

FALL 2020

# UNCG

MAGAZINE

## RAVEN SOARS

The aspiring music teacher is inaugural Sloan Scholar. Not that she'd toot her own horn.

PG. 40

SPARTANS'  
IMPACT ON  
PANDEMIC

PG. 22

BLM ART  
ON ELM

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PALMER  
INSTITUTE

PG. 34

FALDERAL,  
ANYONE?

PG. 38

Raven  
Sizemore,  
first-year  
honors  
student





**4** **PICKING FLOWERS** First-year students started the year learning the campus' oldest traditions. The campus Old Bell rang to welcome them, just as it has since the campus' earliest days. They learned the lyrics to the school's alma mater. And – in a socially distanced manner of course – each placed a fresh daisy in a modern-day daisy chain. We noticed a few were placed at the base of Minerva as well – another tradition. With everything that seemed so unusual this semester, these timeless nods to heritage were a thing of beauty.

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Lots of class notes and pictures, too

Cover photography: Raven Sizemore, first-year honors student and inaugural Sloan Scholar  
By Martin W. Kane

**Check out the magazine website**  
Visit [alumnimagazine.uncg.edu](http://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu) to enjoy the digital version of the magazine in both photo-rich stories you can easily share on social media and in PDF format. While there, you can also submit a class note, view video clips, or click on archives to see former issues.

UNCG has been a remarkable place during these extraordinary times.

In our faculty and staff, I see tireless dedication to our mission – literally thousands of people pulling together to create the best possible academic, social, and cultural experience for our students as they pursue their dreams.

In our alumni, I see passionate support and a willingness to give time, expertise, and treasure where all of these resources are much needed and deeply appreciated. Spartans are coming together to support UNCG and our students in new and meaningful ways.

In our community, I see the power of our shared place and fate and the unique role we play in making Greensboro a vibrant city.

And most of all, I see in our students resilience, persistence, focus, and strength. They have earned our admiration and respect. They have embraced life-saving community standards in ways that have directly contributed to our ability to manage this pandemic as effectively as possible. I am grateful to them, proud of them, and inspired by them.

Better days are ahead. For the present, we face our challenges united by our common purpose as “one great unbroken band,” as our school song says.



FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.  
CHANCELLOR

# newsfront

## Shield our Spartans

### The three Ws. “Wear. Wait. Wash.”

As students returned to campus in early August, safety was a priority. COVID-19 protocols were key.

*Wear a face covering.*

*Wait in line at least 6 feet from the next person.*

*Wash your hands regularly.*

Through social media, through signage in buildings and along sidewalks, via emails, through video, the campus community was reminded again and again. As Chancellor Gilliam told the

students as classes began, “More than ever our shared success this year depends on you, each and every one of you. And you have to do your part. Wear a face covering when you’re on campus in class and in the community.

Wash your hands frequently. Keep your distance on campus and off campus. Your actions matter. We have to work together wherever we are to keep each other safe.”

As of the print deadline for this magazine, Sept. 25, the precautions have kept illness from spiking. No clusters of COVID-19 in the

campus community have been detected. A COVID-19 online dashboard kept the community informed. The largest number of new positive COVID tests for students so far is 18, reported the last week of August.

The chancellor continues to note that everyone needs to be flexible. We don’t know the future. But the actions of each member of the Spartan community brought the opening of the school year cause for hope – that this will remain an impactful, on-campus experience for our students.

“More than ever our shared success this year depends on you, each and every one of you.”



## PRIORITIES AND PROOF

UNCG’s priorities are built around excellence, opportunity, and impact. In 2017, Chancellor Gilliam signed off on strategic goals in these areas, as part of the UNC System goals. How are things going?

UNCG was recognized as the only System campus to exceed each of its nine strategic plan metrics in the most recent year.

Of all of the UNC System campuses, three – UNCG, UNC Charlotte, and NC State – met or exceeded their annual targets on all five of their priority metrics.

Priority goals for the 2017-2022 plan for UNCG include enrolling a substantially higher number of low-income students, graduating about one-third more low-income students, greatly improving the five-year graduation rate, reducing by 50% the achievement gap among underrepresented minority students, and producing nearly 20% more critical workforce credentials.

“Ensuring our students succeed and helping meet the needs of our state, even during the most challenging times, are what we must do. Working together, we are making a huge impact,” said Chancellor Gilliam.

CHANCELLOR'S PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICCICHIE PHOTOGRAPHY

**FIVE-YEAR GRADUATION RATES:**  
By 2022, UNCG will improve its five-year graduation rate from any accredited institution to **62.4%**. This is an improvement over a base of 56.7% for UNCG’s 2010 cohort.

**LOW-INCOME COMPLETIONS:**  
By 2021-22, UNCG will produce 2,115 low-income graduates, an **INCREASE OF 32.5%** (519 additional low-income completions over a base of 1,596).

**LOW-INCOME ENROLLMENTS:**  
By Fall 2021, UNCG will enroll 8,161 low-income students, a **15.1% INCREASE** over 2015 levels (1,072 additional low-income students over a base of 7,089).

**ACHIEVEMENT GAPS IN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE EFFICIENCY:**  
By 2021-22, UNCG will reduce by **50%** the achievement gap in undergraduate degree efficiency among underrepresented minority students.

**CRITICAL WORKFORCES:**  
By 2021-22, UNCG will produce 1,544 critical workforce credentials, an increase of **19.5%** (252 additional critical workforce credentials over a base of 1,292).

SEE THE RESULTS ON THE UNC SYSTEM WEB SITE.



In class, face coverings were essential. Between classes, students wore face coverings if they couldn't ensure social distancing. And once the Kaplan Center for Wellness was open in September, the climbing wall required face coverings, as well.



**9,255 STUDENTS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$8,727,400 THROUGH AUG. 4.**

Beginning in March, many students' lives were disrupted. The federal CARES Act Emergency Grants were released directly to students for expenses such as food, housing, technology needs, childcare expenses, and more resulting from the campus disruption. Some students applied; others automatically received assistance based on qualifying factors including those with lowest estimated family contribution (EFC).

# CLASSES DURING COVID

The semester would have no fall break, and exams would begin in November. Arts performances were canceled or postponed until later. In-person conferences and symposia were rescheduled. Fall sporting events would not be held.

Even move-in was radically different. And it worked.

Students had a two-stage approach in early August. In the drop-off stage, they unloaded their items in their rooms and returned home. They knew it as "Stop, drop, and roll." And days before classes began, a final move-in stage. Still, the students had been told to bring only what was needed. The future wasn't known.

The residence halls adjusted guest visitation policy to limit visitors. They increased cleaning in common areas.

Throughout campus, staff ensured everyone had personal protective equipment and could maintain social distancing by making modifications in classrooms, dining areas, residence halls, etc.

The number of students living in residence halls was about 70 percent of the usual number.

All in-person classes were socially distanced, with all participants wearing face coverings.

Many faculty wore clear faceguards as well.

They managed traffic in hallways and staggered the way people enter and leave classrooms and buildings.

The biggest constant, everywhere you went? Face coverings. UNCG required all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to wear a face covering while indoors on campus and outdoors when social distancing could not be maintained. While they were provided to students and employees, many created their own.

For dining, capacity at dining venues was reduced by 50%, and new to-go dining locations were set up.

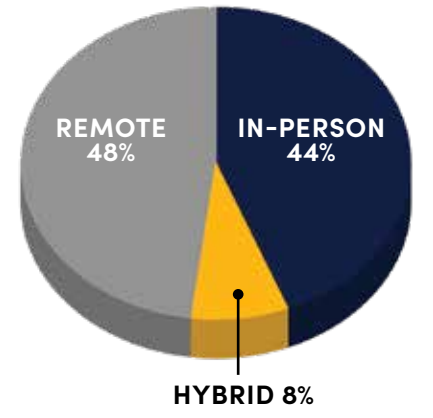
Even riding a bus was different. All occupants of buses wore face coverings, and bus capacity could not exceed 50%.

For students who tested positive or were in close contact with someone who did, the University created quarantine and isolation facilities for students.

**READ WHAT SEVERAL PROFESSORS WROTE ABOUT THE YEAR AT [UNCGREENSBOROAAUP.WORDPRESS.COM/COVID-19-ESSAY](http://UNCGREENSBOROAAUP.WORDPRESS.COM/COVID-19-ESSAY)**

## HOW WERE CLASSES HELD?

The average in-person class, as of the first of September, had fewer than 17 students. For students attending in person, social distancing was key – as was everyone wearing face coverings. As for the large lecture-hall classes – and many other course offerings – they had been transformed into online classes, using video platforms such as Zoom.



**TOTAL POSITIVE CASE COUNTS SINCE JULY 1, 2020** A UCG COVID-19 dashboard maintained a running total of all reported positive cases that had the potential to impact campus. The total as of September 13.

Students	Staff	Faculty	Contractor
61	4	1	3
<small>Since July 1, 2020</small>	<small>Since July 1, 2020</small>	<small>Since July 1, 2020</small>	<small>Since July 1, 2020</small>

# Take care of each other

“I will never forget how you aided me in my time of need,” wrote one health and human sciences student to UNCG’s Division of Student Affairs. “I was going to be in way over my head this summer with bills and tuition.”

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this student – and others – found their university experience dramatically changed. They had to adapt to online classes at the end of March, and many were faced with new obstacles. Where should they live, how will they get there, where will they eat? Some struggled to support not only themselves but also loved ones they live with or care for.

UNCG stood ready to help. In April, faculty, staff, and alumni banded together to strengthen safety nets addressing immediate student needs. Among these is the Student Assistance Fund for Emergencies (SAFE).

Established by the Class of 1967 and operated by the Division of Student Affairs, SAFE provides one-time assistance to matriculating students experiencing financial emergencies. These grants have covered sudden expenses for housing, traveling, and education throughout the pandemic.

Its work continues this fall.

“Our students need us now more than ever,” says Dr. Brett Carter, associate vice chancellor and dean of students. “We are creating a culture of care, which in turn motivates our students to become their best selves.”

As of September, the Office of Student Affairs had awarded \$98,000 to 212 students through SAFE. The average award is \$462. The office has been flooded with gratitude.

“Thank you for providing this fund to students who are struggling,” said a Class of 2020 graduate. “I cried with gratitude when I learned I would get help. Because of this award, I was able to finish my master’s in human development and family studies and feel hope again.”

SEE [GIVETO.UNCG.EDU](https://giveto.uncg.edu).

## THE SAFE FUND

Student Assistance Fund for Emergencies

By giving to this fund, you can make an immediate difference to a student in need through something as simple as:



[GIVETO.UNCG.EDU](https://giveto.uncg.edu)

212 students in immediate need have received an average of \$462.



## SPARTANS DON'T LET SPARTANS GO HUNGRY

Meals have not been a sure thing for a lot of students during this pandemic. Hardships such as job loss and family crises have exponentially increased student need. Founded, funded, and operated by Wesley-Luther campus ministry, Spartan

Open Pantry (SOP) has been serving hungry UNCG students since 2009. With nearly one in three students reporting food insecurity over the last year, SOP provides a lifeline. Want to help? The Spartan Food Insecurity Fund works in conjunction with Spartan Open Pantry to provide access to snacks, light meals,

and non-perishable pantry staples for students who need them. Some new SOP To-Go campus locations have opened this fall. Donations are accepted at [giveto.uncg.edu](https://giveto.uncg.edu).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, [HTTPS://SA.UNCG.EDU/SOP-SPARTAN-OPEN-PANTRY](https://sa.uncg.edu/sop-spartan-open-pantry)



IN THESE DAYS of face coverings and social distancing, many Spartans have turned to gardening as a way to find solace during difficult times and to reconnect with nature.

One site of Spartan gardening has been there all along – UNCG Gardens. Celebrating their 10th year, the fully organic gardens are a community effort among faculty, staff, and students in which participants learn all about site preparation, planting, maintenance, and harvesting.

The gardens are also a source of donations to UNCG’s Spartan Open Pantry (SOP).

“Students appreciate the opportunity to have fresh vegetables and leafy greens to round out what nonperishable food we normally have available,” says SOP director Andrew Mails.

“Knowing that someone is growing those vegetables specifically for them helps reinforce that there is a Spartan community that cares about them. Each act of caring, be it growing vegetables in the UNCG Gardens or baking goods for weekly dinners, creates a network of support that many students need during this challenging time.”

Anthropology professor Susan Andreatta and student volunteers have managed the day-to-day of the gardens during the pandemic, and the result of their hard work shows. Dr. Corey Johnson (Geography, Environment, and Sustainability), Jarrod Pratt (Facilities Operations), and Guy Sanders (Housing & Residence Life) also work on upkeep of the site.



“It’s a way for students who are using the pantry to supplement their diet with healthy, fresh foods.”

– SOP student director Kellie Thomas

# Hagan and Richburg honored



SENATOR KAY HAGAN



DR. ANTONIA MONK RICHBURG

**UNCG's Distinguished Service Awards** represent the most prestigious public service honors conferred by the University. Named for UNCG's founding president, the Charles Duncan McIver Award is the University's highest public service honor and recognizes extraordinary service at the national or international level. The Holderness/Weaver Award is named for Adelaide Holderness '39, the first woman to serve on its Board of Trustees, and H. Michael Weaver, a longtime UNCG supporter who has served the University in many capacities. The award recognizes exceptional

service at the state and local level. The late Honorable Kay Hagan will receive the Charles Duncan McIver Award. She served as United States senator from 2009 to 2015 and as NC state senator from 1998 to 2009. At UNCG she served on the Friends of the Library Advisory Board and the Excellence Foundation Board of Directors. Throughout her career, Senator Hagan advocated for the state of North Carolina and its citizens with dignity and determination. "Service" is our University motto, and Senator Hagan embodied distinguished service to the community, state,

and nation. She was a devoted, inspirational woman whose life touched so many. Dr. Antonia Monk Richburg '87, '00 MPA will receive the Holderness/Weaver Award. She serves as vice president and senior program officer for the Cone Health Foundation, as well as chair of the Greensboro Housing Coalition Board of Directors and vice chair of the North Carolina Network of

Grantmakers. She is also a member of the United Way of Greater Greensboro Board of Directors. Her outstanding career and community work as an advocate for access to health care and support services for the disenfranchised align with the mission of both our University and the namesakes of this award. A formal award presentation ceremony is planned for Spring 2021.

**“Both of our honorees set the standard for selfless service in our community, our state, and our nation.”**

— Betsy Suitt Oakley '69, chair of UNCG Board of Trustees

**100 YEARS AT SHAW** Shaw is the oldest residence hall in the Quad. Designed by notable architect Harry Barton – as were all the Quad halls – it opened for the 1919-20 academic year. During the Quad renovation 90 years later, Shaw was the most heavily redesigned building. The columns and portico were retained, and an opening was carved through the middle, presenting a grand entryway into the Quad. A new, large plaza was added, along with new dorm rooms and large seminar rooms.

This year the Shaw Residence Hall is celebrating its 100 years of history, as it moves into its second century.

Alumni Engagement, University Events, and University Housing will host a reunion for all Shaw residents, past and present, during Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m.

The event, to be held online, will include stories from students, virtual tours, historical videos, and more. See details at [homecoming.uncg.edu](http://homecoming.uncg.edu).

Have stories or photos to share from past years at Shaw, as this event approaches? Email [alumni@uncg.edu](mailto:alumni@uncg.edu).



Top: Shaw Hall, 2020; Above: Shaw Hall, 1920; Right: Shaw dorm room, 1957

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNCG ARCHIVES

## ALL THINGS ACADEMIC

NEW UNCG PROVOST JIM COLEMAN views public higher education as “one of the most brilliant ideas that humans have ever created.”

It's challenging and political, yes. But the profound impact on people's lives – through teaching, research, community engagement, and service – is second to none.

Coleman's passion has propelled his 30-year career in higher education. He comes to UNCG from the University of Arkansas, where he also served as provost. He succeeds Dana Dunn, who had served as UNCG provost since 2014.

An accomplished plant physiological ecologist, Coleman received his PhD from Yale University. When he started his career as an assistant professor at Syracuse University, he never imagined working in administration. But after a yearlong stint at the National Science Foundation – in which he was responsible for managing \$10 million in research funding – he realized he enjoyed facilitating the success of other people and of organizations. And he was good at it, too.

As provost, Coleman oversees everything academic – student life, faculty, research, and curriculum. He views his work as “ethical in nature.” He encourages faculty and staff to develop graduates who are propelled on to meaningful and successful lives; conduct research, scholarship, and creative activities that change fields of study that matter to people; and improve the quality of life and well-being in our community and beyond.

This year, he is focused on navigating the University through the COVID-19 pandemic. More broadly, he shares Chancellor Gilliam's vision of becoming the national model for how a university can blend excellence, opportunity, and impact. He's passionate about student success – increasing retention and graduation rates – and equity and inclusion. His father was a professor and civil rights leader in Pittsburgh, and his mother was a special education teacher. Coleman has continued their legacies throughout his career.

“Higher education as a whole has started to become an enforcer of social inequality as opposed to the great equalizer. It's schools like UNCG that are still committed to that original mission,” he says. “We also have high-quality research, and a deep commitment to the city and the region. I came to UNCG because it checks all of those boxes that I'm passionate about.”

Provost Jim Coleman

# Echoes of 100 years



1918 Peace Parade

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, codifying women's suffrage in the U.S. This campus' alumni magazine of the late 1910s, as WWI concluded, took on two big societal issues: women's suffrage and equal pay for equal work.

## Equal Pay for Equal Work?

(in June and November 1918 Alumnae News issues)

The magazine asked prominent people in the state about the equal pay question. Among the printed responses, some excerpts:

*I am told by those who have investigated the subject, that men, because they are men, are being paid from 30 to 80 per cent more than women for the same work in our schools. This is not fair, nor do I believe that the argument of "supply and demand" answers the question. It merely serves to becloud the issue. — Minnie McIver Brown 1899, director of State Normal College*

*Replying to your esteemed favor of the 5th, I beg to say that the proposition that "justice requires that the amount of compensation should not be regulated by sex, but by the amount of service rendered" is so manifestly correct as to require no support. My own opinion is that the salaries of all public school teachers in North Carolina should be increased at least 50 per cent. — T. W. Bickett, governor*

*If a woman does as good work as a man and does as much of it, then she should be paid as much. If she does not do so much or does not do so well, she should be paid less.*

*If she does better or does more, then she should be paid more. This principle, I think, applies to all work of whatever kind. When we understand fully that money is paid for work and not on the basis of any kind of favoritism we will act on this subject just as we do when we buy cloth or food or land or any other commodity. — P. P. Claxton, U.S. commissioner of education*

## PATRIOTISM PERSPECTIVE

Is it a mere theory that, if women are granted suffrage, they will help to end the war? Perhaps. But have not the majority of ideas been "mere theories" before they were proved to be facts? And there is no way to prove a theory except by trial. Is it illogical? Possibly. But certainly not more illogical than that one-half of the world should make laws which the other half must obey, and decisions in the consequences of which the other half must share. ... It is entirely conceivable that, after this war is over, the mothers of the world, if they are granted suffrage, will find some way whereby their sons may be allowed to live for their country instead of die for it.

— Clara Booth Byrd '13, co-editor, June, 1917 (excerpt)

## THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The students were chagrined at the 1915 commencement when Governor Craige spoke against women's suffrage. That year, many students marched on College Avenue for women's right to vote. In 1918, 575 of the 650 students signed a petition for women's suffrage. In the October 1919

magazine, co-editor Clara Booth Byrd '13 made it plain: "The suffrage battle is practically over. There remains before us only the question of ratification. Surely our own Tar Heel State, foremost in so many movements, will not lag behind in this. Surely not, if we, her daughters, do our utmost to bring it to pass."

*Footnote: Enough states ratified the amendment for it to become national law in 1920. North Carolina ratified the 19th Amendment in 1971. Clara Booth Byrd, who led as alumni secretary from 1922 to 1947 and who exercised her right to vote for five decades, did live to see her state pass it.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNCG ARCHIVES

# FEMINISM'S MYSTIQUE

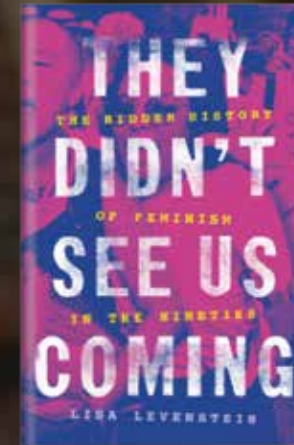
Dr. Lisa  
Levenstein

## "IS FEMINISM DEAD?"

That's the question Time magazine posed to its readers on a June 1998 cover. The controversial story ultimately concluded that the feminist movement had become largely irrelevant.

Dr. Lisa Levenstein refutes that claim with her new book, "They Didn't See Us Coming: The Hidden History of Feminism in the Nineties." Based on extensive archival research and more than 120 interviews, the book argues that the 1990s were a pivotal decade for the feminist movement.

Key moments in today's movement – the Women's March of 2017 and #MeToo – can be traced back to work happening in the '90s. Additionally, feminist tactics from the time can be seen in today's Black Lives Matter and environmental movements.



Levenstein is associate professor of history and director of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. She has spent most of her career exploring the lesser-known – but equally impactful – moments and leaders of social movements.

Levenstein found that the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing played a critical role in getting feminists online. Over 30,000 activists from

around the world attended the conference. Women staffed a computer center and trained attendees on how to use the internet and email.

She also argues that women of color and women from the global South were leaders in redefining core feminist issues. Intersectionality – the relationships between sexism and other forms of discrimination – became an important part of the overall movement.

"Mass protests don't just spring up out of nowhere," she says. "They build on decades of organizing that doesn't get public attention – people working in communities, spreading ideas, talking with other people about injustice, strategizing, and laying groundwork for future mobilizations."

# Personal touch

## COVID-19 is not the first pandemic our campus has faced.

In 1918, influenza hit what was then called State Normal and Industrial College. That was just months after the campus was shortly quarantined for a measles and diphtheria outbreak.

Sophomore Abigail Knight began researching the flu pandemic's effects on the campus in an "Interrogating UNCG's History" Lloyd International Honors College seminar last fall. She had no idea how relevant her research would become.

One of her most interesting findings was how President Foust handled the pandemic.

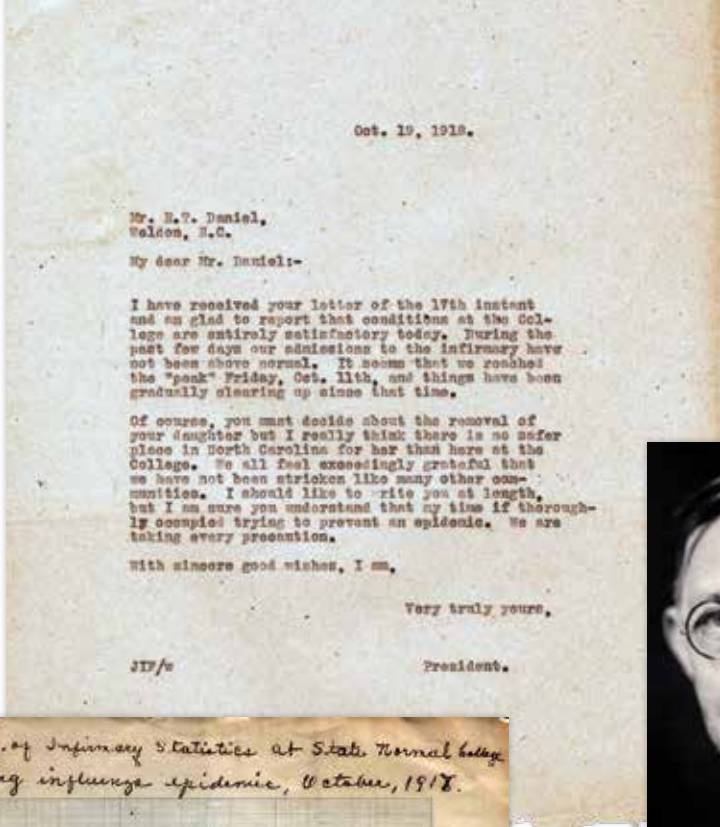
"I feel like I became close to President Foust in a way," said Abigail. "Most of my research involved reading his letters from the time of the pandemic."

Most of them were to families of students who'd fallen ill and were in the campus infirmary. The campus was quarantined for months, and families could not visit. For every day a student was in the infirmary, President Foust would send her family a letter updating them on her condition.

"That was a personal touch I wouldn't have expected."

Perhaps what stood out most to Abigail was not only how Foust handled the pandemic, but also how the campus community as a whole handled this difficult time – with resilience, positivity, and care.

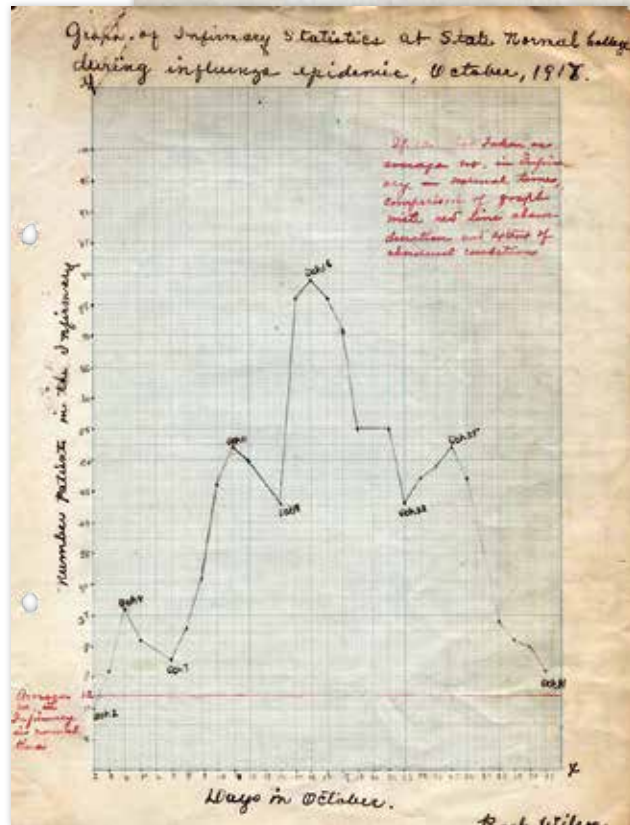
"It is encouraging to consider how resilient State Normal and Industrial College was. Records of students and accounts of faculty members hardly dwell on the difficult times. No matter how many class scrapbooks and personal manuscripts one might look through, one would be hard-pressed to find accounts of how the quarantine impacted the lives of students. Instead, they were writing about the bonds and friendships that they had with one another."



Left: President Foust writes to the father of a student.



Julius Foust



**“It is encouraging to consider how resilient State Normal and Industrial College was. Records of students and accounts of faculty members hardly dwell on the difficult times.”**

– Abigail Knight



Middle: Graph depicts the number of patients in the infirmary during the peak of the Spanish Flu pandemic. Occupancy in the infirmary peaked on Oct. 16, 1918.

Bottom left: Abigail Knight with University Archivist, Erin Lawrimore.

# HOUSES & HERITAGE

WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA, was once home to a vital tobacco industry and the largest population of working-class African Americans in the state. Many resided in one of 301 “shotgun” houses in the area until the tobacco industry moved overseas in the '80s, resulting in many of these homes becoming abandoned and eventually demolished.

Eighty-eight shotgun houses remain today, and the majority of them have been renter-occupied for decades, leaving many residents of the historic district without the opportunity to own a home.

When interior architecture master's student Monica T. Davis was deciding on the focus of her thesis, she felt compelled to help her hometown.

After learning about the cultural significance of the East Wilson shotgun houses, she seized the opportunity to turn the abandoned, historic dwellings into tiny homes that could bring back life and culture to the area.

"I am passionate about preservation, and a lot of times, preservation isn't prevalent in African American culture. To be able to preserve the culture and historic character of these homes while educating the people of my hometown is very rewarding."

The project began last spring, at 132 Ash St. East, with the goal of rebuilding four more houses by the end of the year. Monica is the architect behind all of the floorplans and renovations. Her vision is to preserve the historic character of the homes, but with a modern twist.

"My goal is for the people of East Wilson to have a beautiful home to go back to after work." In addition to bringing work back into the area as she employs members of the community to help restore the houses, she teaches community members about architecture and craftsmanship.

"The cultural heritage of this neighborhood is very significant, so we are rebirthing what has been lost for so long."



Monica T. Davis, MFA candidate in the Department of Interior Architecture



Top: The restoration project began with 132 Ash St., a one bedroom home built in 1910.

Bottom: Monica's rendering of the interior shows modern finishes adorning the historic bones, tying together old and new.

## RESEARCH FUNDS RISE 40% SINCE 2015

In the latest fiscal year, UNCG faculty brought in a total of \$42.4 million in grant and contract funding to support their research, scholarship, and creative activity.

The FY 2020 total surpasses the last nine fiscal year figures and contributes to a six-year stretch of impressive growth in research funding at UNCG. From FY 2015 to FY 2020, funding increased by 40%.

"Over the past six years we have invested in attracting talented new faculty and in increasing infrastructure and support – from instrumentation to internal grants – for our existing faculty," said Vice Chancellor for Research Terri L. Shelton. "Meanwhile, our research networks and coalitions have created hotbeds of interdisciplinary inquiry, spurring a diverse range of groundbreaking discoveries and scholarly products. These activities are also producing larger, multi-year, federal grants."

The University's largest new awards in financial year 2020? \$15.6M and \$6.1M projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education to improve educational opportunities and academic outcomes for disadvantaged and low-income students across North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia and to partner with Piedmont school districts on teacher training.



PAST SIX YEARS



# Alumni honored at virtual Homecoming



**Carole Boston Weatherford '92 MFA** has helped generations explore and honor the achievements and contributions of the African American community, from Harriet Tubman to John Coltrane to the Greensboro sit-ins and beyond.

She will receive UNCG's McIver Lifetime Achievement Award during Homecoming Week. This award is the highest honor bestowed upon an alumnus of UNCG.

The professor of English at Fayetteville State University is the recipient of three Caldecott Honors, multiple Coretta Scott King Awards, honors from the American Library Association, the North Carolina Award for Literature, the Ragan-Rubin Award, and the Nonfiction Award from the Children's Book Guild.

**“I hope that my young readers understand that freedom was not free and that people of conscience must speak their minds and live their values.”**

— Carole Boston Weatherford '92 MFA

## Agnes Johnson Price '62

### Woman's College Legacy Award

Agnes defines the Woman's College era of UNCG as a lifelong advocate for the education and character-building experience she received as a student, a steadfast fixture of the UNCG Alumni community, and, most recently, the chief steward for the Woman's College tribute project.

## David Craft '85

### Minerva Service Award

As an engaged citizen, a local business owner, and conservation enthusiast, David has spent most of his adult life advocating for the betterment of his hometown of Greensboro and alma mater, whether it be through fighting for the preservation of green, open spaces or as a board member for various civic and arts-focused groups.

## Debora Pleitez '11

### Young Alumni Award

Though her career in the US Army spans only nine years, Debora has built a list of accomplishments that belie her short tenure, leading her commanding officer, General Terrence J. McKenrick, to sum up her service to her country in the following way: "She is [...] the best officer I have served with in my 34-year Army career."

## Dr. Cherry Callahan '71, '78 PhD

### Professional Achievement Award

Over the span of more than 40 years, Cherry has made the improvement of higher education her life's work, either through her nearly 30-year tenure as UNCG's vice chancellor for student affairs or the countless local organizations she has helped shape through mentorship, professional acumen, or her unmatched loyalty.

SEE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOMECOMING AND THESE AWARDS AT [ALUMNI.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNI.UNCG.EDU).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK GRIFFIN

# LET IT FLY



**HAWAII NATIVE.** French scholar. The best Frisbee thrower on Kaplan Commons. The loudest supporter at any UNCG Athletics game. Reference librarian Mark Schumacher has been on the faculty of University Libraries since 1979, and this year, he retires.

Over more than four decades, he has helped thousands of professors and students locate materials. Before students and faculty could save files to a floppy disk, Schumacher helped them print out scrolls of results.

As research moved to the internet, and reference systems experienced a complete overhaul, Schumacher was there to help scholars find what they needed.

"While things changed, they didn't change so instantaneously that we couldn't keep up," he says.

He took part in a ceremony to bid farewell to the old card catalog and continued guiding Jackson Library visitors toward the information they sought.

"When someone brought in a question that seemed kind of tricky, when somebody was looking for something they had no idea of how to find – I found it very rewarding to help them," he says.

Around 1979, Ultimate Frisbee took root at UNCG, and for many years Schumacher was the faculty advisor. There's even a team Frisbee with an image of his face on it. He played on a team until he was 61, and you can still spot him throwing on the EUC lawn from time to time.

Many from UNCG also know him from soccer and basketball games. "We loved hearing you loud and clear in the stands," said a former student-athlete. He even had his own red and yellow cards for soccer games.

In his retirement, Schumacher plans to help in Special Collections, and to continue building a book collection in honor of his mother.

SEE VIDEO AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).



**EXTRA,  
EXTRA**

UNCG will partner with five Native American tribes plus Head Start and Little Free Library, using a \$1.4 million grant, to boost literary resources for Native American youth.

UNCG's UCLS season is postponed, but the line-up is not canceled. Oscar winner Geena Davis has already rescheduled for next year.

Xhenet Aliu's debut novel, "Brass," is the winner of the 2020 Townsend Prize for Fiction, an award for first-time novels. Aliu joined the faculty last year.

The Brubeck Centennial Symposium is canceled because of the pandemic. A re-scheduling is being discussed.

Once again, US News and World Report has ranked UNCG no. 1 in the state for social mobility. For the first time, UNCG is in the top 25 nationally in this category.

# GAME PLAN

KNOWING HOW TO LEAD WHEN THE FUTURE IS UNKNOWABLE BY ROB KNOX



Wes Miller, UNCG's head men's basketball coach

**“We’ve had to become more creative in the manner in how we lead.”**

— WES MILLER

WES MILLER AND TRINA PATTERSON have adapted their leadership strategies during these unusual times.

“The key is in life, like basketball, you have to be flexible and prepared for the unknown,” said Patterson, head coach of UNCG Women’s Basketball. “During these times, you have to prepare your players somewhat differently in your system and make sure that everyone can contribute to the organization.”

Some of the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic have included plenty of Zoom calls, lots of schedule changes, practicing social distancing, and wearing face coverings, including when they are coaching their student-athletes.

“There’s no one specific thing that speaks to how you lead during this time,” said Miller, who’s entering his ninth year as the men’s head coach. “It’s a multitude of things every day; which is what leadership is anyway.

Leadership doesn’t change because the goals are still the same. We’ve had to become more creative in the manner in how we lead – from meeting in smaller groups, finding ways to interact on the court, and sharing team meals. That’s been the challenge.”

Last season, both basketball programs won at least 20 games. Patterson won her second Southern Conference (SoCon) Coach of the Year honor in four years after leading the Spartans to a Division I-era record 23 victories and the SoCon regular-season championship.

The men have won at least 20 games in four consecutive years and compiled 104 victories during that run of excellence, the second most of any North Carolina Division I men’s basketball program in the state.

“A good leader will make the priorities, the priorities,” Patterson said. “Every day when I wake up, I have a discipline of my daily life. I wake up early and I hear the birds chirping. I tend to be disciplined with my meditation. As a leader, you know that there’s going to be some challenges. You have to be able to handle

things and attack them. You can’t be afraid. You can’t lead by fear. Having internal and spiritual strength helps.”

These were lessons Patterson learned during her playing career at the University of Virginia under head coach Debbie Ryan and as a member of Tara VanDerveer’s staff at Stanford. Ryan and VanDerveer are members of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

Miller’s journey took him to UNC Chapel Hill, led by coaching legend Roy Williams.

A member of their 2005 national championship team, Miller says he learned two keys: a relentless work ethic and an emphasis every day on doing the right things.

Miller also believes in overcoming adversity.

“Embracing failure is a key trait of a leader,” he said. “I realize there is going to be failure within everything that we do. That’s just the nature of it. Failure is an opportunity to learn and grow, especially for our program. The people that succeed the most, fail the most.”

Patterson took her team all the way to the Women’s Basketball Invitational championship game during her first year at UNCG. The next two years, the program faltered. That’s when Patterson developed five core values for her program: gratitude, unity, integrity, servitude, and humility.

“Ultimately, I knew it was time to develop the culture and prioritize what’s important to our program. How am I going to make this last? How can the impact of this program continue to have growth?” They’ve since had a remarkable turnaround.

For the men’s team, Miller knows that being a “growth program,” the next play and moment are the most important ones.

“Leadership has been this continuous growth process for me, and I hope it never stops,” Miller said. “I think the day I stop learning and growing – as far as trying to lead better – should be the day I do something else.”

**“A good leader will make the priorities, the priorities.”**

— TRINA PATTERSON



Trina Patterson, UNCG's head women's basketball coach

COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPHY TAKEN SEPTEMBER 2020

## Outtake

**STANDING ON CEREMONY**  
Faculty Convocation is held every September. This year's was held with social distancing protocols, with Spartan-spirited face coverings, and with most faculty participating remotely via Zoom video conferencing. Dr. Anthony Chow, joined by Dr. Laurie Kennedy-Malone and Dr. Michael A. Hemphill, made a very thoughtful gesture. They knew many students start their year by placing a coin, a flower, or an apple at the base of the Minerva statue, which represents wisdom. It's said to bring good luck. This fall, relatively few students could do that. So in the Sept. 9 ceremony, they each set beautiful, large sunflowers at the base. It's not known how many actually believe in the good luck tradition. But this feeling of care for our students is something to believe in with all our hearts.

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MARTIN W. KANE

"The real ceremony  
begins where the  
formal one ends ..."  
— Linda K. Hogan



Juliette Bianco, new director of the Weatherspoon



## A WAM WELCOME

THE WEATHERSPOON ART MUSEUM always has something new: new exhibitions, programs, and opportunities for teaching and learning. This fall, a new director joins the Greensboro art community. Juliette Bianco succeeds Nancy Doll, who retired after leading the museum for 22 years. Bianco comes to UNCG from Dartmouth, where she worked at the Hood Museum of Art, most recently as deputy director.

Campus and community impact through meaningful engagement with diverse works of art is a value that Bianco holds closely. She's partnered with museums on exhibitions related to civil rights and social justice, including the Brooklyn Museum, the San Diego Museum of Art, and the International Center of Photography.

### WHAT'S EXCITING ABOUT LEADING AN ART MUSEUM?

Art museums are places where we can encounter objects that resonate with us and ways of seeing the world that perhaps we've never considered, and also experience a deepening of our existing thoughts or beliefs. Having a "conversation" with a work of art means truly engaging with another person's creative expression of their perspective. I want to make that experience accessible to everyone.

### HOW CAN EXHIBITIONS BE RELEVANT AND ACCESSIBLE TO A COMMUNITY?

A museum should be a center for generative and inclusive dialogue and collaboration. Museums are sometimes thought of as places where art is merely deposited and displayed. University museums are all about turning that notion upside down: each object's impact grows and changes through active and engaged teaching, learning, and creating with people on campus and in the community. We're all part of the same art-driven ecosystem!

### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE STUDENTS AND ALUMNI TO SEE THE WEATHERSPOON?

I want students to feel that the Weatherspoon is their museum – that they've contributed to making it a place that reflects their values and shares something with them and their peers. I hope alums continue to visit and participate in making the museum exciting and relevant for the next generation of students.

## NEW ANNE AND BEN CONE MEMORIAL DIRECTORSHIP

THE CONES were deeply devoted supporters of the Weatherspoon. Honoring their memory, a gift from an anonymous donor recently established the Anne and Ben Cone Memorial Endowed Directorship Fund – the first of its kind for the University's museum.

Juliette Bianco is the first Anne and Ben Cone Memorial Endowed Director. Anne and Ben Cone became prolific patrons of the arts in Greensboro, particularly at Woman's College (UNCG), where she graduated in 1935. In addition to supporting and financing the acquisition of numerous pieces

to the Weatherspoon's collection – the core of which was started by Ben's aunts, Claribel and Etta Cone – they also donated \$2 million to finance the building, which now houses the museum and bears their name. Throughout their lives, they remained loyal supporters of the museum and UNCG.

## Spotlight on incarceration

After spending months in jail and on probation, he ultimately received a bill of innocence. He turned his experience into art.

Sherrill Roland '09, '17 MFA is the founder of the Jumpsuit Project, which raises awareness around issues related to incarceration.

This year, he won the prestigious Southern Prize from South Arts.

Roland created the Jumpsuit Project after a wrongful conviction just as he had started the final year of his master's program. He spent 10 months in jail. He was exonerated of all charges in 2015 and returned to UNCG to complete his degree. For his MFA thesis project, Roland wore an orange jumpsuit every day on campus, a performance art project supported by UNCG art faculty such as Sheryl Oring. He documented his campus interactions.

Since graduating, he has held many fellowships and residences, such as the Center for Documentary Studies' 2018-19 Post-MFA Fellowship in the Documentary Arts. He has exhibited his work at museums ranging from the Studio Museum in Harlem to Georgetown University's de la Cruz Art Gallery.

The project helps viewers understand the social and political issues surrounding the United States justice and prison system. "We have so much *trust* in the system," he says. "As a society, we are naive about how the criminal justice system really works."



Sherrill Roland at 2017 UNCG Research & Creativity Expo

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.JUMPSUITPROJECT.COM](http://WWW.JUMPSUITPROJECT.COM).

## MAKING WAVES ON 'OUTER BANKS'

One of the most popular series binge-watched around the globe during the pandemic quarantine was "Outer Banks," the hit Netflix television series that premiered last spring.

The show is about a group of teenagers hunting for treasure on a picturesque island called the Outer Banks.

The cinematographer behind all of those beautiful sunset scenes is former UNCG student Brad Smith, who studied

in what is now the Department of Media Studies. Smith credits professor Frank Donaldson's class on Charlie Chaplin with helping him understand how to become a better filmmaker.

When creating the look for "Outer Banks," Smith's goal was to make the environment just as much of a character as the main characters were.

"The show creators wanted the environment to pull you in no matter what was happening with the

actors or the plot. They wanted you to almost be able to pause it at any second, and the photography would captivate you and make you want to visit. And I think we accomplished that."



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF NETFLIX

NOVEL

VIRUS

REQUIRES

SMARTER

APPROACHES

BY MATTHEW BRYANT, SUSAN KIRBY-SMITH '06 MA, PAT HOLMES, EDEN BLOSS, MICHELLE DANNER-GROVES '16 MA, AND MIKE HARRIS '93 MA

**M**any members of the larger Spartan community are playing big roles in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some highlights.

**QUICK AND NIMBLE SETS THE PACE**

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** has created unprecedented challenges for the world. But for some, it has presented unique opportunities. Equipped with the right mix of experience, knowledge, and tools, those with a vision and willingness to take risks have embarked on journeys into uncharted waters in the hope of finding better solutions.



“What’s wonderful about our company is it’s very science-driven.”

—Keivan Ettefagh '13 PhD

Two UNC Greensboro alumni – Keivan Ettefagh '13 PhD and James Patrick Healy '14 PhD – have taken the leap, and they are moving full-sail ahead on mass-producing an innovative technique for collecting and testing samples for COVID-19.

As vice president of technical innovation and lab manager, respectively, they are part of Greensboro’s Select Laboratory Partners (SLP), a local company that specializes in laboratory implementation, management, and support for healthcare practitioners.

Their mission? Create an easy-to-use testing kit – using saliva instead of a nasal swab – and a lab process that can turn results around in 24 hours. They not only accepted the challenge, but as of this printing, they are sending out 20,000 test kits per month and running close to 3,000 tests per week. They are on track to reach 50,000 test kits per month and 10,000 tests per week.

The two met during teaching assistant training for the inaugural year of UNCG’s PhD in Medicinal Biochemistry program. Ettefagh went on to be a member of the Cech Lab; Healy studied under biology professor Vincent Henrich.

Their lab process is based on a newer type of molecular nucleic acid testing, which they have meshed with their existing expertise on the regulation, management, compliance, and reporting of data obtained during testing. That was the first step of their challenge.

The second was to then scale up. It is one thing to figure out a better testing method. It is quite another to produce it at a quantity and quality that is high enough to meet the extreme demands that COVID-19 has wrought.

And how does a small operation like SLP compete with bigger companies who are racing to do something similar? Ettefagh and Healy indicate that part of their advantage is their size, which makes them nimble. SLP was able to quickly pivot and retool for COVID-19 testing based on existing knowledge, processes, and industry connections.

“What’s wonderful about our company is it’s very science-driven,” says Ettefagh. “Our chief operating officer has a PhD in chemistry, and that helps direct us. Our CEO is trained as a molecular technologist instead of having a business degree. It’s a constant responding to what is out there as scientists and improving upon those things.”

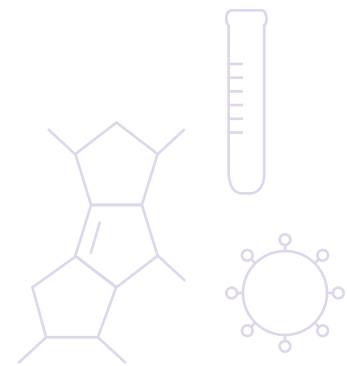
“What I learned in manufacturing is the idea of continuous improvement,” says Healy. “You’re watching every step and asking, ‘What can we do better?’ It could be as simple as ‘Move this or that to a different location’ or as complex as ‘Let’s change the whole way we do this thing.’”

What will they do when a vaccine is finally found? Ettefagh says their long-term goal is to convert their process into other diagnostic molecular testing – focusing on other viral diseases, cancer, and genetic mutations that lead to a higher risk for cardiovascular diseases.



“You’re watching every step and asking, ‘What can we do better?’”

—James Patrick Healy '14 PhD



## ENVISION A HIGHER-TECH MASK

**KEPLEY BIOSYSTEMS**, led by Dr. Anthony Dellinger '15 PhD and co-founded by UNCG nanoscience professor Dr. Christopher Kepley, is a North Carolina life sciences startup that looks for sustainable solutions to environmental problems through invention.

Their projects run the gamut – from a synthetic and sustainable fishing bait, to odor technology to help train newly adopted dogs, to microbial-resistant technology initially created for the management of horseshoe crab blood.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the bioscientist team realized they had an impetus to develop something to help the medical community, as well as patients and potentially others.

Their thoughts turned towards masks – the crucial piece in American public health, and even more crucial for medical professionals in a crisis situation.

As Dellinger and others at Kepley know from working in a hospital, N95 masks are very, but not completely, effective, need to be replaced frequently, and can spread virus if they are not disposed of properly, plus they can limit oxygen intake.

What if they could create a mask that could efficiently eliminate pathogens – bacterial, viral, and fungal – and provide breathable, sterile air for the wearer? And what if, through a secondary mechanism, the mask could expel sterile air into the environment? Fully bioactive masks.

“We wanted to introduce something that would comprehensively solve all of the problems associated with masks – if it was just purely filtration, or if it was because of a lack of comfort related to oxygen exchange capabilities. But most importantly, we wanted to make something that we could confidently say is killing the microbes that come in,” says Dellinger.

In July, Kepley Biosystems filed an accelerated patent for a personal protection air sterilization technology.

The proposed mask's rate of efficacy against COVID-19 or other pathogens has of course not been tested. There is no prototype yet. But the plan is exciting.

They envision a mask that could be used to slow the spread of COVID-19 and also to protect patients and others from secondary infections within medical facilities. The technology could also be adapted for use in manufacturing, shipping, and food preparation and packaging facilities, as well as in shared, enclosed spaces such as aircraft, operating rooms, auditoriums, and cars.

Dellinger says that resources to create the antimicrobial mask are available. Now, it's a matter of the right partnerships.

“We were inspired to get this patent and get the word out there, to stimulate communication in the community, and to share that we have a fundamental proof of concept for an actual device,” says Dellinger.

“We thought that obviously had advantages for the medical world but also for a lot of other industries. In any realm, we're looking to make lives easier and environmentally better.”



Bioactive mask technology in areas of healthcare (top), essential workers (middle), and travel (bottom)

MASK ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF KEPLEY BIOSYSTEMS

## PPE GOWNS REBUFF MOISTURE

**TASMIN FARZANA '14 MBA** has learned plenty of new things while working from home during quarantine. For one, there's chess, a game she admits she hasn't quite mastered. Another is chemistry.

Farzana, senior procurement manager of Global Operations at Hanesbrands Inc., oversaw the chemical component of the company's agreement to supply the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency with more than 20 million medical gowns. The water repellent gowns needed to be tested before use by medical professionals.

“I had to rely on my high school chemistry,” Farzana jested. “Before the agreement, we had never made gowns. The part I led was the chemical, which I'd never managed before. I had to learn quickly.”

Under normal circumstances, Farzana leads a global team and supports supply chain operations by managing direct and indirect materials for Hanesbrands products: fabric, elastics, and so on. What made this project difficult was timing.

“Usually you place the order to the supplier, but we didn't even have six weeks. So if the gown delivery is due within a month you need everything the next day, right? So it's not like suppliers are sitting on it for us when we place an order,” she said. “Having never managed this category I had to establish relationships with multiple global suppliers and allocate inventory immediately.”

Farzana said another challenge was navigating things like airport closures amid the spread of COVID-19. One day they'd be tracking materials on time, and the next they would be stuck in Miami.

“Here's Bryan problem solving, right,” said Farzana. “What do you do with this situation?”

Farzana credits her time with UNCG's Bryan School of Business and Economics for helping to prepare her for these types of professional challenges.

“The challenging projects I had, when I hire people I ask, ‘How good are you at problem-solving?’ And that's Bryan's motto. I absolutely love that,” she said. “My MBA projects, they were practicing what they were preaching. Those things helped me a lot.”

And it's a good thing they did – there wasn't much time between her last day at UNCG and her first day at Hanesbrands, Inc.

“Actually, the day of my final exams, I was walking to the parking deck and I got my Hanesbrands email that day. They were interested in an interview, it was pretty amazing,” she said.

“I started at a very lowly contractor level and I was there in that position for three months and thankfully my work was noticed. I have been fortunate that I have been promoted to several positions in the past five years.”

That work has also been noticed by the Triad Business Journal, who named Farzana to their 40 Under 40 list earlier this year.

Farzana has plenty to be proud of and certainly takes pride in her work. But she said the gown project has been satisfying in a different way.

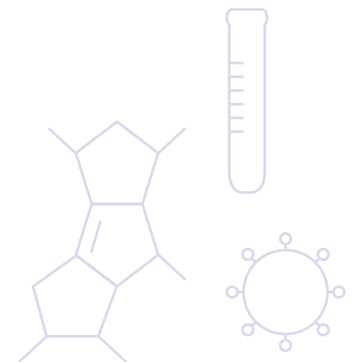
“When I look back, I'm really proud of this project that Hanes took and also I'm thankful to the Hanes leadership that they thought I'm able to lead this part of a project even without certain experience. I'm grateful to experience it during that time. My focus during that time was – this is going to help millions of people,” she said.

“That drive, when you're challenged with this type of task the whole team had this grand vision that we're helping people. Everybody came together. It took a village.”



“When I hire people I ask, ‘How good are you at problem-solving?’ And that's Bryan's motto. I love that.”

–Tasmin Farzana '14 MBA

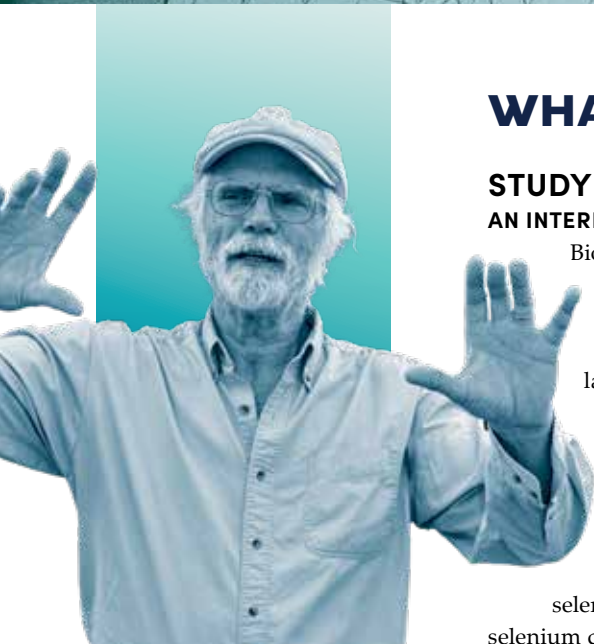


PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF TASMIN FARZANA

“In any realm, we're looking to make lives easier and environmentally better.”

– Anthony Dellinger '15 PhD





## WHAT ROLE SELENIUM PLAYS?

### STUDYING THE DATA IN ASIA

**AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF RESEARCHERS**, including UNCG Biochemistry professor Ethan W. Taylor, has identified a significant association between COVID-19 prognosis and regional selenium status in China.

Selenium is an essential dietary trace element that over the last 40 years has been found to be a significant factor affecting the incidence, severity, or mortality of various viral diseases, in animals and humans. This has been studied most extensively in the case of HIV and AIDS, where selenium status has proven to be an important determinant of disease progression and mortality. As China has geographical regions known to have either extremely high or low soil selenium levels, one of the first human diseases associated with selenium deficiency was identified there, in a region of Heilongjiang province named Keshan.

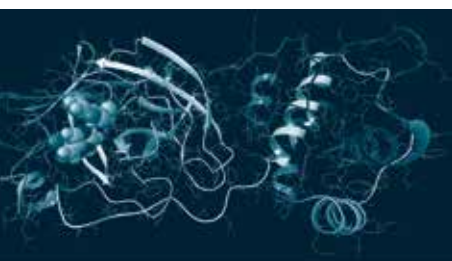
Keshan disease, involving a potentially fatal weakening of the heart, eventually proved to have a viral cofactor (Coxsackievirus), but its incidence and severity were greatly reduced through dietary selenium supplementation. Other diseases associated with viral infections that had been endemic in these low selenium regions of China have been at least partially controlled or treated by selenium supplementation. These include liver cancer associated with hepatitis viruses and “epidemic hemorrhagic fever” associated with hantavirus infections.

“Considering this history of viral infections that can be exacerbated by selenium deficiency, we hypothesized that selenium status might be a factor in the outcome of COVID-19,” Taylor said. “The study was made possible by the fact that for many cities in China there is accurate published data on the average level of selenium in human hair, which is highly correlated to dietary intake.”

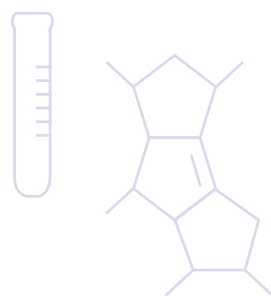
For 17 cities outside Hubei, the researchers were able to show a significant positive relationship between the reported COVID-19 cure rate and selenium status, although they emphasize that this is not proof of a causal relationship, as many possible confounding factors (such as age and comorbid conditions) were not accounted for in their study. However, the results do indicate further research in this area is necessary and may guide ongoing public health decisions.

The international collaboration was led by Dr. Margaret P. Rayman at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom. The research was published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

“These findings are particularly significant for myself and Professor Jinsong Zhang” (who are joint first authors on the new study), he added, “because we had presented research findings at an international symposium on SARS in Beijing in 2003, strongly suggesting that selenium would be a factor in SARS pathogenesis. Many of those observations we made 17 years ago still apply to the SARS-Coronavirus-2, the cause of COVID-19, which is a close relative of the original SARS virus.”



Dr. Taylor’s computer model of the SARS-CoV-2 main protease enzyme.



“We hypothesized that selenium status might be a factor.”

—Ethan W. Taylor

## EXPLORING ITS IMPACT ON COVID-19 IN NORTH CAROLINIANS

**DR. SETH ARMAH**, assistant professor of nutrition, has received new funding from the NC Policy Collaboratory to research nutrition as it relates to COVID-19 in North Carolina.

The impact of nutrition on health outcomes in individuals infected with COVID-19 virus remains largely unknown.

Micronutrients such as selenium and zinc influence immune function and inflammatory status. In the project Armah will lead, researchers will examine how dietary intake and status of these two micronutrients affect the severity of COVID-19 illness in a population of North Carolinians.

They anticipate that frequent consumption and adequate status of selenium and zinc will be associated with lower severity of symptoms during COVID-19 infection.

## UNCG NURSES ON NATIONAL STAGE



### EMERGENCY WARD IN NYC HOT SPOT

**BEVIN STRICKLAND '20 DNP**, who graduated this August from UNCG’s Nurse Anesthesia Program, worked last spring in the emergency department of Mount Sinai Queens in New York City. The city was the nation’s hot spot for the virus, and she was compelled to help.

She cared for the critically ill by using ultrasound technology to get IV access for patients, managing critical cardiac drips, and even intubating patients. Her creativity and critical thinking were skills developed during coursework and experiential learning at UNCG. “My ICU and CRNA training prepared me to care for patients with knowledge and skills that the other emergency department nurses didn’t have. The didactic education and clinical rotations I had gave me the confidence to support the Mount Sinai staff.”

After her summer clinical in High Point, she has been home studying for her anesthesia boards – which she passed in late September. “I definitely needed some decompression time after New York City.”

She laments that wearing face coverings became politically divisive. “In New York City, wearing masks was a given and there wasn’t a single public business that you could go into without having a mask on,” she says. Returning to Guilford County was bracing. “I was shocked and disappointed to see how slack it was here. That improved a little in August, but there are still so many people that seem not only noncompliant, but defensive about not wearing masks.”

A single mother with two sons, Strickland entered the nursing field after 15 years in banking and recruiting. The John Joseph Rall, Jr. Endowed Nursing Scholarship at UNCG allowed her to embody the University’s motto of “Service.” She will serve as a nurse anesthetist at High Point Regional Hospital.

She also serves in the Army Reserves. She enlisted two years ago. In time of need, her nurse anesthetist skills will be used by Uncle Sam.

Her long-range goals? Contract assignments overseas where she is needed most, on a mercy ship or with organizations like Doctors Without Borders.

Her advice to her sons is the same advice she has for all students: Get involved. “Don’t just watch. Be part of the change.”

“My ICU and CRNA training prepared me to care for patients with knowledge and skills that the other emergency department nurses didn’t have.”

—Bevin Strickland '20 DNP

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF BEVIN STRICKLAND

## UNCG NURSING’S EVER-WIDENING IMPACT

**DR. ERNEST GRANT '93 MSN, '15 PHD** was invited to the White House in May. He presented his views to Dr. Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, about the challenges nurses are facing. He also spoke with Vice President Pence. “I asked him to strongly suggest to the governors of the 50 states that, as they implement their reopening plans, they add a nurse – particularly a community or public health nurse – to their task force. Nurses should be at the table to discuss best practices so that the reopening process can be done in a safe and effective manner.”

As president of the American Nurses Association, Grant represented the nation’s nurses in a ceremony in the Oval Office with President Trump that day. Later in the summer, he appeared before the U.S. Senate’s Finance Committee via videoconference, as he provided the nurses’ perspective about supplies and supply chains during the pandemic.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING FACULTY** have held large online meetings with health care officials in the Eastern European nation of Moldova to help the country manage COVID-19. UNCG Nursing has developed a relationship with Moldovan nurses in recent years.

SEE RELATED STORIES AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).

# REPRESENT

## SPARTAN ARTISTS PROCLAIM BLACK LIVES MATTER IN BROAD STROKES

BY BRITTANY CAMERON  
AND MIKE HARRIS '93 MA  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE

**W**ith the horrifying video from Minneapolis of police choking George Floyd, pinning the man's neck to the street for 8 minutes, the world could no longer look away. The deaths of Black men and women at the hand of police or self-appointed vigilantes have filled the headlines, one after another.

## SAY THEIR NAMES.

The summer of 2020 seemed to mark a societal shift. People marched down streets and barged through big-box stores. They blogged and tweeted. They read and listened, while others shouted. Black artists and allies – including many Spartans – created very public art to amplify the issues and to represent what they knew deep inside: pain, hope, and constant struggle.

### ART AS ACTION

“One love.” It’s a radical lyric. Phillip Marsh grew up as



Phillip Marsh was an organizer for BLM artwork efforts on S. Elm Street.



Essence Foster's mural depicts a Black woman, her face a swirl of emotions

ACCENT VISUAL: A VIBRANT DETAIL FROM UNSIGNED ARTWORK IN FIRST WAVE OF BLM-RELATED PUBLIC ART ON ELM ST., JUNE 2020



hip-hop music was emerging in popular culture. But the music and Rastafarian philosophy of Bob Marley was his guiding beacon.

Phillip's neighborhood outside Washington, DC, was a tough one. He had some run-ins with the law. "Made some choices," as he explains. Once you have a record, it gets harder to get a job, he adds.

For him, it wasn't police. "My problem was with the system," again and again. Finally, a drug possession conviction put him in

prison for three years.

But he found his life's calling. Art put him on a trajectory to express his outlook on the world, and to make his livelihood.

Now, at age 45, he is a leader. Many of the public art murals in Greensboro were organized by him. He stirs the drink, bringing international artists and local constituencies together for the common good. "I use my talents as a businessperson to elevate others." Plus he works for an arts

## HANDS UP, DON'T SHOOT.

program with the UNCG School of Art and the public schools.

He's a senior in the studio art program, set to graduate in May. He knows the BFA degree will further his career.

This year's huge societal issues make his work even

more important.

Public art is for everyone, he notes. It can unite – or inspire dialogue, as opposed to much of today's media. "Social media? It silos everyone," he explains.

"I stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement." But he draws a distinction with the BLM organization. He stands apart.

In the aftermath of the Black Lives Matter protests on Elm Street and vandalism, many storefronts were covered with bare, protective plywood. With ArtsGreensboro sponsoring some materials, Phillip stepped up as an arts integration facilitator to help organize an effort on South Elm for artists to express themselves – to express *their* selves. Which is why on this afternoon – June 22 – he checks in with one artist after another along the street.

### GIVE IT EXTRA DIMENSION

Every artist has a story.

Kidd Graves '20 arrives for the planning meeting for the large plywood storefront at Elsewhere Museum. What's the message, the tale to tell?

The artists gather round, wearing masks or social distancing. They build on their discussions from the weekend before: it'll be the narrative of a Black girl, developing her voice. The center will be a butterfly.

Kidd will help craft the dramatic three-dimensional wings, a symbol of metamorphosis. She proposed the 3-D flower designs, and will create those as well.

With the given name Karena, Kidd identifies as a woman sometimes, as non-binary gender sometimes, she says. She aligns with the Black Lives Matter movement. "I don't necessarily consider myself an activist. I consider myself an artist."

Kidd earned her UNCG degree in sculpture in May, and is now enrolled in graduate school at ECU to hone her work. She wants

## CLASS IN SESSION: BLACK LIVES MATTER

DR. TARA T. GREEN's Black Lives Matter course, introduced in Spring 2015, was apparently the first in the nation.

The students, mostly juniors and seniors, are eager to learn, discuss, read, and delve into the impact of racism and other essential topics facing African Americans.

The Linda Carlisle Excellence Professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and former director of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Program, Green is offering it again this semester. She was compelled to create it in 2015 after hearing about Michael Brown being killed by police in Ferguson, Missouri, in August 2014. She notes that Brown had planned to attend college that fall.

"The course offers a safe space for students to analyze what is going on – the power and politics. And where they can consider solutions to certain problems."

One topic the students want to examine: the fear. "It's a deeply entrenched emotion. It's the fear of death at any moment."

You can be asleep in your home as Breonna Taylor was, or jogging on the street near your house as Ahmoud Arbury was, and shot dead, she explains.

Her most recent book is "Reimagining

the Middle Passage: Black Resistance in Literature, Television, and Song."

In the horrific middle passage of the Transatlantic slave trade, Black lives were valued – as a commodity. "The bodies would be recorded, those bodies were insured. The cargo was insured," she notes. She ties recent history to earlier decades and centuries.

She is now working with University Archives to preserve images and voices of the Greensboro protests and BLM-related art from last summer.

It's part of history. Just as is the recent shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin, shot seven times in the back – as Green held the first week of the class online, due to the pandemic. She says, at times, teaching the class is an emotional experience as well.

"It's a shared moment," she says about teaching this semester. The news each week informs the class readings and discussions. "There is no training for teaching in the middle of a movement."

LEARN ABOUT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' TRIAD BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTEST COLLECTION AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.



Kidd Graves '20 interacts with artwork she helped create at Elsewhere Museum.

to explore, through her art, "my Blackness, my queerness."

She has gained a great foundation. "The School of Art was awesome."

She values how she learned to create not just sculpture, but various media, including painting. An undergraduate research grant last summer allowed her to study with fellow Spartans in Italy.

And she likes how artists at UNCG have been open to discussion and hearing others' differing views. Is destruction of art, such as statues, ever appropriate? Should White artists create art about George Floyd or Emmitt Till? The students talk through these topics and more, in a civil, lively way. UNCG is a safe space to express yourself and learn.

And it has readied her for her future work. "I want to find a way to make the audience comprehend in a different way."

### PAINT IT LOUD

Near the Lewis St. corner, Essence Foster has completed her work, an image of a woman created with



Essence Foster draws with charcoal as part of her multimedia mural. (Photo courtesy of Essence Foster)

UNCG  
RACIAL  
EQUITY

University Libraries recommended books about racial justice. Perspectives on racism and White privilege from fellow Spartans. UNCG policies on discrimination. A listing of upcoming talks. These resources and many more are hosted on the Racial Equity at UNCG website.

"In moments of great pain, universities can show the way forward, but we must be fearless and bold enough to name that which is most difficult to acknowledge – and this is the promise of the website. It is a gathering place where we may ask difficult questions, seek out a community in dialogue, and find resources to learn and grow as we affirm our commitment to racial equity and shared fate," says Dr. Andrea Hunter, professor and, along with Dr. Julia Mendez Smith, a Chancellor's Fellow for Campus Climate.

VISIT RACIALEQUITY.UNCG.EDU.

**I CAN'T  
BREATHE.**



Nejla Harris paints upward-stretching triangles to represent the uplifting of Black men.



Photo courtesy of Nejla Harris

## POLICING MENTAL HEALTH

THE VIOLENCE OF GEORGE FLOYD'S final moments, witnessed through social media by millions, was revelatory for many Americans. Dr. Jocelyn R. Smith Lee has been focused on the relationship between law enforcement and Black males for years.

Her 2019 research article published in the *Journal of Black Psychology*, "That's My Number One Fear in Life. It's the Police": Examining Young Black Men's Exposures to Trauma and Loss Resulting From Police Violence and Police Killings," presents a nuanced analysis of the effects of police violence on the mental health of young Black men.

The assistant professor in UNCG's School of Human Development and Family Studies interviewed 40 Black males (aged 18 to 24) in Baltimore, Maryland, for the study. The participants were recruited through a GED and job readiness center and were initially slated to discuss "homicide survivorship" — a term used to describe the task

of living on after a loved one is murdered.

None of the original interview questions specifically inquired about police interactions — aside from those asking about police investigations of loved ones — but this quickly became a reoccurring discussion topic. Unprompted, many of the young men spoke at length about witnessing police violence as well as personal accounts of harassment, racial profiling, threats, and physical injury at the hands of law enforcement.

One interviewee recalled being stopped by cops while riding his scooter, at age 15. After offering a flippant remark to the officers, he was assaulted:

*"So then he struck me in my face and blacked my eye... [They] started to bang me in my chest and my stomach and, once, once I hit the ground, they just picked me up and pushed me, told me 'walk home, go home,' took my scooter, and pulled off." ~ Wayne, 19*

His story, one of several captured in the qualitative study,

is tragically not the most harrowing.

Combining the interviews with her knowledge of mental health, Dr. Smith Lee starkly points out the pervasive grief, fear, anxiety, and hypervigilance these encounters impose on young Black men and their families. Her paper concludes with a call to action to improve the assessment of trauma resulting from police encounters and a reimagining of policing to prevent police violence and killing.

Several news outlets have interviewed Smith Lee in recent months, for her academic perspective on this wrenching topic.

"Comprehensively, as researchers, as practitioners, as legislators, we have not done a good job of addressing the issue of police violence," Dr. Smith Lee said. "These exposures to trauma perpetrated with impunity by these really important actors [police officers] in our community largely go unaddressed."

charcoal, spray paint, and a collage of magazine clippings. Through a mask, Essence speaks with the other artists, as dusk approaches.

Essence, who already holds a bachelor's degree, is on the pre-med track at UNCG. With an inner need to help people and a sweet spot for children, she plans to be a pediatrician.

This past summer, though, her empathy and connectedness led her to Elm St., paintbrush in tow. "Social media turned [BLM] into a competition. It was like, if you weren't posting, you were part of the problem," Essence points out. "And I take everything personal ... but I wanted to say something that was bigger than a couple of likes."

So when she got the call from Phillip, it seemed to be divine intervention.

"I just wanted to scream as loud as I could on this project."

And she did.

She vented her frustration through her artwork, which she fittingly named "State of Emergency." With the pain of the Black community racing through her mind, she beat her mural with charcoal, burnt it with a blowtorch, threw things at it, and pummeled it with her shoe.

Speaking out through art is not new to Essence. As she majored in painting at East Carolina University, she used her senior project to share her perception that the "White expectations" of the curriculum were stifling to Black artists. And she earned praise for it.

It's important to speak up, when something is wrong, she believes. There are many ways to do it. Art is one.

"Find what works for you."

### BLACK HISTORY, BLACK ART

Across the street, Nejla Harris is putting final touches on her work.

"Breathe for those who don't get a chance to." — Londrelle

"Black love, Brown pride." — Nipsey Hussle

These quotes set the tone for

Nejla's mural: the first referencing the horrific murder of George Floyd and the second sending a message of unity.

When the protests ended, Nejla didn't wait for an invitation.

After seeing artists downtown, she called her friend Ryan Oakley — a Wake Forest University alumna who'd taken UNCG summer courses. They picked a plywood wall, and went to work. They composed separate pieces, which together formed "To Be Black Is: Black Men & Black Women."

People of color are a common theme of Nejla's art. She's always taken an interest in Black history, and at UNCG she's pursuing a minor in African diaspora studies to complement her degree in interior architecture — noting she didn't want to study art because it's too personal to her.

"I used to do a lot of art with Caucasian and light-skinned people because that's who I was around more when I grew up. But as I started studying African American history on my own time, I realized this is a very big part of me," she explains.

When Trayvon Martin was killed, she was young, but she started taking note of the movement that was brewing, as Black men and boys continued to be gunned down by police and self-styled vigilantes. And as she got older, she saw many of her childhood friends — who lived in less affluent neighborhoods than she did — deal with drugs, gangs, gun violence, and even police brutality.

"Seeing how society affects Black kids, especially, at such a young age, is what hit home for me. I always wanted to do something, and now it's more clear to me how I can help," says Nejla.

"I think I've earned the title of an activist now, which is something I feel good about." 🗣️

SEE MORE AT  
ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.

# Lessons from the Past

Spartans at Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum connect history to today's pressing issues

BY ELIZABETH KERI  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
MARTIN W. KANE

Off a busy, rural road in Gibsonville, North Carolina, stands the one state historic site in North Carolina focusing on African American history – and the only one honoring a woman.

Brick dormitories, pastel teachers' cottages, and a school bell mark what was once the Palmer Memorial Institute, a 20th-century boarding school where more than 2,000 African American high schoolers had the rare opportunity to earn a "New England education" in the heart of the South.

The boarding school was opened in 1902 by a headstrong young educator, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, when she was only 19 years old. From its humble beginnings in a blacksmith's cabin, it grew to include 200 acres and to

produce professors, lawyers, and politicians who would go on to change history in their own ways.

This school was Dr. Brown's life's mission.

Today, three young women – all graduates of UNC Greensboro's museum studies master's

program – are continuing that mission in their own way. As the small but mighty staff of what is now the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, these alumni are dedicated to sharing a piece of history that is often overlooked – or in this case, driven past.

Yet for those who take the time to stop, to walk the museum's peaceful acres and listen to the story of Dr. Brown and her school, what they will find is a history that resonates with startling relevance today.

## A new model of education

Agriculture or manual labor training? As an African

American at the turn of the 20th century, these were your typical options if you wanted to continue your education.

"Segregated schools in the South were also in horrible condition at the time," said Leslie Leonard '17 MA, the museum's assistant site manager.

Yet having earned an integrated education in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Brown – the granddaughter of slaves – was insistent on offering a liberal arts education to African Americans in rural North Carolina.

"Her education model was really unique," Leonard said. "You could concentrate in areas like visual arts or dance which, for African Americans in the early 1900s, was pretty much unheard of."

The school was also the first in Guilford County to teach African American history and sexual education.

Lured by this new model, Palmer Memorial Institute attracted some notable names. Poet Langston Hughes guest-lectured in the English department. Lula Martin McIver, widow of Woman's College (now UNCG) founding president Charles Duncan McIver, was active on the board and a frequent donor.

Some Woman's College alumni may even recall the Sedalia Singers, the institute's traveling choir, singing at chapel sessions. Music was important at the institute, and the ensemble would tour to help Dr. Brown in fundraising.

By all accounts, Brown's new education model was a success. A 1960s stat showed 98% of Palmer's graduates went on to receive bachelor's degrees, and 64% of them pursued their education to at least one graduate degree.

## Rules to live by

The school's success can be pinned almost entirely on one person: the museum's namesake. Though small in stature,



**Charlotte Hawkins Brown, founder and principal of the Palmer Memorial Institute**



“

**I know that nobody can segregate my soul ... We are going to listen to the music, feed our souls and then walk out of the auditorium just as fine in body and soul as we would have had not the laws of North Carolina segregated us.**

– A 1937 LETTER EXCERPT FROM DR. CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN TO DR. W.C. JACKSON, PRESIDENT OF WOMAN'S COLLEGE (NOW UNCG), AFTER HE STATED HE COULD PROVIDE ONLY SEGREGATED SEATING TO HER STUDENTS AT AYCOCK AUDITORIUM

”



Top: the graduating class of 1943 stands in the school's traditional "Triangle of Achievement," a formation used for decades to symbolize Dr. Brown's insistence that her students be "academically efficient, religiously sincere, and culturally secure." Above: Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown (center) is photographed in 1907 with four of Palmer Memorial Institute's first teachers. Above right: Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown with a student. Below: An excerpt from Brown's 1943 speech, "The Importance of Overcoming Discrimination."

us. We are not disillusioned; we know what we want, and we realize that <sup>you they</sup> the dominant races are slaves to fear <sup>who</sup> so long as they keep their feet on the necks of darker people struggling to rise.

ARCHIVAL PHOTOS AND LETTER COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN MUSEUM

“

**Charlotte was all about showing how to succeed in this world, while fighting back against the things you don't like about it.**

— LACEY WILSON '18 MA, SITE MANAGER

”

Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown was a force to reckon with. “I would have been terrified of her, while also wanting to be around her all the time,” said Sonya Laney '17 MA, the museum's education coordinator.

Dr. Brown was also notoriously strict. Her book on etiquette is 148 pages long and very specific. She once kicked A.D. King – the younger brother of Martin Luther King, Jr. – out of her school because a photograph showed him with his eyes open during prayer.

That's because she knew that etiquette, for African Americans, wasn't just about plates and knowing how to dress. It was about survival.

“Being Black in the South, you could get lynched for anything at that time,” said Lacey Wilson '18 MA, the museum's site manager.

Knowing proper etiquette also allowed you to be in rooms where important decisions were made. Brown was fiercely devoted to political advocacy. She served on women's voting groups and regularly spoke out against racial and social inequities.

She adamantly opposed segregation, which caused conflict with Woman's College chancellor Walter Clinton Jackson. In 1935, she wrote to Jackson requesting to purchase 50 tickets for her students to attend a musical performance at Aycock Auditorium (now UNCG Auditorium). However, citing the state's political and social pressures of the time, Jackson stated he could only offer her students segregated upper-balcony seating.

Initially Brown declined the offer, but two years later, requested the seats again. She wanted her students to experience fine music, declaring in her letter to Jackson, “We are going to listen to the music, feed our souls and then walk out of the auditorium just as fine in body and soul as we would have had not the laws of North Carolina segregated us.”



Brown expected her students to carry this same passion for change.

“Charlotte was all about showing her students how to succeed in this world, while fighting back against the things you don't like,” Wilson said. “When they finished their education, it was their time to go and uplift other members of society.”

### History made relevant

The Palmer Memorial Institute closed its doors in 1971. Its end was brought on by a combination of factors: a building burned down, public schools desegregated, and boarding schools were no longer in fashion. Perhaps most critically, Dr. Brown died.

Yet her passion for the school continues today, now in the hands of three young UNCG alumni. Together they give tours, organize educational events, and maintain the archives.



Far left is Sonya Laney '17 MA, education coordinator. Middle, Lacey Wilson '18 MA, site manager. Right is Leslie Leonard '17 MA, assistant site manager.



More than preserving Dr. Brown's legacy, however, they've taken on a new mission: to make the museum's history unequivocally relevant to the issues and audiences of today. Wilson, the new site manager, has added fervor to this mission. She joins the museum after working as a historic interpreter at the Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters in Savannah, Georgia.

“Yes, we are a museum,” Wilson said. “Yes, we are a historic site. But we also want to be more of a community center, a place where people can come for events that fit what the community needs as well.”

They plan to turn the museum into an early voting site, create a Black businesses market, and schedule pop-up exhibits around topical events – all of which can be connected to Dr. Brown's extensive social activism.

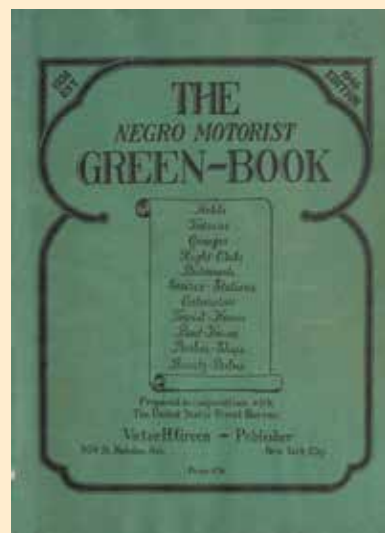
This year has given them plenty of practice making history fit the contemporary climate. Especially during

COVID-19, they have been utilizing social media in creative ways, both to offer virtual tours and connect with new generations. When George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police, they turned to Dr. Brown's speeches against police bias as a teaching tool.

They say UNCG's museum studies program, with its many hands-on projects and field trips, is where they really honed their ability to help visitors connect with history in meaningful ways.

“We're lucky enough to be at a place where we can talk about relevant issues that speak to what's going on in society, where we can dissect history and give it to people in a really relevant way,” said Leonard. “It makes the work we're doing even more meaningful.”

SEE MORE AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).



Green Book, 1940 edition, published by Victor H. Green

## Greensboro's 'Green Book' history

THE MAGNOLIA HOUSE is entering its second act. And a class of Spartans are determined that its first is well-documented.

In the Jim Crow era, hotels in the South were segregated. African American travelers relied on the Green Book Motorist Guide for listings of hotels.

Greensboro's The Magnolia House is one of only four buildings still standing in North Carolina that were “Green Book” hotels.

Situated between downtown and Bennett College, its guests included James Brown, Jackie Robinson, James Baldwin, Ike and Tina Turner, and thousands of other travelers. It was a center of its community.

A class of UNCG museum studies master's students have combed archives, scanned old photos, and interviewed community members and the current owners, the Pass family. The students are creating lesson plans for teachers and planning programming.

They're helping create an exhibition space in the house, to tell an important story – of the community, of past racial restrictions and racist mores, of some figures in its history.

The owners are not just restoring the building. They are reestablishing its place at the center of the neighborhood – a restaurant, a meeting spot, a vital piece of history.

Dr. Torren Gatson, assistant professor of

history, says, “The people of Greensboro are poised to learn that this site played a major role in the music scene as well as the fight for civil rights in Greensboro. Often times, historic places are seen through only one lens. But when we unpack those rich histories, other stories emerge.”

The new site manager, Melissa Knapp '20 MA, relishes being able to promote the history, as she builds on her UNCG training. “I loved my hands-on experience at UNCG. It's not just theoretical.”

— MIKE HARRIS '93 MA

SEE MORE AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).



The Magnolia House

# FALDERAL MEMORIES

BY SUSAN KIRBY-SMITH '06 MA

**WHO REMEMBERS FALDERAL, OR THE FALL CHARLIES?**  
The five-day fall celebration took place on UNCG's campus beginning in the late 60s and continuing

through the 70s, with many concerts, dances, performances, speakers, crafts, fireworks, and even a mime troupe. "A bit of finery, a bit of nonsense," the festival served up apple cider and doughnuts, pizza for a pizza-eating contest, as well as beer at "Suds and Sounds" for those of-age.

## FALDERAL '74

At the 1974 Falderal, according to a Carolinian article, "an airplane bearing 1000 numbered ping pong balls circled the Quad before dropping its cargo on Peabody Park where diligent scavengers gathered the balls up in hopes of winning a bicycle given by the Alumni Association and the A&S Cycle Shop."

## FALDERAL '79

The Bee Gees and the Doobie Brothers played at the Greensboro Coliseum for Falderal in 1979. There was a 500-pound cake (a close rival to the 125-foot cake UNCG served up for the 125th Anniversary celebration in 2018).



ARCHIVAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNCG ARCHIVES

## HOMECOMING '82

When Falderal turned to Homecoming, in 1982, the celebration expanded, with even more activities and Spartan athletic games. Elizabeth "Skool" Ford was crowned UNCG's first Homecoming queen.



## HOMECOMING '83

Crowning of the first African American Homecoming queen, Cynthia Moore.



## HOMECOMING '86

The Bangles played the UNCG Auditorium. Over 1600 attended.

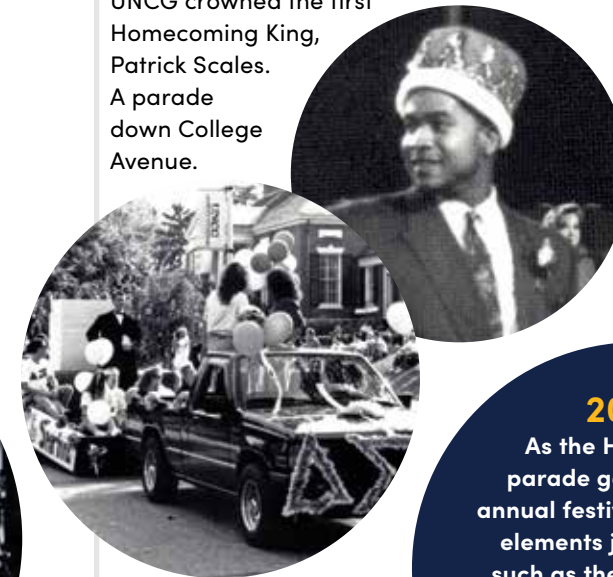


## 1990s

Barbecues in Foust Park, a Night Owl Talent Show, the Swamp Cats, the UNCG Jazz Band, masquerade balls, pony rides, and alumni rugby matches.

## HOMECOMING '92

UNCG crowned the first Homecoming King, Patrick Scales. A parade down College Avenue.



## HOMECOMING '20

This month, 2020 UNCG Homecoming goes online, with virtual events and activities, including a concert by Rhiannon Giddens. Spartans may miss the bonfires and fireworks, but one thing's for sure: the Spartan spirit burns bright in October.

ENJOY  
HOMECOMING  
ONLINE  
OCT. 19-24.  
HOMECOMING.  
UNCG.EDU

## 2000s

As the Homecoming parade gave way to an annual festive bonfire, other elements joined the mix, such as the Block Party at Kaplan Commons, a School of Education Maker Space, and more student-led and family-inclusive events.

"You don't have to get hit in the face with a pie to enjoy Falderal. But just come out to the Quad to watch."

– Spartan student, 1976

## 1980s

Soccer games, formal dances in Cone Ballroom, DJ 'Goodnight Charlie,' U.S. Open Martial Arts Championships, the London bureau chief for Time magazine, and folk legend Pete Seeger at UNCG Auditorium in 1983.



Left: Tom and Linda Sloan  
Below: Raven Sizemore,  
the inaugural recipient of  
the Sloan Endowed  
Scholarship



## Sloans endow merit scholarships, with \$2 million commitment

“This scholarship means so much to me,” said Raven Sizemore. “It’s the difference between going to UNCG or not going at all.”

Raven, a first-year UNCG undergraduate from Randleman, North Carolina, is the inaugural recipient of the Sloan Endowed Scholarship. The new scholarship program at UNCG provides full support for students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and financial need.

“What this scholarship will do is let me graduate from UNCG without any significant debt,” Raven said. “When I was looking at schools I came here and met Professor Randy Kohlenberg, and he was so welcoming and seemed to really understand my interests. I felt a connection right away and knew this was the place for me. Now, with this scholarship, I’ll be able to pursue my dream of a degree in music, and then go on to get a master’s degree so I can become a music teacher.”

Endowed by Linda Fisher Sloan ’82 MFA and Thomas R. Sloan, the \$2 million commitment will eventually sustain two Sloan Scholars per class for study at the University. The Sloan Scholarships will cover tuition and all the costs of attendance at UNCG for these students, as well as provide support for high-impact opportunities such as a study-abroad experience, service learning, or internships. Students receiving the scholarship are free to pursue any field of study offered at UNCG.

The Sloan Scholarships are part of UNCG’s Minerva Scholars program and are administered through the University’s Lloyd International Honors College.

“Linda and I feel very fortunate to be able to make this scholarship gift,” said Tom Sloan. “It is recipients like Raven who have the potential to make an impact in this life. We are honored to be a part of encouraging her success.”

The Sloans are longtime supporters of

UNCG. In addition to the many awards they have received for their work in the community, they recently received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Triad Chapter. Linda Sloan is a current UNCG Board of Trustees member, a member of UNCG’s College of Visual and Performing Arts Board of Visitors, and a former adjunct lecturer in the Bryan School of Business and Economics. Tom Sloan served as a member of UNCG’s Board of Trustees for nine years, including a stint as its chair, and has served on the University Investment Fund Board.

For Raven, the first semester as a Spartan is thrilling.

“I have worked so hard to get here,” she said. “I am so excited now to pursue this dream, and so grateful this scholarship gives me that opportunity. It has made all the difference for me.”

## CHAMPIONS RISE TO THE CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE

George Hoyle ’90 believes that one should leave the world better than you found it. Thanks to his memorable time at UNCG as a student and member of the 1987 Men’s Soccer National Championship team, Hoyle is doing exactly that by making an impact on the lives of Spartan student-athletes through his dedicated philanthropy and service to his alma mater.

Recently appointed to UNCG’s Board of Trustees, Hoyle, along with his wife, Kathleen Kelly, and Vanessa Carroll ’83, co-chairs Campaign for Champions, a fundraising initiative that commemorates five championships won by UNCG athletic programs during the 2017-18 season. The goal is to raise \$5 million to invest in Spartan Athletics and build a lasting, winning tradition.

“I am very passionate about helping to build a championship brand for Spartan Athletics, which not only benefits the student-athletes at UNCG, but impacts positively our broader UNCG community and Greater Greensboro,” Hoyle said.

The campaign has raised \$2.8 million toward its goal, earmarked to transform student-athlete academic and support facilities and to recruit and retain top coaches to lead UNCG’s 17 Division I athletic teams. Student-athletes are already enjoying the new Academic Success Center and Bodford Family Speed, Strength & Conditioning Center. The Hoyle Family Men’s Basketball Recruiting Lounge, made possible by the couple’s leadership gift to the campaign, will be completed later this year.

Hoyle began giving soon after graduation. He felt an obligation to give back to the institution that had given him so much.

“I can tell you with absolute certainty I would not be where I am today without the life-changing experience I had as a Spartan,” Hoyle said. “My

UNCG education and athletic experience shaped me and put me on an amazing path, and for that, I am forever grateful.”

Not all Campaign for Champions donors are alumni, however. Greensboro’s Al and Brenda Bodford and their children, Jason and Amy, made a significant first-time gift. The newly named Bodford Family Speed, Strength & Conditioning Center is destined to be a strong recruiting tool for prospective student-athletes and coaches. Potential growth opportunities for UNCG Athletics inspired the family’s support.

“We are excited by UNCG’s exceptional academic programs and competitive athletic teams,” Al Bodford said. “The high caliber of students graduating each year provides an immeasurable impact on North Carolina communities and beyond.”

Jason Bodford, who has worked in transportation and supply chain in the EPES organization and at EPES Logistics for more than 25 years, is passionate about continuing the advancement of Spartan Athletics.

“We were excited to support an area of the University that would impact every team within the athletic department,” Jason Bodford said. “The level of appreciation from students and staff has confirmed this was the right decision for our family.”

The UNCG volleyball team was the first squad to work out in the newly renovated facility complete with state-of-the-art weightlifting, fitness, and training equipment.

“UNCG makes it so easy to want to give,” Jason said. “When you give to UNCG, you know you are making a real and measurable impact. Unlike at some of the larger competing schools, every dollar counts. It was not a difficult decision to give.”

“The knowledge that you are helping others is hugely empowering and fulfilling.”

—GEORGE HOYLE ’90

# gradtidings

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

## 1940s

**CASSANDRA “BILLY” RICKETTS ‘42** has been a registered stock trader for more than 50 years. At age 98, she is still working at GCG Wealth Management in Greensboro, with an office right next to her grandson’s – a fellow GCG advisor.

## 1950s

**SHIRLEY SMITH O’BRIEN ‘52** was featured in the Kernersville (N.C.) News, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, with her account of growing up in Kernersville in the 1930s and 40s.

## 1960s

**EMILY HERRING WILSON ‘61**, last year, gave a number of readings for her book “When I Go Back to My Home Country: A Remembrance of Archie Ammons.” She and her husband, who served as Wake Forest University provost, came to know the esteemed poet A.R. Ammons during his year teaching at Wake Forest. She and Ammons were good friends until the poet’s death.

**THOMAS HENLEY BARTHEL ‘68 MFA** signed the contract for his 11th book, which will focus on the destruction of obstacles in New York City’s East River from 1866 to 1885, as well as on General John Newton, the master of the detonations.

**EMMYLOU HARRIS ‘69x** performed with Vince Gill and Rodney Crowell on the Grand Ole Opry in August. With the pandemic, there was no in-person audience, but for the radio and TV audience, it was a treat. She opened with the Louvin Brothers classic “If I Could Only Win Your Love” – which she noted

was the first song she had performed on the Opry stage, back in 1975, duetting with Charlie Louvin.

## 1970s

**PHILIP LINK ‘70, ‘77 MFA** is a Greensboro artist whose work was recently displayed as part of the Gallery 1250 exhibition “Interiors,” which opened on Valentine’s Day in Greensboro.

**LEE KNOWLES PEELE ‘71** concluded her 29-year tenure as the organ player for First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, N.C.

**MAE DOUGLAS ‘73** received the 2019 ATHENA Award, presented by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce. In addition to serving on the UNCG Board of Trustees, her volunteerism has included service on the following nonprofit boards: the United Way of Greater Greensboro, the Cone Health Board of Trustees, the Cone Foundation Board, Gateway Research Park, Guilford Child Development, the National Conference for Community and Justice, YMCA, Friends of the Library at UNCG, and an advisory committee of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

**PATTY MANN THEL ‘74** traveled with two youth choirs she conducts, Vox Amicus and the Trenton Children’s Chorus, to sing for groups touring the White House in Washington, D.C on December 20, 2019.

**DONNA STEELE HONEYCUTT ‘75** released her 31st novel, titled “A New Time,” in April.

**GINGER ALLEY CARROLL ‘77** started a new position as chief executive officer of Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness, Florida – just before the coronavirus pandemic. She has overseen her hospital’s response to the outbreak.

**JAY BUTLER ‘79**, who has practiced law for more than 35 years, recently received a master’s degree in history from North Carolina State University and had parts

of his thesis published in two academic journals – The Catholic Historical Review and Cistercian Studies Quarterly.

## 1980s

**MARIAN WILSON KIMBER ‘83, ‘86 MLS** published “Musical Iowana: Iowa Women’s Clubs’ Promotion of Iowa Composers,” which recently appeared in The Annals of Iowa. As part of the duo Red Vespa, Marian continues to perform women’s spoken-word compositions. Last November, Marian was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award from UNCG.

**BARBARA “BOBBI” OSGUTHORPE ‘83** has begun a third decade as elected historian for the School of Nursing alumni board.

**PATRICIA JOHNSON COX ‘84, ‘87 MS**, an assistant professor of accounting at Elon University, has taken on new responsibilities since Elon was selected to pilot the American Institute of Certified Professional Accountants’ (AICPA) Academic Champion Program. She is now responsible for fostering CPA culture, acting as the main point of contact for CPA exam and licensure issues, and contributing input to the AICPA Trends in Accounting Graduates and the Demand for Public Accounting Recruits report every other year.

**BRENDA PARKER HAMPTON ‘84 MBA** rejoined the Alamance Community College Foundation Board of Directors. She holds a bachelor of science degree from Howard University and previously served as a business and marketing instructor at Alamance Community College.

**DEAN JONES ‘84** has returned to his Alamance County roots. He and his brother, Starr Jones, who also attended UNCG, are award-winning Hollywood makeup artists. They have transformed the old Copland Mills factory into Atlantic and Pacific Studios, a production company with a focus on employing local talent and students.

**RAYNE BROWN ‘85 MED** has served on the NC 13th District Service Academy Nominations Board for three years, now. She previously served three years in the NC House of Representatives where she represented District 81 until she retired in 2016. Previously, she practiced social

work in Davidson County for 35 years.

**JONI MCMILLAN DAVIS ‘85** has been appointed to Novant Health’s Board of Trustees. Joni is a Charlotte native and currently serves as the vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer for Duke Energy.

**CHALMA W. HUNT ‘85** has volunteered as guardian ad litem for the 23rd Judicial District since 2016.

**MELINDA GAIL HALFORD ‘86 MFA** owns and operates Front Porch Physical Therapy in Black Mountain (N.C.), where she blends the art of movement with her physical therapy practice. She was recognized by the Asheville Citizen-Times for her unique methods for bringing relief to physical ailments.

**ROBBIE GATHINGS JAMES ‘86** retired after a 33-year teaching career, having spent 21 years in Richmond County and 12 years in Anson County.

**PAMELA MARIE MCCORMICK ‘86, ‘88, ‘94 MED** was selected as Teacher of the Year at Colfax (N.C.) Elementary School. She has more than 30 years of experience in education and currently teaches math and reading to academically gifted third, fourth, and fifth graders.

**CHERYL HILL BENSON ‘87 MED** received the 2019 Greater Franklin County (N.C.) Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award. Cheryl was a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, and an assistant superintendent before she retired to volunteer and lead the Franklin County Education Foundation as its executive director. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University, and she earned her doctorate in educational leadership at Nova Southeastern University.

**JOHN HILARY SHEPHERD ‘89** was a co-executive producer of the movie “1917,” which was nominated for “Best Picture” at this year’s Academy Awards.

## 1990s

**GEORGE GIBBONS HOYLE ‘90** was appointed to the UNCG Board of Trustees to finish the unexpired term of trustee Frances Bullock. His term began July 1 and will run through June 30, 2021. Afterwards he will be eligible for appointment to a full four-year term.

**EVELYN MARTIN KINDLEY ‘90 MA** was hired as the director of the Mitchell County (N.C.) Cooperative Extension. She previously spent 26 years working in the cooperative extension in Madison County (N.C.) after spending two years with the extension in Moore County (N.C.).

**DAVID ANDREW PRIDDY, JR. ‘90, ‘03 MED** was named the 2020 Stokes County Teacher

## NURSING ON THE MOVE

The feature on UNCG Nursing alumni in the spring 2020 issue spurred reflections from alumni in the School of Nursing. One response:



**LINDA BRAY RIMER ‘71** “I found myself reflecting on my four years at UNCG, in particular my junior and senior years in the nursing program. I will never forget the first time we met our awesome dean, Eloise Lewis; getting our uniform hems measured to fall below our knees (when everyone was wearing miniskirts!); those brown Hush Puppies; forcing the cafeterias to open up earlier so nursing students could get breakfast before clinicals; and our caps that no legion of hair pins could ever keep on straight. And particularly, the awareness that our education was going to make us very special nurses, nurses who could change the world.”

**NURSING ALUMNI, WHAT’S YOUR FONDEST “MOORE MOMENT”?** AS UNCG’S SCHOOL OF NURSING SOON MOVES TO ITS NEW HOME, SHARE YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME INSIDE THE MOORE NURSING BUILDING. EMAIL MEMORIES AND PHOTOS TO MIRIAMFIELDS@UNCG.EDU.



of the Year. He has been an employee of Stokes County Schools for nearly 30 years, spending time as both an English teacher and an administrator.

**THOMAS EMMETT WALDRON ‘90** is the Wrangler executive vice president and global brand president under the parent organization Kontoor Brands, which includes Wrangler and Lee Brands. Kontoor is Greensboro’s newest publicly traded company.

**TRICIA DICKENS ‘91** was celebrated by the UNCG biology department after she left her family farm in Idaho to offer her emergency medicine expertise on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City last spring. “I knew I had the ability and the capacity to help and could not sit by the sidelines,” she said.

**MELANIE N. TAYLOR ‘91** retired from her position as the Iredell-Statesville Schools deputy superintendent of curriculum and design, after dedicating nearly 29 years to the public education field.

**MARCIA ELAINE WALKER ‘91, ‘98 MA** was published on Medium for her essay on Olympic figure skater Mirko Müller-Goolsbey. Her work “This is What Makes Us Us” is part of a book of creative nonfiction she is completing.

**ROBERT M. WILLIAMS ‘91** was appointed warden of Forsyth Correctional Center in Winston-Salem by the NC Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.

**CYNTHIA HOUSE JONES ‘92** is the senior services director for Franklin County

(N.C.). She has worked for more than 10 years with the Franklin County Department of Social Services.

**DENISE C. RHEW ‘92, ‘99 MSN, ‘16 PHD**, who’s an adjunct professor with the UNCG School of Nursing, received the Nursing Competency in Aging Award from the Emergency Nurses Association.

**ERNEST GRANT ‘93 MSN, ‘15 PHD** was re-elected president of the American Nurses Association. He was invited to speak to the U.S. Congress commerce committee in July about supply chain issues related to the pandemic.

**HATTIE LADSINE TAYLOR ‘93 MSN**, the first African American student to graduate from the UNCG Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program (in 1993), was elected secretary of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) board of directors for 2020-21.

**YVONNE ALDERMAN ‘94 PHD** is one of three artists whose work was part of “2019 in Review,” an exhibit at the Glencoe Mansion Museum and Gallery in Roanoke. The exhibit opened on Jan. 14.

**JOHN VERNON BROWN, JR ‘94** was appointed vice provost for the arts at Duke University. He is a bassist, composer, and producer with a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

**TIMOTHY R. CAVINESS ‘94** released a new book that takes place at UNCG during the early 90s: “The Walk-On.”

**THERESA COX ‘94** was named principal and

director of alternative learning programs at Wayne (N.C.) Middle/High Academy. She has been an educator for 25 years, holding a master’s degree in school administration and a doctorate degree in educational leadership from Fayetteville State University.

**SARA FRANCIS FUJIMURA ‘94**, a young adult author, released her third book, titled “Every Reason We Shouldn’t.”

**TAMMY REEVES WHITE ‘94, ‘08 MSA** was named Teacher of the Year for Guilford County Schools. She has been a longtime band director at Kiser Middle School.

**BRIDGETT BYRD SELLARS ‘95, ‘09 MSN** works for Orbis Education and serves on the UNCG School of Nursing Alumni board. Most recently, she became certified in nursing education by the National League for Nursing, and she enjoys staying connected with students through teaching as an adjunct faculty member for Grand Canyon Education.

**ERIN E. CLARK ‘96** was named president of the United Way of Davidson County (N.C.). She previously served as the executive director for the Art Therapy Credentials Board Inc., a national organization focused on the credentialing of art therapists.

**MARC ASHLEY ‘97** is president and chief operating officer of Market America. He received the 2020 Entrepreneur Extraordinaire Award from UNCG’s Bryan School of Business and Economics.

**MICHELLE GARREN FLYE ‘97 MLIS** is a New

Bern author who writes romances under her own name and the children’s series “Jessica” – set in New Bern (N.C.) – under her pen name Shelly Gee. She is the new owner of The Next Chapter Book and Art Store in New Bern.

**BRUCE RANDALL OAKLEY ‘97, ‘02 MPA** was selected as town manager of Carolina Beach, N.C. He was previously the city manager of Southport, N.C., and he was the town manager of Oak Ridge, N.C., for 13 years.

**JENNY CADDELL LIVELLI ‘98** was promoted to chief operating officer at the Children’s Guild Alliance, a nonprofit organization serving children, families, and child-serving organizations. In her new position, she will work to improve operating effectiveness and build organizational capacity.

**JULIA STOTT TILLMAN ‘98** is now a personal shopper for Polliwogs on Battleground Avenue in Greensboro.

**LATOYA LOWERY BROWN ‘99**, a nurse life care planner and a certified case manager, is self-employed with her own business. She serves on the UNCG School of Nursing Alumni Board and is also a part-time adjunct instructor for the Nurse Aide I program at Guilford Technical Community College and an American Heart Association BLS CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) instructor.

**LAURELYN G. DOSSETT ‘99 MS** is writing music for two plays with Preston Lane

**During these extraordinary times, we send our best wishes for each of you. Reach out, and share your news.**

Visit us at [alumnimagazine.uncg.edu](http://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu) and click on “Submit a class note.”

You can also mail your information to **Class Notes, UNCG Alumni Engagement, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.**

for Triad Stage. One will eventually be a live theater production, called “The Shifting.” Last November, the Winston-Salem Symphony performed her song cycle “The Gathering: A Winter’s Tale in Six Songs.”

**MATTHEW WINDUST HUGHEY '99** was recently promoted to a full professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut.

## 2000s

**KARRIE G. DIXON '00 MA**, chancellor of Elizabeth City State University, was awarded the platinum Best Leadership award by the 2020 HBCU Grows LEAD Conference. She was also named one of the 10 Most Dominant HBCU Leaders of 2020 by HBCU Campaign Fund. Prior to working at ECSU, she served as the UNC System’s vice president for academic and student affairs.

**BRANDY S. FAULKNER '00 MPA**, an assistant professor in the political science department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, was appointed to an endowed professorship. She has been named the Gloria D. Smith Professor of Black Studies. Brandy has been a member of the Virginia Tech community since 2012, and her scholarship has focused on constitutional and administrative law, race and public policy, and critical organization theory.

**DONYELL S. JONES '00** was named chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of NC. He brings more than 20 years of experience in youth development and quality programming to the Boys & Girls Club movement.

**ZAKIA A. NESBITT '00** was named to the 2020-2023 Board of Directors for Equal Justice Works, a nonprofit organization dedicated to public interest law and equal justice, headquartered in Washington, DC. She is currently a law student at the Louisiana State University Law Center, a clinical supervisor for CVS Health, and the treasurer for the Black Law Student Association at LSU Law.

**RICHARD TREMMEL '00 MM** has been named interim director of the Delta Music Institute and chair of the Entertainment Industry Studies program at Delta State University in Mississippi.

**JAMES D. WORSLEY '00, '03 MS**, the director of Chesterfield County (Va.) Parks and Recreation, was recently selected by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to receive the National Distinguished Professional Award.

**WILLIAM A. ZELL '00 MPA** was appointed

interim city manager by the City of Hamlet (N.C.). He was formerly the town manager of Aberdeen, NC for 13 years.

**DOMINICK AMENDUM '01** is artist-in-residence, coordinator of Musical Theatre at UNCG. He worked with Broadway composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz to open the musical “Prince of Egypt,” based on the Disney movie of the same name, last winter in London’s West End.

**CHRIS CHALK '01** has a leading role in the new “Perry Mason,” which debuted on HBO in June. A second season has been booked.

**BARRON L. THOMPSON '01**, an adjunct lecturer in the UNCG Department of Political Science, has taught Introduction to Law (PSC 280) since the spring of 2019.

**WILLIAM “CLARK” ADAMS '02, '04 MA** was honored with the 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award at Randolph Community College (RCC). An English/communications instructor, he began teaching at RCC in August of 2004. He has served as the lead adviser for the RCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society since 2010 and was an adviser for the Student Leadership Academy from 2012-2019. He also created and maintains the historical archives for RCC.

**WILLIAM BENJAMIN KIEHL '02** retired from his nursing practice, most recently working with BAYADA Home Health Care Inc.

**JACQUELINE HOLMES SPRINGFIELD '02 MFA** was recently published in the journal Voice and Speech Review with her co-written article “Strategies for Guiding Actors’ Accent and Linguistic Needs in the Twenty-First Century.” She is a professional actor and an instructor, who currently teaches voice and speech at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City.

**QUANDA RENEE TURNER '03 MSA, '14 EDS** retired after a 36-year career as an educational instructor in the Orange County (N.C.) school district.

**ASHLEIGH HOGAN MCFARLIN '04** joined Claremont Financial Services, located in Claremont, N.H. She is a certified financial planner.

**YVETTE MURPHY-ERBY '04 PHD** is a professor of social work and vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at the University of Arkansas. She joined the faculty in 2011.

**SIDNEY OUTLAW '04** made his Kennedy Center debut in December with the National Symphony Orchestra, performing Handel’s “Messiah” with the National Symphony Orchestra, Sir Andrew Davis, and the Washington Chorus.

**LANCE STOKES '04 MSA, '13 EDS** is the principal of Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. He has 20 years of experience as

an educator and 16 years of experience as a school administrator. He started as an elementary teacher and has served as an assistant principal for six years and a principal for 10 years.

**RICHARD WATERS '04 DMA** is the director of chorale activities, the voice area coordinator, and a professor of music at Eastern Kentucky University. After being commissioned by Eastern Arizona College, he composed a piece for their women’s chorale, which premiered at Spring Sing 2020.

**CLYDE ALBERT BRISTOW, III '05, '06 MSN, '17 DNP** is the chief nursing officer of WFBH-Lexington Medical Center and serves on the UNCG School of Nursing Alumni Association Board as vice president.

**LITASHA DENNIS '05 PHD** earned the 2020 South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Excellence in Teaching Award. She has been a professor of English at Spartan Methodist College since 2012 and has more than 21 years of teaching experience.

**JUSTIN NATHANIEL OUTLING '05** was named one of Black Business Ink magazine’s 40 Under 40 Most Influential African Americans in the Piedmont. He has served as a Greensboro City Councilman since 2015 and, in 2019, he received the North Carolina Bar Association’s (NCBA) Citizen Lawyer Award.

**VASUDHA RANGAPATHY '05 MS** was promoted to vice president of IT and e-commerce at IFB Solutions. She joined IFB Solutions in 2009 as a software engineer before being promoted to senior applications manager. She was formerly the director of IT and e-commerce.

**KELLY NICOLE GRAVES '06 PHD** was recognized by FOX8 as one of four Remarkable Women of the Piedmont Triad. Kelly was nominated for her nonprofit, the Kellin Foundation, which is partnered with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

**ALEXANDRA JOYE WARREN '06 MFA** created Joyovement to give professional dancers in the Greensboro area an opportunity to continue performing professionally. Her mission is to tell the stories of the African Diaspora and explore their future through dance.

**NATANIA JOHANNE BARRON '07 MA** is the author of dozens of short stories as well as several novellas and novels. All these works contain monsters of different varieties. Her work has appeared in Weird Tales, Escape, Steampunk Tales, Crossed Genres, Bull Spec, and various anthologies. She is also the founder of the Outer Alliance, a group dedicated to queer advocacy in speculative fiction.

**GRANT BUCKNER '07** serves as administrative counsel for the North Carolina Supreme Court. He leads a small

team of lawyers there, who craft rules, review opinions, and provides counsel to the state’s highest court. A news report states he likens his team to the keeper of the Supreme Court’s institutional memory.

**HONG CHAI '07, '08 MS** was hired to the accounting and consulting firm Sharrard, McGee & Co. She is a tax supervisor in their High Point, N.C., office.

**CRYSTAL LAMB '07, '14 MSN**, clinical assistant professor and UNCG School of Nursing’s simulation coordinator, received the School of Nursing Teaching Excellence Award.

**CAMERON GREEN MARSDEN '07** joined the Thomasville Tourism Commission as the tourism director. She has nine years of fundraising/events experience, and she completed her master’s in public administration at UNC Charlotte.

**CHRISTOPHER A. NICHOLS '07 EDD** was named the principal at Atkins High School. He has been the principal at the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Career Center since 2014. Prior to that, he was the principal at Forbush High School in Yadkin County (N.C.) for four years, and he was an assistant principal at both Parkland High School and Paisley IB Magnet School for 10 years.

**ALFONSO “ATIBA” RORIE '07**, dance music coordinator for UNCG’s College of Visual and Performing Arts, was featured in a recent television story about drumming.

**CAITLIN SARAPHIS '07, '09 MA** received the UNCG College of Arts & Sciences Experienced Advisor Award.

**NORRIS LEE STATON, JR. '07, '18 MPA** became the public housing director for the City of Albemarle (N.C.). Before, he served as the executive director of Mustard Seed Community Health, a Greensboro-based non-profit that provides integrated care to those in the community who cannot afford medical insurance or are underinsured.

**ALI BOYCE COSGROVE '08, '13 MSN**, a second-year student in UNCG’s Nurse Anesthesia program, and fellow graduate student Kevin Dollar spent a month in Buffalo, N.Y., working 12-hour shifts at a hospital treating coronavirus patients.

**CHARLA A. DUNCAN '08** is the senior assistant to the Warren County (NC) manager. She was previously working as a management analyst in the office of the Granville County (N.C.) manager. Charla holds a master’s of public administration from New York University.

**AMY BIGBEE GROSSO '08 PHD** has been hired as director of Behavioral Health for the Round Rock, Texas, school district. Grosso has spent the last five years working with the district in different capacities on mental health education. In her new position, she is overseeing

## REMEMBERING WHEN WE DIDN'T HAVE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE – AS SEEN IN THESE GREAT PHOTOS FROM LAST WINTER. THOSE DAYS WILL RETURN!



## UNTIL THEN, PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS WON'T KEEP SPARTANS FROM CELEBRATING SPECIAL TIMES!



**1** Zubair Siam '19 and friend. **2** Fani Mwasti and UNCG Muslim Student Organization. **3** (From L-R) Blake Edwards, president and CEO of Skyline National Bank; Anthony Edwards '09, vice president at Skyline National Bank; Jonathan Kruckow, EVP at Skyline National Bank. **4** Members of the Vanguard Leadership Council: Monette Wood '67, Sue Medley '65, Agnes Price '62, Jo Safrir '57. **5** David Craft '85 receives honor, with COVID-19 protocols. **6** Newly graduated MFA in Writing alumni. They are distinctly social-distanced, as the exams ended in May.



# gradtidings

programs for students who are in crisis or at-risk due to mental health.

**RUE SHIRRILLAN LEE-HOLMES '08 PHD** teaches general music at Hobpton Middle School in Newton Grove, N.C. She has been in the education profession for 25 years.

**DENISE RANGEL TRACY '08, '10 MA** received the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) 2020 Service Award, which recognizes her volunteer service to promote and support women in mathematics through AWM. Reaching an audience beyond the mathematics community, she has used Wikipedia to increase awareness of the history of women in math.

**ANTHONY GLENN EDWARDS '09** graduated from the Virginia Bankers School of Bank Management at the University of Virginia, holding the highest-grade point of his 62-person class. He received a one-year scholarship from the Virginia Bankers Association to attend the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

**CHRISTOPHER BRITTON LEA '09**, formerly at WXII, is now a sports anchor/reporter on WRAL in Raleigh.

**KATE DAVIDSON MCKEE '09** is a junior showroom designer at Barbour Spangle Design in High Point, N.C.

**CRISTAL CAMPBELL SNOW '09, '14 MA** was honored with a 2020 "40 Under 40" award from the Triad Business Journal, recognizing extraordinary young leaders in the Triad area.

## 2010s

**NATHAN MAUNG '10** is a cinematographer whose feature film "Longing with Love" opened in February in Myanmar.

**DEVON CURRIE '11** is taking on the new role of administrative and database coordinator for ArtsGreensboro. For the last 11 years, Devon has worked as a professional stage manager with theaters and organizations all over North Carolina, including Triad Stage and Paperhand Puppet Intervention. She uses her skills as a visual artist to work on independent projects with her husband, Cameron, and creates design work for theater productions.

**ZITHOBILE "ZITTY" ZODWA NXUMALO '11 MA** was a speaker at Surry Community College, where she presented "Swazi-Carolinian: A Story of Immigration, Education, and Entrepreneurship." She has facilitated emotional intelligence and authentic leadership workshops for many area organizations, and she holds a PhD in leadership studies from North Carolina A&T State University. She works in the School of Health and Human Sciences at

UNCG as a student success navigator and life design catalyst coach.

**AMANDA PEEBLES STEERE '11 MED** was named Kernersville (N.C.) Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

**JOLENE CANNADY '12, '16 MSN, '19 DNP** works for Cone Health at Crissman Family Practice in Graham, N.C., and serves on the UNCG School of Nursing Alumni Board.

**MARY JEANETTE EBERHARDINGER '12 MA** received the 2020 Distinguished Dissertation Award at Duquesne University in Humanities and Fine Arts.

**PORSHA M. GRAVES '12** is the girls' basketball coach at the Burlington School.

**TIFFANY HANSLEY-JONES '12** is a teacher at Burgaw Elementary School and was named Teacher of the Week by WWAY in Wilmington. She teaches children with special needs and is in her second year of teaching.

**KATHRYN HUBERT '12** was named one of the 40 Leaders Under Forty 2020 by the Triad Business Journal. Her restaurant, Chez Genève, is located in downtown Greensboro.

**JESSIE IAN CRAFT '13** teaches Latin at Reagan High School in Pfafftown, N.C. He was honored by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South with the 2017-2018 Kraft Award for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching and was nominated for the 2019 Society for Classical Studies Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Pre-College Level. Jessie has produced more than 110 videos on YouTube as teaching aids, mostly in Latin with English subtitles.

**NICOLE GARDNER '13** is a sixth and seventh grade math teacher at Western Rockingham Middle School. She won the Middle School Teacher of the Year award for the Rockingham County (N.C.) Schools.

**MELANIE NICOLE GREENE '13 MFA** and J. Bouey, hosts of an independent podcast called Dance Union, were featured in The New York Times for their successful efforts to highlight controversial issues in the dance world. Fair pay for dancers, abuses of power in dance companies, and racism in dance criticism are among the topics they discuss.

**PAUL KIPKEMOI CHELIMO '14** was the keynote guest speaker for the 2020 U.S. Air Force Marathon. He was the silver medalist in the 5000 meters at the 2016 Summer Olympics, and he was the bronze medalist at the 2017 World Championship.

**JENNIFER BUSHEN CLAYTON '14 POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE** was named Teacher of the Year at Cash Elementary School, located in Kernersville, N.C.

**JUSTIN COWAN '14, '16 MM, '18 DMA** has been named associate chair for the Department of Theatre Arts beginning Fall 2021 at Western Connecticut State University.

**RACHAEL WANDERLIN '14 MS** has harnessed her experiences in dementia care as well as her blog "Dementia by Day" and 2016 book "When Somebody You Know Is

## LIVE FROM NEW YORK ...



**LAUREN HOLT '13** was invited to join the "Saturday Night Live" cast. The 46th season of the acclaimed comedy show began Oct. 3. Lauren, who majored in studio art, has been a house performer with the Upright Citizens Brigade in Los Angeles.

Living in a Dementia Care Community" (Johns Hopkins) to found a business working with senior care providers in building their own dementia-care programs.

**KIRSTEN CAMPBELL GUTIERREZ '15** moved to WRAL in March as a Raleigh reporter. Previously she was a producer at FOX8 WGHP (2015-16), a multimedia journalist at WWAY in Wilmington (2016-18), and a reporter at WXII 12 News in Winston-Salem (2018-2020).

**TIERA CHELSEY MOORE '15, '18 MA, '18 POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE** was a co-moderator of the online forum series at UNCG last summer titled "Race and Racism in American History." It explored many facets of systemic racism in the United States, past and present.

**SIERA SAGE SCHUBACH '15** received a Staff Excellence Award from UNCG's College of Arts & Sciences.

**ANNALISE GENEE COLEMAN '16**, who is captain of the Carolina Panthers cheerleading squad TopCats, was selected to cheer for the NFC in the 2020 Pro Bowl. The Pro Bowl was streamed on ESPN, ABC, and Disney XD.

**JACOB HINSON '16** won the 2019 UNCSEA composition contest. His composition "Enigma for Symphony Orchestra" was performed by the Winston-Salem

Symphony as part of "Concert for Community" in January 2020.

**CHRISTOPHER V. JORDAN '16, '18 MA** received the UNCG College of Arts & Sciences New Advisor Award.

**JOSHUA ALAN LANDRETH '16** received a juris doctor degree from Elon University's School of Law. He was also awarded a national membership to the Order of Barristers and a certificate of achievement from the North Carolina Bar Association for his service completed through the university's pro bono program.

**JENNIFER LEIGH MANN '16 MFA** attended the Sundance Film Festival for the premiere of the film "The Evening Hour," directed by Braden King. Mann appears with film veterans Tess Harper and Lili Taylor. Among her other credits are "House of Cards" on Netflix and the film "The Disappointments" with Kate Beckinsale.

**SARA LOUISE PILLING '16 MPA** was named to the Triad Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Class of 2020. She is currently the operations manager for the graduate programs at the UNCG Bryan School of Business and Economics. In addition to managing the budget for the MBA program, helping students study abroad, and overseeing graduate assistants, she teaches a seminar called "Succeed at the G" for transfer students. Sara also serves on the steering committee for Future Fund of Greensboro.

**DEVONTE WILSON '16** is a church millennial ministry leader and a precinct chair in his community of Eastwood, N.C. He was profiled on the Tanzania Classic web site as an inspiring young leader in his community. At UNCG, he was a multi-term senator in student government who majored in political science and minored in history with specializations in communication and international leadership.

**BRANDI APPLE '17 MSN** is a full-time faculty member at the UNCG School of Nursing and treasurer of the School of Nursing Alumni Board. In her spare time, she not only enjoys time with her family and dogs, but also an occasional scuba diving adventure.

**IAN COURTS '17** received the Michael Easley Trial Advocacy Award.

**COURTNEY HALDEMAN '17** is a student in the Adult Geriatric Nurse Practitioners program at the UNG School of Nursing. She was featured on WXII 12 NEWS for her work as a nurse in a coronavirus unit in Winston-Salem.

**ZACHARY LEE MATTHEWS '17** was featured in local news as a nurse on the ICU's rapid response team at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem. He was working in the COVID-19 unit.

**JAKE THOMAS HONG '18** is the assistant coach for the Wake Forest University volleyball team. He previously served as an assistant at Grand Canyon University, and he has more than 10 years of coaching experience, including time at West Virginia University, High Point University, the University of California,

Santa Barbara, and California Polytechnic State University.

**NICOLE JENNAE MERRITT '18, '20 MA** is now an admissions counselor in Greensboro College's Office of Admissions. She is responsible, primarily, for recruiting high-school students from eastern North Carolina.

**DAWN CELESTE POOLE '18 EDD** is the new principal of Mill Creek Middle School in Tennessee. In addition to teaching middle and high school English, she has 16 years of experience in school administration and instructional leadership. Five of those years include being principal of Henry County (Ga.) High School.

**ALLISON CRUISE '19 MLIS** has been accepted as one of only four associate fellows at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in Bethesda, Md. NLM is the world's largest biomedical library, and the one-year program offers a robust educational and leadership experience.

**JOHN CARRY EASTERLING, III '19** is a government relations analyst at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP. He has also provided commentary on "Capitol Tonight" and a plethora of other media outlets in North Carolina, concerning developments in state government.

**ASHLEY "TORI" HOPPER '19 MLIS**, the children's services and programming coordinator at the Columbus Lowndes Public Library in Columbus, Miss., introduced a new, virtual summer reading program, using digital tools, social media, and video production.

## 2020s

**ROSA GONZALEZ '20** is a certified nursing assistant at Moses Cone Hospital.

**ENSGN QUINTON SMITH '20** celebrated his commissioning ceremony as an officer in the U.S. Navy, in his hometown of Franklinville, N.C. UNCG's Dr. Susan Letvak presented him with the Nightingale Pledge. The pledge is a modified version of the Hippocratic Oath that doctors take; it focuses on principles that nurses are expected to uphold.

### ALUMNI MARRIAGES

**PEGGY ANN MARSHALL '12, '16 MM** and Steve Nicholas Sarantos were married November 24, 2019, at the Lodge at Bear River in Marshall, N.C. Peggy is a violinist and a music teacher in Colorado, where the couple resides.

### IN MEMORIAM

**JEAN SINGLETON ROBBINS '36C**  
**PHYLLIS PARKER OLSEN '37X**  
**OLENA SWAIN BUNN '39, '79 EDD**  
**LUCILE BETHEA WHEDBEE '39**  
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**RITA DUBOIS FITZGERALD '41, '46 MS**  
**SALLIE SLOAN FONVIELLE '41**  
**MARThA REDDING MENDENHALL '41**  
**JUANITA MILLER SPECTOR '41**  
**KATHRYN SCHENK THOMPSON '41**  
**LOUISE MERCER TOUMBACARIS '41**  
**DORIS WINSLOW WILLIAMS '41X**  
**IRIS SENTER BROWN '42**  
**POLLY PRITCHETT DUNCAN '42X**  
**ROSE WILSON HENDERSON '42**  
**MARY SADLER JOHNSON '42**  
**RHEA GAYNELLE SIKES '42**  
**LILLIAN COPE STEWART '42**  
**MARY EPPES TURNER '42, '69 MED**  
**MARIAN CALLIS FUNDERBURK '43**  
**RACHEL JOHNSON HALLEN '43**  
**GERTRUDE TANNER HOGARTH '43**  
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The UNC Greensboro athletic department is on probation for a four-year period which began July 25, 2019, and will end on July 24, 2023. UNCG received a decision on July 25, 2019, on its Level I Mitigated case involving NCAA violations of sports wagering. On April 7, 2020, UNCG received a decision on its Level II Mitigated case involving impermissible recruiting contacts by its former head men's soccer coach. Both cases were resolved under the negotiated resolution agreement approved by the Division I Committee on Infractions panel. For more details, visit [www.uncgspartans.com](http://www.uncgspartans.com).



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LENA SWOFFORD GORDON '67

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JOHN A. HERKE '79

ROBIN DENISE MCKEOWN '79

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## IN MEMORIAM

**THOMAS HAGGAI, a great supporter and friend of UNCG, died March 27, 2020. In addition to being a 2011 honorary doctor of humane letters degree recipient from UNCG, he was a philanthropist, businessman, minister, and recognized speaker. He led the High Point-based Thomas Haggai and Associates Foundation for 52 years and served as a former president and CEO of the Independent Grocers Alliance. In 2016, the foundation established a new teacher-training program, the Haggai Academy, in UNCG's School of Education. The aim of the Haggai Academy at UNCG is to train non-traditional students to become highly qualified and committed educators.**

DANIEL LYNN MAY '94 MBA

THOMAS M. SAYA '94 MFA

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JUDITH CLARKE FORE '95 MED

MARTHA GIMPEL MILLER '95 MA, '00 CERTIFICATE, '00 PHD

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CHRISTOPHER PAUL MANDALA '97

JOHN C. TULLAR '97

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### FORMER FACULTY/ STAFF

MARGARET ELAINE BURGESS, 94, known as "Dr. B" by her students, was a sociology professor emerita at UNCG. She retired in 1990 after 30 years of teaching at

UNCG. A specialist in social change and conflict, she did extensive research in South Africa on conditions imposed by the apartheid regime there. She was a fellow at the Center for Interracial Studies in Rhodesia in 1977 and at the Center for Applied Social Science in Zimbabwe in 1988. She was the author of two books, "Negro Leadership in a Southern City" and "An American Dependency Challenge." She was the 1980-81 president of the Southern Sociological Society.

MILDRED B. COTTRELL, who retired from UNCG's Parking Services in 1996, worked at the University for over 20 years. She died on June 16, 2020. She was noted for her patience and people skills, often soothing upset students who had received parking violations on or near campus.

LOLETTA A. FAULKENBERRY, died on May 21, 2020. As her obituary noted, she was one of 11 children, and she determined early in life that education was the way out of poverty. She became a nurse in 1948. She also worked in public policy, including legislation improving the rights of surviving spouses and for improving access to immunizations for needy children. In 1974, she became an assistant professor at UNCG's School of Nursing before transitioning to a professorship at Watts School of Nursing in Durham, 1980. She finalized her nursing career in 1995 at Durham Co. Regional Hospital.

JOHN L. JELlicORSE, UNCG professor emeritus, died July 1, 2020. His distinguished career at UNCG and beyond encompassed a tremendous number of subject areas within theater, communication studies, and media studies. Jellicorse began shooting 16 mm film when he was eleven, learning from his father who was a radio and television engineer. Jellicorse came to UNCG in 1974 to serve as department head of the Drama and Speech Department, which became the Department of Communication and Theatre. He initiated years of substantial growth in many areas at UNCG. He hired key faculty, launched new curricula and sources of funding, and taught undergraduate and graduate courses while also initiating new programs in speech sciences, education of deaf children, broadcasting, and cinema. Under his leadership, the Department of Communication and Theater became the University's largest department, enrolling 1,308 students and serving more than nine hundred majors, with multiple undergraduate and graduate programs in six different disciplines. Subsequently, the five divisions of the Communication and Theatre Department all became separate flourishing departments with Jellicorse serving as the first regular department head in Broadcasting and Cinema, now known as Media Studies. In his career, he taught more than sixty different courses including nine in journalism and mass media, seven in communication theory,

twelve in broadcasting, twenty in cinema, two in fundamentals of speech, fourteen in communication studies, and six in theater, plus thesis and doctoral student supervision. In 2019, the UNCG School of Theatre recognized Jellicorse as a "Hall of Fame" honoree. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. John Lee Jellicorse Scholarship Fund.

JEAN P. LIPPARD '53X died on Feb. 11, 2020. She grew up in Greensboro and attended Woman's College (now UNCG). Jean also worked at the University as an accounting clerk in the Advancement Services department, concluding her tenure in 1999.

DR. ROSEMARY MCGEE died Dec. 31. When she joined Woman's College in 1954, McGee was the youngest faculty member with a doctorate at the department of Health and Physical Education, according to her obituary. She taught for 34 years, focusing on theoretical areas of evaluation and statistics, and oversaw 33 doctoral dissertations and over 60 master's theses. From 1966 to 1968 she served as Dean of Women, and from 1979-80 as interim dean of the School of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. But she was a teacher at heart and working with students remained her primary focus through her career. McGee co-authored "A Practical Approach to Measurement in Physical Education" and received honors including Golden Chain, the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award, and the Gladys Strawn Bullard Leadership Award.

HERMAN DAVID MIDDLETON SR., professor emeritus in the School of Theatre, died April 12, 2020. In 1956, Middleton came to Woman's College to serve as head of the Theatre Department, a post he occupied for two decades. He had a remarkable impact on the department. He expanded programs and curriculum, hired new faculty, and built a strong regional reputation for the University. The department became known as the Department of Drama and Speech with the inclusion of formal studies in communication, and in 1970, BFA degrees in acting as well as design and technical theater, and MFA degrees in acting/directing and design were added. Middleton directed the first Broadway-style musical at UNCG in 1957 ("Oklahoma!"). He hired Tom Behm to develop the North Carolina Theatre for Young People in 1972 and directed the first children's theater production. He also directed a production of "The Orestia" at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, as part of the 1974 American College Theatre Festival. In the mid-sixties, Middleton facilitated extended residencies for the National Repertory Theatre on campus. He also played a strong role in the initiation of the North Carolina Theatre Conference and the Southeastern Theatre Conference. Middleton retired from UNCG in 1990. Memorial donations can be made to the Herman Middleton Scholarship Endowment.

DR. MARIANA NEWTON died Dec. 12, 1999. She was a professor of Speech Pathology here at UNCG from 1969 until her retirement in 2000. From 1969 to 1985 she was the director of the Speech and Hearing Center at UNCG. From 1979 to 1985 she was director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Communication and Theater. From 1989 to 1994 she was the chair of Interdisciplinary Programs in Gerontology, and from 1992 until her retirement in 2000, she was the director of Graduate Studies in Communications Sciences and Disorders. In 1999, a year before her retirement, Newton received the School of Health and Human Performance Teaching Excellence Award. She also served as UNCG Faculty Senate chair in 1999-2000.

JOHN RAY "JACK" SANDERS, who had served years ago as director of the SERVE Center, died February 14, 2020.

JAMES "JIM" WESTON SHERBON, professor emeritus in the School of Music, died on January 2, 2020. He taught for 27 years as professor of graduate music education at UNCG. He taught and held many positions, advised doctoral dissertations, and was the director of graduate studies in music for 15 years. He also refereed, consulted, and served on editorial boards for more than 30 publications. His principal research focus was in hearing acuity and conservation, diplacusic, pitch perception and musical achievement, and aptitude. He retired in 2002.

JON SMITH '95, '04 MFA, longtime director of UNCG's Sculpture Foundry, died in May. He taught a variety of sculpture courses at UNCG and oversaw all aspects of the foundry operations. As foundry director, he guided undergraduate and graduate students in welding steel, pouring molten bronze and aluminum, and building sculptures by hand. Smith taught students how to safely use heavy-duty, sculpture equipment and he also played a role in the new foundry's design during the construction of the Gatewood Studio Arts Building. He believed in the transformational power of doing art work. "Some students come into the class afraid of fire or sparks, but some of those are the ones who get really into it," he said in a 2018 UNCG Magazine feature. "They make something out of metal that's solid and strong, and they never thought they could do something like that."

RHONDA STRADER '14, project manager in the Housing and Residence Life Project Office, died in June. She had worked for UNCG for more than 20 years, serving many departments, including Grounds, Facilities Operations, and Facilities Design and Construction. She was an inspiration to many when she enrolled at the age of 50 and completed her bachelor's of arts degree in GIS/Urban Planning at UNCG. Her contributions as a UNCG employee included creating the GIS database for campus mapping and providing learning opportunities for geography student interns and graduate assistants.

## IN MEMORIAM

**JAMES H. ALLEN, who served as vice chancellor of Student Affairs for nearly a quarter century, died May 30, 2020. In 1967, he moved to Greensboro to become Presbyterian campus minister at UNCG. He discovered a love and gift for working with young people - and of bringing people together. He was also a vocal supporter of civil rights. In 1970, he became UNCG dean of students. In 1973, he became vice chancellor of Student Affairs, serving until his retirement in 1996. He was especially proud of helping lead the effort to bring the UNCG Athletic Program from Division III to Division I.**

VIRGINIA "GINNY" A. SWANSON served as a library assistant in Jackson Library from 1970 to 1993. She died on May 20, 2020.

WILLIAM MADISON TUCKER, JR., died on March 17, 2020. In 1961, he came to Greensboro from Emory University to join the faculty of the Department of English at Woman's College. For decades he taught courses in English literature and composition and film as literature, before retiring from UNCG.

DR. JACQUELINE VOSS, former dean of UNCG's School of Human Environmental Sciences, died on June 9, 2020. She became dean of HES in 1982, and under her, the school became an applied human science program that included Human Development and Family Studies; Housing and Interior Design; Social Work; Food, Nutrition and Food Service Management; and Clothing and Textiles. After her retirement in 1992, she worked as a consultant with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. An endowed scholarship at UNCG bears her name.

DR. HENRY HERBERT WELLS, III died on May 16, 2020. After a faculty stint at the University of Washington in Seattle, he accepted his second and final university assignment with UNCG. He taught psychology at UNCG from 1968 to 1999, with the exception of a stint as assistant vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.



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# 2020 UNCG HOME COMING



**Virtual Workouts**  
DAILY



**NC Travelogue**  
*with Elizabeth Hudson '95*  
OCT. 21 | 5 p.m.



**Virtual Wine Tasting**  
*with Jaamy Zarnegar '85*  
*and Jake Assaf '03*  
OCT. 23 | 4:30 p.m.



**Rhiannon Giddens '05**  
*Exclusive UNCG Performance*  
OCT. 24 | 7 p.m.



**Virtual Children's Festival**  
OCT. 24 | 10 a.m.



**Shaw Residence Hall**  
*100th Anniversary Reunion*  
OCT. 24 | 2 p.m.

## HOME COMING HAS GONE VIRTUAL!

Please join us for an amazing week of Alumni and Faculty Musical performances, Zoom Happy Hours, Alumni and Faculty led Webinars, a virtual Children's Festival, UNCG Alumni Awards, and more. No hotels, no ride sharing, no parking meters — just a Spartan love fest from the comfort of your home!

**OCT. 19-24**  
homecoming.uncg.edu