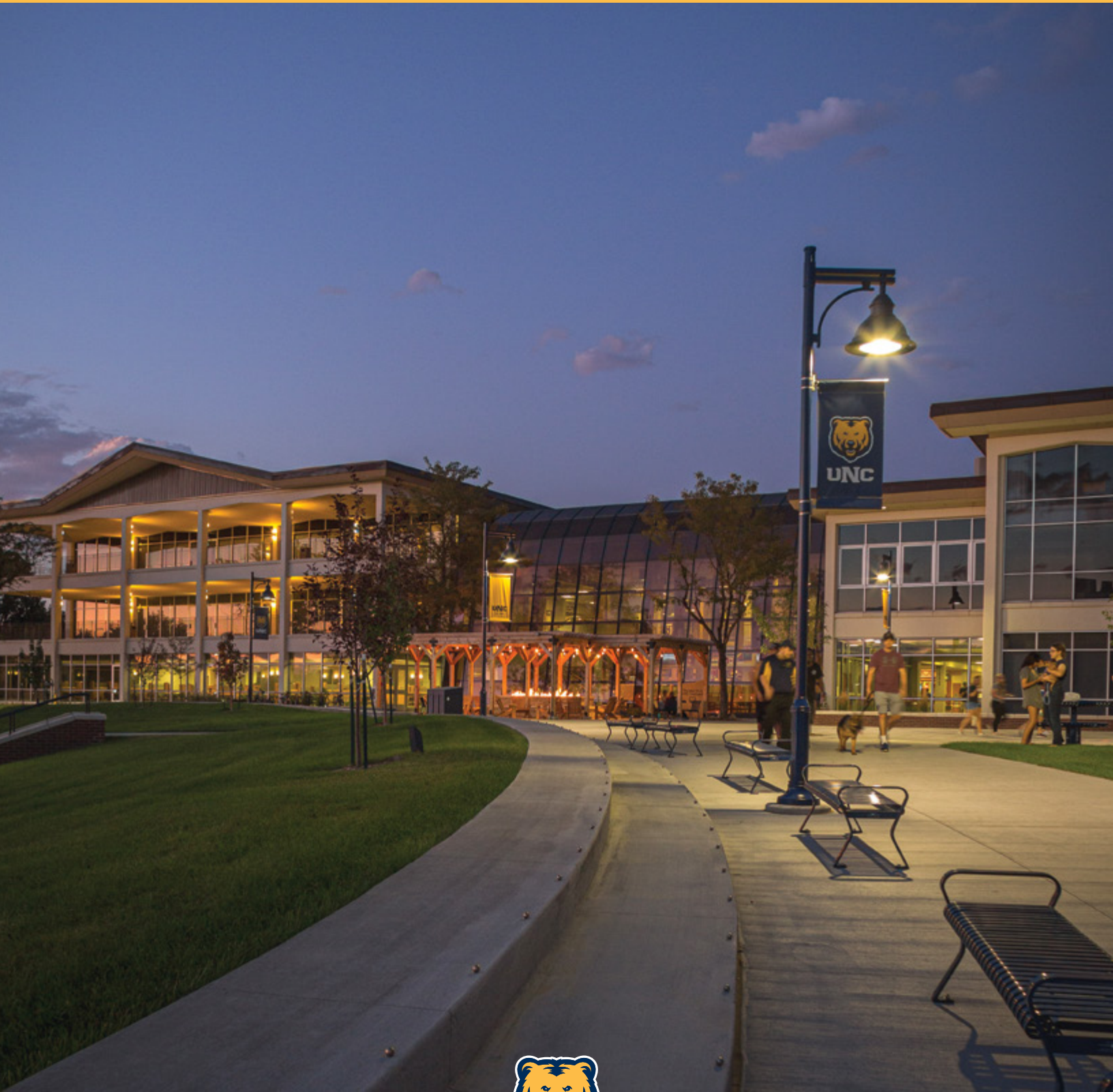


IMPACT UNC

Fall 2019 | UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO



Just Like Each of Our Students, Every UNC Journey is Unique

From a student's first steps on campus, to the final walk across the stage at graduation, a multitude of important milestones occur. Those milestones chart the course for each student's UNC experience and beyond.

- A donor funded scholarship that allows a student to purchase textbooks without taking on a second job.
- A music student's first performance on stage in the state-of-the-art Campus Commons Performance Hall.
- The home away from home a first-generation student discovers at one of our seven cultural centers.
- A business student's first taste of the professional world through an internship sponsored by alumni.

All these milestones and more have been fueled by your philanthropy.

At UNC, our community doesn't just give for the sake of giving—you give for the sake of paying it forward. Your generosity guides students on their journey to graduation and beyond. It provides an example for our students to emulate as they embark out into the world.

We challenge our students to not just think about what they want to do with their lives, but more importantly, what impact they want to have with their lives.

In this issue of Impact UNC, we are pleased to share with you several stories about the ways your philanthropy has impacted the journeys of our UNC students and alumni.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission and continued support of our programs and students.



Allie Steg Haskett

Allie Steg Haskett '03
Vice President for
University Advancement

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Opinions expressed in these pages are those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the university.





Building A Solid Foundation

“To me UNC means a lifetime of opportunities,” says junior Daisy Solis. “I am one year closer to graduating and I am one year closer to my dreams.”

Daisy is a first-generation student pursuing a degree in nursing and human services. Like many other first-generation students, when she initially arrived at UNC, Daisy was unsure of herself—at least until she received a special boost from a donor supported scholarship.

“I got the Reisher Family Scholarship and it’s amazing. I applied for it and didn’t think that I would get it because a lot of people apply for it,” Daisy says. “This scholarship means the world to me and my family. It gives me confidence. It makes me feel like I was meant to be here. The fact that the Reisher family saw potential within me, I’ll be forever thankful for that.”

The Reisher Family Scholarship Program seeks to help promising Colorado students earn their undergraduate degrees without incurring additional educational debt. Funding covers students’ unmet needs for up to six semesters as long as they maintain good academic standing, but the support it provides to students like Daisy goes far beyond that.

“What it means to me is that I don’t have to stress financially about what I’m doing at school or how I’m going to pay for it. I honestly think as students in college, we should be stressing and worrying about school and actual classes instead of how we’re going to be paying for it,” Daisy says. “This gave me the confidence booster and faith and hope that I’m going to be able to make it here and I can graduate in four years. That’s what the Reisher Family Scholarship does.”

“What it means to me is that I don’t have to stress financially about what I’m doing at school or how I’m going to pay for it.”

—DAISY SOLIS

Daisy is right on track to do just that. Her dreams are well within reach, thanks in large part to the support she received from this scholarship.

That’s exactly why she has a special message for the donors who made it all possible:

“Thank you. From the bottom of my heart. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and for seeing something within me that I didn’t see in myself.”

Receive a Donor
Supported Scholarship





Setting the Stage for Student Success

Ever since Louis Morales first set foot in 7th grade orchestra, he's been smitten with music.

"I never had any experience with music before that; I've been in orchestra ever since then. My love for music has only grown since that day," Louis says.

Like many students, Louis came to UNC for the elite music program, and it hasn't disappointed. With a little help and guidance from what he calls his "Frasier Family," one day he hopes to play upright bass with a professional symphony or philharmonic.

"Being able to perform, being able to write about music, so musicology, I would love to do all that together," Louis says.

But as a sophomore, that's still a few years away. For now, he's enjoying the brand-new addition to campus that's elevating everyone's work — the Campus Commons Performance Hall.

Louis got his first taste of the space during the Campaign for UNC Celebration last spring.

"It was amazing sitting and listening to a variety of performances in there," Louis recalls. "Just the projection, it sounded like the performers were right there in front of you. It was very exciting to know that I would also be performing here in this hall; that I'm going to be able to project like that. Just thinking about the possibilities — I was like a kid in a candy store."

And just a few short months later, it was finally his turn to take the stage.

"My first performance in the space was called, *Hear the Hall*. It was our first curricular performance to be held in the performance hall," Louis says. "We performed a number of pieces to demonstrate the capabilities of the Performance Hall, from very quiet pieces to really abrupt and loud, just everywhere across that spectrum of music. Acoustically, it sounds incredible."

Louis also says the space is the perfect size for student performances and in the ideal location.

"It feels really good, personally, not having to lug my instrument all the way downtown for performances, especially since last year I didn't have a car," he says. "Personally, I'm very grateful just to have it right here. It feels really good to say that I'm going to OUR performance hall."

It's a special space where Louis can hone his craft. A space where he feels at home. A space that envelopes him in sound and allows him to take his work to another level.

"It really does make the biggest impact. It means the world to us. It surprises me all the time, in a good way, the generosity that other people have. When they come together it can create things like this."



"Personally, I'm very grateful just to have it right here. It feels really good to say that I'm going to OUR performance hall."

—LOUIS MORALES

Perform at the New Campus Commons Performance Hall





Mentors Who Make a Difference

Zaya Thompson '14 was always good with money. A saver by nature, ever since earning her first dollar, Zaya's parents suggested she explore a career in finance — a career she chose to pursue at UNC.

"I declared the major, went to work at a bank my first year and figured out that banking wasn't the right fit. It was just a job," Zaya recalls. "I actually went to the UNC job and internship fair at the end of my freshman year and found my path to my current position that way."

Recruited to work for Certified Financial Planner John Roessig, Zaya got a taste of owning her own business. A business focused on more than just money.

"I like the people side of business and helping people figure out how to navigate everything financially. It's the more emotional and psychological side of business, rather than just the number crunching," Zaya says. "John brought me in on client appointments, I got to know them and he encouraged me get some of the licensing while still in school."

Those experiences gave her a true taste of life as a financial planner. A life she realized was the perfect fit.

"One random day I just had this epiphany and said, 'you know, I think I can do this,'" Zaya says. "I think just really having that mentor and getting to see how he ran his business, that made a world of difference."

After three years interning with John, Zaya decided to continue working with his company after graduation. A few years later they branched off and started Millennium Financial.

"We partnered up, just the two of us, and decided it would be great to get some interns," Zaya says.

Since then, she's been serving as a mentor with the Kenneth W. Monfort College of Business, helping fellow Bears get a taste of the real world in hopes of passing on the invaluable experience she received with John.

"I'm helping them get their hours, having them sit in on appointments to listen in and give them the business-world exposure. I think it's so necessary," Zaya says. "If I didn't have it, I don't know where I'd be or how happy I would be in life right now. I just want to show other students that being a business owner is a viable option."

Zaya's proud to be giving back to her fellow Bears and she ultimately hopes the exposure and experience they gain with her will help them find that path to success, just like she did.

"I can see where a lot of employers might think they don't have the time, or they just don't care to do it, but the interns are always happy to help out," Zaya says. "I think it's fun having another young person around just for a few hours a week and giving them a glimpse into our world. It feels great. I want to give them that same opportunity and exposure to something new that I once got."



"I think just really having that mentor and getting to see how he ran his business, that made a world of difference."

—ZAYA THOMPSON '14



Meet with an Alumni
Career Mentor



Strategically Supporting Our Students

Much like each of our students, UNC is also on a journey. A journey of self-reflection and improvement aimed at strategically supporting our students for the long-term.

Important work is taking place to determine what our institution should look like ten years down the road and how we get there.

This planning process began in September with a series of campus forums and external discussions, facilitated by President Feinstein and Provost Mark Anderson.

Campus forums invited participants to discuss what UNC should aspire to be in ten years. Similar questions were asked of alumni, friends and volunteers.

Feedback from each of these exercises was summarized by UNC's Social Research Lab, a campus-based data collection and analysis service staffed by professionally trained researchers led by Sociology professor Josh Packard.

The President's Leadership Council used that feedback to draft a vision reflective of who UNC will be by 2030.

The university and Board of Trustees were invited to reflect on the draft vision with an official presentation at the Board of Trustees meeting on November 15.

Finalizing that vision this fall is the first step on UNC's journey to a strategic plan.

Now, a roadmap for the future will start to take shape. Work will continue this spring to develop goals and action items that can make our strategic vision a reality by 2030.

➤ Read the vision statement, *Rowing Not Drifting 2030* at unco.edu/president/planning

Plan for the
Future





What's Next on Your UNC Journey?

As one of our most loyal supporters, there are a number of exciting ways you can help us continue advancing the mission of UNC this fall and beyond.

UNC's Division of University Advancement provides a number of opportunities for you to engage, volunteer, invest, brand build and more.

You can help students get exposure to the professional world by volunteering to be an alumni career mentor like Zaya Thompson. Or share your passion for UNC by becoming a brand ambassador.

You can pave the way for future students by supporting a scholarship during Giving Bearnanza.

Or join us at one of our many upcoming events — commencement is right around the corner and our Bears love seeing their biggest supporters in the crowd.

If you have other ideas — let us know! Just email donor.relations@unco.edu, we would love to tailor an opportunity that fits with your UNC journey.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Giving Bearnanza

December 3-10

Winter Commencement

December 13-14

Final day to make a 2019 gift

December 31

- Visit unco.edu/alumni to learn more and register for events.



Leave a Lasting Impact



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Judy Farr Alumni Center
Campus Box 11
Greeley, CO 80639-0108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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This outdoor gathering space, The Bear Pit at UNC Courtyard, was made possible by a generous gift from Wes and Pat Campbell.

