

# COMMUNITY IMPACT STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

(in campus alphabetical order)

## **Lauren Large, Appalachian State University**

Lauren is a junior majoring in Psychology with a minor in Communications. This is her third year on the impACT team at Appalachian State, where as co-chair she assists in the planning of big events and educating students about social issues. Lauren is in her second year on the Service-Learning Student Taskforce. Last spring, she was a co-leader for PEAKS, a 10-week long leadership series. She also has been on an Alternative Spring Break trip to Panama and is leading an international ASB trip in spring of 2010. During the past two summers, she has worked as a camp counselor at Camp Agapé. She is currently involved with a group of students who are launching a \$50,000 ASU Student Body fundraiser for Pennies for Peace, in hopes to finance a school for children in Pakistan or Afghanistan. After college, Lauren hopes to earn a master's degree in Student Development and work with a service or service-learning office at a university.

## **Kellie Lewis, Barton College**

Kellie's innovative approach in planning and working with a team to found the first annual Barton College September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Program addressed both the campus community's, as well as the Wilson community's, need for a September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial. Through various forms of advocacy for the program, and through the role of leadership, the goal of supplying the community a means in which to pay reverence to those affected by the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy was met. The program also served to honor the town of Wilson's First Responders. In leading the students, staff and faculty of Barton College, along with members of the Wilson community, in the September 11<sup>th</sup> program, it is obvious to say that an impact was had on countless individuals. The program has been instilled as a potential Barton College tradition, which will occur annually as a remembrance. Kellie has also worked with Disciples on Campus during the club's Alternative Spring Break to provide service to the Wesley Shelter, which provides assistance to battered women, as well as to Camp Caroline, which serves as a summer camp for youth.

## **Katie Kelleher, Brevard College**

Katie is an Exercise Science major. Since transferring to Brevard, she was chosen as a member of the Institute for Women in Leadership, through which she advocated for and assisted with voter registrations, planned and participated in a spring break trip renovating and making a halfway house in South Carolina handicapped accessible, and became a mentor to a middle school student. She also served as the Vice President, and now Secretary, for the Peer Health Advocate Team, served on the SGA for the Outing Club to plan river, trail and campus cleanups and worked with AAUW to encourage girls in math and science. During the summer, she worked with the Red Cross in the Gulf Coast with hurricane recovery as a Community Educator and Liaison. She plans to use her trainings and senior internship to educate, and respond locally and nationally to help those in need.

## **Samantha Wharton, Central Piedmont Community College**

Samantha Wharton is a sophomore third-year Service Club Member and has served as the club's secretary for the past year. Samantha is one of the most active members of service club, participating in Alternative Spring Break the past two years, and every club fundraising event since the club's inception. So far, Samy has completed over 123 hours of direct service such as Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, Uptown Men's Shelter, and her favorite cause, Habitat for Humanity. In 2009, Samantha was named "Volunteer of the Semester" for the spring term. In her spare time she enjoys playing softball, hanging out with her fiancé and friends, and volunteering with people from different backgrounds and cultures. In her future, she hopes to pursue a career in law.

## **Elad Gross, Duke University**

Elad Gross is a Duke undergraduate who created and co-founded The Education Exchange Corps. Elad worked to recruit and train Duke and St. Louis undergraduates to participate in this unique program. The Education Exchange Corps encourages volunteers to take their experiences back to the classroom and look deeper into the issues involved with public education. The goal of the research program is to create a modern, delocalized think tank, combining the efforts of researchers across the country, to influence education policy. This special initiative, in existence since 2008, works by recruiting college volunteers and providing three distinct, but related services in St. Louis, Missouri.

## **Katherine S. Burley, East Carolina University**

Katherine Burley is a senior at East Carolina University double majoring in Child Life and Recreational Therapy. Throughout her years at ECU, she has enjoyed volunteering with all types of populations in Greenville, NC. Katherine's most rewarding experiences are teaching English in Costa Rica, working in orphanages in Ghana, Africa, and working with the F.O.C.U.S. program, a living-learning community dedicated to service. Katherine finds volunteering to be one of the most rewarding activities she does. After college Katherine hopes to work in international non-profit work dedicated to allowing children to thrive in their environment through opportunities promoting growth and development.

## **Damika Howard, Elizabeth City State University**

Damika has been involved in the Student Government Association for three years as class president. Damika currently serves as Student Activities President working to organize student activities and events such as homecomings, step shows and student forums. During Damika's tenure in the SGA, student involvement has increased significantly. Damika demonstrates leadership through participation in organizations and programs including Sigma Alpha Pi, Orientation Leader, Peer Health Educator, Viking Scholar, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated. She is heavily involved in peer mentoring young females, serves as a big sister at Girls, Inc. and has her own non-profit organization called DEW (Dedicated to Empower Young Women) in Johannesburg, South Africa. This year, Damika, along with others, will promote the importance of saving energy and recycling through the "Go Green, Go Blue" project.

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## **Kayla Hicken, Elon University**

Kayla is a junior Communications major from Kennett Square, PA who lived in Elon's Service Learning Community as a freshman. This influential experience was just the beginning of Kayla's dedication to service on campus and in the local community. She is now the director of the Service Learning Community and advises their leadership team on reflection, community building, connecting service to academics, and planning meaningful projects that meet identified community needs. Kayla is also active in Elon Volunteers!, Epsilon Sigma Alpha service sorority, NCCC's Student Advisory Board, and Elon's Social Entrepreneurship Scholars. As a Social Entrepreneurship Scholar, she is currently proposing a program that addresses intolerance and discrimination against Latino/a immigrants in Alamance County. Kayla credits the wonderful people with which she's had the opportunity to do service as her inspiration.

## **Kayre Chatellier, Fayetteville State University**

Kayre is a senior majoring in Criminal Justice. She is the Vice President of the Voices of Planned Parenthood Club (VOX) at FSU, a member of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, and a member of Eta Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice honors society. She is a part of the Community Justice Service Learning course where students are conducting a community asset mapping project to identify business, agencies and organizations in the neighborhoods and communities in the vicinity of FSU and Murchison Road. She is also a NC-ACTS! Intern for the Cumberland County Dispute Resolution Center (CCDRC). She has received State certification to work as a mediator and mediate for district court, Medicaid, and teens.

## **Brittany Bounds, Gardner-Webb University**

Brittany's passion to serve others is obvious in her daily actions. She eagerly serves in several areas of the community including her church, Boiling Springs Elementary School, and her college campus. Brittany's passion finds fulfillment in working with children. She is currently a member of NC-ACTS! where she is working with students at Boiling Springs Elementary School, Gardner-Webb University and the Union County Christmas Bureau. One of her advisors said, "I cannot begin to express Brittany's dedication to service as well as her outstanding leadership characteristics that shine through her work with the Reach Student Leaders and other organizations on campus."

## **Juliet Carrington, Guilford College**

Juliet Carrington is a junior at Guilford College pursuing a double major in Community Justice Studies and Sociology. She is a Bonner Scholar, and a Multicultural Leadership Scholar. Juliet currently serves as the Project Coordinator of the Glenhaven Multicultural After School Tutorial program that serves African and Montagnard immigrants in Greensboro. This summer, Juliet coordinated a summer camp for Glenhaven youth that focused on poetry. The camp culminated in a poetry presentation that was featured in the Greensboro News and Record. She also worked as an intern at the Bonner Foundation in Princeton, NJ where she helped coordinate the annual Summer Leadership Institute. Juliet's work has led her to become a vocal advocate for fair immigration policy. She helped develop a workshop of the effects on current immigration policy on local undocumented immigrants. Juliet's passion is infectious and she has been instrumental in recruiting students to service.

## **Katherine Mulig, High Point University**

Katie is a junior Psychology major who is enthusiastic about challenging herself to be a well-rounded, experienced, and cultured individual. On campus and off, her passion for helping others has led her to become a leader to the people and the communities she comes in contact with. At High Point University, Katie has served as a Resident Assistant, in leadership roles with student organizations such as the Outdoor Activities Club and the Alternative Break program, and as an officer in the Phi Mu Sorority. Through her efforts, the Alternative Break Program has expanded to provide consistent trips to multiple locations including taking students abroad on international volunteer projects. In preparation for service trips, Katie has played an integral role in raising thousands of dollars to help families in need. Her passion for service has led her out of her communities to Mississippi, Texas, Iowa, Cuba, and Guatemala.

## **Devo'n Williams, Johnson C. Smith University**

Devo'n Williams is a junior Mass Media and Communication Arts major from Cleveland, Ohio. He is a writer for the student newspaper (2 years), the founder of the JCSU chess club (2 years), a volunteer for the award winning Saturday Academy (2 years), as well as an intern at National Public Radio where he has penned his own stories and narrated news briefings. Devo'n supports JCSU faculty by assisting with the "talented males" group in the Saturday Academy by mentoring young men and by teaching chess. He often sits in classes he is not registered for, which says a lot about his commitment to learning. He recognizes what colleges want all students to aspire to: becoming a lifelong learner.

## **Aaron Linville, Lees-McRae College**

Aaron Linville is a senior honors student, with a History and Religious Studies double major. Aaron has impressed and made an impact on many at the College, his friends, and family, and much of the surrounding community. Aaron approached LMC staff with the idea to create a community climbing team for local children in Banner Elk, North Carolina. With ideas in his mind and his always enthusiastic attitude, he formed the Kid's Climbing Team. The team meets two times a week, and is free to the community children. Aaron and his wonderful staff of volunteers teach the kids rock climbing techniques, teamwork, how to trust one another, while keeping them active and healthy. Aaron has put a lot of head work into the team and into various other community programs.



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## **Josh Anderson, Lenoir-Rhyne University**

Josh Anderson is very involved with Push America and YMCA. Last summer he was on the Journey of Hope, which is a cross country cycling trip that helped raise over \$750,000 for people with disabilities. To go on this trip Josh had to give up football, because it conflicted with the camp schedule. His decision cost him a \$13,000 football scholarship, but he found himself while being lost in the service of others. Josh's specific job was historian, where he documented the trip and worked long hours making sure the message was conveyed across the country. His biggest project with Push America was helping to build a 45 ft wheel chair ramp for those who could not afford it. This year he is coaching on Saturday mornings with the YMCA LR Bears team. His experience from previous years as an LR football player makes his time there even more valuable.

## **Ciara L. Felder, Mars Hill College**

Ciara, a senior, is the President of the Black Student Association (BSA), an organization responsible for a great deal of hard work, difficult discussion, and great change at Mars Hill College. In the 2009 MLK Challenge, Ciara and her organization were essential in planning and carrying out the day of service. Her support for diversity at MHC, by hosting an organization and race relations forum, among other activities, has made the campus a better place. Her hard work, dedicated leadership, and excellent drive all contribute to her presidency and the success of the BSA.

## **Amber Smith, North Carolina State University**

Amber Smith is a senior at NCSU completing an Interdisciplinary Major, "Social Change Leadership," Spanish and Nonprofit Studies minors. An avid volunteer, Amber co-founded a nonprofit organization, ME<sup>3</sup> (Motivate Educate, Empower) in 2005. ME<sup>3</sup> promotes volunteerism and community involvement in Wake County, NC and beyond. It was created by Amber after learning that many people would like to start volunteering but did not know how to start. As ME<sup>3</sup>'s President, Amber works to connect individuals, many of whom are students, to volunteer opportunities with nearly 60 local nonprofits, integrate volunteerism and leadership programming into local High Schools, and publish a quarterly newsletter, *Empower*, about volunteerism and community efforts. Outside of ME<sup>3</sup>, Amber enjoys writing, singing, and painting, and hopes to return to NCSU after graduation to complete a Masters in Public Administration with a Nonprofit Management focus. In the long term, Amber hopes to work full-time to promote volunteerism and service-learning programming in schools across NC.

## **Meghan Herd, North Carolina Wesleyan College**

Meghan Herd is a senior who is majoring in sociology and minoring in English and Journalism. She is the President of the Ladies of Character, a group dedicated to empowering the women on Wesleyan's campus and its community. Meghan has been a peer advisor leader for incoming freshman for the past two years. Her roles have consisted of helping with the freshman orientation program as well as being a mentor for the students. Meghan served as a leader with the North Carolina Leadership Conference, a committee to offer students at NCWC a one-day intensive leadership development experience. Meghan is a member of the NCWC tennis team. This passion has also led her to become an ambassador for Tennis Shoes 4 Africa. This organization gives children in Africa the resources they need to play tennis and build their self-esteem.

## **Aliah Saarah Abdul-Rauf, Peace College**

Aliah Saarah Abdul-Rauf, commonly known as Saarah, is an Anthropology Major with a concentration in Culture Anthropology and a Minor in Leadership Studies. Entering her junior year she has been heavily involved with campus activities and community service. As a Head Resident Assistant and active member of Residents Hall Association she knows what the students look for and want on campus. Saarah is also the President of the Anthropology Club and Co-Founder of Home Sweet Homes, an on-campus club that works with Builders of Hope and Habitat for Humanity. Most recently she has been inducted into the leadership honors society ODK. After graduating in 2011, Saarah is planning on working with AmeriCorps, building on her *NC-ACTS!*<sup>®</sup> AmeriCorps experience.

## **Leanna Martin, Pfeiffer University**

Leanna is a Music Education major involved with the Francis Scholar & Bonner Leader service scholarship programs. She has completed many service projects in her life, but volunteering at her church has been the most rewarding task for her. She was the director of a children's drama team for 2 years, and also taught a Sunday night class for children between the ages of 6 and 11. She learned that these children see her as a mentor, and this has changed her life. She believes that working with these children impacted both her and the children she has helped. Her service concentration at Pfeiffer is in education and working with children. Currently she volunteers at Endy Elementary School in Albemarle with their Music Program. Her inspiration for volunteering is knowing that every time she volunteers she is changing someone's life.

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## **Maggie West, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Maggie is a Public Policy and Latin American Studies major from Raleigh, North Carolina. In her time at UNC, she has been involved with a group at the Campus Y called HOPE (Homeless Outreach Poverty Eradication). Since 2006, Maggie has worked with this group to build meaningful relationships and partnerships between students and the homeless community, producing several solution-oriented initiatives. HOPE and their community have worked together to make documentaries, start a tri-annual literary publication written entirely by individuals living on the street or in the shelter, establish a combination community garden and vocational rehabilitation program, and launch a local microfinance initiative. Maggie is currently working with the microfinance initiative to expand their services beyond the homeless population to at-risk youth and the Latino community.

## **Zimuzor Ugochukwu, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro**

Zim is studying biology, sociology and political science. After the 2008 election, she began to notice that students were falling back into complacency, neglecting their responsibilities to the city and life outside of their universities. Zim founded The Ignite Greensboro [got two?] Project, and currently serves as coordinating director. Ignite Greensboro aims to raise \$30,000-\$50,000 in \$2 increments, and is a student-run, student-led and student-built philanthropic effort. The money raised will be given back to the community and students of Greensboro in various ways. The driving force behind this project is the forthcoming International Civil Rights Center and Museum and the lack of student awareness regarding its opening. This project serves as a conglomerate of many different and interrelated projects that aim to engage students and encourage them to get involved and learn about the culture and history of whatever city in which they choose to live.

## **Josie Christina Swett, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke**

Chrissy serves as a Student Service Leader in the Center for Leadership and Service. During her tenure, she has engaged the campus and the community in service that works to promote literacy in elementary schools. Her major projects have included Reading Parties at various elementary schools in Robeson County. At these events, Chrissy recruits her fellow college students to go with her to the elementary schools to celebrate literacy with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders by having them read together and engage in activities that encourage reading. Additionally, Chrissy has promoted literacy on campus by having Literacy Carnivals, Poetry Readings, and tutor trainings. Chrissy has been responsible for recruiting and training over 30 volunteers while serving in the office.

## **Sarah Evans Musten, The University of North Carolina at Wilmington**

Sarah is a senior majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Geography. Sarah is from Raleigh, NC. She is involved with Baptist Campus Ministries, Environmental Concerns Organization (ECO), and Habitat for Humanity. Sarah is also a program leader for the Center for Leadership Education and Service, where she has led the annual Halloween Carnival for Kids for the past three years. Sarah received the Leadership Excellence Award in 2008 and 2009. She has earned Dean's List recognition each semester and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honors fraternity. Sarah has gone on community service mission trips, been involved with her church, and leads weekly Bible studies.

## **Amy Bachman, Wake Forest University**

Amy Bachman truly embraced Wake Forest University's school motto "pro humanitate," since starting her college career. She has been actively involved in service from the very beginning with project H.O.P.E., Campus Kitchen, and Volunteer Service Corps. Amy has exemplified extraordinary leadership skills as she serves on the advisory boards for Volunteer Service Corps, Campus Kitchen, and Amnesty International. She has also been part of several service trips domestically and internationally. Her dedication to her advisory boards and service has impacted other students by encouraging them to get involved in service on campus and throughout the community.

## **Shawna Higgs, Western Carolina University**

Shawna is a senior, majoring in History with a double minor in Public History and Leadership. Since her first year at Western, she has participated in the Student Leadership Institute and in various student organizations and community service projects. In Alpha Phi Omega (APO), the national co-ed service fraternity, she is currently the President, having previously served as Vice President of Fellowship and Vice President of Service. Through APO, she has worked on various service-learning initiatives including the Invisible Children Campaign, which raised campus-wide awareness of the plight of child soldiers in Uganda. Shawna was selected recently as WCU's Relay For Life Event Chair for 2010 after serving as a volunteer since 2006 and helping to raise \$25,000 for the American Cancer Society in 2009. She was a recipient of the Center for Service Learning's Shining Star Award for 2009 and Omicron Delta Kappa's Award for Service.

## **Effie Stansbery, Wingate University**

Effie Stansbery, a senior, has been a student leader in UCAN, a student-led service organization, since she arrived on campus. She has been a coordinator for the Environmental Task Force and has initiated a recycling program on Wingate University's campus. She is currently a student director of UCAN and also coordinates its Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. She volunteers weekly in the Tutoring and Mentoring Program and last year Effie coordinated Wingate University's Earth Week. She led the university in participating in Be Hope to Her, an event where college women walked in solidarity with women in Africa to raise money for wells. Effie is a psychology major and next year hopes to join the United States Peace Corps.