Recognition of Brittany Blackwell’s athletic achievements at UNCW date back to 2008 when, as a freshman, she was named Rookie of the Year for the women’s basketball team. During her tenure she has become UNCW’s all-time leader for free throws made and attempted, steals and games started.

Along with her athletic achievements, Blackwell is also a leader among her peers and an attentive student in the Cameron School of Business. She knows her achievements, both on and off the basketball court, would not have been possible without financial support from the Fred Eshelman Endowment Scholarship and other athletic scholarships that fully funded her tuition the past four years.

Simply put, “without scholarships people wouldn’t be able to come to college. Growing up I always knew I needed them, and they had a huge impact on my decision to come to UNCW, otherwise I could not have afforded tuition,” Blackwell said.

“I do feel that she is very much aware of the significance of having had a scholarship opportunity to pursue her academic dreams and athletic dreams,” said Richard Morrison, UNCW international business professor who escorted Brittany on the court during senior night.

The balance athletes have to perfect between academics and their sport is challenging and sometimes overlooked by the rest of the university public. However, Blackwell’s success is evident in both arenas. As one of four women’s basketball team members averaging more than 10 points a game, she has also maintained a 3.0 GPA during college. She notes that being an athlete has been a great benefit to her academics, saying it taught her time management and self-discipline.

“She is very focused and disciplined in her personal life in terms of making sure basketball doesn’t get in the way of making good grades and having a good academic record. At the same time, if you watch her on the basketball court, when it’s time to play, it’s time to play,” Morrison said.

Blackwell’s time at UNCW did not end with graduation in May, as she will begin the Cameron School of Business Master of Science in Accountancy program in the fall. She would like to work in the financial department of a sports organization and says she would love to give back to UNCW someday financially or by donating her time.

“I want to be remembered as someone who helped to change the basketball program at UNCW and someone who worked hard,” Blackwell says.