

New performing arts internship looking to grow

BY PHILLIP CROOK
STAFF WRITER

When junior Erin Hanehan and senior Katie Curtis took seats in the office of Emil Kang, UNC's executive director for the arts, neither student expected they were on the brink of a new direction.

Hanehan and Curtis blazed the path as Carolina Performing Arts' first interns, spending the summer in two very different capacities yet both landing in the lap of their career passions.

"Emil likes to say the best things are unplanned," Hanehan said. "I

know how it happened because I was there, but I don't know how it became this great."

Kang said CPA wants to deepen its relationship with students. Curtis and Hanehan's experiences were informal, but Kang said the two were excellent guinea pigs for creating a formalized internship program.

"We were fortunate to have two incredibly different, bright and passionate people working for us," he said. "If people can get involved here, it can hopefully lead them to thinking about their futures."

Curtis said several staff members

advised her to schedule the appointment with Kang when she found herself without summer plans.

"I didn't even know what I was going to ask him," she said. "But he heard what my interests were and he said 'Let's make a place for you.'"

Curtis worked within the artistic affairs office to process the hundreds of artist proposals CPA receives for consideration in its future seasons.

Artistic Coordinator Michelle Bordner, who worked closely with Curtis, stated by e-mail that Curtis' position helped her learn what it takes to bring artists here.

"It's always great to have the perspective of a student since they are a very important piece of why we do what we do," Bordner said.

Hanehan worked nearby in CPA's campus and community engagement office to connect local organizations

and various departments within the University to CPA's season.

While she came to Kang's office to ask him to be her faculty advisor in a study abroad grant-writing process, Hanehan ended up with his support in another aspect of her future.

Sharing an office where they poured brainstorming onto a whiteboard, Hanehan and Reed Colver, the campus and community engagement coordinator, hit it off as soon as Kang connected them to discuss internship possibilities.

"Her job is a good model for what I want to do with my life," Hanehan said. "It's part of Emil's magic."

She said she felt comfortable bouncing ideas off Colver, no matter how big or silly they seemed. Hanehan said she most appreciated the collaborative nature of the work and how valuable she felt.

Hanehan and Curtis will continue their work with CPA this semester. Hanehan will stay on as a senior after studying abroad this spring.

Curtis will transition from arts administration to reaching out to the arts forum and student groups to involve them more closely with CPA. Hanehan will stay with Colver, shifting her work toward Web updates,

blog posts and media collection.

"Creating this program is critical in making an authentic connection with students," Colver said. "Having Erin and Katie has given us positive feedback for moving the program forward in the future."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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Student interns at Carolina Performing Arts

Katie Curtis
Major: senior, music and psychology
Responsibilities: Curtis helped to create and refine a filing system for compiling the market material, referrals, videos and reviews sent to CPA about performers. She also spent two days a week manning the CPA booth at orientations to engage new students in the upcoming season's shows.
Stipend: \$1,000

Erin Hanehan
Major: junior, dramatic art and public relations
Responsibilities: Hanehan finalized a grant report for Carolina Creative Campus, a grant awarded to the University in 2007 to create a year-long discussion on the death penalty. Although the grant money was for one year, CPA decided to continue the initiative on its own with this year's Gender Project, an examination of gender and identity. Hanehan conducted research on avenues of exploring the topic and integrating other parts of the University into the discussion.
Stipend: \$1,000

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On Sept. 15, 1875, the formal celebration of the reopening of the University was held. The band played "Auld Lang Syne." The actual opening day of the University was Monday, Sept. 6, 1875.

The GAA Student Membership Program has many activities planned for the beginning of the semester. Stop by and see us at any or all of these activities. For a full list of fall 2008 events, please visit us at alumni.unc.edu/students.

Member Packet Distribution
Tuesday, Sept. 2, to Thursday, Sept. 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. — The Pit
Now is the time to come pick up your member packet, including your T-shirt, laptop case and discount card.

Back to School Barbecue
Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6-8 p.m. — The Pit
Student members are invited to join us for a barbecue dinner with all the fixins'.

Official Class Ring Unveiling Ceremony
Wednesday, Sept. 3, 7-8 p.m. — The Pit
Join us as the Official Class Ring is unveiled to the Carolina community at 7 p.m. The night will include refreshments, door prizes, appearances by Rameses and the UNC Cheerleaders, and more. Rings officially go on sale Thursday, Sept. 4, at UNC Student Stores.

T-Shirt & Discount Day
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. — The Pit
Wear your student member T-shirt on campus today for a chance to win great prizes. Also learn more about Student Membership discounts.

Majors Expo
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — Great Hall
All undergraduates are invited to come explore and meet a variety of academic departments on campus who will be on hand to help you choose a major or minor.

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