

Newly crowned Miss N.C. a true Tar Heel

Will take year off to fulfill duties

BY JENNIFER L. DURHAM
STAFF WRITER

Many pageant contestants compete for years before they win a crown, but for rising UNC senior Amanda Watson, the first time was the charm.

The music education major and Miss Garner 2008 followed up that inaugural victory by being crowned Miss North Carolina on June 21. She will represent the state in the Miss America pageant in January.

"I first got into it because of the scholarship money it offers," Watson said. "I fell in love with it and the Miss America organization."

The Raleigh native said that she has always aspired to be Miss North Carolina because of the opportunities it affords.

"It makes such a difference," Watson said. "It's not all about the crown but the crown does open so many doors for you that you wouldn't have otherwise."

Watson, who will take a year off from school to perform her Miss North Carolina duties, said that pageants also prepare contestants

for other life experiences such as job interviews.

Miss North Carolina duties consist of activities including photo shoots, personal appearances and hospital visits to promote her service platform.

"It's just been a whirlwind," Watson said. "We travel the states and meet with important people and we're certainly preparing for Miss America."

Watson said that it is difficult to maintain her studies at UNC and participate in the pageant circuit but it is well worth it.

Watson also shared her love for the University and her appreciation of the music department for their help in developing her singing talent.

"I love Carolina. I love everything about it," Watson said. "They've been very supportive of me in the music department, helping me prepare for the talent portion of the competition."

Competitors in the Miss North Carolina and the Miss America pageants compete in four different cat-

egories including personal interview, talent, swimsuit and evening wear.

"All components are vital for the overall score," Watson said. "I'll be staying physically active and concentrating on my speaking skills to prepare for the competition."

Watson's service platform is the ALS Association, which works to further knowledge and research of Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease — which has claimed the lives of several members of her family.

"That's what I'm really going to be focusing on this year," Watson said. "So many people don't know what it is and I hope to change that."

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.

Watson also won the community service award in the Miss North Carolina pageant for her dedicated efforts for the ALS Association and the Catfish Hunter Organization.

"My goal is to make Miss America everything that it used to be and to help young women understand everything that it is about."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



CONTRIBUTED BY AMANDA WATSON

Amanda Watson, current Miss North Carolina, smiles victoriously, holding a bouquet of long-stemmed roses after a pageant victory in 2008.

Selected Miss N.C. appearances

July 4: Performing the National Anthem at the Ft. Bragg Independence Day Celebration

July 27-30: Promoting ALS awareness, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

Aug. 2: Robbins Farmers Day Festival

Aug. 9: Emcee at the High Point University Talent Showcase

Sept. 6: Old Bags Brunch for Babies

Oct. 16: Opening ceremonies, North Carolina State Fair

Nov. 1: N.C. Pecan Festival

Nov. 1: 50th anniversary Miss Garner Pageant

Nov. 28 & 29: N.C. Holiday Flotilla

Jan. 24: Miss America Pageant

April 1-5: N.C. Azalea Festival

April 25: Rusty Pistons Tractor Show

June 27: Crown successor at 2009 Miss North Carolina Pageant

Campus experience comes early at summer camp

BY ALYSSA STEPUSIN
STAFF WRITER

Every weekday, Joyner Residence Hall fills with students ready to roam the UNC campus for the next several hours.

These students are here earlier than anyone heading to class in Dye or Manning halls, though, and their transportation is a bit different than that of your normal college student.

These students, climbing out of their parents' cars, are on campus for the Carolina Kids Camp, a summer day care provided as a University service.

Carolina Kids Camp is in its 16th summer of offering eight weeks of day camp to children aged 6 to 12. The camp is only available to children of permanent employees of the University, UNC Health Care and the General Alumni Association and to full-time students who are parents.

"We have about 120 to 150 campers every week," assistant director Kat Rangel said, adding, "It's a fun day camp, mainly games and activities and some field trips."

Field trips include visits to local art museums and the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center.

Every week has its own theme, and "America the Beautiful" is this week's focus as July 4 approaches.

"We try to have at least one activity from each theme," Rangel said. "The groups are in charge of planning their own activities."

For "America the Beautiful," they will celebrate the great American outdoors with a picnic and a patriotic parade today.

"CKC Goes Green!" week brought the campers UNC arborist



DTH/RACHEL RODEMANN

Trey Kenemer, a counselor for Carolina Kids Camp, chases a camper around a tree during a game of hide and seek the afternoon of July 1.

Tom Bythell, who taught the campers the importance of trees and the environment.

The children participate in various activities on campus throughout the week, including daily swimming, exploring the arboretum, doing arts and crafts and preparing skits to be performed for their parents at the end of the week.

Campers are encouraged to grow and embrace their individual personalities, and college-aged counselors are on hand to lead activities and make sure everyone gets along.

Jeremy Yates, a second-year camp counselor, guides the youngest group, rising first graders, through their daily schedules. Yates said he tries to incorporate learning into the day's games and activities.

"We try to push the please and

thank you, and we keep in mind what they're learning in their grades," he said.

Yates said he has been impressed by his young group, noting that they let their personalities show.

"It's crazy, but it's a lot of fun," he said. "They're nuts. They all have completely different personalities."

Aimee Krans, the camp's director, said she thinks the camp offers a great opportunity and a fun alternative to ordinary child care, while also providing parents an affordable health care option.

"Parents like that their kids are nearby," Krans said.

"It gives the kids a chance to experience the UNC campus."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

UNC students travel to Beijing

BY JOHANNA YUEH
STAFF WRITER

A group of 33 journalism students, led by C.A. Tuggle, will set off Saturday for Beijing, China, and the Olympics.

While the Olympics don't begin until August, most of the students will train for a month to become flash quote reporters for the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games.

Six or seven of them will train to intern at the International Broadcast Center, the headquarters for Olympic broadcast operations and world broadcasters.

"We don't know exactly what we'll be doing yet," said Tuggle, a professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. "I guess we'll find out when we get there."

The students are tentatively assigned to cover basketball, baseball and shooting. They will attend the events, write match summaries and transcribe quotes from athletes to distribute to international news

organizations.

After an application process that included tests and interviews with Chinese officials, the juniors, seniors and graduate students said they are excited for the new experience.

Walter Storholt, a senior broadcast journalism major, said because he knows only basic details about China, going to Beijing will be an opportunity to see a totally different world.

"Going to China for the Olympics is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Storholt said. "It will be a great learning experience."

Besides being able to attend a major international event in another country, the students are also looking forward to the media experience.

"It will be a unique and unparalleled opportunity to observe not only the Chinese media but also other international media," said Courtney Woo, a second-year graduate student.

Woo was in Beijing in 2001 when China won its bid to host the Olympics. While she was studying

and working in China, she witnessed some of the construction and other preparations for the games.

"China has always been a part of my life," said Woo, whose father is Chinese. "This is something I've always wanted to experience."

Storholt said he is excited about the opportunity to meet and work alongside other journalists.

"We'll get to meet lots of real-world reporters from, like, USA Today," he said.

He also said it would be a challenge to work with translators and deal with different languages.

But Woo is interested in comparing the media's framing of issues to what the students see on the ground.

"China's been getting such polarized press lately," she said. "If something does go wrong, whether by human error or nature, China's opponents are going to say 'we told you so.'"

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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