

SPRING 2023

UNCG

MAGAZINE

LIFE-LONG
LEARNING
PG. 10

CAMPUS
TREASURES
PG. 28

STELLAR
SOCCER
PG. 34

Members of
No Labels:
Isaiah King,
Lukas Tucker,
Parker Boike,
Juno Rose

LOOK AT US NOW

UNCG'S LGBTQ+ community
is stronger than ever.

PG. 20

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While the University has become increasingly known for the diversity in its student body in recent decades, the fact is that LGBTQ+ people have been a key part of this campus' story the whole time.

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Lots of class notes and photos, too

Cover photography: Isaiah King, Lukas Tucker, Parker Boike, and Juno Rose, clockwise from left, at the newly installed Friendship Bench near Elliott University Center, March 2023.
By Sean Norona '12

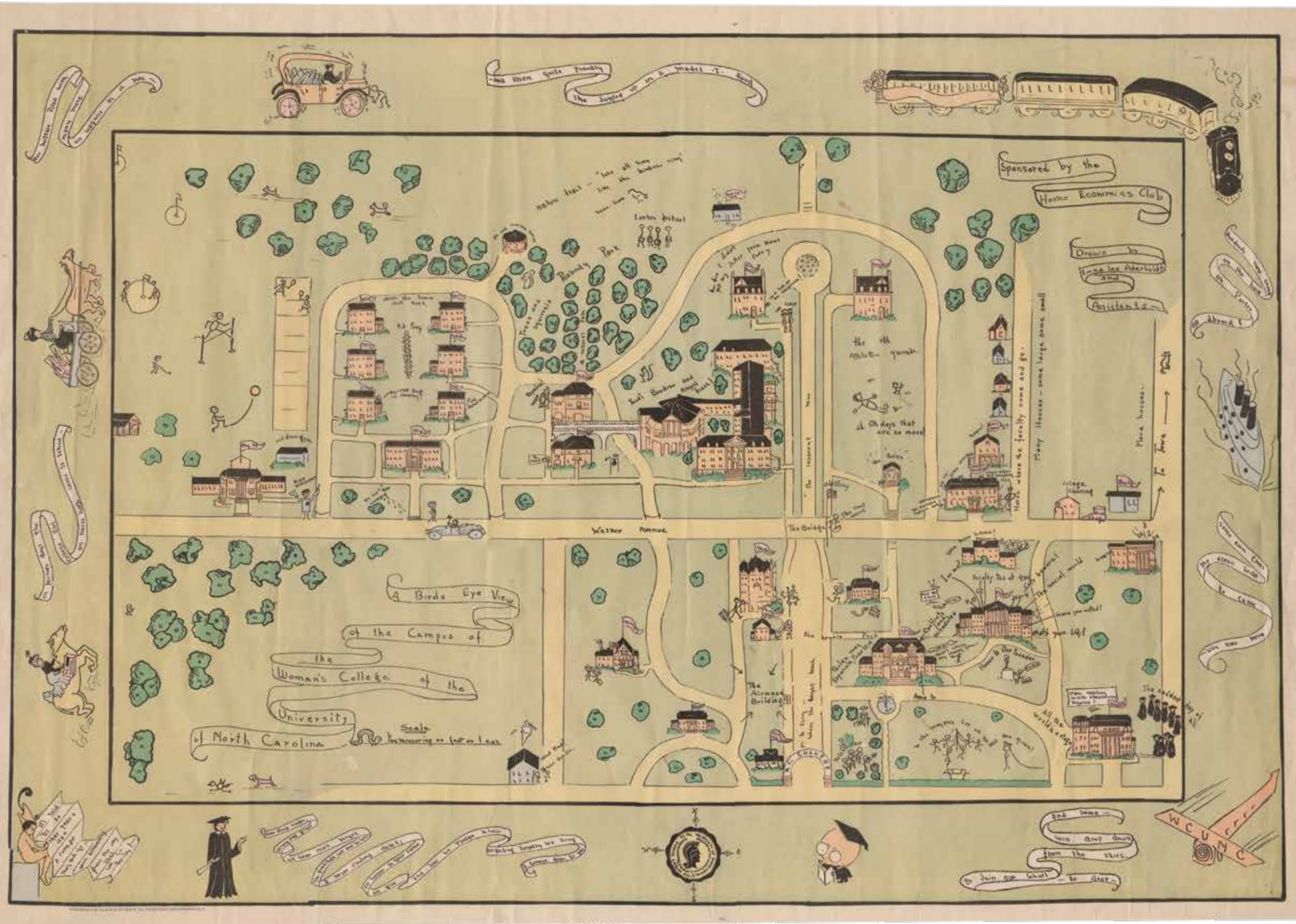
Photo on this spread: courtesy of Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives

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.

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1935 CAMPUS MAP The more things stay the same, the more they change. Or is it the other way around? The constant is a beautiful campus with students and alumni who enjoy all the treasures that surround us. What clever art and wit is revealed in this wonderful map! Who'd have known it was the Great Depression?



Spring on campus is something to behold. Our campus is not only beautiful this time of year, it is also vibrant and welcoming to all. From students playing ultimate frisbee on Kaplan Commons, to classes being held outside in Foust Park, to students singing along College Avenue, you can feel the energy.



FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.
CHANCELLOR

You're invited to be a part of this season in the life of UNCG. Attend the Alumni All Access weekend this month. Catch a baseball or softball game. Come experience the arts – attend a concert, reading, or exhibition. And it's never too early to start making your plans for Homecoming in October.

As is true for most universities, the pandemic and declines in the college-age population have impacted UNCG. Collectively, the support of our alumni can make a difference.

Share with prospective students how you found your way at UNCG. Contribute to scholarships, hire UNCG interns, speak to classes – or help write encouraging letters to students, as you'll see later in this Newsfront section.

Our reputation for academic excellence and support for students from all walks of life is on the rise. Our status as the state's top university for social and economic mobility is proven.

Our alumni are an essential part of this success. Together, we'll ensure UNCG thrives like never before!

newsfront

Making plans

Michael Crumpton was appointed dean of University Libraries in January. The former president of the North Carolina Library Association had been interim dean since February 2020. A staff member there for 15 years, he has been well-acquainted with Jackson Library's needs for many years.

No major changes have come to Jackson Library since 1973, when the tower was added. Now, 50 years later, planning is underway for a major renovation.

After a Master Space Plan study in 2019, state funding of \$81 million was awarded in November 2021.

"The phrase we've heard most often in assessing current conditions is 'It's beyond its useful life,'" he said. There are many needs, such as getting elevator, electrical, and HVAC systems as well as bathrooms and plumbing up to code. Plus, there is upgrading safety requirements like sprinkler systems as well as improving accessibility so everyone can access the library and its materials.

"The Advance Planning process, which includes information-gathering engagement sessions, has been going on since last

spring," he said. "It'll wrap up later this semester with a final report that will inform how we move into the design stages."

It's too early to predict specific design changes. The library's exterior will likely look largely the same with no funding for a proposed expansion, he said – but he anticipates one or two entrances will be added. In the coming months planning will proceed, with a focus on students' needs.

The ways UNCG students access information and what

they need in a library

has greatly changed over the years, he explained. "It's our mission to do the best we can for our students. That's what this project's guiding principles are all about: to make this building inspirational, safe, and useful for our students going forward."



Michael Crumpton, dean of University Libraries

VISIT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](https://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu) TO SEE UPDATES AND THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES.



MAGAZINE SURVEY TAKE-AWAYS

We appreciate so many readers taking the time to respond to last fall's magazine survey.

We learned that 80% are somewhat or very interested in University history. Another take-away? While 80% of respondents say they're somewhat or very interested in stories with a serious tone, nearly as many (78%) say they're somewhat or very interested in stories with a light-hearted tone. We responded in this issue with a whimsical and historical look at lesser-discussed treasures on campus (pp. 28-33).

More than 85% of respondents either agree or somewhat agree that the magazine presents info on issues and subjects they care about. 85% are somewhat or very interested in University news and 90% are somewhat or very interested in future directions. Most respondents (93%) find the magazine's coverage of UNCG issues to be fair and balanced.

We value your trust and your readership. We are studying the results to help us shape future issues moving forward.

What do you most want to read? These got the most "very interested" responses:

57% FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR UNCG

49% UNIVERSITY NEWS

49% UNIVERSITY HISTORY

47% UNIVERSITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

47% ARTS, MUSIC, PERFORMING ARTS

46% ALUMNI STORIES

42% FACULTY RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

TO SEE THE 10 PRIZE WINNERS AND SURVEY RESULTS, VISIT [ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](https://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu).



Dr. Lisa Levenstein speaking at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at UNCG.

50 years of inquiry

So much has changed, yet the academic inquiry and social awareness are constant.

"Reflecting trends in the field of study, we began as 'women's studies,' became 'women's and gender studies' in 2002, and 'women's, gender, and sexuality studies' in 2017," explains Dr. Lisa Levenstein, program director for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS).

At its 50-year anniversary, the Spartan WGSS program is one of the oldest in the nation. With its origin as a grassroots faculty-student committee established in 1972, the program has thrived and expanded to

include not only undergraduate offerings, but also one of the few master's degrees of its kind in the Southeast.

By teaching students the critical thinking skills vital to a liberal education, the department seeks to explain how social institutions create definitions of gender and affect individual lives.

"For 50 years, beginning long before the invention of the term 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' and continuing today, the WGSS program has served as a beacon on UNCG's campus for feminist and antiracist inquiry, the practice of love, and the quest for social justice," says Levenstein.

INSPIRING GIFT

"The more we change, the more we have to learn," said Claudia Kadis '65 as she explained why she values the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program.

Last fall, she made a gift that, when matched by state funds, will establish the Dylan Rose Kadis and Eloise Hall Kadis Distinguished Professorship. It's one of seven professorships created during

the *Light the Way* campaign.

"What they're doing in the WGSS program now far exceeds what my vision of women's studies was when I was in school from 1961 to 1965," she said. "I'm proud to be associated with a school that is so eager and willing to reach out to such a broad spectrum of students."

Kadis wants to pass a spirit of philanthropy to the next

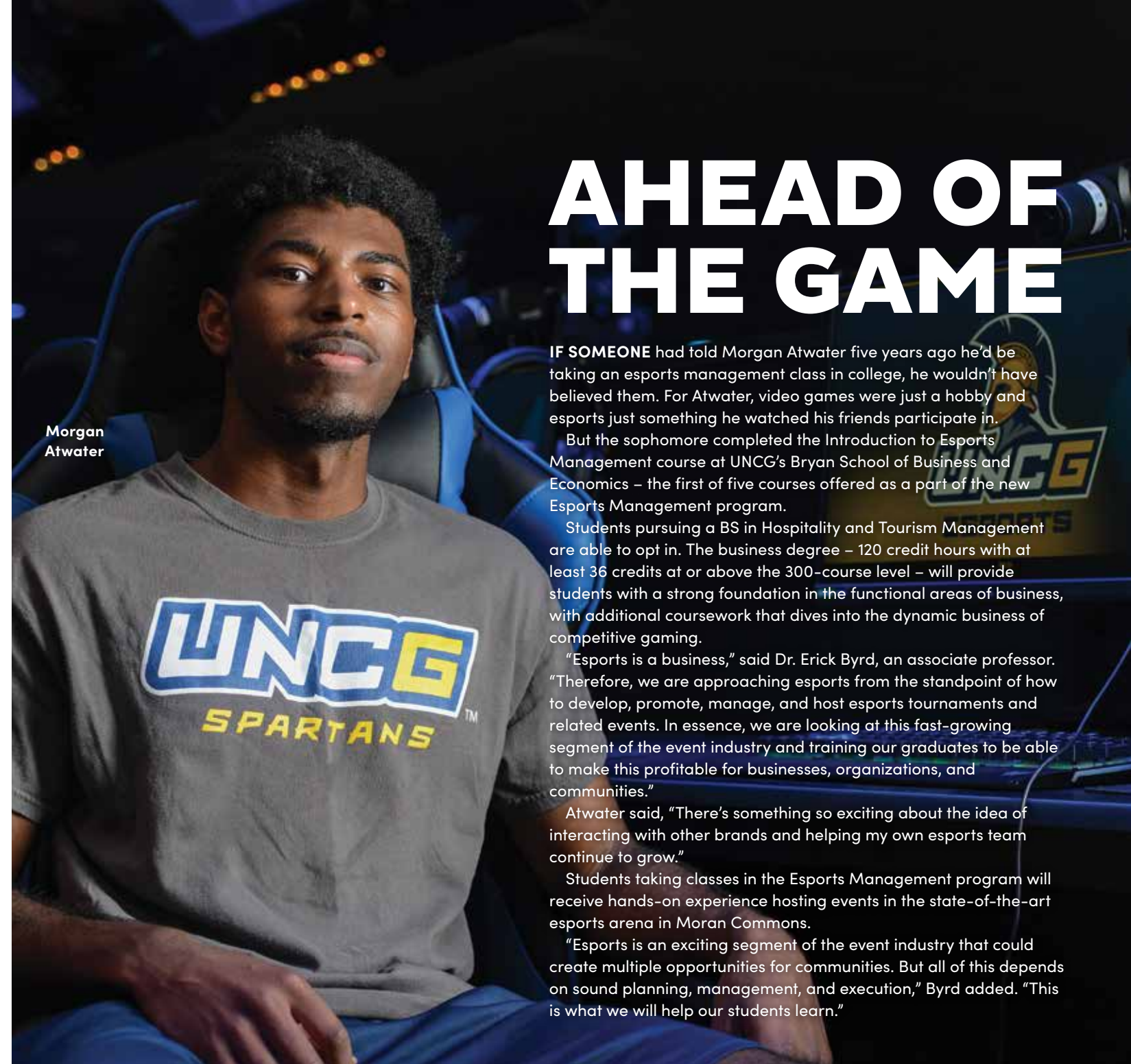
generation. "My granddaughters are 10 and 21," she said of the namesakes of the professorship, "and I want them to be inspired to share their good fortune in the future."

“Be open to the new ideas you're exposed to. Allow yourself that freedom.”

—CLAUDIA KADIS '65



PHOTOGRAPHY OF CLAUDIA KADIS, DYLAN ROSE KADIS, AND ELOISE HALL KADIS BY BERT VANDERVEEN.



Morgan Atwater

AHEAD OF THE GAME

IF SOMEONE had told Morgan Atwater five years ago he'd be taking an esports management class in college, he wouldn't have believed them. For Atwater, video games were just a hobby and esports just something he watched his friends participate in.

But the sophomore completed the Introduction to Esports Management course at UNCG's Bryan School of Business and Economics – the first of five courses offered as a part of the new Esports Management program.

Students pursuing a BS in Hospitality and Tourism Management are able to opt in. The business degree – 120 credit hours with at least 36 credits at or above the 300-course level – will provide students with a strong foundation in the functional areas of business, with additional coursework that dives into the dynamic business of competitive gaming.

"Esports is a business," said Dr. Erick Byrd, an associate professor. "Therefore, we are approaching esports from the standpoint of how to develop, promote, manage, and host esports tournaments and related events. In essence, we are looking at this fast-growing segment of the event industry and training our graduates to be able to make this profitable for businesses, organizations, and communities."

Atwater said, "There's something so exciting about the idea of interacting with other brands and helping my own esports team continue to grow."

Students taking classes in the Esports Management program will receive hands-on experience hosting events in the state-of-the-art esports arena in Moran Commons.

"Esports is an exciting segment of the event industry that could create multiple opportunities for communities. But all of this depends on sound planning, management, and execution," Byrd added. "This is what we will help our students learn."

CURRICULUM-FOCUSED ESPORTS LEAGUE

UNCG is extending its integration of gaming and education to North Carolina high schools.

The UNCG Scholastic Esports Alliance (UNCG SEA) is the nation's first university-led, curriculum-focused statewide high school esports league.

All participating schools will be provided with a STEM-focused, Career Technical

Education (CTE) pathway-aligned curriculum that links to academic offerings at UNCG.

The primary mission of UNCG SEA is to enhance educational outcomes for students, establish an end-to-end talent development pipeline for N.C. industry, and position the state as the nation's leading esports economy.

Through collaborations with Epic Games

and other esports and technology leaders, UNCG SEA plans to offer participating schools a four-year, CTE pathway-aligned curriculum that incorporates Epic Games' Unreal Engine. These curriculum offerings will be provided along with two competitive seasons featuring Rocket League, Fortnite and other possible titles for the academic year beginning Fall 2023.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE DICKENS



PAAD2 participant works out, with guidance from graduate student Delaney Thibodeau, r-l

Healthy body, sound mind

A team led by Dr. Jennifer Etnier, the Julia Taylor Morton Distinguished Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, has finished five years of data collection in the ongoing Physical Activity and Alzheimer's Disease 2 (PAAD2) study.

don't have the answers to are the ones specific to Alzheimer's." After an initial study that focused on older adults, Etnier's research has focused on younger people aged 40-65 who are currently cognitively normal but have a family history of the disease.

you remember where you parked your car. This kind of memory is sensitive to Alzheimer's. A simple observation sparked the project. Etnier gave her 79-year-old mother a smartphone and since her memory was impeccable, Etnier knew her mother would adapt to the technology quickly. Her father, on the other hand, was in the early stages of late-onset dementia.

One difference between the two? Exercise. Throughout her life, Etnier's mother maintained high levels of physical activity. By contrast, her father was active as a younger man, but let his exercise decline in his later years.

"If we can delay the onset of Alzheimer's, maybe people can live to the end of their natural lives in a way that allows them to interact with their families," she says. "This could give hope to the millions of individuals who have seen a loved one suffer and who may fear the same fate because of their family history."

So far, about 150 participants have completed some or all of the study. They enroll in cohorts, complete comprehensive cognitive testing three times in 12 months, and participate in virtual group exercise classes led by UNCG students or alumni.

The team has already found that physical activity benefits a type of hippocampal memory that helps

SELF-CARE

What does a researcher who understands the connection between mind and body do to stay healthy?

"I try to walk for 60 minutes and do Pilates-style exercise for at least 15 minutes every day."

In nice weather, Dr. Etnier also commutes to work on her bike. Once she sets foot in the lab, it's hard to leave!

ETNIER AND HER TEAM ARE RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS THROUGH SUMMER 2023. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL (336) 334-4765 OR EMAIL PAAD2@UNCG.EDU.

"If we can delay the onset of Alzheimer's, maybe people can live to the end of their natural lives in a way that allows them to interact with their families." —DR. JENNIFER ETNIER

Her team of post-docs and students wants to know if staying active can prevent or delay onset of the disease for those with a family history.

"The data that we have is going to be unbelievable," says Etnier. "I expect physical activity to benefit cognitive performance and improve brain function for everybody. The questions that we

Members of UNCG hiking group Celebrate the Trail to Recovery (CTR).



PATHS TO RECOVERY

"THE HIKING PROGRAM continues to be a welcome part of my social life. This is just a wonderful group of supportive friends," says Nancy Ryckman '82 MEd, active member of UNCG's hiking group Celebrate the Trail to Recovery (CTR). The former assistant head of the Reference Department of UNCG Libraries is one of about a dozen members who comes every week.

Created to be a restorative outlet and caring community for those who have or had cancer diagnoses, CTR recently celebrated a milestone: its 500th hike.

"Diagnosis of a serious illness unsettles identity," says Dr. Justin Harmon, associate professor in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation. "I started thinking, how can we help to reprioritize the things that really define us even in the face of dealing with diagnosis, treatment, and recovery? This hiking group is one way for people to see the restorative properties of

nature and the benefits of routine, physical activity, and their natural environment, all alongside people who have experienced similar situations."

Harmon modeled his idea for CTR from his experience volunteering with Live by Living, which provides outdoor experiences for cancer survivors and caregivers in the Denver area. When Harmon joined the

UNCG faculty in 2016, he began outreach and planning, and the first hiker joined him on Jan. 21, 2017. Since then, 75 people who have had a cancer diagnosis have participated at least once.



Dr. Justin Harmon

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.



Friend of the court

Tiffany Atkins '03
in the stacks at
Jackson Library

“Being a law professor was never a career I thought I would have because there weren’t people who look like me. One of the things I’m proudest of is that I’ve been able to change that for other women,” says Tiffany Atkins ‘03, a graduate of UNCG’s African American and African Diaspora Studies program (then called African American Studies).

explaining the importance of seeing role models who can inspire you to succeed.

She explains that after facing an unjust workplace experience, she was inspired to become a lawyer. She found herself achieving her childhood dream of standing up for justice. Then an opportunity at UNCG changed her path. She was invited to teach a course about race and law.

“I fell in love with teaching,” Atkins says. “This is a new way I can make a difference – by teaching young people to become the next lawyer-leaders.”

Now Atkins is a leader inside and outside the classroom. In fall of 2022, she worked on an amicus brief in “Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina,” one of the first cases heard by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

“Another word for an ‘amicus brief’ is a ‘friend’s brief,’” Atkins explains. “It’s really, ‘Court, we agree with this position. Let us tell you why.’”

By participating in this brief, Atkins kept a promise to herself that she would argue for the

changes she wants to see in the world. Atkins tells her Elon University School of Law students they have a choice. “I tell them that the law is a powerful tool and their task is to figure out what kind of lawyers they want to be.”

NOTABLE NAMES

Two spaces in UNCG’s African American and African Diaspora Studies program will have new official names: the Lorenzo “Logie” Meachum Lecturer’s Office and the N. Frank Woods Jr. Library. The longest-serving director of the African American and African Diaspora Studies program (1994–2008), Woods taught at UNCG for decades. Meachum, a community leader, blues musician, and former instructor in the program, died in 2018. Alumni of UNCG, Woods earned his MFA here in 1978 and Meachum studied in the English doctoral program.

“I want it to be said that I used this degree to try to make a change.”

— TIFFANY ATKINS '03

When Ketanji Brown Jackson was nominated to the United States Supreme Court in spring of 2022, Atkins wrote an opinion piece that went viral. In her article, “‘Clair Huxtable was my guiding light’: How Ketanji Brown Jackson will inspire a generation,” Atkins offered her perspective on Jackson’s historic nomination,

LIVES SAVED

A WOMAN DROVE into a Walgreens parking lot in High Point, parked, and walked over to a group of social work students.

“Hey, how’s your car doing?” asked Marella Farrington, a student interning with GCSTOP.

The two talked for a moment, before the woman got the narcotic injection supplies she came for and left.

This exchange of pleasantries between the women may not seem like much, but it is important to the participants of GCSTOP, the Guilford County Solution To The Opioid Problem. A partnership program between UNCG and Guilford County that is focused on harm reduction, it includes supplying participants with naloxone to reverse an opioid overdose, providing clean syringes, distributing safe supplies for injections, handing out condoms, and passing out food and clothing. Its primary purpose is to reduce the number of overdose deaths in Guilford County.

“It is not enabling people. We’re in the right place at the right time,” said Farrington. “We extend someone’s life.”

Primarily funded by the county, it’s operated mainly by UNCG. Student interns hand out supplies in High Point and Greensboro. There’s also a phone number people can call.

“The team is talented at listening to what people need and want,” said Dr. Mike Thull ‘04, GCSTOP clinical



Above, Dr. Mike Thull (fifth from left) with interns at a GCSTOP pop-up location in Greensboro.

“Just look at them as a person. They’re trying to make it another day.”
—NIGEL “SHABAZZ” MOFFITT-SHABAZZ

program director and UNCG assistant professor of social work.

At one of GCSTOP’s outreach events, a patient thought he’d missed his treatment clinic appointment. Farrington followed up with him, verifying he could still go.

For people who may not be ready to make a change, the GCSTOP interns provide support without judgment. Master’s student Oliver Sugiyama stressed the value of the syringe exchange program, in which participants can get clean needles to stanch the spread of blood-borne disease.

Some of the interns joined the program for personal reasons. Two lost family members to overdoses. Others



saw it as a great opportunity to learn about a different type of social work.

Nigel “Shabazz” Moffitt-Shabazz was recently accepted into the joint master’s program. He is now focused on youth who may need assistance.

“It seems like everyone turns away from this population. Just look at them as a person. They’re trying to make it another day,” he said.

REINVENTING SUCCESS

Legal lessons

The din of youthful chatter fills Sarah Born's fourth grade classroom as small groups discuss which laws there should be for a hypothetical new colony on Mars. The nine- and ten-year-olds excitedly debate what should be this new society's norm and what's reasonable to expect of its citizens. Their imaginations ignite. This small group discussion is the first step in one of Born's critical thinking exercises for her students.

A second-year teacher working toward her teaching license at UNCG's School of Education through the NC Teachers of Excellence for All Children Alternative Licensure Program (NC TEACH), Born knows a thing or two about critical thinking. She used it daily in her former seven-year career as a litigation lawyer.

"Being a teacher is just as intellectually challenging and is on level with being a lawyer in terms of the skill, passion, and the education needed," says Born.

As an undergraduate, she was on a path for an education degree, but ended up switching to history her junior year and then went on to law school, obtaining her juris doctorate from Syracuse University College of Law. Though financially rewarding, being a lawyer was unfulfilling. She resigned and began teaching a few courses online. Soon, she was volunteering as vice president of the parent-teacher organization at her children's elementary school in Guilford County and knew she wanted to be a full-time teacher.

What she saw was not just a great need for teachers, but a great need to fill social, cognitive, and educational gaps induced by



Sarah Born teaches fourth grade at Stokesdale Elementary School.

“Being a teacher is just as intellectually challenging and is on level with being a lawyer in terms of the skill, passion, and the education needed.”

—SARAH BORN

the COVID-19 pandemic.

A state-funded study shows N.C. students had lower grades, failed more courses, and were more absent in the 2020-21 school year compared to prior years. This reflects a lack of engagement in the classroom – something that Born recognized quickly in her first year teaching at Stokesdale Elementary.

"The delay of critical thinking skills with this group is apparent, so these activities push them to think and problem solve in ways that they are not used to doing."

Last year, a colleague introduced her to the book "Thinking Like a Lawyer: A Framework



for Teaching Critical Thinking to All Students" by Colin Seale. It immediately struck a chord with her.

Now, Born implements critical thinking exercises regularly.

"It has been a positive experience for all my kids who are usually too shy to share or know that they don't know the answer and don't want to participate. Now they all want to participate."

NEVER STOP LEARNING

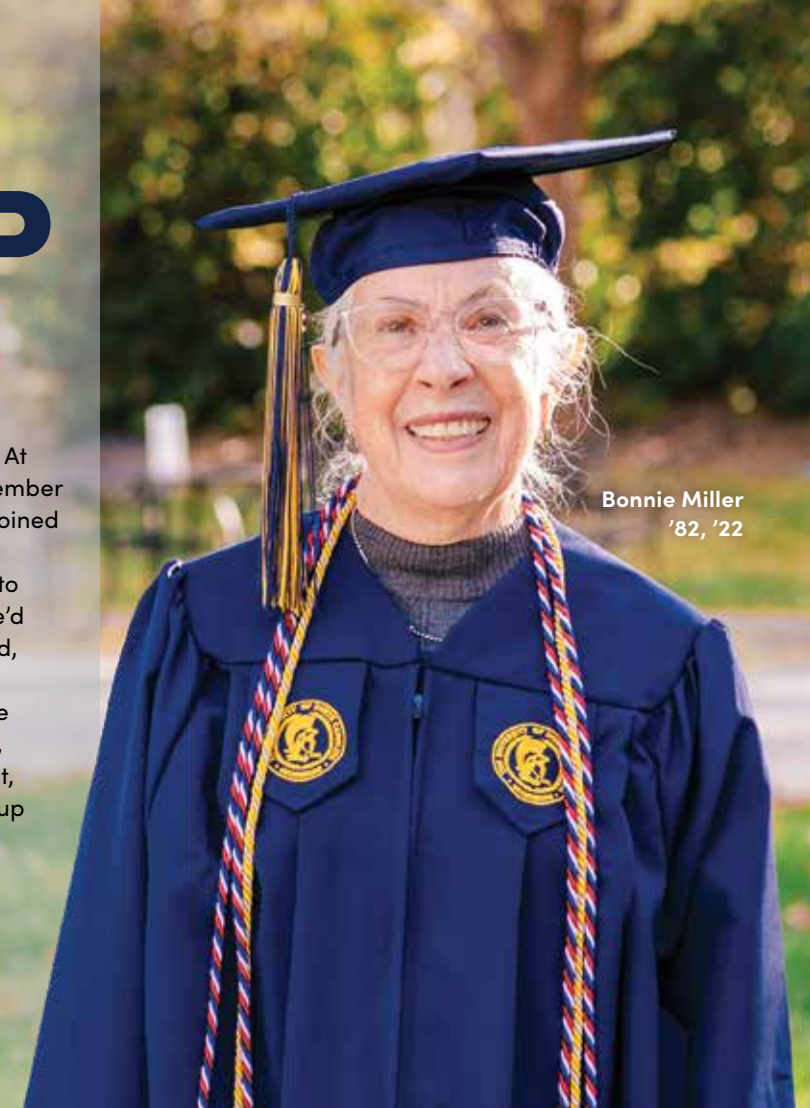
BONNIE MILLER '82, '22 has always aspired to be among the learned. At age 80, the French and Francophone Studies major graduated in December and is now starting her UNCG's Master's of French program. She first joined UNCG more than 40 years ago, earning her degree in social work.

After 30 years doing social work for Guilford County, Miller decided to revisit her childhood. While her father was serving in the U.S. Army, she'd spent about 15 years in the South of France and spoke French as a child, but over the years she had lost her fluency.

It all began when she sat down one day to read "The Count of Monte Cristo" in the original French. According to her husband, Dr. Bob Miller, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, "She started to read it, but she found that what she remembered about French was not quite up to the level necessary to read the real French versions of the story. So, she said, 'I think I'll go back to school.'"

She turned to the French and Francophone Studies department at UNCG in 2018, and she has loved her college experience.

Any advice for others? "Keep the mantra of keeping an open mind," she said. "Nothing that you get in college is a waste of time. Nothing. The way you look at life will be enriched by it. If you have a feeling that a field of study is right for you, go for it."



Bonnie Miller '82, '22

DRESS FOR HIGHER SUCCESS

SHIRIN ALHROOB keeps reinventing what success means in her life.

An adult student and the mother of three, Alhroob is now jointly pursuing a bachelor's and master's degree. At 44, she is deeply inspired to learn and to create the best possible life for herself and her family.

This outlook has led her to take advantage of many opportunities at the Bryan School, including leadership roles, membership in seven honor societies, and participation in the Suit Up program, which provides professional attire for interviewing and working in business.

Funded by donors and sponsored by JC Penney, Suit Up allows participants to shop for professional clothing while

receiving tips about dressing for success.

"Donors to this program have a direct impact on students," says Tyler Wiersma, the Bryan School's assistant director of undergraduate professional development.

Alhroob has worn the suits for online interviews and business events. The attire also came in handy during her two summer internships.

As she finishes her bachelor's degree this year, she is set to start her master's work with a concentration in cyber security.

"I want my boys to see that you need skills and knowledge, but that you also need to work hard to achieve your goals," she says.

LEARN MORE AT [BRYAN.UNCG.EDU/SUITUP](https://bryan.uncg.edu/suitup).

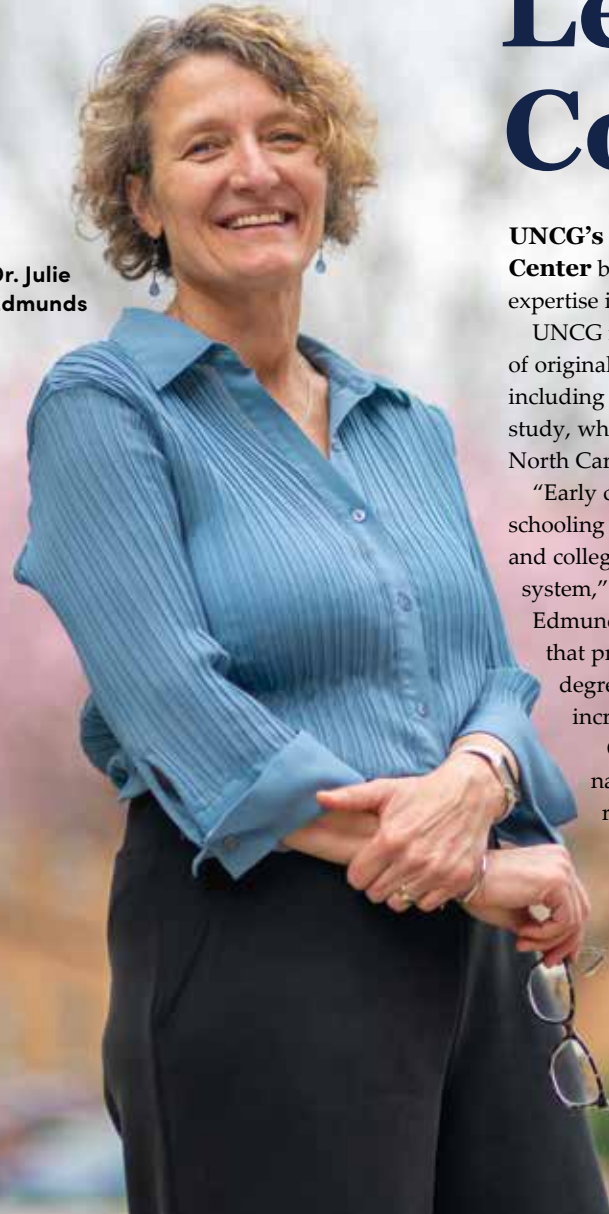


Shirin Alhroob

PHOTOGRAPHY OF SHIRIN ALHROOB BY BERT VANDERVEEN

Leader in Early College research

Dr. Julie Edmunds



UNCG's new **Early College Research Center** builds on a national reputation for expertise in the field.

UNCG is home to the nation's largest body of original research on early college outcomes, including the first and longest experimental study, which has tracked the trajectories of 4,000 North Carolina students for 16 years.

"Early college is an innovative model of schooling that blurs the line between high school and college, creating a more seamless education system," says center director Dr. Julie Edmunds. "The aim is to break down barriers that prevent students from accessing college degrees and other certifications, which are increasingly critical for success."

One of the leading researchers nationally in this realm, Edmunds recently published a Harvard Education Press book on the topic, with longtime collaborators from RAND Corporation and RTI International.

Early colleges (often called cooperative innovative high schools or sometimes middle colleges) integrate the high school and college experiences. Focused on students

who might otherwise struggle to attend college, these schools – often on college campuses – give students the opportunity to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate degree or two years of college credit.

Benefits of participation in early college programs include fewer suspensions, better attendance, better high school graduation rates, higher credential attainment after high school, shorter times to degree attainment, and increased financial savings. The programs also benefit a broad swath of students, not just academic highfliers.

In recent years, Edmunds and her UNCG colleagues have also evaluated six large-scale efforts to implement early college strategies in traditional high schools across the country.

"Our studies show that the early college model is one of the best ways to increase students' access to and success in postsecondary education," says Edmunds, whose team's work has received almost \$19 million in research funding over the last two decades.

"The early college model was developed to assist underserved students," says Edmunds. "We want to ensure all students have access to the benefits of a more seamless system."

GROWING NC'S WINE INDUSTRY

RECENT VISITORS to Stonefield Cellars in Stokesdale, N.C., browsed a selection of wines as they relaxed on the patio with their glasses. They also mingled with UNCG students who gave them a survey on what kind of customer experience they wanted.

This survey is part of the "NC Wine Consumer Marketing Study" being conducted by Dr. Erick Byrd, associate professor of marketing, entrepreneurship, hospitality and tourism at UNCG's Bryan School of Business and Economics. Byrd's research team – made up of faculty and students – will compile the survey feedback and form a profile of winery visitors for the NC Wine and Grape Council. These findings will help the council craft successful marketing and promotional campaigns and help the wineries enhance their customer service.

Caroline Lowdermilk, one of five students who conducted research at 24 wineries, says, "I found that customers are more inclined towards a family-friendly environment – a place where you can bring dogs and kids, a more relaxed and laid-back ambiance – compared to a more formal environment."

Because this survey builds on prior research, Byrd's students were able to note how consumer habits changed or remained consistent.

Lowdermilk added, "We've seen that people have a preference for sustainability, storytelling, good customer service, good marketing, a good website, social media, and we've seen how that has evolved."

UNCG's Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality, and Tourism department has worked with North Carolina's wine industry for a little more than a decade, supporting it through research and class assignments that promote agricultural tourism.



Dr. Chantell LaPan, Caroline Lowdermilk, and Caroline Esfen, l-r



THE MIDDLE COLLEGE AT UNCG

When a middle college was introduced on the UNCG campus in 2011, the goal was "a unique educational experience for students seeking and/or needing a different educational experience than the traditional setting." Many UNCG faculty and administrators, including Dr. Edmunds, were involved in its development. With an emphasis on health and life sciences and a student body of about 200, the students can earn up to two years of college credits (60 hours), primarily in medical and/or health-related topics. US News & World Report ranks it among the top 50 high schools in the state, based on performance on state-required tests, graduation rate, and how well the school prepares its students for college.

Public service

Dabney and Walker Sanders are recipients of the 2023 Adelaide F. Holderness/H. Michael Weaver Award. The couple were honored for their exemplary public service to Greensboro and the greater community at an award presentation ceremony on March 21.

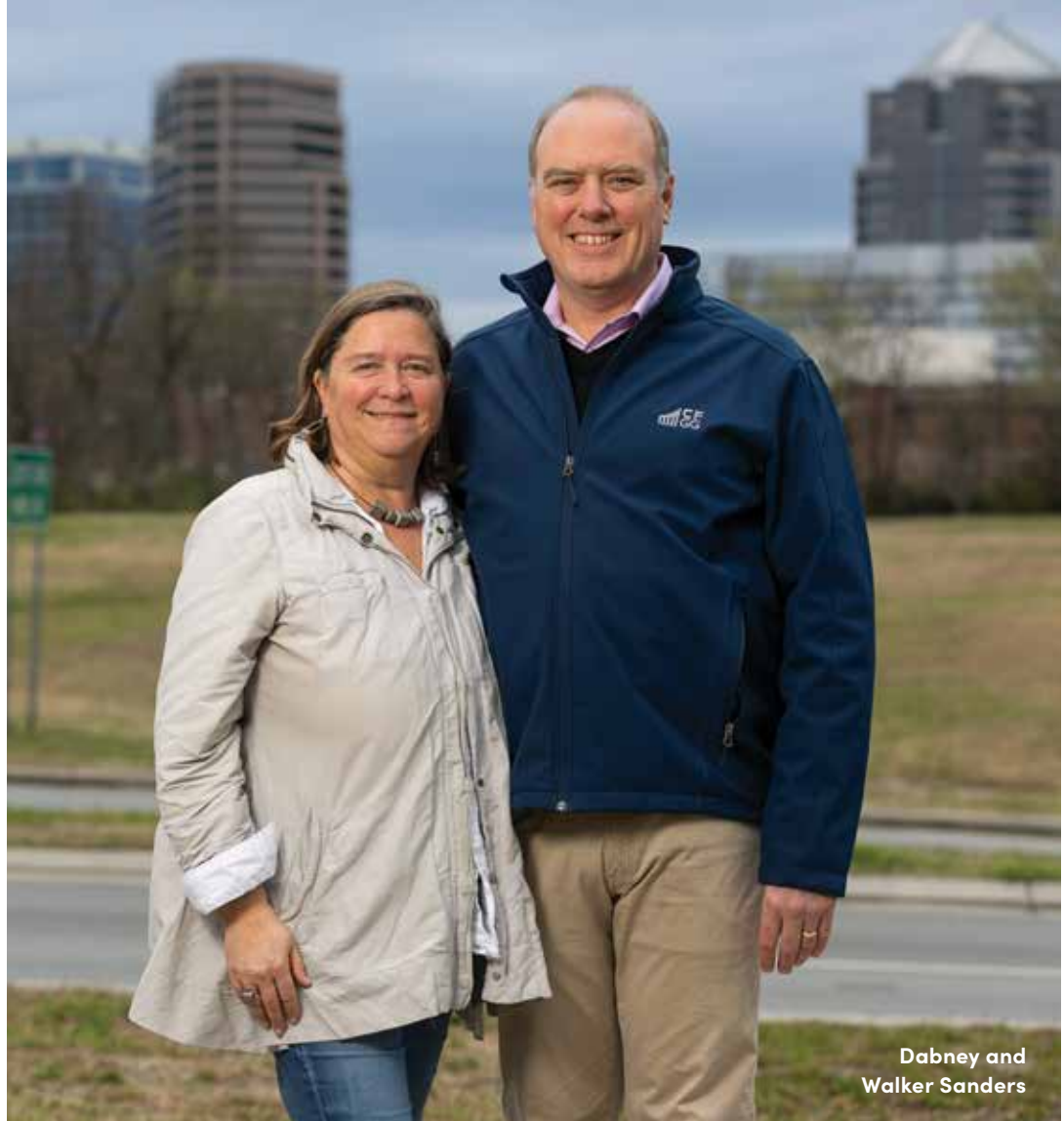
The UNC Greensboro Board of Trustees confers Distinguished Service Awards upon deserving North Carolinians in recognition of meritorious public service and civic engagement. The Holderness/Weaver Award is named for Adelaide Holderness '34, the first woman to serve on UNCG's Board of Trustees, and H. Michael Weaver, a longtime UNCG supporter who has served the University in many capacities. The award recognizes exceptional service at the state and local level.

Dabney Sanders is the Downtown Greenway Project Manager for Action Greensboro. She chairs the board of the Greensboro Literary Organization, which produces the annual festival Greensboro Bound and brings authors and books into Guilford County schools. She also serves on the board of the Eastern Music Festival, the Public Art Advisory Committee

for the Piedmont Triad International Airport, and the *Light the Way* campaign committee for UNCG's College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Walker Sanders has served as President of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro since 1999. Under his leadership, the Community Foundation has grown to manage more than 700 charitable funds and

nearly \$300 million in assets. He developed numerous large community endowments, including the Future Fund, Women to Women, Public Art Endowment, and BIG Equity Fund. Walker has helped spearhead several community initiatives, such as Carolyn and Maurice LeBauer Park and Tanger Center for the Performing Arts.



Dabney and Walker Sanders

HEADWINDS AHEAD

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT nationally fell by more than 1 million students during two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The worst is yet to come.

The high school-age population will begin to shrink starting in 2025, and growing numbers of young Americans are choosing not to go to college, Chancellor Gilliam has noted. For 12 of the state's 16 public universities, including UNCG,

enrollment is lower this year. Every part of the University has been preparing and is taking action – from Enrollment Engagement to Academic Affairs, from Student Affairs to every one of the schools and colleges. An example? Bri Welsh, UNCG's assistant director for diverse student engagement, focuses on spearheading a more holistic approach to student retention. She presents, as an example, a student who's the first in her family to attend college. "Does that student know how to access resources and seek mentorship? Any cultural barriers that can be pulled out of the way? How can we give every student access to success?" That's her focus.

"The *Light the Way* campaign is a huge part of this effort," says Beth Fischer, vice chancellor for Advancement. "So far more than 20,000 have given,

supporting current students through scholarships, academic programs, new student-success initiatives, and more. The campaign is fueling the future of our University, to bolster the success of future generations."

So far, it has created 151 scholarships and endowed seven professorships, which also support that professor's team of student researchers. Within years, *Light the Way* will have transformed UNCG.

And the University will continue to transform the lives of students and their families – as well as the Triad and the state.

"It takes all of us to strengthen our students' experience here at UNCG so they can excel," the Chancellor says. "To everyone on campus and far beyond who is making an impact, thank you."

ALUMNI PUT STAMP ON STOP-OUT EFFORT

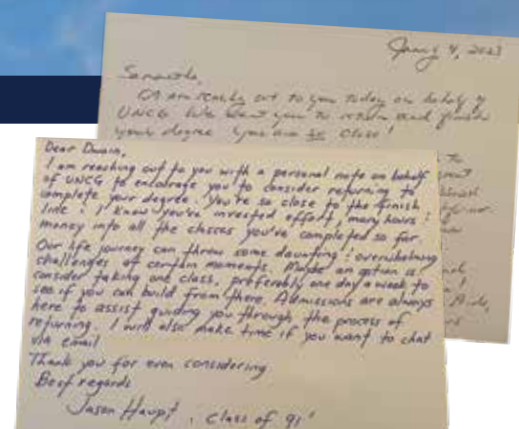
When members of the Alumni Leadership Board (ALB) learned UNCG was losing students just shy of graduation, they launched an old-school letter-writing campaign based around words of encouragement.

ALB members Candace Martin '10 and Dean Castaldo Jr. '12 worked with Undergraduate Admissions to identify approximately 300 former students who had earned 90 or more credit hours and were classified as seniors when they left UNCG, and since then had not re-enrolled or earned a degree elsewhere. Supplied with notecards, envelopes, stamps, address labels, and guidance (do keep the tone warm and friendly, share personal stories of overcoming hardship, and point recipients toward help with the process of returning; don't use language that might inspire guilt over not finishing), ALB members started writing. Most letters mailed around the new year.

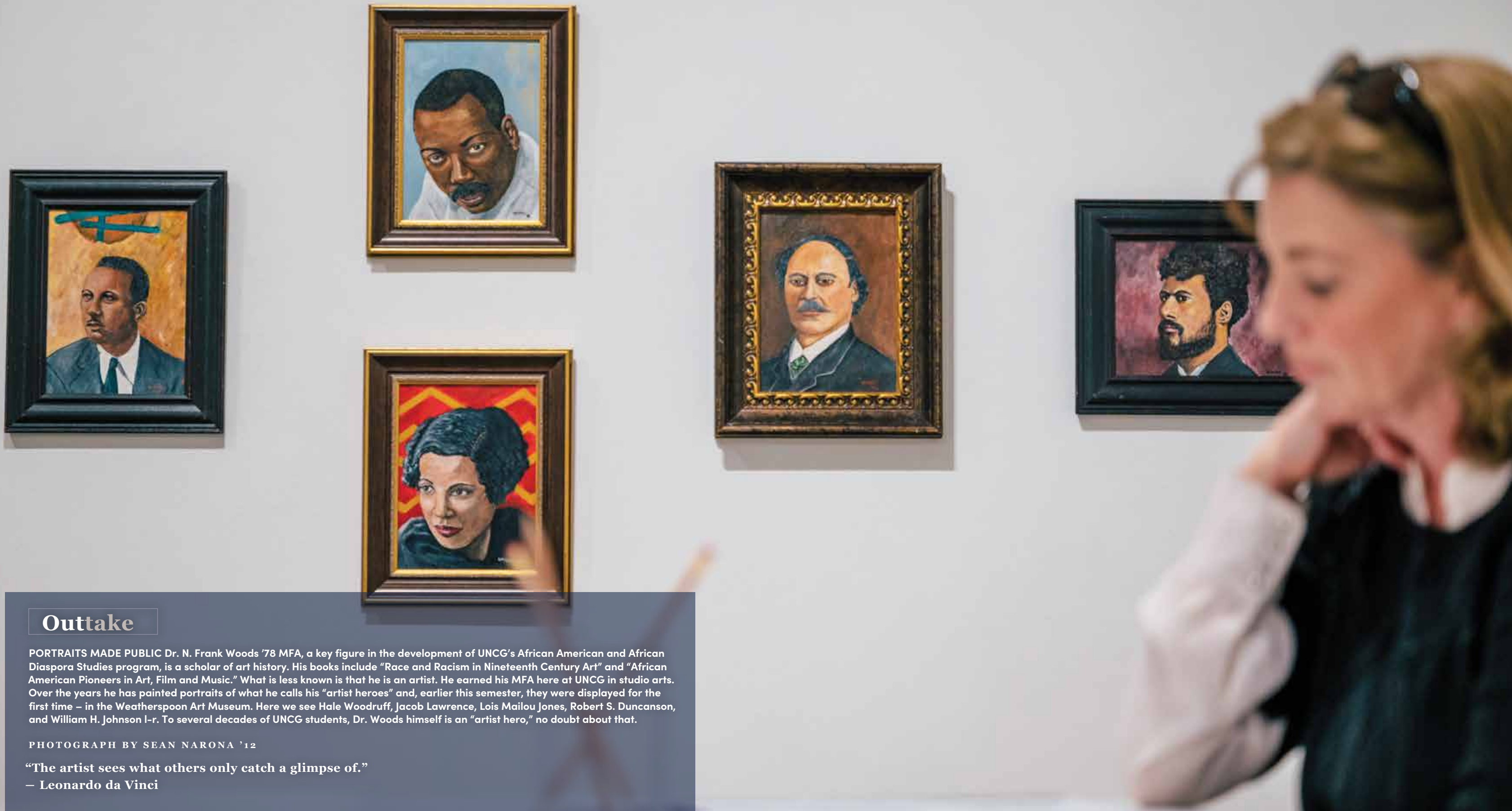
While Martin never experienced a break during her student days at UNCG, "I had a few stressful periods where I was almost at that line," she said. "Things come up, life happens."

"Stop-outs" happen for a variety of reasons, including financial issues and life events like a move, marriage and children, or a new job, said Gina Ingraham '16 MA, stop-out prevention and re-entry coordinator in UNCG's Division of Enrollment Management. It's a problem across higher ed but UNCG is beginning to see improvement, with an increase since fall 2021 of such students returning.

Stopped-out students often have invested significant time, money, and energy in education and want to complete their degrees but are overwhelmed at returning. The light touch of a letter is just the sort of thing that might prompt a first step, Ingraham said.



INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH FUTURE RETENTION EFFORTS? EMAIL ALUMNI@UNCG-EDU.



Outtake

PORTRAITS MADE PUBLIC Dr. N. Frank Woods '78 MFA, a key figure in the development of UNCG's African American and African Diaspora Studies program, is a scholar of art history. His books include "Race and Racism in Nineteenth Century Art" and "African American Pioneers in Art, Film and Music." What is less known is that he is an artist. He earned his MFA here at UNCG in studio arts. Over the years he has painted portraits of what he calls his "artist heroes" and, earlier this semester, they were displayed for the first time – in the Weatherspoon Art Museum. Here we see Hale Woodruff, Jacob Lawrence, Lois Mailou Jones, Robert S. Duncanson, and William H. Johnson l-r. To several decades of UNCG students, Dr. Woods himself is an "artist hero," no doubt about that.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN NARONA '12

"The artist sees what others only catch a glimpse of."
– Leonardo da Vinci

LET THE MUSIC PLAY

KEVIN LAWSON '07, who came to UNCG in 2002 as a piano performance major, is now the School of Theatre's first MFA student with a concentration in Musical Theatre Directing.

As an undergrad, he increasingly worked with theaters around the Triad, which took him to New York City, then to California's central coast. Then? "I decided to hike the 'Camino de Santiago,' a network of pilgrimages in northwestern Spain."

Afterward, he joined the Peace Corps for a two-year stint in Ukraine, and later with the International Rescue Committee he helped settle Afghan refugees in different parts of the United States. Meanwhile, he started looking at grad schools.

"UNCG just felt right. I had this sense of returning home. I knew the composition faculty and the theater faculty from my time here before. I knew Dominick Amendum — he and I both studied under Dr. Joseph DiPiazza when we were undergraduates."

Plus, UNCG was starting a new degree concentration. Amendum, the UNCG

Smart-Tillman Artist in Residence and coordinator of the Musical Theatre program, had teamed up with Collaborative Piano Professor James Douglass to create a curriculum that blends conducting, accompanying, and directing courses from the School of Music and School of Theatre.

After spending nearly a decade with "Wicked" on Broadway and on national tour and more recently with "The Prince of Egypt" on London's West End, Amendum will be training the next generation of Broadway music directors. And the program's first student will bring his own two decades of professional experience.

As Lawson says, "I've done a lot of musical theatre direction, so I bring some knowledge about what an MD is actually going to need in the field. These kinds of programs are few and far between in universities. It's such a unique skill set."

He's right where he belongs.

Musical Theatre
Conducting
student
Kevin Lawson '07

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE MICCHICHE



PHOTO BY LISSA GOTWALS, FIRST PUBLISHED IN "ART OF THE STATE: CELEBRATING THE VISUAL ART OF NORTH CAROLINA," PUBLISHED BY UNC PRESS, 2022; PHOTO OF DARIA CLARKE BY STEVEN PISANO

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

This summer, photography from the Bank of America collection will be on view at the Weatherspoon Art Museum.

"Shared Space: The New Era (1987-2010)," which runs May 13 to Aug. 5, explores an evolving social landscape captured in photographs and video created over the span of nearly 25 years. It features 19 artists from nine countries.

Also, currently on view are:

- "Endia Beal, Corporate Disclosure," through May 13
- "To Serve the People: Prints from Mexico's Taller de Gráfica Popular" through May 13
- MFA Thesis Exhibition, through May 20

Sze Tsung
Nicolás Leong,
Causeway Bay 1,
Hong Kong,
2004, from the
series Cities,
printed 2006.
Chromogenic
color print,
31 1/8 x 39 1/4 in.
Edition 1/10.
Bank of America
Collection.
© Sze Tsung
Nicolás Leong

Heart of art

If you're writing a book about visual art in North Carolina, there's no better place to look than UNCG.

"I think that there's such an incredible history of art here," says professor and artist Barbara Campbell Thomas. "We were the first art department in the state, back when we were the Woman's College. We are the school within the UNC System where art classes started."

A new book, "Art of the State: Celebrating the Visual Art of North Carolina," profiles four UNCG art professors: Jennifer Meanley, Mariam Stephan, Pat Wasserboehr, and Barbara Campbell Thomas. It also features the Weatherspoon Art Museum as well as Chancellor Gilliam and his wife, Jaquelean, who are avid collectors of North Carolina art.

UNCG's School of Art is not just strong, but large, with over 500 students, Campbell Thomas notes. "I think people, including prospective students, are starting to realize we are this extraordinary jewel."



Chasing your dream

As an undergrad, Daria "Toni" Clarke '21 set aside ambitions to be a dermatologist or veterinarian for her first love, dance. Upon graduation, she set her sights on the Garth Fagan Dance company, based in upstate New York. Her professor and mentor, Dr. Janet Lilly, sent her a flier on tryouts.

"This is a modern dance company with African, Caribbean, ballet, and post-modern aesthetics!" Clarke explains.

When the Garth Fagan Dance called her to come audition for three days, she was elated. But it was a trial by fire. On the third day, founder Garth Fagan was on hand to make a decision. She was hired!

UNCG's University Concert & Lecture Series will feature Garth Fagan Dance during the coming season. It'll be Daria's first time back since graduating.

SEE THE FULL UCLS LINE-UP AT VPA.UNCG.EDU.



IN THE UNIVERSITY'S ARCHIVES, you can find memorabilia from Coming Out Day events, fliers from Greensboro's gay bars, and scrapbooks lovingly kept by students simply documenting their lives.

These items are donated by LGBTQ+ community members, then digitized. The collection also includes recorded interviews that tell a story too often kept hidden.

UNCG librarians Stacey Krim and David Gwynn '91 archive and share this growing collection, *Pride! of the Community*. Initially funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage Grant, it documents not only UNCG's LGBTQ+ history but also that of the Triad region.

"Because they were a historically persecuted group, LGBTQ+ people found it was dangerous to leave a paper trail," says Krim. They needed to remain invisible and could not rely on mainstream institutions.

Over the past decades, these students and faculty had to create their own networks, educate others about their existence, and fight for their basic human rights. Even now, UNCG is not perfect.

But it has come a long way.

One WC alumna who came out as a lesbian in the 1970s reported that issues like sexuality were not common topics of discussion when she was a student in the mid-1950s.

There were also real threats to the safety of LGBTQ+ people from other citizens and the law itself.

Krim presents information about Greensboro's Gay Purge as part of her crash course in UNCG's queer history.

Drawing inspiration from McCarthy-era witch hunts and the mid-century anti-homosexuality "Lavender Scare," Greensboro

OUR HISTORY TOO

AS UNCG ARCHIVES MAKE CLEAR, THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY HAS BEEN HERE ALL ALONG.

BY MERCER BUTFER '11 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '12



Until recently, it was not safe for gays, lesbians, or other queer individuals to "live and love" publicly. Today, members of the community talk about visibility.

"Visibility inspires people to break some of those stereotypes and barriers that they may have grown up with," explains Brad Johnson '09 PhD, clinical associate professor and a former staff member in Residence Life. It also means seeing other LGBTQ+ people in daily life.

UNCG has a longstanding reputation as a safe place for queer students, but the institutional support that LGBTQ+ people see now has not always been there.

police arrested 32 men in 1956-57 for "crimes against nature." For much of the century, those who were not heterosexual knew they could see their livelihoods, physical safety, and freedom slip away with a simple accusation.

On campus, increased dialogue was met with an angry protest in 1979. At a planned lecture and discussion intended to diffuse tension, protestors wore masks, shot fireworks in the air, and carried derogatory signs. Reported sources of tension were the new Gay Student Union and the presence of an openly gay student living in Strong Dormitory.

But the most visible tragedy for the LGBTQ+ community on campus happened when a student took his own life very publicly. The news and editorials shone a bright spotlight – and brought about more understanding. That story shows how even the dark chapters of history offer a hope of change.

Thank you to University Archives librarians Stacey Krim and David Gwynn '91, whose research helped make this article possible.

What does LGBTQ+ mean? It is an “umbrella” term used to include all people who identify themselves as being outside of a “traditional” cisgendered and heterosexual identity.

The main letters of this “alphabet” stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning. The “plus” stands for other identities that are not cisgendered and heterosexual.

Though this was not always the case, today “queer” is also used as an “umbrella” term. UNCG’s Office of Intercultural Engagement prefers the term LGBTQ+.

The truth is, each individual is unique. “You can’t lump everybody together,” says Johnson. “Our identities have different facets, like a diamond. We know that our perception of who we are as human beings and individuals has grown and expanded.”

The University’s LGBTQ+ history has moved mostly in step with that of Greensboro itself, says Krim. “What makes us different is that, for a Southern city in the ‘Bible Belt,’ we seemed to have a larger and more visible LGBTQ+ community.”

Greensboro has historically been able to support more LGBTQ+ nightlife and social spaces than other comparable cities. This hints at a vibrant community, Gwynn of UNCG Archives notes.

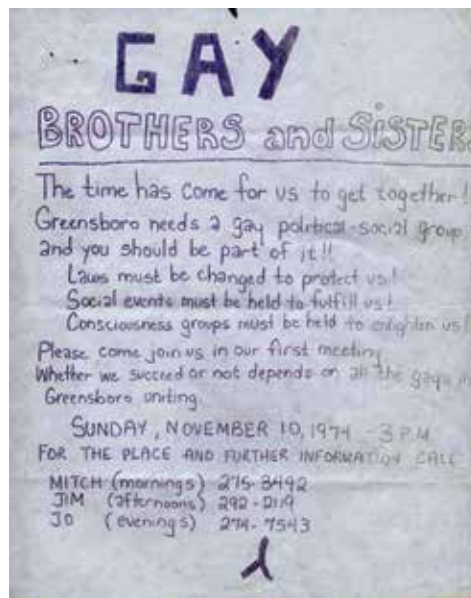
John D’Emilio, the former UNCG professor and celebrated historian, arrived from New York City in the late 1980s. In a 2018 interview, he said he wanted to know there was gay nightlife in Greensboro before moving, “because that symbolized to me that there must be a community.”

Local organizations like Guilford Green Foundation & LGBTQ Center continue to show the diversity and strength of Greensboro’s gay communities.

For most of American history, gay and lesbian identities have been, if not persecuted, kept hidden “in the closet.”

In the 2010s, one couple with UNCG connections became notable in the fight for marriage equality. Pearl Berlin, a former head of the Department of Kinesiology, and her spouse, Lennie Gerber, were lead plaintiffs in a case against the state of North Carolina. They wanted the state to recognize their right to marry.

An eventual victory came with the federal Obergefell v. Hodges case in the United States



(Clockwise) A flier from 1974 shows an early attempt to create an LGBTQ+ organization; photo from an event organized by the Guilford Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Equality (GAGLE), 1988; John D’Emilio on The Front Page, an independent newspaper, mid 1980s.

Supreme Court. For LGBTQ+ couples, this decision was a long time coming.

Lennie Gerber recalled that in the 1960s, many “open secrets” were not discussed. Worse, there was outright discrimination. When Pearl Berlin was hired by UNCG in 1971, Gerber also tried to get a teaching position.

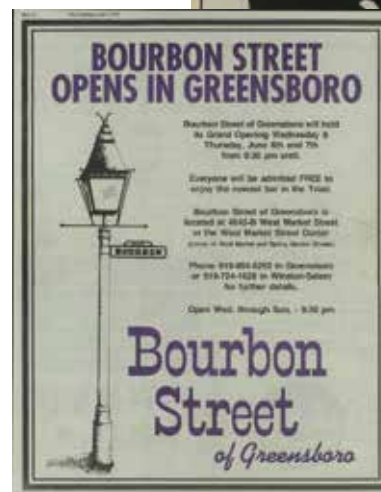
According to Gerber, faculty members told her that UNCG “will not hire you because you (and Berlin) are too open.”

Dr. Kathy Williams ’74, who graduated from UNCG and then returned in the late 1980s as a professor, had a different experience. She remembers fellow faculty and administrators accepting her warmly.

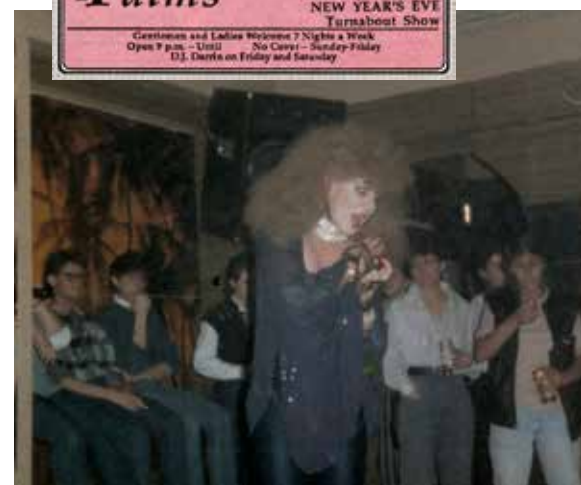
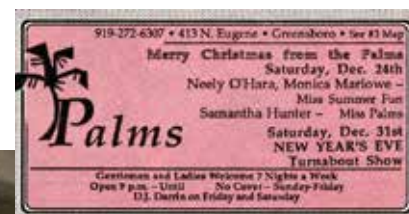
UNCG has fostered genuine trailblazers. Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald taught the first course about LGBTQ+ issues in the UNC System. Lennie Gerber and former professor Dr. Pearl Berlin took lead roles in the fight for marriage equality.



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Gay bars and clubs like Busby’s, Bourbon Street, and the Palms were social gathering places.



Marilyn Rivers performs onstage at the Palms; White Rabbit Books

COURAGE TO BE VULNERABLE



ETHAN HUTCHINSON ’06, ’10 MED comes by his Spartan pride honestly. His mother is an alumna and his parents were married in the Alumni House. At Pride Prom in the late 2000s, he wore a blue and gold plaid blazer. “I wanted to look like UNCG.”

Those years were times of serious change for him.

“I could not have picked a better undergraduate institution to be a lesbian-identified person. Then, I also could not have picked a better institution to transition from female to male as a graduate student,” he says.

While making his transition, Hutchinson had support from friends and family, especially his sister. “The second that either of my folks used the

wrong pronoun or the wrong name, she would be the first to tell them that was incorrect,” he recalls. Hutchinson was also involved in student groups like Pride.

Hutchinson acknowledges that a lot has changed in society since the 2000s. Today’s conversation is more nuanced, including the exploration of gender as non-binary.

Another relevant term? Equity. “It doesn’t just mean getting married,” he says. “It means all sorts of things: access to equal housing, employment, and medical services.”

More than having the confidence to be himself, Hutchinson has helped educate others. He conducted early Safe Zone training sessions on campus over a decade ago. Safe Zone introduces the LGBTQ+ community to faculty, staff, and students who want to become better allies.

The sessions could be emotionally draining.

“I describe it as opening up your chest cavity for scrutiny, right? Then putting that chest cavity back together, stitching everything up, and healing from being so vulnerable in front of a room of people,” he says.

Today, there are many accessible ways to learn about LGBTQ+ communities. “There are plenty of queer and trans people who are documenting their trajectories and experiences in beautiful ways,” he says.

But for Hutchinson, who describes himself as “an educator in my bones,” those face-to-face meetings at UNCG were worth it.

“Maybe I can be part of answering questions in Safe Zone so someone else doesn’t have to,” he says. “Today, people are very thoughtful about what questions are appropriate to ask.”

“Safe Zones at UNCG were so successful because they did invite actual students from Pride group to tell their stories.”

— ETHAN HUTCHINSON ’06, ’10 MED

When Williams and her partner finally got married after the Supreme Court decision, her dean attended the wedding.

"We were actually at a hockey game when the decision was reported," she remembers. "Now, my spouse and I have been together for 25-plus years and have been married for six and a half."

Even though related student clubs and organizations began to exist on campus in the 1970s and '80s, LGBTQ+ life was still on the margins.

And members of gay and lesbian

communities had to advocate for themselves.

The three goals of the Gay Student Union, a UNCG student group created in fall 1979, were: "To educate the public about the legal, social, and personal aspects of homosexuality," "To provide a support system for those in the organization," and "To represent the homosexual portion of the student body in matters relevant to homosexual students."

A Gay Student Association pamphlet from 1982 reads like a guide to myths about LGBTQ+ people. It answers questions like, "Are

all gay people alike?" and "Can a person be gay and religious too?"

D'Emilio believed that it would take grassroots faculty and staff organizations to see a more inclusive workplace. In fact, it was three students who initiated the process that would culminate in the faculty handbook's 1996 non-discrimination clause.

After the UNCG Student Senate passed

a nondiscrimination clause, three students, Alesha Daughtrey '97, Jessica Stine '97, and Mandy Vetter, asked the Faculty Senate to approve a similar statement.

Kathy Williams remembers a fiery debate. "One faculty member stood up and said, 'Why does this group need to be privileged?'"

But to Williams, freedom from discrimination is not a special right. "So, a gay person wants to get married or not have to worry about being beaten up coming out of a bar – I mean, what is special about that? Those are human rights."

After two failed attempts to adopt the clause, Dr. Jim Carmichael, then an associate professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies, brought a revision.

"I urge the senate to pass this not only for the self-interest of a largely invisible minority, but so that this University may go on record as a leader in sensitivity to human rights."

Joy Brown, an undergraduate in the Department of Social Work, presented a 68-page petition with 1,045 signatures of UNCG faculty, staff, and students who supported the resolution. It was approved.

To this day, many fear that legal protection for members of the queer community is not reliable.

"I don't feel like this at UNCG, but there are other environments where if I were to identify as gay back in the day, that would easily have been grounds for dismissal and I would have no recourse at all," says Johnson.

THE ACCIDENTAL TRAILBLAZER



MICHAEL TUSO '11 was the first in his family to go to college. Although it was the last thing on his mind, he was also the first openly gay student body president at UNCG.

"I never thought about it," he says. "I was thinking, 'Let's get to work, let's roll up our sleeves.' That was the kind of naivete I had."

After he was elected, newspapers like Qnotes Carolinas, which publishes LGBTQ+ news and stories, started calling. Tusso didn't mind the coverage. Most family and friends, including his mother, knew who he was already.

That doesn't mean it was easy.

"In high school I didn't know anyone who was out – guy or girl – so it was really tough emotionally," says Tusso. "But I think that made me double-down on my love of learning."

When he arrived at UNCG, he never hid his identity. "You know, I can't lie," he says. "That was my mindset."

The publicity also garnered him words of encouragement. After winning the election for student body president, the owners of Replacements, Ltd., reached out to offer congratulations. Tusso remembers, "I was like, 'Oh, there are people like business owners in the community to look up to.'"

As president of the Student Government Association, he sat on almost 30 committees, advocated for student interests, and presented a University Ring to former Chancellor Linda Brady at her installation in 2009.

He also tried out potential career paths. He interned for Kay Hagan in the U.S. Senate, studied abroad in Peru, and worked on local political campaigns.

Finally, a chance Facebook post nudged him in the direction of the startup business world. After seeing the post from an acquaintance, another former student body president, Tusso began working in business. He's been there ever since. "It's crazy how small changes impact your whole life," he says.

Tusso's journey began with UNCG's open and inviting culture. "It's a university of opportunity and social mobility," he explains. "I think because of that environment, someone like me with a nontraditional background does well there."

FROM NEWSPRINT TO NOVELS



BERTHA HARRIS '59 BA, '69 MFA was a lesbian feminist writer whose work is stylistically rich, playful, and steeped in both literary history and the Women's Movement of the 1960s and '70s.

As an undergraduate at Woman's College, she wrote for *The Carolinian*, responding to campus issues with edgy wit.

"There has been no sign of a classroom building for us wandering unfortunates of the Fine and Liberal Arts," she wrote in 1957, criticizing the lack of funding for the humanities. "The indelicate smell coming on the wind from Raleigh means nothing but more politics on this issue."

She was one of the campus intellectuals and freethinkers known as the "Black Stocking Girls."

At that time, WC women faced more restrictions than today's students. One alumna recalls, "We could not wear Bermudas (shorts) on campus without wearing a raincoat over them. It was a time when we had to wear skirts everywhere we went."

Many in Harris' generation pushed for freedom related to gender and sexuality. They sometimes shocked the powers-that-be. For example, one WC-era artist, Lee Hall '56, caused a furor for her nude male drawing in the Coraddi (1954's infamous "Coraddi Controversy"). The chancellor censured the Coraddi staff, who responded by resigning en masse.

After graduating from Woman's College and living in New York, Harris returned to UNCG. She submitted her second novel, the emotionally raw and ruthlessly satirical "Confessions of Cherubino," as part of her MFA degree in 1969.



Harris submitted her novel "Confessions of Cherubino" (1972) for her MFA degree.



Though not as well-known as those contemporaries like Audre Lorde, Harris' novels were praised by critics. Fred Chappell called her first novel, "Catching Saradove," "full of blooms and needles, and as independent as a cat."

Harris' final and best-known novel, "Lover" (1976), was inspired by the lesbian movement of the 1970s and has a place in gender studies and queer theory today.

She also published a novella called "Traveler of Eternity" (1975) and two nonfiction books, "The Joy of Lesbian Sex" (1977) with Emily L. Sisley and a biography about Gertrude Stein for young adults that was published in 1996.

She died in 2005 and is memorialized through the Bertha Harris Women's Center at City University of New York (CUNY).

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The nondiscrimination petition with 1,045 signatures. See more items at gateway.uncg.edu/pride.



Juno Rose, Lukas Tucker, Isaiah King, and Parker Boike, l-r

NO LABELS, WELCOMING ALL

HOW DOES A GROUP CALLED NO LABELS describe its mission? “To provide a safe space for queer people of color, allies, and advocates through volunteerism, advocacy, educational programming, collaboration, and inclusion.”

“No Labels was created in 2017 by an African American queer student because they felt there wasn’t a place for queer people of color, specifically African American voices, to be heard,” explains Isaiah King ’23, the club’s current president.

Today, this group includes students from many backgrounds. It hosts professional networking sessions and game nights. Last fall, the group organized a Second Chance Prom. “We targeted queer students who didn’t get to go to prom with their preferred partners. We also targeted people who lost their prom due to COVID,” says King.

In addition to events, No Labels moves conversations about LGBTQ+ issues forward, making about half of its sessions educational. “We’ll talk about gender around the world. We’ll talk about sexual education. We’ll also discuss multiculturalism and how it relates to the LGBTQ+ community,” says King.

Some of the group’s concerns show a difference between today’s communities and UNCG’s LGBTQ+ organizations of the past. “Back in the eighties, there was this real sense of collective identity around being gay,” says Jay Poole ’84, ’99

MSW, ’09 PhD. “Now I think people are looking at the diversity of identities under the LGBTQ+ umbrella.”

People who are from more than one minority community can face stiff challenges. Effects of discrimination tend to be similar among marginalized groups. Systems that strengthen racism, homophobia, and sexism all depend on disdain and hatred for personal attributes that people are born into, King explains.

“For me, I’m Black and I’m bisexual,” he says. “I’m not only going to experience racism or homophobia. I’m going to experience racism and homophobia together.”

Part of No Labels’ mission is to provide a safe space for

“For me, I’m Black and I’m bisexual. I’m not only going to experience racism or homophobia. I’m going to experience racism and homophobia together.”

— ISAIAH KING ’23, NO LABELS PRESIDENT

students to thrive. During college, many students grow, change, and try to follow the advice “Be yourself.”

“I think we have a responsibility to every single student that they can authentically be themselves,” says Dr. Jennifer Whitney, director of The Counseling Center at UNCG. “I can assert my authenticity, but my authenticity doesn’t stop you from being yourself.”

King notes that all members of the LGBTQ+ community as well as allies are welcome to partake in No Labels meetings and events.

Over the years, UNCG clubs and Triad organizations have held events for Coming Out Day, Day of Silence, and more.



No Labels Second Chance Prom, November 2022. Pictured are participants in the Royal Court Competition, Runway Competition, and host, Ty Gibson.

Colie Hayes ’00 and Heather Whitlock ’00 met during their junior year of nursing school. “We were in maternity clinical and became instant friends,” Heather said. The two kept in touch over the summer, writing letters back and forth, and took several group trips together during the fall of their senior year. “I couldn’t figure out why it was that I just had to be around this woman,” Heather said. On a spur-of-the-moment beach trip in October 1999, they shared their feelings for each other and have been a couple ever since. “Twenty-three years later, we are happy as ever,” Heather said in a recent “Spartan Sweethearts” web post. They have two children and married in 2016.



Almost thirty years after that non-discrimination statement, LGBTQ+ people are safer and more visible than before.

Student groups like No Labels will offer events for Pride Month. One thing they want to talk about is the most visible tragedy in UNCG’s LGBTQ+ history, the suicide of Kenneth Crump.

The 21-year-old dance major, French horn player, and resident of Strong Dormitory broke through a ninth-floor window in Jackson Library on Nov. 22, 1982. He jumped to his death.

“I think it’s important to know history,” says Isaiah King ’23, the president of No Labels. “We should know about things like someone committing suicide or protests outside of the first LGBTQ+ lecture so they don’t happen again.”

Professor Jay Poole ’84, ’99 MSW, ’09 PhD remembers vividly that dreadful night in 1982. He was returning to campus with friends. They passed the library tower, saw the fire trucks, and, later, heard the rumors.

“I heard rumors that Kenneth Crump had been really harassed. I think that probably kept me very concealed. It certainly didn’t bode well for being open on campus,” he said.

Some positive actions were taken after the tragedy. As with the nondiscrimination clause, students led the way. The Student Government Senate requested additional state funds to support UNCG’s Counseling Center after the tragedy.

Members of the campus community like Poole, whose personal journey is closely connected to UNCG, believe UNCG offers a safe environment for all of today’s students.

“UNCG helped me with my whole outlook on the world and my perspective on the world, which, of course, is what education is all about: transformation,” he says.

With today’s students and elders educating others about UNCG’s queer history, the campus’ welcoming culture keeps thriving.

“We were founded by a revolutionary, Charles Duncan McIver, who founded the institution because he believed in the education of women, which was not popular at that time,” says Johnson. “I think that there’s a good history of being a little radical in some respects: making sure that everybody is identified, affirmed, and recognized.”

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT. TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING, VISIT US AT ALUMNI.UNCG.EDU.



130 years of serendipity

Hidden gems yield hints of history

BY MIKE HARRIS '93 MA • ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANTWAIN HAIRSTON '21

Beyond the flowering trees and fragrant wisteria, in the midst of Romanesque, neoclassical, neo-Georgian, and Modernist architecture, treasures abound at UNCG. Everywhere you turn, there's a reminder of our campus' storied past. Fact is, our University has a uniquely rich history, which the campus landscape reveals every day. The past is present here, on every path and around every corner.

Smell the flowers

Talk about a secret garden. Bordered by the Alumni House and a retaining wall, this cozy space has been the Alumni Secretaries Garden since 1964. In fact, nearby is a marble bench inscribed "Class of 1964." A garden wall bears a sign recognizing the first four alumnae leaders: Ethel Bollinger Keiger (1919-1922), Clara Booth Byrd (1922-1947), Betty Brown Jester (1947-1955), and Barbara Parrish (1955-1989). In 2006, Susan Seeker Jones '78 revitalized the Secretaries Garden through a gift to the Alumni House Furnishings Fund. Teaming up with then-Landscaping Department Head Chris Fay, she introduced benches and new plantings like irises, flowering bushes, and climbing camellias to the garden, which stands as a living memorial to her parents, Iris and "Bud." The alumna said, "I never appreciated the garden when I was here. I want to make sure students don't make the same mistake and take advantage of the many green spaces available."



WAIT, THERE'S MORE

★ Take a peek into the Alumni House's **Pecky Cypress Room**, which served as the chancellor's office in the decade before Mossman Building opened. The cypress paneling from the swamps of Louisiana has a naturally occurring and highly desired "pecky" appearance.

★ **Taylor Garden**, with its kidney-shaped pond, is located behind Elliott University Center (originally Elliott Hall). In 1973 it was named for Katherine Taylor '28, who taught French before serving as dean of students from 1948 to 1972.

Always the center of attention

Spencer Dining Hall, built from 1904 to 1939, has five spokes. At the center of the dining hall area, like a center decoration on a cake, sat the **old cupola**. Its louvers apparently helped provide ventilation in pre-air-conditioning days. The dramatic renovation a decade ago – the area was renamed Moran Commons – created a dining hall with additional spaces that students enjoy. When the cupola was replaced with a beautiful roof of exposed wooden beams, Fred Patrick, director of Facilities, Design, and Construction at the time, led the effort to preserve and display it. As a placard below the cupola in the dining hall states, “The cupola is displayed here so the architectural history and zinc metal craftsmanship can be admired for many more generations.”



Dining Hall, 1991

WAIT, THERE'S MORE

- Why does **South Spencer Residence Hall** have such an impressive facade with a low topographical profile? Until the late 1940s, it faced well-traveled Walker Avenue, which passed through campus, running under College Avenue.

- **North Spencer Residence Hall** was said to have the longest hallways in a residence hall in the nation. History Professor Allen Trelease reported that students called it “Rockingham,” saying it stretched all the way to Rockingham County. The reason it’s only two stories? Immediately after fire destroyed Brick Dormitory in 1904 (no students were injured) and in an era with no fire sprinklers, President McIver and faculty wanted a replacement building low to the ground.

Jazz’s Excalibur

As you’re set to enter the Tew Recital Hall, a trumpet in a secure case welcomes you. It’s not just a Miles Davis trumpet. It’s the trumpet he played on the most popular jazz album of all time, “Kind of Blue.” Buddy Gist in 2001 officially gifted UNCG the trumpet that his old friend, Miles Davis, had given him. “Buddy would come and talk with our students,” says Professor Steve Haines. Gist wanted it to inspire future students of jazz, he explains. And it does. UNCG’s jazz program adopted the name Miles Davis Jazz Studies. And, with the support of more recent donors like Dr. Ward Robinson ‘10 MPH creating the Robinson Scholarships, the jazz program is recognized as one of the finest such programs in the Southeast. All inspired by the horn featured in “Kind of Blue,” which Haines succinctly calls “one of the musical masterpieces of the 20th century.”



WAIT, THERE'S MORE

- Enjoy **framed prints** of Miles Davis artwork lining a wall of the building’s Schiffman Music Library.

- The **statue in the center hall** as you enter the Music Building is by Tom Otterness, who created the much-admired frieze in the Weatherspoon Art Museum atrium.

MILES DAVIS ALBUM COVER, WIKIPEDIA.ORG; ALL OTHER PHOTOS ON THIS SPREAD COURTESY OF MARTHA BLAKENEY HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Perfect for sledding

In the first decades of our school, the athletic fields were located where Petty Building now stands. Field days, May Day celebrations, and field hockey games were all held here. When Charlie Chaplin appeared at a 1918 war bonds rally here, a reporter said he blew a kiss from the tips of his fingers to college women forming a “bank of bright color” in front of him. The **slanted banks**, which still exist, were perfect seating areas for the field. Once Petty Science Building was completed in 1940, students focused on another use: snow sledding! For decades, Spartans considered dining hall trays the ideal sleds, we understand. Today, the dining hall does not use trays in order to conserve water usage – and students have gotten creative. New York Pizza box, anyone?



WAIT, THERE'S MORE

- For nearly 60 years, reaching Petty was a workout. Down steps, up steps. In 2007, a pedestrian bridge opened. Did the students like the quick access to Petty, one patterned after Paris’ Pont des Arts on the Seine River? Oui!

- ★ A cornerstone near College Avenue and the swing marks where the stately Students’ Building once stood. From 1906 to 1950, it housed two departments, the book store, a 700-seat auditorium, and much more.

Have wings, will travel

The Winged Victory of Samothrace, created around 190 BC, unearthed in 1863, and displayed in the Louvre, is an anchor of that museum. A **plaster replica** of this famous statue, given in 1915 as the senior class gift, was made by the Caproni Brothers, archivist Scott Hinshaw points out. The makers’ mark is quite legible on the statue. Displayed in the Students’ Building until 1950, it then made its way to several campus locations – even the lower floor of the Alumni House – before finding its present, featured spot in the Forney Building in the mid 1980s. In 1987, Winged Victory, in much need of some care, was restored by Simone Spicer-Raab ‘87, Hinshaw adds. Today, students tend to (carefully!) decorate it in clever ways, much like students once did to the McIver statue in earlier decades.



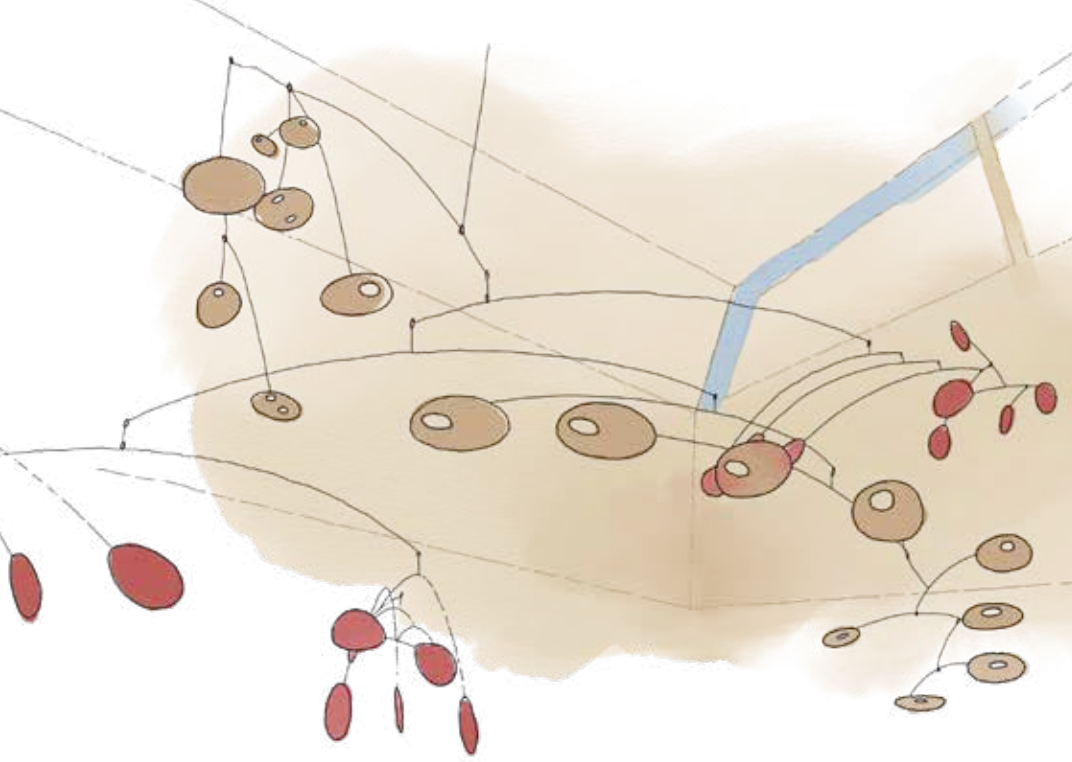
WAIT, THERE'S MORE

- The **Forney Building** was the result of a generous gift by Andrew Carnegie. The Carnegie Library (its original name) opened in 1905. Today, student success offices are located here.

- Winged Victory wasn’t the only statue in the Students’ Building. So was a **plaster Minerva** – a Class of 1907 gift that over the decades was well-used, well-loved, and, well, reaching a condition that necessitated its being stored away. Last displayed in 1985 (minus a head and arms), its whereabouts remain a mystery.

JUMP FOR JOY
UNCG’s Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives holds treasures, too. In a 1911 scrapbook created by student Catharine Jones Pierce, fellow students show off their leaping skills – as spectators watch from the grassy slopes.





Airborne art

When Greensboro artist **Alex Smoot** gave this work to UNCG Libraries in 1971 – in honor of Charles M. Adams, library director from 1945 to 1969 – he was not only director of Wesley Long Hospital’s pathology lab but well-known for his photography and mobiles. His obituary says he ultimately created 86 mobiles, many on display in museums, homes, and public buildings. The Weatherspoon has a mobile by the famous Alexander Calder (currently not on view). Elliott Hall had a mobile, too, before its expansion as the EUC. But this large one in Jackson Library has long mesmerized students under the circulation desk’s skylights. “I regularly see people look up at it and sometimes stop and stare,” says Cathy Griffith ’82, head of Access Services. Talk about a sight to behold.

WAIT,
THERE'S
MORE

• Ever notice Jackson Library’s “**dumbwaiter**” elevator? Since the opening in 1950, it’s been used to quickly transport books and other items. And yes, it’s inspected every year, just like every elevator in the state. Going up!

• Artist **Betty Watson ’65 MFA** asked celebrated writer, critic, and professor Randall Jarrell to pose twice for portraits. One is held by the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. The other hangs in Jackson Library’s second floor.

Move it on over

The official **Chancellor’s Residence** was once near the center of campus. Some alumni have tales of student protests winding their way to the chancellor’s doorstep, sometimes late at night. All the chancellors (and their families) from Julius Foust to Patricia Sullivan resided here, at the corner of Spring Garden and Forest, with Elliott Hall and Taylor Garden virtually in their backyard. In 1996, Sullivan moved to a residence the University believed would be better suited for the fundraising and related functions of the chancellor. After a great deal of debate over what should become of the campus building, built in 1922 and designed by noted architect Harry Barton, it was raised up and transported 900 feet westward on Spring Garden in 2003. Since 2005 it has served as the Armfield-Preyer Admissions and Visitor Center, named for Jane Harris Armfield ’60, ’63 MEd and Emily Harris Preyer ’39, whose families helped make its new use possible. Today, this historic building is usually the first spot new Spartans visit.

WAIT,
THERE'S
MORE

• The founding president, Charles Duncan McIver, lived with his family in a house located nearby. A brass marker very near the Vacc Bell Tower denotes the location of the **McIver home**.

★ **Yum Yum**, known for ice cream, hot dogs, and Cheerwine, has been a part of the student experience for a century. Located for decades near the corner of Forest and Spring Garden, it moved to another building across the street in the 1970s – and now sits just a block away from the former Chancellor’s Residence.



Mike Blake ’77, a third-generation house mover, supervised the 900-foot move down Spring Garden, as reported in the Summer 2003 UNCG Magazine.



WAIT,
THERE'S
MORE

Nine degrees in the shade

In the first decade after the State Normal and Industrial School opened in 1892, students received diplomas but not degrees. “The diplomas were for mastery of the limited curriculum,” archivist Kathelene McCarty Smith says. In the spring of 1903, the campus reached a milestone in academic rigor: Nine students, who’d already received diplomas and had returned to complete additional coursework, received bachelor’s degrees. This first class of bachelor’s recipients was commemorated with this **granite bench** in Peabody Park. As the pathways evolved, the bench became covered over – but in recent years, the vines have been brushed back. “Bachelors of 1903,” it reads on top. Perhaps because it was hidden all those years, McCarty Smith says, it is in splendid condition today.

★ The much-admired **Elizabeth Herring Garden**, beside the School of Music Building, was endowed by Dr. William B. Herring in honor of his late wife, Elizabeth “Betty” Hawks Herring. They were early members of UNCG’s Musical Arts Guild. At its dedication in 1999, it featured some of Betty’s own plants. We like to think they continue to bloom every spring.

★ A delightful **Woman’s College seal** is displayed near the southeast corner of Gove Health Center, in Peabody Park. This was featured on the Gove Health Center’s front facade for decades, before the building’s dramatic renovation and expansion.

We’ve seen this art before

McIver Building is gone, but not forgotten. The multi-paneled artwork above its main entrance lives on, at nearly the same spot. Artist Joseph Cox, a professor at NC State’s School of Design, created commissions throughout the state in mid-century, archivist Kathelene McCarty Smith notes. One remains at NC State’s D.H. Hill Jr. Library. That one has special lighting. Actually, the one at McIver did as well – originally with a green, red, and silver glow. A Carolinian editorial derisively likened it to “Christmas tree lights,” archivist Scott Hinshaw notes. It was experimental, the artist explained, and he made adjustments soon after the opening ceremony. Today, this installation of rectangular, enameled steel panels – sans the dubious lighting – lives on in the Nursing and Instructional Building, its preserved panels artfully displayed vertically on three stories. SmithGroup Architect Lori Cappuccio said, “The west common study areas provided an opportunity for ‘the old to peek through the new,’ taking advantage of the orientation and prominent visual connection to the exterior.” It’s quite a sight – especially at night.

WAIT,
THERE'S
MORE

• The **statue of McIver**, the founding president, has stood in front of Jackson Library since 1960. For its first 48 years on campus, it was sited in front of the original McIver Building, near the present-day Nursing and Instructional Building.

• The nearby **Carmichael Building** soundstage has fascinating history. WUNC-TV produced shows here starting in 1955. In April 2008, as Kay Hagan ran for U.S. Senate, UNCG student journalists invited her and all primary challengers to debate here. It was the sole debate during that primary, and it drew wide coverage.



McIver Building, 1965, with the artwork

VISIT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE PLACES AND TO SEE WHAT SOME CURRENT STUDENTS SAY ARE THEIR FAVORITE SPOTS ON CAMPUS. PLUS, TELL US ABOUT SOME OF YOUR FAVORITES OR ONES WE MISSED!

TRULY ELITE

SWEET 16. ELITE 8. TOP 5 FINAL RANKING. DRAWING ON THE STRENGTH OF A STORIED PAST, MEN'S SOCCER ELEVATES ITS GAME ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

BY MERCER BUTTER '11 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLOS MORALES AND SEAN NORONA '12



INSPIRED BY PAST CHAMPIONS, THE SPARTANS RISE

On a cold November night in Greensboro, two players who weren't used to the spotlight stepped up and helped advance the Spartans to the next round of the NCAA tournament.

After two overtime periods, a penalty kick shootout would determine the winner. Isaac Briner, who had not played all season, made a save. Freshman Maddox Mallery delivered a clutch kick. UNCG wins!

A crowd of alumni, students, and families roared. Last fall, after more than a decade out of the national spotlight, Men's Soccer achieved its first Elite 8 finish as a Division I team.

For many alumni and fans, the march through the NCAA reignited

memories of the program's history. Men's Soccer first earned recognition in the 1980s, when the Spartans won five Division III National Championships under coaches Mike Berticelli (1980-83) and Michael Parker (1984-2009).

"Back in the day, the thing to do in Greensboro was go pick your kids up from school and bring them to the game. It was routine in the 1980s to have 1,500-2,000 people

at the game sitting on the hill by the tennis courts watching us," recalls Steve Harrison '89.

Many great alumni players helped build UNCG's legacy of excellence, including George Hoyle '90, Andrew Mehalko '87, Randi Patterson '10, and Eddie Radwanski '97.

This year's excitement echoes those championship moments.

"I was chasing the all-time

scoring record for a season. I ended up having two goals and the second goal broke the record," says Jason Haupt '91. "I jumped about three rows deep because I saw some of our ex-players. Someone grabbed me by the back of my shirt to try and drag me out of the crowd!"

Harrison's favorite memory? "Winning the national championship in 1985 out in Saint Louis. This was before cell phones. This was before the internet. People were listening to the campus radio station. WUAG had traveled to Saint Louis to broadcast the game."

After tasting national success in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, Spartan Men's Soccer vanished from the NCAA tournament, as some of its former prestige had dulled.

Now, with a new coach and a

fresh attitude, the Spartans are on the rise. Fans and alumni are energized.

"It's a breath of fresh air to see UNCG thrive like it did this season," says Jeff Lochrie '04.

"The drama within the tournament, the run that they made, the penalty kick shootouts – even watching it on TV, you could feel the environment at the UNCG Soccer Stadium was electric," says Alejandro Moreno '01.

In this new phase of Spartan history, alumni are connecting with current players, and the community is rallying.

Coach Chris Rich, who took over in 2019, communicates with more than 100 alumni players through WhatsApp. Many former Spartan leaders now visit the team, inspiring them to reach an even higher level.

"Winning breeds winning" is a phrase Lochrie remembers hearing from Darren Powell '94. "I think if you just work hard and build off of that, you get a winning mentality," Lochrie says.

What's more, UNCG Athletics produces students who succeed on and off the field. They are bound by common goals and values.

“WHEN YOU'RE PART OF A TEAM, YOU CAN DRAW A LOT OF EXPERIENCE FROM THOSE MOMENTS. IT'S AN INVALUABLE ASSET THAT STUDENT-ATHLETES CAN TAKE AWAY.”

—JASON HAUPT '91

"As an athlete, when you're finished training, you're not just scattering in different directions. We would just go to the 'caf' and talk for what seemed to be hours, just spending time together," Moreno recalls. "And, of course, the most important thing about my college experience is the fact that I met my wife at UNCG."

With a Fall 2022 team GPA of 3.22, today's Men's Soccer players are poised to impact their communities positively no matter which career paths they choose. "When you're part of a team, you can draw a lot of experience from those moments," says Haupt. "It's an invaluable asset that student-athletes can take away." "We strive for excellence in all aspects," says Coach Rich. "How we treat people, how we study, and how we perform on the field. It's all connected."

1985-1987

1985



Three consecutive Division III national championships

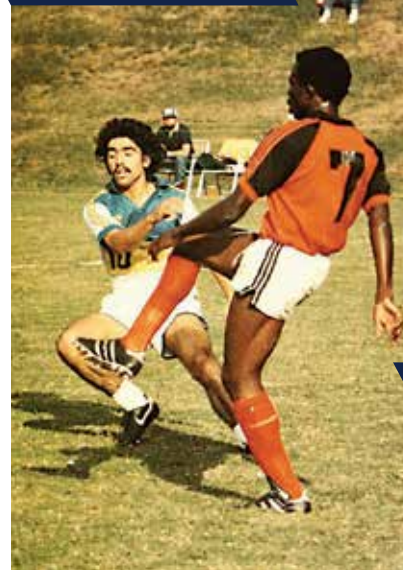
1986



1987



1982-1983



Back-to-back Division III national championships

1991



UNCG's soccer stadium, a \$3.6 million facility, opens for its first game, Sept. 7, 1991.

“MY FAVORITE MOMENT WAS WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1985. WUAG HAD TRAVELED TO SAINT LOUIS TO BROADCAST THE GAME.”

—STEVE HARRISON '89

1998

First SoCon title and first NCAA Div. I Tournament victory

2004-2006

Three consecutive NCAA Tournament Round of 16 appearances

2021



First appearance in the NCAA Tournament in over a decade

2022

Ismail El Harchi celebrates on the way to the Elite 8.



ARCHIVAL PHOTOS FROM PINE NEEDLES AND MARTHA BLAKENEY HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

TWO CAPTAINS, TWO JOURNEYS



HAPPY WARRIOR

“YOU WILL have to be an example, even when you don’t want to be,” explains Marco Milanese ’22. “Being a captain means you’re going to have to expose yourself.”

But being a leader is a role that feels natural for Milanese, who comes from Isenia, Italy, near Naples.

“I started when I was very young,” he recalls. “When I was 13 or 14, I used to play with 17- or 18-year-old guys. I grew up a lot, thanks to this experience.”

Milanese was one of the Spartans’ 2022 captains, an on-field leader who speaks for the team and leads during games. “For me, being a leader is both a responsibility and a pleasure.”

Coach Chris Rich agrees. “He was our emotional leader and he held everybody accountable. He is a home-run gem of a human being.”

Milanese studied in Akron, Ohio, before joining the Spartans. After his arrival, he saw the team band together by facing difficult challenges.

“I think the key moment for this group was spring 2022,” says Milanese. “We only had 13 players and we had a very tough schedule.” That time turned a group of strong individuals into a true team.

“When we came back for the fall, I had this conversation with the coaches. I said, ‘I have a good feeling with this team because we’ve practiced for just one week, but we look like we’ve been together for three months.’”

During the season, he had the chance to learn from past leaders. “Almost every road trip, one or two alumni spoke to us and made us believe we could compete for a national championship.”

After earning his degree, Milanese began a professional career with Omaha Union in early 2023. This history-making season means that he could leave with no regrets.

“You could see the community getting closer to us. It makes me feel like we did something good to support the University.”

“ I MET A LOT OF GUYS WHO ARE GOING TO BE MY FRIENDS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. ”

This makes for a locker room of different backgrounds, life experiences, and languages.

What brings them together? A special Spartan culture.

“If you find like-minded people who are bonded for the right reason and you have a good foundation and you have good leadership, it can work out very well,” says Rich. “Winning also helps, I promise you,” he adds, laughing.

Former team captain Marco Milanese ’22, who was recruited from Italy, agrees. “It doesn’t matter where you come from. If you do the right things, then you fit in.”

Soccer is an international game, but, on the field, UNCG players represent a culture that is specifically Spartan.

“You can’t be a great soccer player unless you’re committed academically. You can’t be committed academically unless you are committed socially,” says Rich. “If you want to come to this program, you commit to excellence in all aspects.”

BONDED BY SPARTAN SPIRIT

ABOUT HALF of UNCG Men’s Soccer players arrive from nations like France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, South Africa, and Spain.

“It’s a long process to get them here,” says Coach Chris Rich. “But

it’s obviously a big reward when you get a great player.”

Alejandro Moreno ’01 was one of these great international players recruited to UNCG in the 1990s. After a successful professional career, he is an analyst for ESPN sports.

“The influx of international players has not only been important for UNCG, it’s really a major talking point in college soccer in general,” Moreno observes.

To recruit internationally Rich needs contacts overseas, video conversations with players, and a trip to see the player in action.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

HE GOT THE CALL that most college athletes would trade anything to receive: He’d been drafted by a pro team. “Man, if I can talk about that moment for a second! Playing professionally was a dream of mine since I was a kid,” recalls Ethan Conley ’24.

“It was a crazy moment. I couldn’t believe it. My parents couldn’t believe it. But to be honest, I never really considered accepting the offer.”

Why? Months before, Conley had already chosen his path – following his passions for psychology and helping others.

“I love neuroscience and my dream is to either do neurology or psychiatry. Right now, my major is psychology, but I’m on the pre-med track.” His decision was shaped by some excellent academic experiences as well as his own personal challenges – a combination of discipline and motivation that characterize everything he does.

Conley has had formative experiences performing developmental psychology research in UNCG’s lab and engaging in directed readings with professors. “We’re reading articles and discussing developmental psychopathology. It’s a mouthful, but I really enjoy it,” he laughs.

On the personal side, Conley has grappled with mental health since he was six years old. “I think my struggles with Tourette Syndrome have really given me a broader perspective and an empathy for people that are struggling.”

Tourette’s affects the nervous system and causes “tics,” repeated movements or sounds.

Tourette’s can often be controlled and the severity of symptoms varies for the individual.

“I know there’s a lot of people suffering out there that are not talking about it,” says Conley, referring to mental health issues in general.

“My compassion is aimed towards them because I know what it feels like to deal with struggles on your own and I also know what it feels like to come out on the other end and say, ‘I’m so glad I reached out for help.’”

His determination off the field matches how this team captain handles himself on the field. Discussing the Spartans’ recent march to the Elite 8, he says, “In a tournament, you need ‘next game mentality.’ If you win, you just say, ‘Next game, next game, next game. Let’s see how far we can go!’”



“ FINISHING IN THE ELITE 8 WAS A HUGE ACCOMPLISHMENT. I’M SUPER PROUD. ”

THE GOAL? EXCELLENCE ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

Men’s Soccer had a 3.22 GPA in Fall 2022, with 74% of players achieving Athletic Director’s Honor Roll by earning a GPA higher than 3.0. Two players earned a perfect 4.0.

Academic success is the standard across UNCG Athletics, Director of Athletics Brian Mackin notes. More than 90% of University teams have GPAs above 3.0. Across all the programs, 32 student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPA in Fall 2022.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO SUPPORT UNCG ATHLETICS, CONTACT THE SPARTAN CLUB AT [UNCGSPARTANS.COM/SPORTS/SPARTAN-CLUB](https://uncgspartans.com/sports/spartan-club).

Honoring our mothers, with love



“You’ve opened the door for women like me and let us know we also have a seat at the table!”

— EMPRESS WILLIAMS '23



Empress Williams '23

Breaking barriers

Chemistry major and quintessential “WCer” Nancy Romefelt Mapes '48 was ahead of her time.

She chafed against barriers and relished the tough subjects she took in college. In her day, the sciences were male-dominated – a fact that did not deter Nancy from becoming a high school chemistry teacher and earning her master’s degree while working and raising five children. She dedicated her career to educating young women in science, and many of her students went on to major in the physical sciences in college.

The Nancy Romefelt Mapes Scholarship in Chemistry and Biochemistry was established by Nancy’s daughter, Nancy Mapes Small '75, and son-in-law, Harold I. “Chip” Small '75, to recognize her achievements as an educator and to encourage undergraduate women at UNCG to study chemistry and biochemistry.

Mapes Scholarship recipient Empress Williams '23 is one of those young women. “I chose UNCG because I had heard great things about the research done here, and I wanted to be at a university where I could get in-depth, hands-on experience,” she recently told us. “Another reason was diversity. I knew I was entering a field where there aren’t a lot of people that look like me, so I wanted the opportunity to experience other perspectives.”

Empress knew at an early age she wanted to be a scientist. Toxicology

piqued her interest, so she researched college majors that would prepare her for that field. Dr. Nadja Cech, Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, taught her freshman chemistry and biochemistry seminar. Empress excelled in Cech’s class and ultimately joined Cech’s research lab.

“Dr. Cech is so energetic about chemistry and all that it has to offer,” she said. “I didn’t know much about her analytical chemistry or medicinal plant research, but I wanted the opportunity to learn more. I decided to join, and it was the best decision I could have made for my academic career.”

Empress has an immense level of gratitude to the Smalls for her scholarship. Her freshman and sophomore years, finances were a struggle, and she would often worry if she could make it another semester. But the Mapes Scholarship has given her a sense of security.

To the Smalls, Empress says, “Thank you! You’ve allowed me the opportunity to do more than I ever imagined. You’ve opened the door for women like me and let us know we also have a seat at the table!”

Sense of duty

Phaedra J. Grove '92, '95 MPA credits her mother, Pecolia J. Grove, with changing the trajectory of her family in just one generation. The oldest of 11 children whose parents were sharecroppers, Pecolia knew education was a priority, but so was contributing financially to her family’s household.

Pecolia had no options to attend college, despite graduating salutatorian of her high school class. Instead, she served in the U.S. Army two years, earning an associate degree and the funds to complete her education. Post-Army, she entered N.C. Central College (now University) and graduated with a BA in psychology. Her career as a social worker enabled her to send Phaedra to college – both undergraduate and graduate school at UNCG – debt-free.



Pecolia J. Grove, about age 18



“My late mother and I wanted to lighten the load for other young women like us matriculating through this University.”

— PHAEDRA J. GROVE '92, '95 MPA

In 2022, Phaedra established the Phaedra J. and Pecolia J. Grove Endowed Scholarship to honor her mother and to pay forward the support she received. Holding the belief that a lack of resources should never be a hindrance to a student pursuing a degree, Phaedra feels a sense of duty to provide this scholarship.

“My late mother and I wanted to lighten the load for other young women like us matriculating through this University,” says Phaedra. “My parents were both educators, so the focus on academic achievement and general well-roundedness was a part of my upbringing. Many students don’t have that kind of support in their lives.”

FINDING HER DREAM

When she was ten years old, Katherine Lopez Aguilar and her family moved to the United States to seek the American Dream. The Fall 2022 Bryan School graduate and Hannah Steele Brownell Scholarship recipient’s parents were business owners in their home country, Honduras, and at a very young age, she wanted to follow in their footsteps.

“When I was little, I pretended to have my own office in my room,” Katherine recalls, “and I fell in love with the idea of becoming a business owner. Once I was admitted to the Bryan School, I knew I had made the right decision.”

Receiving the Brownell Scholarship played an important role in Katherine’s education at UNCG: She realized people believed in her. Her family did not have to worry about paying her tuition and were able to see this first-generation college student walk across the stage with degree in hand.

Hannah Steele Brownell graduated from Woman’s College in 1938 with a BS in secretarial administration. After graduation, she worked on Capitol Hill until she married Colonel Eugene Brownell, with whom she raised three daughters. Throughout her life, Hannah maintained a deep commitment to education. Her grandfather paid for her to attend college during the Great Depression, and she, in turn, helped each of her six grandchildren with their education. Her daughters – Penelope Copeland Brownell, Deborah B. Brown, and Betty B. Bordner – wish to perpetuate Hannah’s legacy by helping students at UNCG through this scholarship.

Says Katherine, “Thank you to Hannah’s daughters for opportunities created by this scholarship. You alleviated financial pressures and because of an internship, I had my dream job waiting for me after graduation.”

A CRITICAL ROLE

Caring for critically ill COVID-19 patients as an ICU nurse opened Cynthia Jones’s eyes to the health inequalities experienced by our most vulnerable populations. What she witnessed sparked her desire to attend UNCG to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

“CRNAs play a crucial role in enabling facilities in underserved areas to provide pain management and anesthesia,” says Cynthia. “An overarching goal of my career is to help make health care more accessible and affordable, while being a leader in my field and doing what I enjoy – practicing critical care.”

A second-year nurse anesthesia student, Cynthia is empathetic toward diverse populations, informed by her upbringing in a bi-racial, low socioeconomic household. Not seeing herself represented in the field when she applied to CRNA school was a psychological barrier.

“Representation breaks down barriers and allows minorities to chase our dreams,” she says. “The generosity of donors allows diversity to grow, and people of different backgrounds have opportunities that previous generations did not.”

Receiving the Blanche Rigsby Shore Scholarship in Nursing has helped relieve financial stress for Cynthia and her husband. He recently completed a doctorate in physical therapy, and the couple chose not to work while pursuing their degrees to devote all their efforts to becoming the best providers they can be.

Established by Patricia Shore Clark '58, the Shore Scholarship honors her late mother’s memory and recognizes the profession that sustained Mrs. Shore throughout her life. To date, Pat’s endowed fund has supported 15 students in UNCG’s School of Nursing.

[MORE STORIES AT LIGHTTHEWAY.UNCG.EDU.](https://lighttheway.uncg.edu)

gradtidings

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

1940s

SARA GRAVES SHORE '45 recently moved to Mallard Ridge Assisted Living in Clemmons where she teaches Bible study and reads for enjoyment. She was raised on a dairy farm in Kernersville and attended WC. She worked as a dietician in Salisbury at Rowan Hospital and Wiley School before returning to Winston-Salem and marrying Henry Shore, an artist, in 1951. They raised three children.

1950s

EVELYN "KAY" CLAY BODEEN '56 coauthored "Earthquake on the Parkway" with members of the Alleghany Writers Critique Group in Alleghany County, N.C.

BARBARA SIMON ALLEY '57 was inducted into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame for her successful career promoting ski fashion through live shows, television appearances, and editorial magazine work. 📅 5

1960s

JUDITH TANKARD '63 published "Beatrix Farrand: Garden Artist, Landscape Architect," her second book about America's first female landscape architect.

ALICE GARRETT BROWN '65 received the WC Legacy Award at the annual UNCG Alumni Awards last October. In early 2023, she was profiled in Our State magazine.

PRATT DAVIS '68 coauthored "Earthquake on the Parkway" with members of the Alleghany Writers Critique Group in Alleghany County, N.C.

MIKE COWHIG '69 is Greensboro's longest-tenured, full-time city employee. He still enjoys his work preserving city history and getting to know local residents. 📅 2

1970s

PATSY BRISON '72 was elected to represent Ward 2 on Hilton Head's Town Council.

PEGGY SHAW TEAGUE '72, '75 MED is enjoying retirement after 35 years in the North Carolina Community College System and three years with Smart Start. She cheers on and cares for two granddaughters and seven grandsons ranging in age from 2 to 21 years old. She also delivers for Meals on Wheels, tutors underprivileged children, coordinates a Single Seniors group, and serves in various capacities in her church.

LAVONNE WAUGH JAMES '75, '84 MED returned to UNCG as the RN to BSN Academic Success Advisor in the School of Nursing after a long career in health care.

CYNTHIA BALL ASPNES '76 was reelected to the 49th District in the North Carolina House of Representatives. She has served in this office since 2016.

BILL BAITES '76 was elected as a member of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra's Board of Directors.

MARCIA RHOADES BRYANT '76 was named to the 2022 North Carolina Great 100 Nurses and was honored at a gala in Greenville, N.C.

SUSAN MORRIS SAFRAN '77 was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Roy Cooper at an awards ceremony at UNCG.

BRIAN LEE '78 retired from his position as violinist with the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, which he had held since 1997.

Prior to that, he was associate and assistant concertmaster with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra from 1986 to 1996. 📅 16

ARTHUR "ART" WINSTEAD JR. '78 joined the 2022-23 Board of Directors of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.

KATHY FOX '79 received the Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award and Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award from UNC Wilmington, where she is a professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle, Literacy, and Special Education.

1980s

DIANE PITTS AVERETT '80 and **CINDY CONNELL FLOYD '80** attended an annual meet-up of sixth floor "Grogan girls" for an extended lunch and gab session. These friends have mourned together, cheered on one another through medical issues, and celebrated the arrival of grandchildren! 📅 7

RICHARD HELMS '80 won both the Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Award and Macavity Best Mystery Short Story award for "Sweeps Week," originally published in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine. The award for "Sweeps Week" came on his eighth Shamus Award nomination since 2003 and his 24th major mystery award nomination overall. In 2021, he won the Shamus Award for his Eamon Gold novel "Brittle Karma." Helms previously won the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award, the SMFS Derringer Award, and the International Thriller Writers Thriller Award.

ROSE MCLEAN JARRELL '80 and **DEBORAH HUFFMAN MULLEN '80** attended an annual meet-up of sixth floor "Grogan girls" for an extended lunch and gab session. These friends have mourned together, cheered on one another through medical issues, and celebrated the arrival of grandchildren! 📅 7

KATHY PARSONS '80 started her second career of travel and leisure after retiring from the Iowa State University Libraries

where she was a faculty librarian for 37 years.

DONNA RASCOE '80 was recently recognized by Business North Carolina magazine as part of its Legal Elite program. 📅 14

MEG CONNELL WATSON '80, MARTHA CRANFORD COX '81 BSN, CHRISTA TOUCHTON MOOSE '81, and TERESA LECORNU ROUTH '81 attended an annual meet-up of sixth floor "Grogan girls" for an extended lunch and gab session. These friends have mourned together, cheered on one another through medical issues, and celebrated the arrival of grandchildren! 📅 7

HARRY BOONE '83 MFA retired from Georgia Gwinnett College and looks forward to more time for painting, woodworking, writing, reading, and travel. During nearly 40 years in higher education, he taught at institutions like Gallaudet University and the Herron School of Art in Indianapolis. As an artist, his work was praised in journals like the Washington Review and Art Papers and shown at the Indiana governor's mansion as part of "The First Lady's Art Program." Two of his murals are mounted permanently in the School of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University. Harry and his wife, Associate Professor Emerita of Art History Zan Schuweiler (Converse University), live in Atlanta. 📅 17

DAVID PRUITT '83 published "Relative Distance," a memoir set in and around Greensboro and UNCG. A first-generation college student, Pruitt went on to become a leader in the bicycle industry, serving on the board of People for Bikes and as a long-time executive for Performance Bike, one of the nation's largest cycling retailers.

KAY COWEN '84 MSN has been selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in recognition of her contributions and impact to advance the public's health.

WILLIAM "BILL" MCKENZIE '84 MA has written three books on leadership for students and young adults, including "Embrace the Chaos, Enjoy the Journey: A Leadership Awakening for Students and Young Adults," published in 2021. This book is used to teach leadership awareness and development in public and private schools in N.C., S.C., Fla., and Ohio. He competes on the Blueseventy national triathlon team and has completed 54 triathlons and three 70.3 Ironman competitions. He achieved a top-10 70.3 Ironman National Championship and 70.3 Ironman USA World Team selection at age 63. 📅 10

JEFFREY COUSINS '85 published "The Right Thing to Do," a sci-fi adventure in which humans learn that they are really robots

ALL TOGETHER

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SPARTANS MET TO CELEBRATE MEMORIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS.



Anne Thomas '57, Alice Garrett Brown '65, Susan McDonald '67, Jean Lojko '80, Jeff Collins '84, and Devon Smith '13 were Distinguished Alumni Awards recipients.



After a decade of service, **MARY LANDERS** will retire from her role as director of Alumni Engagement effective July 1. Mary's influence will impact future generations of students, staff, and alumni, and we look forward to always having her as part of our Spartan Family! See more about Mary's career and impact at alumnimagazine.uncg.edu.

Men's Soccer went to the NCAA Elite 8 this year! Alumni met before tournament games to get excited and cheer for the "G"!



Class of 1971 and 1972 reunion



David Sprinkle celebrates Founders Day by handing out swag.

Here in spring 2023, 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

created by aliens. Humankind must grapple with the implications.

RAYMOND VAN DYKE '85, an intellectual property attorney in Washington, D.C., was appointed senior vice president of special events for the Licensing Executives Society. He is also the chair of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Licensing Executives Society.

CARTER BRADLEY '86, '91 MM has used his experience as a viola player and educator to teach at the Salisbury Symphony's Summer Strings Camp for the last 19 years.

ERIC ROBERT '87 ran for mayor of Greensboro. He is a local designer and citizen advocate.

JILL JOHNSON DUFFIELD '88 was recently named the 12th senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro.

TRACY LOVETT '88 was named director of the office of public engagement and inclusion for Congressman David Price, who serves the 4th District of North Carolina. She is also the director of outreach and senior advisor for his office.

SHARON PHILLIPS PEARCE '88, '92 MSN received the 22nd Ira P. Gunn Award for Outstanding Professional Advocacy from the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA).

ANTONIA MONK RICHBURG '88, '00 MPA was named president and CEO of the United Way of Forsyth County.

MARK DOROSIN '89 MA was appointed associate professor of law and director of legal clinics and field placements at Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando. 📖 18

BRAD LANKFORD '89 was elected clerk of the superior court of Stokes County, N.C.

1990s

MELODY STEVENS PETERS '91 was named youth services librarian at Perry Memorial Library. She was co-founder and managing director for Rags to Riches, a traveling theatre group.

WARREN ROCHELLE '91 MFA, '97 PHD published a new novel, "In Light's Shadow," which is available from jms books, a queer small press.

SCOTT OWENS '92 MFA published his 18th poetry collection, "Prepositional," with Redhawk Publications. He also collaborated on "Worlds Enough: Poems for and about children (and a few grown-ups)."

JAMES ROANE III '92 was profiled in the News and Record about Roane Law, a firm that represents plaintiffs in legal proceedings involving motor vehicle and personal injury accidents and more.

EVE LANDIS SNYDER '92 coauthored and presented research about arts education for neurodiverse students at the 2022 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) National Conference.

CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD '92 MFA published, among other projects, "Standing in the Need of Prayer," based on the popular spiritual of the same name.

PAULLEATHA "PAULA" BRUCE '93 earned a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Studies from the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University.

KEN CHAMLEE '93 PHD published a new collection of poems, "If Not These Things," with publisher Kelsay Books. His next book, "The Best Material for the Artist in the World," a poetic biography of Albert Bierstadt, was published in March 2023.

MELISSA SELLERS-BARNWELL '93 completed her student teaching at the Western North Carolina School for the Deaf in Morganton, N.C., during 2022. She began teaching special education and deaf education at the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf (go Hornets!) in Wilson, N.C., and looks forward to the Spring 2023 Special Olympics. She maintains a UNCG family tradition. Her daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Barnwell '22, is a third-generation graduate of UNCG. She celebrated this milestone at UNCG Alumni House with her grandmother, Marilyn Knox Sellers '63; her mother, Melissa A. Sellers-Barnwell '93; and her cousin, Nicholas Lee Goodman '16.

KIMBERLY JONES SIMPKINS '93 was a music major in violin performance and played in the pit orchestra for musicals. She recalls how wonderful the theatre program was then. Now her daughter Jasmyne, who showed an interest in theatre and drama from a young age and was inspired to attend after seeing the University's production of "Pippin," is a UNCG freshman. She is pursuing a BA in drama with a minor in dance. Spartan Pride!!! 📖 1

HATTIE LADSINE TAYLOR '93 MSN won the 2022 Practice Nurse of the Year from the North Carolina Nurses Association. Taylor was the first Black graduate of UNCG's gerontological nurse practitioner program in 1993.

MONICA FORD-KEARNEY '94 received the 2022 Exceptional Leadership Award from Safe Space Inc., where she is executive director. She has two decades of experience in community outreach, education, and social work.

ROBERT COX '95 was named tourism director for Duplin County. He has 25 years of travel and tourism experience.

TRISHA HALL NEWLIN '96 recently completed a 2,194.3-mile hike of the Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine. She wrote about her seven-month journey for the outdoor website "The Trek." 📖 6

GENA RASMUSSEN '96 MS hosted an open house to educate visitors about Laurel Health's nutrition and wellness services.

STEVE ALMOND '97 MFA coauthored "Which Brings Me to You" with Julianna Baggot. Production for a film adaptation began in New York in September 2022.

KATHRINE SUZANNE JALOT '97 was named director of communications for Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM), a nonprofit providing free home repairs to low-income homeowners. She was also accepted into Leadership Wilmington's Class of 2023.

JASON TUGGLE '97, '00 MSBE, a former UNCG Women's Basketball assistant coach, was named principal of Morehead High School in Eden.

CORY BOYTE '98 MBA was named head of capital markets corporate banking at United Community Bank, where he will manage and develop corporate relationships, products, and services.

TERRI ELLSWOOD MOSLEY '99 EDD received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine after a long career as an award-winning teacher, principal, administrator, assistant superintendent, and board of education chair in Surry County.

2000s

LESLEE HENRY BATTLE '00 MSN joined Winston-Salem State University as dean of the School of Health Sciences after serving as interim dean.

DELVECCHIO FAISON '00 displayed several artworks in 810 Studios in Clinton, N.C. He teaches art in Washington, D.C., public schools, illustrates children's books, and creates commissioned art.

BEVERLY KNOTT PATTERSON '00 MSN graduated from UNCG's ANP/GNP nursing program with a concentration in primary care. Her love for advanced nursing practice led her to become a certified family nurse practitioner to provide health care to all populations. UNCG provided her the foundation for a successful and fulfilling career in advanced nursing practice, and she is forever grateful to UNCG for giving her the greatest educational opportunity in life. 📖 12

MATTHEW WARD '00 was named executive director of the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission. He previously worked on planning and redevelopment projects in Henrico County, Va.

LISA BROWN BUCHANAN '01, '12 PHD coauthored a study of contemporary immigration experiences and teachers' analytic skills in "The Journal of Social Studies Research."

KATY MCNEILL LANZ '01, '05 MSN was appointed to Dollar General's Healthcare Advisory Panel, which advises the company about decisions related to health and wellness.

JENNIFER DWYER MCEWEN '01 was named president and CEO of the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

GREG VENABLE '01 was promoted to director of the High Point Transportation Department. He has been a transportation planner for the city since 2006.

BRIAN CAMPBELL '02 was promoted to producing sales manager for Truist Mortgage in the Summerfield, Kernersville, and Oak Ridge markets. 📖 8

TERRICA JONES WILLIAMS '02 was named registrar/director of records at Rockingham Community College after serving as an assistant registrar/assistant director of records and faculty member.

EREKA ROCHELLE WILLIAMS '03 PHD is the vice president of education at Dogwood Health Trust Foundation located in Asheville, N.C. Dr. Williams leads a team and a portfolio dedicated to addressing systemic issues in educational opportunity for Western North Carolina's critical communities across Early Care Education, K-12 Education and Postsecondary Education. She's formerly a tenured professor and university administrator from the UNC System. 📖 11

RHONDA HOOKER '03, '16 MLIS was named director of public libraries of Rockingham County, where she manages four branches, outreach services, and administration.

AMANDA HARDIE ALMODOVAR '04 published her debut novel, "Revisit," in which five young women returning to their hometown are invited to revisit their intertwined past in small-town North Carolina.

KRISTY JONES HIGH '04 published her fifth children's book, "Strong and Healthy Like a Car!" She also joined the board of the non-profit organization Winn Reading as vice president and started a new position as a literacy coordinator. 📖 19

RICHARD WATERS '04 DMA received the 2022 Robert K. Baar Choral Excellence Award from the Kentucky chapter of the American Choral Directors Association in recognition of his service to the choral art and his dedication to the promotion of music education. He is an active conductor, composer, and clinician in his 12th year as professor of music and director of choral activities at Eastern Kentucky University. 📖 13

PHIL FLEISCHMANN '05 MS was named director of Greensboro Parks and Recreation. He previously served in several leadership roles with the department, including deputy director and community recreation services division manager.

CANDACE HARRINGTON '05 MSN has been selected as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in recognition of her contributions and impact to advance the public's health.

DUSTIN OUSLEY '05 MM was named artistic director of the Hilton Head Choral Society for the 2022-23 season. He is assistant



1 Kimberly Jones Simpkins '93 with her daughter Jasmyne 2 Mike Cowhig '69 3 Jeremy Giles '18 4 Anita Daswani '09 5 Barbara Simon Alley '57 6 Trisha Hall Newlin '96 7 Top row: (left-to-right) Teresa LeCornu Routh '81, Christa Touchton Moose '81, and Cindy Connell Floyd '80, Middle row: Deborah Huffman Mullen '80, Diane Pitts Averett '80, Rose McLean Jarrell '80, Bottom row: Meg Connell Watson '80, Martha Cranford Cox '81

professor of music/director of choral activities, and coordinator of choral music education at Charleston Southern University.

JUSTIN OUTLING '05 participated in a new initiative that produces and shares web-based videos about high social mobility career paths to diverse middle and high school students in Guilford County, N.C.

BRIAN HAHNE '06 MA has been chosen to lead the Greensboro Urban Ministry. He was executive director of Partners Ending Homelessness and has worked in the fields of homelessness and faith for two decades.

DUSTIN MILLER '06 was a candidate for the Chatham County Board of Education. He is a marketing consultant for businesses in and around Chatham County, N.C.

COURTNEY VICK BROWN '07 MSN, '13 PHD became a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, an honor awarded to only a select few of the association's members.

MICHAEL GARRETT '07 was elected to his second term serving N.C. Senate District 27.

REBECCA KILPATRICK '07 MSA, an educator with more than 20 years of experience, was named assistant principal at Mountain View Elementary School in Hays, N.C.

CHARLA A. DUNCAN '08 was named a 2022 Trailblazer by the editors of Business North Carolina. This award honors young professionals working in towns of fewer than 100,000 residents.

CHRISTEN BLANTON MACK '08 MM, '16 PHD, a member of The Zinc Kings, played at the Arts Block Music Series in Danbury, N.C.

WHITNEY WILSON OAKLEY '08 EDS, '11 EDD was named Guilford County Schools superintendent. She was previously a familiar voice under Sharon Contreras, the former superintendent.

JHANALYN BLOUNT '09 was recognized with the Champion of Diversity Award by Wingate University. She is the corporate legal counsel at Kinesso, in Little Rock, Ark.

ANITA DASWANI '09 wrote, executive produced, and starred in a short film titled "The Missed." This not-for-profit drama touches on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Her team used public screening events to give back to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Oasis Institute. They reached their charitable goals and gained tremendous recognition from film festivals worldwide with a total of 16 awards in categories including best original screenplay, best cast, best sound design, and best family drama. The film's final public screening took place on World Mental Health Day at the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, a.k.a. BAAD! 🎬

NICOLE DUPUIS-WITT '09 MPH was named the first public health advisor for the City of Phoenix, where she will support municipal public health objectives.

ELIJAH KING '09 was a panelist for the event "Part of the Solution: Building Climate Resilience in Durham." He is the founder of the Durham Free Lunch Initiative.

KATHRYN "KATE" WALKER '09 accepted a job in Self-Contained Special Education in Burke County Public Schools and continues going to work daily even when exhausted.

JILLIAN WATLINGTON-KINDLE '09, '11 MA opened a new branch of her speech-language pathology practice, Speech Stars, in Caswell County, N.C.

2010s

MARK DILLON '10 MM, '18 PHD, '18 PBC, a member of The Zinc Kings, played at the Arts Block Music Series in Danbury, N.C.

LINDA POLLOCK WHITED '10 MS was profiled in WILMA, Wilmington's Successful Woman. She is the founder of the career coaching firm Time to Be Career Savvy.

EUGENIA BROWN '11 was featured in Charlotte Magazine in a story about Free Range Brewing, her craft-beer focused taproom.

DAN CLOUSE '11 DMA and **JEREMY GLASGOW '11 DMA**, members of The Zinc Kings, played at the Arts Block Music Series in Danbury, N.C.

ASIA PRINCE '11 ran for judge in the North Carolina 10th Judicial District in Wake County.

LAURIN PAIGE GARZA '12 MA was named principal at West Pender Middle School. She has more than 17 years of experience in education and has previously served as assistant principal at Pender High School.

JOSH LEWIS '12 CERT, '12 PBC, '14 MBA was named president of the Greenville-Eastern North Carolina Alliance. He previously served as executive director of the Mount Rogers Regional Partnership.

KELSEY MCENTEE '12 joined the Brandon Agency, a data-focused marketing firm, as a project manager.

COLLEEN SANDS '12 competed in an Ironman triathlon in Lake Placid, N.Y., exactly 10 years after graduating from UNCG's nursing program. Through donations, she raised over \$12,000 for the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Cancer Patient Support Program.

ROGER BEATY '13 MA, '15 PHD became the Dr. Frances Keesler Graham Early Career Professor of the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) at Penn State. He will continue his work studying the psychology and neuroscience of creative thinking in science education.

ART SPACE'S NEW LEADER



"I bring my joy for the arts to this role," says director of community engagement for UNCG's College of Visual and Performing Arts and new leader of Greensboro Project Space CAITLYN SCHRADER '22 MFA. This art gallery serves as a valuable bridge between UNCG and the downtown community.

MARK CONGDON JR. '13 MA recently won the 2022 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from PR News' Social Impact Awards for Diversity Leaders in recognition of DEI work completed with students at Sacred Heart University. He was an honorable mention for the Mentor of the Year Award. The Social Impact Awards honor communicators who use their platforms to better their communities and the global community at large. Winners are the campaigns, initiatives, professionals, teams, rising stars, and lifetime pioneers that are helping to usher in a diverse, equitable future and redefine organizations' roles in the fight for global change.

ERIK DAVIS '13, '16 MA ran for the 78th District of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

MERIS GADALETO ROBINSON '13 MM taught "Classical Training for Musical Theatre Singing" as part of Duke Music masterclasses. She has over a decade of experience helping students prepare for successful auditions.

MORGAN SOUTH '13 is the founder of the GenerationJoy clothing line for children, which features "grow with

me" technology, cooling fabrics, cover stitching, and reversible construction.

AMELIA RENEE BYRD '14 MFA performed "Womanifesto," which explores the struggle, freedom, and acceptance of a woman emerging into her adult life, at North Carolina Dance Festival.

FELICIA DEAN '14 MFA, a fiber artist from Knoxville, Tennessee, was named one of the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft's resident artists. She was also the recipient of a Graham Foundation research grant in 2021.

NIGEL ESPEY '14, '20 MBA joined the South Carolina Arts Commission (SCAC) as an assistant grants coordinator. He previously worked for Labcorp, Transplace, and Syngenta.

VANDY SCOATES '14 MFA joined the College of Arts and Sciences as an assistant professor in the Division of Performing Arts at Wilkes University.

RACHELLE WILLIAMS WATES '14 founded Byrdie Golf Social Wear, a women's golf clothing company that bridges the gap between fashion and performance with a focus on championing the up-and-coming golfer.

BRITTON BEASLEY '15 received an MBA from the Wake Forest University School of Business and joined Deloitte Government and Public Services as a senior consultant. 🎓

PAUL CHELIMO '15 was a guest speaker and participant at the 2022 Air Force Marathon. He is the recipient of silver and bronze Olympic medals in the 5,000 meter event and a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program. This program helps international athletes acquire U.S. citizenship and trains soldiers who seek to join the U.S. Olympic team.

MATTHEW JOHNSON '15, '19 MA is a three-time Best of the Net nominee whose second poetry collection, "Far From New York State," was published by New York Quarterly Press in 2023. He also recently published three poems on the website of the Hudson Valley Writers Guild.

JEFFREY COLEMAN '16 PHD was named vice president for diversity, inclusion, and community engagement at Framingham State University. He was previously Kennesaw State University's deputy chief diversity officer.

LINDSAY LYERLY DRAPER '16 MSN, '19 DNP was interviewed by Nurse Journal in their "Meet a Nurse Educator" profile.

SOPHIE THOMPSON HERRING '16 received the 2022-23 Teacher of the Year award by Randolph County Schools. She is the academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) teacher at both Trindale and Archdale Elementary Schools.

CHRISTOPHER REED '16 was appointed to the WCU Cherokee Center Advisory Board in August 2022.



8 Brian Campbell '02 **9** Anna Gerteisen '19 **10** William "Bill" McKenzie '84 MA **11** Erika Rochelle Williams '03 PHD **12** Beverly Knott Patterson '00 MSN **13** Richard Waters '04 DMA **14** Donna Rascoe '80 **15** Britton Beasley '15 **16** Brian Lee '78 **17** Harry Boone '83 MFA **18** Mark Dorosin '89 MA **19** Kristy Jones High '04



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS 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. 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 recruiting contacts by its former head men's soccer coach. Both cases were resolved under the negotiated resolution agreement approved by the Division I Committee on Infractions panel. For more details, visit www.uncgspartans.com.



PRESTON BLAKELY '17 was a featured speaker at Asheville's 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast, an event founded years ago by his grandmother and civil rights trailblazer Oralene Anderson Graves Simmons. He marked more than a year in his role as mayor of Fletcher, N.C. At 28, he is one of the youngest elected officials in the state.

ASHTON WHEELER CLEMMONS '17 EDS, '20 EDD was reelected to her seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives' 57th District. She has been a member of the UNC Board of Visitors, FPG Child Development Institute Board, and North Carolina Education Corps Advisory Board and an advisor at Stanford's Hoover Success Initiative.

ERIKA WOODY CRAWFORD '17 received a tenure award for 5 years of full-time employment with Rutherford County, N.C. where she is the branch manager at Haynes Branch Library.

BRIANNA DOWD '17 founded the media company Butterfly Visuals, LLC, in 2020. She is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts at the Savannah College of Art & Design.

JAMES FRYE '17 CERT, '17 PMC was named to the Hickory Young Professionals (HYP) Top 10 Under 40 list. He is in his fourth year as principal at Claremont Elementary School.

YAHIRA VELASCO-DOWNS '17, recently retired from the U.S. Air Force, will use her experience as a new technical recruiter for Dunhill Staffing Systems.

ALEXANDRA "ALLIE" ARPAJIAN '18 MS, '18 PBC was named executive director of the High Point Arts Council, where she will manage the Centennial Station Arts Center.

LUCAS BERRINI '18 MLIS joined the faculty of North Carolina Wesleyan University as the collection development librarian at Pearsall Library.

JEREMY GILES '18 recently started a new position as sales operations manager at RXO Logistics based in Charlotte, N.C.

NATHAN ZIGLAR '18 MSA was named principal of Holmes Middle School in Reidsville, N.C. He was previously assistant principal at Rockingham County High School.

ANNA GERTEISEN '19 received a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic, Port Orange, Fla. Anna practices in the Charlotte area.

GRAYSON MOORE '19 MSN was named to the 2022 North Carolina Great 100 Nurses and was honored at a gala in Greenville, N.C.

TARA ROOKS '19 was named dance instructor for Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central High Schools. She has previously been a dancer, choreographer, and instructor with multiple dance companies.

A TRIBUTE TO JO SAFRIT

DR. JOANNE SAFRIT '57 passed away on January 17. A member of the *Light the Way* Cabinet, Alumni Leadership Board, Woman's College Tribute Committee, and UNC Greensboro Foundation Board of Directors, Jo's giving spirit touched virtually every part of our University. With her late, beloved partner, Dr. Catherine Ennis '77 MS, Jo established the Safrit-Ennis Women's Basketball Athletic Scholarship Fund and supported women's basketball in many ways. And she was a steadfast supporter of kinesiology, establishing the Safrit-Ennis Distinguished Professorship in Kinesiology and the Ennis Undergraduate Kinesiology Scholarship. Her support was boundless. And she loved to garden. "I can't help thinking of our campus as her own special place where she knew the seeds she planted and all she cultivated would bloom forever," said Vice Chancellor Beth Fischer.



GRACE LEE SEO '19 MS, '22 PHD was named student reporting and system analyst in the Office of Institutional Research at Wake Forest University.

in the role of the Genie in the Broadway musical "Aladdin."

DERIC HARDY '22 MLIS, '22 PBC was hired as science and engineering librarian for Duke University Libraries.

LAUREN HELLNER '22 won the Window Fashion Certified Professionals Fast Track Scholarship. She also began work as an associate interior designer at Little Diversified Architectural Consulting. As a designer, she is interested in Universal Design.

IMANI MITCHELL '22 MS was named the first education coordinator of The Forge in Greensboro, where she will develop youth programming and partnerships with schools and educational community organizations.

2020s

MAYA BROOKS '20 MA was named assistant curator for contemporary art at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, where she will serve both the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) in Raleigh and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem.

SHEEBA DAWOOD '20 PHD is the CEO and co-founder of Minerva Lithium, which has produced Nano Mosaic, a substance that can be used in mineral extraction processes.

KEICHHELLE JOYCE '20 was a finalist for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching 2022 Prudential N.C. Beginning Teacher of the Year Award.

DWYLA PEARSON '20 joined the board of the Eastern Music Festival. She currently serves as the president and director of partnerships of Master Tours, a family-run charter bus company.

NICOLE GATTO '21 MA was named director of student support and conduct at Salem College in Winston-Salem, where she will promote an equitable student experience for all.

JORDAN SPEAS '21 was cast as the standby

AGNES COCHRANE SUMMERLIN '47
DERUSHA DARDEN PHILLIPS '48
ROSE POTTER GARVEY '50
DOROTHY TAYLOR JOHNSON '50
VIRGINIA BAUGHMAN LAWING '50
BENNIE YERTON RALLS '50
MARGARET MOYNAHAN STOLLEY '50
JUNE WILSON TAYLOR '50
LYDIA UNDERWOOD BRENDEL '51
PATRICIA WORKMAN CHRISMON '51
CORNELIA KUYKENDALL SMITH '51
EMILY GREEN WILSON '51
KATE MOORE COX '52
SARA BREEDEN ERWIN '52
HILDA MARSTON LANGLEY '52
SHIRLEY SMITH O'BRIEN '52
NANCY MAPLES WEANT '52
MARY BENNETT BAIL '54
SHIRLEY SILVER DAVIS '54
THELMA THOMPSON MILLER '54
GERALDINE TATUM COCHRANE '55
IMOGENE GARRISON JOHNS '55
MARY ANDERSON LEWIS '55
CAROLYN TEACHEY WATJEN '56
ELEANOR EVANS LEVY '57
ALMA E. GRAHAM '58
JOAN SELMA HULT '58
ANNA HUFFINE MCGOWAN '58
JEAN SMITH PLESS '58
ALICE JACKSON WILLINGHAM '58
BARBARA FLYNN BOWLES '59
FAYE BENTON COTTY '59
EUGENIA HICKERSON MACRAE '59
BARBARA NEECE WATERS '59
FERIBA BERRY WELTIN '59

MARY JENKINS WORTHINGTON '59
MARY KEY WRIGHT '59
AMY MARIE BROOKS '60
GLORIA RUCKER MEER '60
PRISCILLA BAKER NICHOLAS '60
ESTELLE PICKEL HILL '61
PATRICIA WALKER LAMBERT '61
EULELA RIDDLE BLANKS '64
PENNI DRAKE THOMPSON '64
LAWRENCE REYNOLDS '67
PAUL SOUTHERN '67
JANICE CALLAHAN COOK '68
NANCY HAMMOND COOPER '68
CAROLYN HODGES CROSBY '68
JAMES GRAHAM '68
PENNY PRATT NEWHALL '68
JUDITH HAMMOND SHELL '68
CASSANDRA WILLIAMS HUNTER '69
CYNTHIA FARRELL INMAN '69
HARRIET DALTON ROGERS '69
JANINE JOHNSTON WILSON '69
ADA MARKITA FISHER '70
MARY COTHRAN HOLDING '70
LORETTA BURCH ROJO '70
BOBBY GORDON '71
SUE SPEAGLE LILLY '71
LINDA BRAY RIMER '71
FAYMA HOWELL AVENT '72
LOY SELLER '72
JOANNE FRYE SINK '72
RHONDA KAY FLEMING '73
HERBERT ANDREWS JR. '74
RITA HOLMES GLADSKY '74
GWENDOLYN HARRINGTON GOLDSTON '74
ELLEN LANE HAGGAR '74

RICHARD O'NEAL '74
MARION EDMONDS JR. '75
MARY SUE KNOX '75
SHARON LAVON DOCKHAM '76
THOMAS GLADSKY '76
JOHN OWENSBY '76
STEWART KESTER JR. '77
MARIE ENGLISH CLARK '78
ERNEST RHYNE '78
DEBORAH SURFACE WEEDEN '78
PHILLIP WINN '80
DOUGLAS CLAYTON '81
DOROTHY HOUCK SALEEBY '81
NANCY NOLAN WILKINSON '82
JOHN OWENS '83
RAY TREADWAY '83
LINDA ANN VAN VECHTEN '83
JENNIFER LEE ADCOCK WHITING '83
MARY PHILLIPS ROGERS '84
ROBY VEST TAW '84
PAMELA BOLMER BEAVER '86
KAREN BURDICK ILLINGWORTH '86
JANET STADLER ROE '87
DANIEL ZAHNER '87
JAMES MCKENZIE '88
BOON TZAO LEE '91
SUSAN EAGLES PHELPS '91
JUDITH CASSIDY WEBB '92
GERRI THOMAS BYRD '93
DOROTHY PAULINE BRUNETTE '95
JOSEPH ROGERS '00
ANGELA DENISE WALLER '01
TYSHUN FRAZIER '02
YAN WU '02
WILLIAM MULBERRY '07
JULIA MARGARET STOCKTON '07
ASHLEY ELIZABETH BANISTER '08

FORMER FACULTY/STAFF

DR. WILLIAM A. COLLINS died on November 24, 2022. He taught in the Bryan School's Department of Accounting and served as department head from 1989 to 1996. During this time, he helped implement changes to the accounting curriculum that responded to industry needs.

DR. WILLIAM GERACE died on January 12, 2022. He was the first Helena Gabriel Houston Distinguished Professor for Science Education and a principal investigator in the Physics Education Research Group in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. With colleagues, he received funding for many projects related to STEM education and professional development for teachers.

DR. GERALD "JERE" HERSHEY died on October 3, 2022. He was Professor Emeritus of Information Systems and Operations Management in the Bryan School of Business & Economics, where he had served as both department head and

REMEMBERING BETSY BUFORD



BETSY BUFORD '68 died on February 27. Twice director of the UNCG Excellence Foundation, she received the Holderness/Weaver Award for public service. The Raleigh native was deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, then director of the North Carolina Museum of History and director of the Division of State History Museums. Her service on more than 50 boards and commissions included serving as president of the Women's Forum of North Carolina.

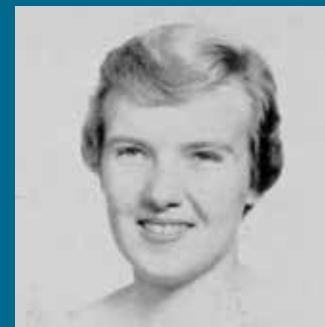
associate dean for administration. In 2010 he established the Gerald L. & Cherry K. Hershey Scholarship Fund to honor past and future information systems students.

DR. ELEANOR FOWLER MCCRICKARD died on January 18, 2023. A music historian, she was an expert on the 17th-century Italian composer Alessandro Stradella. She was a School of Music faculty member for thirty years and was chair of the Composition, History, and Theory Division for twelve. In 2001, she won the Teaching Award in the School of Music. She also held a number of positions as organist at churches in North Carolina and Alabama.

HOLLIE STEVENSON-PARRISH died on August 6, 2022. She was director of communications and marketing for University Libraries. Those who have enjoyed the libraries' online newsletter or social media in recent years were accustomed to her lively writing and careful editing. She enjoyed art as well; one of her paintings, "Live Happy," is displayed by her co-workers on Jackson Library's third floor.

WC ALUMNA PURSUED CURIOSITY

MARY "BOBBI" MILLER CARSON '58 died on Sept. 12, 2022. "I grew up with a very strong curiosity factor," she wrote in a letter included in the Class of 1958 50th Reunion pamphlet. "Woman's College gave me the life skills, education, motivation, and confidence to pursue that curiosity."



After a career in physical education, Carson retired as associate director of athletics at Boston College in 1996. She returned to Greensboro in her retirement.

A longtime supporter of the University, Carson endowed or contributed to the Rosemary McGee Scholarship Endowment, the Bobbi Carson Women's Basketball Athletic Scholarship, and the Class of 1958/Gail Hennis Scholarship.

IN MEMORIAM

HELEN WILLIAMS BULLOCK '38
HELEN COHEN FAGELSON '40
OMA LEE PARKER HOLLAND '40
EVELYN RAYLE SHOWFETY '42
BERNICE CARTER NORWOOD '43
JOSEPHINE COLLINS BEAMER '44
RUTH ROYAL BARNES '45
JEANNE YARROW PALYOK '45
JEAN ROSENAST STACHEL '45
MARY ELLEN HARRIS '46
ETHEL ANGLIN LAWSON '46
ARLENE JOHNSON SHIELDS '46
BETTY BUYCK STACK '46
CLAIRENE OLIVER COCKERHAM '47
MILDRED FREELAND SCHNERK '47



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