

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

Duke University Students: Connecting with their community in unique and valuable ways

A local gal, when Liz was in high school, she worked with the homeless in Raleigh and wanted to get involved with the homeless and impoverished in Durham. Since September 2014, Liz enjoys being at UMD because she gets to use her Spanish and give people food, clothing and diapers. "It's busy and active" says the young woman who displays a ton of energy and passion for this work. What are her hobbies and interests? "I volunteer with the Community Empowerment Fund, at the student radio station and am on the student government." What about fun? "Oh, well I play soccer, run and like music." This summer, Liz will continue helping those in need by interning at the Wacamaw Council of Governments in SC as their volunteer coordinator for the assisted rides program. And UMD? "It's been really cool to see a person's story through their folder. There was a janitor at a high school and when it snowed, he didn't get paid so he came to UMD for food. It shows how the system works against people who work and still have to come to UMD to make ends meet." Liz may be an important catalyst in helping to change that system one day and we hope she will be back at UMD helping one life at a time until then.



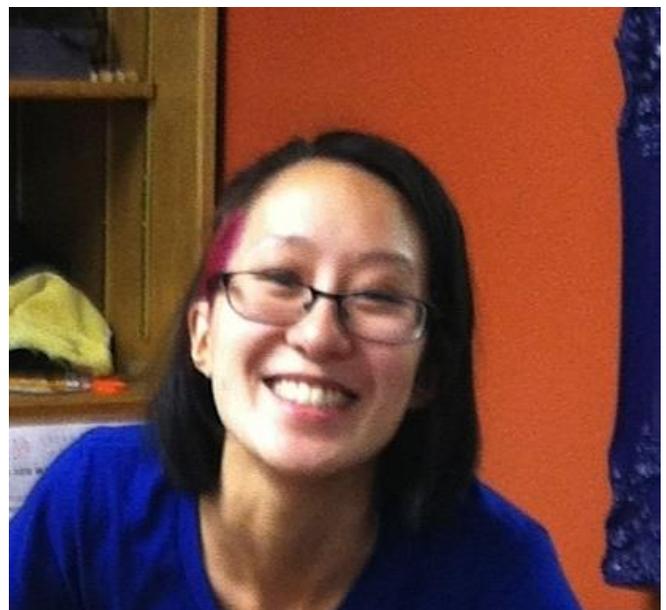
Liz Brown, class of 2018 majoring cultural anthropology and global health



Angela Chen, class of 2018, majoring in public policy and economics

Irvine, CA is home but Emily is heading to Philadelphia this fall and medical school at Temple University with a focus on psychiatry. This summer Emily will be travelling, visiting friends and RELAXING! She enjoys running, reading, and well, volunteering. Last September, Emily attended a UMD volunteer orientation, "because I wanted to meet new people and help my community." She immediately signed up to help UMD at the Battle of the Bands fundraiser and has been coming weekly to work in the Clothing Closet, and volunteer with Empty Bowls. Coming to UMD regularly has given Emily a sense of connection. "I have never felt so inspired as I have being at UMD," she said. When asked what she has gotten out of volunteering at UMD, "I just love meeting so many different people in Durham and helping them on their road to food, shelter and a future." UMD will miss having Emily every week—her bright smile, twinkling eyes, energy and compassion for helping those neighbors in need we serve. She won't be forgotten and will have as profound an impact as a doctor on those who need help and care as she did at UMD this past year!

Originally from Shanghai, Angela and her family now live in Vancouver, Canada. In January, Angela took a writing class and did a paper on the obesity hunger paradox—that sparked her interest in food issues. She immediately reached out to UMD, signed up to volunteer and came weekly to work in the food pantry or clothing closet. "I haven't felt so connected and inspired as I have here at UMD." To carry on her passion, this summer Angela will be in Detroit working with a non-profit educating teenagers on how to cook and prepare healthy food. She will be responsible for helping these young people develop their own recipes and then sell the food at local farmers markets and retail stores. Angela also enjoys playing the piano and saxophone and loves skiing. What has UMD done for her? "I like the working dynamics at UMD. The staff and other volunteers are happy and supportive of people coming to UMD for help." Angela plans to come back to UMD in the fall once she knows her schedule and that's great news for everyone. We will be most lucky to have her!



Emily Du, Class of 2015, with a major in Neuroscience



Nicole Helmke, a medical grad, class of 2015

Hailing from Lancaster, WI Nicole attended the University of Wisconsin with a double major in French and Microbiology and then took 3 years off before coming to Duke. After completing medical school studies in March, Nicole has off until July when she will enter a 5-year residency program at Duke in internal medicine and psychiatry and have practically NO time off. She contacted UMD and said she needed to keep busy for a few months. That's exactly what she has done, coming every day—sometimes for 8 hours—and helping out with routine assignments and special projects. Why did she choose UMD? "Because I've worked at similar places with vulnerable people in Italy and Africa. Working at UMD reminds me why I wanted to go to medical school. It makes me feel like I'm doing something worthwhile, something real." Nicole comes daily to UMD, is planning her October wedding, enjoys reading, cooking and singing in the choir. What an incredible gift UMD received in the dedicated help, diverse talent, and "think on her feet" style of Dr. Helmke! She is leaving her mark and we wish her the best when she starts her residency.

Sharrin started volunteering at UMD in January 2015. She is part of the Duke living group Ubuntu that focuses on civic engagement "in whatever form that takes. Just being involved with your community." Earlier this year students in the Ubuntu group got together and made casseroles for UMD's hungry neighbors. Sharrin helped deliver them, had a tour, and then signed on to help our clients each week look for jobs on the internet. "I always wanted to volunteer but felt I was too busy." Since volunteering weekly at UMD, Sharrin says "I enjoy helping people. If they didn't have someone help them, they couldn't do it. I feel like I'm a gateway for people to look for jobs or learn to enjoy the internet like I do. Computer literacy is super relevant." This summer Sharrin is flying to Seattle with her partner, renting a car and doing a west coast road trip for two weeks, ending up at home in Mission Viejo in southern California. Then it's back to Duke for an internship with the Data+ in computer science. What does this busy lady enjoy doing in her own time? Cooking, music, sharing meals with people, being with her friends, reading, consuming culture and art, engaging with the community, building a collection of plants—and of course, going on the internet ☺



Sharrin Manor, class of 2016, double majoring in electrical and computer engineering and computer science.



Stacy Scholle, a fifth year doctoral candidate in Biology.

Stacy works in a lab studying how viruses spread and evolve using theoretical biology (aka math). Since 2011, Stacy has been a devoted volunteer helping with meals in the community café, doing data entry, corralling friends to help at special events like Empty Bowls each year and the Art Fest. Originally from Hawaii with undergrad work in New Mexico (where she met husband, Steve) Stacy looked up homeless shelters on line because she "always had a soft spot for helping out homeless people." She connected with UMD's mission because, "it doesn't matter what religion, sexual orientation, etc. but that UMD serves everyone." In Waikiki, she and her friends would bring left over Thanksgiving dinner to homeless people. Like all teenagers, they would go to the mall, but instead of just hanging out, Stacy and friends would ask restaurants for their left over bread and give it to people living on the streets. Why is UMD important to Stacy? "It makes me feel like I'm a part of my community, and that the more types of people I know, the broader my mind and the more I understand the world....there are so many perspectives on life and learning and growing as a person—that's the point of life!" Stacy enjoys blues dancing, her dogs Leu and Skipper, going home to Hawaii to visit her family, and being outside. We are so grateful for all she has and continues to do at UMD!