

SPRING 2022

UNCG

MAGAZINE

WHERE ARE
THEY NOW?
PG. 16

UNCG OPERA
PG. 28

LOOK BACK AT
CLASS DAY
PG. 34

READY TO ROCK THE WORLD

New paths await
a remarkable
Spartan class PG. 2

Scarlett Nuñez '22,
two majors,
many honors,
boundless
potential





34

CLASS SALUTE Commencement Week held lots of wonderful ceremony during the mid-twentieth century. This 1946 photograph shows the Sophomore Class of 1948 at UNCG Auditorium holding a daisy chain they had made in honor of their sister class, the Class of 1946. Enjoy many photos of Commencement Week pageantry and ceremony – with a special focus on Class Day – from this campus’ first eight decades.

contents

2 news front
University and alumni news and notes

12 out take
Graduating senior Saheim Jones exults as a bright future beckons.

14 studio
Broadway’s Hugh Hysell, UCLS preview, Geena Davis, Weatherspoon

16 Where are they now?
We’ve met many UNCG alumni, and learned their remarkable stories, over the years in these pages. Let’s catch up with some of them.

**28 Opera alumni:
A triumphant return**
Rhiannon Giddens and Sidney Outlaw led the group of star alumni who performed the Tanger Center’s first opera.

34 Class acts
Looking back at the traditions of Class Day, sister classes, and daisy chains.

40 legacies
The Ponder family – including the Hookses – has a generations-long heritage of strong ties to UNCG’s School of Education.

42 grad tidings
Lots of class notes and pictures, too

Cover photography: Scarlett Nuñez ’22, future JP Morgan analyst
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 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

As the academic year comes to a close, I think of all the Commencement ceremonies this campus has seen and the tremendous impact our graduates have made.

Since our doors opened to students in 1892, unlocking potential in people not

traditionally served by higher education has been encoded into our DNA.

Here at UNC Greensboro, we believe excellence in education changes lives. It's why we have been recognized by U.S. News & World Report for providing paths to prosperity for more first-generation and lower-income students than any other public university in the state. And, because 85 percent of our graduates remain in North Carolina to live, work, or attend graduate school, their impact will be felt across the state for generations.

The academic and social counseling and financial assistance that help these students stay on track to earn their degrees are not inexpensive. It is here the generosity of our alumni and donors makes the biggest impact. That investment in named professorships, scholarships, and student success programs will truly "light the way" for our students, helping them earn their degree and make their mark on the world.



FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.
CHANCELLOR

newsfront



'22, HERE'S TO YOU

The Class of 2022 is ready for their next chapter.

"We are a force to be reckoned with," says Nicole Rowe '22. "That's something we've shown over the course of the pandemic. And I think that's a trait that is going to be very beneficial in life because you never know what's going to be thrown at you."

A half-dozen seniors gathered to take some portraits and give us their thoughts. Most received scholarships while students, we discovered.

"UNCG has rocked my world in such an amazing way."

—SAHEIM JONES '22

They are heading now in different directions. Willy Piña '22 will prepare for med school; he's a biology major with a chemistry minor. Mariah Taylor-Judd '22, a CARS major with an entrepreneurship minor, plans to accept an offer from The Gap Inc. in San Francisco. Saheim Jones '22, another Bryan School student, has accepted a full-time role with the AT&T B2B Sales Development Program. Jeymy Enriquez '22, a sociology major with a concentration in criminology and minor in psychology, plans to be

a detective in law enforcement. Scarlett Nuñez '22 will head to Charlotte to be an analyst at JP Morgan. She graduates with two degrees: BS in finance (minor in accounting) and BA in economics. A communications major with two minors, Nicole hopes to be a movie or gaming producer.

Saheim ticks off his experiences here, including his current term as student government vice president. "UNCG has rocked my world in such an amazing way."

And he looks at the larger picture. His class has lived through the War on Terrorism, the Great Recession, great social movements for marginalized groups, and a worldwide pandemic, he notes. They've learned new technologies and so much more. "My generation is different. No matter what the boundaries are, no matter what circumstance, the Class of '22 has gracefully handled it."

With nearly 3,000 graduates like these marching in May, the future looks bright indeed.

STUDENTS WHO GAVE A SENIOR GIFT TO THE LIGHT THE WAY CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR CAN WEAR A NEWLY DESIGNATED CORD AT COMMENCEMENT.

From left to right, Willy Piña, Saheim Jones, Nicole Rowe, Jeymy Enriquez, Mariah Taylor-Judd, Scarlett Nuñez

PATHS TO PROSPERITY

UNCG graduates' impact is gaining more attention.

"Too few state leaders and influencers are aware of the vital role we play in providing paths to prosperity to more first-generation and lower-income students than any other public university in the state," said Chancellor Gilliam.

UNCG's new "Paths to Prosperity" messaging campaign is set to change that.

With op-eds and advertising in newspapers across the state as well as messaging on TV and radio, social media, and billboards, UNCG documents its role in "building the people that make North Carolina better for all."

"US News & World Report" ranks UNCG best in this state in "social mobility." The idea is to explain all that means for the graduates – and for the state's economic well-being.

"Our faculty and staff ensure our exemplary first-generation and lower-income students soar, which improves individual, family, and community social and economic outcomes," said Dr. Debbie Storrs, provost and executive vice chancellor.

Chancellor Gilliam speaks to the importance of UNCG to Greensboro, the Triad, and the state. This initiative puts an emphasis on that relationship, the chancellor noted. "UNCG and its alumni are drivers for the economic and societal well-being of North Carolina."

Alumni, faculty, and staff can help spread the word. **Subscribe to a newsletter and learn more at prosperity.uncg.edu.**

Creative force

A transformative gift to UNCG's *Light the Way* campaign by Jeanne Tannenbaum '64 has named the future arts and culture-driven facility for creative collaboration at the corner of Tate Street and Gate City Boulevard.

"As a proud UNCG alumna, I found my path toward graduate school and professional achievement here," Jeanne said. "The Center will encourage our students, faculty, and Greensboro community to collaborate in new ways of learning and engaging with one another. I am honored to have a legacy at the University that has meant so much to me."

As the gateway to UNCG's campus, the Jeanne Tannenbaum Center for Creative Practice will serve as the landmark anchor of the Tate Street Arts and Culture District as envisioned in UNCG's Millennial Campus Initiative. The Center is currently under design by EVOKE Studio Architecture of Durham, N.C., and is slated to open in 2025.

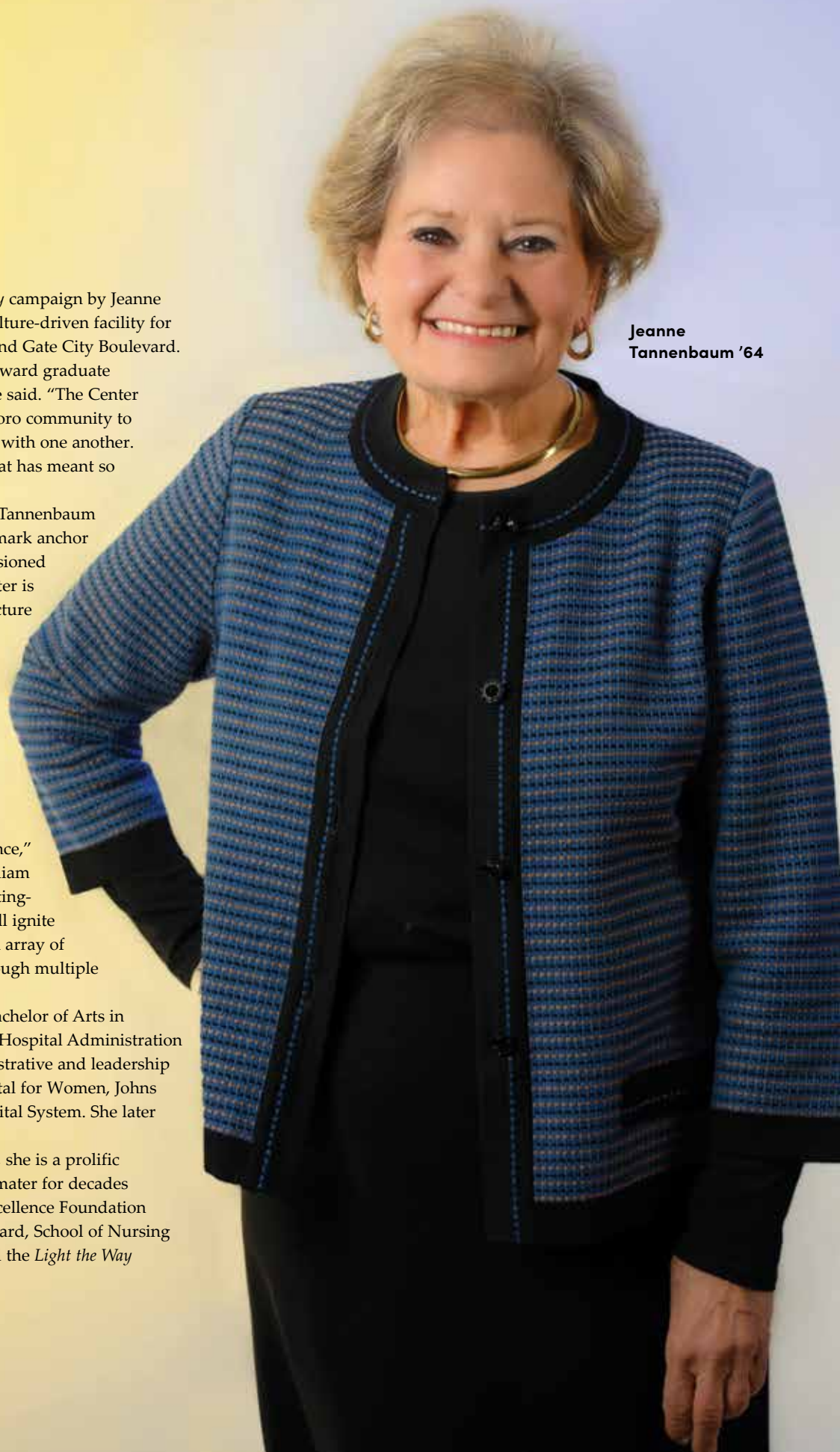
"Jeanne Tannenbaum's generosity will propel UNCG's impact in the community and across the nation."

— CHANCELLOR GILLIAM

"Jeanne's gift to create the Jeanne Tannenbaum Center for Creative Practice will elevate our national presence," Chancellor Gilliam said. "This cutting-edge center will ignite creativity in an array of forms and through multiple disciplines."

Jeanne graduated from UNCG in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts in economics. She went on to complete a Master's of Hospital Administration program at Duke University. She held key administrative and leadership roles in national hospitals including Boston Hospital for Women, Johns Hopkins Medical Center, and the Greenville Hospital System. She later did national consulting in the healthcare field.

Committed to the betterment of the community, she is a prolific volunteer and advocate. She has served her alma mater for decades in various capacities – including service on the Excellence Foundation Board, Weatherspoon Art Museum Foundation Board, School of Nursing Advisory Board, Friends of the Library Board, and the *Light the Way* Campaign Cabinet.



Jeanne Tannenbaum '64

LIGHT IT UP

Six months into the *Light the Way* campaign's public phase, the tallies are scorching. The campaign will propel us to a future brilliant with possibility by raising \$200 million to strengthen three key areas: Access, Excellence, and Impact. Here are where things stand as of March 31:

GOAL \$200M

RAISED TO DATE
\$130,263,439

AMOUNT REMAINING
\$69,736,561

ACCESS

\$54,301,642 /\$100M

EXCELLENCE

\$7,778,745 /\$40M

IMPACT

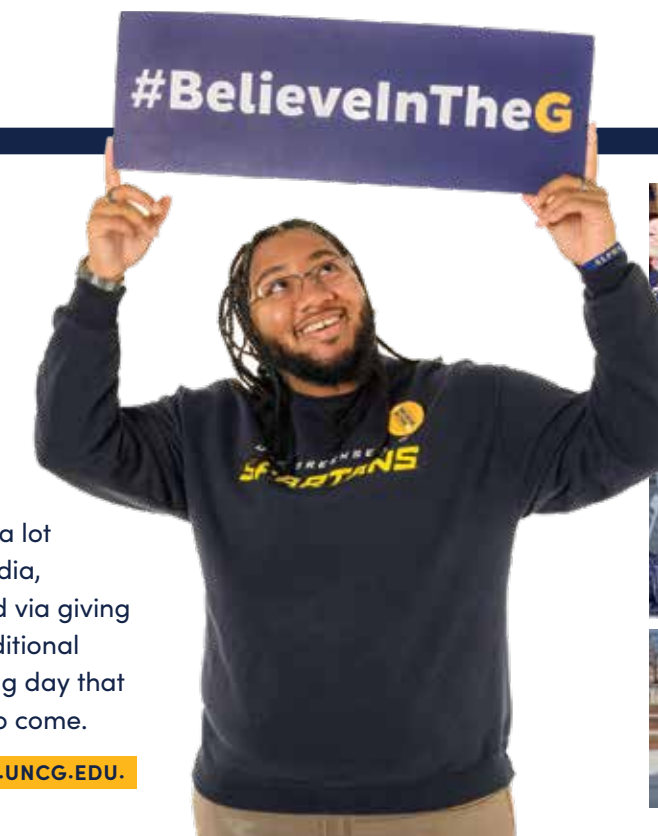
\$68,183,051 /\$60M



HIGHER MARK

Believe in the G was a smashing success – record smashing, that is. Never before had UNCG'S annual day of giving broken the \$1 million mark. With 1,802 donors, \$1,077,204 was raised. Plus, a lot of school spirit on social media, through campus events, and via giving challenges that spurred additional excitement made for a giving day that sets a high mark for years to come.

SEE MORE AT [BELIEVEINTHEG.UNCG.EDU](https://believeintheg.uncg.edu).



Rock steady

This academic year marked the 5th anniversary of the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness.

The 54-ft. climbing wall saw 47,342 climbing sessions in those first five years.

Participation at the climbing wall continues to grow, says Dr. Jill Beville, Director of Recreation and Wellness. "That's led to more participation in our trip program, Outdoor Adventures (OA)."

Caleb Mallory '22 knows the wall well. "I've been climbing on Kaplan's climbing wall for about four years now," he says. It led to climbing trips outdoors with OA.

"The climbing community is what it's truly all about. The space and people are so uplifting," the kinesiology major explained.

He climbs at gyms around the state "I also really enjoy going outdoors to Moore's Wall, Asheboro boulders, and Pilot (Mountain.)" With his growing experience, he's been a trip leader for some OA trips.

Chimeri Anazia '22, also a kinesiology major, was introduced to rock climbing in the Kaplan Center as a freshman. But she got hooked on it her junior year, taking her first climbing trip last fall.

Logan Briggs '22 has liked the social aspect of it, particularly at the Kaplan Center's bouldering wall. "You're trying problems and hanging out," he explains.

And there's the sense of accomplishment. He tells of a route at Pilot Mountain. "Once you get out of a horizontal chimney, the world opens up," he says. "You're above the trees. You can see far."

The center is named for the late Greensboro businessman and civic, community, and philanthropic leader Leonard J. Kaplan. In her late husband Leonard's honor, Tobee Kaplan created a permanent endowment to support health and wellness programs at UNCG. In conjunction with the opening of the facility in 2016, UNCG's Wellness Center and Campus Recreation Department merged to create the Department of Recreation & Wellness, now housed at the Kaplan Center.

Nathan Rector is the assistant director of Outdoor Recreation at the Kaplan Center. A Marine Corps veteran who particularly enjoys mountaineering in the Indian Himalayas, he is now a doctoral student in Geography, Environment, and Sustainability. "We develop a sense of community," he says. "Everyone is welcome. You find your place here."

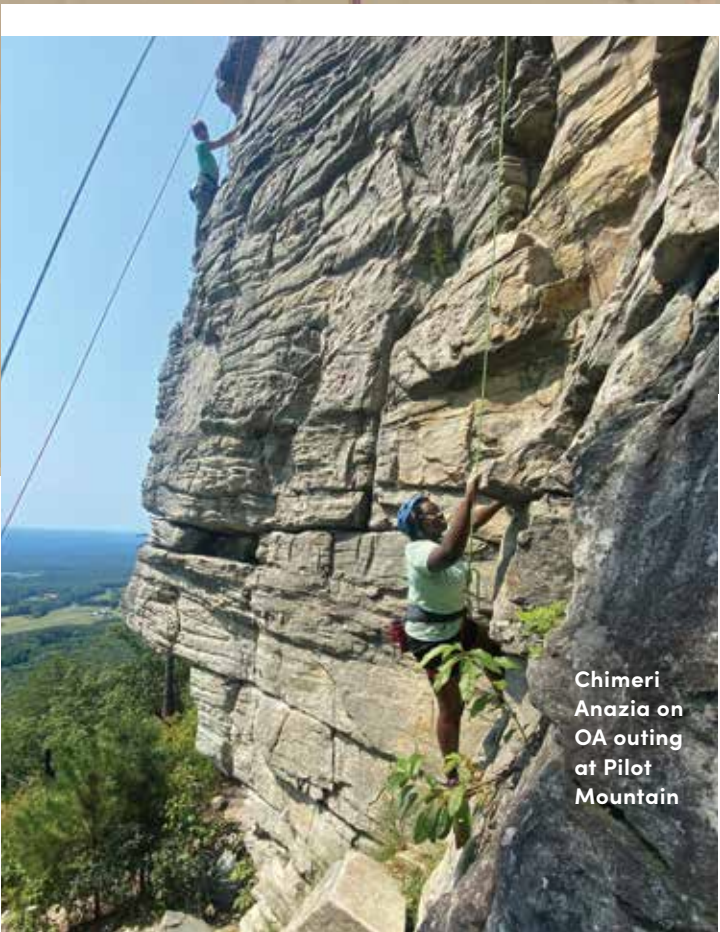
BY THE NUMBERS 1,489,876 – total participation of Kaplan Center for Wellness users in first five years. • 11,800 – average number of student users annually • 1,313 alumni and 1,346 faculty/staff memberships since opening • 216,000 sq. ft., sustainable LEED Gold facility • 23,000 sq. ft. Weight/Cardio space and 3-lane track • With 224 student employees, the largest student employer on campus



“The climbing community is what it's truly all about. The space and people are so uplifting.”

—CALEB MALLORY '22

Caleb Mallory '22,
Chimeri Anazia '22,
Logan Briggs '22, l-r.



Chimeri
Anazia on
OA outing
at Pilot
Mountain



NEW HEIGHTS

HOW HARD COULD A ONE-CREDIT kinesiology rock-climbing class be? "I thought it'd be super easy, but *wrong*."

The class propelled Chimeri Anazia '22 out of her comfort zone. "We pushed each other and cheered each other on." She then joined OA climbing trips, even more exhilarating.

The first time she was on the wall, she had thought, "This is kind of scary, but I like it!" And then she found herself going up a quartzite cliff near the top of Pilot Mountain.

She loved it. She capped off her senior year with one final OA trip to Pilot. She's headed to her doctoral program in physical therapy with some great adventures – and confidence – under her belt.

Literary legacy takes root

The trees are long gone. But the legacy continues to grow.

The seventeenth-century poet-priest George Herbert, a Shakespeare contemporary, today is considered a titan in English literature.

A little-known fact: the first modern biography of George Herbert came out of UNCG in 1977. The author was Dr. Amy Charles, who joined the Woman's College faculty in 1956. She also purchased, using her own money, almost every one of the earliest editions of Herbert's greatest work, "The Temple."

"By the time of her death in 1985, she had donated all of these to UNCG Special Collections," says Dr. Christopher Hodgkins, Class of 1952 Professor of English and co-founder of the international George Herbert Society. The collection was completed at the University through the work of Chancellor William Moran and Special Collections librarians Emmy Mills and William Finley.

"Thus our Herbert collection is one of the world's best, ranking with those at Harvard, the Folger, Shakespeare Library, and the Bodleian at Oxford," Hodgkins says. Due to his continuing work, including "The Digital Temple," UNCG is known among scholars across the world for Herbert studies.

About those trees? Charles secured some Medlar saplings from a tree Herbert had planted centuries before on his English estate. They were beautiful, they provided publicity, and they gave a tangible connection to Herbert – but apparently the Greensboro climate just wasn't ideal. None survived long.

But Amy Charles' passion and impact live on.



Dr. Amy Charles



George Herbert



Dr. Christopher Hodgkins

“Our Herbert collection is one of the world’s best, ranking with those at Harvard, the Folger, Shakespeare Library, and the Bodleian at Oxford.”

— DR. CHRISTOPHER HODGKINS, CLASS OF 1952 PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEORGE HERBERT SOCIETY



Brian Mackin, UNCG's new Athletic Director

LIFE CHANGING

BRIAN MACKIN joined UNCG as Athletic Director in January.

He came to UNCG from Conference USA, where he served as deputy commissioner. Mackin's career encompasses high-level corporate experience for PNC Bank and Vulcan Materials, among others, along with experience in collegiate and professional athletics. He spent 13 years with the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) Athletics, including the final eight years as athletic director. He is a UAB alumnus, a finance major.

"As a former student-athlete myself, I know the life lessons athletics can teach you – with the time demands, the discipline, and the commitment you need," he explains. "You're practicing, you're competing, you're in the classroom, you're studying."

When he was hiring in the corporate world, he took note of the student-athletes. "We knew that they were disciplined. We knew they went through the trials of winning and losing." It helped prepare them for careers – and for life.

ESSENTIAL AMERICAN HISTORY

A CENTURY AGO, a mob of armed, White citizens attacked the Greenwood district of Tulsa, Oklahoma, killing close to 300 African Americans and displacing more than 8,000 residents. There was no official investigation for 75 years.

Carole Boston Weatherford '93 MFA wrote a children's book about it. "Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre" brings attention to one of the largest acts of racial violence in our nation's history.

For Weatherford, bringing important historical events to the fore, for young people, is a life's work.

Weatherford earned her MFA here at UNC Greensboro. As she recalled in an email interview, she found herself to be the



Carole Boston Weatherford '93 MFA

only Black student in her program, at that time. In her master's thesis dedication, she thanked Tom Kirby-Smith, UNCG creative writing professor, for "helping her find the beat." And then she got to work. Her first book, published three years later, was the highly praised "Juneteenth Jamboree," with illustrator Yvonne Buchanan.

"Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre" in the past months has received the Coretta

Scott King Award. It was a Caldecott honor book and a runner-up for the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal. It was named a 2021 New York Times/New York Public Library Best Illustrated Children's Book. Longlisted for the National Book Awards, it was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize and was a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Nonfiction Honor Book.

In 2020, she received the McIver Lifetime Achievement Award from the UNCG Alumni Association. Her papers are now preserved in UNCG's Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives.

Her advice for younger writers at UNCG? "Listen to the music of your soul and don't be afraid to follow your own drumbeat."

PHOTO OF CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD BY GERALD YOUNG.

David and
Pam Sprinkle

Spotlight on impact

Pam and David Sprinkle's impact at UNCG can be seen in many ways across campus. Their contributions during the *Light the Way* campaign have included support of the Chancellor's Greatest Needs Fund, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Spartan Athletics, the School of Health and Human Sciences, the University Concert & Lecture Series, Faculty Summer Enhancement Fund, University Libraries, Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNCC Guarantee Scholarship program, and the Bryan School of Business and Economics. They have contributed over \$1 million to the campaign.

David Sprinkle served in the US Army and received a Bronze Star Medal for his service. Now retired, he was the president and CEO of The Todd Organization and a leading salesperson for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. He served on the UNCG Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2021, including service as board chair for two years. Both Pam and David have served together on UNCG's Board of Visitors and the UNCG Excellence Foundation Executive Committee. Pam, a former librarian, served on the Friends of the Libraries Board and was instrumental in securing the future of the series now known as the Pam & David Sprinkle Children's Book Author and Storyteller Series.

Due to their generosity, the University could renovate the 140-seat performing arts space in the Brown Building – a space now known as the Pam and David Sprinkle Theatre.

Jade Young knows the Sprinkle Theatre well. A senior majoring in theatre with a minor in American Sign Language, Jade is a UNCC Guarantee scholar. The program, which the Sprinkles support, provides scholarships and mentoring to students from North Carolina with significant financial need.

Jade said, "I wouldn't be in the arts program without the Sprinkles. I'm not sure I'd even be able to afford to go to university. They have lightened my financial burden and, with the UNCG Guarantee, they've given me a family."

“We have been very blessed and are committed to being generous with our blessings.” – DAVID SPRINKLE

BEN FOLDS' TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR IN BROWN BUILDING When musician Ben Folds returned to UNCG in December to receive an honorary doctorate, he recalled enrolling in 1985 and spending much of his time in Brown Building. Robert Darnell, a towering figure in the School of Music, became his mentor. Darnell's music studio overlooked Tate Street. "The year of studying with Robert Darnell was formative, empowering, and inspiring," Ben said. He has since become a multi-platinum recording artist, performing internationally with symphony orchestras and serving as artistic advisor to the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. But those conversations with that one influential professor – about life, music, and much more – shaped the course of his life afterward.

**100
YEARS
AT
UNCG
THEATRE**



Top, "Antigone," 1922; middle, "The Suspect," 1963; bottom, "Pippin," 2019

IN 1921, theatrical arts on this campus leapt forward with the hiring of William Raymond Taylor. Within a year, "Teach" Taylor created new classes in playwriting and theatre production and established The Dramatic Association of the North Carolina College for Women – eventually known as The Play-Likers.

This year, the School of Theatre celebrates this milestone. A kickoff event earlier in April, with tours of Sprinkle Theatre and Taylor Theatre, marked the launch.

Centennial events are planned for Homecoming 2022 on Oct. 14.

WANT TO BE A PART? SEE UPDATES AT VPA.UNCG.EDU/THEATRE/CENTENNIAL.

ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY: MARTHA BLAKENEY-HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES. "PIPPIN" PHOTO BY BERT VANDERVEEN.

Backstage
at Taylor
Theatre

TAYLOR FOR A NEW ERA

THE CENTENNIAL is not the only big news at UNCG Theatre.

Taylor Theatre, which opened in 1967 and was named for William Raymond Taylor, has never had a significant renovation. Now it will.

When it was built, of course, there was no internet; no wireless, or cell phones and laptops. Americans with Disability Act standards also were decades away.

Over the next 18–24 months and with funding as part of the state budget, Taylor will receive infrastructure modernization in many ways:

- Accessibility enhancements
- New plumbing
- Renovation of restrooms (including more stalls)

- Fire curtain
 - New HVAC (heating/air conditioning)
- If budget allows, an enhancement to the lobby and new seating will be part of the project.

"This only brushes the surface of the theater's needs – for the needs of our outstanding School of Theatre and the talented students," said Natalie Sowell, director of the school. "It's important we bring our spaces up to industry standards for 21st-century theatre practices, particularly for our graduate students immediately going out into the field."

LEARN ABOUT THE FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE TO COMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT, AT VPA.UNCG.EDU/THEATRE.

Outtake

I DID IT Representing the first generation in his family to graduate from college, Raeford-native Saheim Jones '22 was invited by our staff to take a few graduation photos on College Avenue. The semester was winding down, spring was in the air, and he was elated over his future. He knows he's well-prepared. Studying business administration in UNCG's Bryan School, he became involved in several ways, including helping to lead the university's student government association as vice president. He gives some advice to prospective Spartans. "If you're thinking of coming to UNCG, do it," he says. "There's no place like UNCG."

PHOTOGRAPH BY
MARTIN W. KANE

"Find ecstasy in life;
the mere sense of
living is joy enough."
— Emily Dickinson





AHEAD OF HER TIME

IT'S A BIG EXHIBITION straight from the Big Apple.

"Lorraine O'Grady: Both/And," on loan from the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York, is the first comprehensive overview of the work of Lorraine O'Grady, one of the most significant figures in contemporary performance, conceptual, and feminist art.

O'Grady is widely known for her radical persona Mlle Bourgeoise Noire. The artist's complex practice encompasses video, photomontage, concrete poetry, cultural criticism, and public art. She has consistently been ahead of her time, anticipating contemporary art world conversations about racism, sexism, institutional inequities, and cultural oversights by decades. Her presence has inspired younger generations of artists.

Throughout her work, she has called attention to the deeply segregated nature of the art world while also continually imagining her own history, body, and relationships, within a cultural

landscape that often makes it difficult for Black women to speak for themselves.

Parallel threads of outward critique and inward reflection are some of the many binaries that O'Grady's work addresses. By putting seemingly contradictory ideas together, she questions the power attached to such oppositions as Black and White, museum and individual, self and other, West and non-West, and past and present. The exhibition's subtitle, "Both/And," emphasizes the artist's ambitious goal of dismantling either/or thinking in favor of broader possibilities.

Leadership support for this exhibition is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation. Its presentation at the Weatherspoon Art Museum is supported by Bank of America, Beatrice Schall, Sydney Gingrow, Carol Cole Levin, Tim Warmath, and Edward Comber.

The exhibition is on view through April 30.



BROADWAY COVID SAFETY

As Broadway audiences have cautiously returned to theaters after the Omicron variant wave, safety is top priority for Hugh Hysell '88.

The actor and Tony Award winning producer now leads The Broadway COVID Safety Team.

In addition to checking proof of vaccination and photo ID of every ticket holder, the safety team also provides manpower backstage, providing support for the cast, crew, ushers, concessions vendors, and anyone who comes into the theater. His workforce totals over 300.

"Broadway is our number one tourist attraction," he noted. "For New York City to be alive, Broadway has to be alive."

COURTESY PHOTO OF HUGH HYSSELL; COURTESY PHOTO OF WINSTON DUKE; PHOTO OF JOSHUA BELL BY CHRIS LEE; PHOTO OF SHAUN LEONARDO BY MARK WETHILL

UCLS presents ...

UNCG's Concert and Lecture Series, the longest-running series of its kind in North Carolina, will mark its 110th season in the coming year with some great shows.

- **Winston Duke**, a star of the blockbuster Marvel Comics movie "Black Panther" (August 26, 2022)
 - **Joshua Bell**, one of the most celebrated violinists of our time, performing in recital (October 3, 2022)
 - **Urban Bush Women**, a dance company whose works weave contemporary dance, music, and text with history, culture, and spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora (October 14, 2022)
 - **The Indigo Girls**, a folk-rock duo know as a voice of their generation performing with the Greensboro Symphony (January 13, 2023)
 - **Seraph Brass**, a dynamic ensemble drawing from a roster of America's top female brass players (March 24, 2023)
- The season also includes **Shaun Leonardo**, whose multidisciplinary art negotiates societal expectations of manhood, namely definitions surrounding Black and Brown masculinities. Co-sponsored by the Falk Visiting Artist Program, it's free to attend with registration.

SEASON TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT [UCLS.UNCG.EDU](https://ucls.uncg.edu).



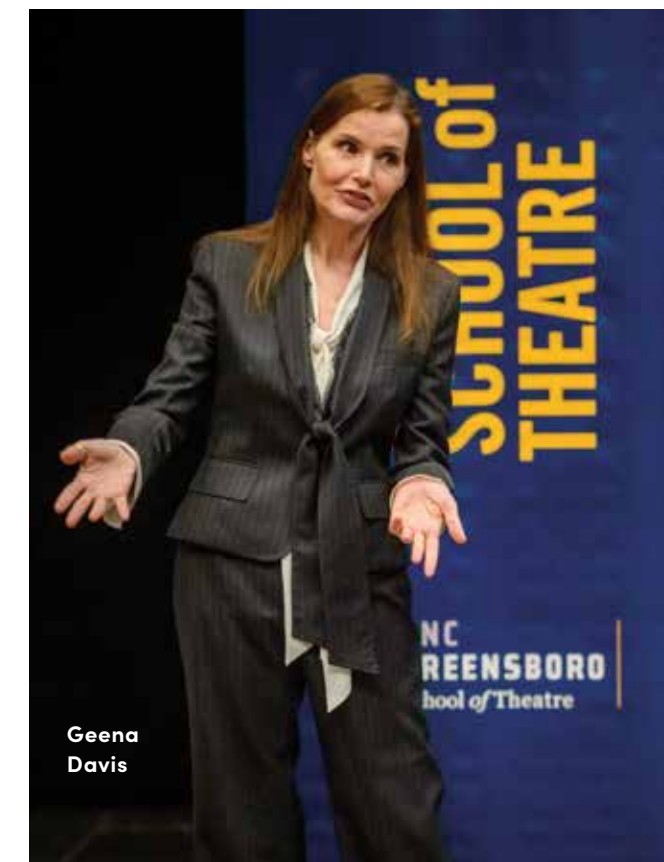
Winston Duke



Joshua Bell



Shaun Leonardo



Geena Davis

A LESSON OF THEIR OWN

When Geena Davis offers you a masterclass on acting for the camera, you grab your notepad and get the best seat you can.

Acting major Katherine Gerondelis loved Davis' funny stories and the practical tips. "I learned that using your emotions before a shoot is okay – and to make sure to somewhat put yourself in a similar situation before your shoot," she said.

Another tip? "Continuity (in each take) is incredibly important in film."

Acting major Emily Ann Wright said, "One of my big takeaways was how your character's subtext doesn't change. Because the nature of film acting doesn't allow for a lot of rehearsal time, you have to be ready for your scene partner to give you something unexpected. So, you prepare and plan in advance, and then you have the foundation to add layers on top based on what your scene partner gives you."

Geena Davis drew a large audience for her UCLS performance. But this lesson exclusively for students was unforgettable.



WE'VE MET MANY UNCG ALUMNI and learned their stories, over the years, through the pages of this magazine. Let's check in with them. Where to begin? Let's go back to the start of the last UNCG campaign. A team of writers reached out – through calls, through Zoom, coffee shop chats, hugs-and-smile-filled and sometimes tear-filled visits – to nearly 50 alumni featured in these pages since 2004. Make yourself comfortable, sit back, and let's all catch up.

KEVIN GRAVES '04 For more than a century, one idea has been at the heart of this University's mission: Service. When we last featured Kevin Graves, we focused on his service work – particularly coaching and mentoring young men through AAU basketball. His service began in 1991 at UNCG when he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi. In the middle of his undergraduate studies, he made the decision to go into the US Air Force. He returned in 2003 to complete his bachelor's degree in exercise science and sports studies, and to start his master's work in community youth sports development.

He believes basketball is not only a way to enhance young people's lives, but a key component to UNCG's future success. His recently announced gift shows that conviction. Kevin has pledged \$275,000 to the UNCG Men's Basketball Enrichment Fund. His donation represents the largest commitment UNCG Athletics has ever received from a minority donor. Now he also runs SWG Consulting LLC, which manages professional athletes – primarily NBA players. Having assisted in establishing four scholarships at UNCG, he recently joined in the *Light The Way* campaign efforts as a member of the Athletics Campaign Committee. "I want to inspire people to give."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BY ALEX ABRAMS, BRITTANY CAMERON, VIVIAN CAMPBELL '20, VICTORIA COX, COLIN CUTLER '16 MA, MIKE HARRIS '93 MA, RACHEL KELLY '07, '09 MPA, AND LOLLIE WHITE '80 MA, '87 PHD • NEW PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE, UNLESS NOTED



SUCH A DIVA

BETH LEAVEL '80 MA owns some of Broadway's biggest awards, as this magazine has reported.

In May, she'll receive an honorary degree from our University. And she will address the graduates as the commencement speaker.

"They're getting a storyteller – who was one of the stories. I hope I can share something, impart something – I hope I can be entertaining. And I hope they leave with more joy in their hearts."

Beth Leavel was our cover feature in 2007, as she starred in "The Drowsy Chaperone" on Broadway. The role was written especially for her. She welcomed our magazine creative team backstage, as she prepared for her performance – one that would earn her a Tony Award and Drama Desk Award.

Since that 2007 cover story, she has received Tony Award and Drama Desk Award nominations for her work in "The Prom" and "Baby, It's You." She has been in 13 shows on Broadway. She's known as a diva, one with true kindness.

She has visited campus several times in the past decade to give masterclasses and speak with students.

She just finished filming for a holiday Hallmark movie. And the biggest news: She's preparing for the lead role in "The Devil Wears Prada" in Chicago this summer, in anticipation of a Broadway run.

The most important thing she learned as an MFA student at UNCG? "That I was in the right place, and doing what I should be doing. And to have that affirmed and confirmed, in the two years I was there, gave me the confidence to leap and take the next step. That was huge, because if I did go someplace else and been hidden or not encouraged or lost in a million students, I probably wouldn't be going into my 14th (Broadway) show."



AMBER GAGLIANO '17
You may know Amber as the student nursing intern on the cover of the Spring 2017 issue, the one celebrating UNCG Nursing's

50th anniversary. After graduation she worked as a traveling emergency/trauma nurse, which brought her to LA. Since 2020 she has shifted to a company that provides at-home doctor visits and IV therapy. "It's been a pretty cool experience because we work closely with celebrities, red carpet events, and music festivals," she says.



ADAM KAMPOURIS '13, seen in the spring 2013 issue as a theatre major who admired Charlie Chaplin, took a cross-country road trip after Commencement

with a friend, with a final destination of New York City. With a day job as a barista or server, he lived the New York actor's life: auditions, creative plays in black-box and off-off-Broadway venues, more auditions, side hustles in the arts, and more auditions. Shakespeare roles (Feste the jester and Hamlet) were his favorite. He got his Actors' Equity card. When the pandemic hit in 2020, he left the "concrete jungle" and ultimately took his current position with NY and Chicago-based Source Adventures, as he works remotely from his home near Asheville, N.C.

And he'll soon write a one-man play, based on his late uncle's time as a Peace Corp volunteer in Nepal. It'll keep his "acting chops" and creative spirit in great form, he tells us.

STEVEN LLOYD '85 MFA has built the Haywood Arts Regional Theater in Waynesville into a tremendous center for

live theater in the N.C. mountains. They have three performance spaces, now. It's Steven who advised Adam Kampouris to study acting at UNCG. This year, Steven will retire, leaving quite a legacy.



DOT KEARNS '53, '74 MED
graduated from Woman's College and from UNCG. The first woman to serve as chair of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, she helped

ensure a successful merger of the three school systems in Guilford County. She advocated for a statewide Smart Start program. At UNCG, she helped see the Class of 1953-led project for a Minerva statue to its conclusion. When the statue arrived, she was surprised it was verdigris green, not your typical bronze. She liked it, and is thrilled the campus has embraced it so heartily. Currently, she is vice-chair of Public Schools First North Carolina, and she is very involved in the Guilford County Roundtable for the NC League of Women Voters.



GERALD AUSTIN '77 EDD, an NFL official from 1982 to 2007, worked three Super Bowls – leading the officiating crew in two of them. Education has always been his passion.

Working for Greensboro City Schools, he was the initial principal for the Weaver Academy. His educational skills also led to his 20-year stint as Coordinator of Football Officials for Conference USA. He hired the conference's first female football ref, who recently became the first female to officiate a Super Bowl. Since his last appearance in this magazine, he educated millions of fans as an on-air rules analyst from 2012 to 2018 on "Monday Night Football."



STAR TEACHER

LESLIE ROSS '97, '08 MED, when interviewed for a 2016 UNCG Magazine cover story, said, "Teaching is a work of the heart." An educator and activist, she'd recently returned from a US Department of Education panel on high-need schools and a White House lunch with then-President Obama.

She'd won national recognition, as she'd been selected from more than 400 teachers in 39 states to receive the first annual Fishman Prize, an award given by The New Teacher Project to four educators working in high-need schools. She was making her mark supporting these students – essential work, as she knew very well as a first-generation college graduate from a high-need background herself.

Since then, she has continued as Educator Preparation Program Specialist for Guilford County Schools, playing an important role in the transition to and from virtual course delivery during the COVID pandemic. Also, she is in the early stages of developing an educational consulting and professional development company that

will allow her to serve smaller school districts around North Carolina. Her goal is to help teachers build skills that will allow them to better support their students. When she someday retires from her current position, she plans to focus all her energy on the company, allowing her to continue supporting teachers and students statewide in a different way.

One thing that did not make the earlier article: Leslie and her husband are foster parents. Together they have fostered ten children over thirteen years. "We are extremely proud of their accomplishments."





FIRST IN THE STATE

NANCY JAMES ADAMS '60, '77 MS has worked longer as a genetic counselor than anyone in this state. That's because this UNCG alumna was the very first.

And while she is officially retired, she still does some remote consultations.

After Nancy retired from Labcorp as an associate vice president, she agreed to take a few cases in Moses Cone Hospital's oncology department. Her patient load grew quickly – so long to “retirement.” That's when we'd last interviewed her, and heard her story.



In 1977, she had begun her genetic counseling career in the Division of Genetics and Metabolism at NC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. She then went to the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division where she helped establish the second

maternal serum screening program in the nation. Later, she became the first genetic counselor to work with a commercial lab and developed Labcorp's genetic services department.

She praises Dr. Bruce Eberhart, the Department Head of Biology at UNCG as she got her master's, and Dr. Laura Anderton for assisting her in developing a program to help her reach her goal of becoming a certified genetic counselor – in fact, the first in N.C.

At the time, it was a new field. After all these years, she is still passionate about this realm of medicine.



LINDSAY THOMAS '16 AND NICOLE THOMAS '16, '18 MS Twin sisters, Lindsay and Nicole were star softball players at UNCG. Lindsay was catcher, and Nicole was pitcher. They've remained in the world of softball since! Both have played professionally in a variety of countries, and both have coached. Lindsay has coached the teams at Virginia Tech and Western Carolina University, while Nicole helped run an EU-funded softball camp in Croatia. When the COVID pandemic hit, the two reunited to create a business that had been their dream – Training Untamed, which develops athletes' mental skills to improve their resilience and confidence and bridge the performance gap. Their business program has been run with national teams, college programs, and teams worldwide. They estimate 400 athletes have been helped so far.

LUCY MASON '16 was featured in the spring 2016 issue for her then-record basketball points total and for her research on African-American figures on campus. Since then she has pursued sports further, and taken up leadership and guidance positions with a master's in sports business. After work at the University of Central Florida in Academic Support Services, she is now an academic coach working with the football and softball teams at NC Central University. She also serves as the Coordinator for Student-Athlete Leadership and Development overseeing life skills programming and community engagement, and is advisor to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

JULIE DEVORE '10 Since working on “School of Rock” (when the magazine last featured her), Julie has continued her Broadway career. She has worked closely with pop-star David Byrne on the “American Utopia”

show – and his unique “Unchained” show when many cast members were out during the height of the winter COVID surge. (Percussionist Evan Frierson '13 performed during “Unchained.”) She has worked as production stage manager on “virtual” musicals during the pandemic as well.



CATHERINE JOHNSON MS/EDS '09 Leading through the COVID crisis presented challenges around every corner. “I kept saying I've never been faced with this before,” says Guilford County Family Justice Center Director Catherine Johnson.

While much of the world closed down, the Family Justice Center was negotiating how to keep helpers safe so they could keep survivors safe. “Violence and abuse breeds in isolation,” Catherine notes, so there was no option but to be there – in person. She and her team leaned into the complexities of providing, in the midst of a pandemic, their “one-stop-shop” for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse. During the 2020 shutdown, her team assisted 10,000 survivors.



ALEX ALBRIGHT '75 MFA will be a featured speaker at the 2022 Greensboro Bound in May. The Summer 2006 magazine featured him and his Fountain General Store, which he and his wife, Elizabeth, own and operate in a small town between Wilson and Greenville, N.C. It books great Americana and blues bands – and the RA Fountain imprint publishes great books. The fifth was by Emily Herring Wilson '61; the sixth will soon be released. He was editor of the North

Carolina Literary Review in the 1990s; that publication in 2015 created the Alex Albright Prize in Creative Nonfiction writing. He retired from ECU in 2018 and last year received the John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities for “statewide impact and dedication to creative writing, teaching, and humanities advocacy through his life's work.”

RICHARD VESTAL '10 MS, '15 PHD, while a UNCG doctoral student at JSNN, focused on identifying ways to target cancer cells, with the goal of reducing the pain and suffering associated with chemotherapy and radiation treatments by improving the deliverability of cancer therapies. As he explained in a UNCG Magazine story, his father died as a result of



MINERVA'S MAKER

JIM BARNHILL '82 MFA The artist who created UNCG's Minerva statue, a gift of the Class of 1953, is Jim Barnhill, who first sculpted live models here as a master's student at UNCG.

He's been in the magazine a few times in the past decades, with a large feature in 2018. He created the General Greene statue in downtown Greensboro and the iconic statue of the Greensboro Four at NC A&T, where he has taught art since 1996. His Minerva statue is iconic as well – with outstretched arms and cast verdigris, giving the metal a greenish tint, as if it came from the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea.



Last summer, Jim had a major stroke. “Rehab is going swimmingly,” he said in a recent video call interview. After nine months of rehab, “A walker and cane is what I use the most” to do work and get

around, he said. To strengthen his speech, he participates in an aphasia group led by Dr. Jessica Obermeyer and Sena Crutchley, faculty in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at UNCG.

As he continues to rehab, painting will be his focus, he said. The effects of the stroke have influenced how he approaches it. “Drawing with my left hand is what I will do,” he said.

His outstanding work continues. “Onward and upward.”

Glioblastoma – and at JSNN, he was able to conduct research to help those diagnosed in the future. His research in this area was published in “Current Trends in Medicinal Chemistry” and cell line studies in “Science Advances Today.”

More recently, he has designed a vaccine for the Zika virus. He received a provisional patent for the research and has focused on developing a rapid detection kit for the Zika virus as a chief science officer for a company in Texas.



CARING & COMPASSION ▲

SINA MCGIMPSEY REID '65 was featured in a lengthy 2010 UNCG Magazine piece about the Tate Street boycott.

Led and carried out by Woman’s College (UNCG) students – and with the official support of the student government – students demanded the racial desegregation of three businesses located near the business section on Tate Street called “the corner.” A few dozen students picketed – and they were successful. By the end of 1963, all Tate Street businesses were integrated.



The Tate Street boycott had a number of student leaders. One was Sina, who went on to a career in business and counseling after graduation. She received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1989, and she served on the UNCG Board of Trustees 1991-96, and also on the Excellence Foundation and Centennial Planning Board. In the late 1990s, she became the head of Personal Counseling at the Community College of Baltimore County, and her program was adopted by Loyola University where she helped supervise doctoral students in counseling.

She recalled the picketing – which was nearly 60 years ago – in a recent interview. She and her husband of over 50 years, Harold, live in a retirement community in Fort Mill, South Carolina. They volunteer for three different churches, mostly delivering meals to housebound people, while keeping their long time membership at their church in Baltimore. She is still passionate about justice and human rights – and caring for people.

“It’s still about love and relationships, but now I’m flying under the radar,” she said, adding that it’s all about “compassion and empathetic understanding for the ‘other,’ for those who look like me and those who don’t look like me.”



GRACE CINDRIC '16 She’s never been a fan of the spotlight, but she admitted it was fun to laugh at the memes that were made from the viral photograph of her working as a

nurse early in the COVID pandemic. She’s now working as a travel nurse in hospital emergency departments around the country. She completed an assignment in California and started a new one in Denver. The constant traveling works great for Grace, whose favorite activities include rock climbing and mountain biking. Her plans are to work as a travel nurse for a few more years before picking a more stable position, she says.

ANNE PRINCE CUDDY '64 helped make history as student government president. In a pivotal move, the SGA supported the 1963 student boycott of three Tate St. businesses that had been racially segregated till then. She went on to a long career at IBM. Now, she’s ready to downsize and move to a retirement community in Durham in the next few years. Until the pandemic, she met regularly with a dozen or so other 1964 graduates. “We’ll do that again,” says Anne with her typical optimism.



PETER SCHROTH '98 MFA The last time (2006) the magazine checked in with Peter, he and fellow Spartans Brian Crean '99 MFA and Andrew Dudek '94 had

created the Flying Anvil, a music club located in downtown Greensboro where The Forge is now. He also owned and ran The Green Bean coffee house (which booked great rising bands) on Elm Street from 2002 to 2008. Perhaps most notably, he has worked for the Avett Brothers since 2009; in recent years, he has been the

FULL CIRCLE

TYSHEA LEWIS '13, '16 MED For Tyshea, coming from a small town to the UNCG campus – or any campus – was intimidating. But in the UNCG Guarantee Scholars program, she found community and opportunity as a student. Now, she is assistant director of the same program, giving back to current UNCG students and helping them find that same community.



She credits the program with challenging her “to think about my passions, my goals, who I was as an individual, and who I wanted to be after my college experience.”

A selective scholarship program for high-achieving, low-income North Carolina students, it was launched in 2010 as the result of a \$6 million anonymous gift. The program provides financial aid alongside outstanding co-curricular experiences that enhance students’ academic, professional, and personal successes. Tyshea was the very first graduate of the program, which has served nearly 300 UNCG Guarantee scholars since its inception.

Tyshea began working part-time at UNCG Guarantee just after graduation. In graduate school the next year, she became a graduate assistant in the program, then interim director. She now leads it.

She sees that by undertaking leadership challenges, financial literacy training, intercultural training, professional development, and, of course, participating in the Guarantee community, UNCG Guarantee students have a 20% higher success rate in retention and graduation than the UNCG average.



popular band’s production manager, lighting designer, and stage designer.



LAURELYN DOSSETT '99 MS She was the cover feature in Summer 2008, as she wrote music for Triad Stage’s “Bloody Blackbeard,” played at Merlefest, and

led a session with Alice Gerrard at a UNCG Music folk songs seminar. In recent years, she has composed and presented “The Gathering,” a holiday-themed song cycle with orchestra, become more involved with the NC Folk Festival, and, as of May 2021, begun presenting music on her 40-acre spread near Hanging Rock. As a nod to Levon Helm, she calls each event there “Ramble on Big Creek.”



EMILY V. GORDON '01, '03 MS/EDS had received an Oscar nomination for “The Big Sick” when she was featured in Fall 2018. The screenplay was based on her own unconventional courtship with (now-husband) Kumail Nanjiani, her co-writer. The therapist-turned-screenwriter told about her UNCG experience: “I went into college expecting the world would tell me what to do, and it would be my job to rage against that. I left understanding my job was to control my destiny.” In 2020, the anthology TV series “Little America,” showing heartfelt and inspiring stories of US immigrants, was rolled out on Apple TV,

and the second season is filming now. She’s a writer, co-developer, and executive producer for that, as well as an executive producer for a new series based on the story of the Chippendales, for Hulu. And the 2020-21 pandemic/relationship podcast “Staying in with Emily and Kumail,” part self-help and part real-life comedy, entertained many through times of quarantine.

BREANNA GRAVES LANE '14 was among those then-freshmen featured in a 2010 article on the first class of UNCG Guarantee scholars. We caught up with her this spring. Graduating with a bachelor’s in public health, she went on to get her master’s in business administration with a concentration in management. Currently, she is a business teacher at Dillard Middle School in Caswell County. “I am also now pursuing my second master’s in marriage and family therapy – and once I graduate in December 2023, I plan to



TIES THAT BIND

SAUNDRETTA JAMES '08, '12 MED appeared on the cover of UNCG Magazine's campaign issue in 2006 as the Students First campaign was having its public launch. The article followed her on a day in her life as a student, going to classes, meeting with professors, studying, and hanging out with friends. As a driven, first-generation student – her name then was Saundretta Caldwell – her global engagement was spotlighted, as well as the comprehensive support she received from her UNCG community. Then, in 2008, she appeared on the cover again for a special tribute issue for Chancellor Sullivan, who'd announced her retirement.

Now, 14 years later, she is as passionate as ever for advocacy and community engagement – but on a higher level. She is Director of Advocacy for the UN Association of Chicago and also Director of Public Affairs for the UN Women Chicago Chapter. Also, something very close to her heart: She is a speaker on child loss, sharing her own experience to help others.

Saundretta is an entrepreneur as well as an advocate. The owner, seamstress, and designer for her apparel business Africana Fashion, she is also the full-time homeschool mom of a daughter and a son. (Her second UNCG degree, the master's in education, has proven essential.) And, always as a true Spartan, her wedding was at Alumni House!

As she explains, what connects her work is the focus on meaningful relationships. And, "at UNCG I developed meaningful relationships with people. I still have those relationships. UNCG is *big* on good relationships."



start my own holistic therapy practice," she says. She notes that being part of the UNCG Guarantee Scholarship Program gave her the confidence to be able to pursue her own dreams and passions, rather than trying to live up to the career expectations of anyone else. That's a wonderful thing.



ERNEST DOLLAR '93 continues to tell the story of our state capital as the director of the City of Raleigh Museum. He tells us, "One of my life goals takes place (in April): I have a

book coming out on the end of the Civil War in North Carolina." He has also been very involved in working to uncover the African American history of Raleigh's Dorothea Dix Park site.



KEIVAN ETEFAGH '12 PHD was working with James Patrick Healy '14 PhD and others at Select Laboratory Partners on an innovative COVID test, when we last checked in, during the first months of the pandemic. They have continued to do COVID testing using the process the company developed at the onset of the pandemic. "My focus (very recently) has been on health management through advanced laboratory testing," Keivan said. They have begun making presentations on this. The goal? To not only reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome (eg, diabetes) but save significantly in health care costs by reversing the progression of disease, Keivan explained.

SAUNDRETTA JAMES' PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAUNDRETTA JAMES.



JESSICA RAMBO forged her own path from the military to UNCG to hitting the road, and now helps fellow veterans tell stories through art. While in the BFA program at

UNCG, she volunteered at the Servants Center and then created the Painted Buffalo Traveling Studio "in the belly of a retired band bus." Since her feature ran in 2018, she's done even more for fellow veterans. She's delivered ammo cans of painting supplies to more than 200 veterans around the country.



LATOYA JORDAN '06, featured on the cover in 2019, is an American Sign Language Interpreter and a CODA, a child of a deaf adult. She has worked in several fields

within the profession, from interpreting for state and federal agencies to medical appointments, from theater/film and post-secondary education to concerts and music festivals. Recently, she participated in the University of Northern Colorado's Project CLIMB: Cultivating Legal Interpreters from Minority Backgrounds.



ELIZABETH HUDSON '95, when we last profiled her, was showing the yellowed paper she has long kept pinned at her desk. On it are notes from Charles Davis' Southern Fiction class at UNCG that she

uses as a guide to build each issue of

Our State magazine, where she is the editor-in-chief. In recent years she has been a UNCG Alumni Leadership Board member, chaired the Friends of the Libraries Board, and received UNCG's 2019 Professional Achievement Award.

CHASE HOLLEMAN '16, when we last covered him, was Program Director in

GCSTOP (Guilford County Solution To The Opioid Problem), located in the UNCG Department of Social Work. In the community's fight against overdose fatality, he was on the front line. GCSTOP functions as a clinical training site for social work students, in addition to distributing thousands of life-saving naloxone kits every year. In the last year, the kits were used to save over 1,200 lives. It has also established an additional



ALL THE BUZZ

KAIRA WAGONER '15 PHD is 50% research scientist, 50% startup founder, and all abuzz for bees. After graduating, she served as a postdoc researcher in UNCG's Social Insect Lab, then became the research scientist for her own UNCG lab in April 2021.

"Bees contribute to one in every three bites of food we eat, and are the most managed pollinator in the world," she says. "They are a sort of 'canary in the coal mine' for other important pollinators." Because diseases and pests spread between honey bees and other pollinators, understanding honey bee health can suggest the challenges facing other pollinators. And improving their health can help the entire network of insects that pollinate crops and natural ecosystems.

Through her research, she discovered that honey bee larvae release a higher amount of certain pheromones if carrying parasites like the Varroa mite. Sensing these pheromones, adult bees remove unhealthy bees from the colony so the entire colony can thrive.

Through their Greensboro-based startup Optera, Kaira and UNCG colleague Phoebe Snyder '21 MS are developing that discovery into a practical tool that beekeepers can use to manage their hives for improved pest and disease resistance.

Between UNCG and Optera, Kaira manages 11 research grants, collaborating with researchers around the world – and at four local apiaries, including UNCG's Plant and Pollinator Center in Browns Summit. The center aims to present programming on bees and healthy pollination to the broader community. To learn more, check out the recent feature on Kaira's work on YouTube's Inside the Hive TV.





A NURSE AT 30,000 FEET ▲

MARY JO ABERNETHY '77 During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, UNCG Magazine covered several alumni nurses – in the combat zone, at Ramstein Air Base, and on flights with wounded soldiers.

We recently caught up with Mary Jo Abernethy. The last time we'd spoken, in 2007, she'd mobilized to Germany where she was the senior nurse/flight nurse at the Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Ramstein. She provided care for wounded personnel during the long flights from Afghanistan to Germany. And when the patients were stable enough for the trans-Atlantic crossing, she helped ready the aircraft.

For 20 years Mary Jo was a Flight Nurse with the North Carolina Air National Guard and then the US Air Force Reserve. It's an awesome responsibility. But she had one mantra all those years: "You graduated from UNCG! You can handle this!"

She was promoted to Colonel in 2015.

Since 2008, she has worked at Alamance Regional Medical Center, part of Cone Health System, in the Cardiac/Pulmonary/Oncology Rehab program.

Married for 26 years to Colonel Lawrence "Rocky" Lane, she has traveled worldwide. She has won awards for her photography. She was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She is president of the Burlington Woman's Club. She is a longtime Alumni Board Member for UNCG School of Nursing. As part of the *Light the Way* campaign, she endowed the Mary Jo Abernethy Scholarship in memory of her parents.

"Nursing is just the best. There's nothing like it," she said. "I feel incredibly blessed."



community center, Kaitlyn's House, in High Point and sent workers into jails to support people who have been incarcerated. In October 2021, Chase accepted a position at the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), where he is now a public health advisor and the harm reduction lead.



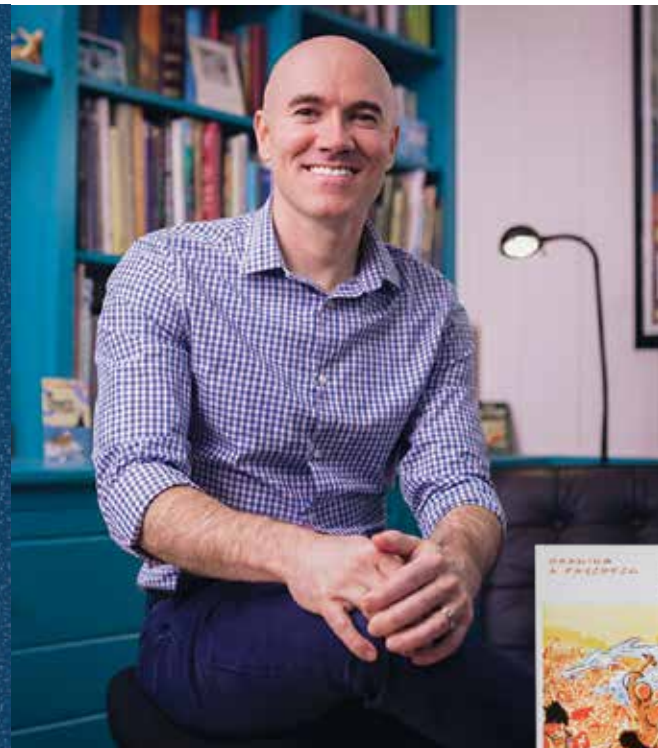
CINDY HSIEH '13 MFA had just finished helping in video production at the summer Olympics – her second time working the Olympics – when we covered her in

2012. Ten years later, she has worked on-site for the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 Olympics, covering the competition, working in the research room, and functioning as a field producer. Now based in Atlanta, Georgia, she also has worked on a number of television series and features.



KEITH WATKINS '15, '17 MS identified what's believed to be the oldest tree on campus: a pine that germinated in 1837. As a member of Dr. Paul Knapp's Carolina Tree Ring Laboratory, he took core samples and identified the ages of most older trees on campus. You'll see them tagged if you look closely. After his master's? He joined the City of Greensboro as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst, and is now GIS/EAM administrator for the city.

KYLE T. WEBSTER'S PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN REICH.



VIVID VISUALS ▲

KYLE WEBSTER '99 has served as illustrator for several issues of UNCG Magazine, including two covers. And he has furthered the artist's age-old tradition of making his own tools: "I ended up building my career on bringing my training in natural media into the digital world," he says.

After starting a business developing digital brushes – used by Pixar, Sony, Disney, and more – he sold the brushes to Adobe and is now a consultant for the company. His illustrations have appeared in national publications like *The New Yorker*, *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times*. He also has a Scholastic children's book and a graphic novel under his belt and names the local brewmasters at Foothills Brewing as among his oldest clients.



SOME OTHER NOTABLE ILLUSTRATORS



TRISTIN MILLER '10 With a background in art and graphic design, Tristin is flexing other muscles these days. After several years of organizing the Hand to Hand Market and myriad other artist-community groups around the Triad, she is now also a weightlifting coach, focusing on trauma-informed private sessions with people who might not feel safe in a gym.



SUZANNE CABRERA '07 MS For Suzanne, her art consistently starts by hand, whether that is ensuring traces of her analog process come through in her Open Sketch Book project or in starting The Tiny Greenhouse as a place to share plants and well-designed objects with her community. She shares both projects with her husband, studio partner, and fellow UNCG alumnus Edgar Cabrera.



ASH MOHAN '19 created an eye-popping visual of alumna Lauren Holt at Rockefeller Center. Ash currently works in the psychology department of UNCG as an administrator, but keeps crafty, too. Besides creating an online beaded jewelry business, Ash is also applying to become a children's book illustrator. 📖

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

KATHRYN HUBERT '12 and her restaurant *Chez Genèse* – which employs staff of varying abilities – have been creative in faring well during the pandemic. • **KYLE HINES '08** in February became the EuroLeague all-time leading offensive

rebounder. His teams have won four championships. • **JOSHUA HODGE '21**, featured on the cover in Spring 2021, has graduated from Officer Candidate School and is a 2nd Lt. U.S. Marine. • **SEE MORE COMPREHENSIVE UPDATES AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.**



A Triumphant Return

In early 2020, the opening of Greensboro's Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts signaled a state of unparalleled artistic growth for the city. And tickets were flying out the door for the Greensboro Opera fall production of "Porgy and Bess," with Professor of Music and Director of UNCG Opera **David Holley** as producer.

When the Tanger Center directors had approached Holley three years earlier, they said, "It's got to be something special."

So, he'd landed on the George Gershwin masterpiece that contains some of the most recognizable songs in the opera world, so much that they are now part of the Great American Songbook.

Several high-profile UNCG alumni were perfect choices to star in the production, including MacArthur grant recipient, composer, and Grammy-winner **Rhiannon Giddens**, accomplished "opera powerhouse" **Sidney Outlaw '04**, and the multi-talented **Richard Hodges '15**.

Then, COVID-19 came crashing down on the arts world and forced a rescheduling. While other opera companies may have tried to postpone productions a few months, Greensboro Opera wisely decided on an 18-month delay. The show would surely go on.

"We had the vision of how to accomplish it, even though we were fraught with COVID," said Holley.

So, it was fall 2021 that they began rehearsals with the chorus – with UNCG students – and in January of 2022 the

star-studded cast, including nine UNCG alumni, gathered at Well-Spring theater for their first all-cast rehearsals with stage director Everett McCorvey and conductor Awadagin Pratt.

The cast also included several UNCG professors and nine UNCG students. Forty UNCG musicians filled the orchestra. Alumni Spartans in the cast reported a familial homecoming feeling, and students were pleased to welcome them.

"I didn't realize there were so many alumni in the cast until we started interacting with each other," said doctoral student **Detra Davis '19 MM**, who played the role of Annie. "I was like, 'Oh my gosh.' You know, it was such a great feeling to be among UNCG colleagues and professionals."

Above left, final dress rehearsal of "Porgy and Bess." The cast included many UNCG alumni and several students. Above right, UNCG School of Music alumna Rhiannon Giddens ("Bess") with Thomas Cannon ("Porgy") performing a moving duet.

“It's always nice to come home. I got my feet wet in Greensboro, and this is where it kind of started for me.”

– SIDNEY OUTLAW '04



Professor of Music and Director of UNCG Opera David Holley

Setting the stage

Carmens, Toreadors, and Figaros; Toscas, Besses, and Queens of the Night – where do they come from?

In North Carolina, UNCG Opera Theatre is the premier incubator for singers who advance to the world’s greatest stages.

In the past two years, they moved to virtual performances to modified live performances to almost-normal productions, except for the masks. But the School of Music continued to offer the best university-produced opera in the region, and the most comprehensive training in music.

As a training ground, UNCG Opera is rigorous, inspiring, and supportive.

UNCG is the only UNC System school where a student can earn a doctorate in voice and receive a comprehensive education in music that goes from a bachelor’s degree to the highest level. As Holley points out, that attracts a high caliber of artists.

Typically – as in, before the pandemic – UNCG Opera staged at least four operas a year, invaluable experience for students, and a boon for Triad music lovers. Their work has won seven first place and five second place awards in the National Opera Association’s annual Opera Production Competition and was named a finalist four times in The American Prize Competition. In 2019, “Falstaff” was a hit, with exquisite costumes. It took second place in the American Prize competition for production as well as for stage direction and conducting. Additionally, the company brought fairy tales to life through opera for more than 10,000 elementary school children.

On Friday, March 13, 2020 they had just completed a run-through of “Sister Angelica” – “which means we got to

perform it,” said Holley – before things came to a halt. The rest of 2020 meant scene and aria work virtually and one-on-one with faculty.

“A lot of people took up singing arias from inside their homes – finding a way to keep working, trying to do what they do,” explained Holley.

“But you can only take so much of that. There’s no comparison to being live in the theater. And I don’t give up easily or lightly.”

Fortunately, Spring of 2021 offered more possibilities.

A live performance of “Roman Fever,” an opera based on a story by Edith Wharton, hit the UNCG stage, with a limited audience – 50-100, protected by 18-foot-by-6-foot plastic barriers – and more livestreaming the performance from home.

Also, Opera at the Carolina, which has been bringing opera to Guilford County Schools for more than 10 years, came to life virtually, through a three-camera, green-screen format shot at the Greensboro Science Center for the productions of “Allison’s Voice” and “Cox and Box.”

There were positives to the situation. Under normal circumstances, Holley and the performers brought 6,000 kids to the Carolina Theatre, but the virtual performances had the potential to reach up to 22,000.

Last fall, Holley was still eager to find a way for more of his singers to get back to the stage, and safely. With vaccination efforts lowering risk to some degree, they produced three operas in UNCG Auditorium, with masks required by both audience and singers, but otherwise in the usual way. There was one other prudent artistic-safety decision that Holley calls “a method to my madness.”

“We knew that we couldn’t have massive numbers of people onstage with each other,” he said.

So, they selected operas that could be performed with no

more than two people onstage at a time – a modified version of “Allison’s Voice,” by School of Music faculty member **Alejandro Rutty**, “The Telephone” by Menotti, and “Mozart and Salieiri,” by Rimsky-Korsakov.

Spring of 2022 provided even more of a return to normalcy and, for many undergraduate and graduate student singers, a return to the stage. In March, the company performed “The Bartered Bride” in UNCG Auditorium and in April, once again, 6,000 Guilford County School students came to the Carolina Theatre to see UNCG Opera students perform in “The Telephone” and “Luke’s Song,” an opera written by Holley and **Mark Engebretson**, based on a story by a GCS fifth-grader.

Holley is relieved and excited for the UNCG performers to be able to perform again, as they did before the pandemic.

“One of the most important things for these young people to do is get roles on their resumé,” he said, “so that the young artist programs – the bridge between academic opera and the professional world of opera – can see they had that experience. That’s one of the crucial things that UNCG Opera Theatre provides And we’re so glad to be back.”

Alumni of UNCG Opera find success in the professional world, gracing the rosters of the world’s most prestigious houses – not only the Metropolitan Opera, which recently has had 10 UNCG alumni – but also the New York City Opera (**Jason Karn ’02**), Houston Grand Opera (**Tyler Smith ’00**), Seattle Opera (**Cheryse McLeod Lewis ’01**), and Lyric Opera of Chicago (**Jill Gardner ’95 MM**). The impact is international, at Händelfestspiele Halle in Switzerland, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Landestheater in Salzburg, Austria (**Joel Sorenson ’92**), Opéra de Montreal, (**Donald Hartmann ’77, ’82 MM**, UNCG professor of Voice), and at major summer festivals, such as Central City Opera (**Andrew Owens ’00**).

“Opera is every discipline that we have here... in one magical, fused art form.”

– DAVID HOLLEY, UNCG DIRECTOR OF OPERA



1: Red Queen, “The Magic Flute” 2: “Iolanthe” 3: “Dialogues des Carmélites” 4: “Falstaff” 5: “Galileo Galilei” 6: Lion, “The Magic Flute” 7: “The Showdown” at the Carolina Theatre 8: “Galileo Galilei”



At the Met

Life on opera's grandest stage is a whirlwind.

"Carmen," "Verdi," "Tosca," "Romeo and Juliet," "Turandot," "Macbeth," "Madame Butterfly," and more classic operas are all performed every other year, as well as works by contemporary composers. The Met re-opened in September 2021, with strict

COVID-19 protocols in place, but with all the gusto and artistic strength it's known for. Several UNCG Opera alumni are among the 75 full-time performers, and several others join the chorus on a contract basis.

"We've got balls in the air. We're really juggling constantly," says **Lynn Taylor MM '78**, who has sung with the Met for 24 years, including 20 as a full-time performer. She recently sang in "Don Carlo," "The Magic Flute," "Eurydice," "Cendrillon," and many other productions.

"It's different every season," she explains. "Usually, we're performing about three to four operas all at the same time, and also rehearsing two or three others. During the day, we're working on music, singing for three hours – or the staging. And for big shows, three days of costumes, wigs, and makeup, and that's not even into final dress."

Lynn remembers working with faculty members **Bill McIver** and **Richard Cox** at UNCG and singing in "The

Marriage of Figaro," which was her first full-length opera. She says her time at UNCG helped her get her first big gig as an opera singer, in the National Opera Company, which was based in Raleigh. "I think I was born to sing, and it just suits my temperament," she says. "And at UNCG, I got the start in opera that I was looking for."

That start led to a tremendous career. Lynn traveled to Japan four times with the Met and toured as a Met solo artist.

"We were so happy to be back," she says about the September 2021 return to the stage. "It's been hard, because we have been masked, totally masked backstage, in the dressing room, and up until the moment we walk on stage. So that's been a hardship – the strict protocols for us and for the audience. But we know that that's what's kept the Met open, and we're just so happy to be back."

Liz Brooks Wentworth '99 is in her ninth season at the Met, with more than 1,100 performances. She finds that the exhausting schedule has been worth it, for herself and what she gives to an audience.

"Opera is a way to escape, a way to experience things you may not have access to in real life. And I love the physical part of singing. It's doing something good for your soul. The world needs art and beauty and fear and passion – all of that is within those two hours."

As a student, Liz worked with Holley as well as **Charles Lyman**, and she says that mentorship as the reason she is where she is today.

"At UNCG you are going to find great teachers. You are going to find top quality productions to be involved with.

“I think I was born to sing. And at UNCG, I got the start in opera that I was looking for.”

– LYNN TAYLOR '78 MM



Lynn Taylor '78 MM, Chris Dumont '90, Liz Brooks Wentworth '99, l-r, full-time, permanent members of the Met.



Performance of "La Boheme" at the Met

You are going to come across warm people who want to help you and want to connect with you. You will get one-on-one attention. When you want to figure out if this is the path for you, everything at UNCG is poised to help you and point you in the right direction."

And the alumni connections also remain. During the Met's closure, Liz participated in a virtual 40-singer project written and directed by Rhiannon Giddens. "I Can't Cry No More" was recorded from each of the singers' homes individually.

"It brought us a sense of community at the time," she said. "Singing alone is really hard, but when it was created and put together, it was really beautiful."

Charles Williamson '10 will soon begin his third season at the Met, including serving as a principal cover in "Porgy and Bess."

"Definitely a roller coaster of a time," he says about being a new Met performer. "It's a time when you take your cover assignments really seriously because of coronavirus and testing protocols being an added factor."

Because he's a contractor, he continues performing at other opera houses as well, such as in "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" at the Lyric in Chicago, and was also in Greensboro Opera's "Porgy and Bess," along with fellow Met performer **Lindell Carter**.



“Coming to UNCG was a turnkey moment for me.”

– CHARLES WILLIAMSON, METROPOLITAN OPERA. SHOWN HERE WITH AUDRA MCDONALD, BROADWAY STAR

"It was nice to come into the space and just be around old friends, but also make new ones," said Charles. With David Holley as the producer and the other professors in the show, it felt like a full circle moment. It also felt like it was a return for the company and a return for us as artists."

SING OUT, SPARTANS!

In 2019, **David Blalock '09** moved into the principal role in "Turandot" at the Met and has been performing there since the re-opening in fall 2021. **Kevin Gardner '00** appeared in the Metropolitan Opera's "Porgy and Bess" with Williamson and Carter. **Melinda Whittington '09 MM** recently sang with the Met in "Macbeth" and "Akhmaten." And many others have graced the Met's stage, from **Joel Sorensen '92**, who has been there for more than 20 years, to **Nicholas Tamagna '04**, who made his Met debut in 2020. 🎭

BEHIND THE SCENES
Louisa Muller '05 MM has been a stage director at the world's best opera houses, including the Met. At UNCG, her assistantship under Holley allowed her to serve as a stage manager, organize tours to local schools, teach voice lessons, and direct her own projects. "All those diverse experiences gave me the confidence to send my résumé to almost every opera company in the country before I graduated," she said. "And that led to me finding an internship at the Houston Grand Opera, and then just a few seasons later, to joining the directing staff of the Met."

WANT TO SEE MET SHOWS LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN? Thanks to a Spartan, you can. Sidney Dixon Weberndörfer '09 is media production coordinator for the Met's HD broadcasts on Saturday afternoons, bringing live opera performances to movie theaters throughout the U.S. and internationally. She also helps provide streaming access to more than 700 past productions.



1963

Class Day procession in Foust Park. Class of 1965 sophomores hold the Daisy Chain while the graduating Class of 1963 walk down the center aisle, class mascots in tow.

Class Acts

Remembering the traditions of class day, sister classes, and daisy chains

BY CHRIS GARTON • ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS
COURTESY MARTHA BLAKENEY HODGES SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Commencement week has always been special on our campus, marked by ceremony and tradition. And daisies, thousands of daisies. For many decades, the big event for seniors was the Class Day ceremony, held the day before commencement – usually in Foust Park. Class Day Committees planned the programs to reflect each class’s unique “personality” and showcase their accomplishments. Typically included were the presentation of the Class Gift, naming the Everlasting Class Officers and outstanding seniors, retiring the Class Colors, and singing the Class Song.

Class identity was the nexus of campus social occasions such as bonfires and teas, musical and theatrical productions, and athletic competitions. The adoption of “Sister Classes” – juniors and freshmen, seniors and sophomores – further instilled bonds among students.

“The relationship between Sister Classes was very close,” Carol Matney ’63 explains. “My class served as mentors and ‘big sisters’ to the Class of ’65 for two years. The special bond we shared created wonderful memories.”

One constant over the years was the sophomores’ final tribute to their Sister Class: the formal Daisy Chain procession to Foust Park and recession, as they sang the Sister Class Song.

Here’s a nod to the ever-evolving traditions, to the memories made, and to the bonds we’ve shared here on this beautiful campus.



1903

Class of 1903 graduating seniors carry the Daisy Chain on their outside shoulders as they pose in front of Main Building (now Foust Building).

1910



The graduating Class of 1910 march to Front Campus, flanked by their 1912 "Sister Class." Carrying the class and college banners is senior Laura Weill, who wrote what has ever since been the College/University Song.



1925

North Carolina College for Women sophomores prepare for the Class of 1925's procession to their Class Day ceremony. The 1925 Pine Needles identified the seniors as "Our Leading Ladies."

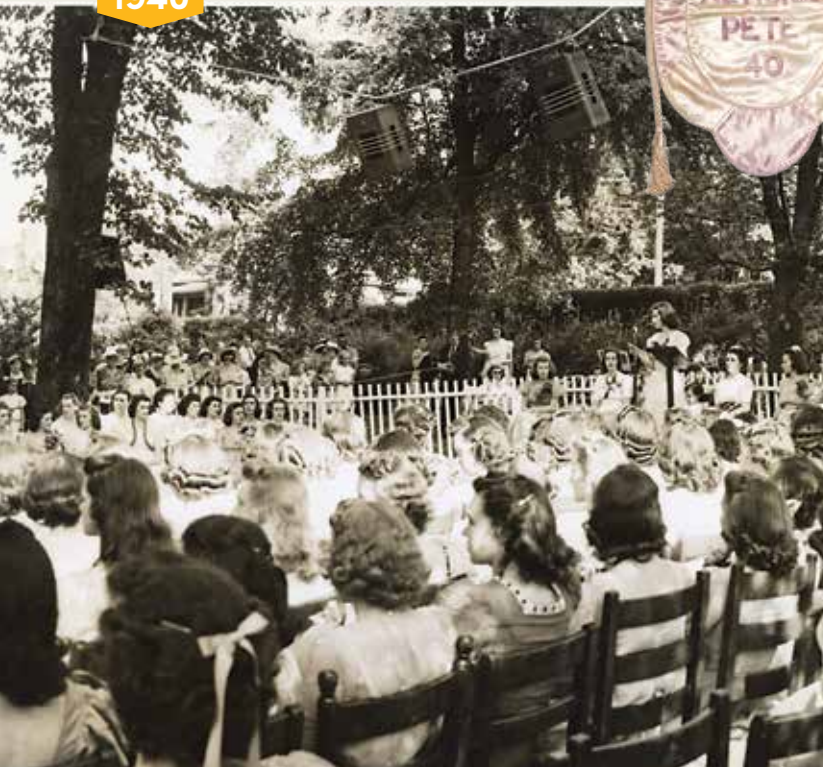


1930

The Daisy Chain rests on the grass during the 1930 Class Day ceremony. It will be carried again for the ceremony's recession, as well as the following day for commencement.

Class of 1940 Class Day ceremony. Their class motto: "Aim for higher things."

1940



May God build for you a harmony
That will be both great and strong
Making all your life a melody
And every day a song.

— LINES FROM THE
TRADITIONAL SISTER SONG

1950



1959

Daisy Chain Committee members hold a 50-foot garland of greenery to which they will add the daisies.

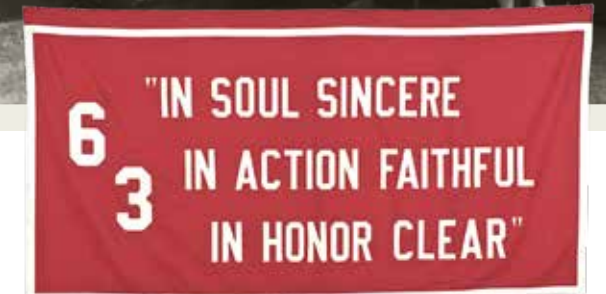


1961



Speakers on stage for the 1963 Class Day ceremony. The Class of 1963's colors were red and white, represented by corsages, the floral arrangement in front of the podium, and the class banner.

1963





1965

Sophomores of the Class of 1967, wearing the traditional white dresses, shoes, and gloves, carry the Daisy Chain past the flagpole in front of Foust Building.



1966



1965

“Traditions such as Class Day helped generate support of and loyalty to our alma mater.”

— EVERLASTING PRESIDENT SUE MEDLEY, CLASS OF 1965

Class of 1968 student officers and speakers stand to sing the University Song at the conclusion of their Class Day ceremony program.

1968



1969

Two rows of sophomores bear the Daisy Chain as they lead the 1969 Class Day recession out of Foust Park. This was one of the last Class Day ceremonies held at the University. After coeducation was introduced, many of the Woman's College era traditions were discontinued.



MAKING THE DAISY CHAIN

At 5:00 a.m. the day before Class Day, sleepy sophomores boarded a wagon – later a truck – and were transported to a field outside town where they picked basketfuls of daisies. To ensure an abundance of flowers, the college contracted local farmers to grow them. Shirley Sharpe Duncan '51 recalls that her sophomore year the daisy field was located where

Greensboro's Belk at Friendly Shopping Center is today.

Upon return to campus, the sophomores spent the remainder of the day crafting two 50-foot-long garlands of greenery entwined with daisies. The finished product was put into cold storage until its debut on Class Day. Mary-Owens Bell Fitzgerald '55 made the Daisy Chain on the lawn in front of McIver Building her sophomore

year: "The daisies were connected by making a slit in a daisy stem and poking the stem of the next daisy through it. The chain was quite bulky, a good four inches in diameter."

When did the tradition end? Around 1969-1970, several years after the University became co-educational – yet a Daisy Chain remained a key part of April's Reunion for many years.

And today's students have a

daisy tradition of their own: each new UNCG student receives a daisy at first-year student orientation. Some choose to place theirs at the Minerva statue for good luck, a nod to another relatively new campus tradition.

"WC": MUCH MORE THAN DAISIES

"Sometimes I think that folks may have a mistaken idea of

what the Woman's College era was really like," says Sue Medley '65. "The photos of classmates wearing white dresses and walking through the Daisy Chain appear to portray genteel maidens of long ago."

"These same young women were encouraged by our professors to speak out and stand up for our rights, especially the rights of minorities. We participated in protests for civil rights

here in Greensboro at Woolworth's and Tate Street. We worked in campaigns for the rights of women also to be treated with equality," she recounts. "As our classmates graduated, they went on to be scientists, educators, lawyers, writers, and so many more professionals. We hope that our era helped to create the foundation for the wonderful university we have today." ☺





Dr. Edna Tan, and Dr. Ti'Era Worsley with a STEM program student at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Greensboro

Gifts 'push the envelope'

From alumna **Carrie Perkins Davis**, Class of 1914, running a bookmobile for local children in her Eastern North Carolina hometown, to three generations of UNCG School of Education graduates in the family, to creating multiple funds supporting faculty and students, Carrie's family has had a generational history of enhancing the realm of education.

Their philanthropy honors this history. The Carrie Davis Ponder '58 Endowed Scholarship in Education was established in 2012 by Carrie and her husband, Reggie, to honor Carrie's education at Woman's College. The Ponders recently added to their gift, further supporting students studying education at UNCG.

Carrie Ponder is the aunt of Jennifer Smith Hooks '76. Jennifer and her husband, Jake, established the Carrie Perkins Davis/Katherine Davis Smith Scholarship in Education in 2013, honoring Jennifer's grandmother and mother, and the Hooks Distinguished Professorship in STEM Education in 2016.

Dr. Edna Tan, who recently received the high honor of being named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement for Science, currently holds the Hooks Distinguished Professorship. Among many other things, she notes, the support from the professorship makes a big difference in the engaged research she and her doctoral assistant Dr. Ti'Era Worsley are able to do at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Greensboro. There they run a community-focused STEM program for middle and high school youth that integrates STEM practices with community wisdom and resources, with a focus on making education accessible to students from minority communities, especially African American students. The funding from the professorship has allowed her the flexibility and resources to accommodate larger numbers of students, purchase more materials, and expand program activities. In the last two years, it was vital, she explains, in establishing



“We are pushing really hard to be cutting edge.”

a virtual, COVID-safe version of the program that is both rigorous and responsive to challenges brought on by the pandemic.

“To be given that level of trust means a lot and we are so appreciative,” Tan says. “The Hooks family is allowing us to push the envelope.”

The program is important, she notes, because it uses the current hands-on “maker” movement in STEM to empower children who have been historically marginalized in traditional STEM instruction. Families of all cultural backgrounds do creative and STEM-relevant work in their homes. During the Boys & Girls Club classes, Tan and Worsley engage with the “making” the students are already doing with their family and draw connections to STEM, helping to make the field more relatable to children who may be alienated by typical STEM classes. “We want to show what kids are already making at home and what they’re doing in the program and combine them together.”

It also provides an important place of safety and emotional support for the students, which has been particularly vital during the COVID pandemic.

As Worsley says, it’s important for them to “feel like the STEM space that’s created is one where they can just breathe, where they don’t have to be on point. And they’re granted that, to just be honest and open and real about what’s happening.”

From playful creative projects to making “Angel Cards” for loved ones lost due to COVID, the classes become a place where the students are guided to explore their creativity and use it to process sometimes difficult subjects. It can be challenging and hard-hitting, Tan says. “But it is STEM in the here and now – that’s relevant to your life – that we can hopefully be supportive of.”

IMPACT OVER MANY DECADES

The Ponders have a generations-long connection to UNCG, and a distinguished legacy in education. Carrie Perkins Davis graduated from the State Normal School in 1914. Four of her daughters – Elizabeth, Hilda, Katherine, and Carrie – graduated from what became Woman’s College with degrees in education. And Katherine’s daughter, Jennifer Smith Hooks, graduated from UNCG in 1976.

The Carrie Davis Ponder '58 Endowed Scholarship in Education supports student teachers at the School of Education, helping the career field stay financially accessible to all



Carrie Davis Ponder '58



Hilda Davis '56



Katherine Davis Smith '44



Elizabeth Davis '38

aspiring educators. Together with the Hooks professorship and the Davis-Smith Endowed Scholarship, the funds help spread impactful education to the community – and further the family’s desire to support education.

These interlocking systems of support aid students financially, ensuring that education can be accessible to all. They also create an environment where student teachers are supported by the institutions around them, feeling comfortable and confident to excel in their field. And, they allow these students to go into their community and lift up future generations of students to ensure they can be the best they can be for their future.

“What has historically been silenced,” Tan says, “the voices and ways of being of brilliant Black youth, now has a chance to emerge. This is especially critical in the field

of academia, where there’s so much stock set in precedence, in what has been done. We are pushing really hard to be cutting edge and to say ‘here are the theoretical frameworks we need to consider.’”

ANONYMOUS GIFT, VISIBLE IMPACT

Often an act of giving spurs another – even from those you don’t know.

An anonymous gift of \$500,000 joins the Ponder Scholarship and Hooks Professorship in supporting students in the School of Education. The gift is inspired by the Hooks Professorship and will create a fund to support community-based STEM research by traditionally underrepresented students in the School of Education.

“One of the greatest challenges we’re facing for the STEM field is the limited representation of historically marginalized groups,” says Randy Penfield, dean of the School of Education.

“Students often learn better from individuals who share similarities in background with them. It makes a barrier to students from these groups to get into the field. That creates a barrier on the number of STEM teachers, professors, and industry leaders from these communities. There’s this cycle we’re trying to disrupt and that’s where these funding opportunities that give us the ability to provide access for students from all backgrounds, including those historically underrepresented and marginalized, become so important.”

These gifts are a few of many that support student teachers in the School of Education. Learn more about gifts to the School of Education and the *Light the Way* campaign at soe.uncg.edu/giving.

MORE STORIES AT LIGHTTHEWAY.UNCG-EDU.

gradtidings

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATONS

1940s

RUTH BRYANT MAXWELL '49 has been living at the Christwood Retirement Community in Covington, La., since 2015. Since moving to the community, she has started three music groups, which she was proud to see continue throughout the pandemic. 🎵

1950s

JEANNE GRAVELY WAGGONER '54 and her husband are living at Arbor Ridge at Riderwood, and (as of the time of this submission) they are happy to be taking visitors again.

BETTY SHUFORD ZEPS '56 lives in Madison, Wisconsin, near family, and she is proud to announce that her youngest grandchild graduated from Edgewood High School with honors, was the WI state cross country champion, and was recruited to run for the University of Wisconsin cross country and track teams. 🏃

1960s

MYRNA COLLEY-LEE '62 serves on several boards, and she recently joined the Mississippi Museum of Art's Board of Trustees. She is noted as the longest-serving commissioner for the Mississippi Arts Commission.

BECKY SISLEY '63 MS, '73 EDD was inducted into the state of Oregon's Sports Hall of Fame this past October, in recognition of her national and world record performances in masters track and field. She started to compete in this sport at age 49 and added the pole vault at age 55.

1970s

SUSAN BANKS BURDINE '70 and several members of the Class of 1970 celebrated their annual meetup at Lake Waccamaw, near Whiteville, N.C., last year. 🌊

BARBARA AYERS BEST '70 attended the inauguration of Phillip G. Rogers, the new East Carolina University chancellor, as UNCG representative.

REBECCA FAGG '72 AND JACK STRATTON '77 had a dual retrospective at the Greenhill gallery in Greensboro. The exhibition displayed their paintings and recalled the influence of renowned UNCG art professors and what was known as the "Greensboro School of Painting."

NIDO QUBEIN '73 MS has a broadcast series called "Side by Side" that debuted on PBS NC in October. The series features in-depth conversations between Nido and a variety of influential guests as they discuss life experiences and leadership.

MAE DOUGLAS '73, a UNCG Board of Trustees member, is the lead volunteer for the Black Investments in Greensboro (BIG) Equity Fund, which announced a \$3 million campaign goal in 2020. In July of 2021, Mae shared on FOX 8 that the organization had raised half of their goal.

JAMES FISHER '76 MFA is a professor emeritus of theatre at UNCG, and in 2021 he published "The Historical Dictionary of Contemporary American Theater," second edition (Rowman & Littlefield) and "The Theater of Tony Kushner: Living Past Hope," second edition (Routledge). Both are updated editions of Fisher's previous books.

JACK STRATTON '77 AND REBECCA FAGG '72 had a dual retrospective at the Greenhill gallery in downtown Greensboro.

LORETTA CECIL '78 is now a member of the GenapSys, Inc. Board of Directors.

KEITH MARTIN '79, '84 MFA received the 2021 Governor's Volunteer Service

Award, which honors "the true spirit of volunteerism by recognizing individuals who make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer service."

DOLORES DAVIS PAYLOR '79 now serves on the UNC Greensboro Foundation board, marking the third board wherein she serves the University she loves. 🏡

1980s

RICHARD HELMS '80 won the 2021 Shamus Award, presented by the Private Eye Writers of America, for his novel "Brittle Karma." It is the first Shamus Award for Richard, who previously won the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award, the Short Mystery Fiction Society Derringer Award, and the International Thriller Writers Thriller Award.

LYNDA WILLIAMS STANLEY '82 was appointed president and chief executive officer of Doshier Memorial Hospital.

KAREN AUMAN '83, '96 MPA was recognized as a new board member of Three Rivers Land Trust, an organization concerned with conservation efforts in the central Piedmont and Sandhills of North Carolina.

WILLIAM MCKENZIE, JR '83 MA has published his third leadership book for students and young adults, "Embrace the Chaos, Enjoy the Journey: A Leadership Awakening for Students and Young Adults." William also owns K2 Leadership Consulting in High Point, N.C., and consults with schools on leadership development for middle- and high-school students.

SUSAN MCCANN '84 was named chief operating officer at Samaritan, a nonprofit healthcare provider offering hospice, grief support, and palliative care. 🏥

SUSAN MCINTYRE '84 MED published her book "Outside Heaven, An Afghanistan Experience," last summer. It covers her experiences working as a diplomat for the US government in Afghanistan, where she specialized in humanitarian assistance.

KIM TRACANNA-BREAULT '85 MS was inducted into the Clay County (Fla.) Hall of Fame and received the Outstanding Education Achievement Award. She

retired from a 36-year teaching career on Jan. 3, 2022.

MERAL CLARKE '86 is now the host of the "North Georgia Blue: Getting into Good Trouble Podcast."

ANTONIA MONK RICHBURG '87, '00 MPA accepted the UNCG Holderess/Weaver Award in acknowledgment of her decades of devoted service as a community leader and volunteer in Greensboro. She is vice president and senior program officer for Cone Health Foundation and has spent nearly 30 years in nonprofit management.

MARGARET "JILL" DUFFIELD '88 was installed as the 12th senior pastor at First Presbyterian Churchin Greensboro.

RICHARD FOSTER HUGHES '88 was sworn in as the new city manager of New Bern, N.C., in September 2021. In his previous role, Richard was the director of New Bern Parks and Recreation for four years.

HUGH HYSSELL '88 won his second Tony Award as a producer—this time for "The Inheritance", which garnered four Tonys, including Best Play, at the ceremony on September 26. (See p. 15.)

DARI ROWEN '88, '91 is currently serving as the pastor at Red Springs Presbyterian Church, in Red Springs, N.C.

PATRICIA REID SMYRE '88 was hired as the first diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the City of Lexington (N.C.).

LINDA COMER '89 MSN, '96 MS, '04 PHD is the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Keith R. Berend Endowed Chair in Nursing at Florida Southern College. Linda is a professor and dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at FSC.

SUSAN COOK GUTHRIE '89 was promoted to clinical operations supervisor for corporate health at Novant Health.

1990s

CHRIS MURRAY '90 has worked at Truliant Federal Credit Union for more than a decade, and last year he was named to a newly created role of chief member experience officer. Chris also leads the credit union's continuing involvement with the UNCG Bryan School's Master of Business Administration Capstone Projects program and serves on the board of directors for Junior Achievement of the Triad. 🏦

CHRISTINA FREEMAN PEARSALL '90 was named chair of the Real Property Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. Her term will extend through June 30, 2022.

ROBIN BROWN REESE '90 is partner, marketing lead at Ichor Strategies, a professional services firm that specializes in connecting businesses and communities for impactful change. She



PHOTO OF ESHARAN MONROE-JOHNSON COURTESY OF READ WRITE SPELL

1 Minita Sanghvi '14 PHD 2 Robin Brown Reese '90 3 Ruth Bryant Maxwell '49 4 James Worsley '00, '03 MS 5 Betty Zeps '56 and her grandson Leo at his high school graduation. 6 Nicole Saia '19 7 Karen Cochran '20 PHD 8 Jonathan Gutierrez '13 9 Susan Banks Burdine '70, Cheryl Morris Eckstam '71, Cynthia Overcash '70, Caroline Cuthbertson Howerton '70, Libby Alexander Putnam '70, Susan Banks Burdine '70, Doris Clark, Sandy Sanders '70, Barbara Hargett Garrison '70 (L-R) 10 Esharan Monroe-Johnson '09 MS, '09 EDS

Here in spring 2022, we send our best wishes for each of you. Reach out, and share your news.

Visit us at 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.**

gradtidings

was previously vice president of communications and marketing at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

AIMEE BEYLE JONES '91 is a filmmaker. Her latest documentary, "Show Must Go On," is expected to premiere on PBS this year.

WARREN GARY ROCHELLE '91 MFA, '97 PHD retired from teaching English and Creative Writing at the University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg, Va., in August 2020. He was honored to be named Professor Emeritus of English. Since retirement and moving to Charlottesville, he has been busy writing and has published two story collections: "The Wicked Stepbrother and Other Stories" (2020) and "To Bring Him Home and Other Tales" (2021).

CENDA QUEEN WOOTEN '91 received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the North Carolina governor's highest honor, in May 2021. She retired from Davidson County Schools July 1, 2021.

DAVID GALBRAITH '92, a former Volkswagen of America executive, was named vice president of global brand and marketing at Mack Trucks. He is responsible for marketing strategy, brand management, marketing communications, product marketing, and digital marketing.

STEVE HUNTER '92 was named the 2021-22 Halifax County (N.C.) Schools Principal of the Year.

LYNN KOONCE '92 is a recent winner of American Songwriter Magazine's Lyric Contest for her song "The River."

MELODY ROSS WHITWORTH '92 MA retired after 34 years of teaching dance, Spanish, and ESOL. She lives in Columbia, S.C.

JULIE SORRELLS TIMMONS '93 MSN was posthumously honored at UNCG through the establishment of the Julie Sorrells Timmons Scholarship in Nurse Anesthesia. The scholarship was established by her older sister Susan Sorrells, who is a licensed pharmacist living in Raleigh, N.C.

JOHN BROWN '94 served as chair for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize music jury. The prize was awarded to Cuban composer Tania León for her work "Stride."

GRANT DUFFIELD '94 works in public housing, bringing an appreciation of the importance of safe, healthy, affordable housing. He currently works at Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, N.C.

NIEGEL SULLIVAN '94 was selected by the Greensboro ABC Board as the new CEO/general manager. He started his new position in December.

CHRISTOPHER GERHARD '95 was hired to a newly created position of executive vice president of Specialty Building Products, in Georgia.

BETH REILLY MCCAIN '95 MS was one of ten new, full-time faculty members hired at Elon's Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, last August. Beth is a lecturer in accounting.

DAMION MOORE '95 and **RANDY WADSWORTH '95** are the owners of Dame's Chicken and Waffles, and last May, they opened their fourth location – on Franklin Street in Chapel Hill, N.C.

MEKA DOUTHIT '96 was sworn in as president of the North Carolina Nurses Association at the organization's 114th Annual Convention, last September.

TRISHA NEWLIN '96 AND ROBERT "BOB" NEWLIN '97 retired from the United States Air Force in June, after 24 years of service. Trisha taught music and performed in Germany, Albania, Ukraine, and throughout the United States. Bob's military career included assignments with four Air Force bands and three US Embassies with performances in 30 states and 23 countries.

JEAN RATTIGAN ROHR '97, '00 MED, '05 PHD will be promoted from vice president for access and success at Elon University to special assistant to the president, on June 1, 2022.

TANESIA BARROW '98 is the founder and CEO of Barrow Wise Consulting, LLC, which, last fall, announced a collaboration with UNCG to launch the Tanesia Barrow Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is open to undergraduate students from rural North Carolina currently attending UNCG's Bryan School.

MICHELE TERESE FENTON '98 MLIS received the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) Professional Achievement Award last July, during the 11th National Conference of African American Librarians. Michele serves as the assistant secretary of BCALA.

THERESA MCMANUS '98 is now a third-grade teacher at Brevard Elementary School in Brevard, N.C.

LAURELYN DOSSETT '99 MS once again led "Songs of Hope and Justice," which focuses on social justice issues, to help launch the North Carolina Folk Festival weekend.

JAMI WOODS '99 PHD was named vice president of instruction and student services at Roanoke-Chowan Community College in North Carolina.

2000s

SAMANTHA AMMONS '00 MA earned her master's of science in nursing from Duke University last August and joined FirstHealth of the Carolinas Family Medicine's Richmond location in October.

CALANDRA HACKNEY '00 was named assistant executive director and eastern regional director for the Actors' Equity Association, the national union representing more than 51,000 professional actors and stage managers in live theater.

MARK LINEBERGER '00 was appointed by Gov. Cooper to the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board. He is an interpreter and a member of the NC Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

RAY MORTON '00 and spouse **WHITNEY MORTON '00** were assigned as the newest leaders of the Salvation Army of Davidson County (N.C.). They were previously stationed at the Salvation Army in Tupelo, Mississippi.

JAMES WORSLEY '00, '03 MS was named deputy county administrator for Chesterfield County, Va., during the pandemic, and he provides leadership to six human services departments. Previously, James was director of parks and recreation in Chesterfield County and Columbus, Ga.

WILEY CASH '01 MA released his newest book, and his first written mystery, "When Ghosts Come Home," last September.

JULIANNA FOSTER '01, an assistant professor and interim director, was selected as the 2021 full-time faculty recipient of The President's Distinguished Teaching Award. The award recognizes excellence by a full-time faculty member who has taught for a minimum of two years at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

KRISTY CRAWLEY '02, '04 MA, '19 PHD had her article "Aligning an Adjunct Mentor Group with Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed" published in Forum: Issues about Part-Time and Contingent Faculty, a peer-reviewed publication. In the article, she highlights her connection to UNCG's Women in English, an equitable mentoring model. She notes that UNCG's Women in English serves as a decentered, collaborative form of mentorship.

ELBERT HAWKINS '02, '20 PHD, who serves as a school counselor at the Moss Street Partnership School, was recently added to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Standards Committee. The National Board is committed to making sure the NBPTS standards apply to teachers in all situations in all areas of the country.

APRIL BOYETT KOCHER '02 has published the second book in her children's book series "Geneva the Diva." Both books, "Geneva the Diva" and "Geneva the Diva Goes to the Opera," are available on Amazon.

MICHELLE LANTERI '02, '13 is the curator of collections and exhibitions at the Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos, New Mexico.

ELIZABETH WALKER STAUFFER '02, '07 MS joined Alion Science in July of 2021 as an instructional design lead. She joined a new team which was formed to create training for the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency in Washington, D.C.

CHRISTINA YONGUE '02, '04 MPH, who is a community health and social justice advocate, was the keynote speaker at the "I Matter" Teen Empowerment Conference, hosted by I Am A Queen, last summer. Christina is also an assistant professor and director of undergraduate studies in the UNCG Department of Public Health.

LYNN ZIMMERMAN '02 CERTIFICATE, '02 PHD is serving as a virtual, English language specialist for the OPEN Cubed project, sponsored by RELO Pakistan. She and another specialist created a six-week training to help 24 English language educators in Pakistan learn how to develop their own online professional development courses.

LAKEETHA BLAKENEY '03, a playwright, published her first book, "Princess Fearless: Walking to School," in December.

ERIN BONE STEELE '03 served as guest artist and director for the fall production of "Blue Stockings" at Loyola University of Maryland. She is a member of the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company where she co-directed "A Christmas Carol" to close out 2021.

ADAM TARLETON '03 MFA was among 72 Brooks Pierce attorneys recognized in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Adam was selected by his peers for Trusts and Estates.

TRENT WALTON '03, '10 MM, '15 POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE was named principal at Hunter Elementary by Guilford County Schools.

OSHANA M. WATKINS '03 was honored with a 2021 40 Under 40 Award by the Triangle Business Journal for her role as executive director at Wake Enterprises.

UVONDA WILLIS '03 MED, who is the assistant principal at Greene Central High School, was named Greene County Schools' Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year, in 2021.

HUGH ALDERSON, III '04 is the new youth services librarian for the Robeson County (N.C.) Public Library.

VICTOR ISLER '04 was selected to fill one of two newly created assistant county manager positions in Guilford County (N.C.).

DEANNA PRYOR LAWSON '04 has served in a leadership role for the last 15 years as a clinical supervisor, and she was awarded the Nurse Excellence Award at Wake Forest Baptist Health.

SIDNEY OUTLAW '04 sang with the Greensboro Opera in last July in a social-justice themed performance featuring works inspired by Nina Simone, Frederick Douglass, and other African American poets and composers. (See p. 28.)

VALARIE WILLIAMS '04 EDD is the new principal at South Pointe High School, in Rock Hill, S.C. Prior to this position, she was assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction at Scotland County Schools in North Carolina.

ALVA CROMARTIE, III '05 MPA is the new CEO at Penick Village, a life plan community in Southern Pines, N.C.

HOLLY HAWTHORNE '05 MPH works with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, and she has recently delved into NFT art.

JENNIFER JOHNSON '05 MBA, a partner and financial advisor with Blue Rock Financial Management in Winston-Salem, was elected to the Shallow Ford Foundation Board of Directors.

CASSANDRA HARRIS ALLEN '06, '09 MSW was welcomed by the Iredell Health System as a new clinical social worker at Iredell Psychiatry.

ADAM CAHUANTZI '06 was selected as Culpeper County (Va.) Public Schools' new executive director of special education. He was previously serving as acting coordinator of due process and eligibility with Fairfax County (Va.) Public Schools.

REBECCA WADE '07 is orchestra director at Atlanta International School in Atlanta, Ga.

FABBY WILLIAMS '07 EDS was named an area superintendent by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education. He had worked in Guilford County Schools since 2012, as a school support officer and as a principal.

JOHN BRITTAIN '08 was hired by Biscuitville Fresh Southern as the IT director of vendor management.

BRETT CARTER '08 PHD, the associate vice chancellor and dean of students at UNCG, was the recipient of a 2021 Pillar of Fame award, presented by the High Point Housing Authority.

MICHAEL LONG '08, who majored in religious studies at UNCG, is now the director of spiritual formation at Duke Divinity School.

RYAN TAHMASEB '08 is the director of library services at The Meadowbrook School in Weston, Mass., and in the fall of 2021, his first book, "The 21st Century

School Library", was published by John Catt Educational.

ESHARAN MONROE-JOHNSON '09 MS, '09 EDS was named executive director of Read Write Spell, a not-for-profit organization based in Winston-Salem.

JASON WAGGANER '09 PHD was appointed chair of the Department of Kinesiology, Nutrition and Recreation at Southeast Missouri State University. He had been serving as interim chair in the department since 2019.

CASSY WHITLEY '09 was named the 2020-21 Teacher of the Year at the Academy at Lincoln in Greensboro.

QUINCY WILLIAMS '09 MSA, '12 EDS, '15 EDD was named an area superintendent by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education. He had been executive director of secondary schools in Chapel Hill-Carrboro (N.C.) City Schools since 2018.

2010s

JULIE DEVORE '10 is the production stage manager for "American Utopia," which won a Special Tony Award last year.

APRIL ADAMS GETZ '10 MLIS is the new media coordinator at Highland School in Highland, N.C.

JAE HOON KIM '10, '12 MPA is assistant village manager of Bald Head Island.

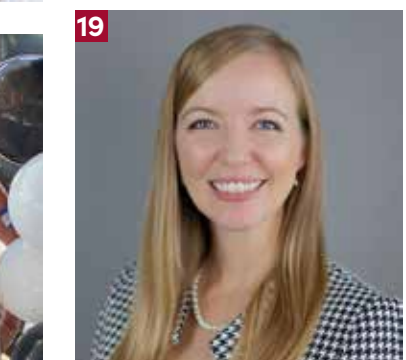
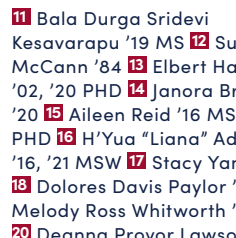
NATHAN MAUNG '10 spent 98 days in Myanmar jail after Kamayut Media, a private-owned news website, was raided by the Myanmar military. He was freed and deported to the U.S. on June 15, 2021, after officials learned he was a U.S. citizen. Esha Grover Sarai '13, a UNCG alumna and a reporter at Voice of America, covered the news.

SHALISA REYNOLDS '10 married Mario Jones on June 26, 2021.

PATRICE TONEY '10 MPA was promoted from director of budget and evaluation for the city to assistant city manager of Winston-Salem, N.C. The position oversees community development, emergency management, the fire and police departments, human relations, and the city's office of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

OLIVIA BRICE '11, '20 MSA was appointed principal of Falkener Elementary by Guilford County Schools.

ROBYN CROWELL LOWERY '11 PHD launched Mecklenburg Wellness, a small private practice in Charlotte, N.C., providing reproductive, pregnancy, and postpartum integrative counseling services. Also,



11 Bala Durga Sridevi Kesavarapu '19 MS **12** Susan McCann '84 **13** Elbert Hawkins '02, '20 PHD **14** Janora Brown '20 **15** Aileen Reid '16 MS, '18 PHD **16** H'Yua "Liana" Adrong '16, '21 MSW **17** Stacy Yancey '17 **18** Dolores Davis Paylor '79 **19** Melody Ross Whitworth '92 MA **20** Deanna Pryor Lawson '04

PHOTO OF JANORA BROWN COURTESY OF NBC

in November 2021, she began a new position as a clinical faculty member in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Southern New Hampshire University.

STACY YANCEY '11, who is a certified registered nurse anesthetist, was selected as the 2021-22 president of the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NCANA). 📍

BOWMAN YOKELY '11, a resident of Kernersville, N.C., performed his most notable role to date in the Lifetime movie “Switched Before Birth.” In the movie, which aired in October, Bowman plays Brian Crawford, a father fighting for custody of his son.

JEREMY CLARK '12 has led a lot of virtual events as the production manager at the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants. To simplify collaboration efforts, he developed a web-based app called “Nextslide” that lets multiple presenters control the same PowerPoint from any given device (phone, laptop, tablet, etc.).

CHRISTOPHER HANSEN '12 MM, '17 PHD conducted a performance of Ola Gjeilo’s “Dark Night of the Soul” and “Luminous Night of the Soul” at Carnegie Hall, last June.

TERRY HOBGOOD, JR. '12 MLIS is Granville County’s (N.C.) new deputy clerk and will perform administrative work and support for the clerk to the board and the county manager’s office.

EVAN FRIERSON '13 was a standby percussionist for the Broadway hit “American Utopia,” which won a Special Tony Award last year. During the height of COVID’s winter surge, he performed with David Byrne and the company in a somewhat “unplugged” version of the show.

JONATHAN GUTIERREZ '13 accepted a new job position with Forsyth County Social Services as the foreign language interpreter supervisor. 📍

CHINEDU IWUORA '13 MBA was honored with a 40 Under 40 Black Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Award, presented by the Black CPA Centennial – a year-long national awareness campaign recognizing Black CPAs and pushing for more progress to be made in achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the CPA profession.

DAVID MILLER '13, '20 MM, along with UNCG music professors Rebecca MacLeod and Jennifer Walter, recently published “The Status of Band and Orchestra Programs in North Carolina” in String Research Journal. Their research investigates

course offerings, teacher demographics, and teaching responsibilities of North Carolina instrumental music teachers.

APRIL PARKER '13 MLIS has become the managing director of Elsewhere, a living museum, international artist residency, and collaborative learning laboratory located in downtown Greensboro.

ESHA GROVER SARAI '13, a reporter at Voice of America, covered the news of another alumnus, Nathan Maung '10, after he was released from a 98-day hold at Myanmar jail. Maung was held after Kamayut Media, a private-owned news website, was raided by the Myanmar military. He was freed and deported to the U.S. on June 15, 2021, after officials learned he was a U.S. citizen.

MARY “MANDY” TAYLOR '13 PHD was named senior content specialist at the NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

SYDNEY TAYLOR '13 founded a technology business, Info Data Index, in 2020. Her business is focused on enhancing business capabilities, re-evaluating technology needs, and maximizing analytical insights.

RACHAEL WONDERLIN '13 MS is a dementia care consultant and author who has taught her trademarked technique to senior living communities worldwide. Last year she was named the University of Mary Washington Department of Psychology’s 2021 graduate-in-residence.

STEPHEN KENT '14 signed with Al Jazeera International, in January of 2021, to host their new platform, Rightly. He also published his first book in October, “How the Force Can Fix the World,” noting, “It marries my well documented love of ‘Star Wars’ with political science and self-help writing.”

MINITA SANGHVI '14 PHD won her candidacy for Commissioner of Finance (City Council) in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. She was the first openly gay candidate in the city’s history. 📍

KELLY WEAVER WITHERS '14 EDS, '19 EDD, associate superintendent and chief of schools at Rowan-Salisbury School System, was named deputy superintendent for Cabarrus County (N.C.) Schools.

DAVID EDENS '15 MLIS was promoted to director of libraries at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, where he had been employed since 2016 as the instructional services librarian.

TAMARINE FOREMAN '15 PHD, assistant professor in The Patton College of Education, was named 2021 Ohio Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (OACES) Counselor Educator of the Year.

ERICIA TURNER '15 EDS, who was previously the principal at Rocky River High, is now the system athletic director for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. She is the first African American woman to hold the position.

DELLA OWENS '15, '17 MLIS was hired as the reference, local history, and genealogy librarian for Harnett County (N.C.) Public Library, in March of 2021.

TRACEY VAUGHAN '15, who is a math teacher at Southern Middle School, was named Person County (N.C.) Schools’ Teacher of the Year, in September.

H’YUA “LIANA” ADRONG '16, '21 MSW was named chair of the Greensboro International Advisory Committee and an executive director at Montagnard Dega Association. 📍

CARRIE GRAHAM '16 has been promoted to director of artistic planning with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

BARBARA “STONEY” MOOTOO '16 made her Broadway debut last fall as a member of the ensemble in “The Book of Mormon.”

AILEEN REID '16 MS, '18 PHD is an assistant professor in the UNCG’s School of Education’s Department of Educational Research Methodology. She was named the external evaluator for a \$20 million National Science Foundation grant project. 📍

SHEENA ROSE '16 MFA received a 2020-21 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UNCG College of Visual and Performing Arts. She also had a new mural put on display at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, titled “Pause and Breathe, We Got This.”

PRESTON KELLY BLAKELY '17 is the Town of Fletcher’s (N.C.) mayor, after serving two years on the Town of Fletcher Town Council. He is one of America’s youngest mayors.

BILLY HAWKAINS III '17, '21 MFA was appointed to a limited term as assistant professor of dance at Kennesaw State University.

JOYCE WATKINS KING '17 MFA had a solo exhibition, “Fiasco,” at the Maria V. Howard Arts Center in Rocky Mount last year. “Fiasco” is an extension of Joyce’s thesis exhibition.

MARISSA BRYANT FRANKS '18 is an HR business partner at nCino, and in 2021, she received a 40 Under 40 Award, presented by StarNews and the Wilmington (N.C.) Chamber of Commerce.

SHELBY LENTZ '18 was admitted to the Global Field Program at Miami University, and as part of her first Earth Expeditions course, she traveled to Belize and studied coral reefs, manatees, howler monkeys, jaguars, and other wildlife

while learning the methods communities are using to sustain them.

CALLIE O’BUCKLEY '18 was appointed executive director of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association in New Mexico.

BARAKA ONGERI '18, better known by his stage name “Binki”, transitioned from acting to music after graduation and was signed by the Fader Label. He released his debut EP, “Motor Function,” in August and opened for “Glass Animals” in Charlotte.

PAIGE RABINOWITZ '18 graduated from UNCG’s media studies program and moved to NYC to work as make-up artist in TV and film, while earning a cosmetology license as well. Recently she was a key hairstylist on the feature film “Susie Searches,” starring Kiersey Clemons and Alex Wolff.

BALA DURGA SRIDEVI KESAVARAPU '19 MS has been working at LabCorp since graduating with her degree in information technology. She also started working on her master’s in business administration through the Bryan School, this past fall. 📍

WILLIAM LEDBETTER '19 landed a role in the United States Navy Band Commodores in Washington as a bassist.

NICOLE SAIA '19 is working as a general surgery nurse at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in London. 📍

2020s

MAYA BROOKS '20 MA joined the North Carolina Museum of Art as the Mellon Foundation assistant curator.

JANORA BROWN '20 sang Monica’s “Angel of Mine” during the blind auditions on the recent season of “The Voice.” Before she could even hit the chorus, coaches Kelly Clarkson and John Legend hit their buzzers, signaling they wanted the singer to join their teams. 📍

KAREN COCHRAN '20 PHD has presented her dissertation at national and international conferences, and in October, her dissertation manuscript was published in an issue of the Journal of Nursing Administration. 📍

CHRISTOPHER CRAWFORD '20 EDD served as the lead medical provider with the U.S. Paralympic Swimming team in Tokyo. He has worked with them since 2013 and was at the last Paralympics with the team in 2016.

GIANNA “GIGI” GOSLEN '20 was named Davie County (N.C.) Beginning Teacher of the Year for 2020-21.

MATTHEW HUNT '20 and **HEATHER HUNT '20**, brother and sister, completed the UNCG RN to BSN program together, in December. The two are now in pursuit of their doctor of nursing practice degrees at the University. 📍

KATIE HOWARD '20 was appointed director of bands at West Rowan High School in Salisbury, N.C.

ABDOULAYE KOITA '20 was invited to participate in Bill T. Jones’ “Deep Blue Sea,” a commission by Park Avenue Armory. He is also working with Asase Yaa African Dance Theatre and teaching for the Mark Morris Dance Group.

MEGAN MOORE '20 DNP was welcomed as a new provider at the FirstHealth of the Carolinas Family Medicine’s Richmond (N.C.) location, in October.

NICOLETTA MOSS '20 POST-BACHELOR’S CERTIFICATE, '20 MM was named a national finalist and awarded an honorable mention in the Orchestral Conducting Division of The American Prize 2020–2021 Competition in the Performing Arts.

JOSHUA RIDLEY '20 began his new role as marketing and communications manager at the Arts Council of Winston Salem and Forsyth County, in October. He previously served as the patron services manager for the Winston-Salem Symphony.

IVOLYN BONAPARTE '21 MSA is the new assistant principal at Greensboro’s E.P. Pearce Elementary School. 📍

EMMA BROCK '21 has been appointed band director at East Forsyth Middle School in Kernersville, N.C.

DARIA “TONI” CLARK '21 signed a two-year contract with the Garth Fagan Dance Company, an internationally acclaimed contemporary company. Garth Fagan is known for his groundbreaking choreography for Broadway’s “The Lion King.”

ERICKA EDWARDS '21 started as a marketplace manager at Stock and Grain Assembly, on Elm Street in Greensboro.

RACHEL HUNT '21 is the new head coach of the Henderson Collegiate women’s basketball team.

MARIA GUILD '21 was appointed chorus, orchestra, and general music teacher at Corriher-Lipe Middle School in Landis, N.C.

ISAIAH MILLER '21 made history last summer as the first UNCG Spartan to be named the Bob Waters Southern Conference Male Athlete of the Year.

JACQUELINE SANDOVAL '21, a public health education alumna, was accepted to the Master of Public Health program at Yale University.

PETER SWANSON '21 DMA released his debut CD, “Anti-Compass: Masterworks

for Solo Cello,” through the international label Sheva Collection in August. The disc features works by Hindemith, Ligeti, Crumb, and Weinberg, which were recorded in the UNCG Music Building’s Tew Recital Hall.

IN MEMORIAM

HELEN BISHER LOFTIN '34, '60 MED

GLADYS MEYEROWITZ STERN '38

CATHERINE BRABBLE CUBBERLEY '39

DOROTHY REID KINSEY '39C

NELL RIDDICK WOOD '40

ROSE BAILIFF LAWRENCE '41C

JUANITA MILLER SPECTOR '41

ESTHER CLAPP IRBY '42

KATHERINE STEPHENSON ROBINSON '43C

MARY BRISTOL KING '44

ELIZABETH JORDAN LANEY '44

KITTY REAVES '44

RUTH ROWLAND THREATT '44C

FLORENCE CALDWELL TOUCHSTONE '44

CHARLENE BELL ALLIGOOD '45C

CAROLYN FULCHER MORAN '45C

MARTHA ALSTON DAUGHTREY '46

HAZEL BIGFORD '47C

ANNE MCARTHUR GADDIS '47

BETTY SHARPE BRUTON '48

ADITHA LLOYD BRYANT '48

GEORGETTA DAVIS '48

FRANCES STAFFORD HEATH '48

HELEN SEAWELL SHARPE '48

ELAINE SOLOMON ZERDEN '48

ATHENA PAPPAS GALLINS '49X

CHRISTINE FOIL JOHNSTON '49

ROSALIE LAWSON '49 MA

ESTELLE ROSE RUBENSTEIN '49

DOROTHY SWICEGOOD '49

EMMA WEST BARBER '50

PEGGY GILLIKIN BEAMAN '50C, '85

BETTY CRAWFORD ERVIN '50

ANNETTE EZZELL CHASE '51

HELEN MILLER GODWIN '51, '62 MS

SHIRLEY HAASE GREEN '51

MARIE MORGAN HILL '51

MARY MACLIN '51

JEANNETTE LAMBERTSON SMITH '51

LYDIA MCKEITHAN STOKES '51

JULIA LAMBERT THAYER '51

MARTHA BARBER '52

VIOLA BATTS RUS '52

SHARON NEWNAM WARREN '52

RUTH SEVIER FOSTER '53

BETTY PEGRAM HERRING '53



21 Matthew Hunt '20 and Heather Hunt '20, brother and sister 22 Ivoly Bonaparte '21 MSA 23 Chris Murray '90 24 Julianna Foster '01

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.

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- 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. 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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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 recruit-
ing 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.uncgsportfans.com.



MARGARET LEWIS SPARROW '53
EMMA WHITE TAYLOR '53
JEAN THACKER WILSON '53
MARTHA MOORE COWAN '54
IZORIA SHEPPARD GORDON '54 MED
BETTY HILL JACOBS '54
JO SMITH SOUCEK '54
MARY ABERNETHY TROUTMAN '54
MARGARET VILCINS '54
SARAH WRAY ROGERS '55
MARTHA BROOKS GILES '56
CAROLYN PITTMAN '56
BEVERLY ROSE '56
ELIZABETH LUTHER SCHULTZ '56
CAROLYN TEACHEY WATJEN '56
MARY LOU CAMERON BLACK '57
BARTON EDWARDS BRUCE '57
MARY HARGROVE CRAVEN '57
CATHERINE BRABBLE CUBBERLEY '57X
ELEANOR CULLER '57C
SANDRA DAVIS '57X
BETTY LLOYD AMIS GALLUP '57
MARY MARTIN GENTRY '57
ELIZABETH MARTIN LACKEY '57
ISABEL INGRAM PAYNE '57, '69 MED
NANCY CHESSON PERRY '57
GLORIA MAREADY BOWMAN '58
JESSIE STANZEL GOEHNER '58
REBECCA HATCHER KURTZ '58
PRISCILLA SWINDELL '58
MARY BRADHAM '59
CHARLOTTE THOMAS BURNS '59X
MARTHA BRADLEY FAULK '59
BETSY PARAMORE FIDALGO '59
BETTY ROWE PENNY '59
BARBARA GIBSON HUNSLEY '60X
FAY BATTS KAY '60
BARBARA BRADLEY MEILHAMMER '60X
SARAH FISHER PEARLMAN '60
LINDA VEASEY MCCAULEY '61
ANNA PACK CONNER '62
MARGARET PEGUES KINNEY '62
FRANCES MCCASKILL WARD '62
DAY HEUSNER MCLAUGHLIN '63
DOROTHY DAVIS MOYE '63
ANN GREESON '63 CERTIFICATE
SANDRA MERRITT BROWN '64
MARY ELLA BRUTON CAMERON '64
ROBERTA DANIEL JOHNSON '64
GERALDINE NIELSON '64, '65 MED
JOAN DONOHUE EICHHORN '65
CORNELIA JOHNSON VICK '65
ELINOR JO LASSETER FEE '66 MFA

RACHAEL MODLIN '66 MED
MILLICENT RUNDGREN '66
ELLEN COMMODORE '67
EVA STILWELL DORSETT '67 MED
TOWNLEY SPRATT MOON '67
SANDRA CAUDLE WINGATE '67
RACHEL JACKSON BRANDON '68
SUZANNE STIMPSON DEAL '68
JANE MCMILLAN JACKSON '68
LINDSAY PARK WALLACE '68
ELIZABETH BARNES SAPPENFIELD '69
PATSY FARLOW SLAUGHTER '69X
KENNETH SOUTHERN '69X
MARY YODER '69 MFA
CARY FALCONER DRIVER '70, '76 MFA
IOLA PEED-NEAL '70, '74 MFA
WILLIAM SEDGWICK '70 MFA
TERESA MEADE HUTSON '71
EMMA DUNLAP SCOTT '71 MED
JOYCE HONEYCUTT SLOOP '71 MA, '87 EDD
JO WATTS WILLIAMS '71 MED, '73 EDD
SUSAN GORSKI MARKS '72
CORTLAND RABY, JR. '72 MFA
PRISCILLA MEADOWS '73
KATHRYN BENTON WYATT '73 MA
TERESA PENFIELD CROTTS '74
JEAN GOODNER EASON '74 EDD
BROOKE NEAL '74
PAULA PERKINS WATERS '74
FRANK BRADSHAW, JR. '75
JAMES TEER '75 MS
LAWRENCE CHADWICK '76
FRANK DORSCH '76 MS
BENJAMIN MATTHEWS '76 MED
JEAN LOVE MERWIN '76
BETTY ROBERTS '76 EDD
LYDIA WHEELER '76
JUDITH PHILLIPS BRINSON '77
WILLIAM COZART '77 MBA
LAVERNE GRAHAM-GAITHER '77 MED
JOAN PARKER HAYNES '77 MLS
MARGARET SHINN '78
CAROL MORRIS SUMMERLIN '78 MED
LESLIE WICKER '78 PHD
CAROLYN CATTRON WITMAN '78 MED
RODNEY PULLEY '79 MPA
PAUL RUDD '79 MED
HOWARD H. SHEPHERD, III '79, '81 MA, '11
SARAH MCBRYDE SPITAL '79
VAIL ALLEN ELLIS COVINGTON '80X
SYBIL RUTH NEAL '80
KATHLEEN MUSHOLT WARD '80
ROBERT CROUCH, JR. '82 MPA

SUSAN SCOTT LILES '82, '94 MSN
MARY HUSTON MCLENDON '82 MBA
YVONNE E. SHANKS '82
GEORGE LEGGETT '83 MPA
WILLIAM MOORE '83 MBA
SUSAN MORGAN WASHINSKY '83
DAVID WATSON '84
ERIC VANN '85 MBA
CHARLES CROCKER '86 MBA
ANNE THOMAS ELKINS '86, '92 MA
LINDA M. HINES '86
MARK TOLAND '86
ANDREW BELLENKES '87
SARAH LEMAY OWENS '87, '89
KAREN WILKINSON HALL '88
ANGELA BARRIER ROBBINS '88
RONALD TURBYFILL '88 MM, '97 PHD
BRIDGETTE CHAUVIGNE '93, '00 MSN
KATHLEEN MATHER KOESTLER '94
JAMES COLAVITO '95 EDD
TAMARA MOSS GREENWOOD '95 MS, '00 PHD
NORMAN KNECHT, JR. '95 MED
CHESTER ROBINSON '95 PHD
KARA BALDWIN COOPER '96
MARK FRICKE '96 MS
JENNIFER PICKWELL '97 MED
NANCY JO ARMSTRONG '98
SUE BIALOSKY LERNER '00 MA
ANGELA BOONE '01, '13 MSN
REBECCA CLODFELTER '03
HARRY CONRAD LEGETTE '03
WASIM CHAUDHRY '10
NELL RIDDICK WOOD '14

RETIRED FACULTY/STAFF

WALTER H. BEALE, III, professor emeritus
and former dean, died Nov. 12. Beale
came to UNCG in 1971 to teach in the
Department of English. He served as chair
of the department 1988-90 and as dean
of the College of Arts and Sciences 1990-
2003, before returning to the Department
of English, teaching until his retirement
after 45 years at the University. Within
the English Department he created
a PhD specialization in Rhetoric and
Composition. In the College of Arts and
Sciences he introduced Writing across
the Curriculum and began the Writing
Center, which has served thousands of
undergraduates. His research interests
were at the intersection of linguistics,
rhetoric, and the theory of discourse. In
addition to his teaching and scholarship,
Walter was devoted to his colleagues
and friends. For example, he and his
wife, Lollie, hosted monthly meetings
of the Tate Street Thespians, a drama
reading club.

BETTY H. CARTER, former UNCG
archivist, passed away on Sept. 29. She
served UNCG's Special Collections and
University Archives beginning in 1974,
and she retired in 2010. She founded
an oral history project that interviewed
women who had served in the military.
The project was eventually named in
her honor: the Betty H. Carter Women
Veterans Historical Project. In 2000,
Carter was presented with the University
Libraries Staff Service Award.

DR. ROBERT CALHOON died Jan. 14.
Joining the faculty in 1964, he taught
generations of students in both the
Department of History and in the
Residential College. He wrote or edited
nine books, contributed to another
sixteen volumes, and published many
articles. From 1996 to 2000, he served as
the faculty marshal and mace bearer at
UNCG Commencement. In 2005, when
UNCG began offering a PhD in American
history, he served as advisor for the first
dissertations.

BRENDA CRAIG '67, who worked at UNCG
in security, died in July. She was a UNCG
alumna who earned a degree in physical
education and excelled in sports and
academically. After graduating, Craig
became a teacher and instructor, before
returning to UNCG for the remainder of
her career. Craig was well known among
students, faculty, and staff at UNCG,
where she volunteered daily at the Smith
Campus Ministries Center and at the
Spartan Open Pantry.

MARGARET ECKELMANN '51 died on June
28, 2021, at the age of 92. An alumna of
Woman's College, she was a secretary
in UNCG's Department of Academic
Advising. She retired in 1991.

JOHN GAMBLE died Feb. 10. In his long
career at UNCG, he was professor and
head of the Department of Dance,
where he developed the BFA and MFA
degree programs. He and Jan Van Dyke
co-founded the North Carolina Dance
Festival. He received the UNC Board
of Governors Award for Excellence in
Teaching in 2006, and the NC Dance
Alliance Annual Award in 2007. He
chaired UNCG's Faculty Senate in 2010-
11, and retired from UNCG in 2012.

MARGARET GERRINGER '37C, 102, died
on Sept. 14, 2021. A proud alumna of
Woman's College, she served as secretary
to two of the University's chancellors,
Dr. Walter Clinton Jackson and Dr.
Edward Kidder Graham.

FRANCES S. KIMREY died Oct. 24, 2021.
She was one of North Carolina's first
nurse practitioners and worked at UNCG
until 1991.

FRANK MCCARTY, a composer and author,
passed away on Sept. 15, 2021. He was
a professor in the School of Music for
28 years, from 1976 until 2004. He

taught Composition, Music Theory,
and Twentieth-Century Music History.
McCarty also served as a panelist and
chair for the National Endowment
for the Arts. Founding editor of the
American Music Resource, an online
collection of over 700 bibliographies
and lists, for over 70 composers and 50
topics, he was a three-time recipient of
the North Carolina Artist Fellowship
in composition (1983, 1989, 1994). He
composed in virtually all media and
collaborated in many productions for
dance, film, radio, television,
and theater.

CYNTHIA OAKLEY, died Sept. 19, 2021.
She worked at UNCG as a computer
programmer for 25 years before retiring.

SARAH PICKETT, an administrative
support specialist in the Bryan School,

died Sept. 7, 2021. A UNCG alumna,
Sarah had worked in the Undergraduate
Student Services Office since 2014 and
was the first point of contact for students
and visitors.

SANDRA POWERS died Aug. 13, 2021. She
taught for nearly 30 years in UNCG's
School of Education. In 1986, as a
member of the Interdepartmental Studies
Gerontology Program Committee, she
coordinated UNCG's first gerontology
conference on the topic of mental health
and aging. Later, she served as the first
director of the UNCG graduate program
in gerontology.

ROSEMARY ROBERTS died Jan. 26. Before
a long career at the Greensboro Record
and then News & Record and after stints
at other notable papers, she worked
briefly in UNCG's news division. She

taught Fundamentals of Journalism in
the English Department until retiring
in 2020. Her syllabus reportedly read:
"STUDENTS MUST READ A DAILY
NEWSPAPER, EITHER HARD COPY
OR ONLINE."

VIRGINIA "GINNY" STEPHENS passed away
on July 18. Ginny and her spouse, Robert
"Bob" Stephens (deceased 2018), both
spent the majority of their professional
careers teaching at UNCG. She was
the first director of the UNCG social
work program, and an architect of the
Master of Social Work Program of North
Carolina A&T State University and
UNCG. She specialized in gerontology
and social issues of aging. She won her
school's outstanding teaching award in
1993 and was named Greensboro's social
worker of the year in 1994.



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UNCG students and graduates are both the fabric and fuel for our region's growth. With more than 95,000 alumni in North Carolina – 39,000 of those within 25 miles of campus – UNC Greensboro and its grads have real-world, everyday impact. They are the health professionals who care for our families, the teachers who educate our children, and the new leaders who energize our businesses and our communities. These successful, inspirational people will invest in UNCG's engine of progress for the Piedmont Triad and beyond.

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