Kiatie Moore ’09, a broadcast news and French major from Charleston, SC, traveled this summer as the first Been Family Honors Scholar to Ghana to work with the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation. There she learned the ropes of being a reporter on assignment around the region, covering events that highlighted the progress and change that is sweeping across Ghana. During her stay Katie kept a journal in which she wrote: “Africa is a place of untold histories, unknown depths, unwavering lineages. But it is also a place of beginning, of redesign, and of rapidly changing systems of living. At least that is the conjecture I have formed for the developing country of Ghana. Travelers who pass through the area say that now is the ideal time to move around West Africa and absorb the waves of culture while they are still swelling from tribe to tribe, community to community. In ten years’ time, they say, this place of wild mystery and hectic industrial advancements will be lost in the global obsession with growth and technology. On this day in Ghana, I’m absorbing all that I can from the blazing afternoon sun and the murmur of the buzzing market in the distance, never feeling so alive.” She later reflected that, “I wrote these words just three days before I was scheduled to venture back to the ‘first world’ to begin fall semester. Rereading my journal entries has been particularly moving because some of the strength I now feel – as a student, an American, a young adult, and a female journalist – traces directly back to those powerful moments where I felt most estranged and confounded, but amazingly alive. I now have a new vision, a greater task, a more heartfelt connection with my career path that I believe will push me forward to achieve the changes I want to make in today’s media. I am ready to begin. I have never felt more prepared in my life.”

Katie Moore in her letter of thanks to her sponsor about her experience in Ghana:

“Without the big-hearted contributions from the Been Family, I would have been unable to expand my view of the world through travel. As Miriam Beard once said, ‘Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent in the ideas of living.’ Thank you for making possible the spark to changes within. I believe that to impact others, one must first find the right direction for change on the inside. I also believe I am well on that path. Again, I thank you for extending your generosity to help me on my own path.”
UGA Embraces Undergraduate Research

by Dr. David Lee, Vice President for Research

Undergraduates attending a research-intensive university have the opportunity to enhance learning through direct participation in research and scholarship. At UGA, these opportunities span the gamut from the physical, life and social sciences, to the arts and humanities. They enable undergraduates to participate in groundbreaking research, often as part of a team of graduate students, fellows and faculty. The resulting experiences expose students to the highs – and lows – of cutting-edge research and provide valuable lessons and perspectives that remain with students for the rest of their lives.

Evidence shows that students who engage in undergraduate research perform better academically, and of course we hope that some students become so enamored with research that they devote their lives to advancing knowledge through discovery and innovations. This was true in my own case, when, as an undergraduate uncertain of my future path, I wandered into a laboratory at my alma mater. Little did I know then that I would spend my last two undergraduate years working every available hour in the lab, as I got completely hooked on the research and the unique camaraderie a research team can provide. Helping to recruit the next generation of researchers should be high on the priority list of every great university, as there is no more important function than ensuring the future of scholarly enquiry.

Among the impressive attributes of UGA is the campus-wide enthusiasm and commitment to undergraduate research. It is not uncommon for UGA research groups to include up to a dozen undergraduates simultaneously. More than one UGA faculty member has told me that they couldn’t continue their research operations without these teams of undergraduates.

The heart and brain of this thriving effort is the Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO), a jewel in the crown of the UGA Honors Program. Under the able guidance of Honors director David Williams and associate director Pam Kleiber, CURO has developed a remarkable array of programs to not only engage UGA undergraduates, but also to provide opportunities for promising high school students. CURO also hosts an annual research symposium, helps students attend national research meetings, and sponsors an online journal that provides students the important opportunity to publish their research. Given this level of commitment and opportunity, it is no surprise that CURO alumni are among the most accomplished and honored UGA undergraduates, including many of those who win major national awards and scholarships. CURO reflects the very best of what a great university should provide for its students and its society. UGA can be justifiably proud of CURO’s record of accomplishment.

For information about how to support UGA’s Honors students by making a gift, please contact Dorothe Otemann at 706/583-0698 or dotemann@uga.edu, or visit our website at www.uga.edu/honors/gift.

Don’t forget to check with your company about its matching gift program.
Honors student receives scholarship from Financial Services Roundtable

Susan Guo, a senior pursuing bachelor’s/master’s degrees in accounting, received the first Roundtable Financial Scholarship in Honor of James H. Blanchard from The Financial Services Roundtable, an organization that represents 100 of the largest integrated financial services companies in the United States. The group’s board of directors created a college scholarship fund to recognize retired industry leaders who served as Roundtable chairs, including Blanchard, a UGA alumnus and retired chairman and CEO of Synovus. In addition to her $5,000 scholarship, Susan also is eligible to apply for an internship with a Financial Services Roundtable member company.

During Susan’s first two years at UGA, she participated in the CURO Apprentice program, investigating domestic terrorism in Sri Lanka. She served as a teaching assistant during her third year, supporting and mentoring the apprentices. In addition to having been a Leonard Leadership Scholar through the Terry College of Business, she currently serves as vice president of programs for Beta Alpha Psi accounting honors society. Susan recently completed an internship with Dixon Hughes, the largest CPA firm in the Southeast, working on tax compliance and tax consulting for corporations and partnerships. After earning her bachelor’s degree from UGA in May 2009, Susan will continue her masters of accounting program, specializing in taxation.

Bryan Davis came to UGA and the Honors Program with a drive to work hard and to succeed. He was awarded a CURO Apprenticeship when he graduated from the Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School in Augusta, and once on campus he didn’t waste any time. Now in his fourth year, he is finishing his BBA/MACC in accounting, yet he also serves as president of the Black Male Leadership Society, and as choreographer and treasurer for the Pamoja Dance Company. He works as an Arch Society student and participates in the Leonard Leadership Program. In his spare time, Bryan plays the violin.

As a CURO Apprentice, Bryan researched the discrepancies between male and female wages through the Terry College of Business, as well as the alcohol expenditure patterns of students through the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. During the summer following his second year at UGA, Bryan interned as a financial analyst on Wall Street with UBS Investment Bank through the Sponsors for Educational Opportunities (SEO) program. He assisted in preparing pitch books and models for various mergers and acquisitions transactions. Later, he traveled to New York, Boston, and Los Angeles with Management Leadership for Tomorrow, a career preparation organization, where he networked with business corporations such as Citicorps, Lehmann Brothers, and Credit Suisse. This past summer Bryan interned for Ernst and Young in Atlanta. Following his graduation in May 2009, he will join the firm as a financial auditing associate.
The Honors Program class of 2012 includes 22 Foundation Fellows and 13 Ramsey Honors Scholars. The newest additions to the programs are:

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Matthew Sellers  
Ryan Sheets  
Catherine Shortt  
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**Kennesaw, GA**  
**Watkinsville, GA**  
**Perry, GA**  
**Mobile, AL**  
**Charlotte, NC**  
**Alpharetta, GA**

Cleveland Piggott has certainly taken advantage of the opportunities provided by the Honors Program in the two years he has been at UGA. As an incoming student from Suwanee, GA in 2007, he was awarded a CURO Apprenticeship and this past spring received a mid-term Foundation Fellowship. Cleveland’s dream is to work for Doctors Without Borders. To that end he participated in a Medical and Dental Service Learning Program this summer in Costa Rica and Panama. The organization’s focus was on preventative medicine through education, as well as helping many patients. The students learned about the specific living environment and health issues of the area to better diagnose patients and educate them on how to improve and maintain their health. Cleveland performed basic tasks such as taking medical history, checking blood pressure and sugar levels, and checking ears, eyes, heart, lungs, and weight. With dental patients, he provided basic education on dental hygiene, cleaned and pulled teeth, and helped fill cavities. Cleveland and his fellow students communicated with patients in Spanish, with only limited help from an interpreter. After he returned to Athens, he interned with Dr. Leah Lowman, an OB/GYN physician who is herself a graduate of UGA and the Foundation Fellowship. Under her supervision, he experienced the full range of Dr. Lowman’s medical practice, from the business side to the clinical side. Cleveland found that he enjoyed the profession more than he expected, and it generated a strong interest in OB/GYN or neonatology. His experiences in Costa Rica and Panama, combined with the internship with Dr. Lowman, sparked a desire to travel to Uganda next summer to work in a delivery room. He also hopes to receive an internship at the CDC to work on malaria so that he can better educate and aid the population of rural Africa. Cleveland is well on his way to fulfilling his dream of working as a doctor in a developing country.
Paula Langston, long-time administrative assistant to the Foundation Fellow (FF) and Ramsey Scholars (RS) Programs is retiring in November 2008. Paula has provided support to more than 500 Fellows and Ramseys since 1985. She has helped the programs grow from 26 to more than 100 students, and has traveled with students on numerous international travel-study trips, including Costa Rica, Greece, Vietnam, Egypt, Bosnia, and Antarctica.

Students, alumni, and her Honors Program colleagues will miss her. The Honors Program wishes Paula well in this new phase of her life.

This past summer I had a tremendous experience while a participant in West Virginia University’s China Ceramics Summer program. I traveled with a small group of nine students from across the United States and Canada to China where we studied with various professors, both Chinese and American, depending on our location. We began with a brief stay in Shanghai where we were able to get to know one another and visit Shanghai’s new and very impressive art museum. We then traveled by train (an interesting cultural experience in itself) to Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province, where we stayed at the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute. Jingdezhen is the birthplace of porcelain and is considered the major pottery center of China. We stayed in Jingdezhen for approximately two weeks, working alongside local pottery masters and getting hands-on experience with some of the world’s finest porcelain clay.

Daily demonstrations from local artists, some of them nationally known, gave us exceptional opportunities to learn new and unique techniques. Field trips to local production factories and even artist’s homes were provided. Following our stay in Jingdezhen, the program took us across southern China. We stayed in Yangshuo, Guilin, Xi’an, and eventually made our way to Beijing. Along the way, we visited several museums, talked with local and well-known artists, and observed several art colleges. In addition to ceramic-related field trips, we visited the famous Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall.

I was very pleased with the program, as it provided not only a look at China from an artist’s viewpoint, but also a look at China’s rich cultural background.
The Honors Program gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions of the following foundations, businesses, and individuals whose support makes our mission of educational excellence possible.

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I chose to attend UGA because of the Honors Program.
Initially the size of the university was a deterrent, but the more I learned about the benefits of attending such a large school, I realized that I needed to have a place that offered such a variety of activities. The Honors Program gave me a chance to find the qualities I was seeking in smaller schools, like class size and professor relationships, without losing the assets of having a huge student body and numerous on-campus opportunities.

— Adele Handy (’08), now a first-year student at the Mayo Medical School

For complete text see http://www.uga.edu/amazing/handy.html

Honors in New York Internship Program

Before traveling to New York for her summer internship position, Nisha Gupta was excited about living and working in such a large city, being independent, and discovering a new place. However, when she left she realized nothing could compare to the experience she had as an intern with the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA). The internship focuses on health policy in diverse areas such as emergency preparedness, infection control, Medicaid reform, and hospital accreditation. Growing up as a physician’s daughter and shadowing doctors, Nisha viewed healthcare as physicians do, but this internship opened her eyes to a new perspective: to consider more broadly issues that pertain to healthcare workers, patients, organizations, governments, and the community at large. She worked on a variety of research projects, attended several meetings, participated in a conference on vaccinations, and went to a Public Health Council meeting headed by the New York Commissioner of Health. Nisha concludes: “With every project I worked on and with every meeting I attended, I learned more about the efforts that are put into providing care to a community.”

Nisha is a fourth-year cellular biology major from Valdosta, GA

Nisha with Honors alumna and GNYHA general counsel Susan Waltman.