UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

A CELEBRATION OF SENIOR EXCELLENCE

LEADERSHIP IS A CHOICE NOT A RANK.
The Senior Medallion Award is the most prestigious award presented by the Division of Student Affairs on behalf of the university community. Recipients must be in good standing with the university and possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. In addition, these graduating seniors should have distinguished themselves among their peers through significant contributions of the following characteristics: a focus on academic achievement (through research, internship, practica, service learning, study abroad, etc.), a history of breadth and/or depth in the practice of leadership (in the classroom, in student organizations, in the campus or Wilmington community, as a student employee, as a student athlete, etc.), passionate in their commitment of service to others (through service learning, community service, philanthropy, research, etc.), model representative of the university who demonstrates a lifelong affinity for UNCW, a lasting impact on the university community.

Jessica Aguilar
Hannah Boone
Sean Cameron
Maia Cancro
Skylar Chadwick
Kayli Childs
Julian Coley
Jordan Cooke
Isabella Galletto
Cole Gray
Emily Grose
Luke Haigh
Cara Benet Johnson
Rachel Kowadlo
Kyle McGovern
Savannah Miller
Ricki Nelson
Yomara Orozco
Maddie Peterson
Nicholas Pianovich
Rosa Ponce Vargas
Julia Singer
Cole Tillett
Holden Walter
Shay Webb
HOGGARD MEDAL FOR ACHIEVEMENT

This medal, presented through the generosity of the late John T. Hoggard, is awarded annually to the graduating senior who, in the opinion of the faculty, has shown the most improvement during his or her years at the university. The award recognizes hard and honest endeavor which has resulted in great self-improvement. All facets of a student’s character and performance are taken into account.

Ryley Hopper - recipient

RACHEL FREEMAN SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD FINALISTS

The Rachel Freeman Service Leadership Award is presented to one member of the graduating senior class. The recipient must be in good standing with the university and be graduating in May or December with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67. In addition, this graduating senior should have distinguished himself/herself in the following ways: recognized by peers, faculty and/or administration as a servant leader, passion in his/her commitment of service to others, sense of selflessness, commitment to and promotion of social justice, collaboration with others to enact social change, demonstrated commitment to bettering the lives of others.

Jessica Aguilar
Isabella Galletto - recipient
Ricki Nelson
Rosa Ponce Vargas

WILLIAM A. BRYAN SENIOR LEADER AWARD FINALISTS

The William A. Bryan Senior Leader Award is presented to one member of the graduating senior class. The recipient must be in good standing with the university and be graduating in May or December with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. In addition, this graduating senior should have distinguished himself/herself in the following ways: embodiment of ethics and integrity, demonstration of creativity, collaborative efforts with other students, organizations and/or departments, significant growth and development through his/her UNCW experience, showcase of success in academics, a history of breadth and/or depth in the practice of leadership, passion in his/her commitment of service to others, model representative of the university who demonstrates a lifelong affinity for UNCW, lasting impact on the university community.

Jordan Cooke
Isabella Galletto
Rachel Kowadlo
Nicholas Pianovich - recipient
Cole Tillett
Jessica Aguilar, graduating with a degree in Social Work, a minor in Non-Profit Management and Leadership, earning a 3.124 GPA. Edelmira Segovia, Director of Centro Hispano, wrote, “Jessica lights up with energy and excitement when discussing mentoring programs, responsible community engagement and our impact on youth.”

Jessica held leadership positions in various organizations on campus during her four years at UNCW. She worked as a Work-Study student at Centro Hispano and as the Juntos 4H Pender County program coordinator. Some of the work that Jessica did throughout the Juntos 4H program included increasing the sense of belonging among Latino students and families in their schools/communities, with the goal of increasing high school graduation rates and increasing the percentage of Latino students attending higher education. Jessica served as Vice-President her sophomore year and President her junior year for Centro Hispano Embajadores, an on-campus club that focuses on motivating young students to pursue a higher level of education and to positively impact their communities. Jessica is a founder for the organization My People, Mi Voz; an advocacy group that stands for student issues on campus and within the local community. Jessica was a member of Habitat for Humanity, the Student Social Work Organization, Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society and a mentor in the MI CASA program that stands for (Mentors Initiating Community Action, Support and Advocacy). Jessica did volunteer work with the YWCA Reach program at the GLOW Academy and the Brigade Boys and Girls Club and one of her most impactful involvements was serving as a team captain for the Juntos 4H Summer Academy at NC State University for three summers. Jessica’s accomplishments include being the first recipient of the YWCA Student Impact Grant that included $1,500 to further the lives of women and minorities, the Outstanding Community Service Award: Hurricane Florence Relief with Centro Hispano Embajadores, the Distinguished Engagement Award and being featured in the WE ARE UNCW student profile.

After graduation, Jessica plans to pursue her master’s degree in Public Administration and her goal is to open up her own non-profit organization to help the Latinx/Hispanic community.

Jessica describes her UNCW experience as:
“An opportunity to truly understand her purpose and to flourish in her aspirations.”
Hannah Boone, graduating with a degree in Communication Studies and minors in Leadership Studies and Entrepreneurship and Innovation, earned a 3.8 GPA. Hannah Morgan, Senior Assistant Director of First Year Admissions, wrote, "Hannah embodies a strong leader and truly exemplifies a hard worker. She is someone who her peers strive to emulate... It’s been a pleasure seeing her grow as a student and young professional. She is a wonderful collaborator and has been a true leader on campus throughout her time at UNCW."

Hannah Boone's time at UNCW was filled with on-campus involvement, leadership and academic excellence. Hannah dedicated her freshman year to serving in the roles of president for the Graham-Hewlett Area Council, resident of the LEAD Leadership and Service Living, Learning Community, and Orientation Leader for the 2017-18 school year. Beginning her second year, Hannah took on the responsibility of becoming a Resident Assistant for the University Apartments, returned to the Orientation Leader position, and devoted her time to the National Residence Hall Honorary. In Spring of 2018 Hannah received the Excellence in Engagement Award. Entering her junior year, Hannah served on the Delight Ministries Leadership team as the Social Media Coordinator and continued to be a Resident Assistant in the Seahawk Landing. In the Spring of 2019, Hannah received the National Residence Hall Outstanding Leadership and Service Award. Hannah spent her senior year serving as the Team Director for Delight Ministries and devoting time to the local Wilmington community. For the past two years, Hannah worked as a Guest Relations Specialist through the Office of Admissions.

After graduation, Hannah would love to work at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Hannah describes her UNCW experience as: "An immensely deepening, enriching, and encouraging season of life."
Sean Cameron, graduating with degrees in Marine Biology and Environmental Science and Psychology, earned a 3.816 GPA. Lindsey Trione, Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, wrote, “Sean knew that his work would most likely not be recognized by those who were not directly involved, but he understood that being a leader doesn’t always mean receiving recognition. If it wasn’t for his leadership, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) would not be in the place it is now.”

Sean was actively engaged as a student leader and worker during his time at UNCW. He was a member of the Zeta Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity and UNCW Club all four years. As an undergraduate fraternity man, Sean served his organization through the following chair positions: Risk Management, Academics, Alumni and Parent Relations, Fundraising, Standards, IFC Delegate and Philanthropy. Sean also served as Treasurer for UNCW Club Gymnastics his junior year. Sean was a Resident Assistant for the APT/Belk Housing area for two years and was the sole RA for the Redpoint community following the relocation of students after Hurricane Florence. Sean served as both Treasurer and President for the UNCW Interfraternity Council. Sean also worked in three research labs while at UNCW. He completed three Directed Individual Study (DISs) projects with the Benthic Ecology Lab at the Center for Marine Science, three DISs projects with the Love Lab in the Psychology Department and two more DISs projects in the ABC Lab in the Department of Psychology. Sean is a member of Psi Chi Psychological Honor Society, was a recipient of the Excellence in Engagement Award and was the recipient of the Seahawk Grant for the 2019-20 school year.

After graduation, Sean will move to California and work to develop skills that will help him get into a graduate program where he will study shark behavior and telemetry.

Sean describes his UNCW experience as: “A chance to find and develop himself.”
Maia Cancro, graduating with a degree in Biology and a minor in Psychology, earned a 3.43 GPA. Donald Stroud, Assistant Residence Coordinator for Galloway Hall, wrote, “Maia always came with a positive attitude and the motivation and perseverance to achieve anything that she set her mind to. She was a true role model and leader.”

Maia was extensively involved in organizations across campus during her four years at UNCW, beginning with her involvement freshman year in the STEM Learning Community. Maia was involved in Housing and Residence Life in several capacities; she worked as a Desk Receptionist in Honors House her sophomore through senior years and she served in Residence Hall Association Area Councils her freshman through junior years. She was the VP of Finance in the Trihouse and Seahawk Crossing areas and the President in the Seahawk Landing area. During her time with RHA, Maia attended two state housing conferences, one at UNCW and the other at Meredith College, and one national housing conference at Perdue University. At the state conference hosted by UNCW, Maia was the recipient of the Starfish Award, which is presented to the most promising first-time delegate. At the state conference hosted by Meredith College, the mental health program Maia presented was one of the top ten rated programs at the conference. Maia was involved as a general body member with the National Residence Hall Honorary, a service, leadership and recognition organization that represents the top 1% of students living on campus, her sophomore and junior year and she served as the VP of Administration and Finance on the executive board her senior year. She worked as a Seahawk Link for the Transition Programs office during her sophomore year, contributed to research through her work in the Pawlik Marine Science Lab her freshman year and the Kohman Neuroscience Lab her junior and senior years. In addition to her on-campus involvement, Maia also pursued leadership roles related to her future career as a pediatrician. She worked with High Point Pediatrics as an intern during the summer of 2018 and with Easter Seals UCP as a direct support paraprofessional to an individual with developmental disabilities during her senior year.

After graduation, Maia plans to travel to Spain and Portugal before starting an internship in the healthcare field and applying for medical school.

Maia describes her UNCW experience as: “Amazing, a ride like no other!”
Skylar Chadwick, graduating with a degree in Digital arts and minors in French, and Business, earned a 3.2 GPA. Andrea Ingle, Assistant Director of Campus Activities and Involvement, wrote, “She took the confidence that she earned through that first year of engagement to apply her skills in several different ways, and has made an impact on all the organizations she’s been involved with. She’s consistently shown drive and initiative to be involved in a leadership role.”

Skylar ardently served her campus community throughout her four years at UNCW. She joined the Association for Campus Entertainment (ACE) her freshman year, where she later filled the positions of Activities Chair and President in her sophomore and junior years, respectively. In her role as Activities Chair, Skylar led the activities committee and managed a $30,000 budget, negotiated performer contracts, and executed engaging events for her peers. In her role as President, Skylar allocated a $250,000 budget for the 50 plus member organization, oversaw the operations of six committees, and the creation of over 60 events coordinated within the year. In this position, she co-created Seahawk Organizations United, a forum where students voiced their challenges and victories with the goal of furthering their own engagement on campus. Through ACE, she was able to serve her peers by volunteering at events both executed by ACE and other student organizations. In her junior year, Skylar studied abroad in Marseille, France. She attended Kedge Business school, which allowed her to further her studies in both French and Business. Skylar served as the Director of Communications for the Student Government Association (SGA) her senior year, where her primary goal was to cultivate a harmonious relationship between SGA and its constituents. Through SGA, Skylar was able to listen to students voice their concerns and she then informed both her peers and faculty on what UNCW students are passionate about. Skylar worked as both a Building Manager and Information Specialist for Campus life, and she was a recipient of the Excellence in Engagement Award.

After graduation, Skylar hopes to pursue a career in writing and digital media production.

Skylar describes her UNCW experience as: “A journey that has allowed me to find what I am truly passionate about.”
Kayli Childs, graduating with a degree in English-Literary Studies with a Professional Writing Certificate and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies, earned a 3.6 GPA. Caitlin Grindall, Residence Coordinator for Galloway Hall, wrote, “I have rarely met someone as dedicated to having a positive impact on her peers through advocacy and respectful dialogue than Kayli is.”

Kayli engaged with passion during her time at UNCW. She served as a Resident Assistant for three years in Galloway Hall and received the “First-Year” leadership award for her area in 2017. While an RA, Kayli served on the “RA Recruitment and Selection Committee” where she engaged in community outreach to encourage student leaders on campus to apply for the role of Resident Assistant. She also served on the “Social Justice Committee” where she developed a room bringing awareness to addiction stigmatization and recuperation during Tunnel of Awareness. She also developed a “Social Justice Passport” and worked with the committee to motivate students to engage with their communities and learn about social justice issues. She was the president of the Residence Hall Association during the 2017-2018 academic year and received the “President of the Year” award at the annual North Carolina Association of Residence Halls (NCARH) conference. She was nominated for a Dub Award and the Excellence in Engagement Award due to her leadership through this position. The same year, Kayli was inducted into the National Residence Hall Honorary which celebrates the top 1% of on-campus leaders. In this organization, she engaged in leadership development, service, and recognition activities until her graduation. Kayli also served as Treasurer of the English Honors Society Sigma Tau Delta for one year, and she assisted professors in the department in bringing Eric Carl Link, a science fiction author and professor, to campus through the leadership lecture series. Kayli also applied for and received the Wentworth Fellowship Grant through the English Department and she presented her findings from this opportunity at a research event in Randall Library.

After graduation, Kayli will ideally work in content creation and entertainment writing before ultimately pursuing a master’s degree in English.

Kayli describes her UNCW experience as: “Full of love, opportunity, and strong mentorships.”
Julian Coley, graduating with a degree in Environmental Science, earned a 3.19 GPA. Brittany Philbert, Assistant Director of Residence Life and Interim Residence Coordinator of Seahawk Crossing, wrote, “Julian has gone above and beyond to help his area and teammates navigate staff and supervisory changes. His leadership and maturity among his peers are noteworthy. Julian prides himself on knowing the ins and outs of his job and will often take on tasks without being asked to do, just to ease his supervisor’s plate.”

Throughout Julian’s four years at UNCW, he actively worked to better the student experience and apply his academics to service-learning opportunities. Julian began working for Housing and Residence Life as a Desk Receptionist, where he was able to grow his interest in residence life. Julian then worked as a Resident Assistant in University Apartments, where he later transitioned to Seahawk Crossing as an upperclassman and then a first-year Resident Assistant. Julian served past, present, and future Seahawks in his role as a Student Ambassador where he served as the Vice-Chair of Public Relations, and he worked with the Office of Admissions where he provided tours to hundreds of prospective students and shared what being a Seahawk meant to him. Julian served on the Executive Cabinet of the Student Government Association as the Director of Marketing, where he worked to increase awareness of student engagement opportunities to his fellow Seahawks. Julian also served on the Natural Areas Stewardship Committee, and the Campus Initiated Tuition and Fees Committee as an SGA representative. Julian completed an internship with the North Carolina Coastal Federation as a Coastal Education and Outreach Intern in the Southeast Field Office. Julian’s dedication to the work of non-profits led him to become involved with the Alex Kahle Foundation for the past four years, an organization that provides scholarships to young women seeking post-secondary education. Julian was recognized for his commitment to residence life and student engagement through two monthly awards he received from the National Residence Hall Honorary for Student Leaders.

After graduation, Julian would like to begin working with Environmental Non-Profits, with plans of attending graduate school for Environmental Communication and Leadership.

Julian describes his UNCW experience as: “UNCW has shown me my purpose and expanded my horizons.”
Jordan Cooke, graduating with a degree in Public Health with a Pre-Clinical Certification, earned a 3.326 GPA. Lindsey Trione, Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, wrote, “Jordan has made significant contributions to both the Interfraternity Council and the entire UNCW community.”

Jordan joined the fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha during his first year, and in the spring of 2017 he was elected to be the Ritual Chair of his fraternity where he helped engage new members in activities focused on reflection and communication. His success in this position gave him the opportunity to represent his chapter at their national conference. Jordan served on the Executive Committee for three years, and in his roles he handled disciplinary actions of members while also providing guidance to brothers struggling emotionally and academically. In 2018, Jordan was elected to serve as Lambda Chi Alpha’s social chair where he worked diligently to improve the risk management plans of his chapter. In the fall semester of 2018, Jordan joined the Seahawk Link team and led a classroom of students through the struggles of Hurricane Florence. Jordan served as the Vice President of Operations for the Interfraternity Council for a year, and while in this role he encouraged others to grow from their mistakes, led conversations regarding risk management and public relations, finalized documents for the first IFC disciplinary standards board, represented Greek life at the University and Community Alliance meetings, and participated in two student organization conduct hearings. In 2019, Jordan was elected chapter president of his fraternity and encouraged the members and officers to make long lasting improvements to the chapter. During his senior year, Jordan was elected to serve as alumni chair of his fraternity, and he also served as the Campus Services Committee Chair for SGA where he represented the student body on many important matters regarding dining, parking, transportation, the bookstore, university police department, and more.

After graduation, Jordan will be moving to Raleigh, North Carolina where he has accepted an Assistant Project Manager position at WEP Clinical.

Jordan describes his UNCW experience as: “A once in a lifetime opportunity that fostered leadership and character growth, strengthened knowledge, and built everlasting relationships during a roller coaster of normalcy, hurricanes and a worldwide pandemic.”
Isabella Galletto, graduating with a degree in Film Studies and a minor in Journalism, earned a 3.465 GPA. Latisha Rivera, First Year Admission Coordinator, wrote, “What impressed me most about Isabella was her ability to keep her composure for the sake of the residents... during the aftermath of the hurricane. Isabella made it her goal to put them before herself and make sure their needs were met before she handled her own. That selflessness is at a level I have not seen in such a young person in quite some time.”

Isabella Galletto demonstrated her leadership skills through her involvement on campus, in the local Wilmington community, and through her work in the Film Studies department. She served as a Resident Assistant for two years where she helped facilitate safe spaces for incoming freshman in both the Seahawk Crossing and APT/Belk Hall. She worked as Seahawk Link in a first-year university classroom, helping freshman adjust to college life, and she led the Seahawk Admissions Network for Diversity as the President as she promoted inclusivity and diversity on and off campus through volunteering and programming. Through her engagement in community outreach, Isabella acted as Vice President for the on-campus organization, Habitat for Humanity, working to create affordable housing opportunities in the community. In addition, Isabella mentored local Latinx and Hispanic high school students through Centro Hispano’s Mi CASA program by sharing her knowledge and experiences as a Latina woman pursuing higher education. Furthermore, Isabella strived to grow as a filmmaker by producing quality and thought-provoking content through her major, Film Studies. Isabella worked as the Hospitality and Outreach Assistant with Visions Film Festival and Conference where she operated as an event coordinator, planning community events, promotion through outreach, and establishing herself as a leader through her professionalism and she was granted the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research and Creativity Award for the 2018-2019 academic year.

After graduation, Isabella aspires to explore the fluidity that creativity can bring to her future career through collaboration and curation through her own projects.

As Isabella reflected on her time at UNCW, she had endless gratitude for the institution that has paved the roads for her growth by providing opportunities and resources to cultivate her skills and abilities in becoming the woman she is today.
Cole Gray, graduating with a degree in Criminology with a Criminal Justice Certification and minors in Forensic Science and History, earned a 3.98 GPA. Lashaun Noel, Interim Residence Coordinator for Seahawk Village, wrote, "If Cole has anything, it is the ability to lead with ethics and integrity. Everything Cole does, he does with the purpose of either making it better or trying to do it to the best of his abilities."

Cole found his place at UNCW and determined his course of study through his experiences here. During his time at UNCW, he was heavily involved with Housing and Residence Life. He served as a Resident Assistant for Seahawk Village for three years. Additionally, he was an Office Assistant and worked during the summer with Housing Operations to provide the general reparations to prepare the residential buildings for the following fall. Because of his position, he was provided the opportunity to engage with countless students and many campus partners on a professional level. Through his role, he received four RA of the month awards, as well as two "Staff Before Self" awards. He also worked with events such as Haunted Hallways, Hawk It Out, Dub Idol, among others, and he was a co-host for the fourteenth season of Dub Idol. Cole served on the ODOS Campus Conduct/Student Academic Honor Board, and he functioned as a chair for the board. He was inducted into the National Residence Hall Honorary his senior year. He was accepted into Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, and he was awarded Troy Douglas Carr Memorial Scholarship by the Sociology and Criminology Department. Each semester, Cole was on the Dean's List.

After graduation, Cole will continue working with his current employer before going on to pursue a career in law enforcement. He is currently looking to obtain an appointment with either Customs and Boarder Protection or the US Marshals.

Cole describes his UNCW experience as: "UNCW provided me four years of ups and downs on a sea of learning."
EMILY GROSE
Senior Medallion Recipient
Marine Biology and Psychology
3.86 GPA
Cumming, GA

Emily Grose, graduating with degrees in Marine Biology and Psychology, earned a 3.86 GPA. Dr. Jon Kapell, Director of Campus Activities and Involvement, wrote, “As Treasurer, Emily has been an amazing asset to the Student Government Association, registered student organizations, and to the over 17,000 UNCW students who pay student fees to SGA. Through her work and her constant communication to students, she has left a legacy to be remembered for years to come. She dedicated herself to represent the students to the administration at all times and she did so by establishing amazing relationships with students, faculty and staff.”

Emily never ceased to be engaged and challenged in her time at UNCW. She was involved in the Catholic Campus Ministry and the Marine Mammal Stranding Network for four years. Emily was also involved in Club Tennis, Scuba Club, and the Honors College. During her freshman year, she presented at the Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase. In fall 2017, Emily studied in Homer, Alaska through Semester by the Bay. While there, she interned with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She worked in a marine biology lab for two years and completed her Honors Thesis. As a Wilmington Fellow, she represented UNCW at the National Collegiate Honors Conference. In the summer of 2019, she interned at the Georgia Aquarium. In addition to her love of biology and psychology, her commitment and dedication to clubs has led to many leadership roles. She served as the Undergraduate Stranding Coordinator for the Stranding Network, working closely with underclassmen. She helped to support the Hawk’s Harvest food pantry and earned a $3,000 grant as Junior Class Senator in Student Government and President of Catholic Campus Ministry. One of her passions was helping student organizations and addressing students’ financial needs; as Treasurer of Student Government, she voiced these concerns at Campus Initiated Tuition and Fees meetings and facilitated dialogue between administrators and student leaders. She managed over $650,000 to allocate for programs, travel, and supplies for student organizations. She received the Board of Visitors Fellowship Award, Ellen G. Wilson Scholarship, Student Government 2019 Member of the Year, Excellence in Engagement Award, Distinguished Engagement Award, Ron and Janie Hill Scholarship, and Emmett and Gladys Corbett Scholarship.

After graduation, Emily plans on working at a zoo or aquarium as an animal trainer.

Emily describes her UNCW experience as: “The most valuable journey of my life.”
Luke Haigh, graduating with a degree in Business Administration with an Economics Concentration, earned a 3.96 GPA. Dr. Jon Kapell, Director of Campus Activities and Involvement, wrote, “Luke has been a true asset to this campus through his work on the Student Government Association.”

Luke was actively engaged as a student leader throughout the entirety of his undergraduate experience. Early on, he became engaged with UNCW’s Student Government Association. In SGA he was a transfer student representative, Junior Class President, ASG Liaison, and External Affairs Committee chair. He was involved in creating legislation to combat the opioid crisis on college campus, performed initiatives that worked to improve student voter turnout, and defended over $4,000 of funding requests for the university’s clubs and organizations, notably including the newly established student food pantry. Academically, Luke was also highly involved. His junior year, he became a Koch Institute Fellow and developed finalized research that resulted in policy suggestions that would help to stimulate regional economies. This research was presented at the Federal Reserve’s undergraduate research conference and he went on to serve as a student referee for that conference with the federal reserve. His senior year, he took on an honors project that resulted in policy suggestions for optimal entitlement programs, and this research is currently up for review at a large conference. Luke was involved in research that will result in a new tool for government agencies to identify syndicated crime networks and he also represented the university on UNCW’s Fed challenge team his senior year developing policy the Federal Reserve should implement to generate optimal results. Outside of research, he was also involved with UNCW professionally. Most recently, he worked in the Business Affairs office for the Vice Chancellor as the Research Analyst. There, he created analytical tools to help determine ways to increase state funding and improve our university’s performance through optimal investment decisions. His senior year, he was the recipient for the Thomas N. Janicki Scholarship in leadership and service, as well as the Student Government Association scholarship.

After graduation, Luke is planning to attend graduate school for an advanced degree in analytics.

Luke describes his UNCW experience as: “UNCW has changed my life’s trajectory.”
Ryley Hopper, graduating with a degree in Finance, earned a 3.59 GPA. Dr. Alex Vestal, Assistant Professor of Management in the Cameron School of Business, wrote, “In the spirit of the award, Ryley Hopper has ‘...overcome, or succeeded despite, some adversity...’ in such a fantastic and powerful way that, in my opinion, it is hard to imagine a more deserving nominee.”

In 2015, Ryley enrolled at UNCW and in his first year he joined the Mu Zeta Chapter of The Kappa Sigma Fraternity and made the Dean’s List both semesters. A month before the start of his sophomore year, Ryley was in a diving accident and broke his neck at the C5 and C6 levels. The results of his injury left him completely paralyzed from the chest down. He would spend the next year in intensive physical therapy but he was determined to return to UNCW and continue to work towards receiving his degree. Aware of the challenges he would face, he decided to return school in the Fall of 2017 as a full-time student. Since then he has remained an active member of his fraternity, continues physical therapy, and has made the Dean’s List nearly every semester. Ryley says his success is due to his dedicated family, friends, and faculty that work so hard so he can achieve his goals.

After graduation, Ryley plans to continue his education and earn his Master’s Degree in Finance while preparing for the CFA exams.

Ryley describes his UNCW experience as:
“UNCW has been an incredible place to call home.”
Cara Benet Johnson, graduating with a degree in Nursing, earned a 3.66 GPA. Her nominator Christa Faison, Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life, wrote, “I have seen Cara Benet grow into a student leader and scholar.”

Cara Benet was an active student leader throughout her time at UNCW. Her first year, she served on her Area Council and volunteered with Going Beyond the Pink, a local non-profit that provides education and resources before, during, and after a breast cancer diagnosis. Her sophomore year, Cara Benet was elected the President of her Nursing cohort, the Vice President of Community Service for the Residence Hall Association, and she was inducted into the National Residence Hall Honorary. She attended the Elevate II Leadership Summit and represented UNCW at the National conference for Residence Halls, where she presented an educational session. She worked as a Conference Assistant and a Resident Assistant for Housing and Residence Life. During her Junior year, Cara Benet was appointed to and served on the College of Health and Human Service Dean’s Student Leadership Advisory Council. She also worked in the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement as an intern on the Seven Seas Leadership program. Cara Benet worked as a Research Assistant for Dr. Anka Roberto, where she partnered with the Life is Good Playmakers, a social emotional learning program that geared to help all clinicians to engage kids in resilience informed techniques to help resolve symptoms of PTSD. Additionally, she was a member of the Association of Advancing Men in Nursing and worked to increase diversity within nursing, and other nursing clubs. Cara Benet was the recipient of the RB Williams Jr. Scholarship and the Champ Davis Scholarship. Cara Benet served as a Student Marshall for commencement.

After graduation, Cara Benet will enroll in a graduate pediatric nurse residency program in order to further enhance her education and serve the underserved pediatric population.

Cara Benet describes her UNCW experience as: “UNCW showed me who I was meant to be.”
Rachel Kowadlo, graduating with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management, earned a 3.413 GPA. Andrea Ingle, Assistant Director for Campus Activities and Involvement, wrote, “Rachel is one of the brightest students that I’ve ever worked with- she’s done incredible things.”

Throughout her four years at UNCW, Rachel Kowadlo was an active student leader who learned the importance of serving and loving others well. At the start of her freshman year, Rachel joined the Student Government Association and went on to represent the voice and vision of students in her roles as Freshman Senator, Academic Affairs Chair, Director of Communications, Chief of Staff, and Student Body Vice President. In those roles, Rachel advocated for Randall Library improvements, provided additional study space for students during finals week, assisted with voter engagement, led a replanting of native plants after Hurricane Florence with the Chancellor’s Sustainability council, and fought for student fee dollars on the Campus Initiated Tuition Increases and Student Fees (CITI) committee. In addition to her involvement in SGA, Rachel studied abroad for a semester in London, England, served as a Seahawk Link for two years, and was a member of the Seahawkappellas a cappella group. She was a member of the Study Abroad Ambassadors, Cameron Executive Network, Human Resource Association, and Reformed University Fellowship. Outside of her campus involvement, Rachel served on her church’s worship team and volunteered at their weekly tutoring program where she worked with fifth grade boys on writing and math. She also interned with New Hanover Regional Medical Center in their HR department where she oversaw an 18-department internship program, served as a Cameron Business Week student presenter for the hospital, and received a Six Sigma Green Belt certification for efficiency in the workplace.

After graduation, Rachel plans to stay in Wilmington and work in Human Resources while finding time to continue serving her church and enjoying the beach any moment she can.

Rachel describes her UNCW experience as: “UNCW is the wind beneath my Seahawk wings.”
Kyle McGovern, graduating with degrees in History and Spanish, earned a 3.46 GPA. Amanda Boomershine, Associate Professor of Spanish, wrote, “Kyle has matured and grown so much during his time at UNCW.”

As an undergraduate student, Kyle excelled in academics while balancing the lifestyle of a Division 1 athlete. He represented UNCW as a scholar, a volunteer, and an athlete. In 2019, he was accepted as the only undergraduate student to present at the African and African American Diaspora Conference at James Madison University. He applied the skills that he learned into his everyday life by giving back to the community and being involved with the society that he lives in. He was involved with the Wilmington Hammerheads Community Outreach Program which targets individuals who cannot afford the cost to play on a team in an organized league. He was engaged in the community by volunteering as an interpreter for a Spanish-speaking family whose deaf son is learning sign language, while also volunteering as an assistant educator for ESL (English as a Second Language) students at New Hanover High School. In the athletic community, he was recognized as a leader by being elected as the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Vice President for the 2018-2019 school year and the SAAC President for the 2019-2020 school year. As an athlete, he was recognized for his exceptional work ethic by being named the Male Iron Seahawk, selected as the most dedicated male athlete to physical fitness out of the whole student athlete body. He also received the 2018-2019 Johnny Miller Memorial Award which recognizes “the UNCW Men's soccer player that most demonstrates the leadership, determination and desire to win and succeed.”

After graduation, Kyle will stay in Wilmington while pursuing a master's degree in History at UNCW in the fall.

Kyle describes his UNCW experience as: “A time full of growth and enlightenment.”
Savannah Miller, graduating with degrees in Biology and Public Health and a minor in Spanish, earned a 3.95 GPA. Eva Mehl, Associate Director of the Honors Scholars College and Associate Professor of History, wrote, “She is an Honors student who has been early and deeply involved with research and almost as much with campus and community activities.”

Savannah was extremely involved throughout her time at UNCW, both on and off campus. She served as a Student Ambassador for all four years; she was the Alumni Vice Chair her sophomore year and the Membership Co-Chair her junior year. She was responsible for recruiting new ambassadors, planning and hosting informational sessions, leading socials and interviews, and planning a New Member Retreat. Savannah worked as a Supplemental Instructor for Cellular Biology and Human Anatomy courses where she helped fellow students master course material through weekly group study sessions. Savannah joined Kappa Delta sorority at the beginning of sophomore year and she held several positions, including Academic Excellence Chair where she helped ensure a high overall chapter GPA by meeting with women to help create academic improvement plans. She recently completed a directed independent study with the Biology department on ways to measure nicotine consumption in people who vape. In addition to her leadership on campus, Savannah was also involved in communities other than UNCW. She interned for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History and serves as a volunteer for the lab when she’s at home. She interned for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska as a NOAA Hollings Scholar where she did research on the safety of subsistence foods harvested by Alaska Natives. She wrote her honors thesis on this while she served as an advocate for the tribe by sharing her research and experiences at conferences and meetings on campus and across the country. Savannah was the recipient of the Excellence in Engagement Award, the Distinguished Engagement Award, the Ahuja Academy for Water Quality and Ann Sherman-Skiba Undergraduate Fellowship, and she was recognized as a UNCW CSURF Distinguished Undergraduate Research Scholar.

After graduation, Savannah will be attending Emory University in Atlanta, GA for a Master’s in Public Health while working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She then plans to attend medical school to become an infectious disease physician.

Savannah describes her UNCW experience as: “UNCW has allowed me to reach new heights I never knew existed.”
Ricki Nelson, graduating with degrees in Film Studies and Creative Writing, earned a 3.7 GPA. Manuel Lloyd, Program Coordinator for the Upperman African American Cultural Center, wrote, “From the moment she arrived to campus, Ricki Nelson has hit the ground running in making her UNCW community a better one. She has been purposeful with her passions, in the classroom, in leadership, and co-curricular activities.”

Homeschooled, Ricki made up for lost time during her four years at UNC Wilmington. She worked for Housing and Residence Life as a Desk Receptionist in Galloway Hall freshman through junior year, and she served as a Resident Assistant in Belk Hall for two years. In fall 2018, Ricki competed in UNCW’s annual talent competition, Hawk It Out, and won first place. Subsequently, that year Ricki went on to establish UNCW’s Creative Arts Club, one of UNCW’s only multi-medium art organizations that strives to provide a safe space for students to create, collaborate, and cultivate their artistic gifts and talents. In summer 2018, Ricki was honored with the privilege of interning at JuVee Productions in Los Angeles—Viola Davis’s very own production company. In spring 2019, Ricki served as the Marketing Assistant for Visions 9 Film Festival and Conference, which is an international, student-led film festival hosted by the Film Studies Department. In the summer of 2019, Ricki took her studies overseas and studied at the prestigious Korea University where she studied Korean Cinema and Typography. In the fall of 2019, Ricki went on to present at OSLE’s Seahawk Leadership Conference, was named the recipient of the Frank Capra Jr. Scholarship, and was awarded the CAS Research and Creativity Scholarship. This past spring, she was honored to be crowned UNCW’s 2020 Homecoming Queen.

Upon graduation, Ricki plans to pursue her passion for storytelling and screenwriting through higher education and personal projects.

Ricki would describe her UNCW experience as: “A character-building journey she will never forget.”
YOMARA OROZCO
Senior Medallion Recipient
Nursing
Minor in Forensic Science
3.142 GPA
Santa Barbara, CA.

Yomara Orozco, graduating with a degree in Nursing with a minor in Forensic Science, earned a 3.04 GPA. Edelmira Segovia, Director of Centro Hispano, wrote “Yomara is one of the strongest students I have ever mentored. Graduating with a degree in nursing is no easy task, especially given the sizable responsibilities she carries, and the challenges that Yomara continues to overcome. The wellbeing of others is always at the forefront, which tells me that she will be an amazing nurse.”

Yomara was actively engaged in leadership development throughout her academic journey at UNCW. As a single mom of three, she strived to uphold opportunities that helped her grow and be a role model to her children, fellow LatinX students, and community. She was actively involved in a variety of student organizations that foster equality, promote self-care, advocate for healthcare and encourage higher education to minorities, both in and outside of campus. In addition to her civic engagement, Yomara was a Founding member of Alpha Psi Lambda's Thee Resilient Alpha Theta Chapter: A co-educational Fraternity geared towards the goals of Latino students which helps advocate and foster cultural awareness, cultural identity, and cross-cultural understanding. Her collaboration as a founding member helped establish Alpha Psi Lambda's first chapter in the state of North Carolina and enabled her to serve in a variety of executive roles during her active membership starting the Fall of 2016. Her leadership roles in the fraternity included secretary, treasurer, community service chair, historian, associate member educator, and most recently chapter President. Due to her efforts to help improve the lives of students, and her work to pave a path of Latinx excellence and inclusion on campus, she was recognized as a Spring 2020 Centro Hispano's Wall of Fame recipient.

After graduation, Yomara will join New Hanover Regional Medical Center’s New Graduate Registered Nurse Program as part of their Emergency Department team and looks forward to pursuing a Doctorate in Psychiatric Nursing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington in the Fall of 2021.

Yomara describes her UNCW experience as:
“UNCW allowed me to find my voice.”
Maddie Peterson, graduating with degrees in Communication Studies, Biology and Entrepreneurship and Innovation, earned a 3.94 GPA. Bill DiNome, Assistant Director for Student Media, wrote, “She’s a remarkably well-rounded leader, student and coworker whose persistent good humor makes everything she does appear easy.”

Maddie was engaged in leadership development throughout her four years at UNCW. She worked for Campus Recreation as a Trip Leader her freshman through junior years, and she served as an Honors Mentor, advising first-year honors students in the 2017 and 2018 fall semesters. Maddie was an active participant in the swing dancing club all four years, but her most notable contribution to the UNCW community was her involvement with student media and TealTV. She started as a graphic designer her freshman year, then moved up her sophomore year as the creator and executive producer of a science and nature series, Dub Geographic. In this role, Maddie worked with groups across campus and organizations in the community to educate and promote sustainability and science to students. She attended the inaugural ELEVATE Leadership Summit and used that experience to deepen her understanding of leadership. In 2018, Maddie was selected as Xploration Station’s student explorer with the Emmy-Award winning series, Xploration Awesome Planet. She travelled to Fiji with the crew and appeared onscreen in a nationally syndicated program alongside Philippe Cousteau, Jr. During her junior year, Maddie continued her role as executive producer of Dub Geographic and also served as the vice president of the TealTV. In her final year at UNCW, Maddie served as the president of TealTV and produced a film titled, “Waters of Life,” as part of her honors thesis culminating her years of experience and research. Maddie was the recipient of the Corbett and Intracoastal Realty Scholarships. Due to her efforts, she was awarded the Student Media Innovation and Leadership Awards and the Distinguished Engagement Award.

After graduation, Maddie hopes to move to Washington, D.C. to work as a science media producer for NPR or National Geographic.

Maddie defines her UNCW experience as: “UNCW fundamentally changed me as a person.”
Nicholas Pianovich, graduating with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management and a minor in Leadership Studies, earned a 3.64 GPA. Jon Kapell, Director of Campus Activities and Involvement, wrote, “He embodies the spirit of a Seahawk in his actions and accomplishments.”

Nick Pianovich demonstrated great commitment to his university studies while managing his engagements, involvement, and extracurricular activities at UNCW. Most recently, Nick served as the Student Body President where he advocated for the needs of his fellow Seahawks to administration, legislature, and the community. Nick also sat on multiple boards concerning students and the Wilmington area. During his time at UNCW, Nick also had the pleasure of serving his peers by becoming President of his fraternity, assisting first year students as a Resident Assistant in Galloway Hall, helping his peers to create organizations as an Involvement Specialist, and he advised Dr. Mike Walker while serving on the Dean’s Advisory Council. In the community, Nick volunteered weekly and mentored a 3rd grade student for three years at Winter Park Elementary. He also served as the project lead on the UNCW Student Led Relief Initiative in wake of Hurricane Florence, which raised over $7,000 for Winter Park Elementary, $2,000 for the Student Relief Fund, and gutted 24 homes in the Wilmington Community, which saved thousands of dollars for families in need. Nick had the honor of being selected for the A. Farrell Teague Merit Scholarship and the Distinguished Engagement Award during his time at UNCW. Nick interned with Spectrum Communications during the summer of 2019 as a Human Resource Specialist, and he dreams of one day becoming a corporate executive.

After graduation, Nick hopes to gain more experience in the business field specializing in Human Resources, before pursing his MBA.

Nick describes his UNCW experience as: “UNCW has given me a transformative experience that has enabled me to show off my Seahawk pride by helping others, excelling in my academics, and furthering our great community.”
Rosa Ponce Vargas, graduating with a degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, earned a 3.4 GPA. Edelmira Segovia, Director of Centro Hispano wrote, “Her passion for service and kindness is apparent in her efforts giving back to the community, and her bilingual abilities have allowed her to communicate and aid her own neighbors in the Latinx community where she resides and often remains underserved.”

Throughout her four years at UNCW, Rosa was actively involved both within and outside of her major. She served as a work-study student in Centro Hispano her junior and senior years and was involved in program planning, advertisement, and a Centro Hispano exclusive tradition of taking photoshoots of upcoming graduates that have left a mark on UNCW. She was the secretary for Centro Hispano Embajadores and served as a peer mentor for high school students through Centro Hispano’s MI CASA Mentoring Program: both organizations centered around helping LatinX students strive towards higher education. Rosa was the President of the UNCW Habitat for Humanity chapter, an organization that is dedicated to providing affordable homes for people who need it. Rosa’s academic contributions include volunteer work and a directed independent study (DIS) in data collection of predator avoidance behavior in periwinkle snails under Dr. Kamel, as well as Honors Thesis volunteer work on effects of ocean acidification on rates of bioerosion, and a DIS on per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in rainwater in Dr. Avery’s lab. She also volunteered to collect data on the population of terrapins around the Wilmington area, and worked under Dr. Penneys, the university botanist, to push towards making sure that the UNCW campus contains more plants that are native.

One of her proudest accomplishments is studying abroad for two months in Costa Rica where she learned about tropical biology and conducted her own research, which was accepted in the Association of Southeastern Biologist conference. Due to her efforts, she has been awarded the Diverse International Women of Color Scholarship, the Laureate award, the Distinguished Engagement award, and was featured on UNCW’s 2019 Fall magazine and website.

After graduating, she plans to apply to jobs pertaining to conservation and sustainability.

Rosa believes that UNCW “helped her find her community and passion towards her field.”
Julia Singer, graduating with a degree in Marine Biology with a concentration in Conservation and a minor in Sustainability, earned a 3.90 GPA. Stefanie Norris, Director of Campus Life Arts and Programs, wrote, “Julia is one of the most disciplined and exceptional student leaders I have been able to work with. She balances her academic research interests and engagement with her student leadership roles on campus”.

Julia was consistently involved in leadership, service, and scholarship opportunities throughout her entire time at UNCW. She participated in research, studying the upside-down jellyfish with the University of Belize, coral reef health at James Cook University in Australia, and the impact of early environmental education with the Cape Fear Audubon Society. She presented research at the 2018 CSURF Research and Creativity Showcase and at the 2018 Board of Trustees Luncheon. She defended her undergraduate honors thesis on working with local crabbers to minimize diamondback terrapin bycatch through blue crab morphometric analysis. Her research was accepted at the Association for Southeastern Biologist Conference, was funded by the Paul E. Hosier Fellowship, CSURF Travel Grant, and CSURF SURCA Grant, qualified her for the Undergraduate Research Scholar distinction, and earned her the University Honors distinction. Julia was actively involved in the Association for Campus Entertainment and served as Homecoming Chair, photography coordinator, PIT Crew Coordinator, and President. Other leadership roles include UNCWeekends, Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society, the Stand-Up Paddleboard Club, 350 UNCW, the Swingin’ Seahawks Swing Dance Club, Information Specialist for Campus Life, and Study Abroad Ambassador. She attended the Institute for Leadership Education and Development in Vermont, gave a ‘Seahawk Talk’ at the 2019 Seahawk Leadership Conference, and presented at the 2019 National Association for Campus Activities-South Conference in Chattanooga, TN. She received the Excellence in Engagement Award and the Distinguished Engagement Award, and she was involved in the Wilmington Earth Day Festival, Port City River Belles female solo jazz troupe, the Cape Fear Swing Dance Society, and All4Cats Rescue foster program.

Following graduation, Julia hopes to combine her passions for leadership and the environment to work in a federal government fellowship in Washington, D.C. before returning to her studies to pursue a graduate degree in coastal and environmental policy.

Julia described her UNCW experience as:
“UNCW has taught me how to step outside of my comfort zone and has allowed me to achieve goals I never thought possible!”
Cole Tillett, graduating with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Supply Chain Management and Business Analytics, earned a 3.9 GPA. Jon Kapell, Director of Campus Activities and Involvement, wrote, “He possesses outstanding character and a true pride in being a Seahawk.”

Cole Tillett was an active and engaged member of the UNCW community all four years. He began his first year by being involved in the Honors College, UNCW Weekends, The UNCW Historical Society, the Student Government Association, and The Swingin’ Seahawks. He continued in his involvement with these organizations and held leadership positions within each of them, including: Honors Mentor of first year students, Vice President of the Student Honors Advisory Council, Operations Assistant for UNCW Weekends, Vice-President of the UNCW Historical Society, SGA Senator, UNCW Association of Student Governments representative, Vice Chair of Appropriations in SGA, and he was on the performance team for the Swingin’ Seahawks. Cole continued his involvement in the aforementioned organizations until in his junior year when he became President of the Student Government Association. During his time in office, he worked with students, faculty and staff on improving the campus both inside and outside the classroom. Cole collaborated with numerous members of the UNCW and UNC system community to acquire money for food, clothing and other necessities for the Wilmington community after Hurricane Florence and assisted Habitat for Humanity in rebuilding efforts after the storm. Cole also worked to improve the Student Government Association from within to better serve students, advocate on a state-wide level, create better communication channels across campus, update the attendance policy, and assisted in the planning and implementation of numerous programs supporting sustainability, diversity, and student organizations. Cole was the recipient of several awards and honors such as being a recipient of the Corbett Scholarship, the Distinguished Engagement Award, the Excellence in Engagement Award, the Outstanding Graduate Award for the Supply Chain Management Department, and being a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. Cole was also invited to give motivational and inspirational speeches to middle school and high school students about his journey and involvement in his community.

Cole plans to accept a position with Georgia-Pacific as a Supply Chain Analyst in the fall.

Cole describes his UNCW experience as: “The foundation for a wonderful future.”
Holden Walter, graduating with a degree in Marketing and Professional Selling and a minor in Leadership Studies, earned a 3.6 GPA. Lindsey Trione, Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, wrote, “Holden has shown significant growth as a student leader in my time working with him.”

Holden was actively involved on campus and in his organizations throughout his four years at UNCW. His engagement began his freshman year when he chose to join Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity (PIKE), and he later went on to serve as an Orientation Leader. Shortly after being initiated into PIKE, Holden was asked to be the Social Chairmen, a role that he held for two years. He also served on the Executive Cabinet and several other committees, and was then elected to serve as the External Vice President which oversaw seven committees. Holden won “PIKE of the Year” two years in a row. In addition to his involvement in his social fraternity, Holden joined Pi Sigma Epsilon (PSE), the marketing and professional sales fraternity. Holden was elected to the executive board positions of Vice President of Brotherhood and then Secretary. Holden was actively involved in the expansion of PSE, helping it grow to over 100 members. He also helped execute the philanthropy events Dubthon and Cookin’ for Kiddos. Holden served as the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) Vice President of Recruitment for one term, and during his time on the council he helped rewrite the constitution and expand IFC fraternities on campus. As a result of his involvement, he inspired two members of PIKE to join IFC and continue the work that the council had started. Holden was involved in the Cameron Executive Network, volunteered as Sammy the Seahawk, served as a Senator for SGA, and was initiated into Order of Omega leadership honor society and served on the executive board as Secretary.

After graduation, Holden will go straight into the job market and work in sales for a company in NC so he can stay close to home while he is starting out.

Holden describes his UNCW experience as: “UNCW is home.”
Shay Webb, graduating with a degree in Clinical Research, earned a 3.242 GPA. Lindsey Trione, Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, wrote, “Since I have known Shay, she has been the embodiment of a servant leader.”

Shay was actively engaged in various areas of diversity inclusion and leadership development throughout her journey at UNCW. As an Isaac Bear Early College High School student, she began taking classes as a full-time university student when she was a high school junior, accumulating enough credits to be classified as a college sophomore. Shay served as the President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. from Summer 2018 – Summer 2020. She was also the Co-Founder/Vice President of both Rhyme N Reason and Dubs for Diabetes (College Diabetes Network). Shay has a passion towards education amongst youth, which propelled her to serve as the Founder/President of the UNCW ACTSO Mentors Program, which enables high school students to be mentored by a UNCW student as they prepare to compete for scholarship money in various categories. She has also requested and received the Through the Looking Glass: Youth Empowerment in Environmental Justice Grant, a series that uses the themes of ‘environment’ and ‘health’ to help local youth explore the Social Determinants of Health and how they relate to our local environment. Shay was an intern for SEAHEC Feasibility/Research, PRA Study Start Up/Maintenance and PPD Project Management Biotech during the Spring 2019, Summer 2019 and Fall 2019-Spring 2020 terms, respectively. As a chapter of one within Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., she was awarded the Vice Chancellor’s Cup for Academic Excellence. Shay was a recipient of the Excellence in Engagement Award, and she served as the co-host of ACE’s Seahawk Soul, was a Homecoming Fashion Show model, Step Show Competitor, and Yard Show Participant.

After graduation, Shay will join the PPD Pharmaceuticals team as a Clinical Trial Coordinator. Shay anticipates to continue her career in Clinical Research while also focusing on health policy in an effort to lower insulin prices.

Shay describes her UNCW experience as: “Ingredients needed in the recipe for success.”
UNCW CORNERSTONE PLEDGE

I am an **engaged learner** in constant search of knowledge.

I foster **human dignity** through acts of **civility** and **respect**.

I maintain a distinguished character based on **truth**, **honesty** and **integrity**.

I pursue **inner peace** by recognizing the significance of **spirituality**.

I demonstrate honorable **citizenship** through acts of **civic engagement**.

I embrace community by active **involvement** and **service**.

I lead a lifestyle that advances physical **health** and emotional well-being.