LIGHT THE WAY

This campaign is set to transform our university

PG. 24
NIGHT BRIGHT  Reading Day, before December final exams, is set aside for the warm glow of luminaires throughout campus. The tradition goes back to 1969 at UNCG. This photo at Alumni House was snapped some year before 2011, when plastic luminaires were introduced. Learn about the first year of this tradition, from those who were there.

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Check out the magazine website
Visit alumnimagazine.uncg.edu to enjoy the digital version of the magazine in both photo-rich stories you can easily share on social media and in PDF format. While there, you can also submit a class note, view video clips, or click on archives to see former issues.
It’s been a historic semester. With the return to pre-pandemic on-campus college experiences, the official opening of the Nursing and Instructional Building, and the first launch of a comprehensive campaign at our University in 15 years, these are exciting times.

The largest campaign in UNCG’s history, “Light the Way: The Campaign for Earned Achievement” features an ambitious goal of $200 million. With your support, I know we can transform our University by greatly increasing scholarships, doubling the number of named professorships, and investing in key initiatives to enhance our distinction in academics, research, community engagement, and more. I am so appreciative of the more than 18,000 alumni and other supporters who’ve already come together to put us well over the halfway mark, during the quiet phase of the campaign.

With your help, UNCG is prepared to take its next giant steps. Together, we will achieve our aspirations, for our students and for our University.

How are students and professors faring, with the pandemic still a very serious concern? Campus life appears vibrant again. Students have been diligent about following current protocols – particularly wearing face coverings in the classroom. Faculty have returned to the classroom and there have been no reports of classroom transmission. University officials have made clear their commitment to transparency and to the principles laid out on the Shield Our Spartans web site. This informative web site, with a COVID-19 dashboard, keeps the campus community informed day-by-day. Periodic messages keep the campus updated as needed.

“Since its founding 130 years ago, UNCG has always been about access and excellence,” Chancellor Gilliam said. “All students had their academic life disrupted due to the pandemic.” Many of UNCG’s students – 51% of the new first-time students to be exact – are “first-generation.” Their parents did not graduate from college. And nearly half of our students are from families with limited means and qualify for federal aid. Our University’s integrated student success initiatives are laser focused on helping these students reach their potential and earn their degrees, the chancellor notes.

He adds that, as evidenced by US News & World Report’s third consecutive year of ranking UNCG no. 1 in the state for social mobility, our University is known for elevating individuals’ potential and moving people up the ladder.

The new Light the Way campaign is designed to further empower the Spartan students’ success.
UNCG FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS were awarded $48.3 million in external grant funding in the last fiscal year, exceeding the previous year’s research funding total by $6 million. The 14% increase in research funding occurred across a wide range of disciplines, reflecting the University’s broad strengths as a community-engaged, public research institution. Over the last five years, UNCG research funding has increased by 57%.

UNCG is a federally designated Minority Serving Institution with Carnegie Foundation designations for both higher research activity and community engagement. Only 18 doctorate-granting institutions in the U.S. boast this constellation of credentials. Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Terri L. Shelton noted that several of the largest funded projects were in support of our education system, such as national work to improve access to education among homeless youth, a multi-state effort to increase college and career readiness, and a partnership to find, train, and keep effective principals in rural school districts in our region. Major funding also went to health research and to collaborations with municipalities.

Over half of this fiscal year’s research funding came from federal agencies, followed by state contracts (19.8%), subawards from other educational and research institutions (11.9%), nonprofits (6.7%), public and private foundations (3.2%), local government (2.1%), and business and industry (1.2%).
A gift from Betsy and Mitchell Oakley has made possible the renovation of the Alumni House’s large reception room. The University, with a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees, announced its new name: “Oakley Family Reception Room.”

Betsy S. Oakley ’69, who chairs the Board of Trustees and the UNCG Endowment Fund Board, is a member of the *Light the Way* campaign cabinet. She has served on the UNCG Human Environmental Sciences Foundation Board of Directors, the UNCG Legislative Network, the Centennial Campaign planning board, and as chair of the UNCG Friends of the Libraries. She began her career at Piedmont Natural Gas, and later joined the family business as vice-president and co-owner of Charles Aris Inc., an executive search firm headquartered in Greensboro.

C. Mitchell Oakley Jr., nationally recognized as a leader in his industry, is founder and chair of Charles Aris Inc. He has ties to the University, as well; his great-grandfather Charles Brockmann and Charles’ sister, Laura Brockmann, were the first directors of the Special Department of Instrumental Music at State Normal and Industrial College, the forerunner of UNCG.

In the past four decades, their focus of giving to UNCG has included the Betsy Suitt Oakley Travel Fund, the Collage Performance and Chamber Series Scholarship Fund, the School of Music Enrichment Fund, the Spartan Athletics Scholarship Fund, and the Chancellor’s Greatest Needs Fund.

The room will bear the name of a family, Betsy Oakley notes. “Mitchell and I have always tried to give back, and pay it forward. We feel blessed – and we really treasure Greensboro. We want to set examples for our children and grandchildren, and for our friends as well.”
FRESH LOOK IN ALUMNI HOUSE

The Alumni House opened in 1937 and for decades has welcomed alumni and the campus community. This home away from home hosts several hundred events per year, ranging from business meetings to student events to wedding receptions.

The entire building received a much needed refresh in recent months. The beloved space had not been updated since 2008.

Linda Knight Carr ’76 volunteered her company’s design services to help with the project, most notably the Oakley Family Reception Room renewal. The Alumni House Committee, which consists of alumni from various decades, spearheaded the project.

“It needed a face-lift. It needed to be refreshed,” said Betsy Oakley.

The Alumni House’s new decor, including window treatments, lighting, furnishings, and rugs, creates a fresh, bright, and inviting aesthetic. The hardwood floors on the first floor were refinished. All of the event spaces and meeting rooms were updated including the Oakley Family Reception Room, Byrd Parlor, Parrish Library, Pecky Cypress Room and the Horseshoe Room.

The Alumni House, one of the most well-used spaces on campus year in and year out, will reopen next semester, ready to graciously greet anyone who enters.

$2 MILLION FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS

DENIM HAS A LONG HISTORY in Greensboro. So does UNCG’s scholarly focus on apparel.

A $2 million gift from the Blue Bell Foundation will support that focus for many decades to come. The new Blue Bell Foundation CARS Scholar Endowed Fund will support an endowed scholarship in the Department of Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies (CARS) in UNCG’s Bryan School of Business and Economics.

Starting next fall, the scholarship will be awarded to two students for four years. Two additional students will receive the scholarship each year, so that the endowment will fund eight students in total at any given time.

Chancellor Gilliam said, “By supporting our Spartan students in this way, the Blue Bell Foundation ensures a tradition that will provide impact for decades to come.”

— CHANCELLOR GILLIAM

By supporting our Spartan students in this way, the Blue Bell Foundation ensures a tradition that will provide impact for decades to come.”

UNCG currently has about 300 students majoring in CARS, said Dr. Nancy Nelson Hodges, Burlington Industries Excellence Professor and CARS department head. The majority of CARS graduates go on to have careers in the apparel industry, she added. The global industry is vast – with careers in design, production, marketing, distribution, and new technologies.
A million children have gone “missing” from U.S. schools during the pandemic.

This stat in August’s The New York Times may have shocked the average reader. But principals in our public schools had been wrestling with this hard fact for many months.

These students did not sign in for online pandemic schooling. Many of these children come from low-income or rural families, with working parents and limited internet access.

With the onset of the pandemic and the quick adjustments needed from administrators and educators, these students were underserved as many became unable to access education through traditional means.

This is a tough challenge, the kind sometimes referred to as a “wicked problem,” meaning a problem with many causes that is difficult to solve. But, educators are game to tackle this “wicked problem,” and UNCG alumni principals and superintendents – and the professors who support them – are on it.

Leading a school system during a worldwide pandemic? To Superintendent of Asheboro City Schools Aaron Woody ‘04 MEd, ’10 EdD, it means both finding how to better support students and doing the serious work of analyzing yourself and your team to see where your work could be bettered.

Not only did the pandemic introduce many unforeseen issues, it also intensified existing inequities, says Kisha Clemons, a doctoral student who’s principal of Shuford Elementary and 2020 NC Principal of the Year. Inequalities in economics, living situation, and access have had their lines hardened by COVID, requiring work on the part of everyone involved to maintain equal access to education.

And, as an administrator, you are not only advocating for your students, but for everyone who works at the school. You’re the schedule-maker and mood-setter for important conversations. As Kevin Wheat ’99, ’04 MSA, ’17 EdD puts it, part of the job of the principal is to bring a positive, can-do attitude to everyone you work with – even when feeling positive can be its own challenge.

When he was at UNCG, Kevin was featured in a promotion for the School of Education with the tagline “We invest in his future so he can invest in theirs.” This is a longtime guiding principle of the school. It’s not just about the direct impact of the professor on the student, he explains, but the exponential way that impact is paid forward, going on to inspire new generations who will inspire their own successors far into the future.

Or, as Ashley Westmoreland ’13 Certificate says, “The role of education is to serve.”
Educators matter. People in schools are powerful. They are path makers. They can choose to build bridges.

—Katherine Cumings Mansfield, researcher in Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations (ELC)

When I think about our students becoming administrators and working with teachers to prepare students for the future, it makes me proud of what we are able to accomplish.

—Brian Clarida, researcher in ELC

If you look at the strongest schools, you’ll always find a good principal.

—Tiffanie Lewis-Durham, researcher in ELC

Our Rural Schools

The UNC System has selected UNCG to receive a recurring North Carolina Principal Fellows Program grant. It will fund UNCG’s Principal Preparation for Excellence and Equity in Rural Schools, which focuses on training principals to make meaningful impacts in rural districts. The grant will provide up to $4.5 million for 2022-28.

Ashley Westmoreland, principal at Alexander Wilson Elementary

Kevin Wheat, principal of Allen Jay Preparatory Academy in High Point

TOPS In Teaching

EUGENIA FLOYD ’09 is the 2021 Burroughs Wellcome Fund NC Teacher of the Year. She joins two other Spartans who’ve won the top statewide honor in the last two decades: Freebird McKinney ’04, ’06 MEd and Allison Ormond ’07 MEd, ’14 PhD.
King of the consoles

Take a love of sports, thousands of hours competing against the best gamers in the world, and an uncompromising work ethic, and you have the ingredients to build a gaming empire.

“It all contributed to the career I have now. I combine my hard work in school, my love for video games, and my passion for competing in sports. All those things got mixed in a bowl and made my career in esports,” says Mike Rufail ’05.

A broadcast cinema (now media studies) major, Mike converted his passion for video gaming into a multi-million dollar enterprise.

He is the founder and chief gaming officer of Dallas-based Envy Gaming, Inc., one of the largest esports groups in the world.

His love for gaming started early. When most others were into Nintendo, he focused on PC gaming. He got to experience PC games right from the start and came of age along with the technology. It didn’t take him long after college graduation to realize he could pivot from his budding career in film and TV to full-time gaming. Within two years he’d created Envy Gaming.

Mike credits UNCG with teaching him the psychology of media, or the interaction of human behavior with media and technology. He used this concept as the company’s CEO to grow Envy Gaming into the gaming, esports, and lifestyle brand it has become. “I’m fortunate that I got that background at UNCG,” he says. “I’m not sure I would have gotten it anywhere else.”

Career opportunities in esports aren’t just reserved for elite gamers and entrepreneurs.

“We are a large industry now with many different kinds of jobs,” Mike says, listing roles such as accounting, business operations, social media marketing, management, content production, athletic training, and merchandising. “I think it’s fantastic that UNCG is taking a step forward with not only building an esports curriculum but also building a place on campus where students can go enjoy esports in a custom, live setting.”

As a student, he made time for gaming and so much more. A member of the Student Government Association, he also fueled his competitive drive as a Club Soccer player. Frank Donaldson and the late Department Head John Jellicorse were his most influential professors.

Known by his gamer tag, Hastr0, Mike still makes some time for gaming. So what’s he playing these days? Mostly, Overwatch. And he’s looking forward to the release of Amazon’s New World.
Women’s right to vote in America was the result of a long political struggle. Throughout 2021-22, UNCG presents “She Can, We Can: Beyond the Women’s Suffrage Centennial.” Through a diverse and inclusive series of events and discussions, organizers ask: What political advances and compromises resulted in the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, and how have these shaped issues of equity in our own time? People picketed, negotiated, and sacrificed to gain not only women’s voting rights, but equal access to education, employment, and health care. While the movement was able to pass the Constitutional amendment, the effort was also riddled with contradictions and exclusions. For example, African American women and recent immigrants were excluded from the White-female-dominated movement. Dozens of events remain in the series. All are open to the public; some are ticketed. Several highlighted events:

- **Margaret Atwood**, author – Feb. 6
- “Ella Puede, Nosotros Podemos. Towards Equity and Hope in Immigration Issues” – Feb. 18
- **Geena Davis**, actor and activist – Feb. 28
- **Natasha Trethewey**, recipient of Pulitzer Prize for Poetry – March 17

**SEE THE EVENTS LISTING AT PROVOST.UNCG.EDU/SHECANWECAN.**
New look ahead

UNCG was approved to launch a new doctoral program in computer science. Slated to start next fall, it will help fill a statewide need for a rapidly growing area of scholarship.

The five North Carolina universities that offer similar doctoral programs – N.C. State, N.C. A&T, Duke University, UNC Chapel Hill, and UNC Charlotte – received nearly 1,000 applications last year. There were only 261 available slots.

“The doctoral program is really important for us to be able to maintain our high-level research, and to increase it,” noted UNCG Computer Science Professor Dr. Regis Kopper. “With a doctoral program we will be able to give students opportunities to do high-level research, and that will increase the overall research activity at the University.”

UNCG plans to offer several research specialties, including artificial intelligence, database systems, extended reality, and security.

Kopper’s area of interest is human-computer interaction, especially as it relates to virtual reality (VR) and extended reality (XR) systems. On the horizon, he has plans to partner with Johnson C. Smith University on their recently announced virtual reality project: reconstructing Black neighborhoods in Charlotte that were destroyed by urban renewal projects.

Urban renewal demolished the predominantly Black neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Greenville in the 1960s-70s. This project will help shed light on how that displacement played out – and take you back in time.

“The idea is to recreate an experience of those neighborhoods. We will basically create a virtual tour, where people can walk along the streets and go into buildings of the past,” said Kopper.

With a doctoral program, we will be able to give students opportunities to do high-level research, and that will increase the overall research presence of the University.”

—DR. REGIS KOPPER

PHOSPHATE SUSTAINABILITY

Scientists from UNCG’s Department of Nanoscience at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering are part of a huge effort to evolve the methods for innovations in phosphorus sustainability. A $25 million Science and Technology Center for Phosphorus Sustainability, funded by the National Science Foundation, includes nine organizations that will work to facilitate a 25% reduction in human dependence on mined phosphates and a 25% reduction in losses of phosphorus to soils and water resources within 25 years. “We are excited about this national partnership that includes eight other universities with N.C. State University as lead,” said Dean and Professor of Nanoscience Sherine Obare, the UNCG lead on this project.

SEE MORE AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.
EVERY FRIDAY until the pandemic hit, Kim Cuny ’94 MA, ’07 MFA – a communication studies professor and director of the UNCG Speaking Center – and a group of UNCG Speaking Center students traveled to Peacehaven Community Farm to work with the residents.

An 89-acre farm in Whitsett, North Carolina, Peacehaven provides adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities a place to live, work, and engage with their community. For the past six years, Cuny and her students have been helping the residents improve their communication skills.

Their lessons focus on things like respecting personal space, asking follow-up questions, and public speaking. Paused for COVID, “Fridays at the farm” have been substituted for virtual one-on-one consulting sessions.

For establishing this partnership with Peacehaven, Cuny was honored with a 2020 Service Scholar Award from the National Communication Association – adding to the Advocacy Award she received from the national organization in 2018.

“The biggest reward is the relationships we’ve all developed with the core members at the farm, with the RAs, and volunteers,” said Cuny. “It has been such a rich partnership.”
Trailblazer

Often during her first months as the new dean of the School of Nursing, Dr. Debra Barksdale walked past a classroom and overheard a class discussion.

“I always say I like to see or hear learning occurring,” she says. “That’s been really nice.”

Instead of easing into her new position as the nursing dean, Barksdale arrived on campus during a global pandemic. Her first day was July 19, just as students began returning to UNCG.

Since then, she has worked to implement her vision for the School of Nursing, which moved into its new home in the Nursing and Instructional Building earlier this year. Her top priorities include increasing the school’s enrollment, expanding its research efforts, and ensuring it meets new guidelines that impact nursing education.

Barksdale admits she’s not afraid to take risks and make changes if needed. She has worked with faculty and staff members to examine all areas of the School of Nursing and determine “how do we fit, where do we fit, and what adjustment do we need to make to be in alignment” with other nationally recognized nursing schools.

“I keep reminding myself that this is a marathon and not a sprint because I have a lot of ideas,” she says. “I am creative. I am innovative. I do like to challenge the status quo and think differently about things.”

Barksdale was raised in rural Virginia as the daughter of a sharecropper. As a kid, she was inspired to become a nurse from watching the TV sitcom “Julia,” in which the title character played by Diahann Carroll works as a nurse.

It was the first time she had seen someone who looked like her working as a nurse.

Barksdale became the first faculty member of color to achieve the rank of full professor with tenure in UNC Chapel Hill’s School of Nursing. After five years as a professor and associate dean of academic affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, she was hired as the first Black dean of the UNCG School of Nursing.

Barksdale has tried to learn as much as she can about the School of Nursing in her short time at UNCG. She held a meeting one evening with students from all the Nursing programs to connect with them.

She has also walked through nearly every room inside the new, cutting-edge building.

“When I take a tour of the building – I’ve had many – I always discover some area that I didn’t know about and just the potential that we have,” she says.
TRAVIS LEVIN wasn’t supposed to be on the same flight as Felix Contreras to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. They hadn’t seen each other since they graduated in 2019 from UNCG, where they had gone through the School of Nursing’s Veterans Access Program together.

A massive evacuation mission reunited them on the other side of the globe.

Stationed late this summer in Qatar, they were using the training they learned in the School of Nursing to help treat large numbers of U.S. citizens, allies, and service members who were evacuated from Afghanistan as part of Operation Allies Refuge.

“I guess the overall end result is that we’re doing something good for people that actually really need it at this time,” Felix said.

As an Air Force nurse, Felix was part of a large medical team that has examined Afghans who were flown to Al Udeid Air Base. He provided treatment for pregnant women and people with a wide range of medical issues.

Travis, meanwhile, was serving as a flight medic in Qatar. As flights came in and out of Kabul, he helped get Afghans and service members in need of medical attention airlifted to other locations.

Travis had received a memo from the military looking for volunteers to go to “an undisclosed location” for “an indefinite amount of time.” From watching the national news, he figured the mission was to help with the evacuation in Afghanistan.

He said he has been trying to pick up as many missions as possible before he’s scheduled to leave the North Carolina Air National Guard in December.

“With this mission particularly, I was just inspired by the crisis and the need that was out there. And my job, I do aeromedical evacuation, and so it’s what’s needed right now. This is a big evacuation, like a big airlift mission going on, so I figured my skill set is what’s needed over here.”

The School of Nursing’s Veterans Access Program provides medically trained veterans access and specialized support to obtain their BSN degree. Dr. Susan Letvak, who served as a nurse and a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, oversees the program, which receives support from generous donors.

PHOTO OF FELIX CONTRERAS AND TRAVIS LEVIN COURTESY OF TRAVIS LEVIN

FIRST DEAN REMEMBERED The founding dean for UNCG’s School of Nursing was Dr. Eloise R. Lewis (1966-85), a nationally lauded figure in nursing. She received the prestigious O. Max Gardner Award, served as president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and was the first editor of the Journal of Professional Nursing. Dr. Stephanie G. Metzger ‘84 was greatly inspired by Dean Lewis – as many were – and honored her through a major gift for the new Dean’s Suite in the new Nursing and Instructional Building. Metzger notes that Dean Lewis’ stellar reputation is a key reason she chose to attend UNCG – and Lewis personally encouraged her as her own career advanced. The building’s distinctive atrium is also funded by Dr. Metzger, in honor of her parents, Robert L. Metzger and Jacqueline D. Metzger.
‘Social work bootcamp’

As Greensboro’s innovative day center for those experiencing homelessness, the Interactive Resource Center (IRC) offers free, no-questions-asked health services and counseling.

Professor Fran Pearson ’91, ’01 MSW sees it providing real-world, hands-on experience for her students, as they provide impactful services for the IRC guests.

These Congregational Social Work Educational Initiative (CSWEI) interns are participants in a unique collaboration between UNCG, NC A&T, and Cone Health’s Congregational Nurse Program, funded by the Cone Health Foundation.

They learn so much by doing, and the IRC offers so much under one roof, she recently explained. “Here’s a nurse, here’s a social worker. You walk in this door, we’re going to get you medical care, we’re going to find you a therapist, we’ve got you a case manager.”

Individuals who may be experiencing homelessness, medical emergencies, or personal crises meet a care team: a blended group of 14 undergraduate and graduate social work students who have participated in two months of intensive “social work bootcamp.” Under the supervision of Pearson and IRC staff, the team gets invaluable training to carry into their future careers.

“We work together,” she says, “starting right at the beginning of the day, on how we are going to help move clients forward.” They help change lives.

“And all you have to do is walk in that door.”

SOCON FIRST

For the first time, a Spartan athlete has been named the top male player overall in the Southern Conference. Isaiah Miller ’21 is the only men’s basketball student-athlete in the 100-year history of the SoCon to be named Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year in consecutive years.

Last season, he helped lead the Spartans to SoCon regular-season and tournament titles, and he earned the Most Outstanding Player honor at the SoCon Tournament.

Miller now becomes the first Spartan ever to sign with an NBA team — the Minnesota Timberwolves.
ON THE HARDWOOD

A NEW COACH. A NEW SEASON, as the men’s team hosts North Carolina A&T (Nov. 9), Coppin State (Nov. 15), North Carolina Wesleyan (Nov. 24), Vermont (Nov. 27) and Elon (Nov. 30) this month in the Greensboro Coliseum.

“Fans can expect a team that competes hard each and every time it takes the floor,” Coach Mike Jones said. “Intensity and effort are non-negotiables in our program and we will challenge our players to bring both of those qualities into each workout, practice and game this year.”

Jones served as head coach at Radford (Va.) University, where he led his teams to three Big South regular season championships and to the NCAA tournament. A two-time Big South Coach of the Year, the Howard graduate was an assistant coach at VCU when it went to the 2011 Final Four.

UNCG enters this year having recorded five consecutive seasons of 20 or more victories. The Spartans are the defending Southern Conference Tournament champions. UNCG returns eight players from last season’s team, which went to the NCAA Tournament under Coach Wes Miller, now at Cincinnati.

Jones is excited about the challenge ahead.

“The key to reaching our goals, like reaching any goal, is to work,” Jones said. “We must have a relentless work ethic to have a chance to achieve anything we want in life of value, and we must all be willing to hold each other accountable to putting in that work.”

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT UNCGSPARTANS.COM OR CALL 336-334-3250.
Making a splash at 91

For Barbara Eisele ’52, competition is a joy. At age 91, she is competing in US Masters Swimming and has been since she first got seriously into the sport at 67.

And she doesn’t just compete with her own age or gender group, but often finds herself placed against a wide variety of competitors. “It is always fun to see if I can beat a man or someone younger than me,” she says.

She has loved to swim since she was a child, but she got into competing in the Masters at the persistent urging of a friend. Finding it personally satisfying, excellent for connecting to friends and family, and great fun, she’s continued ever since.

Barbara came to UNCG, then still the Woman’s College, as a sophomore. She majored in sociology but took advantage of the diverse education she had available at the university, taking classes in philosophy, astronomy, poetry, and more. Her education played a formative role in her life, both practically (she credits her experience in social work as being a big help raising kids) and more philosophically.

As she says, “Competition takes discipline and courage. It is not always easy to get up at 4 a.m. to go to the pool for practice. Since I seldom had a coach, I have had to teach myself many things. There is no question that my years at Woman’s College helped to form my character.”

Over the course of a life lived in multiple states and time spent as a Girl Scouts leader, student, bookstore owner, mother, wife, traveler, and much more, swimming has always been something Barbara can return to and feel passion for.

Her advice to others? “Never stop moving, concentrate on a clean diet, and always strive to capture the joy in life.”

“Competition takes discipline and courage. It is not always easy to get up at 4 a.m. to go to the pool for practice.”

—BARBARA EISELE ’52
SPARTAN ATHLETES MARCH ON THEIR STOMACHS

Last year, Madeleine Meinhold ‘21 MS helped supervise a large team of students – including UNCG’s Dietetic interns and undergrads from the Didactic Program in Dietetics’ professional engagement mentorship initiative – to provide a variety of nutrition support to UNCG’s sports teams. The group established a new fueling station sponsored by Gatorade, hosted nutrition events, provided one-on-one support to student athletes, and more. Recently graduated, Madeleine now is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and works as a sports nutritionist for UNCG Athletics.

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

IF YOU SAW PAUL CHELIMO ‘12 compete when he was a Spartan runner, you know he goes all out.

If you saw him putting in his 500-hour internship helping refugees as a public health major - while maintaining his high GPA and grueling running routine, you know he goes all out.

And if you saw him racing toward the finish line in Tokyo, stride for stride with Nicholas Kimeli for the Olympic Bronze Medal, you just knew he’d find a way.

And he did.

With a lean, turning into a lunge, then a plunge. Perhaps a little banged up, he lay there, his eyes toward the scoreboard.

He’d earned his way to the medal ceremony by a margin of .12 second. It was the second-fastest 5,000-meter final in history. Chelimo ran a personal best time of 12:59.05.

And he became the first American man to win multiple Olympic medals in the 5,000 meters. It was the perfect complement to his Olympic silver medal from the 2016 Olympic games. He is the first Spartan to participate in the Olympics.

Chelimo received two prestigious scholarships as a student: The Aaron Bobb Scholarship and the Irwin Belk Athletic Scholarship. Both are awarded to student-athletes who demonstrate levels of academic performance surpassing University standards.

With two Olympic medals in hand, his standards are rising higher.

“I am just going to pick it up from here going forward. Paul Chelimo is the name, running is the game, so I am always going to show up and medal, don’t count me out.”

SEE MORE AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.
SINGING HER SONG

A RARE GIFT FOR VOCAL PERFORMANCE … AND A RARE CANCER TO OVERCOME

Taylor Theatre’s a big stage. And for the 19 students polishing their choreography for the “My Deer” scene, Sept. 13 starts a big week – the final one to focus on blocking and choreography. Except for one senior, no one has performed in a musical while at UNCG, due to COVID 19.

It’s a big scene for Molly Oldham, a junior musical theatre major. She’s dancing and singing at center stage, her moment to shine. “O deer, my dear, my dosey doe!” She’s finally on stage, surrounded by lots of talented Spartans and friends. Living her dream.

She’s worked so hard for this moment. After a few run-throughs of dancing while duetting with fellow junior Trevor Neal – the director and a choreographer giving notes to energize the scene – she tosses her sweater. The scene is gelling. She’s ready.

BEFORE THE SURGERY

She was ready back in August 2019, excited to relocate from Ohio to start her freshman year in the new Musical Theatre program. She and five other students would make up its first cohort.

But she learned the reason for her increasingly severe headaches: a brain mass the size of a tennis ball. She was diagnosed with Stage Three Anaplastic Ependymoma, a rare, aggressive brain cancer.

As she went into surgery, she told her mom, “We have to release my spot.” Professor Dominick Amendum ’01 said, “Don’t worry!”

Tumor surgery was followed by seven weeks of proton radiation and months of intensive rehab. Social media videos of her singing went viral. Family, friends, her new cohort, and faculty at UNCG all stepped up to support her in any way that they could.

Classmates traveled to her Ohio hometown to participate in a “Cabaret for a Cure” benefit for Molly.

She arrived on campus in February 2020, and soon had a significant seizure. Molly’s mother, Bunny Oldham, sped down in her car. Amendum stayed in Molly’s ward until her mom arrived. “He has been like a father figure for me. He sat with me,” Molly recalls.

COVID curtailed in-person rehearsals and performances. In Fall 2020, Oldham was back on campus and doing well. Along with two fellow Spartan undergraduates with whom she had become close friends, she moved into her apartment in Greensboro on Aug. 15, the one-year anniversary of her cancer diagnosis.

“The theatre department has done so much for Coronavirus. They have air filters in our singing rooms. We have special masks they built for us to perform in. I feel like the theatre department has done a really great job of making sure everyone feels safe,” she said.

In January of this year, scans revealed that she’d need a second brain surgery. After the craniotomy to remove two tumors and more rounds of radiation and chemotherapy, her treatments ended in late spring. Scans in early summer showed no new tumor growth, yet it’s an aggressive cancer, she notes. “I was hoping I could say I am cancer-free, but I’m just not.”

A TRANSFORMATION

“When I’m acting, I don’t feel like I have to pull as hard to get those emotions out – they just come to me.”

— MOLLY OLDHAM

UNCG MUSICAL THEATRE

The BFA program, created in 2019 and with small classes, has quickly developed a national reputation. Led by Amendum ’01 and Speer, it now accepts only 2% of applicants. Amendum, currently music supervisor for “Prince of Egypt” in London and formerly music director for “Wicked” on Broadway, is Smart-Tillman Artist in Residence. The program’s first cohort of students – now juniors – are on stage in front of a live audience for the very first time this year.

FOR TICKET INFORMATION, COVID PROTOCOLS, AND MORE, VISIT VPA.UNCG.EDU/THEATRE
who can grow and develop as human beings as well as professionals. That is Molly.

A unique strength of the program is the emphasis on an individualized culture of care for the students. It encourages a sense of family and community.

While Speer and Amendum go extra miles to help their students, they also have expectations. While they took special care to accommodate Molly’s late entrance into the program and her unique needs, they also have held her to the same high standards as others. Professional musical theatre is highly competitive, so it is important to UNCG musical theatre faculty to prepare their students as best they can for what lies ahead.

She has had the opportunity to sing for a variety of cancer awareness events from Utah to Washington D.C., including singing the National Anthem in front of 20,000 people for the NHL Hockey Fights Cancer night. She has a national following, fueled by fellow cancer survivors. She’s known as “The Mighty Molly.”

She appeared on “The View” in May. There, host Whoopie Goldberg patched in Amendum by live video. “I was speaking to Chancellor Gilliam the other day about your story and he was reminding me of the Spartan spirit and how we take care of each other and we look out for each other,” Amendum said. “You embody that spirit to everyone here on campus and everyone around the world dealing with what you deal with.”

“Chancellor Gilliam and UNCG are giving you a full scholarship for your remaining two years here at UNCG,” he told Molly.

This fall, she and her classmates are studying hard, rehearsing diligently, giving it all they have. “We have to be disciplined,” she said, as they all look to the future. She is carrying 14 hours while putting in many hours in Taylor Theatre. But it’s not all work, as seen in the occasional TikTok videos with her theatre roommates.

“I’m so passionate about my career,” she says. “Music is so important for healing. It inspires me to be a better person,” she says.

“I want to make people feel inspired.”

SEE “MIGHTY MOLLY” ON TIKTOK @MOLLY.OLDHAM OR ON INSTAGRAM AT MOLLY.OLDHAM. TO SEE HER SING HER SONG “MIGHTY IN ME,” VISIT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.
SCHOOL IS IN SESSION! Educators and administrators have risen to the myriad challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through tough, changing situations, they have strived to support their students and elevate their education. Here, Ashley Westmoreland '13 Cert, principal of Alexander Wilson Elementary in Alamance County, leads children in a Spanish-immersion lesson in a cheer on an August school day. Bienvenido a la escuela!

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN W. KANE

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

Outtake
SIMON SAYS: SPARTANS HAVE GOT TALENT

THEY MADE IT THROUGH ROUND AFTER ROUND on television’s “America’s Got Talent” – receiving standing ovations from the judges and audience for largely a capella versions of songs they love.

It was pure coincidence that College of Visual and Performing Arts students Tavis Cunningham, Christoff Hairston, and Julian Kennedy sat at the same table one afternoon in the dining hall and bonded over their shared talent and musical idols.

But when they started singing together, the true magic happened.

The chemistry was instant, and the dining staff weren’t the only ones impressed. The students posted a video of themselves singing that went viral, and that video landed them an audition on “America’s Got Talent” Season 16. Thus, 1aChord was born.

That audition on the AGT stage, of Coldplay’s “Fix You,” was met with an enthusiastic “yes” from all four judges, including Simon Cowell.

“The audition was a little nerve-racking at first, but once we got into the moment, we were just kind of lost in the music and let the music speak for ourselves,” said Kennedy, a senior jazz studies major with a concentration in piano performance.

Cunningham, a sophomore, is a musical theatre major. Hairston, also a sophomore, is a music major with a concentration in voice.

Now, they are back on campus, with memories of a summer they’ll never forget.

SEE MORE AT ALUMNIMAGAZINE.UNCG.EDU.
UCLS SPRING SEASON
THE UNIVERSITY CONCERT AND LECTURE SERIES offers a particularly strong spring line-up, with artists appearing on stage in UNCG Auditorium:
• Jan. 14 – Kelli O’Hara
• Feb. 6 – Margaret Atwood
• Feb. 26 – Geena Davis
• April 23 – Malpaso Dance
As a special offer, you can get a 10% discount if you purchase tickets to all four of these events.
The UCLS is North Carolina’s longest-running concert and lecture series on a university campus, hosting many luminaries over the decades such as Martha Graham, Count Basie, and Maya Angelou.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND SEE PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS, VISIT VPA.UNCG.EDU/HOME/UCLS.

Power of dance
This fall’s biggest dance day in Greensboro was led by Spartans.
The National Dance Day celebration kicked off with the premier performance of “A Wicked Silence” from Alexandra Joy Warren ’06 MFA.
Warren and dancers from her JOYEMOVEMENT Dance Company explored, through their “choreoplay,” the consequences of the eugenics program in North Carolina, which promoted forced sterilizations on those considered “inadequate” up until 1977. More than 7,600 people underwent forced sterilizations.
“As a Black woman, a mother, as a descendant of enslaved West Africans in America, the stories of those who experienced forced sterilizations in North Carolina, where many of my ancestors are from, was meaningful to me,” said Warren.
This year marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of the NC Dance Festival by UNCG professors John Gamble and Jan Van Dyke ’89 EDD. Van Dyke, who died in 2015, was also the founder of Dance Project, which runs the NC Dance Festival. Two of Van Dyke’s proteges – alumni Lauren Joyner ’05 and Anne Morris ’11 MFA – now lead Dance Project.

‘PORGY AND BESS’ AT TANGER
THE FIRST OPERA in Greensboro’s new Tanger Center is set to be a very Spartan affair.
Sidney Outlaw ‘04, the cover feature in this magazine in 2012, has performed on the biggest stages in Europe and the US, from the Met Opera to English National Opera to Carnegie Hall. The fact that it’s multi-Grammy winner and alumna Rhiannon Giddens’ very first performance in an opera since she was onstage in UNCG Opera’s “Little Women” as a grad student gives it international attention from the arts media. UNCG Opera’s director and music professor since 1992, David Holley, has invited more of his former students and current stars, for a “Porgy and Bess” to be remembered. “When Greensboro Opera secured Rhiannon Giddens as Bess for January’s production, hiring Sidney as Jake was the second casting decision we made,” said Holley, who also serves as general and artistic director of Greensboro Opera.

“We wanted to capitalize on UNCG’s rich history of producing successful artists.”

FOR TICKET INFORMATION FOR THE JAN. 21-23 SHOWS, VISIT GREENSBOROOPERA.ORG/TICKETS

Sidney Outlaw ’04
WE ARE READY. UNCG is poised to take its next giant steps. Together, through this powerful campaign, we will fuel earned achievement for our University’s future.

The strategic plan and priorities are set. Committed leadership is ready. An extraordinary faculty and outstanding student body are going the extra mile, innovating and pursuing new ideas and vistas every day. Alumni and community volunteers are motivated. We will light the fuse and light the way for UNCG by raising $200 MILLION to strengthen STUDENT ACCESS, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, and the tremendous IMPACT of our programs.
An amazing part about the UNCG Guarantee program is the importance it puts on personal and professional development, essential to student success.

JADE YOUNG, a theatre major with a minor in American Sign Language, holds a UNCG Guarantee Scholarship. “The UNCG Guarantee program truly is like a big family,” she says, “and has given me a sense of belonging since my first day at UNCG.” A first-generation college student, she is planning for graduate school.

WHAT IS A CAMPAIGN?
A comprehensive campaign rallies everyone around a common vision. As it generates philanthropic and volunteer support, it increases giving. Fundraising typically doubles during a campaign, allowing the University increased resources to launch new initiatives critical to student success and the strategic plan. Further, it will jump-start giving for the future. It will attract new volunteers in new ways. And it will build a culture of philanthropy across the entire campus and among our many alumni. The key point: All gifts move the University forward. Through our collective effort, we are truly an unbroken band.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?
Our $200 MILLION GOAL for the Light the Way campaign will propel us to a future brilliant with possibility. It will allow us to strengthen three key areas: ACCESS, EXCELLENCE, AND IMPACT.
HAZEL “HAZ” MENGESA is in UNCG’s Pre-Physician-Assistant track. He holds a Board of Visitors Chancellor’s Scholarship and the Betsy Umstead Undergraduate Scholarship. The first in his family to attend college, he is president of the Student Government Association and majors in kinesiology while minoring in biology and chemistry.

Without my scholarship, I wouldn’t have the resources to do a study this large.”

LAUREN HIGGINS, doctoral candidate in kinesiology, holds the Beth Barba Endowed Scholarship. Studying in the applied neuromechanics program, Lauren works to develop interventions to prevent falls for older adults, through heart rate monitoring.

“My scholarships mean a lot to me, as a first-generation and Pell Grant student.”

ASSURE ACCESS

$100 MILLION

FROM SMALL RURAL TOWNS, burgeoning suburbs, and big cities, a vast array of students from all backgrounds and circumstances find their way here and their future here. Along the way, they find their best selves. Ambitious students from every imaginable background receive an education of the highest quality.

We can directly address one of the biggest challenges facing those who wish to pursue higher education in America: student and family debt. We must fund more scholarships to provide a vast array of gifted students access to high-quality, low-cost public education. In addition to growing need-based support, we also intend to strategically focus on merit scholarships and scholarships for students from middle-income families.

51% of UNCG’s new first-time students are the first in their families to go to college.

48% qualify for Federal financial aid, which goes to the very neediest.
LEVERAGE EXCELLENCE

$40 MILLION

WE SEEK TO DOUBLE our current number of endowed professorships.

By raising support for 40 additional endowed chairs and professorships – there currently are 36 – we will attract and retain high-quality faculty. With more academic luminaries – “star professors” – teaching and mentoring our students in various programs, our university’s academic distinction will soar. Moreover, underwriting compelling teaching and research will provide our students with the opportunity to develop skills that will make them better prepared for an ever-changing labor market. It will also enable them to imagine and implement solutions to our nation’s most pressing problems.

Endowed chairs and professorships will elevate our university’s national stature and signal its expertise in particular areas of research. This, in turn, attracts top students, additional research dollars, and other expert teachers and researchers. Success builds on success. These endowments will pave the way for UNCG to become more self-sufficient and achieve long-term stability, regardless of fluctuations in state appropriations or research funding.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP? The honorary title bestows additional salary and research funds, furthering the professor’s professional impact on their field and on their students. An endowment from one or more donors funds the title.

“"I came to UNCG to help the University enhance the doctoral program in computational mathematics. Here, faculty can truly excel in both teaching and learning.""

DR. RATNASINGHAM SHIVAJI, Helen Barton Excellence Professor, mentors graduate and undergraduate students on a National Science Foundation Math Ecology grant-funded project. He and his students create and analyze models to better examine challenges in animal movement behavior and more.

“"My goal is to use this professorship to benefit the next generation of scientists as much as possible and to honor the history of this department through my work.""

DR. LAURIE WIDEMAN, Safrit-Ennis Distinguished Professor, Kinesiology, focuses, along with many of her graduate students, on the impact of exercise, disease, and injury on the endocrine system. She is also passionate about teaching the next generation of scientists about ethical and responsible practices in research, and regularly teaches this training. Her professorship was endowed during the silent phase of the Light the Way campaign, in 2017.
CREATE IMPACT

$60 MILLION

WHAT WILL IT TAKE to meet the evolving needs of our region and our state? The answer will likely be very different in 10 or 20 years than it is today. Through Light the Way, we seek to build an endowed fund that will give us flexibility to respond to current demands and challenges, as well as those that present themselves in the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic, racial equity conversations, budget challenges, and more have proven once again that successful institutions need to be innovative and responsive to new challenges as they arise. We must be nimble enough to quickly create effective new academic programs, support intercollegiate athletics and the arts, invest in research and development, engage deeply with our community, and build our presence regionally, nationally, and globally.

We will create a springboard to launch new ideas and create innovative programs, as well as address pressing needs as identified in the University’s strategic plan.

"At the doctoral level, we graduate people who are truly prepared to be professors, skilled in teaching, supervision, and research. Because of our doctoral program, our master’s students receive much more supervision, so they likewise are well prepared."

DR. L. DIANNE BORDERS ’72, Burlington Industries Excellence Professor in Counseling and Educational Development, focuses on the practice of clinical supervision, in which she is a pioneering thought-leader. She is Google Scholar’s second-most-cited researcher in counseling and supervision. She teaches doctoral students in the program, ranked #4 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

"I want our students to become skilled practitioners both in the hospital and community and embrace their role in eliminating the negative social determinants of health."

DR. PAMELA JOHNSON ROWSEY is Eloise R. Lewis Excellence Professor and chair of Adult Health Nursing in the School of Nursing. Her focus includes stress/fever and the role inflammatory cytokines play in health and disease; health disparities and chronic illness in Black Americans; and increasing ethnic minorities in the nursing workforce. As a nurse leader, she uses her position to focus on preparing nurse faculty and students as the next generation of nurse scholars.
IS THERE ANYTHING MORE SATISFYING than lighting the way for the next generation? As the co-chairs of this campaign, we would say “no.” If we come together to meet the goals of this campaign, we will transform the future of the University.

Now we challenge you – alumni, parents, business leaders, and community members – to join us in supporting this ambitious effort. Meeting the goals of the campaign will strengthen UNCG’s position as a leading university, provide much-needed resources for students and faculty, enhance the University’s role as an economic engine, and positively influence millions of lives in our region and elsewhere for years ahead. We believe there is no better investment.

Susan Morris Safran ’77
Campaign Co-Chair
Randall R. Kaplan
Campaign Co-Chair

BRIGHT LIGHTS
An installation on Kaplan Commons of 1,800 lights represented the 18,000 donors who’ve already become a part of this campaign.
JOIN IN! There’s a place for everyone in this bold initiative!

- Attend an upcoming Light the Way event.
- Volunteer to support Light the Way.
- Share campaign news via social media, using #UNCGLightTheWay.
- Tell how you’ll light the way for UNCG via social media with #UNCGLightTheWay.
- Make a gift of any size to a school, unit, program, or fund that is special to you.

SPARKS FLY
Starting the week with a bonfire for students, the campaign launch rolled into a celebration on Founders Day for the campus community and ended with alumni, throughout the state and well beyond, sporting their UNCG colors and showing their support on social media.

@Whitney Hill
Greensboro, NC
Join me in lighting the way for access, excellence and opportunity! #UNCGLightTheWay

@chichesmi
UNC Greensboro
A Founders Day to remember, featuring 1800 light sticks! #LightTheWay #uncg

@uncgalumni
UNC Greensboro
Once again, a huge thanks to our #UNCGAlumni community for giving @UNCG students the gift of #UNCGHome magic this past week.

@Whitney Hill
Greensboro, NC
Join me in lighting the way for access, excellence and opportunity! #UNCGLightTheWay

LIGHT THE WAY
The Campaign for Earned Achievement
LIGHTTHEWAY.UNCG.EDU
Iyanna Davis and classmates view “Art on Paper” in the McDowell Gallery.
When students become absorbed by a work of art, something magical happens. It’s a small moment of transformation, curator Emily Stamey says. Stamey is one of the Weatherspoon Art Museum’s curators who lead Dillard Sessions, where classes engage with objects not current on view in the galleries.

“They get this one-on-one experience with the work of art, and then they can share with the larger group for a bigger conversation. I’m always blown away by the different things students will bring up – a new detail in the artwork, a comparison to music, something else that resonates with them.”

More professors than ever before are bringing their classes to the Weatherspoon, according to Ann Grimaldi, the Weatherspoon’s curator of academic programming, whether to see current exhibitions or to undertake more pointed learning experiences in the Dillard Room.

Students in Grogan Residential College came during their first weeks on campus with their history, art, or foreign language classes. Professor Emilia Phillips brought her Queer Poetry & Poetics seminar of upperclass students in September to study several works by self-identifying queer artists.

“I walked them through a step-by-step analysis of one of the artworks that we had pulled out,” Stamey says. “Then they broke into smaller groups, and each of them took one of these individual art objects, came up with their own ideas, and then shared them with the class.

“It’s an incredible conversation.”

A fresh approach
Walk into the Weatherspoon, and two student interns greet you at the welcome desk and share with you about the exhibitions. Juliette Bianco, the museum’s Anne and Ben Cone Memorial Endowed Director, has made sure UNCG students are front and center at the museum, both on staff and among its stakeholders. In the past four months, more than 800 students and faculty members have participated in 70 tailored class experiences involving nursing classes,
NEW INITIATIVES

THREE GIFTS, part of the Light the Way campaign, will help propel the museum forward.

A grant from the Terra Foundation for American Art will be used for the museum’s three-year project Leading with Objects: Engaging the Community in Institutional Change, a collaborative effort to reconsider, reinterpret, and re-present the Weatherspoon collection. It will also extend upon its new racial equity plan. Destiny Hemphill came aboard in October as Coordinating Curator of Community Engagement, a position made possible by this grant. She will facilitate broader access to the museum’s American art collection through community-driven dialogue.

A Henry Luce Foundation grant will allow the Weatherspoon to join the Museum Partnerships for Social Justice Project, for collaboration on anti-racist project models and practices. The leaders of four museums – the Weatherspoon, the Mississippi Museum of Art, the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, and Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum – will collaborate. The Weatherspoon will closely partner with the Mississippi Museum of Art.

The Weatherspoon will become more energy-efficient as it renovates a gallery’s lighting system thanks to a grant from the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, as part of the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative. This initiative is the first nation-wide program to support energy efficiency and clean energy products in the visual arts.

— By Brittany Cameron and Avery Campbell ’20

Destiny Hemphill, coordinating curator of community engagement
years later. The promising student from rural Caswell County was by then a highly regarded artist in her own right, thanks in part to her formative experiences at the Weatherspoon. Students today enjoy those experiences as well. Many have joined the new Weatherspoon student group, CoWAM. Laura Levin, an art history and women, gender, and sexuality studies major, is the museum’s programs and engagement intern and a key member of CoWAM. “Coming in, you are not expected to be an expert on modern and contemporary art,” she says. “You are not expected to leave with all the answers either. There is an openness that allows visitors to experience exhibitions and programs in a way that speaks to them.”

Other students, including Azaria Gadson, a senior dance performance and choreography major, have been hired as project-specific interns. Gadson is helping with the much-anticipated exhibition “Lorraine O’Grady: Both/And,” opening in January: “I get to learn so much about the visual art world while working closely with artists that I admire, which inspires my own work.”

Museums can seem daunting to a lot of people, says Angelica Henry, who studies art history and arts administration: “The Weatherspoon does a wonderful job of making the space welcoming and accessible to all.”

And Caitie Nagy, a BFA in K-12 art education major, applauds the fact that the entire Weatherspoon collection is also accessible on the web site. “But you definitely should come by and check it out!”

conversations will lead to a better future.”

Along these lines, admission to the museum remains free, and membership became free as of May 2021. “We’ve doubled our membership in four months as we’ve worked to foster a sense of belonging on campus and in the community,” Bianco says.

Open doors
As an educational institution, the Weatherspoon has long cultivated student leadership skills. Student perspectives from diverse backgrounds in North Carolina and well beyond have shaped the museum since 1941, when its first director, Gregory Ivy, placed original works by then-contemporary artists like Picasso and Matisse in Elliot Hall (now the EUC) for more students to experience. Many know the late Maud Gatewood’s story of helping to unpack Willem de Kooning’s “Woman” (1949-50) when it arrived on campus from New York City. As she and a graduate assistant handled the crate, “I nearly put my foot through it, but I didn’t,” Gatewood ’54 recalled.
Illuminating Tradition

BY MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE • ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY MARTHA BLAKENEY HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
One candle. Then another, and another lit on a 1969 December evening. A tradition was kindled.

America had never seen a year like 1969. Vietnam War protests grew in every city. The My Lai massacre and other horrors in the news. At Harvard, the administration building was seized by students. James Earl Ray pled guilty to assassinating Martin Luther King, Jr. The Manson family murders rocked California, as did the “Zodiac killer.” Hurricane Camille pummeled the Deep South. What began at Woodstock ended in violence at Altamont.

Likewise, UNCG had never seen an unsettled year like 1969. A cafeteria workers strike, with many students joining in. A march on the chancellor’s house. Dr. Judy Penny ’70, ’74 MA, ’89 PhD recalls students at one point “blockading” Foust Building. Dr. Cherry Callahan ’71, PhD ’87 recalls the 1969 Greensboro Uprising, after a Dudley High School student government election was reversed. National Guardsmen raided the NC A&T campus and held a strong presence at UNCG.

The country, the city, and campus felt like a powderkeg.

And then. And then, for one blessed, brisk evening, as darkness settled, for a few hours, something changed.

The cacophony of the past 11 months subsided. There was sweet silence. Facilities staff turned off much of the outdoor lighting. Some students sang carols. A bonfire was lit behind Elliott Hall. Word had spread to the Greensboro community, and College Avenue was bumper to bumper with cars, the headlights off or dimmed. And the glow of 2,000 candles illuminated the walkways.

Blue & gold lanes aglow

Kim Ketchum ’70 had seen bags with candles, laid along lanes as an undergraduate at Northern Arizona University.

An upperclassman transfer to UNCG, he ran for senior class president, apparently the first male to do so – five years after the campus went co-ed. Callahan, who lived in Phillips-Hawkins, speculates he won largely because the students were in such a revolutionary mood.

Ketchum and Callahan hardly knew each other then, but their memories of that era match up. He and Cherry recall that some students and many alumni resented that men were enrolled on campus. “They did not like the change that men represented,” she says.

He lived in Phillips-Hawkins. “They were adjoining dorms, but shared the common lobby. Phillips was the men’s dorm and Hawkins was for women,” he explains.

Lots was changing, quickly. A glance at the 1969 and 1970 Pine Needles shows that. The long skirts and dressy blouses of 1960 had given way to denim, shorter skirts, and bell-bottoms by decade’s end. And most students wanted more freedom – they rebelled against in loco parentis, he says.

He needed a great senior class project. He thought of the
The luminaries were kind of a throwback to a time of innocence – when you do a project, and do it well, and step back and take pride in it. It gave us a pause amidst the chaos of the late 60s. For one night anyway, we had a night of escapism.

– KIM KETCHUM '70
luminaires he’d seen in the Southwest.

Chancellor Ferguson was on board, and he provided discretionary funding for a dorm exterior decorating contest for the holidays and for the display. So was Dean Katherine Taylor and also Terry Weaver in Elliott Hall, who asked the Physical Plant staff to supply sand and a truck, Ketchum says, adding that Weaver helped find a good deal on the candles. Dining Facilities supplied the bags and soufflé cups for candle containers. He wasn’t sure how it would go.

That day, the organizers encouraged students on their way to the library or wherever to stop and fill up a few bags with sand and place a candle. The Physical Plant’s flatbed truck proved to be essential. By the end of the day, lo and behold, the bags were ready.

But now they had to be lighted. The organizers arranged for a message to be given throughout the residence halls’ intercom system, from the front desk, asking for volunteers at that very moment. And students poured out, he recalls. Some had matches, and some had their trusty Bic lighters. (Mind you, smoking cigarettes in the residence halls was allowed.)

The scene was breathtaking. “It was truly a student-body-driven movement,” he says, with many involved in some way.

“The luminaries were kind of a throwback to a time of innocence – when you do a project, and do it well, and step back and take pride in it. It gave us a pause amidst the chaos of the late 60s. For one night anyway, we had a night of escapism.”

Today, Ketchum is president of Ketchum and Company, which he founded in 1971, and serves on the board of directors of the UNC Greensboro Foundation. Callahan, a former president of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, retired in 2018 as UNCG’s Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and remains strongly tied to our University. Penny, who was student government president in 1969-70, retired last year as executive director of accountability and research for Guilford County Schools.

For each, their UNCG years were formative. Penny notes she’d been relatively sheltered till then. “I left college a different person. I think that’s probably a good thing.”

The reunions for the Class of 1970 and 1971 have been cancelled due to the pandemic. But Ketchum believes memories of those December nights, when so many joined in to quite literally ignite a UNCG tradition, will always bring them together in spirit.

The second year, the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity led the project, Ketchum says. And ever since, fraternities and sororities, with support from the Office of Campus Activities and Programs and UNCG Grounds staff, have carried on the tradition begun in 1969. This year’s luminaire display is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2.
Legacies
ALUMNIS AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY MAKE AN IMPACT HERE.

Gifts with forethought

Many donors at UNC Greensboro are visionary, opting to give gifts that they may never see come to full fruition.

Over the last decade, an average of 41 percent of gifts given or pledged to the University have come through the Office of Planned Giving. Wills, trusts, retirement plans, life insurance policies—have all played a quiet, yet key role in generating resources for scholarships and programs that will support UNCG students for many decades to come.

The donors who make these commitments often have a genuine connection to the University, tied to a fervent desire to give at their fullest potential.

Brad Hayes ’87 and wife Kim Hayes ’89 both graduated UNCG with business degrees, and the first scholarship they established at the University has already assisted seven students at the Bryan School of Business and Economics. In an effort to do more, they recently established the Brad and Kim Hayes Annual Merit Scholarship in the Llyod International Honors College. Funds from their retirement plans will endow their latest award, which this year aided its inaugural recipient, Mackenzie Rippey.

“Kim and I are thrilled to be able to support UNCG in any way that we can,” said Brad.

“The education and experiences we shared at UNCG paved the way for many great things that have happened to us. Giving back, especially to students, is the least we can do to say thank you to a place that has changed not only our lives, but the lives of many others.”

Brad is a retired chief financial officer of Labcorp, and a recipient of the Bryan School’s 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award. He has served the University in multiple capacities for more than a decade—currently on the Board of Trustees, where he has served as chair, and formerly serving the UNCG Excellence Foundation and the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Kim, a former marketing manager of economic development for the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, has served on the Bryan School Alumni Advisory Council.
HONORING A DAUGHTER
Kazuko Hitchcock’s ties to UNCG are much different. Her daughter Katherine Hitchcock Smith ’84 was an alumna who studied music education and played the clarinet. Since Katherine’s passing in 2018, her mom has made plans to support the College of Visual and Performing Arts, in her honor.

Through her estate arrangements, Kazuko intends to leave $1.2 million for two funds. One million of that will go toward supporting a wind quintet in the School of Music. Each member of the future group – playing either the clarinet, oboe, flute, French horn, or bassoon – will be offered a full-tuition scholarship. The second fund will assist music students getting their teaching licenses, essentially paying the state fees associated with the application process.

Kazuko Hitchcock’s gifts seamlessly blend the academic interests of her daughter with two long-term priorities for the School of Music. Bearing the name Katherine E. Hitchcock, both endowments will ensure Katherine is well-remembered at UNCG long into the future.

$2 MILLION IN IMPACT TODAY
Paying tribute to her own memories as a Woman’s College (WC) graduate, Maxine Wallace ’42 established a named gift at UNCG decades ago through the Maxine D. Wallace 1992 Trust. The University recently received nearly $2 million as a beneficiary.

At WC, Maxine was a member of the Cornelian Society, the German Club, the Medical Technologists’ Club, the Physics Club, the Zoology Field Club, and the Chemistry Club. Until her passing, she remembered her alma mater each year, without fail, with an annual gift. Through her trust, she was able to donate much more than she ever had.

“So many of our donors use planned gifts to make a significant and lasting impact at UNCG,” said Beth Fischer, vice chancellor for Advancement. “They are farsighted and eager to contribute to the success of students, for years to come. It’s really extraordinary, the vision as well as the generosity that our donors have.”

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Congratulations to the recipient of the
2021 MCIVER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
DR. JOANNE “JO” SAFRIT ’57

A highly respected and influential professor of kinesiology, renowned researcher, and passionate advocate for her alma mater, Dr. Safrit has solidified her legacy as one of Woman’s College’s most dedicated alumnae.
1950s

DOROTHY STAFFORD MASON ’57, a former UNCG professor, was announced as one of the 2021 Remarkable Women finalists. Remarkable Women is part of a nationwide Nexstar Media initiative to honor the influence that women have had on social progress, public policy, and the quality of life.

1960s

MARY ROBINSON SNODGRASS ’56 is an award-winning author of textbooks and general reference works, and she is a former columnist for the Charlotte Observer. More recently she published “Rachel Carson: A Critical Companion” (McFarland).

EMMYLOU HARRIS ’69 released a new live album in 2020, titled “Always on the Sunny Side.” She released the album “Ramble in Music City: The Lost Concert” this year.

1970s

FLORENTINE MILLER ’71 was honored for her 32 years of service as Chapel Hill’s deputy town manager, just before she officially retired in June.

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS ’74 retired as senior associate dean at the UNCG School of Health and Human Sciences. 🟢

DAVID GRAPES II ’76 MFA was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, in 2020. In 2019, he retired after 15 years as director of the School of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Northern Colorado, where he was named professor emeritus of theatre. During his theatre career, David directed 238 stage productions, and he is the author of 10 musicals and plays of Summerwind Productions. 🟢

1980s

JANICE MARTIN ’80 is the owner of Janice Martin Couture, and more recently she started an adjunct business, Sewn For Good. Sewn For Good is a line of silk scarves, inspired by the 2017 March on Washington, which raises funds for the ACLU, the Academy of Natural Sciences, Planned Parenthood, the National Constitution Center, and the League of Women Voters. 🟢

SABRINA GOODE ’81 has been receiving recognition for her work at the Friends of Oberlin Village, a nonprofit she founded and for which she serves as the executive director. She was awarded the Raleigh 2021 Women of Change award, presented by the Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum; named Tar Heel of the Month in 2020 by the News and Observer for making significant contributions to the Triangle; and inducted to the City of Raleigh Hall Fame in 2019. 🟢

MONICA SNYDER BALLARD ’82 MFA was commissioned by Penfold Theatre to write a one-on-one experiential play, “The Control Group.” The play was featured in Texas Monthly Magazine and named a top-10 performance by the Austin Chronicle. Monica is looking forward to re-staging her play, “Journey of the Wise Men” this Christmas on the campus of Wizard Academy in Driftwood, Texas.

WALLACE “DAN” DANIEL ’83 is now the vice president of development at Carolina Youth Development Center. CYDC is the oldest, continuously operating nonprofit in South Carolina, serving children and youth who are victims of physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and abandonment. 🟢

SANDIE GRAVETT ’83, ‘06 POST-BACHELOR’S CERTIFICATE is a professor of religious studies in Appalachian State University’s Department of Philosophy and Religion. She received the 2020 Award for Academic Freedom and Faculty Governance from the university’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The award recognizes her efforts to defend, support, and advance academic freedom and faculty governance across Appalachian State. 🟢

1990s

LESLIE SCOTT ALEXANDER ’90 was approved by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education as the newest area superintendent for leadership development. She had been serving as the principal at Reynolds High School since 2015.

JEFFREY HIBBARD ’90 was promoted to senior vice president of digital experience and business transformation at Truliant Federal Credit Union. Previously he was vice president of digital innovation.

ROBERT GROSSMAN ’91 MBA was welcomed to Tydings & Rosenberg LLP, a Baltimore law firm that serves individuals and businesses in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Robert serves as counsel in its litigation department and health care practice group, focusing his
CRIS COX '92 was promoted to executive director of transportation for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (N.C.) school district in 2020. Now he is serving as the Rockingham County (N.C.) school district’s director of transportation for 2021-2022.

CHRISTOPHER KILLIAN ’92 was appointed to senior vice president and chief technology officer at Eastman Chemical Company.

ERNST GRANT ’93 MSN, ’15 PHD, current president of the American Nurses Association, has been selected by the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day Planning Committee as the 2021 recipient of the prestigious Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award. Members of the U.S. standards and conformance community honored Dr. Grant during the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day this fall. Ernst was also recently appointed to the UNCG Board of Trustees; his four-year term began on July 1.

TIFFANY HUNTER ’93 is a new provost at Clark State Community College in Springfield, Ohio.

JOHN O’NEAL ’93 was a co-presenter of a Zoom webinar of “Consultations, Expectations, and Client Management in Auto Fraud Cases: Tips for Beginners,” held April 8, as part of the 2021 National Association of Consumer Advocates spring training. He is a member of NACA and owner of the O’Neal Law Office in Greensboro, which handles cases statewide.

SHERRI BULLUCK THOMAS ’93 was appointed chief administrative officer at Trulliant Federal Credit Union. In this role, she will be responsible for directing Trulliant’s diversity, inclusion, and equity program as well as all other human resource areas.

KIM CUNY ’94 MA, ’07 MFA was awarded the 2020 Service Engagement Award from the National Communication Association. See p. 11.

EARLENE BOYD KINCAID ’94 retired as of April 1 from the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center in Morganton, N.C., after 36.5 years of service, holding the title of director of nursing services for the last 17 years of her career.

ALFONSO SMITH ’94 was named the 2021 Outstanding New Principal by Fairfax County (Va.) Public Schools. Although he has not been at John R. Lewis High School long, Alfonso has been praised for navigating his institution through a pandemic, virtual learning, and a name change.

ROBERT DOCKER ’95, ’02 MM was recently promoted to associate professor at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, where he teaches string music education and general music education courses. He was also elected president of the Crane Faculty Association, succeeding fellow UNCG alumnus Carol Lowe. Robert has previously taught at the University of Arkansas and UNCG, and held a University Teaching Fellowship at Penn State. He plays the cello with the Orchestra of Northern New York and the Carriage House String Quartet, and violin with the St. Lawrence Symphony.

ESTHER LANDIS HAYES ’95 was promoted to vice-chair of community and college operations in the Department of Family Medicine at Atrium Health.

JENNIFER ARYERS-BARNARD ’96 MM, ’04 PHD has been appointed program coordinator and head of Ferrum College’s Department of Music.

GARY SMITH ’96 was appointed public works director for the City of Burlington, bringing with him 30 years of public works leadership experience that has included department head and division head roles with the city governments of High Point and Greensboro.

THOMAS SWENSON ’96 MM has been named the 2020 Teacher of the Year by the North Carolina Music Teachers Association. Thomas regularly teaches pre-college and adult piano students throughout North Carolina and Virginia, and he has served in leadership roles within the Greensboro Music Teachers Association, the North Carolina Music Teachers Association, and the Music Teachers National Association.

LENNA NICOLE VERRONE ’96, who earned an English degree at UNCG, recently celebrated her first publication, “Nest of Stars.” Her work is a collection of poetry, described as being written in the tradition of Mary Oliver with a focus on the magnificence of the simple.

JOSEPH EDWARD YAROSZEWSKI ’96 MBA is now a senior credit officer at First Farmers and Merchants Bank.

TRACEY HELTON LEWIS ’97 ED, ’15 EDD is the new marketing and communication director for Rowan-Salisbury Schools (N.C.). She served as director of communications, teacher recruitment, and retention with Surry County Schools before her promotion.

ELIZABETH TYSON LOFOUST ’97 PHD, a retired educator and administrator, was sworn in as a member of Southwestern Community College’s Board of Trustees. She was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper, and her term runs through November 2024.

AMANDA “JANE” SOUTH ’97 MFA, who is the chair of fine arts at Pratt Institute (N.Y.), has been awarded a 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship. The annual grants support up to a year of work, and selection is based on prior professional accomplishments as well as the potential for future achievement.

DAVID DEHARDE ’98, ’10 MSA has been named head of school at the Hilltop Montessori School in Shelby County, Ala. He moved into that position from assistant head of school at the Montessori Community School in Durham, N.C.

LORI JOHNSON HUBBARD ’98, ’11 MSN, a clinical instructor in UNCG’s School of Nursing, received the 2021 Phyllis N. Horns Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. The award recognizes a PhD student in the East Carolina University College of Nursing for academics, scholarship, and service. She also successfully defended her PhD dissertation at ECU to become “Dr. Hubbard.”

JENNY CADDELL LIVELLI ’96 is now the president and CEO of The Children’s Guild Alliance, bringing more than two decades of experience in education, human services, and nonprofit leadership. She is the first new CEO of The Children’s Guild Alliance in 26 years and the first woman CEO in the organization’s 67-year history.

ANNA GEISLER SMITH ’96 MBA was appointed chief human resource officer at HomeTrust Bank, where she will lead employee engagement, recruiting, training, talent management, employee relations, and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

TASHA LOGAN FORD ’99 is now the city manager of High Point, N.C., overseeing a budget of $334 million and 1,463 full-time employees. She is the first woman and the first African American to hold the position in High Point.

TERRY LYNN KENNEDY ’99 MFA, alongside Ross White, led the session “Authors as Entrepreneurs” as part of the North Carolina Writers’ Network Online Spring Conference 2021. In August, he was a panelist on Carolina Public Press’ forum “Literary North Carolina: Drawing Inspiration from the Tar Heel State.” He is director of the UNCG MFA Writing Program and editor of The Greensboro Review as well as the online journal storySouth.

EMILY LEWIS ’99 and CASEY LEWIS ’99 were named Burlington’s 2020 NC Main Street Champions, in celebration of their work to make downtown Burlington “a place that creates community and energy.”

2000s

KARRIE DIXON ’00 MA is the chancellor at Elizabeth City State University, and earlier this year, she was profiled in Business North Carolina for raising the trajectory of the college. She was praised for making aviation the college’s signature program and for her five-year strategic plan, Forging Our Future.

DONYELL JONES ’90, who is the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central North Carolina, was honored with the 2020 Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s Herman S. Prescott Award.

KRISTI ELIZABETH SHORT ’00, ’05 CERTIFICATE, ’05 MA is now the vice president/chief academic officer at Central Carolina Community College. Before taking this role, she served as the director of the Texas Success Center, with the Texas Association of Community Colleges.

JEFFREY AGUAR ’01, ’14 POST-BACHELOR’S CERTIFICATE, ’16 MA was appointed the theatre and literature director with the Artists and Organizations Team of the North Carolina Arts Council.

MARGARET SPANGENBERG BENJAMIN ’01 MA was appointed by the UNC Board of Governors in January to finish out the last five months of Kathy Manning’s term on the UNCG Board of Trustees, after Manning was elected to the U.S House of Representatives.

TERRILL DRAKE ’01 previously oversaw the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Villanova School of Business. Effective September 1, he became the first chief diversity and inclusion officer at Harvard Business School.

RACQUEL RICHARDSON INGRAM ’01 MSN, ’10 PHD joined High Point University’s Congdon School of Health Sciences as founding chair and assistant professor for the Department of Nursing. She will work to establish the curriculum for the proposed nursing program with the college’s senior vice president of academic affairs and interim dean for the Congdon School of Health Sciences.

DAVID BYRD ’02 was named the first managing director of Goodspeed Musicals in East Haddam, Connecticut. He holds a master of fine arts from the Yale University School of Drama, and he previously served as the first general manager at Greensboro’s Triad Stage.

BRIGIT CARTER ’02 MSN was honored by UNC Chapel Hill as a 2021 School of Nursing Outstanding Alumni. Brigit is a professor and associate dean for diversity and inclusion at the Duke University School of Nursing.

Tiffany Dyson Atkins ’03, ’06 POST-BACHELOR’S CERTIFICATE is an Elon Law legal writing professor, recently elected to a two-year term on the Board of Governors of the Society of American Law Teachers.

ERIN KENNEDY ’03 was welcomed by the SECU Family House to serve as its new director of development. The SECU Family House is specially designed to provide affordable, comfortable lodging and support services for families and patients who are in Winston-Salem, N.C., for medical treatment.

TAKEDA L LEGRAND ’03 is superintendent for Scotland County (N.C.) Schools.
DEBORAH SURGEON ’03 is a Wilkes County, N.C., native, and now she is the principal of her former high school, North Wilkes High. She had been the school’s assistant principal the last three years.

ADAM TARLETON ’03 MFA, an attorney at Brooks Pierce, was recognized in the 2021 edition of Business North Carolina’s “Legal Elite” and “Hall of Fame,” a listing of the state’s top lawyers in business-related practice areas.

JOHN ALEXANDER ’04, ’06 MM, ’20 DMA and Marya Fancey were featured in the recent organ festival presented by Music for a Great Space. Marya played on the UNCG School of Music’s Andover organ, and John played the Casavant organ at First Presbyterian Church, in Greensboro.

RACHEL BARNETT ’04 MS has been advancing at InformedDNA, on the clinical team, for seven years – first as a cancer genetic counselor and then as an assistant team lead for the cancer team. Now, she is a genetic analyst in their utilization management division.

HEATHER CRONE COFFEY ’04 MED, a professor in the Department of Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education at UNC Charlotte, received the UNC Board of Governors 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award. She is praised for developing UNCC’s interdisciplinary Civic Minor in Urban Youth and Communities as well as Prospect for Success, the university’s plan to help undergraduate students thrive. She also designed and directs the new model for their Teaching Fellows program and is the director of the institution’s Writing Project, part of the National Writing Project.

DESIREE D. CORBETT ’04, ’08, ’17 MLIS was promoted to senior researcher at executive search firm Charles Aris Inc.

SEAN DANIELS ’04 DMA began his new role as the chairperson of Alcorn State University’s Department of Fine Arts on Feb. 15. He has taught music professionally for more than 28 years, previously serving as a percussion area coordinator at Benedict College.

RUTH DICKEY ’04 MFA is now the executive director of the National Book Foundation. An award-winning essayist and poet, Ruth has worked at arts organizations and nonprofits across the United States for the past 25 years.

SHELLEY GALASINSKI ’04 MS started a new position, this past April, in the genetics services laboratory at the University of Chicago. She and her family had previously been living in Northern California, where she was employed at Color Health, working on their cancer, cardiovascular, and pharmacogenomics genetic testing products.

DESMOND PATTON ’04 is an associate professor at Columbia University’s School of Social Work, and he was recently named associate dean for curriculum innovation and academic affairs at the university.

FELICIA GONZALEZ BROWN ’05 is an actor and director. After submitting her documentary “She Saved Me” to film festivals, she received some great feedback: a feature in Toronto Film Magazine, official selection at Focus International Film Festival (Toronto), winner at Top Shorts Film Festival and IndieFest, and Vegas Movie Awards Award of Merit for Best Documentary Feature, Best Editing, and Best Woman Filmmaker.

ASHLEY CARROLL HOOKER ’05 is a 2021 recipient of Triad Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Business Leader Award. Ashley is an interior designer and assists with business engagement and marketing for LAMBERT Architecture + Interiors, located in downtown Winston-Salem. Prior to working at LAMBERT, she worked for The Fresh Market, Inc., as a retail store designer for grocery stores across the nation.

MEGAN BAKEWELL HOUSTON ’05, ’08 MED, curriculum coordinator at Sedge Garden Elementary School, was recognized as the school’s Certified Instructional Support Person of the Year.

JUSTIN NATHANIEL OUTLING ’05, an attorney at Brooks Pierce, was recognized in the 2021 edition of Business North Carolina’s “Legal Elite” and “Hall of Fame,” a listing of the state’s top lawyers in business-related practice areas.

CELENA CLARK TRIBBY ’05 MSA has been named principal of Cook Literacy Model School, in Winston-Salem, N.C. She had served as the principal at Kimmel Farm Elementary School since 2017, and before that, she spent five years as principal at Hall-Woodward Elementary school.

STEPHEN HAWRYLUK ’06 MPA accepted the position of budget manager with the City of High Point (N.C.) and now oversees the budget division of the Department of Financial Services. He and his team are responsible for working with department leaders to develop the annual operating and capital improvement budgets for the city.

TERANCE TAKYI ’06 has joined First Republic Investment Management in New York City. Terance is managing director and wealth manager.

ALEXANDRA JOYCE WARREN ’06 MFA was named the artist-in-residence for Greensboro’s downtown parks. See p. 23.

JESSICA DAY ’07 made history when she was appointed Knightdale’s new interim mayor. She is the town’s first female African American mayor.

RENA “CAT” KEEN HOCK ’07 MM, ’12 DMA, who is an assistant director of the UNCG School of Music, was a panelist for the DESMOND PATTON ’03, an attorney at Brooks Pierce, was recognized in the 2021 edition of Business North Carolina’s “Legal Elite” and “Hall of Fame,” a listing of the state’s top lawyers in business-related practice areas.

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session “Perspectives on Modernizing College Music Curricula” during the College Music Society Southern Division conference in February.

RACHEL KELLY ’07, ’09 MPA is the new director of Advancement Communications at UNCG. Rachel had been serving as assistant city manager for the City of Burlington.

KATE MUSSELWHITE TOBEY ’07 was one of four artists who helped ArtsGreensboro create an original song and video (“Through It All”) to honor the role creativity played in fostering community and hope during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RYDELL HARRISON ’08 MSA, ’13 EDS, ’15 EDD, superintendent of-Easton-Redding-Region 9 School Districts in Connecticut, was elected to the Westport Country Playhouse Board of Trustees.

ALLYSON KEYSER ’08 MM, ’11 DMA has received tenure at SUNY Schenectady, where she has taught for nine years as a full-time professor of music.

COURTNEY BEAM ’09 graduated with honors from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. She earned a master’s degree in arts management and heritage studies.

DOROTHY WILLIAMS DUTTON ’09 is the new city clerk of Southport, N.C. She was previously a town clerk and development administrator in Carthage, N.C.

EUGENIA FLOYD ’09, a fourth-grade teacher at Mary Scroggs Elementary in Chapel Hill, N.C., was named the 2021 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year.

SHERBILL ROLAND ’09, ’17 MFA is one of 42 recipients of the 2021 Creative Capital Awards. His project “The Jumpstart Portal” in the multimedia Social Practice category is eligible for up to $50,000 in funding. Sherill was also featured in a New York Times Style Magazine photo essay by Goncalo Valentine on “Black Healing in America.”

MATTHEW TEDDER ’09 is now the director of transportation for Stokes County (N.C.) Schools. Before taking this position, he was assistant principal at South Stokes High School, and part of his responsibilities was bus transportation.

BRITNEY RENEE DENT ’10 was named director of programs at LEAD Girls, based in Winston-Salem, N.C. LEAD encourages and mentors girls to aspire and achieve greatness.

JAMES DANIEL MARÉ ’10 was appointed as the interim principal at West Stokes High School (N.C.). He had served as assistant principal at West Stokes since 2016.

JILL CHANNING ’10 CERTIFICATE, ’11 PhD was appointed to serve as chair for East Tennessee State University’s Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis Department. She also serves as associate director of the Center for Community College Leadership and Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

KERRIE ROGERS ENGLE ’11, ’18 MBA, who is a pattern manager at Kontoor Brands Inc., was honored by the Triad Business Journal with a 40 Leaders Under 40 Award, for 2021.

HEATHER BOUSE ‘11, ’12 MS, a regional controller at Samet Corp., was the recipient of a Triad Business Journal 40 Leaders Under 40 Award, for 2021.

DAVID MILLER ’13, ’20 MM co-authored “The Effect of Wearing Foam and Etymotic Earplugs on Classical Musicians’ Pitch Perception” with UNCG Professor of Music Rebecca MacLeod. Their article was published online by the Journal of Research in Music Education.

REBECCA LOWE BAREFOOT ’12 is a guide at the National Military Park, connecting visitors to the park’s history through battlefield tours, explorations of the Hoskins Farm, and the museum. In April, she discussed the historical significance of the national military park at the Guilford at 250 series.

JOLENE CANNADY ’12, ’16 MSN, ’19 DNP, along with UNCG Assistant Professor Judith Adams, co-authored an article published in the February issue of the Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Their piece was titled “Increasing Nurse Practitioner Students’ Comfort Levels in Caring for Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.”

THOMAS MENDELLO ’12 has learned that his horror short film “Mr. ThisandThat” is being picked up by a major production company to be made into a feature film, and he is attached to direct.

JAIMIE SPRUILL ’12 was named branch manager and CEO of Greater Kinston Credit Union, in Kinston, N.C.

MARIANNE COCKROFT ’13 PhD, an associate professor of public health and community practice at UNC Chapel Hill, is the 2021 recipient of the Bill and Mary Lou Booth Community Service and Outreach Award. She was selected for her proposal to support the community service and outreach of UNC Chapel Hill’s School of Nursing Mobile Health Clinic.

DANIEL MALLOY CRUPI ’13 MM left his position as executive director of the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus (New Mexico) to become executive director of the Asheville Symphony, in North Carolina.

Tiffany Kaisal ’20 and boyfriend Brandon Bakhshai ’19, an operations manager and a software engineer living in Manhattan, were very successful, yet surprisingly unfulfilling career paths. Then came the idea of dentistry. They moved to North Carolina – both now interested in a pathway to dental school – and found solace at UNCG.

“UNCG is just this special, magical place,” said Kaisal. “There’s just so much lushness and life, you just feel it when you walk around.” Bakhshai completed the post-bacc pre-health program at the University, adding to his computer science degree from Columbia University. And Kaisal completed her bachelor’s degree in economics – as she plans to open her own dentistry practice in the future. Both are currently in dental school at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
VANIA CLAIBORNE ’16, Kahillia Brown and Nia Sadler have had works selected by the American Dance Festival to be performed as part of the project “RESIST COVID/TAKE 6” performed by the Nasher Museum in partnership with Duke Arts and Duke Health. The project is an outdoor exhibition and public awareness campaign by nationally acclaimed artist Carrie Mae Weems, which emphasizes the disproportionate impact of the deadly virus on the lives of communities of color.

MARYA FANCY ’19 DMA, ’19 POST-MASTER’S CERTIFICATE, ’20 POST-BACHELOR’S CERTIFICATE and John Alexander were featured in the recent organ festival presented by Music for a Great Space. Marya played on the UNCG School of Music’s Andover organ, and John played the Casavant organ at First Presbyterian Church, in Greensboro.

mathew david frisbee ’19 was named Double-A Northeast Pitcher of the Week for the Richmond Flying Squirrels in May. Then the former UNCG Greensboro pitcher was promoted to Triple-A Sacramento, an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants.

NINA MOSHMAN KOSSLER ’19 MFA was recently published in The Dancer-Citizen with her article “Choreographies of Privilege and Protest: An Evolving Method of Dance Making.”

LYNDESY ANNE MALONEY ’19 MLIS, a librarian, is currently overseeing the newly opened West Branch of the Rowan Public Library system.

Nia Sadler ’19, Kahillia Brown, and Vania Claiborne have had works selected by the American Dance Festival to be performed as part of the project “RESIST COVID/TAKE 6” presented by the Nasher Museum in partnership with Duke Arts and Duke Health. The project is an outdoor exhibition and public awareness campaign by nationally acclaimed artist Carrie Mae Weems, which emphasizes the disproportionate impact of the deadly virus on the lives of communities of color.

Emily Szabo ’19 MLIS was promoted to senior researcher at Charles Aris Executive Search.

Lisa woodley ’19 PhD is now a faculty member at the UNCG School of Nursing. Her article “Acculturating Into Nursing for Hispanic/Latinx Baccalaureate Nursing Students” was named by Nursing Education Perspectives as its best research article of 2020.

IN MEMORIAM

In 2021, the American Dance Festival in Greensboro, N.C., hosted the UNCG Men’s golf team, won his third straight Rowan Masters tournament, this summer. In the past he has also won the North Carolina Amateur, the Eastern Amateur, and the Southern Conference Championship.

2020s

Maya Brooks ’20 MA joined the NC Museum of Art as the Mellon Foundation assistant curator. Her role reaches across the museum’s collections and will include curation of collection-based exhibitions. She will also work to expand the NCMA Recommends newsletter series, a deep dive of visitor-favorite works of art developed to connect with visitors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indira Everett ’20 placed first in the regional round of the 2021 National Music Association of Negro Musicians Scholarship Competition for Piano and Organ.

Jordan Craven Jones ’20 DNP joined Complete Primary Care in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she specializes in adult geriatric primary care.

Margaret McCann Lineberry ’20 married Jonathan A. Lineberry on April 2, 2021.

Nicoleetta Moss ’20 MM, ’20 POST-BACHELOR’S CERTIFICATE was named as a semi-finalist in the Orchestral Conducting division of The American Prize 2020–2021 Competition in the Performing Arts.

Newlyn Ngo ’20, who works at Top Nails in Yanceyville, N.C., is currently the titleholder of Miss Mebane USA 2021. She will compete in the Miss North Carolina USA 2021 pageant.

Grace Clark ’21 MFA created the web-based residency Overland Artworks, after realizing how difficult it is for artists to travel and do residencies when they have limited resources. She expanded her efforts to include the Shelter Project, another online residency, during the pandemic lockdown time of sheltering in place.

Nicholas Lyerly ’21, a former standout on the UNCG Men’s golf team, won his third straight Rowan Masters tournament, this summer. In the past he has also won the North Carolina Amateur, the Eastern Amateur, and the Southern Conference Championship.
the Division I Committee on Infractions panel. Negotiated resolution agreement approved by coach. Both cases were resolved under the NCAA’s level of self-imposed sanctions.

In 2020, UNCG received a decision on its Level II Mitigated case involving impermissible recruiting contacts by its former head men’s soccer coach. The case was resolved under the NCAA’s level of self-imposed sanctions.

UNCG received a decision on July 25, 2019, on its Level I Mitigated case involving impermissible recruiting contacts by its former head women’s soccer coach. The case was resolved under the NCAA’s level of self-imposed sanctions.

Begun July 25, 2019, and will end on July 24, 2023. UNCG received a decision on July 25, 2019, on its Level I Mitigated case involving impermissible recruiting contacts by its former head men’s soccer coach. The case was resolved under the NCAA’s level of self-imposed sanctions.

From the mailing list, please contact UNCG Magazine at 336-334-5371. If you would like to be removed from too many copies or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact ummagaddr@uncg.edu or call 336-334-5371.

This publication may be accessed at uncg.news. The UNCG Greensboro athletic department is on probation for a four-year period which began July 25, 2019, and will end on July 24, 2023. UNCG received a decision on July 25, 2019, on its Level I Mitigated case involving NCAA violations of sports wagering. On April 7, 2020, UNCG received a decision on its Level II Mitigated case involving impermissible recruiting contacts by its former head men’s soccer coach. Both cases were resolved under the negotiated resolution agreement approved by the Division I Committee on Infractions panel. For more details, visit www.UNCGspartans.com.
in UNCG’s Division of University Advancement. She had also served UNCG as a benefits specialist for several years. She is remembered by colleagues as a kind, talented person who was a true HR professional.

**Betty Franks** died May 29, 2021. She attended Woman’s College (now UNCG) before finishing her education at a tech school in Asheville, where she achieved certification as a medical lab technician. She worked her entire career as a medical technician for several prominent medical groups in Greensboro and retired from the UNCG Student Health Center.

**Patricia A. Griffin** '63, '69 MA died on Feb. 7, 2021, at the age of 79. Among the first cohort of master’s in mathematics graduates from UNCG, she started teaching for the math department just after earning her second degree, and continued to do so until her retirement in 1997. During her years at UNCG, Pat served as faculty advisor for the Square Circle Club. She was also the faculty advisor for the North Carolina Epsilon Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Honorary Mathematical Society.

**Betty Beam Helms** passed away Jan. 8, 2021. She and her husband, Harold Helms, moved to Greensboro, in 1958, and Betty eventually made her way to the University. She retired from UNCG as a secretary in the Department of Housing and Residence Life. She was an avid reader who loved music and enjoyed traveling with her husband.

**Pamela Howe** died on Jan. 30, 2021. Her love of athletics brought her to Greensboro in the mid-eighties when she accepted the position of head coach for the women’s soccer and lacrosse teams at Guilford College. Her later interest in technology, teaching and learning led her to the academic community at UNCG, where she became an educational technology consultant in the School of Health and Human Sciences. Her career spanned over 20 years at the University.

**Claire Kelleher**, a UNCG assistant professor emerita, passed away on January 8, 2021. She was a medieval art historian, who earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Toronto (1951), master’s degree from the University of Chicago (1960), and PhD from the University of London’s Courtauld Institute of Art (1968). She taught as a member of the University’s College of Arts and Science Department of Art from 1968 until her retirement in 1995. Claire recalled being hired in 1968 by Bert Carpenter, professor of art and director of the Weatherspoon Art Museum: “And so they were looking for a medievalist and other things, so I came here and stayed in New York a few days, and then came down. It was in the middle of a drought. And I stayed at that little motel. It used to be just out there on West Market Street opposite the University, the Shady Lawn. Stayed for five bucks a night, and it was air conditioned. I came down by train. [Bert Carpenter] met me at midnight. I like to still take trains in this country. I had thought I’d stay a year because I didn’t know where I was going when I took the job.” Kelleher ended up teaching medieval art history at UNCG for 27 years.

**Vira Kivett** ’55, ’60 MS, ’76 PhD died on May 18. She was a highly awarded leader in her field. Dr. Kivett began her UNCG career as a campus dietitian, and she became director of the dining halls at Woman’s College. She served in various capacities on campus, including as the lead teacher at the nursery school and as a part-time instructor in foods and nutrition. She received her master’s degree in 1960, and after serving as a visiting professor in social gerontology at NC State University, she became a research instructor in the Department of Child Development and Family Relations at UNCG. Before her retirement in 1999, she held the appointment of Elizabeth Rosenthal Excellence Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. She was the first gerontological researcher at UNCG, an internationally recognized scholar in the field of social gerontology, and one of the foremost scholars on rural aging in the United States. Her research, service, and contributions to policy on behalf of older adults contributed to her being recognized with the Oliver Max Gardner Award, the highest honor bestowed on a faculty member in the UNC System. She was also the recipient of many awards from gerontology organizations, UNCG’s School of Health and Human Sciences’ Lifetime Legacy Award, and the Alumni Association’s Women of Distinction Award. In 2012, she was inducted into the Southern Gerontological Society’s Hall of Fame.

**Jean-Paul François Xavier Koenig**, who taught French in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (formerly the Department of Romance Languages), died March 28, 2021. A Madagascar native, he earned his master’s degree from UNC Chapel Hill and his doctorate from the University de Toulouse. During his 35-year UNCG career, he and Kathleen Mather Koestler accompanied many summer student groups to France to learn the French language and culture. Koenig’s research in the Berlin Document Center and universities; his last position was as visiting professor of chemistry at UNCG.

**Karl Schleunes**, professor emeritus of history, died May 15. He taught at the University from 1971 to 2010, when he retired. Dr. Schleunes was a renowned scholar of Holocaust and German Empire history, helping to establish a new field in modern historical studies during the 1960s. He pursued groundbreaking research in the Berlin Document Center and published several books, including “The Twisted Road to Auschwitz: Nazi Policy Toward German Jews, 1933-1939,” which was called “a landmark in Holocaust historiography.” In 1999, he was guest lecturer at the Kaplan Centre of the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He taught workshops for high school teachers across the state sponsored by the NC Council on the Holocaust. Annually in his honor, Greensboro College hosts The Schleunes Lectures which bring a well-known Holocaust scholar to speak to the community.

**Charles Tisdale** died March 17. He taught medieval literature in UNCG’s Department of English for more than 30 years and also served as associate department head, co-founder and head of the Residential Learning College, dean of Academic Advising, and chair of the Faculty Senate. He received the Gladys S. Bullard Award for Service upon his retirement in 2005. Dr. Tisdale was a dedicated teacher who cared deeply about his students, many of whom remember the liveliness he brought to the study of Old English, including holding potluck medieval feasts to accompany final project presentations. He wrote and published poetry, and a novel, and he also taught Latin and photography for a middle school in Rockingham County and continued to offer humanities seminars at UNCG. Tisdale requested that some of his ashes be distributed on UNCG’s campus.
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NOTE: All currently-scheduled events will be in accordance with state, local, and venue-specific COVID-19 guidelines. Dates/locations are subject to change.

UNCG ALUMNI On Tour

Alumni On Tour events will take place around the country to help spread the word about all the great things happening on campus, as well as what’s in store for the future of UNCG. And, most importantly, we’ll share ways our alumni can get involved.

Check out the dates below, and then see more details, dates, and registration links at LightTheWay.UNCG.edu/events.

Nov. 11: Raleigh, NC
Park Alumni Center at NC State with Susan Safran ’77 (UNCG Vanguard)

Nov. 11: Durham, NC
Motorco Music Hall with School of Health and Human Sciences Dean Dr. Carl Mattacola

Nov. 18: Raleigh, NC
Tobacco Road with School of Education Dean Dr. Randy Penfield

Jan. 6: Winston-Salem, NC
Foothills Brewing Taproom with College of Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. John Z. Kiss

Feb. 13: Greensboro, NC
Spartan Spot at Greensboro Coliseum UNCG Men’s Basketball vs. Mercer

March 2: Asheville, NC
With College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean Dr. Bruce McClung (Location TBA)

March 9: Atlanta, GA
Fado Irish Pub (Buckhead) with College of Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. John Z. Kiss

March 10: Sandy Springs, GA
Punch Bowl with College of Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. John Z. Kiss

March 16: Charlotte, NC
Duke Mansion with Betsy Oakley ’69 and College of Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. John Z. Kiss (UNCG Vanguard)