

Senior Profile

History student plans to teach about other cultures

By Christa Chappelle
STAFF WRITER

Very few people receive the opportunity to travel the world and teach people about different cultures, but senior history student Emily Collins has done just that.

"I think by far my passion is travel," Collins said. "I really love learning about different cultures, the different people and being in new places is by far the best way to learn about them. Tasting food and smelling different scents while you walk around, you get a better sense of it than just reading it in a book."

During her education at UNCA, Collins traveled to the United Arab Emirates for the Women as Global Leaders Conference at Zayed University. She also traveled to countries such as Italy, England and Ireland.

In addition, Collins remains heavily involved at UNCA through her memberships in various fraternities on campus, the University Honors Program, Teaching Fellows and Senior Class Board. Along with these commitments, she helps coach a local high school girls' soccer team.

Students should give back to their community because it allows a person to feel like they can change the world, according to Collins.

"I think it's definitely important that you give back to your community, whether it's through community service or joining an organization," Collins said. "Everything in the world is interconnected, especially through globalization nowadays."

"The more that you can be a part of it, the more and more you feel

comfortable and the more you can affect change."

Even though Collins remains busy, she still dedicates herself to everything around her, according to Kasey Christian, senior student and a high school friend of Collins.

"She's really caring about all the things that she does, too," Christian said. "What really impresses me is not that she just does it, but she really is concerned for her sorority sisters. She's really caring of the children she babysits for and the family. She still keeps up with her church, and is pretty good at including them all, and still makes time to every now and then to go have a cup of coffee."

Because of Collins' curious nature, she always tries to learn more about people and different cultures, according to Brenda Hopper, director of the Teaching Fellows Program.

"She's very inquisitive," Hopper said. "She always wants to know more. She sets very high standards for herself, but in setting those high standards, she also expects to have fun as she goes through life. I think that's a really neat way to be. She wants to do things that she can learn from. She loves to learn about other countries and other cultures."

Since education surrounded her as she grew up, she decided to apply for the Teaching Fellows scholarship. As she began to tutor children, she decided that she wanted a job in education, according to Collins.

"Education just kind of surrounded me, but I wasn't really honestly sure if I wanted to be a

teacher," Collins said. "It wasn't until probably my second semester that I decided that I really enjoyed teaching."

"At UNCA they make us mentor with the Teaching Fellows program right off the bat, and I just really enjoyed that and liked being in the classroom, connecting with the students and seeing them grow."

Collins often integrates items she has brought back from her trips into her lessons so the students will understand the culture of the location better. After returning from the U.A.E., she brought a Muslim doll similar to Barbie, called "Fulla," to show to her students.

"I try to get the students to critically think about why they have this doll," Collins said. "I try to get them to look at Fulla, and what messages it sends to young children."

Though her travels may help her students, they have also helped Collins look differently at previous ideas she may have had, such as women in the Middle East.

"During my trip to the U.A.E., I was able to learn about their ideas, what they want, and what they think about feminism," Collins said. "They consider women in the United States oppressed, because the market makes us wear tight, sexy clothing. We're oppressed by that, because we have to show off our body."

Because Collins can enjoy the smaller aspects in life, she can commit herself to different activities, according to Christian.

"As effective of a person she is, she does not sacrifice simple joys," Christian said. "I think



MAGON HAGY - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior history student Emily Collins is currently completing her student teaching at North Buncombe High School. After graduation, she plans to continue teaching and eventually live in a different country.

that's very important for her, whether she knows it or not."

After graduation, Collins plans to move to the beach and teach, though she will miss the mountains and the university. Ultimately, she would like to live

in a different country for a while.

"I feel very fortunate to be from the United States," Collins said. "We have lots of rights that a lot of countries don't, but at the same time I still have the desire to live outside of the United States."

Discs

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each format will use, it's unlikely either will bring anything new to older film formats, according to Hanke.

"Because there's a limited market for classic titles, it's cost-prohibitive to produce many of the older, anything before 1990, titles in these new formats," Hanke said.

Allied companies of both Toshiba and Sony are planning companion and competing technology.

Samsung Electronics Co., a Sony ally, said it will release a Blu-ray player at \$1,000 in late May before Sony, while HD-DVD supporter Microsoft recently reiterated it will feature built-in support for Toshiba's format in its upcoming Vista operating system.

The cost of high definition DVD players were very expensive, announced at around \$299 for HD-DVD and \$349 for Blu-ray. But once both formats are on the shelves, the competition will help drive the prices down, according to Sinclair.

"It won't be that bad, the first DVD players were very expensive, but as soon as they hit the market the price goes down," Sinclair said.

Blu-ray will undoubtedly get its biggest boost later this year once Sony's Playstation3 gaming console launches in Japan, Europe and North America, according to Henning.

"Blu-ray will definitely help sell the PS3, and I think a lot of companies are banking on that. Its pretty much the reason I got a PS3 as well," Henning said.

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