

# Scholarship student at N.C. State aims to help veterans



Margaret Garehan of Clayton plans to practice clinical psychology at a VA hospital.

Margaret Garehan knows what it means to weather the storm and move forward. She is studying psychology at N.C. State with the goal of helping veterans do the same thing.

Garehan has called Clayton home since moving to Johnston County in 2007. She grew up in the community of Slidell, Louisiana which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. After rebuilding, the Garehan family relocated to North Carolina. Margaret decided to follow in her sister Hannah's footsteps and attend N.C. State. Margaret received a lottery-funded scholarship for the 2012-2013 school year.

"The scholarship was an awesome surprise," Garehan said. "I had no idea that the lottery gave money to college students."

She is putting it to good use. Garehan maintains a 3.98 GPA while working evenings 20 hours a week at a non-profit mental health facility. There, she does medical billing, coding and referral work.

"It's a lot to juggle with homework," she explained. Garehan added that, for her, the key is to remain focused and balance her responsibilities.

Now a senior, she is on track to graduate in May 2014 and join her sister as a Wolfpack alumna. As much as she looks

forward to completing her undergraduate studies, Garehan said she is not done earning credentials for her career.

"I want to go to grad school for clinical mental health," she said. "Ideally I would like to work in a VA hospital and provide services to veterans."

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Margaret Garehan

Since the lottery began through June 30, 2012, students in Wake County received more than \$14.9 million in lottery funds for 12,704 need-based scholarships. To date, students across the state have received more than \$174.2 million in lottery-funded college scholarships. ★

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