NEW PATHS AWAIT A REMARKABLE SPARTAN CLASS  PG. 2

READY TO ROCK THE WORLD

SCARLETT NUÑEZ ’22, TWO MAJORS, MANY HONORS, BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL
CLASS SALUTE Commencement Week held lots of wonderful ceremony during the mid-twentieth century. This 1946 photograph shows the Sophomore Class of 1948 at UNCG Auditorium holding a daisy chain they had made in honor of their sister class, the Class of 1944. Enjoy many photos of Commencement Week pageantry and ceremony—with a special focus on Class Day—from this campus’ first eight decades.

news front
University and alumni news and notes

out take
Graduating senior Saheim Jones exults as a bright future beckons.

studio
Broadway’s Hugh Hysell, UCLS preview; Geena Davis, Weatherspoon

Where are they now?
We’ve met many UNCG alumni and learned their remarkable stories, over the years in these pages. Let’s catch up with some of them.

Opera alumni:
A triumphant return
Rhannon Goldens and Sidney Outlaw led the group of star alumni who performed the Tanger Center’s first opera.

Class acts
Looking back at the traditions of Class Day, sister classes, and daisy chains.

legacies
The Ponder family—including the Hookses—has a generations-long heritage of strong ties to UNCG’s School of Education.

grad tidings
Lots of class notes and pictures, too

Cover photography: Scarlett Nuñez ’22, future JP Morgan analyst
By Martin W. Kane
Photo on this spread: courtesy of Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives

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.
As the academic year comes to a close, I think of all the Commencement ceremonies this campus has seen and the tremendous impact our graduates have made.

Since our doors opened to students in 1892, unlocking potential in people not traditionally served by higher education has been encoded into our DNA. Here at UNC Greensboro, we believe in excellence in education changes lives. It’s why we have been recognized by U.S. News & World Report for providing paths to prosperity for more first-generation and lower-income students than any other public university in the state. And, because 85 percent of our graduates remain in North Carolina to live, work, or attend graduate school, their impact will remain in North Carolina to live, work, or attend graduate school, their impact will be felt across the state for generations.

The academic and social counseling and financial assistance that help these students stay on track to earn their degrees are not inexpensive. It is here the generous support of our alumni and donors makes the biggest impact. That investment in named professorships, scholarships, and student support programs will truly “light the way” for our students, helping them earn their degrees and make their mark on the world.

The Class of 2022 is ready for their next chapter.

“We are a force to be reckoned with,” says Nicole Rowe ’22. “That’s something we’ve shown over the course of the pandemic. And I think that’s a trait that is going to be very beneficial in life because you never know what’s going to be thrown at you.”

A half-dozen seniors gathered to take some portraits and give us their thoughts. Most received scholarships while students, we discovered. They are heading in different directions. Willy Piña ’22 will prepare for medical school; he’s a biology major with a chemistry minor. Mariah Taylor-Judd ’22, a CARS major with an entrepreneurship minor, plans to accept an offer from The Gap Inc. in San Francisco. Saheim Jones ’22, another Bryan School student, has accepted a full-time role with the AT&T B2B Sales Development Program. Jeymy Enriquiz ’22, a sociology major with a concentration in criminology and minor in psychology, plans to be a detective in law enforcement. Scarlett Nuñez ’22 will head to Charlotte to be an analyst at JP Morgan. She graduates with two degrees: BS in finance (minor in accounting) and BA in economics. A communications major with two minors, Nicole hopes to be a movie or gaming producer.

Saheim ticks off his experiences here, including his current term as student government vice president. “UNCG has rocked my world in such an amazing way.”

And he looks at the larger picture. His class has lived through the War on Terrorism, the Great Recession, great social movements for marginalized groups, and a worldwide pandemic, he notes. They’ve learned new technologies and so much more. “My generation is different. No matter what the boundaries are, no matter what circumstance, the Class of ’22 has gracefully handled it.”

With nearly 3,000 graduates like these marching in May, the future looks bright indeed.

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A transformative gift to UNCG’s Light the Way campaign by Jeanne Tannenbaum ’64 has named the future arts and culture-driven facility for creative collaboration at the corner of Tate Street and Gate City Boulevard. “As a proud UNCG alumna, I found my path toward graduate school and professional achievement here,” Jeanne said. “The Center will encourage our students, faculty, and Greensboro community to collaborate in new ways of learning and engaging with one another. I am honored to have a legacy at the University that has meant so much to me.”

As the gateway to UNCG’s campus, the Jeanne Tannenbaum Center for Creative Practice will serve as the landmark anchor of the Tate Street Arts and Culture District as envisioned in UNCG’s Millennial Campus Initiative. The Center is currently under design by EVOKE Studio Architecture of Durham, N.C., and is slated to open in 2025. “Jeanne’s gift to create the Jeanne Tannenbaum Center for Creative Practice will elevate our national presence,” Chancellor Gilliam said. “This cutting-edge center will ignite creativity in an array of forms and through multiple disciplines.”

Jeanne graduated from UNCG in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts in economics. She went on to complete a Master’s of Hospital Administration program at Duke University. She held key administrative and leadership roles in national hospitals including Boston Hospital for Women, Johns Hopkins Medical Center, and the Greenville Hospital System. She later did national consulting in the healthcare field.

Committed to the betterment of the community, she is a prolific volunteer and advocate. She has served her alma mater for decades in various capacities — including service on the Excellence Foundation Board, Weatherspoon Art Museum Foundation Board, School of Nursing Advisory Board, Friends of the Library Board, and the Light the Way Campaign Cabinet.

“Jeanne Tannenbaum’s generosity will propel UNCG’s impact in the community and across the nation.” — CHANCELLOR GILLIAM

“Jeanne Tannenbaum ‘64”

Six months into the Light the Way campaign’s public phase, the tallies are soaring. The campaign will propel us to a future brilliant with possibility by raising $200 million to strengthen three key areas: Access, Excellence, and Impact. Here are where things stand as of March 31:

- **ACCESS** $54,301,642 /$100M
- **EXCELLENCE** $7,778,745 /$40M
- **IMPACT** $68,183,051 /$60M

**LIGHT IT UP**

**Believe in the G** was a smashing success — record smashing, that is. Never before had UNCG’s annual day of giving broken the $1 million mark. With 1,802 donors, $1,077,204 was raised. Plus, a lot of school spirit on social media, through campus events, and via giving challenges that spurred additional excitement made for a giving day that sets a high mark for years to come.

#BelieveInTheG
This academic year marked the 5th anniversary of the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness. The 54-ft. climbing wall saw 47,342 climbing sessions in those first five years. Participation at the climbing wall continues to grow, says Dr. Jill Beville, Director of Recreation and Wellness. “That’s led to more participation in our trip program, Outdoor Adventures (OA).” Caleb Mallory ’22 knows the wall well. “I’ve been climbing on Kaplan’s climbing wall for about four years now,” he says. It led to climbing trips outdoors with OA. “The climbing community is what it’s truly all about. The space and people are so uplifting,” the kinesiology major explained. He climbs at gyms around the state “I also really enjoy going outdoors to Moore’s Wall, Adelboden boulders, and Pilot (Mountain).” With his growing experience, he’s been a trip leader for some OA trips. Chimeri Anazia ’22, also a kinesiology major, was introduced to rock climbing in the Kaplan Center as a freshman. But she got hooked on it her junior year, taking her first climbing trip last fall. Logan Briggs ’22 has liked the social aspect of it, particularly at the Kaplan Center’s bouldering wall. “You’re trying problems and hanging out,” he explains. And there’s the sense of accomplishment. He tells of a route at Pilot Mountain. “Once you get out of a horizontal chimney, the world opens up,” he says. “You’re above the trees. You can see far.” The center is named for the late Greensboro businessman and civic, community, and philanthropic leader Leonard J. Kaplan. In her late husband Leonard’s honor, Tobee Kaplan created a permanent endowment to support health and wellness programs at UNCG. In conjunction with the opening of the facility in 2016, UNCG’s Wellness Center and Campus Recreation Department merged to create the Department of Recreation & Wellness, now housed at the Kaplan Center. Nathan Rector is the assistant director of Outdoor Recreation at the Kaplan Center. A Marine Corps veteran who particularly enjoys mountaineering in the Indian Himalayas, he is now a doctoral student in Geography, Environment, and Sustainability. “We develop a sense of community,” he says. “Everyone is welcome. You find your place here.”

This academic year marked the 5th anniversary of the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness.

The BY THE NUMBERS 1,489,876 - total participation of Kaplan Center for Wellness users in first five years. • 11,800 - average number of student users annually • 1,313 alumni and 1,346 faculty/staff memberships since opening • 216,000 sq. ft., sustainable LEED Gold facility • 23,000 sq. ft. Weight/Cardio space and 3-lane track • With 224 student employees, the largest student employer on campus
The trees are long gone. But the legacy continues to grow.

The seventeenth-century poet-priest George Herbert, a Shakespeare contemporary, today is considered a titan in English literature.

A little-known fact: the first modern biography of George Herbert came out of UNCG in 1977. The author was Dr. Amy Charles, who joined the Woman’s College faculty in 1956. She also purchased, using her own money, almost every one of the earliest editions of Herbert’s greatest work, “The Temple.”

“Thus our Herbert collection is one of the world’s best, ranking with those at Harvard, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the Bodleian at Oxford.” Hodgkins says. Due to his continuing work, including “The Digital Temple,” UNCG is known among scholars across the world for Herbert studies.

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But Amy Charles’ passion and impact live on.

About those trees? Charles secured some Medlar saplings from a tree Herbert had planted centuries before on his English estate. They were beautiful, they provided publicity, and they gave a tangible connection to Herbert – but apparently the Greensboro climate just wasn’t ideal.

None survived long.

But Amy Charles’ passion and impact live on.
Spotlight on impact

Pam and David Sprinkle’s impact at UNCG can be seen in many ways across campus. Their contributions during the Light the Way campaign have included support of the Chancellor’s Greatest Needs Fund, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Spartan Athletics, the School of Health and Human Sciences, the University Concert & Lecture Series, Faculty Summer Enhancement Fund, University Libraries, Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNCG Guarantee Scholarship program, and the Bryan School of Business and Economics. They have contributed over $1 million to the campaign.

David Sprinkle served in the US Army and received a Bronze Star Medal for his service. Now retired, he was the president and CEO of The Todd Insurance Company. He served on the UNCG Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2021, including service as board chair for two years. Both Pam and David have served together on UNCG’s Board of Visitors and the UNCG Excellence Foundation Executive Committee. Pam, a former librarian, served on the Friends of the Libraries Board and was instrumental in securing the future of the series now known as the Pam & David Sprinkle Children’s Book Author and Storyteller Series.

Due to their generosity, the University could renovate the 140-seat performing arts space in the Brown Building – a space now known as the Pam and David Sprinkle Theatre.

Jade Young knows the Sprinkle Theatre well. A senior majoring in theatre and Storyteller Series.

“We have been very blessed and are committed to being generous with our blessings.” — DAVID SPRINKLE


THE CENTENNIAL is not the only big news at UNCG Theatre. Taylor Theatre, which opened in 1967 and was named for William Raymond Taylor, has never had a significant renovation. Now it will.

When it was built, of course, there was no internet; no wireless, or cell phones and laptops. Americans with Disability Act standards also were decades away.

Over the next 18-24 months and with budgeting, a bolster budget will allow, an enhancement to the lobby and new seating will be part of the project.

“This only brushes the surface of the theater’s needs – for the needs of our outstanding School of Theatre and the talented students,” said Natalie Sowell, director of the school.

“It’s important we bring our spaces up to industry standards for 21st-century theatre practices, particularly for our graduate students immediately going out into the field.”

LEARN ABOUT THE FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE TO COMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT, AT VPA-UNCG.EDU/THEATRE/CENTENNIAL.

VPA.UNCG.EDU/THEATRE/CENTENNIAL.

In 1921, theatrical arts on this campus leapt forward with the hiring of William Raymond Taylor. Within a year, “Teach” Taylor created new classes in playwriting and theatre production and established The Dramatic Association of the North Carolina College for Women – eventually known as The Play-Likers.

This year, the School of Theatre celebrates this milestone. A kickoff event earlier in April, with tours of Sprinkle Theatre and Taylor Theatre, marked the launch.

Centennial events are planned for Homecoming 2022 on Oct. 14.

Want to be a part? See updates at vpa-ung.edu/theatre/centennial.
I DID IT Representing the first generation in his family to graduate from college, Raeford-native Salvin Jones ‘22 was invited by our staff to take a few graduation photos on College Avenue. The semester was winding down, spring was in the air, and he was elated over his future. He knows he’s well-prepared. Studying business administration in UNCG’s Bryan School, he became involved in several ways, including helping to lead the university’s student government association as vice president. He gives some advice to prospective Spartans. “If you’re thinking of coming to UNCG, do it,” he says. “There’s no place like UNCG.”

“Find ecstasy in life; the mere sense of living is joy enough.” – Emily Dickinson
AHEAD OF HER TIME

IT’S A BIG EXHIBITION straight from the Big Apple. “Lorraine O’Grady: Both/And,” on loan from the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York, is the first comprehensive overview of the work of Lorraine O’Grady, one of the most significant figures in contemporary performance, conceptual, and feminist art.

Throughout her work, she has called attention to the deeply segregated nature of the art world while also continually imagining her own history, body, and relationships, within a cultural landscape that often makes it difficult for Black women to speak for themselves. Parallel threads of outward critique and inward reflection are some of the many binaries that O’Grady’s work addresses. By putting seemingly contradictory ideas together, she questions the power attached to such oppositions as Black and White, museum and individual, self and other, West and non-West, and past and present. The exhibition’s subtitle, “Both/And,” emphasizes the artist’s ambitious goal of dismantling either/or thinking in favor of broader possibilities.

Leadership support for this exhibition is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation. Its presentation at the Weatherspoon Art Museum is supported by Bank of America, Beatrice Schall, Sydney Gingrow, Carol Cole Levin, Tim Warmath, and Edward Comber.

The exhibition is on view through April 30.

BROADWAY COVID SAFETY

As Broadway audiences have cautiously returned to theaters after the Omicron variant wave, safety is top priority for Hugh Hysell ’88. The actor and Tony Award winning producer now leads The Broadway COVID Safety Team. In addition to checking proof of vaccination and photo ID of every ticket holder, the safety team also provides manpower backstage, providing support for the cast, crew, ushers, concessions vendors, and anyone who comes into the theater. His workforce totals over 300.

“Broadway is our number one tourist attraction,” he noted. “For New York City to be alive, Broadway has to be alive.”

UNCG’s Concert and Lecture Series, the longest-running series of its kind in North Carolina, will mark its 110th season in the coming year with some great shows.

• **Winston Duke**, a star of the blockbuster Marvel Comics movie “Black Panther” (August 26, 2022)
• **Joshua Bell**, one of the most celebrated violinists of our time, performing in recital (October 3, 2022)
• **Urban Bush Women**, a dance company whose works weave contemporary dance, music, and text with history, culture, and spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora (October 14, 2022)
• **The Indigo Girls**, a folk-rock duo known as a voice of their generation performing with the Greensboro Symphony (January 13, 2023)
• **Seraph Brass**, a dynamic ensemble drawing from a roster of America’s top female brass players (March 24, 2023)

The season also includes **Shaun Leonardo**, whose multidisciplinary art questions societal expectations of masculinity, namely definitions surrounding Black and Brown masculinities.

Co-sponsored by the Falk Visiting Artist Program, it’s free to attend with registration.

SEASON TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT UCLS.UNCG.EDU.
WE’VE MET MANY UNCG ALUMNI and learned their stories, over the years, through the pages of this magazine. Let’s check in with them. Where to begin? Let’s go back to the start of the last UNCG campaign. A team of writers reached out – through calls, through Zoom, coffee shop chats, hugs-and-smile-filled and sometimes tear-filled visits – to nearly 50 alumni featured in these pages since 2004. Make yourself comfortable, sit back, and let’s all catch up.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BY ALEX ABRAMS, BRITTANY CAMERON, VIVIAN CAMPBELL ’20, VICTORIA COX, COLIN CUTLER ’16 MA, MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA, RACHEL KELLY ’07, ’09 MPA, AND LOLLIE WHITE ’80 MA, ’87 PHD • NEW PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE, UNLESS NOTED

KEVIN GRAYES ’04 For more than a century, one idea has been at the heart of this University’s mission: Service. When we last featured Kevin Graves, we focused on his service work – particularly coaching and mentoring young men through AAU basketball. His service began in 1991 at UNCG when he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi. In the middle of his undergraduate studies, he made the decision to go into the US Air Force. He returned in 2003 to complete his bachelor’s degree in exercise science and sports studies, and to start his master’s work in community youth sports development.

He believes basketball is not only a way to enhance young people’s lives, but a key component to UNCG’s future success. His recently announced gift shows that conviction. Kevin has pledged $275,000 to the UNCG Men’s Basketball Enrichment Fund. His donation represents the largest commitment UNCG Athletics has ever received from a minority donor. Now he also runs SWG Consulting LLC, which manages professional athletes – primarily NBA players. Having assisted in establishing four scholarships at UNCG, he recently joined in the Light The Way campaign efforts as a member of the Athletics Campaign Committee. “I want to inspire people to give.”
AMBER GAGLIANO ’17
You may know Amber as the student nursing intern on the cover of the Spring 2017 issue, the one celebrating UNCG Nursing’s 50th anniversary. After graduation she worked as a traveling emergency/trauma nurse, which brought her to LA. Since 2020 she has shifted to a company that provides at-home doctor visits and IV therapy. “It’s been a pretty cool experience because we work closely with celebrities, red carpet events, and music festivals,” she says.

ADAM KAMPOURS ’13, seen in the spring 2013 issue as a theatre major who admired Charlie Chaplin, took a cross-country road trip after Commencement with a friend, with a final destination of New York City. With a day job as a barista or server, he lived the New York actor’s life – auditions, creative plays in black-box and off-off-Broadway venues, more auditions, side hustles in the arts, and more auditions. Shakespeare roles (Feste the jester and Hamlet) were his favorite. He got his Actors’ Equity Card when the pandemic hit in 2020, he left the “concrete jungle” and ultimately took his current position with NY and Chicago-based Source Adventures, as he works remotely from his home near Asheville, NC.

And he’s soon write a one-man play, based on his late uncle’s time as a Peace Corp volunteer in Nepal. “If I’ll keep his “acting chops” and creative spirit in great form, he tells us.

STEVEN LLOYD ’85 MFA has built the Haywood Arts Regional Theater in Waynesville into a tremendous center for live theater in the N.C. mountains. They have three performance spaces, now. It’s Steven who advised Adam Kampouris to study acting at UNCG. This year, Steven will retire, leaving quite a legacy.

SUCH A DIVA
BETH LEAVE ’80 MA owns one of Broadway’s biggest awards, so this magazine has reported. In May, she’ll receive an honorary degree from our University. And she will address the graduates as the commencement speaker.

“They’re getting a storyteller – who was one of the stories. I hope I can share something, impart something - I hope I can be entertaining. And I hope they leave with more joy in their hearts.”

Beth Leave was our cover feature in 2007, as she starred in “The Drowsy Chaperone” on Broadway. The role was written especially for her. She welcomed our magazine creative team back into the studio to prepare for her performance – one that would earn her a Tony Award and Drama Desk Award.

Since that 2007 cover story, she has received Tony Award and Drama Desk Award nominations for her work in “The Prom” and “Tally. It’s You.” She has been in 13 shows on Broadway. She’s known as a diva, one with true kindness.

“Baby, It’s You.” She has been in 13 shows on Broadway. She’s graduated as the commencement speaker.

DOROTHY KEARNS ’53, ’74 MED graduated from Woman’s College and from UNCG. The first woman to serve as chair of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, she helped ensure a successful merger of the three school systems in Guilford County. She advocated for a statewide Smart Start program. At UNCG, she helped see the Class of 1953-led project for a Minerva statue to its conclusion. When the statue arrived, she was surprised it was verdigris green, not your typical bronze. She liked it, and is thrilled the campus has embraced it so heartily. Currently, she is vice-chair of Public Schools First North Carolina, and she is very involved in the Guilford County Roundtable for the NC League of Women Voters.
FIRST IN THE STATE

NANCY JAMES ADAMS '60, '65 MS has worked longer as a genetic counselor than anyone in this state. That's because this UNCG alumna was the very first.

And while she is officially retired, she still does some remote consultations. After Nancy retired from Labcorp as an associate vice president, she agreed to take a few cases in Moses Cone Hospital’s oncology department. Her patient load grew quickly – so long to “retirement.” That’s when she last interviewed her, and heard her story.

In 1977, she had begun her genetic counseling career in the Division of Genetics and Metabolism at NC Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. She then went to the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division where she helped establish the second maternal serum screening program in the nation. Later, she became the first genetic counselor to work with a commercial lab and developed Labcorp’s genetic services department.

She praises Dr. Bruce Eberhart, the Department Head of Biology at UNCG as she got her master’s, and Dr. Laura Anderton for assisting her in developing a program to help her reach her goal of becoming a certified genetic counselor – in fact, the first in N.C.

LINDSAY THOMAS '16 AND NICOLE THOMAS '16, '18 MS Twin sisters, Lindsay and Nicole were star softball players at UNCG. Lindsay was catcher, and Nicole was pitcher. They’re remained in the world of softball since! Both have played professionally in a variety of countries, and both have coached. Lindsay has coached the teams at Virginia Tech and Western Carolina University, while Nicole helped run an EU-funded softball camp in Croatia. When the COVID pandemic hit, the two reunited to create a business that had been their dream – Training Untamed, which develops athletes’ mental skills to improve their resilience and confidence and bridge the performance gap. Their business program has been run with national teams, college programs, and teams worldwide. They estimate 400 athletes have been helped so far.

LUCY MASON '16 was featured in the spring 2016 issue for her then-record basketball points total and for her research on African-American figures on campus. Since then she has pursued sports further, and taken up leadership and guidance positions with a master’s in sports business. After work at the University of Central Florida in Academic Support Services, she is now an academic coach working with the football and softball teams at NC Central University. She also serves as the Coordinator for Student-Athlete Leadership and Development overseeing life skills programming and community engagement, and is advisor to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

JULIE DEVORE '10 Since working on “School of Rock” (when the magazine last featured her), Julie has continued her Broadway career. She has worked closely with pop star David Byrne on the “American Utopia” show – and his unique “Unchained” show when many cast members were out during the height of the winter COVID surge. (Percussionist Evan Frixon on “10 performed during “Unchained!” She has worked as production stage manager on “virtual” musicals during the pandemic as well.

CATHERINE JOHNSON MS/ EDS ’09 Leading through the COVID crisis presented challenges around every corner. “I kept thinking I’ve never been faced with this before,” says Guilford County Family Justice Center Director Catherine Johnson. While much of the world closed down, the Family Justice Center was negotiating how to help survivors so they could keep survivors safe. “Violence and abuse breeds in isolation,” Catherine notes, so there was no option but to be there – in person. She and her team leaned into the complexities of providing, in the midst of a pandemic, their “one-stop-shop” for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse. During the 2020 shutdown, her team assisted 10,000 survivors.

ALEX ALBRIGHT '75 MFA will be a featured speaker at the 2022 Greensboro Black History Month in May. The Summer 2006 magazine featured him and his Fountain General Store, which he and his wife, Elizabeth, own and operate in a small town between Wilson and Greensboro. As the magazine story, his father died as a result of cancer therapies. As he explained in a UNCG Magazine story, his father died as a result of

MINERVA’S MAKER

JIM BARNHILL ’82 MFA The artist who created UNCG’s Minerva statue, a gift of the Class of 1982, is Jim Barnhill, who first sculpted life models here as a master’s student at UNCG.

He’s been in the magazine a few times in the past decades, with a large feature in 2018. He created the General Greene statue in downtown Greensboro and the iconic statue of the Greensboro Four at NC A&T, where he has taught art since 1986. His Minerva statue is iconic as well – with uncontracted arms and cast verdigris, giving the metal a greenish tint, as if it came from the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea.

Last summer, Jim had a major stroke. “Rehab is going swimmingly,” he said in a recent video call interview. After nine months of rehab, “A walker and cane is what I use the most” to do work and get around, he said. To strengthen his speech, he participates in an aphasia group led by Dr. Jessica Obermeyer and Sena Crutchley, faculty in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at UNCG.

As he continues to rehab, painting will be his focus, he said. The effects of the stroke have influenced how he approaches it. “Drawing with my left hand is what I use the most” to do work and get around, he said. To strengthen his speech, he participates in an aphasia group led by Dr. Jessica Obermeyer and Sena Crutchley, faculty in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at UNCG.

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CARING & COMPASSION

SINA MCGIMPSEY REID ’65 was featured in a lengthy 2010 UNCG Magazine piece about the Tate Street boycott. Led and carried out by Woman’s College students – and with the official support of the student government – students picketed – and they were successful. By the end of 1963, all Tate Street businesses were integrated.

The Tate Street boycott had a number of student leaders. One was Sina, who went on to a career in business and counseling after graduation. She received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1989, and she served on the UNCG Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2008. Perhaps most notably, she’s ready to downsize and move to a smaller house. “We’ll do that again,” says Anne with her typical optimism.

PETER SCHROTH ’98 MFA The last time (2006) the magazine checked in with Peter, he and fellow Spartans Brian Cramer ’99 MFA and Andrew Dudaek ’94 had created the Flying Anvil, a music club located in downtown Greensboro where The Forge is now. He also owned and ran The Green Bean coffee house (which booked great rising bands) on Elm Street from 2002 to 2008. Perhaps most notably, he has worked for the Avett Brothers since 2009; in recent years, he has been the popular band’s production manager, lighting designer, and stage designer.

LAUREL DUNSTRETT ’99 MS She was the cover feature in Summer 2008, as she wrote music for Triad Stage’s “Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson,” played at Merlefest, and led a workshop with Alice Gruett at a UNC Music folksongs seminar. In recent years, she has composed and presented “The Gathering,” a holiday-themed song cycle with orchestra, become more involved with the NC Folk Festival, and, as of May 2021, began presenting music on her 40-acre spread near Hanging Rock. As a nod to Levon Helm, she calls each event there “Ramble on Big Creek.”

EMILY V. GORDON ’01, ’03 MS/EDS She’s a writer, co-developer, and executive producer for a new series based on the story of the Chippendales, for Hulu. And the 2020-21 pandemic/relationship podcast “Staying in with Emily and Kumail,” part self-help and part real-life comedy, entertained many through times of quarantine.

BREANNA GRAVES LANE ’14 was among those then-freshman featured in a 2010 article on the first class of UNCG Guarantee students. We caught up with her this spring. Graduating with a UNCG Guarantee scholar, she went on to a long career at IBM. Now, she is assistant director of Spartan Brian Cramer at a UNC Music folksongs seminar. In recent years, she has composed and presented “The Gathering,” a holiday-themed song cycle with orchestra, become more involved with the NC Folk Festival, and, as of May 2021, began presenting music on her 40-acre spread near Hanging Rock. As a nod to Levon Helm, she calls each event there “Ramble on Big Creek.”

EMILY V. GORDON ’01, ’03 MS/EDS had received an Oscar nomination for “The Big Sick” when it was featured in Fall 2018. The screenplay was based on her own unconventional courtship with (now-husband) Kumail Nanjiani, her co-writer. The therapist-turned-screenwriter told about UNCG’s experience: “I went into college expecting the world would tell me what to do, and it would be my job to argue against that. I left understanding my job was to control my destiny.” In 2020, the anthology TV series “Little America,” showing heartfelt and inspiring stories of US immigrants, was rolled out on Apple TV, and the second season is filming now. She’s a writer, co-developer, and executive producer for that, as well as an executive producer for a new series based on the story of the Chippendales, for Hulu. And the 2020-21 pandemic/relationship podcast “Staying in with Emily and Kumail,” part self-help and part real-life comedy, entertained many through times of quarantine.

SINA MCGIMPSEY REID ’65 said, adding that it’s all about “compassion and empathetic understanding for the other,” for those who look like me and those who don’t look like me.”

Glioblastoma - and at JNN, he was able to conduct research to help those diagnosed in the future. His research in this area was published in “Current Trends in Medicinal Chemistry” and call sine studies in “Science Advances Today.”

More recently, he has designed a vaccine for the Zika virus. He received a provisional patent for the research and has focused on developing a rapid detection kit for the Zika virus as a chief science officer for a company in Texas.
start my own holistic therapy practice,” she says. She notes that being part of the UNCG Guarantee Scholarship Program gave her the confidence to be able to pursue her own dreams and passions, rather than trying to live up to the career expectations of anyone else. That’s a wonderful thing.

ERNEST DOLLAR: ’93 continues to tell the story of our state capital as the director of the City of Raleigh Museum. He tells us, “One of my life goals takes place (in April). I have a book coming out on the end of the Civil War in North Carolina.” He has also been very involved in working to uncover the African American history of Raleigh’s Dorothea Dix Park site.

KEIVAN ETTEFAGH: ’12 PHD was working with James Patrick Healy ’14 PhD and others at Select Laboratory Partners on an innovative COVID test, when we last checked in, during the first months of the pandemic. They have continued to do COVID testing using the process the company developed at the onset of the pandemic. “My focus (very recently) has been on health management through advanced laboratory testing,” Keivan said. They have been making presentations on this. The goal? To not only reduce the risk significantly in health care costs by managing health through advanced laboratory testing, but also to improve health through advanced laboratory testing. Keivan explained.

Latoya Jordan: ’06, featured on the cover in 2015, is an American Sign Language Interpreter and a CODA, a child of a deaf adult. She has worked in several fields within the profession, from interpreting for state and federal agencies to medical appointments, from theater/film and post-secondary education to concerts and music festivals. Recently, she participated in the University of North Carolina’s Project CLIMB: Cultivating Legal Interpreters from Minority Backgrounds.

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also has established an additional
CINDY HSIEH ’13 MFA had just finished helping in video production of the summer Olympics — her second time working the Olympics — when we covered her in 2012. Ten years later, she has worked on-site for the 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 Olympics, covering the competition, working in the research room, and functioning as a field producer. Now based in Atlanta, Georgia, she also has worked on a number of television series and features.

KEITH WATKINS ’16, ’17 MS identified what’s believed to be the oldest tree on campus: a pine that germinated in 1837. As a member of Dr. Paul Knapp’s Carolina Tree Ring Laboratory, he took core samples and identified the ages of most older trees on campus. You’ll see them tagged if you look closely. After his master’s? He joined the City of Greensboro as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst, and is now GIS/EAM administrator for the city.

TRISTIN MILLER ’10 With a background in art and graphic design, Tristin is flexing other muscles these days. After several years of organizing the Hand to Hand Market and myriad other artist-driven events, she identified running a weightlifting class as a new way to flex her muscles. She’s flexing other muscles these days. After several years of creating the Hand to Hand Market and myriad other artist-driven events, she is now also a weightlifting coach, focusing on trauma-informed private sessions with people who might not feel safe in a gym.

SUZANNE CABRERA ’07 MS For Suzanne, her art consistently starts by hand, whether that is ensuring traces of her analog process come through in her Open Sketch Book project or in a number of television series and features. With a background in art and graphic design, Suzanne consistently starts by hand, whether that is ensuring traces of her analog process come through in her Open Sketch Book project or in her graphic novel under her belt and names the local brewmasters at Foothills Brewing as among her oldest clients.

ASH MOHAN ’19 created an eye-popping visual of alumna Lauren Holt as the EuroLeague all-time leading offensive rebounder. His teams have won four championships. Joshua Hodges ’21, featured on the cover in Spring 2021, has graduated from Officer Candidate School and is a 2nd Lt. U.S. Marine. See more comprehensive updates at Alumnimagazine.uncg.edu.
In early 2020, the opening of Greensboro’s Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts signaled a state of unparalleled artistic growth for the city. And tickets were flying out the door for the Greensboro Opera full production of “Porgy and Bess,” with Professor of Music and Director of UNCG Opera David Holley as producer.

When the Tanger Center directors had approached Holley three years earlier, they said, “It’s got to be something special.”

So, he’d landed on the George Gershwin masterpiece that contains some of the most recognizable songs in the opera world, so much that they are now part of the Great American Songbook.

Several high-profile UNCG alumni were perfect choices to star in the production, including MacArthur grant recipient, composer, and Grammy-winner Rhiannon Giddens, accomplished “opera powerhouse” Sidney Outlaw ’04, and the multi-talented Richard Hodges ’15.

Then, COVID-19 came crashing down on the arts world and forced a rescheduling. While other opera companies may have tried to postpone productions a few months, Greensboro Opera wisely decided on an 18-month delay. The show would surely go on.

“We had the vision of how to accomplish it, even though we were fraught with COVID,” said Holley.

So, it was fall 2021 that they began rehearsals with the chorus – with UNCG students – and in January of 2022 the star-studded cast, including nine UNCG alumni, gathered at Well•Spring theater for their first all-cast rehearsals with stage director Everett McCorvey and conductor Awadagin Pratt.

The cast also included several UNCG professors and nine UNCG students. Forty UNCG musicians filled the orchestra. Alumni Spartans in the cast reported a familial homecoming feeling, and students were pleased to welcome them.

“I didn’t realize there were so many alumni in the cast until we started interacting with each other,” said doctoral student Detra Davis ’19 MM, who played the role of Annie. “I was like, ‘Oh my gods. You know, it was such a great feeling to be among UNCG colleagues and professionals.”

Above left, final dress rehearsal of “Porgy and Bess.” The cast included many UNCG alumni and several students. Above right, UNCG School of Music alumna Rhiannon Giddens (“Bess”) with Thomas Cannon (“Porgy”) performing a moving duet.

A Triumphant Return

“I got my feet wet in Greensboro, and this is where it kind of started for me.”

– SIDNEY OUTLAW ‘04
Setting the stage

Carmens, Toreadors, and Figaros; Toscas, Besses, and Queens of the Night – where do they come from?

In North Carolina, UNCG Opera Theatre is the premier incubator for singers who advance to the world’s greatest stages.

In the past two years, they moved to virtual performances to modified live performances to almost-normal productions, except for the masks. But the School of Music continued to offer the best university-produced opera in the region, and the most comprehensive training in music.

As a training ground, UNCG Opera is rigorous, inspiring, and supportive.

UNCG is the only UNC System school where a student can earn a doctorate in voice and receive a comprehensive education in music that goes from a bachelor’s degree to the highest level. As Holley points out, that attracts a high caliber of artists.

Typically – as in, before the pandemic – UNCG Opera staged at least four operas a year, an invaluable experience for students, and a boon for Triad music lovers. Their work has won seven first place and five second place awards in the National Opera Association’s annual Opera Production Competition and was named a finalist four times in The American Prize Competition.

In 2019, “Falstaff” was a finalist in the American Prize Competition for production as well as for student singers, a return to the stage. In March, the company performed “The Bartered Bride” in UNCG Auditorium and in April, once again, 6,000 Guilford County School students came to the Carolina Theatre to see UNCG Opera students perform in “The Telephone” and “Luke’s Song,” an opera written by Holley and Mark Engstrom, based on a story by a GCS fifth-grader.

Holley is relieved and excited for the UNCG performers to be able to perform again, as they did before the pandemic.

“One of the most important things for these young people to do is get roles on their resume,” he said, “so that the young artist programs – the bridge between academic opera and the professional world of opera – can see they had that experience. That’s one of the crucial things that UNCG Opera Theatre provides. And we’re so glad to be back.”

Alumni of UNCG Opera find success in the professional world, graceing the rosters of the world’s most prestigious houses – not only the Metropolitan Opera, which recently has had 10 UNCG alumni – but also the New York City Opera (Jason Karn ’82), Houston Grand Opera (Tyler Smith ’00), Seattle Opera (Cheryse McLeod Lewis ’01), and Lyric Opera of Chicago (Jill Gardner ’95 MM). The impact is international, at Händelfestspiele Halle in Switzerland, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Landestheater in Salzburg, Austria (Joel Bonnemain ’92), Opéra de Montréal, (Donald Hartmann ’77, ’82 MM, UNCG professor of Voice), and at major summer festivals, such as Central City Opera (Andrew Owens ’00).
At the Met

Life on opera’s grandest stage is a whirlwind. “Carmen,” “Verdi,” “Tosca,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Turandot,” “Macbeth,” “Madame Butterfly,” and more classic operas are all performed every other year, as well as works by contemporary composers. The Met re-opened in September 2021, with strict COVID-19 protocols in place, but with all the gusto and artistic strength it’s known for. Several UNCG Opera alumni are among the 75 full-time performers, and several others join the chorus on a contract basis.

“We’ve got balls in the air. We’re really juggling constantly,” says Lynn Taylor MM ’78, who has sung with the Met for 24 years, including 20 as a full-time performer. She recently sang in “Don Carle,” “The Magic Flute,” “Eurydice,” “Cendrillion,” and many other productions.

“It’s different every season,” she explains. “Usually, we’re performing about three to four operas all at the same time, and also rehearsing two or three others. During the day, we’re working on music, singing for three hours – or the staging. And for big shows, three days of costumes, wigs, and makeup, and that’s not even into final dress.”

Lynn remembers working with faculty members Bill McVey and Richard Cox at UNCG and singing in “The Marriage of Figaro,” which was her first full-length opera. She says her time at UNCG helped her get her first big gig as an opera singer, in the National Opera Company, which was based in Raleigh. “I think I was born to sing, and it just suits my temperament,” she says. “And at UNCG, I got the start in opera that I was looking for.”

That start led to a tremendous career. Lynn traveled to Japan four times with the Met and toured as a Met solo artist. “We were so happy to be back,” she says about the September 2021 return to the stage. “It’s been hard, because we have been masked, totally masked backstage, in the dressing room, and up until the moment we walk on stage. So that’s been a hardship – the strict protocols for us and for the audience. But we know that that’s what’s kept the Met open, and we’re just so happy to be back.”

Liz Brooks Wentworth ’99 is in her ninth season at the Met, with more than 1,100 performances. She finds that the exhausting schedule has been worth it, for herself and what she gives to an audience. “Opera is a way to escape, a way to experience things you may not have access to in real life. And I love the physical part of singing. It’s doing something good for your soul. The world needs art and beauty and fear and passion – all of that is within those two hours.”

As a student, Liz worked with Holley as well as Charles Lyman, and she says that mentorship as the reason she is an opera singer, in the National Opera Company, which was turnaround moment under Holley’s leadership. “Singing alone is really hard, but when it was created and put together, it was really beautiful.”

The alumni connections also remain. During the Met’s closure, Liz participated in a virtual 48-songer project written and directed by Rhiamon Goldner. “I Can’t Cry No More” was recorded from each of the singers’ homes individually. “It brought us a sense of community at the time,” she said. “Singing alone is really hard, but when it was created and put together, it was really beautiful.”

Charles Williamson MM ’04 will soon begin his third season at the Met, including serving as a principal cover for “Porgy and Bess.”

 definitively a roller coaster of a time,” he says about being a new Met performer. “It’s a time when you take your cover assignments really seriously because of coronavirus and testing protocols being an added factor.”

Because he’s a contractor, he continues performing at other opera houses as well, such as in “Fire Shut Up in My Bones” at the Lyric in Chicago, and was also in Greenbough Opera’s “Porgy and Bess,” along with fellow Met performer Lindell Carter.

It was nice to come into the space and just be around old friends, but also make new ones,” said Charles. With David Holley as the producer and the other professors in the alumni community of performers, it felt like a full circle moment. He also felt like it was a return for the company and a return for us as artists.”

WANT TO SEE MET SHOWS LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN? Thanks to a sponsorship, you can. Sidney Dixon Webersdorfer ‘09 is media production coordinator for the Met’s HD broadcasts on Saturday afternoons, bringing live opera performances to movie theaters throughout the U.S. and internationa...
Commencement week has always been special on our campus, marked by ceremony and tradition. And daisies, thousands of daisies.

For many decades, the big event for seniors was the Class Day ceremony, held the day before commencement – usually in Foust Park. Class Day Committees planned the programs to reflect each class’s unique “personality” and showcase their accomplishments. Typically included were the presentation of the Class Gift, naming the Everlasting Class Officers and outstanding seniors, retiring the Class Colors, and singing the Class Song.

Class identity was the nexus of campus social occasions such as bonfires and teas, musical and theatrical productions, and athletic competitions. The adoption of “Sister Classes” – juniors and freshmen, seniors and sophomores – further instilled bonds among students.

“The relationship between Sister Classes was very close,” Carol Matney ’63 explains. “My class served as mentors and ‘big sisters’ to the Class of ’65 for two years. The special bond we shared created wonderful memories.”

One constant over the years was the sophomores’ final tribute to their Sister Class: the formal Daisy Chain procession to Foust Park and recession, as they sang the Sister Class Song.

Here’s a nod to the ever-evolving traditions, to the memories made, and to the bonds we’ve shared here on this beautiful campus.

Remembering the traditions of class day, sister classes, and daisy chains

BY CHRIS GARTON • ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY MARTHA BLAKEY HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
Speakers on stage for the 1963 Class Day ceremony. The Class of 1963’s colors were red and white, represented by corsages, the floral arrangement in front of the podium, and the class banner.

Daisy Chain Committee members hold a 50-foot garland of greenery to which they will add the daisies.

Class of 1940 Class Day ceremony. Their class motto: “Aim for higher things.”

May God build for you a harmony That will be both great and strong Making all your life a melody And every day a song.

— LINES FROM THE TRADITIONAL SISTER SONG

The graduating Class of 1910 march to Front Campus, flanked by their 1912 “Sister Class.” Carrying the class and college banners is senior Laura Weill, who wrote what has ever since been the College/University Song.

North Carolina College for Women sophomores prepare for the Class of 1925’s procession to their Class Day ceremony. The 1925 Pine Needles identified the seniors as “Our Leading Ladies.”

Class of 1903 graduating seniors carry the Daisy Chain on their outside shoulders as they pose in front of Main Building (now Foust Building).

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Two rows of sophomores bear the Daisy Chain as they lead the 1969 Class Day recession out of Foust Park. This was one of the last Class Day ceremonies held at the University. After coeducation was introduced, many of the Woman’s College era traditions were discontinued.

Traditions such as Class Day helped generate support of and loyalty to our alma mater.

— EVERLASTING PRESIDENT SUE MEDLEY, CLASS OF 1965

GREENSBORO’S BELT AT FRIENDLY SHOPPING CENTER IS TODAY. 
UPON RETURN TO CAMPUS, THE SOPHOMORES SPENT THE REMAIN- 
DER OF THE DAY CRAFTING TWO 50-FOOT-LONG GARLANDS OF GREEN- 
ERY ENTWINED WITH DAISIES. THE FINISHED PRODUCT WAS PUT INTO 
COLD STORAGE UNTIL ITS DEBUT ON 
CLASS DAY. MARY-OWENS BELL FITZGERALD ’55 MADE THE DAISY 
CHAIN ON THE LAWN IN FRONT OF 
MICHIE BUILDING HER SOPHOMORE 
YEAR: “THE DAISIES WERE CON- 
NECTED BY MAKING A SLIT IN A 
DAISY STEM AND POKING THE STEM 
OF THE NEXT DAISY THROUGH IT. THE 
CHAIN WAS QUITE BULKY, A GOOD 
FOUR INCHES IN DIAMETER.”

AFTER THE UNIVERSITY BECAME 
CO-EDUCATIONAL — YET A DAISY 
CHAIN REMAINED A KEY PART OF 
APRIL’S REUNION FOR MANY YEARS.

AND TODAY’S STUDENTS HAVE A 
DAISY TRADITION OF THEIR OWN: 
EACH NEW UNCG STUDENT 
RECEIVES A DAISY AT FIRST-YEAR 
STUDENT ORIENTATION. SOME 
CHOOSE TO PLACE THEIRS AT THE 
MINERVA STATUE FOR GOOD LUCK, 
A NOD TO ANOTHER RELATIVELY NEW 
CAMPUS TRADITION.

“WC”: MUCH MORE 
THAN DAISIES

“SOMETIMES I THINK THAT FOLKS MAY HAVE A MISTAKEN IDEA OF 
WHAT THE WOMAN’S COLLEGE ERA WAS REALLY LIKE,” SAYS SUE MEDLEY 
’65. “THE PHOTOS OF CLASSMATES WEARING WHITE DRESSES AND 
WALKING THROUGH THE DAISY CHAIN APPEAR TO Portray gentile 
maidens of long ago.”

“THOSE SAME YOUNG WOMEN WERE ENCOURAGED BY OUR PRO- 
FESSORS TO SPEAK OUT AND STAND UP FOR OUR RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY 
THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES. WE PARTICI- 
PATED IN PROTESTS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS 
HERE IN GREENSBORO AT 
WOOLWORTH’S AND TATTS STREET. WE WORKED IN CAMPAIGNS FOR 
THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN ALSO TO BE TREATED WITH EQUALITY,” SHE 
RECOUNTS. “AS OUR CLASSMATES GRADUATED, THEY WENT ON TO BE 
SCIENTISTS, EDUCATORS, LAWYERS, WRITERS, AND SO MANY MORE 
PROFESSIONALS. WE HOPE THAT 
OUR ERA HELPED TO CREATE THE FOUNDATION FOR THE WONDERFUL 
UNIVERSITY WE HAVE TODAY.”
The program is important, she notes, because it uses the current hands-on “maker” movement in STEM to empower children who have been historically marginalized in traditional STEM instruction. Families of all cultural backgrounds do creative and STEM-relevant work in their homes. During the Boys & Girls Club classes, Tan and Worsley engage with the “making” the students are already doing with their family and draw connections to STEM, helping to make the field more relatable to children who may be alienated by typical STEM classes. “We want to show what kids are already making at home and what they’re doing in the program and combine them together.”

It also provides an important place of safety and emotional support for the students, which has been particularly vital during the COVID pandemic.

As Worsley says, it’s important for them to “feel like the STEM space that’s created is one where they can just breathe, where they don’t have to be on point. And they’re granted that, to be just honest and open and real about what’s happening.”

From playful creative projects to making “Angel Cards” for loved ones lost due to COVID, the classes became a place where the students are guided to explore their creativity and use it to process sometimes difficult subjects. It can be challenging and hard-hitting, Tan says. “But it is STEM in the here and now — that’s relevant to your life — that we can hopefully be supportive of.”

**IMPACT OVER MANY DECADES**

The Bridges has a generational connection to UNCG, and a distinguished legacy in education. Carrie Perkins Davis graduated from the State Normal School in 1914. Four of her daughters — Elizabeth, Hilda, Katherine, and Carrie — graduated from what became Woman’s College with degrees in education. And Katherine’s daughter, Jennifer Smith Hooks, graduated from UNCG in 1979.

The Carrie Davis Ponder ’58 Endowed Scholarship in Education supports student teachers at the School of Education, helping the career field stay financially accessible to all aspiring educators. Together with the Hooks professorship and the Davis-Smith Endowed Scholarship, the funds help spread impactful education to the community — and further the family’s desire to support education.

These interlocking systems of support aid students financially, ensuring that education can be accessible to all. They also create an environment where student teachers are supported by the institutions around them, feeling comfortable and confident to excel in their field. And, they allow these students to go into their community and lift up future generations of students to ensure they can be the best they can be for their future.

“What has inspired me the most, besides the visibility and the opportunity for those students to be exposed to all the potential of being of brilliant Black youth, now has a chance to emerge. This is especially critical in the field of academia, where there’s so much stock in precedence, in what has been done. We are pushing really hard to be cutting edge and to say ‘here are the theoretical frameworks we need to consider.’”

**ANONYMOUS GIFT, VISIBLE IMPACT**

Often an act of giving spurs another — even from those you don’t know. An anonymous gift of $500,000 joins the Ponder Scholarship and Hooks Professorship in supporting students in the School of Education. The gift is inspired by the Hooks Professorship and will create a fund to support community-based STEM research by traditionally underrepresented students in the School of Education.

“One of the greatest challenges we’re facing for the STEM field is the limited representation of historically marginalized groups,” says Randy Penfield, dean of the School of Education. “Students often learn better from individuals who share similarities in back- ground with them. It makes a barrier to students from those groups to get into the field. That creates a barrier on the number of STEM teachers, professors, and industry leaders from these communities. There’s this cycle we’re trying to disrupt and that’s where these fund- ing opportunities that give us the ability to provide access for students from all backgrounds, including those histori- cally underrepresented and marginal- ized, become so important.”

These gifts are a few of many that support student teachers in the School of Education. Learn more about gifts to the School of Education and the Light the Way campaign at soe.uncg.edu/giving.
1940s

MAYRNA COLLEY-LEE '62 has been living in the Christwood Retirement Community in Covington, La., since 2016. Since moving to the community she has started three music groups, Community in Covington, La., since 1960s, serving commissioner for the Mississippi Arts Commission. She is noted as the longest-serving commissioner for the Mississippi Museum of Art’s Board of Trustees. She was named chief executive officer at Samaritan, a professional services firm that specializes in corporate health at Novant Health. She is currently serving as the pastor at Red Springs Presbyterian Church, in Red Springs, N.C.

RUTH BRYANT MAXWELL '48 has been living in Madison, Wisconsin, near family, and she is proud to announce that her youngest granddaughter graduated from Edgewood High School this year, was the Wisconsin state cross country champion, and was accepted to run for the University of Wisconsin cross country track team.

Here in spring 2022, we send our best wishes for each of you.

1950s

THEA RUSSELL - WAGNER '43 and her husband are living at Arbor Ridge at Riderwood, and as of the time of this submission they are happy to be taking visitors again.

BETTY SPARKS ZEPH '51 lives in Madison, Wisconsin, near family, and she is proud to announce that her youngest granddaughter graduated from Edgewood High School this year, was the Wisconsin state cross country champion, and was accepted to run for the University of Wisconsin cross country track team.

1960s

The exhibition displayed their paintings and recalled the influence of renowned UNCG art professors and what was known as the “Greensboro School of Painting.”

1970s

RICHARD HEIDEL '85 won the 2021 Shamus Award, presented by the Private Eye Writers of America, for his novel “Red Karma.” It is the first Shamus Award for Richmond, who recently won the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award, the Short Mystery Fiction Society Dagger Award, and the International Thriller Writers Thriller Award.

LYNDA WILLIAMS STARKY '82 was appointed president and chief executive officer of Gander Wood Memorial Hospital.

KAREN KRAMER '66, '68 HPPA, was recognized as a new board member of Three Rivers Land Trust, an organization concerned with conservation efforts in the central Piedmont and foothills of North Carolina.

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1990s

CURRY MCKERROW '99 has worked at Truliant Federal Credit Union for more than a decade, and last year he was named to a newly created role of chief member experience officer. Chris also leads the credit union’s continuing Apprenticeship with the UNCG Bryan School’s Master of Business Administration Career Programs project and serves on the board of directors for Junior Achievement of the Triangle.

CHRISTINE FRANKLIN PEARLHALL '95 was named director of the Real Property Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. The term will extend through June 30, 2023.

ROBERT BROWN REESE '95 is partner, marketing lead at Dfot Strategies, a professional services firm that specializes in connecting businesses and communities for impactful change. She

3

Here in spring 2022, we send our best wishes for each of you. Reach out, and share your news.

Visit us at alumnmagazine.uncg.edu and click on "Submit a class note." You can also mail your information to Class Notes, UNCG Alumni Engagement, PO Box 20170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.

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was previously vice president of communications and marketing at United Theological Seminary in New York City.

DEANNA PRYOR LAWSON ’04
living in Raleigh, N.C.

She was named vice provost of student affairs at UNCG's Student Affairs Office in 2021, and in 2022, she was appointed as the newest director of the Salvation Army of Davidson County (N.C.). She was previously stationed at the Salvation Army in Tupelo, Mississippi.

JULIO VENTO was named the 2020–21 Hallins County (N.C.) Schools Principal of the Year.

JULIO VENTO is the owner of American Songwriter Magazine's Lyric Contest. He is a former New York City public school teacher and currently serves as a cultural consultant for the band Queen.

JULIO VENTO is a music producer best known for his work with the band Queen. He has produced several hit songs for the band, including "Bohemian Rhapsody." He is also the founder of the Queen Music Foundation, which supports music education programs for young people.

JULIO VENTO was named principal of a new charter school in Raleigh, North Carolina, which opened in the fall of 2021. The school, called Queen's Academy, is a K-8 charter school focused on providing a supportive and enriching environment for all students.


JULIO VENTO was appointed director of the Department of Kinnick, Library and Recreation Services at the University of Idaho.

JULIO VENTO is the author of a newly released book, "The Queen's Academy: A Day in the Life of a Charter School Principal." The book offers an inside look at the day-to-day operations of a charter school, including the challenges and successes of running an alternative education model.

JULIO VENTO has been named the 2020–21 Scholar of the Year at the Academy of Lincoln in South Carolina.

JULIO VENTO is a former educator and currently serves as the executive director of a non-profit organization focused on providing educational opportunities for underprivileged children. He has been recognized for his leadership and commitment to improving educational outcomes, particularly in rural areas.

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JULIO VENTO is a leading scholar in the field of educational equity and is recognized for his contributions to research on the role of social justice in education.

JULIO VENTO is a member of the Presidential Commission on the International System of Quality Assurance in Higher Education, which is tasked with developing a global framework for quality assurance in higher education. The commission aims to promote the development of transparent, equitable, and sustainable systems of quality assurance that encourage excellence and innovation in higher education.

JULIO VENTO is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the New York City Charter Schools Network, and currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Charter School Executives. He has been a vocal advocate for the expansion and improvement of the charter school movement, and is recognized for his leadership and commitment to ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education.

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Brian Crawford, a father fighting for
which aired in October, Bowman plays
"Switched Before Birth." In the movie,
Kernersville, N.C., performed his most
laptop, tablet, etc. (PowerPoint from any given device (phone,
collaboration efforts, he developed a
events as the production manager at the
Tony Award last year. During the height
"American Utopia," which won a Special
museum, international artist residency,
APRIL PARKER '13 MLIS
has become the
executive director of the Santa Fe Youth
Foundation assistant curator.
his debut EP, "Motor Function," in August
acting to music after graduation and was
named chair of the Greensboro
UNCG's media studies program and
UNCG's College of Visual and Performing
2020s
HAYA BROOK '16 BA has joined the North
Carolina Museum of Art as the Mellon
Curatorial Fellow in American Art.
JACOB BROWN '20 rang McMenamins "Angel of
Music" during the blind auditions on the
UNCG's Department of Teaching.
MAYA BROOKS '20 MA
joined the North
MARTA RICHARDS '16 BA has been promoted
to include your name (including your maiden
Office, Alumni House, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC
mail a print to Class Notes Photo, Alumni Engagement
UNCG Magazine is now publishing pictures of
your milestones, such as weddings, births and reunions.
All you have to do is share your photos.
A few things to keep in mind:
1. Digital images need to be high resolution for print
(at least 300 dpi).
2. Please identify everyone in the photo and be sure to
include your full name (including your maiden name, if applicable), graduation year and degree.
3. Photographs from a professional photographer must be accompanied by a release form from the
photographer.
4. While we welcome wedding photos and baby pictures, please do not submit engagement or pregnancy pictures.
Please send your photos using the "Submit a Class Note" form at alumnimagazine.uncg.edu. Or you can mail a print to Class Notes Photo, Alumni Engagement Office, Alumni House, P.O. Box 26050, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170. Mailed photos cannot be returned.
negotiated resolution agreement approved by Mitigated case involving impermissible recruit-2020, UNCG received a decision on its Level II NCAA violations of sports wagering. On April 7, 2023. UNCG received a decision on July 25, began July 25, 2019, and will end on July 24, The UNC Greensboro athletic department is umagaddr@uncg.edu or call 336-334-5371. This publication may be accessed at provide paths to prosperity for more first-generation and lower-income students than any other public university in the state. Find your way to prosperity.
UNCG students and graduates are both the fabric and fuel for our region’s growth. With more than 95,000 alumni in North Carolina – 39,000 of those within 25 miles of campus – UNC Greensboro and its grads have real-world, everyday impact. They are the health professionals who care for our families, the teachers who educate our children, and the new leaders who energize our businesses and our communities. These successful, inspirational people will invest in UNCG’s engine of progress for the Piedmont Triad and beyond.

Light the Way: The Campaign for Earned Achievement is UNCG’s bold campaign. With a $200 million goal, it will transform UNCG as we strengthen student access, academic excellence, and the tremendous impact of our University.