

SPRING 2021

# UNCG

MAGAZINE

## SEIZE THE DAY

A Blue & Gold Scholar  
takes us on his journey

PG. 18

Joshua Hodge '21  
in Randolph County

INSPIRING  
CAMPUS PLAN

PG. 4

NOBEL  
WINNER'S  
FIRST JOB AS  
A SPARTAN

PG. 7

'SATURDAY  
NIGHT LIVE'

PG. 26

WOMAN'S  
COLLEGE  
EXCELLENCE

PG. 30







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# 30

**MEET THE PRESS** Commencement House brought national attention to Woman's College (UNCG) in 1958. About two dozen art and home economics majors designed and supervised the building of a home on N. Elm Street. Noted architect and Woman's College instructor Edward Loewenstein helped teach the course, which brought architects, builders, and other professionals into the classroom. Public television and McCall's Magazine were among the media who covered it, which won the Duke Power Gold Medallion for energy efficiency. Similar Commencement House projects followed. Learn more about Woman's College's reputation for excellence.

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"WC" not only provided affordable access to higher education, but it was perhaps the nation's most outstanding public college for women. See why.

## 40 legacies

Leatrice and Jason Caldwell, Class of 2003 alumni, established the Ubuntu Endowed Academic Scholarship Fund; Lynn Eury and his late wife, Faye, support many Spartan students.

## 42 grad tidings

Lots of class notes and pictures, too

Cover photography: Joshua Hodge at grandfather's farm, in Denton, N.C.

By Martin W. Kane

Photo on this spread: courtesy of Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives

## 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.





## bigpicture

**T**his year has been called historic, unbelievable, wrenching, inspiring, hard – all of them true. We see better days ahead. We plan to hold multiple May Commencement ceremonies in person, with graduates walking across the stage to receive well-deserved recognition. Our Fall 2021 will be much more like Fall 2019, with full residence halls, in-person classes, live performances, and fans at the games. Face coverings and some social distancing may still be a way of life in the near future, but as always we will follow all health protocols to ensure the well-being of our community.

We are appreciative. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni came together this year in a tremendous way. We cared for one other, helping to ensure we all could not only bear this challenge, but perhaps in some ways thrive. “Service” to each other and our larger community wasn’t just a motto, but a true call to action. We learned some things about ourselves – as individuals and as a University community.

I expect those lessons may be the ones most meaningful for years to come. ☺



**FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.**  
CHANCELLOR

# new



## Put on a clinic

**One year after** our society addressed a rising, worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and three months after the first vaccine was approved for usage in the United States, a large vaccination clinic opened in Elliott University Center.

It offered 672 appointments on its first day, March 11, as America’s vaccine rollout grew more robust. Volunteers from the UNCG School of Nursing, including students, faculty staff, and alumni, administered the vaccine – sometimes with only a few moments in between patients.

Dr. Tami Draves, interim director

and associate professor in the UNCG School of Music, received her Johnson & Johnson vaccination that morning. She remarked on the long year of experiencing a pandemic. “So it was really exciting to be able to get in here and get a shot and see some light at the end of the tunnel,” she said.

Faculty, staff, and student employees who work at a college or university in Guilford County were eligible to receive the vaccine at the clinic that day. As the vaccine quantities expand, it’s expected everyone 18 and older will be able to receive them this spring.

**“It was really exciting to be able to get in here and get a shot and see some light at the end of the tunnel.”**

– DR. TAMI DRAVES



# sfront



Whitney Phillips, a senior in the School of Nursing, helped administer the vaccines. "This opportunity allows me to be a part of a community that has a passion and commitment to protect, serve, and make a difference because we care," said Whitney, who serves as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army.

UNCG's COVID-19 vaccine clinic in the Cone Ballroom. Top left, Whitney Phillips, a senior in the School of Nursing and a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army; top right, Melissa Poillot-Micca, health educator in the UNCG School of Nursing, administering vaccine shot to patient; above, UNCG School of Nursing professor Dr. Susan Letvak giving vaccine card to patient.

## DISTINCT HONOR

DR. EDNA TAN has been elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Fellows are selected each year by their peers for "efforts on behalf of the advancement of science, or its applications, that are scientifically or socially distinguished." Tan was honored for her pioneering work on equitable and impactful STEM teaching and learning, targeting individual and collective outcomes among underrepresented populations.

She is a professor of science education. The AAAS elects only a tiny proportion (0.4%) of its members as fellows each year. Tan is the first female recipient from UNCG. Other fellows at UNCG include Dr. Robert Anemone, professor of anthropology; Dr. Jim Coleman, professor of biology; and Dr. Parke Rublee, professor emeritus of biology.

"I am deeply honored that our collaborative work with youth in communities has been recognized by AAAS. This recognition belongs to all I have been privileged to partner with across many years, including youth, teachers, community partners, research partners and graduate student researchers," Tan said.



DR. EDNA TAN

LEARN ABOUT UNCG'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC AT [UPDATE.UNCG.EDU](https://update.uncg.edu).



New main  
entrance  
to Jackson  
Library

New  
walkway  
connects  
Forest Street  
Spine

CAMPUS  
PLAN

# A VISION TAKES SHAPE

A professor strolls from Peabody Park to The Glen, a new green space just south of the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness. A potential new graduate student enters a welcoming cornerstone of campus for the first time via the Arts Place at Tate Street and West Gate City Boulevard. An undergraduate student in a wheelchair exits the campus shuttle in front of the newly expanded and renovated Jackson Library and heads toward the new Nursing and Instructional Building.

In all three of these imagined scenarios, each traveler experiences the vibrant and reimagined UNC Greensboro campus of the future through the physical manifestation of “Stepping Forward: The 2020 UNCG Campus Plan.”

Each of our travelers above moves through the planned Forest Street Spine, West Gate City Corridor, and Tate Street Corridor, respectively. Part of a proposed vision to expand and improve the functionality and aesthetics of campus, these conceptual corridors are part of a planning approach that focuses on the learning

environment, sustainability, and overall campus experience.

Considering the campus through lenses of land use, landscape, and circulation, the plan further divides the campus into districts that include the Central Campus District, McIver District, the Athletics and Recreation District, Tate Street Millennial District, and Gate City Millennial District. These smaller zones allow for much more focused and detailed planning to take place.

Inspired by the “Taking Giant Steps” strategic plan and approved by the UNCG Board of Trustees last September, the Campus Plan will visually and programmatically connect sites, buildings, and thoroughfares in ways that improve flow and functionality of campus regardless of one’s entry point or destination. The new plan provides a unified vision for the University to build upon our history and progress as we move through 2021 and beyond.

SEE FULL “STEPPING FORWARD” CAMPUS PLAN AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).

## PLANNING APPROACH

Campus leadership, faculty, and staff collaborated during the first half of 2020 to focus on buildings, analyze existing conditions, craft conceptual alternatives, and develop the plan.

### LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Partnerships
- Space Utilization
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration

### CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

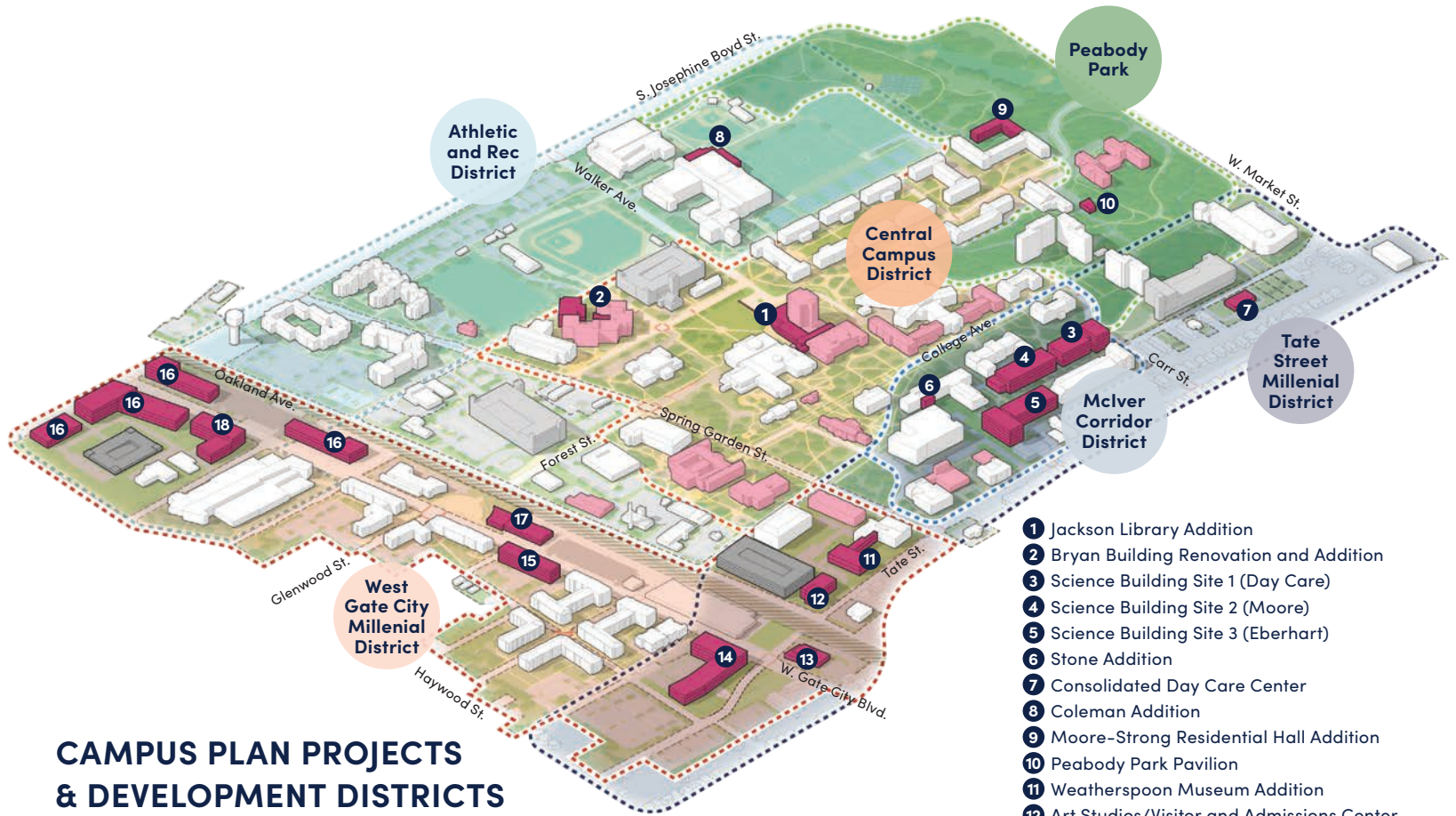
- Campus & City
- Residential Life
- Student Life
- Athletics
- Health & Wellness & Recreation
- Open Space
- Connectivity & Access

UNCG

### SUSTAINABILITY

- Growth
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Resource Management





- 1 Jackson Library Addition
- 2 Bryan Building Renovation and Addition
- 3 Science Building Site 1 (Day Care)
- 4 Science Building Site 2 (Moore)
- 5 Science Building Site 3 (Eberhart)
- 6 Stone Addition
- 7 Consolidated Day Care Center
- 8 Coleman Addition
- 9 Moore-Strong Residential Hall Addition
- 10 Peabody Park Pavilion
- 11 Weatherspoon Museum Addition
- 12 Art Studios/Visitor and Admissions Center
- 13 Arts Place at Tate and Gate
- 14 P3 at Tate/Silver
- 15 P3 Site at West Gate City and Lexington
- 16 Future P3 Development
- 17 Future P3 Administrative Building
- 18 Health Science and High Tech

## CAMPUS PLAN PROJECTS & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

The Campus Plan is made up of a series of interrelated frameworks that function to address the needs of the campus population, support the mission of UNCG, and facilitate the operation of the campus.



The proposed Forest Street Spine emphasizes a central landscape corridor through campus that connects Peabody Park on the north and The Glen, a wooded area located south of Union Street, which would be designated as a natural area for recreational and scientific use.



# New merit scholarship

**Susan and Perry Safran** have made a \$1 million gift to UNC Greensboro.

The gift will support the Safran Family Endowed Scholarship. The merit scholarship, part of UNCG's Minerva Scholars program, will be presented to students from any field of study.

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. said, "I can't say enough about Susan and Perry Safran. Susan has been an engaged alumna – both as a generous supporter and as an engaged leader. As the first board of trustees chair with whom I had the pleasure of working, I appreciated her guidance, leadership, and sharp humor. She's been integral to UNCG's success these past few years. I've appreciated her and Perry's friendship and am grateful for their tremendous gift."

A UNCG alumna of the Class of 1977, Susan Morris Safran said, "After serving on the UNCG board for 10 years, I saw the need for a flexible merit scholarship that can serve one or many, no matter their

background or degree. UNCG's needs are great; I hope this inspires others to give to this wonderful university so we can continue our mission of providing excellence and opportunity to as many as we can."

Susan Safran retired as founder and president of CPR Consultants, Inc., one of the largest American Heart Association entrepreneurial training centers in the eastern United States. She began her career as a critical care nurse at Wake Medical Center and later at Duke University Medical Center and Rex Hospital.

She received her bachelor of science degree in nursing at UNCG and her master of science in nursing (clinical nurse specialist) at Duke University.

Perry Safran is the founder of Safran Law Offices, based in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has served on Raleigh's City Council and as an adjunct professor at NC State University and the Campbell School of Law. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from NC State,



**“I hope this inspires others to give to this wonderful university.”** – SUSAN SAFRAN '77

MBA degree from Wake Forest University, and juris doctor from the Campbell School of Law.

Susan served on the UNCG Board of Trustees (2009-2019), including two years as chair. In 2015, she chaired the Chancellor Search Committee that brought Chancellor Gilliam to UNCG. She has received the UNCG School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award and the NC American Heart Association's NC Advocate of the Year Award. Susan also served 10 years as the AHA representative

on the NC Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board. In 2002, she received a Women in Business Award sponsored by the Triangle Business Journal.

Perry served on UNCG's Excellence Foundation Board (now called the UNC Greensboro Foundation) and is currently a member of the NC State University Board of Trustees. He is a former president of the NC State Alumni Association, which presented to him the Meritorious Service Award in 2019.



## ABOVE & BEYOND

Many Spartan employees serve in the Reserves or the National Guard.

Chris Roys and SaQuang Lam (l-r), for example, were called up by the N.C National Guard to help vaccinate North Carolinians against COVID-19. Roys works in Information Technology Services as director of administrative technologies and support.

Lam is assistant director for Student Health Services.

In the Guard, Maj. Lam is Officer in Charge at the Command and

Control cell at Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh. He coordinated where teams were deployed throughout the state.

Maj. Roys helped to ramp up some teams that supported the various sites. "All National Guardsmen answer the call to serve either our state or country when needed," he said.

Now, the University itself has been recognized for its efforts to support its employees serving the nation in this way.

On May 20, UNCG will receive the Above & Beyond Award, part of a Department of Defense-affiliated program.

**SEE HOW TO VIEW THE CEREMONY, AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).**



# PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES



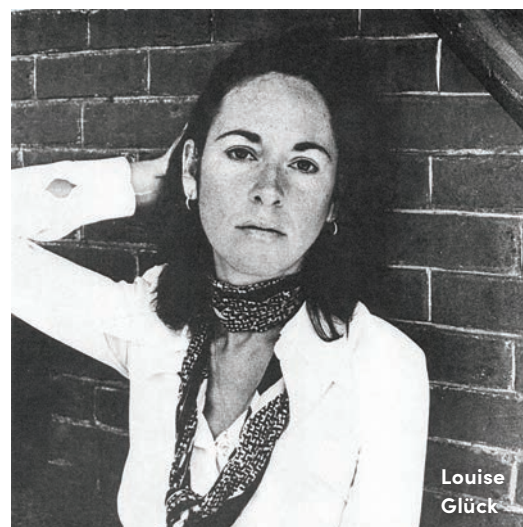
It's 1970s New York City, and a young Andy Grundberg '71 MFA arrives on the scene, on the heels of having recently completed UNCG's MFA writing program and getting street cred as a photographer at the Reidsville Review. The Big Apple's art world became his home. He soon realized that not only was it possible to write about art photography, but he excelled in his writing. So much that The New York Times made him their photography critic.

He watched photography change as an art form over the years: first, as a non-important, often-disregarded medium used by conceptual artists to document their thinking and activities, to eventually becoming a major focus for galleries and museums and a prized art form.

His new book, "How Photography Became Contemporary Art: Inside an Artistic Revolution from Pop to the Digital Age," traces this fascinating era as well as his own journey.



Top left, Andy Grundberg, mid-1970s; three photographs by Andy Grundberg, in NYC, 1970s.



## NOBEL LAUREATE'S SPRING AS A SPARTAN

**LOUISE GLÜCK** received the Nobel Prize in Literature on Dec. 10 – one of many accolades since her time as a visiting professor at UNCG some 47 years ago.

Glück, the Poet Laureate for the United States in 2003-2004, has won numerous awards, including a Yale Bollingen Prize and a Pulitzer Prize.

In the spring semester of 1973, a few years after the 1968 publication of "Firstborn," she taught in the McIver Building as a visiting poet for the UNCG Department of English. She taught a freshman poetry course titled "Approaches to Poetry" and a graduate workshop for MFA students in the Creative Writing Program.

After her time at UNCG, Glück published her breakthrough work "The House on Marshland" in 1975, which critics say distinguished her voice as a poet.

She returned to the UNCG campus in the spring of 1997 for a poetry reading, hosted by the MFA writing program and The Greensboro Review, in the Alumni House. She told UNCG poetry professor Stuart Dischell she considered UNCG her "first real teaching job."

Dischell fondly recalls how, after the reading on a frigid March night, the creative writing students planted irises in the still-frozen ground of the reception host's home on Rankin Street, in honor of Glück and her 1993 Pulitzer Prize winning collection of poems, "The Wild Iris."

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

SEE MEMENTOS AND CLIPPINGS IN AN EXPANDED STORY AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).



# Race to truth



**Jill Yesko '09** joined UNCG's communications team in 2006 and served as a writer for this very magazine. While caring for her aging father, she also enrolled in the University's gerontology certificate program.

Through both endeavors, she came to know compelling researchers, excellent colleagues, and strong alumni networks. She remembers working on great stories that spanned many departments and programs, a "rich canvas of topics," and incredible teammates. All the while, she developed her skills in the visual components of storytelling, and that eventually led her to finding "a different kind of storytelling" through documentary filmmaking.

Jill's previous competitive cycling experience, including racing in the Olympic trials in the early 1980s, got her started on "Tainted Blood: The Untold Story of the 1984 Doping Scandal," her first

documentary, released in 2018 and currently available through Amazon. While the subject is serious, the process of making the film was exciting. Jill, a former reporter, had ample experience in investigative research, and she met many former Olympians while working on "Tainted Blood." Her subsequent film, "Broken Trust," was named an official selection at several film festivals in 2020. It tells the story of

Olympic and national-class athletes who have spoken up against sexual abuse.

A fellow at the Moody College of Communication's Center for Sports Communication & Media at the University of Texas, Jill is currently balancing two new documentary projects: "1000 to 1 Cuts," about the systematic sexism and racism experienced by women surgeons, and "Uphill Climb: The Women Who Conquered the Tour de France."

When describing what is gratifying in the documentary-making process, Jill speaks most about the courage of those she interviewed, and how inspired she was by their willingness to help her relay truth through filmmaking.



Top, Jill Yesko '09, at the premiere for "Tainted Blood: The Untold Story of the 1984 Doping Scandal"

Middle, still from "Tainted Blood"

Above, still from "Broken Trust"



## IN MEMORIAM

**DR. ROBIN REMSBURG '82 MSN**, the first alumnus to lead the School of Nursing, passed away in December. Dean since 2013, she grew the program, increasing enrollment and implementing the Post-BSN and Post-MSN Doctor of Nursing Practice program, expanding the RN-BSN program, and developing an accelerated Veterans Access Program for medically trained veterans to obtain their BSN degrees. She helped plan the Union Square Campus and the Nursing and Instructional Building.

A past president of the National Gerontological Nursing Association, Remsburg's areas of expertise were geriatrics and gerontology, long-term care, national surveys, and nursing education. She established three gifts at UNCG: the Clinton William and Shirley Talbott Remsburg Endowed Scholarship in Nursing Fund; the Deans' Terrace Fund; and the Dean Robin E. Remsburg Nursing Habit of Excellence Award Fund.

Dr. Heidi Krowchuk has been appointed interim dean. A national search is underway for a permanent appointee.



# HER BEST SHOT

FOR MOST PHOTOGRAPHERS, publishing work in The New York Times and The Washington Post represents the pinnacle of success.

But for Alycee Byrd '19, it's just the beginning.

In the last year, Alycee's photography has been featured in a variety of national and international publications. It started in the summer of 2020, when Men's Health reached out to her to photograph an activist in Charlotte.

Then came an assignment for The Washington Post. The New York Times reached out to her in October for a story on Halloween. Alycee has also published in L'Officiel Belgium, Creators Magazine, Mordant Magazine, and LUCY'S Magazine, among others.

Alycee has been behind the camera since high school. At UNCG, the marketing major started to focus on fashion photography, shooting the annual UNCG Threads fashion show. She also interned with University Communications, working with photographer Martin W. Kane and the social media team.

She is part of Diversify Photo's #HireBlackPhotographers database, which connects photo editors and art directors to Black photographers across the country and around the

world. Being a part of this list, she says, has helped bring visibility to her work.

"When I first started in photography, it was hard to find where I was going to fit as a Black woman," she says. "Growing up, I didn't see as many people like me working in photography and getting national and international recognition. Now, people are looking to us more and actually respecting our work. It's been really uplifting, and it has been motivation for me to keep doing what I'm doing."



Alycee Byrd '19

## UNCG MAGAZINE WINS CASE AWARD

UNCG Magazine received Silver Award recognition at the Southeast U.S. Region CASE Awards. The magazine won in the category of "Alumni/General Interest, 2x per year," for the two issues Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. CASE – the Council for Advancement and Support of Education – is a global, non-profit association dedicated to educational advancement.

ACCESS THESE ARCHIVED ISSUES AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU).





# Gift for jazz

**When Dr. Ward Robinson '10 MPH, '19 PBC retired, he turned to a different challenge: music.**

As an infectious disease expert, Dr. Robinson served for two decades at Moses Cone Health System and five years as Medical Director for the Guilford County Department of Public Health.

"I was trying to find ways for each individual within our community to have a healthier and longer life," he says of his medical career. "At retirement I thought: 'What now might bring them joy?'"

So, he plays tenor and soprano saxophone and loves the challenge of performing jazz. Along the never-ending quest to be a better musician, Ward was delighted to find the UNCG Miles Davis Jazz Program. He joined it as a student in the Fall of 2015, at age 62.

Inspired by and grateful for his experience with the outstanding students and faculty, he established the Robinson Family Scholarship Endowment at UNCG. Each year, the scholarship is presented to an entering undergraduate jazz student and provides four years of full-tuition support. The first Robinson Family Scholar, Liam Trawick, will graduate this spring.

This year, Ward created the Robinson Family Fund in Jazz Studies. The fund will sponsor a diverse array of visiting artists to perform, teach, and mentor students. Among other activities, the fund will provide support for the students to teach and perform in our community.

"Ward Robinson embodies the great spirit of our Spartan alumni donors. He has said that a gift to UNCG goes a tremendously long way. It's an investment in our students' lives and in the arts that enhance our lives, and that spirit of generosity is a beautiful thing," said Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., a guitarist and long-time jazz enthusiast.

Ward added, "The jazz students I've had the pleasure to meet are outstanding. I am honored to be able to support such talent at UNCG. But ... selfishly, I get to see and hear these amazing musicians perform – and they even let me jam with them from time to time."



**“I just want to support a program that has given me such joy.”**

Ward Robinson, MD

## OUT OF THIS WORLD

Dr. John Z. Kiss, a space biologist and dean of UNCG's College of Arts & Sciences, received the International Cooperation Medal from the Committee on Space Research in January. The medal recognizes two decades of international research with NASA, SpaceX, and the European Space Agency, during which Kiss and his global collaborators have made pioneering discoveries on how to grow plants in space. In addition, an asteroid was named in his honor: Asteroid Kiss 8267.



# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



**IT'S NO SECRET** that it's been a tough year for college admissions nationally.

UNCG's Division of Enrollment Management has a new leader and new initiatives aimed at growing enrollment and improving student outcomes.

Learn how Vice Chancellor Tina McEntire is managing enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how she and her team are preparing for the looming "enrollment cliff" all colleges are facing.

**Q:** How has the pandemic impacted enrollment?

**TM:** We had a decline in applications for fall 2020, and we

enrolled less students. But we've recovered nicely – we're happy to report that we've seen about a 5% increase in applications compared to last year, and we've admitted more students at this time (February 2021) compared to last year. We have also seen increases in first-year retention. Going into the fall of 2021, we're in good shape, but students are just beginning to make their choices of where to attend college next year.

**Q:** How has UNCG been reaching prospective students during the pandemic?

**TM:** We are trying to provide prospective students the best opportunity in a bad situation. The Admissions

Office is offering very small group tours – one family to one tour guide – and we continue to offer a multitude of virtual visit sessions. UNCG implemented a new virtual tour so that students, families, and even alumni can visit the campus from their homes.

The Admissions Office is also doing a lot of personal outreach. We have ramped up our social media channels and are constantly engaging with students. The admissions counselors text with them a great deal because students feel more comfortable texting than reaching out by phone or email.

**Q:** What is the "enrollment cliff," and how will it impact future plans?

**TM:** During the 2008 recession, people stopped having children at the same rate, and the national birth rate declined. Eighteen years later, we'll see the impact that the 2008 recession had on higher education. There will

be less 18-year-old students in the nation beginning in 2025, which will appear as an enrollment cliff where the demographics fall off quickly for 18-year-olds.

At UNCG, we're focused on a well-balanced approach. We're not putting all of our eggs into one basket. While we will always recruit 18-year-olds coming out of high school, we're also focused on transfer students, online students, graduate students, and adults who have some college credit but never finished their degrees. We want to drive enrollment and growth, but we want to do it in a way where we are managing enrollment, and it's not managing us.

Our alumni can be critical players in showing Spartan pride and telling others about the incredible value of a UNCG degree. We all play a role in recruiting students by talking with people in our community about the academic excellence and the wealth of opportunities that the "G" has to offer.

## WHAT'S NEW IN ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

- One-stop shop website – dubbed "Spartan Central" – for students to access financial aid, registration, billing, etc.
- Redesigned campus tour, starting in renovated Elliott University Center's Maple Room
- Revamped scholarship program
- Virtual recruitment and campus tours
- Revived relationships with high school counselors
- Greater presence in Raleigh and Charlotte markets



# In WWII, duty called

**When U.S. troops** in the Pacific theater needed English-speaking nurses during World War II, Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo '48 answered the call. Her own studies in nursing had been interrupted by the war.

Last winter – nearly eight decades later – she accepted a Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of her fellow Chinese-American veterans of WWII.

An estimated 20,000 Chinese-Americans served in the U.S. armed forces during that war, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In the ceremony, conducted by video due to the coronavirus pandemic, Elsie said, “I am deeply honored to receive this Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of my sisters and brothers.”

In Hong Kong on Dec. 8, 1941 – just after Pearl Harbor had been bombed as well – she tended to casualties of the Japanese attack. Hong Kong surrendered, and she ultimately made it out of the city, joining the Chinese Red Cross. She joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in June 1944 and was stationed with the 14th Air Force as a member of the Air Service Command. She continued to serve in China with the 95th Station Hospital in Kunming and Chengdu, and with the 172nd General Hospital in Shanghai, from October 1945 to February 1946.

Originally from California, Elsie returned to the United States in 1946, enrolling at Woman’s College. “All the students were just so young, and I felt very mature,” she recalled in an interview for UNCG’s Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project. “Their faces were not marred by war-torn worries or fears.” She graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing degree.

She and many other Chinese-Americans had “answered the call to duty,” she said during the ceremony. “I hope our perseverance and our commitment and hard work will further inspire our young people to serve this wonderful country.”



Top left, Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo with fellow Army nurses, 1945  
Top right, Elsie outside dormitory, 1942  
Above, Elsie in Shanghai, 1946

“I hope our perseverance and our commitment and hard work will further inspire our young people to serve this wonderful country.”

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF UNCG'S BETTY H. CARTER WOMEN VETERANS HISTORICAL PROJECT

SEE VIDEO OF THE FULL CEREMONY AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](https://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu).

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD** Dean McRae “Mac” Banks at the Bryan School of Business and Economics has been elected to become chair of the Board of Directors for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It is the largest global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. The Bryan School holds dual accreditation in business and accounting from AACSB – a distinction held by only 1% of business schools in the world.





PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLOS MORALES

## NOTHING BUT NETS

With an overtime win on the last day of the conference season, UNCG took the Regular Season title. In Asheville, they won in three straight days to take the SoCon Championship title. For the second time in a week, they pulled out the ladder and cut down the nets.

That earned them a ticket to the sport's biggest stage. They were a part of "March Madness" for the second time in three years. At the NCAA Tournament, Florida State took the first round win.

Isaiah Miller '21 was named SoCon Defensive Player of the Year and SoCon Player of the Year for the past two years. He was also the SoCon tournament's MVP.

The program, led by Coach Wes Miller, has had more than 20 wins in each of its last five seasons.

**#1 IN NC IN GILMAN SCHOLARS** Gilman Scholarships are presented by the US State Department to enable American students of limited means an international study experience to gain proficiency in diverse languages and cultures. Last year, 13 UNCG students were among the 2,386 American undergraduate students selected. That total was #21 in the nation, and the most in North Carolina. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on international travel and study, the scholars were able to defer their awards to fund virtual opportunities or in-person opportunities in the coming year.





## Outtake

**WHAT DO YOU SEE?** Malanah Hobgood '21 volunteers at the Weatherspoon Art Museum. An art history major minoring in art administration with a concentration in museum studies, she is also a McNair Scholar and a member of the Lloyd International Honors College's Disciplinary Honors track. "I value the Weatherspoon and its collection because it allows UNCG students to experience the artworks and concepts discussed in class firsthand. As a teaching museum, this provides a unique experience and supplements my learning exponentially," she said. She also noted the importance of showing works with broad representation. "The Weatherspoon does an extraordinary job at including students' voices in their exhibitions, programming, and events."

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN W. KANE

**"Every canvas is a journey all its own."  
– Helen Frankenthaler**









Martha Bassett '96 MM

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

SOON AFTER GRADUATING from UNCG's School of Music, Martha Bassett '96 MM made a name for herself with her first band, Martha and the Moodswingers. Nine albums later, the jazz singer realized she was at a crossroads. She could either commit to developing a national audience or invest more at home – and North Carolina had become her home.

"And I really wanted to go deeper into the North Carolina audience and find a new way of doing things," she says. She also wanted to create more opportunities for women performers.

When Elkin's Reeves Theater called her to ask about doing a regular show, she could tell it was the place where her vision could unfold. Her partner Pat Lawrence stepped up to serve as producer, and together they onboarded the best technical people they knew.

The goal was to have an old-time radio show, similar to "A Prairie Home Companion," and they wanted to host national, regional, and local artists.

"And we just figured it out as we went," she says. "I just tried to work with the best people and the most pleasant people and focus on hospitality for artists."

The roster of guests has included bass player Missy Raines; singers Heather Maloney, Jill Andrews, Gaelynn Lea, Sam Baker, Elizabeth Cook, and Jim White; fiddler Rex McGee; the Dan River Girls, who sing with Bassett's band; Chance McCoy, of Old Crow Medicine Show; teenage wonder Presley Barker, who has already played the Grand Ole Opry; and Spartan alumni and singer-songwriters Casey Noel '19, Lyn Koonce '92, and Bruce Piephoff '82, '84 MFA.





## MUSEUM MURAL

A major new artwork by Sheena Rose '16 MFA will grace the Weatherspoon Art Museum atrium this spring.

Her vibrant and energetic work is at once anchored in her Caribbean heritage and expansive in its explorations of culture and human experience. It has been featured internationally, including the A.I.R. Gallery in New York; the Berlin Biennale; and the Royal Academy of Arts, London. This past year, those successes earned the former Fulbright Scholar the College of Visual and Performing Arts Distinguished Alumni Award.

For her Weatherspoon installation she is creating a large-scale mural to fill the east wall of the museum's atrium. See the installation schedule at [weatherspoonart.org](http://weatherspoonart.org).

COURTESY OF SHEENA ROSE; BB BOWNESS PHOTO BY DAVE GREEN

## BB makes a banjo ring

**She received the Steve Martin Banjo Prize last fall.** Her band, Mile Twelve, was named New Artist of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association.

BB Bowness learned banjo in her native New Zealand – “It isn’t really a hotbed of bluegrass,” she says dryly. At age 12, a local carpenter agreed to teach her banjo. “I just got the banjo bug,” she says. Then a “family of fiddlers” moved to our town, and she finally had people to play with.

She attended one semester at UNCG her senior year as part of her New Zealand college’s exchange program. Why UNCG?

“It had a really great-looking jazz program,” she says. And the Tarheel State drew her.

“I knew it was a hotbed of bluegrass and old-time, in North Carolina.” She received a scholarship too.

She joined UNCG’s Old Time Music Ensemble, and she first played clawhammer style as a senior at the University.

She was the first banjo player to play in UNCG’s Miles Davis Jazz Ensembles, says Music Professor Steve Haines. She remains the only one. She played jazz at her New Zealand college and UNCG because bluegrass has improv like

jazz, she explains. “All those technical skills would cross over.”

She played on her five-string. “I had my three picks. I did mostly single-string style,” emulating how Bela Fleck would approach the music.

“It was amazing – a very, very helpful time in my musical studies. Chad Eby and Steve Haines were the two main professors I had.” She has weekly lessons with guitarist Greg Hyslop.

“A lot of the classes were very small. That is a cool thing about UNCG.”

With small classes, the faculty got to know you well, and could give individual pointers. And she loved the social part of the music experience. The jazz students held “a big jazz hang” late every Monday night. She also joined in on an Irish music jam session each week at Tate Street Coffee House.

Now based in Boston, her band is building its following. Due to the pandemic, the band has not played together since February, 2020.

“We can play the straight-ahead ‘fast and loud’ thing and we do the more progressive sound as well,” she says. She focuses more on the arranging, less on the writing – but they all collaborate on both.

SEE THE CLASSIC “ROCKY ISLAND” AND POP’S “ROCKET MAN” AT THE MAGAZINE SITE.



BB Bowness (center), Steve Martin Banjo Prize winner, with her band, Mile Twelve.





# SEIZE THE DAY

**FROM SMALL TOWN AND LIMITED MEANS,  
TO BLUE & GOLD SCHOLAR AND NOW THE MARINES**

BY MIKE HARRIS '93 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE





**IT'S 7 A.M., AND JOSHUA HODGE COURSES THROUGH CAMPUS.** Running gives him time to think of his day ahead and far-off plans. He considers himself blessed, with a package of scholarships, and a will to excel. Reporting to Quantico following May commencement, he'll give back through national defense. Then dedicate himself to educating the next generations. His key message is one he's learned through good times and bad. **CARPE DIEM.**

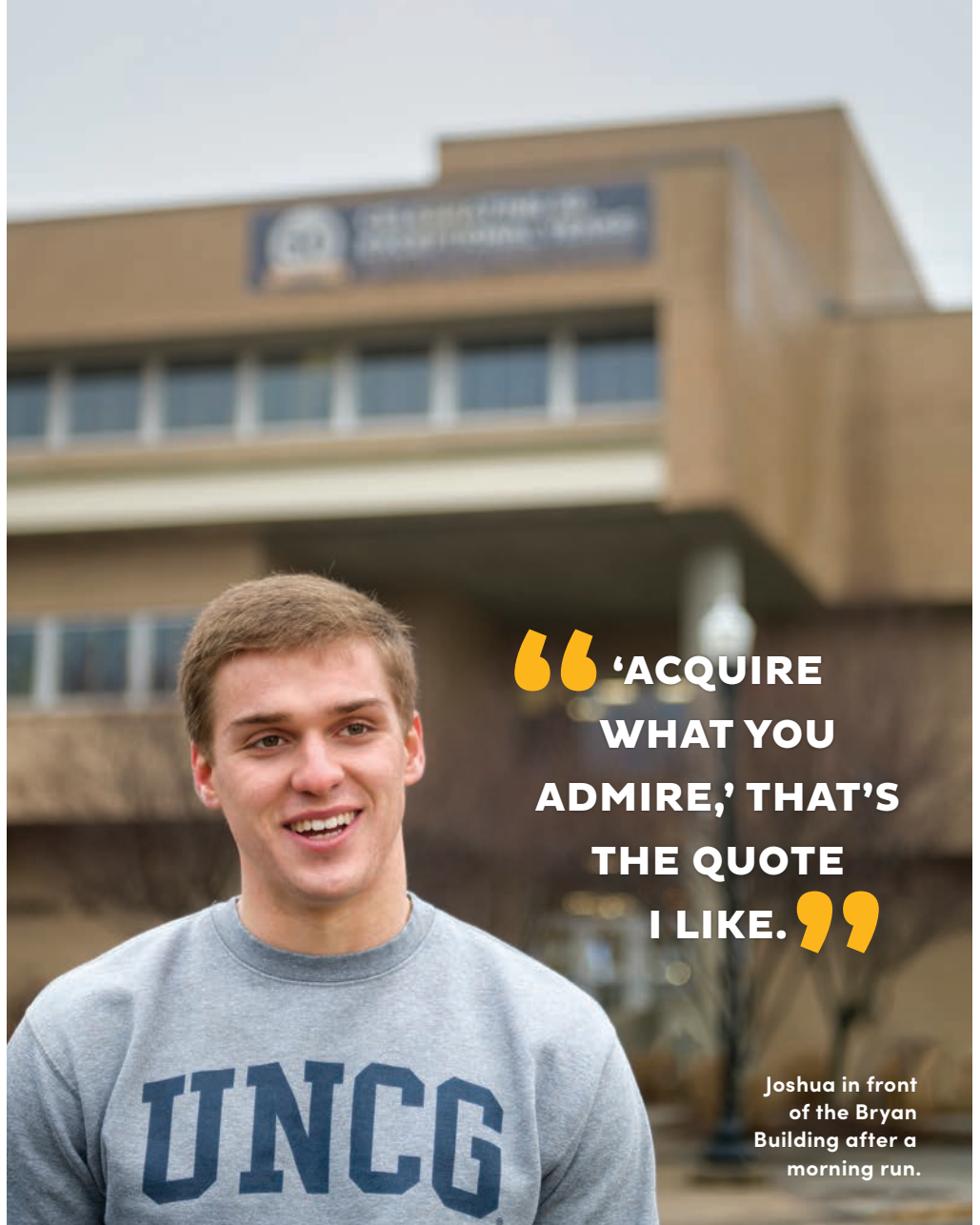


## **A** SHEBORO IS HIS HOME, HE'S PROUD TO TELL YOU.

At the edge of the Uwharrie Mountains, its economy continues its transition from a reliance on furniture and textiles. His family had very limited means, but all eight kids were taught to aspire. "My mom really taught me the value of going to school and getting a college education, not just for a job but just really pushing your family," he says. "I think a college education really liberates you, especially a small town kid like myself."

Between evictions and foreclosures, they never stayed in one place long. As she took realtor coursework and transitioned to a home-selling career, her new job meant the family could move into an actual house – till the housing market collapsed and the Great Recession hit. Most of the 15 places his family – mom and his seven siblings – lived have been leveled, he says. But one remains, much like it's been for a hundred years. It's where he and cousins and friends fished, hunted, rode ATVs. It's his grandpa's farmland, with a well dug by hand, the old home still heated with a woodstove. Up on a rise, it tops a grassy valley with hardwoods and beech trees all the way to the Uwharrie River.

It's quiet, here in March. The crows of a Rhode Island Red rooster next to the woodshed. A chainsaw in the distance, and a hint of his grandpa's radio from inside. High in the sky, contrails. Those planes and all those people are going somewhere. Joshua is too.



“ACQUIRE WHAT YOU ADMIRE, THAT'S THE QUOTE I LIKE.”

Joshua in front of the Bryan Building after a morning run.

**ONE THING YOU LEARN REALLY QUICKLY**, when spending time with Josh: He is highly motivated. In FFA with meat grading and evaluation? He took prizes at state competitions. Clay pigeon shooting, on his grandpa's farm? He took regional awards in his age division. Baseball? He learned to lay off curve balls and pounce on the fast ones, earning a .500+ batting average his senior year, the top on his team. At graduation, he was first in his class at Wheatmore High School in Trinity, with its motto "Honor. Pride. Valor."

He got acceptance letters from Ivy League schools, UNC Chapel Hill, Duke, and NC State. Pfeiffer College offered him a full scholarship for baseball. His eye, though, was on UNC Greensboro.

"I really loved this area, and I really love the

people around here, and the connections that I've gained," he says. "So UNC Greensboro was always at the top of my list because of those reasons, and you know, struggling with money."

Why UNCG?

"Economics was something I really enjoyed studying, and the Bryan School of Business and Economics has one of the best economics programs in the state." And he knew he was completely dependent on getting a scholarship.

"I would not have been able to go to college without a scholarship," he explains. "The Bryan School, they reached out to me during the application process. I interviewed with multiple people at the Bryan School. I guess they saw potential in me, and they offered me the Blue and Gold Scholarship, which is a full-ride scholarship."

His life trajectory turned. He had the opportunity to excel on a higher level.

**A HIGHLIGHT THIS YEAR** has been helping teach a couple of Bryan School courses. He ends each lesson with the same two words: "Carpe diem."

At a January class, they discussed what that Latin phrase means.

"You're given one life. Every moment matters," he tells the students. Seize the day.

"You have an idea of your highest potential. You should work towards developing yourself, growing yourself in order to become better every single day."

His teaching is a part of the Bryan School's Blueprint Series program, one of many unique



WRITTEN  
VERBAL  
ON-VERBAL  
VISUAL  
RAPERSONAL

Joshua teaches a course as part of the Bryan School's Blueprint Series program.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Joshua says he chose UNCG for its great reputation. Fact is, the academic excellence at UNCG is remarkable. You could go on and on, but here are a few examples the average person may not know ...

- ▶ **COUNSELING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** This graduate program in the School of Education is rated in the top 3 nationally by U.S. News and World Report.
- ▶ **MUSIC EDUCATION** A high number of music teachers in the state's public schools are UNCG graduates. The program has a national reputation. This year, two Grammy finalists for music education were alumni. In 2016, graduate Phillip Riggs '98 MED received the Grammy.
- ▶ **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY** Its PhD program, with a focus on



offerings by the school to build your academic experience.

Classes during the pandemic have been unusual – with social distancing and masks de rigueur. But this Business 216 course, like the 115 course he taught in the fall – both foundational skills classes for personal and professional development – has opened his eyes.

Being a teacher, developing the lesson plans, ensuring the students are learning what they need to know, have brought him an epiphany. “The program has really taught me what I want to do with my life, and that is to go into education.”

He is mentoring the students, as others have done for him. “You’re helping them with personal and professional development, and helping them discover their values, their goals, their purpose. You’re helping them construct a resumé, to interview, and to do public speaking. We really try to push them for professional success.”

And to reach their full potential. Yes, to seize the day.

**JOSH GRADUATES THIS MAY**, in his third year. He has been taking 18 to 21 hours a semester, plus he came in with some credits. He’s worked hard to maintain a 4.0 average. He decided to double major, in economics and religious studies.

“It’s really just based off my personality. I love thinking about money. That’s economics. And I love thinking about society and other people. And that’s religious studies”

His upbringing is as a Southern Baptist, very influenced by his mother. He has great

respect for religion, all religions, and knows that religion helps a lot of people. “In modern society, we look at a religion as something divisive. And I think it’s something that really unites people. It’s also something that’s so important, especially in 21st-century politics,” he says.

“That’s why I started to enjoy studying about other religions. The first religion class was about Islam, because I just wanted to learn more about Islam. Islam was something that I always heard on the news and had no clue what it was about. And so, I studied that. And then I studied about Buddhism and Christian monastic life.”

When he walks into the oldest building on campus – Foust – and hangs a right toward the Religious Studies Department, he knows he’ll be challenged and experience views he’d never known.

Dr. Gregory Grieve, recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award, opened his eyes as an intellectual to the study of Buddhism. Dr. Derek Krueger opened his eyes to the study of monasticism. The Joe Rosenthal Excellence Professor in Religious Studies, Krueger is a leading authority on monasticism and is chair of the U.S. National Committee for Byzantine Studies.

That’s something Josh values: Spartan students can enjoy relatively small classes with national figures who not only are leading researchers, they love to teach.

## SO WHAT ELSE DOES HE DO IN HIS OFF HOURS?

He smiles. He holds up a battered journal. It holds his daily schedule, lots of notes – and

something he is very keen on, his workout regimen. He runs several mornings a week and also works out at the Kaplan Center for Wellness.

“Running and lifting, I do one of those every single day. On the weekend sometimes I take off depending on how my body feels.”

He keeps track of it all – and his meals too. Ask him about nutrition, he’ll tell you his full plan. (He starts the day with six eggs, minus the yolk, if you’re curious.) And he enjoys officiating sports, something he’s done since high school: football, basketball, baseball, lacrosse. When he arrived at UNCG, he played for the UNCG Athletics baseball team his freshman year – catcher was his position. Later, he helped found the UNCG club baseball team.

He is in Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for business students. He is an officer of the National Association for Business Economics chapter, a club holding economics-related events. He was the vice president of the Bryan School’s Spartan Finance and Investment Club. He is also one of the University Marshals.

His journal (as does his phone) holds great quotes he hears. He loves great sayings – full of wisdom and power.

“Every time I hear a quote where I say, ‘Oh, that one spoke to my soul,’ I write it down.”

He’s been doing that since he was a kid. Some examples?

- *Purpose over pleasure.* “I use that one, usually, whenever I’m about to eat something I shouldn’t eat.”
- *The key to lasting contentment is service.*
- *He who has a why can bear almost any how.* “That’s Frederick Nietzsche. Yeah, if you have a purpose, it doesn’t matter what happens or how you can do it, you can do it.”

equity, has a 100% placement rate for APA internships.

### ► HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES

This program is rated #1 in the state and #4 nationally – via research and professional accomplishments – by Family Science Review, which is sponsored by the National Council on Family Relations.

► **MUSICAL THEATRE** Led by Grammy-nominated Broadway musical director Dominick Amendum ’01 and Erin Speer, the program has quickly grown a national reputation. Admission is very

competitive; it accepts only about 2% of applicants.

► **MUSEUM STUDIES** With strong partnerships with the region’s history organizations, the graduate students complete internships and secure jobs at a high percentage.

► **COMPUTER SCIENCE** The undergraduate program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. A student completing a BS can obtain a lucrative, impactful position upon graduation, such as a systems programmer or analyst, applications programmer, or systems support staff member.



Joshua keeps a logbook of his workouts, notes, and great quotes.



• *A man without vision always returns to his past.* “Without it, you’re always going backwards, you’re not going forward.”

He knows his mind and body are one. He takes care to keep both well-nourished.

**T**HE STEEPEST HILLS CAN BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL. As he climbs the long, grassy incline back to his grandpa’s house, he explains his day. Last evening, he got his “high and tight” haircut at Great Cuts, so he’d be ready for this day. He awoke early. Had his six eggs. And now he’s spending the morning showing a reporter and photographer around the farm. He introduces his grandpa

Darrell Swaney – his “Big Daddy” – and they show off his 1956 Chevrolet and his trusty 1962 Massey Ferguson tractor. Josh has to leave by noon. He has a big appointment in Raleigh.

“I plan on joining the United States Marine Corps as an officer,” he says.

“I’ll be going to OCS – Officer Candidate School – this May, and that lasts until August, and then I’ll be going to The Basic School with the hopes of becoming a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.”

That is, if he does well enough that afternoon on his PFT – the US Marine Corps’ Physical Fitness Test. It consists of dead-hang pull ups, planks, and a three-mile run.

“In order to achieve a 100 in every single area, for the pull ups, it’s 23 pull ups. For the

## WHAT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE A PART OF JOSHUA'S BLUE AND GOLD SUPPORT?

- Amelia Storms Hopkins Scholarship Fund
- Leonard L. Brown Scholarship Fund
- Barnes & Noble Fund for Excellence
- Stuart D. Allen Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Lichtin Family Honors Scholarship Endowment

“The Bryan School really worked hard to connect students with the donors of the scholarships,” Josh says. He has spent time with several of these families. “I’ll tell you, it’s a really incredible experience.”

▶ **EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY** The graduate program in the School of Education also has virtually 100 percent job placement, and its faculty features several thought-leaders in the field, most notably Dr. Ayesha Boyce, Dr. Micheline Chalhoub-Deville and Dr. Bob Henson.

▶ **STEM EDUCATION** Throughout the University and most notably in the Teacher Education and Higher Education department, faculty such as Dr. Heidi Carlone and Dr. Edna Tan (p. 3) work to make science and engineering accessible and equitable for all.

▶ **NURSING’S PRE-LICENSURE BSN PROGRAM** Class of 2020 had an outstanding 96% first-time pass rate on NCLEX-RN test.

▶ **INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE** The department has an outstanding placement rate at both the undergraduate and graduate level. One of many signature offerings, the Main Street Fellows program, has reenvisioned more than 100 building storefronts on North Carolina main streets.

▶ **NURSING EDUCATION** U.S. News & World Report ranked



## INNOVATIVE BLUEPRINT SERIES

Preparing undergraduates more fully for their future careers is an ambitious undertaking. The Bryan School's groundbreaking "Blueprint Series" is designed to equip each student with the employability skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing industry landscape.

Dean McRae Banks notes that the required four-credit undergraduate curriculum focuses on accelerating business students' personal and professional development.

Outstanding upperclassmen, such as Joshua, serve as team leaders, co-teaching these classes. This furthers the team leaders' development even more.

Joshua, the morning of his Marine Corps' Physical Fitness Test.

“THE KEY TO LASTING CONTENTMENT IS SERVICE.”

UNCG's School of Nursing #8 nationally in the category of Best Online Master's in Nursing Education.

► **NURSING FULFILLS STATE'S NEEDS** Prelicensure: 99% employed in nursing positions within 9 months of graduation; RN-BSN: 100% employed in nursing; MSN: 100% employed in nursing.

► **ONLINE BACHELOR'S IN BUSINESS** U.S. News and World Report gave the Bryan School program a #19 ranking nationally.

► **NANOSCIENCE** With research capabilities unsurpassed in this part of the nation, the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering's facilities include a suite of microscopes from Carl Zeiss SMT that feature the only Orion Helium Ion microscope in the Southeast.

► **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH** More than 700 undergraduates conducted faculty-sponsored research last year.

► **CREATIVE WRITING** One of the first graduate creative writing programs in the country, it features alumni who've won honors



plank, it's four minutes and 20 seconds. And for the run, it's 18 minutes or less." That's with hills.

And that's why he has been running and preparing his body at the Kaplan Center for Wellness for the past year.

"The test is probably the most important part of trying to become selected for Officer Candidate School."

Later in the day, he'll talk with his OSO – officer selection officer – and try to get a better gauge on how he is looking compared to the other candidates in the program. He'll drive his Camry back to Southern Guilford High School, to officiate a football game. The next morning, he'll work a state Basketball Championship game that happens to be at his old high school gym.

And of course, there's his schoolwork.

## **J**OSH HAS HIS BIG, SHORTER-TERM GOAL. And one on the far horizon.

The first one is serving as an officer in the Marines. He managed to run fast enough that day through the streets of Raleigh to get a perfect 300 on his PFT.

He explains his older brother served in the Marines, and Josh always saw it as the best. "What's really pushed me to join the Marines is learning how to serve others, and serving my country, and being the best at it while I'm doing it – and that's becoming an officer in the United States Marine Corps."

He expects his enlistment will be eight years.

In the distance is a dream he's had for himself a long time. He'll get his PhD, then serve the next generations on the university level.

He sees himself thriving as a professor, or



Joshua and his grandfather, Darrell Swaney, in Denton, N.C.

perhaps in administration at a university. In some way, he wants to make a big impact on students' lives, as many mentors and supporters have had such a positive impact on his.

Right now, as final exams and graduation approach, he continues to get up at 4 a.m. each morning to run or work out, to be ready for Quantico.

He visits his old haunts in Randolph County as much as time allows. He spends as much time with his girlfriend as he can. His family time is precious, too.

Preparing for classes and his teaching each week takes the bulk of his time – he's still aiming for a 4.0 GPA.

And when he can, he dreams. He ponders the future. He thinks of where he has been and where he is going. He considers everyone who is a part of his journey.

And he wonders at it all. 🌀

SEE VIDEOS AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](https://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu).

“ALL MY SUCCESSES ARE NOT A REFLECTION OF ME, THEY'RE A REFLECTION OF THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.”

such as the Pulitzer Prize and Kingsley-Tufts Poetry Award.

► **MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY COLLABORATIVE** With a bold goal to develop therapeutics for cancer and infectious disease, its equally important agenda is to train the next generation of scientists.

► **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE** The department is becoming a powerhouse. Stacked with national leaders in its faculty, it is the fastest growing program on campus.

► **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION** The Princeton Review tabbed the Master of Business Administration program as one of the Top 50 online MBA programs in the nation. Further, it named the on-campus MBA program #2 in the nation in the category of Greatest Resources for Minority Students.

► **PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION** The very impactful program prepares professional health educators and advances public health practice and knowledge, which has proven invaluable during the Coronavirus pandemic.







# FROM 'THE G' TO SNL

## LAUREN HOLT '13 JOINS THE CAST OF "SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE"

INTERVIEWED BY BRITTANY CAMERON • ILLUSTRATION BY ASH MOHAN '19

### What's it like being a new cast member?

When I first started, I wanted to do everything right. I'm a perfectionist to my very core. I put a lot of pressure on myself. But I had to snap out of that quickly because things move too fast there to dwell. I think (new cast members) Punkie, Andrew, and I were lucky, in a way, that we started during the pandemic. We've been learning the ropes while everyone else has been getting used to the new COVID protocols. So it's kind of like we're all newbies together.

What's made it special is how lovely the cast and crew have been. So many people have gone out of their way to check in and make me feel welcome. I just can't wait until we can all finally hang out! There's only so much you can talk about six feet apart and with masks and shields on.

The writing and performing side is a whole different

world as well. You must have a strong sense of self and be willing to put yourself out there. It's a self-propelled system, and it's up to you to make your voice heard. It's daunting to pitch a silly idea you had in the shower to some of the greatest comedic minds in the world. But you've got to do it if you want to get your material on the air.

### Have you helped write any sketches – or develop your characters?

I've helped write/written lots of sketches that haven't made it onto the show. But I'm still new to the game, and I fully expect it to take a while before I can get things on air. I'm learning so much every week, though, and getting better at writing sketches for television. It's different from writing for the stage, which was the bulk of my experience before SNL.





# “LIVE FROM

## **Q** You joined the show last fall as they did six straight weeks, during the pandemic?

Those first six weeks were crazy. Not only was I adjusting to being on the show, but I was also adjusting to being around people again. I hadn't been around anyone since the initial lockdown in March. So it was pretty wild being thrown into the deep end, especially when my heroes and idols were swimming around me. My social skills were rusty, and I was just hoping everyone didn't think I was a total weirdo. Overall that first block of shows was incredible and overwhelming, and I'll remember it for the rest of my life.

## **Q** So how did you come across this opportunity?

After a few years of taking improv classes and performing at the Upright Citizens Brigade (in Los Angeles), I had the opportunity to do the theater's showcase for performers without agents or managers. From that performance, I landed some managers who had me put together a tape to send to SNL.

From that tape, I was invited to do an SNL showcase – essentially an audition to audition. That showcase was ... dun dun dun ... the very next day. About a month later, I found out I was moving on to the next round. They flew me to NYC to do the big audition, called a “screen-test,” on THE STAGE ... you know the one.

Later that year, they flew me out to screen-test again with all-new material. On that trip, I met with some writers, producers, and Lorne. But it wasn't the right time yet.

The following summer, I submitted another tape, did

another showcase in LA, flew to NYC to test for the third time, and had more meetings.

## **Q** Tell about those auditions in front of Lorne Michaels for SNL.

The first time was a blur. But I remember the feeling I had when I walked into Studio 8H and stepped on the stage that first time. I've never experienced anything like that moment. And I got a few laughs, so I felt great about that. The second time was less scary since I'd been there before, and I was excited to do some new characters and show what else I could do. The third time was different again because it felt like it was all or nothing.

## **Q** When did you get the call?

In the fall of 2020, my number came up, and I got the call from Lorne. I had been dreaming of this day since the first time I got to stay up late and watch “Saturday Night Live” ... live. I sobbed tears of joy and was on a plane to New York a couple of days later.

## **Q** What's the most memorable moment so far?

Wait, one is not enough! Can I do three? One: Getting the call from Lorne that I was going to be on the show was the most memorable moment of this experience and my entire life. Two: Adele singing “Rolling in the Deep” about two inches from my face was earth-shatteringly cool. She is one of my favorite singers of all time, so that memory still gives me chills. And three:





# NEW YORK! ”

Getting to say my first “Live from New York.” I got to say it with Kate and Cecily, which was a dream come true because I’ve looked up to them since their first “Live from New York’s.” T’was truly an out of body experience.

on and make movies and television that make people happy. Comedy has been like a well for me providing joy, inspiration, and comfort whenever I need it. I want to pay that forward to as many people as I can for as long as possible. Strange but cool.

## Q Been recognized on the street yet?

Ha! Not yet. Granted, anywhere I’ve gone I’ve been wearing masks and lots of layers for my first New York winter. But I’m looking forward to the first time it happens! It’ll probably be strange but cool.

## Q Your intro at December’s online commencement was a hit! How did it feel coming back as the guest speaker, just seven years after earning your own degree in studio art?

I was honored and extremely nervous. I don’t often do videos like that, especially those meant to inspire the world’s next generation of greats! Talk about pressure. But I wanted them to know that I understand what it’s like to achieve something so significant, only to have it happen during this pandemic ...

But I hope I got the point across that even though it was a very “2020” graduation, it was still a momentous occasion and an important achievement in the graduates’ lives. They should be very proud of themselves. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have attended UNCG and for the education I received there, and it was a joy to welcome the Class of 2020 to the alumni family. 🙏

## Q What is your favorite episode?

I really don’t have a favorite episode. Each one is so special, unique, and fun for different reasons. I laugh so much and I learn something new with each episode.

And my favorite sketch to be in didn’t make it on air. I really hope they bring it back so no spoilers, but it was very silly and involved throwing soaking wet bathing suits around. We could not stop laughing! I try not to break (laughing during sketches), but when other people start to giggle, I lose it.

## Q What would be your ideal career over the next 20 years?

Well, I’ve been working towards this for my entire life. Getting on SNL is literally a dream come true for me. For now my focus is doing my best at the show, growing and learning as much as I can. Eventually I’d love to go

SEE AN EXPANDED INTERVIEW - AND VIDEOS - AT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG-EDU](http://ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG-EDU).



# WOMAN'S COLLEGE

*Celebrating the  
excellence of WC*

BY BRITTANY CAMERON • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE  
AND COURTESY MARTHA BLAKENEY HODGES SPECIAL  
COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES







Left, HARRIET ELLIOTT, center, with students, 1940.

Below, students in front of the Alumni House, 1952.

Opposite page, students in class jackets, 1950.



**T**he worst days for America gave it perhaps the most outstanding public college for women.

Woman's College (WC) was established as the Great Depression entered its third, horrible year. More and more men were becoming unemployed and marriage rates continued to decline, leaving young women urgently seeking ways to sustain themselves. At this campus, many found not only that, but also a pathway to empowerment.

Building on the legacy of the Normal School, the Normal College, and the North Carolina College for Women, WC provided many women across the state affordable access to higher education. They wholeheartedly committed to the College's motto of "Service," and did so on their own terms – spurring an extensive impact on education, health care, and administration, across the state.

Harriet Elliott, who would serve in several national roles under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, exerted a major influence over Woman's College. As a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and History, she introduced into her classroom concepts of responsible freedom, women's rights, an informed electorate, the democratic way, and what she called the dead weight of uniformity. In 1935, when she became Dean of Women, she carried her ideals up the administrative ladder.

### **Building on the foundation**

"Harriet Elliott helped make Woman's College what it is," said alumna Alice Irby '54. "And she died just two or three years before I started as a



Right, ALICE IRBY '54.

Below, dorm room, 1955.

Below left, ALICE IRBY was a member of Woman's College Phi Beta Kappa chapter. She is shown in the photo below right (fourth row from the bottom, second from the right).

Bottom, students dressed for a school dance, 1954.



freshman. So that was the foundation and the environment in which I entered WC, and it was life changing."

Alice arrived in 1950 as a young woman from the rural, eastern part of the state. She had felt the effects of the Great Depression and WWII growing up, and the Korean War then filled the headlines.

But none of that was on her mind as she stood in line in the gymnasium to sign up for classes. WC had a liberal arts core curriculum, which was a feature she relished. All freshmen and sophomores – with the exception of music majors – had to take math, science, English, history, a foreign language, physical education, and health. So she chose her courses accordingly.

Alice was now a part of one of the largest colleges for women in the country. In her freshman year, WC had just opened Jackson Library – a major upgrade from the tight quarters of Carnegie Library.

The Home Economics building was being reconfigured, and Walker Avenue was officially closed off as a through street, making it safer for students to travel across campus. Essentially, the heart of the College was under renovation.

"They hadn't created any sidewalks or landscaped the area, so it was mud," Alice recollected. "And it kept raining, so we were just slogging in the mud. They laid the sidewalks based on the mud paths we created going to class."

As an economics major, she spent a lot of time in Jackson Library. The mandatory study hours from 7 to 10 p.m. just weren't enough for her rigorous academic schedule. Excelling in her work, though, Alice was eventually accepted into the campus' prestigious honor society, the Golden Chain.

A fierce motivator was the presence of able women surrounding her – and the absence of boys.

"I had never seen so many professional women in one place. I took physics from a woman!" she said emphatically.

And the faculty weren't just progressive, they were personable, often going beyond the call of duty.

When Alice undertook an independent studies program, Dr. Eleanor Craig offered to tutor her in economic theory.

"Can you imagine having your own professional tutor in college, and a professional woman at that?" Alice noted in her memoir that Dr. Craig worked extra hours, without compensation, to assist her. "What encouragement...having a very able young woman in my field show enough interest in me to give me a foundation for graduate study!"

Making one of the biggest impressions on Alice, though, was Dr. Warren Ashby – a professor in the Department of Philosophy – first as a teacher, then mentor and friend. They had chats in the Soda Shop (in the building now known as the Faculty Center), where students and faculty regularly met. He and his wife, Helen, often invited Alice to their home.



**UNCG's GOLDEN CHAIN HONOR SOCIETY, which remains strong today, was organized in 1948 to recognize WC students who have made significant and meaningful contributions to the University community.**



“

**I had never seen so many professional women in one place.**

**I took physics from a woman!**

— ALICE IRBY '54

”



“Their home became Grand Central for a lot of us,” said Alice. “I remember sitting on the living room floor of Warren Ashby’s house, watching the McCarthy hearings.”

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy’s pervasive hunt for communists was a sore spot for many WC students, who feared an encroachment on their freedom of speech. In the student newspaper, the hearings were referred to as one of America’s “historically grotesque tragedies.”

Around the same time, the Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruling was shaking up the nation, officially declaring racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

## Making way for change

Two years after the Supreme Court’s landmark decision, Woman’s College accepted its first two African American students: JoAnne Smart Drane ’60 and the late Bettye Tillman ’60.

JoAnne was the first in her family to go to college. Growing up in Raleigh, she recalls only one professional – a teacher – living in her neighborhood. She was nervous coming to WC, but determined to get an education.

Once on campus, JoAnne and Bettye were given their own wing in Shaw Hall. After settling in their first night, they decided to play it safe, opting against going to get dinner. “We didn’t know what it was going to be like,” said JoAnne. “But the very next day, because we were famished, we said we were going to go out and get breakfast no matter what the situation was.”

When they entered the dining hall the noise level descended. “You couldn’t hear any conversation at all,” she recalled.

A little uneasy, they proceeded through the silence. But by the time they grabbed their meals and came back out to the dining hall, the cafeteria chatter had resumed. And their anxiety had somewhat diminished.

As time passed, JoAnne found some of her peers kind, and others outwardly intolerant. Still, she shared her experience with other African American students. After inviting Margaret Patterson Horton ’61 for a weekend visit to the campus, Margaret would enroll as the third African American student at the college.

“In addition to the burdens, there were benefits to a good education, and having new and different kinds of experiences. So we wanted to share those experiences with others,” said JoAnne.

“The College brought in a lot of cultural activities – theater and music and speakers that were very, very important in the overall development of a student.”

Even though she had been her high school’s class president, as well as a cheerleader and basketball player, the uncertainty of how she would be received kept JoAnne from joining social organizations at WC. Still, she found a network of support.



Above, JOANNE SMART DRANE ’60.

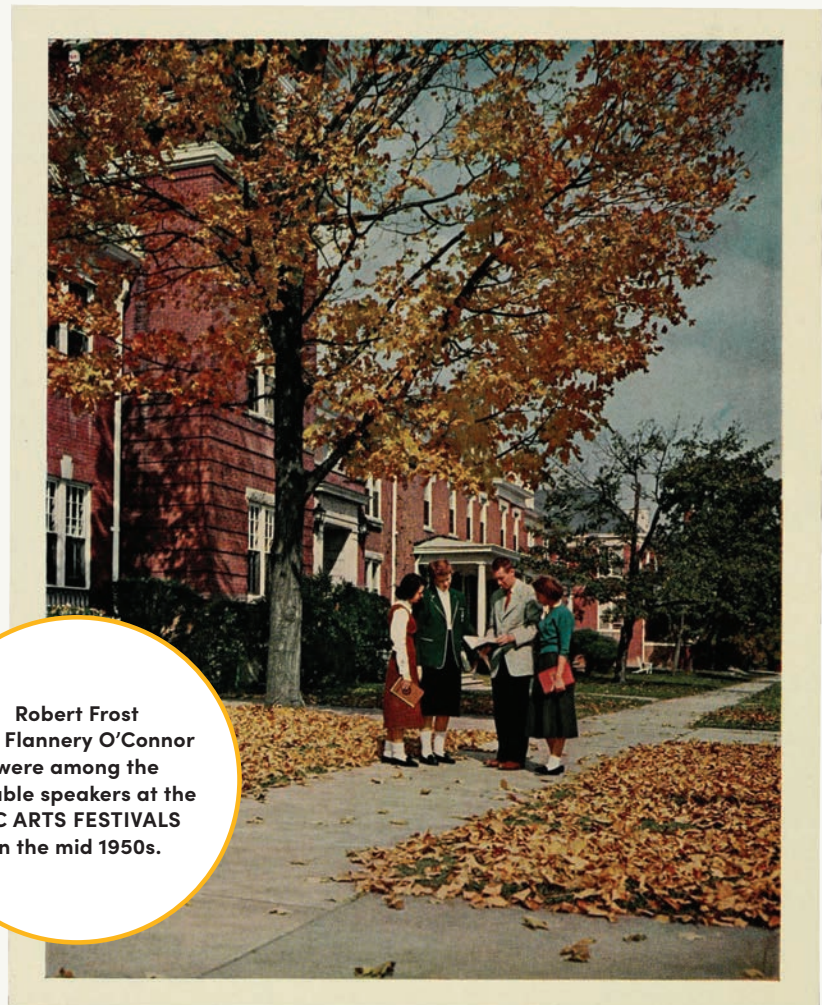
Right, JOANNE SMART DRANE ’60 and BETTYE ANN DAVIS TILLMAN ’60 (l-r) were the first two African American students at WC.

Below, N. Spencer, 1957.

“  
In addition to the burdens,  
there were benefits to  
a good education, and having  
new and different kinds  
of experiences.

– JOANNE SMART DRANE ’60

”



Robert Frost and Flannery O’Connor were among the notable speakers at the WC ARTS FESTIVALS in the mid 1950s.





## CLASS JACKETS

The first class jacket appeared in 1927. It was a blue flannel blazer, designed with simple white piping and “N.C.C. – ‘29” on the front pocket emblem. After gaining popularity, the jackets began to include students’ initials, placed on or directly above the pocket with their class year.

In the WC era, each class had a set of class colors. Every year, the colors consistently alternated between blue and white, green and white, red and white, and lavender and white. Their jackets corresponded to their class colors – with navy being the preferred blue – and black and charcoal jackets seemingly substituted for lavender.

Jackets arrived during the fall of the students’ sophomore year, and “Jacket Day” was a highly-anticipated event. These jackets were considered, by many, more significant than a class ring. They distinguished the women as scholars and were worn proudly.

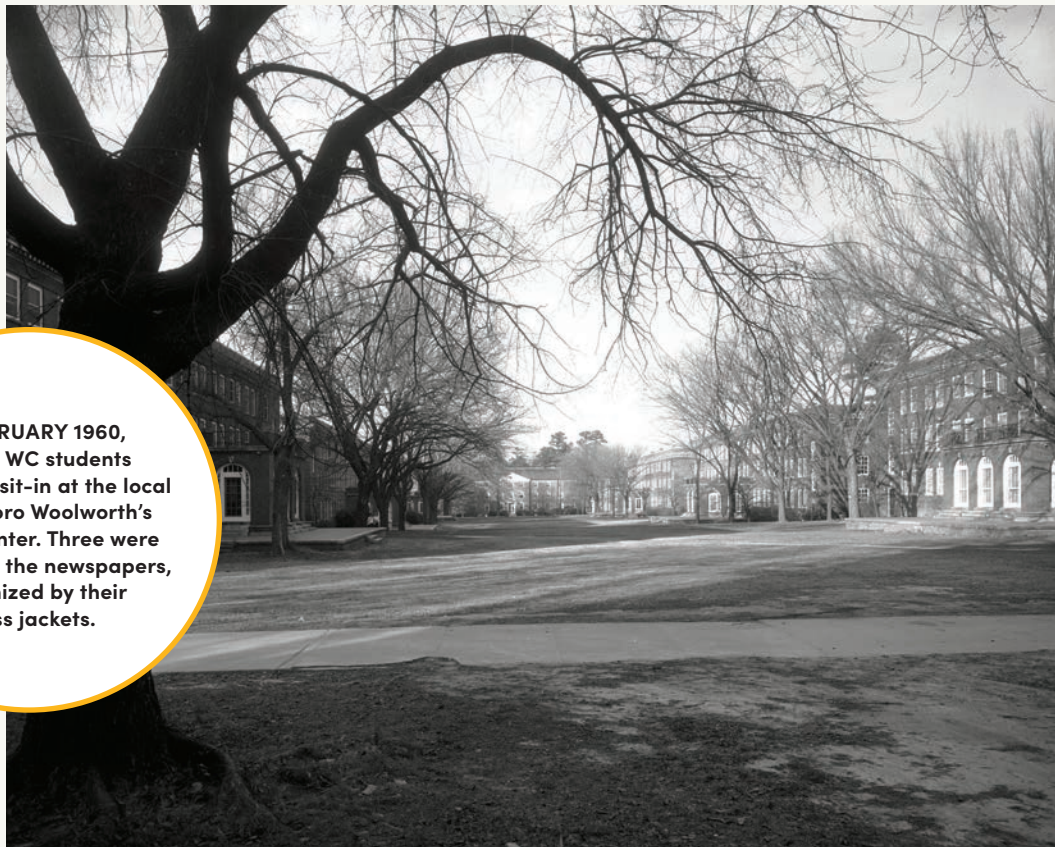
By 1959, WC’s GRADUATE SCHOOL had the third largest number of students taking regular, on-campus courses in the state.



Left, Dance, 1955.

Below, the Quad, 1957.

In FEBRUARY 1960, several WC students joined the sit-in at the local Greensboro Woolworth’s lunch counter. Three were reported in the newspapers, recognized by their class jackets.





"I think one of the things that was so helpful to the African American students who were at Woman's College at the time was the fact that the Black community in Greensboro was so supportive and encouraging."

A few more Black students trickled into WC just after JoAnne. In addition to Margaret, she became friends with Zelma Amey Holmes '61 and Claudette Graves Burroughs-White '61 – who later became a well-known Greensboro City Council member.

They spent weekends with Claudette's family and attended athletic events together at North Carolina A&T. Long after graduation, they would remain friends, connected, in part, by their shared experience.

## As the '60s neared

In August 1958, Ricky Nelson's "Poor Little Fool" and Bobby Darin's "Splish, Splash" topped the pop charts. Elvis had been inducted in the Army. The U.S. created NASA, as its "space race" with the Soviet Union sped ahead. On campus, the original McIver Building was in rubble, making way for a modern, new McIver Building.

At the same time, Emilie "Emmy" Mills '62, '65 MFA was entering her freshman year. She had come to study art, having heard great things of the founder of the art department and the Weatherspoon, Gregory Ivy. Unfortunately for her, Ivy would soon be leaving.

"The department was in a period of transition during most of my undergraduate years," said Emmy. But the leadership was still top tier. "Several of the professors that were here, had been here for some time. Susan Barksdale, Norma Hardin, and Helen Thrush were the fixtures of the art department and had very good reputations."

However, according to Emmy, most of the favorite professors of art students were in the Department of English: notably, Randall Jarrell (future Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress), Robert Watson, and Fred Chappell.

"The artists and the writers often gathered at the Pickwick on Walker Avenue in the '60s. We were sort of a cultural group in a way. In some cases, we were looked at as the interesting people – but then on the other hand I think there were other students who thought we were kind of weird," Emmy chuckled.

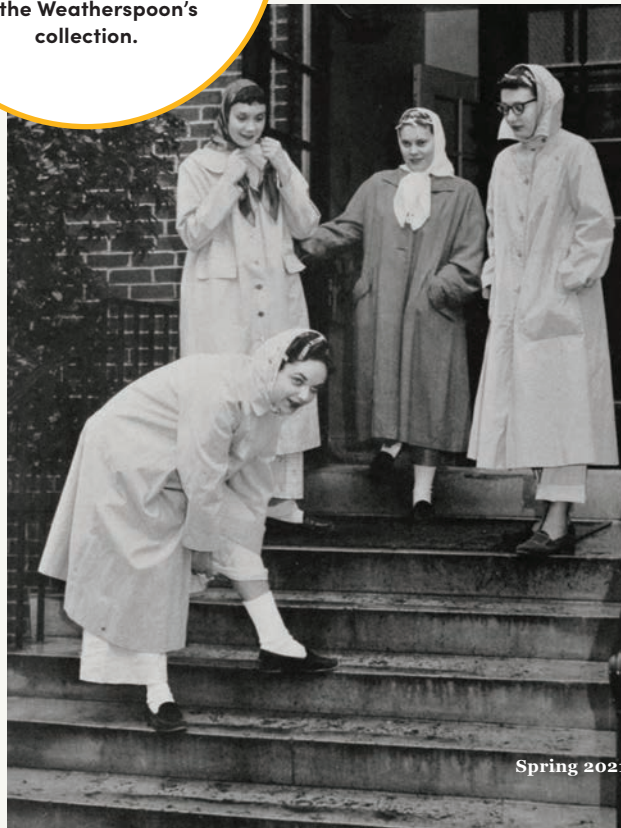
Unifying students was the dress code. Dresses, skirts, and blouses were the standard. No jeans, no slacks, no sleepwear! (Though lots of times girls would roll up their pajama bottoms and put raincoats on to evade the protocol.) Even going across campus in your gym suit was a violation. If you had a class after gym, you had to change clothes.

"As art majors, we didn't like the dress regulations because we always wanted to wear casual clothes in case clay, paint, or etching acid got on us. But we had to wear smocks," Emmy explained.

Aside from their fashion, another thing the women of WC had in common was a wealth of academic talent. Dean of the Graduate School J. A. Davis analyzed statistics from other



Gregory Ivy and John Opper are credited with purchasing WILLEM DE KOONING's painting, "Woman," for \$1,800. It's now a crown jewel in the Weatherspoon's collection.



Top, Enjoying the outdoors, 1958.

Left, "Rush to breakfast, the 8:10 bell too soon," Pine Needles, 1958.





state colleges and scores from the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SATs) for the freshman class in 1959. He found that WC students ranked well above those of any other public college in the state in high school achievement. He also found that they were in the top third of freshmen in the nation, as was true of Chapel Hill and N.C. State.

As a classmate of Emmy's, Sarah Shoffner '62, '64 MS, '77 PhD describes her experience at WC with an emphasis on "opportunity." Sarah's mom took teacher-certification classes at WC, and her great aunt had taught math there when it was known as the Normal College. So she was thrilled to follow their steps.

She was also happy to find encouragement from faculty. As an undergraduate she was asked to fill roles that she wouldn't have considered on her own.

"The faculty and the administration, particularly in the School of Home Economics, if they got an idea of something you could do or something they wanted you to be involved in, they would ask you," she explained.

"My first opportunity in that sense was when I was asked to be president of the WC student member section of the American Home Economics Association ... It gave me a chance to see what I could do, but also, I guess they were recognizing something in people that they wanted to nurture."

Her senior year, Sarah was offered a graduate assistantship. Her future position would be teaching home economics classes and supervising a student teacher at the Curry School. To prepare, she was advised to go to summer school and take a supervision course.

"Our school was one of the strongest programs in the nation for Home Economics at that time, so I got to meet a lot of people," she remembers. "And when I became a faculty member, Naomi Albanese sent me to some of the administrative meetings of the American Home Economics Association and let me

participate and represent her sometimes. So I was just given opportunities to get to know people, learn, and branch out," she said.

"My whole career was having opportunities available that I could latch on to."

## Passing the torch

Sarah began teaching at UNCG in 1964, and she served in various research and administrative roles in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. She developed internship opportunities for hundreds of students who were in the child development and family studies major but didn't plan to teach preschool or K-6. She was honored with the NC Home Economist Award, the state's highest award in the profession.

After earning her MFA at the University, Emmy returned again to work in Jackson Library. It was then that she was

**The artists and the writers often gathered at the Pickwick on Walker Avenue in the '60s. We were sort of a cultural group in a way.**

— EMMY MILLS '62



**Above, EMMY MILLS '62.**

**Top, Emmy seated far right, with classmates on the steps of Jackson Library, Freshman Week, 1958.**

**Left, the Soda Shop, a regular gathering spot for students. The building is now the Faculty Center.**







In 1959, five WC students were nationally recognized with WOODROW WILSON FELLOWSHIPS, prestigious awards meant to support promising scholars in their first year of doctoral studies.



Scenes from 1959: top left, hula hoops – the new fad; top right, Commercial Class.

Above, student in class.

Right, College Avenue, 1960.



## WC TRIBUTE

Designed in collaboration with landscape artist James Dinh and sculptor Michael Stutz, the Woman's College Tribute will be a circular communal space in front of the Mary Frances Stone Building. Three-tiered brick walls will surround a central statue. These walls will hold flower planters as well as image panels composed of text and photographs from WC-era yearbooks.

The central sculpture, affectionately named "Astera," will be the head of a woman made of woven bronze. Simultaneously a modern interpretation of Minerva and the embodiment of the aspirations and spirits of the women who passed through WC's halls, Astera will gaze across the quad. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and visitors will be able to stand behind her and, through her eyes, see the campus that has changed thousands of lives.

"The Woman's College Tribute is a permanent reminder that for some 30 years there was a College that taught women there was an alternative to the traditional role that was expected of them," said Agnes Johnson Price '62, '71 MEd, a member of the WC Tribute steering committee. She, herself, went on to teach in the Accounting department at UNCG from 1981 to 1997, seeing firsthand the strong WC legacy of excellence.

"It instilled independence, free thinking, leadership, and the necessity of overcoming challenges in family, in business, and in life. It introduced a more practical and realistic, but still elegant, image for women in society. Furthering its major contributions, Woman's College is the foundation of the current UNCG."

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE WC TRIBUTE VISIT  
ALUMNI.UNCG.EDU/WCTRIBUTE**

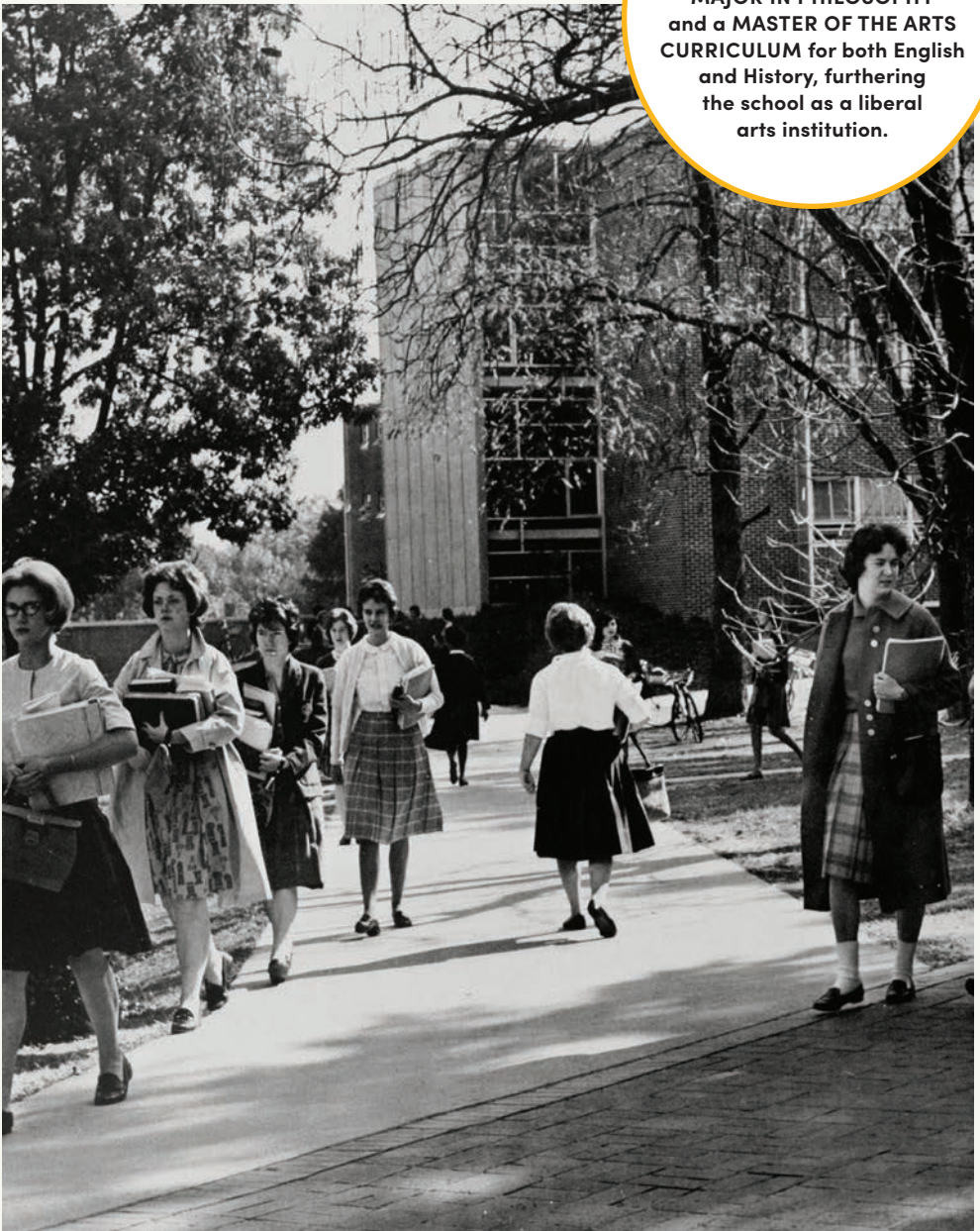
Sidebar by Michelle Danner-Groves '16 MA



Left, students in Peabody Park, 1962.

Below, Mclver Building, 1962.

Between 1962 and 1963, WC approved the establishment of a MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY and a MASTER OF THE ARTS CURRICULUM for both English and History, furthering the school as a liberal arts institution.





encouraged by the library director to go to library school. She completed that degree at the University of Illinois and then returned as UNCG's first director of the Special Collections – now called the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives. Under her guidance, collection development plans were written for the University's rare book collections, manuscript collections, and university archives – contributing greatly to the needs of the academic community, scholars, and students.

An invitation from the UNCG Neo-Black Society would bring JoAnne back to the University 20 years after earning her degree. "Once I got back and saw ... that the University had grown in its acceptance and involvement of students – particularly African American students – and that there were also African American faculty, it just opened my eyes to the kinds of things that had developed in that period of time since I had left."

With a newfound connection, JoAnne became a regular speaker for campus organizations, sharing her experience as a pioneer of diversity and issuing words of encouragement to students over the years. She would also serve as first vice president of the Alumni Association and on several boards of the University. Outside of the University, JoAnne dedicated her life to the education sphere, leading in several director roles throughout her career and retiring as a consultant in teacher education.

Five years after graduating from WC, Alice Irby returned as the College's first director of admissions. Charlie Phillips and Mereb Mossman had brought her back to the College to assist with recruitment, and Mossman gave her the new leading role. She touched the lives of many students – bringing a perspective of WC alumna to the role. "We made it a special mission to recruit girls from every county in the state, and that meant a lot of first-generation, rural students, as well as students from various ethnic backgrounds," said Alice.

After working at the College, Alice would go on to work as the vice president of student services at Rutgers University, a role that awarded her recognition from The New York Times as "the highest-ranking woman in the administration of a major American university."

Alice, JoAnne, Emmy, and Sarah each provide a unique perspective of someone who returned to their campus to make an indelible mark on the institution and on its students.

They also represent a true part of WC's legacy: a place where the marginalized were the majority; free thought was expected; and faculty were often like family, making it their personal responsibility to guide students to success.

Like the thousands of "WCers," they are proud of the academic excellence of their college, confident of their mark on the state at a time when women were expected to take a back seat. And like so many from their era, they have remained close friends of the University, passing down their wisdom and lessons learned, shaping UNCG into what it is today. 🧡



**The faculty and the administration, particularly in the School of Home Economics, if they got an idea of something you could do or something they wanted you to be involved in, they would ask you.**

– SARAH SHOFFNER '62, '64 MS, '77 PHD



Top, SARAH SHOFFNER (senior portrait, above).

Bottom left, MEREB MOSSMAN, Dean of the College, 1962.

Below, WARREN ASHBY, pictured far left.



*A special thank you to University Archivist Erin Lawrimore and Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives staff, for providing archival photography and assistance.*





## Creating community through “Ubuntu”

**Class of 2003 graduates Leatrice and Jason Caldwell** met as freshmen in UNCG’s Grogan Hall and have been together for 20 years. While students, it was the family-oriented environment they found throughout campus and as members of the Neo-Black Society that helped them develop life-long friendships.

“UNCG helped shape our perspectives on the world. We learned how to engage with people, recognizing that we learn and grow from the people we meet, regardless of skin color, sexuality, or religion,” says Jason.

Those experiences inspired the couple to establish the Ubuntu Endowed Academic Scholarship Fund.

“Ubuntu” is a concept rooted in the African philosophy of community. Often translated as “I am, because we are,” the term embodies the ideas of human connectedness and mutual caring for all.

Leatrice began working at the North Carolina State Employees Credit Union while a student at UNCG and has been there for more than 19 years. She currently serves as a Senior Financial Officer II and District Community Outreach Coordinator. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she volunteers with their Delta Academy mentoring teenage girls.

Dedicated to helping others, Jason is the CEO of Ubuntu Consulting, a faculty member at North Carolina A&T State University, and chairman of the NC Work Partners Development Board of Guilford County. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and serves on the UNCG Alumni Leadership Board. Earlier this year, Jason was selected for Triad Business Journal’s 40 Under Forty Award.

## PAYING IT FORWARD: THE GENEROSITY OF LYNN AND FAYE EURY ’56

**College can be an exciting** but stressful time, particularly for first-generation students. Many have limited financial resources, which often requires them to take out hefty student loans or work multiple jobs to afford their degree. UNCG students persevere, but the uncertainty about making it to graduation looms.

Former Carolina Power & Light Executive Vice President Lynn Eury and his late wife, Faye, were no strangers to this financial challenge. Growing up in rural North Carolina during the Great Depression, money was often tight. Their parents – who never pursued higher education – knew a college degree could open greater opportunities for their children, and their families supported Faye’s and Lynn’s educational pursuits.

Recognizing the support and sacrifices others made for their success, the Eurys chose to pay that generosity forward. In 2006, they established the Faye Young Eury and Lynn W. Eury Scholarship in UNCG’s Bryan School of Business and Economics with a testamentary gift. The Eurys made additional contributions to endow the fund and support students during their lifetime. To date, the Eurys have supported 12 students during their undergraduate studies. One such student is marketing major and first-generation student Nyat Fesshaye. Complications with her federal financial aid application threatened her senior year, but the

Eury Scholarship came as a lifeline, allowing her to enter her final year with confidence.

Although Faye Eury passed away in 2019, Lynn continues to support students at his wife’s alma mater. In addition to a second testamentary gift and a five-year pledge to their scholarship, Lynn made a gift to name the Faye Young Eury Conference and Events Room at the Bryan School in her memory. This gift will provide critical

renovations and upgrades, as well as support the Blueprint Series – the Bryan School’s personal and professional development curriculum, designed to help students graduate with the employability skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing business landscape. (See p. 24.)

Lynn’s ongoing generosity ensures students continue to thrive at UNCG, regardless of their financial status. It’s a reality students like Nyat are grateful for.

“People like Lynn Eury demonstrate what amazing things happen when people give back.”

– NYAT FESSHAYE,  
SENIOR MARKETING  
MAJOR

MORE STORIES AT [ADVANCEMENT.UNCG.EDU](https://www.uncg.edu/advancement).



# BELIEVE IN THE G

2021  
UNCG DAY OF GIVING



**755**

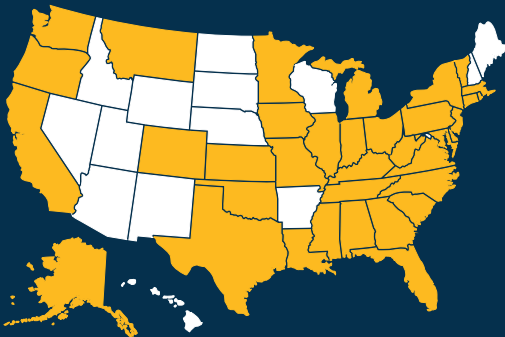
Alumni  
Donors



**424**

Faculty &  
Staff Donors\*

*\*170 donors were both alumni  
and faculty/staff.*



**36** States  
Represented



**913**

Gifts  
from NC

## TOP FIVE CLASSES

*by number of donors*



- 1** 1965
- 2** 1969
- 3** 2011
- 4** 2020
- 5** 1970/2014



**1,359**

Gifts Received



**\$832,507**

Total Raised

## SCHOOL & COLLEGE REVENUE

School of Education | **\$64,303**

School of Health & Human Sciences | **\$36,358**

School of Nursing | **\$30,113**

Bryan School of Business & Economics | **\$24,420**

College of Arts & Sciences | **\$17,110**

College of Visual & Performing Arts | **\$11,331**

# THANK YOU

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UNCG's excellence*





# gradtidings

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

## 1930s

**HELEN WILLIAMS BULLOCK '38** was born one year before the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and, last year, she weathered a bout with coronavirus. The Kings Mountain Herald celebrated her fascinating life in a large feature story, in dedication of her 103rd birthday, which she celebrated October 25, 2020.

## 1940s

**LEVINA MEEKINS FLEMING '43** celebrated her 100th birthday in March. She says this University was responsible for many of her core beliefs and motivation. "It was a big step for me to leave Roanoke Island and travel to Greensboro in the early 40's. It was an opportunity of a lifetime for me, and I remain truly grateful to this day! Sincerely and love to all the current students who have the opportunity to take advantage of this great institution."

**ELSIE C. YUEN SEETOO '48** was among those recognized by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in a virtual Congressional Gold Medal ceremony, in honor of Chinese American WWII Veterans. She served as a first lieutenant in the US Army Nurse Corps. (See p. 12.)

## 1950s

**TEMPE HUGHES OEHLER '51** was honored by the City of Myrtle Beach on the occasion of her 90th birthday. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she went on to a career as a journalist and teacher.

## 1960s

**ANDREA DRUM KEPPLER '64** was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine – one of the most prestigious awards conferred by the governor of North Carolina. A lifelong educator, she spent her 30-year career teaching students of all ages, ranging from grade school to college.

**KAREN LYNN PARKER '65X**, now retired after a career in journalism, was invited to give the Eve Carson Memorial Lecture on Dec. 2, 2020. Karen is recognized as the first African American undergraduate to attend and graduate UNC-Chapel Hill.

**CAROL EUSTIS '67** was posthumously celebrated on October 14, 2020, by the Community College of Baltimore City, which hosted a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the new Carol Diane Eustis Center for Health Professions. The \$63 million, 120,000-square-foot facility paid homage to the late educator, who served for 12 years as dean of CCBC's School of Health Professions and had an impressive 46-year career at CCBC Essex.

**KATHERINE RAUP WILSON '69** and husband Billy R. Wilson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, in 2020, with a renewal of vows and a reception at Wheatland United Methodist Church in Wheatland, Wyoming. 📍

## 1970s

**REBECCA JENSEN SCOTT '74** joined the board of directors of Impact 100 Palm Beach County (Fla.), a nonprofit organization that encourages local philanthropy. More than 500 women donate \$1,000 each annually, pool all funds, and vote to award grants to nonprofits serving southern Palm Beach County. 📍

**JANE TESH '74** was pleased to announce the publication of her sixteenth novel, the seventh in the "Grace Street Mystery" series, "Gone Daddy Blues."

**JAMES FISHER '76 MFA** retired from the School of Theatre faculty last year, having served at UNCG for 13 years and as the head of theatre for seven years. 📍

**JIM LONGWORTH '76** in 2020 celebrated his 50th year in broadcasting. In the early stages of his career, Jim worked on the campus television studio and produced a weekly radio series for UNCG. The recipient of the Spectrum of Democracy Award has interviewed stars like Elizabeth Taylor, Bob Hope, and Arnold Palmer; been a judge for the Emmy Awards; and moderated special events for the Television Academy. The creator of "Triad Today" has served as a visiting lecturer, and in 2018, he served on the UNCG Alumni Association Board. 📍

**KAT MEADS '77 MFA** has a new book, "Dear DeeDee," published by Regal House Publishing. Taking the form of letters to a niece, the work was listed in the Southern Review of Books' "Best Southern Books of December." An award-winning writer of fiction, drama, nonfiction and poetry, Kat is a native of eastern North Carolina.

**HAROLD WAYNE DRUMHELLER '78 MED** is editor and founder of the Creative Short Book Writers Project, a collective of professionals and everyday people, who commit to editing and publishing local and regional books. The project funds one free workshop or seminar a month, generally hosted in Virginia or the Carolinas. Since 2010, Harold's brainchild has assisted more than 175 authors in publishing their books.

**KEITH T. MARTIN '79, '84 MFA** was elected chair of the Appalachian Theatre of the High Country, a historic 1938 vaudeville house and movie theatre in Boone, N.C. He helped lead an eight-year, \$10 million campaign, involving more than 500 volunteers and thousands of individual donors to restore the venerable art deco landmark back to its former glory. Keith is the Distinguished Professor of Theatre at Appalachian State University with a career in the not-for-profit sector that spans nearly 450 productions over 40 years. 📍

## 1980s

**SONDRA VAUGHN '80**, of the Kids' Clubhouse, was named the 2020 Business Person of the Year for a business with 10 and under employees by the Kernersville (N.C.) Chamber of Commerce. The Kids' Clubhouse provides families with after-school care and serves nearly a dozen area elementary schools.

**DOUGLAS I. GOUGE '81** wrote and released his first book, "Waylaid: A Front Porch Tale," which was inspired by homespun tales he heard at his family gatherings.

**ROBBIE CADDELL FRANKS '83**, with an impactful career in the pharmaceutical and biotechnical industry, has been involved in her industry's monumental effort to develop safe, effective vaccines for COVID-19. Her training at UNCG's School of Nursing prepared her well, she notes, to be an advocate for patient safety in clinical trials. She established an endowment to support nursing students, in honor of her aunt Gay Williams Martin '74, who also was a graduate of the School of Nursing.

**MELINDA MITCHELL JONES '83 MSN** was appointed to the Nursing Facility Administrators Advisory Committee by Texas Governor Greg Abbott. She is a distinguished professor at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's School of Nursing, and she is certified by the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court and the Texas State Bar.

**RODNEY VAN VALKENBURG '83 MFA** has been named executive director of the Chattanooga Theatre Centre.

**GEORGE W. SINGLETON, III '86 MFA** was recognized by National Public Radio as his latest collection, "You Want More: Selected Stories of George Singleton," was listed among NPR's Favorite Books of 2020.

**SHANNON HENNESSEE HENSON '87** retired as of August 1, 2020, from the Rutherford County Schools as the principal of Cliffside Elementary School.

**HUGH HYSSELL '88** is a producer for the play "The Inheritance", which just received the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play. "The Inheritance" was also nominated for 11 Tony Awards this year.

## 1990s

**MICHELLE GRANT SCOTT '90** recently joined Lander University's faculty as a lecturer and as the human services program

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.**





**1** Oliver Thomas '20 PHD was named to Black Business Ink's 40 Under 40 Most Influential African Americans in the Triad **2** Donovan Livingston '20 PHD (right) and Oliver Thomas '20 PHD (left) pose together as honorees for the Black Business Ink's 40 Under 40 Most Influential African Americans in the Triad **3** Sarah Prezioso '02 **4** Adrienne Lynette Crosby '20 **5** Jessica Icenhour Roberts '03 **6** Ashley McLain Westmoreland '14 POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE was celebrated as the 2020-21 Alamance-Burlington (N.C.) School System Principal of the Year **7** James Fisher '76 MFA and his wife Dana Fisher **8** Tomika Williams '03 MSN, '16 PHD **9** Corey Hillman '11, '16 **10** Katherine Raup Wilson '69 and her husband of 50 years, Billy R. Wilson **11** Rebecca Jenson Scott '74 **12** Peggy Terhune '01 PHD **13** Walidah Karim-Rhoades '18 DNP





# gradtidings

coordinator. Prior to Lander, she worked for the University of South Carolina's Master of Social Work program and also maintained a small private counseling practice.

**ROBERT LAMB '90 MM** entered his 23rd year of teaching in Florida as a professor of music and the director of choral activities at Eastern Florida State College.

**STEPHEN SILLS '91** was the 2020 UNCG nominee for the UNC System's Holshouser Award. Professor of sociology and director of the UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies, he has served on the faculty since 2006.

**WARREN ROCHELLE '91 MFA, '97 PHD** retired from the University of Mary Washington (in Fredericksburg, Va.) after 11 years as a school librarian and 23 years as a college professor. He also had his first short-story collection, "The Wicked Stepbrother and Other Stories," published by JMS Books in September.

**LORI C. BARTLETT-KOENIG '92 MFA**, artistic director at DreamWrights Center for Community Arts, was accepted as an associate member of Stage Director and Choreographers Society (SDC), a theatrical union that serves stage directors and choreographers throughout the U.S.

**LINDA JEWELL CARR '92 MED** became superintendent of Washington County's (N.C.) educational system. With more than 25 years of experience in public education, she was previously the assistant superintendent of instructional services for Sampson County (N.C.) Schools.

**SIOBHAN ALANA LOENDORF '92** was named library director for the Catawba County (N.C.) Library System. She joined the library team in 2011 as a librarian and had been serving as the assistant director since 2014.

**SHARON LEE HUGGINS '93**, a family and consumer sciences teacher at South Stanly High School, was one of three to win the 2020 Betty Watson Scholarship, which is presented by the Stanly County (N.C.) Extension and Community Association (SCECA). The funds will assist with her current pursuit of her master's degree in nutrition, with a concentration in public health, at Appalachian State University.

**HATTIE LADSINE TAYLOR '93 MSN** was elected secretary of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association board of directors for 2020-21. She is a

27-year member of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, with service on the association's VA Special Interest Group Committee and Research Committee. She is also contributing author for the book "Advanced Nursing Care of the Older Adult," and has worked at the VA Medical Center in Salisbury, N.C., for the past 25 years, serving veterans with chronic diseases.

**KIMBERLY CUNY '94, '07 MFA**, a communication studies professor and director of UNCG's Speaking Center, has been awarded the 2020 Service Engagement Award from the National Communication Association. This award recognizes her strong partnership with Peacehaven Community Farm, where for the past five years, she and her students have been helping adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities improve their communication skills.

**DONALD "DONNY" WALTER '94, '12 MM** was among the top-10 finalists for the 2021 Grammy Music Educator Award. Donny is the director of orchestras at Northwest Guilford High School and Northwest Guilford Middle School, and he is also the orchestra section chair of the N.C. Music Educators Association.

**TAL BLEVINS '96** opened a new, trendy restaurant, MACHETE, in downtown Greensboro just three weeks ahead of the unexpected pandemic. Although the setback caused him to limit his staff in the beginning, he and his team were able to pivot the restaurant's outlook by the fall.

**BRIAN MCMATH '96, '10 MM** was among the top-10 finalists for the 2021 Grammy Music Educator Award. Brian is currently in his 24th year as an educator and 17th year as the director of bands at Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro.

**AMY J. MCGREGOR '97 MA** was promoted from assistant vice president to vice president of the banking supervision department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Amy is a certified information systems auditor.

## 2000s

**DOMINICK AMENDUM '01**, who is coordinator of the UNCG Musical Theatre Program, received a Grammy Nomination for Best Musical Theater Album for Stephen Schwartz's new musical "Prince of Egypt." Released on Ghostlight

Records, the album is produced by Dominick Amendum and Stephen Schwartz, with Kurt Deutsch serving as executive producer.

**DEBORAH GREEN CUNNINGHAM '01 POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE** is the senior vice president at Cone Health, which earned national recognition last winter from the International Hospital Federation (IHF) Beyond the Call of Duty for Covid-19 Program. The IHF selected only 103 hospitals from 28 countries.

**JULIANNA FOSTER '01** was featured in Create Magazine in October for her photography series "Geological Lore," which the magazine described as "complex and layered ... like tectonic plates that shift in jagged forms."

**KATHRYN MCNEILL LANZ '01, '05 MSN** received the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Alumni Award. She is the founder and CEO of TopSight, LLC and the former chief clinical officer of Aspire Health.

**PEGGY TERHUNE '01 PHD** received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, an honor granted by North Carolina's governors to individuals who have made significant contributions to the state through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments. Peggy is president and CEO of Monarch, a statewide nonprofit organization serving more than 31,000 individuals, each year, with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders. She also celebrated her 25th anniversary as Monarch's CEO in 2020.

**BARRON THOMPSON '01** was elected as a district court judge for Randolph County (N.C.) on November 3, 2020. In addition to being an attorney, Barron previously served as an adjunct professor in the political science department where he taught Introduction to Law in 2019 and 2020.

**KRISTY L. NORTON '02** received UNC Wilmington's Seahawk Staff Spotlight in November. She is just the fourth coach in the university's 36-year softball history, and in 2020, she ended her eighth season with 170 victories already under her belt.

**SARAH LANG PREZIOSO '02** was appointed the department chair of Public Services at Nash Community College. She has taught at Nash Community College since 2007.

**JESSICA ICENHOUR ROBERTS '03**, who has been employed with the Mount Airy Tourism Development Authority since 2004, was reelected as chair of the Piedmont Triad Film Commission,

serving through 2021. She was also selected to serve on the Southeast Tourism Society Board of Directors and she's the president-elect for the Blue Ridge Parkway Association.

**TOMIKA WILLIAMS '03 MSN, '16 PHD** won the 2020 UNCG School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award. Tomika is a clinical assistant professor in East Carolina University's College of Nursing, and she also works as a nurse practitioner with NC Elder Care, managing residents and patients in long-term care settings.

**KITSEY BURNS HARRISON '04** became the editor of The Yadkin Ripple, On The Vine magazine, and The Tribune. A native of Yadkin County, Kitsey had served as a staff writer for The Yadkin Ripple since 2014. During that time, she won four N.C. Press Association awards, in the categories of personal columns, news, and feature writing.

**AMY STRINGER '04 PHD** is an assistant professor at Western Carolina University, and in 2020, she was named North Carolina College/University Physical Education Teacher of the Year by NC SHAPE, the state's professional organization for health and physical education educators. Before joining WCU's faculty, Amy taught at Elon University and Brevard College. She is a lifelong member of NC SHAPE, past president of the North Carolina College Conference, and an active member of the North Carolina School Health Training Center.

**NICOLE JUNEBOONE '05** serves as District 3 county commissioner in Northampton County, N.C., where she serves on the County Health Board and Chamber of Commerce.

**JUSTIN OUTLING '05** was named among Black Business Ink's 40 Under 40 Most Influential African American In the Triad. He is District 3 representative on the Greensboro City Council.

**EDGAR ZIMMERMAN, SR. '05** is the new principal at Simkins Elementary, where he had been interim principal since December and assistant principal since 2018. Edgar has previous experience as an elementary principal at Stoney Creek Elementary in Reidsville, N.C., and he served as assistant principal of Guilford Middle, Kiser Middle, and Grimsley High.

**BLANCA MONTILLA '06 MA** helps truck dealerships develop their brands and increase sales. The district sales manager at Volvo Group also works to help people rise to their potential. By her count, she has mentored 15 people from around the



globe. "If you want to leave a legacy in this world, share what you know to change a life," she says. 📷

**LUCRECIA P. JOHNSON '07** was given the Member Spotlight from the DC Bar, last July, recognizing her critical work as a community development advocate. As the founder and managing attorney at LPJ Legal, Lucrecia also represents parents and guardians of children with disabilities and works as an advocate for students' rights. Additionally, she serves on the Collaborative Solutions for Communities Board of Directors and the Arena Stage Young Patrons Board.

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

**LAURA EVERHART WELFARE '07 PHD**, an associate professor at Virginia Tech's School of Education, received the American Counseling Association's 2020 Fellows Award, the organization's highest honor. She was one of only 13 recipients.

**WENDY SCURRY FRADY '08** and her family, who are missionaries, returned to Uganda in January, after visiting the United States for a few months during the holiday season.

**MARTIN GORDON MCDONALD '08 MSA**, who has an impressive resume in leadership, was selected as principal of Greenville High School. In 2010, he started as the principal of Jordan-Matthews High School, a diverse and high poverty school, in Siler City, N.C. Under his guidance, Jordan-Matthews High School made Newsweek's list of the top-500 schools in the country for their accomplishments with high-poverty students, and the graduation rate at the school increased by 18 percentage points.

**ANTHONY EDWARDS '09** was announced as the Twin County Chamber of Commerce Board Member of the Year for 2020. Anthony is a vice president in credit administration at Skyline National Bank and has served as the Chamber's board president since January 2018. He's currently on his second term.

**EUGENIA FLOYD '09**, a fourth-grade teacher at Scroggs Elementary School, was presented the 2019-2020 Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Teacher of the Year award.

**SHERRILL J. ROLAND, III '09, '17 MFA** won the 2020 Southern Prize and was named a South Arts State Fellow by South Arts for his Jumpsuit Project. He was awarded \$30,000 in grant money for his

accomplishments. (See more in Fall 2020 issue.)

**ASHLEY WAHL '09** is now editor of O. Henry Magazine, a Greensboro monthly magazine that recently celebrated its 10th year.

## 2010s

**HALLEY MAY MURROW '10** is the host of Grand Strand Today on WMBF News and the creator of the series "How to with Halley." Her original series gained its own segment on The Business Connection, has been regularly featured on various broadcasts and in South Carolina Woman Magazine.

**BRITTANY LYNN BRANCH '11 POST-BACHELOR'S CERTIFICATE** was named the digital learning coach for Mount Airy City Schools. In this role, she supports face-to-face and remote learning. She has taught science in middle and high school for 10 years and is in her second year in Mount Airy City Schools. She will spend time on each school campus working with staff in their professional learning communities and classrooms. She will also work closely with administrators to support families and staff as learning continues remotely and face-to-face. She is acquiring her master's of education in Learning Design and Technology from NC State.

**COREY HILLMAN '11, '16**, who is an integrative movements specialist and a licensed physiotherapist, recently opened Gate City Physio in Greensboro. Gate City Physio is a boutique physiotherapy clinic. 📷

**TY-RON MICHAEL DOUGLAS '12 PHD, '13 POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE** was hired as the University of California, Berkeley's first-ever associate athletic director for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. An educator, Ty-Ron is also an activist, author, and public speaker. He came to UC Berkeley by way of the University of Missouri, where he was an affiliate faculty member in the school's Black Studies Program and an associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

**REBECCA LEE PAYNE JORDAN '12 MED**, an assistant professor at the Appalachian State's Department of Reading Education and Special Education, was one of eight faculty members across the UNC System to be appointed a Literacy Fellow as



**14** Keith Martin '79, '84 MFA **15** Melinda Mitchell Jones '83 MSN  
**16** Jim Longworth '76 **17** Blanca Montilla '06 MA

### SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

NOT ONLY DO WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU,  
WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TOO.

*UNCG Magazine* is now publishing pictures of your milestones, such as weddings, births and reunions. All you have to do is send us your photos.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Digital images need to be high resolution for print (at least 300 dpi).
- Please identify everyone in the photo and be sure to include your name (including your maiden name, if applicable), graduation year and degree.
- Photographs from a professional photographer must be accompanied by a release form from the photographer.
- While we welcome wedding photos and baby pictures, we will not publish engagement or pregnancy pictures.
- Please send photos from the past year.
- Finally, depending on photo quality and/or volume of submissions, we may not be able to publish every photo we receive.

Please send your pictures using the "Submit a Class Note" form at [alumnimagazine.uncg.edu](http://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu). Or you can mail a print to Class Notes Photo, Alumni Engagement Office, Alumni House, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170. Mailed photos cannot be returned.



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part of the System's Literacy Framework Development Initiative. For the last 12 years, she has tutored multiple students with reading disabilities, and throughout her career, she has served as an instructional coach, a program specialist, and a teacher.

**GULSAH KEMER '12 PHD** received the Fall 2020 Supervision Award from the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES). She has made significant contributions to the field of counseling supervision, with more than 13 peer-reviewed publications since 2016, multiple federal and private grants, and 60 conference presentations on supervision – made both nationally and internationally.

**MICHAEL CLINTON, JR '13**, who is an employer relations specialist at UNCG, was selected to the Triad Journal's inaugural class of 20 in their 20s honorees. In 2013, Michael founded a student group called Growing Young Men, which helps provide career development, support in education, and access to scholarships to minority men.

**JOSLYN Y. HALL '13** was featured in two Christmas movies this past holiday season. She starred as Elle in "Christmas in Carolina," sharing the spotlight with former "Family Matters" stars Kellie Shanygne Williams and Darius McCrary. And she also played Luanne in "A Nashville Christmas Carol," which debuted on the Hallmark Channel in November.

**DANA M. DESILVA '14, '19 POST-BACHELOR'S CERTIFICATE, '19 PHD** was a member of the writing team that assembled the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

**TIFFANY GOLPHIN '14** is now an education and project consultant for the High Point-based company Changed Often.

**WILLIAM KELLEY '14** joined the music staff at Theater Bremen in Germany as kapellmeister and solorepetitor.

**AYANA ROSS '14 MA** is a top-10 finalist in The Bennett Prize, a national contest for women figurative realist painters. The winner will receive \$50K, which is the largest art award ever offered solely to women figurative realist painters.

**ASHLEY MCLAIN WESTMORELAND '14 POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE** was named the Alamance-Burlington (N.C.) School System Principal of the Year for 2020-21. 📍

**JIM WHITESIDE '14 MFA** originally had his poem "Figs" printed in Shenandoah,

a literary magazine published by Washington and Lee University. Recently, his poem was part of a feature in The New York Times called "America 2020, In Vision and Verse."

**RICOLE WICKS '14, '20** was selected as a model for Permobil in 2020 and was further offered the opportunity to do blogs and vlogs on behalf of the company. She also recently started her shoe company ColeMind and released her first shoe.

**CATHERINE LEIGH FRENCH '15 MFA** is an interior designer and the owner of Catherine French Designs, LLC in Chapel Hill, N.C. Specializing in both commercial and residential projects, her company focuses on troubleshooting problems with work and living spaces.

**SAVANNAH RAE RELOS '15** is the technical director at Berkshire Theatre Group in Massachusetts. Last August the theater group opened "Godspell," which reportedly was the first professional musical approved by the Actor's Equity Association and staged in the United States since Broadway shut down.

**CAITY BREWER '16** fulfilled a major supporting role in the comedy-drama film "Uncle Frank," as she played the niece of Paul Bettany, the main star.

**COLIN JAMES CUTLER '16 MA** is a singer and songwriter who spent much of 2020 performing shows both in the United States and Europe.

**DEON'TE GOODMAN '16** starred in the title role in the virtual theater production of "Bayard." It followed the story of civil rights activist Bayard Rustin and his role in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Martin Luther King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Deon'te appeared on the cover of UNCG Magazine in fall 2019.

**AMANDA M. WARRINER '16 MFA** is the theater production coordinator and props master at Berkshire Theatre Group in Massachusetts. Last August the theater group opened "Godspell."

**LESLIE LOCKLEAR '17 PHD** and Christina Pacheco released their new book "It's Lumbee Homecoming Y'all!," which featured illustrations provided by UNCG student Raven Dial-Stanley. Their work is the first in a Lumbee Children's Book Series. Leslie is the program coordinator for UNC Pembroke's First Americans Educational Leadership and First Americans Teacher Education programs, and she is also a member of the Lumbee, Waccamaw Siouan, and Coharie tribes.

**CHERYL LYNN REEVES '17 MED, '19 MSA** is the

new assistant principal at Davie County (N.C.) High School.

**PAULA JOHNSON SWINDLE '17 PHD** was interviewed recently for the "You Have Permission" podcast about her dissertation work and her ongoing research on the topic of religious abuse. She also has a new podcast, "Sacred Intersections."

**MURTIS GILLIAM WORTH '17 PHD** is now dean of nursing at Fayetteville Technical Community College. Previously, she was the interim associate dean of the School of Nursing at Fayetteville State University.

**WALIDAH KARIM-RHOADES '18 DNP**, director of the Cone Health Center for Women's Healthcare, was awarded the Perinatal Nurse Champion grant from the Women's Health Branch of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The \$300K grant will provide two years of funding for a Perinatal Nurse Champion Program. 📍

**WESLEY CHARLES MCCLEARY-SMALL '18** joined with a group of friends – calling themselves "the group [bc]" – to find ways to sing during COVID-19. Their collaboration got the attention of Northern Alabama's NPR station and others as they shared their music.

**MALLORY ALLISON RENEGAR '18** joined the Iredell County (N.C.) Partnership for Young Children (ICPYC). She signed on as the childcare resource and referral specialist for Alexander, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Iredell, McDowell, Mitchell, Watauga, and Yancey counties.

**JOSHUA TRIPLETT '18**, CEO of VIP Capital Funding, worked with a team of consultants to assist small businesses who were facing financial struggles in the midst of the pandemic. The team aided business owners with marketing strategies and helped several firms in obtaining business funding through Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

**ASHLIE ELIZABETH BREWER '19** is attending NCSU and UNC Chapel Hill for a dual master's degree in public history and information and library science.

**CANDICE MARIE CORCORAN '19**, a second-grade teacher at Central Elementary, was named as the Rockingham County (N.C.) Schools Beginning Teacher of Excellence.

**BRIAN WILLIAM JENKINSON '19** works in the emergency department at CHI Memorial Hospital Georgia, and his dedication to his work earned him a Caring Spirit Award from CHI Memorial Foundation.

**KEVIN JOSHUA ROWSEY '19 MA** is a music artist who joined Come Hear N.C. – a

project of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Arts Council – and its mission to celebrate North Carolinian music, with "Mic Check: Culture, Power, and the Politics of N.C. Hip-Hop." The multimedia initiative explored a new wave of North Carolina protest music through hip-hop artists on the frontlines. Kevin has been featured on NPR, PBS Kids, and BET and holds the title of a United States Hip-Hop Ambassador through the U.S. Department of State and the Next Level Hip-Hop Program.

**JOHN SANCHEZ '19 MBA** started as a full-time lecturer at the Bryan School of Business and Economics last fall. In the Department of Management, he teaches organizational behavior, international business, and business policy & strategy.

**TRACY LIANNE VIATOR '19 MM** is an artist who entered the Counseling Psychology PhD program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. As she earns her doctoral degree, she will be maintaining her relationships with musicians by researching performance psychology and the health and wellness issues of performing artists.

**CLARICE LEE WEISEMAN '19 MM** was appointed the adjunct professor of voice at Averett University.

**JUSTIN WILLIAMS-BLACKWELL '19 MPA** was named in the Triad Business Journal's inaugural 20 in their 20s awards – a new awards program that recognizes those in the region who've made significant contributions to their communities and/or workplaces before they turn 30. Justin is currently the community impact manager for health and basic needs at the United Way of Greater Greensboro, and he already has nearly a decade of experience working in the Greensboro nonprofit community. In 2017, he was named a National Rising Star by the American Society of Public Administration.

## 2020s


**CHRIS ANDREUCCI '20** was featured in the Scottish Sun as an up-and-coming country singer to watch; he was noted as "unique" in this genre because of his Scottish roots. After his time spent at UNCG, Chris went on tour across the United States, playing in 16 different states. He eventually signed a publishing deal with Century Music Group.



**JONATHAN BRIGHTWELL '20** was invited to compete in the 2020 Arnold Palmer Cup.


**ANDREW BROOKS '20 MM** continued his graduate studies in UNCG's music education doctoral program last fall as a graduate teaching assistant.

**BEN CANTRELL '20 DMA** has been appointed the visiting assistant professor of percussion at Morehead State University.


**ADRIENNE LYNETTE CROSBY '20** is now a nurse in the NICU at Wake Forest Baptist Health, and she compares giving back to the moms and babies in the NICU to giving back to those that fought before her in the military. Adrienne made history in 2002 as a member of the first class of African American women to graduate from The Citadel, and she went on to serve 13 years in the U.S. Army. 

**MATTHEW NICHOLAS HELLENBRAND '20** received a Fulbright Austria U.S. Teaching Assistantship (USTA) award to teach English to high school students in Austria during the 2020-21 academic year. Additionally, he was accepted to the game studies and engineering master's program at the University of Klagenfurt.

**OLIVIA NIKOLE JESSUP '20** is now a library program assistant at Mount Airy Public Library, planning programs for young adults.

**DONOVAN LIVINGSTON '20 PHD** was named among Black Business Ink's 40 Under 40 Most Influential African Americans In the Triad. 

**WRAKYIA KATRINA PLATT-GREGG '20 MSAT** joined with the MUSC Health Florence Medical Center to provide athletic training services at John W. Moore Middle School, in Florence, S.C. As the school's new athletic trainer, she assists with athletic assessments, injury prevention, rehabilitation, and management.

**OLIVER THOMAS '20 PHD** was named among Black Business Ink's 40 Under 40 Most Influential African Americans In the Triad. 

**MICHAEL YOUNGBLOOD '20** is now a manufacturing associate at Dyehard Fan Supply, an event and retail merchandise marketing and e-commerce company.

## ALUMNI MARRIAGES

**PRESTON GRANT ELLINGTON '20** married Amber Briana Parker on July 26, 2020.

## IN MEMORIAM

**HELEN CUMMINGS DAVIS '37**

**ESTHER BOYD RENFROE '37C**

**LEAH ROBINSON KARPEN '39X**

**WILHELMINA EFIRD CUNNINGHAM '40**

**LOUISE GODBEY FLEMING '41**

**TRENA LOCKHART HUNTER '41**

**MARY LEWIS SMITH '41**

**ETTA TRIPLETT IDOL '42X**

**ANNE RUTHERFORD LAMBERT '42**

**CATHERINE MERCHANT DICKENS '43C**

**SARAH ROUNTREE MEADERS '43X**

**SARAH BROWNLEE BRYANT '44X**

**ANNE MCDOWELL CHILES '44**

**FRANCES CHITTY HINNANT '44**

**ALICE ROSS AUSTIN '45**

**RUBY SWISHER BLACKWELDER '45**

**ANNABELLE AYDELETTE FLAVIN '45C**

**NANNIE CUSHWA MACFADYEN '45**

**HARRIET GUION MAY '45**

**COLINE THIES MCGEHEE '45**

**NANCY NICKELS '45**

**ELOISE YOUNG PLEMMONS '45**

**MARGARET WHEELER SHENGOLD '45**

**DOROTHY MANN WAGONER '45**

**MAZEL PARSONS ANDREWS '46**

**EDITH WARNER MYERS '46**

**IRENE VENDIG SMITH '46X**

**JANE JOYNER BURTON '47, '65 MFA**

**MARY LAMBERT COOPER '47**

**ELIZABETH HALL CRAVER '47C**

**JOCELYN HILL '47**

**NINA BRASWELL MOTZNO '47, '80 MED**

**RUTH GRAY WILLIAMS '47**

**BEVERLY BELL ARMFIELD '48**

**GENEVA STAFFORD BEBBER '48**

**HELEN DAVAUPT OGDEN '48**

**BETSY BARNES SIMPSON '48, '80 MA**

**JANE GAY WHITE '48**

**MARY LIB TROLLINGER BOYLES '49**

**RAMONA BOAZ CRANFORD '49C**

**ANN PARKER GARRISON '49**

**ANNE HOOPER MOORE '49**

**GEORGIA MILLER RYAN '49**

**BETTE COX SOUTHERLAND '49**

**ELIZABETH DIXON GODWIN '50C**

**LOIS BUCK LEVIN '50**

**EDITH LEIGH MANION '50X**

**LAURA BEATTY ROSSER '50**

**KATHERINE LAMBETH ZARKER '50**

**CONNIE LIVERMAN BATCHELOR '51**

**ORA SCOTT BRADY '51**

**EVELYN PROCTOR CRAWFORD '51**

**ANN MOORE '51, '66 MED**

**ELLEN JOANN WICKER DAVIS '52**

**MARGARET COFFEY GRADY '52**

**CHARLOTTE HANSEN '52, '69 MED**

**ROSEMARY SWEENEY HAYDEN '52**

**CAROL LOWERY STUART '52**

**JOYCE HOWE WAGNER '52**

**PHYLLIS EURE ANDERSON '53**

**BARBARA PARKER BRINKLEY '53**

**CLARA BRAUER DEYTON '53X**

**SUE MORRIS HOPPER '53**

**MARY C. MASON '53**

**ELIZABETH PUTNAM HAMRICK '54**

**JOAN RASH HARDIN '54**

**BETTY HAGAN HILBISH '54**

**JOAN RATCLIFFE MIALIK '54**

**CAROL MCALISTER MYERS '54**

**PEGGY SARNES '54**

**GLADYS WALLING '54**

**KAY BURGESS WHITE '54C**

**BARBARA WILKINSON CREECH '55**

**VIVIAN MILLER DULA '55**

**CARMEN BOLICK SASSER '55**

**JANET ENNIS THURMAN '55**

**PEGGY ORMSBY TROLLINGER '55**

**EDYTH SAMS WALLIN '55**

**BETTY BRADFORD '56**

**JOANN MEACHAM MCALLISTER '56**

**ANNE SHIELDS BROWN '57**

**MARTHA BROOKSHIRE BROWN '57**

**DORIS CREWS ENOCHS '57**

**BETTY JEAN HARRIS PARROTT '57**

**CAROLYN HENDRIX ROYAL '57X**

**MARY MERONEY WEST '57**

**GARRIE FREEMAN BLANTON '58**

**CAROLYN COTCHETT '58**

**BETTY JEAN FOUST '58 MED**

**ELOISE PHILLIPS JENKINS '58**

**ERSIE PELL MCINTYRE '58 MED**

**JANE JOHNSON YOUNG '58**

**BARBARA MAYFIELD HAGAMAN '59**

**GEORGINA JONES '59, '63 MS**

**ANN DICKSON LEE '59**

**FRANCES W. BLOSSER '60 MED**

**PAULA LENDERMAN BUMGARNER '60**

**BETTY GLASBY '60**

**SALLY HANEY '60**

**DORIS TEAGUE MOTTINGER '60, '88 MED**

**SUE MCCARTHEY RICHMOND '60**

**LOUISE WINSTEAD SHINN '60**

**HILDA ADAMS SIMMONS '60**

**GAYE BOREN THOMAS '60**

**MARY GASKIN FOREMAN '61**

**DOROTHEA JOHNSON JENSEN '61**

**LEA TILLER BORTELL '62**

**DOROTHY BURGESS HEINER '62X**

**JO ANN ASHBURN MARSH '62**

**LINDA PRICE BROWN '63**

**BETH CLINKSCALES MCALLISTER '63**

**SUSAN LANE GUTHRIE '64**

**GEORGANNA GOLD ARMSTRONG '65**

**JACQUELYN SWARAT MCDANIEL '65**

**MARY TURNER HARPER '66 MED**

**ANNA FERGUSON SPRYE '66 MED**

**LINDA HUNTER ROWE '67**

**JOAN LEWIS CARSWELL '70**

**STEVEN LEE HOWERTON '70**

**ANN LAMBERT '70 MS**

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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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MASTER'S CERTIFICATE**

## FORMER FACULTY/ STAFF

**MURRAY D. ARNDT** died on August 30, 2020. He taught for more than 30 years in UNCG's Department of English, and served as director of Warren Ashby Residential College. His courses were focused on writing, twentieth-century poetry, and the Bible as literature. One of his favorite classes was called "Grail Literature," which included many works not usually seen as religious, such as *The Old Man and the Sea* and films like *Bagdad Café*. Before earning his PhD from Duke in 1970, he was an ordained priest and served the priesthood for 12

years. He was also active in the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s. He is remembered as an inspiring, heartfelt teacher.

**DR. DENNIS ASKEW**, professor of tuba, euphonium, and music education and director of the School of Music, died Jan. 28. AsKew's service to UNCG was invaluable, and his administrative contributions were extensive. They included directing the School of Music's re-accreditation; chairing the Chancellor's Installation Committee and serving on the Graduate Studies Committee; establishing relationships with conservatories in China; overseeing COVID-19 preparations for the School of Music; planning for the School of Music Centennial in 2021-22; and serving on boards for the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra and Eastern Music Festival.

**ROCHELLE BROCK** joined UNCG in 2015 as chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations (ELC), a position she would hold until 2018 when she returned to the ELC faculty. Prior to joining UNCG, Rochelle served on the faculty of Indian University Northwest where she was the executive director of the Urban Teacher Education Program, as well as serving on the faculty of Purdue University. Rochelle was an internationally recognized scholar in Black feminist theory, urban education, and multicultural education. Rochelle's work impacted not only the fields of education and social justice, but also her students and colleagues. Her students were deeply impacted by her writings, teachings, and mentoring. She died Oct. 7, 2020.

**BEEIDIE J. CARLTON**, who died at age 100, was a native of Duplin County, N.C. before relocating to Greensboro. Before her retirement, she worked in housekeeping at UNCG.

**RICHARD COX** was professor of music at UNCG from 1960 until his retirement in 2002. Between 1970 and 2011, he wrote three books related to vocal and choral music, which continue to be used as references. Cox also founded and directed the Bel Canto Company (1982-1987) and for many years guided choral preparation for the Greensboro Opera Company. He received numerous awards over the years, most recently the ArtsGreensboro O. Henry Award (2014), and he was inducted into the North Carolina Music Educators Association Hall of Fame the following year. One former student wrote, "I am grateful every day to have had a mentor who

put the music first – it was never about him—just the music and the singers; who supported equal rights and lived in a way that promoted social justice; and who supported and encouraged all of his students." Cox died on Dec. 25.

**SUSAN H. CRAWLEY** died on October 22, 2020. She served in the UNCG Continuing Education Division until her retirement.

**SHAKINA DILLARD**, human resource and talent management officer in University Advancement, died on Dec. 31. Prior to her most recent position, Dillard served UNCG as a benefits specialist, and she also worked at North Carolina A&T State University for more than five years and Guilford Child Development for more than six years as an HR/benefits coordinator.

**MABEL H. FRAME** died at age 92 on September 15, 2020. She was a campus police officer for UNCG for 15 years.

**INSTRUCTOR EMERITA PATRICIA ANNE GRIFFIN '63, '69 MA** died on February 7. She earned her BA in mathematics in 1963 from what was then Woman's College, now UNCG. Subsequently, she was among the first group of master's students in mathematics, completing her degree in 1969. She then began teaching for UNCG and remained on the faculty until her retirement in 1997. Griffin served as faculty advisor for UNCG's Square Circle Club, a math club established in 1926.

**PAM HOWE**, educational technology consultant in the School of Health and Human Sciences, died on Jan. 30. She joined UNCG in 2000, and served our campus for more than 20 years. She worked closely with students and faculty in HHS, helping develop pedagogical strategies to promote information literacy and technological skills.

**JACK JARRETT** was a composer, conductor, professor, and software creator who taught in the UNCG School of Music in the 1970s, before becoming the head of the Composition Department at Berklee College of Music. He returned to UNCG to teach and direct several operas 2010-2013. Jarrett also was the CEO and creator of NOTION musical notation software, and his company was the major underwriter of UNCG's 2008 Charles A. Lynam Vocal Competition, sponsoring the winners' tour to China and funding the prize money for the winners.

**LINDA BROWN KEMPER** died on July 4, 2020. After graduating from East Carolina University, she embarked on



a successful career as a professional development officer at the March of Dimes, NCCJ, and the NC School of the Arts. Her last position before retirement was at UNCG, where she was the director of development for the UNCG Libraries and played an integral role in several initiatives, including the Schiffman Music Library and the Women's Veterans Project. No one who attended will ever forget her thoughtfully and beautifully-planned UNCG Friends of the Library dinners.

**THOMAS B. SCULLION, JR.** died on July 8, 2020. A professor of social work at UNCG, he was the founder of the UNCG Department of Social Work exchange program with the University of Strathelyde School of Social Work and Social Policy.

**DR. EDWAR SHOUKRI SHAMSHOUM '81 MS,** a former visiting assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, died March 11. Shamshoum earned his master's degree from UNCG, and then went on to study at Texas A&M with one of the most highly regarded inorganic chemists in the world. At UNCG, beginning in 2002, he regularly taught advanced inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry lab, and general chemistry lecture courses.

**GARON SMITH '92 '96 MED** died August 17. She was a teacher for many years in UNCG's Child Care Education Program (CCEP), as well as an instructor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. Stradley was a true Spartan, earning two degrees from UNCG – a BFA in design and an MED through the Birth through Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development Program. She began her work at CCEP in 1996, where she was known as a caring and skilled preschool teacher. When she joined the faculty of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in 2006, she served as the student teaching coordinator, guiding many UNCG students as they earned their teaching licensures.

**ROBERT R. STINSON** died on August 15, 2020. Teaching was his passion, and he served in the Romance Languages Department at UNCG for almost three decades, retiring as associate professor of Spanish. He was a member of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina, SAMLA, and MLA: Modern Language Association. He was co-author, with two of his colleagues, of "Descubrir y Crear", a textbook, student workbook and teacher's guide package that went

through three editions and was widely used in university Spanish classes.

**UNCG HALL OF FAME HEAD COACH JIM SWIGGETT '67 '68 MED** died on Jan. 7. Swiggett is commonly referred to as one of the pioneers of men's athletics at UNCG along with Frank Pleasants, succeeding Pleasants as the Men's Intercollegiate Division's Coordinator. Swiggett was UNCG's first men's basketball coach, leading the team from 1968-75. A master's graduate of UNCG, he also started the University's men's golf program, coaching the team from 1967 to 1979, and served one season as interim women's basketball coach (1979-80). Swiggett also served at UNCG as a physical education instructor.

**LARRY TAUBE,** an associate professor in the UNCG Department of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management, died in December. He joined the Bryan School in 1982 and was director of the School's Undergraduate Program. He helped to create UNCG's current general education program and more recently served on the committee for the new general education curriculum that will be implemented soon. He also served the UNC System in developing course articulations with community colleges. Larry was an officer and board member of the Wesley-Luther Foundation, which supports Campus Ministries and the Spartan Open Pantry.

**DR. CHARLES TISDALE** died March 17. He taught medieval literature in the Department of English for more than 30 years and also served as associate department head, co-founder and head of the Residential Learning College, dean of Academic Advising, and chair of the Faculty Senate. He received the Gladys S. Bullard Award for Service upon his retirement in 2005. He is remembered as a dedicated teacher who cared deeply about his students, many of whom remember the liveliness he brought to the study of Old English, including holding potluck medieval feasts to accompany final project presentations.

**ARTHUR R. TOLLEFSON,** dean of the School of Music from 1984 to 2001, died on July 24, 2020. An accomplished concert pianist, he performed as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber player throughout the USA and Europe for over a half century. During his tenure as dean, he presided over a period of rapid growth in enrollment and oversaw the planning and construction of the 130,000 square foot Music Building.

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