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One man, one legend, many stories



PHOTO BY ERIKA CERVANTES

Chuck Stone dines on grilled cheese and franks and beans with students in the program named for him.

Stone urges students to help others

By Lucy Qin & Jeff Shim

He has ridden trains with Mohandas Gandhi, dined with Nelson Mandela, and was on a first-name basis with Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Professor Emeritus Chuck Stone is a legend with astounding humility and selflessness that younger generations can appreciate.

Determination to be the best has driven Stone to succeed as a journalist. At any job that he takes on, Stone strives to be on top and he encourages others to do the same.

“Be the best, be No. 1,” Stone said. “But I don’t want you to be No. 1 if you don’t help somebody.”

That is his second mantra to live by: making an impact. Stone encourages everyone to make positive changes on a small and large scale.

“Nothing’s higher than helping somebody,” Stone said.

His commitment to service is exemplified by his efforts in World War II, civil rights activism, volunteer missions in India and the Gaza Strip. Stone’s altruism makes him a peer among world figures.

As a journalist, Stone built a reputation that led others to confide in him. He has been a respectable member of the community that others can easily approach.

“I had people that believed in me,” Stone said. “Seventy-one murder suspects turned themselves into me because they trusted me. The important thing is that people trust you.”

Even though Stone is an acclaimed journalist, he remains modest about his accomplishments. After meeting him at Granville Towers in Chapel Hill, N.C., many students were moved by his humility.

“He constantly repeated that he felt honored to meet us, when it should have been the other way around,” Tamika Jones said. “He’s humble about who he is.”

“Be the best. Be No. 1. But I don’t want you to be No. 1 if you don’t help somebody.”

CHUCK STONE
Professor Emeritus

The Chuck Stone Program, first created in 2007, reflects Stone’s life goals of increasing the voices of journalism. Students from various areas of diversity and walks of life have entered Carroll Hall since the program’s creation.

“It’s important to bring people together — it impacts our culture and society,” Stone said.

This year’s program brought students from as far as Puerto Rico, New York and California.

“It was really fun interacting with different people,” Alicia Ramirez said. “I found people outside of my hometown with the same interests and aspirations as me and we all learned something from each other.”

Since the first year, 56 students have successfully completed the one-week intensive program. Students are exposed to online media, print media, television broadcasting, theater and art.

They also take the infamous UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication spelling and grammar test.

“I think students from this year’s class are the best we’ve had so far,” Professor Napoleon Byars said.

The program wraps diversity and journalism into one. Hence, it is named after Chuck Stone, who exemplifies diversity more so than any other teaching journalist.

“Even though the main purpose is diversity, I think the program shows how our similar passion in journalism unites us,” Breeze Riley said. “We have more similarities than differences.”



ERIKA CERVANTES
Chapel Hill, NC

TAMIKA JONES
Annandale, Va.

AMBER LEE
Leesburg, Va.

SHANNON MURRAY
Ponway, Calif.

LUCY QIN
Stoney Brook, N.Y.

BEENA RAGHAVENDRAN
Mason, Ohio

ALICIA RAMIREZ
San Juan, Puerto Rico

BREEZE RILEY
Union Bridge, Md.

JEFF SHIM
Annandale, Va.

ALEXIS SIMMONS
Ladson, S.C.

JANIE SIRCEY
Swannanoa, N.C.

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The DTH movin' on up

Student newspaper leaves campus

By Alexis Simmons

From Mrs. Hannigan to Daddy Warbucks.

After 40 years in its campus location, The Daily Tar Heel has a new home. The DTH's move from the Frank Porter Graham Student Union to its off campus location on Rosemary street has more than doubled the office space.

"I resisted the idea of moving at first, but when I came to grips with our needs for more space, I warmed to it," said Melvin Backman, the assistant editor for the University Desk, who has yet to see the new digs. "I'm hoping it gives us the additional space that we couldn't get in the Union."

Since late November 2009 DTH Board of Directors had been looking for additional space. The new DTH building is located at 151 E. Rosemary St. across from the Town of Chapel Hill parking deck. It stretches its 6,493 square feet between two floors. The back shop room has expanded and in addition, a new break room allows reporters to keep food away from the computers.

"No more crowdedness, people tripping over book bags, lack of plugs for laptops and cords dispersed in every direction," said Erica Perel, DTH newspaper advisor.

Moving to Rosemary Street, the DTH is no longer anchored near the Pit and the social center of campus.

"I definitely felt like it was the heart of campus. Everything happens in the Pit,"



PHOTO BY CONWAY WILCOX

Chuck Stone participant Breeze Riley reads over the latest edition of the DTH in the conference room of the new office building on Rosemary Street.

said Kelly McHugh, design editor, reflecting back on the old location. "It was extra convenient for me. I could get off work at five and be at the DTH by 5:02."

Parking at the Rosemary location is an advantage for the advisers. It provides close accessible parking and a safer environment.

"I think it was natural in the progression of DTH's history and I think it was a

good move for us," said McHugh.

From a 12-inch logo in the bottom of the union to upscale Carolina bold blue letters on the building's facade, any passerby can't miss the DTH's trademark name.

The Daily Tar Heel is "the best place to lead the best of journalism," Perel said. With its great history and current development the DTH has a promising future for new journalists and readers.

Carolina Covenant aids students

By Breeze Riley

The Carolina Covenant program allows eligible low-income students to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill without student loans.

It was the first financial aid program at a major public university to meet total demonstrated need.

"The fact that Carolina was a leader in the Covenant program says a lot about the nation's first public university," says Professor Queenie Byars, who teaches in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"The program really goes a long way in helping make a college education affordable," continued Professor Byars. By redefining the financial aid program, Covenant Scholars feel a sense of pride in their status.

The program pays for expenses using grants, scholarships and a mandatory work-study program. Contributions are made by private donors, including famous college basketball coach Roy Williams.

In addition to covering tuition, the program also covers additional student expenses such as room, board and study abroad programs.

"It's amazing to get your undergraduate education [without loans]. They literally covered everything for me," commented Simone Clayton, a rising junior at UNC-Chapel Hill and current Covenant Scholar.

The students also benefit from a strong academic support system in which they are assigned both a faculty mentor and a peer mentor. In addition to academic advising, scholars participate in activities such as etiquette dinners and career networking events.

"They do a lot to make you feel connected ... it's not just about money, it's about enrichment," said Pharen Bowman, a 2008 graduate of the inaugural Covenant program.

The upcoming UNC-Chapel Hill class of 2014 includes 519 Carolina Covenant Scholars, who make up 11 percent of the entire class.

To learn more about the program, visit <http://www.unc.edu/carolinacovenant/>

Broadcasting inspiration to town

By Breeze Riley

Erika Cervantes, 17, is humble about working the microphone on an hour-long radio program every Friday at 5 p.m. However, she plans to use her zeal for broadcasting to inspire others.

She is passionate about working with the Spanish-language radio program "Pa'lante".



ERIKA CERVANTES
Chapel Hill, N.C.

"We bring in people to interview, so we can inform the Latino community," Cervantes said, a Chapel Hill resident. "Pa'lante" translates to the English phrase "Go for it," and has created many opportunities for the rising senior at Chapel Hill High School.

Having strong role models, such as "Pa'lante" program adviser Professor Lucila Vargas has inspired the "loud" and "determined" Cervantes. "She is defini-

tely a role model to me because she's from Mexico, and she came here and was able to become a professor. I'm amazed."

On the radio program, Cervantes had the opportunity to interview a professional news reporter.

"[The reporter] had interviewed Bill Clinton and [singer] Julio Iglesias, and I would like to interview people like that one day," Cervantes said.

While seemingly reserved, Cervantes is determined to incorporate her culture into a career that would break-down stereotypes about Latinos.

"I don't really see prejudice in the media, but I see it often in real life," she said. "I feel I can use the media to reach out to people with my message."

Raised in Guanajuato, Mexico, Cervantes immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 8. However, this change of location has not prevented Cervantes from being involved with Latino culture.

"We always get together ... and cook and just enjoy being with each other," Cervantes said about her community.

She is a member of the Latino Student Association in addition to serving as a mentor to younger students at her school. Outside of school, she balances jobs as a cashier and babysitter.

Cervantes lives by the quote of writer Gigi Tchividigan stating, "Make the most of what comes, and the least of what goes."

However, Cervantes herself doesn't plan on going too far.

She plans to remain near Chapel Hill, so that she can watch 9-month year old sister Andrea Cervantes grow up.

"I feel like I'm her second mom and best friend," she said when asked why it would be important for her to live close to her sister.

Also a music fan, she explains, "I listen to my iPod and lay down to relax." She cites rapper Yandel as her favorite musician.

Cervantes plans to continue with broadcasting after she completes her education. An enthusiasm for broadcasting and music makes a radio host position the perfect fit for Cervantes.

Overcoming challenges on and off the field

By Beena Raghavendran

Conway Wilcox is the afternoon. When everyone's ready to quit after the battles of the morning, she finds the internal fire – whether in leading a lacrosse team or snowballing her swim times – to win.

"[When I had to overcome a swimming challenge,] I began to realize that not everyone is perfect," Wilcox said.

An 18-year-old from Asheville, N.C., Wilcox is active in T.C. Roberson High School's newspaper and government club and is a lifeguard at a country club. But Wilcox wouldn't be herself without her athletic participation, from the pool to the lacrosse field to the tennis court.

"If I'm stressed out during the day, sports [are] a good way for me to focus myself," Wilcox said. "I feel more independent ... and I can build more leadership."



CONWAY WILCOX
Asheville, N.C.

Wilcox is more than just a leader through sports. During her sophomore year at Carolina Day School, she saw the need for a new program: lacrosse.

"A lot of kids, I've noticed, like to play soccer, and a lot of them are on the bench lines," Wilcox said. "Lacrosse is a good opportunity for [the kids] to learn a new sport and actually have a chance to become a star on the field."

But a dream team doesn't come true with merely a

vision and a group of willing players. Wilcox worked for a year to mold lacrosse from an unheard-of sport to club team status.

"The school didn't have enough money to make [lacrosse] an actual school sport, so I had to make it into a club," Wilcox said. "I had to gather everyone around and we had to chip in money; I had to pay money out of my own wallet to help out with the team. I had to try to find coaches."

After a year of perseverance, Wilcox at last saw her vision taking shape on the lacrosse field. Even though she switched high schools, Wilcox still plays lacrosse for the Carolina Day School club team.

"My club was the first school club team that was ... successfully produced," Wilcox said. "We actually got it off the ground, finally – it took almost a full year, but springtime came and we got to play."

Overcoming challenges is Wilcox's forte; on her swim team, she was in competition with year-round swimmers, which was initially discouraging.

"When I first came on the swim team, I wasn't the fastest swimmer," Wilcox said. "It was a struggle for me at first, because I had to face all these other [year-round] swimmers who had been swimming since they were really young. [People] try to do the best they can in what they do."

Like a true athlete, Wilcox keeps swimming and ends up a champion.

"[When I'm swimming,] I feel really motivated," Wilcox said. "I feel like I'm a winner."

No sleep for the sake of success

By Alexis Simmons

Tar Heel is to Carolina as ambition is to Lucy Qin.

"If I enjoy something I want to dive right into it," Qin said. "I don't like to sit back and watch things happen. If



LUCY QIN
Stony Brook, N.Y.

I have an idea I want it to be heard."

As a rising senior at Ward Melville High School, Ziyuan "Lucy" Qin, 16, is dedicated to many activities. She is business manager and associate editor of the newspaper, section editor of yearbook, and chairperson of service projects in Key Club. In addition to her leadership positions she is a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies.

Qin devotes 30 hours each week to extracurricular activities while balancing a rigorous course load of four AP classes. She says the key to keeping her balance is "not sleeping" and is willing to make sacrifices to get things done. Being a member of her All Star cheerleading team Qin feels a sense of unity and teamwork. Her forward attitude and ambition to excel are her motivations

in life.

Qin lives in a stereotypical upper middle class neighborhood. She said the houses have the same three designs along the street, grass trimmed and homogenous in terms of diversity.

It's a sure thing that Qin does not reflect the stereotypes of Stony Brook, N.Y., where she currently resides. Born in Xi'an China, she moved to the U.S. at the age of 5. Growing up in Stony Brook has provided her with opportunities to see different parts of the world.

Although initially undecided about her career aspirations, Qin has narrowed her choices that include traveling the world and reporting on her experience to raise awareness. In addition, she would like to work in foreign policy.

"I want to use the opportunity to do something meaningful instead of focusing on myself and own success," Qin said. "I'm not passionate about anything, I guess you can say I'm passionate about everything. I'm trying to figure out that one thing but haven't pin pointed it."

She is involved with her youth group that combines religion and the community. Qin says religion serves as a center point, keeps her grounded and gives her motivation.

"Beliefs are what you center your life around," Qin said. She applies this to her religion and everyday life because it affects her thinking and plans for the future.

Qin's parents serve as her support system. Encouraging her to choose what she wants to do as long as it brings her happiness. They've always instilled the value of education within her and she uses self-motivation to succeed.

Keeping the dream alive

By Alicia Ramirez

A South Korean warrior full of big dreams hides behind Jeff Shim's alter ego of a soft-spoken Virginian who hopes to leave a mark on journalism. It's been almost a decade since Shim came to the United States from Seoul with the support his mother, Mi Seon, and sister, Jennifer.

"My mom and sister are my mentors," Jeff said.

Eighteen-year-olds don't always provide you with enough information for a life tale but Shim has a powerful story that is amazing.

Behind an abundant layer of accomplishments grows the roots of Shim's story. These include: editor of his school's newspaper *The A Blast*, National Honor Society member and math tutor.

What motivates this teen from Annandale, Va. to strive for greatness? "My sister and I came together from South Korea by ourselves, so I talked to her about school and the struggles I faced," Shim said.

His eyes suddenly lit up as Shim talked about his family. "We (mom and sister) get along really well because we talk about school, friends and daily life."

Shim loves learning about his adopted culture and comparing the immigration reason of older nationalized U.S. citizens



JEFF SHIM
Annandale, Va.

with his own.

"I came to America because of the educational and economic opportunities and to be able to participate in programs like the Chuck Stone Program," Shim said. "I like learning about the different laws and codes that shape our society; it's just fun and most interesting."

Even though Jeff calls himself a Northern Virginian, he remains proud of his ethnic diversity. He attends Annandale High School, one of the most diverse schools in the country.

Like many teens, Shim loves taking naps during his free time, but occasionally volunteers at the Newseum in Washington D.C. The experience has allowed Shim to learn about the U.S.'s rich history and express his opinions.

"I like all the freedom that we get in the American society," Shim said.

An optimistic Shim said he's determined to overcome any obstacle.

"There's always a light somewhere that illuminates the possibility of getting out of the miserable hole known as your obstacle," Shim said. "This is why I never give up,"

Shim looks up to his journalism teacher, Alan Weintraut, and wants to follow in his footsteps.

"It means a lot to me that Mr. Weintraut recently traveled to China to teach students about free speech; it's a very significant experience," Shim said. "As a teacher I'll have the opportunity of keeping print, online and broadcast journalism alive." Shim revealed his career plans: "I don't want future generations to forget about it."

Before his future students change the world, Shim must continue writing his life story that has only just begun.

'Sport'-ing diversity at school

By Shannon Murray

At 5-foot-7 Tamika Jones stands out in a crowd, but not because she wants to. She stands out because she is not afraid to be diverse. She stands out because she is African American at Episcopal High School, a predominantly white school in Annandale, Va.



TAMIKA JONES
Annandale, Va.

African-American students in a school of 400, Jones approaches the task matter-of-factly.

Jones is proud of who she is and the differences her background contributes to her school. She admits that sometimes it's not easy, especially since she is the only black girl on three different varsity sports teams.

"I bring diversity to the school, for sure," said Jones,

who participates in basketball, volleyball and lacrosse. "But no one ever tells you that bringing diversity isn't easy. Girls will talk about something as silly as tanning, and it gets awkward because I can't relate to them. I just stick out."

She feels that diversity is the greatest lesson of all, which has impacted her not only short term but long term as well.

"At boarding school there are kids from over 30 states and 20 countries, but it took me being in their shoes to actually realize what it feels like to be different," Jones said. "I watch what I say and who it's around; I don't want to be ignorant now that I know."

After recent trips to the Dominican Republic and Spain, Jones plans to start a nonprofit organization in another country to improve the quality of life there.

Though Jones may feel different on the sports field, she participates in after school clubs that help her stay committed to her culture.

"I love being a part of the Gems," Jones said. Delta Gems, a club focused on helping African American women prepare for college and future careers.

"Everyone there [at Gems] cares about me and wants me to be as successful and as happy as possible."

So, how does she do it? "My mom inspires me so much," Jones said, "I can talk to her about anything and she understands exactly what it's like to be in my shoes. She's confident in who she is."

And confidence is the key. When Tamika Jones smiles, when she laughs, you can tell it is the personality of someone who is unafraid of diversity.

Raising her voice to be in charge

By Janie Sircey

Hailing from Leesburg, Va., Amber Lee shows her passion to raise her voice in more ways than one, from singing to "being in charge."

Lee, 17, has been singing since the age of 3 in her church group, Sunbeams. Gracing the stage with solo after solo, Lee found that she was meant to sing.



AMBER LEE
Leesburg, Va.

"When I was little, people kept telling me I was the best, and I felt like I could sing so good," Lee said.

When she turned 13, Lee moved into the Inspirational Praise Ensemble, which is the upper level choral group at her church. From there, her high school chorus was the next step.

Lee auditioned her freshman year for Women's Choral, an audition based choral group at Heritage High School. She

shared her excitement and eventual surprise at the choral director's comments.

"When I went to the first audition, I thought I was so good, and my teacher told me, 'You need some technical work,' and that really messed me up," Lee said.

After this comment, Lee changed her attitude towards singing, and soon became afraid of the spotlight.

"That first experience freaked me out for a while, so I didn't audition for anything my freshman year," Lee said.

After this experience, Lee is still finding her way back to her vocal roots. Her father has been her main inspiration when it comes to singing.

"My Dad sings too. I hear him sing around the house and I would just copy him. He's actually on my iPod (singing)," Lee said.

Lee's older brother Brian Means has also played a major role in her success as a singer. Means sang in church choir through high school and also sang at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. throughout his college years.

"When I was little, I always wanted to be like him and be more successful," Lee said.

Lee is slowly but surely getting back in the spotlight. She has auditioned and become a part of the Heritage Singers, the highest level of choral group at Heritage High.

"I'm not as afraid anymore," Lee said.

Overcoming her stage fright proved challenging for Lee, but being in charge comes more naturally. Her leadership abilities come from her mother.

"She's (mother's) a real planning person. She likes to have things her way," Lee said.

Lee's mother is the head of the Deaconesses at her, organizing Care Groups and church activities, showing her passion for taking charge.

Responsibility and compassion came as a lesson to Lee through her brother Nicholas Lee's autism.

"He's helped me grow a lot. I think it helped me to try and include everyone. Everyone is important and has something to say," Lee said.

Lee has proven that leadership is a hereditary trait. She is part of the Board of Governors on the Youth Adviser Council, helping to plan events such as Youthfest and Battle of the Bands.

"I just like being in charge. I want to be the best," Lee said. "I've always aimed high."

Rocking to her own 'Breeze'

By Erika Cervantes

Breeze Riley, 17, is reserved yet loves to attend rock and punk concerts with her identical twin sister, Tonya. Breeze is quick to express how she feels about concerts.



BREEZE RILEY
Union Bridge, Md.

"I just feel at home and I get a natural high," said Breeze. Her favorite band is Jack's Mannequins.

Once a week Breeze enjoys writing "Synergy," the teen section for The Carroll County Times, the daily newspaper for Carroll County, Md. On top of that she writes for her school's newspaper, The Eagle Eye.

However, writing is not enough. Breeze is on the Academic Team of Francis Scott Key High School, which competes with other schools in Carroll County in trivia.

"It's really about who can buzz faster," Breeze joked.

Breeze's peers would say that she is shy and intellectual. Coming from an area of the state where teens drive tractors, and emergency blizzards occur often, she plans to attend college next fall and enjoy the city life. She desires to become a professional journalist and work for the

Alternative Press magazine, which focuses on information on band reviews, music charts and photos.

"I would rather live in Washington than in Ohio, but I would move to Cleveland just because of the magazine," Breeze said.

Her stoplight doesn't turn red at music and writing; she also enjoys watching sports. Breeze also wants to do public relations for a sports franchise and work for the Washington Capitals.

"I'm a big hockey fan," she said. "I like the fact that you can act crazy over sports, which is something you can't do everyday."

During her down time Breeze watches Doctor Who, a British science fiction show. It's about aliens and people who travel through time. Her all-time favorite quote is from the Doctor Who Show: "'Cause you don't own the universe, just see it."

Breeze's family connections are quite interesting. She and twin Tonya are inseparable. It's a peanut butter and jelly type of thing.

"She's my best friend and my other half; I would be lonely if I didn't have her." Breeze's favorite animal is a turtle.

"I guess it's genetic since my dad has a turtle tattoo on his arm," Breeze said.

To nourish her conscience, Breeze wants to help others and be useful. When asked how she would like to be remembered, Breeze said, "I want to die knowing that I have made a positive impact in the world, whether it's big or small."

Navigating the bumpy road

By Jeff Shim

Alicia Ramirez, 17, is a conscientious, inquisitive and ambitious journalist who knows how to navigate the road. From the motorized scooter she uses, there is no obstacle she cannot overcome.

"My perseverance has helped me focus in terms of the goals I want to achieve," Ramirez said.

She hails from Puerto Rico and was born prematurely. As a result, she walks a little slower than others. Despite all that, she lives a full life and is intent on improving society.

"Regardless of my disabilities, I take part in the activities everyone else around me does, just at a slower pace," Ramirez said.



ALICIA RAMIREZ
San Juan, Puerto Rico

As a rising senior at Commonwealth High School, she excels academically and at almost everything she does. Ramirez recognizes her physical disability, and relies on her scooter for long distances. However far the travel, she continues to navigate toward her dream of becoming an informative journalist.

"I'd like to inform people and I want them to come to me because they are interested in my opinions," Ramirez said.

While her goal is to become a journalist, she also wants to assist in times of humanitarian crisis. Ramirez is the president of Interact Club, where the members serve to improve the quality of life in the community.

"The members of Interact Club help kids learn English and raise money for Haiti relief," Ramirez said.

She is also an associate editor of her school yearbook and a member of the National Honor Society.

"These activities will benefit me in the future," Ramirez said. "As a journalist, it will give me more exposure to the world and diversity."

She would like to be in a more diverse place than her current community.

"The Puerto Rican community is small and the ethnic diversity is very low as well," Ramirez said.

When she competed at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., Ramirez noticed the significance of diversity.

"I represented Puerto Rico at this competition and it was really nice to be around people who were chasing the same dream. The only difference was our nationality," Ramirez said.

Her Spelling Bee experience led Ramirez to apply to participate in the Chuck Stone Program for Diversity in Education and Media at the University of North Carolina.

"Here, I get the opportunity to learn more about journalism and improve my writing skills," Ramirez said. She also enjoys the diverse environment of the program.

"Diversity keeps the news interesting, and without it, we won't have any controversy in the news," Ramirez said.

Ramirez appreciates every moment of her life and moves forward with everyday. Her personal philosophy is: "If you keep yourself focused, you will always attain your goals, but it takes a lot of effort."

Feeding the roots of optimism

By Lucy Qin

Go-getter comes to mind when one describes Alexis Simmons, but that is only half the story when it comes to this South Carolinian whose true defining characteristics are her compassion and optimism.

"Being well rounded defines me as a person," Simmons said. "I'm that girl that people say does everything and I like it because I get to meet new faces."

Having a rigorous course load is enough of a challenge for most students but Simmons, 16, also juggles athletics and leadership roles in various school clubs. This February her basketball team reached the state semifinals and last summer Simmons became the national 3-point shooting contest champion.

"I started playing in the sixth grade and I enjoy the rush that comes with it," Simmons said.

In her high school, Pinewood Preparatory, Simmons immerses herself in various clubs. Even though her resume is stacked, she cares about everything that she is involved in.

"I don't miss a meeting," Simmons said. "I'm always very punctual because if I do something, I'm going to be dedicated or I won't take it on."

Simmons values altruism and serving her community. In

the seventh grade she began her first neighborhood project. "I got a group of children together and made a craft where they fingerprinted T-shirts."

At school Simmons is enthusiastic about reaching out to the student body. After being class president for her sophomore and junior years, Simmons will be running again this fall.

"I like reaching out," Simmons said. "What I do is hands-on and I can help the school out by planning food drives or dances."

Although Simmons already goes above and beyond, she still hopes to find new opportunities to volunteer. In the future this ambitious teen would like to work with children.

"Every time I volunteer, I always learn something new — especially from little kids," Simmons said. "They say things that adults normally wouldn't and they open your mind to things."

Whether she is taking care of her sister Sydney, 6, or attending to a friend, she puts the feelings of others first.

"I care about people's feelings a lot," Simmons said. "I also don't judge people; that's one of my big things."

Simmons has a deep-rooted optimism that she takes with her into all aspects of life. "I'm always thinking about the good — I like to be happy," Simmons said. "I don't have a reason to be sad and negative. There are people in worse situations."

Simmons' optimism is also strong when looking towards the future. "My parents have always taught me the importance of being my personal best."

After college she aspires to become a broadcaster or news anchor. "I like the fact that being a broadcaster, people count on you to bring them the news," Simmons said. "Whenever I watch the news, I have a lot of respect for what they do."



ALEXIS SIMMONS
Ladson, S.C.

Assembling the volunteer effort

By Amber Lee

Janie Sircey, 17, handles everything with a smile. From her part-time job to her rigorous academic schedule to the many volunteer projects she is in control.

Of all of the projects and activities Sircey's passion is her volunteer work.

"I really like to [volunteer]. It's not about the have-to, it's about the want-to," Sircey said.

She started volunteering in the seventh grade at the Manna Food Bank near her hometown of Swannanoa, N.C. Sircey helped stuff backpacks with donated food for elementary school students in need.

"There's a lot you can do to help other people, and it doesn't have to be huge," Sircey said. "You don't have to



JANIE SIRCEY
Swannanoa, N.C.

go to a whole other country to help people. You can do it right here." Volunteering at the food bank with all of her friends made the experience fun.

Sircey's experience at the food bank inspired her to do more in the community. "That's what really sparked the volunteer in me," Sircey said.

Her enthusiasm for volunteer work has followed her to Charles D. Owen High School. She is now involved in numerous volunteer activities including

leading the Key Club, volunteering as a member of a Teen Court and working with the K-Kids.

K-Kids is an organization sponsored by the Kiwanis Club whose focus is serving the community. Sircey noticed that her community had all of the other branches of the K-family, but nothing for elementary school students. During her junior year she co-founded the K-kids at Black Mountain Elementary, her town's elementary school.

"I've done a lot of projects that I'm proud of, but this is definitely the most rewarding," Sircey said.

The K-Kids have their own fundraiser, Car Wash for Literacy. The "youngsters," with the help of the high school volunteers, do a carwash to raise money to buy new books for their school.

"It's really funny when you see a little kid trying to reach the top of the big truck," Sircey said. Sircey tries to make the volunteer work as much fun as possible for the elementary kids.

"I brought my iPod dock and we listened to Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers while we were washing cars," said Sircey. "The kids were like rocking out."

The volunteer spirit in Sircey started long before her days at the Manna Food Bank. When she was the same age as her K-Kids, she dreamed of doing something big. Sircey wanted to start a recycling program in her community because the nearest one was a 20-minute drive away.

"People wanted to recycle, but there was no way that they could," Sircey said.

She sketched out her plan for her recycling program and tried to raise money for the program. "I had the classic lemonade stand at my family yard sale," Sircey said. "I only made like \$2.75. It was depressing."

Eventually the dream project was put on the backburner.

"When one idea fizzles away, a bigger and better one always take its place," said Sircey.

'Play'-ing with Calif. stereotype

By Tamika Jones

Fun spirited, bright smile and fast-talking are all characteristics of this Californian.

Shannon Murray, 17, is someone who cares about others. She always strives to makes things better with her smile.

"I always try to make people happy, and knowing that I made them happy is the best feeling of all," Murray said.



SHANNON MURRAY
Poway, Calif.

Murray is the business manager and entertainment editor for the Poway High School newspaper, The Iliad. Murray knows that when students read a newspaper they want the right information and entertainment and she works hard to satisfy her readers.

"If [the readers] are not satisfied, then I'm not satisfied," the San Diego native said. English is Murray's strongest sub-

ject, which comes in handy when editing the newspaper.

"I always worry about what other people think, not in terms of looks, but I want people to be proud of my work," Murray said. "I want my work to reflect good on me."

Murray is a hard worker who is not accustomed to

criticism. "I don't like to be criticized, and I want everything to be like perfect."

Her favorite activities are running and working out. When Murray is not working on The Iliad, she plays the sweeper position on her soccer team. In the spring, she runs track.

Murray defies the common stereotype of the California surfer girl.

"Everyone is unique," Murray said. While many Californians are stereotyped as surfers, Murray enjoys snowboarding through the white snow on Big Bear Mountain near San Diego.

Murray was also an assistant director and director for "Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Taming of the Shrew." Drama is her favorite class and she enjoys producing plays and entertaining audiences.

"I like drama because I'm able to express myself and there are no boundaries," Murray said. "I am able to be myself and people can't judge me because I have my own opinions."

"I like directing because I like to see how everybody gets excited about my vision and I think it's really cool," Murray said. Murray recently submitted a play that she wrote to the California Play Write Association.

"I'm most excited for my friends to read the play because it portrays who they really are and I am really proud that I included them," Murray said with a smile. "And I really hope I win!"

Murray decided to apply to the Chuck Stone program at UNC because she wants to major in public relations. While both of her parents are alums of Duke University, the journalism program at UNC may cause her to break the tradition.

Acting out the play of diversity

By Conway Wilcox

Beena Raghavendran, 17, spends more time on stage than she does at home.

"Drama is so important to me because you can be anyone you want to be," Raghavendran said. "It's a good stress relief. It's like you can leave everything behind you, almost like you're in your own bubble, and you can do anything you want to do."



BEENA RAGHAVENDRAN
Mason, Ohio

When Raghavendran was 4, she moved from diverse Irvine, Calif., to Mason, Ohio, that was predominantly white.

"I was the only colored person in my neighborhood and school," Raghavendran said. "Today most of the Indian kids in my school play tennis and are on the speech and debate teams. I'm one out of three minorities in my newspaper and drama class."

Participating in her newspaper and drama club at William Mason High School allows Raghavendran to set aside her everyday life that is filled with uncomfortable situations she faces among her classmates and neighbors.

"I've had people come up to me and tell me that I wasn't American because of the background I came from," said

Raghavendran, the daughter of Indian parents. "Because I didn't believe in Jesus, they said I was going to hell." Drama helped her realize that she wasn't actually different from everyone else. "When we act on stage, everyone is different. And being different on stage is a good thing!"

"Being in drama and newspaper are good ways for me to overcome the fact that people view me differently in my neighborhood and in school," said Raghavendran

Raghavendran's family, including her mother, father, and sister are true to their Hindu faith and culture. They are also proud to be Americans.

"My family was the first family in my neighborhood to put a flag out during a holiday," Raghavendran said.

At an early age, Raghavendran's ambition was to become an actress.

"I started acting at 10," Raghavendran said confidently. "Acting is an interesting art because there are many different techniques of getting to your character."

This past fall, Raghavendran played the role of Snoopy in her school's play "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." She was nominated for the Best Comic Actress award. In addition to high school theater she's actively involved in children's theater, in which she played the role of Lumiere in "Beauty and the Beast."

Raghavendran plans to stay active in college, on stage too.

Aside from the theater, Raghavendran enjoys writing. She will be associate editor of her high school newspaper class.

"My career goal is to be a reporter," Raghavendran said. "My dream job is to be a reporter for 10 years and then go on to acting."

ADF performance causes confusion

By Conway Wilcox and Amber Lee

Jaws dropping, faces twisting and whispers of “I can’t believe this” could be seen and heard throughout the audience. Such was the reaction to the American Dance Festival held at Reynolds Auditorium on the Duke University campus.

“I was very disturbed the entire time,” Beena Raghavendran said, reflecting on the performance.

The ADF is known for its provocative, emotional performances, like Rosie Herrera’s *Pity Party* and *Various Stages of Drowning: A Cabaret*.

According to the ADF website, its mission is to encourage and support the creation of new modern dance work. The festival seeks to enhance public understanding of art.

The performance was enjoyable to some and confusing to others.

“I was confused the whole time,” Janie Sircey said. “There were little things I would pick up on sometimes. They were too far embedded into the performance; the average audience member wouldn’t understand.”

The *Pity Party* started with a male cast member singing a Spanish love song. He called out to a man in the audience to come and participate on stage.

“It was interesting and surprising because not many dance festivals are known to do that,” Jeff Shim said. “I thought that part was good and I expected the next scene to be really good, too. It was a disappointment because it was hard to understand the art.”

The *Pity Party* included humor and dark, serious elements. Dancers reenacted the song “It’s My Party and I’ll Cry if I Want To” while playing with dolls. They also performed the electric slide that transitioned a dancer mercifully beating a piñata. The audience laughed nervously, unsure if it was humorous or serious.

“The performance was very unusual,” Erika Cervantes said. “For example, the girl was beating the piñata on the ground, instead of beating it up in the air.”

The *Various Stages of Drowning* symbolized psychological and emotional drowning. This was illustrated with a solo of a girl in the spotlight.



PHOTO COURTESY ADF

Rosie Herrera’s Pity Party and Various Stages of Drowning: A Cabaret incorporate Spanish style and American movements to produce a thought-provoking piece. Chuck Stone participants found the piece hard to follow.

“She needed the spotlight to survive,” Sircey presumed. “She felt safe, but when the spotlight was going away she felt like she was dying.”

Stages of Drowning had a recurring water theme. “I liked the end of the second half,” Breeze Riley said. “The

video showed all the dancers drowning and it gave the audience some sense of hallucination that it was happening.”

Overall, the performance was an attempt at art, but it ended up short with many in the audience bewildered.

COMMENTARY

Diversity drives society

By Alicia Ramirez

In such a dynamic economy everyone is searching for the ingredient to make themselves more competitive in the marketplace. That mysterious element they’re searching for is diversity. Diversity isn’t just a superficial thing such as gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, age, sexual orientation etc. Diversity is life’s ultimate challenge. Why a challenge?

Diversity is the ultimate quest of being well rounded. It entails being compassionate, tolerant, not ethnocentric nor narrow minded.

I have a Turkish friend who exemplifies the true meaning of diversity. He moved to Puerto Rico at a very young age and successfully embraced his adopted culture. In addition to celebrating his cul-

tural roots, he’s reached out to the larger Caribbean by working to raise funds for Haiti relief efforts. He is currently a sophomore at Williams College in Amherst. What made all this possible is an open mind for diversity.

The growth of ethnic minorities in the U.S. is making diversity a necessity. According to the U.S. Census, minorities currently make up more than half of the population. The recent 2010 Census counted an approximate 309 million people living within the borders of the United States. Soon we will find out that diversity reigns supreme in the population demographics.

Diversity is everywhere and is certainly driving all areas of society. We all should respect different points of views on the journey to becoming well rounded.

Prep school documentary hits home for minorities

By Tamika Jones

I had the privilege of screening *The Prep School Negro* film as part of the Chuck Stone’s program held at UNC. The movie is a flashback to Andre Robert Lee’s adolescent years at Germantown Friends Prep School. Lee, PSN director, revisits his old high school to get different perspectives from students of color on what it’s like to attend a predominately white school.

PSN is poignant and moving. In one scene, involving a class discussion among teens, a black male offers his riveting perspective on what it means to be white in America. He projects that it’s a privilege to be white and not have to earn respect

like black people have to.

As an African American girl attending a prep school, I am a part of the legacy of the prep school Negro. Even though I am treated with the equality and respect at school by my teachers, I feel I have to work twice as hard gain the respect and trust of others from the dominate culture.

PSN will appeal to blacks and other minorities attending not only prep schools, but in public schools where they find themselves as a tiny fraction in a larger demographic. Andre Lee and executive producer Barb Lee (unrelated) have successfully tapped into the conscience of prep school Negroes with a film that captures the essence of its provocative title. There is no other film like it!

PICKING forgiveness from tragedy

By Shannon Murray

Eleven years measured in birthdays, first days of school, Christmas mornings. Eleven years in jail for a crime you didn't commit. Eleven years is a long time, but is it a long enough time to forgive? —PICKING COTTON

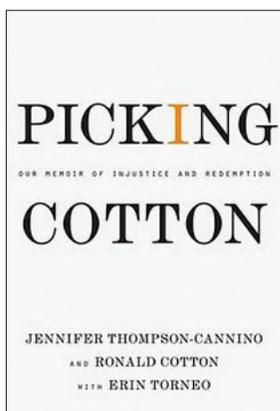
If books were judged by their cover, PICKING COTTON would earn a D. Not only is the cover white, not a blinding stark white, but a plain off-white. It sports thick, black Times New Romanish font. The only true color is neon orange highlighting the second “I” in PICKING. Maybe that’s because the authors’ favorite letter is I. Or maybe it’s because the plain white pages, as dull as they may appear, detail the personal stories of two different “I”s, captivating the reader in an inspiring story of forgiveness, love and ultimately error.

PICKING COTTON, by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino, Ronald Cotton, and Erin Torneo, is divided into three different parts. Part 1 is dedicated to Jennifer’s point of view, Part 2 to Ronald’s and Part 3 to the exoneration and the afterword of their remarkable story.

As Part 1 begins, Jennifer recounts the graphic and shocking story of her brutal rape and continues through the process of identifying Ronald, going to trial as an eyewitness, and ultimately condemning him to a life sentence in prison. It is not until Ronald’s account in Part 2 that we learn how DNA proves his innocence. As Ronald recounts Jennifer’s story through his own eyes, the reader is trapped in a true nightmare. Mistakenly accused as the rapist, Ronald is dragged through various prisons, two different trials, family crises he could not be present for, and ultimately one of the biggest failures of the judicial system. Through it all, Ronald learns to defend his innocence, how to forgive a life-altering mistake, and keep his faith in God.

COTTON was UNC-Chapel Hill’s first-year student summer 2010 reading book, it also served a deeper personal meaning for me. My parents were alive in 1984! How could a mistake this big possibly have been made when my parents were alive? Did it matter that Ronald Cotton was black?

PICKING COTTON not only shows the need for DNA testing but demonstrates how far in just a few years, racial progress has come. All men, no matter white or black, are innocent until proven guilty.



Touring UNC’s true colors

By Erika Cervantes & Beena Raghavendran

Seven fun-sized people were formed and frozen forever in time to serve as a representation of Carolina’s student body.

The bronze statues were moved from their original home, in front of Davis Library, an unavoidable place on campus, due to an incident; the statues were splashed with mud and red paint. Two of them disappeared.

The basketball player “got knocked over and his basketball was stolen.” Did they die and go to heaven? Doubt it.

An entire part of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus is monumented and inscribed yet unknown to most of the student population, according to Adjunct Assistant Professor Tim McMillan, associate chair of the Department of African and Afro-American Studies.

“A lot of people don’t know about the things that happen right where they are,” McMillan said during his Tuesday afternoon “Black and Blue” tour. “They may not be lying, they may not be stupid – they just don’t know, because they’re not taught. Most of the students who go to UNC don’t know [the history of it].”

Silent Sam is the armed greeter of McCorkle Place, dedicated to the “321 alumni of the University who died in the Civil War and all students who joined the Confederate Army,” according to the Virtual Tour section of the UNC-CH website. Not far from Silent Sam rests the Unsung Founders Memorial, honoring “the men and women of color – enslaved and free – who helped build Carolina,” also according to the website. However, controversy exists over this section of the quad: Lucy Qin, Chuck Stone Program student, said honoring the Confederacy means the University implies its past support for discrimination.

“By honoring the Confederacy [with a Confederate soldier], you’re kind of saying [that] slavery is OK,” Qin said: “I think [UNC-CH] is honoring its tradition, but at the same time, [Silent Sam] can be seen as disrespectful.”

The sculpture, “The Student Body,” also brought controversy to the university; students, especially African Americans, felt like the sculpture brought stereotypes,



PHOTO BY ERIKA CERVANTES

Tamika Jones and Jeff Shim stroll through McCorkle Place walking past Silent Sam on their journey towards Old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

McMillan said.

“There’s a black man with a basketball, whereas you’ve got this overachieving white woman with a lot of books,” said McMillan.

“There have been a lot of protests over the years,” McMillan said.

One of the best protest ideas that McMillan has ever seen has been when black students “sat around the statues reading Chemistry, Physics and Philosophy, books so that people would have a visual image of black people interacting with books in an intellectual fashion way.”

Many university students and faculty are unaware of the history. Assistant Professor Queenie Byars said knowing the history helps students better navigate their experiences at UNC-CH.

“History gives you a better appreciation for the place that you’re studying,” Byars said. “The more you know about the history, it helps us probably do our best to avoid some of the atrocities and bad things repeating themselves.”

It’s said that where you sit is where you stand – your level of knowledge defines you, and Chuck Stone Program student Alexis Simmons agrees.

“It’s important to be knowledgeable about the location that you are in and it brings an advantage to you if you are able to spread it to people,” Simmons said. “With knowledge comes advantage.”

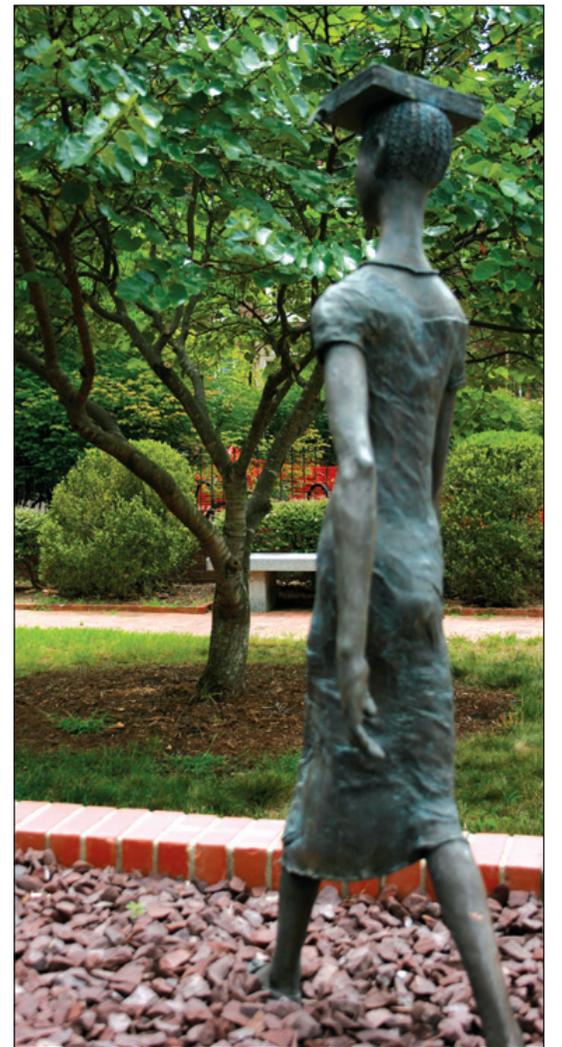


PHOTO BY ERIKA CERVANTES

Chuck Stone students stopped near Hamilton Hall, site of various controversy, to discuss stereotypes in art.