EVERY NURSE HAS A STORY

Sometimes the most compelling ones are their very own  PG. 26

PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALISM
PG. 12

CELEBRATION OF FRED CHAPPELL
PG. 20

REFUGEES OF WAR
PG. 34
LET’S GET STARTED Their first chance to gather with future friends and classmates! NAVIGATE, also known as New Student Convocation, gives students a chance to show their school spirit, learn more about UNCG, hear from the chancellor and faculty members, and learn some tips for the first day of class. The various T-shirt colors show their intended academic unit. Brown means Bryan School of Business and Economics. And you can tell he means business!
Whether it’s the eagerness of first-year students or the joy of returning students reconnecting with friends and faculty, the energy on campus as we kicked off the academic year was contagious.

In my welcome message I presented three challenges to our students:

• Live your purpose. Stay anchored to your “why” and lean into it every day. It will raise your spirits and steel your resolve as you strive to accomplish individual and collective goals.

• Focus on wellness. Your health and well-being are our top priorities. Make healthy choices, and extend care and compassion to others, asking for and providing assistance when needed.

• Be engaged. Take advantage of every opportunity and experience the year has to offer. Show up ready to learn and grow and always give your best.

We are greater together, especially when our alumni are involved. Make plans to come back to campus. Be part of the Light the Way campaign. Hire UNCG interns and graduates. Encourage prospective students to tour UNCG.

Thanks for your continued support of UNCG, and I hope to see you soon.

New at the G

This fall, UNC Greensboro excitedly welcomed more than 2,400 first-year students. They come from cities across North Carolina and beyond, but their top larger cities of origin are Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem, and the top smaller towns of origin are Siler City, Hillsborough, Summerfield, and Henderson.

Fifty-three percent of the first-year students are first-generation college students, and the top major preferences among them are nursing, computer science, biology, psychology, kinesiology, business administration, music, studio art, drama, and finance.

Several new offerings are on tap this fall:
• A Computer Science PhD program within the Department of Computer Science
• A new online MA in Speech Language Pathology is moving forward. The first online delivery will begin Fall 2023.
• The School of Music has a new concentration in Popular Music and Technology and Jazz Education.
• The School of Art offers a BFA concentration in Animation, while the School of Theatre offers an MFA in Drama, Music Direction for Musical Theatre Concentration. (See p. 19 for stories on these.)

Tell Us How We’re Doing!

Your opinion about UNCG Magazine is very important to us. Please share your input with a 6-minute survey! Visit go.uncg.edu/magazinesurvey or link via this QR code.

$52M Research Awards

UNCG Research Funding climbed in the last fiscal year to the highest level in the university’s history: $51,960,000. That’s a 7% increase over the previous year. “This year’s largest awards reflect our University’s values and aspirations – partnerships to improve health and prosperity in North Carolina, interventions to improve the well-being of at-risk populations across the nation, and STEM research and education,” said Chancellor Gilliam.
ESPORTS CONTINUE TO GROW at UNCG. Last summer, the UNCG Network for the Cultural Study of Videogaming collaborated with UNCG’s Esports Summer Camp, offering instructional content on gaming, community, and accessibility. During the first week of classes, a “First Year Play” brought students together to connect across common interests. The fall Ashby Dialog series is focusing on queerness, diversity, and inclusion in videogames, furthering the academic and community study of gaming. And course development mini-grants in the College of Arts and Sciences have led to 10 new faculty-developed courses created in recent months.

The UNCG Esports Arena and Learning Lab’s opening generated media coverage and buzz among prospective students. The arena will get more attention this fall, when UNCG will partner with EPIC Games to host a Fortnite tournament for high school and collegiate gamers. See more at esports.uncg.edu.

Randall Kaplan has endowed the Randall R. Kaplan Distinguished Professorship in Innovation.

ESPORTS, A BOOMING INDUSTRY

GLOBAL REVENUE estimate of $1.114 billion in 2021.

175M+ VIDEO GAMERS IN THE US

83% of females and 97% of males ages 13-17 play video games regularly.

VIEWERS

662.7 million people watched live-streamed gaming content in 2020.

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

Former Board of Trustees chair and current Light the Way: The Campaign for Earned Achievement co-chair Randall Kaplan has endowed the Randall R. Kaplan Distinguished Professorship in Innovation. This endowment will enable UNCG to award the Distinguished Professorship to a faculty member leading work in a cutting-edge field of study, positioning UNCG students for successful careers in emerging, in-demand fields.

Chancellor Gilliam said, “Randall understands the shared fate of UNCG, the Triad, and the state of North Carolina. His endowment will give UNCG a strategic advantage in emerging fields, providing our students the competitive edge they deserve.”

Kaplan’s gift was announced during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of UNCG’s new Esports Arena, located in Moran Commons. The first Randall R. Kaplan Distinguished Professorship in Innovation will be awarded to a faculty member in the forthcoming esports academic program. This professorship will enable UNCG to recruit and retain academic luminaries in cutting-edge fields, like esports, in perpetuity.

“Our economy is rapidly changing, and UNCG must be creative and nimble to prepare graduates for a dynamic world,” said Kaplan. “Investing in the leadership of innovative programs will keep UNCG ahead of the curve.”

Kaplan practiced law in Washington, D.C., before moving back to Greensboro to become president of Kay Chemical Company. He has founded and led multiple businesses and is the current CEO of the private investment company Capsule Group, LLC. He has served on a number of boards for organizations, including UNCG.

The Kaplan family’s legacy is evident around the campus, including their gift to create Kaplan Commons, the west lawn of Elliott University Center. Also, Kaplan’s mother, Tobee Kaplan, gave a gift to support health and wellness at UNCG. As a result, the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness was named in honor of Randall Kaplan’s father, Leonard Kaplan.

Kaplan’s gift is part of UNCG’s $200 million Light the Way: The Campaign for Earned Achievement.

$2.4 MILLION UNCG received from state budget for creation of esports facility.

$12020 SURVEY BY STATISTA, 2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER SURVEY; 2,3 ESTIMATE PER NEWZOO
A mother remembered

A $750,000 gift from Luther Hodges Jr. will increase the reach and impact of the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives in Jackson Library. Combined with a previous gift, Mr. Hodges' support for the University’s Light the Way campaign totals $1 million. “Luther has been a tremendous supporter of our University,” said Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. “Luther was compelled to give so that he could have an impact on the library and memorialize his mother in a deeper way.”

His mother, Martha Blakeney Hodges, was a First Lady of North Carolina and an alumna. “It seems that everyone knew my father,” Hodges said, referring to the late Governor Hodges. “My mother – who graduated in 1918 – was equally remarkable.”

University Libraries Interim Dean Michael Crampton noted Hodges’ great support over the years for the Martha Blakeney Hodges Reading Room and the archives. “He’s visited us frequently over the years. He understands the value of archives and protecting institutional history.”

The University will use this new gift to create an archival researcher room as well as to support special collections residents, graduate student fellows, and interns.

“Luther Hodges Jr. holds a picture of his mother, Martha Blakeney Hodges ’18.

My mother, as well as one of her sisters, became principals after graduating from this wonderful campus.”

— LUTHER HODGES JR.

SCUA’S 50TH

GREENSBORO HAS A RICH HISTORY, and UNCG plays a big role in preserving it.

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections & University Archives (SCUA) was established at UNCG 50 years ago. SCUA archives a wide variety of history, from UNCG’s nearly 14 decades as well as from the larger Greensboro community.

“The university archives, the rare books collection, the women in military archives, all reflect back to our history as a women’s institution,” University Archivist Erin Lawrimore says, “giving educational opportunities to women at a time when it wasn’t really that common, especially at a public school.”

The special collections are host to a wide variety of resources. In addition to the many written records stored there, SCUA contains items as diverse as historic signs from around campus; the Robbie Emily Dunn Collection of American Detective Fiction, which includes works written by women and those works featuring a female protagonist published from the 19th century through the 21st century; and the largest collection of historical cello sheet music in the world.

What’s most exciting to the archivists is how these items are used. They enjoy taking items off the shelves and into the learning environment. For example, items such as historical signs from the Civil Rights Movement are incorporated into library exhibits as well as instruction. These lessons are holistic, Lawrimore explains, weaving together multiple collections to tell a bigger story – one on a local, personal level.

As Kathelene Smith, Interim Head of SCUA, says, “Making connections is really important, and that’s a lot of what we do. We make connections with the students, the faculty, researchers, and the greater community.”

SCUA’s 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES

| OCT. 20: | “Signs of the Past: Campus Ghosts at UNCG” |
| NOV. 4: | “She Can, We Can’ Project” |
| NOV. 11: | Annual Women Veterans Luncheon |
| NOV. 18: | “Read My Lips: Political Collections in the Archives” |
| DEC. 2: | “Holiday Recipes from SCUA Collections” |
| DEC. 13: | “Charles Dickens and his Christmas Ghost Stories” |

All sessions will be held virtually at noon. See the schedule at library.uncg.edu/info/depts/scua/speakerseries.aspx.

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SCUA’s 50th Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections & University Archives (SCUA) 50th Anniversary Speaker Series

10:20 a.m. Oct. 20: “Signs of the Past: Campus Ghosts at UNCG”

11 a.m. Nov. 4: “She Can, We Can’ Project”

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player services and assessment for the Kansas City Chiefs, where he works to support players’ and coaches’ behavioral health and psychology. He joined the team in 2019 as the second full-time clinician in the NFL, before it was mandated by the league.

Maintaining peak mental health can be challenging. When you have millions of people watching, it can be exhausting.

Lindsey Sanders ’12 MS, ’21 PhD and Shaun Tyrance ’03 MS are among the health specialists making sure NFL players are taken care of in their entirety, including their mental health.

Sanders, a behavioral specialist, oversees behavioral services administered by Cigna on behalf of the NFL. Tyrance is vice president of behavioral services administered by Cigna on behalf of the NFL. Tyrance is vice president of the NFL. The NFL only requires a clinician to be on staff for eight to 12 hours a week, but the Chiefs have hired Tyrance to be there full-time.

“Mental health is so important for everyone, especially during recent times,” Tyrance said. “When [players] make a mistake at work, it’s very public. They have unique stressors.”

Sanders agrees. “A lot of people assume athletes have it all, but they have such incredibly unique needs,” she said. Even in high school and college, coaches need to prioritize the mental health of their athletes, she explains. They can face enormous pressure regarding academics, performance, and body image.

She began working with Cigna in January 2020. She was working on her doctorate in public health education at UNCG and was a graduate assistant at the Institute to Promote Public Health Education at UNCG and was a graduate assistant at the Institute to Promote Public Health Education at UNCG.

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“Dr. (David) Wyrick was chair of the dissertation committee and my boss. He was an incredible resource for me,” she said. “He understood how I wanted to use my degree and got me involved in organizations that presented at conferences, which helped me meet people. It got me on an email list that had job postings, and this one came around.”

Prior to earning her doctorate, Sanders received her master’s in social work through a joint UNCG/NC A&T program. She began playing competitive volleyball in his forties, and he continued playing for another 20 years. Now at age 80, he intends to make his most powerful set-up assist on the court yet. He began playing competitive volleyball in his forties, and he continued playing for another 20 years. Now at age 80, he intends to make his most powerful set-up assist on the court yet.

“Mental health is as normal a topic as physical health, Sanders explained. “It needs to be a normal part of (the player’s) day, like going to the doctor, then the chiropractor, then the therapist. Everyone needs to work together to keep this person healthy.”

“When NFL players make a mistake at work, it’s very public. They have unique stressors.”

—SHAUN TYRANCE ’03 MS

player services and assessment for the Kansas City Chiefs, where he works to support players/ and coaches/ behavioral health and psychology. He joined the team in 2019 as the second full-time clinician in the NFL, before it was mandated by the league.

“I go to every team meeting, practice, and game,” he says. “Our coach and managers see my office as a good place and encourage the players to use the service. It takes away a lot of the stigma of seeing a therapist.”

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Gorgeous Green Hill

“The Plants & the Planted.” That’s the cheeky yet affectionate name of the historical walking tours provided in spring and fall by volunteer members of Friends of Green Hill Cemetery. Located just north of the downtown business district, Green Hill is Greensboro’s oldest public cemetery (est. 1877) and the final resting place of many of the city’s most prominent citizens, including UNCG’s founding president Charles Duncan McIver and his successor, Julius Isaac Foust.

What many may not know is that in addition to interesting gravestones and monuments, its 51 acres are home to more than 900 diverse and unusual trees and shrubs, such as American Yellowwood, Chinaberry Tree, Devilwood, and Arizona Cypress. This horticultural treasure trove can largely be attributed to the late Bill Craft, whose family has many ties to UNCG, for his decades of private donations, plantings, and care of the cemetery’s trees and shrubs that transformed Green Hill into a botanical destination.

UNCG alumna and Green Hill Cemetery volunteer Ann Stringfield ’75 encourages lunchtime strollers, genealogists, bench sitters, plein air artists, plant enthusiasts, and picnickers to visit this local gem. “What a wonderful place for respite in this busy world,” she says.

Each Founders Day, UNCG alumni, staff, and students follow the tradition of laying wreaths on founding president Charles Duncan McIver’s and second president Julius Isaac Foust’s graves at Green Hill Cemetery. The 1939 photo above shows Walter Clinton Jackson, Emily McIver, Minnie Lou Jamison, Dr. Anna Gove, and Ezekiel Robinson among others in attendance.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT FRIENDSOFGREENHILLCEMETERY.ORG
The focus? Bolstering open government and led the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. was responsible for editorial quality control, he vice-president and senior editorial director he...once was able to employ more than 100 people to bring readers the latest news each day – Post reports. THE NEWS WE NEED • THE NEWS WE NEED • THE NEWS WE NEED • THE NEWS WE NEED • THE NEWS WE NEED • THE NEWS WE NEED

After retiring in 2017 from CNN, where as vice-president and senior editorial director he was responsible for editorial quality control, he led the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. The focus? Bolstering open government and true, independent journalism in that state and inspiring it throughout the nation. Now president emeritus, he speaks nationally and internationally on the topic. For the last 24 years, he has served as a visiting professor at UNC Chapel Hill. “In order for us to make rational decisions as a society, we have to understand what’s going on in our communities,” he says. “And, frankly, social media isn’t enough, because nobody has the time to go to every county commissioners meeting and take note of what’s actually happening. And they don’t have the time to stand outside the representative’s door to ask the accountability questions that are required to keep democracy healthy and to hold government officials responsible.”

With a career including work at CBS News in Atlanta and Los Angeles, his final 26 years were with CNN. There, among other responsibilities such as investigative reporting, he and his team were responsible for CNN’s fast-checking. That included ensuring all news reports, including those related to the U.S. national elections, were factual and accurate.

“We learned early that being first with the news was almost irrelevant. Sure, it was nice to get a scoop now and again, but what was important was being absolutely accurate, making sure the context was right. That meant a dedicated team of researchers, whose job it was to verify every fact in every story. CNN still has that system today.”

His journalism career yielded two Emmys, five Peabody Awards, and two Investigative Reporters and Editors medals. The impact isn’t measured in those.

“What I hope that I have achieved in my career is to help the public understand the world around them and trust journalism a bit more,” Griffiths says. “That only happens if the news process is transparent. My message to journalists every chance I get is to make sure they explain to the public how they do their jobs.”

He got his start at UNCG. “The school was absolutely critical in developing my critical thinking – in particular (through) my extra-curricular activities. I was initially a reporter for WUAG (the UNCG radio station), and then a news director there. I wrote a column for The Carolinian.”

He conducted a lengthy interview with Chancellor James Ferguson for Pine Needles. He vividly recalls covering a student march on the Chancellor’s House on campus, with the chancellor meeting the protesters at his door in his pajamas. Sociology professor Bill Knox and communications/media professors Tom Tedford and John Jellicorse inspired him the most. But his journalism work pulled him away from his classes. While he didn’t complete his degree, his passion was kindled.

“Bill Knox truly understood the nature of journalism in the context of the society in which we live and taught me so much that was so important.”

And effective journalism is key. “The Pew Charitable Trust and others have done research that shows that, if a community loses its local newspaper, taxes jump substantially and government becomes much less efficient,” Griffiths says. “Everyone should subscribe to the local newspaper – or their local NPR station by contributing – to make sure that we have good functioning, local journalism.”

More than 2,200 local newspapers have shut down in the last 15 years, the Washington Post reports. In Greensboro, the News & Record – which once was able to employ more than 180 people to bring readers the latest news each day – reportedly has only six full-time journalists on staff. The amount of local coverage has dwindled. It’s a trend seen in every part of the nation. “We have to really focus, big time, on strengthening and encouraging local journalism,” says Richard Griffiths ‘78.

“Local journalism is absolutely critical to having a strong, functioning democracy.”

—RICHARD GRIFFITHS ’78

“Extra" Extra

CHRIS BOYETTE ’70, a national news editor at CNN, was awarded an Emmy last year for his work on the network’s coverage of the murder of George Floyd and the protests that followed. As a senior gathering editor on the national desk, Boyette chases stories and works with writers, correspondents, and producers to bring those stories to CNN’s audiences. “Some of the best journalists in the world worked together to cover this story. It was a difficult story to fall in many ways, but that made it all the more important of a story to be told,” he said. “We knew we had to tell our audiences the story, and we had to get the story right.”

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An English major at UNCG, he had an affinity for literature, reading, and writing, but an introductory journalism class sparked a new passion. He became a staple at WUAG, the UNCG radio station, and then a news director there. I wrote a column for The Carolinian.”

He conducted a lengthy interview with Chancellor James Ferguson for Pine Needles. He vividly recalls covering a student march on the Chancellor’s House on campus, with the chancellor meeting the protesters at his door in his pajamas. Sociology professor Bill Knox and communications/media professors Tom Tedford and John Jellicorse inspired him the most. But his journalism work pulled him away from his classes. While he didn’t complete his degree, his passion was kindled.

“Bill Knox truly understood the nature of journalism in the context of the society in which we live and taught me so much that was so important.”

And effective journalism is key. “The Pew Charitable Trust and others have done research that shows that, if a community loses its local newspaper, taxes jump substantially and government becomes much less efficient,” Griffiths says. “Everyone should subscribe to the local newspaper – or their local NPR station by contributing – to make sure that we have good functioning, local journalism.”
EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Margaret Bourdeaux Arbuckle ’74 MEd, ’84 PhD was honored for her tireless advocacy for quality education for all students. She received the 2022 Adelaide F. Holderness/H. Michael Weaver Award.

The Board of Trustees annually confers Distinguished Service Awards upon deserving North Carolinians in recognition of exemplary public service and civic engagement. The Holderness/Weaver Award recognizes exceptional service to the public schools system.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Arbuckle has been a staunch supporter of public schools in Guilford County. She has been a dedicated community leader and volunteer in Greensboro, serving on numerous boards and commissions, including as a Guilford County Commissioner from 1992 to 1996. From 2005 until her retirement in 2013, Arbuckle was the executive director of Guilford Education Alliance, an independent nonprofit that galvanizes the community in support of a high-caliber education for all children in Guilford County Schools. She currently serves on the UNC System of Education Advocacy Board and on the Board of Directors for the Public School Forum of North Carolina.

“As a graduate of UNCG, I never dreamed that I would partner with the University in so many initiatives,” she said. “These experiences have established an open, honest, and transparent rapport.”

THE UNCG CENTER FOR YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (CYFCP), with collaboration and funding support from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, has launched NC Youth and Family Voices Amplified. This program will provide training, technical assistance, and support for Family and Youth Peer Support Providers across the state. “Voices Amplified will amplify the voices of youth and families in supporting their mental health and well-being, and it reflects UNCG’s longstanding commitment to community partnerships,” says Dr. Christine Murray, CYFCP director.

Frederick Douglas ‘82 has been supporting families for 30 years.

Early on she adopted the System of Care philosophy, focusing on collaboration across agencies, families, and youth to make decisions and provide support. “The process recognizes that the family has the most important information to meet their own needs,” she says. Now, she serves at UNCG’s Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships. There, as the Family Training Coordinator with the new NC Youth and Family Voices Amplified program, she arranges training and aid to professionals who help support families’ mental health. The innovative project, launched in July, aims to enhance family-driven, youth-led care through education and community partnerships. “Parents and caregivers of children who live with mental illness can feel isolated, alone, and hopeless,” Douglas says. “Even though they are the expert on their children and their family’s needs, they are many times blamed for their child’s behavior, and their voices are disregarded when they share what is best for their own families. The Family Partner walks beside the parent and supports the parent in making their voice heard.”

Her vital coordinator role requires lived experience; she notes, explaining that real-world experience with mental health and navigating the medical system is key. From her time supporting a family member through behavioral health care, she found herself particularly prepared for this exciting role – a unique position in a field that increasingly acknowledges the importance of whole-family engagement in care for family members who may be struggling. Now she will train future professionals who will work with agencies and communities to make a positive impact for many families.

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WHEN SHE APPLIED TO THE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER’S LUNAR AND PLANETARY SCIENCE ACADEMY, NO GEOGRAPHER HAD EVER INTERRED THERE, APRIL FRAKE WAS TOLD: THE 'SOON-TO-BE' GOOD STUDENT, NOVICE IN SPACE, WORKED WITH FAMOUS SCIENTISTS.

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Just for kicks, club sports are not only a fun way to make friends and keep physically fit, they build leadership skills. Each team is student-run, taking “teamwork” to a higher level as you compete against club teams from other universities. The fall kickoff event on the first day of August classes proved to be an ideal time to check out the various club sports, ranging from rugby to tennis to soccer. This year, more than 250 student groups and departments were represented at the event, offering something for students of every interest. Getting involved and enjoying friendships, as you pursue your studies? That’s a winning goal.

Photograph by David Row

“I never practice, I always play.” — Wanda Landowska, musician
VALUE ON DISPLAY

ACROSS TIME AND CULTURES, gold has served as a metaphor for what we value most: it conveys goodness, excellence, brilliance, and wealth.

Across the arts, craftspersons have long pounded gold into thin sheets called leaves, which are applied in a process called gilding. Gilding has illuminated sacred texts, given luster to holy spaces, and allowed religious sculptures to shine. It appears in the work of contemporary artists. The artists represented in the “Gilded” exhibition on view at the Weatherspoon turn to gilding as a means to reconsider the beauty in what we often overlook and honor that which we so often throw away. Glittering images of people—often those who have been disempowered or forgotten—they ask us to hold up our collective humanity. If, as the saying goes, “all that glitters is not gold,” the artists represented here offer an inverse proposition: perhaps that which does not always shine is most worthy of our attention.

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Fred Chappell’s poetry, essays, and novels are lauded nationally and beyond. Meanwhile, he’s inspired a legion of Spartan students, who make clear that what he taught was timeless.

BY FORMER STUDENTS AND MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN W. KANE AND COURTESY OF MARTHA BLAKENY HODGES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

In recent months, film festival audiences have seen Fred Chappell on the big screen. To decades of former students, he’s already larger than life.

Ruth Dickey ’04 MFA introduced Chappell and the film at its screening at the Greensboro Bound festival. “Fred Chappell: I Am One of You Forever,” produced by UNCG Media Studies professor Michael Frierson and financed in part by Light the Way campaign gifts, will be shown in early November on PBS NC statewide.

“I absolutely love this gorgeous film,” said Dickey, executive director of the National Book Foundation. “And what I loved most about this film, that traces Fred’s life from childhood through family and studying and writing and teaching and novels and poems, is that it is – just like Fred – absolutely full of heart and stories.”

Interviewing dozens of authors, critics, and Chappell family members, Frierson and his team filmed not only in Greensboro but in Chappell’s hometown of Canton in the North Carolina mountains. He even interviewed Fred and his wife, Susan Nicholls Chappell ’70, at the St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church where they were married in 1959.

Days before the screening, the Chappells welcomed our magazine staff to their backyard garden. Susan showed the wonderful mossy area and the shed where Fred has often written. Asked about a nearby sculpture of a goat, Fred referred to the scene in “Brighten the Corner Where You Are” where a goat and a teacher have a debate. He noted that farm animals were ubiquitous where he grew up.

A Sunset Hills neighbor at the time, artist Jim Barnhill ’82 MFA, created that goat. The Chappells also asked him to create the centerpiece

Fred Gave Me the most profound gift: the belief that the stories I was attempting to tell mattered. At the time I got my MFA at UNCG, I was the only out queer poet in the entire MFA program. And I was writing poems about being queer and about the people I had known and worked with at a soup kitchen in Washington, D.C. I felt like a profound misfit. But Fred always met my writing with grace and warmth and kindness.

It took me 15 years to publish a version of the manuscript I worked on with Fred. Then, the most beautiful thing fell into my life: a letter from Fred. He had read my book, with the whole-hearted attention that all of us writers dream someone will give our work.

In all these years, Fred has not only been doing his own critically important and exquisitely beautiful creative work, but he was also reading and writing to, dozens if not hundreds of us, telling us that in this camp of storytellers, we all belong, and our stories don’t just matter, but are essential.

– Ruth Dickey ’04 MFA
of their patria. It echoes Botticelli’s artwork of the solar system, an illustration in Dante’s “Divine Comedy,” circled by text. “I’m a big fan of Dante,” Fred says. “That is the last line in each of the three parts of the ‘Divine Comedy’, ‘L’amor che muove il sole e l’alme stelle.’”

He helpfully translates, returning to his western North Carolina accent: “The love that moves the sun and the other stars.”

or many years, he’s been known as Ole Fred. In fact, the main character in his acclaimed quartet of poems, “Midpoint,” is called “Ole Fred.” In these poems and his well-loved Kirkman family quartet of novels, he explores one of the four elements – fire, water, earth, and air. Allusions to seemingly hundreds of books from Western literature underpin the works.

At Duke University, he studied under William Blackburn. Friends included Reynolds Price, Anne Tyler, and William Styron.

More than anyone, he made the UNCG MFA in Writing program one of the finest in the nation. Author of a dozen books of poetry, two short-story collections, and eight novels, he taught in the English Department for over 40 years. He is the winner of the (Yale) Bollingen Prize in Poetry, Aiken Taylor Prize, and T.S. Eliot Prize. In France, his novel “Dagon” was awarded the Prix de Meilleur des Livres Étrangers. He served as Poet Laureate of North Carolina from 1997 to 2002.

His prose is often termed magical realism. He unveiling a world that is transcendent, even with plowing, milking, and barn mucking to do as well as practical jokes and jests to endure or inflict. His magic, perhaps, is that even as he pulls out allusions to Homer, Dante, Twain, George Washington Harris, and a dizzying number more, it’s all in the service of a well-told tale. And as the personal heroes have grown and his life is now told on the screen – as and as his students have won honors such as the National Book Critics Circle Award and Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and have earned professorships, a National Book Foundation dictatorship, and other high posts – he just wants you to call him Fred.

FRED’S ABILITY TO NAVIGATE MULTIPLE GENRES in fiction like “The Adder” and in his poetry (I go back, often, to “(C)” was and has been a map. Every person who wishes to write needs to find the door into the room, or forest, or whatever landscape that will supply the necessary oxygen and space and freedom to do the work they most want and need to do. Fred, in both his life and in his person, has opened that door for a lot of us.

– Kelly Link ’95 MFA

DURING MY YEARS AT UNCG, I subjected Fred to several of my “poems.” They were uniformly wretched. Fred was always gracious enough to not mention this, which allowed me to discover the nature of their wretchedness all on my own. He called everyone “darling,” which I have come to see as the ideal way of moving through the world.

– Steve Almond ’97 MFA

TO STUDY WRITING WITH FRED was like elucidating how to found a country with Ben Franklin. Anything that we MFA students wrote, he is cornet, epistolary poem, surrealist story, dramatic monologue, novel, or monster myth, he had already achieved in his multitude of books. His curiosity and hardiness for literary invention cannot be overstated. Fred’s tutorials, held in a McIver office with shelves and stacks leaning from every side, were often Socratic. He didn’t tell you what he thought of your poem. He read it aloud to you, in a thoughtful baritone, and in the vocalization you heard its strengths and weaknesses. Despite Fred’s encyclopedic knowledge of multiple genres (in multiple languages), he was the antithesis of snobby or elitist. When I met with him one afternoon, seeking a list of All Important Books a Young Writer Must Read, he told me the advice Randall Jarrell had offered him, “Read at whim.” In other words, we should learn to do as well as read at whim. Each of the three parts of the ‘Divine Comedy’, ‘L’amor che muove il sole e l’alme stelle.’

He helpfully translates, returning to his western North Carolina accent: “The love that moves the sun and the other stars.”

– Rodney Jones ’73 MFA

ONE SPECIAL FEATURE OF FRED’S TEACHING was his ability to understand a young writer’s intentions in a poem or story. He was especially effective in critiquing poems because he seemed able to see what the poet was aiming for. Much of Fred’s best teaching was done one-on-one, in the boiling hot summer of 1967, before he and Susan left for a year in Florence. I met Fred at the café called The Pickwick two or three times a month to discuss poems I submitted to him. In spells of his vivid elucidating he was very informal, never professorial. He spoke as one writer to another, and his enthusiasm for good writing was contagious. He could be tough. I remember him writing at the top of a page, “Big Deal.” But he could be excited about a good passage. He often alluded to other writers, once pronouncing, “You got your emeralds from Wallace Stevens, who got them from Mallarmé.”

While Fred was in Florence, I mailed him drafts of poems, and he answered with detailed letters written in tiny script on animal paper, words of criticism and encouragement.

– Robert Morgan ’68 MFA

FRED CHAPPELL is like Whitman. He contains multitudes.

– RODNEY JONES ’73 MFA

Left, Fred with his grandmother and parents, Anne and J.T. Chappell. Below, Fred as a boy.
FOR A LONG WHILE I FEARED FRED: Something about how I thought he looked at me with the scrutiny of a hawk considering a three-legged mouse limping around in an open field. It turns out, Fred paid attention, even as I blathered, mispronounced words, lost contact with the subject of the conversation. I’m certain, after that long month or so, it got to the point where I didn’t want to disappoint the great writer. In time, I realized I needed to sit in a chair and tell a story, instead of acting like a circus performer half-skilled (at best) at juggling, trapeze work, taming the unreliable creatures. I got a notion of persistence from Fred. And I think of this, about daily. – George Singleton ’86 MFA

WORKING IN HOLLYWOOD, another struggling writer gave me “Brighten the Corner Where You Are.” I took the book home and opened it immediately. The first chapter, “Moon,” captured me through its lyrical language and touch of magical realism. Even now, 33 years later, I am nearly brought to tears when my mind’s eye watches Joe Robert rip the moon from the sky and dump it into a bucket of milk. I knew the moment I read “Moon” I wanted to study with Fred. I owe Fred much. He allowed me to try and become a writer. In the end, it sort of worked out, at least enough for me to push out a couple of novels, and teach thousands of students how to be better writers. – Jack Biggs ’93 MFA

ONE THING that has always stuck with me about Fred is The Laugh. Sometimes it would be in response to some minor exchange while passing in the hallway, sometimes after the punchline of a story he was telling, sometimes you would just hear it emanating from his office, but often it would hit in the midst of a workshop, sometimes during unexpectedly tense moments. It was the kindest, most generous laugh, full of affection for every aspect of the human condition, and I always thought it made an excellent compass for the aspiring writer to follow. Still do! – Rowan Jacobsen ’92 MFA

FRED HAS BEEN RETIRED for 18 years now and I still receive monthly (if not weekly) phone calls from him asking for the address of one alum or another because he just finished reading their new book and has written them a letter about it. What a gift. – Terry Kennedy ’99 MFA, program director

BY THEIR NATURE, creative writing workshops are unpredictable, dictated by the work produced and the personalities of the students. But Fred’s workshop was masterfully designed even as it seemed wholly extemporaneous. He shuffled into the room with his humble gait and wrote a quote upon the board as if it had just occurred to him as he walked down the hall from his office. In reality, he was guiding our learning with extraordinary purpose and wisdom. That was part of his magic as a teacher. He was at once the immensely learned and accomplished expert and simply “Ole Fred” – our friend, our pal. How fortunate we all were. – Dan Albergotti ’02 MFA

IN WORKSHOP, he spoke minimally, but when he spoke, it mattered. His opinions changed expectations and lives. – Marianne Gingher ’74 MFA

YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF FRED From a Fred Chappell Writing Contest for students (with poetry, prose, and essay categories, of course) to readings by lauded former students, the year will be a “Fredfest.” It all culminates the weekend of April 14-15 with several events. See details at english.uncg.edu/mfa.
Baldwin returned to the School of Nursing in August 2021, seven years after she started the BSN program, ready to wrap up her degree. She needed to audit several courses she had previously taken, finish some classes that had been added since 2016, and complete the last of her clinical rotations. She’s scheduled to graduate in May 2023.

“There are so many things you can do in nursing. You don’t have to do bedside nursing. There’s a lot of compassion needed,” Baldwin said. “You have to have a heart of a nurse and a mind of a nurse. It’s not so much the physical capabilities of a nurse that should hinder anybody.

“So, I’m glad that UNCG saw that, that they saw that I would make a good nurse and that I deserved to finish nursing school despite my disability.”

It’s a unique situation for the School of Nursing.

Baldwin’s husband, Eric Vanderkuyl, is not only her partner but also her caregiver. A licensed practical nurse (LPN), he accompanies her to classes inside the Nursing and Instructional Building.

At around 7:50 a.m. on most mornings, Vanderkuyl assembles Baldwin’s wheelchair outside the building. He also takes notes for her since she has limited use of her hands.

“I help her get ready for class and just pretty much be her hands when she’s not able,” Vanderkuyl said. “She does as much as she can, but I want to pick her up and carry her whenever I can, so it’s a plus.”

Baldwin laughed. “It helps that I’m tiny,” she said.

School of Nursing faculty members were excited to see Baldwin at the 2016 graduation and encouraged her to return as soon as possible to complete her degree.

They’re now working on ways for Baldwin to finish her clinicals in a manner that complies with the North Carolina Board of Nursing’s requirement for a focused client care experience, specifically a clinical experience that simulates an entry-level work experience.

PURSUING BOTH NURSING AND A RECORD DEAL

Baldwin comes from a family of women who wanted to become nurses before their career plans changed.
Gabby and three of her close friends from nursing school at an emotional pinning ceremony in Gabby’s hospital room.

I’ve told my story a good amount of times. I guess it’s been six years now. I think it’s part of the healing process.

In December 2021, her brother was sentenced to 48 years in prison after being convicted for shooting and killing a man in a domestic dispute. At the time, he was awaiting a retrial on charges of kidnapping and inflicting serious injury during the attack on Gabby.

I’ve told my testimony a good amount of times. I guess it’s been six years now. I think it’s part of the healing process,” Baldwin said. “It’s like you get used to it. I think people just get that way with their personal stories, so I’m more comfortable now.

I’m really grateful for that. I’ve had plenty of times when I’ve cried throughout telling it, but I think this is a different point in my life.” Dr. Lori Hubbard, who taught Baldwin in a childbirth and reproductive health course, visited Baldwin as she was recovering from her spinal cord injury in intensive care. Baldwin had tubes in her nose and throat to help her breathe and eat, and she had a communication board because she couldn’t talk.

“I wanted to have nursing under my sleeve, but when I actually graduated, I had planned to go to Los Angeles and sing,” she said.

For Baldwin, though, nursing was somewhat of a backup plan.

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THE SILVER LINING

Baldwin found herself in a dark place. She became depressed while she was recovering at her mother’s house.

“The treatments and therapy in the early time after a spinal cord injury are critical to long-term recovery, I wanted to offer her as much encouragement as possible soon after the incident,” Hubbard said.

“Not being able to finish my schooling was very, very frustrating and caused me a lot of resentment and a lot of anger and a lot of depression because I was so close to my goal,” Baldwin said. “I mean I had ordered my cap and gown, never expecting my reality to crumble as it had.”

The pinning ceremony is a rite of passage for all the students, and Baldwin had expected to be “pinned” with the rest of the Class of 2016. Instead, she was instead placed in her blue hospital gown.

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“She sat right beside me in every class,” said Katie Richardson, who earned her BSN in 2016 and has been friends with Baldwin since they had class together at UNCG.

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Dr. Meka Douthit EL '96 was working the night shift as a new nurse at Wake Forest Baptist when a Ku Klux Klan member arrived at the hospital with chest pains. He insisted he didn’t want her – a Black woman – to treat him.

He wanted a White nurse instead.

Douthit EL, who had just started her first nursing job after graduating from UNCG in 1996, offered to make a deal with the man. She suggested they put aside their opinions of each other and work together to address his health issues and obvious needs.

“I said, ‘Will you just please allow me the opportunity to take care of you and treat your chest pain? And what I want in return is that you show me just some mutual respect.’ I remember telling him, ‘The only thing in between you and the treatment we have to help you is your opinion of me plus the agreement of you to receive my help.’”

While the man never thanked her, Douthit EL got the feeling he appreciated what she did for him. She had become the type of caring, understanding nurse she needed but didn’t get a few years earlier while pregnant with her first child at age 19.

Douthit EL has put people’s negative opinions behind her and made a name for herself during her extensive nursing career.

Last September, Douthit EL, who is director of Cone Health’s Systemwide eLink Tele-ICU & Centralized Cardiac Monitoring Department, was sworn in as president of the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA).

“When I got connected with the NCNA and saw just the mentorship, support, leadership development, and opportunities they offer, I said, ‘Oh gosh, I think I could be president. I don’t know when it’s going to happen, but that’s something that I want to happen in my life,’” Douthit EL said.

She is the fourth African American president. Two of the NCNA’s previous Black presidents also have UNCG connections.

Ernestine Small was the University’s first Black faculty member when she was hired as an instructor in 1967, and she remained on the School of Nursing faculty until 1991. Meanwhile, Dr. Ernest Grant earned his master’s degree in nursing and PhD from UNCG. He now serves on the University’s Board of Trustees, in addition to his role as president of the American Nurses Association.

Douthit EL saw the importance of strong leaders and a sense of community as a kid while growing up in her family’s apartment above Gilmore’s Funeral Home, which her grandfather opened in Winston-Salem. Both of Douthit EL’s parents worked as morticians, and she saw their professionalism and how they showed compassion to grieving families. She also accompanied them to the hospital after someone died.

Her older sister had earned a bachelor of science in nursing degree from UNCG, and after doing some soul searching, Douthit EL decided to become a nurse as well.

She knew she had made the right decision after she had a bad experience with a nurse during her difficult pregnancy at 19.

A college student at the time, she was on Medicaid and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) health program. A nurse who was treating Douthit EL’s baby said, “I will always be grateful.”

“IN MY 38 YEARS as a UNCG School of Nursing grad, I have worked in many specialty areas: neuro rehab, primary care, leadership, and hospice. Nursing is not one-dimensional and has allowed me to pursue interests in many of the facets of health care. And for that, I will always be grateful.” — KATHY FOSTER, ’92 MSN

“BEING A NURSE means you are a ‘master coordinator.’ You have the ability and insight to see individuals and families at some of their most challenging times and offer clinical knowledge and emotional support. You are the central point for ongoing care coordination. Being a nurse is truly a calling.” — DR. TOMIKA WILLIAMS, ’03 MSN, ’16 PhD

“MY NURSING CAREER has been the anchor for my entire life, giving me opportunities to practice in different ways to improve the health of individuals and populations, and providing constant growth, learnings and friendships.” — SALLY SCANTLAND FOLAND ’74

Dr. Meka
Douthit EL '96,
president of the North Carolina Nurses Association.
Irene Richardson ’22 was in South Florida to attend a pathology research symposium when she woke up and discovered she couldn’t move her arms or legs.

She was diagnosed in 2015 with neuromyelitis optica (NMO), a rare condition in which a person’s immune system attacks a substance in the body that serves as insulation around the nerves. The condition, similar to multiple sclerosis, affects approximately 1-10 people per 100,000.

“The only people who could truly understand what I was going through were my nurses at the time, the ones that would hold my hand, cry with me, and help me do all the things that I couldn’t do for myself,” Richardson said. “They would treat me with dignity. They would give me encouragement to keep going, keep trying, keep fighting.”

They also inspired Richardson, married with two teenage daughters, to enroll at UNCG at age 36 and pursue a career in nursing.

“I still am exhausted and jubilant all at once. Get ready. This will be the first of many accomplishments for me and my class.”

— IRENE RICHARDSON, PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING’S CLASS OF 2022

“I CHOSE TO SHARE THIS QUOTE: ‘When you feel like quitting, remember why you started.’ Because I feel like it truly encompasses how nursing nowadays feels, with so much stress and burnout and people losing their love with nursing. This quote shows that through all of these hardships nursing really is a work of heart!”

— ABIGAIL MANTEK ’17, PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOM NURSE

“My belief is that Nursing is a continuum that starts with compassion, empathy, skill, and desire to continue learning every day. Nursing is more than a role — it’s an essence of the soul!”

— TIFFANY GIBSON ’01, ’22, PHD, ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE CERTIFIED IN WOMEN’S HEALTH AND FAMILY PRACTICE

“I think it helps me with the military side as far as training and learning critical thinking.”

— SHIANNE DANIELS ’22

Shianne Daniels ’22 wanted a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) from a military-friendly university. When she did a search for military-friendly universities in the Triad, UNCG popped up on Google.

She then came across UNCG’s innovative Veterans Access Program (VAP), which provides medically-trained veterans and service members with specialized support to earn their BSN.

“It just lined up,” Daniels said. “Everything lined up.”

She enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in 2011, soon after earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology. In May, the Wakefield, N.C., native earned her BSN from UNCG, named one of the nation’s top-10 “Military Friendly Schools” among Tier 2 research institutions.

With financial assistance from the U.S. military and support from her fellow VAP students, she did it. “We are very tight-knit.”

Daniels initially worked as a multichannel transmission systems operator-maintainer after she joined the Army Reserve at age 21. As a civilian, though, she worked as a rehabilitation technician and in the public school system as she considered her long-term career plans.

Daniels found an Army Reserve unit in Virginia that she could join, giving her the opportunity to enroll in a 13-month program to become a licensed practical nurse. She then applied to UNCG to enter the BSN program as a VAP student.

“What struck me most when I first met Shianne was her beautiful smile and joyful presence,” said Dr. Susan Letvak, the VAP director and the Eloise R. Lewis Excellence Professor in the School of Nursing. “She is a gift to the profession of nursing and the many lives she will touch as a Spartan nurse.”

Like other VAP students, Daniels had a pair of service members who were one year ahead of her in the program to mentor her throughout her first year in the School of Nursing.

Her mentors regularly checked to see how she was doing in her classes, her clinical rotations, and her personal life. They were available if she needed help dealing with stress or a difficult nursing course. After graduation, Daniels moved to Atlanta and now works as a nurse in the emergency department at Emory University Hospital. She’s in the department’s year-long residency program.

“I think it helps me with the military side as far as training and learning critical thinking,” Daniels said. “If I were ever to go downrange and get deployed, I would think that I would have the skills doing it on the civilian side as an emergency nurse.”

VAP STUDENTS are advised by nursing faculty and/or staff who are military veterans and understand the unique needs of military and veteran students. To date, VAP students have had 100% job placement on graduation.
When war broke out in Bosnia, UNCG alumna Rada Petric ’08, ’10 MS, ’20 PhD was just a little girl living in Sarajevo.

Throughout our history, UNCG has provided real-world support for those driven from their homes.

BY ELIZABETH KERI AND MIKE HARRIS ’93 MA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANTWAIN HAIRSTON ’21

Dr. Rada Petric ’08, ’10 MS, ’20 PhD

“My mom told my sister, ‘Just take her and go.’”

The United States accepted their application. Petric was 13 years old when they were placed in Greensboro, North Carolina. “Part of the reason why I have such a strong connection with UNCG is because the very first place we lived was only three blocks from campus,” said Petric. “We would walk to UNCG and just enjoy the scenery.”

But even with a new sense of hope for a better future, tragedy struck again. Their father, a diabetic, fell into a coma before he could fly to the U.S. He never woke up. Their brother worked three jobs to support the family, while Petric and her sister finished high school and learned English. “I no longer needed to worry about shelter, a safe place, or food.”
**War and Refuge**

I could finally just focus on my studies.” 

Petra exclaimed. She chose to attend UNCG, in part to remain close to her family. She soon discovered her own love of research. She worked in the lab and mouse lab with Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rüppell. “While we were doing field work in the woods at night, I said, ‘Wait, you mean I can do this for a living?’”

The joy of research fueled Petra’s decision to pursue a master’s degree in biology; and later, her PhD in environmental health science – both from UNCG’s Biology Department. She later worked as a lecturer in the department for several years. “The Biology Department at UNCG provided me with a lot of opportunities, from paid internships to grant funding. That’s part of the reason I kept coming back for all of my degrees.”

She also built a strong community of friends, especially as a graduate student, who, she says, supported her through the “mentally and physically exhausting” process of earning a PhD.

Now, Petra is an assistant research professor at UNC Chapel Hill, where she also directs the Institute for the Environment at Highlands Biological Station. There, she conducts research on bats and other small mammals.

She also runs a program that immerses students in the Southern Appalachians, teaching them about the environmental and human impacts on the region.

Despite finding refuge and academic success, the trauma of war lingered. For many years, Petra suffered from PTSD and recurring nightmares. She struggles to be close to people. “But working through all of this has helped me become a more compassionate person.”

She says this compassion applies both to her own family that she started, as well as to the students she mentors. If a student is struggling academically, she can almost always identify with what they’re going through – because she’s lived it. “I’ve also become someone who really tries to live every day to its fullest,” reflects Petra. “Because I know that, in the blink of an eye, it could all be gone.”

**A PHYSICIAN FINDS ‘HOME’**

**DR. IVANA NIKOLIC** ’02 is another refugee from Bosnia who found her way to UNCG’s Biology Department.

When her family arrived in Greensboro, Nikolic was the only one who spoke English, and she had already graduated high school. So their resettlement agency went about lining up a job for her. After all, somebody needed to work.

She was to be a manager at a candle factory. But her parents, themselves well-educated, mentored her through the “mentally and physically exhausting” process of applying for a PhD. 

Her biology professors, she said, understood her situation. They knew that her life was complicated, that her parents didn’t speak English, that she was working several jobs as a math tutor to support her family.

Nikolic also volunteered as an interpreter for her resettlement agency. The role often took her to doctor’s offices, where she would translate for displaced families much like her own.

The experience, in part, inspired her decision to become a doctor.

With help from UNCG’s pre-medical advisor at the time, Dr. Rob Cannon, Nikolic was accepted to some of the country’s top medical schools. She chose Duke University School of Medicine and later received prestigious postdoctoral positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Harvard University.

These days, Nikolic is an established cardiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where she also teaches medicine at Harvard. It would be easy to conclude that life has turned out well for Nikolic, that perhaps leaving Bosnia was beneficial, in the end. But that would be an oversimplification.

“People who haven’t had to leave their home don’t understand what it means,” she said. “Once I was a refugee, always a refugee. It took my family 20 years to get back to where we originally started before the war.”

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**IRAQ TORN BY WAR**

ARRIVING IN GREENSBORO IN 2008, Noor Ghazi ’19 MA found peace. Within a decade, she discovered Peace Studies. “I have always dreamed of … studying further. I come from a country that is torn by war, and I grew up witnessing one war after another,” she said in a UNCG Q&A interview. “I grew up wanting to make a change, to impact the world, and to see peace in it. I had never heard of a study of Peace or learning about Conflict until the moment that I was looking for a graduate program at UNCG and saw the words ‘Peace and Conflict Studies.’”

Her heart danced with happiness.

She explained that Peace Studies are virtually unavailable in the Middle East. She is working with others to change that.

In addition to being a visiting Research Scholar in the department, Ghazi is a lecturer at UNCG. She also teaches at other U.S. colleges and universities. She collaborates on peace-building projects. The effort led to her translating John Paul Lederach’s “Preparing for Peace” – one of the most important books in the Peace Studies field – into Arabic. Hoping the book will help stanch radical extremism, she expects it will be used in new Peace Studies programs in major universities in Baghdad, Mosul, Salah Aldeen, and Al-Anbar. Also, her documentary “Mosul: Mother of Two Springs” premiered in the U.S. and in Iraq in recent months.

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VIETNAM WAR’S REPERCUSSIONS

THE MONTAGNARD PEOPLE of Vietnam allied themselves with the U.S. forces during the Vietnam War. Since the U.S. pulled out in 1975, they have been persecuted. Many fled. Since the 1980s, many have found refuge in Guilford County. Dr. Sharon Morrison has worked with refugee communities in Greensboro for more than 15 years. A professor in the Department of Public Health Education, she is the School of Health and Human Sciences’ Community Engaged Research Fellow. She was honored with the UNC BOG Excellence in Teaching Award in 2017. Her community-based participatory research involves working alongside communities to identify problems and implement solutions together. At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, she and her graduate students collaborated with Montagnard leaders and youth to build systems that would help their community weather the storm. Between May 2020 and December of 2021, her team and the Montagnard Dega Association were able to assist over 200 families and helped vaccinate more than 500 individuals. She also works with Bhutanese and Congolese communities, from two other nations wracked by violence. Supportive research takes collaborative effort, she notes. “There’s no magic effort.”

A LEADER OF MONTAGNARD COMMUNITY

LIANA H’YUA ADROMG ’16, ’21 MSW is executive director of Greensboro’s Montagnard Dega Association and is chair of the Greensboro International Advisory committee. “During the Vietnam War, my father, like many Montagnard men, worked with the U.S. Special Forces, fighting for our freedom from Communism,” she explains. Once the war ended, her father was imprisoned in a re-education camp. In 1996, her family was granted refugee status to resettle to the U.S. She was 13 when they arrived in Greensboro. Now, she is passionate about today’s youth. As an undergraduate, she helped create UNCG’s first Montagnard student group (Dr. Morrison was faculty advisor). More recently, she helped start UNCG’s historic commitment to special populations.

SUPPORTING NURSING CARE FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

SINCE PUTIN’S RUSSIAN ARMY invaded Ukraine earlier this year UNCG nurses have collaborated with the Nurses Association of the Republic of Moldova to help. During this refugee crisis, Moldova has received more Ukrainian refugees per capita than any other nation. A new program through the NC-Moldova Nursing Collaborative provides education for Moldovan nurses as they care for refugees.

One of the first Zoom webinars for these nurses, on March 10, focused on common infectious diseases, managing chronic conditions, special conditions for vulnerable populations, and unique needs of the refugee population. Dr. Audrey Snyder, Professor and Associate Dean for Experiential Learning and Innovation, was a presenter. Dr. Deborah Lekan and Dr. Nancy Hoffart, recently retired from the faculty, also spoke. UNCG faculty Dr. Vadim Karagoda and Snyder are members of the collaborative; Hoffart and Lekan are co-chairs. Together with Moldovan nurses and administrators, they’ve held ten webinars, with topics ranging from Psychological First Aid to Hypothermia. Videos were shared with nurses in Ukraine. “This morning was a humbling experience,” Snyder said after the first session. “We hit the maximum Zoom webinar capacity at 500 attendees — although one Zoom site may have had a dozen health care providers together at one time to view.” Snyder saw participants from throughout Moldova. All five colleges of nursing in the Republic of Moldova were represented, as was the medical university. There were many hospitals and clinics represented. “Some of the different specialties that we were able to discern were gynecology, urology, pediatrics, cardiology, surgery, neurosurgery, perinatal, pulmonology, surgery, adolescent health, and others,” she said. Karagoda, a School of Nursing clinical assistant professor with a nurse anesthetia focus, added, “The people in Moldova — including my family — are generous people and will help anyone in need, but they themselves have limited resources.” He believes these webinars have helped. Additionally, the collaborative shipped a 40-foot container with medical supplies to Moldova in September to support care for refugees.

The collaborative’s work is supported by a Rotary Foundation Global Grant initiated by the Guilford Rotary Club in Greensboro, as well as the Matson Innovation, was a presenter. Halverson Christiansen Hamilton, Ph.D., was a presenter. It has also received support from the Global Rural Nurse Exchange Network. UNCG’s School of Nursing, as well as the Guilford Rotary Club, has had a history of collaboration with Moldovan nurses. This program is another step in that collaboration.
Very first Hielscher Scholar

With a newly created scholarship, she’s on her way to fulfilling her dreams. Janiah Lindsey ’24 is the inaugural Hielscher Scholar and recipient of a scholarship funded by the Physical Education Class of 1975 to support students committed to earning a bachelor’s in kinesiology. The scholarship honors the Physical Education Class of ’75’s lifelong bond and their beloved advisor, Pat Hielscher.

Not only did the alumni endow the scholarship, but Pat Hielscher ’66, ’70 MSPE and Cathy Tamsberg ’75 arranged to meet Janiah in the fall of 2021—first to get to know her over coffee and later to present her with a goodie bag close to spring semester exams. “It’s clear she has goals for her future and the capacity and determination to pursue them with passion,” says Cathy, senior-year Physical Education Class of ’75 president. “We are very excited that she is about encouraging people—and believe they can succeed.”

Janiah knows from the beginning she wanted to attend UNCG, but the pandemic protocols of 2020 made finding community a real challenge for her and other incoming freshmen. Like the PE. Class of ’75, she soon found a community on campus that helps her excel. Her job with Outdoor Adventures at UNCG’s Kaplan Center for Wellness introduced her to a supportive group of friends who share her enthusiasm for outdoor adventures at UNCG’s Kaplan Center for Wellness.

After spending the summer at home to be close to spring semester exams. “It’s clear she has goals for her future and the capacity and determination to pursue them with passion,” says Cathy, senior-year Physical Education Class of ’75 president. “We are very excited that she is about encouraging people—and believe they can succeed.”

Janiah hopes the donors recognize in her a future career in sports therapy. “If I knew for sure what made the Physical Education Class of ’75 so special, I would bottle and sell it because it made our time at UNCG incredibly important,” says Cathy Tamsberg ’75, senior-year Physical Education Class of ’75 president.

Something magical happened in September 1971 when 40 eager, new physical education majors first met in Coleman Gym. Add to the mix their class advisor, Pat Hielscher, a young instructor in her second year at UNCG, who cared deeply about her charges and whose high expectations for their behavior and athletic and academic performance inspired them to rise to the next level.

The excellent reputation of the School of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (now HPER) also factored into the collective identity of what became known as “The Class,” recalls Paula Bonner ’75. “The faculty were national leaders in their areas of specialty but were also playing important roles in advancing Title IX and increasing opportunities for girls and women in sports.”

The bond among members of “The Class” has remained beyond graduation. “The University supported me in the pursuit of my dream when financially my parents had very few resources. It is my turn to provide some assistance to aspiring students who dare to pursue their dreams,” Pat says.
1950s

DOROTHY BARKER ’50 retired from the UNCG Department of Anthropology where she had been faculty since 1947.

1960s

BEVERLEY ARABELO ’62 was highlighted in a Greensboro News & Record story for her nursing work.

1970s

DOROTHY BARKER ’50 retired from the UNCG Department of Anthropology where she had been faculty since 1947.

1980s

BART BUCKNER ’77 was appointed Executive Secretary of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

1990s

JAMES S. MURRELL ’70D officially began serving as interim superintendent of the Alamance-Burlington (N.C.) School System on January 1, 2018.

2000s

You can also mail your information to Class Notes, UNCG Alumni. Visit us at alumnimagazine.uncg.edu

ALL TOGETHER

Although not an alumnus, Tom Corrigan...appalled by the wide range of class years came together for two great games at the Durham Bulls and Winston-Salem Dash stadiums this past summer.

Enjoy “Spartan Scenes” at Alumni Events Across the State and Beyond.

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

Visit us at alumnimagazine.uncg.edu and click on “Submit a class note.” You can also mail your information to Class Notes, UNCG Alumni Engagement, PO Box 20710, Greensboro, NC 27401-6170

\[ Image 68x419 to 76x427 \]
gradtidings

TAULOEWE BLAYEY ’11’s restaurant MACHETE placed #18 on Yelp’s Top 100 U.S. Restaurants 2022.

MACHETE placed #18 on Yelp’s Top 100

HEATHER DOUGHERTY ’96 was once in a while president of the North Carolina Nurses Association.

MULTA GRADY-WHATLEY ’96 was named executive director of the Northeastern N.C. Chapter of the American Red Cross.

RUTH BILEY ’88 be in executive assistant to the head coach of Wake Forest Football.

KAGALAN BLAULT WILLIAMS ’95 was inducted into the 2020-21 Hall of Fame at ECU-School of Nursing.

Alana was wearing it to her second Bat Mitzvah, in 2021, when this photo was taken. (Photo, first in 2020 in the pandemic’s early days, was a video celebration.)

2000s

SAMANTHA ARNIM ’00 MA joined the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Master’s Program in Creative and Critical Thinking as faculty member.

BRAXTON LOWN THOMPSON ’01 was tasked with drafting new Local Rules of Practice for the 44th Judicial District (Randolph County).

TRACY WRIGHT ’00 was named one of the Triad Business Journal’s 2020 Outstanding Women in Business. 

JACOB ROSENBERG ’02 was named President, Commercial Market Executive, Triad at Truist Financial.

TAMARA WILLIAMS ’02 was named Co-Managing Partner of the law firm Bruston Gilman.

JASON KLEIN ’03 is releasing her debut novel, “Self-Portrait With Nottingh,” on October 18, published by Tor.

EMBERLY STRONG ’00 is men’s design firm Century’s new studio lead. His Men’s Design Studio was featured in a feature for Athletic Business Magazine.

GERALD GRADY-WHATLEY ’96 was appointed interim town manager of Manteo, N.C., last December, in new Manteo town manager.

SARAH JACOBSON ’02 was an intern for the Converse College Board of Trustees.

MELISSA HIGHDT BOKOCIK ’01, interned at St. Vincent de Paul in Minneapolis, is a volunteer at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Boardwalk.

MELISSA HIGHDT-BOKOCIK ’01 was appointed interim town manager of Manteo, N.C., last December, in new Manteo town manager.

SARAH JACOBSON ’02 was named executive assistant to the head coach at Wake Forest Football.

For ANITA HIRSCH FRIEDMAN ’68, a UNCG project for her home economics program turned into a priceless heirloom.

“My granddaughter Alana Slade is wearing the outfit that I made in the fall of 1967 in my Design & Construction class as part of my BSHE degree,” Anita says. “This outfit has been worn by my daughter, and now my granddaughter, to many special occasions since 1967.”

Alana was wearing it to her second Bat Mitzvah, in 2021, when this photo was taken. (Photo, first in 2020 in the pandemic’s early days, was a video celebration.)

(†) Ani, Alana Slade, and Renee Slade.

CARLA FULK ’70 was featured for her nursing work in a Greensboro News & Record article.

TAMARA BILLINGS ’70 was appointed president of The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics-Wake College of Nursing.

DR. SHONTE REID ’80 PhD was named chief diversity officer at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington after having served as interim since July 2021. He is the recipient of the 2020 John L. Student Advocate Award, the highest honor bestowed by the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments.

KELLY BROWN ’77 was named Director of Accountability and Testing for Chatham County Schools.

SEAN CALLAHAN ’79 was welcomed as an associate in the real estate group of HunterHulcken, a leading business law firm with offices in Seattle and St. Simon’s Island, Georgia.

LEAH CARPER ’99, an English teacher at Northern Guilford High School, was named the Piedmont-Triad Region (N.C.) Teacher of the Year.

CAROLYN TURNER FORDYC ’99 is now co-director of the North Carolina Black Film Festival, which returned for its first in-person screening since 2019.

KASH TAYLOR ’97 is now in the principal of Parkland High School.

SHARON MILLER ’97, ’98 PhD was named the inaugural Provost Faculty Research Scholar for Institutional Transformation at the University of Mississippi.

REGINA SMITH SCHNEIDER ’97 joined the Comedy Calligraphy firm as a new attorney. She previously served the Delaware Department of Justice for ten years as a deputy attorney general.

TAYLOR BROWNER ’97 was recognized as a Lifetime Alumnae Champion of the YWCA of Greensboro.

CAROLINE SANCHEZ-CABALLERO ’99, PhD published the book “Metaldata,” a bibliography of heavy metal resources.

KAMILAH BLOUNT WILLIAMS ’99 was sworn in as Manteo town manager.

TIPHANI ATKINS ’03 published the article “My grandmother was my guiding light”: ’Clair Huxtable Was My Guiding Light’

TERRICA WILLIAMS ’02 joined the business faculty at Rockingham Community College.

KASEY STONE STAMEY ’02 MFA’s design work in mental health, has created

MATTHEW PLAIN ’02 MED was named the inaugural Provost Faculty Research Scholar for Institutional Transformation at the University of Mississippi.

BARRON LLOYD THOMPSON ’01 was named the inaugural Provost Faculty Research Scholar for Institutional Transformation at the University of Mississippi.

SAMANTHA AMMONS ’00 MA joined the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Master’s Program in Creative and Critical Thinking as faculty member.

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TALMADGE BLEVINS ’96 was appointed interim town manager of Manteo, N.C., last December, in new Manteo town manager.

KATE RULEY ’98 MS joined the business faculty at Rockingham Community College.

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CAROLYN TURNER FORDYC ’99 is now co-director of the North Carolina Black Film Festival, which returned for its first in-person screening since 2019.

KASH TAYLOR ’97 is now in the principal of Parkland High School.

SHARON MILLER ’97, ’98 PhD was named the inaugural Provost Faculty Research Scholar for Institutional Transformation at the University of Mississippi.

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10 Years

2010s

ALAN BICE ’11 received a Fulbright Specialist Program grant to complete a project in the field of journalism at the University of Eswatini.

CAMILA PULIGAN-SUDMAN ’11 was awarded a Winston Venture Grant.

JULIETTE WITTERS ’11 MS was named one of the Triad Business Journal’s “40 under 40.”

KELLY M. WILKINSON ’11 was named assistant professor in Business.

JULIANA SANCHEZ ’12 was featured in a front page Triad Past post story about people who have not contracted COVID-19.

THOMAS TROYER ’10 was appointed to the director of the Triad East Regional Center.

JENNIFER LINDSAY-THORPE ’10 was appointed chair of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Board of Directors.

JOHN PELL ’10 PhD became branch manager at Volvo Group North America, a supplier to Caregiving - It’s All About You!

PATRICK WILLIS ’09, ’10 MS became a member of the Triad Business Journal’s “20 in their 20s” honoree, an award “celebrating the business people in the Triad who are leveling up.”

KEVIN RILEY ’09, ’12 MED joined the SBTDC as an advisor in the Student Development Division.

THOMAS HOFFMAN ’09 MA won the Elizabeth Davises in College had two milestones, such as weddings, births and reunions. All you have to do is send us your photos. Please send your pictures using the “send your notes” form at unmagazine.uncg.edu. Or you can mail a print to Campus Life, Office of Alumni Affairs, P.O. Box 26791, Greensboro, NC 27402-6790. Mailed photos cannot be returned.

2010s

2020s

SHERA SAMPSON ’20 PhD was featured in the Triad Business Journal for her role as CEO and co-founder of Minerals Lifeline. The company was named to the Financial Times’ 2021 List. In the two-part episode, they discussed her research related to Janey’s dissertation.

JERE HARRIS ’20 PhD was appointed chief of the National League for Nursing podcast, “Nursing Now.”

NANCY CROSBY ’19 PhD received the 2021 Society for Research on Black Women, was the 2021 Health and Wellness Licensee Award recipient. She recently accepted a position in the field of journalism at the University of Eswatini.

ANNA KOMINSKY ’19 was named a 2021 Health and Wellness Licensee Award recipient. She recently accepted a position as Director of Industry Relations for the Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development.

ALEXANDRA BROWN ’20 became activities coordinator at the Penrose County Senior Center.

JAYME SHERROD ’19 PhD was appointed chair of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Board of Directors.

KATHLEEN FOWLER ’16 PHD became branch manager at Volvo Group North America, a supplier to Caregiving - It’s All About You!

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For more details, visit www.uncgspartans.com.

2020, UNCG received a decision on its Level II investigation by its former head men’s soccer coach, Vassilis Logothetis. The investigation began July 25, 2019, and will end on July 24, 2023. UNCG received a decision on July 25, 2021. He was noted as a musicologist, music education expert, teacher, and author. He participated in solo, ensemble, and chamber music performances throughout the United States and East Asia. He earned a master's degree in music history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1977. In 1977, he joined the UNCG faculty, where he taught music history and musical composition until he retired in 1997. He served in various positions at different universities over his decades-long career. Before his retirement, he was faculty at UNCG. Over the course of his career, he published 14 books and nearly 200 articles on special education and intellectual disability. He was honored as a member of the American Federation on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and received the Burton Bliss Humanitarian Award from the Council for Exceptional Children.

JESSIE TIFFANY received the coveted Paul Thomas Prize for Outstanding Faculty Achievement. For 27 years, Dr. Kiorpes was the Music Director at Greensboro’s First Moravian Church. Dr. KAY ANN LYNCH died November 23, 2021. She was an associate professor in the Department of Public Health Education at UNCG. Both a researcher and teacher, she was also a mentor to many undergraduate and graduate students, and she expressed the themes of equal access and social justice in her scholarship and in her teaching. In 2007, her work received a prestigious grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that supported her investigation into the local public health organizations. She is survived by her husband, Richard R. Dulin.

MARTHA DANKLEF passed away March 25, 2021. She retired from UNCG in 1997 as a member of the Greensboro Chapter of the National Federation of Music Clubs. As a pianist, she was an adjunct professor of music education at UNCG and for four years was editor of the North Carolina Music Teacher. As a pianist, she participated in solo, ensemble, and chamber music performances throughout the United States and East Asia. She earned a master's degree in music from the University of Chicago in 1977. In 1977, she joined the UNCG faculty, where she taught music history and musical composition until he retired in 1997. He served in various positions at different universities over his decades-long career. Before his retirement, he was faculty at UNCG. Over the course of his career, he published 14 books and nearly 200 articles on special education and intellectual disability. He was honored as a member of the American Federation on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and received the Burton Bliss Humanitarian Award from the Council for Exceptional Children.

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF THE MAGAZINE!

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