

FALL 2024

UNCG

MAGAZINE

Dominick
Amendum '01,
Coordinator of
UNCG's Musical
Theatre Program

JACKSON LIBRARY
TRANSFORMED
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INNOVATIVE
INTERNSHIPS
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HOMECOMING
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WONDERFULLY WICKED

Dominick Amendum '01 goes from Gate City
to Emerald City with the blockbuster film.

PG. 16



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ALL IN THE CARDS In this scene from the early 1950s, Jackson Library not only was full of books, it featured rows of card catalogs. One card for each book. Each card typed by hand, with great care. If the book was not stored in the building, the librarians would retrieve it for you. Now in the decade of the 2020s, when everyone finds their collection items with a few keystrokes via electronic databases, the backs of these old catalog cards are used for scribbling notes at the reference desk. Reuse, recycle, as they say. (The magazine staff, keen on campus history, have snagged just a few, for old times' sake.) Here's to the past. Here's to our future!

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The first recipient of the Sloan Scholarship graduates, travel abroad support, and the Bachmann Family Endowed Scholarship

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Lots of class notes and photos, too

Cover photography: Dominick Amendum '01
By Sean Norona '13

ABOUT THAT CAST OF GREEN How often can you celebrate a strong role in the year's most anticipated film? That calls for special treatment – such as use of "Wicked"-esque coloring of the cover masthead's G.

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 previous issues.



LEARN MORE

As I begin my tenth year at UNCG, I am reminded that every academic year opens with opportunities.

On the way to Convocation in the G Whip (the students' name for my golf cart), I picked up a first-year student rushing to Fleming Gym. Sensing her excitement and nervousness, I reassured her and the over 1,700 new students that UNCG is a place of opportunity: to discover themselves, access new experiences, and find faculty and staff dedicated to their success.

Here, you'll read about some of the possibilities available to our students. Thanks to a \$5 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, UNCG is developing "Humanities at Work" to provide hundreds of humanities students with support for paid internships. We're one of just five locations nationwide honored with this investment, one of the largest gifts in our history.

New, cutting-edge academic programs are coming online across campus designed to meet student demand as well as current market and community needs. Our focus remains on preparing our students to be career and life ready upon graduation.

The nexus of innovative offerings and collaborative partnerships is taking shape as the University leans into our next strategic plan. In short, it's our emerging blueprint to improve how we deliver access to excellence in education. Done well, it will ensure more students, families, and communities experience the life-changing impact of a UNCG degree.

We're proud to live the values of our legacy and our mission. By rising to meet fast-changing needs, UNCG is making sure the next generation will fulfill its greatest potential.



FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.
CHANCELLOR

newsfront



Students in Family Nurse Practitioner concentration, which began Fall 2023 at UNCG's School of Nursing

SOLVING A NURSING SHORTAGE

North Carolina needs more nurses. This summer, UNCG's School of Nursing received more than \$2.4 million to enroll more nursing students.

UNCG Nursing anticipates expanding enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program by more than 50% in two years. In addition to increases in the pre-licensure BSN program, the school's new pre-licensure Master of Science in Nursing program plans to welcome another 70 students during that same time. The school anticipates starting the new program and enrollment in January 2025, pending NC Board of Nursing approval.

"With this anticipated enrollment of new students, the funding will also help us recruit and retain as many as 18 world-renowned nursing faculty right here in Greensboro," said School of Nursing Dean Debra Barksdale. "Academic advisors, coaches, and other student support positions will also be hired to assist these new students to earn their degrees in a timely fashion."

The funding, allocated from the UNC System Office, is part of the state legislature's efforts to increase nursing degree completions.

At the May 2024 commencement, the School of Nursing graduated 241 undergrads and 74 graduate-level nursing students.

FACULTY AND STAFF AT THE FORE

OF ALL THE SEGMENTS of our UNCG community supporting the *Light the Way* campaign, one stands out for its high level of participation in giving: faculty and staff.

In fact, 3,368 of the campaign's donors are current or former employees of the University, an August 2024

Advancement report shows. Their *Light the Way* giving total stands at nearly \$16 million.

With a campaign spotlight in the 2024-25 academic year on the impact and excellence of our faculty and staff – and on the ways their gifts elevate our University – those numbers may rise even higher.

"It's amazing how our University's faculty and staff uplift our students each and every day," says Beth Fischer, vice chancellor for University Advancement. "Everything that makes their university experience a successful one is amplified by their being a key part of the current campaign. Their impact on this generation of

students, and generations to come, creates an incredible legacy."

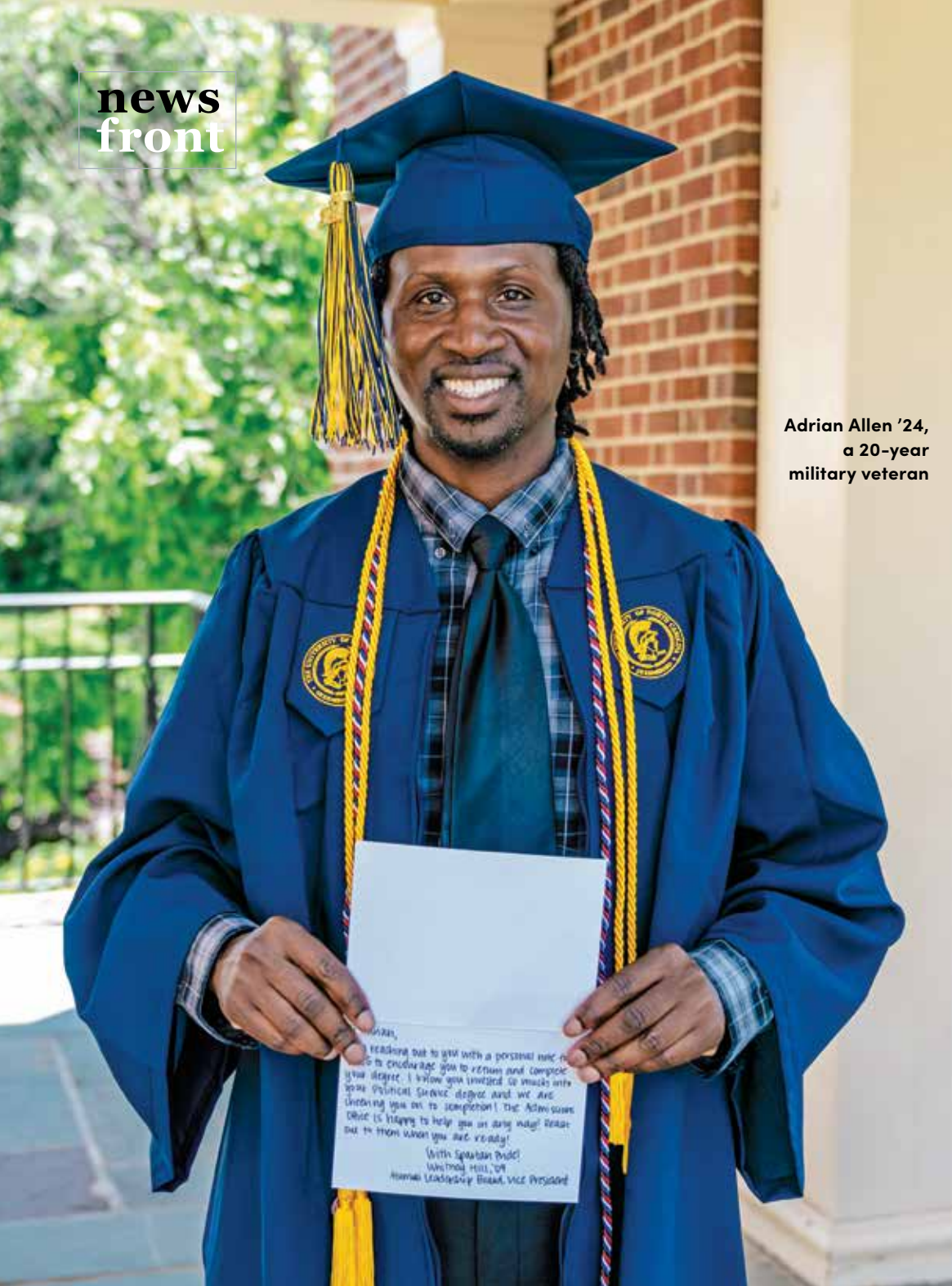
Supporters of *Light the Way* have already created 177 endowed scholarships, 8 endowed professorships, and 226 program funds since the start of the campaign.



LEARN MORE

\$197M

THE *LIGHT THE WAY* CAMPAIGN STANDS AT \$197.3M AS OF AUG. 1.



Adrian Allen '24,
a 20-year
military veteran

Finish strong

In 2023, the Alumni Leadership Board (ALB) sent hand-written messages to 292 students who had “stopped-out,” leaving school before completing their degrees. Around 10% of those contacted reapplied, and eleven returned to graduate in 2024.

ALB Vice President Dean Castaldo Jr. '12 was among the letter-writers. Why? “At our core, alumni want to support other Spartans,” he says.

Adrian Allen, a 20-year military veteran who has studied acting and political science, received a letter. “It had the logo of UNCG, and it had a note encouraging me to come back and finish,” he says. “That message made me feel good, and it was instrumental in my decision to return at the time I did.”

Allen’s letter came from ALB President Whitney Hill '09. “I know you invested so much into your political science degree, and we are cheering you on to completion,” she wrote.

Hill believes a personal connection can be powerful. “It means a lot to me to get to see how much that letter meant to Adrian,” she says. “Our ALB is always looking for ways to improve and connect or reconnect with alumni.”

Now Allen looks forward to using his degree to make an impact. “I plan to start with work in the community and see how I want to proceed from there,” he says.

The Bryan School of Business and Economics is focused on recruiting and advising more adult learners. Through the new Bryan Online Non-traditional Undergraduate Student (BONUS!) initiative, the school’s reaching out to students in the 25–45 (and older) demographic with some college but no degree. Building on its history of providing multiple online programs, which are more accessible to a wider range of students, it expects to serve around 50 additional Spartans each year with BONUS! and applaud them as they complete their degrees.

NOW THAT’S A
BONUS!

PORTRAIT OF A LADY

FROM THE MEDICAL LAB to the photo studio, Sharlie Brown '05 is exceptional. Her main career is as a human tissue compatibility specialist at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, helping ensure cell and tissue transplants are successful. Most patients don’t know this: She took top prize in this year’s Smithsonian Magazine Photo Contest.

Model Seriana Gamble in Sharlie Brown’s photograph

Her photograph, “Woman Sitting Under the American Flag,” shows model Seriana Gamble on the stairs of a historic home in Old Salem. Above her, the stripes of the American flag wave.

Actually, Brown and her collaborators were there to work on “The Hair Project,” spearheaded by creative director Erica Garrett-Ray. Its goal was to “bring attention to the beauty of Black women and our hair,” says Brown.

As they walked the historic avenues, though, Brown was struck by one spot. She said, “Wait, we have to stop here!” Directing her assistant and model, Brown captured a glorious work of art.



WOMEN, UNITED!

CATHY KNOWLES '98 is a purpose-focused philanthropic executive. She’s also a master’s student in UNCG’s Department of Peace and Conflict Studies program who brings a global perspective to her educational journey. Her most recent stop? The United Nations.

Last spring, Knowles attended the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the world’s largest gathering on gender equality

and women’s empowerment, at the United Nations in Manhattan.

It felt like the culmination of a childhood dream, she says. “Standing in front of the flags at the United Nations, having a security pass, getting to see all the artwork, and seeing all the people from around the world was very transformative.” During the five-day trip, Knowles attended 17 different sessions related to women and gender issues.

The theme was poverty reduction for women and girls. Among the commission’s many conclusions? The idea that “human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.”

Outside the classroom, Knowles is vice president of development and donor engagement at The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. Through her current studies, she is finding



ways to apply social, political, and environmental consciousness to her professional life.

Nature's true colors

Nature is full of brilliance – the yellow of goldenrod, purples and pinks created by mulberry trees, the magical green and gold of black-eyed Susans. They're to dye for, literally.

"Everything makes a color, but some make better colors than others," says Tara Webb, a School of Theatre lecturer in costume technology.

"During the industrial revolution there were chemical inventions that created all the amazing colors we wear on our clothing now," says Webb. "But prior to those inventions, the color

in clothing came from plants, minerals, bugs, even shellfish."

Raised in an artistic household, she became interested in costume design in college and later was fascinated by natural dyes.

Now, she makes clothing dyes with natural materials and food waste. And she's passionate about using those colors in her productions' costumes.

The former UNCG Sustainability Faculty Fellow notes that every plant yields colors.

"In the chemical process, some things work,

and some things don't. Part of my interest in researching is finding what those things are."

For example, avocados can make red and pink, black beans make blue, and onion skins can make a variety of colors, she explains.

"Creating natural dyes is a slow process. For the first year of my fellowship, I was going around campus and looking for things that would make color. One of the big ones on our campus is oak trees, and oak makes a beautiful brown."

Truly, pigments of the imagination.



Tara Webb,
lecturer in
costume
technology in
the School of
Theatre.

POETIC PLANTS



Leah Sobsey, an assistant professor of photography, joined Webb to create a pollinator garden at the one-time site of the Woman's College amphitheater in Peabody Park.

Sobsey uses the garden to photograph nature and harvest some plants for striking artistry in the darkroom. "I want to work on creating a more eco-friendly art form by moving into plant-based printing practices such as using the plants as emulsion or printing directly onto plants," she explains. The method is antique and beautiful.

"For me, it's somewhat of a reaction to the digital world, to be more aware and literally in touch with these plants," Sobsey says.

Sobsey collaborated with scientists, artists, and writers for an exhibition called "In Search of Thoreau's Flowers: An Exploration of

Change and Loss." She references the 648 plant and flower specimens author and philosopher Henry David Thoreau collected around his home, a third of which are now endangered or extinct. She used the cyanotype process, which employs iron compounds and UV light to create a striking Prussian blue image. Sobsey printed the final images on large

plates of glass and backed them with 23-karat gold.

Poet (and gardener) Emily Dickinson kept an herbarium – a book of pressed plants with 424 specimens. Sobsey, with collaborator Amanda Marchand, cultivated these same plants. Then using a 19th-century photographic process known as anthotype, they ground petals to make an emulsion, to create wonderful images of their plants. The art is, quite naturally, astounding.

"In Search of Thoreau's Flowers" remains on view at the Harvard Museum of Natural History. "This Earthen Door," its title alluding to a Dickinson poem, debuted at the 2023 PHOTOFAIRS New York and then was displayed at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

GIRLS ON THE GO

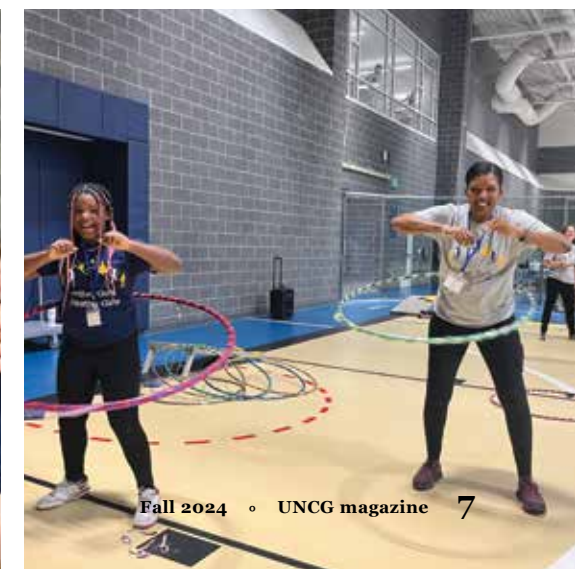
FOR TWO DAYS LAST MARCH, 50 fourth-through sixth-grade girls tried new physical activities and games in an empowering environment at UNCG.

They were part of the inaugural Active Girls – Healthy Girls Spring Break Camp, held by UNCG's Center for Women's Health and Wellness in the School of Health and Human Sciences. A sponsorship by the Dawn S. Chaney Foundation enabled the camp to be free for them.

It was led by female faculty, alumni, students, and instructors. Dr. Sandra Shultz, the center's director, said educating this age group on the importance of exercise – while still making it enjoyable – is crucial.

"Girls' physical activity declines in late childhood and early adolescence, such that only 15% meet the recommended physical activity guidelines by the time they reach 12 years of age," she said. Graduate research assistant Maslyn Behler noted the girls became more outgoing in the all-female environment as they tried new things.

They also learned how to calm their body and mind, make food choices, practice mindfulness, and more.





Above, (l-r) Sheeba Dawood '20 PhD and Dr. Hemali Rathnayake, both of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN)

“Dr. Rathnayake’s lithium refining solutions show incredible promise for North Carolina’s economy.”

— MICHELLE BOLAS, NCINNOVATION EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICER

Research and sustainability

Sometimes academic research is just good business.

Minerva Lithium has developed an innovative filter that extracts lithium from petroleum wastewater or saltwater in the ground. This could make the lithium mining process, which has traditionally scarred the land and threatened groundwater, more sustainable.

The company was cofounded by Spartans Sheeba Dawood '20 PhD and Dr. Hemali Rathnayake, both of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN). Minerva Lithium won the TechCrunch Disrupt 2022 Startup Battlefield competition.

Its patented nanofilter is a material that looks like black gravel. It’s called Nano Mosaic. The company says it can extract one metric ton of lithium using just 30,000 gallons of water. The old way? It requires nearly 17 times as much water.

Research around this subject continues. Minerva Lithium co-founder Rathnayake received new funding to continue her research on a new process to produce battery-grade lithium carbonate more efficiently.

She is one of eight researchers to receive support from NCInnovation as part of \$5.2 million in total research grants.

These grants are a first for NCInnovation, an organization that grows the pipeline from academic research to commercial use. “There is incredible work going on at universities all over North Carolina that people don’t know about, but they will now,” said NCInnovation Executive Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer Michelle Bolas through a press release.

“Dr. Rathnayake’s lithium refining solutions show incredible promise for North Carolina’s economy,” said Bolas. “This work has the capability to help advance our mission to make North Carolina the innovation state.”

With the global demand for lithium growing due to its role in energy storage, electronic bikes, and other battery-intense applications, Rathnayake’s research could affect a wide range of products.

“From mobile phones to automobiles, our everyday modern lifestyle relies on lithium batteries,” said UNCG Chancellor Gilliam. “Purification of lithium is key to battery production, a critical emerging industry at home in Greensboro, our state and surrounding region, and globally.”

\$1M

UNCG IS THE FIRST UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE to receive grant funding and wraparound support from Google’s Cybersecurity Clinics Fund. UNCG’s \$1 million grant, announced this year, will establish the Spartan CyberGuardian Academy, training 870 students over the next six years. Bryan School students and many others will learn cybersecurity and AI skills in a hands-on manner, helping to protect organizations from cyber attacks.

'TRANE TRACKS

She’s running down a dream.

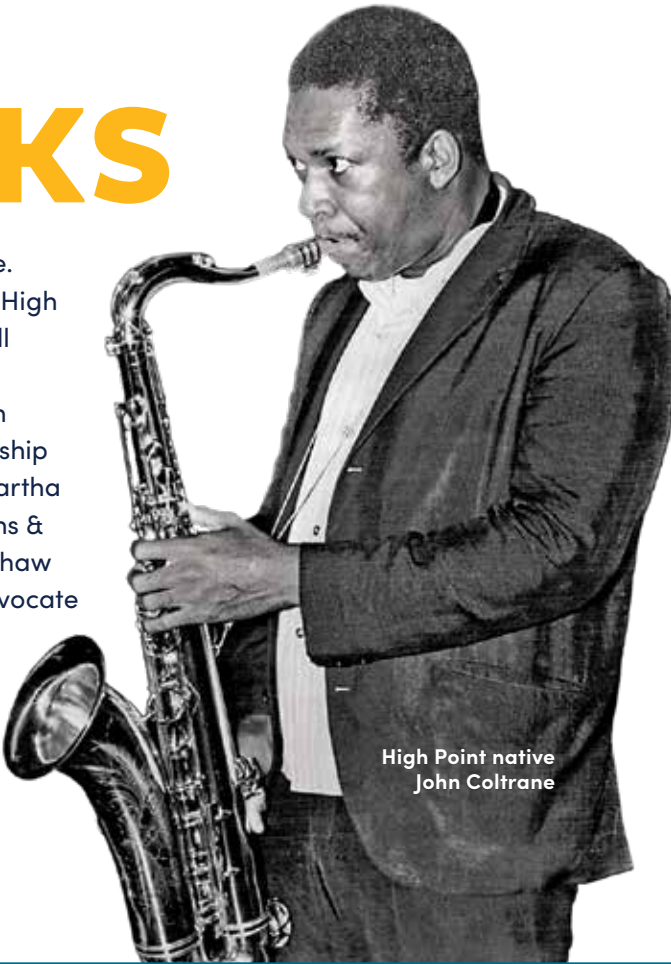
“In high school, I realized that my favorite bands – Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Eagles – were either doing covers of or were directly influenced by the music of the American South,” says Tori Hinshaw '24 MA. “I made it my academic and professional mission to become a steward of Southern music history.” While a history grad student concentrating in museum studies, she interned at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, building on earlier work at the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio and RCA Studio B.

Before graduating, she focused on one of the greatest musicians to emerge

from North Carolina: John Coltrane.

The jazz icon’s journey began in High Point, where his boyhood home still stands at 118 Underhill Street.

Supported by the Mary Elizabeth Barwick and C. Jackson Sink Fellowship in the Humanities, as well as the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections & University Archives Fellowship, Hinshaw connected with Phyllis Bridges (advocate for the home’s restoration) and Wally West (John Coltrane Jazz Workshop) and spearheaded a spring collaborative concert event to shine a spotlight on the house preservation effort. And on a jazz giant’s origin.



High Point native John Coltrane

UNCG FACULTY KEEP UP WITH AI RESPONSIBLY

Today, artificial intelligence (AI) software can generate essays and digital art. It also can be used in serious academic research. Many faculty argue that AI technology is here to stay and can be used responsibly.

Dr. Chunjiang Zhu teaches artificial intelligence at UNCG, and his research has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and more.

“Machine Learning has been a major topic in computer science and statistics since the 1980s,” says Zhu. In the early 2010s, a different kind of AI designed in neural networks that mimic the human brain, namely deep learning, began to

get stronger, driven by breakthroughs in computer hardware and the increasing availability of big data. ChatGPT, which creates documents based on short prompts, is in this category.

AI affects more than computer science. According to Dr. Heather Moorefield-Lang of UNCG’s Department of Library and Information Science, “Librarians are no longer just the keepers of the books. We’re also the keepers of the tech.”

She uses AI technologies with her students, too. “My assignments are geared towards what future librarians are doing in their schools, their libraries, and their fields.” Moorefield-Lang says AI tools are a way to

“Think smarter, not harder.”

AI is also helping University researchers. Dr. Robert Wiley teaches cognitive science and studies language and memory.

“Many routine operations can be replaced by a machine, but people’s innovative thinking is not easily replaced.”

— DR. CHUNJIANG ZHU, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, COMPUTER SCIENCE

“AI is going to enable new types of research, things that maybe we could have done before, but that would have been very onerous or extremely time consuming.” For example, AI-driven software can gather

and organize data that wouldn’t be feasible otherwise.

Wiley needed to create images and a story for use in a large-scale study. He generated both with AI tools.

Then, he edited the AI versions to suit his needs. “I’m very actively using AI in my research,” he says.

The technology will continue to grow, says Zhu. “I think the next ten years will be a fast-growing period for AI.” He adds that humans will still be important. “Many routine operations can be replaced by a machine, but people’s innovative thinking is not easily replaced.”



Healthy habits, healthy children

PREGNANCY AND HEART HEALTH

Dr. Forgive Avorgbedor knows that keeping families healthy extends well beyond preventing childhood obesity.

The nursing professor has joined forces with Leerkes and Wideman to use the iGrow data to better understand how structural racism influences the health of childbearing parents, particularly during and after childbirth. They're particularly interested in how pregnancy-related heart and metabolic issues can lead to future heart disease.

Arterial stiffness – a strong predictor of heart disease – affects 47.3 percent of African

American women, according to the National Institutes of Health.

With \$500,000 in funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Avorgbedor's team will examine structural racism using multiple pathways, at both the contextual and individual level.

While she says researchers already have some knowledge of how discrimination contributes to adverse outcomes in Black women, the team aims to provide a deeper understanding of the specific risk of cardiovascular disease that Black women face due to their

environment. They will also test parents for risk of cardiovascular disease using an advanced instrument called the Vicorder, which tracks pulse wave velocity, a measure of arterial stiffness.

Avorgbedor envisions using the study's results to design an easily implemented intervention. Rather than waiting for childbearing parents to be diagnosed with hypertensive disorders during pregnancy or postpartum, arterial stiffness might be discovered early enough to prevent heart disease.



“Anytime I find an avenue that can lead to a solution, I pursue it passionately.”

— DR. FORGIVE AVORGBEDOR

“There's more attention now on what you can do early in life to prevent weight problems.”

— DR. ESTHER LEERKES, JEFFERSON-PILOT EXCELLENCE PROFESSOR

A **multidisciplinary team** is combatting childhood obesity, which affects 14.7 million children and adolescents across the nation, according to the CDC.

“Once a child becomes overweight or obese, it's very difficult to reverse that trajectory,” says Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professor Esther Leerkes. “There's more attention now on what you can do early in life to prevent weight problems.”

Dr. Leerkes (left in photo) is principal investigator on the \$3 million NIH-funded “iGrowUP” study, which is tracking children from ages 3 through 5 – a time in their lives when they begin developing independent self-regulatory behaviors. It's an expansion of UNCG's groundbreaking \$2.8 million iGrow – Infant Growth and Development – study, which followed approximately 300 children from the womb to age 2, along with their families. It examined the biological, psychological, and social factors that could raise obesity risk from infancy through toddlerhood.

Now, Dr. Lenka Shriver, Dr. Laurie Wideman, and Dr. Jessica Dollar join her in following many of the same children from the original study, during the critical time when they start learning how to control their own behavior. The researchers are focused on how they can aid families.

ALUMNI ACCOLADES

AT HOMECOMING, THE UNIVERSITY WILL PRESENT THE 2024 ALUMNI AWARDS.

MCIVER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ALICE JOYNER IRBY '54 provided opportunity for students, whether recruiting for Woman's College or the Johnson Administration's Job Corps.



MINERVA AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

PHAEDRA J. GROVE '92, '95 MPA, a former chair of the UNCG Foundation Board, established the Phaedra J. and Pecolia J. Grove Endowed Scholarship and was instrumental in creating the Pearls of Promise – Nu Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Scholarship Endowment.



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TOM WALDRON '90, chief operating officer at Kontoor, is responsible for the Wrangler and Lee brands globally and oversees Kontoor's operations, including global supply chain, product development, and innovation. A Bryan School management major, he has served on that school's advisory board.



WC LEGACY AWARD

Judy Newton Scurry '68 and Mary Elizabeth Slate '61

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Jackson Cooper '16, Roy Dixon '15, and Ashlee Wagner '11

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD

Lynn Eury (husband of the late Faye Eury '56)



JOIN US FRIDAY, OCT. 4, 2024, AT 7 P.M. IN THE EUC AUDITORIUM FOR A PUBLIC CELEBRATION.

LEARN MORE



FIRST-GEN PRIDE!

UNCG provides pathways to economic prosperity for all its students, including those who are the first in their families to graduate from college – around 50% of each new class!

This year, UNCG launched the First-Generation Commencement Stole Project to help those students display their pride at Commencement. As they crossed the stage in Spring 2024, more than 200 graduates wore stoles they were given free of charge, says Diana Roman, chair of the First Generation Student Success Committee.

“Although many of our students are first-generation, they might not talk to their peers about this status,” says Roman. “With First G at the G, we want these students to feel celebrated.”



LEARN MORE



Christopher Robert Jones, "PureImagination_Sextet," 2020. Oriented strand board, wood glue, twine, media players, computer speakers, USB drive, and violin/vocal audio track; 72 x 48 x 16 in. Courtesy of the artist. © Christopher Robert Jones

ARTISTS ENGAGE WITH DISABILITY

THE YEAR’S MOST ANTICIPATED Weatherspoon exhibition presents contemporary artists engaging with experiences and understandings of disability. Some artists in the exhibition “Crip*” identify as disabled and some do not, but each has a relationship to at least one identity that is not perceived as normal.

Too often, organizers say, such artists are expected to “perform” these identities by making images of themselves. While those images can help diversify the art world, they can also pigeonhole artists, flatten interpretations of their work, and make the distinctions between “normal” and “not-normal” more rigid.

It’s on view now through April 26, 2025. **See more at weatherspoonart.org.**

“Crip*,” curated by Liza Sylvestre, is co-organized by Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois Chicago. Support was provided by the Presidential Initiative: Expanding the Impact of the Arts and Humanities and by the James and Beth Armsey Fund.

GATEWOOD AT HER PEAK

MAUD GATEWOOD ’54 was one of the most significant 20th century painters to work in North Carolina. Her years studying art at Woman’s College were highly influential on her career.

“I thought it was a good art department. It was progressive and very open to new ideas,” she once said.

A native of Yanceyville, N.C., Gatewood’s paintings capture the essence of the Carolinas’ rural landscapes and their denizens across much of the century.

“The Hard Edge & The Soft Line: A Retrospective of Maud Gatewood,” a major exhibition at the Blowing Rock Art & History Museum (BRAHM), provides a comprehensive narrative of Gatewood’s career focused on the evolution of her work and her notable impact as an artist and an educator.

According to BRAHM’s website: “Of particular interest to this exhibition are her landscape and figural studies, experimental use and application of paint, material assemblage, and pointed social commentary. Long undervalued in the larger canon of contemporary American painting, her work has been a favorite of regional art historians and collectors.”

The Gatewood exhibition runs through Jan. 5, 2025.



Maud Gatewood, “Three Sisters,” 1957–58, Oil on Linen, 44 x 36.in (111.8 x 91.4 cm). Gift of Karen Lang Johnston in memory of her husband, Hon. Eugene Johnston. BRAHM Permanent Collection, 2022.003.001.



REMAINING SHOWS IN THE YEAR’S UNCG UCLS

Sw!ng Out: Caleb Teicher brings swing dance to campus with live big band.

A Roomful of Teeth: Two-time Grammy-winning vocal group.

Peter Bernstein: The guitarist is an integral part of NY City’s jazz scene.

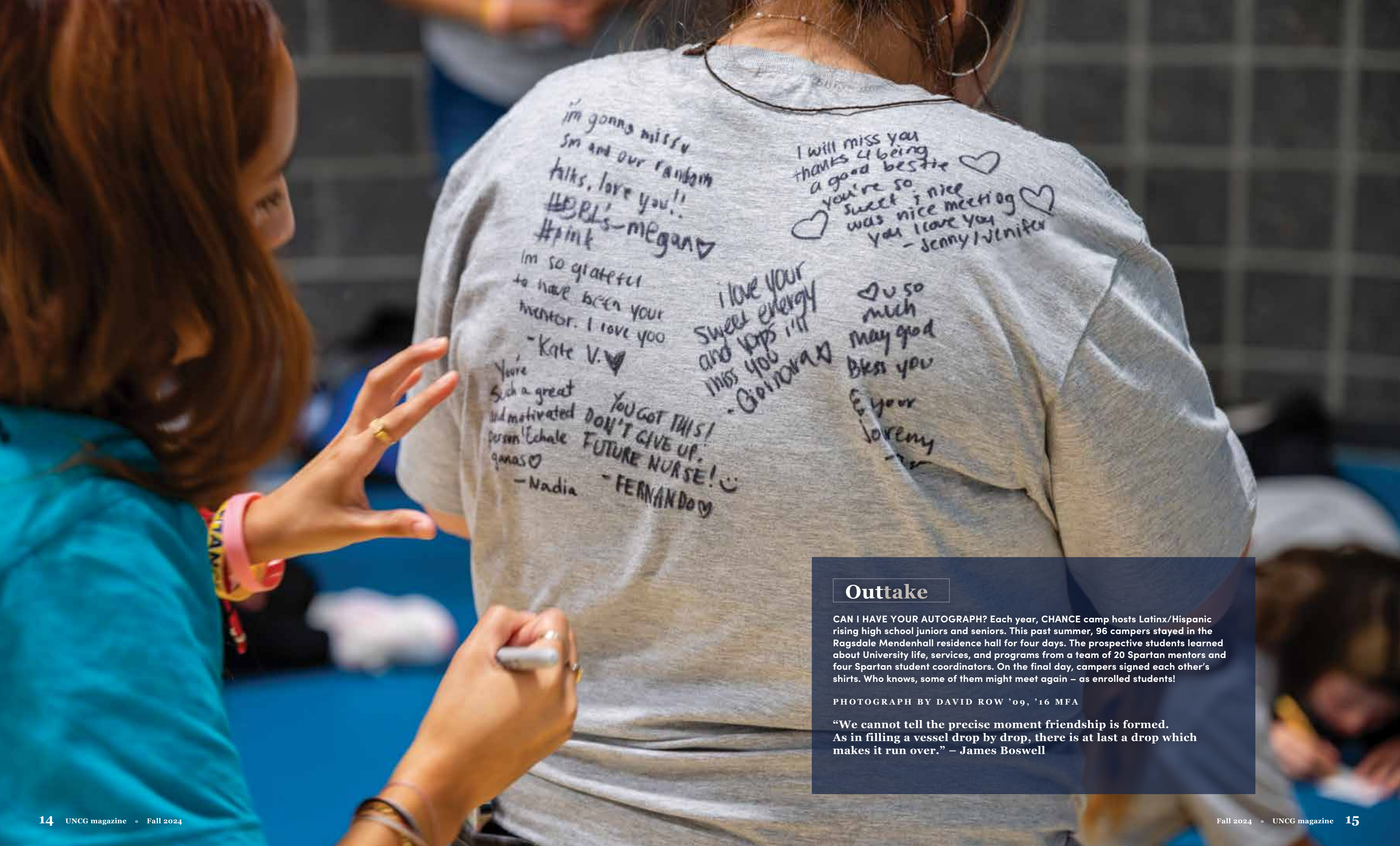
Lang Lang: The pianist is a leading figure in today’s classical music (pictured above).

Collage: School of Music artists in one riveting work after another.



Opera’s Outlaw masters Mozart

Internationally recognized baritone Sidney Outlaw ’04 returns to Greensboro as the lead cast member in Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” Oct. 24-27. David Holley, who leads UNCG Opera, will conduct this production for Greensboro Opera, which has many ties with UNCG. See a 2012 archived cover feature on Outlaw at magazine.uncg.edu.



Outtake

CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH? Each year, CHANCE camp hosts Latinx/Hispanic rising high school juniors and seniors. This past summer, 96 campers stayed in the Ragsdale Mendenhall residence hall for four days. The prospective students learned about University life, services, and programs from a team of 20 Spartan mentors and four Spartan student coordinators. On the final day, campers signed each other's shirts. Who knows, some of them might meet again – as enrolled students!

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ROW '09, '16 MFA

“We cannot tell the precise moment friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over.” – James Boswell



WONDERFULLY

WICKED

AS DOMINICK AMENDUM '01 RAISES UNCG'S MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM TO NEW HEIGHTS, HE'S ALSO DEFYING GRAVITY AS THE PRODUCTION MUSIC SUPERVISOR OF THE BLOCKBUSTER FILM ADAPTATION OF "WICKED."

BY MERCER BUTER '11 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '13

Dominick Amendum '01,
Coordinator of UNCG's
Musical Theatre Program,
Professor of Musical Theatre
Performance, and resident
Music Director

H E WASN'T IN KANSAS ANYMORE. HE WASN'T EVEN IN GREENSBORO.

"Every day was a 'pinch me' moment," says Smart-Tillman Artist-in-Residence Dominick Amendum '01, production music supervisor for "Wicked," the two-film adaptation of the Broadway musical that first opened in 2003. Anticipation is high for the films, the first of which premieres this November. Amendum is working with serious stars, including Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo.

"First I'm doing a rehearsal with Jeff Goldblum (who plays the Wizard) in his trailer, and then I'm walking on set in the Emerald City. Every day was like, 'Is this real?'" he laughs.

Another surreal moment? "Michelle Yeoh was literally getting off the plane from winning an Academy Award for 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' and then walking into music rehearsals."

But he had even more reason to feel like he was dreaming. "Wicked" has been one of the biggest stage musicals of the 21st century, and Amendum has been part of the story for nearly two decades. He first joined it in 2006, quickly became its conductor, and toured nationally with the show. He has conducted the show thousands of times both on Broadway and in cities across the United States.

Based on the book "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West" by Gregory Maguire, "Wicked" riffs on the world of "The Wizard of Oz" before Dorothy's arrival.

“THERE’S SOMETHING VERY HUMAN ABOUT THEATRE BECAUSE IN A LIVE PERFORMANCE, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN.”

The UNCG Musical Theatre program accepts 1-2% of applicants. For the 2024-25 academic year, they accepted 10 out of more than 800 applicants.

The show took off quickly, winning a Tony for Idina Menzel, the first actress to play the “wicked” witch Elphaba, in 2004. Its popularity grew: on Broadway, in touring productions, and in smaller productions nationally and internationally.

In December 2013, “Wicked” became the first Broadway musical to gross over \$3 million in one week, according to Playbill. In 2023, Variety reported the show was the fourth-longest running in Broadway history, had been nominated for 20 Tony awards, had earned over \$5 billion in global ticket sales, and had been seen by an estimated 65 million people (all venues).

The secret to its success might be the relatable story at its core. “The love story of ‘Wicked’ is the love story between two friends, Elphaba and Glinda,” Amendum says. “That’s what makes it so universal. I think that’s something many people can understand.”

Instead of ruby slippers, its iconic costuming includes a black witch’s hat and broom. “Wicked” trades “good” and “evil” for a morally nuanced story that puts two complicated friends – Elphaba, the “Wicked” Witch of the West, and Glinda the Good – at its center.

The movies’ director, John M. Chu, wanted Oz and the Emerald City to feel as real as possible. Universal Pictures’ featurette “Building the World of Wicked” noted even a train the characters ride is real – and weighs 16 tons!

“When you see kids running through a tulip field in the film, none of that is computer-generated. They literally planted 9 million tulips,” Amendum says. “It was truly spectacular.”

“Wicked” was filmed in Leavesden Studios in Watford, England; at Sky Studios, a new studio opened by Comcast Universal; and on custom-made sets constructed in the English countryside. The witches of Oz weren’t the first “magic act” in Leavesden, either. The Harry Potter movies were also partially filmed there.

As production music supervisor for the films, Amendum has wide-ranging responsibilities for the musical elements of “Wicked.” “On the artistic side of it, it’s no longer me creating something – it’s me encouraging and coaching people to get a performance out of them,” he says.

The team worked on vocals and music in a specially-built recording studio in Borehamwood (UK) for nearly a year. But most of the vocals by Grande, Erivo, and the cast were recorded live. It was important to director John M. Chu “to capture the emotion and singular moments that existed on set,” Amendum explains. The spirit of live theatre was strong in the Emerald City.

How did he get here? He had his own Yellow Brick Road: UNCG’s College Avenue.

PASSION FOR PIANO

Amendum says he has loved many parts of the theatre throughout his life, from his first role on stage (acting the role of “Little Jake” in “Annie Get Your Gun”) to his interest in arranging, musical direction, and conducting.

It all grew out of his love for the piano. Amendum guesses he was two or three years old when he first sat down at the keyboard. Initially taught by his mother and sister, he later studied classical piano with advanced teachers. He was also influenced by the music around him.

“I grew up listening to Billy Joel, and that’s still probably my go-to if I sit down to fiddle around on the piano,” Amendum says. This mix of pop sensibility and serious musicianship turned out to be the perfect fit for “Wicked.”

WONDERFULLY WICKED

The show uses both rock instrumentation and a classical orchestra. “It was literally like someone drew a line down the middle of the pit and put a rock band to your right and a symphonic section to your left. And as a conductor, you’re trying to marry the two.”

At UNCG, he was mentored by Dr. Joseph DiPiazza, professor emeritus of piano, and Benton Hess, a noted conductor of opera and UNCG’s Marion Stedman Covington Distinguished Professor from 1994 to 2000. “Dom hit the ground running, and he didn’t stop running for four years. He had expertise in so many different genres of music, not just piano,” says DiPiazza.

Upon graduation, Amendum was prepared for a bright career. As if swept away by a tornado, he left for New York, never thinking that he’d one day return.

CAREER COLLABORATION

“Stephen Schwartz has been my hero ever since I understood what musical theatre was and what musicals were,” says Amendum. And with good reason.

Schwartz is a Broadway legend who won his first Grammy in 1972 for the original cast album of “Godspell” and also won in 2005 for best musical show album for “Wicked.” He won Oscars for original songs in the animated musicals “Pocahontas” (1995) and “The Prince of Egypt” (1998).

But Amendum’s respect for Schwartz is based on something more than his iconic status. “At the end of the day, Stephen supports the people around him to do their best work,” he says.

As Amendum’s career was getting started, his high school chorus teacher was able to arrange a meeting for him with Schwartz. That’s something the Broadway legend has done consistently for young artists, Amendum says.

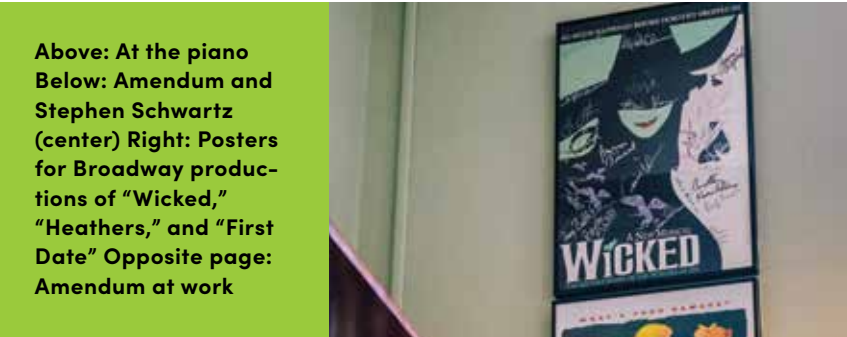
“I went to his apartment on the west side of Manhattan and had tea with him,” Amendum recalls. “I got to tell him how much I loved his work.” Amendum didn’t know he would eventually work with Schwartz on two major shows.

Years later, after working on national tours of other musicals, Amendum got an opportunity that he says, “was like getting drafted into the NFL.” Another of his mentors from UNCG, Professor Emerita of Voice Carla LeFevre, recalls that turning point. She was visiting Amendum in New York.

“We were having coffee,” she remembers. Amendum left to take a phone call. “He comes back and it looks like the blood has gone out of his face. He says, ‘I just got offered the national tour of ‘Wicked.’”

He began as associate conductor and rapidly rose, taking on multiple roles with “Wicked” between 2006 and 2017. These included conducting, music directing, and even managing touring productions off Broadway that took the show across the U.S.

After his time with the national stage tour of “Wicked,” but before his involvement with the films, Amendum worked on another project with Schwartz: the stage adaptation of the 1998 DreamWorks animated musical “The Prince of Egypt,” which tells the story of Moses as he discovers his Jewish heritage and seeks to free his people from Egypt.



Above: At the piano
Below: Amendum and Stephen Schwartz
(center) Right: Posters for Broadway productions of “Wicked,” “Heathers,” and “First Date” Opposite page: Amendum at work



“AS A MUSIC DIRECTOR, IT’S NOT ME CREATING SOMETHING – IT’S ME GUIDING OTHER PEOPLE TO CREATE THEIR OWN ARTISTRY.”

“We started developing the stage version in the summer of 2015,” he remembers. “DreamWorks Universal had gotten many requests to do the stage version of ‘The Prince of Egypt,’ but it didn’t exist.”

Amendum had a huge role in the adaptation. “It’s a show I poured my heart and soul into, and Stephen gave me incredible freedom as an arranger to develop his iconic score for the stage.”

That investment of time and energy takes years. “It was a five-year journey from the start to the West End, which is pretty typical,” explains Amendum. The show opened in London in February 2020.

Amendum says the show has two things he values in music: emotion and drama. “Music absolutely changes your mood. As a musical arranger, you’re taking people on a ride like a roller coaster engineer does. Emotionally, ‘The Prince of Egypt’ is a powerful piece of theatre with really high highs and really low lows.”

He adds, “High stakes, larger-than-life sagas are what people like to see.” They’re also what both Amendum and Schwartz like to write. How did their collaboration feel?

“I remember one day we were working on something,” Amendum recalls. “He was singing and I was playing. We finished one song, and he turned to me and said, ‘This is why I like collaborating with you – you just get it.’ I will never forget that moment. We had just made music together, and we each felt where the other was going. I find it very easy to filter his music through my humanity and my heart and my fingers.”

FROM OZ TO “WICKED”

Stories of Oz have made their mark for over a century. “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” was published by L. Frank Baum in 1900, and the Judy Garland film classic came out in 1939. 1974’s “The Wiz” told the tale with an all-Black cast. Today, “Wicked” strikes a chord.

“For a large population of theatre-makers, ‘Wicked’ was an entry point to their career and their love for theatre,” says UNCG senior Ella Frederickson. “It’s timeless, when you think about it. We’re talking about friendship and the hardships of feeling ‘othered’ because of your skin color.”

Musical theatre student Miranda Macasero is from Greensboro. Her classmate, close friend, and roommate Sanchi Pandey came from out-of-state to attend UNCG’s program. They discovered “Wicked” together.

“And after discovering it, I was like, ‘Oh, I am 1000% an Elphaba!’” jokes Macasero.

Pandey? “Definitely more of a Glinda! That is easily a dream role for me.”

For Avilon Tate ’24, Oz has been key to his career in the theatre since his first role in a Greensboro production of “The Wizard of Oz” when he was a child. Today he calls “Wicked” his “personal favorite show of all time” and remembers seeing it onstage. “We sat right in the mezzanine. My acting teacher was right beside me, and my mom was there beside me, too.”

This year, he’s been on Broadway himself as a cast member in “The Wiz,” which began its run in April. “Going to Broadway, it all felt like a whirlwind. But once we were settled into our theatre and we were up and running, it was joyous,” says Tate, who is just one example of the many UNCG musical theatre majors who are now building professional careers in both regional and national productions.

The Musical Theatre program launched in 2018, and its prestige has

UNCG’s “Godspell”



Some of UNCG’s Musical Theatre productions include “Godspell,” “The SpongeBob Musical,” and “Into the Woods.”

“WE’RE ABOUT 50% IN-STATE, BUT PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ARE SAYING, ‘I WANT TO BE AT UNCG. IT’S THE PROGRAM FOR ME.’”

UNCG’s “Into the Woods”



UNCG’s “The SpongeBob Musical”



“DOM TREATED US LIKE WE WERE ALREADY ON BROADWAY. THAT PREPARED ME FOR MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER.”

– AVILON TATE ’24, CAST MEMBER OF “THE WIZ” ON BROADWAY

grown quickly. For the 2024-25 academic year, it accepted about 1% of its more than 800 applicants.

“We’re still about 50% in-state,” says Amendum, “but the vast majority of our applicants are from out-of-state. Our program is widely considered one of the top in the nation. People from all over the country are saying, ‘This is my dream school.’”

PROFESSOR DOM

The students know the steps and they know the music. They’re rehearsing with their teacher, who’s keeping an eye on choreography and blocking, musical phrasing, student voice and pitch, and the overall feeling of the performances. They call him Dom.

“Stop! How far are we from ‘position one?’” he asks the performers. “Pretty far!” they yell.

“We’ll use these four bars as ‘traveling music’ to get back to position one,” Dom says. “We’re gonna speed through it one more time.”

When Amendum began teaching at UNCG in 2015 on a part-time basis, he wasn’t sure how it would go. “I could have come down here from New York for a couple of years and then said, ‘Oh, this isn’t for me,’” Amendum explains. That didn’t happen.

As DiPiazza says, “He’s gone full-circle now. He started out in the Brown Building as a student, had a career on Broadway, and came back as faculty in the University where it all started.”

And to see him work with his freshmen in the 120-seat black-box performance space, you could be forgiven for thinking that the Sprinkle Theatre was on Broadway.

“In my work as a music director and music supervisor, I don’t enter the room differently whether it’s a bunch of undergraduates getting their BFA degrees or whether it’s Cynthia Erivo,” he says. Erivo is the Grammy- and Tony Award-winning star playing Elphaba. “The work is not different. That’s something I feel really passionate about.”

Amendum’s class is rehearsing cabaret projects. It’s a demanding and intimate kind of performance that matches the feeling of the program: prestigious and defined by seeing its students as three-dimensional individuals with meaningful stories.

“Dom puts so much focus on each of his students. He wants us to be ourselves because what makes us interesting as artists is that we’re all different as people,” says Macasero.

Finding what Dom calls “access to excellence” is no accident. It’s how the program is designed, he says. “In most programs, you’re not going to have a class with the coordinator of the program until you’re a junior or senior.”

His students have multiple courses with him. He also can give them tips about the industry. “He helps us make our book of audition songs, and we do mock auditions,” says Pandey. “He has spent so long behind the audition table on Broadway and on films, he was able to really tell us what the industry is looking for.”

As hard as they are working, the students are also having fun. There is still room for their ideas, their reactions, their spirits. Amendum creates that feeling on purpose.

“The best projects I’ve been involved in are the projects where everyone has room to bring their own creativity and



Working with first-year BFA students in Sprinkle Theatre.



collaboration into the space. From the lighting and scenic designer to the arranger and music supervisor and orchestrator,” he says.

The group begins rehearsing a number from “Avenue Q,” rewritten to be a funny take on student life at UNCG. It should have the energy of a Sesame Street tune. “We all need to be playing with that tone,” Dom tells the cast. “It’s not serious – don’t sing it like it’s Sondheim.”

The students go back to position one to run through it again. Rehearsal continues.

RETURN TO OZ

“When I left New York City, my days with ‘Wicked’ were done. Or so I thought,” Amendum recalls. He last worked on the stage show in 2017. When he got the opportunity to work on the films, he was surprised and delighted.

But even if he knew the songs and the music, working on such a monumental film project was new to him. Instead of raising the curtains in Act I and closing them at the end, in a movie, scenes are shot out of sequence. “You need to depend on others in the production,” Amendum says.

“Our brilliant director, Jon M. Chu, walked on set every day with an incredibly artistic plan about how he was going to tell this story. So much happens after they say ‘Cut!’ You see it months later and you’re



“THE ‘WICKED’ PRODUCTION TEAM ARE WORLD-CLASS STORYTELLERS. THEY WANT TO DO JUSTICE TO THIS SHOW THAT PEOPLE LOVE SO MUCH.”



like, ‘Wow, I never imagined it was going to look like that!’”

At the same time, there are some common elements that unite film and theatre, he says.

“At the end of the day, you’re telling a story, you’re looking for the humanity of certain characters, you’re looking for actors who are connected to the material.” He saw this in the stars of the film, Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, he adds.

Grande is a Grammy-winning singer, an actress, and an entrepreneur. She has had nine No. 1 hits on the Billboard charts and has sold millions of records worldwide. She made her Broadway debut in 2008, when she was just 15 years old.

She’s more than a pop star, he says. “I think some people are going to be surprised by the kind of singer she is. She’s amazingly gifted.”

Erivo is a Tony- and Grammy Award-winning actress and singer who made her Broadway debut in 2015, starring in “The Color Purple.”

Amendum was amazed by the passion he witnessed on the “Wicked” film set.

“Cynthia Erivo was in harnesses doing full stunt work while singing ‘Defying Gravity,’ her character’s signature song. I said to one of the behind-the-scenes people, ‘Please get this on camera so that people understand it’s not a film trick.’ She’s actually doing it!”

The same was true of Grande. “She was there to do the work. She grew up on ‘Wicked’ and was really concerned with honoring Glinda and honoring all the women who have played that role before her,” says Amendum. “There was never any ‘celebrity’ with her.”

The best thing about their performances? “Both Cynthia and Ariana are incredibly deep emotional wells. They’re both really connected to their own humanity and their own emotional journeys.”

That sounds a lot like Dom.

SEE “WICKED” RELATED VIDEOS AND THE UNCG MUSICAL THEATRE LINEUP.

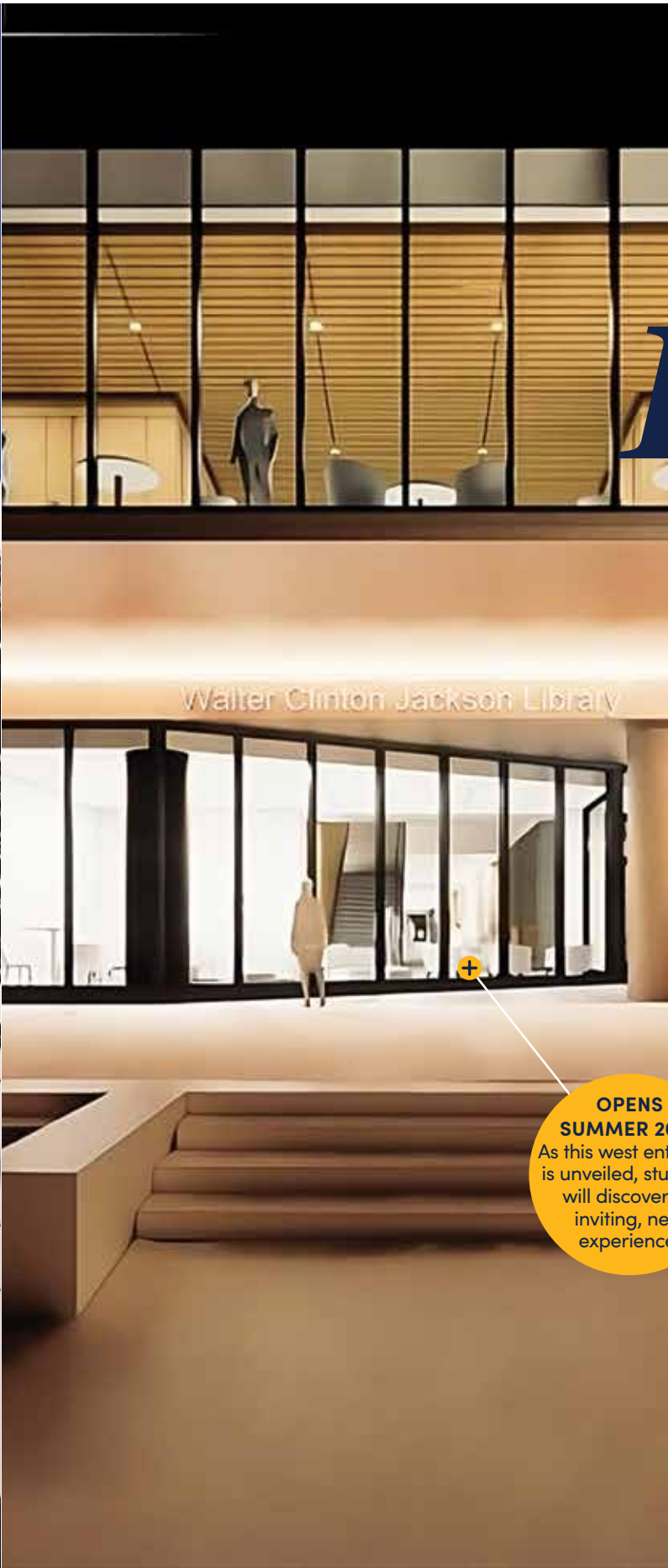




FRONT PORTICO
This entryway, of marble and brass, will keep its well-loved appearance.



TOWER ENHANCED
A new entryway, with adjoining plaza, will welcome patrons.



OPENS SUMMER 2026
As this west entrance is unveiled, students will discover an inviting, new experience.

Meet you at the Library

The way students use their library has changed. Now, with a transformative renovation, Jackson Library will elevate students' learning for decades to come.

BY MIKE HARRIS '93 MA • RENDERINGS BY SHEPLEY BULFINCH AND EDSA, ARCHIVAL VISUALS COURTESY UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

With WWII deprivations receding and the campus' student body growing, college leaders and supporters pressed for funding for a library that would meet the needs of its students. In 1950, that building opened. In 1973, a tower was added, housing most of the growing book collection. Since that time, every other UNC System university has seen major updates to its library. Now, Jackson Library – thanks to funding earmarked by the NC Legislature and signed by the governor – will elevate its place as the University's central intellectual space, where learning, knowledge creation, and community are fostered in an inviting setting.

"The library is the heart of campus," says Michael Crumpton, dean of University Libraries. "It's centrally located enough on the main campus that you're in the flow for all needs – our student union on one side, dining hall on another. And with an entrance on all four sides, it'll be literally the campus' crossroads."

Students' needs are at the fore with this project, and focus groups and listening sessions helped show what they want and need.

The library's environment will be welcoming, which was a theme among the students' wishes. "That can mean

“It’ll be literally the campus’ crossroads.”

— MICHAEL CRUMPTON,
DEAN OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

connection to nature,” the dean says. “It can mean having a diverse set of spaces. We want it to be inclusive.”

Aside from areas for studying and quietly working, there’ll be “The Hub,” which also is responsive to students’ desires. It’s a place for relaxation. An enhanced vending area for drinks and snacks, a space for stress relief, and a neurodiverse area are some offerings.

Parents will have a child-friendly space.

And, of course, there’s respect for the print collection, the dean notes.

During the construction project on the tower, many books are being temporarily moved, but the great majority will return. “Anything a faculty member, student, or anyone else wants will be secured for them,” Crumpton says. “We’ve also been buying a lot of electronic resources.” He notes that students gravitate toward these.

“When the project is completed, it’s going to have the right mix of what people need,” he adds.

The comprehensive renovation includes updating the existing mechanical, electrical, plumbing, life safety, and audiovisual systems. It will also address accessibility (ADA requirements) and universal design, one example being providing ample spacing between the rows of bookshelves in the tower.



Some other features that’ll be big news:

- A prominent new entryway on the west tower, near the Walker Avenue traffic circle, will become a welcoming face toward what many students consider the heart of campus.
- To bring the outdoors in (another request from students), the “perch” above the western entrance, looking toward the Quad and Kaplan Commons, will provide a peaceful reading and relaxing space.
- A feeling of openness drives the interior architecture. A nature-inspired palette, with nods to wood, stone, and bronze metal, will be enlivened by pops of color as you walk through.
- A new entrance to the lower level on the original building’s north side – facing Moran Commons and South Spencer – will provide even more accessibility.

One thing that will be practically unchanged? The eastern front portico. “We’re going to maintain the historic columns, the entry portico, and the marble that you see,” says University Architect and Director of Facilities Design & Construction David Friedman. As you enter, the foyer

will maintain much of the existing marble on the wall and original stair. Beyond, you’ll be stunned by a glimpse of daylight through the library’s “main street” straight ahead.

That may be the biggest surprise. “University libraries used to be very wooden, closed spaces. Now, at our library, you’ll have a sense of transparency,” says Dr. LaTasha Velez, professor in the Library and Information Services program and member of the library project’s design oversight committee.

She was once a librarian at Jackson, and her academic research has focused on library spaces and what younger students need. In a nutshell, the project will deliver three key things: Quiet spaces for those students looking for silence, spaces for collaborating with classmates on projects, and “access to tech resources, software, and reference librarians right there in the library.”

“Shushing was not what students wanted.”

— DR. LATESHA VELEZ, LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

History of Libraries at UNC Greensboro

“No Institution without a good library can reasonably hope to send into the world graduates with a literary spirit.”

— FOUNDING PRESIDENT CHARLES DUNCAN MCIVER

1892 First Library in Main Building (Foust)



When our campus’ doors opened Oct. 5, 1892, the tiny library was in a Main Building classroom. President McIver provided its first books from his own collection, an alumni magazine reported. Two years later, a larger room was secured. Annie Petty, recognized as the first professionally trained librarian employed in North Carolina, had charge of the textbooks. The circulation record was kept in a ledger, students and faculty listed alphabetically, with titles of books by each name.

1905 Carnegie Library Opens

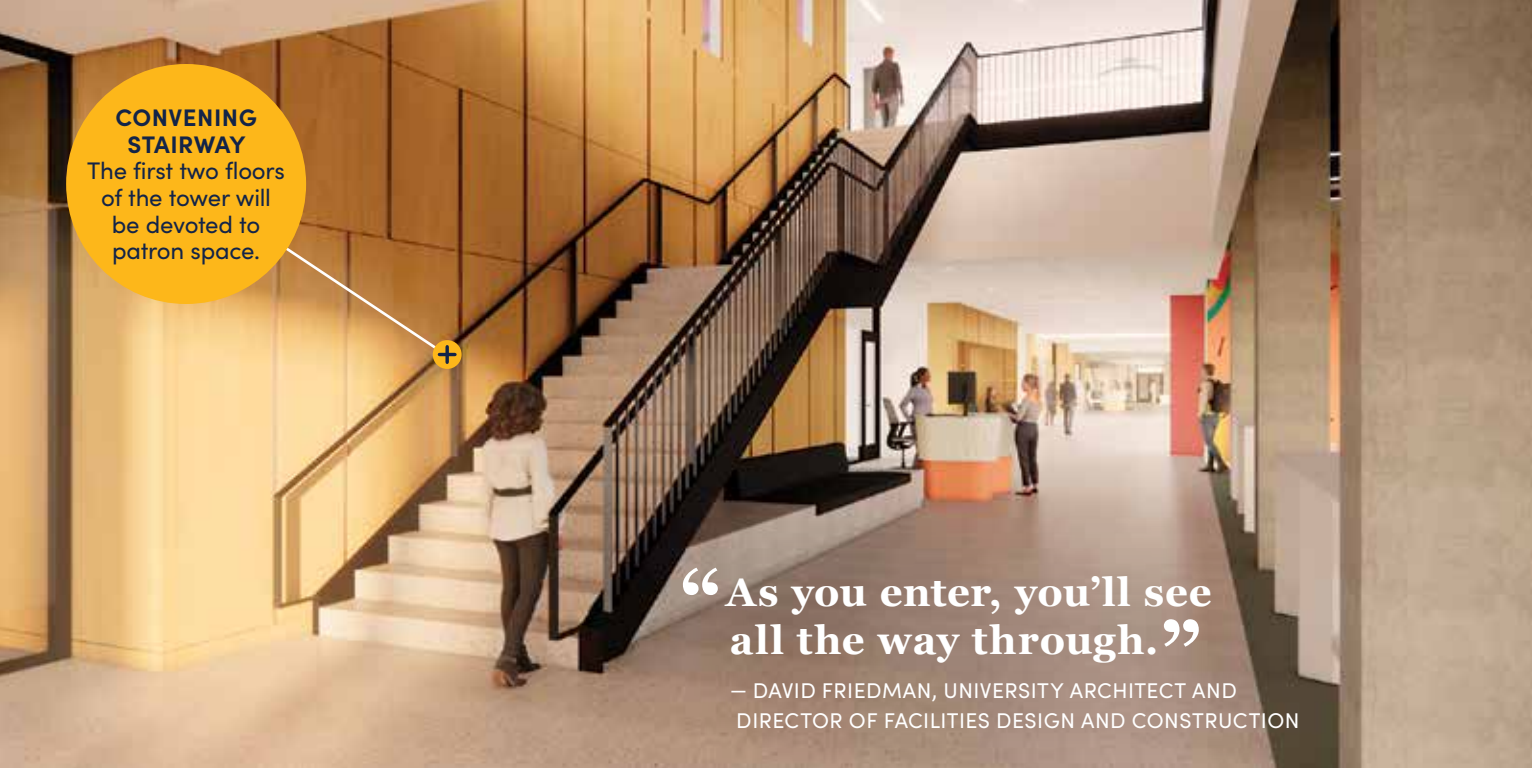


McIver convinced philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to fund a library building (his second in Greensboro and his first ever to a college). It opened in 1905, with Petty in charge. Carnegie added nearly \$4,000 to his original gift of \$15,000 for furniture and shelving, for a total cost of \$18,868 (roughly \$65.5 million today). Today, it’s known as Forney Building.

1932 Fire Damages Carnegie Library



In 1932, a fire damaged the Carnegie Library building and many of its books. Even today, the University Archives (SCUA) preserves some of those charred or singed books. While the building underwent repairs, temporary quarters for the library were set up in Students’ Building across College Avenue, but the building soon reopened.



CONVENING STAIRWAY
The first two floors of the tower will be devoted to patron space.

“As you enter, you’ll see all the way through.”

— DAVID FRIEDMAN, UNIVERSITY ARCHITECT AND DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION



LOTS OF GLASS
Students will see inside the library, into an inviting space.

VISION OF SPRING 2028

A Spartan artist who specializes in murals recently painted scenes of the final project, so students and faculty will know what to expect.

“They can see how cool it’s going to look,” says Natalie Robinson ’23, an art major who had spent plenty of time in Jackson. Brush in hand, she points out spaces and features to passers-by as she continues her work. She loves the idea of the lightness, the airiness. “You’ll be able to see from one end to the other,” she says.



CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

PHASE 1 - West 1970s:
17 months (from Feb. 2025 to June 2026)

PHASE 2 - East 1950s:
15 months (from Sept. 2026 to Nov. 2027)

CAPACITY TOTALS	CURRENT	PROJECTED
Total patron space	36,901 sq. ft.	73,429 sq. ft.
Seating capacity	1,200 students	2,250 students
Teaching space	5,943 sq. ft.	7,236 sq. ft.
Student study space	253 students	485 students
Student wellness space	0 sq. ft.	840 sq. ft.

Academic success is paramount, Crumpton says. “It’ll be as close to a one-stop-shop as you could achieve.” Some highlights will include the UNCG Information Technology Services help desk, the Academic Achievement Center, the tutoring component for the Student Success Center, the Digital Media Commons, and many reference librarians.

Velez notes libraries are not as quiet as they once were. Perhaps students never wanted quiet in every part of the library, anyway. “Shushing was not what they wanted. It may have been what librarians wanted,” she explains.

The full project will be completed by Spring 2028. The northern section of Kaplan Commons will be fenced in and used as a staging area for construction materials and equipment.

SEE MORE, ABOUT THE PROJECT.

1948 Jackson Library Groundbreaking

After WWII ended, the NC Legislature allocated funds for a new library and equipment. The City agreed to close Walker Avenue, which ran straight through campus, providing a central site for it. In this 1948 photo is Chancellor Jackson, with shovel, on Walker Avenue. UNC System President Frank Porter Graham is closest to him.

1950 Jackson Library Opens

The new library, which opened in 1950, was named for former Chancellor Jackson in 1960. It was designed by firm Northrup O’Brien for a capacity of 300,000 volumes and facilities to accommodate 3,000 undergraduates.

1973 Jackson Library Tower Opens

By 1973, the number of volumes grew to 539,161, with serial subscriptions numbering 4,575 and 207,170 additional holdings in microtext. The “tower of books,” as a 1973 alumni magazine called the tower addition, was designed by firm Odell Associates. Floors two through nine shelved the bulk of the collection and featured 64 faculty studies, 184 built-in carrels for graduate students, and eight typing rooms.

PAID INTERNSHIPS. PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS.

UNCG IS PREPARING UNDERGRADS – FROM HUMANITIES
MAJORS TO BUSINESS MAJORS – **FOR REAL-WORLD SUCCESS.**
IT'S NOT JUST MAKING A LIVING. **IT'S MAKING YOUR MARK.**

BY ELIZABETH KERI AND MIKE HARRIS '93 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '13

Pinball machines and a ping-pong table complementing software development deadlines may not be what you'd expect. But every job culture is different. Undergraduates are discovering just that – and learning where they'll best thrive.

Xtern Software was the morning's first stop on UNCG's mid-summer "internships trek," providing opportunity for UNCG staff to see interns in their day-to-day settings. This Greensboro company's interns are all UNCG students, and more than 75% of their staff are Spartan alumni.

"We've had paid internships here since the very beginning. I'm very pro education, but I'm pro experience, too," says Keir Davis '00 MS, a computer science master's graduate who created the company. "If you blend the two with having an internship, you have a really good chance of being successful."

Andrea Bonola '24 turned her 2023 internship there into a full-time developer position. A Penn School of the Arts graduate from High Point, she's "a fan of giving back to the community," and this business fits the bill. Its community service, where each employee teaches computer literacy at the United Way's Family Success Centers, has earned accolades.

She and Dom Simmons '23, whose workspace is near hers – both of them with their backs to a Donkey Kong console and KISS pinball machine when a break is warranted – liked how they were able to "use all their muscles" in their internships.

Simmons at first did front-end work, but told Davis that design was an interest. "He allowed me to start making mockups, UI/UX (user interface/user experience) type things," Simmons says. "I thought that was pretty cool – that I was not limited to what I was hired on for, but I got to branch off."

Later stops on the internships trek included O.Henry Hotel, where rising junior Jasmyne Caudle learns different facets of the hotel business – mostly working with customers at the front desk. It's part of her 600 internship hours that are mandatory for the Bryan School's hospitality and tourism majors and complements two other summer jobs, so she can graduate with as little debt as possible. She loves bringing joy, she enjoys everything about travel and hotels, and her winning smile lights up the oak-paneled room.

At the final destination, Action Greensboro's downtown office, Campus Greensboro fellows Ashley Oliva, a senior in finance and marketing, and recent graduate Mykaila Brown '24 (sociology/WGSS) glow about the connections they've made over the summer. Student Engagement Manager Mary-Helen Kolousek '23, who was a UNCG business administration and marketing major, noted that 27 of the summer's fellows were Spartans – a new record.

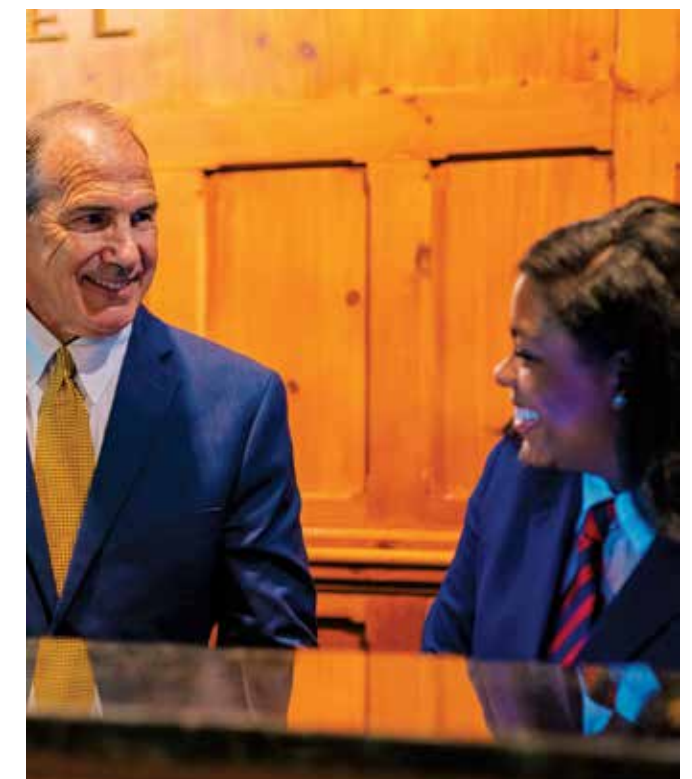
POWER OF PAID INTERNSHIPS

Some themes heard repeatedly during the day? Discover the type of work environment where you'll thrive and where your ideals will be fulfilled. And never underestimate the value of an internship.

\$20K

HIGHER PAY OFFER

HAVE A PAID INTERNSHIP? YOUR FIRST
JOB OFFER WILL BE \$20K HIGHER THAN
THOSE WITH AN UNPAID INTERNSHIP.



Top: Jasmyne Caudle, a UNCG intern with O.Henry Hotel in Greensboro. Above: Michael Reynolds, mentor and board member, Bryan School Hospitality and Tourism, with Caudle at the O.Henry Hotel front desk.

INNOVATIVE INTERNSHIPS

And yes, all the internships on the trek are paid.

“There’s been some paradigm shift over the past 20 years where now most internships are paid,” says Emily Linden, communications director at Xtern. Earlier, there were obvious inequalities in opportunity. Some students could not afford to take unpaid internships.

“It had ramifications in terms of who could (ultimately) do what job.” Lifelong and even multi-generational repercussions were the result.

Should a student quit their part-time job in order to pursue an unpaid internship that could transform their career prospects? At a University striving for greater opportunity for all students, should they have to?

HUMANITIES AT WORK

For STEM and business majors, internship options tend to be relatively clear-cut: software development, human resources, lab research. Humanities majors, on the other hand, often have a harder go at it.

“We’re told all the time that internships are crucial, but actually landing one is tough,” says Wesley Britt ’23, a recent graduate of UNCG’s English Department. Britt reflects that he was involved in several clubs, received accolades, and served as a University Marshal. But after completing over 150 applications, Britt received responses from just two internship opportunities – both unpaid.

Many humanities majors can relate. Not only can internships be slim pickings, but if they do find a potential match, students majoring in philosophy or history, for example, can struggle to convince employers of their qualifications. They may have the skills employers crave – strong communication, critical thinking, and cultural awareness – but humanities majors still battle bias about their career-readiness.

LAYING A NEW FOUNDATION

Excitingly, UNCG’s College of Arts and Sciences has broken ground on a new initiative to address these challenges. Called “Humanities at Work,” this innovative internship and educational program promises to bring 650 paid internships over five years to students majoring in one of the University’s nine humanities disciplines: English; history; philosophy; ancient Mediterranean studies; international and global studies; languages, literatures, and cultures; religious studies;

HUMANITIES@WORK



650
PAID INTERNSHIPS
OVER 5 YEARS TO HUMANITIES MAJORS,
THANKS TO \$5 MILLION MELLON
FOUNDATION GRANT

HUMANITIES AT WORK is leading the way in internship innovation, serving as a national model for closing equity gaps. Shown above (l-r) Dr. Megan Walters in Career and Professional Development; Dr. Jen Feather, professor and head of the Department of English; Dr. Heather Adams, an English professor; Dr. Lauren Shook, the program’s internship coordinator; and Dr. Maura Heyn, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and a professor of ancient Mediterranean studies.

“HUMANITIES AT WORK
IS A GAME-CHANGER.”
— CHANCELLOR GILLIAM

women’s, gender, and sexuality studies; and African American and African diaspora studies. The internship program is funded by one of the largest grants in UNCG history – \$5 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

“The project will not only provide hundreds of UNCG humanities students with high-quality, paid internship experiences,” says Chancellor Gilliam, “but it will also help them

to articulate the value of their humanities degree to potential employers, translating to fulfilling careers.”

The program – often shortened to “H@W” – has an innovative model. Over one academic year, students will work in small groups on a guided, paid internship with local nonprofit partners. Simultaneously, they will also be enrolled in a Humanities at Work course. The class will help direct the students’ internship

projects while also teaching them valuable skills for translating their humanities-based strengths into work beyond the classroom.

“The cohort model is one feature that sets Humanities at Work apart, even from other internship programs with a curricular element,” says Dr. Heather Adams, an English professor and a principal investigator on the project. “Instead of one intern, it’s a team, which enables students to learn from one another and become peer mentors.”

This group-based model also simulates professional work situations, while the course provides a space for students to make sense of any new and challenging experiences they might encounter “on the job.”

Student feedback has been infused throughout every phase of developing Humanities at Work. But to ensure success, such a program needs to consider the needs of employers, too.

That’s one reason why the H@W team has collaborated with the Guilford Nonprofit Consortium, a key partner in connecting interns and nonprofit sites. By coordinating efforts to interview, place, and train interns at these sites, the program hopes to take pressure off employers. Providing class time and guidance on students’ internship projects will further help nonprofits develop capacity to support their missions.

Another key to success? Working closely with Dr. Megan Walters in Career and Professional Development (CPD).

“Together, we’re making sure that what we’re building aligns with what businesses and nonprofits are actually looking for, while also meeting the needs of our unique student body,” says Adams.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

While highly innovative in approach, H@W has its roots in a longstanding collaboration at UNCG: Liberal Arts Advantage (LAA). Started by UNCG’s Humanities Network and Consortium (HNAC) in partnership with CPD, Liberal Arts Advantage has been helping students communicate the value of their liberal arts education since 2017. It has spread its message through classroom visits, alumni networking opportunities, and workshops. Now, with Humanities at Work, it’s time to add paid internships – and the program’s novel curricular cohort model – to the mix.

H@W will launch its pilot semester this spring. The leaders have already secured three partner sites: The Greensboro History

XTERN SOFTWARE



Top left: Keir Davis ’00 MS,
Xtern’s president and
founder; top right:
developers: l-r, Juan Pablo
Marin Higuaita, Andrea
Bonola ’24, Dom Simmons
’23, and Japp Galang ’22;
middle left: UNCG intern
Logan Roberts with web
developer Sean Edwards
’23; middle right: Andrea
Bonola ’24, Dom Simmons
’23; left: UNCG interns
Dragon Phiansin and
Samuel Johnson

Museum, the Weatherspoon Art Museum, and Abundant Life Ministries.

And they’ve hired Lauren Shook ’15 PhD to serve as internship coordinator and instructor of the Humanities at Work course. A graduate of UNCG’s English PhD program, Dr. Shook knows firsthand the value of a humanities degree.

“I’m most excited about helping students advocate for their passions so they can live out meaningful careers and lives,” she says.

The pilot program will start with 15 students but will eventually expand to serve an estimated 650 students and 130 nonprofits over the Mellon grant’s five-year period.

Sustaining H@W past the grant’s five-year timeline is a top priority for the team. Through individual donations and supplemental grants,

the team is confident that Humanities at Work will become a staple program of UNCG, one that other institutions will look to for inspiration.

“We know that access to a paid, high-quality internship can change the entire trajectory of a person’s career,” says Adams. “That’s why we’re working hard to ensure such opportunities are available to all UNCG students – humanities majors included.”

CAREERS AND THE REAL WORLD

We caught up with Dr. Megan Walters, director of Career and Professional Development, as her office was preparing for another internship trek, this time to Syngenta, Furnitureland South, and Greensboro Chamber of Commerce.

INNOVATIVE INTERNSHIPS

“Our goal is that 95% of the internships we’re advertising are paid. Unpaid internships are a barrier,” she says.

How so? The majority of UNCG students have a part-time job. They need that paycheck to get by.

“Someone who had a paid internship in college receives, on average, a first job offer at a salary \$20,000 higher than a person who had an unpaid internship,” she says. “That’s just comparing students who are paid and unpaid. That doesn’t even factor in students who had an internship versus those who didn’t.”

Conversely, Triad employers increasingly value their internship programs, Walters explains. “Of the Guilford County employers surveyed in 2023, over 50% said internships are a main source of their full-time recruitment goals.”

Employers in the Triad who’ve seen too many of their interns leave North Carolina upon graduation are upping their recruitment of interns from UNCG, she added. Their reason? UNCG data show many recent graduates want to stay in the Triad. As a matter of fact, more than 40,000 of UNCG’s 145,000 alumni live within 25 miles of campus.

8 OF 10 EMPLOYERS

NATIONALLY SAY INTERNSHIPS PROVIDE BEST ROI AS A RECRUITING STRATEGY.

SOURCE: NATIONAL ASSN. OF COLLEGES & EMPLOYERS

A CAPITAL STEP

FIVE UNDERGRADS INTERNED in Washington, D.C., last summer, thanks to a partnership with The Washington Center offering real-world experience, course credit hours, and housing accommodations. Using state funding and the “Build A Better Tomorrow” program with Reynolds American, UNCG offered five scholarships for the summer program. Finance major Tyler Whitaker was placed with the National Labor Relations Board. Grant Pareja

brought his biology acumen to Off the Battlefield Foundation. Psychology major Taylor Hall worked with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Jessica Diaz with Cynuria Consulting, and Molly Jones with Generations for Peace, USA.

One of the best features of the program? “Networking with students from diverse backgrounds and areas,” Whitaker said.

— Becky Deakins

CAMPUS GREENSBORO



Top: UNCG intern Ashley Oliva at Campus Greensboro Day; above, left: UNCG intern Mykaila Brown '24 at Campus Greensboro Day; above, right: Student Engagement Manager Mary-Helen Kolousek '23.

Simply put, they want their interns to become employees and develop their careers here. Many Spartans want to build their lives here. It’s win-win.

Of course, many potential internships are out of state: Chicago, Manhattan, Los Angeles. Adequate pay, to offset housing and transportation, is key for most UNCG students presented with that possibly life-changing opportunity. In some instances, her office can offer financial support. And that’s a key word.

“Our support is start to finish,” she says. “As soon as an incoming student registers for courses, they have full access to our office. And even after they graduate, for the first year

they can meet with a career coach or use many of the resources we have. We know a person in their lifetime may switch – not just a job, but sometimes a career – five to seven times. We want them to know how to do that. We help students learn about themselves, about the world of work, and about the process of finding their way in that world of work.”

BRYAN SCHOOL SETS THE PACE

UNCG’s Bryan School of Business and Economics runs full bore on the value of personal and professional development, which they’ve made a key part of the curriculum.

Their groundbreaking Blueprint Series has set a high bar. This four-credit undergraduate curriculum, with one course each year,

accelerates business students’ development, equipping them with the skills needed to succeed.

It germinated after a discussion between then-Dean Mac Banks and corporate leader Lynn Eury, whose wife, Faye Eury, learned business skills as a 1956 graduate. Lynn Eury advocated for real-world preparation, having seen its importance for young graduates at the companies he has led. With the financial support of Lynn Eury, Volvo Group North America, and others, Blueprint – with its internships emphasis – has emerged as a shining star at the University.

Volvo Group, one of the top 12 largest employers in the Triad, is a key supporter of the Bryan School and the Blueprint Series. “UNCG has provided critical early talent and alumni for our organization,” says Karmen Meeks-Gray, their manager of university relations. In fact, about 180 UNCG alumni are employees, according to current data.

Zariah Ocean '22, '23 MBA started as a university relations intern on her team and was promoted to full-time employee last winter. Ocean stresses the value of paid internships. One key thing she learned? “The importance of taking notes.” It’s part of being prepared and well-organized.

This summer, Volvo Group hosted 143 interns at the Greensboro facility. Many were Spartans.

Lanie Hulin, a rising junior, was one. The Denton, N.C., native works in brand marketing communications and has learned the value of building relationships. This fall, she is a team leader for a Blueprint course.

Each intern there spoke of key items they’d learned in the Blueprint series. UNCG’s Career and Professional Development office and the Bryan School had partnered to help determine the most impactful curriculum. Walters wishes the resources existed to have more such development at additional UNCG schools.

Humanities at Work could pave the way.

WHERE WE’RE HEADED

“Every generation has their own idea of what an internship is. What used to be fetching coffee for executives is now identifying a problem and solving it – and then becoming a full-time employee,” Walters says. “Internships are critically important, and UNCG students not only want them, but they need them.”

And it’s not just about a livelihood. It’s creating the life you want.

As intern Andrea Bonola at Xtern said about

VOLVO GROUP NORTH AMERICA



Middle: (l-r) UNCG intern Lanie Hulin and past intern Zariah Ocean '22, '23 MBA; above, right: UNCG interns (l-r) Chase Sperka, Jenna Hawk, and Peter Worland.

her employer’s community service, “Sure, it’s nice to make a lot of money, but it’s important to help build things up and work on stuff that’s going to be useful to people. It’s like two birds with one stone, right?”

That gets to the big picture, Walters notes. “A UNCG graduate is far more likely to be satisfied in their career if they find an opportunity that aligns with their interests, their strengths, their skills, and their values. And the best way to determine those things about yourself is to have an experience like this, an internship experience.”

There seem to be schools of thought.

“College is meant to prepare our workforce – that’s one. And college is meant to create

educated citizens of the world – that’s another. It’s very common for a student to be asked, ‘What are you going to do with that major?’ Through our involvement with Humanities at Work, we’re excited to flip that question to: ‘Who are you going to be with that major?’”

Fact is, there’s more to who you are than your job, she says.

“But your work’s important. Simply put, a lot of human identity is wrapped up in your work.”

LEARN MORE
ABOUT UNCG'S
INTERNSHIPS —
AND HOW TO
SUPPORT THEM.



Sloan Scholars slay

Raven Sizemore '24 was the first recipient of the Sloan Scholarship, which provides full support for students who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need. Each year, new scholars have benefitted from the Sloans' support. UNCG Magazine sat down to talk with the recipients.

UNCG: How did you find your way to UNCG?

RAVEN: I came in as a music education major living on campus in the Lloyd International Honors College in the South Spencer dorm.

HARMONY: I'm a legacy here, so UNCG was always going to be a part of my story. My parents are the reason I am the scholar I am today, and they're the reason I can light the way at UNCG.

JAYSON: My brother goes to UNCG as well. Being on campus has gotten us closer to one another. It was really nice to see him join the UNCG community.

UNCG: Was there a class or a professor that helped determine your path at the University?

RAVEN: At the Honors College, I had this unique opportunity to do a graduate-level course with my trombone professor. It sparked something in me.

JAYSON: My introductory biology professor, Dr. Lepri. He included everybody in the class and made everyone feel seen.

UNCG: What are some things that you've done to find community at UNCG?



Raven is one of three UNC System Presidential Scholars for the 2024-25 academic year. As a fellow, she will gain experience in public policy, research, and strategic initiatives that affect higher education.



HARMONY FAIRLEY

HARMONY: I have volunteered at the Spartan Open Pantry, and I joined the UNCG chapter of the NAACP and the Neo-Black Society. I'm a board member of the Black Student Union.

RAVEN: I joined a music fraternity, Mu Phi Epsilon. In my junior and senior years, I was heavily focused on really diving into the music community of Greensboro.

JAYSON: I joined S.A.L.S.A., the Spanish American Latino Student Association. I saw a post about it on Instagram.



AMELIA: I was in Australia for four months with study abroad. I had the opportunity to travel along the coast and interact with people from different countries.

UNCG: How does it feel to get to know the Sloans?

AMELIA: I'm so thankful we get to meet with them. You can see in how they talk to everyone that they truly are invested in us. They see our potential.

HARMONY: I just completed my first year, so I met the Sloans for the first time recently. They

wanted to get to know the real me. Ever since, they've helped me find my way through UNCG.



JAYSON FLORES-RIVERA

RAVEN: The Sloans want to know what you are passionate about so that they can help you do those things. I shared my passion about safer roadways and going to Raleigh to advocate for that after I lost my sister

in a car accident. The Sloans took me to Raleigh and I had the chance to work on a House bill with Amos Quick.

UNCG: What do you think potential donors should know about UNCG students today?

"Scholarships are an important step in achieving my goals. The Sloan Scholarship is helping me become a nurse and will help me inspire others who want to be nurses."



JULIET ASIEGBUNAM

"My scholarship enables me to further my education without financial stress. It allows me to focus on my academic goals."



IYANA MERCADO

HARMONY: I would definitely say UNCG students are unafraid to be authentically themselves.

AMELIA: UNCG students are really determined. We're here all the time working for opportunities. Having this scholarship allowed me to do so much that I would not have been able to do without it.

RAVEN: I've been able to learn about myself, and that's allowed me to pursue opportunities to a higher degree. That wouldn't be the case if it wasn't for the Sloans.



AMELIA HANSON

HERE'S TO HEALTH

From the time she was a middle-schooler volunteering as a "candy striper" in the local hospital, Anita Bachmann wanted to work in health care. A career that began in health information management for the Greenville Hospital System in South Carolina has culminated in her position as UnitedHealthcare's CEO of the North Carolina Community Plans Market, where she focuses on the population's entire spectrum of needs: medical, behavioral, functional, and social.

With her husband, George, Bachmann has established the Bachmann Family Endowed Scholarship at UNCG to provide scholarships for students pursuing degrees in health care.

"Our hope is that this gift can make a tangible difference in the lives of students, the quality of health care education, and the well-being of the community. We are ultimately helping to build a healthier, more educated, and more prosperous community," she says.

The Bachmann Scholarship will serve a wide array of majors at UNCG – from nursing to kinesiology to the physical and social sciences and beyond. She notes the quality and impact of the health care programs at UNCG: "UNCG is continually recognized in national lists for excellence, access, and affordability, and its health care programs are highly regarded for their comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach. They are specifically designed to prepare students for impactful careers in health-related fields, offering both practical experience and academic excellence."

Bachmann serves on UNCG's Board of Trustees and is the proud mother of three children, one of whom graduated as a Spartan in 2019. This gift is very personal for her and George, who raised their family in Greensboro and continue to live and work there.



Expanding horizons

Kirk and Lance Willoughby-Hudson firmly believe in the importance of educational experiences abroad. For them, such experiences inspired an appreciation for other cultures that led to empathy and the ability to find common ground in both personal and professional relationships. Acting upon their belief, the couple has established the Willoughby-Hudson Study Abroad Endowment Fund with a generous pledge to fund international travel abroad experiences for students in UNCG's Bryan School of Business and Economics.

Raleigh native Kirk Willoughby-Hudson '06, the first in his family to attend college, was a Roscoe and Anne M. Allen Scholar at UNCG. Through the Bryan School's international business program, he studied Spanish and international business at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. He now lives in Brooklyn and works in finance. An active alumnus who helped found the UNCG Alumni Club in NY City, Kirk makes frequent return visits to UNCG's campus. His husband, Lance, graduated from Howard University and is a practicing attorney.

This endowment is inspired by Kirk's own study abroad as an undergraduate at UNCG, as well as by Kirk and Lance's shared international travel. Recipients will be undergraduates with a declared major in the Bryan School, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and preferably from historically underrepresented populations in the field of business.

Kirk's experience at UNCG was life-changing. "My experience in the Bryan School, through a study abroad opportunity and international business studies, prepared me for a career in finance that has spanned four continents," he says. "And as a former scholarship student, it is important for me to give back."

READ MORE STORIES ON GIFTS AND THEIR IMPACT AT [LIGHTTHEWAY.UNCG.EDU](https://lighttheway.uncg.edu).



gradtidings

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

1940s

SARA SHORE '44 turned 100 in March 2024. Her three children gave her a party for her church and friends. She is in excellent health and teaches a Bible study on Sundays. She resides at Mallard Ridge Assisted Living in Clemmons, N.C.

ROSE MORTON SAYRE '48 was recognized by the Society of Women Engineers as a historic figure in the article "Women Engineers You Should Know."

1960s

CURRY KIRK WALKER '64 celebrated 60 years since her graduation from Woman's College and hopes to see some of her classmates before the year ends. 📅 18

THOMAS PENN JOHNSON '68 MA published the play "AMIAS" with Atmosphere Press. 📅 9

SUE BURROUGH FIELD celebrated her wedding anniversary on campus with her husband earlier this year. They met while she was a student at the University. She still remembers the Hinshaw Dorm Song and still enjoys Yum Yum. 📅 24

1970s

LT. COL. BARBARA KUCHARCZYK (RET.) '70 was honored in the national Veterans of Foreign Wars #StillServing campaign, which recognizes veterans who continue to serve in their communities after their military service. She is a

South Carolina Ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial (MWM), a museum honoring women from all military branches whether active, retired, or veteran.

THOMAS MICHAEL PARRISH '73, '78 MED funded and co-created the Michael Parrish Endowment for Arts Education in the Guilford County Schools. The endowment provides yearly grants for innovative student-driven K-12 arts projects that have a significant outreach component for underserved communities.

RHONDA WILCOX '73 received the Lynn Bartholome Eminent Scholar Award at the national Popular Culture Association Conference. Her address was titled "Schrodinger's Cat Box: A Life in Popular Culture Studies?" She'd like to thank the late Dr. Walter Beale, UNCG professor and dean, for first suggesting that she present at a popular culture conference. 📅 22

JACK AREHART '76 was named to the board of directors for the Delaware-based aerospace company ALOFT AeroArchitects, which specializes in inspections, overhaul, maintenance, and auxiliary fuel systems installation for large-cabin, head-of-state, VVIP, and government aircraft. He has previously served as president of Delta TechOps MRO Services for Delta Airlines. Earlier in his career, he directed NORDAM's expansion into an OEM for business jet nacelle and thrust reversers.

1980s

BRAD SPENCER '80, '83 MFA, a sculptor known for his work with brick, discussed his work on the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park in Montgomery, Ala., with NBC News' Lester Holt.

Here in Fall 2024, 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.**



HOMECOMING'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER

JOIN US ON **OCTOBER 4-5, 2024**, for a celebration featuring beloved traditions in new locations and exciting new events. Visit **HOMECOMING.UNCG.EDU** for more information and to register. **#uncghome**



LEARN MORE

Spartan Street Fest along College Ave
(reimagined Block Party*)

Alumni All Access Live Events

Bonfire (new location & watch party)

Alumni Awards Ceremony

Reunions
(learn more online)

Musical Performances ... and more!



*We are celebrating on College Ave this year due to ongoing construction on Kaplan Commons.

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

ALL TOGETHER

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



Attendees of the "Generations Luncheon" in the Oakley Family Reception Room at Alumni House



A look back at 2023 Alumni Award recipients (Top to bottom, l-r), C. Thomas Martin '70, Jeffrey Colbert '84, '86 MPA, Eric Durham '11, Jaren Doby '07, '12 MSW, Ann Hayes Tate '68, Anne Stroud Taylor '53, Mary Landers, and Penelope Muse Abernathy '73



School of Nursing donors at Spiro's Ball. (l-r) Crystal Pickrel Ellison '95, former School of Nursing Dean Pat Chamings, Mary Jo Abernethy '77, Betty Wall Forrest '75



A group of Well-Spring WC graduates and friends of UNCG made a special visit to campus to celebrate the completion of the WC Tribute. (l-r) Jeanne Singleton '56, Sara Stuart '56, Judy Hyman '56, Fay Arnold, Betty Watson '65, Lynette Wrenn '49, Diane Gabriel, Phyllis Goldman, and WC Tribute committee members Sarah Shoffner '62, '64 MS, '77 PhD and Emilie Mills '62, '65 MFA



(l-r) Dr. Debra Wallace, Bobbi Osguthorpe '83, Kathy Foster '84, '92 MSN at a School of Nursing event



Former assistant softball coaches JoAnne Graf '78 MS (center) and Donna Papa (right) visited Women's Softball practice and took time to talk with UNCG players.



Bryan Scholars and Fellows Luncheon

MARK JANICELLO '81 starred as Tony Finelli in the world-premiere production of “The Finellis Musical” at Wonderville in the heart of London’s West End. “The Finellis” is based on the award-winning comedy “The Finellis Movie,” which also starred Janicello. 🎭 18

JANET POGUE MCLAURIN '81 was elevated to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows in recognition of her significant contributions to the profession of architecture and society. This recognition is considered one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member, and only 3% of members have this distinction. She was also inducted into the IIDA College of Fellows for her contributions to the design profession by the International Interior Design Association in 2017. 🏡 25

ANNETTE OGLETREE-MCDOUGAL '82 earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Savannah State University in Spring 2024. 🏡 1

JEFF COLLINS '84, a co-owner of Whitby Motorcars, shares that the company won the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce’s “Coolest Thing Made in Guilford County” contest. Whitby’s custom cars have been used in many UNCG promotions and Homecoming events over the years.

KAY COWEN '84 MSN retired as clinical professor from UNCG’s School of Nursing after 40 years in the classroom.

BILL MCKENZIE '84 has written three leadership books for students and young adults since 2012. The latest release in 2021, “Embrace the Chaos, Enjoy the Journey: A Leadership Awakening for Students and Young Adults,” is now an app on an educational tablet designed specifically for prison inmates and their families. This new educational tablet was seen by 330,000 incarcerated learners per day in 2023. The book continues to be used by schools, YMCA staff, coaches, parents, and others interested in the critical importance of leadership awareness and development.

EDWARD CHANNING '86 is a singer-songwriter. His single “Coming Down” was placed on the official ballot for consideration as one of the final five nominees in the 66th Grammy Awards Category 7, “Best Pop Solo Performance,” for his lead vocal and harmonies. Although he didn’t

make the final five this time around, being placed on the official ballot was a huge milestone. He sincerely hopes to inspire young Spartans, especially those with disadvantaged and underserved backgrounds, to persevere and to always believe in themselves.

ERIC HAUSE '86 is the founder and director of the Virginia Queer Film Festival based in Norfolk. He celebrates the continued success of the festival, which showcases original works of film from LGBTQ+ filmmakers around the world.

DR. CONNIE MCKOY '89 MM, '98 PHD, UNCG’s Marion Stedman Covington Distinguished Professor of Music, was named the 2023–24 Herb Alpert Scholar for the Berklee College of Music. The residency includes a keynote address for the Berklee Symposium on Music Education and class visits where she will share her research on culturally responsive teaching in music education.

1990s

DR. MISTI WEBSTER WILLIAMS '90, '99 MSA, '02 EDS, '03 EDD was named campaign manager for Maurice “Mo” Green, candidate for NC State Superintendent of Public Instruction. She has worked in education for over 30 years.

SHERRI BULLUCK THOMAS '93 was named to American Banker’s “Most Powerful Women in Credit Unions” list for 2023. She is Truliant Federal Credit Union’s chief administrative officer. She also received recognition on Black Business Ink magazine’s “Power 100” list recognizing the most influential leaders from across North Carolina. She serves on the Board of Advisors of the Bryan School of Business and Economics and has more than 25 years of experience managing operations and human resources. 🏡 7

CHRYSE EGAN '94 was named to the “Maryland’s Top 100 Women” list by The Daily Record and BridgeTower Media for the second time. She also received the honor in 2019. She is associate dean of Salisbury University’s Fulton School of Liberal Arts and has taught more than 40 courses and mentored over 100 students. She has 40 academic publications and 50 popular press articles on communication, leadership, and culture. 🏡 20

LIGHTING A TORCH



WHEN USA VOLLEYBALL competed in this year’s Summer Olympics, Jenny Johnson ’95 cheered on all of her teams: USA men’s and women’s indoor; men’s and women’s beach; and men’s and women’s sitting volleyball – the Paralympics program.

As the director of education services for the organization, she supports the journeys of athletes and coaches across USA Volleyball. “We have 57,000 coaches, and there are around 400,000 junior members age 12–18,” she says.

“When I do training for athletes at our academy, I’m working with future Olympians,” Johnson points out.

She began as a junior member herself, and she has the proof on her office wall. “I have my card. 1989: ‘Jenny Yarbrough is a member of USVBA.’” Within the organization, she became a coach, a cadre or “trainer” for new coaches, and eventually started a rec club as her daughter joined the sport.

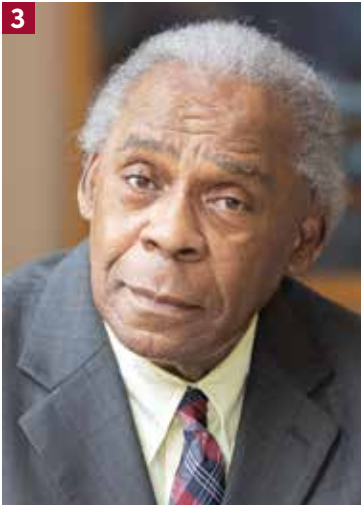
The philosophy she’s brought to USA Volleyball is called “athletic development.” “It’s development of everything that surrounds that athlete,” she explains. “You have facilities, you have coaches, you have finances, you have governmental infrastructure.”

Johnson credits UNCG with laying the groundwork for her career. In fact, on a wall of her home office, she still has a picture of Minerva. “That’s my history, that’s my background, and that’s who made me who I am,” she says. “All those experiences brought me into the place where I can develop and train the next generation.”

As a Spartan, she found support from an influential professor, Jeff Colbert ’84, ’86 MPA, and from former Director of Athletics Nelson Bobb. Decades later, she still calls them both close friends. “These relationships go on forever. I could call them right now and just have a wonderful conversation,” she says.

She was coached at UNCG by North Carolina legend Tere Dail. “That level of volleyball has allowed me to hang with the big dogs in my career,” Johnson says.

Thirty years later? “Here I am,” she smiles, “still in the sport I love.”



1 Annette Ogletree-McDougal '82 2 Patricia Dew '97 3 Thomas Penn Johnson '68 MA 4 (l-r) Jordan Lee '17 and Christopher Michael Hansen '12 MM, '17 PhD 5 Marina Kelly '04 6 Tiffany Atkins '03, '06 CERT, '06 PBC 7 Sherri Bulluck Thomas '93 8 Stephanie O'Brien '20 9 Bobbee Vannasane '14

HEIDI MAJORS '94, '00 MS was named to Triad Business Journal's "Outstanding Women in Business" list. She is executive director of YWCA High Point. She earned both her BS and MS degrees in Recreation and Parks Management.

TAMMY WHITE '94 is director of bands at Kiser Middle School in Greensboro and was named one of 50 "Directors Who Make a Difference" in School Band and Orchestra Magazine. She has been a teacher for 29 years and has performed with the East Carolina University Marching Pirates and the UNCG Wind Ensemble.

SHANNON JONES MACKENZIE '95 received an MSL in Health Law and Policy from Wake Forest University School of Law.

DR. JACQUELYN MCMILLIAN-BOHLER '95 co-authored a paper, "Using Rapid Mini-Simulations as a Strategy to Increase Competency-Based Education," in the Journal of Nursing Education in May 2024. She is assistant clinical professor in Duke University's School of Nursing.

PATRICIA DEW '97 was promoted to first sergeant of the 208th Army Reserve Band. She has served in the Army Reserve for 21 years, 18 of those with the 208th Band.

TASHARA WILLIAMS '97 was promoted to the role of business system analyst and celebrated 25 years working for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

GREG HOULE '98 published his first book, "The Putnams of Salem: A Novel of Power and Betrayal During the Salem Witch Trials." The book is written from the perspectives of two of the most prominent protagonists of the witch crisis: Thomas Putnam Jr. and his daughter Ann. What's more, Houle is directly related to them: Thomas is his seventh great grandfather on his mother's side and Ann is his sixth great aunt. He also developed and launched The Salem Witch Trials Podcast, which has grown in popularity over the months.

2000s

JESSICA BLOCH-SCHULMAN '00 had her ceramic sculpture "Double Bind II" displayed on 11 digital kiosks throughout downtown Greensboro during the summer of 2024. She is a ceramic artist who previously worked in digital media for 20 years.

TITA RAMÍREZ '00 MFA published her debut novel, "Tell It To Me Singing," with Simon and Schuster. She also hosted a conversation with National Book Award winner James McBride at the EUC in Spring 2024.

JOHN RASH '00 released a new documentary about 1982 protests in North Carolina that sparked a movement for environmental justice.

JANELLE ROBINSON '00 was named to Triad Business Journal's "Outstanding Women in Business" list. She is owner of Burn Bags USA and received her bachelor's in History and Middle Grades Education.

DOUG RISNER '01, a professor of Dance and distinguished faculty fellow at Wayne State University, received both the NDEO/Ruth Lovell Murray Book Award and the Wayne State University Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award for his book "Masculinity, Intersectionality, and Identity: Why Boys (Don't) Dance." Additional awards include the 2023 Susan W. Stinson Book Award for Dance Education for "Dancing Across the Lifespan: Negotiating Age, Place & Purpose." Risner's most recent book, "Dancing Mind, Minding Dance: Personal Resonance and Professional Relevance in Dance Education," comprises publications drawn from a 40-year career in dance performance, pedagogy, and research.

DR. APRIL RUFFIN-ADAMS '01 MSW, '13 PHD, who teaches in the African American and African Diaspora Studies program at UNCG, was named to the Board of Trustees of Crossnore Communities for Children.

KRISTA THOMASON '02, an associate professor of philosophy at Swarthmore College, published "Dancing with the Devil: Why Bad Feelings Make Life Good" with Oxford University Press. It argues that even though emotions like anger and jealousy may not be righteous, they can still have value.

LYNN WARD ZIMMERMAN '02 PHD was selected as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in Lublin, Poland, for the 2024-25 academic year. She will be affiliated with Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie (Marie Curie-Skłodowska University of Lublin) in the Department of English and American Studies.

LIZA ACHILLES '03 published her debut volume of poetry, "Two Novembers: A Memoir of Love 'n Sex in Sonnets," with Beltway Editions. It is a chronicle of her love life for one year, told in Shakespearean sonnets.

SPARTAN SWEETHEARTS

LARRY FENIGER '95 AND LIZA LEVINE FENIGER '95 met in the early-August heat of their first-year, preseason Spartan Soccer workouts. The men's and women's players bonded in the crucible. By their sophomore years, Larry and Liza found a friendship turning into more. They've now been married 24 years.



Liza played under Coach Jack Poland, and she loved her teammates. In fact, she shares a text message group with about 10 of them – and they visited their old coach last year. After her UNCG years, the exercise and sports science major went on to get her RN degree – and focuses on health for herself and her family. "I still exercise and think about nutrition – it's my lifestyle."

Larry played under Coach Michael Parker. "He gave us tough love. 'You need to get better' was his message."

It was motivating. Larry's mantra became "I will outwork you. I'll earn it."

He took that and lessons learned from a Bryan School marketing professor – "He taught us how to market yourself and your company" – to build a career and businesses. Larry founded Tandem Innovative Payments in 2009 and sold it in 2019 to Celero Commerce. Now, Larry's a senior vice president at Celero Commerce, one of the top 10 largest non-bank payment processing companies in the U.S. Fellow alumnus Kevin Jones '96, whom he'd previously known at an earlier business, is the CEO. Another alumnus, Jim Harris '96, is also an executive.



At Kevin's 50th birthday party, they snapped a shot (right), and something struck them. All six were Spartan sweethearts.

Everyone had met their life partners at the G!

Did you marry your Spartan sweetheart? As we compile stories for Valentine's Day posts, we'd like to know. Email us at alumni@uncg.edu.



10 Lynn Ward Zimmerman '02 PhD **11** Mojeed Abisiga '23 MS **12** Kristen Conn Goller '06 MA **13** Curry Kirk Walker '64 **14** Clinton Alvis Wilson '07 **15** Greg Houle '98 **16** Bradley Wallace '15, '21 **17** Holly Reavis '07, '08 MS **18** Mark Janicello '81 **19** Tita Ramirez '00 MFA at EUC Auditorium **20** Chrys Egan '94 **21** Melody Varner '21

TIFFANY ATKINS '03, '06 CERT, '06 PBC received the Outstanding Legal Educator Award from the Women's Law Caucus of the University of Kentucky's Rosenberg College of Law, where she is an assistant professor of law. 📍 6

DR. CHANNELLE JAMES '03 CERT, '04 PHD was named to Triad Business Journal's "Leaders in Diversity" list, which celebrates individuals and companies that have worked to establish and advance diversity and inclusion efforts in their workplaces and communities.

DREW BARKER '04 earned tenure with the University of Maryland Libraries as the performing arts librarian.

MARINA KELLY '04 was named chief information security officer for the City of Raleigh, N.C. 📍 5

SIDNEY OUTLAW '04 performed

with Boston Baroque in the title role in Mozart's "Don Giovanni," for which he received rave reviews. He also performed with the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall. He'll star in the Greensboro Opera's production of "Don Giovanni" this fall.

KRISTEN CONN GOLLER '06 MA was named tourism manager with the Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism in Maryland. In this role, she will advance the county's tourism initiatives and foster economic growth through strategic marketing and development efforts. 📍 12

KELLY GRAVES '06 was named to Triad Business Journal's "Outstanding Women in Business" list. She is president and CEO of the Kellin Foundation and earned a doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

TRISH KEMERLY '06 MALS, '11 PHD received the 2024 Dr. Eloise Hassell Teaching Excellence Award from

the Bryan School of Business and Economics.

HOLLY REAVIS '07, '08 MS was honored by Forvis Mazars, one of the largest public accounting firms in the United States, as a 2024 Key Award winner. This is the highest honor bestowed upon one partner and one team member per year in the firm. 📍 17

CLINTON ALVIS WILSON '07 was named one of Triad Business Journal's "40 Under 40" for 2024. Honorees were selected from a competitive group of nominees who are making great contributions to the Triad region. 📍 14

DR. RACHEL MILLS '08 MS earned a PhD in Education Leadership, Policy, and Human Development from North Carolina State University.

JENNIFER RYAN '09 obtained a master's degree from Northern Kentucky University (NKU) in 2022 and co-authored a human resources training and development textbook that will be used at NKU. She is now in a doctoral program at Liberty University.

2010s

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL HANSEN '12 MM, '17 PHD AND JORDAN LEE '17 performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City. This was their second Carnegie Hall appearance together. In 2022, Jordan brought his CHROMATICA choir to Carnegie Hall to sing under Dr. Hansen's baton, performing music by Ola Gjeilo. For their 2024 performance, they shared the podium, leading singers from North Carolina and Virginia in the performance of Lee's "A Journey Through the Nourishment Cycle," which is a collection of South African and African American spirituals, gospel music, and original compositions composed and curated by Jordan Lee. Hansen is director of choral activities at Virginia Commonwealth University. Lee is director of youth and producer experience for Notes for Notes. 📍 4

DOMINICK DEFELICE '14 published a novel, "The Necklace of Nine Planets," with his grandmother Velma Yarock.

DR. JOURDAN LAINE HOWELL '14 DMA joined the leadership team of the National Opera Association (NOA) as communication associate for the national organization. NOA is the leading service organization for opera

education in the U.S. Howell launched the e-zine NOA Now, which explores topics pertinent to NOA membership and anyone interested in the field of opera education.

BOBBEE VANNASANE '14 purchased Touloupas and Touloupas, a dental practice in Burlington, N.C. As the full owner of the practice, he will provide dental care to patients of all ages. 📍 9

BRADLEY WALLACE '15, '21 is the development coordinator for annual funds and major gifts at Carolina Caring Foundation. He recently purchased a house in Hickory, where he lives with his wife, Breanna; dog Peanut, dog Nemo; and cat, Piper. 📍 16

MELODY BURNETT '16 was named to Triad Business Journal's "Outstanding Women in Business" list. She is president of Visit High Point.

JACKSON COOPER '16 published "A Kid's Book About Kindness." He drew from more than 15 years of experience as an arts philanthropy professional, arts educator, and producer of over 100 live classical and chamber music concerts, theater performances, and film retrospectives.

DR. LINDSAY DRAPER '16 MSN, '19 DNP was promoted to associate professor. She was also competitively selected and offered a position as the Provost's Fellow for Faculty Development, a testament to her dedication and expertise in the nursing community.

SARAH HANKINS '16 MFA joined the Tennessee Shakespeare Company as director of education and outreach programs.

DR. ALEXANDER CHRISTENSEN '17 MA, '20 PHD was named a "Rising Star" by the Association for Psychological Science. He is assistant professor of psychology and human development at Vanderbilt University.

TAMMY HALL '18 MSN received the 2024 Teaching Excellence Award at the School of Nursing's Honors and Awards Reception.

KATHRYN BAILEY WINGLER '18 was appointed chair of the Art & Design Department at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Community College AFA Association. Bailey is currently completing a master's in Arts Administration at Winthrop University, where she has been awarded the Elizabeth Hope Reed Scholarship for outstanding academic achievements and a commitment to directly serve her community during her graduate program of study.

GRACE NOTE



CAROLYN REBECCA BLACK '68 turned her degree in music education from UNCG into a distinguished career. She earned a master's degree from Teacher's College at Columbia University and taught music at Mount Vernon Middle School and then Ossining High School in New York. She also started an after-school music program that nurtured ages 4-17 in singing, drumming, and guitar playing. After a 30+ year career, she received the 2024 Hester Bateman Spencer Hines Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for her commitment to equity, enthusiasm for education, and record of exceptional service to the school district.

She's also a trailblazer, being the first African American student to sing with Dr. Richard Cox's University Chorale, her daughter reports – she joined in 1963, in the early days of Cox's long tenure with the University. Black also represents the ideals of the Minerva Society, as a proud supporter of UNCG over the past decades.



22 Rhonda Wilcox '73 **23** (l-r) David Leong '76 MFA, Ed Simpson '80 MFA, David Grapes '77 MFA, and James Fisher '76 MFA reunited at the annual gathering of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. **24** Alumna Sue Borrough Field (right) and her husband (left) visited Yum Yum. **25** Janet Pogue McLaurin '81 **26** UNCG Alumni at a Grasshoppers game. **27** Scott Ryan Summers '19 MLIS

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU, TOO.

UNCG Magazine publishes 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.

FALL 2024 – VOLUME 26, NO. 1
ISSN 1525 9838
UNCG Magazine is published by
University Advancement
The University of North Carolina
at Greensboro
PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170
336-334-5371

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SCOTT RYAN SUMMERS ’19 MLIS
was recognized in the 2024 class of
Library Journal’s “Movers & Shakers,”
which showcases people who are
shaping the future of libraries. 🏆 27

2020s

TUCKER DANIEL ’20 was named
program and outreach coordinator
for the All Stars Project in Dallas, a
nonprofit organization that uses a
performance-based approach to help
tens of thousands of inner-city youth
across the country create success in
their lives.

STEPHANIE O’BRIEN ’20 received the
Excellence in Teaching by an
Untenured Faculty award for the
2023-24 academic year from UNC
Asheville. 🏆 8

RACHAEL HAYES ’21 was named
to the board of the Arts District of
Winston-Salem. She is a sculptor,
ceramicist, and manager of the Hanes
Gallery on the campus of Wake Forest
University.

MELODY VARNER ’21 celebrated her
second anniversary with the Randolph
County Tourism Development
Authority as tourism marketing
coordinator, a dream job that she
loves. Through her role, she meets
many new people and educates them
about tourism opportunities in
Randolph County. She has also been
able to travel with the job. One of her
favorites was seeing the U.S. Space &
Rocket Center in Huntsville. She
thanks Dr. Erick Byrd, who was a big
help with the job search, and has even
come back to UNCG to speak with the
Tourism and Hospitality Club. 🏆 21

JULIAN KENNEDY ’22 formed his own
gospel choir, Julian Kennedy & True
Foundation. He received national
acclaim with the vocal trio 1aChord,
who wowed the judges on “America’s
Got Talent.”

PAGE TURNER ’22 started a new
position as conservation coordinator
at North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

MOJEED ABISIGA ’23 MS created
DataGlobal Hub, a media platform
that offers job market insights, covers
free online courses, workshops, book
releases, job postings, events, and
summits, and shares hackathons,
competitions, nuggets from thought
leaders, and other resources in the
data niche. 🏆 11

DR. SNEHAL SHAH ’23 PHD began
a new job at Applied Materials, Inc.,
as a product quality and reliability
engineer. In addition to having met
some wonderful people and mentors,
she is grateful to be just 30 miles
away from Glacier National Park in
beautiful Kalispell.

MUSKAAN TAHIRKHELI ’23 is starting
a graduate program at the Yale School
of Nursing.

ZACHARY DIASIO ’24 started a new
position at Cape Fear Valley Health in
Fayetteville, N.C., where he is making
friends in the office and finding
creative ways to solve questions using
the skills he learned at UNCG. He
was awarded a Google Data Analytics
Certification, is working toward a
Cogito certification, and received
training in EPIC healthcare systems.

AWA MBAI ’24 received the Leary
and Joy Davis Leadership Scholarship
from Campbell University School
of Law, where she is continuing her
education.

IN MEMORIAM

VIRGINIA LAMM HAYES ’41
SARAH MULLIS HYDE ’41
LEVINA MEEKINS FLEMING ’42
VERA GROSE WEBSTER ’42
CAROLYN SCARBOROUGH SHINN ’44
ELIZABETH MCCALL HAYNES ’45
CORNELIA LOWE RANKIN ’45
REBECCA BECKHAM ZISKA ’45
ANNE BRANDON WILKERSON ’46
JANE MOON LINSKY ’47
GRACE TEMPLE SEAT ’47
SYBIL MATTHEWS EDWARDS ’48
MAXINE ALEXANDER MILLER ’48
FAYE ROBERTS ’48
BETTY NANCE SMITH ’48
DOROTHEA HALES
STEWART-GILBERT ’48
ALLENE HANCOCK WORLEY ’48
VIRGINIA SCRIBNER BODIN ’49
JEANETTE HARRISON FORD ’49
FRANCES LYNCH LLOYD ’49

JAN SHORE ’49
ANNE WALL THOMAS ’49
BETTY JEAN MCNAIRY ’50
ANN LOWRANCE BRADY ’51
DOROTHY MARTEL BROWN ’51
SHIRLEE GREENBLATT BROWN ’51
FRANCES LOMAX RUSS ’51
MARY TURNER IPOCK ’52
KATHRYN FRIDAY NICOL ’52
PRISCILLA SNIDER SCHAENEMAN ’52

ANNE BUNN AVERY ’53
ROBERTA “BOBBIE” RAY FERRARA ’53
RUTH NICHOLS RICHARDS ’53
GLADIES “GAYE” SHUPE BARKER ’54
MARGIE PREISINGER HAINES ’54
ELIZABETH LENHARDT JONES ’54
SUSAN FLEMING ALEM ’55
ZORA DANIEL BUNIN ’55
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JANE WALKER BECK ’56
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ESTHER KRASNY KRAFT ’56
NONA WILSON SHUFORD ’56
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MARY FRANCES POHL CARRINGTON ’57
PATRICIA GREENE HONEYCUTT ’57
JOYCE TURLINGTON SMITH ’57
REBECCA FONDREN BECK ’58
JEAN BUSBY MCQUAIN ’58
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REBECCA DOUGHTON RUMSEY ’58
MARY JANE SMILEY THOMPSON ’58
HENRIETTA FORD MAUS ’59
CAROLYN ALSTON RUSS ’59
MILLIE PITTS SCHUMPERT ’59
SARA JANE TOENES ’60
JOHANNA “JO” FUTCHS YOPP ’60
SALLY ATKINSON FISHER ’61
JANET LESLIE SELF ’61
CATHERINE JENRETTE SMITH ’61
LOUELLA KIDD STINSON ’61
HELEN STATON WILSON ’61
ANNE CHAGARIS WILSON ’62
MARGARET FRENCH HORTON ’63
DR. ELEANOR “JEAN” KELLENBERGER LEEK ’63
DR. ROBERTA MESENBRINK ’63
MARTHA MILLS OLIVE ’63
NANCY PAULINE ROTH ’63
CAROL OVERSTREET ZIMMERMAN ’63
KAY CHANDLER NAPIER FINCANNON ’64
GAIL JOHNSON JONES ’64
JEAN GRONQUIST RAY ’64
DR. PAUL NATHAN SAMUELSON ’64
VIVIAN MONTS FOGLE ’65

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JANET SUE PIPKIN ’65
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JANE AYERS NUNN ’66
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BARRIE HUSSEY BROUGH ’67
DEANNA ISLEY MOORE ’67
DR. BERTHA LYONS RODDEY ’67
GAIL EDWARDS SIFFORD ’67
NONA DAYBERRY THOMPSON ’67
EMILY BASS FOX ’68
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JEFFREY MICHAEL PENLEY ’77
DANIEL ROSS PIEPHOFF ’77
GAYLE RIVES STEELE ’77
ANN EULISS TEER ’77
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THOMAS EDWARD HUEY III ’78
DR. ROBERT MARSHALL BOGGS ’79
PANSY RIVENBARK RUMLEY ’79
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SHERRY ANN KELLY ’80
DR. LINDA RIKARD ’80
KAREN FREDERICKSON SCHMID ’80
JOHN ROBERT BUTLER ’81
LAVERNE HARPER ’81
DR. TERRY GREY MITCHELL ’81
KATHERINE SUZANNE PARKER-LOWE ’81
DR. CHRIS KENT ROGERS ’81
JOHN ISAAC WINESETT ’81
NANCY SHERRILL WRANGHAM ’81
DARRELL GLENN BAILEY ’82
WILLIAM BRUCE PIEPHOFF ’82
ROBERT HOLT THURSTON ’82
SAM FRANKLIN WYATT JR. ’82
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JAMES G. THERRELL JR. ’83
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SHARON SMITH HARDIN ’84
ALLYSON SHACKELFORD OSBORNE ’84
DR. MARY ROSALIND PICOT ’84
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KATHERINE REAGAN HARROLD ’89
CONNIE ELAINE HASTINGS ’89

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ROBIN BEESON MORRISON ’89
ANNE COOPER BAYLOR DOWIS ’90
DR. ETTA BAKER ROBERTS ’91
ROBERT LEE CORBETT JR. ’92
WENDY KOSIER HALL ’92
MARCIA “MARCY” EDWARDS HUDZIK ’92
MARY DUDLEY PURTILL ’92
RICHARD MOFFAT BRETT ’94
KELLY EAKES GROFT ’94
GARY STEPHEN KALLAM ’94
SUSAN BARR OLCHAK ’94
REBECCA CARTER PAFF ’94
VIRGINIA “GINA” DURDEN MANTURA ’95
WALTER O. BILOUS ’96
DEBORAH PAFF SHELTON ’96
PHILIP DALE NIX ’97
DR. LINDA ADERHOLDT MOORE ’99
DEXTER GRAY NEWSOME ’99
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ZACHARY TAYLOR MOORE ’06
MICHAEL FRANKLIN BRANTON ’07
JENNIFER MARIE AGLIO ’08
JAMES ROBERT JONES ’09
STEPHON LAVERN YOUNG ’11
MATTHEW WADE JOHNSON ’12
PHILIP HEWITT KOCH JR. ’17
MORNA LAM ’17
KEVIN JOSHUA ROWSEY II ’19
CLAIRE BRADY CAMPBELL ’20

FORMER FACULTY/STAFF
DR. KIMBERLIANNE PODLAS died
on November 21, 2023. She joined
the Department of Media Studies in
2004 and was known as a generous
and knowledgeable professor. Podlas
served as head of the Department
of Media Studies from 2016 until
her death. Podlas’ academic
scholarship was robust and included
approximately 50 journal articles and
book chapters. She also won several
national conference awards.
DR. GAY CHENEY died on November
29, 2023. She was a faculty member
1976-96 and served as head of the
Dance Department (now School
of Dance) 1978-82. In 1995, she
received the North Carolina Dance

Alliance Annual Award. UNCG’s
School of Health and Human Sciences
named her an honorary alumna and
presented her with a Distinguished
Alumni Award in 1998. She also
established the Cheney Scholarship in
Dance Choreography.

DR. ROBERT ROSTHAL died on
December 2, 2023. He had recently
celebrated his 100th birthday. Rosthal
fought in World War II. He met his
wife, Marianne Heineberg, a German
refugee, in post-war Paris. The couple
returned to the United States after
marrying in 1952. He took a position
at Woman’s College in 1961, where
he taught philosophy. He retired in
1992. During his tenure, he served as
chair of the Department of Philosophy
1967-75. He was also president of the
North Carolina chapter of the National
Association of Scholars.

JENNIFER BROOKS ’17 MLIS died on
January 3, 2024. She was temporary
assistant archivist in University
Libraries. While a student, she worked
for both Martha Blakeney Hodges
Special Collections & University
Archives (SCUA) and Digital Projects
in University Libraries. She joined
SCUA in January 2020, processing
collections in both Rare Books and
Manuscripts.

DR. WILLIAM WATSON PURKEY died
on April 7, 2024. He was professor
of Counseling and Educational
Development in the School of
Education 1976-2004. He was the
author or co-author of ten professional
books and over 100 articles on
human motivation and self-concept
theory. He received The UNC Board
of Governors’ Award for Excellence
in Teaching in 1997. In 2005, Purkey
received the Excellence in Education
Award, presented by the Royal
Conservatory of Music, for his work
in encouraging learning through
the arts.

CHARLES “TIM” BARKLEY died on
July 27, 2024. He began working at
UNCG as a multimedia designer in
1979. He partnered with faculty to
produce classroom media such as
graphics, photographs, videos and
to support faculty research. While
at UNCG, Tim met Miriam Corn
Holland ’74, ’77 MLS who was editor
of the alumni magazine. They had
their wedding in the UNCG Alumni
House in 1987. Tim retired from
UNCG in 2006 and began his second
career as a photographer for visual
artists, documenting their works for
portfolios, juried shows, and print
reproduction.



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