Teach. Lead. EXCEL.

She’s among the best at bringing out the students’ best.

P. 28
Measures of Excellence
At UNCG, how is excellence measured? Sometimes with hard data and national honors. Other times, with personal transformation or impact on a community.

In the Pines
How old are many of the majestic trees on campus? Alumnus Keith Watkins has done the research, and unveils the results.

Teach. Lead. Excel.
On her way to national honors (and an invitation to the White House), Leslie Ross discovers her voice. And helps kids find theirs.

SNakes, Salamanders and Turtles, Oh MY!
Led by a team of UNCG researchers, professors and graduate students, 50 top-notch science educators gathered at Haw River State Park for a weekend herpetology curriculum workshop. The goal? To teach teachers how to get their students excited about North Carolina’s reptiles and amphibians. Experiential learning and dynamic teaching form one of UNCG’s points of excellence.
The warm glow of Homecoming

Homecoming 2016 will be the hottest one yet.

UNCG Homecoming’s new firepit is the largest in the campus’s history. Fifteen feet in diameter and made of A36 steel, it weighs two tons.

About 70 repurposed pallets, stacked almost 10 feet high, will be used in the Friday evening blaze, said Alumni Engagement’s Donegan Root ’87. Pine needles and brush will fuel the fire as well. “UNCG” is laser cut into the steel along the firepit’s edges. It will be assembled by Facilities staff, using heavy equipment, from four quarter-sections on Kaplan Commons Friday, Oct. 21. The “Bonfire and Food Truck Rodeo” will begin at 7 p.m. And it’ll all be moved away before dawn on Saturday – Homecoming’s biggest day on Kaplan Commons.

The special firepit was first used last fall, and the bonfire was a roaring success. “Jeff Collins welded it himself,” said Donegan. Jeff Collins ’84, past chair of the UNCG Alumni Association Board, called last year’s bonfire the biggest one the campus had ever seen. And perhaps, he said, the biggest bonfire Greensboro’s ever seen.

The campus tradition goes back decades. UNCG Archives traces references to bonfires going back to at least the 1940s. The photo seen here is from the 1960s.

Attendance has multiplied in the last three years – more than 1,000 gathered around the bonfire last year. More are expected this year.

Mr. or Ms. Homecoming 2016 will join Chancellor Franklin Gilliam Jr. and soccer coaches and players in lighting the bonfire. Hot cocoa, cider and snacks will be served. And yes, there will be s’mores. Plus there’ll be food trucks. The cheerleaders and dance team will lead the students, alumni, faculty and staff in Spartan cheers. Everyone will surround the fire – and surround themselves in Spartan spirit.

Come enjoy.

Some Homecoming 2016 highlights

Events begin Oct. 20. The Alumni of Distinction Awards, for example, are Thursday night, and tickets are available. The Friday night bonfire will feature food trucks. The big day is Saturday, Oct. 22, with a large turnout expected – the attendance last year was the highest ever. Among this year’s highlights:

● 35th Greek Anniversary honoring Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Pi Kappa Phi and Sigma Tau Gamma
● National party band “Jessie’s Girls”
● Tours of the new Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness
● Balloon twisters, face-painting and more for kids
● Men’s soccer game vs. Wofford – with fireworks afterward

There’ll be lots of great food and drinks for purchase, with fun for everyone. So sport your blue and gold and come be a part of Homecoming 2016!

SEE SCHEDULE AT HOMECOMING.UNCG.EDU.
It’s easier than ever to celebrate your Spartan spirit in style, with licensed UNCG apparel available at local retailers such as Omega Sports, Tailgators, Wal-Mart, Target, Dunham Sports, Walgreens, CVS, Finish Line, Lids and the UNCG Bookstore.

Alumni and friends can also order a large variety of UNCG apparel, office supplies, tote bags, household items and more online from the Spartan Locker Room and the UNCG Bookstore: unggear.com and bookstore.uncg.edu.

The buzzword in Greensboro right now? Downtown revitalization.

From new craft breweries to the opening of LeBauer Park, the city’s center is teeming with activity. And you can find Spartans at the forefront of it all.

The city’s historic south end, particularly Lewis Street, is anchored by HQ Greensboro, the city’s coworking space, and The Forge, Greensboro’s first makerspace. It’s not surprising that two of our own – alumna Sara Pilling-Kellogg ’16 MPA and student Joe Rotondi – are at the helm of these organizations.

Sara, who graduated in May with a master’s degree in public affairs, interned with HQ Greensboro during the summer of 2015 and never left.

“As we got closer to the end of my internship, I told them that I refused to leave because I really liked what HQ was doing,” she said.

Now director of HQ Greensboro, Sara’s goal is to facilitate “happy collisions” – a phrase she borrows from HQ Greensboro co-founder Andy Zimmerman. Members of the shared workspace have access to a variety of offices and meeting rooms, workshops and events.

“One of my favorite parts of HQ is seeing people make connections with each other,” she said. “It’s an amazing group of people here.”

Joe, who is working toward a bachelor’s degree in entrepreneurship, plays a similar role as executive director of The Forge, a workshop and collaborative space in which community members design and create.

“I see my job as a hub and a catalyst for what the makers are doing,” he said.

“What’s neat for Greensboro? It’s an exciting time, he explained, to be a part of what he calls the “perfect big-little town.”

Sara couldn’t agree more.

“It’s easier than ever to celebrate your Spartan spirit in style, with licensed UNCG apparel available at local retailers such as Omega Sports, Tailgators, Wal-Mart, Target, Dunham Sports, Walgreens, CVS, Finish Line, Lids and the UNCG Bookstore.

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UNCG Athletics has struck gold. This year marks 50 years of formally recognized intercollegiate athletics at UNCG, including 25 years of NCAA Division I competition.

The golden anniversary celebration – which also recognizes the rich history of athletics prior to the formal recognition – officially kicked off in August when UNCG women’s soccer hosted High Point University.

See video at alumni.uncc.edu.

Sara Rotondi ’20 and Joe Rotondi in the garden behind HQ Greensboro

To learn more and to purchase tickets, visit uncgspartans.com.

See video at alumni.uncc.edu.
Tom Ross and Shirley Frye have made indelible marks on the city and the state throughout their illustrious lives and careers. Their dedication was recognized in May as they received UNCG’s highest honors for service.

Ross, who spent his career as a judge, attorney, university administrator and leader in the state’s philanthropic community, received the Charles Duncan McIver Award. The award, named for the university’s founder, was established in 1983 to recognize North Carolinians who have rendered unusually distinguished public service to the state or nation.

Ross’ service to the state includes tenure as president of the UNC system from 2011-2016, as well as 17 years as a state superior court judge in the 1980s and ’90s. While on the bench, his efforts to reform sentencing guidelines earned him acclaim and served as a model nationwide.

While not himself a graduate of UNCG, this was certainly not Ross’ first visit to campus. He served on the UNCG Board of Trustees prior to his appointment as system president, including a stint as board chair, and visited frequently during his time as president of Davidson College.

“I’ve been to a number of McIver Award ceremonies and I’ve seen the kind of people who get this award,” said Ross. “I don’t belong in that group,” he added with a laugh, “but it’s a great honor for me … I don’t know if there are many things that could have happened to me that mean more.”

And he was able to share the evening with a close personal friend, Shirley Frye, who received the Adelaide F. Holderness/H. Michael Weaver Award. The award is also designed to honor North Carolinians who have rendered unusually distinguished public service to the community, state or nation, but is reserved especially for those who may have worked just beyond the spotlight, and whose service may not be widely known.

Frye spent her career as an educator, fundraiser and volunteer. She has served as vice president of community relations for WFMY News 2, a fundraiser at Bennett College and NC A&T State, and chair of the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation’s board of directors and the Guilford Technical Community College’s board of trustees, as well as a member of numerous other boards.

It was during Frye’s time on the board of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation that she helped to recruit a former judge to serve as the foundation’s executive director: Tom Ross, whom she had known for years, and who had served as the administrator of the state court system under her husband, former North Carolina chief justice Henry Frye.

So it was a family affair, that mid-May evening, as two friends were honored for their deep devotion to UNCG’s mission and motto: “Service.”

Lifelong friends, community servants
Alumni of Distinction

Every day, UNCG alumni are doing great things around the world, and they are exemplars of UNCG’s commitment to excellence, character and integrity. The Alumni of Distinction Awards honor alumni for exceptional achievement and significant contribution to their profession, community, society or university. For more information about the 2016 honorees, visit www.alumni.uncg.edu/awards.

Kelly Cherry ‘67 MFA Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award
Named Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2010, Kelly Cherry has written 27 works of poetry, fiction and nonfiction; has been published in more than 200 anthologies; and has authored more than 100 reviews. She received her master of fine arts degree from UNCG in 1967 under the mentorship of Fred Chappell and Robert Watson. Cherry served as an English professor at the University of Wisconsin – Madison until she retired in 1999.

David Huffine ‘84 Alumni Distinguished Service Award

Rebecca Kaslowski Cook ‘96 Alumni Distinguished Service Award

Nancye Baker Bryan ‘96 WC Legacy Award

Sarah Cole Jordan ‘96 WC Legacy Award

Main Street Makeover

Mayberry charm with a 21st-century design. That’s the vision of UNCG Interior Architecture Professor Jo Leimenstoll and her students as they embark on a three-year revitalization project with the North Carolina Dept. of Commerce’s NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center.

Leimenstoll’s team will work with 93 communities to redesign storefronts and vacate upper stories and develop best practices for local businesses. Liz Parham ’85, one of Leimenstoll’s first students, is the director of the NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center and serves as the liaison between the towns and the UNCG team. While Liz and Leimenstoll have always kept in touch, the two have never worked together in this capacity before.

“It’s great to work with Jo – she has the knowledge base and experience that we needed for this project,” Liz said. “The partnership is a wonderful opportunity to guide students into the field.”

Main Street Makeover

Professor Jo Leimenstoll (second from right) and students meet with a local business owner in downtown Mount Airy.

Ready for Some Football

As the weather begins to cool down, college football rivalries are heating back up. And this year, the Spartans are taking the field. UNCG Football, organized and run by students as a club sport, will play its first game on Sept. 17 at home against UNC Chapel Hill. For club president DiJon Mason, the vision for the team extends beyond the line of scrimmage. “We’ve definitely built a brotherhood. It’s cool to see people from all walks of life come together.”
Livestream the Installation Ceremony of Dr. Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., Friday, Oct. 7, beginning at 2 p.m. installation.uncg.edu/livestream

A CELEBRATION ON CAMPUS
The university will host an outdoor celebration Friday, Oct. 7, to mark this historic day in the life of the university. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of UNCG are invited. Enjoy live music, food trucks and a special time with your fellow Spartans. The celebration will begin at 3:30 p.m.

MEETING ALUMNI ACROSS THE NATION

THE PAST YEAR has been a time of getting to know the students ... of speaking with many faculty and staff in every part of the university ... and of reaching out to alumni and friends of UNCG in the Triad community and across the state. Chancellor Gilliam traveled 4,304 miles last year in meeting with 1,525 alumni and friends at “Meet the Chancellor” events. This year, he plans to expand this outreach, as he meets with alumni not only in North Carolina but in states far and wide. Here are some highlights:

Dates are subject to change. Visit alumni.uncg.edu for updated schedule and to RSVP.
READY TO SOAR All incoming new students experience summer orientation, known as “SOAR.” First stop? Join the line for room assignments. Soon they’ll be unpacking their belongings for their overnight stay on campus. And they’ll be making new friends, meeting professors and advisors, learning about their classes and getting tips on campus locations and traditions. Hey, whatever you do, don’t walk under the clock — we hear it’s not the way to good grades.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN W. KANE

“Straight lines go too quickly to appreciate the pleasures of the journey.”
– René Crevel
Stars and Stripes and Sousa forever

John Philip Sousa and his band brought their patriotic songs and zeal to campus in 1930. “It was the greatest concert band in the world at the time,” says Dr. John Locke, Marion Stedman Covington Distinguished Professor of Music.

On Oct. 20-21, UNCG Music will once again recreate a Sousa performance on the same stage — complete with replica uniforms purchased in 1995. And once again, Locke will transform into Sousa himself.

“He was known as the ‘March King,’” Locke explains. “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” “Semper Fidelis” and “The Washington Post” are among his best-known works.

“We’ll play six or seven marches in the course of the evening.”

He has researched Sousa and his band. He tells you Sousa first played Greensboro in 1902. His band was so popular, he could hire the very best musicians. And they had a wide-ranging repertoire.

“It was music as entertainment.”

When The North Carolina College for Women’s new auditorium on Tate Street provided a large enough venue to bring him to campus, Sousa was 76. It was his final Greensboro show.

What does he admire in Sousa?

“Everything about Sousa appeals to me. He’s an icon — the Babe Ruth of band music.”

Locke has conducted UNCG bands since 1982. By the end of that decade, he recalls, his bands had put on their first Sousa concert.

They took their Sousa show to Washington D.C.’s Kennedy Center in 1992. “We were the only band doing this.”

Expect spirited crowds this fall. “It’s always been wildly popular. We’ll fill the auditorium twice.”

2016-17 PERFORMING ARTS SERIES • TRIBUTE TO JOHN PHILIP SOUSA, Oct. 20 & 21, 2016 • NEW YORK POLYPHONY, Nov. 11, 2016 • CELLIST LYNN HARRELL, Dec. 3, 2016 • BILL T. JONES/ARNE ZANE DANCE COMPANY, Feb. 3, 2017 • JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MARSALIS, April 20, 2017 • Details at performingarts.uncg.edu/upas.
World class

Academic excellence has always been the cornerstone of UNCG. And while the classroom may look different today – sometimes it’s a concert hall or an online discussion board – the goal remains the same: provide an exceptional learning experience that impacts not only our students, but ultimately the greater community.

“WHEN I THINK ABOUT my first few years at UNCG as an assistant professor in the late 1980s, I think about the incredible mentorship I received, particularly from Dr. Nicholas Vacc and Dr. Jack Bardon. Wow, what an impact they had on my development! Dr. Vacc and Dr. Bardon encouraged me to find something I was passionate about and to not only pursue excellence, but to truly make an impact.”

– Dr. L. DiAnne Borders ’72, Burlington Industries Excellence Professor, Dept. of Counseling and Educational Development

At UNCG, we take pride in our legacy of excellence – from top academic programs to research that helps save lives. But how is excellence measured? Sometimes, it’s with hard data and national recognition. Other times, it’s with personal transformation or impact on a community. When you’re a Spartan, you can see the evidence of excellence across campus and beyond… And it all starts in the classroom.

I loved – and still love – everything about the MFA in creative writing program at UNCG. Lee Zacharias and Michael Parker were terrific workshop leaders, kind and painstaking. Tom Kirby-Smith’s publishing course has been of great practical value, as well as working on The Greensboro Review, a literary magazine published by the program, with Jim Clark. Some of the happiest hours of my life were those spent ‘reading slush’ for The Greensboro Review.

– Kelly Link ’95 MFA, Finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction

Randall Jarrell, Robert Watson, Fred Chappell, Claudia Emerson. When you think about the professors and students who have built the legacy of UNCG’s renowned creative writing program – one of the oldest such programs in the U.S. – the list goes on and on. Another name for the celebrated listing? Kelly Link.
UNCG WAS 1 OF 13 PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS NATIONWIDE TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENROLLING AND GRADUATING PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

44% OF UNCG STUDENTS RECEIVE PELL GRANTS, AWARDED TO STUDENTS IN FINANCIAL NEED

THE UNCG PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE WAS 1 OF 3 WINNERS IN THE PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY’S 2015 INTERNATIONAL PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE COMPETITION

LOOKING BACK, UNCG Guarantee gave me the space and support I needed to explore. As a first-generation college student, I wasn’t aware of all the learning opportunities outside of the classroom. During my second day on campus, I worked on a service project in Greensboro. Seeing how I – a first-generation, low-income, minority student – could help a community was life-changing. From that point on, I knew I could make a difference.

Now as a staff member, I’m able to see that UNCG’s commitment to opportunity and access doesn’t end with UNCG Guarantee – it’s in the fabric of the university, whose motto of ‘Servio’ dates back to 1893. This program gave me so much hope as a student, and now I get to extend that hope to others. I get so much joy from witnessing the success and triumphs of the students I work with. To see the smiles on their faces when they have beaten the odds is such a blessing.

– Tyshea Lewis ’13, ’16 MEd was the first graduate of UNCG Guarantee, a selective scholarship program for high-achieving students with limited means. She currently serves as coordinator of the program.
Going global

It’s a small world, and it’s getting even smaller for Spartans. So where can you find students studying, researching and exploring abroad? From Uruguay to Thailand and beyond, here’s a sampling of exchange partnerships and faculty-led programs.

IN MAY, UNCG AWARDED DEGREES TO 84 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REPRESENTING 33 COUNTRIES – THE LARGEST GROUP IN UNCG HISTORY.

270 UNCG STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS LAST YEAR – A NEARLY 30% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

UNCG has more than 180 exchange partnerships with international universities. As a member of International Student Exchange Programs, UNCG works with an additional 300+ institutions.

LAST YEAR, UNCG WELCOMED 167 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS REPRESENTING 23 COUNTRIES.

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Research for the real world

When you think about excellence in research, you think about research that makes a tangible impact. It’s research that leads to cures, impacts the bottom line or changes our understanding of the world. At the heart of UNCG research lies just that – a passion for solving real-world problems and making a difference in the lives of others.

DETECTING CONCUSSIONS IN COMBAT
Over the past 15 years, nearly 350,000 military service members have suffered from traumatic brain injury (TBI). The inability to detect TBI in the field, specifically concussions, is a growing concern for the military. Thankfully, UNCG’s Dr. Chris Rhea has a solution, and it takes just 70 seconds. Last spring, the Dept. of Defense awarded Rhea a nearly $1 million grant to develop a smartphone app to detect concussions in the field. The app’s 70-second test may also be applied to sport-related concussions in the future.

“The spirit that everything we do has a clinical application that contributes to the greater good,” Rhea said. “This project is a perfect example of that.”

FINDING A CURE IN FUNGI
Since 2010, UNCG’s Natural Products and Drug Discovery Center has received 20 collaborative grants – totaling $5.7 million – to advance its mission of developing treatments for cancer and infectious disease. The center’s most recent success? Identifying a fungal compound that has shown effectiveness against drug-resistant bacterial infections and is the subject of a recent patent.

INVESTIGATING ADHD
Thanks to a $3.2 million grant funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education, Dr. Arthur D. Anastopoulos is conducting the first large, multi-site, randomized controlled trial of any non-medication intervention for college students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

“College is a fork in the road, especially for students with ADHD,” said Anastopoulos, a professor and director of UNCG’s ADHD Clinic. “Through our research, we want to flip the switch on the tracks and increase the chance that these students follow an upward trajectory to successful adulthood.”

UNCG IS 1 OF 5 UNIVERSITIES IN THE U.S. TO RECEIVE THE 2015 ACTIVE MINDS HEALTHY CAMPUS AWARD

INNOVATION
UNCG is one of only 37 doctoral universities in the U.S. distinguished by the Carnegie Foundation for both higher research activity and community engagement.

Teaching to transform

THE CLASSROOM is an arena of discovery. For me, excellent teaching isn’t about the conveyance of information – it’s about working collaboratively with students to help them think critically and imaginatively in new ways. My favorite moments are when students say, ‘I never thought about it that way before.’ That’s how I know that my teaching methods are effective – when students start to imagine the world in new ways.

I think the biggest challenge for teachers in 2016 is also the biggest opportunity: new media technologies. While I still believe the best class is the old-fashioned ‘talk and chalk’ seminar, I love to experiment with technology. It’s important to create a relaxed, playful environment where students feel engaged but not stressed out. New technologies help create this kind of environment, and that’s really exciting.

In working with fellow faculty through UNCG’s University Teaching & Learning Commons, I’ve seen firsthand the innovative teaching practices that take place across campus and the value of taking risks in the classroom. The Board of Governors award is such an honor because it serves as proof that these risks are recognized and encouraged.

– Dr. Gregory Grieve, an associate professor of religious studies, is the 2016 recipient of the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

DETECTING CONCUSSIONS
IN COMBAT

UNCG’S Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness – the campus’s new, 216,000-square-foot wellness facility – officially opened its doors in August. But UNCG’s commitment to health extends far beyond the building’s walls. From promoting mental health awareness to our top-ranked programs in the health sciences, UNCG is leading the way in holistic well-being.
A SHORTLEAF PINE RISES beside a roadway at the edge of UNCG’s Peabody Park. “That’s the Champion Tree,” Keith Watkins ’15 says. It’s the oldest tree on campus. It’s graced the campus since 1837, the year Martin Van Buren succeeded Andrew Jackson as president. The nation gained a 26th state. A young Victoria became queen of England. News of a clash at the Alamo was still fresh.

“It looks like a normal tree,” he says. “But look how high up the lowest limbs are.” It has survived clearing for agriculture as well as the building over the decades, Keith says. It has survived hurricanes and ice storms. Dr. Paul Knapp, professor of geography, notes its short needles make it less susceptible to toppling during storms. It made it through the building of the nearby road. It even survived the building of the sidewalk a few feet from the trunk. It’s endured countless rainstorms and droughts. It’s a robust survivor.

Keith has doggedly and methodically determined the age of UNCG’s oldest trees since 2014. He won a UNCG Undergraduate Research and Creativity Award grant to find out just how old they are. He marvels at what that one, small grant did for him. “I was able to do real research on it. It wasn’t the money so much; it gave me the initiative. To find one more than 175 years old, it made it all worthwhile.”

He presented the eye-opening results at the 2015 Carolyn and Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research & Creativity Expo on campus. He won the top award for biology-related projects, inspiring him to continue the research. Now, he’s a master’s student in geography, continuing his work.

On this summer morning, he leads a small tour to some of the oldest and most remarkable trees on campus. Doctoral student Thomas Patterson, whose research focuses on old longleaf pines in the Uwharrie Mountains, is there, as is Knapp, UNCG’s Carolina Tree Ring Lab founder and director. Much of Knapp’s research involves determining patterns of droughts and the reconstruction of severe storms in the U.S. using tree rings.

Other old trees are a short walk away from The Champion. One split long ago. Knapp calls it Twin Peaks. “This is 1859. I think it was struck by lightning. That’s why it split,” says Knapp.

When Keith started, he and Knapp had suspected that the pines south of Shaw — enjoyed by everyone passing on Walker Avenue — were the oldest trees on campus. The one nearest Shaw? “This lean is pretty pronounced,” Keith says, and gestures to the top. “You get a twist, a bend. It

UNCG was the first in the UNC system to be a “Tree Campus USA.” Just how old are some of these majestic trees we enjoy? One young alumnus unveils the surprising answer. BY MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE

14 trees so far are proven to be older than the university."
Back at the lab

**THE CORE IS** thinner than your pinky. Once sanded, the rings are remarkably defined. Keith places the tulip poplar sample under the lab’s microscope. He lightly marks each decade with a pencil, a time-honored system. “It’s about 1927. Huge rings — it sucked the water up (from the creek) like a straw.”

Later, he will make a high-resolution digital scan. The rings will align with the rings from other area trees. They form a sort of calendar. With a glance, he can look at a sample and know which decade he is looking at.

Thomas, also working in the lab, explains that floorboards and beams of old houses can sometimes be dated due to the pattern of their “rings.” An experienced researcher can see the patterns and know they match the distinct pattern for a certain decade in that region. You can read planted wood like a calendar.

Keith opens a drawer showing lines of samples, each numbered. They have been scanned. He carefully pulls out a sample from The Champion. And he pulls up the scan. He shows the tree’s history decade by decade. The darker latewood, showing later-summer growth. The lighter early-wood, showing spring to mid-summer growth. They vary — revealing weather patterns and other stresses. “We measure it down to 1,000th of a millimeter in these scans.”

Keith has not finished yet. He has not only documented history. He’s seeing the campus’s history — one tree ring at a time.

**3 signs a tree may be old:**
- The trunk is twisted or leaning and the upper canopy is gnarled.
- The tree’s crown is flattened or relatively small.
- The lower limbs have disappeared, perhaps due to ice storms over the decades.

The only way to know for sure is to count the rings.

Source: UNCG Carolina Tree Ring Lab

A map of distinctive trees is available to visitors to Foust Park.

**Fall foliage at Foust**

“THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT FOUTS PARK.”

Anneliese Hitchco ’14 should know. As a student, she led the initiative for a map of all the best trees in the park. A map kiosk at the corner of the park near Alumni House greets visitors.

She loves the park in the spring, but perhaps fall shows Foust at its best, she adds. “When you walk the main walkways, you see all the different trees and colors, you just feel at home at UNCG.”

The tree mapping project set her on her career path, with a double major in environmental studies and geography, and a concentration in Geographic Information Science. “Working with Kevin Siler (UNCG Grounds’ arbor point person) changed my life, with his passion for trees.”

UNCG Grounds and Facilities Design & Construction played big roles in the map and the kiosk with map fliers.

Anneliese’s favorite tree? Number six on the tour — Harry Luders Walking Stick. The small tree is at the corner of College Avenue and Spring Garden Street. “It looks like a bush. It catches your eye. The leaves are really fuzzy.” She now works for the Forestry Department of the Department of Defense. She studies the effects of controlled burns in the Everglades and wildfires on the Fort Bragg ecosystems. Most trees there are pines.

She relishes the impact her student project still has. “I hope it inspires anyone to stop and look at the grounds. You fall in love with the campus landscape. Stop and smell the roses.” Or in this case, the magnolia blossoms.
Leslie leads a science experiment during a model lesson at Allen Middle School. She mentors 25 new lateral entry teachers each year.

Teach. Lead. Excel.

For Leslie Ross ’97, ’08 MEd, becoming a successful science teacher, mentor and education advocate means taking on big challenges.

Because of her work in high-need schools, she’s won a prestigious national award, been asked to speak to the nation’s top education policy makers and was even invited to a lunch at the White House with President Barack Obama. But those aren’t the things that motivate her to do her job well.

“Teaching is a work of the heart,” Leslie said. “Kids who struggle the most and come from the greatest disadvantage deserve that more than anyone.”

Students in high-need schools often don’t have many books growing up and rarely have the experiences that their middle class peers have.

“Schools shouldn’t be the place where the disadvantage continues. It should be the safest place,” she said. “You offer them the best experience for the 180 days you have them. It should be the best 90 minutes you can deliver in order to level that playing field.”

Based on her own experiences growing up, Leslie can relate to many of these students on a very personal level.

“Teaching at high-need schools means the world to me,” Leslie said. “That’s what I came from. I lived in subsidized housing as a child. I’m not far from where these kids are.”

Leslie, along with three other teachers from high-need schools, was invited to lunch with then Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and President Barack Obama in the White House’s Blue Room.

“For Leslie Ross ’97, ’08 MEd, becoming a successful science teacher, mentor and education advocate means taking on big challenges.”

“Teaching is a work of the heart. Kids who struggle the most and come from the greatest disadvantage deserve that more than anyone.”
housed. I was the kid who wasn’t as well groomed.”

But Leslie had teachers who invested in her and encouraged her to do great things. Now, she’s passing it on.

**Realizing her gifts**

Despite missing 41 days of her senior year of high school and graduating with a grade point average below a 2.0, Leslie was determined to attend a four-year university. She was accepted with special provisions at UNCW Wilmington.

“I didn’t find my place academically until college,” she said. “I was a lot more capable than I had given myself credit for.”

The first in her family to attend college, Leslie declared English as her major and had a concentration in science education. She also extended her license to cover grades six through nine.

All I wanted to teach was science,” she said. Leslie took a job teaching earth and environmental science at Ben L. Smith High School.

“Twenty-five of kids.”

Having overcome a number of unique challenges along the way. A pregnancy and an out-of-state move caused her to withdraw from the program in early 2012. But when Aliyah and her family returned to North Carolina, she continued to press toward her goals, completing her associate’s degree at Guilford Technical Community College and resuming her studies at UNCG.

The Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education hosts a rigorous program, but faculty members like Marilyn Puddly made sure Aliyah was on the road to success, allowing her to work her way back into the program when she returned to UNCG in 2014.

“They really expect a lot out of you,” Aliyah said. “They provided lots of opportunities for us to grow, to question, to challenge, to really think.”

“I loved each experience. I feel prepared enough to be put anywhere. You leave that program ready.”

ALIHYA PRONTAUT ’16 has just begun her first year teaching, and the 20-some first graders in her class at Hopewell Elementary School in Trinity couldn’t be in better hands.

While juggling life as a wife and mother, Aliyah earned a 3.98 grade point average, presented at a statewide conference for math teachers, mentored fellow students and received the highest academic honor for under-graduates at UNCG – the Student Excellence Award. The May 2016 graduate was even offered an early contract with Randolph County Schools.

Aliyah completed student teaching assignments in fourth, second and first grade classrooms. In addition, she spent three and a half weeks teaching at an international school in Finland.

“I loved each experience. I feel prepared enough to be put anywhere. You leave that program ready.”

“Your classroom.”

**Finding her voice**

In 2012, Leslie was selected from more than 400 teachers in 39 states to receive the first annual Fishman Prize, an award given by The New Teacher Project to teachers working in high-needs schools. The honor was accompanied by a $25,000 prize and a five-week summer residency.

Ross and the other teachers traveled the nation, met with Department of Education leaders, published essays on teaching and learned from each other. Spending time with the other Fishman Prize winners “continued on page 33

Even though she was teaching high school students, Leslie used similar tactics to those she learned at UNCG for elementary students.

“It was all about engagement,” she said, explaining that it was all about what she enjoyed doing and getting those kids to be passionate about science,” she said.

Although there were relatively few resources at Ben L. Smith High School, Leslie was excited to impact a large number of minority students who are underrepresented in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. She wrote numerous grants and received thousands of dollars of funding for the school’s science department.

The following year, Leslie launched a brand new biology class for second-semester freshmen. Her fellow teachers advised against teaching such a difficult class to younger students, but her academic coach encouraged her to take it on.

“Your classroom.”

Leslie’s first group of students had a 95 percent pass rate – unheard of for Ben L. Smith High School or any other school in the region. Two later classes had 100 percent pass rates.

“Your classroom.”

**Ready for anything**

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“It’s a neat puzzle. You have to figure out what kids need and how you’re going to meet their needs.”

Kasey Lynn Schmidt ’16

Kasey was using that insight to help general educators customize lesson plans for students with disabilities at Southeast Middle School in Kernersville. She also works in a resource classroom, where she gives those students personalized, one-on-one lessons.

“It’s a neat puzzle,” she said. “You have to figure out what kids need and how you’re going to meet their needs.”

Kasey is driven by the little victories in the classroom, such as when a student masters a sight word list or finishes their sight word list or finishes their homework.

“I was such a casual conversation. I wasn’t nervous after the first few minutes,” she said. “It was such a casual conversation. I wasn’t nervous after the first few minutes.”

Expanding her reach

Despite the national recognition, Leslie is still impacting students at home in Greensboro. Not long after winning the Fulbright Prize, Leslie returned to Allen Middle School, this time as Guilford County’s middle school science curriculum coach.

“I got to work directly with teachers in that role, which I expanded my reach,” Leslie said. “Before, I was only teaching 60 to 70 kids per year. In that position, I had the ability to impact 600 to 700 kids.”

She also started a mentoring program for African-American and Hispanic males, wrote grants for teachers and served as a testing coordinator. But the more involved she became in testing, the less time Leslie was able to spend in the classroom mentoring teachers.

So, in December of 2015, Leslie accepted a job as a lateral-entry specialist for Guilford County Schools. Now, she’s in the classroom at least four days a week working with 25 different teachers at 15 different schools. She also teaches curriculum to lateral-entry teachers who come one day a week and over the summer.

“Twy-five classrooms are influenced by what I’m doing that’s hundreds of kids,” she said. Even though she doesn’t have her own classroom anymore, Leslie relies heavily on her training at UNCG as she trains new, lateral-entry teachers in Guilford County Schools.

“Becoming a teacher at UNCG really influenced who I am today,” she said. “I was such a casual conversation. I wasn’t nervous after the first few minutes.”

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Despite her dislike of public speaking, Leslie realized she had an obligation to her profession to be more vocal about what teachers and students need.

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Money, saving, credit: alumni share their experiences with undergraduates

Sometimes it’s great to hear from others’ experiences. Especially when you’re leaving college and the topic is money and credit cards.

The students enjoyed the mentoring from alumni and received real-world advice about money and the value of saving. Alumni wanted to connect with the next generation of students, and they did.

There were candid questions. And real-world answers.

They asked about credit scores. Do you pay for it? What exactly affects your credit rating? They asked about different options for student loan repayment. What would happen if you maxed out a credit card? Some good ways to budget? How do you say no to your friends when you want to do something expensive, and you want to save?

Buying a new car straight out of school? “Maybe not a good idea,” said Eric Durham.

Eric has been involved in the alumni association since graduating and enjoyed sharing his experiences. The students seemed eager to learn. He was in their shoes just a few years ago, he explained.

To have known many of the financial topics discussed at the event before I graduated would have been a great help.

Interested in participating next time? Email cgjosey@uncg.edu. Students Savannah Smith and Monique Davis, 1-r

The series returns this fall. Details are at www.alumni.uncg.edu.

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Share your news
Visit us online and click on "Submit a class note."

You can also mail your information to Class Notes, UNCG Alumni Engagement, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.

1940s
HIRLAIN HAMMAR '48 was featured in an article in the Stettine News about her experiences with a music therapist that enabled her to begin playing the piano again. She performed on Christmas Eve at Meals Horse for the enjoyment of the residents who sang Christmas carols.

1950s
MARY LOUISE MOORE CARRINGTON '54 was honored with a plaque from the Georgia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognizing her hard work and dedication. Tally retired from the Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinic after 15 years of service but continued to serve as a dietary consultant at St. John Towers Wesley Home in Augusta. She and her husband, Robert J. “Bob” Fisher, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 2015.

MARY STYTON '50 and her husband, Dwight Bickett, are approaching their 50th wedding anniversary. Helen’s husband, Sam, died in 1992, and Dwight’s wife died in 2007. Helen and Dwight first met in 1950 during church activities, and their families have been good friends ever since. Helen retired shortly after their marriage, following a successful career as executive director of a social service agency in Raleigh. Mr. Dwight is a retired consulting actuary and once served as chief actuary of the U.S. Social Security Administration.

CAROLLE HARRISON ‘50 received Sampson Community College Foundation’s Sampson Classic Service Award. Carole served as a trustee of Sampson Community College from 1993 until 2015. She most recently served on the foundation board and the executive committee.

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1970s
PRESIDENT EMORY '70 was seeking his third term on the Johnson County (N.C.) Board of Education. He is coordinator, master of school administration, at Campbell University.

PHILIP STOUTE ‘71 was named February’s “Cook of the Month” by The Times-News of Burlington, N.C. He specializes in French cooking, often served to Centreville French members. The group meets monthly to speak French and sample food.

NOVEMBER '70 serves on the boards for Maysville Community College, Spross Public Library and Camp Spring Creek, which serves children with dyslexia. Nancy has been a business volunteer for 17 years. She retired in 2003 as an educator in Mitchell County, N.C.

DIANNA HENRY '71 received a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from The Sanford (S.C.) Herald. She was cited for developing her life to the service of others. She has worked for a number of years to serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at BAYTWO (Helping Abuse and Violence End Now) of Lee County.

JIM BORTH '73, a singer-songwriter, performed at the Capri Theater in Gaffney, S.C. In addition to his original songs, he performs classic country, folk, bluegrass, and gospel songs. His sons – Scott and Seth – are the primary members of the Asstd Brothers band. Jim’s daughter, Bonnie Borth Bax, is a vocalist and sings harmony with her dad in performances.

DONNA KIMBRO ‘72, ‘78 MED and daughter of Dr. Erica Lane Fields ‘08 and Charles Crain were married March 29, 2015.

Donna graduated from the University of Houston to increase graduation rates. She formerly was vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Tennessee Board of Regents for 12 years.

EMMYLOU HARRIS ‘69X has been touring this year, performing (among other venues) Dylan Fest Nashville, Telluride Bluegrass Festival and Bluegrass in Asheville, N.C. Her Grammy Award-winning albums “Working in the Fields,” originally released in 1995, received its first worldwide vinyl release on Record Store Day 2015, re-mastered and pressed on three 180-gram discs at Record Industry along with several bonus tracks. A member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1973, Emmylou was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008.

ALUMNI MARRIAGES
JENNIFER HOUSER KLIFE '60 and Charles Crain were married March 29, 2015.

JULIA JOEY HENDRICKS '63 and Thomas Halsey were married April 1, 1963.

LINDA SMITH FIELDS ‘67, ‘93 MED and daughter of Dr. Erica Lane Fields ‘08 and Charles Crain were married March 29, 2015.

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MARIANNE DYSON ’77

PHILLIP HARRIS IV ’76

BECKY FREEMAN NORKUS ’75

DONNA STEELE HONEYCUTT ’75

JANE FINCH ’75

DAVID ELLIOTT ’75

KAYE PRIDGEN CROOK ’74

RICK FORRESTER ’73

years.

the Alamance-Burlington district for eight

the year in 2014 for Wake County and the

education with Wake County Schools. She

after a 30-year career teaching physical

2000, he was vice president of corporate

Parcel Service. At his retirement in

Phillip is a retired executive from United

Joint Choral Review in Greensboro.

has composed a Lenten

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MARGARET HEEDINSON FINCH is comptroller at Dover Memorial Hospital in Southport, N.C. She has more than

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CATHERINE PIKE PLOUGH ’83

VICTORIA ALLEN ’14

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CATHERINE PIKE PLOUGH ’83

elective director of the American Red Cross, Blue

Ridge-Piedmont Chapter. She presented her first lecture at the University of North Carolina,

performance at J.R. Reynolds High School

Lew taught in Matthews for 35 years. He

is the past chairman of the board of

National Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

work on this course as an art in the

the Greensboro Review.

and for-profit organizations. She previously

financial management within non-profit

have responsibility for the corporation’s

worldwide communications-strategy and

execution, including media relations,

companies, advertising, executive

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to the Bone-Eating Snotflower,” was a poet in the John and Penny Barr Poetry Seminary. She is passionate about race, human development at Johns Hopkins University. She is currently the coordinator of Theatre Design and Technology at the University of Central Florida.

DEBORAH WOODWARD ‘84 MA is the recipe developer for the Opera” in the Broadway company for a successful run of “The Phantom of Las Vegas Spectacular.” He starred in “The Pink Panther Show” and has performed as part of its popular music series. The book, “Every Counselor Needs to Know,” at an event for the new president of Campbell University. He previously was a member of the North Carolina Fifth District congressional seat. She is running for her term began in 2012. Before beginning his political career, he was a financial consultant and registered investment advisor for an accounting firm. He had made his living as a private investor.

DAVID DI COURO ‘79 is a candidate for the North Carolina State Treasurer. An eight-year veteran of the NC House of Representatives, he served as the Speaker Pro Tempore from 2011 to 2012. Before beginning his political career, he was a financial consultant and registered investment advisor for an accounting firm. He had made his living as a private investor.

KIMBERLY PARRISH ‘62 is a candidate for the North Carolina State Treasurer. She has been a financial consultant and registered investment advisor for an accounting firm. She had made her living as a private investor.

ROBIN SNIPES HAGER ’84, ‘86 MS is provost at McDowell Technical Community College in Statesville (N.C.) Historical Collection of the 1990s

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KEITH LEE MORRIS ’96

KEVIN S. WARNER ’96, chair of the Department of Community Education, has been named chair of the Board of Directors for the N.C. Restaurant Development and Lodging Association. He currently serves on the UNC Board of Governors.

BARRY J. HAMPTON ’96, a former member of the N.C. House District 53 district was appointed as chair of the Healthy Relationships Education Project, an initiative designed to help parents and other educators. One band director is credited with helping as many as 800 slaves escape. Chris also has a recurring role as "young Lucius Fox.”

DUFFY RUSSELL ’96, a member of the UNCG Alumni Association, recently taught first grade at Thomasville Road Elementary School in Kernersville. He has been named an Outstanding Educator by the City of Winston-Salem. Russell has been a teacher for three years and has taught at Thomasville Road Elementary School since 2015. He was the school superintendent for the Alamance-Burlington School System.

JASON JENKINS ’96

A native of Greensboro, Jenkins co-hosts the “Darrin’s Bench” show on K-107. Jenkins has been named dean of the faculty for the堵城 (India) University. His four other books of fiction include "The Little Land," "The Daring Land," and "The Sporting Land."

KEVIN KELLOGG ’96

Kellogg is the director of bands for the Lodging Association. He currently serves as restaurant developer in the Southeast. He is responsible for nearly 300 restaurants and is the largest real estate development effort in the Southeast. His company recently received the Restaurant of the Year Award from the N.C. Restaurant & Lodging Association. He currently serves on the UNC Board of Governors.

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KAREN ALLRED '07 DMA is an English professor at Guilford College, where she holds a master’s degree in education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has received national recognition for her work in education and has received a Community 40 Under 40 list. She is president and owner of Inktastic Media, a social media agency, and has a weekly online travel show, Travel Noire TV. She is considered to be one of the top travel influencers and is the executive director of Travel Noire, a company that promotes travel and tourism opportunities for Black professionals. She is the executive director of the National Association to Promote the Arts, a national arts advocacy group, and is considered to be one of the leading voices on arts and culture in the United States.

MADISON ADAMS '05 is the town manager in Tomato, N.C. He previously served as a captain in the U.S. Army and has held various roles in government and public service. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar and has worked in various capacities in local government, including as a deputy commissioner for the NC Department of Commerce. He is the co-founder of the Tomato Community Development Corporation and is currently serving as the town manager. He is a graduate of the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law and holds a master’s degree in public administration from the UNC Chapel Hill School of Government.

MADISON ROCKS '05 is a prominent figure in the world of travel and tourism. He is the CEO of Travel Noire, a company that promotes travel and tourism opportunities for Black professionals. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar and has worked in various capacities in local government, including as a deputy commissioner for the NC Department of Commerce. He is the co-founder of the Tomato Community Development Corporation and is currently serving as the town manager. He is a graduate of the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law and holds a master’s degree in public administration from the UNC Chapel Hill School of Government.

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Graduations

NICHOLAS COOK ’13 is an assistant professor of English at the University of St. Thomas. She was featured in an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for her program to provide professional coaching to high school students in City and Apsen through the use of a mobile media cart.

AUDREY COOK ’16 has a series of pottery workshops at the Charleston Waterfront Convention Center. Kathy received a Regional Arts Project Grant in 2014. With her husband, she continued her research and development of her clayworks. The finished pieces were submitted into the Ann Menner Memorial National Medal Metal Clay Exhibition at the 2016 Small Works Show Exhibition at the Chattle Galleries in Iowa City. She plans to pursue her master’s degree.

BRYN HOWARD ’17, a filmmaker, discussed the Film of the Month series at St. Andrews University in Greensboro. He is serving as intern with the Studio 4. Steve made his first feature film debut as a director, producer and co-star of “The American Dreamer” recently released in Iowa.

MEGAN HUFF ’14, a registered pharmacist, graduated from the College of Pharmacy at Washington University. She relocated to Charleston, S.C. Brent self-financed the production of his “The Odyssey of Destiny” with friends and family. The film was released on Alabama Public Television in 2015. He was selected to represent the Southern Film Slate at the 2015/Mid-South South Film Slate at the 2015/North Carolina Film Slate.

Andrea Reed ’14 MFA has been named press assistant for Congressman G.K. Benjamin in Washington, D.C., office. He is receiving a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee.

JORDUN LAWRENCE ’13 was named to the Greensboro News & Observer for her program to study abroad at the University of Pikeville, Ky. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

KATHY COOK ’13 and MARIANNE COCKROFT ’13 PHD in sociology and economics. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree in social work.

DAN MINER ’17, a local artist, has exhibited his work in the Greensboro Regional Arts Center. The exhibit opening was on July 1, 2016. The film was released on Alabama Public Television in April 2015. It was selected to represent the Southern Film Slate at the 2015/Mid-South South Film Slate at the 2015/North Carolina Film Slate.

CLIFFORD PARODY ’15 MFA was selected to participate in the Small Works Show Exhibition of the Chattle Galleries in Iowa City. She plans to pursue her master’s degree in education of students in developing communities.

JIMMIE TULL ’16, a New York actor, has been featured in the South Carolina Theatre. The exhibit opening was on July 1, 2016. The film was released on Alabama Public Television in April 2015. It was selected to represent the Southern Film Slate at the 2015/Mid-South South Film Slate at the 2015/North Carolina Film Slate.

LORRAINE BRIDGES ’15 has been named to the Greensboro News & Observer for her program to study abroad at the University of Pikeville, Ky. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree in social work.

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ANNA LEIGH COWAN ’11 AND DOMINIQUE RYAN was named to the Greensboro News & Observer for her program to study abroad at the University of Pikeville, Ky. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree in social work.

FOY AVIS INGRAM ’23C graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She was featured in an article in the News & Observer for her program to provide professional coaching to high school students in City and Apsen through the use of a mobile media cart.

ANNE BOWMAN ’13 and MICHAEL DOWNS ’13 have been named to the Greensboro News & Observer for their program to study abroad at the University of Pikeville, Ky. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree in social work.

BARBARA JEAN TIMBERLAKE ’48

Marjorie Johnson was featured in an article in the News & Observer for her program to provide professional coaching to high school students in City and Apsen through the use of a mobile media cart.

AFLAC INSURANCE AGENCY

Alma Davis is a real estate agent. She was featured in an article in the News & Observer for her program to provide professional coaching to high school students in City and Apsen through the use of a mobile media cart.

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BAXTER RIDDLEBERGER ’14 has been named to the Greensboro News & Observer for her program to study abroad at the University of Pikeville, Ky. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree in social work.

BETH BYRNE ’18, a Ph.D. student in sociology and economics. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree in social work.

BRIAN KINNARD ’12 has been named to the Greensboro News & Observer for her program to study abroad at the University of Pikeville, Ky. She received a Master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree in social work.

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W.B. Aydelette opened his shop on the corner of Spring Garden Street and Forest Avenue. We all scream for ice cream

His family continues the ice cream legacy today.
LEGACY!

Just as education is invaluable, so is the gift of legacy.

If you are an alumnus and have a high school junior or senior looking at colleges, bring them to experience true Spartan pride during Homecoming at this year’s Legacy Reception.

Whether they are a daughter, grandson, niece or sibling, celebrate together the university legacy that you share. Seize the opportunity to enjoy food, fun and great giveaways, and talk to staff from the Office of Admissions and members of the Alumni Association. Admission is free.

UNCG LEGACY RECEPTION
Saturday, Oct. 22, 2-4 p.m.
Elliott University Center
RSVP via uncglegacy.com