IN THOSE QUIET MOMENTS OF CLASS, DID YOU EVER wonder who else sat at your desk during that day, that week? Maybe their gaze, like yours, lingered on something visible through the window. Perhaps, they, too, searched for familiar shapes in the brick walls’ rough texture or imagined themselves gluing into the emerald sea excited by the green chalkboard. What was inspiring them? What notes did they scribble down? What great ideas were they having? What subjects were they learning about in this exact same spot?

Well, we wondered that, too. We wanted to see who some of these students might be – these students who selected the center desk in Maybank Hall’s Room 322 this spring semester.

Although the players in this drama most likely don’t know one another, may never even cross paths, there is a special connection playing out here. Unlike some of their classmates, these students didn’t choose a seat in the back of the room, where they could be anonymous; they didn’t choose to sit in the front row, where they could be seen.

No, out of the 37 desks available, these seven students picked a central seat, one that gives them access to everyone in the classroom – a chair in the center of it all.

And, of course, they all share one more thing: They share space.

THIS SEAT’S TAKEN

BEN BROOK
Senior chemistry major
COLUMBIA, S.C.
Kristin Krantzman’s CHEM 342: Physical Chemistry II

ELIZABETH HODSON
Sophomore international studies major
WEST HARTFORD, CONN.
Kathleen Foody’s INTL 100: Introduction to International Studies

DENIZ HOUSTON
Freshman international studies major
ANKARA, TURKEY
Thais Voet’s FYES 101 First-Year Experience Synthesis Semester: Economics of Globalization

ELAINA GYURE
Freshman history and historic preservation and community planning double major
FT. MYERS, FLA.
Christina Oberstar’s HFSP 290 Special Topics: Sleuthing the Past

ABBY WISELEY
Sophomore exercise science major
COLUMBUS, GA.
Wendy Cory’s HONS 294 Honors Chemical Principles II: Mathematical Treatment of Equilibrium and Kinetics, Introduction to Nuclear Chemistry

MATT MAZZARELLI ’13
Senior data science major
GREENVILLE, S.C.
Amanda Henley’s COMM 104: Public Speaking

BRENDAN GREENE
Freshman biology major with a psychology minor
ASHBURN, VA.
Anthony Parker’s MATH 111: Pre-Calculus Mathematics

DENIZ HOUSTON
Freshman international studies major
ANKARA, TURKEY
Thais Voet’s FYES 101 First-Year Experience Synthesis Semester: Economics of Globalization