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

UNCG'S LGBTQ+ community is stronger than ever.

Look at us now.
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?
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.”

VISIT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU TO SEE UPDATES AND THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES.
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 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, education, the department seeks to explain how social institutions create definitions of gender and affect individual lives.

“By teaching students the critical thinking skills vital to a liberal education, the department works 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 Professorships created during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program.

“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 H.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.
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.

“...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 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.

“Simple observation sparked the project.” Etnier, her 79-year-old 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.

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.”

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!

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

“...it’s hard to leave!”

Dr. Justin Harmon, associate professor in the Department of Community, Workforce, 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 cancer diagnoses have participated at least once.

“Diagnosis of a serious illness unsettles identity,” says Dr. Justin Harmon, associate professor in the Department of Community, Workforce, 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.”

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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 late 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.

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

I’m proudest of is that I’ve been able to change the path. She was invited to teach a course about race and law.

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” Woods Lecture’s Office and the N. Frank 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 taught at UNCG for decades.

Woods Jr. Library. The longest-serving Meachum Lecturer’s Office and the N. Frank African Diaspora Studies program will have new official names: the Lorenzo “Logie” Woods Lecture’s Office and the N. Frank 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 taught at UNCG for decades.

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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 Teacher's Assistant 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 financial rewarding, being a lawyer was needed,” says Born. “It has been a positive experience for all of us,” says Born’s sixth grade daughter Eliza, who sat in her former teacher's seat.

Now, Born implements critical thinking exercises regularly. “It has been a positive experience for all of 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.”

Sarah Born teaches fourth grade at Stokesdale Elementary.
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 residential 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 high flyers.

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 is so powerful that it can assist underserved students,” says Edmunds. "We want to ensure all students have access to the benefits of a more seamless system.”

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.

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. Byrd 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.
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 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.

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 Condace Martin ’10 and Dean Castroldo 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.

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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.

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 Gilliom 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, 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 overcome obstacles and for beyond who is making an impact, thank you.”
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
Conducting concentration. Amendum, the UNCG graduates.” Dr. Joseph DiPiazza when we were under - Amendum — he and I both studied under time here before. I knew Dominick faculty and the theater faculty from my returning home. I knew the composition started looking at grad schools. parts of the United States. Meanwhile, he helped settle Afghan refugees in different the International Rescue Committee he a two-year stint in Ukraine, and later with grimages in northwestern Spain.” ‘Camino de Santiago,’ a network of pil - central coast. Then? “I decided to hike the him to New York City, then to California’s with theaters around the Triad, which took Directing. with a concentration in Musical Theatre the School of Theatre’s first MFA student 2002 as a piano performance major, is now 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 pil -grimages in northwestern Spain.”

Afterward, he joined the Peace Corps for a two-year stint in Ukraine, and later with the International Peace Corps 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 an 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 direc - tion, so I bring some knowl - edge 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.

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.”

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He’s right where he belongs.

This summer, photography from the Bank of America collection will be on view at the Weatherspoon Art Museum. “Shared Space: The New Era (1967-2010),” 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

This is a modern dance company with African, Caribbean, ballet, and post-modern aesthetics!” Claire 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 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 flyer 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.

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 Mousley, Mariam Stephan, Pat Wasserbohr, 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.”
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 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.

In the university’s archives, you can find memorabilia from Coming Out Day events, flyers 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.

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.

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 Krim. "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, for a Southern city in the ‘Bible Belt,’ we seemed to have a larger and more visible support more LGBTQ+ nightlife and social 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 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 2000s, 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 the Obergefell v. Hodges case in the United States 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 are 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 vulnerable in front of a room of people," he says. "There are plenty of queer and trans people who are documenting their trajectories and experiences in beautiful ways," he says.

"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," says Hutchinson.

"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.”
When Williams and her partner finally got married after the Supreme Court decision, her 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 aliens?” 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 nondiscrimination clause. After the UNCG Student Senate passed a nondiscrimination clause, three students, Aleksa Dauglitty ’97, Jessica Steine ’97, and Mandy Vietor, 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 pledge 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.

Though not as well-known as those contemporaries like Audre Lorde, Harris’ novels were praised by critics. Fred Chappell called her first novel, Catching Saragado, “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 novel 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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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 talk about gender around the world. We’ll also discuss multiculturalism and how it relates to the LGBTQ+ community,” says King.

Part of No Labels’ mission is to provide a safe space for 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 participate in No Labels meetings and events.

Callie 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.

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

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.”

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.” BuddyGist 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 ‘30 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.”

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 sitting 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?

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 Spiteri-Raab ’97, Hinshaw adds. Today, students tend to (cautiously!) decorate it in clever ways, much like students once did to the Melvin statue in earlier decades.

• 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.

• 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!

• 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.

• The McIver and faculty wanted a replacement building low to the ground. The reason it’s only two stories? Immediately after fire destroyed Brick Dormitory called it “Rockingham,” saying it stretched all the way to Rockingham County.

• Always the center of attention

• The McIver statue in earlier conditions that necessitated its being stored away. Last displayed in 1985 (minus a head and arms), its whereabouts remain a mystery.

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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.

Move it on over

The official Chancellor’s Residence was once near the center of campus. Some alumni have tales of student protests wending 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 Yum Yum (and their families) from Julius Foust to Patricia Sullivan resided here. Some alumni have tales of student protests winding their way here, at the corner of Spring Garden and Forest, with Elliott Hall and Yum Yum (and their families) from Julius Foust to Patricia Sullivan resided here.

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

We’ve seen this art before

Melver 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 Melver 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 area 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.

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 “Bettz” Hawks Herring. They were early members of UNCG’s Musical Arts Guild. At its dedication in 1959, it featured some of Bettz’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.

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 these years, McCarty Smith says, it is in splendid condition today.

• The founding president, Charles Duncan McIver, lived with his family in a house located nearby. A brass marker near the Vauc 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.

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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

In 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 Mallory delivered a clutch kick.

For many alumni and fans, the 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 ’80, Andrew Melniko ’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 shifted.

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. 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.”

“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. 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.”

As an athlete, when you’ve 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.”

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

1985     1985-1987
Three consecutive Division III national championships

1982-1983

1985

Back-to-back Division III national championships

1986

1987

1991

1998

First SeCon 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

Ismael El Marchi celebrates on the way to the Elite 8.

2023

36 UNCG magazine Spring 2023

2023

UNCG magazine 37
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.”

Alejandra Moreno ’01 was one of those great international players recruited to UNCG in the 1990s. After a successful professional career, she is an analyst for ESPN sports. “The influx of international players has not only been important for UNCG, but has been important for the league in general,” Moreno observes.

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

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 aren’t 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’ meteoric rise to the Elite 8, he says, “In a tournament, you need something, a 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 3.32 GPA in Fall 2022, with 74% of players achieving Academic 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 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.
Breaking barriers

Chemistry major and quintessential “WCer” Nancy Romesfelt 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 Romesfelt 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 academic career.”

I decided to join, and it was the best decision I could have made for my academic career.”

Phaedra J. Grove

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. In 2022 Bryant 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 Bryant 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 B.S 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 school during the Great Depression, and she, in turn, helped each of her six grandchildren with their education. Their 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. Their generosity of donors allows diversity to grow, and 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 lightneway.uncg.edu

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 of different backgrounds have opportunities that previous generations did not.”

Breaking barriers

Happy to see her efforts pay off, Cynthia recently earned a doctorate in physical therapy and is now diligently preparing to pass the national CRNA certification exam. She is already working toward her career’s overarching goal: “To make health care more accessible and affordable, while being a leader in my field and doing what I enjoy—practicing critical care.”
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 alumnimagazine.uncg.edu and click on "Submit a class note.

UNC magazine • Spring 2023
CREATED ALONE. Humanism meets grappling with the implications.

JENNER TROYER ’90 was named president of the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

RISA这不是一个有效的问题。
Nicole Super-Agyi ‘98 MS was named the first public health advisor for the City of Phoenix, where she will support municipal public health objectives.

Eugene T. Brown ‘90 was a panelist for the event “Part of the Solution: Building Climate Resilience in Durham.” He is the founder of the Durham Peace Lunch Initiative.

Catherine Kaye Miller ‘10 accepted a job in North Carolina Special Education in Burke County Public Schools and continues to work daily even when exhausted.

Jillian Washington-King ‘10 led a new branch of her speech-language pathology practice, Speech, Start, in Carroll County, N.C.

CHARLA A. DUNCAN ‘08 has been named the 46th woman of the Class of 2023. She previously served as executive director of the Greensboro Urban Ministry. She would serve this second term serving N.C. Senate District 25.

JOSH LEWIS ‘12 CERT, ’12 PBC, ’14 MBA was named a 2022 Champion of Diversity Award by the Association of Nurse Anestiology, an honor awarded to only a select few of the association’s members.

EUGENIA BROWN ‘11 was featured in Charlotte Magazine in a story about Pine Range Brewing, its craft beer focused taproom.

DAN CLOUSE ‘12 and JEREMY GLASSOFF ‘12 won, members of The Zinc Kings, played at the Arts Block Music Series in Danbury, N.C.

Lisa Polk ‘15 was profiled in WILMA, Wilmington’s Successful Woman. She is the founder of the career counseling firm Time To Be Career Savvy.

Mike Taylor ‘16 was named in WILMA, Wilmington’s Successful Woman. He is the founder of the career counseling firm Time To Be Career Savvy.

ARIT UNIYELDIZ ‘17 is a marketing consultant for businesses and individuals in and around Chatham County, N.C.

SOPHIE THOMPSON HERRING ‘16 received her PhD from the University of Bristol, U.K., and became a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has been chosen to join the ACS Senior Fellow Program. She also started her postdoc at the University of Bath, where she is working on organic photovoltaics and sustainable energy systems.

Erik Davis ‘13, ‘16 MA was an honorable mention for the 2022 Outstanding Educator of Darkness-to-Light awards. He is an assistant professor at Sacred Heart University.

Kathryn B. Miller ‘10 was recognized as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has been chosen to join the ACS Senior Fellow Program. She also started her postdoc at the University of Bath, where she is working on organic photovoltaics and sustainable energy systems.

Brian Hahne ‘06 MA has been chosen to join the ACS Senior Fellow Program. He also started his postdoc at the University of Bath, where he is working on organic photovoltaics and sustainable energy systems.

Amelia Renee Byrd ‘14 MFA is a recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Educator of Darkness-to-Light awards. She is an assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University.

Mark Dorosin ‘89 MA joined the South American Journal. He will support the 2022-2023 Traveling Fellowship Award. He also started his postdoc at the University of Bath, where he is working on organic photovoltaics and sustainable energy systems.

Rachelle Williams Wates ‘14 is a marketing consultant for businesses and individuals in and around Chatham County, N.C.

Michael McKearney ‘83 was named a 2022 Champion of Diversity Award by the Association of Nurse Anestiology, an honor awarded to only a select few of the association’s members.

Amanda Black ‘19 was named in WILMA, Wilmington’s Successful Woman. She is the founder of the career counseling firm Time To Be Career Savvy.

Colin C. Higgason ‘23 MFA was named one of the 10 young artists to watch in the art world in 2023. He is an assistant professor at The Arts Block Music Series in Danbury, N.C.

Taylor ‘16 was named in WILMA, Wilmington’s Successful Woman. She is the founder of the career counseling firm Time To Be Career Savvy.

COLLEGE SERIES ‘98 MS was named the first public health advisor for the City of Phoenix, where she will support municipal public health objectives.

EMILY GLENN ‘90 was a panelist for the event “Part of the Solution: Building Climate Resilience in Durham.” He is the founder of the Durham Peace Lunch Initiative.

CATHRYN KAYE MILLER ‘10 accepted a job in North Carolina Special Education in Burke County Public Schools and continues to work daily even when exhausted.

JILLIAN WASHINGTON-KING ‘10 led a new branch of her speech-language pathology practice, Speech, Start, in Carroll County, N.C.

“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 CATHY SCHRAEDER ‘23 MFA. This art gallery serves as a valuable bridge between UNCG and the downtown community.

“Part of the Solution: Building Climate Resilience in Durham” event.

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A TRIBUTE TO JO SAFRIT

D.R. JOANNE SAFRIT ‘57 passed away on January 17.

A member of the Light of the Way Cabinet, the Asheville College Board, Woman’s College Tribune Committee, and UNC Greensboro’s Board of Directors, Jojo’s giving spirit touched virtually every part of our University. With her, beloved partner, Dr. Catherine Ennis ’77 MS, Jo established the Ennis-Safrit Women’s Athletic Scholarship Fund and supported women’s basketball in many ways. And she was a steadfast supporter of kinship programs which bring the School of Social Work’s expertise in the field of Kinship and the Ennis Undergraduate Kinshipology Scholarship. Her support was boundless. And she loved to garden. “I can’t help thinking of our campus and the beautiful spot where she knew the seeds she planted and all she cultivated would bloom forever,” said Vice Chancellor Beth Fischer.

Elizabeth Keri
Mike Dickens ’07
Antwain Hairston ’21
Contributing Illustrator
Web Manager
Production Facilitator
Sangeetha Shivaji
Sarah Newell
Martin W. Kane
Steven Pisano
Bert VanderVeen ’93, ’97 MA
Assistant Editor for Features/Newsfront
Editor

Rebecca Flanigan ’47
received a tenure award for 50+ years of full-time engagement with Ruthertford N.C. where she is the branch manager at Hayes Branch Bank.

Alessandra “Ali” Alper ’19, ’20, ’21
was named executive director of the High Point Arts Council, where she will manage the Centennial Station Arts Center.

Lucas Berrini ’18 MLIS
was named assistant director for the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem.

Lauren Miller ’22 won the Window Scholarship. She also began work as a designer, she is interested in Universal Design.

Jennifer O’Brien ’22 was appointed as an advisor at Stanford’s Hoover Institution.

She is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts at the Savannah College of Art & Design.

She was named executive director of the High Point Arts Council. She returned to Greensboro in her retirement.

She was a featured speaker at Asheville’s 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Pro-Student event, an event founded years ago by her grandfather and civil rights trailblazer Online Anderson Greene. He marked more than 40 years in his role as mayor of Hickory, N.C. At 85, he is one of the oldest elected officials in the state.

Amanda Wheeler ’21 mba, ’20, edd was rescued in her seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives 57th District. She has been a member of the UNC Board of Visitors, Psi Chi Fraternity Development Institute Board, and North Carolina Education Corps Advisory Board and an advisor at Shaw University Success Initiatives.

2020s

Mary Brooks ’59 was named assistant curator for the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, where she will serve as the Southeastern North Carolina Museum of Art (SEMA) in Raleigh as the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem.

She was named the first education coordinator of the Forte in Greensboro, where she will develop youth programming and partnerships with schools and educational community organizations.

In Memoriam

Helen William Bostock ’18
Gwen Kilianski ’20
Gwen Nix ’20
Jameehooks ’20
Jencarina Simmons ’20
Joshua Yancey ’20
Katelyn Williams ’20
Harriet Williams ’20
Heather Workman ’20
Hannah Zeller ’20
Ida Zurcher ’20

The publication may be accessed at www.uncg.edu and www.uncg.edu/uncmags. For a hard copy, please call 336-334-4000. The UNC Greensboro athletic department is a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference. Home games are played at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. UNCG is located at 1 University Plaza, Greensboro, NC 27412. The UNC Greensboro magazine is a publication of the Office of Communications and Marketing.
THE HOTTEST TOPICS. THE COOLEST FACULTY.
THE WARMEST GREETINGS FOR ALL ALUMNI AT ... ALUMNI ALL ACCESS 2023

APRIL 21–22 AT UNCG, ENJOY FASCINATING TALKS BY DYNAMIC FACULTY IN SOME OF OUR CAMPUS' NEWEST INNOVATIVE BUILDINGS – WHILE RECONNECTING WITH YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI!

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