

Senior to work as CNN correspondent

Stories will focus on University

BY LAUREN HARVEY
STAFF WRITER

UNC journalism students land internships at publications across the state and the nation, but senior Tracy Boyer just got the job of which most only dream.

She will serve this year as a college correspondent for CNN.com, producing weekly multimedia pieces.



Senior Tracy Boyer will work for CNN as a college correspondent.

It started when Boyer received an e-mail from one of her professors about applying for the position — an opportunity available to students across the nation.

Boyer — who was one of several students to film a documentary in Mexico, which was shown at President Clinton's annual summit last weekend — followed her professor's advice and said she has thought about being a correspondent every day.

"I really didn't think I'd get it. At first, they said they were going to choose 15 to 20 students, but in the end they only chose eight," she

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TRACY BOYER, SENIOR JOURNALISM STUDENT

said. "I'm excited about representing my school in any way I can. I can portray it any way I think will be good for the school."

As a correspondent, Boyer will be responsible for one story a week.

She said she will be able to cover anything she wants, as long as she can find an angle unique to the University. She'll have to e-mail a list of story ideas to CNN.com, from which her supervisors will assign one to cover.

Boyer said she wants students to approach her and tell her what is going on within their respective campus groups. She said she is willing to cover any organization that has a cause worth sharing with the public.

She will work on campus and get paid as though she were freelancing for CNN.com. More important than the pay, Boyer said she knows this is a great opportunity for her to network and gain experience.

"I'd really like to move to Washington, D.C., and do multimedia work on the Web sites of either the Washington Post or USA Today," Boyer said, regarding her

plans after graduation.

Boyer said she thinks that internships are an important way to gain experience in any field of study.

She said she spent this past summer working for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She also worked at Cuberis — a web design company located in Durham — last spring.

Boyer said she also gained real-world journalism experience through groups on campus.

She is the UNC chapter president of the Society of News Design, an international organization focused on visual design and storytelling.

Later this fall she'll travel to Peru with a group of journalism students who are going to create a documentary.

Coupled with her other activities, Boyer said she's hopeful that CNN provides her with what she needs to enter the job market.

"It's an awesome experience just to have on my resume and to get to work with professionals using my own equipment and story ideas."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Medical student studies obesity impact on heart

Received funds from Pfizer

BY JENNA RAMAN
STAFF WRITER

One UNC student has found that listening to your heart is as much about using a stethoscope as it is about pursuing dreams.

Second-year UNC medical student Kim Gardner received the Satcher Fellowship to research the effects of obesity on the left ventricle of the heart.

"Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death for black women, and I just felt it was an important cause to observe," Gardner said.

Gardner conducted research in her home state at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn, NY.

She said there was a pre-existing infrastructure at the center for work on cardiovascular disease that allowed her to complete her research.

The fellowship, which is spon-

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KIM GARDNER, UNC MEDICAL STUDENT

sored for the first time by Pfizer, is a collaborative effort with the Student National Medical Association. The organizations partnered for former Surgeon General David Satcher's "Healthy People 2010" initiative.

"In terms of building awareness, especially for obesity, we are in line with the way medicine is moving to health care — and it's been very beneficial," said Steven Muhammad, director of programs at SNMA, about the Pfizer partnership.

Gardner is one of five recipients receiving \$5,000 to study the effects of obesity or other diseases on minorities.

The fellowship was granted to SNMA students based on their research topics, academic achievements and commitment to community service, among other factors.

The students must present their findings at the association's 42nd annual Medical Education Conference this April in San Francisco.

"The students have just recently finished their research and many of them found very interesting projects," Muhammad said.

Gardner attended Columbia University to attain her bachelor's degree. She said she chose to study medicine at UNC because of the culturally diverse atmosphere.

"It was my favorite place that I visited," she said. "It had a good balance, which is very important to me."

Gardner also said she likes how the faculty focuses on more than just medicine, incorporating the social determinants of health with the physical determinants.

Though Gardner said she is not set on her plans after completing medical school, she said she is interested in oncology and infectious diseases and would like to further investigate those areas.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Citizen-Soldier aims to grow

Program supports military families

BY ASHLEE SADLER
STAFF WRITER

What started as a UNC program to help families of deployed military personnel in five N.C. counties has grown into a statewide — and possibly national — effort.

The Citizen-Soldier Support Program is designed to work with the Army and Air Force National Guard and communities to aid families who are coping with a member called away for active duty.

The program, housed at the Odum Institute, first operated in Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Rocky Mount and Wilmington. Now it operates in every N.C. county.

The program's in-state success led officials to ask the U.S. Congress for an additional \$5 million to create a national technical assistance training center to help other states set up similar programs, said Allison Rosenberg, associate vice chancellor for research and co-founder of the program.

Congress would allot the money in a defense appropriations bill. A report will be published this week indicating whether the program will be granted the money.

"I'm very optimistic that we will have a very healthy appropriation,"

"I have a wife and daughter. They would definitely benefit from some kind of program designed to ease the burden."

JON HART, UNC ARMY ROTC SUPPLY TECHNICIAN

Rosenberg said.

Dennis Orthner, a UNC professor and co-founder of the program, said the statewide effort is necessary because of the 25,000 Guard and Reserve families living in North Carolina.

"You can go as far as Mitchell County or Cherokee County, and there are National Guard and Reserve soldiers being deployed," he said. "And yet the people in those communities don't know how they can help them while they're gone."

To offer family support, the program helps local services and agencies understand the needs of their communities so they can help accordingly, Orthner said.

"What we do at UNC is get the local libraries and local parks and recreation programs to reach out and provide low-cost, stress relieving activities for families," he said.

Orthner also said the program strives to prepare medical facilities to deal with needs specific to military families.

"We're also working with the medical school both at UNC and Duke to help them get better training to deal with health and mental

issues that families might experience," he said.

Jon Hart, a supply technician for UNC's Army ROTC program and a member of the Guard, said the support system is necessary.

"I have a wife and daughter," he said. "They would definitely benefit from some kind of program designed to ease the burden."

Lt. Col. Andy Anderson, a professor of military science, said the program fills a need for stronger support for soldiers who are not in the active army.

"It's relatively new that our National Guard and reserve forces are deployed on a regular basis," he said. "A program like this would augment what's already there and be very helpful and beneficial."

Orthner said the program aims to increase the aid the National Guard already provides.

"We know that all the military services do a great job in supporting the families," he said. "We're trying to complement what they do and provide the resources to help them to do their job better."

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