

Alumni Profile

Sandy An BSPH Class of 2007

MD/PhD student, Wake Forest University, School of Medicine

BSPH, Biostatistics, 2007, UNC-Chapel Hill
BA, Chemistry 2007, UNC-Chapel Hill
PhD, Biochemistry 2012, Wake Forest University

Why did you choose UNC?

UNC is one of the best public universities in the country. It is known for its highly respected faculty and academics. Additionally, few top schools also have a phenomenal athletics programs to boot. I chose UNC because of its proximity to my family, who are an important part of my life, and the great education I could receive from the renowned faculty.



Could you have gotten where you are today without your UNC degree?

My degrees from UNC have been instrumental in getting me to where I am today. My biostatistics knowledge provided a solid foundation of statistical knowledge. It was essential to the completion of my PhD work in the genetics of Type 2 Diabetes in an African American and Hispanic cohort. There was an extensive amount of bioinformatic analysis required and the biostatistics training at UNC SPH was a great foundation.

What was your favorite thing about the department of Biostatistics?

It provided a small close knit community of friends, colleagues and mentors within the massive UNC campus. In a school known for its diversity and wealth of opportunities, it was nice to have a small program where I was well known, got to meet great friends, and provided the individual attention that I wanted. The faculty and staff in the Biostatistics department was superb while I was a student and afterwards. In particular, Dr. Jane Monaco, who served as a program director while I was a student, was always supportive and great source of knowledge.

What are your words of wisdom to current students in the Biostatistics program?

There are excellent mentors available to you and the alumni of the program have done incredibly well during and after the program. The training you receive will be unique and incredibly useful in the age of bioinformatics.



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