

SPRING 2024

UNCG

MAGAZINE

“MORNING, CLASS!”

Behind the scenes as
student teachers take
the lead PG. 18

Alyssa Dehart,
student teacher
at Hopewell
Elementary
School

BROADWAY
BOUND
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ORIGINS OF
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SPARTANS
THRIVE
PG. 36



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TAKE THE HIGH ROAD College Avenue, running along the highest part of campus, always provides a scenic journey. This tree-lined lane and the entire core of campus were designed by the same landscape architect who made Pinehurst and Biltmore so splendid. A century later, College Avenue is still as idyllic as ever. The preferred spot for graduation portraits, it's even being considered as an event space for this fall's Homecoming.

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Cover photography: Alyssa Dehart at Hopewell Elementary School in Trinity, N.C.

By Sean Norona '13

Check out the magazine website

Visit magazine.uncg.edu to enjoy the digital version of the magazine in both photo-rich stories you can easily share on social media and in PDF format. While there, you can also submit a class note, view video clips, or click on archives to see former issues.

The buzz of spring at UNCG is always invigorating. Our beautiful Tree Campus USA is in full bloom, signaling the start of a new season. It's a time of transformation. From our upcoming library renovation to undergrads taking advantage of new School of Education resources as they prepare to teach in schools throughout our state and beyond, UNCG continues to answer the call to reinvent and innovate for the future. And our efforts are gaining national attention.

FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.
CHANCELLOR



UNCG's commitment to the humanities is being recognized with a seven-figure grant from an important national organization. Watch for the announcement about this transformational financial support of the humanities this spring.

The New York Times and Wall Street Journal have given our University accolades this year. Our faculty scholars, many with national reputations and impact, ensure all our Spartans further a legacy of distinction, tenacity, and community engagement.

As we embark on a university strategic plan refresh and focus on opportunities that UNCG provides our students, I'm reminded of a family I met on Move-in Day. A family of 10 arrived – parents and eight kids ranging from toddlers to an eighteen-year-old. All were proudly wearing UNCG T-shirts. The oldest child was the first in the family to go to college. They called him the ladder, the one who would set the path for his siblings.

This was a visceral reminder of what UNCG is all about. The access and excellence of UNCG ensure we are not only a welcoming campus, but one that values the health and wellness – as well as the success and real-world impact – of every Spartan.

newsfront



ON OUR HORIZON

UNCG's annual day of giving,

Believe in the G is April 17-18. Graduation ceremonies will be May 2-3. And the coming months, as well, hold exciting opportunities for our University:

• Jackson Library renovation project

The library's tower, where most books have been held, was designed for a campus of 6,000 students. Our enrollment has tripled, while technology and students' needs have changed, as they have at university libraries nationwide. With state budget funding earmarked for this much-

needed project and after lots of input, a prospective design is beginning to take shape. Updates are posted at library.uncg.edu/reno. Look for a feature article in the next UNCG Magazine.

• **National searches** The interview process for three deanships will begin in earnest this August. After 13 years leading the Bryan School, Dr. McRae "Mac" Banks has announced his retirement at the end of the academic year. Under his leadership, the school has experienced enrollment growth

of almost 50%, launched 12 online degree programs, and rolled out the Bryan Blueprint undergraduate curriculum for undergraduate success, professional development, and career readiness. Also, Dr. John Kiss, after eight years leading the College of Arts and Sciences, has accepted a provost position at Florida Institute of Technology. During his tenure, the college's research profile was elevated, with external grant awards rising by 150%. Additionally, Dr. Sherine Obare, dean of the

Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering since 2019, will succeed Dr. Terri Shelton as UNCG's vice chancellor for research and engagement this summer. "The three deanships are opportunities to build on what these deans and the schools have accomplished. We are excited about the possibilities in bringing in new leadership to leverage our existing strengths in research and community engagement and to continue to provide pathways for students' academic success," says Provost Debbie Storrs.

CHANCELLOR'S PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY AURA MAREZOUK

WALL STREET JOURNAL AND NY TIMES WEIGH IN

THE NEW YORK TIMES launched a new ratings system – and guess who's North Carolina's most affordable university? That's just one of the superlative recognitions over the past year:

- In 2023, **The New York Times** launched the "Build Your Own College Rankings" search tool. UNCG ranked No. 1 in North Carolina for net cost.
- The **Wall Street Journal** ranked UNCG No. 1 in North Carolina for social mobility. Also, they named UNCG No. 1 in the state for student experience in 2023. The ranking comes from "one of the largest ever independent surveys of verified college students and recent graduates in the U.S."
- **U.S. News & World Report** rates UNCG as a top-ranked North Carolina institution for social mobility. It also ranks UNCG No. 2 in the state for its undergraduate teaching and nursing programs. UNCG remains on the publication's Best in the U.S. lists for Best National Universities, Best Colleges for Veterans, Best Value, and Top Public Schools.
- **The Princeton Review** named UNCG one of the best regional colleges in the South.

See details and links to the rankings at magazine.uncg.edu.

#1 IN N.C.

MOST AFFORDABLE

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Below, Grecia Navarro '22 and UNCG senior Fernando Cuevas at the Alianza Symposium. Middle, Campers browse the CHANCE Career Fair. Bottom, CHANCE campers and mentors paint the Rawk.



CHANCE now invites 100 students to campus each summer. Many CHANCE alumni hope to make an impact in the future. "I want to come back and speak about my own experiences," says Galvan-Ruiz, "and maybe even start something like a scholarship to help other students."

CHANCE success

In her junior year of high school, Grecia Navarro '22 hit what she calls a "slump." Her peers were planning for college, but she didn't know where to start.

"I over-excelled in a lot of academic areas, but my parents didn't go to college," she explains. A guidance counselor told her about UNCG's Campamento Hispano Abriendo Nuestro Camino a la Educación (CHANCE), literally "Hispanic camp opening our pathway to education."

CHANCE began in 2017, supported by UNCG's Hispanic Faculty-Staff Association, Alianza. Today, many of those first campers are proud alumni. Some are graduate students or UNCG employees.

CHANCE fulfills a specific need, says Margarita Kerkadó, senior assistant director of Latino/Hispanic Initiatives. "It offers students leadership, civic programming, cultural enrichment, and valuable insights into campus life."

Assistant Director of the Office of Intercultural Engagement (OIE) Marisa González '16, '19 MA

has been a driving force. "The resilience, tenacity, and persistence of each student fuels my passion," she says.

Former campers speak to the camp's impact. "I'm not trying to be corny," says Jose "Pepe" Ortiz '22, "but it really did change my life." After attending CHANCE, he studied business at UNCG, became a CHANCE mentor, and found a new path. Ortiz now works as an admissions counselor at UNCG.

“A lot of universities are not saying ‘Yes.’ The fact that UNCG does says a lot.”

— GRECIA NAVARRO '22

Estefany Garcia '21 says her experience as a CHANCE mentor led her to pursue her master of education degree at UNCG. She's scheduled to graduate this spring.

As a first-generation Spartan, Garcia's success means a lot. "My little sister talks about

CHANCE mentors and campers bring positive energy to campus each summer.

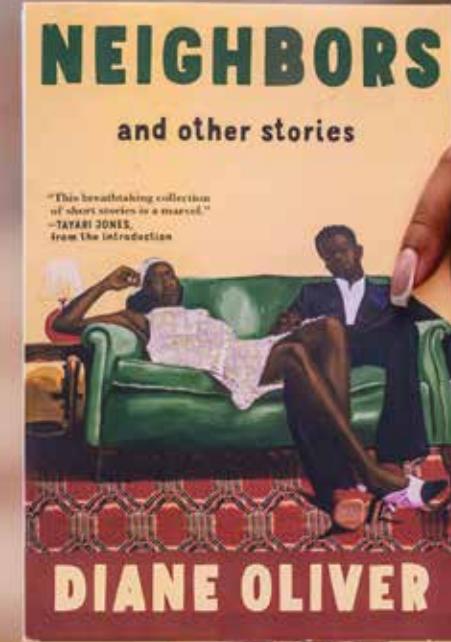
becoming a lawyer, and she's only nine! She said, 'Because you're doing something like that, I can too.'"

UNCG's Latinx population is growing. "Ten years ago, the Hispanic population at UNCG was about 3% of the total. Now we're almost at 15%," says the OIE's director, Gus Peña. Within that demographic category, Latinx students may identify as African American or Black or have indigenous backgrounds, Peña points out.

While there are many Hispanic student organizations, UNCG's Latinx students are involved in all parts of campus life. "At UNCG you see people that look like you, but you also see people who are different from you," says Fatima Galvan-Ruiz, a former CHANCE mentor.

Like all students, Latinx Spartans face challenges. When that happens, Galvan-Ruiz knows what to do.

"We have this phrase, 'ponte las pilas,' which literally means 'put your batteries on.' It means having that motivation and making sure you're on top of your game."



OLIVER'S TWIST



Diane Oliver '64
COURTESY OF UNCG ARCHIVES.

ONLY FOUR STORIES were published in her lifetime. She died nearly six decades ago, two years after graduation from UNCG. But Diane Oliver '64 is now getting the acclaim few writers achieve.

The first collection of her short stories, "Neighbors and Other Stories," was published this year by a major press, Grove Atlantic. This comes on the heels of glowing assessments of her work by Lithub and The Bitter Southerner and more recently The New York Times, Washington Post, and Paris Review.

"The publication of Diane Oliver's 'Neighbors and Other Stories' is an important event in African American and American letters, a restoration of an extraordinarily gifted young writer's work to our ongoing literary conversation," says Jamel Brinkley, professor at the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a prize-winning author.

Oliver's UNCG classmates remember her vividly. The English major was managing editor of The Carolinian, served on the Coraddi magazine staff and the student legislature, and was inducted into Golden Chain honor society. She earned the Mademoiselle internship slot reportedly on the basis of an essay involving the desegregation effort on Tate Street in 1963. Three businesses – a cinema and two eateries – had refused to desegregate.

"She was very involved in the think-tank discussions in developing strategies of the movement," says Sina McGimpsey Reid '65, another leader of the picketing. "Diane could see both sides of a situation and could easily navigate movement of a group discussion to consensus." She was also a brilliant writer, she says.

Debbie Rubin '64 was another friend. "She was smart, pretty, and understated in everything she did," Rubin recalls. She had a wry sense of humor and was "very centered, a calm center."

Oliver died as a passenger on a motorcycle at age 24. But with this book's publication, her literary gifts live on.

Dr. Terri Shelton

Strength in collaboration

When Dr. Terri Shelton retires from UNCG this summer, one of the framed photos she'll take home is of graduating students. It's a great memory.

There have been many such memories, almost all powered by engaging community and faculty partners, she says. "You bring in their expertise and vision and add what you might know or contribute. And then you get to see powerful change."

As vice chancellor of research and engagement and the Carol Jenkins Mattocks Distinguished Professor for the last 15 years, she's seen a 133% rise in UNCG's external-award dollars – and has experienced something intangible: "The thrill of supporting, or creating relationships, or trying to remove barriers for our incredible faculty, researchers, and students so they can find that spark."

She joined UNCG's faculty in 1995, and in 2001 was appointed director of the Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships. Her earlier work had been in a clinical setting in pediatrics and psychiatry, to improve the health of children and families. She helped found the North Carolina Infant and Young Child Mental Health Association and the Institute for Patient- and Family-Centered Care in Maryland, and was instrumental in the Ready for School, Ready for Life initiative in Guilford County and the now-statewide NC Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Partnership.

She worked with Surgeon General C. Everett Coop and others on the 1986 amendment and reauthorization of the U.S. Education of the Handicapped Act, which mandated states provide services (from birth onward) to families of children born with disabilities and recognized the essential role of families in child health and development. She also co-chaired an N.C. legislative task force on postsecondary education and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



SEE ATHENA
AWARD VIDEO OF
TERRI SHELTON.



'BEYOND ACADEMICS'

About that framed photo? In 2007 at UNCG, Terri Shelton joined Joan Johnson '75, Lisa Pluff '18 MALS, and eager supporters in launching North Carolina's first four-year certificate program for individuals with intellectual disabilities, Integrative Community Studies.

It emphasizes self-determination, life planning, and career development, preparing students to engage with the ever-changing world around them.

As the first and still the only four-year program in the state, it continues to make a strong impact, with 129 graduates including this year's new Spartan alumni. "When you think about how our University started – a quality education for women when there were few opportunities – it's in that same vein," Shelton says. "I just feel like it's baked into our DNA: accessible excellence."

When the first class graduated with certificates in May 2011, there were hugs all around. A photographer snapped a shot. She treasures that moment. It's a reminder of UNCG's collaborative innovation – and of who we are.

SEE MORE AT [MAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU](https://magazine.uncg.edu).

IN OTHER WORDS...

IN THE FALL 2023 issue, you read about today's students, "Changemakers." That got us thinking about contemporary slang, slang from previous decades, and words like "cool" that stay – well, cool – no matter what.

We reached out to alumni online and added to the results with a dive into the archival pages of The Carolinian. And now ...

We aren't too high hat (snooty) to share some dope (cool) examples here. We hope you don't think we're bunnies (stupid) or crazy as bedbugs (nuts) for hazing the tires (hurrying) to get these to press.

We hope you think this selection of slang is way rad (dope) and that you are down (ready) to enjoy!

'60s



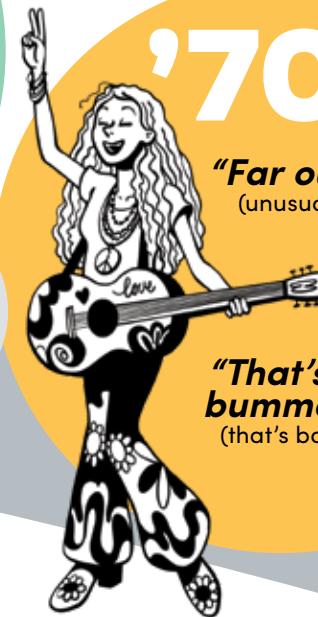
"Fab"
(fabulous)

"Catch some rays"
(get a suntan)

"A-go-go"
(latest styles)

"Groovy"
(neat, fun)

'70s



"Far out"
(unusual)

"Aw, shucks!"
(oh, no!)

"That's a bummer"
(that's bad)

"Yo"
(hello)

'80s



"Gag me with a spoon"
(conveys disgust or disapproval)

"Bad"
(really good)

"Couch potato"
(lazy)

"Straight up"
(means truthfully and frankly)

"Crib"
(place where you live)

'90s

"You're trippin'"
(you're crazy)

"Oh, snap!"
(a playful expression of surprise)

"It's been real"
(see ya later!)

"Word!"
(that's right)

"No duh!"
(obviously!)



"Homie"
(friend)

'00s

"You're the bomb-dot-com"
(you're awesome)

"Get hype"
(get excited)

"It's all good!"
(everything is fine)

"Girl, bye!"
(whatever!)

"Boo"
(significant other)

'10s

"LOL"
(laugh out loud)

"Bro"
(friend, buddy)

"Chillin'"
(relaxing)

"YOLO"
(you only live once)

"It's lit"
(it's awesome)



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KYLE T. WEBSTER

50 years of discovery

For the last 50 years, Dr. Jeffrey Soles of UNCG's Department of Classical Studies has excavated on the Greek island of Mochlos, off the coast of Crete, unearthing the cultural life of a 5,000-year-old civilization.

Now his career is celebrated in "Kleronomia: Legacy and Inheritance: Studies on the Aegean Bronze Age in Honor of Jeffrey S. Soles," co-edited by Dr. Joanne Murphy, recipient of UNCG's Junior Research Excellence Award and the College of Arts and Sciences' Senior Teaching Excellence Award. She is currently director of the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies in Athens.

"We had over thirty authors, heavy-hitting archaeologists, who contributed to that volume," says Murphy, department head for Classical Studies.

Soles' work has produced some of the most significant finds in Aegean archaeology and has been supported through a National Geographic Society Research Grant, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation at Harvard University, and more. He was elected president of the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), a major supporter of Bronze Age archaeology throughout Greece, in 2021.

We can't read the language of this Bronze Age culture, Soles explains, so excavations are crucial. "Everything we know about the Minoan civilization comes from what we dig up."

Soles believes the Minoans on Mochlos exported purple dye and imported bronze. "Most of the men were fishermen. All the houses had looms. Weaving was 'women's work' throughout antiquity, so I picture all the men out fishing and the women weaving and producing textiles dyed with purple." He's currently working to answer questions about religious shrines.

One iconic discovery is an ornately carved, rectangular jewelry box that Soles believes belonged to a priestess. "The ivory pyxis depicts the epiphany of the Minoan goddess on its lid. All its jewelry was still inside," he says, "including a necklace of 90 amethyst beads, the 'diamonds of antiquity.'"

Dr. Giorgios Doudalis, who first volunteered in 2004 and who now teaches at UNCG, was there.

The box was under a collapsed wall, he recalls. A mother and son teamed up to find it. The son saw something he thought was bone. On further examination, it was "one of the most spectacular finds in the Minoan world," recalls Doudalis.

"This is what excavation is – noticing and understanding. If you are not specialized in this, you are one millimeter away from destroying history."

Soles' impact goes beyond research, from the local Cretan community to generations of UNCG Spartans.

"The mayor of the city of Siteia thanked me for filling the local museum



Top, l-r: Alec Gibson, retired UNCG professor Dr. Margo Bender, Jonathan Flood '06, '10 MA, Benjamin Miller '06, Douglas Faulmann '86, '94 MFA, Dr. Jeffrey Soles, 2012. Left, Soles with Nikos Zervonikolakis in Mochlos, 2005. Below, Ivory pyxis.



PHOTO OF JEFFREY SOLES AND NIKOS ZERVONIKOLAKIS BY ORESTIS ZERVONIKOLAKIS. IVORY PYXIS DRAWING BY DOUGLAS FAULMANN.

“How can we move forward if we don’t know anything about the past?”

– DR. JEFFREY SOLES

with finds from Mochlos," Soles says. "I was very moved."

Douglas Faulmann '86, '94 MFA is one of many UNCG alumni who have pursued careers related to Soles' work. He has been the chief illustrator for INSTAP since 1999. "The excitement and thrill of knowing that I'm holding something that was made by fine craftspeople 3,000-4,000 years ago never gets old."

Luke Kaiser '13, a former student of Soles', remembers the thrill of his time on the excavation. After the workday, he and Soles would swim the distance between the island and the Cretan mainland, he recalls. Kaiser is one of the next generation of archaeologists working not only in the Aegean, but also across the United States.

"Archeology is one of these jobs that's actually on the rise," says Dr. Murphy. "We need more archeologists because of cultural resource management work. There's a big need for that in America."

What's next? Soles will be back in Crete this summer, digging, discovering, and debating. As he has done for 50 years.

POSITIVE ENERGY

After emigrating from Baghdad with her husband and daughters in 2009 and starting life anew, Dr. Nihal Raees is now an energy analyst for UNCG Facilities Operations.

You may have seen that she and her team, when faced with a projected \$1.6 million increase in utility spending for last year, were prompted by their director to find a cheaper way of procuring natural gas and electricity.

The result? Raees worked internally at UNCG and externally with vendors and the state to save UNCG \$600,000 of the projected \$1.6 million.

"Nihal and her team are bringing into action Chancellor Gilliam's charge to innovate and reinvent here at UNCG," says

Vice Chancellor Bob Shea.

Raees nods to her team.

"We're all a big family here."

Speaking of family, every one of her five daughters is a Spartan! The eldest, Buthainah '15, is a scientist researcher and method developer at Biogen in Durham. Rawaa '15 went on to medical school and is an MD resident at Christiana Care Delaware. Jehan '19, a paralegal at Law Firm Carolinas, is preparing for the LSAT. Her youngest daughters, Dunya and Khulood (in visual, l-r, with their mother), are in UNCG's Bryan School.

"This is why we did this. So our daughters would have the opportunity to live, work, and be safe. They can go anywhere and do anything," says Raees.



FROM WUAG TO GOLF CHANNEL AND OLYMPICS

IT WAS A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY.

Tiger Woods, at age 43, had just won his fifth Masters. Todd Lewis '89 was the interviewer as dusk settled over Augusta. What should he ask – and follow up on? "I wanted to make sure our viewers got something they would get nowhere else," he says of what he knew would be a defining moment.

He got his start behind a microphone at UNCG, in Carmichael Building. "They had a broadcast studio. We learned how to do a newscast." His instructor was WFMY meteorologist Randy Jackson.

"He saw potential in me. He gave me a belief in myself."

A stint at student radio station WUAG inspired him. "I did news. I learned to be a bit of a journalist." The speech communication major (minor in broadcasting and cinema) fondly recalls taking his cassette recorder to interviews.

A variety of sports broadcast experiences in later years included WXII (Winston-Salem), WECT (Wilmington), and WRAL (Raleigh), among other stations.

Lewis' big break came in 2008 as he joined the Golf Channel, where he's now a host and reporter. He's covered golf at the last two summer Olympics for NBC, and at the Beijing Winter Olympics he covered alpine skiing.



Todd Lewis interviewing Tiger Woods

His advice for aspiring broadcasters? Of course, you need some talent. But number one, you have to be determined. Number two? Build relationships.

Armfields and Schwartz honored

UNCG's Distinguished Service Awards represent the most prestigious public service honors conferred by the University. The Charles Duncan McIver Award, named for UNCG's founding president, is the University's highest honor and recognizes extraordinary contributions and service to the state or nation. The Holderness/Weaver Award is named for Adelaide Fortune Holderness '34, the first woman to serve on UNCG's Board of Trustees, and H. Michael Weaver, Greensboro businessman and UNCG honorary degree recipient. The award recognizes exceptional service to the Greensboro/Triad community.

“We applaud this year’s awards recipients for their many outstanding contributions toward making Greensboro, the Triad, and our state the best they can be.”

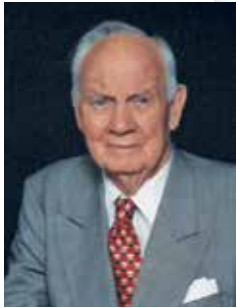
— GEORGE HOYLE '90, UNCG BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

has carried out his vision for the foundation by supporting education, programs for children and youth, efforts to reduce poverty, enhancement of parks and recreation, and the arts.

Susan Shore Schwartz will receive the Holderness/Weaver Award. She serves as executive director of the Cemala Foundation and was formerly executive director of Action Greensboro. An alumna of Salem College, Schwartz's career in non-profit, community, and business development spans more than three decades. Her advocacy for early childhood education, economic development, the arts, higher education, and senior living aligns with the mission of both our University and the namesakes of this award.

A formal awards ceremony is planned for May 14.

The McIver Award will be presented posthumously to Edward Marion Armfield Sr. (1915-1999), founder of the Edward M. Armfield Sr. Foundation, and to his wife, Adair Phifer Armfield '61, who has served as chair of the foundation's board since its establishment. A leader in North Carolina's textile industry, Ed Armfield personally offered college scholarships to the children and grandchildren of his employees. His concern for those who find it financially challenging to get an education was the nexus for the foundation he created in 1999. Adair Armfield



Left, Edward Marion Armfield Sr., above, Adair Phifer Armfield '61



Susan Shore Schwartz

PHOTO OF ADAIR PHIFER ARMFIELD BY ASHLEY GILMER.
PHOTO OF SUSAN SHORE SCHWARTZ BY DAN ROUTH.

CHICAGO & CHANGE

“I CAME TO UNCG with the idea that architecture can change the world,” says Kemena Brooks '09. Now, as director of development for The Community Builders, Inc., her work is changing the face of Chicago's Garfield Park and earning her recognition on Crain's 40-Under-40 list.

“I've been a part of developments that have improved schools, brought retail to retail deserts, and increased home values in surrounding neighborhoods,” says Brooks.

Her current project, the Sankofa Wellness Village, is garnering acclaim. “The project won the Chicago Prize, which comes with a \$10 million grant from the Pritzker Traubert Foundation.”

The project will impact 17,000 neighborhood residents who do not have ready access to exercise facilities, financial institutions, or retail space.

Even as this project was being developed, she says, the only grocery store in the neighborhood left. “In the middle of the night, it took its sign down, cleared out all the shelves, and locked



Kemena Brooks, director of development for The Community Builders, Inc.; right, Brooks played for the UNCG Women's Basketball team, 2004-2008

the doors,” she recalls. “This project has brought me back to the reason I got into this work, which is to create opportunities and access for families.”

Brooks came to UNCG after Women's Basketball coach Lynn Agee recruited her. Balancing athletics and academics was a challenge, but Brooks says, “I wanted to make sure I was spending time setting the path forward for my future.”



How does she feel now? “I've just been honestly blessed and fortunate to have found a path that I truly believe in.”

Even though Brooks has been a Windy City resident for the last five years, she's still connected to Greensboro for another important reason. “I actually met my wife at UNCG,” says Brooks. After the wedding, she recalls, the new couple took photos in front of the Alumni House.

CAREERS IN 3D

Lindsay Draper '16 MSN/ MBA, '19 DNP knows about the “realities” of nursing. Now, she's helping introduce School of Nursing students to virtual reality (VR) technology through training simulations.

“VR offers a simulated clinical experience and environment,” says Draper. “It really allows our students to practice without fear of making mistakes.”

The program launched in

Fall 2023. “We're really going to ramp up our efforts this spring,” she says. The department plans to use VR for multiple purposes in both classroom and clinical settings.

Other academic units are using VR technology as well.

In the Bryan School's Department of Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies (CARS), Burlington Industries Excellence Professor Dr. Nancy Hodges and Dr. Kittichai “Tu” Watchravesringkan are completing research funded

by a \$528,000 USDA Higher Education Challenge grant. What are the applications? “You have making prototypes of garments in the virtual environment all the way to designing stores virtually,” says Hodges. “We have to constantly change and evolve

our program because the industry is constantly changing and evolving.” Applications of VR are here to stay, and its specialized skills are key for future professionals, these UNCG professors agree. “Endless possibilities!” says Draper.

Footsteps

Playing was pure joy. And the stats show it for Keyford Langley '92, star UNCG point guard who still holds the program record for three-point percentage after three decades.

But nothing quite matched the thrill of seeing his twin sons Keyshaun '23 and Kobe Langley '23 make their mark on UNCG Basketball game after game. Even if Keyshaun almost bested his dad's record a year ago.

From seats six rows behind the bench, he and wife, Toni, have cheered them on. If there are bigger fans, we don't know of them.

In December, the squad defeated No. 14-ranked Arkansas on the road. "It was the best win in the history of the program for so many reasons," Keyford said. It showed what the team was made of. "Blue-collar, gritty, under-the-radar, fighting-for-inches. These players know and believe that they can compete and win big games."

When the season ended, we asked about his favorite memories. There were exciting passes and dunks, but the thing that makes him smile? "When Keyshaun and Kobe would walk to the bench after a timeout or at the end of the game with their arm around each other. It always reminded me when they stated they wanted to go to the same school and experience the ups and downs together. We've been so blessed to see them perform for so many years at a program that continues to make history."

This year's squad finished with 21 wins, 11 losses overall, 12-6 in SoCon play. That marked 20 or more wins for the program in seven of the last eight years. Keyshaun led the SoCon in three-point percentage and was 13th-best nationally (at press time). Kobe, for the second straight year, earned the SoCon Defensive Player of the Year Award.

Kobe, who graduated with an information systems management degree last spring and is now completing a master's in cybersecurity, plans to play overseas. Keyshaun, who earned his degree in business administration last spring and is currently majoring in professional studies, plans to do the same.

They also look forward to joining their parents in the stands at some future point – all rooting for the Blue and Gold.

Keyford Langley '92 with his sons, Kobe and Keyshaun, I-r



Two alumnae were honored with highway markers. Susie Sharp '28, the first female judge in North Carolina history, was the first woman to be elected chief justice of any state supreme court in the nation. She was elected to that seat in North Carolina in 1974. Her marker is in Reidsville. Near the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, a new marker honors Virginia Tucker '30 and other "human computers" of the early decades of the space program. She oversaw the work of more than 400 women mathematicians across Langley, the forerunner of NASA.

I SAW
THE SIGN



DREAM CAMP

A CAMP FOR CHILDREN on the autism spectrum was once just a dream for Triad area families who wanted their children to participate in summer experiences like their peers. In 2008, the concept was born from caring parents, initiated by knowledgeable faculty in the Department of Psychology, and funded by generous alumni.

Psychology professor Susan Keane was supervising a social skills group within the

to design a day camp. She combined social skills classes with arts and crafts, physical activity sessions, and presentations on practical life skills. She called on UNCG professors, coaches, and alumni to bring special interests to the campers.

At the end of the first summer of Dream Camp, two teenage campers spoke about how important the experience was for them because they never felt like they fit in at

other camps. "That was all the motivation I needed to keep Dream Camp going," says Keane.

Candy Bernard '67, whose husband's family founded the K'Nex toy company – their building sets had become particularly popular among children on the autism spectrum

– approached Keane. "Bernard has been a source of constant financial support through the years," Keane emphasized. "Dream Camp became a special passion for her."

As Keane and colleague Dr. Rosemary Nelson-Gray worked to make the most of donations, they also reached out to students to staff the camp as counselors. "It was a natural fit," explains Nelson-Gray. "Graduate students in our psychology department need practical experience, so we tapped them to help us develop the

“My son has learned skills here that he doesn't get in school or other camps. He can't wait to come back next summer.”

– MIGUEL SERRANO, FATHER OF A 12-YEAR-OLD CAMPER

UNCG Psychology Clinic when she first learned about the need. A parent explained that children on the spectrum, like her own, miss out on the summer camp experience due to bullying, anxiety, and difficulty regulating emotions.

"Kelly Whelan was an amazing advocate for her child," recalls Keane. When Keane explained to Whelan that there were a few impediments to getting the camp set up in time for the summer, Whelan contacted golfer Davis Love III, who made a donation.

With initial funding secured, Keane worked

Left, Connor Bunton shares at Dream Camp. Below, Dr. John Borchert gives an Esports Arena tour; Ethan Conley '24 coaches a camper; Many activities are planned each week.



curriculum and lead camp activities."

For the campers and their families, the end result of this UNCG collaborative effort is powerful.

"These people are changing lives," says Miguel Serrano, father of a 12-year-old camper. "My son has learned skills here that he doesn't get in school or other camps. He can't wait to come back next summer."

FOR MORE INFO VISIT MAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.



BROADWAY BOUND

THEY SAY THE NEON LIGHTS ARE BRIGHT THERE. SOME SPARTAN UNDERGRADS ARE SHINING BRIGHTLY, TOO.

AVILON TATE is easing on down the yellow brick road in “The Wiz.” The show opened on Broadway March 29, after a national tour.

“It’s a fun story, and being on stage, singing the songs, dancing to them, it fills you up for sure,” says Tate, part of the ensemble and an understudy for the Tin Man. The original Broadway production of “The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical Wonderful Wizard of Oz” premiered in 1975 and is a retelling of “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,” through the lens of Black culture.

“We are just living our best lives out on stage, being able to perform this iconic show,” he says.

DASIA AMOS, a huge Michael Jackson fan, is helping tell his life story in “MJ: The Musical” at the Neil Simon Theatre.

Part of the ensemble, she also has a speaking role as Suzanne de Passe, the Motown executive who discovered The Jackson 5.

How did she get this role? Last spring, she submitted an audition video through “Playbill,” dancing to Jackson’s “Smooth Criminal.”

After finals at UNCG, Amos got an email asking if she could rush to New York for an in-person audition. She was called back for another one. She earned a spot as a permanent swing in the show, but she needed to be in New York in three days. She moved in with a fellow Spartan in Brooklyn and learned the entire musical in two weeks. “It was insane, beautiful, and crazy,” she says of her debut.

GABRIEL YARBOROUGH has toured with the revival of “Hairspray!” since last fall – Boston, Denver, San Francisco, Houston. They stop in Charlotte later in the spring.

Yarborough brought lessons from UNCG with him. He used his experience performing in UNCG shows like “SpongeBob: The Musical” to launch this phase of his career. Now, he is learning firsthand from the original Broadway creative team of director Jack O’Brien and choreographer Jerry Mitchell. It’s a big step toward Broadway, he notes.

“Hairspray!’ will have you sweating but in a fun way!”

THE WIZ PHOTO COURTESY OF AVILON TATE. PHOTO COURTESY OF DASIA AMOS. HAIRSPRAY PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL.

SET THE STAGE JUST AS UNCG helps students reach the Broadway stage, a partnership between the University and Well-Spring, A Life Plan Community, is bringing Broadway to Greensboro.

The program invites Broadway actors to Well-Spring for a performance and masterclass with UNCG students. UNCG first- and third-year students then return the favor by performing for residents at Well-Spring’s Virginia Somerville Sutton Theatre. The program is funded by the Sue and John Irvin Foundation. John Irvin’s mother was one of the first students to receive a BA in music from the North Carolina College for Women (now UNCG).

CAPTURE THE FLOW

VIEWING ART AS DYNAMIC AND FLUID, two UNCG Dance students created a pilot program where art inspires dancers, and dance inspires artists.

Liz Anderson and Tiffany Moss Hale are the brains behind “Drawn to Dance,” a series of public events at the Weatherspoon Art Museum where

UNCG Dance students improvise performances for art students to sketch or film.

How did it start? During their first year studying for a master of fine arts in dance choreography, Anderson and Hale began a graduate assistantship aimed at brainstorming new dance

programming with the Weatherspoon. This semester, they secured funding from the Sue Stinson Enrichment Endowment, created to promote dance within a context of social justice. Their “Dance Lab” will create mobile, interactive events for dance students and the public.

MCBRIDE AT EUC

Author and musician

JAMES MCBRIDE will speak Thursday, May 16, at UNCG’s Elliott University Center.

The Greensboro Bound event is made possible in partnership with University Libraries. His 2013 novel, “The Good Lord Bird,” about abolitionist John Brown, won the National Book Award for Fiction. His debut novel, “Miracle at St. Anna,” was turned into a 2008 Spike Lee-directed film, and his memoir “The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother” has sold two million copies. **See details at greensborobound.com.**

Charge up the charts

Colin Cutler’s “Tarwater”

launch concert, with Triad musicians such as UNCG alumni Bob Worrells and Christen Blanton Mack helping fill the stage, sported a rollicking vibe.

His new album had broken into the top 10 on the nation’s Alt-Country and Folk charts. His hauntingly quiet single “Run to the River,” just his voice and banjo, had risen to the top 20. No Depression roots music magazine gave it a glowing review.

An English instructor at Guilford Technical Community College and freelance journalist, Cutler creates strongly hewn songs. On his new album, Flannery O’Connor’s writings are a great influence. “A lot of my catalog I wrote in graduate school at UNCG,” the 2016 master’s graduate says.

His focus as he earned his MA in English? “On paper, Anglo-Appalachian balladry. My master’s program had an interdisciplinary spin on it.” That allowed him to join the UNCG Old Time Ensemble in the School of Music.

The military veteran and former Fulbright Scholar is already planning his next project. “I’m turning Dante’s ‘Inferno’ into Americana.”





Outtake

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS Before coming to UNCG, Cassidy Burel '20 had never threaded a sewing machine, but her dream was to create glamorous, eye-catching fashion. Now, she owns her own design studio for fashion-forward, custom-made bridal and evening wear. She's already attracting clients from across the United States. Burel, who majored in consumer, apparel, and retail studies in the Bryan School of Business and Economics, says the program allowed her to synthesize her business sense and creativity into professional success. At age 27, she's doing all she could have imagined, as she's fashioning her career with immaculate style. See her story at go.uncg.edu/cassidy-burel.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN NORONA '13

"I don't design clothes. I design dreams." —Ralph Lauren

HEAD F THE CLASS

SINCE ITS START, OUR UNIVERSITY HAS NURTURED GREAT EDUCATORS. GO BEHIND THE SCENES AS STUDENT TEACHERS LEAD THEIR FIRST CLASSROOMS.

BY CHRIS RASH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '13

YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER A TEACHER who went above and beyond. Someone who encouraged you, showed you new possibilities, or created a fun place for you to learn.

Believe it or not, that teacher was once taking the reins of a classroom for the very first time. This spring, many UNCG student teachers are taking that first step themselves. Soon, they'll be a life-changing teacher for the next generation.

Clinical Associate Professor Scott Howerton '05 MEd, '11 PhD says, "This is their final semester before they enter the teaching profession. Students take on the role as a full-time professional with support from their cooperating teacher." UNCG's student teachers call these "on-site teacher educators" OSTEs or "Osties."

Today, you can find graduates of UNCG programs in over 75% of the state's public-school districts. Spartans also teach in numerous independent schools, community colleges, and universities across North Carolina.

These UNCG student teachers tell us they have a passion for their content areas, endless

curiosity about the craft of teaching, and a yearning to help young students discover their passions. They also want to be trusted role models.

Spartans teach in 3/4+ of NC school districts.

"My teachers in elementary school really had an impact on me. I want to show students that they can do anything," says Anniya Moore, one of those student teachers. She is in a second-grade class at Caleb's Creek Elementary School in Kernersville.



Marissa Colon, student teacher at Wiley Magnet Middle School.



“There’s that spark in me to teach.”

— KENIA PEREZ-MELCHOR,
STUDENT TEACHER AT DAVID D. JONES
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

But first, they need the skills to inspire and educate. Those come from School of Education faculty.

How do these student teachers describe their professors? In short, “A wealth of information.” They praised the faculty’s ability to bring years of experience into practice, to model pedagogical theories effectively, and to create productive learning communities.

“I’ve learned different techniques for how to teach all subjects and the impact that those teaching styles have on the students,” explains Alyssa Dehart.

Students in the School of Education also learn from each other. Luke Vassar describes his cohort of future middle grades teachers. “We’ve been in this program since we were sophomores, and we’ve been going through it all together. Teaching is collaborative and to create a teaching community while you’re still learning to be a teacher is incredibly important. I’m glad UNCG values that.”

CHOOSING A PATH

Which path to pursue – elementary, middle grades, secondary, or special education? UNCG offers majors in all those areas, as well as deaf education and a dual degree in elementary and special education. Each student has their own reasons for heading in the direction that they do.

The majority focus on elementary grades, with many preparing for middle grades. The School of Education partners with departments across campus to provide opportunities for high school level student teaching candidates.

Kenia Perez-Melchor is one of those following the elementary grades path. Currently student teaching in a kindergarten classroom in the Spanish immersion magnet program at Greensboro’s Jones Elementary, she loves seeing children make connections between things they’ve done in class and everyday life. “They tell me, ‘I saw this triangle in my Dorito.’ And I see how they’re applying and how they’re learning. That’s what makes me so happy about teaching in elementary – I see that growth.”

Dual major Amanda Best is doing her special education placement while student teaching at Burlington’s Smith Elementary School. “It takes a special person to teach K-6. I wanted that training, and I knew that special education would apply to any class. There’s going to be



GET A PIECE OF THE IPIE



INSTITUTE for
PARTNERSHIPS
in EDUCATION

UNCG ALUMNI are reaching into the community through the Institute for Partnerships in Education (IPIE). Established in 2020, it helps identify where the needs of public-school districts and community organizations overlap with opportunities for UNCG students to gain experience.

Faith Freeman ’04, ’11 MEd, ’18 PhD, a former director of STEM for Guilford County Schools (GCS), now co-directs IPIE. Another alumna, Megan Martin ’19 PhD, a recipient of the North Carolina Education Policy Fellowship, coordinates the Tutoring Collaborative with GCS.

UNCG graduate students working in over 30 fields of study receive assistantships, and Guilford students receive tutoring and a leg-up in their studies.



Amanda Best
student teaches at
Marvin B. Smith
Elementary School.

TEACHER EDUCATION FELLOWS FLY HIGH

AMANDA BEST is one of UNCG’s Teacher Education Fellows. “I think the program is really awesome because it pulls

people from all different education programs,” she says. Fellows benefit from peer mentoring and guest speakers such as Guilford County Schools Rookie Teacher of the Year Kenya Bethea, who is pursuing her Master of Arts in Teaching at UNCG now.

For some, it opens doors. “There was no way I was going to be able to pay out of pocket for my tuition,” says Best. “For a lot of us, the fellowship is one of the reasons we’re able to come to UNCG and get a degree.”

Students accepted to the UNCG Teacher Education Fellows Program can receive up to \$28,000 in scholarship money over their four years enrolled at the University.

a diverse group of needs in any classroom, special ed or general ed.”

For future science teacher Marissa Colon, having the opportunity to provide students with their first real chance to dive deeper into the subject is exciting. “I love the ability to get students’ curiosity going. For so many students, their first interaction with science is in sixth grade, and that’s what really hooks them,” she notes. Colon, a student teacher at Wiley Magnet Middle School in Winston-Salem, enjoys being able to be the one to introduce students to filling test tubes, measuring solutions, and donning goggles in the lab.

Preparing to lead your own classroom is a process full of varied experiences. According to Dr. Julie Bost, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Specialized Education Services,

student teaching provides the chance to take what has been learned in the classroom and apply it in a real-life setting.

“Many of our student teachers go on to begin their teaching careers in the school where they student teach. This is a positive experience for student teachers and helps meet needs in local schools.”

Colon describes the process. “We as a cohort would visit four different schools and we’d spend a little time here and there, write reflections, and see which internship teacher we connected with the most. Being able to experience different schools within the same semester is nice because you really don’t know what you’re getting into until you start interning.”

Best sums it up: “I think UNCG does a really great job of making sure that we get that hands-on experience. And then we have some pretty awesome classes.”

STRIKING SPARKS

Colon is adamant: “Every child deserves the opportunity to be able to learn.” She’s inspired by both her students and her subject itself.

Vassar, a social studies student teacher at Greensboro’s Kernodle Middle School, is also passionate. “Education is critically important to our society. I want my students to go on to be good citizens as well as good people.”

Some were inspired by specific teachers. For Vassar, that was his math teacher, Mr. Simon. “I know a lot of people don’t like math, but he got me to enjoy that. He taught us how to budget for ourselves and how taxes work. He also created projects where we got to choose a real-life subject to bring into math, and it made the subject a lot more interesting for me.”

Moore’s inspiration was a teacher she had at Joyner Elementary in fourth and fifth grade – Miss Cindy Adams. “She was just so welcoming, and she would go and support you outside of school as well, so if you had extracurriculars going on, she was there for you.”

Perez-Melchor’s placement in the Spanish immersion program relates directly to her experience as a child. At Jones Elementary, native English speakers learn academic Spanish. “In kindergarten, we’re speaking Spanish 99% of the time. I’ve enjoyed seeing how the kids are really understanding. Their brains are like a sponge.”

She herself had to learn a new language as



“I want to inspire children the same way my teachers inspired me.”

—ALYSSA DEHART, STUDENT TEACHER AT HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PASSIONS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

BEFORE MARISSA COLON climbed the three-story indoor rock wall in UNCG’s Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness for the first time, she needed some assurance. “My roommate convinced me to climb one of the easy routes on the wall. I thought, ‘This is really fun.’”

It’s a way for her to stay active and socialize with peers, the middle grades student teacher says. Those same students are fascinated by Ms. Colon’s hobby. “My kids are so interested in me being involved in climbing and backpacking. I show them pictures and they say, ‘Wow!’”

She’s been working with UNCG’s Outdoor Adventures program for over three years and now leads outdoor backpacking and rock-climbing trips. “It has improved my leadership skills and broadened my teaching skills.”



Marissa Colon at the climbing wall inside the Kaplan Center for Wellness.



Luke Vassar at UNCG Esports Arena

“Let’s bring gaming into the classroom as a learning tool.”

—LUKE VASSAR, STUDENT TEACHER AT JOHN R. KERNODLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BRAIN GAMES

LUKE VASSAR arrived at UNCG Esports Arena with his own gaming console. It included a few buttons and a joystick. “I like ‘old school’ a lot,” joked the seventh grade social studies student teacher.

He finds value in gaming inside and outside the classroom. “It’s a great way of getting kids to come together,” he says. “There’s also the idea of ‘Let’s bring gaming into the classroom as a learning tool.’”

Vassar collects games that teach. “This game called ‘Civilization’ is a good one. It incorporates all different types of economics.”

Social studies is more than history, he notes. “You get people engaged in all different ways.”

One day, he might even use games in a lesson plan.

— Mercer Butler ’11 MA

a kindergartener. “I didn’t know any English at the time. My teachers would find ways to communicate with me. They really worked towards making me feel welcome and making me feel like I mattered.”

Others feel they’re simply following a calling. Alyssa Dehart, a student teacher in a Hopewell Elementary School third-grade class in Trinity, recalls asking for an overhead projector one Christmas as a child. Her passion was sealed by her own experiences as a young student. “I had supportive teachers who helped me, and I wanted to inspire children the same way my teachers inspired me.”

CLASS IN SESSION

Some of the long hallways of the elementary schools are lined with lockers, while others are adorned with simple hooks for colorful backpacks. Inside the classrooms, the walls showcase student work and inspiring quotations: “Be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.”

For K-12 educators, school days are full of action.

Best is reading with her kindergarteners. They’re learning how to find the Who, What, When, and Where in a story.

Middle grades student teachers Colon and Vassar are preparing to grapple with science and social studies. “I think it’s a challenge that’s going to push me into becoming the educator I want to be. I’m excited,” says Colon.

In the fall semester, UNCG student teachers were in the classroom two days a week. As the spring semester began, their responsibilities increased. “We completely take over the classroom for six weeks,” explains Vassar.

“Before I started, I expected it to be a lot of work, a lot of lesson planning, a lot of curriculum building,” he continues. “I was also excited to experience a classroom full-time, build bonds with students full-time, and see their progress full-time.”

As they take the lead in their classes, they’ll lean on their on-site teacher educators, the seasoned teachers who guide them through these experiences in real time. OSTEs help the student teachers craft lessons and serve as sounding boards for questions and ideas.

“It’s hard to put into words how much they mean to you because they help you so much,” says Moore. “They really take pride in their student teachers.”



Alyssa Dehart with fellow Spartans: principal Dr. Carla Miller '95 and OSTE Marisa Hancock '16.



“I want my kids to remember that they came to school and they were loved by someone.”

— AMANDA BEST, STUDENT TEACHER
AT MARVIN B. SMITH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Anniya Moore with OSTE Tracey Bruno at Caleb’s Creek Elementary School, second-grade classroom.

For Vassar, that on-site guidance pays off almost immediately. “Every class I am getting feedback from my cooperating teacher that I can implement, if not in the moment, in the next class period or the next day.”

What’s inspiring about OSTEs often goes beyond simple lesson plans. “My OSTE is known for being connected with NASA,” notes Colon. “She does all these programs for her kids, so she gets a lot of grant money to offer different opportunities. That’s what I want to offer to my students as well.” That connection with her OSTE also allowed Colon to be part of a science fellowship. With other teachers, she attended a weekend event, learned about an experiment, and brought it back to her classroom.

As a blend between a mentor and a colleague, the OSTE can be a bridge between the theory learned in the UNCG classroom and the practice of teaching in a K-12 school. “It’s nice being able to go to your OSTE, who’s been doing it for years, and taking those notes to bring back to your university classes,” says Moore.

Perez-Melchor describes learning to revise, change, and develop lessons with her OSTE. “I can see ways to change my lesson – what I can add or take away.”

Dr. Howerton adds, “The student-teaching semester allows our students to simulate all the activities of a full-time teacher. This includes working as lead teachers or as a co-teacher with their cooperating teacher. This is the culmination of their progress through the teacher education curriculum and provides the opportunity to demonstrate their professional competence.”

The routine of life in a classroom becomes second nature to student teachers as the year progresses. They give no second thought to separating their elementary students into small groups and leading a math or reading lesson around a common table. Reacting to a question from a middle schooler who is looking for the best way to find the mass of an object during a lab is now automatic. Developing ways to modify lessons for a student who needs accommodations due to a documented disability now comes much easier.

Best faces slightly different requirements in special education. The fact that these classes are smaller is a plus, but they come with the challenge of additional paperwork and compliance requirements.

“I love the special education side because I

get to really know my kids and we get to work one-on-one or in small groups. In the general ed classes, I have 22-plus children that all want and need attention,” she says.

For Moore, the best parts of the student teaching experience are clear. “I’ve connected with the kids more, and I’ve been able to talk to more teachers.”

TODAY’S TECH

In a corner of one classroom, near the bookshelf and craft materials, a row of laptops charges in an “Anywhere Cart.” It takes both technology and old-fashioned “thinking caps” to educate today’s children.

Even though it was not long ago that these student teachers were the ones sitting behind the desks in elementary or middle school, they have noticed changes from their time as students.

Colon was one of the many students who did not have an iPhone when she was in school. It’s not the same today. “My kids are super into their phones and their Apple watches.”

More significantly, the rise of technology in the classroom has brought about new experiences.

Late in the fall semester, students in Moore’s second-grade class sat at their desks, cutting paper and gluing the pieces together to build snowmen. Technology allowed the lesson to continue when the students were done. Moore used a document camera connected to a smart screen to project a completed snowman. She asked the children to explain their process – the “real” lesson. What was done first and why was it done in that order?

In many middle and high schools today, all students have their own laptops. Vassar notes, “The benefits are that they’re able to access the internet – all these resources they wouldn’t be able to if they didn’t have a computer. The downside is that they’ll pull it out in the middle of class and start playing games on it.”

The goal, as with any teaching tool, is to improve education. “Technology is used to help students be interactive and learn through play. It’s more hands on,” says Dehart.

Another effect of technology? Students don’t use traditional textbooks as much as they did just a few years ago. Vassar continues, “There are new things happening every year that you might need to add. Information moves so fast we can’t rely on a textbook anymore. We have

“There’s an energy in a middle school classroom that I really enjoy.”

—LUKE VASSAR



to create our own digital textbooks and gather texts online that are more relevant and more up to date for students.”

It can also expand access to information. “For some students it might be really hard to go outside of school hours to get access to a library. However, they can access a digital library and figure out any information they might need to know or do online tutoring without having to leave their homes,” he adds.

Additionally, many traditional places where you would gather information have simply migrated online. “Some science resources, like National Geographic, have really cool online information,” says Colon.

The use of computers has given rise to numerous online learning tools. Being able to have students use sites like BrainPOP that have interactive tools in areas such as reading, math, or science, makes learning fun for the students.

In one elementary classroom, the schedule included a mix of traditional and technology-enabled tasks. “Finish coloring your moose” was followed up with two app-based activities, Prodigy and Epic.

Nevertheless, the use of technology changes based on the grade level and needs of the specific class. Perez-Melchor, who is

PREPARE TO LAUNCH

The new Academic Support Hub is launching UNCG’s education students into their professional careers.

“The Academic Support Hub fulfills a desire from our students for further tools to help them be successful,” says School of Education Dean Randy Penfield. Public educators have a rigorous set of licensure exams to take. That’s why the School of Education, with the support of donors, is lending a hand. In addition to test prep, students can find tutoring in American Sign Language and math.

“We are dedicated to helping our students be as prepared as possible to begin their careers when they graduate from UNCG,” he adds.



Kenia Perez-Melchor, student teacher at David D. Jones Elementary School.

placed in a kindergarten classroom, says, “My students aren’t spending a lot of time on computers or iPads. Most of the day is spent doing other activities, hands-on things, and actually using critical thinking. The technology they’re using shouldn’t be a way to keep them occupied. It should be an extra tool to support their learning.”

EXPECTATION AND REALITY

Last fall, when they were only in their classrooms part-time, the student teachers imagined what full-time teaching would be like. Expectations and reality can be different.

Moore was excited about focusing on lesson plans. “But there’s so much more that goes into it when you’re a teacher,” she says. “For example, how to help the kids that are falling behind or need more support in the classroom.”

While their perceptions of the job have grown, these future teachers remain dedicated and passionate about entering their own classrooms and educating young people. They see long careers in the classroom ahead.

These UNCG student teachers are just getting started, but they already know what kind of legacy they want to build. They want to make a difference in the lives of their “kids.” They want to be teachers who are compassionate, positive, kind, and loving.

“I want my kids to remember the content I taught, but also the fact that when they came to school, they were loved by someone,” said Best, whose classroom is filled with displays that feature students’ projects and has “Learn & Grow” stenciled in large, purple letters across the top of one wall.

Other takeaways? For Dehart, it might be seeing the amazing progress made from the first day in class to the last. For Vassar, it may be the “a-ha” moments. “I love seeing that little click where everything makes sense.”

For Perez-Melchor, it’s teaching not just content, but character. Moore, a Black educator, speaks about how representation matters. For Colon, it may be “opening a doorway for new experiences” for her students.

Whatever specific inspiration fuels UNCG’s student teachers, Dehart’s sentiment may be true across the board. “I teach with my heart. If you ever saw me teach, you would see that my heart just shines.”

FOR MORE INFO VISIT MAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.

The Long View

BY MIKE HARRIS '93 MA • ARCHIVAL VISUALS COURTESY UNCG'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, MANNING ASSOCIATION, AND CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY, UMASS LOWELL

The vision started with one long, picturesque avenue lined with trees and plantings. And behind this vision were people who wanted something better for the current students and future generations. With pluck and promise, they gave us the campus core we know today – the most naturally beautiful in the state. Its origin is a story little-told, of an incredible gift and one of the most respected landscape designers in the nation. And what a tale.

The land itself was a gift. Philanthropists Richard Pullen and Robert T. Gray donated the original acreage, much of it farmland. The earliest students arrived to find corn stalks gracing their view. Lula McIver summed it up: “two buildings, ten acres of mud, and one tree.”

Soon came what President McIver called the growing college's most important gift ever.

Kittie Dorcas Dees was the donor. Know the name? These days, few do. Treasurer and longtime faculty member E.J. Forney envisioned this young alumna would have a campus lane or road named after her someday, so her story would serve as an inspiration.

Warren H. Manning, meanwhile, was one of the most highly regarded landscape designers of his era. With a hands-on background in horticulture, his career took off when Frederick Law Olmsted hired him for the Olmsted firm (of Central Park and Prospect Park fame) – where, for example, he led floral designing of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. He worked on the grounds of Capitol Hill, Rock Creek Park, and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.; the Potantico, N.Y., estate of John D. Rockefeller; and Stanford University. In leaving the Olmsteds,



This page, College Avenue facing Spring Garden Street. Far left top, bird's eye view of envisioned College Avenue (1909). Far left bottom, College Avenue with Administration (Foust) Building on the right (1915).

■ **The Long View**

Manning went on to design the extensive properties of many turn-of-the-century industrial titans: Tufts, Draper, Vanderbilt, Sieberling, Busch, Houghton, Pabst, McKormick all called on him. In all, he designed more than 1,600 landscapes throughout the United States, including the parks of Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Des Moines, and Miami, Fla. He designed grounds of the New York Zoological Gardens, Cornell University, Princeton University, University of Virginia (expansion), and Tuskegee University. His city planning work for Warren, Ariz.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Athens, Ga., was visionary. In North Carolina, he led the landscape design work on Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate and Village. At Tufts' new Pinehurst Village, he was for several decades the primary designer of seemingly everything except for the buildings and the golf courses. He even advised on the Village Chapel's construction, according to "Warren H. Manning: Landscape Artist and Environmental Planner (2017)." This detailed reference book has recently restored the luster to the exceptional reputation he had a century ago.



Warren H. Manning,
landscape
architect who designed
the grounds of UNCG

How did this star come to design the then-small State Normal (now UNCG) campus, which had few finances for such things? As the story has been told, one day a Pinehurst hotels manager searching for an outstanding secretary came into the Commercial Department. Inspecting all the students' work, he was most impressed with Kittie's – and offered her a position. She accepted, working there for about two years. Her work and professionalism caught the attention of others, evidently.

Here is how it's written in "Leaves from the Stenographers' Note Books":

"Mr. Manning, like the hotel man, was impressed with the efficiency of the young woman in the office at Pinehurst, and asked her to come up higher. She went to Boston. To show the estimation in which she was held by that firm, she was given within six weeks the "Power of Attorney," the legal right to sign checks and legal contracts, etc. When she was at Pinehurst living among the beautiful grounds of that resort, she often wished that something might be done to beautify the unsightly red clay hill around the Normal college. But how? That was the question. After going to Boston and living in the heart of landscape garden making, she conceived the idea of asking Mr. Manning to lay out the Normal grounds and let her give the plans to her Alma Mater."

She had learned that he occasionally did pro bono work for causes he deemed important – such as the Hampton Institute and Tuskegee Institute campuses.

It took a while to work up the courage and find the right time to make her appeal. You can imagine – it would be a huge personal favor. She finally asked. He immediately agreed.

"Mr. Manning came to the College, laid off the grounds and presented us with the plans, in the name of Miss Kittie Dees. The only cost to the college consisted of the actual amount expended for clerical help, drafts, and traveling expenses."

"Maintain the full value of the long vista"

– MANNING'S ADVICE
TO PRESIDENT FOUST,
MARCH 1908

College Avenue circa 1920s with the bridge over Walker Avenue. Peabody Park is shown at the top of the photo.

In that book College Treasurer E.J. Forney adds: "Dr. McIver considered the gift of Miss Kittie Dees, of Grantsboro, the largest gift yet made to the college, not excepting that of Mr. Peabody, who gave \$5,000 to develop the plans of Miss Dees."

Fundraising for the burgeoning college always was top of mind for McIver. In a typed letter to George Foster Peabody, Oct. 1901, McIver writes, "One of our brightest students has been in Mr. Manning's employ for some time and manages his office in his absence ... (He will do work without any charge except the actual expenses.) I write to inquire when you had planned to furnish us the money for this work. We are ready to begin it now as soon as we get our plans."

Correspondence between Manning and President McIver and later with President Foust, covering nearly two decades, is preserved by UNCG's University Archives. Their records include Manning's reports, drawings, and surveys, including a large topographical map plotting seemingly every tree and planting and change in elevation on campus. UNCG Grounds thoughtfully saved this large topographical study of campus, which is now a prized possession of the Archives.

Manning traveled throughout the nation, with many projects ongoing. Some of the correspondence preserved in UNCG Archives plans the timing of his visits. To conserve finances, he visited the campus in combination with travel to other locations such as Pinehurst or towns further south.

A 1913 report in The Carolinian raved about the campus, "How changed it is! ... All the gullies are filled. College Avenue is a broad, beautiful street. Down at its further end is the entrance to Peabody Park,

where the students can come close to the heart of nature."

It all started with developing a beautiful, functional College Avenue. His drawings envisioned a pedestrian lane, lined with ornamental trees, all the way to the edge of Peabody Park. The avenue would help show off the campus to all those passing on the train. (The campus' site had originally been selected for the promotional value of being viewed from the train.) As he stated in a report, "Persons passing by on the trains will secure an impressive view of the Institution taken as a whole." He advised that the property between Spring Garden and railroad be purchased, to ensure an unbroken view.

If you'd ever wondered how UNCG developed the most pleasing grounds of any UNC System campus, now you know. The nationally renowned figure continued as official landscape architect of the college through 1921. He advised on the siting of buildings – for example, when the original McIver Building was being planned, he exhorted not to place it on the same line as Main Building (Foust), the only original building still standing, as it would dominate it. When Brick Dormitory burned in 1904 and Spencer was quickly built, McIver asked him via letter, "What do you think of locating our



Above, a view of College Avenue from Curry Building, (1950). Left, modern-day College Avenue has become a favorite place for graduation portraits.

dormitories opposite the (original) Curry Building and facing east on College Avenue?"

He planned the grounds of all we now know as the central part of campus. Tradition credits him with planning Peabody Park, UNCG Archives notes. Records indicate he even designed the grounds of the Quad, whose first residence hall, Shaw, opened in 1919.

College Avenue was always the emphasis. In one of his earliest planning documents for the burgeoning campus, Manning wrote: "The plan of the Institution is governed by the topography. The long boulevard follows the summit of the ridge." It would be the

backbone of campus. He soon determined that it could be narrower and closer to buildings than he'd originally planned. College Avenue was the first campus road Manning wanted to prepare for proper draining. It was paved in 1928. As automobiles became more than a novelty and then ubiquitous, it was lined with parked cars each day. But, in 2004, it was finally returned to its pedestrian status, and new ornamental and tree plantings were begun in earnest – more planted than ever before.

Over the past decade, it has become an iconic spot for graduation photos. If McIver, Manning, Dees, and Foust could see it now! Just imagine their delight – a culmination of the best-laid plans. As Forney said more than 100 years ago, "We see these plans yet unfolding as the college expands, and the grounds are becoming more beautiful as the years pass."

CAMPUS DRAWING AND MANNING PORTRAIT COURTESY CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL, AND MANNING ASSOCIATION

Naturally gifted

Hundreds of gifts, large and small, have made our campus landscape what it is. No return for Homecoming is complete without savoring a few moments at a treasured spot. Let's unwrap a sampling.

THE QUAD

The Quadrangle has housed generations of students since it was built between 1919 and 1923. The seven residence halls are graced with a wonderful, grassy expanse. Archived records show it was designed by Manning. In 2011, a fundraising effort led by alumni saved the historic Quad – and helped finance the buildings' renovation and that of the outdoor space. "It is the soul of the campus," Emily Herring Wilson '61 told us, "a place of living history, of friends, leaders, poets, professors, late-night conversations, graceful receptions, pranks, laughter, and tears, deeply rooted in this one classic place of residential living." On most days, students read, play Frisbee, talk, and enjoy the sun on the beautiful lawn that's shaded by willow oaks the renovation project took care to preserve.



HERRING GARDEN

A memorial garden for Elizabeth Herring, a patron of the School of Music, pays tribute to her love of music and gardening skills. It was a gift to UNCG by her surviving husband, Dr. William B. Herring, who wanted a space "where faculty, students, and visitors would be inspired in a tranquil, beautiful setting." The designers Surface 678 created spaces that emulate "the character of a multi-movement musical composition." Some plantings in 1999 even came from Elizabeth's garden. Students love this space, the perfect place to study – or improvise a melody before class.



KAPLAN COMMONS

In 2008, the premier campus spot for large gatherings – and for Frisbee! – was born. Dedicated quite appropriately at that year's FallFest, this popular area on the west lawn of Elliott University Center was an instant hit with students. The result of a generous gift by Randall Kaplan and Kathy Manning, it was named in their honor. "The public spaces of a university should be inviting for students to hang out together and for faculty and students to talk," Kaplan said. The project, on what had been a gravel parking lot, included extensive re-landscaping, new trees, flowering plants, benches – and Bermuda grass overseeded for winter with ryegrass, exceptionally maintained by UNCG Grounds staff. A garden space was donated by Alpha Delta Pi. The commons' walkways converge into a central point, an ideal place to meet up with friends.





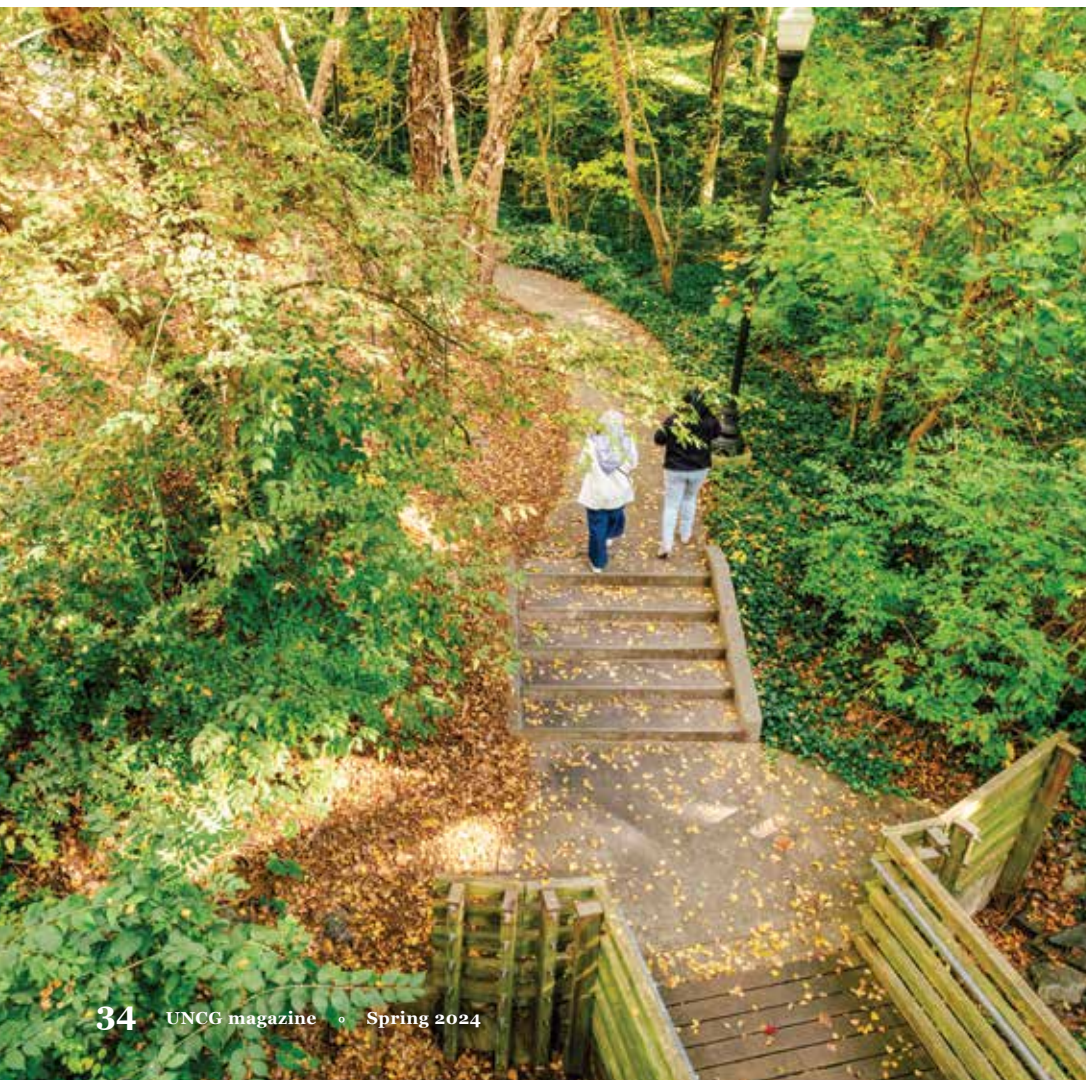
MINERVA GARDEN

The Class of 1953 marked their 50th anniversary by commissioning Jim Barnhill '82 MFA to create a bronze statue of Minerva, the symbol of our University. It would be located on a pedestal in the east courtyard of the newly renovated and enlarged Elliott University Center (formerly Elliott Hall). The Class of 1953 Minerva Garden Endowment continues to enhance the area by ensuring high-quality refurbishment as needed, to keep it optimally attractive.



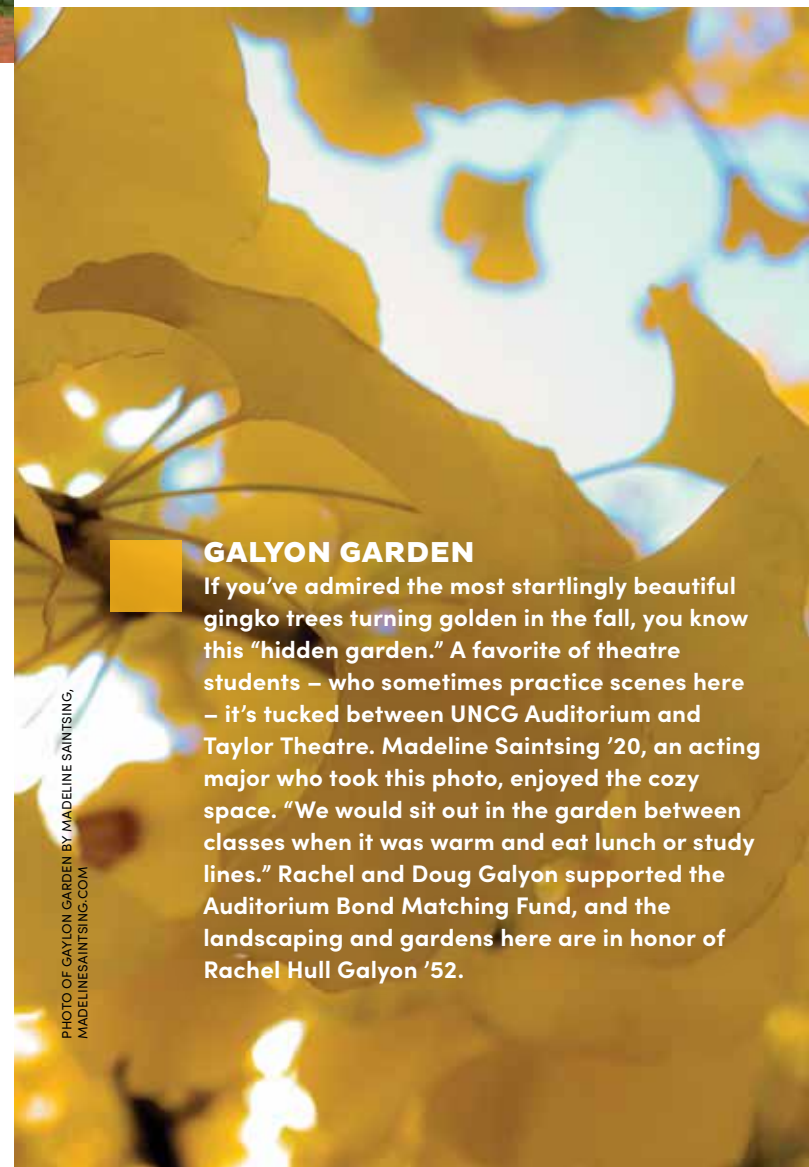
WOMAN'S COLLEGE TRIBUTE

This newest enhancement to the campus landscape, featured in the Fall 2023 issue, creates a place for students to gather on Stone Building Lawn. Supported by many donors, the space honors access to education, dedication to learning, and commitment to service of the Woman's College era (1932-1963).



PEABODY PARK

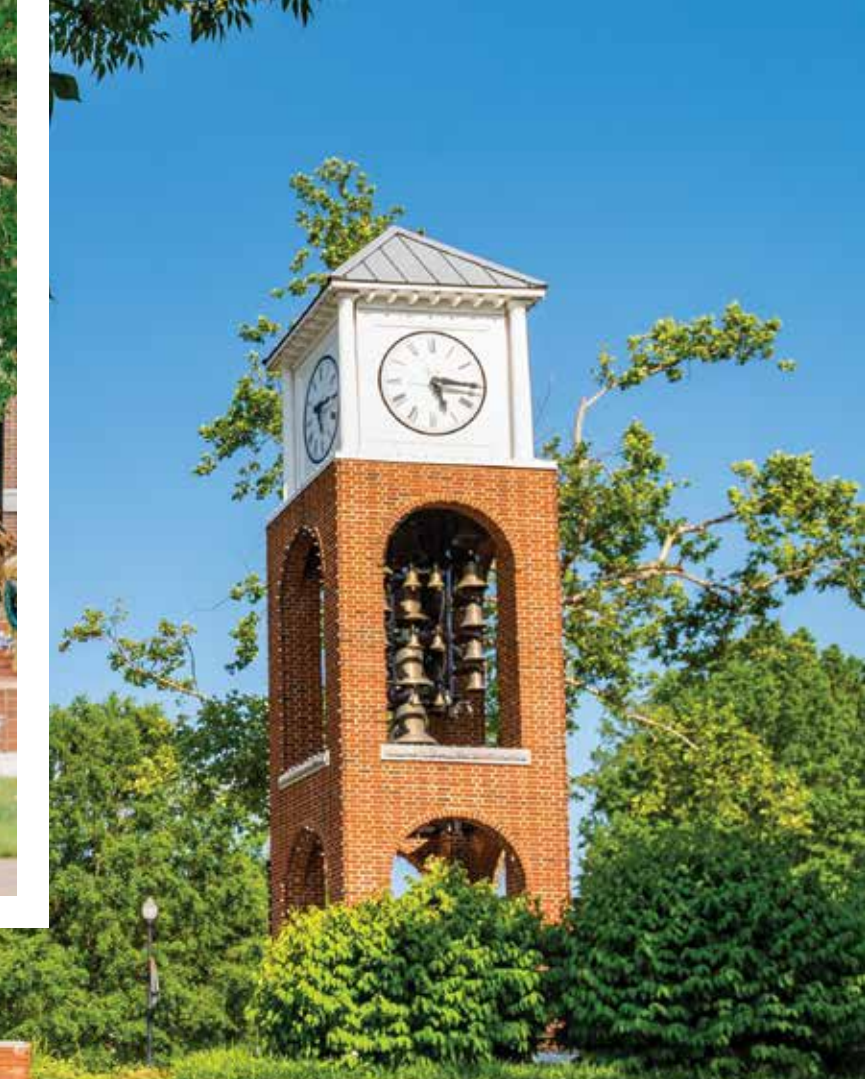
Philanthropist and educational progressive George Foster Peabody, a relative of the famous George Peabody whose Peabody Fund supported our school, financed the development of this educational park. Manning's records detail his planned pathways, in addition to the tree canopy and terrain. The park in its early decades was the site of student ceremonies, dramatic productions, and the students' mandatory daily walking period. In 1997, after decades of encroachment on the park, the Peabody Park Preservation Committee was formed. One mission was to preserve and maintain Peabody Park Woods as a natural mixed hardwood forest. It also sponsors "ivy pulls" as volunteers tackle invasive weeds. The park remains a peaceful respite, supported by the Peabody Fund and Berry-Landsay Fund, and is a resource for science classes and student outdoor recreation.



GALYON GARDEN

If you've admired the most startlingly beautiful ginkgo trees turning golden in the fall, you know this "hidden garden." A favorite of theatre students – who sometimes practice scenes here – it's tucked between UNCG Auditorium and Taylor Theatre. Madeline Saintsing '20, an acting major who took this photo, enjoyed the cozy space. "We would sit out in the garden between classes when it was warm and eat lunch or study lines." Rachel and Doug Galyon supported the Auditorium Bond Matching Fund, and the landscaping and gardens here are in honor of Rachel Hull Galyon '52.

PHOTO OF GALYON GARDEN BY MADELINE SAINTSING, MADELINE SAINTSING.COM



VACC BELL TOWER AND ENVIRONS

It's history in layers. Students Anniversary Plaza, on the site of the McIvers' home, was a 1967 gift from the student body on the 75th anniversary of the University. The old University Bell was given a place of honor. In 1987 the bell was brought inside – but more bells were coming. Less than two decades later, the plaza was re-envisioned, as Dr. Nancy Vacc funded the Nicholas Vacc Memorial Bell Tower. It honors her late husband, Dr. Nicholas Vacc, who'd led the outstanding Counseling and Educational Development department. The plaza grounds' landscaping and lighting, also funded by Nancy Vacc (who died earlier this year), have been further enhanced – and additional tower bells in 2015 made for a full carillon.

Read about more beautiful sites on campus – such as the Van Hoy Hill Courtyard at the Bryan School and the Secretaries' Garden – at magazine.uncg.edu.

SHARING WISDOM FINDING WELLNESS

SPARTANS THRIVE GOES BEYOND THE EXPECTED WITH THE POWER OF MENTORING. BY MERCER BUFTER '11 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '13

IN HER FIRST FULL-TIME POSITION WITH UNCG, Regina McCoy '98 MPH served as a field placement coordinator, helping community health education majors find internships in local clinics, international health programs, and more. Part of that work was helping young professionals find their way.

More than 25 years later, a belief in the power of mentoring and a passion for student success still guide McCoy forward.

The professor is now associate vice provost for retention and student success, and she's spearheading Spartans Thrive, the University's new five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Such plans are implemented as a required part of university accreditation. This one employs a well-rounded view of health and a peer mentoring program to boost well-being and achievement across campus.

"I was very lucky to be at UNCG for the last QEP, which was on global engagement. I know we benefited greatly

from it," says McCoy. That plan led to an increase in study abroad opportunities for students and emphasis on global engagement in the general education program, the broad-

based courses that often fill a student's first two years.

Spartans Thrive promotes student success and retention through a health and wellness competency in the general education program; a co-curricular transcript to document leadership roles, professional development, and community engagement; and a "Spartans First" mentoring program.

The goal is nothing new. The University has been helping students thrive for more than 135 years.

"At UNCG we've always thought of wellness from our historical point of view, going back to Woman's College, with physical and intellectual wellness," says McCoy.

While these are essential, she argues that students benefit from a well-rounded view of health. That's why Spartans Thrive addresses financial and career health; cultural and social health; and environmental health and wellness, as well.

MENTORSHIP

A coach, a guide, a shoulder to lean on, or a helping hand. However you define mentors, they can be key elements of success.

"A mentor is someone who says, 'I'm like you and I'm going to help you walk through the hills and valleys of this experience,'" says McCoy.

That spirit of mentorship is also part of UNCG's DNA.

"I have never walked across this campus in a straight line," says McCoy. "You see someone, and they engage you and make you feel like this is the place for you."

She came to UNCG pursuing a master's in public health, attracted by the program's emphasis on community health and the value it places on practical application.

"It was not just about obtaining a degree. It was about integrating my work with my academic pursuits, mentoring the next generation of health educators, and contributing significantly to the field of public health."

She benefited from mentors like Dr. Kathy Conley and

Peer mentor Makalah Brownridge, who will graduate this May, and Regina McCoy '98 MPH.

“We know peer-to-peer mentoring works and it's what our students are asking for.”

— REGINA MCCOY '98 MPH

“I got involved in mentoring because I worked with Orientation. A lot of students told me they needed someone to go to with questions as they started college.”

— PEER MENTOR MAKALAH BROWNRIDGE

Dr. Daniel Bibeau and was recognized in 2005 with the Lawther Alumni Award from what was then the School of Health and Human Performance (now part of the School of Health and Human Sciences).

Principles of public health shape her philosophy. As a faculty member, McCoy has focused on community-engaged research to address health equity issues in under-resourced and minoritized communities. She also co-founded the UNCG Health and Wellness Coaching Program.

“Public health is a way for us to be healthy individuals within healthy communities. I think it’s vital to create a healthy campus for our students,” McCoy explains.

That means everything from well-lit walkways to safe parking facilities. And it can touch on each of the eight dimensions of health identified by Spartans Thrive.

“Investing in students holistically right now is investing in our community holistically for tomorrow.”

As part of Spartans Thrive, mentoring among peers, among transfer students, and – starting in Fall 2024 – between alumni and Spartan undergraduates will support students in their first year on campus.

Why now? McCoy says Spartans Thrive meets the needs of undergraduates today. “The pandemic helped to expose cracks in our society that some of us in higher education knew were there.”

Investment in students outside the classroom is a wise course, McCoy explains. “This is going to help the whole campus because we’ll all be looking at the same navigational plan. We’ll all know exactly how to get students to the resources they need.”

As more students have greater success, retention rates will strengthen, she notes. More students will graduate on time and move quickly toward their life and career goals. “We know that peer-to-peer mentoring works. UNCG chose it because it’s what our students are asking for.”

In Spring 2024, 636 new mentorships have been formed – approximately 24% of our newest students. At the same time, mentoring on campus didn’t appear out of nowhere. Spartans Thrive is picking up on work that was ongoing.

After a pilot program focusing on transfer students showed an increase in both feelings of self-confidence and sense of belonging within the campus community, the scope of the mentoring program was expanded. “Since 2021, we have formed more than 1,500 mentorships with first-year students.”

CONNECTIONS

Beyond data, McCoy knows the value of human connections and shared wisdom from her own educational journey. “I’m a first-generation student. When I was an undergraduate at the University of Maryland, I didn’t know how to talk to professors. When I needed something, I didn’t bother them because culturally that’s what I was told not to do.”

It was a peer who helped her chart her professional course in public health, specifically maternal and child health. “He listened to me in our conversations. And he tied it up with a bow!”

Mentoring is not just for undergraduates. During McCoy’s first year as a faculty member, Vice Chancellor of Research and Engagement Terri Shelton reached out. “Dr. Shelton said, ‘What are some things you need?’ She invited me to her network and through that I was able to sit around the table with people I would never have had access to.”

Their relationship continues to this day. “Mentorship can be lifelong,” says McCoy.

GET INVOLVED

How can alumni get involved? This summer, potential alumni mentors can complete a survey to be matched with a student in the third or fourth year of their studies. Online training through UNCG’s partnership with Mentor Collective will take place late summer 2024. During Homecoming, mentors and mentees will connect either online or in person and will continue to meet monthly throughout the academic year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
GO.UNCG.EDU/ALUMNI_MENTORING.

UNCG
LEADS

When it comes to student wellness, UNCG is a leader. “Student Well-Being: It Matters,” an educational course for students, is being adopted across the UNC System.

“The research was done at UNCG, the course originated at UNCG, and now it’s expanded to all 17 UNC System campuses,” says David Wyrick ’98 MPH, ’02 PhD, professor of public health education and founder of UNCG’s Center for Athlete Well-Being.

The UNC System also funded Guiding Universities in Demonstrating Empathy (GUIDE), which prepares faculty and staff for conversations about mental health with students. “GUIDE teaches empathic communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal,” says Wyrick.

His team developed GUIDE and will facilitate training at every UNC System campus, he reports.

“We’re concerned about all dimensions of your health and wellness from the moment you step on campus.”

– REGINA MCCOY ’98 MPH



WHAT IS SPARTANS THRIVE?

MINERVA’S ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

First-year students take a “foundations” course about health and wellness. “We anchor everyone,” says Associate Vice Provost Regina McCoy. “One student told me they learned how to set goals.”

Adding a wellness competency to traditional “reading, writing, and arithmetic” answers a big question, she says: “How do we

transform our students into human beings who are going to be leaders later on?”

SPARTAN EXPERIENCE

What is “co-curricular”? “We provide services outside class that allow students to get social interaction and complement what they’re learning in the classroom,” says Dr. Brett Carter, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students.

Focused on documenting activities like club leadership, Spartan Experience helps students track and explain their personal and professional development to future employers.

MENTOR COLLECTIVE

UNCG partners with Mentor Collective to connect mentors and mentees. After a pilot program for transfer students showed increases in “sense of

belonging” and “self-efficacy” in 2020, mentoring expanded to all first-year students.

“Research shows that mentored students are more likely to succeed and persist than their non-mentored peers,” says McCoy.





“Scholarships like this one make all the difference in achieving my dream of teaching, researching, and writing for a living as a professor. Thank you.”

— ALEXANDER C. MOSS,
DOCTORAL STUDENT IN
KINESIOLOGY

I-r: Aleiza Higgins, Alex Moss,
Aunisty Belcher, and Ava New, the
“A” team scholarship recipients.

WC alumna creates legacy through scholarships

Curiosity is a hallmark of lifelong learning. As the late Mary “Bobbi” Miller Carson ’58 once noted, “I grew up with a very strong curiosity factor. Woman’s College gave me the life skills, education, motivation, and confidence to pursue that curiosity at many levels.”

A physical education major, Bobbi began her distinguished career in athletics and physical education at Bradford Junior College, Penn State, Wellesley College, and Northeastern University, during which she acquired a wealth of knowledge about sports management. She spent the final 26 years of her career at Boston College and retired as associate director of athletics in 1996, at which time she moved to Greensboro.

Bobbi passed away in 2022, but left behind an enduring legacy at her alma mater by creating funds to honor two outstanding School of

Health and Human Performance (now School of Health and Human Sciences) faculty members who stoked her curiosity and served as mentors during her undergraduate studies: the Class of 1958/Gail Hennis Scholarship Fund, established in 1996, and the Rosemary McGee Scholarship Endowment, established in 1999.

Bobbi’s lifetime and estate giving to these scholarship funds exceeds \$2.25 million.

Dr. Gail Hennis joined the faculty at WC in 1950 as an instructor. On campus, Hennis became an honorary member of Golden Chain in 1970 and was named an honorary alumna of the School of Health and Human Performance in 1986. She was vice chair of the UNCG Planning Process from 1980 to 1983, a long-term study that helped shape the direction of the University into the 21st century.

When she joined Woman’s College in 1954, Dr. Rosemary McGee was the youngest faculty member with a doctoral degree in the Department of Health and Physical Education. She taught for 34 years and served as dean of women from 1966 to 1968, as well as interim dean for the School of Health, Physical

Education, Recreation, and Dance in 1979-1980. McGee received many accolades, including honorary membership in Golden Chain, the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award, and the Gladys Strawn Bullard Leadership Award.

Both the Hennis Scholarship Fund and the McGee Scholarship Endowment support full-time students in the School of Health and Human Sciences, with a preference for kinesiology majors. The impact of these scholarships has been significant. Since their establishment, the funds have benefited 55 students with awards totaling nearly \$340,000.

This semester, Aleiza Higgins and Alex Moss were awarded Hennis Scholarships. Recipients of this academic year’s McGee Scholarship are Aunisty Belcher and Ava New.

Says Kinesiology Department Chair and Julia Taylor Morton Distinguished Professor Dr. Jennifer Etnier, “Attracting strong students to UNCG with the provision of additional financial support through these scholarships strengthens the program and department. We are truly grateful for Bobbi Carson’s exceptional generosity.”

GOLDEN RULE

“UNCG is a hidden gem,” says Dr. Ashley Leak Bryant ’03, ’05 MSN. “No matter how large it gets, you can still find your people there.”

She is supporting UNCG School of Nursing students with a planned gift to establish the Leak Bryant Family Endowed Scholarship, which will recognize both merit and financial need. The gift honors the family that helped her succeed and the role that UNCG played in her education.

“This endowment is in honor of and dedication to my ancestors. I’m standing on their shoulders,” she says.

Bryant grew up in a house with her parents and the six “golden rules”: Pick your friends. Don’t be used. Stay focused. Think. Remain humble. And always do your best.

At UNCG, she found instructors and residence life that helped her recognize her own strengths and dream big.

“Dr. Bryant earned Nursing Leadership Awards as an undergraduate and as a graduate student,”

notes Dr. Debra Barksdale, dean of the UNCG School of Nursing. “She’s a wonderful example of the kind of leader our School of Nursing works hard to produce. We’re so grateful that she continues to give back as an alumna.”

Today, Bryant is senior associate dean for global initiatives and a distinguished professor at UNC Chapel Hill who wants to create a legacy that lifts others up. “It’s important for us to see talent, for us to see gifts, for us to see people’s potential, and to elevate them. I would never want finances to be the reason a student can’t continue their education,” she says.

With this gift, Ashley Leak Bryant is creating remarkable real-world impact. Her advice to current students?

“Surround yourself with people who want to help you grow and succeed.”



Dr. Ashley Leak Bryant
’03, ’05 MSN



Constance
“Connie”
Hughes Kotis
’65, ’77 MM

Music Fund in Piano offers unique opportunity

The newly established **Kotis Music Fund in Piano** supports UNCG’s *Light the Way* campaign pillar of “impact” by dramatically raising the bar for the caliber of students entering the School of Music’s piano program. This unique four-year fund, created by a gift from Constance “Connie” Hughes Kotis ’65, ’77 MM and her husband, Bill, is designed to provide scholarships for exceptional students majoring in piano and aspiring to pursue piano pedagogy as a career.

“The Kotises’ generous influx of support will make possible a rare opportunity to recruit and retain gifted keyboard students, who will now be supported financially in a manner which reflects their talents and skills,” says Dr. James Douglass, chair of UNCG’s Keyboard Studies Program. “Kotis Piano Scholars will be beneficiaries of a wonderful gesture which will have a deep impact on continuing to expand the excellence of the Keyboard Studies Program, both for the students and the faculty.”

Connie Kotis has been a guiding light for music and the arts in Greensboro ever since she graduated from UNCG. She has taught choral music and piano at both the high school and university level and in 1983 joined the Greensboro Music Academy, now known as the Music Academy of North Carolina, as chair of its piano division. She has accompanied for the Bel Canto Company, the Greensboro Opera Company, and the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, as well as other organizations across the state.

Because of her lengthy relationship with the School of Music, the piano faculty and decades of alumni count Connie as both a colleague and a friend. She currently serves on the College of Visual and Performing Arts’ Board of Visitors and campaign cabinet.

“We are honored to have Connie’s name associated with such a prestigious and impactful scholarship,” says Douglass.

This thoughtful investment will help transform young students’ passion for the piano into a lifelong purpose, just as Connie Kotis forged a successful career – and made a lasting impact on the Triad’s cultural community – from her own musical education at UNCG.

“I have great pride in my pilgrimage on this road and want to welcome young musicians to this wonderful journey!”

— CONNIE KOTIS ’65, ’77 MM

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

gradtidings

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

1940s

SARA QUEEN BROWN '43 of Clyde, N.C., turned 102 this past April 5th! The Woman's College alumna had a long teaching career and impacted the University community as a trustee of the UNCG Alumni Association in the 1980s. One surprising fact? When she was a young woman, her folk dancing group performed during the White House visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1939!

1960s

BARBARA LITTLE GOTTESMAN '61, '82 EDD began serving as chair for the Doris Prince Scholarships for Women in Leadership to encourage women to seek the EDD for service in schools. She is the retired chair of the Educational Leadership Department at San Jose State University. 📍 14

1970s

CELIA HOOPER '74 MA, dean emerita of UNCG's School of Health and Human Sciences and professor emerita in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, received the Darrell C. Mase Presidential Citation from the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions, a national postsecondary education association focused on issues affecting health education, at its annual conference in Florida. The presidential citation is given for service to the health sciences. 📍 16

BRENDA BURGIN ROSS '74, '06 PBC, '06 CERT, '08 MS appeared in O.Henry Magazine in a profile about her experiences in the Peace Corps in Liberia as a nutritionist. Recently retiring from the UNCG Nutrition faculty, she donated Liberian keepsakes, including a clay cooking pot, sifting basket, and wooden mortar, which she'd had in her UNCG office, to UNCG's Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives.

BARBARA SLOAN '74 MA published "Theatre Is My Life!: Thoughts on Play Quotes," a book of meditations for each day of the year. Her reflections spring from over 50 years in the theater reading plays, seeing them rehearsed, and creating costumes for their characters. A couple of her musings concern work on shows at UNCG and Parkway Playhouse. James Fisher, retired chair of UNCG's School of Theatre, called the book "a delightful read filled with moving and amusing glimpses of plays you already thought you knew. However, in Sloan's hands, revelation is usually the result." 📍 8

JAMES FISHER '76 MFA published his latest book, "The Historical Dictionary of Vaudeville." He is professor emeritus of theatre at UNCG. He was also the 2017 recipient of UNCG's Mary Settle Sharpe Award for Teaching Excellence.

PAUL BELL '77 was elected president of the Lake George Land Conservancy Board of Directors. The conservancy works to preserve the lands surrounding Lake George, in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. He has over 30 years of volunteer service with nonprofit organizations, including experience with leadership development, fundraising, and governance. He retired in 2021 after a long career with Dow Jones and later iHeart Media. He lives with his wife, Colleen Whitt Bell '78, in Laurel Park, N.C. and Silver Bay, N.Y. 📍 11

EMILY BUNDY '78 and her classmates and friends, the "Grogan Girls," had a reunion in August 2023. The group included Susan Gizinski Simmons '78, Lora-Lynn Johns Chuffo '78, Emily Butner Bundy '78, Lynn Cooper Beeker '78, and Rene Ewing Picard '77. 📍 4

GEORGE BURTON '78, who currently resides in Huntersville, N.C., retired after 45 years in business and human resources.

1980s

"PEPPER" DEAN CHOPLIN '80 will present his seventh concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on May 28, 2024, conducting his original cantata "Our Father: A Journey Through the Lord's Prayer" with choir and orchestra. He has over 300 anthems and 22 cantatas published.

JOINING FORCES



ALEJANDRA MERHEB has joined UNCG as the new executive director of Alumni Engagement and Advancement Communications. "Alejandra has more than 15 years of experience in the higher education alumni engagement space," says Beth Fischer,

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement. "She joins us from the Texas State Alumni Association, where she served as the Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations. Previous experience includes progressively responsible roles at Rice University and at Teachers College, Columbia University."

She graduated from Texas A&M with a major in biomedical science and a minor in business administration.

Merheb's experience working with university leadership across campus, her ability to work with multiple volunteers and boards, and her strong endorsement as a leader and manager set her apart, Fischer notes.

She joined our University on March 11, as this issue went to press. "I am delighted and honored to be part of the UNCG community," Merheb said. "I look forward to working with the dedicated members of University Advancement, the Alumni Leadership Board, volunteers, and colleagues across campus who are committed to serving the students, alumni, and friends of UNCG."

BILLIE MACE DURHAM '81 MLIS, a retired UNCG assistant professor of library and information services living in Asheboro, appeared in the 2022 NC Film Festival-winning documentary, "Beaufort Remembers." It tells the story of 20th century Beaufort in the voices of those who lived in this charming coastal North Carolina town between the 1920s and 1960s. 📍 13

JOSEPH ANTHONY JOYCE '81 was inducted as a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology at its 2023 congress in Seattle, Wash. He has authored 28 papers on various topics in anesthesia. He is the author of "Perianesthesia Patient Care for Uncommon Diseases" (2008) and co-editor of "Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesiology" (2010).

JUNE L. BASDEN '83 was named 2024 Triad "Lawyer of the Year" for Banking and Finance Law and for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law. She was also listed in The Best Lawyers in America (2024) for Commercial Finance Law and Commercial Transactions / UCC Law and was recognized as Triad Banking and Finance Law "Lawyer of the Year" for 2020; Triad Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law "Lawyer of the Year" for 2022; and Triad Commercial Finance Law "Lawyer of the Year" in 2021 and 2023. With over 35 years of experience in commercial finance and insolvency law, she represents national and regional banks, as well as commercial lenders in a variety of finance transactions, with a special focus on commercial lending and creditors' rights.

PAUL K. MENGERT '84 was appointed to the North Carolina Holocaust Council as a member at-large. Mengert is the CEO of Association Management Group, Inc., and is chair of the Piedmont Triad International Airport Board of Directors. He has also served as president of Greensboro's Temple Emanuel and as a member of the North American Board of Directors of the Union of Reform Judaism.

ALL TOGETHER

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



Vanguard alumnae and friends, front row: Helen Cook '96 MEd, '03 PhD; Linda Thomas '69; Sara Goodson (1960-1962); Lynne Gaskin '66 MSPE, '86 EdD; Gwen Jackson '63; Karen Gerringer '73, '80 MEd, '87 EdD. Second row: Shirley Bear '61; Martha Simpson '69 MEd; Rachel Dunn '55; Helen Killacky '85 EdD; Carol Raney '80 MLS; Ann Whaley '66



Betsy Culbertson Yarrison '68 and Jane Ann Ward Hughes '68 at the N.C. Capitol's McIver Statue, Founders Day



Red Carpet Reception, December 2023



Members of Alpha Phi Omega gathered at the Rawk. l-r: Barry Day '83, '08 MS; Gary Jarrett '74, '78 MEd; Doug Harris '76; Jeff Permar '96



Black Alumni Network Family Reunion during Homecoming



The Bryan School's Scholars and Donors Luncheon, November 2023



Emily Britt '15, '20 MBA (bottom, left) and The Spartan G's dance team, Homecoming



Golden Leaf Scholarship luncheon at the Alumni House, February 2024

Here in Spring 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.**

NEAL DIXON '88 AND TAMMY MICHALSKI DIXON '87 celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on August 20, 2023.

1990s

HEATHER DURYEA '92 was inducted into the UNCG Athletics Hall of Fame. An outstanding scorer in Women's Soccer, she was a two-time All-American.

DR. DAN FOUNTAIN '93 MA and his public history students at Meredith College worked to initiate a North Carolina Highway Marker commemorating North Carolina women mathematicians who worked for the federal government on military and space race projects. (See page 12)

LESLIE WOOD ZAMPETTI '93 MLIS launched a new agency, Open Book Literary. A former librarian in special, public, and school libraries, Leslie's focus is on the right book at the right time for the reader. She has previous experience with Odom Media Management, Dunham Literary, and The Bent Agency and is a board member of the Association of American Literary Agents and a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. 5

KIM CUNY '94 MA, '07 MFA received the 2023 Betty Jo Welch Award for continuing and outstanding service to the Carolinas Communication Association and the professions. She was the inaugural director of UNCG's Speaking Center, which she helped turn into a national model, from 2003 to 2023. 12

DEBORAH MCLEAN FELTON '94 has had a 31-year career as a clinical trial research manager in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She is currently the Data Coordinating Center project manager for the Alzheimer's Association-funded U.S. Study to Protect Brain Health through Lifestyle Intervention to Reduce Risk.

TAMMY WHITE '94, '08 MSA was selected to represent North Carolina as one of 50 music directors who make a difference. She was featured in School Band and Orchestra Magazine, sharing her proudest moment as an educator and the impact she hopes to leave on students. She is director of bands at Kiser Middle School and was honored as the 2019 Guilford County Schools Teacher of the Year. 6

KIMBERLEE HYMAN PARKER '95 was appointed vice president and chief compliance officer at Clark Atlanta University, where she will bring nearly 20 years of higher education experience. 15

JOY SCOTT CUPSTID '97 was inducted into the UNCG Athletics Hall of Fame. She was a four-time All-Big South Conference Women's Soccer honoree.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

We're seeking alumni vendors, artisans, and small businesses to set up shop at our Homecoming street festival Oct. 5. For info, email alumni@uncg.edu.

JASON THOMAS ADAMS '98 celebrated eight years at Microsoft with a promotion to senior cloud engineer. He previously worked for First Union, Wachovia, Wells Fargo, and Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association. After spending 23 years in Charlotte, N.C., he recently relocated to the mountains of Western North Carolina.

BRIAN ETHERIDGE '98 recently joined the all-volunteer governing board of The United Way of the Lowcountry.

2000s

PERRY JAMES STUDEVENT '00 enrolled in Syracuse University College of Law.

LYNSEY MCLEAN DIXON '01 was inducted into the UNCG Athletics Hall of Fame. The UNCG Women's Soccer star was a four-time All-Southern Conference honoree, 2001 Southern Conference Player of the Year, and 2000 Southern Conference Tournament MVP.

CLAUDIA ALEMÁN '03 moderated a panel discussion for the North Carolina Library Association in October 2023. The presentation included digital equity and inclusion and how to get started as a navigator. She believes that representation matters and loves seeing how UNCG has embraced inclusivity and activities for people of color. 5

JULIE PACK '03 MSA, '13 EDS, '13 EDD was promoted to senior executive director of CTE and Magnet Programs for Durham Public Schools. She is the 2023-2024 president of the N.C. Association of Career and Technical Education.

JENNIFER M. HARDIN '04, '06 MED, '10 CERT, '10 PMC, '12 EDS, '19 EDD was named principal of the year for Rockingham County Schools, where she has spent 13 years as an assistant principal and principal. She is also a former member of UNCG's School of Education Advisory Board. 19

JOYCE WALLACE FULTZ '05 MA earned her PhD in leadership studies from North Carolina A&T State University in December 2022 and recently accepted the position of social services program manager with the Salvation Army Center of Hope in Greensboro.

COURTNEY BROWN '07 MSN, '13 PHD received the Didactic Instructor of the Year Award from The American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology during its 2023 Annual Congress in Seattle.

RACHEL MIZE SCOTT '07, '23 PMC was named assistant principal of instruction at John F. Kennedy High School in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County. This is her first administrative role and 16th year serving North Carolina public schools. 1

CHARLA DUNCAN '08, the community and economic development director for Warren County, N.C., received the Emerging Leader of the Year award from the N.C. Economic Development Association at its 2023 Annual Conference.

SHANNON DONOVAN WELSH '08 was inducted into the UNCG Athletics Hall of Fame. The UNCG Women's Soccer star was the Southern Conference Player of the Year and Tournament MVP in 2006 and was three-time All-Southern Conference.

ANTHONY G. EDWARDS '09 graduated with honors from the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University on June 2, 2023. He was also promoted to senior credit risk officer at Skyline National Bank in Galax, Va. 7

TAMARA HERRING '09, '13 MED, '22 PMC recently joined the all-volunteer governing board of The United Way of the Lowcountry.

SHERILL ROLAND '09, '17 MFA was the recipient of the 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art from the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, S.C. Roland's 2022 public art installation Due Innocence, patterned after a vintage optical exam, asks the question, "What does your innocence look like to a local judge?" He was awarded a \$10,000 cash prize and recognized at the Society 1858 Amy P. Coy Forum.

INGRID RUFFIN '09, '11 MLIS was the keynote speaker at the annual Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project luncheon in fall of 2023.

JILL YESKO '09, who used to write for this magazine as a member of University Relations, has made several documentaries, written widely for national magazines, and even published two crime fiction novels. She is a fellow at the Center for Sports Communication & Media, Moody College of Communication at The University of Texas. Her new documentary, "Uphill Climb: The Women Who Conquered the Impossible Race," tells the story of the women who rode the Tour de France Femmes from 1984 to 1989. Yesko is a cyclist herself and represented the United States in the 1983 World University Games. 3

2010s

SARAH ABRAMS '10 MSN, '18 PHD was named to 2023's Great 100 Nurses list. She works at Cone Health.

WHITNEY COGSWELL DOBEK '10 MS was recently appointed program director for the University of South Carolina Genetic Counseling Program.

ALAN LEPORE '10, '11 began a role as program manager for Jewish Federation Real Estate group at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

JOHN PELL '10 PHD, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Whitworth University in Spokane, Wash., got a surprise when he promoted Melissa McConnell Rogers '05 MA, '09 PhD to an associate dean role. The two attended UNCG at the same time, but their paths had never crossed!

SHANNON WILLIS '10, '15 MSN was named to 2023's Great 100 Nurses list. She works at Cone Health.

DAWN TAFARI '13 CERT, '13 PHD has served as an elementary school teacher, curriculum facilitator, coordinator for the Birth-Kindergarten Education program at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), and associate professor of elementary education and program coordinator

for the Elementary Education Program at WSSU. She released "The Journey of Kamau Miller: HipHop Composite Counterstories for Black Men Teachers," a powerful narrative that follows the life of a third-grade teacher from New York City. Set against a hip hop-infused soundtrack, the book weaves together themes of identity, education, community, and empowerment while paying homage to the legacy of Derrick A. Bell.

PHILLIP LOKEN '15, a certified digital marketing storyteller and fine art documentary photographer, exhibited work in "It Ain't Always Black & White," a group photography exhibition at Raleigh's Block Gallery. He is also working on his first documentary film, "Gee's Bend: Welcome to the Hole." 2

CARMEN NEELY '16 MFA participated in a panel hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris, alongside Carrie Mae Weems, Glenn Ligon, and Director of the Studio Museum in Harlem Thelma Golden. Additionally, one of her paintings was hung in Vice President Harris's house. Neely was one of the artists featured in the "Art on Paper, 2021" exhibition at the Weatherspoon Art Museum.

LINDSAY THOMAS '16 became the first Spartan to sign with a Women's Professional Fastpitch League team, The Texas Smoke, which won a regular season title in its inaugural season.

DR. KUNGA DENZONGPA '17 MPH, '22 PHD was selected as a Minority Serving Institution Fellow by the American Evaluation Association. Her doctoral research focused on community engaged methodologies and the maternal health experiences of refugee women in the United States. 9

KRISTIN WIDERMAN NUCKLES '17 was named assistant principal at Rockingham Middle School. At UNCG, she earned a bachelor's degree in middle grades education with concentrations in English language arts and English as a second language and graduated summa cum laude.

CYNTHIA GAYLE WILKERSON '17 completed a Master of Social Work with a concentration in mental health and trauma at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. Her professional interests touch a wide variety of populations and topics, including terminally ill or aging adults, issues facing transgender individuals, substance abuse, homelessness, and PTSD.

NOAH CLINE '18 began a new role as communications manager for the National Flute Association.

ALISON VAN NORMAN '19 MLIS was selected to participate in the American Library Association's Emerging Leaders 2024 program, which is focused on developing professional leadership. She joined Elon University in June 2020, where she serves as outreach and marketing librarian and is the library liaison to the art, music, and performing arts departments. 10

2020s

BRIANNA "BREEZY" CASTLE MORRIS '20 and her mother, Melonie Castle, appeared in the magazine Duke Today. It was not until after her daughter graduated from UNCG that Melonie became a nurse herself. Both now work at Duke University Hospital.



1 Rachel Mize Scott '07, '23 PMC 2 Phillip Loken '15 3 Jill Yesko '09 4 l-r: Susan Gizinski Simmons '78, Lora-Lynn Johns Chuffo '78, Emily Butner Bundy '78, Lynn Cooper Beeker '78, and Rene Ewing Picard '77 5 Claudia Alemán '03 6 Tammy White '94, '08 MSA 7 Anthony G. Edwards '09 8 Barbara Sloan '74 MA

HOLDEN GARRISON '22 was a Steven’s Initiative Alumni Fellow through IREX’s Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge. As a UNCG student, he received the Provost’s Student Excellence award. He is pursuing interests around sustainable agriculture, social entrepreneurship, and ethical traveling.


DUNCAN LAUER '22 came to campus in October 2023 to premiere the film “Naming Space: The AADS Story,” about the African American and African Diaspora Studies program at UNCG.

ANDREW ORCHOWSKY '23 MS, an outpatient clinical therapist at Advaita Integrate Medicine, was selected as an NC Counseling Association Emerging Leader (2023-2024). 🎉 **17**

IN MEMORIAM

SARAH DALTON COLLIER '37
BERTHA AMMONS LASSITER '40
DONNA HOWELL DAVIDSON '42
PENELOPE MORTON BENDER '43
LYDIA TAYLOR DORSETT '43
CAROLYN CREECH CAIN '45
HELEN BRIGHT TRULUCK '45
FLORENCE NEAL BLALOCK '46
DOROTHY MIZELLE BROUGHTON '46
MARGARET GRIFFIN EVANS '46
JUNE CARROLL MAZYCK '46
GERRY MORRISON MEDLIN '46
RUBY FAIRCLOTH RIVES '46
MARY KIRKMAN ROUTH '46
ESTHER SMITH ARNE '47
MARTHA BABER GANDY '47
DORIS DAWSON MCARTHUR '47
PANSY WALTON STOCKARD '47
LOIS SMITH FAULKNER '48
PEGGY FINCHER GRIFFIN '48
JACKIE LETCHER LEONARD '48
MILDRED HUGGINS TOWNSEND '48
BETTY HOWE KLUTTZ '49
JANE PERRY LEWIS '49
BARBARA DUVAL MYERS '49
MARY JEAN PYATT '49
ANN MURPHY TEAGUE '49
JEAN RITCHIE UTLEY '49
VIVIAN TREVATHAN MAITLAND '50
BARBARA STOUGHTON '50
RITA MOORE CULVER '51
MARY LOU MONNETT DAVIS '51
JEANETTE SANDLIN DOUTHIT '51
ELSIE BANDY DYER '51
FRANCES CLARK FRYE '51
FRANCES MCGEADY GEORGE '51
MARILEA ROBERTS GROGAN '51
DORIS HOVIS HUDSON '51
ANNE JOHNSTON ISLEY '51
MARTHA PHILLIPS JOHNSON '51
SARAH CRANFORD MORRIS '51
SARAH JACKSON POTTER '51
MARILYN DUNN ROBERTS '51
JOAN JOHNSON WAGONER '51
LOU JEAN PETHEL CORRELL '52
EDITH HOYLE DOBBINS '52
MARY ROSE HALL '52
ALICE BREWER HARRIS '52

CALLLED STUDENTS HIS
GREATEST LEGACY



EMERITUS PROFESSOR FRED CHAPPELL died on January 4, 2024. As a professor and mentor, he impacted generations of Spartans. He received the UNC System’s O. Max Gardner Award, the Bollingen Prize in Poetry, the T.S. Eliot Prize, and the North Carolina Award for Literature. The film “I Am One of You Forever,” produced by UNCG professor Michael Frierson '74, '79 MA and financed in part by UNCG *Light the Way* campaign gifts, looks at his life and career. He was featured in the Fall 2022 issue of UNCG Magazine. A memorial event will be held at UNCG this fall.

CLARA GILBERT HARRIS '52
ETHEL PENDLETON HIGHSMITH '52
JUDA OWEN KILPATRICK '52
EVERETTE SANDERFORD MARLEY '52
MARY WESSMAN MCKNIGHT '52
VIRGINIA BRIDGES MORETZ '52
ANN BENNETT ANTONELLI '53
LOUISE BEVERLY BULLOCK '53
ROSE HOLDEN COLE '53
LOIS HERRING EDGERTON '53
FRANCES ARMSTRONG EVANS '53
CLAIRE COX GOTTLIEB '53
ANNETTE STRICKLAND JACKSON '53
JEAN MCPHERSON MATTHEWS '53
BETSY TEAGUE MCNEILL '53
BETTYE COOKE PARAMORE '53
SALLY UNDERWOOD RAGAN '53
BETTY COBB RAINES '53
GEORGIA KATSIKAS SALTZ '53
ANN WOODALL WILKINSON '53
LILLIAN DAVENPORT ASHE '54
PATRICIA FARRELL BYRD '54
JAN CORRELL COLEMAN '54
CLELIA GARRISON HAND '54
ANNE ROBERTSON MASON '54
CALVIN EDISON POWERS '54
PEGGY STROTHER ROGERS '54
BETTY WIBLE RUHL '54
BETTY JO STANCIL SEGAL '54
BETTY NUNN SHELTON '54
GRACE LIMEHOUSE SHEWMAKER '54
MARGARET WHEELER WALCOTT '54
ROBERTA BROWN BARNES '55
BARBARA LINZY BELL '55

SARA SUSMAN COHEN '55
SARAH LASSITER DODSON '55
BARBARA WHITNEY EDWARDS '55
LOIS BAREFOOT HOOD '55
DORIS DURHAM SEABOLT '55
MARY ANN CALLIHAN SUGG '55
FRANCES DALTON THOMAS '55
SARAH ALLEN THOMAS '55
PEGGY WHITE TROLLINGER '55
LOTTIE BELLE WIMBISH '55
ANNE MISENHEIMER ADAMSON '56
PATRICIA MCGUIRE ALDRIDGE '56
BARBARA WEISS FOX '56
JOAN COLTRAIN FUSSELL '56
MARTHA KENNEDY GAY '56
BILLIE DIXON JERNIGAN '56
BARBARA FRIEDMAN LEIBOWITZ '56
CAROLYN LENTZ LITHGO '56
JANE LITTLE MAHALEY '56
BETTY CRESDY MATTHEWS '56
MARY JUNE LANCE PENLAND '56
MARKLA GIST CURLEE '57
JANICE MATTHEWS HOLDER '57
GRETA JONES JOHNSON '57
JANET STANTON KEITH '57
MINNIE ELLA CURRIN MONTGOMERY '57
PATRICIA RUTLEDGE MORGAN '57
CAROLYN NANCE PARKER '57
JOE HUTCHINSON ROSSIN '57
MARGARET SHIPMAN STEPP '57
MARY ANN BASS UPCHURCH '57
BETSY CLAYTON WINBERRY '57
PATRICIA SWART EVERS '58
JANET FINCH GORHAM '58

CLAUDETTE BUTLER HATFIELD '58
VALERIE HONSINGER JOINER '58
ANNE TICE MORRIS '58
JOHNNIE DUFOUR NELSON '58
SYLVIA JAYNES SECREST '58
RUTH PEARMAN THOMAS '58
ANNE FOWLER AMMONS '59
NANCY KESSINGER BIRD '59
SADYE BOYD BROADWAY '59
SANDRA HUX GARNER '59
JANE MCALISTER GREENE '59
JEAN RAY ROBBINS HOAK '59
MARTHA GIBBS KING '59
IRENE BARBEE LITTLE '59
KAY WOOTEN MICKLEM '59
MIRIAM POSNER SLAVICH '59
JANET LORETTA SNOW '59
PEGGY OUTEN SPEIR '59
NANCY ROBERTSON SYLVESTER '59
MARY ALICE MARTIN VOGLER '59
RUTH JAMES WATERS '59
JACKIE MERRILL ANDREW '60
MARTHA HELMS COOLEY '60
MARTHA BATTS DARDEN '60
SYLVIA SMITH ELAM '60
GLINNA PONDER FRETWELL '60
NANCY THOMPSON JOLLY '60
BARBARA DEAN KOPP '60
REXINE KELLY LLOYD '60
JACQUELINE HENDRIX QUIGLEY '60
ALICE STEWART ROBINSON '60
LUCY WYNN SHOCKLEY '60
ANNE ROTHROCK TOWNE '60
MARGARET BRINDLE HORVATH '61
BEVERLY WHITESIDES MCSWAIN '61
JULIA BROWN MILLIGAN '61
CHARLENE MOSKAL-BURGESS '61
LINDA LOGAN PARLIER '61
PAULETTE PHILLIPS PUGH '61
MARGIE FARRINGTON RUST '61
ANN SHERRILL DAVIS '62
CAROLYN MARTIN FITZ-SIMONS '62
NANCY TRIVETTE MARTIN '62
LORENA BOYD MITTELSTADT '62
PHYLLIS ANNE BLANKENSHIP PRUITT '62
JOAN DOBSON WHITELEY '62
GLORIA MILLER WILSON '62
LYNDA LOUISE BIDDY '63
SALLIE MAE COVINGTON '63
MARION SHOOK GWALTNEY '63
DIANNE HARTSFIELD HARRISON '63
ERIN SPRUILL PRENTICE '63
JESSIE ROSENBERG SCHELL '63
ANITA JONES STANTON '63
MARY SOYARS CARTWRIGHT '64
JOYCE PAYNE KELLY '64
DIANNE PAYNE LEE '64
JANET STARNES MUELLER '64
RACHEL CORDLE THIESSEN '64
VIRGINIA ACHESON TUCKER '64
MARY VAUGHN HENNIS '65
VERA SCHUBART HOLSHOUSER '65
BELINDA SHADE JONES '65
KAREN OSTDAHL KREYLING '65
JOYCE JOHNSON NEWTON '65
JOAN ROWENA PANNELL '65
CHERYL PETERSON SIMPSON '65



9 Dr. Kunga Denzongpa '17 MPH, '22 PhD **10** Alison Van Norman '19 MLIS **11** Paul Bell '77 **12** Kim Cuny '94 MA, '07 MFA **13** Leslie Wood Zampetti '93 MLIS **14** Barbara Little Gottesman '61, '82 EdD **15** Kimberlee Hyman Parker '95 **16** Celia Hooper '74 MA when she was an interim dean at Winston-Salem State University, 2019–2020. **17** Andrew Orchowsky '23 MS **18** Billie Mace Durham '81 MLIS **19** Jennifer M. Hardin '04, '06 MEd, '10 CERT, '10 PMC, '12 EdS, '19 EdD



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

UNCG Magazine is now publishing pictures of your milestones, such as weddings, births, and reunions. All you have to do is send us your photos. Please send your pictures using the “Submit a Class Note” form at alumni.uncg.edu. Or you can mail a print to Class Notes Photo, Alumni Engagement Office, Alumni House, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402–6170. Mailed photos cannot be returned.



TOWERING FIGURE



DR. NANCY N. VACC ’85 EDD died on January 8, 2024. She served as professor of curriculum and instruction from 1987 to 2003, directing Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Studies. She earned the School of Education Teaching Excellence Award, UNCG Research Excellence Award for junior faculty, and School of Education Distinguished Service Award. Among her transformative gifts was funding for the Nicholas A. Vacc Memorial Bell Tower, in honor of her late husband. The Nicholas A. and Nancy N. Vacc Distinguished Professorship and the Nicholas A. Vacc Counseling & Consulting Clinic have been highly impactful, and fellowships and scholarships bearing the Vacc name will support students for generations to come.

PHILIP G. PROCTOR ’73
GLORIA TEAGUE BEST ’74
DAVID WILLIAM BRISTOL ’74
KAREN CONRAD CHANNELL ’74
MARTHA CLAWSON COMER ’74
LINDA K. DILLARD ’74
CATHERINE MARTIN GRIFFIN ’74
THOMAS L. HOWE ’74
PATRICIA LEONARD MAYFIELD ’74
MICHAEL CRAIG TEAGUE ’74
SHARON MULLEN WATTS ’74
PATRICIA ANTOINETTE BROWN ’75
TERRY BARBER DALRYMPLE ’75
WILLIAM RAMSEY EARLY JR. ’75
DENISE DICK ELLIS ’75
CHERYL ELLEN FLYNN ’75
DR. SUSAN LYNN FOSTER ’75
TERESA ANNE GRIFFIN ’75
LULA MAE MCDONALD ’75
SUZANNE WALDEN MCWHORTER ’75
MARCELL HUFFMAN MITCHELL ’75
ROBERT CURTIS TOLEN SR. ’75
STEPHEN ALEXANDER CHANDLER ’76
SUSAN MARGARET CHARBONNEAU ’76
WELDON LOYD CRAVEN ’76
ENOLA RICHARDSON FOUST ’76
JANE COLLINS GOCO ’76
ROBERT BRIAN HOLT ’76
NANCY CAROL HUETTEL ’76
DR. VIRGINIA D. HUNT ’76
JANET SWARINGEN MONTGOMERY ’76

FAYE QUESINBERRY PARRIS ’76
PEGGY WHICHARD SAMMONS ’76
JOYCE NUCKOLLS SASSER ’76
PAULA HAMMOND SHAW ’76
JOYCE MOORE THOMAS ’76
WALTER JAMES WARREN ’76
SUSAN HUFFMAN WELLS ’76
DEBRA BRYSON BARNARD ’77
RANDOLPH TERRY CULBRETH ’77
MARIE BLAKELEY DUBEL ’77
JANITA HAYWORTH ELDRIDGE ’77
JAMES ALEX ESSA ’77
DR. DAN PETER FAWAZ ’77
RUTH ANN GEORGE ’77
PAMELA BARKER GODFREY ’77
EUGENE KINCAID HOWARD III ’77
DANIEL SPEAR MARKS ’77
ANN BRIMLEY MCNEILL ’77
KATHY JOHNSON OLESON ’77
SANDRA MILLER SASSO ’77
EVANGELINE V. TAYLOR ’77
ANNALIESE MAGDALENE VON WITZKY ’77
JO-ELLEN YENT WILDER ’77
VERLYN FULGHUM BAKER ’78
DONALD THOMAS CLARK ’78
DEBORAH BARTLETT DESPAIN ’78
BETTY HAYWORTH HALL ’78
PHILIP A. HART ’78
FAYE BLAKELY HAYES ’78
CHIME ALECIA JOHNSON ’78
SHARON HAMADY JONES ’78

MARTHA SIOUSSAT LIPSKY ’78
CHARLES ELLSWORTH LYLES ’78
ALAN PICKARD MYRICK ’78
GEORGE WILSON PATTERSON ’78
SUZETTE GOODMAN PAWSON ’78
JAN DOUGLAS RAGSDALE ’78
CHARLES GROVER SMITH ’78
JOHN ROBERT TALLANT ’78
PHYLIS JACKSON WEEKS ’78
SULLIVAN ANTHONY WELBORNE JR. ’78
JOSEPH EDWARD ATTAYEK JR. ’79
CAROLINE LOUISE BELL ’79
JULIE ELIZABETH JARRELL ’79
MARJORIE YARBOROUGH KRUECK ’79
ALBERT PULTZ LOCHRA ’79
KATHERINE CAROSCIO MYERS ’79
KENNETH LEE SLOOP ’79
MIRIAM ALLRED TODD ’79
JANE BARR TYSON ’79
ERNEST G. WINSTEAD ’79
KATRINA BOLIEK ABELL ’80
MARGARET GRAYBEAL ASHBY ’80
COLEEN COX AUSTIN ’80
JOANNE MUNN BALLARD ’80
SUSAN GARDNER CREED ’80
CONNIE LEE FOWLER ’80
RUTH EDWARDS FULP ’80
KATHY JENKINS HEIN ’80
ROBERT L. HENSLEY ’80
SHARON MOONEY LANGSTON ’80
PHILIP GEORGE LONGWORTH ’80
BETTY MCDANIEL MIDDLETON ’80
FREDDIE LOWE MOCK ’80
ROBERT LOUIS MONTGOMERY ’80
GEORGE V. NORWOOD II ’80
DONNA BRINKLEY OWENS ’80
ROBERT JEROME PARKER JR. ’80
ESTHER YOUNG WHITLEY ’80
JERRI ANNETTE BERRY ’81
DAWNE E. BOST ’81
DR. NANCY ANN BUECHE ’81
MARCUS LEE CRAVER ’81
ELIZABETH THURMOND DROESSLER ’81
TRUDY HARRIS EDWARDS ’81
JACKIE LYNN FAW ’81
CONSTANCE FREDERICK ’81
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DONALD WALTER WOODFIELD ’87
TARA ANN LOFTUS–GREEN ’88
THERESA SMITH WILDER ’88
DONALD THOMAS WORTHINGTON ’88
BRIAN L. KENN ’89
DWAYNE STUART EARNHARDT ’90
BARBARA RIDDLE TAYLOR ’90
HOWARD MARK GOLDFARB ’91
CATHARINE DIXON BLACK ’92
DR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES KIRKMAN ’93
RICHARD SHERMAN PIPES ’93
ELLIEN JANET SIMPSON ’93
JEANNE YOUNG TEMPLE ’93
NEIL BHAGAT ’94
BRIAN THOMAS HUGHES ’94
JONATHAN ERWIN EVANS ’95
MURIEL SUSAN JONES ’95
RITA TROJAN WHITE ’95
WILDA KAY HONISS ’96
GRAHAM THOMAS ROBERSON ’97
SANDRA JEAN SAYLOR ’97
BRADFORD JOSEPH GRIFFIN ’99
CHARLES DAVID GATES ’00
SYLVIA GARNER GIBSON ’00
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SARAH GALLIGAN BARKER ’02
DOUGLASS MYERS EVERHART ’02
ANITA CAUDLE ISLEY ’02
STACY ANN KISHBAUGH ’02
ANGELA LOVETTA GLADDEN ’03
MARGARET SPILLMAN LEPSIG ’03
MICHAEL DEVIN PARRISH ’03
AMY TEDDER WILLIAMS ’03
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GEORGE THOMAS RHODES III ’04
GEORGE W. DAVIS JR. ’05
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DELIA ENGLAND FREDERICK ’05
PATRICK MCLEAN SHAFFNER ’05
JOSHUA LEIGH WILLIAMS ’05
TIWANDA YOUNG ’05
BETRICE HRAB STUBER ’06
FELICIA DEMITA BOWENS ’07
ANGEL MARSH OVERMAN ’08
MELAINIE DOWELL BOLICK ’09

LIFE OF SERVICE



SUSAN WHITTINGTON ’72, ’74 MED was a true Spartan as an alumna, UNCG admissions counselor, and supporter of the University. She served on the UNCG Excellence Foundation and the University Investment Committee and was a member of the UNCG Golden Chain Honor Society and past president of the UNCG Alumni Association. She received the UNCG Minerva Service Award and established the N. Susan Whittington Scholarship for undergraduates. Her legacy continues to impact today’s students. She died on December 17, 2023.

MICHELLE ANN SPECKMANN ’09
JANICE R. SWANSON ’09
MATTHEW GREGORY WILLIAMSON ’12
MATTHEW JAMES CHIPOLET ’13
YVONNE MCDOWELL CHRISTIANSEN ’16
CHRISTOPHER RYAN GARMANY ’16
JOSHUA MICHAEL HAGAN–HUGHES ’18
ANGELA TUTTLE ALVEAR ’20
CHARLIEN CHAREE BERRY ’23

FORMER FACULTY /STAFF

DR. JONATHAN HENNER died on August 14, 2023. He joined the School of Education faculty in 2016 as an assistant professor in the Department of Specialized Education Services and the Interpreting, Deaf Education, and Advocacy Services program (IDEA), and he became the first Deaf tenured professor at UNCG in 2022. He was committed “to help others in the deaf community and allies to deaf

academics understand the circumstances faced by the deaf.” He was the recipient of the Association of College Educators - Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s Early Promising Scholar Award.

CHRIS KIRKMAN ’93, ’00, ’06 MED, ’22 PHD died on August 20, 2023. He worked at UNCG for 16 years, first in University Admissions, then in the Lloyd International Honors College, where he was senior academic advisor and coordinator of International Honors. He also taught Honors seminars in literature and Honors Colloquium for first-year students and was a consistent presence in North Spencer residence hall.

DR. LLOYD BOND died on September 27, 2023. Beginning in 1988, he was an integral part of what was at that time the Department of Educational Research Methodology (ERM) until his retirement in 2002. An international leader in psychometrics widely recognized for his research assessing teaching ability, bias in testing, and the cognitive processes underlying standardized test performance, he was credited with strengthening teaching standards nationally.

LOUISE GLÜCK died on October 13, 2023. A former U.S. poet laureate, she said her “first real teaching job” was at UNCG in 1973. She taught a freshman poetry course titled “Approaches to Poetry” and a graduate workshop for MFA students in the Creative Writing Program. Two years later, Glück rose to fame with the volume “The House on Marshland.” She went on to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, the Bollingen Prize for Poetry, and the Pulitzer Prize, among other accolades.

DR. MARK SMITH–SOTO died on October 28, 2023. A professor of Romance languages from 1975 to 2014, he served as department head from 1986 through 1994. He received the UNCG Senior Alumni Teaching Excellence Award, directed the UNCG Center for Creative Writing in the Arts, and edited International Poetry Review, a journal of translation. He was recognized with a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. In addition to scholarly articles, he published five poetry chapbooks and five full-length poetry collections, the last of which, “Daybreak,” will be published in April.

CLARA O’BRIEN died on December 18, 2023. She had been a professor of voice on UNCG’s School of Music faculty for 15 years. As a singer, her repertoire ranged from medieval chansons to premieres from living composers. Her operatic performances received Opernwelt’s Best Performance citations in both the Emerging and Established Artist categories. She appeared on stages in Berlin, Frankfurt, Chicago, Dallas, and more.

MARY JO HELPERS died on December 23, 2023. She was a faculty member in the School of Nursing from 1994 to 2009 and retired as a clinical nurse professor. She received the Gladys Strawn Bullard Award for Service in 2004 and served on the Students First Nursing committee for several years. Her impact was felt not only in the classroom, but also through her establishment of the Mary Jo Helpers Endowed School of Nursing Faculty Fund.

JAIME “JJ” YOUNG, a UNCG Police patrol sergeant, died February 25, 2024. In 2019, he was Officer of the Year for the department. In 2020, he was recognized as the UNC System Officer of the Year for exceptional service.



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Amber Fairchild,
sophomore
Biology major
(Chemistry and
Sociology minors)