Lianne Gonsalves ’10 made the decision to pursue a career in diplomacy as a result of her Park class trip to Washington, D.C., in her sophomore year. Since then, she has never looked back.

Lianne, a dual major in international studies and biological sciences with a minor in Spanish, participated in many experiences as a Park Scholar that helped prepare her for future ambassadorial roles. She held internships with the U.S. Department of State—one in Washington, D.C., and the other in Honduras, as well as studied abroad in Guatemala. Lianne also served as a coxswain in the Rowing Club and as president of the Ballroom Dance Team.

She was recently awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship and will spend the next year in Venezuela. “The Park faculty and staff encouraged me to dream big, and the program has been instrumental in preparing me for opportunities like the Fulbright,” says Lianne.

After returning from South America, Lianne plans to pursue graduate work in global careers for Undergraduates program, where he worked with researchers to develop a computational model that predicts the effect of storm surges on shipping containers.

Most recently, Bryan received a Park Scholarships grant for a research project involving the campus chapter of Engineers Without Borders, NC State Solar Center, and College of Engineering faculty to design a low-cost, sustainable wind turbine for use in Sierra Leone. “The Park Scholarships program has greatly enriched my college experience, provided the encouragement and resources for me to explore my personal and professional interests,” says Bryan.

Bryan plans to pursue a career that combines international development, engineering, teaching, and research.
The Park Scholarships are named for the late Roy H. Park, a 1931 NC State alumnus who bequeathed more than 70 percent of his holdings to create the charitable Park Foundation, Inc., dedicated to education, the environment, and other select interests. In 1996, the Park Scholarships were established at NC State with a splendid vision and generous grant from the Park Foundation. Since the inaugural class of 25 scholars, the number of Park Scholars on campus has grown to approximately 200, along with a growing network of alumni. To date, the Park Foundation has committed more than $61 million to support the scholarship, establishing a legacy of leadership and service in the spirit of the Park name.

Benefits

- A four-year scholarship valued at $80,000 in-state and $136,000 out-of-state, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, travel, and personal expenses
- $2,000 computer stipend
- Grant opportunities for research, artistic, and service projects, and international experiences
- Opportunities for study abroad with alumni-supported travel stipends
- Early course registration
- Yearly enrichment activities
- Guaranteed admission to the University Scholars Program

The Park Scholarships Program provides a superb educational opportunity for exceptionally talented and well-prepared young men and women to develop leadership skills and a commitment to public service.

How to Apply

The Park Scholarships application is online and part of the NC State Undergraduate Admissions application. Park Scholarships candidates can access this special section of the admissions application by being endorsed by their high schools or by self-endorsing. Each fall, most North Carolina high schools and select high schools in other states are invited to endorse candidates. Students should contact their guidance counselors in the late spring of their junior year or early fall of their senior year. Counselors must endorse candidates by October 1, and all materials from candidates are due by November 1. Candidates must be U.S. citizens and matriculate into a baccalaureate program in the fall semester as a first-year student. For additional information, visit the Park Scholarships website.

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