SEIZE THE DAY
A Blue & Gold Scholar takes us on his journey
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INSPIRING CAMPUS PLAN
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NOBEL WINNER’S FIRST JOB AS A SPARTAN
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‘SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE’
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WOMAN’S COLLEGE EXCELLENCE
PG. 30

Joshua Hodge ’21 in Randolph County

SPRING 2021
MEET THE PRESS
Commencement House brought national attention to Woman’s College (UNC-G) in 1958. About two dozen art and home economics majors designed and supervised the building of a home on N. Elm Street. Noted architect and Woman’s College instructor Edward Loewenstein helped teach the course, which brought architects, builders, and other professionals into the classroom. Public television and McCall’s Magazine were among the media who covered it, which won the Duke Power Gold Medallion for energy efficiency. Similar Commencement House projects followed. Learn more about Woman’s College’s reputation for excellence.

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Lots of class notes and pictures, too.
One year after our society addressed a rising, worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and three months after the first vaccine was approved for usage in the United States, a large vaccination clinic opened in Elliott University Center. It offered 672 appointments on its first day, March 11, as America’s vaccine rollout grew more robust. Volunteers from the UNCG School of Nursing, including students, faculty staff, and alumni, administered the vaccine—sometimes with only a few moments in between patients.

Dr. Tami Draves, interim director and associate professor in the UNCG School of Music, received her Johnson & Johnson vaccination that morning. She remarked on the long year of experiencing a pandemic. “So it was really exciting to be able to get in here and get a shot and see some light at the end of the tunnel,” she said.

Faculty, staff, and student employees who work at a college or university in Guilford County were eligible to receive the vaccine at the clinic that day. As the vaccine quantities expand, it’s expected everyone 18 and older will be able to receive them this spring.

Whitney Phillips, a senior in the School of Nursing, helped administer the vaccines. “This opportunity allows me to be a part of a community that has a passion and commitment to protect, serve, and make a difference because we care,” said Whitney, who serves as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army.

UNCG’s COVID-19 vaccine clinic in the Cone Ballroom. Top left: Whitney Phillips, a senior in the School of Nursing and a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army; top right, Melissa Poillot-Micca, health educator in the UNCG School of Nursing, administering vaccine shot to patient; above, UNCG School of Nursing professor Dr. Susan Letvak giving vaccine card to patient.
A professor strolls from Peabody Park to The Glen, a new green space just south of the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness. A potential new graduate student enters a welcoming cornerstone of campus for the first time via the Arts Place at Tate Street and West Gate City Boulevard. An undergraduate student in a wheelchair exits the campus shuttle in front of newly expanded and renovated Jackson Library and heads toward the new Nursing and Instructional Building.

In all three of these imagined scenarios, each traveler experiences the vibrant and reimagined UNC Greensboro campus of the future through the physical manifestation of “Stepping Forward: The 2020 UNCG Campus Plan.”

Each of our travelers above moves through the planned Forest Street Spine, West Gate City Corridor, and Tate Street Corridor, respectively. Part of a proposed vision to expand and improve the functionality and aesthetics of campus, these conceptual corridors are part of a planning approach that focuses on the learning environment, sustainability, and overall campus experience.

Considering the campus through lenses of land use, landscape, and circulation, the plan further divides the campus into districts that include the Central Campus District, McIver District, the Athletics and Recreation District, Tate Street Millennial District, and Gate City Millennial District. These smaller zones allow for much more focused and detailed planning to take place.

Inspired by the “Taking Giant Steps” strategic plan and approved by the UNCG Board of Trustees last September, the Campus Plan will visually and programmatically connect sites, buildings, and thoroughfares in ways that improve flow and functionality of campus regardless of one’s entry point or destination. The new plan provides a unified vision for the University to build upon our history and progress as we move through 2021 and beyond.

See full “Stepping Forward” Campus Plan at AlumniMagazine.UNCG.edu.
New merit scholarship

Susan and Perry Safran have made a $1 million gift to UNC Greensboro. The gift will support the Safran Family Endowed Scholarship. The merit scholarship, part of UNCG’s Minerva Scholars program, will be presented to students from any field of study.

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. said, “I can’t say enough about Susan and Perry Safran. Susan has been an engaged alumna – both as a generous supporter and as an engaged leader. As the first board of trustees chair with whom I had the pleasure of working, I appreciated her guidance, leadership, and sharp humor. She’s been integral to UNCG’s success these past few years. I’ve appreciated her and Perry’s friendship and am grateful for their tremendous gift.”


Perry Safran is the founder of Safran Law Offices, based in Greensboro.

Susan Safran retired as founder of the Greensboro News & Record, where she was a newspaper editor. She is a member of the North Carolina State University Foundation (now called the UNC Greensboro Excellence Foundation Board) and is currently a member of the UNC Greensboro Board of Trustees. She is a former president of the NC State Alumni Association, which presented to him the Mentorship Service Award in 2019.

MBA degree from Wake Forest University, and juris doctor from the Campbell School of Law.

Susan served on the UNCG Board of Trustees (2009-2019), including two years as chair. In 2015, she chaired the Chancellor Search Committee that brought Chancellor Gilliam to UNCG. She has received the UNCG School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award and the NC American Heart Association’s NC Advocate of the Year Award. Susan also served 10 years as the AHA representative on the NC Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board. In 2002, she received a Women in Business Award sponsored by the Triangle Business Journal.

Perry served on UNCG’s Excellence Foundation Board (now called the UNC Greensboro Foundation) and is currently a member of the NC State University Board of Trustees. He is a former president of the NC State Alumni Association, which presented to him the Mentorship Service Award in 2019.

“I hope this inspires others to give to this wonderful university.” – SUSAN SAFRAN ’77

NOBEL LAUREATE’S SPRING AS A SPARTAN

LOUISE Glück received the Nobel Prize in Literature on Dec. 10 – one of many accolades since her time as a visiting professor at UNCG some 47 years ago.

Glück, the Poet Laureate for the United States in 2003-2004, has won numerous awards, including a Yale Bollingen Prize and a Pulitzer Prize.

In the spring semester of 1973, a few years after the 1968 publication of “Firstborn,” she taught in the Michener Building as a visiting poet for the UNCG Department of English. She taught a freshman poetry course titled “Approaches to Poetry” and a graduate workshop for MFA students in the Creative Writing Program.

After her time at UNCG, Glück published her breakthrough work “The House on Marshland” in 1975, which critics say distinguished her voice as a poet.

She returned to the UNCG campus in the spring of 1997 for a poetry reading, hosted by the MFA writing program and The Greensboro Review, in the Alumni House. She told UNCG poetry professor Stuart Dischell she considered UNCG her “first real teaching job.”

Dischell fondly recalls how, after the reading on a frigid March night, the creative writing students planted irises in the still-frozen ground of the reception host’s home on Rankin Street, in honor of Glück and her 1993 Pulitzer Prize winning collection of poems, “The Wild Iris.”

It’s 1970s New York City, and a young Andy Grundberg ’71 MFA arrives on the scene, on the heels of having recently completed UNCG’s MFA writing program and getting street cred as a photographer at the Redeye Review. The Big Apple’s art world became his home. He soon realized that not only was it possible to write about art photography, but he excelled in his writing. So much that The New York Times made him their photography critic.

He watched photography change as an art form over the years: first, as a non-important, often-disregarded medium used by conceptual artists to document their thinking and activities, to eventually becoming a major focus for galleries and museums and a prized art form.

His new book, “How Photography Became Contemporary Art: Inside an Artistic Revolution from Pop to the Digital Age,” traces this fascinating era as well as his own journey.

“I hope this inspires others to give to this wonderful university.” – SUSAN SAFRAN ’77

On May 20, UNCG will receive the Above & Beyond Award, part of UNCG’s MFA writing program and getting street cred as a photographer at the Redeye Review. The Big Apple’s art world became his home. He soon realized that not only was it possible to write about art photography, but he excelled in his writing. So much that The New York Times made him their photography critic.

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See more at Alumnimagazine.UNCG.edu

ABOVE & BEYOND

Many Spartan employees serve in the Reserves or the National Guard.

Chris Roys and SaQuang Lam (l-r), for example, were called up by the N.C. National Guard to help vaccinate North Carolinians against COVID-19. Roys works in Information Technology Services as director of Aluminum Services and president of CPR Consultants, Inc., one of the largest American Heart Association entrepreneurial training centers in the eastern United States. He began her career as a critical care nurse at Wake Medical Center and later at Duke University Medical Center and Rex Hospital.

She received her bachelor of science degree in nursing at UNCG and her master of science in nursing (clinical nurse specialist) at Duke University.

Perry Safran is the founder of Safran Law Offices, based in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has served on Raleigh’s City Council and as an adjunct professor at NC State University and the Campbell School of Law. He received his bachelor’s degree in political science from NC State, and as an adjunct professor at NC State University and the Campbell School of Law.

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“I hope this inspires others to give to this wonderful university.” – SUSAN SAFRAN ’77

See more at Alumnimagazine.UNCG.edu
**Race to truth**

Jill Yesko ’09 joined UNCG’s communications team in 2006 and served as a writer for this very magazine. While caring for her aging father, she also enrolled in the University’s gerontology certificate program.

Through both endeavors, she came to know compelling researchers, excellent colleagues, and strong alumni networks. She remembers working on great stories that spanned many departments and programs, a “rich canvas of topics,” and incredible teammates. All the while, she developed her skills in the visual components of storytelling, and that eventually led her to finding “a different kind of storytelling” through documentary filmmaking.

Jill’s previous competitive cycling experience, including racing in the Olympic trials in the early 1980s, got her started on “Tainted Blood: The Untold Story of the 1984 Doping Scandal,” her first documentary, released in 2018 and currently available through Amazon. While the subject is serious, the process of making the film was exciting. Jill, a former reporter, had ample experience in investigative research, and she met many former Olympians while working on “Tainted Blood.” Her subsequent film, “Broken Trust,” was named an official selection at several film festivals in 2020. It tells the story of Olympic and national-class athletes who have spoken up against sexual abuse.

A fellow at the Moody College of Communication’s Center for Sports Communication & Media at the University of Texas, Jill is currently balancing two new programs, a “rich canvas of topics,” and incredible teammates. All the while, she developed her skills in the visual components of storytelling, and that eventually led her to finding “a different kind of storytelling” through documentary filmmaking.


In the last year, Alycee’s photography has been featured in a variety of national and international publications. It started in the summer of 2020, when Men’s Health reached out to her to photograph an activist in Charlotte. Then came an assignment for The Washington Post. The New Yorker reached out to her in October for a story on Halloween. Alycee has also published in L’Officiel Belgium, Creators Magazine, Mordant Magazine, and LUCY’S Magazine, among others.

Alycee has been behind the camera since high school. At UNCG, the marketing major started to focus on fashion photography, shooting the annual UNCG Threads fashion show. She also interned with University Communications, working with photographer Martin W. Kane and the social media team.

She is part of Diversity Photo’s #HireBlackPhotographers database, which connects photo editors and art directors to Black photographers across the country and around the world. Being a part of this list, she says, “has helped bring visibility to her work.”

“When I first started in photography, it was hard to find where I was going to fit as a Black woman,” she says. “Growing up, I didn’t see as many people like me working in photography and getting national and international recognition. Now, people are looking to us more and actually respecting our work. It’s been really uplifting, and it has been motivation for me to keep doing what I’m doing.”

**IN MEMORIAM**

**DR. ROBIN REMSBURG ’82**

In the last year, Alycee’s photography has been featured in a variety of national and international publications. It started in the summer of 2020, when Men’s Health reached out to her to photograph an activist in Charlotte. Then came an assignment for The Washington Post. The New Yorker reached out to her in October for a story on Halloween. Alycee has also published in L’Officiel Belgium, Creators Magazine, Mordant Magazine, and LUCY’S Magazine, among others.


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**IN MEMORIAM**

**DR. ROBIN REMSBURG ’82**

**MSN, the first alumna to lead the School of Nursing, passed away in December. Dean since 2013, she grew the program, increasing enrollment and implementing the Post-BSN and Post-MSN Doctor of Nursing Practice program, expanding the RN-BSN program, and developing an accelerated Veterans Access Program for medically trained veterans to obtain their BSN degrees.**

She helped plan the Union Square Campus and the Nursing and Instructional Building. A past president of the National Gerontological Nursing Association, Remsburg’s areas of expertise were geriatrics and gerontology, long-term care, national surveys, and nursing education. She established three gifts at UNCG: the Clinton William and Shirley Talbott Remsburg Endowed Scholarship in Nursing Fund; the Deans’ Terrace Fund; and the Dean Robin E. Remsburg Nursing Habit of Excellence Award Fund.

Dr. Heidi Krowchuk has been appointed interim dean. A national search is underway for a permanent appointee.
Gift for jazz

When Dr. Ward Robinson ’10 MPH, ’19 PBC retired, he turned to a different challenge: music.

As an infectious disease expert, Dr. Robinson served for two decades at Moses Cone Health System and five years as the Director for the Guilford County Department of Public Health. “I was trying to find ways for each individual within our community to have a healthier and longer life,” he says of his medical career. “At retirement I thought: ‘What now might bring them joy?’”

So, he plays tenor and soprano saxophone and loves the challenge of performing jazz. Along the never-ending quest to be a better musician, Ward was delighted to find the UNCG Miles Davis Jazz Program. He joined it as a student in the Fall of 2015, at age 62.

Inspired by and grateful for his experience with the outstanding students and faculty, he established the Robinson Family Scholarship Endowment at UNCG. Each year, the scholarship is presented to an entering undergraduate jazz student and provides four years of full-tuition support. The first Robinson Family Scholar, Liam Travick, will graduate this spring.

This year, Ward created the Robinson Family Fund in Jazz Studies. The fund will sponsor a diverse array of visiting artists to perform, teach, and mentor students. Among other activities, the fund will provide support for the students to teach and perform in our community. “Ward Robinson embodies the great spirit of our Spartan alumni donors. He has said that a gift to UNCG goes a tremendously long way. It’s an investment in our students’ lives and in the community that enhances our time, and that spirit of generosity is a beautiful thing,” said Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., a saxophonist and former UNCG student.

Ward added, “The jazz students I’ve met have the pleasure to meet are outstanding. I am honored to be able to support such talent at UNCG. But, hopefully, I get to see and hear these amazing musicians perform – and they even let me jam with them from time to time.”
When U.S. troops in the Pacific theater needed English-speaking nurses during World War II, Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo ‘48 answered the call. Her own studies in nursing had been interrupted by the war.

Last winter – nearly eight decades later – she accepted a Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of her fellow Chinese-American veterans of WWII. An estimated 20,000 Chinese-Americans served in the U.S. armed forces during that war, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In the ceremony, conducted by video due to the coronavirus pandemic, Elsie said, “I am deeply honored to receive this Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of my sisters and brothers.”

In Hong Kong on Dec. 8, 1941 – just after Pearl Harbor had been bombed as well – she tended to casualties of the Japanese attack. Hong Kong surrendered, and she ultimately made it out of the city, joining the Chinese Red Cross. She joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in June 1944 and was stationed with the 14th Air Force as a member of the Air Service Command. She continued to serve in China with the 95th Station Hospital in Kunming and Chengdu, and with the 172nd General Hospital in Shanghai, from October 1945 to February 1946.

Originally from California, Elsie returned to the United States in 1946, enrolling at Woman’s College. “All the students were just so young, and I felt very mature,” she recalled in an interview for UNCG’s Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project. “Their faces were not marred by war-torn worries or fears.” She graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing degree.

She and many other Chinese-Americans had “answered the call to duty,” she said during the ceremony. “I hope our perseverance and our commitment and hard work will further inspire our young people to serve this wonderful country.”

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Chairman of the Board Dean McRae “Mac” Banks at the Bryan School of Business and Economics has been elected to become chair of the Board of Directors for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It is the largest global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. The Bryan School holds dual accreditation in business and accounting from AACSB – a distinction held by only 1% of business schools in the world.
WHAT DO YOU SEE? Malanah Hobgood ’21 volunteers at the Weatherspoon Art Museum. An art history major minoring in art administration with a concentration in museum studies, she is also a McNair Scholar and a member of the Lloyd International Honors College’s Disciplinary Honors Track. “I value the Weatherspoon and its collection because it allows UNCG students to experience the artworks and concepts discussed in class firsthand. As a teaching museum, this provides a unique experience and supplements my learning exponentially,” she said. She also noted the importance of showing works with broad representation. “The Weatherspoon does an extraordinary job at including students’ voices in their exhibitions, programming, and events.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN W. KANE

“Every canvas is a journey all its own.”
~ Helen Frankenthaler
The goal was to have an old-time radio show, similar to “A Prairie Home Companion,” and they wanted to host national, regional, and local artists. “And we just figured it out as we went,” she says. “I just tried to work with the best people and the most pleasant people and focus on hospitality for artists.”

The roster of guests has included bass player Missy Raines; singers Heather Maloney; Jill Andrews, Gawlynn Lee, Sam Baker, Elizabeth Cook, and Jim White; fiddler Rex McGee; the Dan River Medicine Show; teenage wonder Presley Barker, who has already played the Grand Ole Opry; and Spartan alumni and singer-songwriters Casey Noel ’19, Lyn Koonce ’92, and Bruce Piephoff ’82, ’84 MFA.

The jazz students held “a big jazz hang” late every Monday night. She also joined in on an Irish music jam session each week at Tate Street Coffee House. With small classes, the faculty got to know you well, and could give individual pointers. And she loved the social part of the music experience. The jazz students held “a big jazz hang” late every Monday night. She also joined in on an Irish music jam session each week at Tate Street Coffee House.

SEE THE CLASSIC “ROCKY ISLAND” AND POP’S “ROCKET MAN” AT THE MAGAZINE SITE.

BB makes a banjo ring
She received the Steve Martin Banjo Prize last fall. Her band, Mile Twelve, was named New Artist of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association. BB Bowness learned banjo in her native New Zealand. “It isn’t really a hotbed of bluegrass,” she says dryly. At age 12, a local carpenter agreed to teach her banjo. “I just got the banjo bug,” she says. Then a “family of fiddlers” moved to our town, and she finally had people to play with. BB Bowness learned banjo in her native New Zealand. “It isn’t really a hotbed of bluegrass,” she says dryly. At age 12, a local carpenter agreed to teach her banjo. “I just got the banjo bug,” she says. Then a “family of fiddlers” moved to our town, and she finally had people to play with.

With small classes, the faculty got to know you well, and could give individual pointers. And she loved the social part of the music experience. The jazz students held “a big jazz hang” late every Monday night. She also joined in on an Irish music jam session each week at Tate Street Coffee House.

“We can play the straight-ahead ‘fast and loud’ thing and we do the more progressive sound as well,” she says. She focuses more on the arranging, less on the writing – but they all collaborate on both.

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THE SHOW MUST GO ON

SOON AFTER GRADUATING from UNCG’s School of Music, Martha Bassett ’96 MM made a name for herself with her first band, Martha and the Moodswingers. Nine albums later, the jazz singer realized she was at a crossroads. She could either commit to developing a national audience or invest more at home – and North Carolina had become her home. “And I really wanted to go deeper into the North Carolina audience and find a new way of doing things,” she says. She also wanted to create more opportunities for women performers.

When Elkin’s Reeves Theater called her to ask about doing a regular show, she could tell it was the place where her vision could unfold. Her partner Pat Lawrence stepped up to serve as producer, and together they onboarded the best technical people they knew.
IT’S 7 A.M., AND JOSHUA HODGE COURSES THROUGH CAMPUS. Running gives him time to think of his day ahead and far-off plans. He considers himself blessed, with a package of scholarships, and a will to excel. Reporting to Quantico following May commencement, he’ll give back through national defense. Then dedicate himself to educating the next generations. His key message is one he’s learned through good times and bad. **CARPE DIEM.**

SEIZE THE DAY

FROM SMALL TOWN AND LIMITED MEANS, TO BLUE & GOLD SCHOLAR AND NOW THE MARINES

BY MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE
people around here, and the connections that I've gained," he says. "So UNC Greensboro was always at the top of my list because of those reasons, and you know, struggling with money."

Why UNCG?
"Economics was something I really enjoyed studying, and the Bryan School of Business and Economics has one of the best economics programs in the state." And he knew he was completely dependent on getting a scholarship. "I would not have been able to go to college without a scholarship," he explains. "The Bryan School, they reached out to me during the application process. I interviewed with multiple people at the Bryan School. I guess they saw potential in me, and they offered me the Blue and Gold Scholarship, which is a full-ride scholarship."

A SHEBORO IS HIS HOME, HE’S PROUD TO TELL YOU.
At the edge of the Uwharrie Mountains, its economy continues its transition from a reliance on furniture and textiles. His family had very limited means, but all eight kids were taught to aspire. "My mom really taught me the value of going to school and getting a college education, not just for a job but just really pushing your family," he says. "I think a college education really liberates you, especially a small town kid like myself."

Between evictions and foreclosures, they never stayed in one place long. As she took realtor coursework and transitioned to a home-selling career, her new job meant the family could move into an actual house – till the housing market collapsed and the Great Recession hit. Most of the 15 places his family – mom and his seven siblings – lived have been leveled, he says. But one remains, much like it’s been for a hundred years. It’s where he and cousins and friends fished, hunted, rode ATVs. It’s his grandpa’s farmland, with a well dug by hand, the old home still heated with a woodstove. Up on a rise, it tops a grassy valley with hardwoods and beech trees all the way to the Uwharrie River.

It’s quiet, here in March. The crows of a Rhode Island Red rooster next to the woodshed. A chainsaw in the distance, and a hint of his grandpa’s radio from inside. High in the sky, contrails. Those planes and all those people are going somewhere. Joshua is too.

ONE THING YOU LEARN REALLY QUICKLY, when spending time with Josh: He is highly motivated. In FFA with meat grading and evaluation? He took prizes at state competitions. Clay pigeon shooting, on his grandpa’s farm? He took regional awards in his age division. Baseball? He learned to lay off curve balls and pounce on the fast ones, earning a .500+ batting average his senior year, the top on his team. At graduation, he was first in his class at Wheatmore High School in Trinity, with its motto “Honor. Pride. Valor.”

His life trajectory turned. He had the opportunity to excel on a higher level.

HIGHLIGHT THIS YEAR has been helping teach a couple of Bryan School courses. He ends each lesson with the same two words: “Carpe diem.”

At a January class, they discussed what that Latin phrase means.
“You’re given one life. Every moment matters,” he tells the students. “Seize the day.

“You have an idea of your highest potential. You should work towards developing yourself, growing yourself in order to become better every single day.”

His teaching is a part of the Bryan School’s Blueprint Series program, one of many unique programs at UNCG.

Joshua says he chose UNCG for its great reputation. Fact is, the academic excellence at UNCG is remarkable. You could go on and on, but here are a few examples the average person may not know ...

COUNSELING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT This graduate program in the School of Education is rated in the top 3 nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

MUSIC EDUCATION A high number of music teachers in the state’s public schools are UNCG graduates. The program has a national reputation. This year, two Grammy finalists for music education were alumni. In 2016, graduate Phillip Riggs ’98 MED received the Grammy.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY Its PhD program, with a focus on
Offerings by the school to build your academic experience. Classes during the pandemic have been unusual – with social distancing and masks de rigueur. But this Business 216 course, like the 115 course he taught in the fall – both foundational skills classes for personal and professional development – has opened his eyes.

Being a teacher, developing the lesson plans, ensuring the students are learning what they need to know, has brought him an epiphany. "The program has really taught me what I want to do with my life, and that is to go into education.”

He is mentoring the students, as others have done for him. “You're helping them with personal and professional development, and helping them discover their values, their goals, their purpose. You're helping them construct a resume, to interview, and to do public speaking. We really try to push them for professional success.”

And to reach their full potential. Yes, to seize the day.

Josh Graduates This May

In his third year. He has been taking 18 to 21 hours a semester, plus he came in with some credits. He’s worked hard to maintain a 4.0 average. He decided to double major, in economics and religious studies. “It’s really just based off my personality, I love thinking about money. That’s economics. And I love thinking about society and other people. That’s religious studies.”

His upbringing is as a Southern Baptist, “I always heard on the news and had no clue about Islam. Islam was something that I had never known.”

Dr. Gregory Grieve, recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award, opened his eyes as an intellectual to the study of Buddhism. Dr. Derek Krueger opened his eyes to the study of monasticism. The Joe Rosenhall Excellence Professor in Religious Studies, Krueger is a leading authority on Buddhist Studies. Dr. Micheline Chalhoub-Deville and Dr. Bob Henson.

JOSHUA'S BLUE SCHOLARSHIPS

WHAT

• Amelia Storms Hopkins Scholarship Fund
• Leonard L. Brown Scholarship Fund
• Barnes & Noble Fund for Excellence
• Stuart D. Allen Endowed Scholarship Fund
• Lichten Family Honors Scholarship Endowment

The Bryan School really worked hard to connect students with the donors of the scholarships, Josh says. He has spent time with several of these families. “I'll tell you, it's a really incredible experience.”

Joshua keeps a logbook of his workouts, notes, and great quotes.

Dr. Bryan School's Spartan Finance and Investment Club. He is also one of the University Marshals. Dr. Gregory Grieve, recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award, opened his eyes as an intellectual to the study of Buddhism. Dr. Derek Krueger opened his eyes to the study of monasticism. The Joe Rosenhall Excellence Professor in Religious Studies, Krueger is a leading authority on Buddhist Studies. Dr. Micheline Chalhoub-Deville and Dr. Bob Henson.

JOSH GRADUATES THIS MAY

In his third year. He has been taking 18 to 21 hours a semester, plus he came in with some credits. He’s worked hard to maintain a 4.0 average. He decided to double major, in economics and religious studies. “It’s really just based off my personality, I love thinking about money. That’s economics. And I love thinking about society and other people. That’s religious studies.”

His upbringing is as a Southern Baptist, “I always heard on the news and had no clue about Islam. Islam was something that I had never known.”

Dr. Gregory Grieve, recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award, opened his eyes as an intellectual to the study of Buddhism. Dr. Derek Krueger opened his eyes to the study of monasticism. The Joe Rosenhall Excellence Professor in Religious Studies, Krueger is a leading authority on Buddhist Studies. Dr. Micheline Chalhoub-Deville and Dr. Bob Henson.

WHAT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE A PART OF JOSHUA'S BLUE AND GOLD SUPPORT?

• Amelia Storms Hopkins Scholarship Fund
• Leonard L. Brown Scholarship Fund
• Barnes & Noble Fund for Excellence
• Stuart D. Allen Endowed Scholarship Fund
• Lichten Family Honors Scholarship Endowment

"The Bryan School really worked hard to connect students with the donors of the scholarships, Josh says. He has spent time with several of these families. "I'll tell you, it's a really incredible experience."
INNOVATIVE BLUEPRINT SERIES
Preparing undergraduates more fully for their future careers is an ambitious undertaking. The Bryan School’s groundbreaking “Blueprint Series” is designed to equip each student with the employability skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing industry landscape.

Dean McRae Banks notes that the required four-credit undergraduate curriculum focuses on accelerating business students’ personal and professional development. Outstanding upperclassmen, such as Joshua, serve as team leaders, co-teaching these classes. This furthers professionalism students’ personal and professional development.

These classes further the team leaders’ development even more.

Joshua, the morning of his Marine Corps’ Physical Fitness Test.
What’s it like being a new cast member?

When I first started, I wanted to do everything right. I’m a perfectionist to my very core. I put a lot of pressure on myself. But I had to snap out of that quickly because things move too fast there to dwell. I think (new cast members) Punkie, Andrew, and I were lucky, in a way, that we started during the pandemic. We’ve been learning the ropes while everyone else has been getting used to the new COVID protocols. So it’s kind of like we’re all newbies together.

What’s made it special is how lovely the cast and crew have been. So many people have gone out of their way to check in and make me feel welcome. I just can’t wait until we can all finally hang out! There’s only so much you can talk about six feet apart and with masks and shields on.

The writing and performing side is a whole different world as well. You must have a strong sense of self and be willing to put yourself out there. It’s a self-propelled system, and it’s up to you to make your voice heard. It’s daunting to pitch a silly idea you had in the shower to some of the greatest comedic minds in the world. But you’ve got to do it if you want to get your material on the air.

Have you helped write any sketches — or develop your characters?

I’ve helped write/written lots of sketches that haven’t made it onto the show. But I’m still new to the game, and I fully expect it to take a while before I can get things on air. I’m learning so much every week, though, and getting better at writing sketches for television. It’s different from writing for the stage, which was the bulk of my experience before SNL.
**Q** You joined the show last fall as they did six straight weeks, during the pandemic?  
Those first six weeks were crazy. Not only was I adjusting to being on the show, but I was also adjusting to being around people again. I hadn’t been around anyone since the initial lockdown in March. So it was pretty wild being thrown into the deep end, especially when my heroes and idols were swimming around me. My social skills were rusty, and I was just hoping everyone didn’t think I was a total weirdo. Overall that first block of shows was incredible and overwhelming, and I’ll remember it for the rest of my life.

**Q** So how did you come across this opportunity?  
After a few years of taking improv classes and performing at the Upright Citizens Brigade (in Los Angeles), I had the opportunity to do the theater’s showcase for performers without agents or managers. From that performance, I landed some managers who had me put together a tape to send to SNL. From that tape, I was invited to do an SNL showcase—essentially an audition to audition. That showcase was … dun dun dun … the very next day. About a month later, I was invited to do another showcase in LA. I flew to NYC to test for the third time, and had more meetings.

**Q** Tell about those auditions in front of Lorne Michaels for SNL.  
The first time was a blur. But I remember the feeling I had when I walked into Studio 8H and stepped on the stage that first time. I’ve never experienced anything like that moment. And I got a few laughs, so I felt great about that. The second time was less scary since I’d been there before, and I was excited to do some new characters and show what else I could do. The third time was different again because it felt like it was all or nothing.

**Q** When did you get the call?  
In the fall of 2020, my number came up, and I got the call from Lorne. I had been dreaming of this day since the first time I got to stay up late and watch “Saturday Night Live” … live. I sobbed tears of joy when I got a plane to New York a couple of days later.

**Q** What’s the most memorable moment so far?  
When I walked into Studio 8H and stepped on the stage was the most memorable moment of this experience and my entire life. Two: Adele singing “Rolling in the Deep” about two inches from my face was earth-shattering cool. She is one of my favorite singers of all time, so that memory still gives me chills. And three: Getting to say my first “Live from New York.” I got to say it with Kate and Cecily, which was a dream come true because I’ve looked up to them since their first “Live from New York.” I was truly an out of body experience.

**Q** been recognized on the street yet?  
Had not yet. Granted, anywhere I’ve gone I’ve been wearing masks and lots of layers for my first New York winter. But I’m looking forward to the first time it happens! It’ll probably be strange but cool.

**Q** What is your favorite episode?  
I really don’t have a favorite episode. Each one is so special, unique, and fun for different reasons. I laugh so much and I learn something new with each episode. And my favorite sketch to be in didn’t make it on air. I really hope they bring it back so no spoilers, but it was very silly and involved throwing soaking wet bathing suits around. We could not stop laughing! I try not to break (laughing during sketched), but when other people start to giggle, I lose it.

**Q** What would be your ideal career over the next 20 years?  
Well, I’ve been working towards this for my entire life. Getting on SNL is literally a dream come true for me. For now my focus is doing my best at the show, growing and learning as much as I can. Eventually I’d love to go on and make movies and television that make people happy. Comedy has been like a well for me providing joy, inspiration, and comfort whenever I need it. I want to pay that forward to as many people as I can as long as possible. Strange but cool.

**Q** Your intro at December’s online commencement was a hit! How did it feel coming back as the guest speaker, just seven years after earning your own degree in studio art?  
I was humbled and extremely nervous. I don’t often do videos like that, especially those meant to inspire the world’s next generation of greats! Talk about pressure. But I wanted them to know that I understand what it’s like to achieve something so significant, only to have it happen during this pandemic. But I hope I got the point across that even though it was a very “2020” graduation, it was still a momentous occasion and an important achievement in the graduates’ lives. They should be very proud of themselves. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have attended UNCG and for the education I received there, and it was a joy to welcome the Class of 2020 to the alumni family.

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The worst days for America gave it perhaps the most outstanding public college for women. Woman’s College (WC) was established as the Great Depression entered its third, horrible year. More and more men were becoming unemployed and marriage rates continued to decline, leaving young women urgently seeking ways to sustain themselves. At this campus, many found not only that, but also a pathway to empowerment.

Building on the legacy of the Normal School, the Normal College, and the North Carolina College for Women, WC provided many women across the state affordable access to higher education. They wholeheartedly committed to the College’s motto of “Service,” and did so on their own terms — spurring an extensive impact on education, health care, and administration, across the state.

Harriet Elliott, who would serve in several national roles under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, exerted a major influence over Woman’s College. As a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and History, she introduced into her classroom concepts of responsible freedom, women’s rights, an informed electorate, the democratic way, and what she called the dead weight of uniformity. In 1935, when she became Dean of Women, she carried her ideals up the administrative ladder.

Building on the foundation "Harriet Elliott helped make Woman’s College what it is," said alumna Alice Irby ’54. "And she died just two or three years before I started as a
I had never seen so many professional women in one place. I took physics from a woman! — ALICE IRBY '54

Making way for change

Two years after the Supreme Court’s landmark decision, Woman’s College accepted its first two African American students: JoAnne Smart Drane ‘60 and the late Bettye Tillman ‘60. JoAnne was the first in her family to go to college. Growing up in Raleigh, she recalls only one professional – a teacher – living in her neighborhood. She was nervous coming to WC, but determined to get an education. Once on campus, JoAnne and Bettye were given their own wing in Shaw Hall. After settling in their first night, they decided to play it safe, opting against going to get dinner. “We didn’t know what it was going to be like,” said JoAnne. “But the very next day, because we were famished, we said we were going to go out and get breakfast no matter what the situation was.”

When they entered the dining hall the noise level descended. “You couldn’t hear any conversation at all,” she recalled. “A little uneasy, they proceeded through the silence. But by the time they grabbed their meals and came back out to the dining hall, the cafeteria chatter had resumed. And their anxiety had somewhat diminished.” As time passed, JoAnne found some of her peers kind, and others outwardly intolerant. Still, she shared her experience with other African American students. After inviting Margaret Patterson Horton ’51 for a weekend visit to the campus, Margaret would enroll as the third African American student at the college. “In addition to the burdens, there were benefits to a good education, and having new and different kinds of experiences.”

In addition to the burdens, there were benefits to a good education, and having new and different kinds of experiences. — JOANNE SMART DRANE ’60

Robert Frost and Flannery O’Connor were among the notable speakers at the WC ARTS FESTIVALS in the mid 1950s.

Above, JOANNE SMART DRANE ’60 and BETTYS ANN DAVIS TILLMAN ’60 (I–J) were the first two African American students at WC. Below, N. Spencer, 1957.

JoAnne Smart Drane ’60 and Bettye Ann Davis Tillman ’60 (I–J) were the first two African American students at WC.

Making one of the biggest impressions on Alice, though, was Dr. Warren Ashby – a professor in the Department of Philosophy – first as a teacher, then mentor and friend. They had chats in the Soda Shop (in the building now known as the Faculty Center), where students and faculty regularly met. He and his wife, Helen, often invited Alice to their home. “Their home became Grand Central for a lot of us,” said Alice. “I remember sitting on the living room floor of Warren Ashby’s house, watching the McCarthy hearings.” Senator Joseph R. McCarthy’s pervasive hunt for communists was a sore spot for many WC students, who feared an encroachment on their freedom of speech. In the student newspaper, the hearings were referred to as one of America’s “historically grotesque tragedies.”

Around the same time, the Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruling was shaking up the nation, officially declaring racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. “The College brought in a lot of cultural activities – theater and music and speakers that were very, very progressive, they were personable, inviting Margaret Patterson Horton ’51 for a weekend visit to the campus, Margaret would enroll as the third African American student at the college. “In addition to the burdens, there were benefits to a good education, and having new and different kinds of experiences.”

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I think one of the things that was so helpful to the African American students who were at Woman’s College at the time was the fact that the Black community in Greensboro was so supportive and encouraging.

A few more Black students trickled into WC just after JoAnne. In addition to Margaret, she became friends with Zelma Amey Holmes ’61 and Claudette Graves Burroughs-White ’61 – who later became a well-known Greensboro City Council member.

They spent weekends with Claudette’s family and attended athletic events together at North Carolina A&T. Long after graduation, they would remain friends, connected, in part, by their shared experience.

As the ‘60s neared

In August 1958, Ricky Nelson’s “Poor Little Fool” and Bobby Darin’s “Splish, Splash” topped the pop charts. Elvis had been inducted in the Army. The U.S. created NASA, as its “space race” with the Soviet Union sped ahead. On campus, the original McIver Building was in rubble, making way for a modern, new McIver Building.

At the same time, Emilie “Emmy” Mills ’62, ’65 MFA was entering her freshman year. She had come to study art, having heard great things of the founder of the art department and the Weatherspoon, Gregory Ivy. Unfortunately for her, Ivy would soon be leaving.

“The department was in a period of transition during most of my undergraduate years,” said Emmy. But the leadership was still top tier. “Several of the professors that were here, had been here for some time. Susan Barksdale, Norma Hardin, and Helen Thrush were the fixtures of the art department and had very good reputations.”

However, according to Emmy, most of the favorite professors of art students were in the Department of English: notably, Randall Jarrell (future Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress), Robert Watson, and Fred Chappell.

“The artists and the writers often gathered at the Pickwick on Walker Avenue in the ‘60s. We were sort of a cultural group in a way. In some cases, we were looked at as the interesting people – but then on the other hand I think there were other students who thought we were kind of weird,” Emmy chuckled.

Unifying students was the dress code. Dresses, skirts, and blouses were the standard. No jeans, no slacks, no sleepwear! (Though lots of times girls would roll up their pajama bottoms and put raincoats on to evade the protocol.) Even going across campus in your gym suit was a violation. If you had a class after gym, you had to change clothes.

“As art majors, we didn’t like the dress regulations because we always wanted to wear casual clothes in case clay, paint, or etching acid got on us. But we had to wear smocks,” Emmy explained.

Aside from their fashion, another thing the women of WC had in common was a wealth of academic talent. Dean of the Graduate School J. A. Davis analyzed statistics from other
state colleges and scores from the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SATs) for the freshman class in 1959. He found that WC students ranked well above those of any other public college in the state in high school achievement. He also found that they were in the top third of freshmen in the nation, as was true of Chapel Hill and N.C. State. As a classmate of Emmy’s, Sarah Shoffner ’62, ’64 MS, ’77 PhD describes her experience at WC with an emphasis on “opportunity.” Sarah’s mom took teacher-certification classes at WC, and her great aunt had taught math there when it was known as the Normal College. So she was thrilled to follow their steps. She was also happy to find encouragement from faculty. As an undergraduate she was asked to fill roles that she wouldn’t have considered on her own. “The faculty and the administration, particularly in the School of Home Economics, if they got an idea of something you could do or something they wanted you to be involved in, they would ask you,” she explained. Her senior year, Sarah was offered a graduate assistantship. Her future position would be teaching home economics classes and supervising a student teacher at the Curry School. To prepare, she was advised to go to summer school and take a supervision course. “Our school was one of the strongest programs in the nation for Home Economics at that time, so I got to meet a lot of people,” she remembers. “And when I became a faculty member, Naomi Albanese sent me to some of the administrative meetings of the American Home Economics Association and let me participate and represent her sometimes. So I was just given opportunities to get to know people, learn, and branch out,” she said. “My whole career was having opportunities available that I could latch on to.” Passing the torch Sarah began teaching at UNCG in 1964, and she served in various research and administrative roles in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. She developed internship opportunities for hundreds of students who were in the child development and family studies major but didn’t plan to teach preschool or K-6. She was honored with the NC Home Economist Award, the state’s highest award in the profession. After earning her MFA at the University, Emmy returned again to work in Jackson Library. It was then that she was
WC TRIBUTE

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

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

“The Woman’s College Tribute is a permanent reminder that for some 30 years there was a College that taught women there was an alternative to the traditional role that was expected of them,” said Agran Johnson Price ’81, ’71 Med, a member of the WC Tribute steering committee. She, herself, went on to teach in the Accounting department at UNCG from 1981 to 1997, seeing firsthand the strong WC legacy of excellence.

“IT instilled independence, free thinking, leadership, and the necessity of overcoming challenges in family, in business, and in life. It introduced a more practical and realistic, but still elegant, image for women in society. Furthering its major contributions, Woman’s College is the foundation of the current UNCG.”

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WC TRIBUTE VISIT ALUMNI.UNCG.EDU/WCTRIBUTE

Sidetext by Michelle Danner-Groves ’16 MA

encouraged by the library director to go to library school. She completed that degree at the University of Illinois and then returned as UNCG’s first director of the Special Collections – now called the Martha Blakney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives. Under her guidance, collection development plans were written for the University’s rare book collections, manuscript collections, and university archives – contributing greatly to the needs of the academic community, scholars, and students.

An invitation from the UNCG Neo-Black Society would bring JoAnne back to the University 20 years after earning her degree. “Once I got back and saw — that the University had grown in its acceptance and involvement of students — particularly African American students — and that there were also African American faculty, it just opened my eyes to the kinds of things that had developed in that period of time since I had left.”

With a newfound connection, JoAnne became a regular speaker for campus organizations, sharing her experience as a pioneer of diversity and issuing words of encouragement to students over the years. She would also serve as first vice president of the Alumni Association and on several boards of the University. Outside of the University, JoAnne dedicated her life to the education sphere, leading in several director roles throughout her career and retiring as a consultant in teacher education.

Five years after graduating from WC, Alice Irby returned as the College’s first director of admissions. Charlie Phillips and Merrih Mossman had brought her back to the College to assist with recruitment, and Mossman gave her the new leading role. She touched the lives of many students — bringing a perspective of WC alumni to the role. “We made it a special mission to recruit girls from every county in the state, and that meant a lot of first-generation, rural students, as well as students from various ethnic backgrounds,” said Alice.

After working at the College, Alice would go on to work as the vice president of student services at Rutgers University, a role that awarded her recognition from The New York Times as “the highest-ranking woman in the administration of a major American university.”

Alice, JoAnne, Emmy, and Sarah each provide a unique perspective of someone who returned to their campus to make an indelible mark on the institution and on its students.

They also represent a true part of WC’s legacy: a place where the marginalized were the majority; free thought was expected; and faculty were often like family, making it their personal responsibility to guide students to success.

Like the thousands of WCers, they are proud of the academic excellence of their college, confident of their mark on the state at a time when women were expected to take a back seat. And like so many from their era, they have remained close friends of the University, passing down their wisdom and lessons learned, shaping UNCG into what it is today.

The faculty and the administration, particularly in the School of Home Economics, if they got an idea of something you could do or something they wanted you to be involved in, they would ask you.

— SARAH SHOFFNER ’62, ’64 MS, ’77 PhD

A special thank you to University Archivist Erin Lawrimore and Martha Blakney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives staff for providing archival photography and assistance.
PAYING IT FORWARD: THE GENEROSITY OF LYNN AND FAYE EURY ’56

College can be an exciting but stressful time, particularly for first-generation students. Many have limited financial resources, which often requires them to take out hefty student loans or work multiple jobs to afford their degree. UNCG students persevere, but the uncertainty about making it to graduation looms. Former Carolina Power & Light Executive Vice President Lynn Eury and his late wife, Faye, were no strangers to this financial challenge. Growing up in rural North Carolina during the Great Depression, money was often tight. Their parents—who never pursued higher education—knew a college degree could open greater opportunities for their children, and their families supported Faye’s and Lynn’s educational pursuits.

Recognizing the support and sacrifices others made for their success, the Eury’s chose to pay that generosity forward. In 2006, they established the Faye Young Eury and Lynn W. Eury Scholarship in UNCG’s Bryan School of Business and Economics with a testamentary gift. The Eury’s made additional contributions to endow the fund and support students during their undergraduate studies. One such student is marketing major and first-generation student Nyat Fesshaye. Complications with her federal Financial Aid application threatened her senior year, but the Eury Scholarship came as a lifeline, allowing her to enter her final year with confidence. Although Faye Eury passed away in 2019, Lynn continues to support students at his wife’s alma mater. In addition to a second testamentary gift and a five-year pledge to their scholarship, Lynn made a gift to name the Faye Young Eury Conference and Events Room at the Bryan School in her memory. This gift will provide critical renovations and upgrades, as well as support the Blueprint Series— the Bryan School’s personal and professional development curriculum, designed to help students graduate with the employability skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing business landscape. (See p. 24.) Lynn’s ongoing generosity ensures students continue to thrive at UNCG, regardless of their financial status. It’s a reality students like Nyat are grateful for.

MORE STORIES AT ADVANCEMENT.UNCG.EDU.

SCHOOL & COLLEGE REVENUE

School of Education | $64,303
School of Health & Human Sciences | $36,358
School of Nursing | $30,113
Bryan School of Business & Economics | $24,420
College of Arts & Sciences | $17,110
College of Visual & Performing Arts | $11,331

THANK YOU for investing in UNCG’s excellence

UNCG magazine • Spring 2021
During these extraordinary times, we send our best wishes for each of you. Reach out, and share your news.

Visit us at alumnimagazine.uncg.edu and click on “Submit a class note.” You can also mail your information to Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 20167, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.

1930s

HELENE WILLIAMS BALLOUE ’19 was born one year before the influenza Pandemic of 1918 and 1919. Last year, she weathered a bout with coronavirus. The Kings Mountain Herald celebrated her fascinating life in a large feature story, in dedication of her 90th birthday, which she celebrated October 27, 2020.

1940s

LEONA MAHONEY FLEMING ’43 celebrated her ninth birthday in March. She says this University was responsible for many of her core beliefs and motivations. “It was a big step for me to leave Roanoke Island and travel to Greenville in the early 40s. It was an opportunity of a lifetime for me, and I remain truly grateful to this day.” Mahoney and her husband are all the current students who have the opportunity to take advantage of this great institution.

1950s

ANGIE LEE ETON KEPT ’43 was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine – one of the most prestigious awards conferred by the governor of North Carolina. A lifelong educator, she spent her 36-year career teaching students of all ages, ranging from grade school to college.

1960s

KAREN ENSER PHRUNG ’66, now retired after a career in journalism, was invited to give the Eric Carson Memorial Lecture on Dec. 2, 2020. Karen is recognized as the first African American undergraduate to attend and graduate UNCG-Chapel Hill.

1970s

REBECCA JOHNSON SCOTT ’72 joined the board of directors of Impact 200 Palm Beach County (I2P), a nonprofit organization that encourages local philanthropy. More than 60 women donate $20,000 each annually, pool all funds, and vote to award grants to nonprofits serving southern Palm Beach County.

1980s

DOROTHY AUGUST ‘81, of the Kid’s Clubhouse, was named the 2020 Small Business Person of the Year for her business with son, and under the ownership of the Kernersville (NC) Chamber of Commerce. The Kid’s Clubhouse provides families with after school care and serves nearly a dozen area elementary schools.

2010s

JAMES FISHER ’10, who retired from the School of Theatre faculty last year, having served at UNCG for 13 years and as the head of theatre for seven years, was promoted to associate dean during his 50th year in broadcasting. In the early stages of his career, Jim worked on the campus television studio and produced a weekly radio series for UNCG. The recipient of the Spectrum of Diversity Award has interviewed stars like Elizabeth Taylor, Bob Hope, and Arnold Palmer; has been a judge for the Emmy Awards; and moderated special events for the Television Academy. The creator of “Triad Today” has served as a visiting lecturer, and in 2020, he was named to the UNCG Alumni Association Board.

1930s

JAN TURNER $940 was pleased to announce the publication of her sixteenth novel, the seventh in the “Grace Street Mystery” series, “Grace Double Blues.”

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1980s

LEONARD COOKE, JR. ’84, who also was a graduate of the School of Nursing, prepared her well, for COVID-19. Her training at UNCG’s School of Nursing, and she is certified by the state of N.C. Chamber of Commerce. The Kids’ Clubhouse provides families with after-school care and serves nearly a dozen area elementary schools.

1990s

WILMA WALKER RICHARDSON ’85, now retired after 46-year career at CCBC Essex, was honored by the late educator, who served for 12 years as dean of CCBC’s School of Health Professions and had an impressive 49-year career at CCBC Essex.

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1930s

LEVINA MEEKINS FLEMING ’43 celebrated her 90th birthday. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she went on to a career as a nurse in the 1940s and was elected to the Triad Hall of Fame for her 50th year in broadcasting. In the early stages of his career, Jim worked on the campus television studio and produced a weekly radio series for UNCG. The recipient of the Spectrum of Diversity Award has interviewed stars like Elizabeth Taylor, Bob Hope, and Arnold Palmer; has been a judge for the Emmy Awards; and moderated special events for the Television Academy. The creator of “Triad Today” has served as a visiting lecturer, and in 2020, he was named to the UNCG Alumni Association Board.
2000s

DOMINIQUE ANDERSON '91, who is coordinator of the UNCG Musical Theatre Program, received a Grammy Nomination for Best New Artist for her recording of Stephen Schwartz’s new musical “Priest of Egypt.” Released on Greatwide Records, the album is produced by Dominiquest and Stephen Schwartz, with Kurt Deutsch serving as executive producer.

THOMAS BLAUSEN '01 POST-HANDOVER CERTIFICATE is the senior vice president and chief operating officer of the International Hospital Federation (IHF) Beyond the Call of Duty for Coronavirus Program. The IHF selected 105 outstanding caregivers from all countries.

KATY RUSSELL MACKENZIE was hired as the editor of The Yadkin Ripple. On The Magazine, and The Tribune. A native of North Carolina, Katy was a former staff writer for The Yadkin Ripple since 2014. During that time, she wrote weekly columns on a variety of topics, ranging from local issues to politics to cultural events.

FRAN TRESKIN '90 received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, an honor granted by the North Carolina Governor to North Carolinians who have made significant contributions to the state through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments. Peggy is recognized for her work with the military, and her service as the first female colonel at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She is also recognized for her contributions to the North Carolina School of Health Training Center.

KATHY MCNELL LANS '90 who was named the Strand University Executive Producer. She has served as a faculty member at UNC Chapel Hill and also served as the director of the Strand University School of Nursing's simulation coordinator, overseeing the School of Nursing Training simulation equipment.

JESSICA ICENHOUR ROBERTS '03 was elected as a BARRON THOMPSON '01 post-associate professor in the Department of History at Guilford College. She is a native of Greensboro and has been teaching at Guilford College since 2003. Her research interests include the history of the American South, with a focus on race and gender in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

KEVIN HARRIS '93 who was appointed to the UNCG School of Nursing as a professor of nursing. He also has his first short-story collection titled “The Wicked Stepbrother and the Dragon,” which is described as “complex and layered… the epic tale that shifts in dramatic intensity.”

WILLIAM LAMS '76 who was named the Strand University Executive Producer. He has served as a faculty member at UNC Chapel Hill and also served as the director of the Strand University School of Nursing's simulation coordinator, overseeing the School of Nursing Training simulation equipment.

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LAURA EVERHART WELFARE '07 PHD who was appointed to the UNCG School of Nursing as a professor of nursing. She also served as a nurse practitioner in rural settings and in long-term care settings.

LAUREN BALLETT '08 who was appointed to the UNCG School of Nursing as a professor of nursing. She also served as a nurse practitioner in rural settings and in long-term care settings.

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2020s

CODY ANDERSON ’19 was invited to compete in the 2020 Arnold Palmer Cup. ANDREW BROOKS ’16 continued his involvement in the Artscapes, a U.K.-based music education doctoral program last fall as a graduate teaching assistant. RENÉE BLOOMS ’10 has been appointed the visiting assistant professor of percussion at Shenandoah University. ADRIAN COHEN JOHNSON ’04/’06 was a nurse in the ICU at Wake Forest Baptist Health where the company was giving back to the nurses and aides in the ICU to give back to those that fought before her in the military. Adrienne made history in 2021 as a member of the first class of African American women to graduate from the Department of Management, she teaches organizational behavior, international business, and strategy. TRACY LUNNEY COMBS ’19 is an artist who entered the Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. As she earns her doctorate, she will maintain her relationships with musicians by researching performance psychology and the health and wellness issues of performing artists.

JULIET MCKENNA ’06 has announced that she is now a professor of voice at Asbury University. DOMINIC JORDAN ’10 was named among Black Business Ink’s 40 Under 40 Most Influential African Americans In the Triad.

WRESTLER PLATO SEAGRAVE ’09 was named in The NCH Health Fitness Center to provide athletic training services. John W. Moore Middle School, in Florence, S.C. as the school’s new athletic trainer, as the三角洲 hopes to increase injury prevention, rehabilitation, and management.

DAWN THOMAS ’13 and co-founder, a nurse in the NICU at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center who is featured in The NWSA Journal. She is now a nurse in the ICU at Wake Forest Baptist Health where the company was giving back to the nurses and aides in the ICU to give back to those that fought before her in the military. Adrienne made history in 2021 as a member of the first class of African American women to graduate from the Department of Management, she teaches organizational behavior, international business, and strategy. TRACY LUNNEY COMBS ’19 is an artist who entered the Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. As she earns her doctorate, she will maintain her relationships with musicians by researching performance psychology and the health and wellness issues of performing artists.

LUCY WANG ’20 was named to the 2020 Arnold Palmer Cup. ANDREW BROOKS ’16 continued his involvement in the Artscapes, a U.K.-based music education doctoral program last fall as a graduate teaching assistant. RENÉE BLOOMS ’10 has been appointed the visiting assistant professor of percussion at Shenandoah University. ADRIAN COHEN JOHNSON ’04/’06 was a nurse in the ICU at Wake Forest Baptist Health where the company was giving back to the nurses and aides in the ICU to give back to those that fought before her in the military. Adrienne made history in 2021 as a member of the first class of African American women to graduate from the Department of Management, she teaches organizational behavior, international business, and strategy. TRACY LUNNEY COMBS ’19 is an artist who entered the Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. As she earns her doctorate, she will maintain her relationships with musicians by researching performance psychology and the health and wellness issues of performing artists.

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Mark J. Freeman ’90

Edward Peterson ’10

Brenda Alternate ’20

Robert Mcinerney ’67

Glen Holmes ’88

Sarah Mcghee Towne ’77

William K. Mathew ’87

Jim Judd ’66

Erica Clayton ’12

Clive B. Blackwell ’70

William L. Hinson ’03 MBA

Pamela Adams Dossitt ’14

Daniel L. Lineback ’68

Carol M. Marston MEd’ 74

Lute D. Donlon ’80 MEd

Kim Watt McIntyre ’11

Julianne Swingvik Groocock ’85

Carla Marty Hurley ’85

Dana Spain Boyd ’57

Leah Ashley Thompson ’91

Kendall S. Anthony ’92

Connie Hall Hartley ’87

Patricia Powell LGB ’91

W. Michael Henderson ’87

Jeffrey Lee Sassir ’96

Sara E. Traendly ’68

Aaron Douglas Coger ’99

Rachael Dalkulie Smirne ’14

Jaye Foster Senator ’94

Jami Catharine Oblon ’58

Mary Jane Phillips ’65 MBA

Marcus White ’20

Ashley Layfers Tanchel ’19

Post- 

Master’s Certificate

FORERUNNER FACULTY/ STAFF

MURRAY D. ARNETT ’74 –died on August 30, 2020. He taught for more than 30 years in UNCG’s Department of English, and served as director of Warren Ashbel Readhead Residential College. His courses were focused on writing, twentieth-century poetry and creative nonfiction. One of his favorite classes was called “Urban Literacies,” which included works mainly in urban or semi-urban settings. He was a member of the UNC Board of Governors and the North Carolina Legislative Ethics Commission.

Robert Cox ’89 was professor of music at UNCG from 1996 until his retirement in 2011. He taught voice and acting, and is known for his work in directing three books related to vocal and choral music, which he wrote to be used as resources. Cox also founded the National Association of College Choirs in 1979 and has been a long-time faculty member. He is also the director of the UNCG Department of Music Library and Archives.

Mark J. Freeman ’90 was the music director of the March of Dimes, the MENC, and the NCCM. He has served as a director of the School of Music, and retired in 2021. Freeman has been a member of various organizations, including the International System of Musicians and the Society for Computer Music Technology.

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