HERE, I’M HOME

Art student Jessica Rambo has found a circle of fellow veterans here at the G
news front
University and alumni news and notes
out take
Bands of Sparta show their pep
the studio
Arts and entertainment
Mission to Mentor
Alumni who are military veterans are joining with student veterans on campus, for support and camaraderie. The numbers at these informal gatherings are growing.
Must Be the Place
Here, generation after generation, students find their passion, their career, their friends for life, their destiny. And everyone seems to have their most meaningful spots on campus.
Super Journey
Emily Gordon earned two degrees from UNCG and worked in the UNCG Writing Center. She took all those skills on her personal and career journey – all the way to the Oscars' red carpet.
Spartans' Time to Shout
Last season, the Spartan community was caught up in basketball excitement, as the men's team reached the NCAA Tournament. This year's season is only weeks away.
legacies
Historic endowment by 62 sisters of Nu Rho chapter of AKA sorority – and impactful gifts by Marion Lois Prescott Wray '56, Faye Young Eury '56 and Lynn Eury, and the late Bonnie Angelo '44.
grad tidings
Lots of class notes and pictures, too

MANY HANDS The halls of Moss Street Partnership School in Reidsville were filled with a flurry of activity on a summer day weeks before students arrived. Volunteers from UNC Greensboro and the community helped teachers prepare classrooms for the school's first incoming class. The volunteers ensured all teachers and support staff would be fully equipped with supplies.

Enhanced magazine website!
Visit alumni.uncg.edu to enjoy the digital version of the magazine in both photo-rich stories you can easily share on social media and PDF format. While there, you can also submit a class note, view video clips or click on archives to see former issues.
We have much to celebrate this fall: record enrollment, incredible new faculty and staff, a growing research enterprise, historic athletic success on and off the field, a reputation that is gaining visibility across the region. We have taken Giant Steps at UNC Greensboro. So what’s next?

I have been exploring the idea of “inflection points.” It’s the turning point after which dramatic change is expected. That is where we stand today at UNCG—at an inflection point. We are poised to become a national model for how a university can blend opportunity, excellence and impact to transform the lives of individual students while at the same time making a major contribution to the prosperity of the state. Our road map is clear:

- Tenaciously commit ourselves to student success;
- Continue to hire and support the best faculty who are, on balance, committed to both innovative instruction and impactful research;
- Advance our impact through scholarship, research and community engagement;
- Be a regional leader through our Millennial Campus focused on health and wellness, arts and culture;
- Elevate alumni pride in having a degree from UNCG and create more opportunities for new student Brandon Totten, who plans to double major in media studies and English, the program helped him develop a community of friends and mentors. He also formed good study habits that will be critical to his success. “I went to the study sessions every day,” he says. “When you see the results of the time you put in, it makes you want to continue those habits in the fall.”

The program will continue throughout the year, with students living in the same residence experience. Students will continue those habits in the fall.

“While growing, we tried to maintain the focus on that hands-on experience.”

-- Dr. Rod Wyatt, senior director of college completion initiatives

In 2017, UNC Greensboro’s CHANCE program hosted 61 Latino and Hispanic high-school students for a three-day college immersion experience on the UNCG campus. The summer program exposed students to classroom experiences, leadership development, course registration, campus organizations, workshops, panel discussions and a college residence experience.

Now in its second year, CHANCE has shown its dedication to making college a reality for Latino and Hispanic students by nearly doubling attendance, expanding programming and extending its duration to five days. The 2018 CHANCE program hosted 110 Latino and Hispanic students and saw support from all over the University.

“This year, every academic school in the college is involved in some capacity,” said Dr. Rod Wyatt, senior director of college completion initiatives. “While growing, we tried to maintain the focus on that hands-on experience.”

CHANCE is funded in large part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of the Frontier Set initiative. As one of 31 Frontier Set schools, UNCG was selected to further a number of initiatives with the aim of identifying successful strategies to improve graduation rates, especially for low-income and first-generation students and students of color.

“Our main goal is to help these students envision themselves as university students,” said Dr. Amy Williamsen, head of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. “Many didn’t think they could make it to college, but every one of the 36 eligible high-school seniors in the 2017 program applied to college. That’s a tremendous success rate.”

Of those 36 seniors who applied to college, 22 applied to UNC Greensboro and 17 were admitted.

CHANCE is the only program of its kind in the state, and has received more than 250 applications from the mountains of North Carolina to the coast.

“While growing, we tried to maintain the focus on that hands-on experience.”

-- Dr. Rod Wyatt, senior director of college completion initiatives

FRANKLIN D. GILLIAM, JR. CHANCELLOR
Hello to Beth Fischer

Beth Fischer joined UNC Greensboro in August as vice chancellor for advancement. She had been executive director of university development at UNC Charlotte, leading major gifts, planning giving, corporate and foundation relations and donor relations. She designed and led the campaign strategy, planning and execution of Charlotte’s “Exponential” capital campaign. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Guilford College before pursuing her JD at Case Western Reserve University. Beth received an “Outstanding Women in Business” award in Charlotte last year. A member of Women Executives, she is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow and a past president of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Charlotte Chapter.

“I love learning about people and their stories.”

— Beth Fischer, vice chancellor for advancement

You have ties to Greensboro and UNCG?

A: I have long ties with Greensboro. I grew up in Clemmons, which is right outside of Winston-Salem. My mother is an alumna of UNC Greensboro. I went to Guilford College. When I was looking at colleges, I remember visiting UNCG and thought, at the time, it was too big. As an 18-year-old college student, my main requirement was I wanted a really small campus. As a student, I worked at Four Seasons Mall. And later when I was in law school, I interned at the Greensboro Legal Aid Office downtown.

Your mother attended UNC Greensboro?

A: It was in the mid-60s. She had a career in accounting, but I believe the major was administrative science. She was very high on UNCG and has been a donor for 45 years. I’ll tell you, there’s a lot of spirit and heart behind why I do what I do. None of my grandparents had anything more than an eighth-grade education, and as a result it was really important to my maternal grandparents that their children go to college. They were farmers in Randolph County, and at the time my mom could not go to Chapel Hill as a woman and study for four years unless she was studying education or nursing. She wanted to study business, and her opportunity to do that was at UNCG. As a first-generation college student, that college degree changed her life, and thus the trajectory of my family and my life. The fact that she is an alumna has a really, really special meaning for me.

My work helps students who are a lot like her obtain a college education, and I can’t think of a better way to pay it forward than to go to her alma mater and do my best to represent the University to our alumni and friends.

What do you most enjoy about development?

A: I think it’s the opportunity to work with people who are passionate about UNCG, and to work with them to create opportunities that benefit our students. The work we do in advancement, it matters, all day long. And if we do our very best, then who knows what kind of student we’re going to educate, and what mark they’re going to make on the world? It is such a privilege to get to play a small role in making sure students have that opportunity to earn a college degree. So the work I do builds relationships to advocate for UNCG. It might be that that relationship results in a philanthropic gift. I certainly hope so, but it might also be that I help a student worker in our office get an internship that helps them look for a whole new career path. Or I connect the alumni back to the university to engage them in a volunteer path. It is really fun to get to know people that way. I love learning about people and their stories. To get to do that for the endpoint of advocating for UNCG is just a thrill and a privilege.

MOSS STREET PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL OPENS

When the first bell rang on Aug. 27, a new chapter began. But the first day of classes was just one of many special days for the Reidsville school this year.

On March 1, it was official: UNCG would partner with Rockingham County Schools and the Moss Street community to transform Moss Street Elementary into Moss Street Partnership School in an effort to increase student success at the school. The school would open in six months.

The school is part of a larger initiative of the General Assembly to improve student learning in low-performing schools. UNCG is one of nine UNC System campuses to develop new elementary or middle schools implementing innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

The students will benefit from hands-on projects that incorporate science, technology, engineering, visual and performing arts, and mathematics, as well as counseling and nutritional programs.

The school will also serve as an educator-preparation and professional learning site.

Principal Catrina Chesnut ’95, who earned a degree in biology from UNCG, was hired in April. She helped greet 25 volunteers from UNCG and the community on July 18 for a service day. They delivered sets of classroom supplies to every teacher in preparation for the first day of school. They also hauled furniture to and from classrooms, cleaned and organized storage space and worked hand in hand to clear the school gymnasium of supplies and furniture.

The families and community got a first look at an open house Aug. 19. It’s not often UNCG’s Bands of Spartan pep band plays at a school’s open house, but this was an occasion deserving of some noise, as teachers, UNCG student-teachers, staff and Chesnut welcomed parents and board members.

The students met their teachers and received “welcome bags” with UNCG items such as pencils, notepads, stickers and even blue and gold beads. And they got a taste of the science experiences they’ll enjoy.

In the makerspace, they checked out a 3D printer, and kids loved controlling robots. The makerspace is modeled after the UNCG School of Education SELF Design Studio, equipped with green screens, invention kits, Legos, Google Expeditions and more — a few of the tools teachers can use for hands-on projects. Here’s to a yearful of exciting learning.
RETURN OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD

IN 1969, a UNC Greensboro professor, 21 students, two graduate assistants, a film crew and a photographer went on tour with the Grateful Dead to study its fan culture and community. Built around two sociology classes, the experience was unlike anything researchers from UNC Greensboro, or most other universities, had ever done.

Some called it UNCG’s Year of the Dead. Now, nearly 30 years later, the campus will experience another Year of the Dead.

Throughout the academic year, UNCG will host several events:

• Three screenings of the six-hour documentary series “The Long Strange Trip” on Feb. 8 and April 19.
• A curated exhibition on psychedelic counterculture Feb. 4-9.
• A performance by a UNCG Grateful Dead cover band.

UNCG Dead Scholars Unite!, a day of scholarly presentations based on the Grateful Dead and their fans at the Elliott University Center on April 27.

• A semester-length online course on the Grateful Dead’s legacy in the spring — taught by Dr. Rebecca Adams (Gerontology/Social Work), the UNCG professor who led the 1969 class.

Adams recalls that when she took her classes on the road that year, much of the academic community considered popular culture a frivolous area of study. Almost 30 years later, she thinks fondly of the risk she took and how the University supported her.

“I’m very proud that we did it. I can’t tell you how many people were inspired to take risks and study something a little different than the status quo.”

NOTES TO SELF, 1960s STYLE

Wish you could pass some advice to your younger self? At Reunion in April, the Class of 1968 did just that. Anne Howard ’68, co-chair of the Reunion planning committee, helped organize the activity. “Some of us came to campus with a definite career plan. Others, like me, were a little clueless. I asked the women – using the wisdom born of hindsight – to write a note to themselves,” she said.

“Generally, people told themselves that everything would be OK – that things would work out.” Every note was a clueless. I asked the women – using the wisdom born of hindsight – to write a note to themselves,” she said. 

“Generally, people told themselves that everything would be OK – that things would work out.” Every note was a gem. Here are some samples:

• STUDY MORE – BUT ALWAYS TAKE IN THE WORLD AROUND YOU.
• DO THE RIGHT THING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS – EVEN WHEN IT’S HARD.
• YOU’VE GOT THIS, GIRL!
• KNOW SOME THINGS NOW YOU DIDN’T KNOW THEN? Wish you could pass some advice to your younger self? At Reunion in April, the Class of 1968 did just that. Anne Howard ’68, co-chair of the Reunion planning committee, helped organize the activity. “Some of us came to campus with a definite career plan. Others, like me, were a little clueless. I asked the women – using the wisdom born of hindsight – to write a note to themselves,” she said.

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THE SIXTIES

The Space Race, Civil Rights, Feminism, Environmentalism. The 1960s were a decade of upheaval and transformational change. Join UNC Greensboro for a yearlong series of events that examine and celebrate the ‘60s. The events, many free-admission and all open to the public, include:

SEP 14

“Fort Lenny: A Tribute to Leonard Bernstein” concert School of Music Recital Hall

SEP 15

“Vietnam: The Chemical War” lecture David Biggs, School of Education Building

SEP 16

“The Faces of Freedom Summer” exhibition, opening UNCG Art’s Greensboro Project Space

OCT 10

“1960s: A Survey of the Decade” exhibition Weatherspoon Art Museum

OCT 12

“Music, Gender, and Protest in the 1960s,” symposium with concerts School of Music Recital Hall

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X-CULTURE GOES TO ITALY

THIS SUMMER, Dr. Vas Taras and 11 students in the Bryan School of Business and Economics represented UNC Greensboro at the 2018 X-Culture Global Symposium in Macerata, Italy.

The weeklong symposium brought together 150 of X-Culture’s top-performing students from around the world for lectures, competitions and networking events. Four international businesses presented participants with real-world business challenges as well as competitions like the elevator-pitch contest. Companies included espresso machine manufacturer Nuova Simonelli, shoe sole producer Eurosoule, vineyard and winery Cocci Griffoni and the Macerata Opera Festival.

Since its conception in 2010 by Taras, X-Culture has connected more than 45,000 business students from around the globe as they collaborate on projects.

SHEADING LIGHT ON HARSH HISTORY

As The New York Times put it, the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum “refuses to sugarcoat history.” It’s that commitment to telling the true and full history of civil rights that attracted museum studies alumnus Lance Wheeler ’17 MA, who works as manager of exhibitions at the nationally renowned museum.

“This job allows me to talk to people of color and tell them about the history that they often don’t get in the classroom,” he said. “I fill in the gaps. I enlighten people.”

“I think museums should be seen as community centers. We don’t operate if we aren’t satisfying the people.”

— LANCE WHEELER ’17 MA

History, community and power tools

Restoring gravestones in an old fishing village on the Outer Banks of North Carolina – it’s not your typical classroom experience. Neither is plastering walls or cutting slate. But for 10 students in UNC Greensboro’s IAR 555 (Field Methods in Preservation Technology), the three-week field school was transformative.

“The skills gained from field school are immediately applicable to my life, and I have already put some of them to use only four days after leaving,” said Morgan Duhan, who is working on a post-baccalaureate certificate in historic preservation.

Duhan was one of six graduate and four undergraduate students who traveled with interior architecture (IARc) professor Jo Leimenstoll to the remote Portsmouth Island – on the Cape Lookout National Seashore – to restore historic properties. The project was in partnership with the National Park Service.

The course was first offered in 2001 and builds on partnerships with Old Salem Museums and Gardens and Historic Bethabara Park, in Winston-Salem, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh and various local preservation groups.

While each year reflects changes in the specifics of the field school, the core experience remains one of immersion in the craft of preservation as students engage in hewing logs, installing wood shingle roofs, consolidating deteriorated wood, reinstalling windows, forging iron and analyzing paint finishes.

“Students find the hands-on projects particularly rewarding because the results of their labor are so tangible, and they know they have made a dramatic difference in the ongoing life of the historic property,” Leimenstoll said.

Immersive experience with historic buildings is an essential part of preparing IARc students for the fields of historic preservation and community revitalization.

“Participating in field school was rewarding in so many ways,” said Chelsea Ferguson, also completing a BFA in IARc. “It was history, memory, community and power tools. And now that it’s done, I feel like a boss.”

(Top) Students in UNCG’s interior architecture summer field school repaired and cleaned gravestones at Graves Cemetery on Portsmouth Island in May. (Bottom) The students worked with a mechanical tripod to suspend a gravestone, and students examined a church building’s foundation.

“Shedding light on harsh history”

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IN 1968, STUDENTS RECEIVED university recognition for the Neo-Black Society (NBS), an organization that became an integral part of UNC Greensboro’s history. At its foundation, the society’s goals were to support voter registration drives, to connect students with community education initiatives and to establish an African American history course at UNCG.

“NBS members gained a second home in the university and support in civil rights issues,” said Elisha Gutloff ’92, current Alumni Association Board president. “They brought the celebration of African American culture to campus at a time when African American students were just starting to be admitted as students.”

Elisha, who first joined the organization through a dance troupe, has served on the Alumni Board for seven years and has mentored UNCG students, in addition to reaching out to other alumni.

“We can look at the number of African American UNCG students and alumni 50 years later, and that speaks volumes about the work the NBS has done,” she said. “It is an honor to celebrate the 50th anniversary.”

During UNCG’s Homecoming, the NBS will host a jazz reception to honor founding members, an information tent and a dessert reception. To make donations or to learn about these events, visit http://alumni.uncg.edu/nbs50.
Jordan, Hodges receive University Honors

Sarah Cole Jordan ’56 and Luther H. Hodges Jr. received UNCG’s two highest honors in public service last spring: the Holderness/Weaver Award and the Charles Duncan McIver Award, respectively. Known as “University Honors,” the awards recognize extraordinary public service in North Carolina and beyond. Jordan was honored for her lifelong dedication to championing children’s rights and improving higher education. Her contributions include establishing the Sarah Cole Jordan Class of 1956 UNCG Teacher Education Fellows Endowment Fund, which provides eligible undergraduates the mentorships and experiences needed to become effective teachers. Hodges was recognized for his work in ensuring student success, supporting the arts and broadening access to information and literacy. His contributions have supported numerous museums, art centers and university libraries in an effort to improve the quality of education in the state.

STYLIST TO THE STARS

TEN YEARS AS PERSONAL STYLIST to Sean (formerly “Puff Daddy”) Combs, Derek Roche ’03 still rarely leaves home without the costume design textbook he used in UNC Greensboro’s Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies (CARS) program. The 37-year-old, who has dressed singer Nicki Minaj and basketball star Kobe Bryant, spoke fast, but not without a North Carolina drawl, at CARS’ Alumni Industry Speaker Series.

“MY momma will tell you I had a briefcase in fourth grade,” he quipped. “I thought I was a businessman.” Derek’s business savvy is a thread woven throughout his career story – beginning at UNCG.

After entering the speech pathology program, a friend encouraged him to check out Textile Products Design and Marketing (former name for CARS). He was spending weekends bleaching jeans to style his buds, dressing them in peppermints and Saran Wrap. He was inspired by fabrics. He read GQ and Vogue. He worked for a bank and spent breaks faxing resumes to New York companies. Derek landed an internship with fashion designer Patricia Field of “Sex and the City.”

In New York, he kept a notebook in his back pocket. When he heard a name or business, he jotted it down. After work, he’d scour the internet. As he explained, you have to be your own teacher. He went from Field to Vibe Magazine, on to Macy’s, Nike, Estee Lauder and Conde Nast before a two-month interview process with “Puff.”

“He is probably one of the hardest-working people I know,” Derek said of his boss. “Besides my mom.”

Whatever area of fashion you want to be in, you be the expert.

Get started, whether styling mannequins, working in retail or joining the student group THREADS.

Styling is not just about fashion. You have to deal with budgets and manage people.

If you want to be a stylist, figure out how to be part of that community.

Don’t downplay yourself – whatever you are good at, be proud.

ONE FINAL BIG CONCERT

Dr. John R. Locke, director of bands and founder and director of the UNCG Summer Music Camp, will retire in December after more than 36 years with the University.

To honor his storied career, the School of Music will host a retirement dinner Nov. 17. A retirement concert Nov. 18 will feature an Alumni Band and the University Wind Ensemble, both conducted by Locke.

Also, the School of Music has established the John R. Locke Scholarship Fund to provide assistance to future UNCG music students. Learn more at https://vpa.uncg.edu/locke.

DEREK’S TOP TIPS

Celebrity stylist Derek Roche ’03 admitted that even now, he’s still learning and challenging himself.
LET US HEAR YOU They’ve got Spartan spirit, yes they do. And if you’re at a basketball game or volleyball game, you’ll have it too. From their pregame tunes to the final alma mater song, UNC Greensboro’s Bands of Sparta, the pep band for the University, is an essential part of the gameday experience. They cheer loudly too, leading the players to return the support with high-fives at the end of a game. The band appears at many campus events – here, we see them adding pep during freshman orientation. They’ll perform at several more events this fall. That’s music to our ears.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN W. KANE

“Without music, life would be a blank to me.” – Jane Austen
DANCE STUDIOS MAKE A SPLASH
The School of Dance has two new studios, within the original structure of the 1925 competition-size Rosenthal Pool. Two pristine sprung wood-floored dance studios – one 4,500-square-foot and one 3,700 square feet – lie atop spaces once used for swimming and even kayak lessons.

The two-story area kept the same large windows that provide abundant natural lighting. The pool risers are also still intact and now function as a viewing area for dance demonstrations and concerts.

School of Dance director Janet Lilly calls it “a glorious space to dance in.” “It really changes the experience for the students,” she said. “Dance is collaborative, and this is what being part of the School of Dance is about – sharing, learning, sharing community and sharing space.”

FAIREST OF THEM ALL
Through Dec. 9, the Weatherspoon Art Museum features “Dread & Delight: Fairy Tales in an Anxious World,” an exhibition that displays depictions of classical fairy tales across time. From a life-size enchanted carriage made of crystalized candy to an 1,800-foot braid, each work dismantles and re-envisions a story. “Dread & Delight” will be accompanied by a catalogue charting fairy tales in the visual arts. It will include a fairy tale by Pulitzer Prize finalist Kelly Link ’95 MFA.

From Taylor Theatre to ‘Walking Dead’
R. Keith Harris ’97 MFA remembers the moment he first felt inspired to become an actor.

He was nine years old, watching a film on a late 1960s, wooden-bodied tube-TV. He can’t remember the name of the film, but he does remember the rush of inspiration he felt while watching an actress’s performance.

“There was just so much in this look on her face,” Keith says. “Such a combination of hurt, love, betrayal, anger. I saw that shot and decided right then, ‘I want to do that!’”

That inspiration never waned. Keith has appeared in more than 70 shows and movies, with some notable appearances including recurring roles on AMC’s “The Walking Dead” and the TV adaptation of Stephen King’s novel “Under the Dome.” He’s even written, produced and starred in his own feature-length film, “Changing Gears,” released earlier this year.

Keith credits much of his acting chops to his experience in UNC Greensboro’s Master of Fine Arts in Acting program. Keith was first introduced to UNCG after being cast in a North Carolina Theatre for Young People tour. Through that production, he met and interacted with UNCG faculty and felt it was the right place for him to continue his training.

“I’m hands-down a better actor for having trained at UNCG,” he says.

In particular, he remembers classes like Contact Improvisation and those based on the Sanford Meisner approach as instrumental in making his acting more authentic.

If it’s in you, you have to do it or you’ll wonder all your life. Take meaningful steps in the direction of what you want. If you’re finding a place to get better, you’re already taking that first step.

—Keith offers this advice to rising actors.

‘ROCKIT’ MAN
Herbie Hancock, winner of 14 Grammy awards including Best Album and Lifetime Achievement Award, created a new sound in jazz between hard bop, funk and rock. The one-time member of the Miles Davis Quintet plays at UNCG Auditorium on Feb. 12, as part of the University Concert and Lecture Series. See the full series listing: https://vpa.uncg.edu/home/ucls.
When Ben Hunter ’09, ’11 MS first left the Marines in 2003, he didn’t have a plan for what came next. “I just had the GI Bill and thought I should spend it,” Ben said. “When you’re in the military, you’re part of a squad or a fire team. You have a squad leader, a platoon leader and people. In that environment, you have people who are always looking after you. Then you get out and there’s no one to tell you what’s next.”

He first attended UNCG in the fall of 2003, but took a break to work with his father in Elizabeth City for two years. Self-employment, Ben discovered, wasn’t where his heart was. “I’d been trying to be an entrepreneur and I realized I’m really not,” Ben said. “I don’t enjoy being the guy out in front with the whole business on his shoulders. I realized I didn’t enjoy that type of pressure, but I did enjoy helping other people make their businesses better and their ideas more profitable.”

That dedication to helping others, combined with a lifelong interest in business, led Ben back to UNCG’s Bryan School of Business and Economics, where he completed both a bachelor’s and master’s in accounting. Today, Ben works as an advisory services manager at Bernard Robinson & Company, specializing in cybersecurity and IT audits.

In 2018, his dedication to fellow veterans brought him back again to UNCG to attend a Coffee With Veterans event. Coffee With Veterans, part of a developing project by the UNCG Alumni Association and Military-Affiliated Services, connects alumni veterans with current student veterans in the hopes of establishing mentoring relationships and professional and personal networks. Ben hit the ground running with the student veterans, discussing professional networking and translating military experience.

“The first Coffee With Vets, we all got around to talking, making sure the students had everything they needed and understood how their military skills translate to employers,” Ben said. “When we leave the service, we just charge into life and we can forget what’s available to us. It’s important to make sure veterans are properly being looked after.”

Though the married father of four has a demanding job and family life, Ben said he will continue to help veterans coming through UNCG find their way. “I want to help the students, veterans in particular,” Ben said. “So long as I have time for it, I’ll continue to volunteer here.”

“...”
Jordan McClendon didn’t know exactly what he wanted from life at the age of 17, but he knew he wouldn’t find it in his small Georgia hometown.

“I didn’t have many options growing up at home,” Jordan said. “But I didn’t want to sit around my old neighborhood getting into trouble, so I figured I’d do something constructive and join the military.”

At the age of 17, Jordan enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his eight years as a Marine motor vehicle operator, he deployed to Afghanistan twice and was stationed at Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point in North Carolina.

Five years later, he found himself restless. The stress of his work and deployments led Jordan to seek a fulfilling hobby. During the last three years of his service, he discovered his love for the camera.

“I wanted to see what else I was good at,” he said. “I never had a dream to be a truck driver as a civilian. I was really trying to figure myself out while I was still in.”

Now a media studies major at UNCG, Jordan is honing his skills with the camera to further his career as a freelance photographer and videographer.

A major part of Jordan’s continued success in school, he said, is his relationship with other veterans. He started meeting other veterans at UNCG, and has even started working there part time.

“It was life-changing,” Jordan said of his experience with other veterans. “A lot of us are looking for structure, or just someone to talk to in that old way. It’s good to talk to someone who understands your frustrations so that you don’t feel alone.”

To his fellow veteran students, Jordan offers a bit of advice.

“Keep all that discipline from the service and apply it to the rest of your life, for the rest of your life,” he said. “You may have hated getting up early – but you have to apply all that old discipline to your new civilian life.”

Marine veteran and UNCG art student Jessica Rambo has never opted for the easy road. Whether pursuing a family tradition of service to her country or a career as an artist, Jessica goes where the action is.

Ten years as a combat camera production specialist in the Marines took her all around the world – Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and Australia.

Jessica’s mother and six uncles have a history of military service, but it was her uncle Tommy who inspired her choice to join the highly selective Marine Corps.

“Of them all, Uncle Tommy had the coolest stories,” she said. “Some horrible stories, too, but those stories are why I joined the Marines.”

She enlisted in the Marines in 2007 with four friends, despite concerns and doubt from family and friends.

“That was the only one of my friends to make it to graduation, and the others were all males. Someone tells me I can’t do something, I prove them wrong,” she said.

Her time as an active-duty Marine came to an end when a serious car accident resulted in several fractures and a traumatic brain injury. Never one to stop or slow down, Jessica knew she had to move on.

Set on pursuing art, it didn’t take long for Jessica to find UNCG. Now a media studies major, it didn’t take long for Jessica to find UNCG.

“I think a lot of people join the military to find their people, and we find community in the service,” Jessica said. “But once you leave the service, you lose that sense of community and friendship. The veteran community anchored me. It helped me find a home here.”

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The college experience offers special challenges for veterans, like navigating VA benefits, reacclimating to civilian culture and translating military experience for the civilian job market. To ease these transitions, Alumni Engagement and Military-Affiliated Services have begun laying the groundwork for the Military and Veteran Alumni Society. The goal of the group is to develop a robust mentorship network connecting veteran students with veteran faculty and alumni to ensure the success of veteran students both during and after their coursework at UNCG.

Programming started small. In the spring of 2018, Alumni Engagement and Military-Affiliated Services began hosting Coffee With Veterans, a series of informal gatherings between veteran students and alumni. The idea was to facilitate a comfortable social event where mentors and mentees would connect organically.

“It ended up being so much more than chatting and swapping business cards,” said associate director of Alumni Engagement, Marine veteran and Navy Reserve officer Dean Castaldo ’12. “What’s really great is how the alums are leading the conversations and the students are engaging.”

For Brad Wrenn ’01, Air Force veteran and Military-Affiliated Services director, bringing in veteran alumni helped engage veteran students in a meaningful way.

“These students are very action-oriented and mission-oriented,” Brad said. “They see their mission here as attaining a degree and a job. That sort of mindset can make it difficult to engage them in anything outside of attending class and making good grades. Coffee With Veterans helped turn that on its head and get these students involved.”

Looking ahead, there are plans to expand the program with the goal of establishing a mentorship network with broader possibilities for the community. They also hope that as UNCG’s veterans graduate, they return to give back to the veteran students who come after them.

THE ENACTMENT OF THE G.I. BILL AFTER WORLD WAR II affected higher education throughout the century, bringing Woman’s College (now UNCG) more and more nontraditional students, including its first veteran students. By 1946, 54 veterans of the women’s branches of the armed forces had enrolled at WC on the G.I. Bill.

UNCG continues to honor the legacy of women veterans through the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project (WHHP) at UNCG University Libraries. WHHP documents the history of women in the U.S. military and the American Red Cross. It is the largest academic research collection of its kind, featuring more than 650 collections that include almost 450 oral histories.

HEAR FROM SOME SPARTAN VETERANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT UNCG

Not everyone on campus knows what needs to be done for vets. We’ve been there. When something’s not going right for one of us, it works a whole lot better to have someone who’s been through it and who can emotionally and psychologically relate to that experience, even if it’s just having a cup of coffee and sharing. –Marcia Smith-Fischer ’11, former Navy Corpsman

Being able to give back to the UNCG veteran community brings me true satisfaction. It’s been a great opportunity to show my gratitude for the role they played when I came through and helped me graduate from this same university. –Eduardo Pinero ’17, Marine veteran and UNCG VA Certifying Official

At Coffee With Veterans, I was able to talk to veteran students, and they had a lot of the same questions that I had when I came through UNCG. Some incoming veterans may not realize the importance of having their fellow veterans as resources at first. It wasn’t until my second year I realized how different things really are in the military and in school. Having other vets to talk about these things is really nice, and it makes a huge difference. –Stephanie McGill ’16, Marine reservist

Get involved!

IF YOU ARE A VETERAN OR MILITARY-AFFILIATED ALUMNUS interested in making a difference through mentorship with this program, contact Dean Castaldo at dcastalo@uncg.edu or Brad Wrenn at bwrenn@uncg.edu.

Upcoming Coffee With Veterans Events:
November 3, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
November 28, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
EVERY STUDENT, EVERY ALUMNUS has their favored spot on campus. A favorite place to read. A place to meet up with friends. Certainly favorite places to study for a big exam. And likely, a place they know they found their life’s calling.


Whether it’s for Homecoming, a big soccer game or a lecture, the campus draws you in. You find students are having the same life-changing experiences that alumni of each generation have had. Walk around, and you see it firsthand. Find your way here.

SEE VIDEO AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.
DECISION OF A LIFETIME
Dot Kearns ’53, ’74 MEd loved history, French, sociology and education. As a junior, she had to settle on a major. She again met with her advisor on the second floor, Foust Building, then abruptly sat down atop the east stairwell steps—students streaming by. The decision came to her, and Dot has never doubted the wisdom of that epiphany. It has served her well in social work, teaching, business, politics and family life.

“All of a sudden, it just became clear to me. ‘Major in sociology and get a teaching certificate in history.’”

FOUST BUILDING, the first building on campus, was originally known as Main Building. Named for President Julius Foust, its distinctive Richardson Romanesque architecture makes it one of the most iconic buildings in the UNC System.

TAYLOR GARDEN, located between Elliott University Center and Alumni House, was named for Dean of Students Katherine Taylor ’28. Its serene fountain is a signature feature.

PEACE AMONG THE PAVING STONES
When student body president Samaya Roary needs a break from the hustle and bustle of Elliott University Center, she heads over to nearby Taylor Garden.

“Taylor Garden is the perfect calm, serene and scenic getaway. It’s my favorite spot to study, hang out with friends, relax or just enjoy the fresh air.”

MUST BE THE PLACE
ELECTRIC AVENUE
For UNCG Guarantee Scholar Mechaun Ross, it all began at College Avenue.

“I see College Avenue as the gateway to campus and really the center of what I always imagined college life to be growing up. College Avenue is the place where I’ve bonded with my close friends. Even when there is no one walking up and down the pavement, I still feel the magic of the memories I have made.”

COLLEGE AVENUE was envisioned as a grand boulevard, graced by plantings on either side, by landscape architect Warren Manning a century ago. That’s what it is today.

MEET YOU AT THE FOUNTAIN
Korin Norton leads tours of campus as a Spartan Orientation staff member and Spartan Guide captain. Moran Plaza, with the ever-popular Fountain, is always a highlight.

“This is the best place to see the culture of UNCG—whether it’s a student group fundraiser, an impromptu music concert or even just students eating and studying outside when the weather is nice. The fountain is a perfect way to get a snapshot of what UNCG is all about.”

MORAN PLAZA, named for former chancellor William Moran, features lots of space for relaxing between classes and is conveniently located near the dining hall.

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RIGHT TO THE TOP
Clifton Woods ’18, a recent BFA in interior architecture graduate and current MFA student, finds collaboration and inspiration every time he makes his way to the top floors of the Gatewood Studio Arts Building. “What appeals to me the most is how community-centered the space is. The interior architecture studio spaces are open – you’re able to walk through every class and see what they are working on and talk to the students.”

ENLIGHTENED ME WITH SCIENCE
Kenna Watson ’18, who majored in biology and is now a graduate student, has come to see her science building as “an old friend.” She especially has liked the study lounges. “Whenever I step foot into the Sullivan Science building, I have a comforting sense of familiarity that one would feel when going home. ... The third and fourth floor of Sullivan are the perfect places for focus and comfort. ... The front wall is all windows, which makes the room relaxing. I’ve enjoyed watching the seasons go by through those windows as I studied throughout the year.”

SULLIVAN SCIENCE BUILDING is home to many biology and chemistry labs and classes. It was named for UNCG’s first female chancellor, Dr. Patricia Sullivan.

PLAYS ARE THE THING
Sandra Forman ’66, ’71 MFA received the first Raymond Taylor Scholarship. She performed in plays directed by Kathryn England and Dr. Herman Middleton. “They built Taylor my senior year, so it was there when I came back for graduate school in ’67. The costume shop used to be downstairs. I helped out in costuming – that was my assistantship – and we used to make hats in the hall. It was always an exciting theater to work in, and there wasn’t a bad seat in the house. ‘Teach’ Taylor loved it.”

TAYLOR THEATRE was named for William Raymond Taylor, who founded the Department of Drama and Speech.

THE GATEWOOD STUDIO ARTS BUILDING, which opened in 2006, was named for artist Maud Florence Gatewood ’54. Students in a variety of studio arts disciplines create their work in this building – from the basement foundry to the upper-floor graduate studios.

MUST BE THE PLACE

BEEN ON CAMPUS LATELY?
There are so many ways for alumni to make an impact. Mentor an undergraduate. Volunteer at career events. Cheer the students at performances. Attend research expos. See a sporting event. Help at Peabody Park “ivy-pull” days. Contact the Alumni Engagement office to learn about ways to make a big difference on campus.
336-334-5696 alumni@uncg.edu
FROM COLLEGE AVE TO OSCARS’ RED CARPET

BY ELIZABETH L. HARRISON • ILLUSTRATION BY KYLE T. WEBSTER ’99

I went into college expecting the world would tell me what to do, and it would be my job to rage against that. I left understanding my job was to control my destiny."

I wasn’t a popular kid in middle school whatsoever,” Emily says. “But people knew I wouldn’t tell their secrets.”

These days, the UNC Greensboro alumna and Winston-Salem native flies a little less under the radar – Emily and husband, comedian Kumail Nanjiani, received an Oscar nod for their film, “The Big Sick,” when it was nominated for Best Original Screenplay in 2018. They didn’t take home the golden statue, but the exposure – and numerous other nominations and awards – catapulted Emily into the spotlight.

The therapist-turned-screenwriter took an unusual path to Hollywood, and she says her alma mater was a big part of that journey.

“I went into college expecting the world would tell me what to do, and it would be my job to rage against that. I left understanding my job was to control my destiny. It helped me understand, this is my job,” Emily says. “Once you realize it is your destiny, you get to control it, and you get to mess it up. I got that idea, I’m probably going to mess this up a few times, but I’m captain of this ship, and how cool is that? UNCG gave me that.”

Emily V. Gordon ‘01, ‘03 MS/EdS stood on the red carpet, she stood before a group of her peers in a handmade T-shirt with a cartoon character sporting a cape and the words “Peer Counselor.”

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Maybe that drive also played a role in Emily’s success, or maybe it was her methodical, authentic, if a bit subversive, nature. She chose UNCG for the psychology program, but also because it was close to home, and the campus was big, but not overwhelming – it seemed “manageable.”

“I’m sure I had some punk-rock reasons then, but I was scared,” she says. “It was a great combination of feeling really big and grown up and feeling not so huge that I would get lost.”

While earning her BA in psychology and M/VEd in couples and family counseling, she had jobs in the Writing Center and Jackson Library. Among the stacks of books and paper copies, Emily would lose herself.

“I fell in love with it. I developed a real fondness for the hidden nooks and crannies.”

She had two different ways of sitting down and getting to know people: One through writing and one as a therapist. It was the latter she chose to pursue after graduation, continuing the natural role of confidant she had as a child, mediating arguments among the popular kids in her T-shirt and cape.

“Every person is endlessly fascinating,” she says. “Why people turn out the way they do, why..."
why they change or don’t change.” Emily was a practicing therapist from 2004 to 2009, working in North Carolina, Chicago and Brooklyn before turning her passion for people into a second career.

“I realized loving other people and wanting to understand them can take a lot of forms,” Emily says. “I thought mine would be counseling, and then it became writing about people and digging into who they are.” That realization first came fall 2000, in an essay-writing class (ENG 223 Writing of Essays) at UNCG with Dr. Jackie Grutsch-McKimney. “I always knew I wanted to do psychology. What surprised me was taking essay-writing and finding another way I could explore people, through writing,” Emily says. “When you write about yourself, you can write about yourself and that’s great, but other people are so much more interesting than I am.”

Emily began freelance writing for women’s magazines like Rookie, which eventually led to a book, “Super You,” published in 2015. She wanted to write a book about what she should have read as a teenage girl.

“I wanted to take everything I’d gotten from my experience as a therapist and write it in a way I wouldn’t have rolled my eyes at,” she says. “Self-help writing is wonderful, but it’s a con.”

A self-described “nerdy girl,” Emily used superheroes as a premise for showing readers how to find inner strength, embracing their origins and flaws. As a therapist, she says she would meet people as clients who had a “Batwoman” origin story — one or more parents were taken away, or they were traumatized by an experience. She wanted to show how those experiences can become part of who we are rather than victimize us.

“I like this idea of superheroes being better versions of ourselves,” Emily says. “At one point in life, a better version of myself was someone I was afraid of and felt judged by. I realized it’s just a light house to go toward, somewhere to aim myself.”

“It became obvious that this is the story we need to tell and no one else can tell the story — we wanted to see what a movie of this would look like. We thought for both of us it was step in, let’s write this, get it out of us so we can keep moving.”

Emily is deeply self-reflective and articulate, positive and gracious punctuating sentences with words like “lovely” and “wonderful.”

“If I can keep writing, I’m going to keep writing. I would never let me become a jerk.”

THE BIG SICK

Emily unexpectedly becomes sick due to Still’s Disease and is put into a medically induced coma, Nanjiani and Emily’s parents bond through the experience.

“I want to stay as healthy as I can,” Emily says. “It’s super intense. I had to manage the stress and intensity and find outlets for my emotions.”

“Disease and is put into a medically induced coma, Nanjiani and Emily’s parents bond through the experience. Overall, the entire experience of making a movie of your life, with an actress playing you, recreating the hospital, I definitely fell back on my training,” Emily says. “It was super intense. I had to manage the stress and intensity and find outlets for my emotions.”

“Super You” was about how to take and apply to your life, and Nanjiani says it was a magical, lovely experience.”

“Now that the golden dust has settled, how does Emily feel about it all? hopaying having good friends and a good support system, feeling like a fraud most of the time. “It became obvious that this is the story we need to tell and no one else can tell the story — we wanted to see what a movie of this would look like. We thought for both of us it was step in, let’s write this, get it out of us so we can keep moving.”

THE ACADEMY

The entire experience — from Amazon purchasing the film from FilmNation at Sundance to the Oscar nomination and awards ceremony — was educational and “quite special,” she says.

“The nomination process itself took about five months, with Emily and Nanjiani making the rounds each night, thrown together with other potential nominees at panels and events. The experience created a bond with the other nominees.

“You go through this intense experience with these people often you’re huge fans of. It becomes this lovely camp experience.”

Between the reporters and photographers, the day of the Oscars was a chaotic blur. The couple left their house at lunchtime and didn’t return until 5 a.m. the next morning. “We can’t wait to find out. Not for Emily. She’s working on a screenplay for Apple.”

“I like working. I like staying busy. I’m doing my best. When you go through an experience like this, it becomes a huge storm and wave and you have to keep your head on straight,” she says. “What is the main thing I want to do? I have this platform now. I get to tell stories — so what kind of stories do I want to tell!”

“I already walked away from one, and it didn’t kill me.”

“I love it, and it fuels me. It’s a wonderful career, but I know I would be OK if I walked away from it,” Emily says. “I’ve walked away from one, and it didn’t kill me.”

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Anyone who’s watched these Wes Miller teams has seen the growth our program has made the last few years. I genuinely thought we would win versus Gonzaga and jumped at the chance to fly out to Boise, Idaho. Against a perennial NCAA Tournament team, we never backed down. We fought for every rebound and every point, and played through every foul.

—Ian Aitken ’03, coordinator for special projects, Housing and Residence Life

BREAKING RECORDS:
BY THE NUMBERS
The 2017-18 school year was arguably the best year in the history of UNCG Athletics.

4 NCAA Tournament appearances

$851,188 cash and gifts in kind raised

5 SoCon championships

3.23 student-athlete GPA

I think back to the leaders on campus, in administration and athletics, and to the players who have come and gone over the years – I am grateful that they were committed to building a program that eventually brought a campus and a community together.

—Dr. Jacqueline Kayler DeBrew ’91, ’96 MSN, ’08 PhD, clinical professor and director of RN to BSN program

I was a moment that was years in the making. Spartan fans went into a frenzy as the clock wound down. The buzzer rang, confetti fell and the bench rushed the court.

Coach Wes Miller stood proud, finally tasting the sweetness of a Southern Conference Tournament Championship and an NCAA Tournament automatic bid – the team’s first since 2001. Championship-level athletic programs aren’t built overnight. It’s a long, slow haul.

There have been heartbreaking losses. Rebuilding years. Times when the Spartans were “oh so close.”

There has also been great success – NCAA Tournament appearances in ’96 and ’01, ACC upsets, legendary names like Hartzell and Hines.

It’s these moments that have paved the way to what feels like a new era of Spartan hoops.

With 27 wins and a SoCon title – not to mention a near bracket-busting upset in the Big Dance – UNCG men’s basketball proved that it plays some of the most exciting basketball in the state.

Yet Miller admits that he hasn’t taken a lot of time to reflect on the success. “Our motto is ‘No finish line,’” he says. “Even though we accomplished a goal, there was an immediate sense that there was still work to do.”

During the offseason, he and his players have kept their heads down, focusing on getting better, one day at a time.

But there’s no denying that the buzz is building. The stage is set. And the Spartans are ready to step further into the spotlight.

“There’s a deep sense of urgency in our program to keep growing,” Miller says. “This returning group now has the confidence that they can play with anybody, and that they belong on the national stage.”

SEE MORE AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.

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It’s these moments that have paved the way to what feels like a new era of Spartan hoops.

With 27 wins and a SoCon title – not to mention a near bracket-busting upset in the Big Dance – UNCG men’s basketball proved that it plays some of the most exciting basketball in the state.

Yet Miller admits that he hasn’t taken a lot of time to reflect on the success. “Our motto is ‘No finish line,’” he says. “Even though we accomplished a goal, there was an immediate sense that there was still work to do.”

During the offseason, he and his players have kept their heads down, focusing on getting better, one day at a time.

But there’s no denying that the buzz is building. The stage is set. And the Spartans are ready to step further into the spotlight.

“There’s a deep sense of urgency in our program to keep growing,” Miller says. “This returning group now has the confidence that they can play with anybody, and that they belong on the national stage.”

SEE MORE AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.

Anyone who’s watched these Wes Miller teams has seen the growth our program has made the last few years. I genuinely thought we would win versus Gonzaga and jumped at the chance to fly out to Boise, Idaho.

Against a perennial NCAA Tournament team, we never backed down. We fought for every rebound and every point, and played through every foul.

—Ian Aitken ’03, coordinator for special projects, Housing and Residence Life

"I think back to the leaders on campus, in administration and athletics, and to the players who have come and gone over the years – I am grateful that they were committed to building a program that eventually brought a campus and a community together."

—Dr. Jacqueline Kayler DeBrew ’91, ’96 MSN, ’08 PhD, clinical professor and director of RN to BSN program

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Sisterhood is forever.

That’s the truth for the Nu Rho Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. UNCG’s AKA sisters share a bond of found family, built on a 110-year-old belief in personal development and social empowerment. Nu Rho alumnae-sisters stand behind current and future sisters through a new scholarship, making Nu Rho the first UNCG-National Pan Hellenic Council sorority to endow a student scholarship.

Fully endowed in little over a year, The Pearls of Promise – Nu Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Scholarship honors the history and legacy of the sorority’s 1908 founders and first members – the scholarship supports AKA sisters who possess strong leadership skills and exemplify its core values of sisterhood, scholarship and service.

“Alma Kappa Alpha is about opportunity and gratitude,” says Phaedra Grove ’92, senior director of talent acquisition at Reynolds American and one of the signing donors. “We celebrate the opportunities our sisterhood provides and extend those to the next generation.”

It’s a sentiment shared by the 62 alumnae-sisters who established the scholarship during Nu Rho’s 35th anniversary in 2016. Phaedra Grove and Renda Moore ’99 channeled up enthusiasm for giving through social media and events, resulting in unprecedented commitment. More than 100 alumnae-sisters from every class and decade since the 1980s made monthly contributions, generating more than $77,000 in 12 months.

“It’s a testament to how much we value AKA and UNCG,” says Phaedra. “For professional women of color, there is no greater support than the education and the sisterhood we earn here.”

She hopes other sororities and fraternities will follow their example. “AKA has always been for trailblazers. We’re the nation’s first black sorority, and we pride ourselves on our commitment to serving others. But these laurels we want to share. We hope UNCG’s sororities and fraternities look at our accomplishment and think, ‘Let’s set the bar higher.’”

Parents’ hope

One of the sincerest hopes of parents is for their children to find purpose and opportunity. Sixty-two AKA sisters endowed the scholarship, supporting AKA sisters who never had. Faye Young Eury ’56 and Lynn Eury consider themselves such parents.

From a young age, the Eury family learned to value the opportunities education provides. Neither Faye nor Lynn’s parents finished school, but they insisted their children receive higher education. The oldest of four from a rural farming family, Faye was the first in her family to graduate from Woman’s College. Lynn graduated from NC State with a bachelor’s degree in engineering in 1959. Education set Faye and Lynn on the road to success, with Lynn eventually retiring as executive vice president of the Carolina Power & Light Company after 35 years of service.

When the Eury family had a family of their own, they passed those values on to their daughters, but they wanted to do more. “We appreciate the sacrifices others have made for us, and the difference they made in our lives,” Lynn says. “Now we’re making a commitment to help other young men and women.”

Established in 2006, the Faye Young Eury and Lynn W. Eury Endowed Scholarship Fund in the Bryan School of Business and Economics ensures that promising undergraduate and graduate students can complete their studies with fewer concerns about college debt. The fund also provides opportunities for mentorship and unique experiences, such as study abroad.

Was Salisbury ’99 was one Bryan School scholar who benefitted from their commitment to his education. “Faye and Lynn Eury provided an opportunity in my education. They believed in us and take an active role in our growth. Since graduation, Lynn has graciously made himself available as my mentor. Faye has a genuine interest in my professional and personal growth and honored to call myself a Eury Scholar!”

As students like Wes enter the workforce, they will always remember the Eury’s contribution to their success. If they become parents themselves, they will pay forward to their own children the values and support of these two extraordinary people.
**1950s**

**HILDA HOUK '60 MFA** was featured in the Greensboro News & Record for her career in community education. Hilda turned 90 in November 2015.

**JOHNNY SPRENGER '76** has donated to UNCG to establish a professorship in Zoology. The Smitz-Rains-Distinguished Professorship is named for Smitz and her long-time partner, Catherine Daino, who died in April 2017. State reached a

**1960s**

**JOANNE SARKAMOS AYRES '64** was a featured author in the Lenoir-Rhyne Alumni Magazine, October 2018. Her latest book, "Rock of Ages," was published in 2017. She is a retired teacher.

**1970s**

**MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS '66** has released "Clean," a new collection of her short stories. The book was featured in the Greensboro News & Record. Mary Ellen has written and reviewed women’s creative endeavors in the 13

**1980s**

**ROBERT MORGAN '68 MFA** was selected as a member of Walk of Fame for the class of 2018. Art historian of the Southern Plains, he is a professor of English at Cornell University and has authored books on poetry and nine books of fiction. His novel "Spy Creek," was selected by Oprah Winfrey for her book club in 2000.

**ANNIE LINDSEY CLINNICK '71** was named to the Alpha Chi Faculty and Staff Team. She retired as an associate chancellor for student affairs after 30 years at UNCG.

**LINDA MILLER '71** was featured at the North Carolina Museum of Natural History’s Nature Art Gallery’s "Voice of Light, Wood and Water" exhibit. Linda has published in museums and galleries in New York City and New England and is currently being represented in the Open Exhibition 2018 at the Br Beauty and Museum Art Gallery in Lynchburg, Virginia.


**CYNTHIA BROOKS '73** has released "Crossing City," a story collection performed at Malcolm X's Church in the Chocolate community in Hickory, N.C. Cynthia has written three books and recorded a CD of her stories. She worked as a storyteller at a library for 15 years and then taught art classes at an elementary school. Since then, she has traveled nationally and internationally – telling her stories.

**MELISSA FERGUSON-FOSTER '78** explored the myth and reality surrounding the life and times of the Kennedy family during an event held at the Woman's Club of Thomasville, N.C. Melinda worked in North Carolina public schools for 10 years and in military on base. She is currently a full-time professor of English at Guilford Technical Community College.

**ANTHONY JANSON '79** will seek re-election to the District 6 seat on the Guilford County (N.C.) Board of Education. She is an officer manager and bookkeeper with Getty John Book.

**ANAHEIM MERRILL '79** served as a panelist for the Pokey Pinto documentary screening in Raleigh, N.C., on massage establishments. Shiane serves on the NC Human Trafficking Commission’s NC Board of Massage, Skincare Therapy and on the Human Trafficking Task Force for the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards.

**ANNE MCKELLAR CHABES '79** is a partner at RBS CPA, PLLC.

**PAUL RICKARD,'79, president of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Alumni Association, has worked closely with the opening of Alumna Park on campus. He is also a member of the association expanded across the globe, from London to the US and Australia. He founded the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Alumni Association in 1993, and he is a member of the OWU Alumni Hall of Fame in 2015 for her service as an advocate for change of women’s sports at the university in the mid-1980s.

**ELEANOR CUMBERWORTH '79, M.Ed.** founded the Hundred Island Lifetime Achievement Award for Seniors. She worked as a senior school counselor as well as the NC Cooperative Extension System, she serves on the board for the Salvation Army of Lee County, shares her paintings with her appointments through the Hourly to Hosting program, and participates in the USA Women’s Community Investment Teams in the UNCG. She currently holds a degree in Social Work.

**CYNTHIA BROWN '73, '75 MED** is a professor of English at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. Cynthia has been a writer and educator for 25 years.

**CHERRY CALLAHAN '71, '87 PHD** was selected as a featured author in the Lenoir-Rhyne Alumni Magazine, October 2018. Her latest book, "Rock of Ages," was published in 2017. She is a retired teacher.

**CONRAD CALLAHAN '71, '75 MED** retired from The Greensboro (N.C.) School, where she taught for 40 years.

**DAVID COTTON '72** was named the featured speaker at the Salisbury Branch of The English Speaking Union. Cyril was asked to be a speaker in the "Tea in Space" program in 1976, and was named "Scientist of the Year" in 1976. Following the Challenger disaster, she became a NASA Space Ambassador, visiting with others from the program to advocate for space exploration. Cyril retired from the program after 40 years.

**EDWARD J. DUNN '49 MED** was selected as a featured author in the Lenoir-Rhyne Alumni Magazine, October 2018. His latest book, "Joseph’s Son," will be published this fall. Edward will seek re-election to the Board of Regent for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His latest poetry book, "Blue Sky," traces her family’s involvement in war from the Civil War to the present. Her poetry book, "Peace Work," was selected by the Cleveland State University Poetry Center’s First Book Prize.

**EMILY MILES '71** was named Woman of the Year by the Burlington (N.C.) Oxford Club for her work in education and her volunteer efforts. She retired in 2005 after 20 years as principal of Thomasville Elementary School. She is a retired teacher.

**NANCY DOREN '71** is a candidate for the Sampson County (N.C.) N.C. Board of Education. She is a retired teacher.

**CINDY JONES '71** retired from The Greensboro (N.C.) School, where she taught for 40 years.

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the Asheboro (N.C.) City Council.

at Wall Babcock in Winston-Salem, N.C.

America.” Jan specializes in health care law

2017, after 30 years in education.

December. She retired from Altamahaw-

Alamance (N.C.) Chorale. She directed

many student recruitment and mentorship

of product delivery. She participates in

and development at SAS, was honored with

40     uncg magazine    °    Fall 2018 Fall 2018    °    uncg magazine      41

SAMUEL HOUSTON '82 EDD

ARLEEN WIDERMAN '81 MM

JAN YARBOROUGH '80

PENNY STEWART '80

TIMOTHY LEE GREENE '80

GERALD GIBSON '80 MA

DOLORES DAVIS PAYLOR '79

is director of the

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TIMOTHY LEE GREENE '80

GERALD GIBSON '80 MA

DOLORES DAVIS PAYLOR '79

is director of the

is a candidate for
Barbara Johnson was named Central Academy of Nursing. Earlier in 2017, she was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Nurse Midwives. She is a member of the Liberal Arts Advisory Council. She received the CQ Press Award. The award honors an accomplished scholar or writer whose work has made significant contributions to the study of politics and government. She is also an author to the English honor society, Sigma Kappa Delta. The book was the 2018 Idea City Party Educator of the Year Award recipient.

Michael Oakes is principal of Yadkin Early College. He provides the students with hands-on, real-world opportunities to learn about a variety of careers. He is a member of the UNCG Alumni Association.

Tracy Kimm is principal of Yadkin Early College. She provides the students with hands-on, real-world opportunities to learn about a variety of careers. She is a member of the UNCG Alumni Association.

Michael Paddle is the Piedmont Regional Racial for the Year 2013. Tracy is principal of Yadkin Early College High School.

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JENNA BAILEY ’09

Was Morning.”

Amy Howell ’08

Katherine Parachini ’13 is principal at McMichael High School in Graham.

KATHRYN LAWRENCE ’18 DNP

is an administrative specialist with High Point Police and an adjunct professor in digital graphic design and marketing at Guilford Technical Community College.

She has had a 10-year career in the arts and has been involved in many projects and events.

JENNY GREGG ’06

has a certificate in graphic design from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

JENNY GREGG ’06

and Jordan Paul Ashton Kiser were married Dec. 12, 2017, in Greensboro.

JIM MINICK ’15 MFA

received his master’s degree in music and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

JENNY GREGG ’06

is an assistant professor of ballet at the Greensboro School of Music and Dance.

JENNY GREGG ’06

is the executive director of Children’s Theatre of Greensboro.

JIM MINICK ’15 MFA

is a writer and performer with the Greensboro Repertory Theatre.

JENNY GREGG ’06

is a member of the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.

JIM MINICK ’15 MFA

is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

JENNY GREGG ’06

is a husband and father of three children.

JENNY GREGG ’06

is an associate professor of dance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

JIM MINICK ’15 MFA

is a choreographer and performer with the Greensboro Repertory Theatre.

JENNY GREGG ’06

is a three-time Emmy Award winner.

JIM MINICK ’15 MFA

is a member of the Greensboro Repertory Theatre.

JENNY GREGG ’06

is a four-time Emmy Award winner.

JIM MINICK ’15 MFA

is a dance educator and choreographer.

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Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62

The Reynolds Scholarship Selection Committee

Miss Virginia “Ginny” Vestal Smith ’42

In 1980, she added an M.A. in history from North Carolina Central University, and in 1984 she earned a Ph.D. in history from Duke University.

She served as a teacher at Union County Schools from 1937 to 1963.

She worked in the Berea area for 30 years, administering and teaching in Berea’s elementary and high schools.

The Berea College Board of Trustees, in recognition of her dedicated service to Berea, established the Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 Scholarship in her honor.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to students pursuing a degree in education at Berea College.

Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 was a dedicated educator and community leader who left a lasting legacy in Berea and beyond.

Her contributions to education and to the community she loved will be remembered for generations to come.

The Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 Scholarship is a testament to her dedication and commitment to education, and it continues to inspire and support students in Berea College’s quest to prepare leaders for the community.

Berea College, with its commitment to access and excellence in education, was a fitting home for Miss Virginia “Ginny” Vestal Smith ’42.

Her legacy lives on through the Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 Scholarship, which serves as a reminder of her enduring impact on Berea College and the communities it serves.

The Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 Scholarship is one of many scholarships offered by Berea College, which provides financial support to students from a diverse range of backgrounds.

These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of donors who believe in the power of education and in the potential of students to make a difference in their communities.

The Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 Scholarship is just one example of the many ways in which Berea College is able to provide access and opportunity to students from all walks of life.

The College’s commitment to diversity and inclusion is reflected in its scholarship programs, which strive to ensure that financial need is not a barrier to higher education.

Berea College is proud to honor Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 through the establishment of this scholarship, which serves as a legacy of her commitment to education and to the future of Berea College.

This scholarship is a source of pride for Berea College and a testament to the impact of our donors.

We are grateful for the generosity of those who have made it possible for Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 Scholarship to continue to support students in Berea College’s quest to prepare leaders for the community.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this scholarship.

The Mary Elizabeth Wilson Mitchell ’62 Scholarship is a fitting tribute to Miss Virginia “Ginny” Vestal Smith ’42, a dedicated educator and community leader whose legacy continues to inspire and support students at Berea College.

Berea College is proud to honor her through this scholarship, which serves as a legacy of her commitment to education and to the future of Berea College.

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I chose nursing because it is where integrity and empathy connect. It’s hard to describe the way it feels to be present with your patient. It’s not the medical care you give that stays with you. It’s the time, like the time I made a terminal ill patient laugh. That moment will stay with me.
WELCOME HOME, SPARTANS!

In October, UNC Greensboro will host a campus-wide welcome home party for Spartans, and you won’t want to miss it. Here are some highlights of the five-day Homecoming celebration:

- Homecoming Bonfire with food trucks and DJ
- Block Party at Kaplan Commons with live music, food and children’s festival
- Third annual Homecoming 5K
- Dozens of alumni reunions
- Men’s soccer game against East Tennessee State

OCT. 10-14

More info: homecoming.uncg.edu