

# Kids granted Carolina Dreams Arts forum focuses on space

BY BRYANNA SCHWARTZ  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday night, 11-year-old Helena Shaw sat with a smile spread across her face as she cheered for the men's lacrosse team while sitting with UNC's women's field hockey team.

Shaw loves nights like these — eating pizza with a UNC team, attending a game with the team and often appearing on the JumboTron — all made possible by Carolina Dreams.

The organization takes patients from the N.C. Children's Hospital and plans these types of events for kids to connect with athletes.

For Helena and the other kids who participate, it is a time to forget about their other problems and get wrapped up in sports. A time to just be kids.

"I think, unfortunately for many children in North Carolina, a visit to UNC's campus does not include a picturesque walk in the quad," said senior Michael Munnely, a UNC lacrosse player and the president of Carolina Dreams.

"Instead, a trip to Chapel Hill means a visit to the N.C. Children's Hospital."

Helena and her family found out four years ago that she had Crohn's disease, a disease that leads to abdominal pain, diarrhea and weight loss. Finding out the diagnosis hit Helena's family hard.

"It's just something that you're always thinking about," said Duncan Shaw, Helena's father. "Just always having it there is something that is difficult and requires a lot of time and energy for all the family members."

After three years of adjusting to the disease, the hardest parts now are daily medications and frequent trips to the doctor. Helena said it's also difficult to be the only one of her friends who has to worry about her health.

Helena started attending Carolina Dreams events in 2005, and last year she went to a basketball game.

"The basketball game was the best," she said. "It was really big and exciting, and there were a lot of people, so it was loud and really fun."

Before she started Carolina Dreams at 9 years old, Helena was too young to follow or play sports.

Through the program, Helena met Dave Werry, a former lacrosse player and founder of Carolina Dreams, at the first event they attended in 2005.

His enthusiasm for sports and lacrosse sparked Helena's interest. She learned how to play lacrosse and soon shared Werry's appreciation for the sport.

Her family watched their first lacrosse game with Carolina Dreams, but as Helena's inter-

est continued to grow they found themselves attending many games on their own.

For Helena, lacrosse now provides a physical and social outlet to have fun. Although at times her disease takes away some of her energy, she continues to enjoy spending time with kids her age and participating in a sport she loves.

Carolina Dreams has hosted four events every semester since fall 2004. About 40 families take part in the Carolina Dreams experience.

As of last semester, athletes also go on weekly visits to the oncology and outpatient clinics at the children's hospital to visit patients receiving treatment.

"During this time we will read with the children, play video games, color or just let them tell us about anything that comes to their mind," Munnely said. "You are able to have a one-on-one interaction with the children and their families."

Munnely said he hopes Carolina Dreams will expand in the future to encompass more athletes and children.

"I think the most rewarding part of Carolina Dreams for me is just seeing a smile on one of the children's face."

Contact the Features Editor at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu).

BY BENNETT CAMPBELL  
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

For Tom Allin, the success of this year's series of student arts forums can't necessarily be tied to the number of people in attendance.

The sixth student arts forum of the school year drew about a dozen people Monday night in the Student Union, ranging from members of dance group Just Class to recipients of this semester's batch of Student Arts Grants.

And while Monday's group was larger than several previous forums, Allin, the forum's co-chairman and Carolina Union Activities Board music chairman, said every gathering this year has been productive.

"Good discussions always come out of it, regardless of the group that's there," Allin said.

Each forum serves primarily as an opportunity for students to spread the word about upcoming events, discuss issues pertaining to the University's arts community and

bounce ideas off of one another.

The recipients of the Student Arts Grant were required to be in attendance and give updates on their projects, which included a Muslim-Jewish arts festival and a multimedia installation to be exhibited in the Student Union's art gallery beginning this summer.

But one issue that has been raised consistently at the forums this year got attention once again.

Erin Gifford, a junior and president of Just Class, spoke about a lack of rehearsal space on campus.

Earlier attention to that issue resulted in the addition of mirrors and new flooring for dancers in the basement of the Union, but Gifford and fellow Just Class member Emily Osterhus said the additions were still subpar.

"The mirrors are a good addition, but the floorboards are coming up, and people trip on them," Gifford said. "I even got my hair stuck on a nail when we were rehearsing."

That description brought about

a discussion of how to bring issues to the proper officials, such as UNC's Executive Director for the Arts Emil Kang.

"These people here know exactly what they need," Allin said. "They're representing a much larger population in saying these things."

But the question remains whether or not there is a disconnect between those attending the forums and arts officials on campus.

"For the higher-ups, though they're aware of these issues, they can miss the personal stories, which are often more compelling than a line in the paper or an e-mail from me," said Allin, who will serve as Carolina Union president next year.

"I hope to attend these meetings next year and use whatever influence I have from a very different position. They've given me a real appreciation for what the Union is all about."

Contact the Arts Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

## Swimmers and wrestlers perform in NCAA action

### SWIMMING & DIVING

The North Carolina women swimmers who qualified for the NCAA Finals traveled to Columbus, Ohio last weekend.

Buoyed by a strong performance by Whitney Sprague, the Tar Heels finished 32nd overall with 17 team points. That represents a slight step backward, as the women's team finished in 30th place last year.

Last year's team had nine members qualify because of relays. This year's team only qualified four members — Sprague, Kelsey Morrissy, Alison Clemens and Katura Harvey — but they all did so individually.

Sprague placed second in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 15:57.77.

"We could have been better," coach Rich DeSelm said. "Missed some opportunities to score other places and fortunately we have three of the four returning. We have some people coming in and some people returning that could be in the meet next year."

The Tar Heels were able to withstand some early disappointment to salvage a solid tournament.

"The first morning, we got off to a little bit of a rocky start in the 500 free," DeSelm said. "They did well, but they were off their season best

performances and to go to a meet like that and start off with something a little less than you're capable of is not the way you want to start an NCAA championship, but the rebound from that was fantastic."

The Tar Heels swimming and diving team's men's finals begin Thursday in Federal Way, Wash.

— COMPILED BY LOUIE HORVATH

### WRESTLING

North Carolina wrestlers Justin Dobies and Keegan Mueller dominated opponents on the mat all year long, but they found the competition much tougher in their first experience at the big show — the 2008 NCAA Wrestling Championships in St. Louis' Scottrade Center on Friday and Saturday.

Dobies, who won this year's ACC championship at heavyweight, won three straight in the consolation bracket after dropping his first contest. He called the experience, "a huge confidence boost."

He was eliminated in his fifth match in the double elimination tournament.

Mueller, who posted a 22-match winning streak during the season in

the 165-pound class, lost both of his matches with tough third periods.

"It's very, very rare that the first time a kid goes to nationals he wrestles his very best," coach C.D. Mock said.

Mock stressed the difficulty of adapting to the atmosphere wrestling with the nation's elite in such an individual sport.

"If you're a little off — and you're on a team — it doesn't get noticed," he said. "When you're wrestling, it's just you. When you're off, it's out there for everybody to see."

The heightened exposure should prove beneficial for both wrestlers and their ranks heading into next season. Each returns for their final year of eligibility after being ranked in the top 20 of their weight class during the regular season.

Mueller said he is excited about getting back in the gym and back to nationals to redeem his early exit.

"It just gives you the itch to want to be better," he said.

"My training for the next year started (Friday) night. I practiced until 3:30 in the morning that night. I'm not going to lose my fire until I'm done."

— COMPILED BY GABE HIATT

### Real: -adj.

1. Genuine and authentic.
2. Not artificial.
3. Free of pretense.
4. How one would describe Molly Barker



Please join the Panhellenic Council for an evening of inspiration and entertainment, as we host

Molly Barker, the founder of Girls on the Run

March 26th at 8 p.m. in Carroll 111

Girls on the Run® is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running.

## THE JAMES A. HUTCHINS LECTURES

GENDER, WAR, AND VIOLENCE: ENSLAVED WOMEN AND THE ARMIES OF THE CIVIL WAR

THAVOLIA GLYPH  
Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies  
Duke University

TODAY AT 3:30 P.M.  
ROYALL ROOM  
G. W. HILL ALUMNI CENTER  
FREE & OPEN TO ALL

PRESENTED BY  
UNC'S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH  
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UNC GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Enter to win a custom Carolina Timbuk2 messenger bag packed full of great prizes!

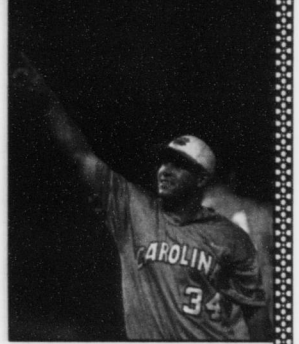
Wednesday, March 26  
9am-2pm

Look for volunteers across campus passing out fun giveaways & visit the Y2H table in the Pit from 12-2pm

Yield 2 Heels is a pedestrian safety awareness campaign coordinated by UNC Highway Safety Research Center, UNC Dept. of Public Safety and Alpha Phi Omega

FREE Student Transportation

Carolina Baseball vs. NC State



Friday, March 28th - First pitch 7pm  
Saturday, March 29th - First pitch 6pm

FREE Student Transportation provided to and from the game.

Departs from the Smith Center front parking lot at 6pm on Friday and 5pm on Saturday and returns after the conclusion of each game.

If you are interested in reserving your place, please send an email to [carolina.baseball@gmail.com](mailto:carolina.baseball@gmail.com) including your name, PID number and the date of the game(s) you would like to attend.

