



Student-soldiers strike balance

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Senior management student Whitney Taylor blends into crowds of students most days—and then there are the days Taylor wears her Army uniform.

"You can't necessarily look at me and tell I'm in the military," said senior student Whitney Taylor. "I joined when I was 17. I've been through boot camp and all the training, including weapons training." Last semester, Mary Chakales, Associate Director of Student Activities and Integrated Learning, supervised a monthly support group for student soldiers and veterans like Taylor.

"Anyone connected with the military is welcome," Chakales said. "Children or spouses with loved ones in the military, or parents of students serving."

The group grew this semester as students got to know each other and started to express their uniqueness. Taylor said what she does for the military surprises people.

"I'm in the 151st Army band. I play tenor saxophone," she said.

Taylor's company performs jazz, concert music and as a rock band. Once a month, they hold rehearsal drills and play around North Carolina at July 4th events

Soldier juggles school, service, music



PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITNEY TAYLOR

and other patriotic venues. The business major said she is proud of her work but does not advertise her service in the military.

"People may stereotype what you're supposed to look like. There are a lot

of different people in the military," she said. "We're largely a democratic campus, so there are a lot of people who are against the war. I don't necessarily think that means they don't support the troops, but I don't tell

everyone what I do."

Junior political science student and National Guard member Patrick Bartholomew agrees.

"Usually when I meet people, I wait a couple of weeks before I tell them," he

Senior management student Whitney Taylor joined the Army when she was 17. Taylor currently serves in the 151st Army band, where she plays tenor saxophone.

all friendly," Bartholomew said of his monthly training sessions.

However, reintegrating into campus culture after those weekends is not without its own difficulties, according to Bartholomew.

"I do get some dirty looks if I walk by in uniform on campus," the 20-year-old said. Bartholomew said he has felt stereotyping on campus too, but overall school and the military are experiences worth juggling—the good outweighs the bad.

Olga Rossow, a former Navy service member, spoke positively of her experience as well.

"I joined when I was 19," the literature-language student said. "After I completed boot camp, I went to Sicily for two years."

Rossow said she worked in the supply department equipping the aircraft squadrons onboard.

"It was fun. I got to do some traveling and eat some good food," the 25-year-old said.

Rossow said her experience made her more appreciative of civilian life, and she is proud to put herself through school. After living within the rigid structure of Navy life for five years, civilian life, particularly that of a college student, is a change. "Anything goes here, it seems

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New artist joins Joan Osborne in Asheville

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From performing with Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears in Disney's Mickey Mouse Club to paving roads as a volunteer in Paraguay, emerging artist Matt Morris is not the typical pop star.

"I knew that music was important to me instinctively, but it wasn't until I started to grow into adulthood that it became clear this was just a natural thing for me to do," the Denver native said.

Morris is from a musical family and performed "Blue Suede Shoes" in front of 15,000 people when he was seven during a tour with his father, Nashville country musician Gary Morris.

Morris entered the Mickey Mouse Club when he was 11 years old and uses the experience as a guide for his musical ambitions, he said.

"The experience working for Disney was great," he said. "It taught me a lot about the industry and about the work ethic that is necessary to be in the industry."

He stayed with the Mickey Mouse Club for four years and said he needed a break.

"I didn't want my life to be defined by my artistry alone," Morris said. "I wanted to be



PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC ALLIES

Matt Morris opens for Joan Osborne Saturday at the Orange Peel.

a kid and finish high school and go to college."

Morris left Disney, but continued contact with Timberlake and maintained a musical identity throughout high school and college, writing songs and playing guitar as he grew older.

Morris' most recent song writing speaks with an urgency and depth of the struggles and challenges

people face, according to Crissa Requate, director of publicity for Morris' Asheville-based marketing company, Music Allies.

"He's kind of like Ray LaMontagne meets Elton John meets Stevie Wonder meets Rufus Wainwright," said Timberlake. "It's time for the birth of the hybrid artist."

Before beginning work

on his solo project, Morris wrote songs for Christina Aguilera, Timberlake and Kelly Clarkson, according to Requate.

Morris wrote "(Another song) All Over Again" for Timberlake's multi-platinum album Future Sex/Love Sounds and Aguilera's Top 40 collaboration with Lil' Kim, "Can't Hold Us Down."

"Matt Morris is an incredibly dynamic and powerful performer," Requate said. "Not only are his vocal abilities out-of-this-world, but his lyrics are introspective and honest. Matt has a gift of connecting with his audience and he's been fantastic to work with."

Morris recently released a five-song EP titled Backstage at Bonnaroo and Other Acoustic Performances, on Justin Timberlake's record label, Tennman Records.

Morris opened this year's Bonnaroo Music Festival in Manchester, Tenn., playing with producer and fellow musician Charlie Sexton.

"I like to imagine opening the festival with a parade behind me and there were fireworks and streamers and I got to cut the ribbon and

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Online tool changes advising methods

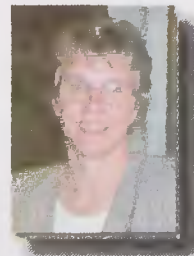
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A new online tool unveiled this semester revolutionizes advising at UNC Asheville for students who enrolled or declared their major in 2007 or later.

"This is one of the biggest changes since the first web registration 10 years ago," said Pat McClellan, Dean of Academic Administration. "That was a big shift in how students made choices about courses. This is as big or bigger a shift that will have a huge impact on advising."

Degree Progress Advising Report illustrates the integrative liberal studies requirements, major/minor competencies and minor requirements a student must complete to graduate. It also includes honors program and teacher licensure requirements.

DegPAR, available through OnePort, allows students to generate "what-if scenarios," selecting various major and minor combinations to determine what they



Pat McClellan

need to take to switch majors or add a minor, for example.

The university launched the beta version last week.

"It's not really an audit, although this is a common name for it," McClellan said. "Students may find things that make them say 'wait a minute' and they need to let us know. It's not supposed to be an audit. It's an advising tool."

It best targets students who entered UNC Asheville and declared their major in the 2007-2008 school year or later, because developers based it on that years' course catalog, according to McClellan.

"We didn't have time to work backwards," she said.

Students who enrolled or declared prior to 2007-2008 may experience difficulty

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Photos from Obama's N.C. visit

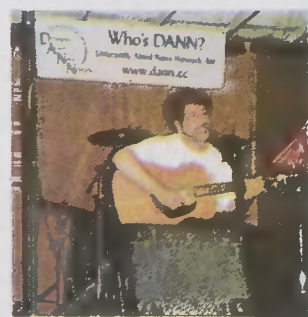
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