UNCG Magazine

Spring 2020

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

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UNPRECEDENTED TIME IN OUR HISTORY PG. 4

NURSES ON THE FRONT LINES PG. 30

DAD AND DAUGHTER ON PATH TO BE RNS PG. 32

UNCG Nursing alumna Grace Cindric, RN, CEN, TCRN
A central feature in the new Nursing and Instructional Building, scheduled to open for classes in January, will be the “stairatorium.” A combination of a stairwell and stepped seating area, it will invite interaction in the heart of the building. It was one of the next parts of the interior to begin to take shape when this photo was snapped. Hey, one step at a time.

Simply Unprecedented

The coronavirus pandemic led to UNCG moving classes online. Residential students moved out. Faculty worked from home. “We’re all in this together,” the chancellor said. “And we’ll come out of it even stronger.”

Rise to the Challenge

A new Nursing and Instructional Building, a new Campus Master Plan, and proposed projects for the Millennial Campus will allow UNCG to better serve our students and the needs of the broader community.

Nurses on the Front Lines

As the pandemic spreads across the nation, the importance of high-caliber schools of nursing shines brightly. Alumna Ernest Grant, president of the American Nurses Association, offers a broad perspective. On a later page, others in UNCG Nursing offer their wisdom.

Heart to Heart

In caring for a dying friend, the electrician found his true calling. He has joined his daughter in the rigorous UNCG Nursing program, even as they both work in the same emergency ward during this pandemic.

Legacies

Funds given many years ago by the Allen family are now one of the largest resources for aid in the Bryan School. There are now hundreds of Allen Scholars.

Grad tidings

Lots of class notes and pictures, too.

Cover photo of Grace Cindric ’16 by Robert Willet for The News & Observer. Photo on this spread of NIB interior by Martin W. Kane.

Check out the magazine website

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

Our world has been forever changed. The outbreak of the coronavirus that initially seemed so distant has touched all of our lives in profound and personal ways. The first cases were reported in North Carolina in early March, and the steady spread has reached our community and nearly every part of our state. And through it all, UNCG perseveres, and maintains its focus on our mission: educating our students and preparing them to contribute to our society in meaningful ways.

With guidance from the UNC System and Governor Cooper, UNCG canceled face-to-face classes and professors converted their classes to an online environment. Nearly all events, including Alumni Reunion, concerts, games, and commencement, were canceled or postponed. Employees were told to telecommute and stay at home.

The goal: Save lives. Keep our people healthy. Prevent a spike in infections.

UNCG had seen typhoid and Spanish Flu in its first decades. Tuberculosis and polio were threats later. Now this new virus strain has brought historic new challenges to our University – and to the world around us.

We are in uncertain times and, in many ways, uncharted territory with the realities and required responses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The impacts at UNCG have been swift and significant, and we've had to make decisions based on fast-changing and unpredictable circumstances.

To our alumni – you are part of our extended family, more than 70,000 strong in North Carolina, and more than 121,000 around the world. We know that for you, what happens here at UNCG is personal, important, and meaningful. You helped build this University into the 20,000-student research university it has become. We are here for you – we know many of you are dealing with job losses and other repercussions of the pandemic. We care about you. You're an essential part of the UNCG community.

As of press time for this publication, we are still navigating an evolving situation, even as we make plans for “what’s next” in a post-COVID-19 world for UNCG. We are doing our best to preserve the health of our students, our employees, and the people of the state – particularly the most vulnerable. And it’s clear that, with the impact to our economy and increased need in our region, there’ll be much work to do. Our motto is “Service.” The impact we make as an institution and as individuals – will be needed by our state and nation like never before.

Our top priority is and will always be delivering a first-rate education for our students and preparing them to face the world and lead the way forward – just as you have done. At a time when so much has changed, that mission remains unflinchingly true. And if we do that, we will invariably continue to earn your support and to make you proud of your relationship with UNCG.

We will persist through this and emerge from this unique situation with bolder plans and a brighter future. Thank you for all that you are doing to support us and to keep the UNCG spirit alive and well.

Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.
Chancellor

“Our top priority is and will always be delivering a first-rate education for our students and preparing them to face the world and lead the way forward. At a time when so much has changed, that mission remains unflinchingly true.”
SIMPLY UNPRECEDENTED AS PANDEMIC SWEPT INTO OUR STATE, OUR CAMPUS RESPONDED

March was a cruel month. Without drastic public health measures, April would have been the cruest.

The first case of the coronavirus in North Carolina was detected on March 3. On March 11, UNCG officials, in accord with UNC System universities, canceled all in-person classes for the following week, giving faculty time to prepare online lessons. As of March 23, all classes were online. The spring sports seasons were ended. All performances, lectures, and games were canceled. The students’ research expos would be online. Alumni Reunion weekend would be online-only, with big hugs replaced by heart emojis.

In a first for this campus, the May Commencement was postponed. The government set advisories on group sizes to limit the chance of transmission. First 100, then 50. The “physical distancing” standard of six feet became the norm. Students were asked to return home, where possible. In late March, the mayor and later the governor issued a “stay at home” advisory. The campus was bursting with spring blooms. And calmed with quiet. No ball games were canceled. The campus has seen tough times. The terrible Typhoid outbreak of 1899. The Spanish flu quarantine on our campus in 1918–19. The Depression of the 1930s. This COVID-19 pandemic rocked the campus – and the world – in a remarkable way.

The chancellor’s message was clear. Again and again: We are in this together. We will get through this together. No student will be left without a viable living option. Faculty, please be patient and understanding with students. Students, please do the same with faculty. And we are not closing – we are moving forward with our semester, albeit under some unique circumstances. Learning comes in many forms. The lessons learned and relationships strengthened this semester will last a lifetime.

And we’ll all be glad when this is over.

A new strain of coronavirus has jolted the world. It closed all in-person classes and prevented all public events at every UNC System school. But learning, research, and our university’s much-needed impact go on.

18,492 students made the transition to fully online learning.

2,500+ Zoom meetings during that first week.

570 online classes taught by 385 faculty members

UNCG Online division, the faculty turned their in-person classes into online ones for the remainder of the semester. The students could choose whether to receive a grade or take it satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Faculty and staff were reminded to be fair and reasonable. “We’re all in this together,” Chancellor Gilliam said.

With so many decisions to make and problems to address, somehow, most were resolved in a timely way. Perhaps not perfectly – it was an unprecedented situation. The lessons learned and relationships strengthened this semester will last a lifetime.

And we’ll all be glad when this is over.
PANDEMIC NEWS

Many of them not only lost their job, but businesses started shutting their doors. Over the first three weeks since many economy cannot survive well. ... How long due to a significant reduction in demand going to have a fairly severe contraction. We asked him in mid-March (with a mid-April follow-up) about the economic impact. Dr. Martin Andersen, assistant professor in the Bryan School, is an expert on health economics. He explained very early the basics in everyday language. Some examples:

WHAT ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE?

The public health measures for slowing the virus are largely focused on social distancing. In this case, social distancing means allowing more space between people and sharing items less. And the cancellations of large gatherings are reasonable steps in the middle of a very contagious new outbreak as a way of slowing the epidemic.

THE OUTLOOK

I think near-term we are going to have a fairly severe contraction due to a significant reduction in demand for services as people stay home. By practicing social distancing, that unfortunately means that our service-driven economy cannot survive well... How long we have to practice social distancing will determine how quick the recovery will be.

WHAT ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE?

More than half a million North Carolinians have applied for unemployment benefits over the first three weeks since many businesses started shutting their doors. Many of them not only lost their jobs, but also their health insurance. Health insurance makes it easier to pay for health care and can improve health, so it will be important for those people to get health insurance coverage as soon as possible. People who have just lost insurance can sign up for new coverage on healthcare.gov, but others are stuck since the state relies on healthcare.gov to facilitate insurance enrollment – and the federal government has not authorized a special enrollment period.

STAY SAFE

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FLATTEN THE CURVE

If there is a large increase in serious coronavirus cases in a very concentrated period of time, our health system won’t be able to meet the needs of an influx of patients. It would also make it hard for people who have other serious health conditions who need those hospital beds, but don’t have coronavirus.

RIPPLE EFFECTS

One concern with school closures and workplace closings is child and elder care. It also creates financial implications for vulnerable groups. Not all hourly workers have paid sick leave or adequate sick leave. As our economy increasingly moves toward a consultant-based or gig economy, those jobs rarely include paid sick leave.

ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS

Every 120 students had registered to remain on campus as April began. For a variety of reasons, it was the best place for them to be. Whereas the students are, they are all connected as Spartans, he says. Every one of the nearly 20,000 UNCG students has a unique story, unique dreams, unique hurdles they’ve overcome. And this is a challenge we’ll collectively take on. “We have a ‘culture of care,’” Carter said. “That means ‘We are here for you. Your success is important to us. They are providing resources and support and keeping all the students informed.”

Any students who’ve been in self-isolation or quarantine, wherever that is, our Dean of Students staff has reached out at least once a day to check in.” Volunteer campus partners also reach out to those students. Additionally, campus partners reach out weekly to the students who are on campus.

“I’ve been here at UNCG 25 years. To have a moment like this... It’s just amazing how our students, our faculty, our staff, how we all come together. I know it sounds cliché, but we are all in this together. And we will be there for each other whether we get through this,” Carter explained.

“I have a major gift. There have been many gifts, and the SAFE Fund is in the endowment phase. It will be for in-the-moment emergencies. It is an opportunity to give back.”

“I asked them if they would choose to provide resources and support to our students. "We want the students to know we care about you, whether you’re in close proximity or at a distance, you’re going to feel like a Spartan.”

“RETAIL STUDIES (CARS) ALUMNI

• MONICA MCGEE ’08 served as ASL interpreter during Governor Cooper’s daily news conferences on the pandemic. She is a graduate of UNCG’s Professions in Deafness – Interpreter Preparation Program.

• HUDSON’S HILL clothing store in downtown Greensboro is led by alumni Timker Clayton ’86 and William Clayton ’10, as well as Evan Morrison. They contracted to make 10,000 face masks for healthcare workers at Cone Health, sewing them at the former Cone mill White Oak.

• CONSUMABLE APPAREL AND RETAIL STUDIES (CARS) ALUMNI and students also are using their sewing skills to make personal protective equipment. Karrie Rogers Engle ’11, MBA ’16, Danielle Teich ’19, Cooper Bragg ’20, and Lindsey Flowers Smith ’20 have produced many masks.

LEARN MORE AT GO.UNCG.EDU/CORONAVIRUS.

In the first 15 days of being exclusively online, more than 1,750 students logged onto Handshake and applied to more than 1,200 jobs and internships. UNCG’s Career & Professional Development also held over 100 career coaching sessions.

“We are doing everything we can to provide resources and support to our students.”

Dr. Brett Carter, Dean of Students

From counselors and psychologists working with vulnerable groups. Not all hourly workers have paid sick leave or adequate sick leave. As our economy increasingly moves toward a consultant-based or gig economy, those jobs rarely include paid sick leave.

Spartans around the nation, in a variety of ways, are helping lead the effort to keep people safe and help stanch the crisis. From principals from the School of Education protecting children to Nutrition alumni who help feed many students in our schools and convalescent centers. From counselors and psychologists strengthening mental health during this time of trauma to nurses serving long shifts to help save lives. Just a few examples:

KELLEY RICHARDSON ’11 MPH is preparedness health educator for the N.C. Division of Public Health’s Preparedness and Response Branch. Some days, she serves as a public information officer in the State Emergency Operations Center. At other times, she helps local-level partners source health-related resources. “Many of us in public health have never responded to a disease outbreak of this magnitude,” she said.

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See link to Kerrie’s blog or how to make masks at AlumniMagazine.UNCG.EDU.

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At the 2017 Alumni Reunion, I met with the Class of 1967. They asked me, “What is the biggest need for the students?” I said addressing food and housing insecurity needs. They said, “We want to establish a Student Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Fund.”

“One alumna reached out and gave a major gift. There have been many gifts, and the SAFE Fund is in the endowment phase. It will be for in-the-moment emergencies. It is an opportunity to give back.”

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‘It’s never too late’

Wife, mother, grandmother. Breast cancer survivor.
And now UNCG Homecoming Royalty.
56-year-old Vickie Whitt, a communication studies major, was crowned at the annual Homecoming celebration in October.
For “Grandma V,” the honor represents the fulfillment of a promise she made to herself at age 50.
“I never went to college until after I battled cancer, and I decided I’m going to do all of the things that I never did before,” she said.
This has meant taking full advantage of the college experience. Vickie has worked at Elliott University Center, is vice president of the Transfer and Adult Student Union, and is participating in the Gold Leadership Challenge through the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement. She will graduate this spring.
“An adult student is just like a 20-year-old student. We all come here for the same thing, and this is the place to be,” she said. “It’s never too late.”

See video at Alumni Magazine.uncg.edu.

BUSINESS DOCTORATE ONLINE

THE FIRST AND ONLY ACCREDITED ONLINE PhD PROGRAM
in Business Administration has taken flight. Eighteen students from around the globe have embarked on the new program at the Bryan School. Dr. Moses Acquaah, head of the Department of Management, said, “When we announced this program we received a record number of applications from all over the country – more than 100!”
The four-year program is designed to produce research-oriented professionals who want to teach in a college environment. Students will understand specialized knowledge and scholarly literature in order to contribute to academic, government, and private sector environments through their research. “Many of our applicants are working full-time as instructors and professors in universities or community colleges,” he adds.
Susan Szasz is one. She currently teaches at California State University, Monterey Bay. “After a career in a large corporate business, I began teaching, and found that I love working with students and being involved in higher education where I feel I am making a really different kind of impact with my skills and experience,” she said.
Her focus will be Organizational Behavior and Human Resources. “I want to do research that will help corporations get to the next level: finding new, flexible, creative, and effective ways to work in the 21st century that will allow more people to profitably use their skills and abilities.”

GIMME A BEE

In September, UNCG marked the opening of the Plant and Pollinator Center, the first research facility in the nation to focus on both plants and pollinators. It includes a molecular research laboratory space, a field lab space, a community engagement room for classroom instruction and meetings, and the field station, which is made up of the apiary, pollinator-friendly green space, and an experimental planting area. The new center, located at Gateway Research Park North in Browns Summit, will serve not only UNCG students and faculty, but the community at large through programs for beekeepers, master gardeners, and school groups.

UNCG, WITH ITS ORIGINS AS A WOMEN’S COLLEGE, has a strong link to the fight for women’s rights and the women’s suffrage movement. With the centennial of the 19th amendment this year, UNCG plans to host many educational, eye-opening, and inspirational events on the broad context and history of the suffrage movement.
“She Can, We Can: Beyond the Women’s Suffrage Centennial” will be the theme for 2020–21. It’s one of a succession of themes UNCG has had every two years to link events across campus and encourage interdisciplinary activity and community engagement.
“This themed series is the perfect way to bring UNCG community members and stakeholders together around important issues of gender equity,” Provost Dana Dunn said. “The expertise and talent of our faculty and students, combined with engaging external speakers and performers, will ensure an opportunity for everyone to engage, learn, and be inspired.”
“The Collaborations Committee of 30 administrators, faculty, and students galvanized our university theme,” said Steve Haines, Provost’s Office Faculty Fellow for 2019–20. “We are excited to take on honest look at history. Ultimately, we aim to improve today’s issues relating to equity. To me, this theme brings great hope.”

Earlier themes at UNCG have included “The Globe and the Cosmos,” “War and Peace Imagined,” and “The ‘60s: Exploring the Limits.” Among the first scheduled events are talks by actor/activist Geena Davis and by Margaree Alwall, author of “The Handmaid’s Tale” – both events also part of the University Concert and Lecture Series.

SHE CAN, WE CAN’ SERIES

LEARN MORE AT PROVOST.UNCＧ.EDU/SHECANWECAN.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNCG ARCHIVES

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC GD ARCHIVES

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FOR 2020-21.
Alumna Emmylou Harris’ first performance on campus since the 60s was one for the ages. The auditorium was packed. The Class of ’69 cheered their classmate from the front rows. The upbeat “Here I Am” opened the show. She encored with the country standard “Together Again” and then the song she called the first great one she herself wrote, “Boulder to Birmingham.”

She had starred, along with Sandra Hopper (now Dr. Sandra Hopper Forman) ’66, ’71 MFA, in Shakespeare’s The Tempest on that very stage 54 years earlier. Sandra was on hand for the concert.

At a simple reception in Alumni House’s Virginia Dare Room, Chancellor Gilliam praised Emmylou’s transformative career and her work for important causes – and announced she would receive an honorary degree this spring.

At a Q&A in Brown Building’s Sprinkle Theatre, she regaled the roomful of music lovers with stories of Tate Street’s Red Door in the 60s, Bob Dylan’s “Desire” recording sessions, Gram Parsons, the Gibson guitar she bought at a downtown Greensboro music store (she still has it), and much more.

Alumnus David Giddens ’71, who attended with wife and retired professor Lorraine Shackelford, was on hand as well. He spearheaded putting together a singer-songwriter-friendly “coffee shop” space in Elliott Hall in 1965 where he, Emmylou, Barbara Wesley (now Dr. Barbara Wesley Baker) ’69, and any others who wanted could perform on weekends. He enjoyed Emmylou’s singing then – though he never sang with her – and he enjoys it now. Her rendition of “Abraham, Martin, and John” was a favorite that evening.

His younger daughter, alumna Rhiannon Giddens, will receive an honorary degree this year, as will Emmylou. Many fans had a connection with Emmylou. Whether they’d lived in the Quad with her, enjoyed her decades ago at the Red Door, or just immersed themselves in songs like “In My Hour of Darkness” or “The Pearl,” they relished Emmylou’s homecoming.

It was a red letter day with the “Red Dirt Girl.”

SEE LOTS MORE AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.
What does contemporary “Southerness” look like?

This is the challenge that UNCG geography professor Dr. Rick Bunch and his collaborators from the College of Charleston – Mark Sloan and Mark Long – took on in their book and exhibition, “Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South.” In the project, fine art meets geography in a collaborative effort to depict and map the New South.

Sloan, a museum director, curator, and photographer from the South – and Long, a geographer and professor of political science, found common ground with Bunch as they sought to create an exhibition that would capture “the salience of place in the human condition.” Composed of fine art photographs by 56 photographers, the book and exhibition represent the largest showing of photographs of and about the contemporary American South. Bunch contributed maps for the exhibition and book, and also created the project’s website. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software and publicly available datasets from various census bureaus, Bunch created his “Index of Southerness” maps based on hundreds of millions of data points that are used to analyze the prevalence of street names, reading habits, business names, field crops, churches, and place names that reference the culture and history of the South.

“For More Information, Including the Traveling Exhibition Schedule, Visit SouthboundProject.org”

$1M PRESTIGIOUS GRANT, FOR MORE DIVERSE SCIENTISTS The University has received a prestigious $1 million ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation. The award will support the adaptation and implementation of proven organizational change strategies to promote gender equity, inclusive of intersecting social identities such as race and ethnicity. UNCG is committed to increasing the representation and advancement of women in academic science careers, contributing to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce. While the grant will address aspects of STEM academic culture and institutional structure that may differentially affect women faculty and academic administrators, UNCG views this grant as an opportunity to enhance the University’s commitment to a diverse professoriate across all disciplines.
They’re a million times smaller than a hair follicle on your head. But they can be used to solve some of our biggest problems. Dr. Sherine Obare has spent her career studying nanomaterials – natural and manmade substances that can be measured in nanometers – and their real-world applications. The dean of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering leads a research team that explores how nanomaterials can be used to address some of society’s most pressing issues: antibiotic resistance, food safety, and environmental pollution, to name a few.

Over the last decade, Obare has secured more than $5 million in federal grants to advance the emerging field of nanotechnology. “Nanotech has the ability to change the way we address different types of problems because it brings an integrated approach,” Obare explains. “When you’re making a nanomaterial, you start with the fundamentals of chemistry. When you’re trying to understand how a nanomaterial behaves, physics comes into play.”

It’s this kind of work – research that bridges disciplines to impact human lives – that excites Obare. “We have an opportunity to really think about the big problems that communities are facing right now. How can we, as scientists and engineers, use our knowledge and the integration of the sciences through nanotechnology to address these issues?”

**HARNESSING NANO**

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**TO SEE THE COLLECTION, VISIT PRIDE.TRIADHISTORY.ORG.**

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**SPARTAN ESSENTIALS**

Food insecurity has become a pressing issue for students on college campuses in the country in recent years. UNCG is doing what it can to help. Last year, the Division of Student Affairs launched the “Spartan Essentials” program. The initiative included donations of meal swipes and canned food. And these efforts continue, with more donation events planned. As Dr. Cathy Akens, vice chancellor for student affairs, says, it is true evidence of UNCG’s culture of care.

**TOP: Lennie Gerber and Pearl Berlin in Paris, c. 1990**

**LEFT: in Detroit, c. 1967**

Writing Award, named in her honor, recognizes excellence in thesis and dissertation writing.

Thanks to an award-winning 2014 documentary titled “Living in the Overlap” that told their love story to a national audience, Pearl and Lennie became the faces of the country’s same-sex marriage debate when it was illegal in most states. The digital collection allows collected stories and artifacts like those of Pearl and Lennie to be sharable and easily accessible to all.

“This project honors their work, reminds us all not to take our current environment for granted, and reminds us that history is continually in the making,” says Krim.

“Nanotech has the ability to change the way we address different types of problems because it brings an integrated approach,” Obare explains. “When you’re making a nanomaterial, you start with the fundamentals of chemistry. When you’re trying to understand how a nanomaterial behaves, physics comes into play.”

It’s this kind of work – research that bridges disciplines to impact human lives – that excites Obare.

“We have an opportunity to really think about the big problems that communities are facing right now. How can we, as scientists and engineers, use our knowledge and the integration of the sciences through nanotechnology to address these issues?”

**TO SEE THE COLLECTION, VISIT PRIDE.TRIADHISTORY.ORG.**

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**UNCG magazine • Spring 2020**
Fifty years of community-building are being celebrated this year, as UNCG’s first residential college turns 50. Ashby Residential College opened in 1970 as an effort to foster community amongst students in a difficult time. Since then, it has been joined by Strong and Grogan, bringing residential students together to empower them to succeed.

The residential colleges are a unique opportunity for students to find community and support at UNCG. Through joint classes and extracurricular events, students band together and connect with other students and with faculty, staff, and alumni past and present. The program graduates carry the experience with them through the rest of their lives, participating in reunions and social mixers that allow them to share their experience and guidance with new RC students.

To celebrate the anniversary, Ashby plans to host a series of celebratory events throughout the coming academic year and into next summer. On this fall semester’s move-in day, the 50th class of Ashby students will be welcomed with a big celebration. Next February, a formal reception for the Alumni House is planned for UNCG faculty/staff who are Ashby alumni. And in June 2021, there will be a reunion that welcomes alumni who attended Ashby back to UNCG.

The Digital Library on American Slavery at UNCG has been recognized by the National Park Service as its first-ever “virtual” stop on the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. As a “virtual” stop, it offers ready access to thousands of resources with a few keystrokes, wherever the researcher may be. The Network to Freedom program consists of locations with a verifiable connection to the Underground Railroad; educational and interpretive programs that pertain to the Underground Railroad; and research and educational facilities.
A time out with Kyle Hines

Catching up with the first American to win four EuroLeague titles

Kyle Hines ’08 is arguably the best basketball player in UNCG history. He remains the program leader in total points, field goals, blocked shots – the list goes on. He was such a force for the Spartans that his jersey was retired during the end of his senior year, when he was still a player. Jersey retirements typically occur years after graduation.

It’s no surprise that his post-college career has been just as successful. Kyle is a forward for CSKA Moscow, the reigning EuroLeague champion. He led teams to four EuroLeague titles – twice with Olympiacos B.C. and then twice with CSKA Moscow – making him the first and only American to be a four-time champion of Europe.

While he’s built a successful career and life for himself and his family in Athens and now Moscow, his ties to Greensboro remain strong.

In December, before the global outbreak of COVID-19, UNCG Magazine caught up with Kyle Hines, who had returned to his New Jersey home with his family and is currently on leave, as the EuroLeague was suspended. In late March, this interview, the EuroLeague has officially returned.

What drew you to UNCG?

KH: UNC Greensboro was the first and only college visit that I took. I fell in love with the campus, the city, and the people and how well they treated me. I could really picture myself being there. After I visited, I called the coach and committed. I didn’t need to visit anywhere else.

What’s it been like to see the men’s basketball program excel in recent years?

KH: I’m proud today when I hear people talk about UNC Greensboro and the growth of the program. When they beat Georgetown in December, I was watching the game and jumping up and down. A bunch of my former teammates and I were texting each other. We feel as much a part of this team today as we ever have.

What what drew you to the EuroLeague?

KH: Everyone in my family played sports. As a kid, I was doing a little bit of everything – karate, track and field, baseball, football, and basketball. Once I got to high school, I fell in love with basketball. It was the sport I was the best at, so I took it as a challenge. I wanted to be better.

How does the European game differ from American hoops?

KH: The NBA game is checkers, chess. Everything is a little more methodical – there’s a lot more strategy. It’s more of a team-oriented game. In the United States, the games are a little more fast-paced. U.S. hoops can be a little more individual based – a lot more isolation basketball.

And what about the fans?

KH: The people in Europe are super-fanatical. They’re lifelong fans. At games you’ll see people cheering with drums and horns. It’s hard to put it into words. Sometimes our sports in the U.S. are based more on entertainment. Here, the sport culture, especially in the more European cities, is a lot more fanatic. People really live and die by their relationships with their sports teams.

Once you retire from the sport, what’s next for you?

KH: I know retirement is around the corner. I’d like to play a few more years, but it’s definitely something that is in the back of my mind. I want the opportunity to come back home and rekindle those relationships with friends and family. I still want to be involved in the game, although I haven’t pinpointed exactly what that will look like.

Looking back, what’s your biggest takeaway from your time at UNCG?

KH: The relationships. My former teammates Dwanye Johnson and Kevin Oliskev are two of my best friends and the godfathers of my son. Another friend from UNCG, Galeson Apis, was the officiant at my wedding. I want to show my appreciation for Greensboro. Every time I go back, the people from the community embrace me. It was the foundation for all of the success I have had.

SPARTAN STARS OVERSEAS

Kyle Hines isn’t the only UNCG alumna who has found success on the court in Europe and beyond.

As of March 1, recent graduates Frances Alves ’19 and Jordy Kuper ’18 are playing in Spain. Francis signed with Baloncesto Malaga, his hometown team, in the summer of 2019, and was loaned out to Baloncesto Fuenlabrada and then Divina Club Baloncesto for the 2019–20 season. Jordy plays for Cáceres Ciudad del Baloncesto.

Dante Baldwin ’17 and Marvin Smith Jr. ’18 are teammates once again, with both Spartans playing for Tigers Tübingen in Germany. Travis Simpson ’13 is also in Germany, playing for Rasta Vechta.

And the list goes on:

• Lloyd Burgess ’19, Tauras Durrez, Albania
• Ricky Hickman ’17, Pallacanestro Trieste, Italy (right)
• Mikko Koivisto ’10, Salon Vipas, Finland
• Kayal Locke ’16, FC Porto, Portugal
• Nicholas Poulas ’18, Kolossos Rodou, Greece
• RJ White ’17, Soles de Mexicali, Mexico

PHOTOGRAPHY OF KYLE HINES COURTESY OF CSKA MOSCOW; PHOTO OF RICKY HICKMAN BY FEDERICO VALENTE/ALLIANZ PALLACANESTRO TRIESTE PRESS OFFICE

Spring 2020  °  UNCG magazine
Native to North Carolina, flowering dogwoods have long graced our campus. The trees' blossoms – the official state flower, in fact – announce spring's warmth and longer days every year. This flowering dogwood was photographed recently near the Bryan Building. The trees on our campus provide welcome joy, and the dogwood berries are a delicacy for birds. We were the first UNC System school to be named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation—and the campus received this honor yet again this spring.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN W. KANE

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them."
– Claude Monet
Turn up the front burner
UNCG alumna and guest curator Ashlynn Browning ’02 MFA assembled a stellar lineup of artists for the “Front Burner: Highlights in Contemporary North Carolina Painting” exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA). Featured are 25 painters from throughout the state working in a variety of media and styles, including UNCG art professor Barbara Campbell Thomas and alumna Carmen Neely ’16 MFA.

Browning notes the relevance of the medium in an increasingly digital age. “Amid the constant inundation of modern media, the act of painting itself can feel like an antidote to chaos, a way of slowing down and setting order to the precarious, disorienting environment around us,” says Browning, whose art is included in the exhibition.

The show opened March 7, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum is temporarily closed, but the exhibition will be extended past its scheduled close of July 26, according to museum officials.

Jazz icon, band leader, and composer DAVID BRUBECK was born 100 years ago. This fall, the biggest Brubeck centennial celebration in the world will be hosted at UNCG, with an opening concert by the Brubeck Family Quartet, followed by several days of performances, reflections, discussions, choreography, and social events.

While Brubeck is widely known as an accomplished jazz musician, with his sound as the source of the memorable “Take Five” (composed by Paul Desmond), his classical music is, in the ears of many, equally significant. UNCG Professor of Music and pianist John Salmon has arranged and recorded Brubeck’s classical works for the past two decades and has organized UNCG’s celebration. The extraordinary event will take place October 22-25, hosted by UNCG’s School of Music and Greensboro’s Music for a Great Space.

Learn more at vpa.uncg.edu/music/brubeck-centennial.

COOL JAZZ LEGEND
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John Salmon has recorded, edited and written about Dave Brubeck’s music and, as did Chick Corea, played a solo at Brubeck’s service in 2014.

Four of Dave Brubeck’s six children will perform in multiple events at the Centennial Celebration at UNCG.

“TAKE FIVE,” recorded by the Dave Brubeck Quartet in 1959, remains the top-selling jazz single ever.

PHOTO OF DAVE BRUBECK COURTESY OF THE MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

LEARN MORE AT VPA.UNCG.EDU/MUSIC/BRUBECK-CENTENNIAL.

Barbara Campbell Thomas.
Heart Opener, acrylic, fabric collage and inset on canvas, 2018.

HIGH NOTES
Omar Ibn Said, an enslaved Muslim scholar in mid-nineteenth century Fayetteville, was a topic of alumna Rhannon Giddens’ discussion on campus last autumn. She has composed an opera on him, which was scheduled to debut this spring in Charleston, but its premiere will have to wait. That fall evening, she and Francesco Turrisi played a song in the style of their new album “There Is No Other.” One song, “I’m on My Way,” received a Grammy nomination. Her collaborative “Songs of Our Native Daughters” album was on several “best of” lists. Rhannon’s Met Opera podcast “Aria Code” – she is the host – has begun its second season. And she will receive an honorary degree from UNCG this spring. Oh, and she’ll star in the Tanger Center’s first opera, “Porgy & Bess” by Greensboro Opera – her first opera performance since her UNCG Opera Theatre days.
A new Nursing and Instructional Building, a new Campus Master Plan. And on the horizon: an innovative and impactful arts collaborative space at the corner of Tate and Gate, a renovated and expanded Jackson Library, and a vision to spur the technology corridor along Gate City Boulevard. These latest developments in the transformation of UNC Greensboro’s campus will give the University the capability to better serve our students and the needs of the broader community.

The students, the region, and the state will have great need during the coming years due to the economic downturn and the many repercussions of the pandemic. The following projects will help reposition the University to better support research and learning, community engagement, and real-world impact. The full weight of the University will be essential to supporting the people of our state in the coming decade and beyond, as we lead the way in this rapidly changing and expanding knowledge- and technology-based world.
A UNIFIED VISION
2020 marks a period of great challenges, but also needs and opportunities. An incisive new master plan will pave the way for the University to embark on a strategic and sustainable academic and physical framework. This year’s revised Campus Master Plan – replacing the one created in 2008 and updated in 2014 – will build firmly upon the University’s rich history, campus character, and strong sense of place and community. UNCG is deeply invested in empowering students to unleash their potential and make a meaningful impact with their lives. That commitment is proven by, for example, UNCG’s recent recognition by U.S. News & World Report as ranking first in the state for social mobility for students.

UNCG’s designation of a Millennial Campus is an extension of that goal – delivering mixed-use, innovation-focused campus districts where the University, industry partners, and the surrounding community come together around health, technology, and the arts. This designation will manifest itself in coming years as new facilities are developed and existing ones reimagined along the Tate Street and Gate City Boulevard corridors.

“By supporting new public-private partnerships, collaborative research projects, and community-engaged research, the Millennial Campus districts will facilitate enhanced University–community interaction in ways that are physically, economically, and culturally interwoven,” says Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.

A particularly important aspect of this plan that directly affects and involves students is the way in which these developments offer them hands-on opportunities to learn and work, as well as to engage with communities through outreach and service.

A GEM IN STEM
If there is one thing that is well validated in 2020, it’s that health and wellness, a strategic forte of our University, are as essential as ever. That will be brought to the fore by the opening of the new Nursing and Instructional Building (NIB). The new facility tangibly represents the impact UNCG brings for the region and state in the realm of health care and the sciences.

Located on the former site of the McIver Building, the NIB will provide classroom and lab space for the School of Nursing, the School of Health and Human Sciences, the Department of Biology, and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The new facility will include 39 labs, 14 classrooms, nine research suites, and a community engagement center.

The 180,000-square-foot, $105 million facility was made possible thanks to state funds from the Connect NC Bond, passed by North Carolina voters in the spring of 2016. The new building will bring together STEM students physically and intellectually. This is a significant improvement for the School of Nursing, which is currently scattered across four different buildings.

School of Nursing Dean Robin Remsburg notes the significance of the improved simulation labs in how they will better prepare future health care professionals. “The

NIB BY THE NUMBERS
180,000 square feet
39 labs
14 classrooms
9 research suites

NIB’S FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS:
• High-tech nursing simulation spaces (sim labs) allow for hands-on training identical to hospitals and other real-world settings.
• A stairatorium – a combination of a stairwell and stepped seating area in the heart of the building – invites communal gathering and studying.
• Advanced air conditioning and filtration systems make the NIB one of the greenest buildings on campus.
• Electric vehicle charging stations support sustainable transportation.
• A rooftop patio with recycled pavers, Catalpa trees, and solar panels.

SEE VIDEO AT ALUMNI MAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.
Students will have direct exposure to equipment and technology that mirrors the experiences they will encounter as they care for patients across the continuum of care. It will be a space for imagining, designing, and innovation.

Patricia A. Sullivan, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Nadja Cech indicates that the new facilities will offer students unique exposure to equipment and skills that will position them for successful entry into various professions.

“Practical engagement with science requires access to sophisticated equipment and facilities,” she says. “State-of-the-art laboratories in the building will provide an environment where students can hone their skills and prepare for careers in diverse fields, including medicine, scientific research, and biotechnology.”

Biology—the second largest major on campus—will benefit from the new NIB as well. The program has reached a 161% lab utilization rate in its existing space. The new building will leverage opportunities for enrollment growth in all of these high-demand fields, including knowledge and other disciplines in health and human sciences.

UNCG celebrated the official groundbreaking of the new building on April 18. It has taken shape since then, with construction crews using more than 1,300 tons of structural steel and 145 tons of metal decking.

The new building is projected to be open and fully operational by the beginning of Spring Semester 2021.

AT THE INTERSECTION OF CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

The edges of campus are ideal, liminal spaces of opportunity and exchange, where the public university meets the local community it serves—physically, culturally, and programmatically. A proposed Arts Place near the corner of Tate Street and Gate City Boulevard would encourage such exchange, while fostering creativity and collaboration.

The proposed community- and arts-focused complex will establish a multi-purpose facility that will serve UNCG and contribute to Greensboro’s vibrant arts community and culture. A key aspect of the new building’s design will be to support projects that are interactive, technologically-enabled, and highly visible. With state-of-the-art connectivity and reconfigurable walls, floors, seats, ceilings, and lights, Arts Place would host multimedia artworks and performances, internet-based creative works, and projects that take advantage of emerging technology. Class walls will be to allow projects, exhibitions, and activities to be visible from passers-by on Gate City Boulevard and Tate Street.

The complex will be a highly noticeable cornerstone for people entering and leaving campus.

The proposed design includes a large main space with a modular or flexible back wall, one side of which will serve as an arts gallery and pre-performance lobby space, while the other wall can be designated as an “innovation wall” that offers endless possibilities for use.

As the first new building to be designed and erected from scratch as a part of the newly designed Millennial Campus corridor, the facility will serve as an example of the enriching, transformative spirit behind the Campus Master Plan.
Nurses on the Front Lines

BY MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE

UTY CALLS. During the current pandemic, nurses across the state and nation are serving long hours with limited supplies and protective wear. Dr. Ernest Grant ’93 MSN, ’15 PhD, president of the American Nurses Association (ANA), has a broad perspective, as he represents the nation’s 4.3 million registered nurses.

An expert in burn care, he oversaw the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center’s Outreach and Prevention Program for many years. After Sept. 11, 2001, he volunteered in New York, caring for patients injured in the attacks. And now there’s another catalyzing, one that we all are facing: the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak.

“It’s vitally important that we do everything we can to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to reduce, not only the string of infections that are happening now, but also what might happen in the future,” he said in a March 30 interview. “Because, as more and more people contract it, it’s obviously going to prove quite a strain on the health care system as well.”

As ANA president, he is advocating for those on the front line to get the personal protective equipment they need. He is working with and encouraging government authorities to monitor supply chains to ensure that vital medical equipment goes where it is most needed. And through videos on social media, and through interviews with national news programs, he has spread the message: Follow your local and state directives about sheltering in place.

“I know it’s very difficult. I’m a bit frustrated, myself, with having to stay indoors most of the time, but we all must do our part,” he said. “It’s a step up from the day-to-day challenges that we encounter in our regular jobs. You’re asking nurses to dig even deeper.”

The spotlight is on health care workers during this crisis. But when the attention turns elsewhere, the ‘Spartan nurses’ heroic work will go on. The typical nurse that comes through the UNCG programs will help many thousands of patients over time. In cities, in rural areas, in hospitals, in nursing homes, in-person and online – almost everywhere. “They are absolutely stellar in what they do.”

UNCG Nursing makes that possible – as it did for Ernest, who grew up with limited education I received at UNCG,” he said.

In 2015, he became the first African-American male to earn a doctorate degree in nursing from UNCG. In honor of his mother, he established the Ernest J. Grant Endowed Scholarship in Nursing to provide support for multicultural male students with financial need.

I could not have gotten this far in my career without the education I received at UNCG.

– DR. ERNEST GRANT ’93 MSN, ’15 PhD

The University transforms lives, as you’ll see in the following pages. And the graduates go on to help save lives, no matter the challenge.

Even – and especially – when the unexpected happens, when crises arise, when we all look for real-world heroes.

But perhaps you’ve seen the meme on Reddit or Twitter? A nurse sporting sunglasses, mask, walkie-talkie, and an arm sleeve of animal tattoos, making her way with confidence as though in an epic movie battle scene.

It’s UNCG’s own Grace Cindric, 2016 graduate of the UNCG School of Nursing and one of many health care professionals on the front lines during this pandemic.

The original photo – seen on this issue’s cover – was taken March 30 by Robert Willet for The News & Observer. It depicts Grace near the UNC Medical Center’s emergency department entrance, screening patients for COVID-19.

“It’s a scary time for everybody,” she noted. She’s glad thePhotoshopped image provides comfort and hope.

“I’ve seen comments on social media such as, ‘This is the nurse on the front lines taking care of us. I feel safe now. We want people to feel that when they have to come to the emergency department, they are in good hands.”

Dr. Lori Hubbard, her former professor, told one reporter, “There’s at least a little bit of that meme in every nurse and we need to be reminded of it.”

As a student, Grace earned the nickname “Ninja Nurse,” when she injured herself doing martial arts. Her Facebook page shows her lifting her own weight, climbing cliffs, and snorkeling. This pandemic is one more challenge. And she is ready.

“UNCG has a fantastic nursing program. A lot of what I learned in the nursing program I am using now.”

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

BY MATTHEW BRYANT

One UNCG alumna has become the image for all nurses during this wave of coronavirus. Perhaps you’ve seen the meme on Reddit or Twitter? A nurse sporting sunglasses, mask, walkie-talkie, and an arm sleeve of animal tattoos, making her way with confidence as though in an epic movie battle scene.

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Heart to Heart

Her dad’s taught her a lot. Now she’s teaching him a few things too.

BY MATTHEW BRYANT • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE

Grit. Stamina. A great sense of humor. And the ability to check your emotions at the door. These are some of the characteristics that reveal themselves when getting to know Les and Sara Nichols, a father-daughter team currently making their way through the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at UNC Greensboro.

These also happen to be traits that define a successful health care professional able to withstand the trials of a hospital emergency ward. Les and Sara know this well. Outside of school, the father and daughter duo serve in the same emergency unit at High Point Medical Center, where they take what they have learned in the classroom and apply it on the job, and vice-versa.

Les and Sara tackle job- and school-related problems by drawing upon their respective experience and skill sets. Les is able to bring his many years’ experience working in various fields and being a dad to the table, while Sara is able to bring her fresh perspective and right-brain sensibilities. “I know his strengths and weaknesses and he knows mine, so we can help each other out,” says Sara.

They are passionate about what they do, and they have each other’s backs – on the hospital floor as well as in classes, at clinicals, and during marathon study sessions for big exams.

The journey

Les Nichols didn’t know he would end up being a nurse. After working for years in commercial photography, and later as an electrician and construction project manager, nursing wasn’t on his radar. But losing a close friend to ALS in 2006 changed his life. Having served as his friend’s personal caretaker during those final months, Les realized what he was meant to do. He decided then and there to embark on a career in health care.

Fast forward to 2020, and he is one year away from graduating from the nursing program.

On the other hand, Sara knew early on she wanted to be a nurse. She took advanced career preparation courses in high school that were

“I know his strengths and weaknesses and he knows mine, so we can help each other out.”

– SARA NICHOLS
I never dreamed that when I was holding her as a baby that I would be in school with her one day, to be able to share this experience and go down this road. – LES NICHOLS

**Runs in the family**

The nursing program at UNCG has a history of family members going through nursing training together. Is it a coincidence?

“If you have that compassion in your heart, and you have that willingness to take care of another person and put yourself last, then it’s kind of a trait that does seem to be passed down from generation to generation,” says Les. “I have heard from a lot of my student friends is, ‘I was really impressed by the nurse so-and-so had during a rough time in their life,’ and it changed them. I think it’s really easy at that point for it to be a family-type thing.”

For Les, it was the life-changing loss of a friend that brought him to the field. But for Sara, it was watching her dad go into the nursing field that eventually gave her the bug. Like many kids, she hated going to the doctor. As she grew older, however, seeing how her dad cared for patients – the way in which he was deeply invested in looking after others – had a lasting effect on her.

“As soon as you get a look into the other side and see it from a provider standpoint – when you witness what’s really going on – I feel like you can’t help but be interested in how it all works and how it all runs. Once you see it from someone else’s standpoint, you either love it or you hate it. And if you love it, you’re going to go all in.”

Going through the nursing degree program and being employed in the profession together has only deepened Les and Sara’s bond. “Being in nursing school with her has definitely been the highlight of my life,” Les says.” I never dreamed that when I was holding her as a baby that I would be in school with her one day, to be able to share this experience and go down this road.”

**Who’s the boss?**

Sara is a year ahead of her dad in the nursing program, which means that theoretically, as the senior member of the dad-and-daughter team, she can offer him sage advice about how to succeed in nursing school. Les shoots her the side-eye in the joking, good-natured way the two often interact when she offers him some tips.

“It’s going to get frustrating at times,” she says. “You’ll have your own way of doing things, just stick with the program because what you’re learning is good, and it’s going to be so beneficial.”

In return, Les offers his wisdom and sensibility as a dad. “The number one thing, I can say – especially if you stay in the emergency ward – is to check your feelings at the door. Understand that for everybody who comes in, there’s a backstory. Understanding that helps you to be a better nurse.”

And he has more to share. Adhere to what you’ve been taught at nursing school. Work on your therapeutic communication. Be good and true to everyone. Avoid burn-out.

As for what makes a good nurse, Les draws upon his many years of bedside experience. And ironically, his experience working as an electrician comes handy, too. “It’s all about the ability to comprehend systems, and how things are connected.”

“Understanding and knowing the technical side of what we do, then being able to blend it with compassion and empathy, is key. Heartfelt care is what I think truly makes a good nurse, and you’ve got to be able to bridge those things together.”

**Support systems**

Of all the unique aspects of UNCG’s nursing program, one that particularly stands out is the way in which faculty and mentors in the nursing program take a hands-on and real-world approach to training their students.

“I love how many of my lecture instructors are the same as my clinical instructors because that way they can see in the classroom and in the clinical setting,” Sara says. “They’re there for you, and they really want the students to succeed.”

Les agrees. “I love how there are instructors that are practicing nurses in the field,” he says, noting that instructors who also make hospital rounds are more likely to be up to date on the latest evidence-based practices, skills, and techniques that nurses are using today.

Sara and Les note that UNCG’s proximity to a number of highly respected regional magnet hospitals creates great opportunities for students to get real-world clinical experience.

**Keeping it real**

It’s one thing to insert a needle in the arm of a mannequin. They’re not squirming. They’re not sayingouch. But it’s a very different experience when the patient is a live human being. They express pain. Maybe they are disoriented. Some might even be angry. For nursing students, the difference between the two scenarios during training can really drive home what they have learned.

“Having the opportunity to do some of our simulation labs with live actors changes your mindset, because you’re not going to be talking to a mannequin that’s not talking back,” says Les.

And the nurse training isn’t just about academics and the technical aspects. Les and Sara are adamant in their praise in how the nursing program aims to improve work culture – one that is more collaborative, where seasoned and newer nurses support each other in ways big and small.

“They teach us to buddy up, work with a partner,” she says. “Look who’s beside you – this person can be in the trenches with you one day and you’re going to need to help this person out. So they really do an outstanding job of teaching teamwork amongst the nursing community. And they’re really trying to break that culture of being on an island alone as a nurse.”

**What’s next**

The interviews and photography for this article were done just before the COVID-19 pandemic rocked the United States. As we went to press, we checked in once more, by phone.

“As with many in the health care field, Les and Sara have had to adapt quickly to the pandemic both on the job and at school. Their workload at the hospital has increased, and some of their simulation labs have been temporarily delayed during UNCG’s transition to online and social distancing. But as with anything that has come their way, the Nichols’ determination will get the job done. Sara and Les are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19, and they are well-prepared.”

Les and Sara already have their finger on the pulse of post-graduation opportunities. For Les, the short-term plan is to be able to work with heart patients. The long-term trajectory could take him to far-away places.

“I would like to be in an intensive care unit for heart patients,” says Les. “The other thing I’d like to get into is travel nursing. The nursing shortage is becoming such a huge problem. But there’s this beautiful entity called travel nursing where you can travel to different systems across the country to work. I would go anywhere that is in need of emergency ward nurses.”

Sara has a similar mindset. The more immediate goal is to get post-graduation experience as a nurse in an emergency ward. But her eyes, too, are set on adventure.

“I have a heart for the world.” Ultimately, she wants to be a nurse on a global emergency relief team, going into tragedies and disaster sites to perform first aid, helping the people that lose everything.

“While everybody else is leaving and evacuating, I want to be on the team that goes in.”

Having the opportunity to do some of our simulation labs with live actors changes your mindset, because you’re not going to be talking to a mannequin that’s not talking back. – LES NICHOLS

**Les Nichols**

Sara and Les working with one of the practice mannequins in the Simulation Lab.
**Perspectives**

UNCG HAS A PROUD NURSING HERITAGE. Its undergraduate bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program is rigorous, with an N.C. licensing “pass rate” to prove it: 93% of the Spartan students pass it on the first attempt. The program – with many first-generation or non-traditional students – is supportive, with a degree completion rate of 98%. And once they are done, they are in high demand, with an employment rate of 99%. They have the knowledge and skill needed in diverse health care settings.

As the statewide “stay at home” order was issued on March 27, UNCG Magazine reached out to Susan Safran ’77 and Jana Welch Wagenseller ’76, both former nurses who received their BSN from UNCG. They both have made a large impact in health care in our state.

Safran, who founded CPR Consultants Inc, served as chair of the UNCG Board of Trustees. She received the 2019 School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award. Wagenseller advanced to be associate director of the cancer network at Duke University Health System. She received UNCG’s Minerva Award for Distinguished Service.

We also reached out to Dr. Robin Remsburg, dean of the School of Nursing, and Associate Dean Audrey Snyder, who has been point person for the nursing school’s coronavirus information outreach.

**What are the biggest challenges for nurses, in the midst of this epidemic?**

**REMSBURG:** The biggest is doing what they have been trained and educated to do – respond to emergencies – when much is unknown and chaos abounds. With rapid spread of the virus and accompanying critical illness, the entire health system is overwhelmed. The lack of essential supplies makes an adequate response even more challenging. Nurses want to do their very best. They are not satisfied with anything less.

**WAGENSELLER:** It is the not knowing who is infected, fear of their patients, their families and themselves, the unknown trajectory of the disease, exposed deficiencies in trusted health care systems and government and the lack of personal protective equipment. Yet surrounded with these new unpredictable situations, the nurses are still there. They show up for their patients, because that is what they do.

**Are there enough nurses in our society?**

**SNYDER:** There are great geographic disparities in the availability of nurses and other health professionals. The rural areas are frequently health professional shortage areas and have a smaller workforce. There are challenges in educating both new entry-level nurses and those with higher degrees. There is a shortage of nursing faculty nationwide.

**SAFRAH:** One of nursing’s main roles is education of patients and the public, from hospital to doctor’s office, home care and schools, to industry and beyond. Lack of nurses means lack of knowledge for the patient and the loved one caring for them. This lack of knowledge means readmissions, medical crises at home, and many more emergency room visits that could have been prevented.

**What role in our nation’s health do nursing schools like UNCG’s play?**

**REMSBURG:** We, as all the other schools across the country, must find ways to continue to produce new nurses and advance practice nurses during these challenging times. We must find ways to deliver high quality instruction that helps students achieve their learning objectives. Students need to meet licensure and certification eligibility requirements. We need to keep the pipeline open and producing. This requires a great deal of ingenuity.

**SNYDER:** We educate future health professionals to work as part of interdisciplinary teams. Doctoral students conduct research that influences practice. Educating and graduating nurse practitioners will result in more primary care providers. Nursing schools help with capacity building.

**How will the new building help, as we look to the future?**

**REMSBURG:** The pandemic has forced us to think about and prepare for worst-case scenarios. As we prepare to move into a state-of-the-art educational building with new and evolving technologies, we are already learning how to operate differently, using technology in new and innovative ways.

**SAFRAH:** The new building will foster the education styles with more open space for group work. Simulation labs will be there – we already have some – and this gives students the opportunity to be “hands on” before touching live patients. And much of the building is for labs for chemistry and biology. UNCG was running over 150’s capacity in our labs – with an impact that many of our health-focused students were not able to get into a required course due to the large number of students for few spaces.

**Final thoughts?**

**SAFRAH:** There is a shortage of personal protective supplies for health care workers. I was a young nurse in the late 70’s when the AIDS epidemic struck. We didn’t know what was wrong with these very sick patients when we began to get them in the hospital. As we learned about the disease, we learned how to protect ourselves. I remember the fear in the beginning of the epidemic. I imagine the nurses caring for the COVID-19 patients feel this fear, many times over, but do as we did: You gear up and provide the care the patient needs.

**WAGENSELLER:** When asked by my son if I was scared of COVID-19, I explained through a lesson that I learned at the UNCG School of Nursing. I told him that I was not afraid of it, but I respected it for what it was and what it could do. That way I could face it with my knowledge and skill.

[**LEARN MORE ABOUT SAFETY MEASURES AND ABOUT UNCG’S INFLUENCE AT ALUMMINOMAGZINE.UNCG.EDU.**](#)

These are unprecedented times, but this is what we signed up for when we become nurses. Our mission as nurses is to promote well-being and serve the health needs of our communities.

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**– DR. ROBIN REMSBURG ’82 MSN, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING**
It began with a gift of $500.

It began with a gift of $500.

Made in 1975 by UNC Greensboro: School of Business and Economics faculty member Dr. Roscoe Jackson Allen and his wife, Anna Mae Burchette Allen, the gift created a scholarship honoring their son Charles, who died while serving in the U.S. Navy. Charles had planned to pursue an education in business and Economics faculty member and Dean’s List honoree

Legacies

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MAKE AN IMPACT HERE.

For the duration of her life, Mae remained diligent in making additions to the funds, often to honor a friend or neighbor. Other family gifts widened the scope of the Allen’s legacy at UNCG, a legacy their extended family continues. Daughter Risa Allen Witherspoon ’75, ’80 MEd recalled a 2016 family reunion where Witherspoon, River Ellis, Risa Witherspoon, Anthony Borja, Avery Benton, Qikun Feng, Aricka Bennett

"Coming from a low income family and being the only member of my family in the United States, I understand how important resources are. Being given the opportunity to have these resources from donors to pursue my goals leaves me with nothing more than pure thankfulness." – Anthony Borja, Allen Scholar and Dean’s List honoree

WOMAN’S COLLEGE TRIBUTE PROJECT – CONNECTING TO THE PAST, GAZING TOWARD THE FUTURE

The Woman’s College era (1932-63) was a time of change. Proud of their experiences at the largest women’s higher education institution in the nation, WC alumnae carried the University’s values of access to education, dedication to learning, and commitment to service with them into the world. They became our teachers, nurses, secretaries, administrators, and leaders. They pioneered innovation in their fields and insisted on excellence in their communities. WC alumnae shaped the fabric of society.

The Woman’s College Tribute Project celebrates this legacy, while also honoring the role our University played – and continues to play – in transforming students and communities. A committee of dedicated alumnae is seeking donations for a permanent art and landscape installation on UNCG’s campus.

Designed in collaboration with landscape artist James Dinh and sculptor Michael Stutz, the Woman’s College Tribute will be a circular communal space in front of the Mary Frances Stone Building. Tiered brick walls will surround a central statue. These walls will hold flower planters as well as image panels composed of text and photographs from WC-era yearbooks.

The central sculpture, affectionately named “Astera,” will be the head of a woman made of woven bronze. Simultaneously a modern interpretation of Minerva and the embodiment of the aspirations and spirits of the women who passed through WC’s halls, Astera will gaze across the quad. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and visitors will be able to stand behind her and, through her eyes, see the campus that has changed thousands of lives.

For more information about the Woman’s College Tribute Project or to make a donation, please contact Kris Davidson, associate vice chancellor of advancement, at 336-256-2603 or kkdavidson@uncg.edu.

Training Nurses at the SCENE

Jackin McKoy Wolfe ’71 BSN learned firsthand that reading and lecturing are only part of the preparation needed by health care professionals. When starting as a nurse at Duke University Medical Center, she occasionally encountered situations she had not rehearsed during her training.

Ensuring that future UNCG students are better equipped to face unexpected challenges, Jackie and her husband, Dr. Walter Wolfe, made a significant donation to support UNCG’s Simulation Center for Experiential Nursing Education (SCENE).

“Simulations reinforce what students learn in class and allow them to practice things they may not be able to do in their clinicals because of high-risk,” said Clinical Assistant Professor and Simulation Coordinator Crystal Lamb. “And the goal is to have students ready on day one of their careers.”

Lamb explained that life-threatening situations can be enacted with the nine high-tech mannequins now possessed by the nursing department. With capabilities that range from accepting medication to bleeding and talking, these models offer very realistic experiences to nursing students.

Additionally, SCENE allows instructors to set up realistic scenarios, such as treating individuals experiencing homelessness and patients with a mental health condition, by way of volunteer actors. While that would be a student-safety concern in clinical rotations, students are expected to lead the simulations. Spartan of Promise Honoree and School of Nursing Class of 2020 Secretary Ashley Murray acknowledged the importance of this training. “In my opinion, the best way to learn nursing skills is through simulation and our clinicals,” said Murray. “But with simulation, it’s okay to make mistakes, whereas in clinicals there’s a lot more pressure.”

Juniors and seniors in the nursing program are enrolled in at least one course every semester that participates in a simulated experience. They typically enter the labs in groups of 8-10 and work in pairs to complete given scenarios. Afterward, they debrief on their decisions with their instructors. “Going through that process helps me gain confidence. I get a lot of my ‘aha’ moments after we sit down and talk about what we did,” stated Murray.

Last year, the School of Nursing graduated more than 300 students, and those numbers will likely continue to rise. With an estimated 75 percent of UNCG alumns choosing to stay in North Carolina, local communities will undoubtedly benefit the most from the University’s efforts to bring innovative strategies to the health care curriculum.

Thankfully, donors like the Wolves continue to push these endeavors forward.

"In my opinion, the best way to learn nursing skills is through simulation and our clinicals."
1950s

KAY CARMICHAEL '51 was the 2019 Commissioner of the Year Award from the state of North Carolina for her service at the local, state, and national level. Kay, a Guilford County commissioner, served on the board of directors for both the state and national associations of county commissioners and recently received an award for her work promoting the arts. She was a driving force behind the establishment of the Guilford County Family Arts Council in Greensboro as well as the opening of a historic center in High Point. She leads the Guilford County Citizens’ Academy.

MARY ALICE ELLIOTT ’61 was honored by the Chi Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa on the occasion of her 60th birthday with the chapter’s highest honor for service. She was reappointed as Children’s editor, and a faculty member of the Association for the Education of Young Children affiliate, and a media specialist at East Carolina University for 22 years. He holds a master’s degree in religion and history and has taught at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for more than 35 years.

1960s

MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS ’66 has released a second edition of “Cute and Currency, An Historical Encyclopedia.” Steve Miller ’66, a professor at Cornell University, was honored by the Department of English and Creative Writing at Cornell on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Robert is the author of 12 Department of English and Creative Endowment for the Arts fellowships. Robert was the world’s smallest flash mob. He has more than 3,000 paintings to his credit and has received numerous national and international awards.

YOLANDA MOBLEY ’70 received an outstanding alumna award during the Attucks High School centennial ceremony. Larry, a former state representative and native of Winston-Salem, NC, graduated from Attucks in 1959.

SUSAN CATHARTON ’70 is the ‘In the Name of the School of Education at American International College. She is a professor of higher education and a dean of the School of Education at Cranbrook College and Hamline University. She has served as a chief executive at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for more than 35 years. Alva worked with the Rescued Castaways team to produce a film for the All Star Film Project competition in Greensboro. Their masterpiece was a musical about the world’s smallest flash mob.

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1970s

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Lagarde. Jaguar and his wife, Didi, were pleased to give the university recognition of his friendship with Paul.

SCOTT HAMILTON ’88 is a lieutenant in the US Navy and a master level championship in Greensboro. He is a US Navy Starter at the NCHSAA Track and Field School. She previously served as an assistant principal at Pinnacle High School in Southern Pines, N.C.

ROY YARBROUGH ’86 is one of three recipients of Paul’s friendship. Jorge and his wife, Debi, are long-time friends of Paul. He has served as executive director of the Appalachian Regional Commission and as a member of the NC State Appropriations Commission. He is a lieutenant in the NC National guard.

Wanda Batts Coneal ’88 is assistant principal at John Lawrence Elementary School in Siler City, N.C. She previously served as assistant principal at Randall Station Elementary School and principal at Pender Central High School in Pender County, N.C.

JERRY WOOD ’90 is manager of museum education and assistant curator of historic sites at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was named a “Master Educator” in 2000 by Southern Methodist University and has taught at subway, Maryland. She was selected as the state’s Davie Harris Award winner in 2006.

• We’d like to see you too.

• While we welcome wedding photos and baby pictures, we encourage you to submit only those photos that are related to UNCG. We may not be able to publish every photo we receive.

• Photographs from a professional photographer must be accompanied by a photo release form from the photographer.

• Please identify everyone in the photo and be sure to include your name (including your maiden name, if applicable).

• Please note the date on which the photo was taken.

• Photographs are not returned.

• UNCG Magazine is now publishing pictures of weddings, such as weddings, births and reunions. All you have to do is send us your photos.

A few things to keep in mind:

• Digital images need to be high resolution for print at least 300 dpi.

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ABI WOODSON ’04 MED, a post-master’s certificate
in instructional technology from Appalachian
State University.

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MARY BROWN ’04 is policy director with the
Salem/Forsyth County (N.C.) School Board. She
previously served as the chief academic officer at
North Carolina State University and the director of
the Forsyth County (N.C.) School Board. She earned
her bachelor’s degree from NC Central University School
of Business and her master’s degree in education from
Webb University.

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gradtidings

SALOME TITTER '40 won a Judge's Merit Award at the Festival of the Masters as well as the Audience Award. Celebration of Life, N.C. Susan Titter in the Asheville School for Caldwell County Schools.

THOMAS AVER '41 is an associate accountant at the Ravenswood Company, owner of the Jordan Creek Partnership in the Asheville Repertory Theatre in Southeast, N.C. He played "What" at The Black Lab Theatre in Brooklyn, N.Y.

WILLIAM HOLLAND '41 performs with the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. He performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

YANKEE WHITING '41 collaborated with Amy on the set of the clip "Avocado: Green". She has more than four years of experience working with corporate structure, tax, auditing, and other accounting work.

TYRELL BARNHART '41 is appearing in the Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" as Clarke. He previously appeared in "Underground" as "Tyroni".

KAPLAN BERNSTEIN '41 holds over 50 shows, including "Our Gentlemen," a play about 1940s-era masculinity. He has a degree in kinesiology.

JULIE DOWLING '42 is a registered nurse at the North Carolina Symphony. She has more than four years of experience working with corporate structure, tax, auditing, and other accounting work.

LEILA "LEE" STEPHENS GRIFFIN '49 is assistant principal of the Greensboro High School. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

LYNNE HURST '42 is a registered nurse at the Greensboro High School. She has more than four years of experience working with corporate structure, tax, auditing, and other accounting work.

JAMES RUGGLES '42 participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field education program. He studied social and physical anthropology while learning the methods community organizing is using to sustain them in Belize. Patricia studied HR generalist at the University of New Mexico.

RUTH "BUTCH" MILLER '42 is a driver of the Revolutionary War War in the Revolutionary War. He is the assistant principal of the Greensboro High School. He teaches at NC State University.

JASON KANE '43 '53X is an singer and cellist with the Greensboro Symphony. He is the assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. He performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

TENAJA HAYES '43 is an assistant professor of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

KATHRYN COBB PREYER '47 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

GEORGIANNA "JO" PATE PIERCE '48 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

NELL CRUMPTON BURCH '42 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

RUTH BROWN CLAPP FAULKNER '48 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

KATHRYN RUTH SCHNECK JACOBS '39 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

ALICE HARRLOD LEE VAUGHN '56 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

BETSY FAYE STONE "JOE" JOLLY JR. '76 is a registered nurse at the Greensboro High School. She has more than four years of experience working with corporate structure, tax, auditing, and other accounting work.

MILDRED NEVILLE GORNTO '48 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

MARY SUSAN "SUE" HALL SCHAPIRO '44 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

HARRIET "HATTIE" YOUNG DURHAM '40 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

NANCY AYERS WEHUNT '74 is assistant principal of the Greensboro-bas Pianos on Comedy Central. She performed "What" at the Ribbit Theatre in New York, N.Y.

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Shana Tucker - Feb. 13

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