling. That is what inspired me to create the National Association of Black Journalists," Stone said.

Stone stressed about how to work to be number one. That is what he calls "the superlative instinct." He further challenged participants about how to be a "citizen of the world."

Although he is full of inspirational thoughts and great ideas, when he tries to express them, his volume can run a little low. His quiet manner did not take away from the excitement of his many stories.

"Even though he speaks quietly, it doesn't take away from all the interesting things he has to say," said Lierin Peña.

All the students expressed an interest in the stories he told and the history he had helped make.

"Hearing from someone who has experienced and accomplished so much in his career was inspiring," said Viviana Bonilla López. "It was an honor and a great experience to talk with him."

Known for his trademark bow tie, Stone's life has been made full and satisfying by his career and dedication to blending diversity with the media.

DTH guides students

BY KATIA MARTINEZ
AND KAILEY SMITH

Walking through a series of small hallways in room 2409, a history of UNC at Chapel Hill can be seen on the walls through major headlines taped on the wall. Alongside the articles is a selection of major misspellings in newspapers that are either comedic or are there to teach a lesson to aspiring journalists. Welcome to The Daily Tar Heel newspaper office.

As a part of the Chuck Stone program, participants had the opportunity to attend and observe a DTH budget meeting and learn how the process works.

"Basically, if you're spending your time here, you're learning," DTH adviser Erica Perel said.

Chuck Stone participants heard how the student-run staff decides the stories of the week and debates placement of the stories and graphics. One staff member was campaigning to place a story about Save Celebration on the front page. He constantly suggested it and pushed his opinion onto the rest of the staff. In the end, he won.

That persistence is what pushes the nationally acclaimed newspaper over the edge. The DTH's constant evolution in both technology and staff work ethic brings the publication to new levels. The already well-known paper is always pursuing new developments around the corner.

"Our fall editor has a lot of new ideas for incorporating our online site and print editions," Photo Editor Andrew Dye said.

The DTH has also implemented changes in its print edition this past year. The paper now includes more information about connecting to the Internet edition. Both editions are also incorporating more pictures and bigger ones as well.

"I really like the big picture in the front, it draws people in," Dye said.

Before the actual meeting Perel spoke with the participants about the importance of journalism and how the newspaper was created.

"The DTH is a completely independent publication. We used to be a part of the school, but since we separated we pay rent for our office and we pay everything ourselves," Perel said.

The lack of administration rules is what gives the staff such a wide range of stories they can write and stories they can publish. While watching staff members decide the for that week's edition, the students took it all in.

"They made me feel like one day I could be a part of that; like I could be part of the process," Viviana Bonilla, a Chuck Stone Program participant, said.

The staff takes new applicants every semester so Bonilla could have her chance. The students in the program, all rising high school seniors, are taking this time to look at UNC at Chapel Hill and see if the school and the DTH are the right fit. Perel offered advice to the students about life at Carolina and time management.

"The most important thing is to time everything out well," Perel said.



PHOTO BY JAMES CARRAS

Kailey Smith photographs a portrait of star point guard Raymond Felton. Felton led the UNC basketball team to a championship in 2005.

Museum displays hoops tradition

BY CHAD RICHARDSON
AND JAMES CARRAS

"North Carolina basketball is Dean Smith, Phil Ford, Michael Jordan, Sean May, Raymond Felton," said Roy Williams, current North Carolina head basketball coach as he began to tear up during his post game speech after the 2009 NCAA championship game. "And for the rest of your lives, North Carolina basketball is gonna' be you guys. It's gonna' be the 2009 North Carolina basketball team, national champions."

Emotion filled the air. As the players sat listening attentively to their coach speak, North Carolina's profound basketball tradition was apparent throughout the room.

It is a tradition that sets the stage for future generations. And for the North Carolina basketball program, it's a winning tradition indeed. Now, it

is possible for UNC basketball fans to relive historic moments such as these again and again.

In January 2008, the Ernie William Athletic Center on UNC's south campus welcomed a new feature; the North Carolina Basketball Museum.

"The museum really inspired me," James Carras, Chuck Stoner said. "I thought it was interesting seeing the evolution of North Carolina's basketball program."

Prior to the opening of the museum, the Smith Center memorabilia room had become obsolete. And nearly six years ago, a plan was developed for a new and improved shrine of worship to UNC basketball. An astounding \$3 million plus was collected for the construction of the museum.

The museum, coated in a rich sense of achievement, portrays what North Carolina basketball is all about. A tour begins in the theater with a brief action packed video of UNC basketball over

the years.

Left of the theater, a basketball court (from the three-point line down) is marked with the different footprints of players, whose memorable shots have been cemented into UNC basketball history.

Items included in various display cases range from traditional memorabilia, such as a warm up jersey worn by Jerry Stackhouse, to a size 19 shoe worn by former UNC center, Eric Montross.

"I didn't know they made shoes that big," Detoria Rolle, another member of the Chuck Stone program said emphatically. "They were huge!"

More than just a museum of artifacts and memorabilia, the North Carolina basketball museum pays homage to the passion and hard work fueling a winning tradition.

"Being at the museum showed how much students care," Lierin Peña said. "The school spirit is cool."

Faith drives Carras' life

BY CHAD RICHARDSON

If James Wattley Carras were a racecar driver, the Greek Orthodox faith would be his GPS.

"I was raised in both the Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches," Carras said. "It was unusual that I was baptized in both churches. My parents wanted to give me the opportunity to choose for myself."

"In the end, I chose Greek Orthodoxy because of it's tradition," added Carras. "The service and way my church relays our faith has endured the test of time, dating back more than 2,000 years ago. Ultimately, I just felt the most in-tune with God and my faith while being a part of the Greek Orthodox Church."



JAMES CARRAS
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Carras's devout faith has opened the door for many opportunities in his life, most of which pertain to the church.

"I'm thankful for all the opportunities that have been given to me, and for all the friends I've made along the way," Carras said.

Among the many accolades and awards Carras has earned are the Prudential Spirit and Archangel Michael Award. Most recently, Carras was elected the Youth Group

President of his church, as well as to the National Youth Board Advisory for the Super Bowl of Caring.

After being cut from his baseball team in his sophomore year at St. Thomas Aquinas High, Carras turned to journalism in an attempt to stay involved with sports. As a junior, he was appointed editor of his school newspaper, the *Aquinas Word*. He has also written/reported for *Teenlink South Florida*, a local newspaper tailored for teens.

He is the product of a diverse background as well.

"My dad has Greek blood, and my mom is Puerto Rican," Carras said chuckling.

"That's a pretty interesting combination, I'd say. I don't feel different at all, though. Living in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., I've come to find out that there's a well-rounded mix of different people, which is nice. The diversity here is fairly high," Carras said.

Instead of merely blending in with the crowd, Carras pushes himself to let his perspective be heard with an attention-grabbing outlook on life.

"I'm different than anyone in this world," Carras said with confidence. Each person has a different outlook on things, and it would be boring if we all felt the same way. I just feel like I'm unique because of the combination of my beliefs, actions and background."

My life has had its ups and downs," Carras said, taking time to reflect. "At the end of the day though, I know that if I'm down I can turn to God and He'll lift me up. And when I'm up, He'll put a ceiling above my head to keep me humble."

So where will Carras be 20 years from now?

"Wherever God takes me," Carras replied genuinely.

Family inspires values

BY SIEDAH HUNTER

Viviana Teresa Bonilla López finds strength from her family. Living in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bonilla López, 17, understands the true meaning of working for what you want in life.



VIVIANA BONILLA LÓPEZ
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Although born in Missouri, Bonilla López lived in Texas with her family until she was 6.

"During those years, I remember wanting to be like other kids and consequently not valuing my culture," Bonilla López said.

Her parents paid her a penny for every Spanish word she spoke. She also felt incomplete as if something was missing from her life.

At age 6 Bonilla López's family returned home to Puerto Rico. She felt complete with her extended family.

"I am really close to my cousins and grandparents; we get together all the time and have such a great time,"

Bonilla López said.

Her family inspires and teaches her the value of hard work and education.

Bonilla López always wanted to be a journalist. Through activities in school and her community, she has learned and incorporated the skills of a journalist.

In Puerto Rico Bonilla López attends Cupeyville School, where she is editor of her school's literary magazine *Pandora* which publishes high school students' creative writing. She also participates in the environmental club, the school's recycling program, Earth Day, and volunteers to clean communities.

Bonilla López enjoys being a part of Forensics League Of Puerto Rico, a monolog team, similar to a dramatic arts group that performs yearly across Puerto Rico.

Bonilla López is very proud of taking part in Poetry Out Loud 2009 because Puerto Rico had never participated until now. She won the state championship and represented her country in Washington, D.C.

In June, Bonilla López finished a summer internship at Ego Moda, an up-incoming fashion magazine. During her internship Bonilla López wrote an article entitled "Iron Man." The article centered on Paco Rabanne, a famous haute and couture designer who came to Puerto Rico for an exclusive photo shoot. She helped with that, too.

In the future, Bonilla López wants to dig deeper into the world of journalism and to incorporate fashion and in-depth articles about issues that people overlook.

Mission trip feeds passion

BY KATIA MARTINEZ

Whether she becomes an innovative journalist or an activist against world hunger, Megan Carroll relies on her morals and religion to drive her decisions.



MEGAN CARROLL
Cary, N.C.

Carroll has gone on three mission trips with her church youth group and has participated in fundraisers to help the unfortunate in Bolivia. Although her religion does guide her, Carroll has other reasons for being motivated to help others.

"Even though the Bible says, 'thou shall help others,' I do what I do because I know that it's right. I do it because I want to help them make their lives better," Carroll said.

A resident of Cary, N.C., and a senior at

Athens Drive High School in nearby Raleigh, Carroll was required to do a graduation project as a part of the Wake County requirements. Her passion for people guided her to choose world hunger as her topic. Carroll organized a fundraiser, Feeding Frenzy, where she raised \$3,000 towards her mission trip.

"Bolivia was an awesome experience. I met some of the strongest women ever at the women and children clinic I worked at," Carroll said.

The women and children who came through the clinic were malnourished and close to dying, but the women still gave everything they had to their children.

"These women were working out in the fields with their children on their backs. They were so inspiring," Carroll said.

"I hope to take the lessons I learned and the power those women had and use it in my life," Carroll said.

However, Carroll is not a one-cause woman. She also hopes to one day play a part in conserving the truth in journalism.

"I feel that the news industry has been jaded for a long time, and I want to change that. I want to make news better," Carroll said.

Along with plans to change the world, Carroll also spends her time in extracurricular activities. She was named captain of the Athens Drive Color Guard and Winter Guard, is in the Athens chapter of National Honors Society and secretary of Key Club, and was named the Psychology Student of the Year.

Friends have described this green-eyed redhead as bubbly, understanding and always smiling.

Carroll has also been an active member of the *Athens Oracle*, her school's publication, where she will be co-editor-in-chief for the upcoming school year.

"I love seeing how everyone's hard work can join together into a final product, the writing and doing lay out. We do work," Carroll said.

The resume that she has gathered could help her go to her dream school, UNC-Chapel Hill. Carroll has been a Tar Heel fan since birth.

"I was the little girl in the Carolina cheerleading outfit at all the football and basketball games when I was younger," Carroll said.

Going the extra mile

BY ALEXANDRA MENDOZA

For Ari Hires, going through life is like running track. She continuously pushes herself to finish that last lap, no matter how much time and dedication is required.

Hires, 17, began running track her freshman year of high school at South County Secondary School in Lorton, Va. Although she had planned on trying out for the basketball team, her gym teacher persuaded her to join the winter indoor track team.



ARI D'LOIS HIRES
Lorton, Va.

Aside from winning her fifth-grade-class mile race, Hires had no prior track experience. Hires now runs track in the winter and spring for her school and in the summer for a club team.

"It's a physical challenge, but it's also a mental challenge...It's up to your brain to tell you that you can go past that last hurdle," Hires said.

Track became an important part of Hires' life over the years as she honed her skills and bonded with her school team, which has about 100 runners. One of her favorite aspects of track is traveling alongside her teammates to various locations to compete.

"I've learned so much about track from the upperclassmen," Hires said.

Hires will assume the role as a captain of both the winter indoor track team and the spring track and field team this upcoming school year.

Hires mainly competes in two events: the 800-meter event, which is a half mile, and the 400-meter event, which is a quarter mile.

"When I was a freshman, my coach told me 'run this,' and I just happened to be good at [those events] so they kept me there," Hires said.

While track has been one of Hires' favorite past times throughout her high school career, she does not plan to continue in college.

"I love it, but not enough to take it to the next level," Hires said.

Hires plans to stay active in college through other physical activities and will continue to run in her spare time.

Aside from track, Hires is invested in other activities such as singing in her church choir. Hires said her involvement with her church has also shaped her as a person and she wants to stay involved with the choir for the remainder of her lifetime. She must balance track practice with choir practice during the week but is able to maintain both.

"My parents raised me so that church comes first," Hires said. She credits her parents' strong morals for her work ethic and dedication.

"My parents raised me to have high standards and that outlook shapes how I do things," Hires said.

Even though she is unsure of a specific career path, Hires has an interest in broadcast journalism. She said one of her more immediate goals is to give a commencement speech.

"It's an honor to give the knowledge you learned over the course of your life to a group who's about to enter the next stage of their life," Hires said.

Making a difference

BY VIVIANA BONILLA

"Love not what you are, but what you can become," reads a worn paper found in a pair of Refuge jeans three years ago. Siedah Hunter still keeps it with her everywhere she goes.

"I do love who I am, and I will love who I become," said the confident 17-year-old about the phrase that motivates her and, even more, accurately defines her perseverant character.

Whether it is leading the volleyball team or challenging herself at school, Hunter plays hard on and off the court.



SIEDAH HUNTER
Enfield, N.C.

"I want to be dedicated. I want to be better at the sport and as a person," said Hunter, an African American teen whose determination makes her small frame seem statuesque.

Three-time MVP and five-time captain of her volleyball team, Hunter quickly noted that she is not like every other kid at her school in Enfield, N.C. "Hardworking future leaders and immature adults separate the school," said Hunter. "My determination to learn sets me apart from others."

And set her apart it does. Hunter is in the top 10 of her class and served as a Marshal at last year's graduation.

In addition she was named the May Geometry Student of the Month and a member of the Principal's List and Honor Roll. Although the Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference and Project Uplift also form part of her list of activities, Hunter is first and foremost an athlete, having played track, basketball, softball and volleyball during her middle and high school years.

Outside of Southeast Halifax High School, however, Hunter is just another teen: shopping, drawing and talking to her friends in her spare time. Her peers describe her as a person they can talk to and trust. Even her new friends at Chuck Stone appreciate her sensitive, easy-going personality.

"You can tell just by talking to her that she is a difference-making person in her community," said Detoria Rolle. "She has a bright future."

Hunter, whose motivation is to "be someone I know I can be," became interested in journalism after her ninth-grade teacher, Miss Muller, told her that writing is power. "In her class I could express myself in a deeper way," said Hunter. "She taught me what writing can do. It can make us smile, it can make us laugh."

As in all other aspects of her life, Hunter strives to make her writing an example of overcoming one's environment. "I want to show people you can do anything," she said. "It frustrates me when people say 'I can't do this.' Just do it. You never know until you try."

This "take a chance" attitude is just what will drive the future magazine founder's next steps. "Twenty years from now I will travel the world covering different stories about different people."

Kaplan in race for success

BY DETORIA ROLLE

In her race to success, a 17-year-old yearbook editor from Setauket, N.Y., is determined to reach the finish line and pursue her dream of becoming a writer.

Jaimie Kaplan, a rising senior at Ward Melville High School, said that writing is her passion and she will push herself to the limit to achieve all her goals.



JAIMIE KAPLAN
South Setauket, N.Y.

However, this accomplished young woman did not always lead the race. In elementary school she faced tough times with school teachers.

"My teachers didn't care about me, they didn't care about my success, and they thought I was destined for failure," Kaplan said.

Finally, in sixth grade she decided she would no longer take a back seat to where her future was heading. She would not longer rely on anyone to motivate her. But that's when she met a teacher who cared.

"Ms. DiPrimo was my inspiration in sixth grade. In her

class I discovered my love for reading," Kaplan said.

Through reading she found the quote that describes her outlook on life: Eleanor Roosevelt said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Now, Kaplan said, "The quote that most defines me is one by Aristotle, 'Find out who you are and do it on purpose.'"

In middle school, she became convinced she would be a better student, and she did. Kaplan also discovered she had a talent, writing. What drives her passion for writing? She simply said, "Myself."

Today, well into high school, Kaplan's determination has paid off. She is the editor of her school's yearbook, Student Council, Key Club and National Honor Society add to the list of her accolades. Recently, she received the Gold Key Award for poetry.

Talented, determined and inspiring, Kaplan also taught figure skating for the Special Olympics to help two of her cousins. Out of the experience, "I truly learned the true value of friendship, and if you set your mind to something, you can accomplish anything."

Kaplan arrived at the Chuck Stone program already with a goal: writing a review for a book, which she must read in a week. "Impossible task" doesn't even define the difficulty of the situation, still Kaplan has kept her eyes on the finish line.

As for her career plans, Kaplan aspires to be a writer for a major publication like *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, or *The Wall Street Journal*.

Striving to prove herself

BY MEGAN CARROLL

Katia Martinez has overcome a list of hardships in her 17 years, and she wants to use her experiences to help others conquer their own mountains.

"When most people find out that I am Cuban, they are shocked because I have been successful in school,"



KATIA MARTINEZ
Cary, N.C.

Martinez said. "I find myself fighting against the lazy, illegal immigrant stereotype."

Martinez, however, is neither. She was born in Miami and has taken honors and AP classes throughout high school, although school has not always been easy for her.

"Spanish was my first language, and I didn't fully learn English until I was about 10 years old," Martinez said. "This sometimes made understanding the teacher hard, and the other kids would

talk about me since I couldn't speak their language."

In her home, she had no need to learn English, and no one pressured her to study a new language. Martinez had to go out and learn English on her own.

"In the end, my cousin and I ended up learning together," Martinez said. "Then we each had someone to practice with at home."

While also trying to learn a new language, her home life was starting to fall apart. Her parents had separated when

she was 2 and Martinez moved in with her grandparents to an environment her parents thought would be most stable.

"Living with my grandparents taught me how to be more tolerant of people in general," Martinez said. "Since they were older than most parents, I had to explain things differently to them."

Martinez fell into a routine of having big family meals every night and learning about her heritage from her grandmother. This routine was disrupted when her grandfather had a stroke.

"He fell, and I heard everything as I was laying in bed," Martinez said. "I was afraid to get up though, because I didn't want to see my grandfather like that."

Although, her grandfather recovered from his stroke, this event was hard for Martinez.

"My grandparents are like parents to me," Martinez said, with sadness in her deep brown eyes. "It was hard for our family to go through a near-death experience."

A year after her grandfather's stroke, Martinez moved to Cary, N.C., with her mother, stepfather, siblings and step-grandparents.

She struggled through eighth grade, but found her place in the newsroom as a freshman at Athens Drive High School.

"I was placed into newspaper by accident," Martinez said. "And it turned out to be the greatest accident of my life."

Martinez has taken newspaper for six semesters and will be co-editor-in-chief this upcoming school year. Her journalism adviser, Patricia Hornick, has inspired her to be a teacher, her career goal.

"I like the moment where I teach someone, and they get it," Martinez said. "I can see the light come on, and all the struggles are rewarded. My teachers have always been patient with me, and I want to be the understanding teacher to others."

Aiming for the Rolling Stone

BY KAILEY SMITH

Big hair! Brains! And Quidditch! No, not Hermione Granger of Harry Potter fame, but the Texas version of her: Lierin Peña.



LIERIN PEÑA
Houston, Texas

Peña, 17, of Houston Texas, like Hermione Granger who spends most of her time in the Hogwarts library, has always been an avid reader. A need for knowledge has also been a key motivator.

"I have always been taught that knowledge is power, and I enjoy learning so it works for me to learn as much as I can," Peña said.

Peña attends Memorial High School and stars on its Quidditch team as a chaser and on her school's

paper as Editor At Large.

Although Peña is "muggle-born," someone born to non-magical parents, her early life has not been like that of Hermione's.

Peña's father, who is of Spanish heritage, and her mother, who is Caucasian, split when she was young,

creating the desire for an escape, thus her love of reading and reading *Harry Potter*.

Peña enjoys writing and aspires one day to be a music journalist for Rolling Stone Magazine. Peña has always had a passion for music; a family friend was a country music star, and while growing up she attended many of his shows.

Living in a musically driven environment has also made her comfortable around musicians, whom she does not find intimidating.

Her only fear concerning music journalism is being unhappy with combining work and play; her ultimate desire for her career is to be "happy with what I do."

With a music taste that stretches across the spectrum, Peña said, "Working for a mainstream magazine would be good for me."

She hopes to bring fresh new musicians to the pages of *Rolling Stone* and would like to play the role of recognizing new up and coming bands.

She feels that being a part of helping people find their fame and their calling is important, but also feels that she is "strong enough to criticize their work when they need it."

Peña would like to attend UNC-Chapel Hill because she feels that the university has all the right tools to get her where she would like to go in life.

"UNC surprised me because I've always considered smaller schools yet I can see myself here," Peña said.

Maybe after four years of college Peña will be ready to work for *Rolling Stone* and possibly even to get her dream interview with the desirable musician John Mayer.

Newspaper defines her leadership

BY ARI HIRES

When Alexandra Mendoza, 16, became editor-in-chief of her school newspaper, she set a record: the first time an underclassman had been named to lead the publication.

Setting records is part of her resume. Not only was she the first junior to take on a leadership position that is usually granted to seniors.

Getting the position as editor-in-chief at her high school in Fairfax, Va., was not a simple task. Mendoza dedicated the majority of her campaign time to develop her writing and prove that she deserved this position. She won, defeating



ALEXANDRA MENDOZA
Fairfax, Va.

three seniors in the process and proving that dedication can be rewarded.

"Newspaper is my staple," said Mendoza, who was appointed the head editor of *The Mix* at the Chuck Stone Program. She has been hungry for newspaper since she was in middle school and has stuck with it ever since. She looks forward to her newspaper class that keeps her involved in school. Leading the school newspaper is what she likes most about the class.

Mendoza considers herself the voice of Robinson Secondary School and

expresses that through her school newspaper, the *Valor Dictus*. While tough moments in journalism steam up the news room, she noted, "There are moments where it is unbelievably stressful, but I don't quit because I know [the newspaper staff] will get through it. The final product is worth it."

At 5-foot-7 and with dark curly hair and eyes glistening with ambition, Mendoza said she realizes that being on the newspaper staff is a team process and she never imposes herself on her team. She described her style as laid back but diligent. You can sense her relaxed style in the calm way that she speaks. "I don't accept low quality," said Mendoza.

As she goes into her second year as editor-in-chief, Mendoza's main goal is to set the foundation for the upcoming editor-in-chief in fall 2010 to win the National Scholastic Press Association Pace Maker Award. Her school has never won the NSPA Pace Maker Award. She wants to create a dream team that can make that honor a reality.

Mendoza attributes her confidence and leadership qualities to her parents and newspaper staff. Her parents helped her become who she is from home, while her newspaper team helped her from school.

The editor-in-chief before Mendoza also helped shape Mendoza as a leader. She learned from her effective methods of communication and how to keep a team motivated and eager to get goals accomplished by deadline.

Mendoza said she hopes that she can influence the next editor-in-chief as much as her mentor influenced her and the direction of the newspaper so it can continually improve.

Reaching for perfection

BY JAMES CARRAS

NFL star Terrell Owens' brash, outspoken manner may not be admirable, yet Chad Aaron Richardson still emulates him.



CHAD RICHARDSON
Liberty Township, Ohio

"His work ethic is second to none. Each year, he is consistently the best," said Chad, 17, who lives in a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio and attends Lakota West High.

"Like him, I'm always hungry for more. I don't rest until I reach perfection," Chad added.

Now Richardson might not mimic the selfish, arrogant player that Owens is, but he does have a certain swagger

about him. He recognizes his potential and has his eyes on success. However, what that success will be has not been determined.

Richardson is a dual-athlete—and a speed demon at that. He shines on the football field as a running back, and he runs hurdles on the track team. This honor roll

student also writes on his passion: sports. Richardson maintains his own blog and has submitted articles to his local paper, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. He has his heart set on eventually reaching the pinnacle of the sports journalism world, *Sports Illustrated*, as a features writer.

Just as he has been given the opportunity to succeed, Richardson gives back to those who have their own dreams. By coaching a youth football team and volunteering with the Special Olympics, Richardson creates "the perfect combination of my passion, sports, and volunteering."

His critics' doubts fuel his desire to be the absolute best. "I don't get the credit I deserve sometimes. When I work out, I see the faces of the people who did me wrong; they are the ones who make me better," Richardson said about his doubters.

The young man who always strives for more is a complex person. He lives in Lakota, a primarily white, conservative suburb of Cincinnati. As a young African-American, Richardson is in the minority. However, his outlook on life seems more diverse than his demographics. Richardson has intertwined each aspect of his life into one focal point of a lifelong commitment to success.

Richardson is confident in his abilities; that's why he welcomes the doubters. Whether he is destined to be an athlete, writer or philanthropist, Richardson sees a bright future for himself: "In whatever I do in life, I want to be the best ever."

A catalyst for change

BY JAIMIE KAPLAN

Detoria Rolle lives in the small town of Harrisburg, N.C., just north of Charlotte, where she has overcome adversity by not letting anyone hinder her progress.

"I'm going to change the world. I don't know how, but I'm going to do it," Rolle said.

Rolle has used her success to show others that they can be catalysts of change, especially in their own lives. In June Rolle represented her high school, Hickory Ridge High, in Girls State, which is a week-long conference for promising rising high school seniors. The girls learn about Congress and the legislative process.



DETORIA ROLLE
Harrisburg, N.C.

"It was an experience of a lifetime. I had faced racism in different parts of my life. I went to Girls State not knowing anyone, and all the girls accepted me. It showed me that my country was changing," she said. "Those girls really touched me and made me feel accepted."

Rolle ran for governor of Girls State and won. Next year she will participate once again and inspire other girls.

Rolle may work hard and feel accepted at Girls State but she has faced first hand racism.

"In first grade I was a new girl in my school, and we needed to partner up in gym class. This girl walked by me and said 'I'm not being partners with that black girl,' Rolle said.

It has been hard to forget the hurtful words of her classmates, but a teacher at Rolle's school has helped her see past the hate and ultimately become a role model.

"Mrs. Ash always says that if someone bothers me I should just kill them with kindness. I mean think about it: If someone came up to you and you already don't like them and then they told you how they liked your hair, it would definitely bother you," Rolle said with a laugh.

Rolle also faces some trouble with speaking in public.

"At first I could not speak in front of people. I would literally start something and then stop because I would feel as though everybody was judging me," she said. "Then I joined Toastmasters, a leadership program that focuses on public speaking. Now, after graduating toastmasters and being the president I can speak in front of lots of people." The largest crowd to date was 300 people.

To pursue her dreams, Rolle looks up to Sonja Gantt, a television reporter in Charlotte, for her selfless acts and constant community involvement. Gantt graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill.

"In April I had the honor of hearing her speak. I just loved her personality. It was just something about her," she said. "She gives back to the community. I like to see that she acts just like everyone else and not like a celebrity."

Rolle has definite ideas about how she could change the world.

"One thing that I would change about the world would be ignorance. Ignorance is a major cause for all the hate we have in this world," Rolle said. "Hate is a cause for love."

Her rants promote action

BY LIERIN PEÑA

Kailey Smith has a rant about everything from politics to music but has decided not to give up on the planet or the transgressions that pollute it.

"I am insulted by worldly injustice," Smith said.



KAILEY SMITH
Morehead City, N.C.

But the 17-year-old Morehead City, N.C., native plans to turn rants into action after graduating from Croatan High. Smith one day wants to start her own magazine. The blueprints for the magazine look more to be an indie magazine—anything but the fabricated clones of mainstream media.

Smith wants to focus on politics, music and possibly books. "I don't want to have to talk about stuff I don't like," she noted.

Smith's magazine will be teeming with

her own self-described "well-articulated rants." But don't call her jaded. Though she enjoys rhapsodizing on those who irritate her, Smith longs to change the prejudice and hate that exist in the world. And Smith hopes the magazine will "inspire deeper thought in people."

To lay groundwork for her future magazine, she aims to make connections in college and the immediate years after, using journalism to establish herself.

"I'll just give it to chance and take a shot," she said. "If it's [the magazine] is anything less than what I want it to be, then I won't do it at all."

Smith frequently reads the transcendentalist prose of Henry David Thoreau and William Cullen Bryant and the romantic poetry of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, whom she claims inspires her unique writing style. The biting irony in her work stems from an enjoyment of comedians, like Stephen Colbert, and a fascination with satire.

"I like humor; I find things that make me laugh or that I can make fun of," Smith said. She adds that poking fun at unsuspecting people, putting the butt of the joke back on them, is her favorite form of humor.

Her desire to interview Fox News' Bill O'Reilly comes from both anger at his own style of turning questions back on others, and wanting to give him a dose of his own medicine.

Though the indifference of those politicians and celebrities both enrage and tickle her sense of humor, Smith's plans are focused on a deep-seated want to raise awareness of peace and change the world.

For example, despite the long-time tension between Christianity and Islam, she firmly believes that if you put Muslims and Christians in a room, they would see their several similarities, learning to respect one another.

"People have a lot more in common than they [realize]," she said.

'She was talking directly to me'

BY VIVIANA BONILLA LÓPEZ

A whirlwind of controversy has surrounded Supreme Court Justice nominee, Sonia Sotomayor's statement: "I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life."

This statement sparked opposition from the Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who were framing Sotomayor as biased.

None of them can possibly understand Sotomayor's audience. They cannot fathom the power behind her words. They don't know what it's like to be a Latina growing up in the U.S., constantly hearing you do not belong, or what it's like to grow up in a country where you are told you are helpless.

I was born in St Louis, Mo., and, two weeks later, moved to Houston. At age 6, my family returned to Puerto Rico. Consequently, I like to think I am one of the girls Sotomayor was speaking to.

Sotomayor was telling me that as a woman and Latina, I can achieve the same, or better, than a white male. She was telling me that my experiences and differences are not flaws, but strengths. She was telling me to step into the spotlight every hardworking person deserves. She was telling me that I have the right to make my dreams a reality.

Sotomayor was also speaking to all native Puerto Ricans who were taught that we are a just a small island that cannot stand on its own. She is assuring me that my people have no limits to what is achievable; that Puerto Rico, as a nation, consists of, capable, smart, worthy and strong people.

It saddens me that Sotomayor's detractors would object to someone telling me that I matter. It saddens me that they object to inspiring me to do my best.

ADF proves to be unique

BY MEGAN CARROLL AND LIERIN PEÑA

Past/Forward by the American Dance Festival is no light-hearted dance show.

The program consisted of three dances: *There is So Much Mad in Me*, *Infinity* and *Various Stages of Drowning: A Cabaret*.

Starting off with a bang, the performance began with Faye Driscoll's *There is So Much Mad in Me*. Driscoll's choreography was inspired by life events, such as child birth, falling in love, sex and even gay marriage.

The show included cast members placed in the audience, f-bombs and fierce intimacy of bodies crashing together on stage. It was awkward watching the provocative dancing, which one audience member described as "soft porn."

The eccentricity of the show itself overshadowed the dancers' ability to create movement out of surprisingly innocuous things, such as fighting sequences or running, although the dedication to their craft was obvious.

The next performance, *Infinity*, could not have been more different, with its traditional influence. Choreographed by Laura Dean, this dance was simple, yet still theatrical. Flowing and smooth one minute, dancers whirled around the stage wildly the next.

"It looked like a human kaleidoscope," said Ari Hires, a Chuck Stone Program participant.

The dance was symmetrical and involved a series of twirls as dancers formed mesmerizing, geometric floor patterns.

The final dance segment, *Various Stages of Drowning: A Cabaret*, created by Miami native Rosie Herrera, involved several dances performed as vignettes.

The most enjoyable part of this dance



PHOTO COURTESY ADF

Rosie Herrera's *Various Stages of Drowning: A Cabaret* incorporates a video montage of silent movement and drag queen performances.

was a song performed by a drag queen named Geraldine. Lip-synching Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On," she used props such as an iceberg and the Heart of the Ocean necklace, to poke fun at its too-serious vocals and message.

Another memorable moment of the show was when the cast danced on stage to "Young Folks" by Peter, Bjorn and John. The choreography was refreshingly fun to watch and the dancers seemed to enjoy themselves under the light of a disco ball.

The last three vignettes of the show had threatening undertones, created by emotion and music. The lighthearted fun seen at the

beginning of Herrera's show quickly turned dark. Creepy jewelry box music played as three guys placed what was supposed to be a young girl on cakes on stools. Her progression from ecstatic joy to wrenching trauma was an obvious metaphor. Herrera leaves it up to audience, to find meaning in the metaphor.

The ending dance was a video that had been filmed underwater. The dancers did not seem to be dancing but drowning. The video was more disturbing than artistic.

Overall, it is not the kind of art performance you would take your mother to see. Past/Forward is artistic, but woefully dysfunctional, too.

Cuadros exposes prejudice in book

BY JAIMIE KAPLAN

When I was told that I had to write a book review I have to admit I was a little nervous. I mean I have never written a book review before nor have I read a 250-page book in less than a week. Now the problem with myself is that basically if I am not hooked by the first two pages I will stop reading it. The book *A Home On The Field* by Paul Cuadros was a quick, lighthearted read and definitely a motivational piece about-facing diversity in today's society.

As I started to read the book I found the opening to be a little slow. I like action right up front but I still continued to read. Right away I liked how Cuadros narrates the story. He tells the reader this is not of his story to greatness but how the high school boys' soccer team overcame adversity.

Cuadros goes to Siler City, N.C., the setting of the story, as a journalist on assignment, he soon finds *A Home on the Field* when he becomes the soccer coach for a high school boy's soccer team. Cuadros holds tryouts, and immediately sees the troubles he is going to encounter.

Most of the boys who make the final cut have full-time jobs to support their families. Although Cuadros only makes practice mandatory three times a week, the boys learn the expectations of being on a team. They also learn consequences when Cuadros suspends a few of his star players for fighting.

He teaches the boys that soccer and work are not the only priorities in life. Cuadros requires the boys to pass at least four classes to stay on the team. Although the boys do not agree with Cuadros all the

time, he eventually becomes a mentor and teaches them to get off of the streets and play on the field.

However, like every good story the team faces challenges. The boys are Latin-American immigrants at the same time the town is facing an influx of immigrants. Due to the exponential amount of immigrants, many people show their prejudice towards the boys. Facing racism becomes a struggle in its own. The boys push through, though, and ultimately Cuadros takes them through three seasons of state championships.

I had the pleasure of meeting Cuadros where we talked about the book and shared his perspective on journalism. He was a pleasure to listen to because he spoke with such passion. Though soft spoken and small in stature on the outside, he writes with a big heart.