

FALL 2025

UNCG

MAGAZINE



Our Alumni House

CELEBRATING ITS PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE PG. 20

MONUMENTAL VISION PG. 14 ■ UNCG #1 IN PERFORMANCE PG. 30 ■ NUTRITION PLUS PG. 34



20

HISTORIC HOMECOMING Belonging was a key theme as Marcus T. Johnson '99 (right) spoke at the naming ceremony Oct. 18 for the Marcus T. Johnson Alumni House. "When you walk through this house," he told the audience of mostly alumni and students, "let it serve as a reminder that you belong."

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Cover graphic of the Marcus T. Johnson Alumni House by Lisa Summerell, from a photograph 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 submit a class note, view video clips, and click on archives to see previous issues.



LEARN MORE

newsfront

At UNCG, we don't often reach for sports metaphors, so I hope you'll humor me when I say that today's higher education environment calls for what athletes know as an athletic stance: feet planted, weight balanced, eyes forward, and ready to move in any direction.



FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.
CHANCELLOR

That's where universities must be as the pace of change accelerates. The global economy, demographic shifts, new technologies, and public skepticism are bearing down on higher education. We can't be flat-footed. We need to be nimble, responsive, and prepared to act.

Today's national headlines often focus on the Ivy League, but the future of higher education will be shaped at places like UNCG: public universities that educate most of America's students, fuel workforce development, and expand opportunity.

Here at UNCG, we've leaned forward, streamlining operations, reallocating resources, and investing in student success. That work is not always glamorous, but it ensures we remain financially strong and mission focused.

Equally important, we've redefined what it means to serve students. Nearly three-quarters of college learners nationwide are "nontraditional." They're working adults, parents, first-generation students, veterans, and others balancing multiple pressures. At UNCG, we meet those needs directly, with support systems that go beyond classrooms and internships to include mental health services, academic supports, and scholarships that bridge financial gaps.

The athletic stance is not defensive; it's confident and forward looking. At UNCG, we are ready for what's next, helping every kind of student thrive and strengthening our communities. And through our *Light the Way* campaign, we invite alumni and friends to join us—together, we are building the path forward for future generations.



IMPACT THROUGH INNOVATION

VIA ACADEMIC HUBS IN EACH UNCG COLLEGE AND SCHOOL, FACULTY WITH IDEAS FOR IMPACT WILL MAKE STRONG CONNECTIONS.



ARTS AND ENTREPRENEURS

With its newest Innovation Hub, UNCG is becoming a portal into virtual arts careers in the gaming, media, and technology industries.

Innovate UNCG – the University incubator for entrepreneurship – is helping lay the groundwork for tech-forward growth in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA).

The CVPA's hub joins new ones created in the School of Education and the School of Health and Human Sciences. The goal: an interdisciplinary network of innovators across campus.

Four faculty fellows from each of the CVPA schools – art, music, dance, and theatre –

launched a business and entrepreneurship skills course this fall. "To have a viable career as an artist in the 21st century, you need a broad and dynamic skill-set," says Innovate UNCG's social innovation and public scholarship lead, Dr. John Borchert.



FRESH RESOURCES FOR STEM

The Math Help Center is now expanded and relaunched as the STEM Learning Center, the students' go-to hub for academic support in math, statistics, biology, chemistry, kinesiology, and other STEM and health-related fields. Located in the Faculty Center, it will provide targeted, discipline-specific support that meets the needs of today's STEM majors.



CHANCELLOR'S INITIATIVE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH

New seed funding will boost collaborative projects leading to community impact while attracting external funding. Of the 40 faculty proposals, four were selected this fall.

One tackles the perils and promise of preadolescent technology engagement. The idea is to come up with practical guidance for parents, schools, and policymakers. Another uses VR and AI to design training tools

that prepare students for careers in cybersecurity and in the apparel supply chain, two strengths of our University. The third focuses on the production and modification of anti-cancer compounds, opening the door for new therapies. The fourth entails building an AI copilot to help physicians with medications decisions and clinical trial matching, while also working to keep health data secure.



CAREER-READY COLLABORATION

UNCG welcomed The

Washington Center (TWC) to campus last month to host its first Career Launch Bootcamp on a college campus. TWC has prepared college students for their careers since 1975, with students from all over the country traveling to Washington, D.C., for its professional development seminars, immersive internship connections, and career preparation. This year, TWC brought its expertise to the G.

"As an inaugural regional program partner, UNCG embraced the opportunity to offer tailored content designed

specifically for the North Carolina job market," said Brandy Holoman, executive director of TWC's Workforce and Programs.

In addition to workshops building competencies in areas such as AI in the workplace, workplace resilience, and negotiation, the upperclassmen made connections with prospective employers.



CREATIVE VISION

"Art and Innovation" on UNCG's Millennial

Campus was the focus of this semester's first Alumni All Access session.

Dr. Amanda Graham, the inaugural creative director of the Jeanne Tannenbaum Center for Creative Practice, said the center will be a hive of creativity and academic innovation, as it brings academics, community members, and luminaries together to create solutions to local and global challenges. It is currently under construction.

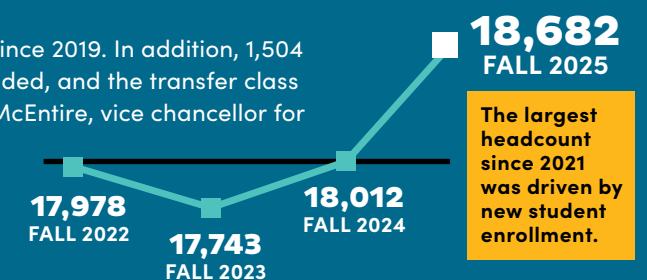
Future Alumni All Access events, free for all who attended UNCG, will focus on exciting work in the Graduate School and University Libraries.

Learn more at alumni.uncg.edu/alumni-all-access.

ENROLLMENT SURGE

This magazine in 2023 warned of an "enrollment cliff" facing all colleges. With new strategies, the University has seen strong growth in first-year, graduate, and transfer students. Provost Alan Boyette says, "The enrollment strategy evolved to include transfer students, stop-outs, and graduate recruitment," to diversify enrollment pipelines. This year, 4,496 new undergraduates were added, the

largest incoming class since 2019. In addition, 1,504 online students were added, and the transfer class saw 5.4% growth. Tina McEntire, vice chancellor for enrollment management, says, "It's all about purposeful strategies and data-driven decisions."





Dale and
Barbara
Phipps

PRIDE in philanthropy

Dale Phipps' spirit of philanthropy is too big for just one part of UNCG. But that makes sense – UNCG has touched more than one part of Dale Phipps' life.

He earned bachelor's degrees in biology (1982) and accounting (1986) at UNCG. After building his career, he reconnected with the University in the 2000s. At the time, he was entering a new chapter of life following the passing of his first wife, Kathy Walker Phipps. Attending Spartan basketball games became a meaningful part of his routine, and later, after he married Barbara Phipps, the couple could be found in the stands together.

Since then, Dale and Barbara have financially supported many areas of the University, and Dale has given his time and expertise in various roles. He's a current member of the UNCG Board of Trustees and previously served as a member of the UNCG Foundation Board, the Bryan School's Accounting and Finance Advisory Board, and the University Committee on Honorary Degrees.

The couple recently established the Dale and Barbara Phipps Nursing Scholarship Fund. It adds to their ongoing commitment

to the Dale and Barbara Phipps Accounting Scholarship Fund, the Kathy Walker Phipps Graduate Award in Creative Writing, and the Dale and Barbara Phipps Athletic Scholarship Endowment.

Barbara says supporting nursing students is crucial. "There's a huge issue with a nursing shortage in North Carolina," she says. "The more we can grow local nurses, the better off we'll all be."

The scholarship adds to the impact they've already made in the Nursing and Instructional Building. In 2021, the Phipps Student Skills Practice Lab was officially named. It provides students a place to practice the hands-on skills that are vital to nursing.

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. lauds the power of alumni support. "Our institution continues to benefit from the Phippses' generosity, wisdom, and engagement with UNCG stakeholders. Their contributions help lead UNCG toward a bright future," he says.

For the Phippses, helping today's students adds to the special feeling they get each time they step on campus. "I get a lot of satisfaction and pride out of my work with UNCG," Dale says.

HUMANITIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS

How will students make money with their degrees? Humanities at Work (H@W) is a great answer. It kicked off its second year with 50 students and 12 partner organizations.

It's currently funded through a \$5 million Mellon grant.

Hana Ishige '25 pursued her passion for publishing at UNCG. In her H@W internship with the Weatherspoon, Ishige found her writing skills helped the museum connect with the greater Greensboro community.

This past summer, she took on a prestigious role with Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Through its own highly competitive internships, Ishige became the first editor from North Carolina in the national organization's history.

Says Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Maura Heyn, "Humanities at Work demonstrates that pursuing a degree in humanities is a choice students can and should make."



Hana
Ishige '25

CATCH YOU IN THE COMMONS

THE WEATHERSPOON ART MUSEUM'S iconic central atrium is where a journey of curiosity begins for students, community members, and art lovers of all ages.

Now, in recognition of the Warmath family's 60 years of service and support, the space has been named Warmath Commons. Sarah Dew Warmath and the late Jack Warmath held early roles in raising funds for the Anne and Benjamin Cone Building, home of the Weatherspoon. She has given many years of service to the Weatherspoon Guild, and her son Tim Warmath has provided leadership on the Weatherspoon Art Museum Council.

With a recent major gift, part of the *Light the Way* campaign, Sarah Warmath and her family continue to

impact the museum's development.

The naming ceremony was held this fall. Says Juliette Bianco, the Anne and Ben Cone Memorial Endowed Director of the Weatherspoon, "That celebration was not only about naming a space, but also about recognizing a legacy of community and care."

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. noted how far the Weatherspoon has come due to the support of people like the Warmaths. "They understood early on what this museum could be and helped transform what was once a small campus gallery into one of the most respected university art museums in the country."

Sarah's spirit of volunteerism and service will live on in the Sarah Dew Warmath Museum Service Award, which the Weatherspoon created in her honor. At the ceremony in September, she became its first recipient.

“At the Weatherspoon, I always see something I want to know more about. That’s part of the fun.”

—SARAH DEW WARMATH



SARAH WARMATH and her late husband, Jack, supported the acquisition of one of the Weatherspoon's most recognizable works (above). "The Frieze" (1982), by American artist Tom Otterness, rings the 2,140-foot space of Warmath Commons. Its acquisition was dedicated to the memory of Sarah's parents, Sarah Ford and Henry Worsham Dew.

Otterness is a prolific sculptor with works in museums such as the Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Guggenheim Museum in New York; the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh; and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.

"The Frieze" comes from the early part of Otterness' career. Its figures reflect influences from the architecture and iconography of many cultures: for example, Indian temples, Greek altars, Aztec pyramids, and Christian churches.



Sarah
Warmath

A PATH together

The quote from the late Fred Chappell reads: “Brighten the corner where you are.” That’s what a mural honoring UNCG’s history of expanding access to excellence seeks to do.

The mural shows the Foust steps, a crowd of students, and the University’s first two African American students, JoAnne Smart ’60 and Bettye Tillman ’60. It adorns one wall of the dean’s office suite at the College of Arts and Sciences.

The artists themselves – Aminah Coppage ’25, Jalani Maxwell ’24, and Myles Wilder ’25 – are UNCG alumni. They had the chance to meet Joanne Smart Drane, the surviving alumna from the trailblazing duo depicted in paint.

Coppage asked, “What advice would you give students like us?” Drane recalled her own mindset when she applied to the all-white Woman’s College in 1956. “Stick to your dream. You’re going to have some struggles, but don’t let those things deter you from what you really want to do, in your mind and in your heart,” she said.

Drane met Bettye Tillman while they were taking a college entrance exam in order to attend the University. “We had

no idea that we’d be the only Black students accepted to WC, or that we’d end up living together,” Drane recalled. “We were assigned to Shaw Residence Hall the first year. Because ‘separate but equal’

“You’re going to have struggles, but don’t let those deter you from what you really want to do.”

—JOANNE SMART DRANE ’60

was the rule, we had the entire first-floor wing of Shaw to ourselves with separate bathrooms.”

Wilder asked, “What did your family think when you were on your way to Greensboro from Raleigh by yourself to come to college?”

Drane laughed. Her parents were worried. “I was an only child, so it was difficult for them to drop me off,” said Drane. “I spoke to them almost daily from the pay phone in the hall.”

Maxwell asked a simple question: “What do you think of the University now?”

Drane admitted, “It took me a long time to return to the University after my experience here. I was pleasantly surprised by the transformation that had happened since I graduated. You can’t imagine my amazement when I learned



that we had a Black chancellor. Coming from where I started at this University to now fills me with thanksgiving and pride to be associated with what I consider to be the greatest university in North Carolina.”

Drane was excited to get to know the young artists. “It’s so special to have this chance to meet all three of you and hear about the hard work you put into this mural,” she told them. “I can’t tell you how much this mural means to me, and I know this is just the beginning of our paths together.”

Above, l-r, Myles Wilder ’25, Jalani Maxwell ’24, JoAnne Smart Drane ’60, and Aminah Coppage ’25

Left, Bettye Tillman ’60 and JoAnne Smart ’60 (l-r), the University’s first two African American students



SHOW ME THE WAY

Administration Drive is sporting a new name. As you pass Foust Building and intersect with College Avenue, you’re traveling on Woman’s College Way!

The renaming honors WC students and alumnae. “The WC legacy supports the marginalized and encourages free thought,” said Sarah Shoffner ’62, ’64 MA, ’77 PhD, at the ceremony. “WC Way will be an eternal reminder that for decades, Woman’s College showed women alternatives to the traditional roles expected of them.”

ALUMNI AWARDS 2025

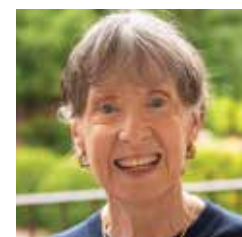
The Alumni Awards honor alumni for exceptional achievement and significant contributions to their profession, community, society, or university. “They truly embody the values of UNCG,” says Chancellor Gilliam.



WC LEGACY AWARD
Marion Prescott Wray ’56 made a trailblazing impact in Raleigh as a middle school physical education teacher, coach, and athletic director. In 1992, she was the first non-collegiate coach to be named Coach of the Year by the N.C. Division of Girls and Women’s Sports. She inspired four of her students to pursue physical education as a profession and endowed the Marion Lois Prescott Wray Teaching Scholarship at UNCG.



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
James Barnhill ’82 MFA is the sculptor behind the most iconic statues in Greensboro. His sculptures of the “A&T Four,” Nathanael Greene, and UNCG’s Minerva speak to the history and culture of the city. His work seeks to marry the abstract principles of design and composition to the natural form of the figure. When asked to describe his career in one word, the artist responded, “Fantastic.”



MINERVA AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Bobbi Osguthorpe ’83 has made an impact through her work with the lifesaving technology vacuum-assisted closure, a procedure for treating wounds that has impacted millions of lives. During her nursing career, she received honors including North Carolina’s Great 100 Nurses in 1991 and the UNCG School of Nursing’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1997. Her endowed scholarship has supported School of Nursing students since 1999.



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Lasse Palomaki ’16, ’18 MBA helps alumni and students think strategically about their careers. A native of Finland, he came to UNCG to study at the Bryan School of Business and Economics. Now, he is the associate director of career services for alumni at Elon University and the founder of The Strategic Student LLC. He remains connected to the Bryan School as an MBA Advisory Board member and contributor to the Bryan Blueprint Series.

IDEA to reality

After years of hard work, Dr. Sandra Shultz (UNCG) and colleague Dr. Randy Schmitz (NC A&T, formerly UNCG) are seeing more than two decades of research pay off.

This past April, they earned a patent for a device that can help reduce the number of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries, especially in women athletes. The device is the GMetric3D Knee Joint Laxity Testing Apparatus.

It's the result of teamwork, says Schultz. "This device was born out of evidence from our clinical research. I wouldn't be at this stage without my co-inventor Dr. Randy Schmitz and our graduate students who partnered in this research over the past 22 years."

What's more, in May they were awarded a \$600,000 grant from NC Innovations to move toward a market-ready device. Schultz believes it can make a real impact since ACL injuries are so common in sports.

Her research journey began with a question. Schultz wanted to know why women athletes were more prone to ACL injury than men.

She found one major reason for increased risk. "Most women and adolescent girls have greater laxity, or looseness, of the ligaments that stabilize the knee – a common risk factor for ACL injury," she says. Simply put, too much laxity makes it more difficult to stabilize the knee, and that can lead to injury.

The GMetric3D Knee Joint Laxity Testing Apparatus screens for greater-than-average risk of ACL injuries, and it can be used to diagnose injuries or monitor post-surgery healing.



Dr. Sandra Shultz with the GMetric3D Knee Joint Laxity Testing Apparatus

“The UNCG faculty, staff, and students are exceptional people and professionals who have made this more of an adventure than work.”

—DR. SANDRA SHULTZ

Schultz says that UNCG helped make it happen. "I'm a researcher, not a businessperson, so having a resource like LaunchUNCG and UNCG's senior licensing associate Dr. Michael Marshall '02 MS, '14 PhD to walk me through the innovation steps was literally the difference between having a great idea on paper and turning it into a reality."

Marshall says, "Sandy's approach will give clinicians a lot more information and a more precise measurement than was possible with previous devices."

This news comes as Schultz, the former director of UNCG's Center for Women's Health and Wellness in the School of Health and Human Sciences, retires from the University.

"UNCG has been a wonderful environment to work," she says. "I appreciate that UNCG equally values teaching and research and works to provide the resources to equip faculty to succeed in both. All levels of administration have made every effort to help researchers be successful, and they are quick to celebrate success when it occurs."

Though the device is not yet ready for the market, Shultz is optimistic about the next phase of development and grateful for the team around her. "It has been a privilege to be part of the Department of Kinesiology. The faculty, staff, and students are exceptional people and professionals who have made this more of an adventure than work."

THE NATURAL WORLD ... ONLINE



Spartan students at Mountain Lake Biological Station, University of Virginia

WHEN WALKING IN A WILDLIFE AREA, most people don't think about numbers. But in UNCG's Introduction to Biodiversity Data course, students learn to pair the natural world with data science.

Biodiversity data overwhelmingly emphasizes individual sightings and observations that scientists use to create a picture of ecological trends, historic timelines, and species relationships in an area. All that research used to be spread across small databases, museum filing cabinets, scientist's offices, and even hikers' phones. Now it is increasingly aggregated and accessible online from anywhere in the world.

As part of the National Science Foundation's Ranges project, an open-source database is allowing institutions to join forces and make research easier.

Dr. Bryan McLean, assistant professor of biology, contributes to the database as a principal investigator, overseeing more than 20 institutions across the United States that put their specimen data online for anyone to access. This particular effort goes beyond species occurrence to encompass traits of organisms such as body size and reproductive characteristics.

For emerging scientists, understanding data is a must, he says. The results? McLean's students in one graduate seminar used biodiversity data to track litter sizes of small mammals and contributed their work to a peer-reviewed paper. Their use of the data will be able to scale to many more mammal species under the Ranges project.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF DR. BRYAN MCLEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



As the *Light the Way* campaign reaches its final weeks – it concludes Dec. 31 – the number of those giving has passed the 25,000 mark. Be a part of this transformative campaign and join your fellow alumni and friends in helping transform our University. See details at lighttheway.uncg.edu.

AT HOME IN THE LAB

Janae Wofford always liked getting to the "root" of an issue. That's not surprising for someone who grew up in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains.

"I love hiking," the Lloyd International Honors College student says. A woodland walk inspired research that landed her a Goldwater Scholarship, one of the most coveted STEM scholarships in the nation. She hopes her work will contribute to new medicines to treat infections.

Her curiosity about natural health products was first piqued in sixth grade. At a Girl Scout event at a chemistry lab, she made her own ChapStick. In a high school chemistry class, she synthesized aspirin using willow bark extract. "Native Americans often used willow bark for pain," she says. "That was the first time I realized how natural products are used in medicine."

Once at UNCG, Wofford signed up for a First Year Experience course taught by Dr. Nadja Cech, the Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, to learn about undergraduate research. She then joined Cech's lab. "I found a home ever since," she says.



Clinical Assistant
Professor Frank Griffin
teaching students in the
School of Education

50 YEARS of Deaf Education

It's the UNC System's only four-year program preparing teachers in Deaf education. And this year UNCG's School of Education marks a half century of impact.

The UNCG School of Education's Interpreting, Deaf Education, and Advocacy Services (IDEAS) program prepares graduates to meet the communication, educational, and human services needs of individuals from kindergarten through adulthood who are deaf or hard of hearing. Among the degree concentrations is a focus on licensure for K-12 teachers of the Deaf and hard of hearing. This is a critical role because there are at least 1,500 deaf students in North Carolina public schools but not enough teachers trained in this realm.

Virginia Madorin '11 is one alumna whose work is helping solve this problem.

Madorin is an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act consultant in the Office of Exceptional Children with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. She works closely with districts to answer policy questions and with teachers to close language gaps with deaf students. She's also co-director of the North Carolina Deaf/Blind Project.

"The best part of the job is coaching teachers who are working with groups of students and trying to improve their skill set," Madorin says. "I teach them the pedagogy of Deaf education that they maybe didn't get in undergrad or graduate study."

Madorin was drawn to Deaf education by experiences she had in high school. She saw a Deaf family friend using sign language and was intrigued. Then, after receiving the gift of

a sign language book, she wanted to know more. "I was spending so much time trying to learn," she says.

When Madorin got to UNCG, her real education began. She learned from members of the Deaf



School of Education
Deaf Field Day



Virginia
Madorin '11

community as well as from her professors. Her practicums were also formative. Entering classrooms with deaf children made her realize the need for teachers who could teach them effectively.

Madorin continues to meet teachers who want to serve their deaf students better. "We constantly get questions from professionals who want to redo their training to do Deaf education," she says. "They see the need for it."



Dean Barksdale (center) and the
inaugural class of Conway Scholars.

FIRST CLASS

A MAJOR NATIONAL SUPPORTER OF NURSING EDUCATION has committed to a \$3 million gift to establish the Joanne and William Conway Nursing Scholarship.

The Bedford Falls Foundation was established by businessman and philanthropist Bill Conway Jr. and his late wife, Joanne Barkett Conway. It has given more than \$325 million to nursing-related initiatives across many states.

"This extraordinary gift will transform the lives of our students," School of Nursing Dean Debra J. Barksdale said. "It will directly ease the financial burden for so many of them and allow them to focus more fully on their education and future careers in nursing."

UNCG's mission and the mission of the

Bedford Falls Foundation are well aligned, Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. noted. "Sustainable scholarship funding ensures that we can recruit the brightest students and that financial need never prevents a prospective student from becoming a nurse."

The University also shares another big goal with the Bedford Falls Foundation: ending a major nursing shortage. North Carolina expects a shortfall of more than 12,000 nurses by 2033.

UNCG is innovating to fill that gap. This semester, the first class of students in the Direct Admit program began their studies. Previously, students applied to the BSN program after completing specific courses.

This streamlined process offers more certainty and savings for eligible incoming first-year students.

"Our graduates are a powerful force in improving health outcomes across the state," Barksdale added. "UNCG graduates

“This semester, UNCG’s 140 inaugural Conway Scholars are focused on success.”

—DEBRA J. BARKSDALE,
DEAN OF SCHOOL OF NURSING

the largest number of prelicensure BSN nursing students in the Triad, and many of them choose to remain in the region to serve their communities."

NC ZOO *gets wild*

Interior architects have to work with the space they're given, whether it's an office building, a home, or the animal enclosures at the North Carolina Zoo.

Like her fellow alumni from UNCG's acclaimed interior architecture (IARc) department, Crista McGee '91 creates living spaces centered around safety and comfort. But her clients need room to sharpen claws, chase tails, or stretch trunks.



Crista McGee '91, NC Zoo

McGee studied with Tom Lambeth, the late Jerry Leimenstoll, and Joe Standley. "All of my professors were such great teachers," she says. "I was learning stuff that was so new and unique."

Her current work keeps her learning. While working on the Watani Grasslands renovation, which houses elephants, rhinos, antelope, and other African species, McGee came up with the Shani Loop, a boardwalk that leads people further into the grasslands for

a closer perspective. That element of the design also created delightful surprises for visitors, she says.

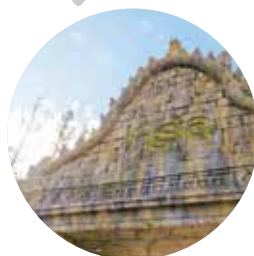
"In our drawings, we thought guests would be at the same level as our male elephant, C'sar. But when we built it and walked out for the first time, it looked like the animals were slightly above us. With the sheer size of the elephant, that is a cool and unforgettable experience."

The North Carolina Zoo received an Association of Zoos and Aquariums Significant Achievement Award for Exhibit Design for the Watani Grasslands project. Its 42 acres gave elephants the room they need, says McGee.

Meeting the needs of both humans and animals and creating wonderful experiences is the goal. In the zoo, some spaces encourage "parallel play." For example, when they gave gorillas a tree to climb, they placed a similar tree outside the exhibit for children.

"When you do things like that, it creates empathy for the animal. Kids pretend to be the animal, and they can more closely relate to it," says McGee.

When designing enclosures, McGee thinks about how to best capture animals' native habitats. "We work with



ASIA EXHIBIT
The 12.5-acre space will feature tigers, cobras, gibbons, and more. It's scheduled to open June 2026.



ELEPHANTS
The award-winning 42-acre Watani Grasslands project gives elephants the space they need to roam.



PRIMATES
NC Zoo is home to a bachelor troop of Western lowland gorillas, among other primates.



Crista McGee '91 came up with the Shani Loop, a boardwalk that brings visitors closer to animals.

the zookeepers to understand the animals' behaviors," she explains. "Primates are a perfect example. They need to be climbing, so you put in lots of climbers to give the habitat complexity."

Another way McGee's work has brought kids into the experience of the zoo is with Kidzone, which she designed in collaboration with the zoo's education team. There, children can play in a stream, which is ADA-compliant for wheelchairs. They can trek across a treetop trail, hide in a stone maze, and serve up mud pies in the Mud Cafe.

UNCG's Interior Architecture BFA degree helped McGee find a career with a sense of purpose, she says. "I wanted to do something that would last, that people would get a lot out of, or that could affect the lives of others."

Many of the program's graduates work for architecture and engineering firms. Others follow careers in areas like interior design, residential design, and commercial interiors.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF ELEPHANTS AND GORILLA COURTESY OF NC ZOO



McGee interacts with one-year-old "Winnie" the baboon and her mother.

McGee now oversees the creation and upkeep of all zoo exhibits as deputy director and chief facilities management officer. She manages about 75 employees, all committed to ensuring the best for animals and zoo guests. "When you create empathy for wildlife, you're more inclined to want to take care of it. It really is this big, holistic package," she says.

PRESS PASS

IN 2022, BRYAN SCHOOL ALUMNA BURAKE TESHOME crossed the stage wearing blue and gold. Now, she's walked some of the biggest red carpets of New York and Los Angeles.

As an associate social media manager for Vanity Fair, Teshome has her finger on the pulse of celebrity gossip, movie industry news, and general pop culture.

Since her first red carpet experience at the Met Gala in New York, Teshome has had the opportunity to interview a variety of celebrities. Among the most friendly and personable: Anne Hathaway, Daniel Radcliffe, and Tony-winner Jonathan Groff.

But her job is not all celebrity parties. On a typical day, Teshome begins scanning her phone for news as soon as she wakes up. She contributes to newsroom meetings, posts daily content on the magazine's social feeds, and promotes its digital site and print edition. People may be surprised at the amount of strategy, time, and planning that goes into producing and promoting each magazine issue, she says.

Teshome credits Bryan School professors like Dr. Sara Macsween, a lecturer in the Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality and Tourism, for preparing her for a fast-paced career. Her goals include growing professionally at Vanity Fair, but for now she's enjoying the pace of life in New York.

"I feel honored that I was asked to be a small part of such a legacy publication," she says, "and I'm soaking it all in like a sponge."

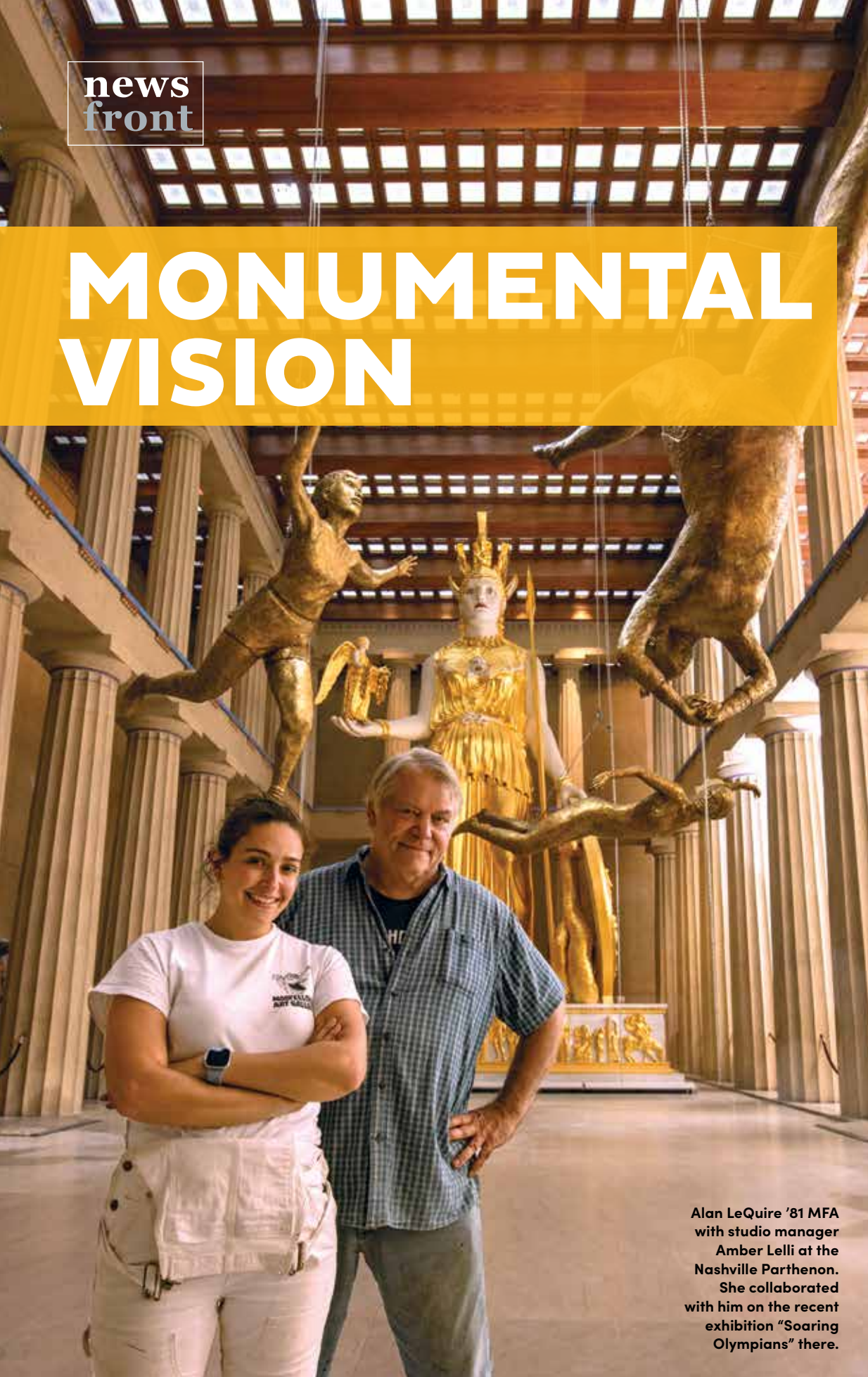


"I feel honored that I was asked to be a small part of such a legacy publication."

—BURAKE TESHOME '22

COURTESY PHOTO OF BURAKE TESHOME

MONUMENTAL VISION



Alan LeQuire '81 MFA with studio manager Amber Lelli at the Nashville Parthenon. She collaborated with him on the recent exhibition "Soaring Olympians" there.

You can't say Spartans don't dream big.

While at UNCG, Alan LeQuire '81 MFA learned sculpture bids would soon be accepted for a statue in Nashville's Centennial Park. Not just any statue. One of Athena inside their full-scale recreation of the Parthenon.

His proposal: Intensively research how exactly the long-lost Athena statue had appeared in Athens' Parthenon – and recreate it using traditional methods. He would create a 42-foot-tall replica – the largest indoor statue in the U.S. – meticulously replicating that of the ancient Greek sculptor Phidias. In Nashville's full-scale Parthenon, she would stand on the same spot as she had atop Athens' Acropolis.

Of all the submissions, his won. He was ready. He'd had an internship at a bronze foundry in Italy and, looking to return to America, he'd discovered only one art program in the Southeast offered a bronze-casting sculpture course – UNCG.

He knew they had the very experienced foundryman John Springer, with a background at New York's Modern Art Foundry. "I wanted to work with him primarily."

Another artist/professor stood out: Peter Agostini, who had helped launch the Pop Art movement in the 1960s (together with artists like Andy Warhol).

What else drew him to UNCG's program? "They still drew and painted and sculpted from live models," LeQuire explained. "I had studied the human figure – first of all with my father, who taught anatomy at the Vanderbilt medical school – and then later in France and Italy."

He valued that traditional method. "I wanted to continue that practice."

He researched for months before starting his sculpting. The research

would continue for years.

Meanwhile, the Park Board officials gave him a limit of nine tons. "So I went to a different method entirely, which involved sculpting it in clay first, section by section, and then making molds and casting it in gypsum cement reinforced with fiberglass string. That allowed me to make very thin castings." But it took him five times as long as sculpting directly with plaster – it was slow going.

In 1985 he began revealing some parts of the massive statue. "I assembled the head and shoulders, and I put that on display in the Parthenon, just so people would know that Athena was coming."

Visitors would see him assembling everything on a steel armature by 1987. "Once I had the body of the statue up there, there was another three years of sculpting – all the details of the arms, the helmet, the shield, the Nike in her right hand, all of that."

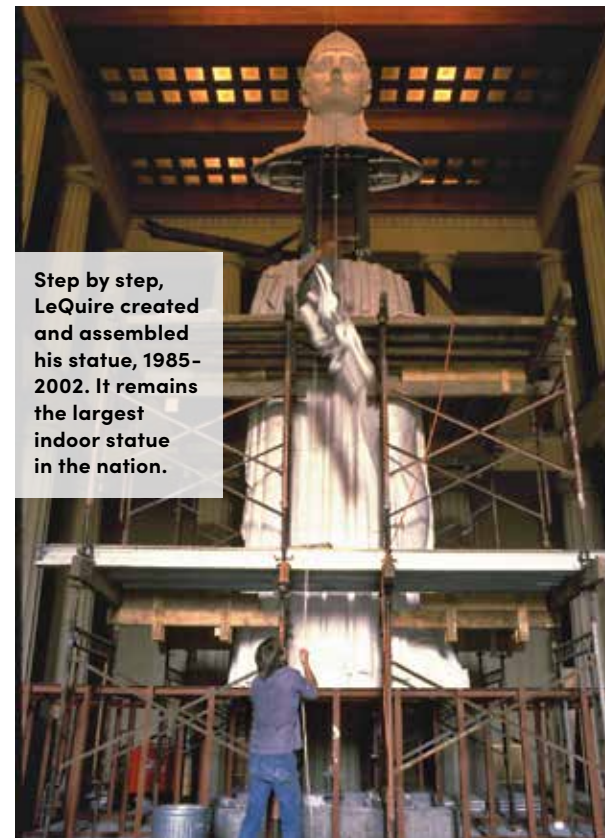
In 1990, LeQuire's Athena Parthenos was officially unveiled. He completed his work, including gilding and painting, in 2002.

Other career highlights include:

- **Musica (2003):** Nine figures dancing in a circle form one of the largest bronze figure groups in the world.
- **Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial:** Bronze portraits of suffragists Elizabeth Avery Meriwether, Anne Dallas Dudley, and Lizzie Crozier French.
- **Women's Rights Movement Relief:** Bronze relief at the Tennessee State Capitol commemorating the 19th Amendment's passage.

This year marks the 35th year of his Athena at Nashville's Parthenon. "Goddess in Progress," exploring its development and construction, is on view through April 19, 2026.

See a video of Athena's creation at magazine.uncg.edu



Step by step, LeQuire created and assembled his statue, 1985–2002. It remains the largest indoor statue in the nation.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEAN DIXON; PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALAN LEQUIRE



DANCE PROJECT BRINGS FUN TO FOLK FESTIVAL

DANCE IS CONTINUOUS MOTION. And the Spartan-led Dance Project has continuously led dance programming at the NC Folk Festival from the start.

Anne Morris '11 MFA studied dance at UNCG under Jan Van Dyke '89 EdD, known statewide and beyond for arts leadership.

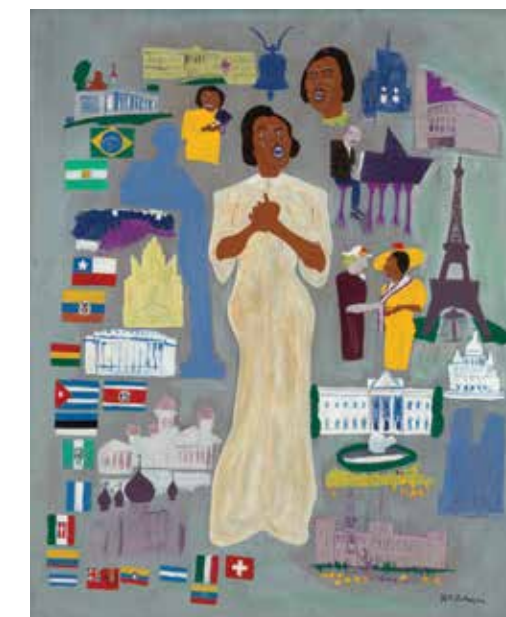
Van Dyke founded the nonprofit Dance Project, and Morris, its current executive director, continues her former mentor's legacy.

Dance Project has a big presence not only at Folk Fest, but through community classes and by inviting guest artists (several seen above) to host programming.

Its mission has attracted UNCG alumni to work there. Lauren Joyner '05 was co-executive director with Morris for many years before becoming director of strategic programs. Magalli Morana '20 (photo, lower right) is the new school director.

Like Morris, Morana has danced since she was young. "I was really especially inspired by my high school dance teacher, Angie Greene ('97, '08 MA), a UNCG alumna. And I had two student teachers, Danielle Kinne and Lauren Parker, who were from UNCG doing their student teaching. I was inspired by them."

Now inspiring others through dance is her mission.



WILLIAM H. JOHNSON'S 'FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM'

How would you describe Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver, and Mahatma Gandhi? Artist William H. Johnson (1901–70) called them fighters for freedom.

The exhibition "Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice" will be on view at the Weatherspoon Art Museum through Nov. 29, 2025. In his 1940s series "Fighters for Freedom," Johnson raises up the lives of African American activists, scientists, teachers, performers, and leaders. His canvases offer his perspective on both well-known figures and those who have not been well-remembered.

Additionally, the Weatherspoon has created extensive in-gallery interpretation strategies to deepen visitors' understanding of Johnson and the featured historical figures. Written and audio information is available, as is a family guide to the exhibition.

With "Fighters for Freedom," Johnson reminds viewers that individual achievement and a commitment to social justice are at the heart of the American story. The works are drawn from the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection of more than 1,300 of Johnson's works. Generous support for this project is provided by Art Bridges.

William H. Johnson, "Booker T. Washington Legend," about 1944–1945. Oil on plywood, 39 7/8 x 30 7/8 in. Smithsonian American Art Museum. Gift of the Harmon Foundation; 1967.59.664

William H. Johnson, "Harriet Tubman," about 1945. Oil on paperboard, 28 7/8 x 23 3/8 in. Smithsonian American Art Museum. Gift of the Harmon Foundation; 1967.59.1146

William H. Johnson, "Marian Anderson," about 1945. Oil on paperboard, 35 5/8 x 28 7/8 in. Smithsonian American Art Museum. Gift of the Harmon Foundation; 1967.59.657

Doctor in the house

"I'm a real believer in UNCG," says Patrick Ball '22. Why? Professors in the BFA program believed in him.

"John Gulley, who was head of the BFA program at the time, was an early believer in me. I was a troubled kid, and he changed my life," says Ball. When Gulley cast him as the lead in George Bernard Shaw's play "Man and Superman," Ball says it was a sink-or-swim moment. "For the first time in my life, I felt what it was like to really take care of my gift, believe in myself, and feel the response to that."

Now, he has a starring role in the HBO Max series "The Pitt," a hyper-realistic drama set in a Pittsburgh emergency room. Season two premieres in January. After its first season, "The Pitt" earned Emmy nominations in five categories and took home three wins, including Outstanding Drama Series.



PHOTOGRAPHY OF PATRICK BALL COURTESY OF WARRICK PAGE/MAX

An aerial photograph of a university campus. The image shows a network of red brick paths that intersect at various points, creating a grid-like pattern. The paths are surrounded by lush green lawns and numerous trees of different sizes and colors, including some with yellow and orange foliage. In the background, several multi-story brick buildings are visible, along with a large, circular stone structure in the lower-left corner. The overall scene is a well-maintained and scenic campus environment.

Outtake

MAKE CONNECTIONS This campus, designed by Warren H. Manning, is one of the prettiest in the state – perhaps *the* prettiest. Named a Tree Campus USA honoree for 15 years straight and the first in the state to receive the accolade, the University and its landscape are a pleasure on any campus walk. “Find your way here” is the University’s current tagline. Once you’re here, finding your way to the next class, the dining hall, or Jackson Library is a refreshing breeze.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN NORONA ’13

“If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.”

—FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT



“*Built* of OURSELVES”

ALUMNI CALL IT HOME. MOREOVER, IT’S A FESTIVE SPOT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, A SPACE FOR WORK THAT DRIVES THE UNIVERSITY’S PROGRESS, AND A PLACE OF INSPIRATION FOR STUDENTS.

BY MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA AND AMY NEWLAND • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA ’13 AND COURTESY UNCG ARCHIVES

“*L*ook at this crowd. This is how America is supposed to be. People invested in the future. People encouraging one another, and this University stands as a beacon to that,” said Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. on a sun-drenched afternoon during Homecoming.

The air was rich with joy as a crowd of Spartans from all generations gathered to celebrate a significant milestone in UNCG’s story – the naming of the Marcus T. Johnson Alumni House, the first building on campus to be named for a person of color.

Johnson ’99 made a historic gift as part of UNCG’s *Light the Way* campaign.

“As an alumnus,” Board of Trustees Vice Chair Anita Bachmann said, “Marcus is investing in this building to preserve its legacy and ensure it remains a welcoming space that fosters connection and community, and we couldn’t be more grateful.”

The naming recognizes the impact of Johnson’s gift across multiple areas of campus. At the Bryan School of Business and Economics, his support will expand opportunities for students and bolster the innovative Bryan Blueprint Series, which helps accelerate students’ personal and professional growth.

The ceremony began with the solo fanfare “Summon the Heroes,” a nod to Johnson as a trumpet player and to the legendary Miles Davis – one of his favorite artists and the inspiration behind his son’s name. Current students contributed throughout the



The UNCG Chariots a cappella group



UNCG senior Seania Burnett



event, including an a cappella performance by the UNCG Chariots and a poetry performance by senior Seania Burnett, who said in part:

We take up now both torch and task: To shine forth brighter than the past. So let us honor what has been, And lift our eyes to what begins.

The student presence at the event reflected Johnson's deep commitment to UNCG's future.

"Marcus' historic gift is just one part of his impact," Gilliam stated. "He shows up. He spends time with students, cheers on our Spartans, and serves on the Bryan School Advisory Board and the UNCG Foundation Board. He not only believes in UNCG's potential; he's energized by the vision of where we're headed."

Community was a theme of the ceremony's speakers. Another was a commitment to greater opportunity for all North Carolinians, as it has been a guiding star for this campus since its start. "UNCG has always

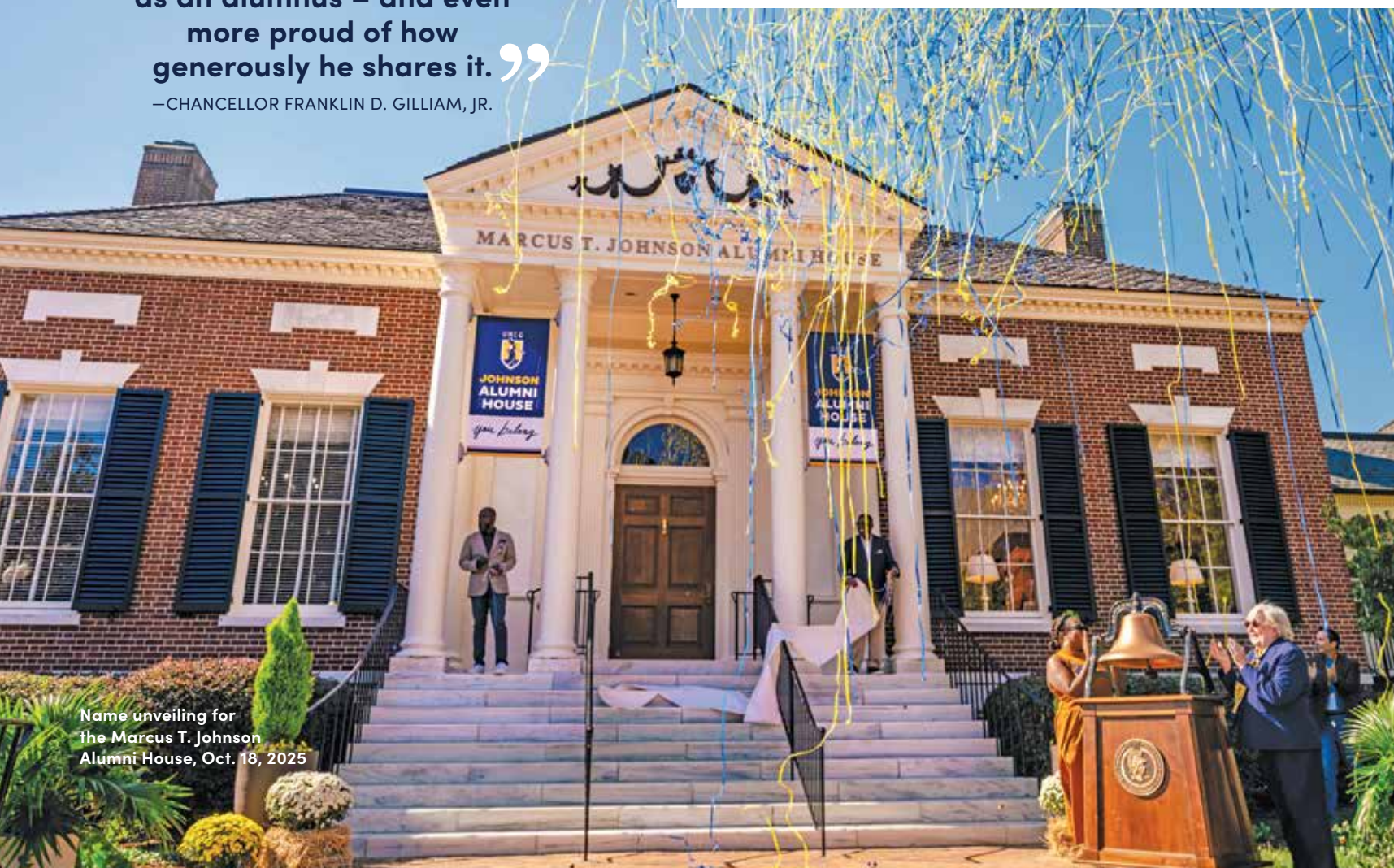


Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. and Marcus T. Johnson '99

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LYNN DONOWAN

“We’re proud of Marcus’ success as an alumnus – and even more proud of how generously he shares it.”

—CHANCELLOR FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.



Name unveiling for the Marcus T. Johnson Alumni House, Oct. 18, 2025

championed access to education – from our founding mission to educate women, to our ongoing support for first-generation students and social mobility,” said Gilliam. “Many of our graduates are ladders for their families, creating a ripple effect that leads to increased opportunity and success.”

Johnson's story exemplifies the spirit of UNCG. Though initially drawn to theater, he followed his father's advice and earned his business degree in 1999. He now leads Johnson Automotive Group, a prominent dealership founded by his father.

He is also the founder of MJonPurpose, which supports minority-owned businesses and mentors aspiring entrepreneurs, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

At the ceremony, Johnson's fraternity brother Jaren Doby '07, '12 MSW shared, “As a proud Greensboro native, I've seen firsthand

how, over time, this University has opened its doors, creating spaces for voices like Marcus', like yours, like mine, like ours – to rise, to overcome, to thrive, and to lead. What we witnessed today is more than just a name on a building. It is a declaration of possibility.”

Built for community

No place on campus fosters a warm feeling of community and connection like the Marcus T. Johnson Alumni House. Created for graduates, students, and the campus at large, that feeling was its purpose from the beginning.

Upon its opening nine decades ago, the alumnae were exultant. It

“This is no mere House of brick and mortar and marble that we commemorate; it is built of ourselves.”

—CLARA BOOTH BYRD, CLASS OF 1913, ALUMNAE SECRETARY



Dedication ceremony, June 5, 1937

was only the seventh such alumni building in the nation. It was the only one built from funds raised by the widespread efforts of female graduates, history professor Richard Bardolph once noted – and only one of two alumni buildings with dedicated, furnished spaces for student activities.

On the gorgeous spring day in 1937 when the Alumnae House officially opened its doors – with hundreds gathered on the building’s lawn and College Avenue – the sun shone bright. So did the connection to the campus’ origins and



“Whatever there is in us of vision, courage, faith, and determination have been builded into its walls.”

—CLARA BOOTH BYRD, CLASS OF 1913,
ALUMNAE SECRETARY

to the future; they were on full display.

Every class had alumnae on hand. The 1930s, the Roaring Twenties. The WW I era, going back to the first class to receive bachelor’s degrees, in 1903. Even the State Normal School days were represented.

In fact, the very first student to enroll at our campus, Mary Dail Dixon, Class of 1894, traveled from Raleigh to celebrate the Alumnae House, calling it “a perfectly thrilling time.”

Alumnae Secretary Clara Booth Byrd, Class of 1913, was widely lauded, along with President Julius I.

DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT



1919 Plans emerge for an alumnae building in the vicinity of today’s Curry Building. The vision? It would serve as a much-needed residence for faculty in the near term. When demand rose for alumnae to return to campus for post-graduate courses or special occasions, alumnae would use the space.

1920s

1920 Alumnae News shows drawing of planned Alumnae Building. With only limited dollars in hand, the Alumnae Association proposed building one section of the building, the cafeteria/kitchen part, to serve as a tea house, a way to generate revenue.

1920s The tea house earning less than hoped, eyes turned to a spot originally considered: where Old Guilford Hall sat next to College Avenue.

1930s



Mid 1930s Designed by architect Penrose V. Stout, it was modeled after Homewood house in Baltimore.

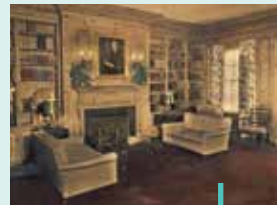
Mid 1930s A New Deal agency courted by President Foust, Public Works Administration, comes to the rescue during the Depression, its funding bringing the project to fruition.

Early 1937 Student groups and alumnae leadership move in to their new offices.

June 1937 Dedication ceremony, with reportedly all alumnae classes represented.

ROOM BY ROOM, FOSTERING SERVICE

PARRISH LIBRARY
Named for Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association Barbara Parrish ‘48, this quiet space features books by notable alumni and faculty as well as ones about the University.

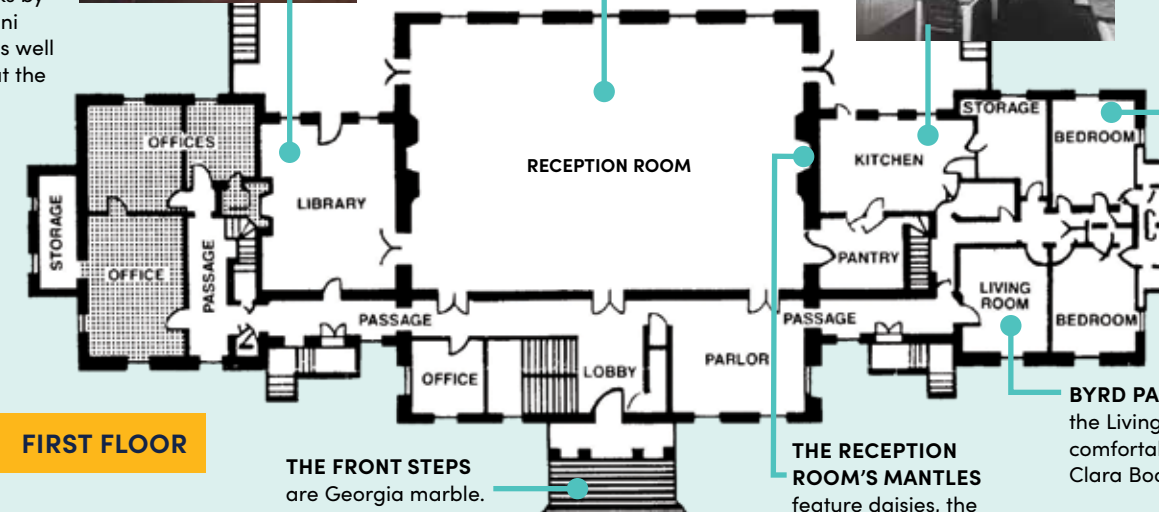


OAKLEY FAMILY RECEPTION ROOM
Known originally as the Reception Hall, it is a favorite for weddings or other special occasions. Many notable guests, from Charles Kuralt to Emmylou Harris to Robert Penn Warren, have been applauded here. It’s named for Betsy ‘69 and Mitchell Oakley and their family.

KITCHEN



BEDROOMS
For visiting guests, two attic bedrooms and two on the main floor were used 1937-2006.



FIRST FLOOR

PECKY CYPRESS ROOM
Known originally as the headquarters room for classes and alumnae committees, it later served as Chancellor Ferguson’s office before Mossman was built. Its distinctive wood paneling (pecky cypress) comes from the swampland of Louisiana.



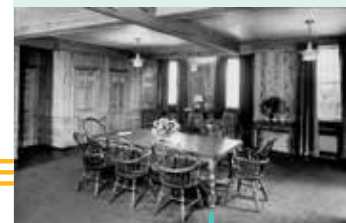
ADDRESSOGRAPH ROOM
Originally the office of the Pine Needles yearbook staff, it became the nerve center for addressing correspondence to alumnae. Alumni Engagement and Advancement Communications Executive Director Alejandra Merheb’s office is currently here.



VERA LARGENT HORSESHOE ROOM, with its United Nations style table was used by the student judiciary (hence the commonly called “Judi Board Room”) and is now a favored meeting room. This magazine issue was partly created there.



PUBLICATIONS The Coraddi literary magazine, Pine Needles yearbook, and The Carolinian student newspaper were headquartered on this floor until Elliott Hall was built. The student government worked here as well.



GROUND FLOOR

Foust, for bringing the dream of an Alumnae House to fruition. At the dedication, she told those assembled, “We have put our egg money into it. We have all but taken the clothes off our backs for the rummage sales that have gone into it.”

She referred to the paltry teacher incomes – and those making even less. “We have put our amazing teachers’ salaries into it. The dimes and the quarters of the maids and the janitors have gone into it. The gifts of our friends, they of the open hand and the generous heart, have gone into it.”

May Lovelace Tomlinson, Class of 1907, chair of the Alumnae House Building Committee, officially presented the building. “Triumphantly we announce that our House is finished,” she proclaimed, “with all bills paid, and ready for the commencement of a life of service.”

That impactful “life of service” was soon seen to be profound.

With the student government and publications ensconced on the ground floor, it became a place where students could do their best work.

Until 1953, when a student union (Elliott Hall) opened, the Alumnae House was astir with young voices and the clicks and bells of typewriters till late each evening, keeping the same 10 p.m. closing

hours as the residence halls. Those Alumnae House memories were cherished for decades afterward.

A true campus home

As a base for the alumnae leadership, its impact was even more pronounced. The Alumnae Association finally had a campus home. It truly was a home – designed as a home, decorated as a home, even hosting overnight guests like a home. It welcomed all alumnae, the campus community, and, for special events, the greater community.

Since 1937, it has held the offices for alumni engagement leadership and staff members – and is a favored meeting spot for any gathering. That will never change, said Sarah Shoffner ’62, ’64 MS, ’77 PhD, chair of the Alumni House Committee.

She lauds its decades of constancy. “The Alumni House building is beautiful. It has been beautiful since it was built in 1937,” she said. “It’s always been here, and it’s always welcoming to alumni and friends.

“In addition to that, it has been a place where alumni could come

and have weddings or receptions or memorials. It’s widely used.” Her son David and daughter-in-law Kathryn Davis Shoffner ’93 had their wedding reception there, Shoffner proudly recalled.

“My hope for the building in the future is that it will be used even more than it is now,” she added, “and it’s pretty highly scheduled at this time.”

In recent years, an effort has grown to reestablish the Alumni House as a vibrant space for engaging students. Events hosted by the Office of Alumni Engagement, including study halls and “Reading Day Recharge,” offer them an opportunity to connect and unwind before exams.

And after exams are done, soon-to-be graduates dress up to celebrate at the increasingly popular Red Carpet Reception. The red carpet is literally

“The Alumnae House is a center of hospitality for the whole campus. ... We alumnae have a right to feel that we are serving every day of our lives the present student generation, and the college as a whole.”

—MAY LOVELACE TOMLINSON, CLASS OF 1907,
CHAIR OF THE ALUMNAE HOUSE
BUILDING COMMITTEE (AS IT OPENED),
LATER PRESIDENT OF THE
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

rolled out for these newest alumni.

Another rite of passage? Posing on the Alumni House steps for an iconic Commencement portrait, capturing a uniquely UNCG spirit of accomplishment.

As these traditions deepen and new ones develop, the space is destined to play an even greater role in connecting students and alumni – allowing Spartans of all generations to celebrate milestones and share common experiences.

“I care about what UNCG has made the Alumni House stand for. It is also what I stand for – and that’s community,” Johnson explained.

“Community is a group of people with not just shared backgrounds, but shared values, shared experiences. It doesn’t necessarily mean that they come from the same background, but it is that breaking of bread, the ability to share, to be good listeners, and

1940s



1943 Service flag, honoring all those connected to the college who are serving in WWII, is placed in entry foyer.

1946 The funeral for Dr. Julius I. Foust (president 1906–34) is held in the Reception Room.



1950s

1951 The Harriet Elliott Social Science Forum student committee meets in the Horseshoe Room to discuss planning and logistics for visitors attending the annual event.



1960s

1967
Alumni Secretary
Barbara Parrish ’48

1968–76
Before Mossman Building is created, the Pecky Cypress Room serves as the chancellor’s office. Here is James S. Ferguson in his office.

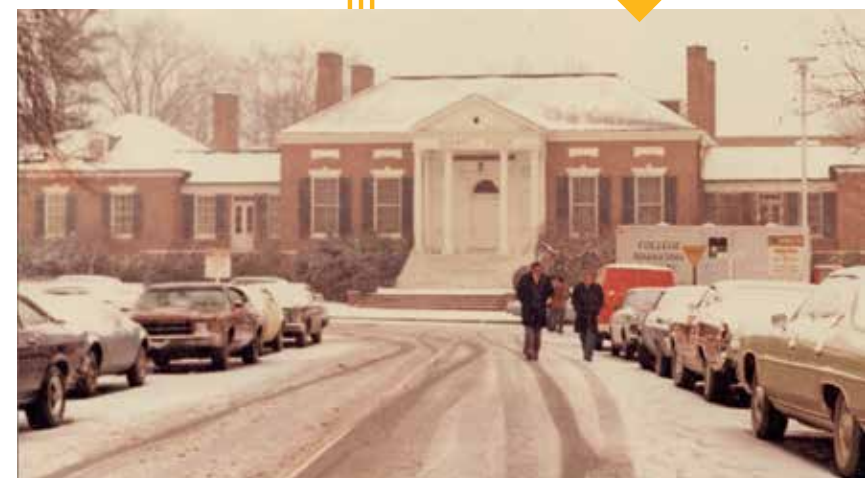


1970s



1972
Alumni attending an event at the Alumni House.

1975
A layer of snow blankets the Alumni House roof.



transparent enough to communicate what you believe to somebody else.”

“You belong”

When Marcus Johnson was a student in the '90s, he never stepped foot in the Alumni House. He was not sure this elegant building was for him. Students tended to see it like a grandmother's living room you're reticent to enter.

“It's now become ours,” he reflected recently. “It is very inclusive.”

“One of the things that I'm most excited about,” he continued, “is that students will have the opportunity to come in this building and realize, ‘Hey, that building's named by a Spartan. And it's the Alumni House, but I'm also welcome.’”

At the close of the October naming ceremony, before the streamers flew and the name was unveiled, Johnson spoke about the importance of belonging – and his freshman year:

While living in the high rises, I experienced something that could have easily broken my spirit. A group of students who thought themselves superior wrote a racial slur on my door, in a marker for everyone to see. It read, ‘(Racial slur), you don't belong here.’

TRANSITION FROM STUDENTS TO ALUMNI

To join the Alumnae Association in the 1930s and receive the magazine, you paid a fee. Today, every graduate becomes an alumnus in full standing as they “turn the tassel.”

Today's graduates join in a toast at a RED CARPET RECEPTION in the Oakley Family Reception Room just before Commencement day, marking the special moment.



For a long time, I wrestled with that word, ‘belonging,’ but over the years, I've learned that belonging isn't granted – It's claimed. ...

My father once told me that the greatest thing you can do for your children is to leave them with a good education and a good name. My hope is that I've done that – not only for my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren – but also for someone else's.

When you walk through this house, let it serve as a reminder: You belong.

From a name once written on a dorm room door in hate ... to a name now written on a building in honor, I think it's fair to say, ‘Checkmate.’

Thank you for the opportunity to be a blessing.

The applause echoed through the oldest part of campus – Foust Park, Students' Anniversary Plaza, and College Avenue – mixing with the happy sounds of the festive Homecoming Street Fest.

After the name was unveiled and the University Bell ceremoniously rang out, even more cheers, this time with confetti. Alumni and students gathered to talk and catch up. Johnson was surrounded by young well-wishers and old friends. It seemed everyone wanted photos of the occasion.

It was truly a Homecoming for the ages.

See video of the ceremony and more photos at magazine.uncg.edu.



1980s

1984 Students relax in Taylor Garden behind the Alumni House.

1980s Display cases are built on the lower floor, exhibiting mementos of alumni, including class jackets.



1990s

Reading Day, before December final exams, is set aside for the warm glow of luminaires throughout campus. The campus tradition goes back to 1969.

2000s



2008 Major renovation is completed, as roof is temporarily removed to install HVAC system. The “attic” offices on the south end and all four bedrooms on the north end are closed. A refresh will follow in 2021.

2010s



2015 Chancellor Gilliam, announced as UNCG's 11th chancellor, is received by the campus community with a celebratory greeting on the steps, a receiving line in the Parrish Library, and his first remarks in the Reception Room.



2018 The Class of 1968 celebrates its 50th reunion.

2020s

2024 Reading Day Recharge in the Oakley Family Reception Room.

2025 UNCG Nursing's White Coat Ceremony for students.



PROMISES KEPT

UNCG IS #1 IN UNC SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

UNCG DELIVERED ON HIGHER AND MORE TIMELY GRADUATION RATES, LOWER STUDENT DEBT, AND MORE. OUR RESULTS ARE UNPARALLELED AMONG THE STATE'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES.

WHAT'S MORE, WE DID IT WHILE NAVIGATING THE BIGGEST PANDEMIC IN A CENTURY.

BY MERCER BUFTER '11 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE

A global crisis. An empty campus. A new plan. A challenge met. According to reporting by the UNC System office, UNCG is the No. 1 performer across the UNC System. The University has done a better job of setting and achieving goals related to metrics such as four-year graduation rate, debt at graduation for first-time and transfer students, and university cost for each degree awarded than any other system school. The period covered is 2021-24.

UNCG is at the top of the system with a score of 88.5. That's higher than NC State (84.5), NC A&T (60.4), and UNC-Chapel Hill (51.4). What does this mean in real terms? More completed courses, more savings for students, and a quicker path to realizing dreams.

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. says, "We are proud of our efforts and appreciate the recognition that our strategic investments bring valuable returns for our students and our state."

Collaboration was key, and UNCG's success is thanks to the efforts of faculty and staff across the University community, says Provost Alan Boyette. In other words, it was all-hands-on-deck.

The results?

"The University met the threshold targets set by the system for all component metrics. Our overall highest score was driven by exceeding the stretch goals set by the system for four of the six metrics," explains Director for Institutional Research and Enterprise Data Management Karen Blackwell.

At UNCG, about half of each newly admitted class self-identifies as first-generation college students. Recent data shows success in increasing retention in this group.

"Over the four academic years 2021-2022 to 2024-2025, first-generation retention improved almost 10 percentage points – from 68.4% for the Fall 2021 cohort to 78.3% for the Fall 2024 cohort," she says.

Additionally, first-time student debt at graduation dropped nearly to 2011 levels, and transfer student debt dropped even lower than that.

UNCG made it to the top by putting solutions to work across academic policy, student support, and course design.

"At the heart of our strategy is an integrated approach to student success, one that recognizes that retention isn't just about academics, but about the full student experience," says Vice Provost for Student Success Regina McCoy '98 MPH.

She was part of the team that navigated changes to academic policy, managed the design of gateway courses that affect many majors, and organized professional development opportunities for faculty. All members of that Spartan team agree that UNCG made the right diagnosis – and implemented the right solutions.

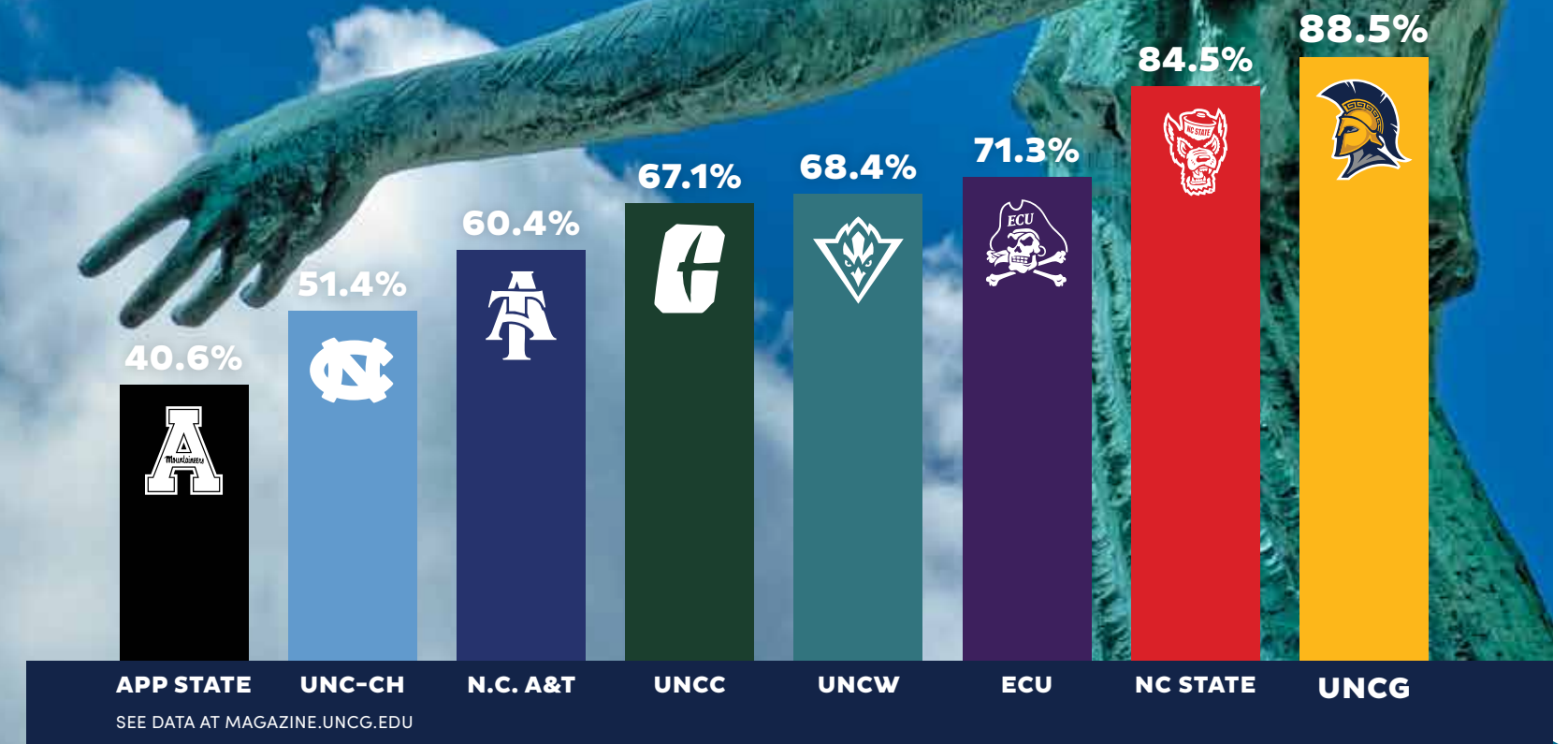
NORMAL ... INTERRUPTED

In early 2020, Americans' normal lives were put on hold. It was a time of crisis. The UNC System itself responded with policy changes like going "test optional," which removed the SAT requirement for new applicants.

Years later, it can be easy to forget how real the danger was – and how great the challenge.

Grace Wall Pinto '23 was there. She says, "March 2020 came along, and we were given just a few days to vacate campus. I'm the oldest of eight, so when I moved out of University housing, my family transitioned things around."

Then, when campus re-opened, Pinto was a resident advisor. "Being responsible for making sure that residents upheld safety regulations was difficult," she recalls. "You saw anxiety in the students coming in. They wanted to stay safe but also wanted to make friends."



“We are proud of our efforts and appreciate the recognition that our strategic investments bring valuable returns for our students and our state.”

—CHANCELLOR FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR.

In 2021, a year after campus first emptied and began operating virtually to ensure the safety of the campus community, Chancellor Gilliam said, “We had to be nimble and adapt quickly to ever-changing circumstances, maintain our high academic standards, and keep our campus operating as safely as possible. And we did it.”

Now, students who attended UNCG during the height of the pandemic have mostly graduated, but even younger students who were in middle grades or high school had their education disrupted. That experience means they may be different from the

students on campus 10 or 20 years ago.

“We want to think about how we can serve the students in front of us, not the students that we taught in the past,” says McCoy.

Laura Pipe, director of the University Teaching and Learning Commons (UTLC), agrees. She says by the 2024-25 academic

year, she was seeing a “generational difference” in students in the higher education classroom.

“Our approach is giving more students a chance to succeed in their first year and all the way to Commencement.”

—PROVOST ALAN BOYETTE

She also believes UNCG made the right moves for the present moment, and for the future.

“I think these strategies are not going to be just the new normal, I think they’re going to be the expectation. They’re going to be the expectation of young faculty coming in. If they’re not receiving that collaborative space, they’re not going to stay. The same thing is true of our students. If they’re not getting engaging conversations and faculty who show them true, deep, genuine care, they’re not going to stay.”

RESILIENCE ... AND ACTION

Classroom success comes down to two main factors: great courses and great teachers.

Two initiatives led by UNCG’s Division of Student Success contributed to the No. 1 rating. UNCG “rebooted” key courses and offered professional development for faculty through

the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE).

At that time, Regina McCoy was a Provost Fellow. Being a

longtime School of Health and Human Sciences faculty member, she also understood that faculty success is key to student success.

UNCG targeted courses that open doors to degree program success, she says. “We looked at the courses that really get students on their degree pathway; for example, courses that many STEM majors need in mathematics, biology, or chemistry.”

The reboot touched 21 strategically chosen courses. Many of them are considered “high-risk” because students who drop or fail them can find themselves off-track in their programs of study.

Many of the courses also have large first-year enrollments and typically enroll over 13,000 students annually.

A lot depends on those courses, and the faculty who teach them are key to UNCG’s academic excellence. “I’m telling you, they’re the ones doing the yeoman’s work to keep our students here,” says McCoy. “They’ve got the students who are so excited to be here but who also have the butterflies in their belly. Students need that friendly space to learn, and our faculty provide that.”

Between Fall 2021 and Fall 2022, the course reboot led to 166 more successful course completions. That means the student population saved almost \$150,000 in tuition expenses because they did not need to repeat these courses.



“What inspires me the most is the energy and excitement students bring as they begin this new chapter.”

—KATIE TUCKER ’17 MED, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF NEW STUDENT TRANSITIONS

Supporting students from the beginning is part of the UNCG way. Two programs that start building success and student retention are Spartan Orientation Advising & Registration (SOAR) and Your First Year (YFY). SOAR equips new students to start their UNCG journeys with confidence. YFY provides ongoing support during the year with tailored workshops and communications.

The University also offered professional development courses for faculty with ACUE. They’re the only group that credentials professors nationwide, says McCoy. Around 125 faculty participated in some way.

Participant surveys showed these courses made an impact. For example, faculty reported changes in their beliefs about students. Before an ACUE course, 75% of participants agreed that “All students can be successful in their course.” After the microcredential, that number rose to 94%. Participants had a similarly positive growth in how they perceived faculty influence on students. Before an ACUE course, 86% believed “Instructors can influence how students perceive their intelligence.” After a course, that number increased to 96%.

Associate Professor Erin Reifsteck, who led the development of the online Master’s in Sport and Exercise Psychology program and serves as UNCG’s Faculty Fellow for Student Veteran Well-Being, was a participant. “I chose to complete

Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Online Learning Environment because we have several online offerings in the Kinesiology department. It gave me tangible resources that I immediately applied to my courses.”

All told, 557 badges were awarded to faculty participants for specific skills and 87 microcredentials were awarded for completion of ACUE courses.

Faculty development with ACUE was grant-funded, but the University’s UTLC shares the same expertise in innovative faculty training.

Teaching strategies and curriculum development are what UTLC does every day, says Pipe. “Our focus is helping faculty and instructors understand their role in student success. We navigate everything from the forward-facing landscape of teaching all the way down to good general course design.”

This fall, the UTLC launched its Post-

KINclusive RESULTS

No one succeeds alone. Community – including peers and professors – has a role to play, too. As Grace Wall Pinto ’23 said, “My first semester, I made friends with the classmates in my physical classrooms, chatting before the professor came in or walking out of class together. First-year students in fall of 2020 didn’t have that.”

That’s why, recently, UNCG has worked to reconnect classroom communities. “I partnered with Student Affairs to give innovation grants to different departments,” says Vice Provost for Student Success Regina McCoy. That let motivated departments try initiatives that worked for them.

One department that has gone above and beyond in this regard is kinesiology in the School of Health and Human Sciences.

Associate Professor Erin Reifsteck, above, explains, “KINclusive is a dynamic co-curricular program dedicated to building a sense of community. It emphasizes creating strong bonds among students and encouraging collaboration and peer support through various activities. This inclusive environment ensures that everyone can thrive and grow together.”

KINclusive started with a grant and is now a permanent initiative supported by the department. In 2024–25, it held 40 events and connected with an estimated 150 unique students.

Some events gave students the chance to learn about faculty research, but some were just for fun. Once, Reifsteck even bested an undergraduate in a donut-eating contest! Now that’s a memorable lesson.



Associate Professor Erin Reifsteck

Baccalaureate Certificate in College Teaching. “Faculty can get a nationally recognized degree from UNCG. It marries a lot of those pieces from ACUE but does it in the context of our own institution,” she says.

Working with students and nurturing their future is what it’s all about. As UNCG enters

the UNC System’s next period of assessment, performance period two, Blackwell is optimistic about the University’s continued success.

“Preliminary data for performance period two indicates a similar performance pattern emerging,” she says. “UNCG’s focus on student success in and outside the classroom will continue to drive improvement relative to the performance metrics.”

CHANGE ... LEADS TO SUCCESS

While many small changes led to UNCG’s No. 1 UNC System performance rating, the principles were nothing new to the campus community. Academic excellence, community, and student success are pillars of the Spartan experience.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Akens says, “Student engagement is a main priority for the University because the research is clear – students who are engaged are more likely to persist toward their goal to graduate.”

Provost Boyette says UNCG will continue to succeed in teaching, learning, research, and community building.

“Faculty know the work they do with our students opens new intellectual and career pathways,” he says. “They’re also securing the support to undertake the research and creative work that creates the future we want at UNCG.”

Boyette also believes the University’s success will be noticed. “Our approach is producing academic excellence and giving more students a chance to succeed in their first year and all the way to Commencement,” he says. “There are things we’re doing that other institutions should take note of.”

In other words, if anyone asks you how UNCG students find success and graduate with less debt, we don’t mind if you tell them!

Learn more through UNC System data at magazine.uncg.edu.

Thank you to Janet Imrick (University Communications) for initial reporting on this story.

NUTRITION PLUS

AS CHILDREN, WE EAT TO GROW STRONG; AS ADULTS, WE EAT TO STAY HEALTHY. GRADUATES OF UNCG'S NUTRITION PROGRAMS CHANGE LIVES ONE PLATE AT A TIME ON CAMPUS, IN HOSPITALS, AND THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY. BY MERCER BUFTER '11 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN NORONA '13

The morning sun shone into the UNCG teaching kitchen in Stone Building. Amy Moyer '85, '86 MED and Sharniquia White '21, '23 MS were there to show UNCG Magazine a delicious – and healthy! – fall recipe. Moyer leads the culinary medicine program at UNCG. White, an alumna of the program, is now the resident campus dietitian for Spartan Dining, which includes Fountain View Dining Hall, EUC Food Court, and other eateries on campus.

Moyer says, “A teaching kitchen is a great way to get students, patients, or clients comfortable in the kitchen. They can learn the confidence and self-efficacy of preparing food.”

And, because cooking is often about more than just food, the teaching kitchen also feels inviting. “During classes or workshops, the kitchen can become a conversation hub,” says White.

They're sharing their butternut harvest salad. On one counter, the mise en place is waiting.

Sunlit cookbooks line the windowsills, and an array of stocked workstations stand at the ready. Two dozen knives – from the big “chef’s knife” to the smallest paring knife – line one wall. A row of KitchenAid mixers lines another.

Now, Moyer shakes up ingredients for the vinaigrette. A scored butternut squash roasts in the oven.

NUTRITION + CULINARY MEDICINE

Who do you ask for advice about nutrition? Credible recommendations can change based on science, research, and data. That’s why Moyer says the best source of information is a registered dietitian.

She should know.

For Moyer, cooking came early in life. “We raised all of our own vegetables, and my mom liked to work outside better than I did,” she says. “So, I was given the task of cooking lunch every day, which was the big meal. While she was out working in the garden, I had to start learning how to cook. And that’s where it started.”

Now she has more than three decades of experience as a dietitian

working in settings from public hospitals to private continuing-care retirement communities. Since 2019, she has headed the culinary medicine program in UNCG’s Department of Nutrition.

It’s one specialty in a program that combines a Master of Science in Nutrition with the clinical practicum required for eligibility to sit for the credentialing exam to become a registered Dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

RDNs work in many arenas: sports nutrition, hospitals, hotels, schools, or corporations. That means RDNs may deal with clients, students, or patients, depending on their career path.

Moyer’s area of expertise is culinary medicine, which focuses on how food mitigates chronic health conditions. “Culinary medicine teaches students to



2 butternut squash, halved longways

1/2 cup pomegranate seeds

4 cups arugula or baby kale

2 tbsp Dijon mustard

1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

Pepper to taste

Salt to taste

1 cup olive oil

1/4 cup maple syrup

1/8 cup pumpkin seeds

2 tbsp olive oil

1/2 cup feta or goat cheese

1 medium to large Honeycrisp apple, diced

1/8 cup candied pecans (can use roasted pecans or walnuts as substitute)

QUICK TIP

Gently massage kale to release natural oils, improve flavor, and ease digestion.
—SHARNIQUIA WHITE '21, '23 MS

“RESEARCH LEADS US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE MORE YOU COOK AT HOME, THE HEALTHIER YOU TEND TO EAT.”

—AMY MOYER '85, '86 MED, DIRECTOR OF CULINARY MEDICINE





Sharniquia White '21, '23 MS and Amy Moyer '85, '86 MEd prepare a butternut harvest salad in UNCG's teaching kitchen.



UNCG and UNC-Chapel Hill are the only UNC System schools offering culinary medicine.

NUTRITION + POLICY

Kellie Casavale '05 PhD is a national leader in nutrition science and policy who has held positions at the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services. There, she worked to shape the national Dietary Guidelines for Americans.



Following those guidelines "helps to provide the range of nutrients needed for health," she says.

Did you know that in addition to providing nutrition, the guidelines also help you avoid the "bad" of today's foods? "Meeting the recommendations can help protect against the health effects from exposure to contaminants," she explains. "Eating a variety of healthy foods can make it less likely for an individual to be exposed to the same contaminant

from the same food many times."

Casavale now directs the Texas A&M Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition Evidence Center.

bridge the gap between nutrition science and practical application. They learn how to translate the science into tasty meals that are feasible to prepare and build skills to effectively treat patients. It creates opportunities for dietitians to work hand in hand with physicians in treating chronic disease," she explains.

The department's dietetic interns – future RDNs – complete baseline training in culinary medicine and sports nutrition as a portion of a 10-week campus-based supervised preparation. Afterward, they may pursue in-depth studies in one or both fields. They also gain 1,000 hours of hands-on experience in three different internship rotations: a community rotation, a food service rotation, and a clinical rotation.

The interns have more choice at UNCG than at similar programs, Moyer says. "Interns pull together a packet of information and send

it to the sites they want to work with. So, it's a true match process. That's very unique because a lot of programs don't offer that autonomy for students."

The culinary medicine curriculum, Health meets Food, is licensed from the American College of Culinary Medicine. It is rigorous, peer-reviewed, and targeted to specific needs that clients or patients may have: celiac disease, food allergies, or nutrition during pregnancy. "If we have a cardiovascular patient," says Moyer, "our recipes are going to be lower sodium and lower fat, or they'll be made with healthier fats. The curriculum also comes with a list of research studies."

Research is important because science changes. Moyer says, "When I was a student, margarine was the gold standard with its trans fat. Now we see that trans fat is not good for us, and we're leaning toward olive oils and avocado

oils that are healthier fats."

Plus, what's right for one patient may not be right for another. Potassium can be a good thing for people on low-sodium diets. However, for some patients, increased intake of potassium could be a danger, she explains.

NUTRITION + CARE

In the dietetic interns' clinical settings, the stakes can be high. They may deal with patients who have serious health challenges.

As part of their program, dietetic interns create a detailed study of a patient. Moyer explains, "In general, the patient is someone who's in the hospital for a few weeks. What are their medications? What are their therapies? What's their social history? The study is very comprehensive," Moyer says.

Alumni of the program say it can be emotionally challenging, but rewarding, too. Nicki Plummer '20, '21 PBC, '22 MS says, "I worked

with a patient who had severe complications of bariatric surgery. I got to guide them through their recovery journey and back to better overall health." Today, Plummer is nutrition program supervisor with the Guilford County Department of Public Health.

Kim Correa '21, '22 PBC says the dietetic internship showed her the direct impact of medical nutrition therapy. "I remember shadowing a session where a patient living with diabetes came in for his follow-up appointment with the dietitian. Teaching the patient how to eat to manage his diabetes improved his quality of life and prevented long-term health complications such as kidney, eye, vascular, nerve, and heart damage."

It was also essential preparation for her career, she says. "The most impactful parts of my internship were guest speakers in the culinary medicine rotation. Since graduating the internship, I've started a

NUTRITION + SERVICE

Irene Asare '11 MS, '12 PBC says UNCG helped her build a professional network and start her career. "They hold you to a very high standard, but it makes you very competitive."

After graduating, Asare worked as a dietitian. Strong relationships can be key. "I try to understand where the client is coming from, including their background. That rapport is huge for me. It builds trust, and, in nutrition, you're telling someone to change their way of life. Without that trust, they won't be willing to make changes."

Change can be difficult, but Asare has seen people reap the benefits. One client was bedbound due to his weight. He couldn't travel and had never seen his granddaughter. "We set a goal," recalls Asare. "I said, 'By the time she turns two, 12 months from now, you're going to be able to see her.' We were able to get his weight down, and he was just over the moon."

Asare now works as a systems redesign specialist at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Kernersville, N.C. "We're redesigning the current system at the VA. I get the opportunity to work with all the departments, helping them with continuous process improvement."

Asare also has a background in gerontology. "I just love the older population and many veterans in the population that I serve now are around that age."

She connects her work with veterans to a personal memory.

"I'm originally from Ghana and my dad worked with the United Nations. Once, we traveled to a country, and there was war, and we had to evacuate. There was a U.S. military person who helped us. I was probably 6 or 8, and he had to carry me to cross a border. I asked my mom, 'Who is going to help him?' Since then, I've always been looking for that person. I wanted to help that population, so I got a job at the VA and never looked back."



thriving private practice."

In other contexts, registered dietitians educate clients like food service professionals through the medium of food.

For several years, Moyer has offered workshops through a partnership with the NC School Nutrition Association on topics such as "Farm-to-School Meals" and "Allergen Management."

Last summer, the workshop was "Get Out of Your Comfort Zone in the Kitchen." It's educational for the dietetic interns, who

help design the recipes, prep the ingredients, and troubleshoot any issues that might distract participants from creating their no-bake energy bites, cottage cheese pancakes, roasted cauliflower, and more.

Dietetic intern Dayana Wagemans '25 describes the positive feelings in the teaching kitchen. "Everyone is finding their flow and working together. It's just fascinating to see people really in their element."

Moyer says there is one



Hydroponic herb garden with a type of edible flower called Sweet William



Fountain View Dining Hall



The dining option “Delicious Without” avoids the nine most common food allergens.



“WHEN PEOPLE SEE ME AT MY TABLE, THEY KNOW I’M GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING GOOD FOR THEM.”

—SHARNIQUIA WHITE ’21, ’23 MS, CAMPUS REGISTERED DIETITIAN

Students sample a “fauxmosa” made with oranges and garnished with edible Sweet William flowers.

NUTRITION + BUSINESS

Kimmie Singh ’18 MS, a registered dietitian nutritionist and owner of Body Honor Nutrition in New York City, emphasizes individualized care for her clients. “I want my clients to feel confident in their wisdom around nutrition and their bodies,” Singh says.

She was also an entrepreneur from the start. Singh enrolled in UNCG’s Master of Science in Nutrition Program with the goal of being a business owner. In 2023, she received the Emerging Leader Award from the School of Health and Human Sciences.

In her practice, she uses the science of nutrition to teach clients sustainable health behaviors. Many are recovering from eating disorders and other health issues, so working one-on-one with them is key.

“Everybody is different, but the one thing they all share is that they want to make some changes to their relationship with food,” she says.

Beyond her thriving private practice, Singh is a sought-after speaker at conferences across the United States. She speaks to practitioners, educators, and community members to raise awareness about the harms of weight stigma, advocating for body positivity and weight inclusion.



showstopper: high-fiber dark chocolate chip ice cream sandwiches. The ice cream, prepared by the dietetic interns, is made with Greek yogurt. The cookies, baked by participants, feature prunes and oats.

“There’s a lot of good research now that shows prunes are good for bone health in women,” Moyer explains. “Our goal is to provide nutrition education that translates to not only the school kitchens but also home kitchens and personal health. Coming from a health sciences perspective, we have the opportunity to effect lifestyle changes and behaviors that lead to a healthier community.”

FOUNTAIN VIEW

Sharniquia White makes friends everywhere she goes inside Fountain View Dining Hall. “I had a student that always came up to me like, ‘Hey, best friend!’ She’d always see me on the floor, and we’d always speak.”

White says she helps students navigate the dining hall both figuratively and literally. “If you have a food allergy, if you have an avoidance, or if you have an intolerance, that’s where I step in. I always say I’m the students’ advocate.” She works on student accommodations, staff training related to food allergies, and educational wellness sessions. She’s even starting a newsletter for students.

Walking into the hall feels like entering a busy train station. The space has high ceilings, exposed beams, and a central dome. Mixing soft wood arches, rich brick, and playful finishes, the dining hall is bathed in natural light from large, curved skylights.

From the stairs to the second-floor dining area, Fountain View opens into a 180-degree view of 13 food stations like The Pit Stop, Homestyle, and The Sweet Shoppe.

There’s a milk station that includes, along with cow’s milk,

chocolate pea milk, oat milk, and soy milk. There’s a hydroponic herb garden growing bok choy that’s used at the Mongolian grill station. It also grows edible flowers and herbs that White uses in mocktails served in the hall.

There’s a station called “Delicious Without.” It avoids the nine most common food allergens. Diners can spot it easily – everything on the station, from signage to utensils, is purple.

For some, that sounds like a lot of choice. White says that sometimes visiting parents are surprised. “We get parents in here who say, ‘We had spaghetti every day.’ But, because students are so used to variety, there’s no way you can avoid giving them variety now,” she explains.

Dietitians can have a range of roles in organizations. White began her career as a chef and worked in many different kitchens, including hospitals and care facilities.

“The chefs here always joke

and say I ‘speak culinary,’” she explains. “If there’s a new procedure that I’m putting into place, it’s a lot easier for us to navigate through that conversation because I speak their language.”

White shares her own recipes with students, too. “When people see me at my table, they know I’m going to have something good for them.” What might diners find there? How about botanical garden lemonade?

“It’s made with lavender syrup, jasmine syrup, and hibiscus syrup,” White explains. “They’re all edible flowers. So, picture yourself walking through a garden and think how relaxing that is.”

White says she likes to be creative, even if it gets a little weird.

“We did a grilled fruit salad with grilled watermelon, pineapple, and peaches,” she explains. “I wanted to show students you can do different things with food that you eat every day without adding sugar.”

And, in general, Spartan students are willing to try new flavor combinations. “‘Swalty’ is a thing: sweet and salty,” she says. “In the past, who would have thought mac and cheese could be an ice cream flavor?”

Like some of those wild but wonderful flavor combinations, registered dietitians are getting their due, White says. “Registered dietitians are in way more places than people would expect. And then, because the field is so broad, you also have the chance to create your own avenue.”

FINISHING TOUCHES

Moyer and White routinely share not only their food, but also their expertise. Both have contributed to articles in outlets like Real Simple, Food Network, Martha Stewart, and Health.com.

And, they both keep learning. The profession demands it. “With nutrition, the science doesn’t stop changing, and the food trends

don’t stop evolving. You’re forced to keep learning,” says White.

When the butternut squash comes out of the oven, it becomes the “bowl!” that the rest of the ingredients – pomegranate seeds, candied pecans, baby kale, arugula, diced apple, dried pumpkin seeds, feta, and a maple balsamic vinaigrette – are served in. Along with nutritious, accessible ingredients, the dish brings bright flavors.

One is arugula. “It’s peppery,” says Moyer. White adds, “I think of arugula as the ginger of leafy greens because it can taste a little spicy.”

Moyer drizzles the maple-balsamic vinaigrette on top of the squash. Now the dish is perfect – because it’s ready to share.

Scan for video of Amy Moyer and Sharniquia White making butternut harvest salad.



Hansen's archive brings performance to life

Shortly after eBay was born, Dr. Robert Hansen nabbed a treasure: a first-century Roman theater token – now the oldest item in the Robert C. Hansen Performing Arts Collection at UNCG's Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives. A retired associate dean in the University's College of Arts and Sciences, he began his 34-year tenure as a theater designer and scholar-artist.

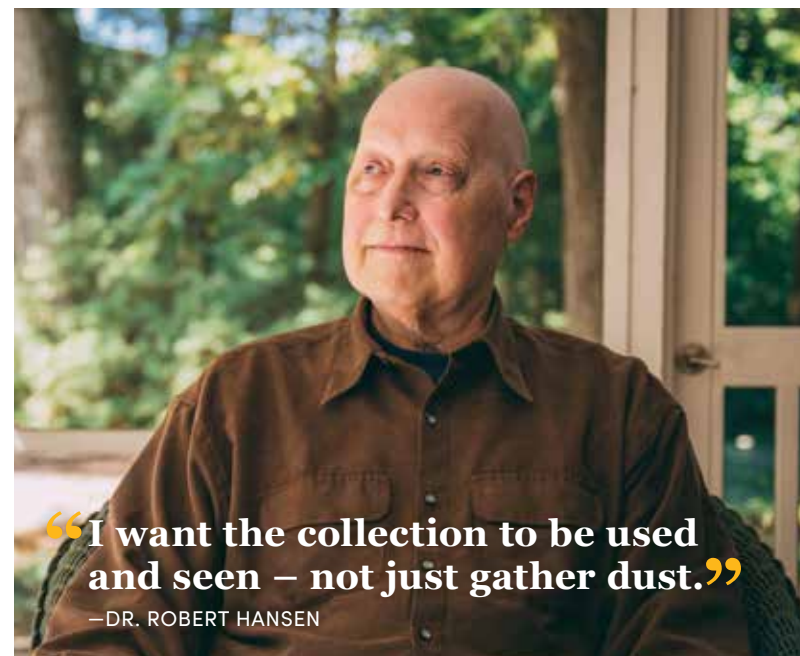
A lifelong collector, Hansen finds inspiration working with primary sources, which he relished as a theater student. "Performance only exists in the moment it's occurring," he says. "Everything else is simply memory and reportage. Still, artifacts like programs, set designs, scores, and dance notations survive from that moment and can be seen here."

He built the collection because he knows how much students value understanding and making history. "I want it to be used, seen, and made available to anyone interested in seeing and touching real items from past performances," he says. "It is a special collection that's not dry and boring. It's not just information reported in a textbook and droned on by a professor. I want it to have an active value beyond its monetary worth."

Hansen donated his treasures to the University in 2007. Today, it houses thousands of valuables from the performing arts, to which he and others continue contributing. Last year, he established the Robert C. Hansen Endowed Fund in Special Collections and University Archives to help preserve these collected works. This bequest follows another planned gift he created in 2022 to establish the Robert C. Hansen Scholarship in Theatre Education for aspiring theater arts teachers.

He hopes others give to UNCG. "I encourage retired alums, staff, students, and everyone to consider paying it forward or paying it back," he says. "I had a wonderful career, and it's a privilege to do that now."

At press time, we learned that Dr. Hansen passed away on Oct. 20. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. An In Memoriam on his life and career will be in the spring issue.

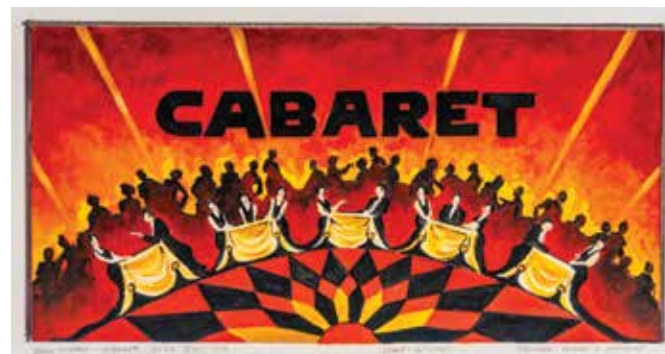


"I want the collection to be used and seen – not just gather dust."

—DR. ROBERT HANSEN



Roman token



Backdrop from "Cabaret"



Sir Henry Irving cigarette cards



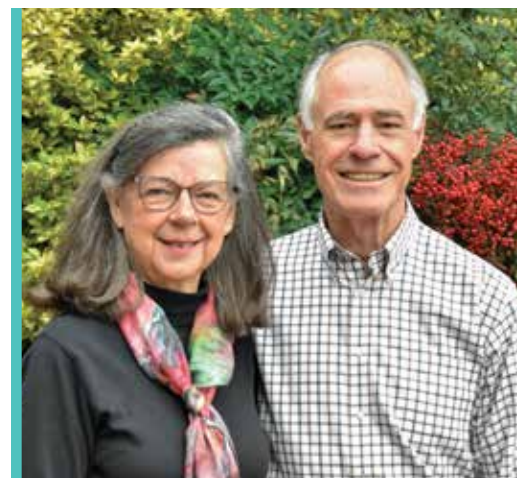
Bust of Irving as Cardinal Richelieu



James Quin as Shakespeare's Falstaff



Correspondence from Stephen Sondheim



MUSICAL DUO'S DONOR DUET

UNCG Professor Emerita Nancy Walker and her husband, Timothy Lindeman, have created the Nancy Walker and Timothy Lindeman Scholarship Endowment in Music, supporting undergraduate voice majors who show remarkable promise. A renowned opera singer, Walker has seen her UNCG students thrive in their musical careers. Many are public school or college professors. Many have performed in prestigious venues such as the Metropolitan Opera, Aspen Music Festival, and Palm Beach Opera Competition. Lindeman, a noted pianist, taught briefly at UNCG before joining the faculty at Guilford College.

The couple has taught and performed together abroad and nationwide, including at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. That kind of excellence requires hard work and something Walker and Lindeman agree is crucial: "You have to follow your passion," they say.

After a lifetime of teaching and performance, Walker and Lindeman are proud to ensure that future students can pursue their musical careers. Their gift to UNCG reflects their passion for creating beautiful music and deep gratitude for their success.

"Part of giving something is being thankful for what you've had," Walker says. "I've had fabulous students, and I want to make sure we keep bringing good people to the School of Music."



Cathy Tisdale '75 (left) with Rosario Mazda-Valdez helps ring the bell at the Spring 2025 Commencement.

Fueling future educators

Former teacher Cathy Tisdale '75 is a passionate supporter of public education and has established the Cathy Tisdale Class of 1975 Teacher Education Endowed Scholarship to encourage future educators to join this noble profession. Tisdale aims to ensure that young people become well-prepared public school educators, and she knows that today's UNCG students are ready to make an impact.

"I meet young people graduating from the School of Education now, and they're determined to change the world," she says.

While education has historically delivered social mobility to many families, Tisdale says students' concerns about future earnings and debt may discourage them from pursuing careers in public education.

"If you have some interest in becoming an educator, particularly a public-school educator, you'll likely incur debt to do it," Tisdale says. "Creative and forward-looking philanthropy can help identify the 'blue sky' opportunities for families."

Tisdale began her career in public education before taking leadership roles at the American Red Cross, Girl Scouts of the USA, and Camp Fire, a youth development organization. Today, she serves on the UNCG Foundation Board and the UNCG School of Education Advancement Council.

"I meet young people graduating from the School of Education now, and they're determined to change the world."

—CATHY TISDALE '75

Read more stories about gifts and their impact at lighttheway.uncg.edu.



gradtidings

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

1950s

SHIRLEY FRALEY '58 still has her WC jacket and also reports that she wears her Class of 1958 ring often and always gets comments about it.

1960s

DR. SARAH SHOFFNER '62, '64 MS, '77 PHD, EMMY MILLS '62, '65 MFA, and **MIRIAM BARKLEY '74, '77 MLS** shared memories of the Alumni House with UNCG Magazine staff. 🗨️ 22

BECKY SISLEY '63 MS, '73 EDD was admitted to Oregon's Sports Hall of Fame. Among other leadership roles, she has been director of the Women's Sports Leadership Network in Oregon, chair of the Master's Committee of the United States Track and Field Association, and women's athletic director at the University of Oregon. As an athlete, she took up track and field at age 49 and still competes, often setting world records, she says. "I think fondly of my time at WC, when the graduate dorm was in the Old Infirmary. Highlights were getting ice cream at the Yum Yum, going to Piney Lake and having Ellen Griffin, master teacher, teach us golf and how to build our own 'swing-wonder.'" 🗨️ 14

PHYLLIS SHAW '65 visited campus and toured the Nursing and Instructional Building. Though she was an English major, she loves biology and values UNCG's School of Nursing. 🗨️ 3

ROBERT STREET '67 MED, '74 EDD wrote "Struggle to Survive," a book about the experiences of his friend in WWII, including his capture by the Japanese military and his struggle to survive in detention for 40 months.

1970s

SHARON TAYLOR '71 MS was inducted into the USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame. Taylor had terms as

both president and vice president for the College Field Hockey Coaches Association. She was also a consultant to the President's Commission on Olympic Sport and served as the USA Field Hockey representative to the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

MAE DOUGLAS '73 received the ATHENA Award at the annual Greensboro Chamber of Commerce luncheon, at Greensboro's Koury Convention Center. The ATHENA Award is presented annually to a woman who embodies professional excellence and community service and who actively assists other women in their attainment of their own professional excellence and leadership skills.

MARGARET ARBUCKLE '74 MED, '84 PHD received the 2025 Lifetime Community Service Award from the International Civil Rights Center and Museum. Her work in advocacy and education spans more than five decades. 🗨️ 5

Classmates **BRENDA BURGIN '74, '07 PBC, '08 MS, CAROLYN CHITTY '74, JANE CLINE '74, JANE FOSTER '74, FRAN GARRISON '74, JOYCE GRUBBS '74, SHARON CHEVY HOGG '74, DENA SQUIRES LINGLE '74, KAY PRIDGEN '74,** and **CONNIE WILSON '74** reunited and shared "now and then" photos. They also remembered classmates **JANIE MCINTYRE '74** and **RITA MOSER WILLIS '74**, who are deceased. 🗨️ 23

FRANCES CLARK '75 and **PAM PARDUE '75** attended their 50th class reunion. They shared a photo of themselves at a 1995 reunion as well. Friends through the years! 🗨️ 16

DAN THOMAS '75 was promoted to CEO/president of Tesla EV Motors Corporation of Austin, a company incorporated in 2025 with the goal of producing an electric vehicle made in America.

LYNN COOPER BEEKER '77, RENE EWING PICARD '77, EMILY BUTNER BUNDY '78, LORA-LYNN JOHNS CHUFFO '78, and **SUSAN GIZINSKI SIMMONS '78**, friends from the fourth floor of the Grogan Residence Hall, got together to share memories. 🗨️ 12

DAVID GRAPES II '77 MFA was named dean of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, which was founded in 1965 and seeks to encourage the highest standards of research, writing, and creativity in educational and professional theatre. 🗨️ 21

ROBERT SHAPARD '78 MFA published "Bare Ana and Other Stories" with Regal House Publishing. He has co-edited many leading "sudden fiction" and "flash fiction" anthologies from W.W. Norton over the last 40 years and has taught at several universities. This is his first volume of short fiction. 🗨️ 25

DONNA BUSLETT ROACH '78, '93 MED released her third book, "Paul and Vivian." The novel follows Paul and Vivian McGill in a small North Carolina town in the 1980s and what they do when they cross paths with an international jewel thief. 🗨️ 6

1980s

ROBERT DIXON '82 and **KIM DIXON '01 MSA** celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. 🗨️ 8

ANITA BYRD DUNMEYER '82 wrote the novel "My Silent Queen." She lives in Shelby, N.C., and has been an educator for 17 years in both North Carolina and South Carolina. 🗨️ 35

KATHERINE HILTON '82 congratulates recent graduates and encourages them to learn something in every job they have, gravitate to work that fulfills them, and start saving for retirement.

DENISE LINDGREN '83 presented her first solo art exhibition, "Meaning Through Memory," at the Lewisville Grand Art Gallery in Lewisville, Texas. It revealed how everyday fragments of the past from once-used objects carry deeper stories and invited reflection beyond the surface, she said. 🗨️ 20

PAUL LESSARD '85 MFA, president of the High Point Community Foundation, received the Order of the Longleaf Pine from former governor Roy Cooper. Under his leadership, the foundation has given \$125 million in unrestricted grants and donor-advised fund grants with an impact locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. 🗨️ 15

1990s

JOHN TOMBARGE '90 MLIS received the 2024 Capital Area Business Academic Librarians Outstanding Librarian Award. He is a professor and reference librarian at Washington and Lee University and is the author of numerous scholarly publications.

ALL TOGETHER HOMECOMING 2025

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOMECOMING 2025, OCTOBER 17-18

BONFIRE



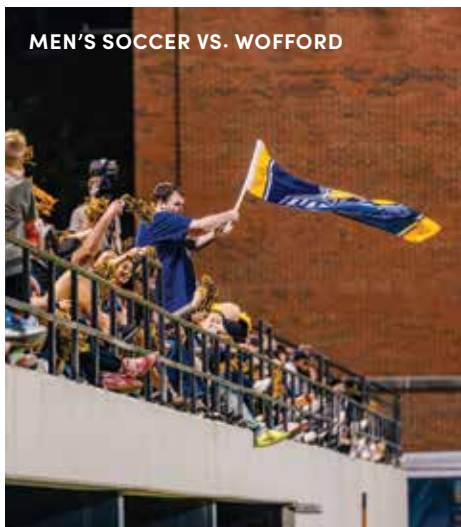
STREET FEST ON COLLEGE AVENUE



BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK FAMILY REUNION



MEN'S SOCCER VS. WOFFORD



JACQUELINE DEBREW '91, '96 MSN, '05 CERT, '05 PBC, '08 PHD was named program director for the Pre-Licensure Entry-Level Master of Science in Nursing at UNCG. She previously served as director of UNCG's RN-to-BSN program, where she led key innovations and a major curricular redesign.

DEBRA NEBLETT '91, '22 PHD joined the UNCG School of Nursing as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Advanced Nursing Education. In addition to her UNCG degrees, she also holds a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a concentration as an Adult Nurse Practitioner from UNC-Chapel Hill.

JOHN O'NEAL '93 was co-chair of the Solar Track of the National Association of Consumer Advocates Spring Training event. He is the owner of the O'Neal Law Office, which handles various consumer law cases across North Carolina. 📍 17

EVAN DALTON SMITH '93 published the creative nonfiction book "Looking for Andy Griffith: A Father's Journey" with The University of North Carolina Press. He received the Southeastern Library Association's Outstanding Author award for nonfiction. 📍 22

JIM THOMPSON '94 was named president of the Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce. His career includes leadership roles with Capitol Hill Management Services and the Association Executives of North Carolina, where he was executive director for nearly a decade. Most recently, he served as vice president of client relations with IMI Association Executives, where he served as executive director for multiple national associations.

CHARLES WILLIAM COULTER '97 is currently publishing several novels including a sports entertainment thriller. He holds an MFA from UCLA, where he was honored with an Alfred P. Sloan Science Writing Fellowship. He also received a Curtis Brown Novel Writing Fellowship.

MICHELE FENTON '98 MLIS is one of the co-editors of "The Handbook of Black Librarianship, Third Edition," published by Bloomsbury. The book received the Black Caucus American Library Association 2025 Literary Award for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing.

CHRIS WILSON '98 stepped down after more than 30 years of exceptional public service as deputy city manager of the City of Greensboro and began a new role as manager of government affairs for Cone Health. He began his career with Greensboro in 1992 and was instrumental in shaping and supporting the municipal

community. In 2024, he was recognized by the N.C. Recreation and Park Association for outstanding achievement in the recreation movement and unselfish devotion in the service of professional leadership. 📍 23

TURKEESHIA MOORE '99 received the 2025 Everyday Champions of Civil Rights Award from the City of Greensboro's Human Rights Commission.

TINA BALLARD BARBER '99 MM was awarded the Thanks Badge by Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont in recognition of exceptional service. She is a troop leader, service unit volunteer, committee member, outdoor facilitator, and adult learning facilitator. She was elected to a three-year term as national delegate to the upcoming 2026 National Council Session.

ANTHONY GRAHAM '99 MED, '03 PHD was named chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Prior to his work in higher education, Graham was a high school English teacher. He has served as the managing editor of the academic journal "The Negro Educational Review," published by the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education.

2000S

JOE PAN '00 published the novel "Florida Palms" with Simon & Schuster. He is the author of five books of poetry and founder of Brooklyn Arts Press.

CLAUDETTE CHRISTOPHER '01 was recognized by University of Florida Health Jacksonville during Women's History Month. The organization showcased women who were committed to staff development based on criteria like mentorship, training, and quality improvement. 📍 9

TIFFANY GIBSON '01, '22 PHD became director of experiential community practice in UNCG's School of Nursing. She looks forward to furthering the mission of improving health outcomes through innovation, accessibility, and compassionate care.

DAN ALBERGOTTI '02 MFA received a 2025 Guggenheim Fellowship. He is the author of several volumes of poetry, including "Candy" from LSU Press and the chapbooks "Of Air and Earth," and "Circa MMXX" from Unicorn Press. 📍 34

CATHERINE MOORE '02, '10 MSN, '17 PHD joined the Program for Health Workforce Research and Policy as director of the Cecil B. Sheps Center for Health Services

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



JASON JOHNSON '02 MSA, '11 EDS is the 2025 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year. "Public education is the foundation of this country," says Johnson, who joins 2012 recipients Patrice Faison '12 EdS, '14 EdD and Kisha Clemons '20 EdS, '23 EdD as alumni who have received this honor over the past quarter century.

Research at UNC-Chapel Hill. She leads state health workforce initiatives in the program on Health Workforce Research and Policy and serves as the team's point person for legislators, state officials, licensure boards, and other state policy makers. Dr. Moore has 21 years of nursing experience with a clinical background in neonatal intensive care. 📍 31

DIANA KARCZMARCYK '03 MPH co-authored the textbook "Health Education and Promotion: A Skills-based Approach" with Sara Pappa. It provides students with an accessible overview of both the key concepts and practical skills required to work in the field of health education and promotion. 📍 13

CLYDE BRISTOW '05, '06 MSN, '17 DNP and DARLENE BRISTOW '01 MSN joined fellow School of Nursing alumni at Spiro's Ball. 📍 30

KELLIE CASAVALE '05 PHD began a new role as director of the Agriculture, Food, and Nutrition Evidence Center at Texas A&M AgriLife Research. 📍 11

MORGAN SMITH OWEN '05 received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in viola performance with minors in music education and music theory from the University of South Carolina. She is manager of youth orchestras for the South Carolina Philharmonic and maintains positions in several regional orchestras. She also tours regularly with her quintet, Some Strings Attached. 📍 24

ANSEL ELKINS '08 MFA received the Amy Lowell Travelling Fellowship. She is the author of "Blue Yodel,"

which received the 2014 Yale Series of Younger Poets Prize.

2010S

KIRSTEN COOLEY '10 received the 2024 North Carolina APIC Practitioner of the Year award for her dedication and work in infection prevention.

JEN JULIAN '10 MFA published the novel "Red Rabbit Ghost" with Orbit/Redhook. She is assistant professor of English and creative writing at Young Harris College in Young Harris, Ga.

PAUL SHAFER '11 MA was promoted to associate professor of health law, policy, and management at Boston University. 📍 27

JOSH SIDES '13 was named 2024 Director of the Year at the first annual Scholastic Esports Awards for his work with the varsity esports program at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. 📍 2

DAWN TAFARI '13 PHD, '13 CERT was one of 17 distinguished faculty members to receive the 2025 University of North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is associate professor of education at Winston-Salem State University. She believes her intentional dedication to teaching played a key role in this selection. 📍 26

RANATA REEDER '14 MA published her 14-book children's series "The Story of Ahsa." The series, set to rhyme, teaches life lessons children can understand through stories they will enjoy, she says. 📍 1



1 Ranata Reeder '14 2 Josh Sides '13 3 Phyllis Shaw '65 4 Margaret Muir '18 DNP 5 Margaret Arbuckle '74 MEd, '84 PhD 6 Donna Buslett Roach '78, '93 MEd 7 Tavis Kordell Cunningham '23 8 Robert Dixon '82 and Kim Dixon '01 MSA 9 Claudette Christopher '01 10 Logan Sherrill '24 11 Kellie Casavale '05 PhD 12 F Lynn Cooper Beeker '77, Rene Ewing Picard '77, Emily Butner Bundy '78, Lora-Lynn Johns Chuffo '78, and Susan Gizinski Simmons '78, friends from the fourth floor of the Grogan Residence Hall

ISAÍ ROBLEDO '14 MA, '21 PHD was elected to serve as a representative on the Montgomery County School Board. He reports that he is the first Latino to hold elected office in Montgomery County, North Carolina.

AYANA ROSS '14 MA, '14 PBC, '14 CERT was named the Taft Museum of Art's 2026 Duncanson Artist-in-Residence. Her accolades include the 2021 Bennett Prize and the 2022 National Black Art Festival Award. She also served as a Spring 2024 Mellon Arts and Practitioner Fellow at Yale's Center for Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration.

CHRISTOPHER REED '16 was elected first vice chair of the Swain County Democrats. He was also elected as a State Executive Committee member.

JULIE ROBLES '16 MFA was inducted into the Arts and Letters Hall of Fame at The Cheshire Academy in Connecticut. She was also promoted to chair of the Performing Arts Department at the Allen-Stevenson School in New York City.

LEROY WILSON '16 is executive director of social services at The Salvation Army of Greensboro. He celebrates a \$5 million grant from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez through the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund that will support services for families experiencing homelessness.

BECKY MOFFITT '17, an administrative support specialist at NC A&T State University, completed her UNCG bachelor's degree in 2017 – 35 years after first attending UNCG! She was encouraged to finish the journey by her three adult sons and husband, all college graduates. She says she felt very supported as she finished her degree. "UNCG is awesome. They were still compassionate to the same student after 35 years," she said.

AUTUMN HENSON '18 DNP passed her family nurse practitioner certification exam. She is also a gerontological nurse practitioner. She was appointed program director and now oversees all nurse practitioner concentrations at UNCG, regardless of degree affiliation.

MARGARET MUIR '18 DNP received the Michigan State University 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes those who have advanced

the nursing profession through professional accomplishments and commitment to nursing education, practice, and research. She is currently the patient experience officer at Duke Regional Hospital in Durham. 📍📖

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS '19, '06 MA, a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, is writing a history of the war in Afghanistan (2015-21) as part of the Army's Tan Book Series on the history of the global "War on Terror." 📍📖

2020s

EVAN FACKLER '20 MFA received this year's Doris Betts Fiction Prize for the story "IDP's" from the North Carolina Writers' Network. His story will be published in the 2025 print issue of The North Carolina Literary Review and nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

KATIE SENN '20 completed a master's in social work at UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a first-generation graduate student, and her father was a first-generation undergraduate student, she reports. She is a licensed clinical social worker and clinical addiction specialist as well as an interprofessional fellow in psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery-oriented services at the Durham VA Medical Center. 📍📖

ASHLEY LARUE LOW '22 MA was a 2024-25 Shatzmiller Fellow at Duke University's Center for Jewish Studies. She presented her research titled "The Shifting Landscape of Southern Jewish Memory" at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

TAVIS KORDELL CUNNINGHAM '23 is playing the nonbinary lead role of Jerry/Daphne in the first national tour of the musical "Some Like It Hot." Kordell visited campus recently to work with current students. 📍📖

MARY-HELEN KOLOUSEK '23 is student engagement manager for Action Greensboro. She encourages current students to continue fostering their networks once they graduate. Whether it is keeping professors updated about career moves or making time to see college friends, little steps make a big impact in strengthening the

foundation of a professional network, she says. 📍📖

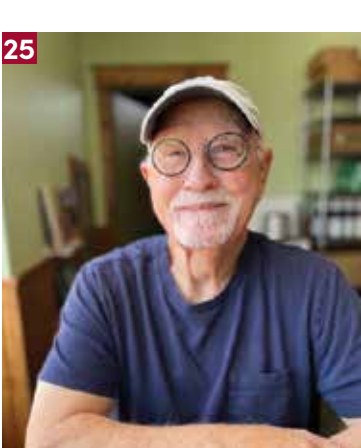
SCOTT NEITLICH '24 MBA published several books that explore history, leadership, and creativity. They combine extensive research with narrative storytelling. Titles include "The Nile Quest," a dramatized historical account of British explorers tracing the source of the Nile River; "Fall of the West," a cinematic retelling of the fall of Constantinople; and "Time of Clive," a look at Robert Clive's rise in British India that blends military history and colonial intrigue.

LOGAN SHERRILL '24 spent the summer studying advanced Persian in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, with American Councils for International Education, thanks to a fellowship through the University of Arizona. He is pursuing a master's in Persian and Iranian studies at the University of Arizona. While at UNCG, he was a 2024 Provost Student Excellence Award Winner. He will present research, "Toward a New Understanding of Ḥamza al-ʿIṣfahānī's Tāʾrīkh sinī mulūk al-ʿarḍ wa-l-anbiyāʾ," at the annual Middle East Studies Association conference this fall. 📍📖

IN MEMORIAM

- LOIS REEVES LANDRETH '42
- ALICE WILSON PEARCE '42
- HELEN LITTLE DOBROWOLSKI '43
- CHRISTINE ROGERS BROWN '45
- E.D. TAYLOR KENNEDY '45
- DORIS JONES YEATTES '45
- LAURA PROPPER COHEN '46
- RUTH DANIEL ROBERTS '46
- MARY LOVE STUFF '46
- MYRTLE GRAYBEAL BROWN '47
- PAT WALDROP BUCK '47
- MARIE SOLOMON KAHN '47
- LUCY HORNE LEATH '47
- MARGARET WILSON MCCORMICK '48
- KATHRYN CHASON MCLAMB '48
- BIRSHAL WILLIAMS POOLE '48
- MARGARET BRANDENBURG STEPHENS '48
- JOSEPHINE LASATER WARREN '48
- CHRISTINE HENDRICKS WOODRUFF '48
- JOYCELYN WALTERS BROOKSHIRE '49
- JOANNA HOPKINS GIBBS '49
- JACQUELYN LITTLE HENDRICKS '49
- RUTH KIRKPATRICK '49
- BETTY ROSS STEWART '49
- ORIANA MCARTHUR MCKINNON '50
- PATRICIA HUBBARD MCLEAN '50
- JANE SWINDELL BARRINGER '51

- NORMA STEWART BOLEJACK '51
- AVA JENKINS HINES '51
- FRANCES LYNAM HUFFMAN '51
- EFFIE LOU CHEEK ALDRIDGE '52
- JEAN WHISONANT GASTON '52
- JUNE RAINEY HONEYCUTT '52
- ANNE WHITTINGTON MCLENDON '52
- JOANN JOHNSTON RAUTENBERG '52
- JOANNE VANN WILLIAMS '52
- SAVANNAH SEGRAVES DAY '53 MS
- HARRIETT SHAIN EVENSON '53
- JENNIE PRUITT HAWKS '53
- BETTIE TORRENCE SMITH '53
- SARA HUNTER WADE '53
- NANCY FAUST CARTER '54
- FRANKIE GOAD CASE '54
- MARY MYERS DUNN '54, '69 MED
- PEGGY BRITT-GRISWOLD '54, '60 MS
- BILLIE JO WORKS MATTHEWS '54
- MARGARET COX NANCE '54
- MARIAN HUNTER ANDREWS '55
- PEARL PARRY GREEN '55
- BARBARA BLUE GREER '55, '70 MED
- ALSIE COMER MARSH '55
- MARY WALLER MINTON '55
- PEGGY SUE OLIVER '55
- SALLY KLUTTZ PULLIAM '55
- IOLA SHEARIN WELLS '55
- KATHRYN WRIGHT JACKSON '56
- EVELYN GREENBERG PECK '56
- AMARYLLIS BEASLEY WATKINS '56
- JUNE VICK CROFT '57
- ELIZABETH GANTT JORDAN '57
- DILLON DAWSON POLLARD '57
- BARBARA J. SMART-SMITH '57
- PATRICIA SHORE CLARK '58
- JEAN PARRISH DINKINS '58
- MARY KENNEDY EVERITT '58
- NANCY GRAHAM GLENN '59
- ANNE DUKE SANDERS '59
- LOUISE LUTHER HAYNES '60
- BETTY MERCER MILLER '60
- MYRA GREER BENSON '61
- PATRICIA HEATH DELLINGER '61
- SANDRA E. GUSTAFSON '61, '63 MFA, '73 EDD
- SARA BLACKMAN WALSH '61
- MARIE CAMPBELL BAHL '62
- LINDA HANCHROW SILVERSTEIN '62
- MARGARET UNDERWOOD '62 MFA
- IDA EDWARDS CLAYTON '63
- CLAIRE KALIN SAVITT '63
- PAMELA GRAHAM WARREN '63
- KATHLEEN CLARK HOYT '64
- PATRICIA GARREN OATES '64
- CATHERINE L. POPLIN '64
- MELBA AREY REAGAN '64



13 Diana Karczmarczyk '03 MPH 14 Becky Sisley '63 MS, '73 EdD 15 Paul Lessard '85 MFA and Jayne Lessard 16 Frances Clark '75 and Pam Pardue '75 17 John O'Neal '93 18 Katie Senn '20 19 Christopher Davis '19, '06 MA 20 Denise Lindgren '83 21 David Grapes II '77 MFA 22 Evan Dalton Smith '93 23 Chris Wilson '98 24 Morgan Smith Owen '05 25 Robert Shapard '78 MFA 26 Dawn Tafari '13 PhD, '13 Cert 27 Paul Shafer '11 MA 28 Photo #1 (2025) Front row (l-r): Carolyn Chitty '74, Kay Pridgen '74, Dena Squires Lingle '74, Connie Wilson '74, Jane Foster '74, Joyce Grubbs '74 Back Row (l-r): Marianne Bradburn, Brenda Burgin '74, '07 PBC, '08 MS; Fran Garrison '74, Lou Quarles, Jane Cline '74, Sharon Chevy Hogg '74 Photo #2: (1974) Front Row (l-r): Kay Pridgen Crook '74; Connie Wilson Crook '74; Jane Foster Call '74; Brenda Burgin Ross '74, '07 PBC, '08 MS; Cindy Helms Adams, Sharon Chevy Hogg '74 Back Row (l-r): Carolyn Chitty Hudsbeth '74, Janie McIntyre '74, Rita Moser Willis '74, Fran Garrison Murphy '74, Dena Squires Lingle '74

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please take a five-minute survey about this magazine issue. Thanks!

go.uncg.edu/fall25magazinesurvey



MARIE HARMAN SHIREY ’64
PRISCILLA PINKSTON
SHOEMAKER ’64
RUTH BELTON SLOAN ’64
SUSAN ROWLAND BIER ’65
ANN BUTNER CHIPMAN ’65
BERNICE BAZEMORE CLAPP ’65
JOYCE PENDERGRASS GARY ’65
ROSEMARY SCHOLL
HOFFMAN ’65
LOUISE NEESE ’65 MED
BONNIE SLATTON ’65 MS
JULIA FLOYD WILLIAMS ’65 MED
ROY G. WILLIAMS ’65 MED
ANNE AYERS YARBROUGH ’65
SONDRA AHERON ’66 MED
BARBETTE WEST BRETT ’66
BILLIE WHARTON CHEEK ’66
LYDIA WORSLEY GARDNER ’66
VIVIAN WARNER HUFF ’66
SUZANNE JONES WALKER ’66
POLLY REYNOLDS WARNER ’66
MARY BETH MARTIN CARSON ’67
DAN R. GALLOWAY ’67
ELIZABETH HARRIS HINSHAW ’67
HARRY HUMES ’67 MFA
SHARON HUGHES KILLIAN ’67
NELIA LOWE LANE ’67
MIMI BLOCK LEVIN ’67, ’80 MLIS
NANCY MOHR MEADOR ’67
JANE WRIGHT MYERS ’67
SHERRY CHANGARIS SWIM ’67
SUSAN SMITH WEIR ’67
BETTIE CAREY BRAGG ’68
VERDA IDOL HENNIS ’68
MARGARET ALLMOND PADGETT
’68, ’72 MS
JUDY STURDIVANT
RICHARDSON ’68
ANNE HAYES TATE ’68
SHEILA HARMON AMMONS ’69
JOHANNA DUBOSE BLACKWELL ’69
HARRY BRYON CORCORAN
’69 MFA
MARGARET B. FAISON ’69 MA
JO WHITTEN MAY ’69 MA
CAROLYN LOFTIN NOBLE ’69
DIANE ROSSO WHITEHURST ’69
SUSAN FOSTER WHITT ’69
NINA HELMS BROWDER ’70
MARY DURKIN KABALA ’70 MS
WILLIAM KNAPP LEE JR. ’70
REBECCA LAUGHTER POWERS ’70,
’83 MED
APRIL MEADOWS SHEPHERD
’70 MED
JACQUELINE A. SMITH ’70 MED
JUNE BALL TOOMPAS ’70
MARY GLENDINNING ELAM ’71
GLENDA SULLIVAN FINCH ’71
JUDY LEONARD GREESON ’71
GAYLE E. PIPKIN ’71, ’79 MA

WC LEGACIES
THEIR IMPACT CONTINUES.
HARRIETT SHAIN EVENSON ’53,
who died on January 29, 2025,
created the Harriett Shain
and Jerome Evenson Endowed
Scholarship in Education. To
date, 22 future teachers have
been supported.
Harriett Shain Evenson ’53
Through the Blanche Rigsby
Shore Scholarship in Nursing,
which PATRICIA SHORE CLARK
’58 named for her mother,
Clark’s giving has supported 24
students since 2010. Clark died
on April 30, 2025.
Patricia Shore Clark ’58

BRENDA SECHREST ’71 MED
SHIRLEY A. THOMAS ’71 MS
BONNIE WALLS WEDDINGTON
’71 MED
MARY BLAIR BARHAM ’72,
’80 MED
HILDRED L. BARNES ’72
MARY LOU KOCH CAMPBELL
’72 MA
MARY ANNE RAINES GOSLEN ’72
MED, ’89 PHD
SARAH E. LYTCH ’72
JOANNA SMITH ’72, ’80 MFA
FRANCES KENNEDY ANDREWS ’73
MS, ’83 EDD
WILMA HUNTER GALE ’73
HERBERT F. PIKE ’73 MED
DR. ISABELLE REEDY POWELL
’73 PHD
GRETCHEN VAN LOON-WILLIAMS
’73, ’76 MFA
BETTY HOOTS WOOTEN ’73
CHARLES M. O’CONNOR ’74,
’80 MED
DOROTHY HARE CONRAD ’74
JOE R. HICKS ’74
GREGG C. LEE ’74 MED
LOUISE FLUHARTY LEFLER ’74
JANET GARDNER FLEMING ’75
MARK STEWART SHEPPARD ’75
CHARLES M. AARON ’76

HOWARD M. BRAXTON JR. ’76 EDD
DR. MARY C. BYRUM ’76 EDD
WILLIAM Q. HURLEY ’76
LUCILLE MANN SPENCER ’76 MFA
MICHAEL E. WALL ’76
PATRICIA FINGER AVRAM ’77 MS
RONDA BAKER GORE ’77
CARL R. LARSON ’77
VADA FIDLER SATTERFIELD ’77 MED
MARY EVERETTE WEBER ’77
ELLEN GODFREY FOWARD ’78
DR. JANICE MOORE FULLER ’78
MA, ’89 PHD
MARTHA BLOSSOM MEDEIROS
’78 MA
DANIEL J. BROWN ’79
PAT L. HALL ’79 MBA
MAURICE MEDLEY ’79
DAWN CHURCH NYE ’79
JULIE SINGLEY PINKSTON ’79 MS
MARY ANNE SEARS TRUSLOW ’79
LARRY V. UPCHURCH ’79 MED,
’88 EDS
GARY W. VERNON ’79
CATHERINE CURLEE FLETCHER ’80
DR. WILL F. HUNTLEY JR. ’80 MA
JOY CAYTON JONES ’80
MARY COURTS MONTGOMERY
’80, ’82 MED
PAT A. SHOUSE ’80 MED

DR. PATRICIA RICE WHITLEY
’80 EDD
CARL C. JACKSON JR. ’81 MPA
KENNETH M. JOHNSON ’81
TROY A. SELLARS ’81
JUNE A. KINGSLEY ’82
JUDY GRAVES LECROY ’82 MLIS
MARJORY JARBOE ROTH ’82 MED
WILLIAM C. HAIN ’83
JANET BEST ROLISON ’83 MED
JANET BOND DEWITT ’84 MFA
JOHN A. GILLESPIE JR. ’84
KAREN TUCKER MATTHEW ’84,
’03 MA
KARL L. MCKINNON ’84
KAFFY KIVETT REYNOLDS ’84
DONNA R. BROWN ’85
SARA GENTRY HODGES ’85
LINDA LOU FOWLER JONES ’85
CLAIRE MOUREAU BINGAMAN
’86 MBA
KATHLEEN WRIGHT HILDEBRAN ’86
KAREN PAKKALA JORDAN ’86 MSN
CATHY MCMILLAN HESTER ’87
HILDA PATE MESSICK ’87, ’97 MSN
SHEILA YATES WARD ’87
PATSY FREEMAN SMITH ’88
ANNETTE YOUNG THOMAS ’88 MED
DR. DORIS VANCE BANNER ’89 EDD
DR. ELIZABETH BYRD DENNY ’89
MA, ’94 PHD
DR. BENITA CAPPS LAWRENCE ’90,
’96 MSA, ’02 EDD
JERYL ANN MCPARLAND ’90
DR. GAYLE WIMBERLEY SCOTT
’90 EDD
ANNE HENDRICKS ELAM ’91 MED
RANDY L. JOHNSON ’92 MED
BRIAN ERIC DANCY ’94
DIANA MARSHALL-SHOAF ’94 MED
KENNON A. GORDON ’95
RHONDA LEONARD YOUNG ’95
DR. HELEN M. COOK ’96 MED,
’03 PHD
DEAN MASON MCPHERSON ’96
SHIRLEY RIGNEY CARR ’97 MA
CAROLYN KURFIRST ASHBY ’98
SUSAN CONLEY LINK ’98 MED
JAMES STANLEY BRANDT ’00 MM
DELLA SPIVEY AUSTIN ’01
RACHEL L. BEERTHUIS ’01 MLIS
KEITH WELLS ’01 MA
HENRY W. CHURCH ’03
REBECCA SETTLE SPRINGER ’03
DR. YVETTE MURPHY-ERBY
’04 PHD
MICHAEL E. DUPREE ’08 MS
GINA LINDSAY POWELL ’08 MLIS
ROBERT B. JOBE ’10
KATHLEEN O. BREWER ’11
BERNICE M. LEAK ’17

QUIASIA S. BROWN ’18
REDIA RASHEE LAWANSON ’19
CANDY L. STANLEY ’21
CHRISTOPHER SWENSEN ’21 MFA

FORMER FACULTY /STAFF
JERRY LEIMENSTOLL died on
August 8, 2024. He practiced
architecture from 1963 to 1976. In
1983, he accepted a faculty position
in the UNCG Housing and Interior
Design Department. There he met
Dr. Jo Ramsay, a fellow professor
and architect. Married two years
later, they shared a commitment
to beautiful design, community
building, downtown revitalization,
and historic preservation. They
adapted a storefront building on
Greensboro’s South Elm Street into
an architectural studio and home. He
taught through 1991 and continued
to practice architecture. A believer
in young people, he mentored youth
throughout his life.
DR. ROBERT G. EASON died on
April 15, 2025, at the age of 100.
He was professor emeritus in the
Department of Psychology. Eason
joined UNCG in 1967 as chair of
the department and then led the
charge to establish a PhD program
in psychology, which was approved
in 1970. Since then, more than 300
doctoral degrees have been awarded.
Eason remained department chair
until 1980. He was a physiological
psychologist whose research focused
on neural correlates of attention,
including the complex brain
processes involved in reading and
reading disabilities.
DR. SARAH PRASKIEVICZ died on
August 11, 2025. She was associate
professor in the Department of
Geography, Environment, and
Sustainability and conducted
research in the areas of hydrology,
fluvial geomorphology, and
water resources. She was also a
consummate geographer, having
visited all seven continents during
her lifetime.
DR. ADA L. VALLECORSIA died on
August 15, 2025. She was a middle
school special education teacher,
speech pathologist, and private
sector researcher before joining
UNCG’s School of Education in
1982. For 15 years, she taught and
published numerous books and
articles. She served as an editorial
consultant for Exceptional Children
and as president-elect of the North
Carolina Council for Exceptional
Children’s Teacher Education
Division. In 1997, she was appointed
associate dean of the School of
Education and retired in 2012.



29 Dr. Sarah Shoffner ’62, ’64 MS, ’77 PhD, Emmy Mills ’62, ’65 MFA, and Miriam Barkley ’74, ’77 MLS 30 (l-r) Darlene Bristow ’01 MSN and Clyde Bristow ’05, ’06 MSN, ’17 DNP 31 Catherine Moore ’02, ’10 MSN, ’17 PhD 32 MH Kolousek ’23 33 Dan Albergotti ’02 MFA 34 Anita Byrd Dunmeyer ’82

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