

FALL 2023

UNCG

MAGAZINE

WC TRIBUTE
'ASTERA'

PG. 4

'THE RAWK'
TURNS 50

PG. 10

NAMED
PROFESSORSHIPS

PG. 28

CHILD CARE
STARS

PG. 34

CHANGE MAKERS

From Woman's College era to today,
core values remain constant, as new
ideals have emerged PG. 18





10

BOLD AND BOULDER Have something to express? Students know The Rawk is the place to paint your message. It's no place to be shy. Promote your big event. Make a big statement. And it's a big year for The Rawk, which is marking 50 years on campus! Now that's something to celebrate in the biggest letters you can imagine. Make it splashy!

contents

2 news front
University and alumni news and notes

14 out take
Piney Lake remains the naturally beautiful retreat it's been since the 1950s.

16 studio
Spartans take Manhattan, Rhiannon Giddens, Jewel, and classic Disney animation

18 Changemakers
Who are today's UNCG students? Here are the stats and, better yet, their stories.

28 Power of Named Professorships
Beginning in the final years of WC, our campus' creation of Distinguished and Excellence Professorships is a tale of exponential impact.

34 Child Care Stars
Pioneering UNCG-led child care assessment initiative has made its mark in 50,000 N.C. classrooms – and counting.

40 legacies
Retired UNCG faculty are making an impact through philanthropy.

42 grad tidings
Lots of class notes and photos, too

Cover photography: L-r, Hannah Bond, Johan Paniagua-Nava, Alyssa Odom, and Ayana Cholula at Woman's College Tribute. By Sean Norona '13

Photo on this spread: L-r, Mannie Aquino, Ayana Cholula, Alyssa Odom, Hannah Bond, Victoria Howard, Johan Paniagua-Nava, Claudia Stakoe, and Maya Hare. By Sean Norona '13

Check out the magazine website
Visit magazine.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.

In April we dedicated “Astera,” a tribute to Woman’s College and WC alumnae. It’s a reminder of the through line connecting every generation on our campus. Students now, like those before, find their way to UNCG because of the academic excellence and opportunities here. It’s a combination that makes UNCG unique.



FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.
CHANCELLOR

Being the beneficiaries of these rare educational opportunities is perhaps why our very first class of students chose “Service” as the University motto. It has been embraced by every class since. At this year’s day of service, students traveled in teams throughout Guilford County in support of critical projects with partner organizations that make a direct impact right here – investing in our “shared place.”

Such an initiative at the start of a semester is deeply meaningful for our students as well as for our community. It was heartening to see them wearing shirts that read “Changemakers” and to imagine what their future holds.

Through their careers and their lives, UNCG graduates in our state and beyond will be “Changemakers.” They’ll be teachers and principals, nurses, entrepreneurs, social workers, nutritionists, artists, chemists, counselors – the list goes on. Our alumni are in every realm of life.

“Astera” means star. The name is fitting. For 131 years, opportunity and excellence have been our North Star.

As we continue our *Light the Way* campaign, our students serve as a reminder of the remarkable real-world impact our University is creating every day.

newsfront



UNCG’s commitment to military students has earned the University a designation as a Military-Friendly School, ranking in the Top 10 nationally among Tier 2 research institutions.

“It’s not just the dedication and devotion to serving our military population from our office. It is really a University-wide commitment,” says Chris Gregory, director of the Military-Affiliated Services office (MAS).

About 1,500 Spartans are military-affiliated students. There are likely more, since that only includes students who specify they are military-affiliated during their application process or are

using military benefits.

“One of the biggest things we hear from folks coming directly from the military to higher education is they don’t really know where to go for things,” says Gregory. “We try to help break down some of those walls.”

Some ways UNCG is doing that:

- All active-duty (including National Guard and reservists) along with veterans can apply to UNCG with no application fees.
- All active-duty, veterans, and anyone who uses military educational benefits get priority registration for classes.
- A convenient, one-stop shop for these students, the MAS office

helps them handle military benefits as well as scholarships, grants, and loans.

Garrett Barto, a captain in the Army Reserves, explains that the office has been instrumental in his transition from active duty. He gained an internship at UNCG, and then transitioned to conducting research as a PhD student in UNCG’s Chemistry and Biochemistry Department – all while continuing to serve. He’ll use his doctorate as an Army biochemist.

“Being the only military PhD student in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department can be lonely, as my life experiences are



L-r, Garrett Barto, a captain in the Army Reserves; Dan Lorden ’16, ’23 DNP, Army Special Forces veteran; Adriana Barrera Ramirez, Marines veteran

very different from most of my peers,” he says. The office has been hugely supportive, not only helping him navigate optimal usage of his GI Bill for PhD credits – a complicated process – but also as a vital source of social support.

Marine Corps veteran Adriana Barrera Ramirez also enjoys the support. “I originally went to another university, but I didn’t feel like I belonged or that there were any resources available for me there.” A Winston-Salem native who served in South Korea and Japan, she decided to check out UNCG and fell in love with the campus and its diversity. The student resources – including first-year resources, help for first-generation students, and the MAS – have given her a sense of belonging.

UNCG School of Nursing’s support for veterans goes back to its origin. Founding dean Eloise Lewis had served during WWII, as did several professors. Today, its innovative Veterans Access Program (VAP) provides military veterans, active reservists,

and active-duty military the opportunity to earn their BSN. Dan Lorden ’16, ’23 DNP was part of the school’s first VAP cohort in 2015. With his extensive medical experience in the U.S. Army Special Forces, commonly known as the Green Berets, he was able to accelerate through the BSN program. He returned for his certified registered nurse anesthetist/DNP degree, and graduated in August.

“I compare everything through the lens of the hard military training I did,” said Lorden. “I went through the Special Forces Medical Sergeants course, which is considered one of the most academically challenging courses for enlisted military members. Having done both, I would say this (CRNA program) has been in some ways significantly harder than Special Forces training. Both Special Forces training and my anesthesia education have fundamentally changed me as a person.”

SEE FULL INFORMATION AT MILITARY.UNCG.EDU.



ON SOLDIERS’ SIDE

FACULTY AND STUDENTS are working to keep U.S. soldiers safer – and to empower them.

An innovative collaboration between the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (JSNN) and the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Soldier Center is making it possible.

“It’s about how we can help the soldier, to enhance their clothing, their masks, their heavy backpacks,” said Dr. Sherine Obare. She is dean of JSNN, run by UNCG and NC A&T.

Nanoscience is at the tiniest of levels. Imagine the microscopic edge of a sheet of paper. Now slice that by 1/100,000th, and you’re at nanoscale.

“We can manipulate atom by atom, with nanotechnology,” Obare explains. They can help design sturdier, more flexible clothing that makes both the typical male soldier and typical female soldier more agile and comfortable – and better protected.

Professor Tetyana Ignatova adds, “This partnership runs the full gamut from basic science to translational science.”

And something else key to any collaboration, as they speak with researchers and learn from the soldiers: “This is also about communications skills and listening.”



CHANCELLOR’S PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY AURA MAREZOUK

Paying tribute

Woman's College was known as the nation's top public college for women. Its legacy of excellence and opportunity is now on full display at the Woman's College Tribute.

Betsy Oakley '69, Board of Trustees chair, told those gathered at May's dedication on Stone Lawn, "The WC alumnae were bold pioneers who embraced the educational opportunities they were given – and they worked for them," she said. "They were trailblazers. WC graduates have made an enormous impact on our region, our state, our nation, and indeed the world."

Sculptor Michael Stutz, with landscape artist James Dinh nearby, said the Tribute is envisioned as a space to gather, to relax, perhaps to reflect.

"We see it as a meeting place," Emilie Mills '62, '65 MFA had earlier noted. Sarah Shoffner '62, '64 MS, '77 PhD added they hope students will meet their friends at the spot. "It's a place for community."

Image panels derived from Woman's College-era Pine Needles yearbooks are featured. The brick walls were designed to hold seasonal flowers. "Conceptually, the three garland walls relate to when they used to make daisy garlands here on campus," Stutz said.

The sculpture is named "Astera." "Astera' is from the Latin word Asteraceae, which is the family in which daisies are," he said, referencing the campus' flower. "Also 'astera' means 'star.'"

The sculpture is made out of strips of bronze – it's woven, he added. "It's very strong, but it's also very open. There's openings within it. I hope that gives the viewer a chance to make their own determination about what they're seeing. You can actually go inside the sculpture, look out through her eyes."



Top: Emilie W. Mills '62, '65 MFA, Sarah Shoffner '62, '64 MS, '77 PhD; Bottom, at ribbon-cutting, l-r: Beth Fischer, Betsy Oakley '69, James Dinh, Kurt Melvin, Dr. Sarah Shoffner, Emilie W. Mills, Michael Stutz, Molly Brake '62, Agnes Price '62, Geraldine Fox '63; Right, JoAnne Smart Drane '60 with panel of herself with Bettye Ann Davis Tillman '60.



DID YOU KNOW
Astera looks toward Jackson Library, the former Elliott Hall (now EUC), and the McIver Statue.



National pastime

He's 22 years into his tenure as president of USA Baseball. He was the founding coach of UNCG Baseball. But Mike Gaski '73 MFA says the sport is not what drew him to UNCG in the early 1970s.

As he graduated from the University of Detroit, John Mahoney, the dean of Arts and Sciences, told him about a tremendous UNCG writing professor down in North Carolina: Fred Chappell. After coming to UNCG to study with Chappell and earn his MFA, he joined the Ohio State Baseball coaching staff – and his career took off.

USA Baseball, the national governing body for amateur baseball, selects and oversees our nation's professional teams in the global World Baseball Classic and the Olympics. "It's been fun. I take pride in our accomplishments. I'm proud to be an American."

He ticks off the U.S. teams' recent successes in the World Baseball Classic "In 2017, we won the Gold medal and beat Japan. In spring 2023, we won the Silver medal."

The Tokyo Olympics? "We won the Silver."

The other national teams? "I've lost track of how many Gold medals we've won with our College National Team, our Women's National team, and our 18Us, 15Us, and 12Us. We expect to play in the finals every event, and over these past few years, we've had great players and coaches who've continually met

those expectations."

He and his staff have overseen a project to standardize youth baseball bats. When you see them in the store with the "Approved by USA Baseball" sticker, that's their mark. And now, they are working to standardize the exact size and weight of youth baseballs.

And some big news in the Triangle area: The greatly expanded USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary, N.C., will have its ribbon-cutting this fall.

Many at UNCG know Gaski as the Spartan coach from 1991 to 2012. His teams won four conference titles. He won four conference Coach of the Year awards. He was inducted into the Guilford County Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 and the UNCG Athletics Hall of Fame earlier this year. He was particularly pleased that two of his players – Nicky Yelverton (formerly Phillips) '97 and Ryan Gordon '04 – were inducted at the same time.

And what about that MFA in creative writing? In recent years, he's had one novel published, "Magicians and Brothers," and another is on the way.



Mike Gaski '73 MFA with manager Mike Scioscia (r-l).



GIDDY-UP!

Do you prefer fuzzy, feathery, or scaly? UNCG's psychology department wants to know. The "Pet Wall" in the Eberhart Building is lined with pictures of some adorable "best friends": from Rodney the rooster to Department Head Stuart Marcovitch and Professor Janet Boseovski's cat Pickle, students can see another side of their department. The Biology Department has followed suit, but with a twist. They deliberately omitted the names of the pets' owners. Students need to guess – or strike up conversations. "I think that coming out of COVID, people weren't talking to each other as much as they used to," says Biology grad student Zachary Bunch. "This gets them back together." For now, you'll just have to wonder who owns Puddles the snake, Belle the cat, and Toulouse the horse. And if you think this is silly, well, there's always room for neigh-sayers.

MIKE GASKI PHOTO COURTESY; USA BASEBALL PHOTO BY BRIAN FLEMING



Helen Frankenthaler, Houdini, 1976. Acrylic on canvas, 82 x 108 in. Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNC Greensboro. Gift of Linda and Tom Sloan; 2022.19. © 2023 Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

A HOME FOR 'HOUDINI'

HELEN FRANKENTHALER is one of the biggest names in 20th-century American painting. Now the Weatherspoon Art Museum's mission is bolstered by "Houdini" (1976), a gift from Linda Fisher Sloan '82 MFA and Thomas R. Sloan.

"This painting lived in our New York apartment for 18 years," notes Tom Sloan. "We thought that it would make an impact at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, which has been a service to the University, to its students, and to the general population for decades."

As he points out, "Houdini" is not the only work of 20th-century abstract painting that the Weatherspoon owns. "The museum has a major piece from Willem de Kooning, 'Woman' (1949–50), that they bought at a very early stage, very cleverly recognizing the importance of that painting."

The Sloans have helped many UNCG students reach their educational goals through the Sloan Scholarships and have each served the University on the Board of Trustees and in other

capacities. Tom's mother, Edith V. Sloan '63, was a graduate of Woman's College as well as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics.

This gift comes as the Weatherspoon takes a deeper look at how its collection can make room for diverse perspectives and further its mission. Juliette Bianco, the museum's Anne and Ben Cone Memorial Endowed Director, calls the gift "transformative." She explains that Frankenthaler was "an innovative and daring woman who challenged people to think differently about paint on canvas."

One of the few women to gain prominence in American Abstract Expressionism, Frankenthaler's formal and stylistic innovations set her apart from painters like Jackson Pollock. Her career spanned six decades and included exhibitions at New York's Whitney Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, among others.

Currently, Frankenthaler's "Houdini" and de Kooning's "Woman" are displayed in the exhibition "Making Room: Familiar Art, New Stories," on view through Spring 2024. Admission is free.

ENDOWED CURATORSHIP

More UNCG students are enjoying the Weatherspoon each year. Director Juliette Bianco calls it "the largest classroom on campus."

Now, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Weatherspoon's capacity to use art for teaching and learning is expanding. Managing this

vision will be the newly endowed Elizabeth McIver Weatherspoon Curator of Academic Programming and Head of Exhibitions, Dr. Emily Stamey.

The position is named for Elizabeth McIver Weatherspoon, for whom the museum is also named. The younger sister of the campus' founding

president, Charles Duncan McIver, she enrolled in 1892, in the first class. In 1906, she joined the faculty as an instructor of art education for elementary school teachers. A strong advocate for the establishment of a Department of Art, she saw that dream come true in 1935 – and served as a professor in that department.

\$68M

UNCG's annual research funding has climbed to a record-setting \$67.6M, a 30% jump from the previous year.



Left, School of Nursing Dean Debra J. Barksdale speaking at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new mobile health unit known as Minerva's Mobile Health. Below, interior of mobile health unit's exam room and workspace.



Rev it up

UNCG's School of Nursing is hitting the road with a new mobile clinic that has a name and look inspired by one of the University's indelible symbols – Minerva.

Minerva's Mobile Health, officially unveiled in August, will benefit UNCG nursing students and help medically underserved populations around central North Carolina get access to health care.

Students in the bachelor of science in nursing program, as well as nurse practitioner students in the graduate program, will get clinical experiences in the mobile health unit. It has an exam room, a waiting area for patients, a bathroom, and a wheelchair lift for anyone with mobility challenges.

"It's about providing access, which involves taking services to people in our communities, and concurrently educating our nursing students to serve those most in need of health care," said School of Nursing Dean Debra J. Barksdale.

Minerva's Mobile Health was made possible thanks to funding that the School of Nursing, in partnership with Cone Health, received last year from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The HRSA grant is for \$3.7 million over four years.

LAUNCH TIME

THE UNCG SCHOOL OF NURSING launched a new family nurse practitioner (FNP) program this fall.

The FNP program, which is at the master of science in nursing level, prepares students to provide primary care to individuals and families across the lifespan. It joins UNCG's already nationally recognized adult-gerontological

primary care nurse practitioner program.

In addition, the School of Nursing has moved three programs – PhD, RN to BSN, and post-master's doctor of nursing practice – entirely online to make them more convenient for working nurses in the region and well beyond. Students in these programs will take classes online.



LAST LECTURE

Dr. Vidya Gargeya, just before retiring, gave a dynamic final lecture at April's Alumni All Access weekend. It was such a hit, "last lectures" will become a series this year. "It's an opportunity for retiring professors to reflect on a career in higher education and what they have learned over their years in the classroom," says Beth Carlin '14, '17 MA, interim director of alumni engagement. Former students, family, friends, colleagues, and the public are invited to attend. These in-person events will feature a 30-45 minute lecture followed by Q&A, then a reception. For a schedule, visit alumni.uncg.edu.



Dr. Greg Grieve with religious studies students

ACADEMICS AND ESPORTS. ARE YOU GAME?

UNCG'S STATE-OF-THE-ART ESPORTS FACILITY is about more than gaming – it's about education, says Dr. Gregory Grieve, a faculty member in the Religious Studies department and former UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching winner. He directs UNCG's Network for the Cultural Study of Videogaming (NCSV), which focuses on curriculum, research, and outreach through academic programming.

With associate director and fellow faculty member Dr. John Borchert, Grieve developed the interdisciplinary gaming and esports minor that launched in Fall 2023. "It includes 18 different classes in nine different departments that really represent what's going on with gaming, esports, and academics," says Borchert, whose scholarship focuses on religion, media, and the concept of death.

Grieve, who has published three books and 37 articles related to gaming, began with a specialty in Himalayan Buddhism. "I was always interested in how religion changes when it goes through different types of media," he says. "Does it change when

it's done orally, as a printed book, or in another form? I wrote a lot of the early work on what happens when religion goes online."

His current work is related to evil in video games, which he calls "ludic evil" – a phrase that riffs on the Latin word for "play." In his research, he observes how



frivolous entertainment, but a lot of them have deep ethical choices that the players have to make."

Did the group make it through the airport with their ethics intact? Yes, this time. "They decided to turn their backs to all the violence and not engage with it," says Grieve.

“My students are using video games as a metaphor to think about the world.”

—DR. GREGORY GRIEVE

players react to game situations that demand ethical choices.

For example, Grieve observed a group of evangelical Christian participants as they played through an infamous section of "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2," from 2009. Players enter an airport and join a group of gunmen who attack bystanders at a security checkpoint.

"How can they mesh their Christian notions of right and wrong with what's going on?" Grieve wonders. "A lot of times video games are dismissed as

Borchert agrees that the possibilities for research – and education – are just beginning. Within the classroom, students can delve into curricula that connect gaming to professions from sports broadcasting to digital animation to music. "If we can adapt and adopt games as a form of teaching and learning, then I think it's going to benefit everyone."

Their forthcoming textbook, "Religion and Video Games: An Introduction," will be published by Routledge in 2025.

The Rawk's golden anniversary

From a Jamestown, N.C., quarry, to Gray Drive near the dining hall, to its current location near the library's tower (where it moved in 1987), The Rawk is a 12.7 ton "rolling stone."

It's gathered no moss, but this "rolling stone" has gathered lots of paint. For 50 years, it has been the students' message board. Its lore has been reported over the decades – including the myth that it began as a tiny pebble!

In truth, it was purchased for \$31.78 from Lambeth Construction Company by the Phi Kappa chapter of Alpha Phi Omega (APO), and since 1973, students have used The Rawk to celebrate milestones, spread congratulations, and get attention.

The main rule? Messages are left for at least 24 hours before being painted over. Nearby, you'll find two smaller rocks – the official "timekeepers" that mark the date and time of the most recent message.

Messages on The Rawk reflect the times. In the early 1980s, one message celebrated the end of the Iranian hostage crisis. For a time in 2020, it read "Black Lives Matter."

It has also been a source of campus humor. In 2005, The Carolinian's staff writer Luke McIntyre penned a fiery piece of journalism (filed under "Faux News"): "Housing shortage forces students to live on Rawk."

One major controversy that has divided campus publications is how to spell the name of this imposing and informative stone. A 1983 Pine Needles retrospective used the spelling "The Rock," but UNCG Magazine has traced the first known mention of The Rawk in a campus publication to the pages of The Carolinian on August 17, 1973.

Under a photo of the newly placed Rawk, the caption reads, in part, "Among APO's most recent projects is the importation of RAWK. The brothers now hope that students will paint their rawk instead of the statue of Charles McIver."

FOR MORE INFO VISIT MAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.

SORRY CHARLIE

From the late 1950s into the '70s, one spot was the focal point for paint, for decorating, for clever gags: the statue of Charles Duncan McIver. Starting in the late '50s, UNCG Archives explains, he'd inevitably get some Christmas colors or a Santa hat in December. At Easter, he might get some rabbit ears and easter egg coloring. At any time, creative students might adorn McIver in striking apparel.

The wear and tear from the regular cleanings led to a much-needed restoration in 1990. Fortunately, by then, the best place where students could "send a message" had become, well, rock-solid.



RAWK RULES

- If the paint is wet, let it be. The last person's message needs its day in the sun.
- Don't use foul language or hate speech.
- Do celebrate, share, and spread Spartan pride!
- Add the date and time to the small rocks. Your new coat of paint can't be touched for 24 hours.



"On Ring Day, we would paint Charlie red. On Valentine's Day we might decorate him with hearts."
– CHERYL "CHERRY" CALLAHAN '71, '87 PHD



Disaster, relief

When there's a large natural disaster in America, Jessica Haynes-Titlebaum '14 leaps into action.

A planning section chief for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), she helps bring federal and local parties together, making sure everyone has the information to save lives and bring relief as quickly and efficiently as possible.



Her UNCG experience catapulted her to this essential role. "I found the right toolbox for me – and that was anthropology," she said. A transfer student initially drawn to psychology, the professors in UNCG Anthropology set her on her path: Donna Nash, Susan Andreatta, Art Murphy, Linda Stine. As she graduated, she entered into a FEMA Corps internship and she's been building her skills ever since.

Hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, flooding – from American Samoa to Florida, she has helped relieve suffering and save lives through strategically using data and evolving technologies, understanding cultural perspectives, and leveraging optimal ways to convey information. This is all part of her role, which involves the "three C's": communication, collaboration, coordination. "I help others leverage what I know," she says. "I connect folks. A lot of my toolbox came from what I learned in anthropology to build relationships."

Those courses and her internship, building on all she's learned before, galvanized her capabilities. "I was way more versatile than I realized."

Earlier this year she returned to campus to receive UNCG Anthropology's Dorothy Davis Distinguished Alumni Award and to speak with students. Her advice for them? "Don't settle for anything. Go with what you're passionate about. This is the study of humans! What could be more important? So much can be done with the toolbox of anthropology."

And one more thing: "Get an internship to add on top of your classwork. It's all about developing your career – and creating a life well-lived."

—JESSICA HAYNES-TITLEBAUM '14

GOING UP

STEM GRANT BOOSTS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, CAREER READINESS

Starting this fall, 20 UNCG students will receive funding as Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program scholars, thanks to a \$3.4 million National Science Foundation grant distributed across five North Carolina public universities. UNCG will use these funds to support students historically underrepresented in STEM programs.

For senior mathematics major Yessica Arzate, it's about making an impact: "Part of being involved with LSAMP is discovering what you want to contribute to the world." But first, students like Arzate will strengthen the campus community.

"Lifting up these scholars and positioning them as leaders will have a ripple effect through the entire University," says Dr. Malcolm Schug, associate professor and head of UNCG's Biology Department. "LSAMP has found that programming and small scholarships provide structure for the students that increases retention by as much as 40%. It also considerably increases the likelihood of on-time graduation."

In addition to increasing student success, the program seeks to build professional relationships between participating schools, support student transitions into college, and make summer research opportunities possible for student participants.

Scholarship recipients recognize the new skills they gain. "The biggest outcome of this scholarship for me is that I will be better equipped to find ways to gain real world experience before I graduate," says sophomore computer science major Adam Cichoski.

Each LSAMP scholar will receive a \$3,000 scholarship per year and \$4,000 to conduct summer research at a faculty-mentored research lab. UNCG LSAMP scholars will become mentors to future participants and other underrepresented students in STEM.

Scholarship recipients also report strong professional bonds with faculty mentors. Rachel Thompson, a junior biology major, notes, "Our mentors present opportunities that I never knew existed. They taught me how to keep an open mind when looking for a long-term career." She adds that she has also had the chance to become a leader.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA HAYNES-TITLEBAUM; HURRICANE PHOTO BY JOCELYN AUGUSTINO/FEMA

CAREERS BY DESIGN

SIXTEEN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS took a three-day trip to Charleston, S.C., to meet with executives at Wild Dunes Resort earlier this year. The class, led by Professor Travis Hicks, would present ideas for redesign of a sports pub at one of the resort's golf courses; complete site visits for another Wild Dunes restaurant they would redesign; and tour a construction site for a hotel in Charleston's historic district. Expenses were being paid by the client, Wild Dunes Resort.

An alumna of UNCG's IARc program, Anna Will Maginn '11, '13, made it possible. Her position with Wild Dunes provided some riveting tours and prospective design assignments.

After an extensive meeting and tour with the firm that built Wild Dunes, they met with resort leaders to give presentations.

"Our leadership was blown away!" Maginn exclaimed. "Some managers canceled meetings to stay for the entire presentation, because they were so compelling."

One student has been offered a position, beginning later this year.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT MAGAZINE.UNCG-EDU.



UNCG's IARc students on a hard-hat tour of the Cooper Hotel site.





Outtake

WANT TO GET AWAY? Piney Lake has provided a respite for UNCG students since 1956. Eight miles from campus, the forty-acre facility is light years from city life. Shuttles run each day, providing relaxing outdoor recreation for students and members of the Kaplan Center during the warm-weather months. Swimming, hiking, volleyball, disc golf, badminton – it’s got something for everybody. Kayaks and paddleboards are a hit, and a swan-shaped paddleboat is almost as popular as the water trampoline (seen here). What a great way to unplug and recharge. And if you want to bring a book, well there’s no better spot to enjoy a few chapters.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN NORONA '13

“To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it. It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall.”
– Ann Patchett

IF THEY CAN MAKE IT THERE ...

IT'S THE ARTS CAPITAL OF THE WORLD, AND NEW YORK CITY IS HOME TO LOTS OF SPARTAN MUSICIANS.

HER OWN BEAT

Spartan Sarah Gooch '18 is believed to be the first woman to graduate from Juilliard as a drummer.

"The drummer is the conductor of the jazz combo," she says. She likes that control over the bandstand, without the pressure of being at the front microphone. She also loves the "freedom of expression," as she puts it.

Her life currently revolves around touring and teaching. She recently recorded and toured with soul singer Morgan James and is currently touring with social-media star MALINDA (Malinda Kathleen Reese), an Irish folk singer. In Manhattan she performs at venues like Smalls and Dizzy's Club. And she is not locked into any one form. "Whatever music makes me happy, I'll do it."



Sarah Gooch '18

GO, WEST

"It all started at UNCG's Summer Music Camp," says Tanner West '18. Now, after a months-long audition process, he has earned a chair in one of the most prestigious and oldest American orchestras: The New York Philharmonic.

West, from Charlotte, attended the School of Music's Summer Music Camp in 2012 and took a lesson with Professor of Horn Dr. Abigail Pack. "Dr. Pack was very welcoming and friendly. And I decided then I wanted to go to UNCG and study with her. UNCG was the only school to which I applied."

Since graduating, he has performed with the North Carolina Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, and Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. Last summer, he traveled with the Philharmonic in North America and Asia before returning to the City. Dr. Pack recalls one thing she'd told him: "You're going to get that big job one day." And she made him promise that, when that happened, he'd return to give a masterclass. Recently, he did just that.



Tanner West '18

PIANO MAN

Thomas Linger '15 is no stranger to the spotlight. A UNCG major in piano performance in Jazz Studies, he took first place in the American Jazz Pianist Competition in 2017.

Linger, who hails from Waynesville in western North Carolina, started playing the piano when he was 4 years old. His years in UNCG's Miles Davis Jazz Program were formative. "Steve Haines, Chad Eby, Brandon Lee, Thomas Taylor, and John Salmon are some amazing professors. You get to be very close to the faculty in a program like that."

Linger's journey also took him to New York. There he has worked as a performer, composer, and teacher. He has monthly residencies at Mezzrow, Ornithology Jazz Club, and The Django. He has also performed at some of the city's most prestigious venues, including the Village Vanguard, Smalls, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Dizzy's Club. Linger leads his own trio and released his debut album, "Out In It," on Cellar Records last fall.



Thomas Linger '15



Rhiannon Giddens' and Michael Abels' opera "Omar"

Pulitzer prized

Alumna Rhiannon Giddens received the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Music for the opera "Omar," with co-author Michael Abels.

The two-time Grammy Award winner and MacArthur Genius Award recipient spoke about the beginnings of her work on this opera at a UNCG talk in 2018. That event explored

the ways in which African Americans have shaped musical traditions in the Americas and are the products of multiple traditions, including Muslim-influenced cultures and people from across the world.

Giddens is the second Spartan alumna to receive a Pulitzer. The late Claudia Emerson

'91 MFA received the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 2006, for her book "Late Wife." UNCG English professor Peter Taylor, who taught here in the 1940s and served in the 1960s as the first Alumni Distinguished Professor, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1987 for "A Summons to Memphis."

GOLDEN AGE OF DISNEY

The first Benjamin Fellow has been named: Dr. Heather Holian, professor of art. She worked with Weatherspoon staff to curate an exhibition of original animation art from Walt Disney Studios. These artworks include concept art, story sketches, animation drawings, master backgrounds, and painted animation cels from what scholars refer to as the "Golden Age" of early Disney films: "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Pinocchio," "Fantasia," "Dumbo," and "Bambi." The Weatherspoon's presentation of these works, on view through Dec. 9, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Disney studios.

PHOTOGRAPHY FROM "OMAR" BY CORY WEAVER/LA OPERA; PHOTO OF JEWEL BY DANA TRIPPE

GEM OF A SEASON

JEWEL has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide. The singer-songwriter has earned 26 award nominations, including the Grammys, American Music Awards, MTV Awards, VH1 Awards, Billboard Music Awards, and Country Music Awards, winning eight times. She will perform at UNCG Auditorium Jan. 12 as part of this year's UCLS, the longest-running concert and lecture series in North Carolina.

Other shows include:

CHRIS BOTTI: Grammy award-winning jazz trumpeter and composer
GARTH FAGAN DANCE: Company led by the celebrated choreographer of "The

Lion King"
COLLAGE: Faculty and students perform one riveting work after another.
The season also includes performances by three top

jazz musicians from UNCG's Robinson Family Visiting Jazz Artists and an artist talk with Moroccan photographer Lalla Essaydi.

[VISIT UCLS.UNCC.EDU.](https://www.uncl.uncc.edu)



CHANGE MAKERS



Ayana Cholula, Anthony Ascencio, and Hannah Bond are among today's UNCG students.

TODAY'S UNCG UNDERGRADS HAVE BIG DREAMS AND RICH IDEALS. THEY ALSO WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD. SOUND FAMILIAR? BY MERCER BUTTER '11 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '13

A young woman in a cable-knit sweater, ripped jeans, and brown leather boots raises her phone and snaps a selfie before descending the EUC stairs. Another passes in black-and-white checkered Vans and a Nirvana T-shirt. Another wears pajama pants and Crocs, colorful closed-toed foam sandals. Some of these Crocs are decorated with Jibbitz, "shoe charms" styled as anything from a piece of fruit to the animated character SpongeBob Squarepants. For UNCG undergraduates, 88% of whom are under 28 years old, there is no single way to dress. But if they love your outfit, they might say, "That's a slay."

They were children during the Great Recession of 2008. Their high school years were spent planning events that would be canceled due to the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020-21. Now, they're graduating into a workplace marked by the "Great Resignation" and a changing technological landscape.

Today's 20-somethings are the inheritors of a world shaped by the Silent Generation, the Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials. No wonder many of their ideals and dreams sound familiar. At the same time, as new alumna Grace Wall '23 says, "There will always be shifts and changes. Every new generation is going to push back on something."

Who are today's UNCG students and how do they think about their education, their University, and their future?

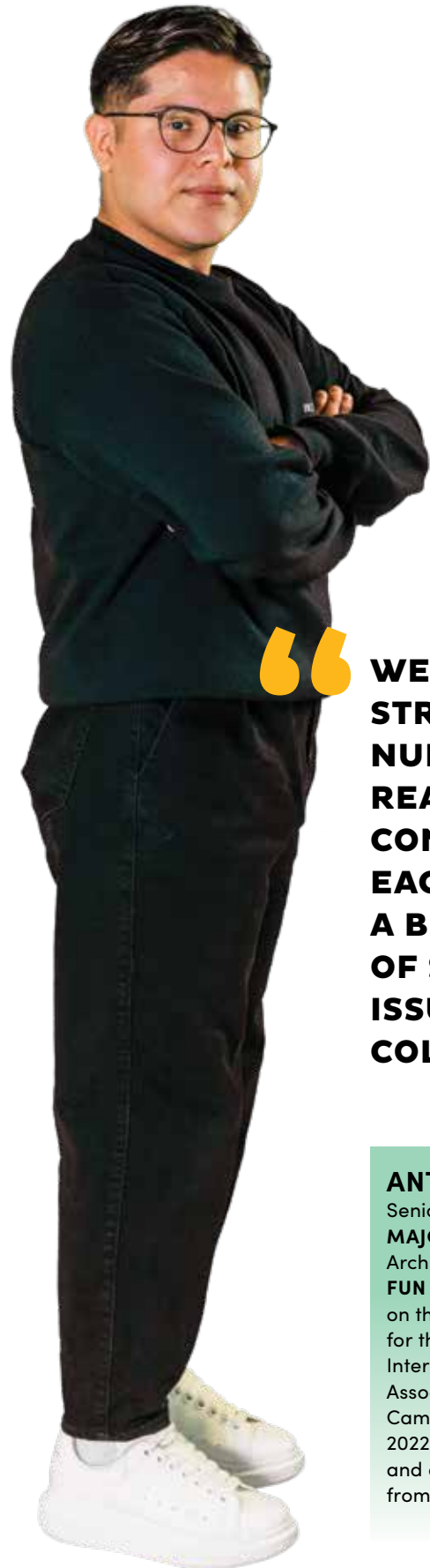
UNCG LOOKS LIKE THE REAL WORLD

Since 1892, Spartan students' lives, expectations, and challenges have changed. The University has grown with the times. Woman's College alumnae will speak of daily life that was very different from today's – explaining that the only electronic appliances on their halls were radios and record players. To make a call, students used phone kiosks in the residence halls. Local calls, one recalls, were a dime.

Today, students have 24-hour access to video calls, texts, and social media. They can listen to podcasts, stream movies, and play online games anywhere through their phones. They also continue to build personal and professional networks in person as well as online.

In some ways, UNCG's 21st-century student body looks familiar. For example, the University's legacy of expanding access to education for women is clear. Today 67% of Spartan students are women. In other ways, UNCG's demographics reflect contemporary state and national trends, with more representation of students of color and LGBTQ+ students than in previous generations.

Alyssa Odom is studying public health and wants to eventually become



“ WE FIND STRENGTH IN NUMBERS AND REALLY FIND COMFORT IN EACH OTHER. A BIG PART OF SOLVING ISSUES IS COLLABORATION. ”

ANTHONY
Senior
MAJOR: Interior Architecture
FUN FACT: Has served on the executive board for the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Campus Center since 2022. Loves “thrifting” and draws inspiration from Mexican design.

SLAY
Something amazing. “That outfit is a slay.” Or, doing something amazing. “Did you see him? He slayed.”

a licensed clinical social worker. She says, “One of the main reasons I chose this school was because of the diversity. I could have gone to an HBCU (Historically Black College or University), but ultimately I wanted to go to a school that looks like the real world.”

HOMEGROWN STUDENTS

“Traditional” first-year students – 18-year-olds leaving home for the first time – represent only about 60% of each incoming UNCG class. Nearly 40% of incoming students have transferred from community colleges or other institutions.

In some key ways, transfer students parallel traditional freshmen. Similar proportions – over 50% – self-identify as first-generation college students. The ratio of women to men is virtually the same in both cohorts – about two-thirds women and one-third men.

The majority of UNCG students, over 91%, come from North Carolina, with almost half of out-of-state students coming from the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Virginia, Maryland, and South Carolina send the most out-of-state students to the University.

ECONOMIC HEADWINDS

According to the 1962-63 Woman’s College course catalog, in-state students could attend that year for \$870, and that included laundry! According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ “inflation calculator,” that’s roughly \$9,000 today.

But the reality is – college today costs around twice as much. “It was easier to study whatever you wanted when school didn’t cost as much,” says Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Joel Lee. “You didn’t have to worry about, ‘When I get out, my job needs to immediately pay me enough to pay off my student loan.’”

Couple this with the fact that 35% of UNCG undergraduates who file a FAFSA financial aid form expect a \$0 contribution from their families, and the economic stress on today’s UNCG students is clear.

“I always grew up wanting to go to college, and I already have college debt. It’s stressful. I live alone, pay rent, and work three jobs right now,” says Claudia Stakoe, a student in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality

Studies who would like to work in public history. “None of my close friends are in college, and they still live at home because they can’t afford college.”

Her story is borne out by the numbers. According to the 2023 iBelong study, a survey of UNCG students, more than three-quarters work on or off campus and more than one-third work more than 30 hours per week.

For those who came of age during the 2010s, economic insecurity taught some hard lessons. “This generation felt the effects very viscerally in a way that was completely beyond their control in the Great Recession,” says Director of Student Health Services for Counseling and Psychological Services Jennifer Whitney. “That impacted their families during times in which they were very malleable in understanding the world and their safety.”

In addition to work, many students have family commitments. “I think people might be surprised to learn how much our students are juggling,” says Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Akens.

TOUCH GRASS
Go take a moment, get some fresh air, and relax.



VICTORIA
(center) Senior
MAJOR: Education, minor in dance
FUN FACT: Represented Zeta Phi Beta as Homecoming Royalty in 2022. Marian Franklin Scholarship recipient.

And yet, many Gen Z students still choose to attend the University. Director of Admissions Erin Slater explains: “We’ve been seeing it more since the pandemic – essentially it’s ‘Why do I need to pay this amount for a college education when I can go and work?’ Well, it’s because you change the generational wealth of your family.”

GEN Z SURVIVED COVID, VIRTUALLY

According to Dr. Rebecca Adams, a sociologist in the School of Health and Human Sciences and self-avowed Baby Boomer, a “generation” is something more than cell phones, AirPods, and T-shirts. It has a sociological definition.

A generation is a group influenced by common events, Adams explains. At the same time, individuals react differently to those events. “You can have a Baby Boomer who volunteered to go to the Vietnam War and you can have another who was a protestor,” she says. “The fact that they have different political opinions is expected. It’s just that they were both marked by that same event, the Vietnam War.”

Adams says that Gen Z has been marked by COVID and by the social justice movements of the 2010s. Another common life experience that makes Gen Z different is that they are “digital natives.”

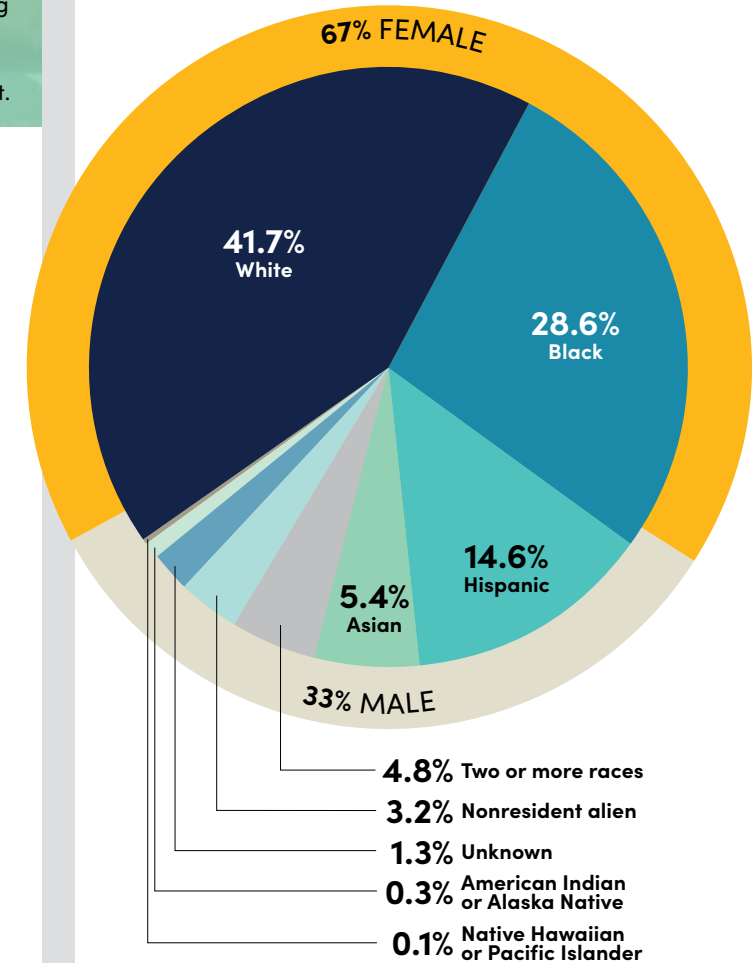
“Every couple of years there was a new social media outlet that my generation immersed ourselves in,” says Hannah Bond, who studies social media marketing.

In 1996, when the oldest Gen Z students were born, the internet was young. They would have been toddlers when Google was founded and only 6 years old when Facebook launched. Instagram was created during

TODAY'S UNCG STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

- **38%** of each incoming class transfers from another institution.
- The average age of transfer students is **25**.
- More than **1/3** of undergraduates who submitted a FAFSA have an expected family contribution of \$0.
- Over **70%** of UNCG students take at least one online course and around 16% are enrolled in a fully online program.
- Nearly **3/4** of the overall undergraduate population receives some financial aid (includes loans).
- **88%** of all undergraduates are younger than 28 and are therefore members of Gen Z.

Source: UNC System DataMart, Fall 2023 census snapshot



Source: UNC System DataMart, Fall 2023 (all degree-seeking students)



CLAUDIA

Senior
MAJOR:
Women's,
Gender, and
Sexuality
Studies and
History with
a focus on
public history
FUN FACT:
Was an intern
at the GSO
Historical
Museum in
Summer 2023.
Runs the
Open Closet
for students,
housed in the
WGSS student
lounge.

their adolescence, and TikTok caught fire around the time they entered college.

Then, in an age saturated with social media, the COVID pandemic hit. Gen Z was forced to socialize online at a time when physical isolation was necessary.

"I feel like that is when we delved into social media," says Odom, who was a high school senior in Spring 2020. "That's when the whole TikTok thing happened, and I used FaceTime to talk to my friends."

"I was actually one of those people who would make an account and never use it, pre-pandemic," says Wall. "Post-pandemic, I needed those accounts to stay in touch with people I cared about."

Growing up with social media comes with some well-known obstacles. "There are downsides, especially in terms of body image and confidence," says Stakoe, who notes that some online content can make viewers feel insecure.

Bond agrees. "You compare yourself to the 'perfect' images that pop media calls an 'ideal' woman." She adds that social media can also be used for online bullying.

Dr. Whitney, whose research focuses on disordered eating, says that while threats to self-image are real, today's students are acutely aware of these forces.

"I think this generation is completely attuned to health and wellness in a way that previous generations have not been," she says. "The

4L
Friends for life.
Similar to "best
friends forever."

**I LIKE THE DOWNTOWN
COMMUNITY SPECIFICALLY.
EVERYWHERE I GO,
I SEE PEOPLE I KNOW.**

awareness of fatphobia and how that connects to disordered eating and eating disorders is something that previously I would have to introduce and explain." Today, students are coming to her ready to analyze these social forces. Social media is not all good or all bad, adds Whitney.

MENTAL HEALTH IRL (IN REAL LIFE)

According to the Healthy Minds Survey (2022), 69% of UNCG students reported a diagnosis related to behavioral or mental health. In a Pew Research Center poll (2018), 70% of the nation's teens aged 13-17 agreed that anxiety and depression were major problems among their peers. In a blog post, the Annie E. Casey Foundation cited factors such as school shootings, joblessness, and the "fear of missing out" some social media platforms can cause.

Today's students came of age in a world of challenges. "A lot of us grew up hearing about acts of terrorism every September and doing active shooter drills in school," says Wall. In addition to economic challenges, health concerns, and global environmental threats, she says, "We're going through a lot!"

On the 2023 iBelong survey, three-quarters of respondents "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that they feel "isolated." Among first-generation

UNCG students, this number is slightly higher, at 77%.

Personal issues related to social interaction and isolation are evident in many students, say mental health professionals. "Social media has increased social anxiety, and folks have lost some of the tools to navigate in-person social relationships," explains Dr. Whitney, who notes a sharp increase in demand for counseling services.

The pandemic made an impact, too. Ayana Cholula – a resident advisor at the time – observed the difference in student life before and after the worst years of the pandemic. She says that when the mask mandates were lifted and students had more ability to socialize normally, the residence halls still felt empty.

"It was like, 'Okay, why are the halls so quiet?'" she says. "There used to be nights when the entirety of Grogan Residential College would have a movie night downstairs or do a baking contest. And it was like, students don't even walk into the common spaces – it's like they're not interested."

Wall observed a similar struggle: "I was a resident advisor for the first semester when we were able to come back on campus. People were really struggling to make those connections that are so integral to a college experience."

During 2023, students and staff have been learning what it means to return to a "normal" face-to-face world. At least on the surface, campus feels active again. This year began with 100% capacity in residence halls. With about 80% of first-year students living on campus, residence life and co-curricular activities have an important role to play in the UNCG experience.

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

The story of mental health for Gen Z has two sides. In some ways, it's an example of the contradictions today's students live with.

Whitney says that asking for help is healthy. She sees Gen Z students as the inheritors of decades of increased mental health awareness. "A lot of times the story gets told that students these days are not resilient. Well, we just spent the past 20 years telling folks: You should get help, you deserve help."

Outside of a counseling setting, how do today's students express the challenge of living in anxious times?

NO CAP
Expression meaning
"No kidding."
"I love that movie,
no cap!"

"You have people who are headstrong and are willing to just solve the issue at hand," says Anthony Ascencio, a student in the Interior Architecture (IARc) Department. "But then on the other hand, you have people who are insecure and don't want to take charge. We have these two ends of the spectrum, and I feel like I've fallen on both ends at different times."

Melissa Lozada, a psychology major, says,

GAS/FIRE
Awesome or excellent.
"This food is gas!"
"That song is fire!"



ACTION!

The youngest child in a family of military personnel, police, and educators, **GABRIEL YARBOROUGH** had his sights set on professional acting from a young age. Now, he's an acting major with minors in musical theatre and dance. He's also a Spartan Orientation staff member and Spartan Guide. "I love helping people and leaving my mark on campus," he says.

During the pandemic, he reached 580K followers on TikTok, but for Yarbrough, there's nothing like being on set and on stage. He's appeared in the film "The 24th" and the television series "Filthy Rich." Now UNCG is preparing him for future starring roles.

**I'M THE YOUNGEST
OF SIX SIBLINGS.
MY FAMILY IS PROUD
OF ME AND ALWAYS
COMES OUT TO
SUPPORT ME.**

GOT TALENT? PASS IT ON

"I think of it as a Clark Kent/Superman situation. By day, I'm a psychologist and by night, I'm an actor," says **MELISSA LOZADA**, a psychology major and musical theatre minor.

She has a story shared by many UNCG students – she's the first in her family to attend a university. What will she do with her experience? Pass it on.

"I know my younger brother no longer has to struggle with the college application process because he can always ask me," she says.

She's also part of a growing cohort of Latinx students at UNCG. According to Fall 2023 data, Hispanic students make up 14.6% of the degree-seeking student population. During her time here, Lozada has participated in student organizations like S.A.L.S.A (Spanish American Latino Student Association).

She also wants to see the Latinx community better represented in psychology. "Mental health is in such high demand right now," she says, noting that only a small percentage of mental health professionals are Latinx.

In her passion for singing, she finds a beauty that crosses cultures. "It's a way to communicate that surpasses language barriers. It's a free-flowing bridge that you can use to create your own thing. I'm grateful that I can learn, listen, and sing in both English and Spanish."

And she does it well. Back in Fall 2022, she even auditioned for "America's Got Talent"!

BESTIE

A name for casual friends. "Hey bestie, do you like this song?"

"Sometimes Gen Z has the capacity to be morbid about the future. But the flip side of that coin is that we try to call out bad practices."

Some students, like Victoria Howard, put this contradiction between reticence and action at the center of real opportunities to make change.

She says "difficult conversations" are key to growth. "They let you understand from a different perspective, which can be more beneficial than hurtful. There's no more assuming. It should be conversations, not assuming," she says.

Howard wants to bring this forthright attitude to her future work as a teacher. "My cohort of educators here, we actually want to make a difference in the world. We won't sugarcoat anything for students because we want this next generation to succeed."

FROM MAINSTREAM TO "LIVE STREAM"

"We're sometimes called the loneliest generation," says Ivan Tarpley, a communication studies major. "But at the same time, we're the most connected generation because of these different online platforms that we have."

On platforms like Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok individuals post their own content and build their own audiences. This means that cable TV is less important to young consumers than in the past.

"The content on social media is created by the generation themselves," says Gus Peña, director of the Office of Intercultural Engagement. "They're able to self-author and

"I DID NOT COME INTO UNCG KNOWING THAT THIS WAS A MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION. I CAME HERE BECAUSE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT IT GAVE ME."



critique and create what they share."

Creating and sharing content on social media is an accessible way to make change. Often students and young people organize through online networks.

"What we're good at is getting back to grassroots stuff and helping people on a personal level," says Stakoe. "I'm always seeing people supporting strangers, for example on GoFundMe pages."

Slater says that Gen Z's preference for regular people over paid messengers on social media affects the way the University communicates with prospective students. "They want to hear about college from a real person. Alumni are incredibly important to what we do in order to get our message across," she says, noting that prospective students want to hear from people with firsthand experience.

Howard, who is a Spartan Orientation leader and student in the School of Education, agrees. She used brief TikTok videos as part of her campaign to become Homecoming Royalty in 2022 and believes social media is the best way to get prospective students' attention. "If I was in high school and I saw UNCG doing social media with real students – actually a normal person like me – I would like it more," she says.

GETTING AHEAD, TOGETHER

Today's Spartans pursue a diverse set of career paths. That makes sense considering UNCG has excellent programs across disciplines, from humanities to STEM fields.

The top colleges in the University by enrollment (degree-seeking) are the College of Arts and Sciences (35%), the Bryan School of Business and Economics (24%), and the School of Health and Human Sciences (18%).

Today's UNCG has the amenities of a large institution but the spirit of a close-knit campus, says Joel Lee. Academic options are just one part of this.

"We've got 17 Division I sports teams, an esports arena, and an award-winning dining hall, but UNCG has a personalized feel. As students walk across the campus, it's easy for them to find a community and feel like they're part of something," he says.

That sense of belonging matters. In fact, for many Gen Z students, success is communal as well as individual.

"I think leadership is a collaborative process, and I don't see it as one person having all of the answers for this big group of people, but rather they're all working together," says Tarpley. Often, they don't want to succeed at the expense of another.

"I like to think this generation is a bit more united in terms of wanting to see ourselves succeed through having others succeed as well," says Lozada. Dr. Adams connects a generational desire for social justice to movements like Black Lives Matter, which grew through the mid-2010s and received national attention in 2020.

Vice Chancellor Akens has also seen this in UNCG's "driven, hardworking, and tenacious" students. "Despite their very busy lives, many students care deeply about others and the world

RIZZ

Shortened form of charisma. To have rizz means to charm others, especially romantically.



LIVING ONLINE

"IN THE FIELD" ONLINE

SOPHIA ROSENBERG (they/them), an anthropology and religious studies major, used the online game Valheim, in which players collaboratively battle monsters and survive harsh environments, to further their academic studies. To create an ethnography, a tool rooted in the colonial era, researchers go "into the field" to observe a culture. With the mentorship of Dr. Gregory Grieve, Rosenberg explored how a virtual environment changes this traditional research tool and won first place at the 2022 UNCG Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo for "Video Games and the Problem of Evil: A 'Xeno-Virtual-Ethnography' of the Videogame Valheim."

AN APP FOR THAT

Not all social media platforms and apps are the same.

On Instagram and TikTok, people post pictures or short videos. Some share their daily lives. Others post about music or fashion. "There are people whose entire TikTok pages are business casual outfits. I look for outfit inspiration on TikTok," says Ayana Cholula.

Hannah Bond says that on Twitter, people share "hot takes" – controversial opinions about politics, sports, or culture.

Video calling apps like Zoom let users see friends and family who are far away, face-to-face.

TIKTOK STAR

"On my first day at UNCG, I got recognized from TikTok in the dining hall," says **ETHAN POISSON**, who has 1.5M followers on TikTok, where he posts satirical videos about internet culture. He grew his following while auditioning for the musical theatre program at UNCG, where "professors take the time to get to know you as a performer and as a person," he says. He has since played Mr. Krabs in UNCG's production of "SpongeBob: The Musical." He continues to make TikTok content and loves to meet followers and friends both online and on campus.



IVAN

Junior
MAJOR: Communication Studies
FUN FACT: Is an intern and student mentor in UNCG's Communications and Community class. Lives in Gray Hall, the same dorm that his mother and sister – both alumnae – lived in.



“**AT UNCG, EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN SENSE OF STYLE. IT'S NOT A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL.**”

around them. They want to have an impact and are willing to give their time to causes they feel passionately about.”

SEEKING BALANCE

“I don't think we get enough credit for being changemakers. Something that I've heard a lot from my parents' generation is 'No one wants to work these days.' That's just not true,” says Tarpley.

Whitney believes there is nuance to the relationship between work ethic and personal goals. “Gen Z is aware of the need to be financially stable, but quality of life is significantly prioritized for this generation.” This means today's graduating Spartans may have career expectations different from their parents' or grandparents'.

Carter, who has worked with students in many capacities over nearly three decades at the University, acknowledges that much has changed in the world of work. “With technology and innovation and creativity, the traditional 40-hour work schedules are no longer automatic.”

Some students see value in embracing both changing social standards and tried-and-true practices.

Cholula, who is working on a Master of Education degree, observes undergraduates building professional networks early in their academic careers. “I have seen so many people who are in their freshman year and

they're already posting on LinkedIn every day.”

She also argues that appearances and habits are not the same thing. “You can be a professional and have face piercings.”

Bond notes that some things in the world of work have not changed. “A lot of it is still all about networking, which I will preach to the heavens about! Networking, networking, networking!”

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Lee says that students' expectations – and needs – have changed.

“Gen Z may have as many life skills as previous generations, but those life skills might be different,” he says. “When I went to college, I didn't expect anybody to check on me. I don't think that's the expectation for the current generation. I think they're expecting help with all walks of life.”

As Carter puts it, “We're using the old adage, 'It takes a village.'”

This means that today's UNCG students have a different relationship with the University than Millennials, Gen Xers, or Baby Boomers did. Knowing this, UNCG faculty and staff mentors in Student Services,

THE ICK
 Feeling grossed-out.
 “She got the ick when he chewed with his mouth open.”

PAYING THEIR WAY

• **More than 3/4 of UNCG students work on or off campus.**

Source: 2023 iBelong Survey

• **Over 1/3 work 30+ hours per week in a combination of on/off campus employment.**

Source: 2023 iBelong Survey

• **65% of bachelor's degree recipients borrow some amount of money.**

Source: UNC System DataMart, Fall 2022 census snapshot.

• **UNCG bachelor's recipients who are in-state borrowers graduate with an average federal debt of more than \$20,000.**

Source: UNC System DataMart, Fall 2022 census snapshot.

SERVE
 To look really good.
 “In that outfit, you are serving!”

Counseling, the Office of Intercultural Engagement, and other campus offices are trying to meet today's Spartans where they are. Students notice the attention. According to the 2023 iBelong survey of students, 70% of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that people at UNCG check in with them regularly to see if they need support.

They also believe UNCG is listening to them. Over 70% of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that the University takes survey results seriously. That's a measure of trust at a time when many young people are skeptical of institutions in general.

“We talk about the Spartan family because that's what it is,” says Director of Enrollment Communications Katie MacInnes. “Students are coming here to spend four years of their lives. I mean, it's your home, so it needs to feel like a family.”

TAKING THE REINS

The majority of today's UNCG students have lived their whole lives during the 21st century.

Much has changed professionally. Much has also changed in family relationships. While no single description of family relations applies to every individual, many Gen Z students have experienced a more informal relationship with elders than their parents or grandparents did.

“Relationships with their parents or caregivers are very much unlike the hierarchical relationships that existed in the generations before. I think there's a real richness in those relationships,” says Dr. Whitney. “Some students call parents by their first names,” she notes.

Dr. Adams describes a warm and respectful relationship with today's UNCG students.

“They're just more appreciative of interaction whether it's face-to-face or via technology,” she says, adding that her Gen Z students specifically point out one-on-one meetings with her as something they value about their learning.

Informal but eager to connect, self-assured but seeking support, fluently online but prone to isolation: These contradictions are part of what make today's young Spartans so dynamic.

“If there are alumni who think Gen Z folks seem ‘foreign,’” says Whitney, “I would say life is the same, it's just in a different frame. Go meet someone and have these awesome conversations that are intergenerational.”

Another way to put it? As Associate Vice Chancellor Carter says, “This is a group that's going to be boisterous!”

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT UNCG'S STUDENTS. TO LEARN DETAILS, VISIT SUCCESS.UNCG.EDU.

BET
 Agreement.
 “Let's go downtown.”
 “Bet.”



“**ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I CHOSE THIS SCHOOL WAS BECAUSE OF THE DIVERSITY. ULTIMATELY I WANTED TO GO TO A SCHOOL THAT LOOKS LIKE THE REAL WORLD.**”

ALYSSA
 Senior
MAJOR: Public Health Education
FUN FACT: SGA Senator for the School of Health and Human Sciences. Has worked as a peer success coach on campus.



Power of named professorships

Since the early 1960s, our University has presented Distinguished and Excellence Professorships to exceptional faculty. The impact these professorships make on these stellar individuals creates an exponential impact on their graduate and undergraduate students, on their realm of research, and ultimately on our world.

BY CHRISTINE GARTON AND MIKE HARRIS '93 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE, SEAN NORONA '13, AND BERT VANDERVEEN '93, '97 MA



Nineteen years ago, Dr. DiAnne Borders '72 received the Burlington Industries Excellence Professorship. It was a game-changer. "When Ed Uprichard, our School of Education dean, called to tell me, I thought 'Wow!'" Her research, her teaching, and her department were being lifted up.

When she'd come from Cleveland County to enroll in 1968, the campus had only a few endowed professorships. As our campus moved from the Woman's College era (1932-63) to the current research university of UNCG – and doctoral programs were becoming key for all universities – several Triad corporations gave us pivotal support through named professorships.

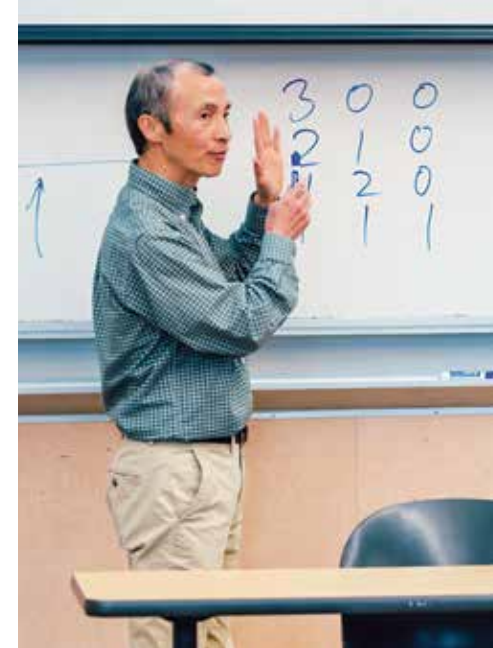
Alumni stepped up. Friends of the University stepped up. Woman's College classes at their 50th reunions teamed together to endow more professorships to elevate our University.

"It signals to prospective students we will train you well. It allows us the resources to compete with other universities for outstanding faculty. We'll attract the crème de la crème – and keep them at UNCG."

Borders is a perfect example. A pastor's daughter, she lived in various rural North Carolina communities. She graduated in the tumultuous Vietnam War era with an English degree. She gained real-world experience as a high school teacher in High Point. She leveraged that experience to build her academic credentials at other universities. In 1987, she joined UNCG's burgeoning counseling program and ultimately became a trailblazer nationally not only in the realm of counselor education, but in the creation of standards and ethical codes in the new field of clinical supervision as a specialty within the counseling and mental health fields.

“It allows us the resources to compete. We'll attract the crème de la crème – and keep them at UNCG.”

—DR. DIANNE BORDERS '72, BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES EXCELLENCE PROFESSOR



She's been awarded lifetime achievement awards by the leading organizations in her field. An honored mentor to her students and well-published researcher, she has helped bolster UNCG's Counseling and Educational Development Department for 36 years.

"The program is the only nationally ranked counseling program in North Carolina. Right now we are No. 3 in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report. We've been in the top 10 for about three decades, since Dr. Nicholas Vacc was department head." He was named the Joe Rosenthal Excellence Professor in the late 1990s – proud that it elevated the program's reputation – and is a namesake of the endowed professorship currently held by Michael Kane in our outstanding Psychology Department.

The impact of UNCG's endowed professorships is measured not only in the prestige they bring to UNCG, but in generations of graduates who've created fulfilling lives and impactful careers as they've learned from the leading lights in their fields.

Borders has seen UNCG evolve into a large university with many stellar academic programs and a growing number of these professorships. There's one constant over the years. "It's still a champion of helping provide you the education you need to make an impact and to make the world better than before."

Mid-century initiative

The history of our distinguished professorships originated in the latter years of Woman's College. In 1957, the first endowed professorship fund was started to create a Mary Frances Stone Chair in Home Economics. Next, the Burlington Industries Chair in Textiles and the Kathleen Price Bryan Professorship in Financial Affairs were created. While none of these endowments proved large enough to support a chair, they did provide for much-needed faculty salary supplements and the hiring of lecturers.

There was an obvious need. And there was growing determination to elevate this campus.



“With these funds, I am able to provide opportunities to the undergraduate and graduate students in my laboratory.”

—DR. NADJA CECH, SULLIVAN DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

From the end of the WC era to the beginning of the 1980s, annual gifts rose from \$263,000 to just over \$1 million, according to Allen Trelease's "Making North Carolina Literate."

Much of that revenue was placed in the Excellence Fund, whose income was used primarily to supplement existing scholarships and faculty research, as well as salaries of outstanding faculty.

In the 1970s, as the needs of a research-intensive university with dozens of doctoral programs were growing even more apparent and state appropriations were not keeping up, University fundraising rose to a higher level. Notably, the Triad's corporations stepped up, as they saw that a strong UNCG with dynamic academic programs would elevate the region and state. Jefferson-Pilot, NCNB, and Cone Hospital were among the companies that knew a more impactful university with strong graduates would be a win-win for the business community.

By 1978 UNCG had gained seven "Excellence Professorships," five of which were named for the largest donors: Burlington Industries, NCNB, Jefferson-Pilot, and the Wayne Foundation (the Joe Rosenthal Professorship and Elizabeth Rosenthal Professorship).

Alumni were also key in creating named professorships. In two instances, classes at their 50th reunions took on the challenge of creating one. The Class of 1949 Professorship in the Humanities, originally given to novelist Craig Nova and now held by Dr. Christian Moraru, is one. It specifically honors the heritage and

excellent level of teaching of Woman's College. Another is the Class of 1952 Professorship, established at their 50th reunion to "further enhance and enrich the instructional program in English language and literature." First held by Dr. Christopher Hodgkins, it is now held by Dr. Risa Applegarth and Dr. Ben Clarke.

Our past comprehensive fundraising campaigns – Prospectus III, the Centennial Campaign, the Second Century Campaign, the Students First Campaign – have had a great impact. As UNCG entered into the *Light the Way* campaign, it had nearly forty such professorships. The ambitious goal in this current campaign? Double that number, to ignite our University like never before.

The impact of these professorships

Dr. Nadja Cech's Sullivan Distinguished Professorship directly impacts her biochemistry students, she points out. "With these funds, I'm able to provide opportunities to the undergraduate and graduate students in my laboratory to participate in summer research experiences and to cover our travel to professional conferences. Attending one is often a life-changing experience for a student. For example, Joe Egan, who attended the American Society of Pharmacognosy Conference when he was an undergraduate in my laboratory, told me on the way home, 'I've decided what I'm going to do. I'm going to graduate school!'" A first-generation college student, he earned his PhD and is now running a leading scientific data analysis company, she adds.

Dr. Nicholas Oberlies, who also holds a Sullivan Distinguished Professorship, took his entire lab to the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy in July using that funding. "The students presented posters about their research projects, and in doing so, had a chance to get feedback from both peers and leaders in the field. We all returned energized to try out new ideas."

Speaking of new ideas, he added, "It is easy to

Superlatives among the stellar names

MOST NAMED FOR ONE PERSON?



Eloise R. Lewis Excellence Professorships are held by three nursing faculty. The campaign to raise funds began in 1985 when the founding dean of the School of Nursing retired.

EARLIEST NAMED FULL PROFESSORSHIPS?

• **Burlington Industries Professorship in Textiles** Established in 1960 by Spencer and Martha Love and the Burlington Industries Foundation to strengthen what was then the Textile Division of the School of Home Economics at Woman's College.

• Helen Barton Mathematics Excellence Professorship

Established in 1960 upon the retirement of Helen Barton (Mathematics Department faculty). Over the years, many have contributed to this fund.

EARLIEST GRADUATES TO BE HONORED?

• **Marion Stedman Covington Distinguished Professorship in Music** This was established by Covington in honor of her mother, Marion Emma Moring Stedman, who graduated in 1908. Stedman studied music under iconic professor Wade Brown and played the violin, viola, piano, and organ.

• Lake Simpson Dickson Distinguished Professorship in Nutrition

This was established by the Dickson Foundation (family) to honor Dickson, who graduated from the State Normal commercial department in 1919.

EARLIEST FACULTY MEMBER TO BE HONORED?

Florence Schaeffer Distinguished Professorship in the Sciences

Established in 2009 by an anonymous gift to honor Florence Schaeffer, who joined the Chemistry Department faculty at the North Carolina College for Women in 1922. She was named department head in 1934, serving for 30 years.

EARLIEST CHANCELLOR TO BE HONORED?



William E. Moran Distinguished Professorship in Reading and Literacy Established in 1998 by Charles A. Hayes, then chair of the Board of Guilford Mills and former chair of the UNCG Board of Trustees, it honors the leadership of Chancellor William E. Moran, who served from 1979 to 1995.

MOST RECENTLY RECEIVED?

• Moses Cone Health System Distinguished Professorship

Dr. Audrey Snyder received this nursing professorship in August 2023.

• Class of 1952 Excellence Professorship

It was presented to Ben Clarke in the English Department in August 2023. (Risa Applegarth in English had received this professorship in 2022).



SEEN IN VISUALS: PP. 28-29, PAMELA ROWSEY, SAT SHIVAJI EDNATAN LAURIE WIDEMAN, DOMINICK AMENDUM, JING DENG, MCRAE BANKS, L. DIANNE BORDERS; PP. 30-31, NADJA CECH, ESTHER LEERKES, LAURIE KENNEDY-MALONE; PP. 32-33, JENNIFER ETNIER, DEBRA WALLACE, NICK OBERLIES

Who currently holds these professorships?

CLINTON ALLRED Lake Simpson Dickson Distinguished Professorship in Nutrition • **DOMINICK AMENDUM** Smart-Tillman Distinguished Professorship in School of Music, Theatre, Dance • **RISA APPLGARTH** Class of 1952 Excellence Professorship in English • **MCRAE BANKS** Margaret/Harrell Hill Distinguished Professorship in Business • **L. DIANNE BORDERS** Burlington Industries Excellence Professorship • **JEREMY BRAY** Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professorship • **NADJA CECH** Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professorship in the Sciences • **BEN CLARKE** Class of 1952 Excellence Professorship in English • **MITCH CROATT** Marie Foscue Rourk Distinguished Professorship in Chemistry • **JING DENG** Bank of America Excellence

Professorship • **JENNIFER ETNIER** Julia Taylor Morton Distinguished Professorship in Life and Health Sciences • **FALK VISITING ARTISTS** Herbert and Louise Falk Professorship • **LAURIE WIDEMAN** Safrin-Ennis Distinguished Professorship in Kinesiology • **ELLEN HASKELL** Herman & Zeldia Bernard Distinguished Professorship in Jewish Studies • **NANCY HODGES** Burlington Industries Excellence Professorship in Textiles • **MELINDA GAY IVEY** William E. Moran Distinguished Professorship in Reading and Literacy • **VICTORIA JACOBS** James D. and Johanna F. Yopp Distinguished Professorship in Mathematics Education or Science Education • **MICHAEL KANE** Dr. Nicholas A. Vacc and Dr. Nancy N. Vacc Distinguished Professorship • **ELENA KARPOVA** Mae Putman and Albert Hayes Distinguished Professorship • **LAURIE KENNEDY-MALONE** Eloise R. Lewis Excellence Professorship • **KAREN KILCUP** Elizabeth Rosenthal Excellence Professorship • **KIMBERLY KOMATSU** Florence Schaeffer Distinguished Professorship in the Sciences • **ESTHER LEERKES** Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professorship • **SUSAN LETVAK** Eloise R. Lewis Excellence Professorship • **ALBERT LINK** Virginia Batte Phillips Distinguished

come up with ideas, but you need to test those ideas if you want to turn them into fundable projects. I use some of the Sullivan funds to pay for the expenses associated with generating preliminary data around new ideas. Basically, we use these funds to leverage new ideas into new, funded projects."

Dr. Laurie Kennedy-Malone, who holds a Lewis Excellence Professorship in Nursing, explains that it allows her to seek more opportunities for professional leadership and to mentor. Dr. Edna Tan, who holds the Hooks Distinguished Professorship, says the funds make a big difference in the engaged research she and her doctoral assistant lead at a Greensboro STEM program for middle and high school youth.

Dr. Laurie Wideman, whose Safrit-Ennis Distinguished Professorship in Kinesiology was created near the start of the current campaign, says its impact was immediate. "It has allowed me to empower and educate the next generation of scientists by supporting myself and my students to be on the leading edge of scholarship in our field," she says. "Its greatest value is providing funds for my students to do cutting-edge science, travel to present that science at national and international conferences, and to publish their findings in high quality journals, which have significant costs associated with them. This allows my students to get noticed and secure better job opportunities, and this, along with the publications, increases the recognition and stature of UNCG and the kinesiology graduate program."

The professors are proud of the strategic philanthropy behind the name. "It's a way a donor can make a targeted impact – one that will literally 'help the world be better,'" Borders says.

She points to Dr. Esther Leerkes, with whom she has collaborated, as one example. "Her years of research in parenting infants is so important. Her Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professorship creates national impact, as well as impact closer to home."

Provost Debbie Storrs has a unique perspective

on what this does for the University, at large. These professors are nationally recognized figures, sought by other universities. "Each professorship benefits UNCG by helping to attract and retain these top-notch faculty, whose contributions in teaching, research, and public service raise the profile of this University and help it reach its high objectives."

With each endowed professorship come specifically tailored expectations. A common thread is a high level of professional service at national and international levels. And each will

contribute to the continuing development of both junior and senior faculty members and will serve as a mentor and role model to students at all levels.

Their impact is steadily growing.

"The distinguished professors over the decades have taught hundreds of thousands of undergrads and mentored and guided the research of thousands of master's and doctoral students," Storrs says. "They are key in staking our flag as a first-choice university with a reputation for academic and research excellence."

Most named professorships – nearly 75% – are distinguished professorships. This term indicates they've received matching funds (e.g., \$333,000 for a \$667,000 gift from donors) from the UNC System's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund (DPETF) to create the full endowment. Many of the earlier-established distinguished professorships were supplemented by the C.D. Spangler Foundation in addition to the DPETF.

Making history with Light the Way



Not only are our professors exceptional, but an innovative approach to support outstanding faculty is, as well.

Alumna Sue W. Cole's recent gift to the Bryan School of Business and Economics endows a faculty excellence support fund that is the first of its kind at UNCG. In fact, while conducting research to determine criteria for making awards, Bryan School Dean McRae Banks discovered only one other university in the nation with such a fund.

The Sue Cole '72, '77 MBA Professional Track Distinguished Faculty Endowed Fund is rare in that it offers special opportunities exclusively to professional track faculty. Cole's intent is to support at least two professional track faculty members, each for two-year terms, annually in the Bryan School.

"There are different ways to reward excellence besides distinguished professorships that are based on high quality research," Banks says. "Sue's gift offers long-overdue recognition to this sector of our faculty."

Full-time, professional track faculty do a lot of "heavy lifting" as far as teaching is concerned. With four classes per semester, they impact lots of students. This new endowment will fund salary stipends, professional development, and travel opportunities that will enhance the level of instruction in their classrooms.

"The potential for fulfilling our professional track faculty's 'wish list' is really exciting," says Banks. "Sue's endowment elevates the Bryan School, its departments, and the University overall. This is a game-changing gift."

Professorship • **CONSTANCE MCKOY** Marion Stedman Covington Distinguished Professorship in Music • **CHRISTIAN MORARU** Class of 1949 Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities • **CHERYL NAKATA** Joseph M. Bryan Distinguished Professorship • **NICK OBERLIES** Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professorship in the Sciences • **PRASHANT PALVIA** Joe Rosenthal Excellence Professorship • **MARK RIFKIN** Linda Arnold Carlisle Distinguished Excellence Professorship for Women's and Gender Studies • **PAMELA ROWSEY** Eloise R. Lewis Excellence Professorship • **TERRI SHELTON** Carol Jenkins Mattocks Distinguished Professorship • **RATNASINGHAM SHIVAJI** Helen Barton Excellence Professorship • **PAUL SILVIA** Lucy Spinks Keker Distinguished Excellence Professorship • **AUDREY SNYDER** Moses Cone Health System Distinguished Professorship in Nursing • **EDNA TAN** Jennifer Smith Hooks and Jacob T. Hooks Distinguished Professorship in STEM Education • **DEBRA WALLACE** Daphne Doster Mastroianni Distinguished Professorship in Nursing • **DIANNE WELSH** Charles A. Hayes Distinguished Professorship • **ANDREW WILLIS** Marion Stedman Covington Distinguished Professorship in Music ■

Gifts ignite excellence



Susan Morris Safran '77 Distinguished Professorship in Nursing

A health care entrepreneur and nurse who has taught countless American Heart Association Lifesaving courses, Susan Morris Safran '77 knows firsthand how important it is to have excellent teachers. Now, she is bolstering the already exceptional standard of faculty excellence in UNCG's School of Nursing.

The Susan Morris Safran Distinguished Professorship in Nursing, the result of a \$1 million pledge by Safran, will be dedicated to a professor who will teach, engage in scholarship, and provide community service to improve patient outcomes with focus on the continuum of health care.

Currently co-chair of UNCG's *Light the Way* campaign, Safran served on the UNCG Board of Trustees for 10 years and was its chair from 2014 to 2016, when she led the search committee that brought Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. to UNCG. She was also instrumental in promoting and planning UNCG's Nursing and Instructional Building, and she championed the construction of Union Square Campus. She and her family established the Safran Family Endowed Scholarship as well as two funds in UNCG Nursing. The Susan Morris Safran Scholarship in Nursing so far has been awarded to eight unique students.

"This new professorship is my way of giving back to the faculty who inspired me and to the students who want to be inspired," she says.



The Ella Fitzgerald Distinguished Professorship in Jazz Studies

A long-standing supporter of UNCG's Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program, Dr. Ward Robinson Jr. '10 MPH, '19 PBC aims to harness the power of collective giving to establish the Ella Fitzgerald Distinguished Professorship in Jazz Studies. His leadership gift serves as a challenge to others to make this long sought-after faculty position in jazz and pop vocals a reality.

One of the top jazz programs in the Southeast, the Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program boasts a diverse cohort of students. Through the Ella Fitzgerald Distinguished Professorship, the College of Visual and Performing Arts seeks to increase minority representation among Jazz Studies faculty. Robinson stands shoulder to shoulder with the College's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, which will have far-reaching effects both now and for the future.

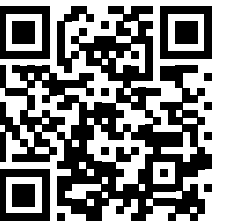
"Both the Ella Fitzgerald estate and UNCG are incredibly excited about this new opportunity," says Professor of Jazz Steve Haines. "Ms. Fitzgerald is an inspiration, with unparalleled musical talent and a massive heart in helping others, which continues today with her charitable foundation. We couldn't be more grateful to Pam and Ward for their help."

In addition to providing seed money for this professorship, Robinson and his family have also endowed a scholarship and an enrichment fund in Jazz Studies.

EIGHT NAMED PROFESSORSHIPS are the result, so far, of the *Light the Way* campaign: Bernard-Glickman Professorship • Fitzgerald Professorship • Hooks Professorship • Kadis Professorship • Kaplan Professorship • Safran Professorship • Safrit-Ennis Professorship • One established by an anonymous donor



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Child Care Stars

For nearly 25 years, a UNCG-led child care assessment initiative has made its mark in 50,000 classrooms – and counting

BY SARAH NEWELL • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '13

How do you decide on the right child care facility? A star rating at a North Carolina child care facility can ease the minds of parents and caregivers. What's more, it can help a facility learn about areas where it can improve – and how to support these changes.

The NC Rated License Assessment Project, run by UNCG for nearly 25 years as a pioneering initiative, has helped improve the lives of millions of children in North Carolina and beyond.

When bids were solicited in 1999, UNCG stepped up to lead this groundbreaking effort. Dr. Deborah Cassidy, a leader of UNCG's

UNCG was consulted frequently when other states created similar systems, for far-reaching impact.

Human Development and Family Studies early childhood program, applied for that first child care assessment contract. UNCG, which had long been known for its exceptional quality child care program, was awarded the NC Rated License Assessment Project (NCRLAP) – and subsequently served as a model for other states.

UNCG researchers were undaunted by the blank slate they faced. What should be the process for evaluation of classrooms?

How many evaluators would be needed? What parts of the state would have more assessment requests? Nearly 25 years later, the NCRLAP has answered these questions and many more.

One thing became clear: Collaboration would be a key to success.

“When we started, we had six subcontracts with other universities, they were in charge of their region, and they hired the assessors to go



Arietha Brunson '17, '23 MEd and her husband, Robert, care for children in their home-based child care facility, Kingdom Kids Development Center.

out into their communities,” said Dr. Linda Hestenes, current NCRLAP co-director. “I think that helped create a foundation, and it evolved from there.”

UNCG partnered with another university for training on the assessment tool, while the researchers began working on partnerships with child care facilities. They took a whole-state approach, rather than having different standards for each county.

The leaders and staff in child care facilities didn’t know what to expect. “This was new, and in addition to people from their communities coming in as assessors, it was important to help programs understand the process. We worked hard to provide this information,” said Dr. Sharon Mims, NCRLAP co-director.

Collaboration paid off.

Over time, the NCRLAP progressed from simply making people aware of what the state licensing requires, to what the new assessment process would be, to how to improve your facility while continuing to focus on offering safe and quality classrooms for children.



Changes over the years

Though the tools for scoring child care facilities have remained largely the same over the years – with some changes mandated by the State – scores at child care facilities have risen markedly, showing Mims and Hestenes that the assessment system was working.

Some improvements are obvious. For example, a health inspector told Mims soon after the assessment process began he saw more attentiveness to handwashing.

Other changes that we may take for granted today?

“We have standards that children have more outside play, and that they have access to specified materials for most of the day,” Hestenes said.

Examples include building materials like blocks; fine motor activities like puzzles or art supplies; dramatic or

pretend play objects; and nature or science materials such as safe plants, shells, or driftwood, depending on the age of the classroom. All of the age-appropriate items are designed to support the overall development of the child.

North Carolina does not require child care facilities to be assessed. Those that choose to do so are ones that may serve children anywhere from birth through age 12. An assessor will review them on more than 400 indicators every three years, then this score is used in conjunction with other factors to lead to a star rating of one to five by the Division of Child Development and Early Education. An assessment usually takes three to four hours at a facility, followed by a written report by the assessor. It typically takes three months to train someone to be an



“The rated license system is an indicator for early childhood educators seeking employment and for parents. The process itself, including the classroom assessments, is a great tool for staff development.”

—NORMA HONEYCUTT '14 MED, '14 PBC, '14 CERT

“We are part of a long history of providing a model of how to do good things for children across the state.”

—DR. SHARON MIMS, NCRLAP CO-DIRECTOR



Norma Honeycutt '14 MEd, '14 PBC, '14 CERT is executive director of Partners in Learning in Salisbury. Left: Their child care rating – in this case 5 stars – is public record and must be displayed prominently.

assessor, and their reliability is routinely checked afterward.

A facility is notified of the four-week period an assessor will come, but not the day. The assessor will examine one-third of the classrooms at the child care program, with the rooms randomly selected and at different age levels.

“When we started, there was less attention on how to improve quality, but over time our staff have developed many resources and





MEREDITH KASTEN '09 is director of Greenboro's Early Childhood Center (ECC), which holds a five-star rating. "I value NCRLAP and appreciate all their resources. Their assessments have proven to be very helpful." She also values all she learned at UNCG's HDFS department and is a proud alumna. "I love the relationship that ECC has built with UNCG. It's my hope that UNCG students who come to ECC look at us as an extension of the quality that UNCG teaches every day."

held numerous outreach events to support positive change," Hestenes said. "We've made real improvements in the experiences of children in care. We're proud of how far we've helped move our state in terms of quality."

This includes doing more outreach to facilities and teachers, helping people understand what is being measured and why, adding a website and posting the materials for what is being measured there, and constantly looking to be more impactful.

Why facilities want stars

The facilities want to be assessed for a simple reason: They want parents to know they are a good one. For Norma Honeycutt '14 MEd, '14 PBC, '14 CERT, executive director of Partners in Learning in Salisbury, N.C., a rating lets her know if she has the best facility.

"The rated license system allows us to do that by providing a way to measure quality," she said. "It's an indicator for early childhood educators seeking employment, and for parents. The process itself, including the classroom assessments, is a great tool for staff development."

Her facility, which has been open 27 years, has a five-star rating. Honeycutt, who began as the executive director 25 years ago, proudly

Long-Standing Legacy of Excellence

DR. MARY ELISABETH KEISTER, whose impact was global, put UNCG's already notable child care research standard on an exceptional level. Before joining UNCG, she was the Home Economics Officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, where she developed programs to train leaders on improving the lives of women and children around the world. Joining UNCG in 1965, she soon directed the University's first federally funded Infant Care Center. Her research brought national attention to UNCG as the growing trend of mothers entering the workforce launched the University's model day-care program – one of the first in the country for infants. She was an adviser in all 50 states regarding child care centers. The UNC System presented her the O. Max Gardner Award, the highest honor bestowed on a faculty member.



Dr. Mary Elisabeth Keister

ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARTHA BLAKENEY HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

DR. DEBORAH CASSIDY continued that high standard, notably as director of the innovative Child Care Education Program, providing a model facility and lab. A UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award winner and recipient of numerous

grants, she led the NC Rated License Assessment Program for UNCG from its inception until her retirement. When she served as director of the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education from 2009 to 2013, Hestenes and Mims served as NCRLAP co-directors. (They'd worked with Cassidy on the project since its start.) They succeeded her as co-directors in 2016.



Dr. Deborah Cassidy

says that her facility was one of the first in the state to receive the five-star rating.

They prepare for assessments regularly, with teachers observed monthly by a member of leadership who offers feedback. Teachers are also invited to observe each other's classrooms. And during rating renewal, they focus on staff morale.



"We're proud of how far we've helped move our state in terms of child care quality."

—**DR. LINDA HESTENES, NCRLAP CO-DIRECTOR**

EQuIPD – founded by the same Dr. Deborah Cassidy who led UNCG into the statewide ratings initiative – provides professional development, educational planning, and curriculum assistance for Guilford County's early childhood care facilities.

Pride in high standards

One of the biggest hurdles UNCG faced 25 years ago – and still examines – is how to have one system that is applicable to every child care facility. Assessors evaluate child care centers, child care homes, ones that are private and non-profit, licensed public school sites, bilingual centers, one in which the students and staff speak Cherokee – and the rating system materials and evaluation system must be accessible and fair to each facility.

It is a task that is reexamined when UNCG reapplies for the contract from the state annually. Thus far, UNCG has conducted just under 50,000 assessments of child care facilities since being awarded the first state licensing contract in 1999.

Mims said the Human Development and Family Studies Department and UNCG have always taken pride in setting high standards for child care and early childhood education.

"We are part of a long history of providing a model of how to do good things for children across the state. We work with the intention of educating others," she said.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [HHS.UNCG.EDU](https://hhs.uncg.edu) AND [HHS.UNCG.EDU/CCEP](https://hhs.uncg.edu/ccep).



Want to teach kids to be responsible? “Make it happen in the gym.”

It's sage advice from Dr. Tom “Doc” Martinek Sr. – teacher, counselor, mentor, and coach – who recently retired after 47 years in UNCG’s Department of Kinesiology. As a parting gift, he and his wife, Kathleen, established the Youth Development and Community Engagement Endowment in Health and Human Sciences. The fund will enhance the work of the department’s Project Effort program, an after-school sports and leadership program for underserved children and youth, which Martinek founded nearly three decades ago in partnership with Guilford County Schools.

Martinek is an internationally respected scholar whose early research in psycho-social development was widely recognized as a valuable contribution

“Kids don’t care what you know until they know you care.”

– DR. TOM “DOC” MARTINEK SR.

to exercise and sports science literature. His shift to research about service learning in 1993 made a significant impact on programs specifically designed to develop life skills through physical activity.

For the past 30 years, his work through Project Effort has been modeled throughout the world. Its initial purpose was to give elementary

school kids plagued with low grades, office referrals, and school suspensions a chance to participate in a values-based after-school program that would help them channel negative energy in a positive way.

As these children moved to middle and high school, Martinek added the Youth Leader Corps program. They became young leaders of their own sports club, teaching life skills to other children in the Triad, many of whom were immigrants. Since they began operation, Project Effort and the Youth Leader Corps have provided life-changing experiences to more than 900 children and youth.

Martinek’s graduate students participated in rigorous, qualitative research, examining the results of his programs and the process of young people taking on responsibility through sport, leaving UNCG with the skills to start similar programs in other communities. One such student, Claire Newman, finished her doctoral degree in May 2023. Her role was as a mentor to the Youth Leader Corps.

“I communicated with the high schoolers, helped coordinate rides and resources, and then monitored their stations and provided feedback,” says Newman.

Her biggest takeaway was that utilizing high schoolers as program leaders breaks down barriers that she, as an adult, could not (language, culture, age, relatability). “It’s really cool to see leaders experience their own path to growth and see kids start to connect with each level of respect, effort, goal-setting, and helping others.”

Newman gives her mentor a lot of credit: “Doc is a top-tier human. I have learned so much from him. You could not find a more selfless, wonderful individual.”

The Martineks’ generous gift will ensure that Project Effort and the Youth Leader Corps continue to teach life lessons to children, youth, and UNCG students for decades to come.

To support Project Effort, visit kin.uncg.edu/community-engagement/project-effort.



SCHOOL OF ED: THE RIGHT STUFF

Before her 25-year tenure at UNCG’s School of Education and even prior to earning her PhD in educational psychology, Professor Emerita Dr. Barbara

Barry Levin taught elementary school students for 17 years. Her experience in that realm formed the bedrock of her teaching, research, and publishing throughout her distinguished career.



It also planted the seed for her to establish the Barbara B. Levin Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education at UNCG.

Dr. Levin began her time at UNCG in 1993 as a teacher educator and assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and retired as a full professor in 2018 from the Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education.

In addition to master’s and doctoral programs she wanted to be a part of, UNCG appealed to Levin for this reason:

“I thought my colleagues there were doing the right thing by having elementary education and middle grades majors take classes concurrently with internships over a three-semester period, before full-time student teaching,” says Levin. “I believe these concurrent opportunities helped them learn from their students as well as from their classes at the University.”

At the time, most other institutions did not offer such internships. Education majors had to wait until their final semester to be with kids in schools as student teachers, which Levin deems too little, too late.

“Along with enjoying wonderful colleagues who truly cared about students, working with and mentoring graduate students was one of my great pleasures at UNCG,” Levin says. “I hope I can ease the burden for some future elementary ed majors so they can focus on learning to be the best teachers possible rather than scrambling to earn enough to pay their bills.”



Cultivating ‘creative thinking and making’

Anna Padilla is proof positive that a UNCG education is not “one-size-fits-all.”

The 37-year-old Interior Architecture (IARc) major was born in the Philippines, but grew up in suburban Chicago. A significant life transition a few years ago allowed her to explore completion of her undergraduate education.

She began researching schools that would complement her career aspirations within the commercial lighting industry she had entered before returning to college. Interior architecture was not on her radar, but Padilla wanted to gain foundational knowledge of design principles that run parallel to lighting design. UNCG’s IARc program fit the bill.

“I was lucky to learn about IARc through Tommy Lambeth, who was chair of the department at the time,” says Padilla. “There was genuine enthusiasm and a true passion for his work. I was fortunate to have Tommy as a professor before his retirement. His influence has been amazing.”

“IARc can be an expensive major. I want to help lighten the load.”

– TOMMY LAMBETH

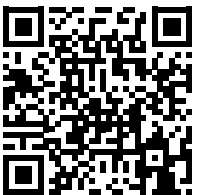
Lambeth began teaching in what was then the Department of Housing and Interior Design in 1984 as a part-time instructor. Subsequently he was a full-time faculty member who reveled in unlocking what he calls “creative thinking and making” in his students for 32 more years. For 10 of those years, he served as department chair.

In 2019, prior to retiring, Lambeth established the Carl “Tommy” Lambeth Endowed Scholarship in Interior Architecture. Creative thinking and making

are at its heart, celebrating and enabling achievement in the development of these skills. To date, five students have received awards from the scholarship. Its inaugural recipient was Anna Padilla.

On track to graduate in Fall 2024, Padilla plans to have a commercial design position in hospitality or showroom design, as well as her own line of lighting and furniture.

“If not for Tommy’s scholarship that year, I would have been beholden to family or my partner to help pay for supplies required for projects, as well as gas because I am a commuter student,” Padilla says. “I am incredibly grateful to have benefited from Tommy’s generosity.”



SEE VIDEO OF TOMMY LAMBETH AND ANNA PADILLA

MORE STORIES AT LIGHTTHEWAY.UNCG.EDU.

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COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

1940s

ELLEN GRIFFIN '40 was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in its Class of 2023.

LAURA JOHNSTON DINWIDDIE TILLET '48 celebrated her 97th birthday on June 10, 2023.

1950s

BARBARA MAUGHAN EISELE '52 won the All American Award for the 200 breast and 200 IM (individual medley) in the long course. She was first in the country in her age group, 90-94 years of age.

JUNE SIMPSON HOOD '56 served as the grand marshal for the Town of Mint Hill's Christmas Parade in 2022. During her career, she taught art in many schools in and around her home county.

1960s

ANN PHILLIPS MCCracken '60 received the Democracy Champion Award from Common Cause North Carolina (CCNC) at the 50th Anniversary Celebration held in Raleigh. Her work to further social justice with CCNC has been one of the most meaningful experiences of her life, she reports.

BECKY SISLEY '64 MSPE, '73 EDD was inducted into the State of Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. She began competing in track and field at the age of 49 and holds national records for javelin and pole vault and a world record in pole vault. She is professor emerita at the University of Oregon.

ALICE GARRETT BROWN '65 spoke at the annual Black History Month Celebration held by Davie County Senior Services and the Davie chapter of the NAACP last February.

MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS '66 earned her fourth Library Journal Reference Book of

the Year award in 2022 for "Asian Women Artists," published by McFarland.

DR. ELIZABETH HELSING DULL '67 presented "The Other High Point: From Nainsook Underwear to 'Hosiery Capital of the South'" at the High Point Society Monthly Program Series. This research was done in collaboration with Doris Helsing Kincaide '88 PhD, her sister.

THOMAS BARTHEL '68 MFA published the article "Doubleday at Gettysburg," which explores Major General Doubleday's contribution to the Union victory, in the July 2023 issue of Gettysburg Magazine.

YOLANDA FOSTER BOLDEN '68 was named director of the Forsyth County Public Library. She has held multiple positions in the library system including children's librarian, reference librarian, children's outreach supervisor, outreach services manager, and assistant director.

1970s

KATHERINE GARLAND MOORE '70 retired after 37 years teaching everything from seventh-grade math and science to high school algebra, geometry, and AP statistics. She lives in Florida near her granddaughters.

CAROLYN DUTTON MATTHEWS '71 and her husband, Rick, received an N.C. Baptist Heritage Award from Wingate University for their lifelong support of education, both public and private.

CANDIE LEMAIRE '72 MED optioned her romantic comedy script, "Red Phoenix 88 Buffet," with producer Sharon Kelly/American Artists Group in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

MAE DOUGLAS '73, a vice chair of UNCG's Board of Trustees, received the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce's highest honor, the Thomas Z. Osborne Distinguished Citizen Award for community service. She previously won the organization's ATHENA Award in 2019.

AUBY PERRY III '77 MED, a retired AP Biology teacher, is enjoying a music career with Oconee Winds and Southern Wesleyan University. 🎷

CHRISTOPHER WICKER '77 retired as the parks and recreation director of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., in 2009. Now the aquatic center he helped build in 1992 will be renamed the Chris Wicker Aquatic Center in his honor.

DONNA ROACH '78, '93 MED published a fictional account of a Métis family traveling between North Dakota and Montana in search of the American buffalo. She was also featured at an event hosted by the Burlington Artists League Gallery.

ROBERT EDMONDS '79 was named to the list of "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" published by Forbes. Edmonds is a private wealth advisor with Ameriprise Financial in Greensboro.

1980s

JOYCE GORHAM-WORSLEY '81 was honored by the City of Greensboro as an Everyday Champion of Civil Rights. She is a member of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and has served on UNCG's Board of Visitors.

SHEILA HUNTER '82 retired from full-time piano service in 2020 but continues to work part-time as a harpsichord and clavichord technician in the Triad. She began woodcarving in 2019 and has won 38 ribbons in state carving competitions.

GLENDA JENSEN SCHILLINGER '82, a UNCG School of Nursing advisory board member, visited the Nursing Instructional Building's Glen and Mildred Jensen Veterans' Student Lounge, a space named after her parents, with her brother and sister-in-law. 🎓

JOHN M. THOMPSON '83, the coach of North Carolina Wesleyan University's Men's Basketball team, was named 2023 USA South Coach of the Year. 🏀

KENDRA SPEAKS TIMBERLAKE '84 published two social-emotional learning books for children in grades K-5. "Where's Poppi?" addresses death and "Wild-Haired Poet" deals with self-management.

SHAH ARDALAN '86 was named president of Randolph Community College. He was previously president of Lone Star College-University Park in Houston, Texas. 🎓

LYNNE LEWALLEN '86 MSN gave a presentation titled "An Exploration of Competence in the New Graduate Nurse" at UNCG's Graduate Showcase. She also exhibited a poster presentation, "Bridging the Theory-Practice Gap: Employers' Advice to Nursing Programs."

GEORGE SINGLETON '86 MFA published a new collection of short fiction, "The Curious Lives of Nonprofit Martyrs," with Dzanc Books.

BRAD HUFFSTETLER '88 was named deputy executive director of Aging, Disability, and Transit Services of Rockingham County. A native of Rockingham County, he has worked in the Triad for over three decades.

LYNNE MARTIN BOWMAN '89 PHD published the poetry chapbook "A Bright Forgetting" with Finishing Line Press after receiving an Honorable Mention in their New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition. 📖

1990s

BRENDA STRICKLAND '90 published her first work of fiction, the novel "Moonshine and Salteens." A former elementary school teacher, she has written nine nonfiction teacher resource books.

CARRIE THEALL '90, '98 MLIS was named chief executive officer of the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Fla. She spent the last decade as the executive director for the Alamance Partnership for Children.

THOMAS TAYLOR '91, '09 MM, a member of the John Salmon Jazz Trio with fellow UNCG professors Steve Haines and John Salmon, played at the Chamber Classics concert series in Hickory, N.C.

SHEILA SMITH WYONT '91 was a finalist for Gaston County Principal of the Year. She is currently principal of Bessemer City High School.

DR. LINDA JEWELL CARR '92 MED was named superintendent for Camden County Schools. Her career began nearly 30 years ago as a dance and theater arts teacher for Clinton City Schools.

SCOTT OWENS '92 MFA collaborated with Florida poet Pris Campbell on "All In," a novel-length sequence of narrative poems from Redhawk Publications. The volume tells a love story in two voices.

ERNEST DOLLAR '93, the executive director of the City of Raleigh Museum and the Pope House Museum, was interviewed about his love for Triangle history in WALTER Magazine.

ERNEST J. GRANT '93 MSN, '15 PHD, a member of UNCG's Board of Trustees, was named interim vice dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the Duke University School of Nursing. He will spearhead the school's efforts to redefine the DEI leadership role and office.

FRED MEADS '93 MM was named associate artistic director for the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. Meads has been a music educator and director of choirs in various settings for more than two decades.

JOHN O'NEAL '93 was co-chair of the first National Association of Consumer Advocates Auto Practicum. The event featured topics to assist attorneys in representing consumers in cases

ALL TOGETHER

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



WC TRIBUTE Dr. Kate Barrett, "Skip" Moore, Dr. Bill Moran, Barbara Moran, and Betsy Oakley '69 were among the more than 100 at the ceremony on Stone Lawn.



RED CARPET RECEPTION Graduating students and their families enjoyed a special toast as they became the newest members of the alumni community.



ALUMNI ALL ACCESS On April 22, Barbara Wike '80 MA, '87 PhD, Kathryn Streng '70, '92 MED, as well as Desirée Gorbea Finale '20 and Enrique Mendoza-Gutiérrez enjoyed the offerings.



ALUMNI STUDENT LEADERSHIP DINNER Students enjoyed networking opportunities with alumni leaders.



Here in Fall 2023, we send our best wishes for each of you. Reach out and share your news.

Visit us at alumni.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.**

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involving fraud and other civil claims. He is the owner of O'Neal Law Office in Greensboro.

BRENDAN SLOCUMB '94 published his second novel, "Symphony of Secrets," which he promoted during its national launch at Bookmarks in Winston-Salem. He is also the author of "The Violin Conspiracy."

REBECCA ASHBY '95, '05 PBC, '05 CERT began her role as grants administrator and financial analyst for the town of Jamestown, N.C.

REBECCA HAYES '95 was selected as one of four physicians in North Carolina to receive the North Carolina Medical Society's Inaugural Golden Stethoscope Award. 📅 14

KELLY LINK '95 MFA received an honorary degree from Smith College. She is a 2018 MacArthur Fellow, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and a National Endowment for the Arts grant recipient whose most recent book is "White Cat, Black Dog." She was profiled in the Spring 2019 issue of UNCG Magazine.

JACQUELYN MCMILLIAN-BOHLER '95, a faculty member at the Duke University School of Nursing, is a co-founder of the Alliance of Black Doulas for Black Mamas. The program empowers doulas to improve the birthing experience and birthing outcomes for Black mothers.

KACY REMPEL WOODY '95 MFA celebrated 25 years working with High Point Theatre, where she is the box office manager. She is also an active member and committee chair with INTIX: International Ticketing Association.

SCOTT WILLYS DALTON '96 was named principal at West Brunswick High School. He has also been principal at Oak Grove High School and East Davidson High School.

THRESA HAITHCOCK HARDY '96 was named chief nursing officer and chief operating officer at UNC Health Rockingham. She previously served in leadership roles with Novant Health and Cone Health. 📅 5

JENNIFER WAN LEUNG '96, '03 MBA was named associate vice chancellor for finance at UNC Wilmington. She previously worked at UNCG in the Office of Financial Planning and Budgets.

MICHELLE MARQUARDT '97 is chief marketing and brand officer of FlexC, an AI workforce management platform, where she focuses on outreach to clients and candidates. 📅 2

HEIDI HANSEN MCCRORY '97 MA was elected to the Girl Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands, which serves a 22-county jurisdiction. Her career in higher education has included leadership roles at several institutions, including UNCG.

STEPHANIE CAULDER '98, '00 MM was named the founding dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts at UNC Wilmington. An accomplished musician who has performed around the world, she recently traveled to the

International Double Reed Society Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

THOMAS GOULD '98 PHD, the former executive vice president of academic affairs and student services at Pitt Community College, was honored with the naming of the Thomas Gould Adult Learning Center, which he championed during his tenure at the college.

DAVID HOWARD '98 MPH was named health services director for Brunswick County, N.C. He has over two decades of experience in the field and served most recently as public health director for New Hanover County.

ANTHONY GRAHAM '99 MED, '03 PHD was appointed interim chancellor at Winston-Salem State University, where he has served at the executive level since 2018.

DAVIDA IRVING '99 PHD was named superintendent of Dayville School District and principal of Dayville School in Grant County, N.C. Irving has had a long career as an educator both inside and outside the U.S.

ALLISON CLARK PAIT '99, '02 MS was promoted to the position of Kisco Senior Living Triad communities' regional vice president of sales and marketing in May 2023. She had been executive director at Greensboro's Abbotswood at Irving Park, a senior living community recently recognized by U.S. News and World Report. 📅 20

LISA HALL SATTERFIELD '99, '00 MS was named a partner at Gilliam Bell Moser LLP, where she helps lead the firm's international tax services practice and specializes in corporate, partnership, and individual tax consulting and compliance. 📅 12

LISAUNDRASIDLE '99 was named assistant principal of Southeast Collegiate Prep Academy after more than a decade as an educator and athletics coach. She was also named employee of the month in October 2022 by the Halifax County Schools Board of Education.

SHANNON CRAVEN WHITAKER '99 was elected to the Randolph County School Board.

2000s

TINA INGRASSIA DIETZ '00 MS released "Drink from the Well," the flagship podcast for her audio production company, Twin Flames Studios.

SHANNON LANIER '00 was named director of marketing and business development by Brooks Pierce, where she will oversee the brand portfolio for the firm of more than 100 attorneys.

SHANTA BUCHANAN '01, '09 MSA, '14 EDS, '20 EDD was named principal at Archer Elementary. She has been assistant principal at Southwest Elementary since 2021 and previously served as assistant principal at Oak View Elementary.

SHANNON HAZLEWOOD '01 was named the district's new mental health coordinator by the Rockingham County Board of Education. She has spent over 20 years

as a teacher, guidance counselor, and behavioral health specialist in the school system.

DR. BRIGIT CARTER '02 MSN was named chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. She is currently associate dean for diversity and inclusion at Duke University School of Nursing, where she is also clinical professor emerita.

ROBERT HECTOR '02 has spent over 20 years caring for patients in North Carolina and abroad. During his career, Hector has supported U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Japan, Germany, and multiple African nations. Currently a lieutenant colonel, he serves as the command flight nurse of the U.S. Air Force Reserves and acting branch chief of aeromedical evacuation for the Air Force Reserve Command. 📅 1

ASHLEY LEAK BRYANT '03, '05 MSN was appointed senior associate dean for global initiatives and the Frances Hill Fox Distinguished Term Scholar at UNC Chapel Hill. She will also be director of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Quality and Safety Education in Nursing and Midwifery.

ATUYA CORNWELL '03 was named director of parks and recreation for the Town of Chapel Hill. Cornwell has worked in public sector recreation for nearly two decades, including positions in Mecklenburg County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

JAMES TATE HILL '03 MFA began a new role overseeing the production and digital distribution of The Writer's Chronicle. He is the author of "Academy Gothic" and "Blind Man's Bluff."

WILLIAM PENN JR. '03 was named Winston-Salem's sixteenth police chief. He is a 25-year veteran with the Winston-Salem Police Department.

LESLIE ALEXANDER '04 MLIS was named superintendent of Watauga County Schools. She was previously the chief human resource officer and area superintendent of leadership development for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

ETHAN JAMES '04, APRIL ALBRITTON '05, and BRANDI NICOLE JOHNSON '09, '14 were highlighted as part of a Business North Carolina story about Boomerang Greensboro.

DENNIS HAMILTON '05 MSA was named principal of Providence Grove High School. He previously served as principal at Randleman High School and Randleman Middle School.

JOHNCARLOS MILLER '05 MSA, '12 EDS, '16 EDD, the principal at Weaver Academy, will serve in the role of senior executive director of student assignment. He has been at Weaver Academy since 2018.

BRANDI TEDDER MINOR '05 completed the testing and work experience requirements to become a certified public finance officer in North Carolina and became active on Jan. 1, 2023.

CELENA CLARK TRIBBY '05 MSA, the principal of Cook Literacy Model School, partnered with Reynolda Rotary and Bookmarks so that student attendees to the school's Scholastic Book Fair could receive two books free of charge.

BRIDGETT HEDRICK WEAVER '05 was licensed to practice architecture in Texas. She previously obtained her National Council for Interior Design Qualification in December 2020 and became a registered interior designer in Texas in January 2021. 📅 9

NICOLE MARIE DESTEFANO '06 was named director of waiver operations in the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. This role allows her to use her background in psychology and political science to improve the lives of individuals and families living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LEIGH ANN LITTLE '06 was named director of fine arts for Guilford County Schools.

MELANIE ADLER '07 is executive director at Greensboro's Heritage Greens, an assisted living community recently recognized by U.S. News and World Report. 📅 10

JENNIFER ETHRIDGE '07 MPA was named president and CEO of Nazareth Child & Family Connection in Rockwell, N.C.

STACY HINES '07 MS was hired as a rangeland habitat management specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and assistant professor at Texas A&M in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management.

ASHLEE WILEY LEWIS '07 was named to Triad Business Journal's "40 Under 40" list. She is currently senior fiduciary philanthropic trust advisory specialist at Wells Fargo.

DANE SCALISE '07 was named to a seat on the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners. His term runs until 2024.

MARIE TORRES '07 was promoted to managing editor at Spectrum News 1 in Raleigh, where she will train, coach, and mentor journalists and reporters while continuing to contribute to news operations across the state.

MICHAEL ACKERMAN '08, '10 MLIS was named head librarian of adult services at the Edwardsville Public Library. He previously spent 11 years at the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem.

JASON LEE HYATT '08, '09 MLIS was named director of Buncombe County Public Libraries. Previously, he was the executive director of the York County Library in Rock Hill, S.C.

MARINA MARCH MAILS '08 MS was named executive director for York Ready Climate Action, which is dedicated to increasing awareness about climate change and making urgent reductions in emissions in York, Maine.

WHITNEY WILSON OAKLEY '08 EDS, '11 EDD was named to Triad Business Journal's "Outstanding Women in Business 2023" list.

DEANNA WYNN '08 MED traveled as a Fulbright scholar to Morocco, where she studied topics like farming, climate change, gender, politics, and clothing



1 Robert Hector '02 2 Michelle Marquardt '97 3 John M. Thompson '83 4 Luke Dixon '12 and Amanda Burnley Dixon '13 5 Thresa Haithcock Hardy '96 6 Melissa Capozio Jones '14, '19 MLIS 7 Auby Perry III '77 MED 8 The School of Nursing (SON) Advisory Board is back in action! Newly reconstituted last spring, they're sharing ideas for a bright future at the SON. Top (L-r) Miriam Blackwelder Fields '85; Bridgett Byrd Sellars '95, '09 MSN; Jana Welch Wagenseller '76; Philip Julian '77, '79; Vi-Anne Antrum DNP, MBA, RN; Dr. Tomika Williams '03 MSN, '16 PHD Bottom (L-r) Dean Debra Barksdale; Glenda Schillinger '82; Jan Yarborough, Esquire '80; Kathy Shackelford Foster '84, '92 MSN; Arnie Thompson; Bobbi Osguthorpe '83; Vivian Dennis '85; Dr. Yvonne Eaves, associate dean for academic programs, School of Nursing.

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textiles. She teaches life science at the Middle College at UNCG.

MATTHEW COCKMAN '09 MS was certified as a specialist in state criminal law by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. He is assistant district attorney for North Carolina's 22nd prosecutorial district.

ALI DUFFY '09 MFA was promoted to full professor and graduate director of dance at Texas Tech University. Her book "Dancing Motherhood" was published by Routledge in May 2023.

2010s

CANDACE MARTIN '10 was named to Triad Business Journal's "40 Under 40" list. She is currently the operations and communications manager for Action Greensboro.

NICOLE PERRY '10 MS, '13 PHD, an assistant professor at The University of Texas at Austin, received the Victoria S. Levin Award for Early Career Success in Young Children's Mental Health. Her work focuses on the links between common childhood adversities and sleep.

DERYLE DANIELS JR. '11 was named regional associate director of development for major and leadership gifts at Duke University.

SARAH WILDES ARNETT '12 MFA was promoted to professor at Valdosta State University, where she teaches in the BFA program and is associate department head of Communication Arts.

LUKE DIXON '12 and **AMANDA BURNLEY DIXON '13** welcomed identical twin daughters into the world in October 2022. Both girls are doing great! 🥰 🎉

DR. KEITH JONES '12 CERT was named associate chief information officer at Cone Health, where he works to ensure the security of health information and elevate the use of technology in the organization.

KAILEY POLLARD '12 was named the 2022-23 Davidson County Schools Teacher of the Year. She has been an elementary grades teacher at Stoner-Thomas School since 2013.

LOIS BARNES VINSON '12, '22 MLIS was named circulation desk and student employment services operations manager at UNCG's Jackson Library, where she has worked since 2016.

CHRISTY ANN BAILEY '14 EDS, '20 EDD was named principal of Holmes Middle School in Eden, N.C. She was previously principal at Draper Elementary School and at Dillard Academy.

AMANDA CLARK '14, '18 MPH was named the Guilford County Division of Public Health Department's first drug and injury prevention manager. She focuses on efforts to reduce opioid-related injuries and deaths.

MOLLY SENTELL HAILE '14 MFA was a featured reader at the 25th annual "Davidson Reads" event at Davidson

College. She teaches creative writing at Hirsch Wellness Network in Greensboro and has published fiction and nonfiction in many magazines and journals.

MELISSA CAPOZIO JONES '14, '19 MLIS was named to the position of archivist in the Manuscripts Division of the Music Division at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. 🎉 📖

JOSHUA WALKER '14 was named innovation communication manager for North America with BASF Corporation in Research Triangle Park, N.C. 🎉 📖

JOHN BERGER '15 opened the ParTee Shack mini-golf and go-kart spot in Greensboro with a business partner.

DR. THOMAS MCCOY '15 PHD received the Dean Robin E. Remsburg Nursing Habit of Excellence Award at the UNCG School of Nursing's end-of-year celebration. 🎉 📖

JIM MINICK '15 MFA published a nonfiction book, "Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas," about the worst tornado in Kansas history. The book tells the story of the town's destruction and rebuilding through the eyes of those who survived.

LIANA H'YUA ADRONG '16 was recognized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as part of the Outstanding Americans by Choice initiative, which recognizes naturalized citizens who make significant contributions to their communities. Adrong is executive director of the Montagnard Dega Association in Greensboro.

ALYSSA BLAIR '16, '18 MA was named the downtown development director for Oxford, N.C., where she previously worked as a communications specialist.

LINDSAY DRAPER '16 MSN, '19 DNP, associate department chair and clinical assistant professor at UNCG's School of Nursing, will now spearhead credentialing, compliance, and special initiatives for the school.

JANAE DUNGEE '16 was named junior customer success manager at Torsh, a New Orleans-based education technology company. 🎉 📖

AMBER LAKE '16 served as emcee for Pride Winston-Salem 2023. Lake is a reporter for WFMY2 in Greensboro.

TORIANO MCRAE JR. '16 was named Beginning Teacher of the Year by Warren County Schools. McRae, who is also a basketball coach, tells students and players to work hard and give their best effort.

KATE WAGNER '16 was named architecture correspondent for The Nation. Wagner is the creator of the satirical blog McMansion Hell.

JEN ANDERSON '17 MLIS earned National Board Certification in Library Media from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

PRESTON BLAKELY '17 was appointed to the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equality in Criminal Justice by Gov. Roy Cooper. Blakely is the mayor of Fletcher, N.C.

ELENA DALTON '17 PBC, '17 CERT was named executive director of F.A.R.M. Cafe in Boone, N.C. She has a background in the food industry and in nonprofit management.

JOURNEY CONTINUES



Remember **GABRIELLE BALDWIN VANDERKUYL '23** from last fall's UNCG Magazine? She refused to let a tragic injury derail her nursing dreams. In May, she graduated! "I'm thrilled to announce I have an active compact state nursing license," she says. What's next? "I would love to work in ministry and humanitarian nursing efforts."

REMY EPPS '17 MA was named inclusion officer for Athens-Clarke County, Ga., where she will collaborate with county departments and the external community. She has backgrounds in criminology and education.

PARNEAN KHALID '17 AND NIOUSHA "NINA" SHABRANG '20 participated in "Dentistry with Heart 2023" at Dr. John Gravitte's dental office in Mount Airy, N.C. The event included many UNCG Dental Club student-volunteers.

DR. ANNA BOONE '18 PHD co-authored an article with Dr. Laurie Kennedy-Malone, Dr. Thomas McCoy, Dr. Debra Wallace, and doctoral student Reham Yasin. The article, titled "Characteristics of Hospitalized Adults 55 and Older with Clostridioides Difficile Infection," was published in Gastroenterology Nursing.

ARJANAI MILLER '18, '20 MBA was named to Triad Business Journal's "20 in their 20s" list. She is assistant director of digital philanthropy at UNCG.

NATHAN ZIGLAR '18 MSA was named principal of Huntsville Elementary School in Madison, N.C. He has previously served as principal of Holmes Middle School.

ANGELA CALHOUN '19 MLIS, a librarian assistant at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, was one of several employees honored during Black History Month. She has worked at A-B

Tech for 29 years and is known for her activism in the community.

NACHELA KNOX '19, founder of GoGetHer Productions, signed a deal for her first feature film, "Couch Party," with Homestead Entertainment. The film was shot in Winston-Salem.

DR. CHERYL ARCUNI WICKER '19 received the Nursing Teaching Excellence Award from the UNCG School of Nursing during their end-of-year celebration. She is a clinical assistant professor at the School of Nursing.

DR. LISA WOODLEY '19 PHD gave a presentation titled "Collaborative Online International Learning: Impact on Nursing Students" at the 2023 National League for Nursing's Nursing Education Research Conference in Washington, D.C. She is a faculty member at UNC Chapel Hill.

2020s

JALEN CHEEK '20 was selected for the 2023 Outstanding New Professional at a Two-Year College Award by the American College Personnel Association. Cheek is an education navigator at Central Carolina Community College.

COREY CULP '20 MSA was named principal at Liberty Elementary School in Liberty, N.C. He previously served as assistant principal at Providence Grove High School.

MONICA T. DAVIS '20 PBC, '22 MFA hosted a garden party in support of Preservation of Wilson, an organization dedicated to preserving Wilson County's historic properties. She is its executive director.

KARENA "KIDD" GRAVES '20 exhibited "Fish Dreams," a show of collage and sculpture made from recycled and repurposed materials, at the Greenville Museum of Art in Greenville, N.C. The art relates to fishing, women in family life, and the meaning of fish in dreams.

OLIVER THOMAS '20 PHD was named to Triad Business Journal's "40 Under 40" list. He is currently the director of external affairs at North Carolina A&T State University.

LENORA HARLEY '21 received an Army Achievement Medal for volunteering at a UNCG COVID-19 vaccine clinic. She works as a nurse at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

AMY RAY '21 MS received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Stanly Community College. She works at BDO USA, an international accounting network headquartered in Charlotte. 🎉 📖

DR. FELICIA RUFFIN '21 PHD co-authored an article, "Exploration of Pre-Hospital Patient Delays in Seeking Care for Symptoms of Bacteremia and Sepsis: A Qualitative Study," with Dr. Susan Letvak and Dr. Laurie Kennedy-Malone, that was published in the journal Nursing Open.

SIERAH COLE '22, TAJAH FLAKES '22, and ABIGAIL KNIGHT '22 participated in a panel discussion at Atrium Wake Forest Baptist.



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 alumni.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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JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2023!

FRIDAY, OCT. 20
Bonfire,
Kaplan Commons
8-10 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21
Black Alumni Network:
The Family Reunion,
The Quad
12-3 p.m.

Children's Festival,
Kaplan Commons
3-5 p.m.

Block Party on
Kaplan Commons
3:30-6:30 p.m.

Spartan Men's Soccer
vs. Mercer University
7 p.m.

Learn more about
Homecoming and
alumni events
throughout the year
at alumni.uncg.edu.



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