

INSIDE: Climate Change • Sam Ervin & Terry Sanford • PlayMakers' New Day

C A R O L I N A

ARTS & SCIENCES

SPRING • 2008

THE KENAN LEGACY

World-class faculty, students and facilities



CELEBRATING CAROLINA FIRST:

- Distinguished Professors and Fellows
- Global Giving and Learning
- New Programs and Scholarships
- Dedicated Donors

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Dowd Scholarships attract TOP STUDENTS

By Catherine Williams '08

When most students talk about going to Amazon, they're referring to the Web site sometimes used to purchase discounted textbooks.

But when junior biology major Claire Thomson, a Dowd Carolina Scholar, mentions the Amazon, she's talking about the rainforest where she spent a month listening for something that sounds "like hyperventilating ducks." In summer 2007, she studied ecology and conservation while working with New York University's Proyecto Primates in the Oriente, a region in eastern Ecuador. Her study measured the population of a species of monkey by tracking the primates' ducklike calls.

The adventurous Thomson almost didn't come to study in Chapel Hill, much less in Ecuador. The Dowd Carolina Scholarship helped her decide to come to UNC. Awarded to the most academically outstanding students, the Carolina Scholarship provides students with scholarship support, faculty mentoring and special opportunities, including participation in the Honors Program.

"I was also considering Washington University in St. Louis, and I was actually there for a scholarship weekend when I received the call about the Dowd scholarship," said Thomson, who is from Durham, N.C., and also pursuing a minor in creative writing. "I was leaning towards Carolina, but Washington attracted me because of the scholarship it was offering. Getting the Dowd scholarship pushed my decision over the edge, and I knew that Carolina was the best school for me."

Established in 2002 with a \$1 million gift from the Dowd Foundation, the Carolina Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences honors Elizabeth "Pepper" Dowd '53 of Charlotte, N.C., and her dedication and service to the University. It is the largest Carolina Scholarship to be established during Carolina First, funding six new merit scholarships for North

Carolina students. The first Dowd Scholar, Daniel Reeves, graduated in 2007 with a degree in economics and political science.

Dowd has long been involved in the University. She served on the Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1991 (including two years as vice chair), helped to found the Arts and Sciences Foundation and has served on multiple committees during the past 30 years. She has received two of the highest awards given by the University: the William R. Davie Award and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Fellow Dowd Carolina Scholar Anna Wyatt of Charlotte says that although both her parents are alumni, she hadn't strongly considered attending UNC until she learned about the Carolina Scholars program.

Wyatt took advantage of her scholarship support to join two Carolina programs in China. A senior environmental studies major, she spent summer 2007 in Beijing, where she studied Chinese urbanization with city and regional planning professors Tom Campanella and Yan Song. (See page 18 for a story about another student's experience in that program.) She also worked in a startup company as part of the Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative. Wyatt and 20 other UNC students lived with Chinese roommates in the dorms at Capital Normal University.

Both Wyatt and Thomson got a fresh

look at global communities during their time abroad.

Wyatt was struck by the stark contrast between the poor and those who have recently become wealthy because of China's rapid expansion. Thomson's trip taught her about the connections between economic, environmental and socio-political issues in another country. She says that Ecuador and its citizens are faced with a difficult series of Catch-22s but that her experience there has challenged her to think of ways she can use her career and her Carolina education to make a difference. •



ABOVE: Dowd Scholar Claire Thomson in the Galapagos Islands