

# UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
FALL 2023

magazine

## NO LIMITS

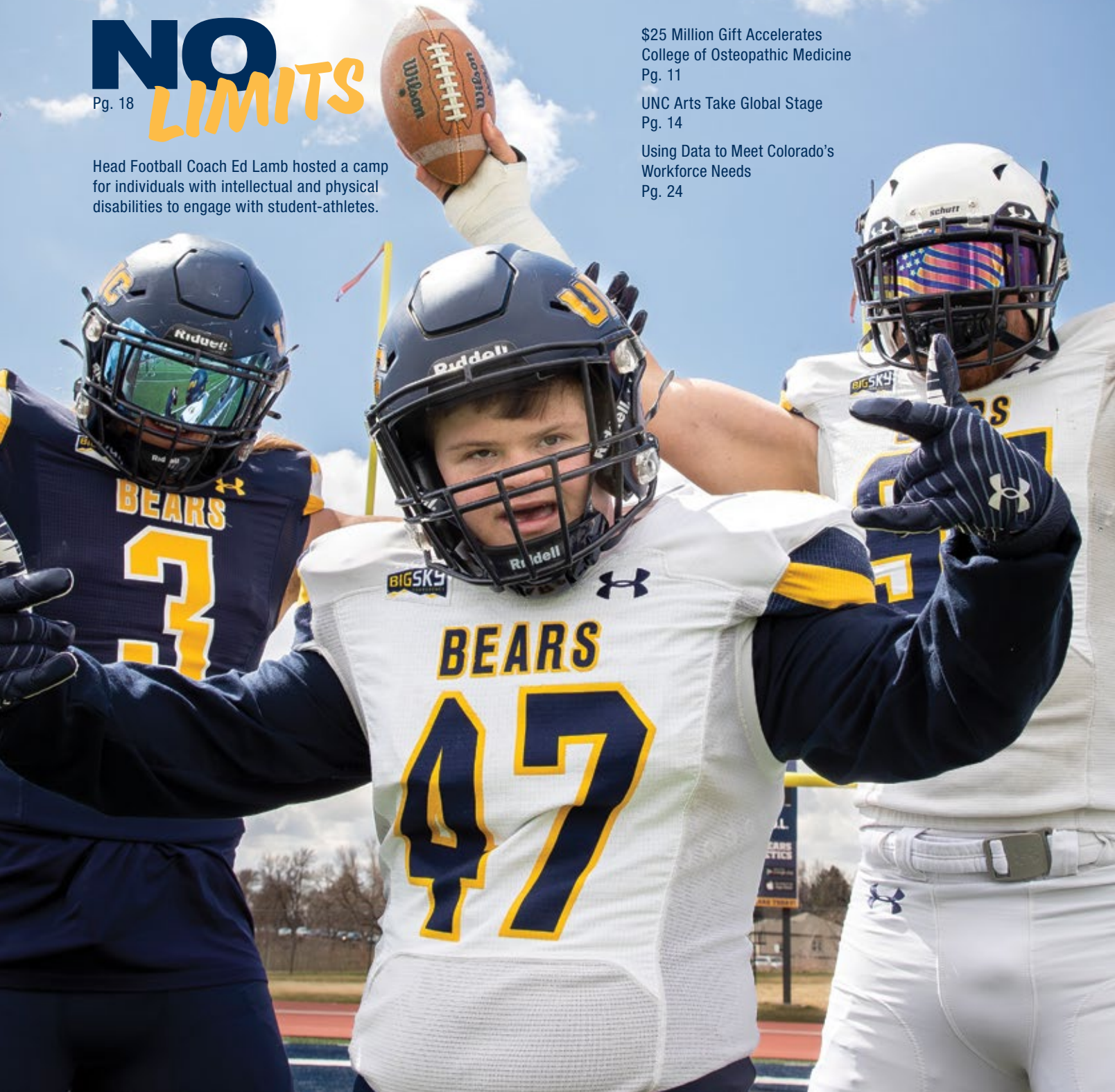
Pg. 18

Head Football Coach Ed Lamb hosted a camp for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities to engage with student-athletes.

\$25 Million Gift Accelerates  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Pg. 11

UNC Arts Take Global Stage  
Pg. 14

Using Data to Meet Colorado's  
Workforce Needs  
Pg. 24





# Fellow Bears,

As fall semester draws to a close, summer seems like a distant memory. My summer took me on a meaningful journey. After 25 years in higher education, I had the opportunity to take my first-ever sabbatical. I spent two months away from campus hiking, reflecting, and spending time with my family, and I learned unexpected lessons on my trek across the 14ers of Colorado—the state's 58 mountains over 14,000 feet—that are applicable to life back on campus.

Over the past three years, we have been on the path of implementing our strategic plan, *Rowing, Not Drifting 2030*, which is designed to help the University of Northern Colorado realize our vision for the future. As we continue on this journey of implementing our plan and assessing our progress, I find myself drawing on the same skills I use in hiking. Just as packing the right gear is essential before climbing, planning requires putting the right structures, processes, and people in place to support our success. Yet adaptability is also key. Some days, conditions are perfect, and everything goes as planned. More often than not, we face the unexpected and need to pivot.

In hiking as in planning, we must maintain perspective. Like an impressive mountain peak, seeing the path to realize our vision for the future of UNC is both exhilarating and daunting. As we near the conclusion of the second two-year phase and prepare to enter the third, it is important to pause at this “mile marker” to remind ourselves both of how far we have come and the work necessary to continue our journey. While the actions and tactics comprising each segment of our plan help guide us, it is also important to take the opportunity to refocus on the vision and objectives we are pursuing for the future. Five vision elements serve as the building blocks for what UNC will be in 2030:

- Students First
- Empower Inclusivity
- Enhance and Invest
- Innovate and Create
- Connect and Celebrate

A favorite quote of mine is by Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to summit Mount Everest, “It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.” Life is as much about the journey as it is the destination. I invite you to read through this issue of *UNC Magazine* and discover some of the amazing journeys our students, faculty, and alumni have taken.

Go Bears!



Andy Feinstein  
President



The *Rowing, Not Drifting 2030* Strategic Plan can be found online at [unco.edu/strategic-plan](https://unco.edu/strategic-plan)



# Table of Contents



11

## Features

- 11 \$25 MILLION GIFT IS LARGEST IN UNC HISTORY**  
The Weld Trust's historic and transformational gift propels plans for College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- 14 TAKING UNC ARTS TO NATIONAL, GLOBAL STAGES**  
Performing and Visual Arts students take their talents on the road to the delight of audiences in New York City, the Dominican Republic and the Czech Republic.
- 18 NO LIMITS**  
The first "No Limits Camp" provided a platform for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities to engage with UNC student-athletes for a day.
- 24 MEETING COLORADO'S WORKFORCE NEEDS: IT'S ALL IN THE DATA**  
The university launches an extraordinary Alumni Employment Dashboard powered by actual career data from graduates.

## Departments

- 2 @UNC**  
Find out what's newsworthy, noteworthy and unabashedly UNC.
- 10 Northern Vision**  
Learn how UNC is making a difference locally and globally through research, teaching and philanthropy.
- 28 Blue & Gold**  
Catch up with Bears near and far.

### ON THE COVER

Just months on the job, Head Football Coach Ed Lamb organized the first "No Limits Camp," providing a space for people with intellectual and physical disabilities to engage with UNC athletes. The impact was greater than anyone could have predicted.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

**UNC** magazine

**Fall 2023**

[unco.edu/unc-magazine](http://unco.edu/unc-magazine)

### Vice President for University Advancement

Allie Steg Haskett, '03

### Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations

Lyndsey Crum, '05

### Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Debbie Farris

### Art Director

Gretchen Kershner

### Copy Editors

Christina Abel, Brenna Rhiness

### Contributors

Christina Abel

Debbie Farris

Tamsin Fleming

Deanna Herbert, '92

Sydney Kern

Ryan Mueksch

### Photographer

Thomas "Woody" Myers, '92

### Bear Extras!

Visit [unco.edu/unc-magazine](http://unco.edu/unc-magazine) for an expanded reading experience with many content and web extras.

### Address Changes, Feedback and Questions

[alumni@unco.edu](mailto:alumni@unco.edu)

### Send us a Class Note

If you would like your class note to appear in *UNC Magazine*, please email it to [alumni@unco.edu](mailto:alumni@unco.edu) along with your name and class year.

©2023 University of Northern Colorado

*UNC Magazine* is published twice per year by the Division of University of University Advancement at the University of Northern Colorado and distributed to alumni and friends. Its content and the website is produced and designed by the University Marketing and Communications Department in the Division of University Advancement. Contents may be represented only by permission of the editor.



# The View from Here

## UNC'S 100<sup>TH</sup> HOMECOMING: 1923-2023

It was the celebration of a century. Bears from all over the region and the country came home to commemorate UNC's major milestone, celebrating 100 years of rich traditions, competitions, laughter and community. Since 1889, roughly 160,000 graduates have passed through the university.

*Photos courtesy UNC Archives, Cache La Poudre 1923*





## NEW STATISTICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREES PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THESE FAST-GROWING, HIGH-PAYING FIELDS

Whether reading the latest headlines, job reports or economic forecasts, “data science” or “big data” is everywhere, from social media to AI (Artificial Intelligence) to politics. According to the *Statistics and Computing Journal*, the two disciplines of statistics and computing are the core technologies of data science. This area of high growth and emerging technology is the impetus behind UNC launching degrees in Statistics and Computer Science this fall.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the American Statistical Association, computer science careers will grow 21% in the next decade, while statistics jobs will grow by 33%. Additionally, the degree-seekers in these two areas have grown more than 400% in Colorado since 2012. Careers in computer science have an average salary of \$103,238 and \$100,910 for data scientists.

Kamel Haddad, Ph.D., dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences (NHS), said this is the reason they approached these new degrees from a career-first perspective.

“NHS is committed to creating and delivering quality programs that are responsive to regional needs and aligned with the national workforce trajectory,” said Haddad.

“You can leave UNC with a Computer Science degree and get a job with a starting salary of \$80,000,” said Jodie Novak, chair and professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences in NHS.

In addition to leading to high-wage jobs, the degrees offer graduates significant flexibility in a wide range of occupations based on an interdisciplinary curriculum that provides additional perspectives, such as a minor in biology, criminal justice or environmental sciences.

For example, someone with a Computer Science degree can work for a tech company programming or creating apps, they can combine their programming skills with chemistry to perform computational chemistry, or even develop apps for a company to monitor and analyze water flow in rivers. Someone with a Statistics degree is well prepared to work as an actuary for an insurance company or as a data scientist in almost any field, from criminal justice, health care, business or even

sports, where they can build mathematical models for predictive analysis.

While some universities have offered similar degree programs for longer, Oscar Levin '04, Ph.D., professor of Mathematics, said the newness of UNC's programs makes them nimbler.

“We are not teaching the computer science of 20 years ago.... We are starting fresh, we are going to have young faculty who just learned the most recent advances in computer science and statistics,” Levin said.

Courses in the Computer Science program, for example, include “AI Machine Learning,” “Computer and Data Ethics” and “Human-Computer Interaction.”

NHS has hired new professors who will conduct research and foster hands-on learning, as well as job readiness training related to these new degrees.

Kristin Kang, Ph.D., a statistician with expertise in developing models to test the reliability of nanotechnology, joined the faculty of the School of Mathematical Sciences this fall.

Kang, who earned her Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University, is joining from Grandview University in Iowa where she was the department chair. She wanted to join UNC so she has more time for her research. In the past she has focused on nanotechnology, but now she wants to research statistical education research to determine which teaching methods work best for students.

“Data is everywhere so even just having one simple intro to stats class is going to improve students' lives substantially,” she said. “Our job is to help the students make sense of the data and make sense of the world based on that data.”

Making sense of big data requires some level of human intervention. That's why Kang believes it's important not only to teach students the formulas and calculations, but also the meaning behind them.

“You learn the inner workings and then you're able to really take those tools and customize them to the problem at hand.”



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS RANKED AMONG NATION'S BEST

UNC has distinguished itself in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* Best Graduate Schools rankings. In these influential 2023-24 rankings, The College of Natural and Health Sciences and College of Education and Behavioral Sciences graduate programs rank in the top 100 in the nation in their respective fields. A total of five UNC graduate programs rank in the top 100 of their fields.

Most notably, the Rehabilitation Counseling program in the College of Natural and Health Sciences was ranked #13 in the nation among 94 other specialty graduate programs.

In the past 10 years, the Rehabilitation Counseling program has earned recognition as a top-rated program in the nation. It is the only such graduate program in Colorado accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Other graduate programs ranked in the top 100 of *U.S. News* Best Graduate Schools: Public Health ranked #17, Audiology #40, Nursing #78, Speech-Language Pathology #92 and Statistics #99.

"These rankings illustrate UNC's focus on advancing the quality of our academic programs as we prepare students to excel in their lives, communities and workplaces," said Kirsten Fleming, Ph.D., provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. "I am grateful for the faculty's focus on excellence and commitment to teaching and learning and to elevating UNC's scholarly impact."

Other UNC graduate programs recognized for national excellence this year are Best Education Schools, Best Nursing Schools: Doctor of Nursing Practice, Biological Sciences, Mathematics and Psychology.

UNC's master's and doctoral programs are critical in addressing Colorado's workforce shortages and fostering job growth in high-demand fields such as education, science and health care.

Earlier this year, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked UNC among the best online master's in Education and online MBA programs.

## WELCOMING THREE NEW DEANS IN HUMANITIES, BUSINESS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Fall semester marks a new beginning for leadership in three colleges at UNC. These three new leaders will shape the culture of their colleges and bring tremendous scholarship, organizational leadership and administrative excellence to build strong external relations and champion student success.

Longtime Geography professor, teacher and scholar at the university for more than 30 years, Jim Doerner, Ph.D., is the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) after serving as interim dean last year. Veteran dean, Ken Colwell, Ph.D., who joins UNC from the University of Houston-Victoria, is the dean of the Kenneth W. Monfort College of Business. Cathy J. Bradley, Ph.D., MPA, is the Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health and the deputy director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center. The accredited, collaborative school of public health includes programs and dedicated faculty at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Colorado State University and UNC, where it is part of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.



Jim Doerner, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

### DEAN DOERNER

“Historically, the humanities and social sciences were about the role of humans, how humans interact in the world,” said Jim Doerner.

“Social scientists bring in problem-solving abilities, asking the right questions, analyzing data for some of the big societal issues we are facing and that they can address. Then you have people trained in the humanities, and what they bring to the table also addresses societal needs. I think that is the basis for going forward.”

Doerner is the first new dean at HSS in eight years. His vision for the college is imbued with a need to address the current, growing speculation about the role and need for the humanities and social sciences in the 21st century.

A tireless champion of students, Doerner is committed to helping them find their passion and place. He says HSS is currently a “college of discovery” as students find their purpose while taking courses in the college and they get hooked. In the future, he would like HSS to become a “college of destination.”



Ken Colwell, Ph.D., Dean of the Monfort College of Business

### DEAN COLWELL

Ken Colwell brings 35 years of experience in industry and academia—including nearly 10 years as a dean—to his new role at Monfort College of Business. Since his arrival to campus, he has been doing a great deal of listening and learning from faculty, staff, students, alumni and the UNC community as he shapes his vision for the college of business.

Colwell was attracted to UNC’s status as an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), having served as dean at three HSIs and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI). With time spent at both private and public universities, Colwell prefers regional public universities where he feels he can really make an impact on students’ lives.

“MCB will be a business school to watch,” said Colwell. “Thanks to the tremendous investment and generosity of UNC donors, we are developing the resources to bring to bear on student success, career services, study abroad and more. That puts us head and shoulders above other business colleges.”



Cathy J. Bradley, Ph.D., MPA, Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health and the Deputy Director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center

### DEAN BRADLEY

Cathy Bradley is the Colorado School of Public Health’s fourth dean since its founding in 2008, and its first permanent female dean. She is a health economist and holds the Paul A. Bunn, Jr. Endowed Chair in Cancer Research. Previously, she was the founding chair of the Department of Healthcare Policy and Research at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

Responding to climate change, developing large-scale solutions to the mental health crisis and promoting the positive influence public health plays in making communities stronger and more resilient are three of the first research and education goals for Dean Bradley.

“I want to help improve health and health care access for everyone, not just one person at a time,” said Bradley. “We can reach the most lives through policy, health care delivery and making changes to prevent diseases from ever occurring.”

A first-generation college graduate, Bradley developed a passion for public health and health policy while earning her Master of Public Administration and a doctorate in Health Policy and Administration at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.





## FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER SIGNS AS FREE AGENT WITH L.A. CHARGERS

After excelling with the Bears in the 2022 football season, running back Elijah Dotson entered the NFL Draft in spring 2023, seeking to take the next step of his football career. That move panned out well. Although he went unselected in the draft, the 24-year-old Sacramento native signed with the Los Angeles Chargers as an undrafted free agent.

Dotson made the most of his opportunity in the preseason, racking up 146 yards on 18 carries, including two long touchdown runs. Following Dotson's strong preseason, he was only one of two undrafted free agents to make the Chargers' 53-man roster.

Dotson transferred to UNC in 2022 after graduating with a bachelor's in Business Administration and a 3.8 GPA from Sacramento State University, where he was a two-time, first-team All-Big Sky selection. In his final collegiate season at UNC, he had 933 rushing yards and six touchdowns along with 300 receiving yards. He also handled kick returns for the Bears, averaging 19.4 yards per return on 13 attempts, running one return all the way back for an 82-yard touchdown.

Dotson earned All-Big Sky honors four times and made the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team twice.

Touchdown Wire, an NFL blog, called Dotson one of the Chargers' "Secret Superstars" and an "under-the-radar guy." The sports blog credits his time at UNC with giving him a shot with the Chargers.

This Bear is one to watch.

## NEW STUDY EXPLORES OVERCOMING STIGMA IN HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four adults in the United States live with some type of disability that impacts major life activities, making it difficult to access adequate health care, actively participate in their communities and gain employment in the workplace.

Many experts consider persons with disabilities the most marginalized group in society. It's not only the largest minority group in the United States, but also one that anyone can join at any time — at birth or as the result of an accident, illness or the natural aging process.

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed 33 years ago, which made it illegal to discriminate against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, many argue that progress hasn't been sufficient. People with disabilities remain overrepresented among America's poor and uneducated and a February 2023 Bureau of Labor Statistics report confirms that across all age groups, persons with a disability were much less likely to be employed than those with no disability. And oftentimes, it's not the disability that is standing in the way.

"While barriers exist in our world in many forms toward people with disabilities, whether it's stairs or narrow doorways or lack of testing accommodations in the classroom environment, the biggest barrier for individuals with a disability is stigma," said Jill Bezyak, Ph.D., professor and program coordinator of UNC's Rehabilitation Counseling and Sciences program.

Recognizing and overcoming stigma is the goal of a new research study Bezyak recently launched in partnership with the Rocky Mountain ADA Center (RMADAC). She's hoping newly developed tools designed to mitigate negative bias toward people with disabilities are successful, providing them with more employment opportunities and ultimately, a better quality of life.

The RMADAC is one of 10 ADA centers across the country that work together as a national network to provide information, guidance and training on the ADA. While Bezyak has had a long-standing research partnership with the RMADAC dating back to 2009, the university assumed management of the center's grant funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research last March, making the RMADAC an official part of UNC.

## MISPERCEPTIONS AND MYTHS ABOUND

As both an adjunct instructor and an alumna of the Rehabilitation Counseling and Sciences program, Jessica Mathis, '15 is well-versed in the employment challenges for persons with disabilities from both the employer and employee perspective.

In her seven years working with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) Mathis has served as a specialist helping employers navigate ADA requirements in apprenticeship programs and as a rehabilitation counselor helping persons with disabilities navigate employment opportunities. Her experience on both sides of the workforce has shown her first-hand how stigma can influence employment decisions and how education can change minds.





PHOTO BY CHARDAY PENN

Employers often think that hiring people with disabilities will slow production or cost a lot of money. There's also concern that workers with disabilities won't be able to keep up or that the employer is setting them up to fail in an environment that can't accommodate them. But research indicates those perceptions are far from true.

A recent report by the Job Accommodation Network indicated that most accommodations (58%) come at zero cost with the rest costing less than \$500. Another report by Accenture, indicated that companies who employed persons with disabilities saw, on average, 28% higher revenues over a four-year period compared to their counterparts and that employees with disabilities offer benefits that include increased innovation, improved productivity and a better work environment.

Mathis said that after sharing these kinds of facts and education, employers often experience an aha moment and for the most part are thankful for the information and the opportunity to improve.

"Overcoming those barriers so that persons with disabilities have a full spectrum of options—if we can do that, we're equaling the playing field," Mathis said. "That's empowering and it's why the work I do is so impactful."

#### EXPLORING NEW INTERVENTIONS TO MITIGATE BIAS

"Implicit bias toward persons with disabilities is a problem that has been well documented, and the goal of this type of research is to tell people that it's out there and it's a problem," said Bezyak. "But what we're doing now is

trying to do something about it. We're currently missing that link or intervention to not just raise awareness that the bias exists, but to shift that bias."

Bezyak's study will engage human resource professionals and law enforcement personnel, starting with a pre-test to measure both implicit and explicit bias. Participants then view an hour-long training that includes techniques to recognize, manage and improve bias, as well as testimonials from persons with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and law enforcement personnel.

"The testimonials are powerful," said Emily Shuman, director of the RMADAC. "It takes the training from a conceptual theoretical place and humanizes it. It illustrates how bias shows up in the real world."

The training videos are immediately followed by the explicit bias questions again and then three months later with the implicit bias questions. Bezyak said research shows that implicit bias isn't going to change in an hour's time, but three months down the road could yield progress.

"The hope with this is that we will be able to get people to understand that biases have an impact on the experiences and lives of people with disabilities," said Shuman. "If we can start to challenge our preconceived notions around disability, that can lead to people with disabilities having better outcomes in terms of employment, education, housing, getting paid, fair wages—all of those things. That will lead to a more inclusive society as a whole."

—Deanna Herbert



@UNC

**DYLAN ROSEMAN**  
2023 Boettcher Scholar



# I'm a Bear

## BOETTCHER SCHOLAR HOPES TO EMPOWER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Last March, first-year Dylan Roseman headed to his family's mailbox knowing he might find life-changing news. The anticipation was boiling over. Roseman had spent months working on an application for a college scholarship filling out paperwork, writing essays and doing in-person interviews all leading up to this moment. It also didn't help that the mailbox key went missing for a couple of days delaying the reveal.

"I pulled out the folder in the mail, and I'm looking at it and my parents are behind me, and I say, 'Oh my gosh, we got it!'" Roseman said. "We were all jumping up and down, my mom was crying. She said, 'You did it, you are going to be able to go to college for free now!'"

Roseman is one of only 50 Colorado students selected as a 2023 Boettcher Scholar. The highly competitive and prestigious scholarship program provides recipients with an annual fixed amount of \$20,000 for four years. After that, universities use institutional, merit and/or need-based aid (or a combination) to support up to the total cost of attendance for each scholar minus travel and other expenses.

"It's a dream come true especially because we're a low-income family," Roseman said.

The Boettcher Foundation selects recipients based on four criteria: superior scholastic ability and intellectual curiosity, evidence of potential leadership, service to the community and school and outstanding character.

Roseman checks off all those requirements. In high school at Greeley's Early College Academy, he took advanced classes that qualified him to obtain his high school diploma and an associate degree at the same time. Roseman was also student body president, he raised \$2,500 for Children's Hospital as an Eagle Scout and earned his black belt in martial arts.

"I was doing so many different things. I was really busy," Roseman said. "You'd think at such an academic-driven school that I wouldn't be having any fun or be slammed with homework, but my high school experience was fantastic.... I'm so thankful for it."

Roseman credits two of his passions for instilling the drive needed to tackle his successes. One is his years-long involvement in the Boy Scouts and the other is karate.

"Both of those balanced each other out perfectly," Roseman said. "Boy Scouts taught me practical skills that I can apply everywhere, and karate taught me self-motivation and discipline. I call one my warrior and the other my scholar."

Navigating through Boy Scouts, karate, academic classes and many clubs, Roseman found his passion and the career path he wants to pursue. It's what led him to choose the UNC from among a dozen other Colorado universities he could have applied his Boettcher Scholarship toward.

This fall, Roseman is double majoring in Health Sciences with an emphasis in Health Care Administration and Human Services in the College of Natural and Health Sciences. The Human Services program is designed to teach students an interdisciplinary knowledge base and approach to meeting human needs. The curriculum focuses on prevention as well as remediation of problems and maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life of service populations.

"I wanted to do a bit of business, but I wanted to do health," Roseman said. "UNC was the only school that had an emphasis in health care administration and fit both of my needs."

While in high school, Roseman shadowed a staff member who worked within the Sunrise Community Health system, a nonprofit health care provider in Weld County that aims to provide affordable access to quality health care for all. He became enthralled with the environment.

"I love the atmosphere of being around people who all want to help others. It's very humanizing," Roseman said.

Roseman will be following in the footsteps of his grandparents and dad who all attended UNC, though his experience will be a little different. Unlike his dad who told Roseman he recently paid off his student loans a few years ago, Roseman will be able to attend classes knowing finances won't be a problem.

"Last year my mom sat me down and gave me the 'We-have-no-money-for-you-to-go-to-college' talk," Roseman said. "And she told me how sad she was to say that as a parent and that she devoted her whole life to raising me. I told her not to worry that I will get scholarships, and then I actually did, and my life was changed."

That life-changing moment began with an application, a walk to his mailbox and has now turned Roseman into a Bear.

—Sydney Kern



## Exploring the 'Big Questions' of Democracy and Development in Nepal

### Political Science Professor Receives Prestigious U.S. Fulbright Award

Political Science and International Affairs Professor Richard Bownas, Ph.D., first traveled from his hometown in the United Kingdom to Nepal in 1997 when he was 20 years old. At that time, the landlocked country in South Asia had just begun involvement in a civil war that would shift the country from a monarchy to a democracy.

"It was a real education [for me] because there was a Maoist insurgency happening, and some of the friends I made were really interested in that ideology," Bownas said. "I also made friends from lower castes since there is a caste system in South Asia. They sometimes couldn't go into the house where I was staying because the owner of the house was of higher caste. So, I saw all these interesting, troubling kinds of things."

The experience ignited Bownas' interest in social sciences, global development and inequality. Most importantly, it gave him a personal connection to Nepal.

In January, Bownas will be returning to the country. He was awarded a U.S. Fulbright grant, which will allow him to stay in Nepal for seven months to conduct an oral history project that will focus on the Nepalese Civil War.

Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 400,000 participants from over 160 countries — chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential — with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to challenges facing our communities and our world. The program is considered one of the most widely



recognized and prestigious scholarships in the world.

"I'm going to be speaking to around 100 senior citizens in Nepal about their experience with democratic institutions in their local areas," Bownas said. "I'll be visiting many villages and rural areas because most Nepali people live in rural areas. I want to see whether Nepal becoming a democracy made a real difference to their lives at the local level."

Witnessing world history as it unfolded during that first visit, Bownas realized there isn't a lot of testimony written down or recorded about the governmental shift.

"I think I'm just about the only Western political scientist who focuses on Nepal," Bownas said. "There are a lot of anthropologists studying Nepal because of the rich cultures [there]. So, they study the smaller cultures in the Himalayan Mountains who still stick to traditional beliefs and still have rare languages that are vanishing. But there are not many social scientists studying the big questions of democracy and development in Nepal."

Bownas plans to transcribe the answers he gathers and publish them in Nepali and English language publications or academic work. The types of questions he'll ask the locals will focus on political parties. For example, how do people get projects done in their villages, do they trust local officials and how have things changed over time?

"It's a really interesting case study for a political science and social scientist of development, or maybe you could say failed development because it's one of those places that has kind of fallen behind in terms of modernization and industrialization even though there is a lot of aid going to Nepal," Bownas said. "Different governments have gone in with different strategies, but they often don't seem to work."

Bownas is grateful he'll be able to share Nepali experiences and shine light on their history. He believes the stories he uncovers will allow that history to continuously be shared from one generation to the next.

—Sydney Kern

## A SINGLE GIFT OF \$25 MILLION WILL HELP TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHYSICIANS IN COLORADO

Thanks to an incredibly generous and transformational gift from The Weld Trust, the university has moved closer to realizing its vision of establishing its proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine to meet the critical and growing demand for doctors across the state. The \$25 million, earmarked for the proposed college, is the largest single gift in the school's history as well as the single largest gift ever awarded by The Weld Trust.

The Weld Trust is a philanthropic foundation that awards grants to nonprofit organizations, schools and government entities toward programs and projects within health and education in Weld County.

The transformational investment will not only support efforts to address the state's physician shortage, but it will also help make health care more accessible to thousands of Coloradans.

"As an organization focused on health and education, we are proud and thrilled to award this grant to the UNC College of Osteopathic Medicine," said Tom Grant, board chair for The Weld Trust. "A project of this magnitude dictates the need for collaboration and financial support toward building a strong foundation. We anticipate this medical school will ultimately create tremendous change for the

medical field and in particular for our local community."

Driven by concerns about Colorado's growing need for more physicians and the university's role in addressing that challenge, UNC began exploring the idea of creating a College of Osteopathic Medicine in the spring of 2021 after conversations with leaders of local hospital systems and the community.

"Since our founding in 1889, the University of Northern Colorado has made important contributions to meeting the state's education and workforce needs," said UNC President Andy Feinstein, Ph.D. "This includes a history of excellence in health care and health sciences such as our School of Nursing, which has trained generations of nurses caring for Coloradans today," added Feinstein.

"As our state continues to grow, UNC is again called to address a critical workforce shortage—this time for doctors, particularly those focused on primary care and practicing in rural areas. Together, with visionary health care and philanthropic leaders, like The Weld Trust and others, UNC is prepared to answer that call again," said Feinstein.

The Association of American Medical Colleges projects the United States will face a physician shortage of between 37,800 and

*Cont. on page 12*



124,000 by 2034. The shortage is primarily driven by population growth and an increasing aging population, as well as an aging health care workforce, of which a significant number will be at retirement age in the next few years. That national data reflects a similar story closer to home, as local shortages are further fueled by Colorado's population growth over the last decade, which was nearly double the national average, and the high percentage of active physicians aged 60 or older who are expected to exit the workforce in the next few years.

According to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, less than 35% of Coloradans' needs for physicians is currently being met. It's an issue most evident in rural and underserved communities like Weld County and so many others across the state, negatively affecting access to care. Additionally, the Robert Graham Center forecasts that by 2030, Colorado will need an additional 1,773 primary-care physicians, a 49% increase since 2010.

"The Weld Trust specifically serves Weld County, which includes many rural communities," explained Jeff Carlson, CEO of The Weld Trust. "There is an increasing disparity between the demand for physicians in these areas versus the supply. If UNC recruits students for the medical school and trains them in a rural environment,

it increases the likelihood of them practicing in a rural community. Our goal is that Weld County communities will have the local medical resources they need to be able to thrive," said Carlson.

These significant challenges will continue to escalate if not addressed. In late 2021, UNC partnered with an independent consulting firm on a feasibility study to evaluate market demand, economic impact and the capacity and commitment of health care providers to support clinical placements.

The outcome of the study was clear—Colorado's current medical education infrastructure does not produce enough physicians to meet current and future needs, nor does it support the demand for students who want to pursue medical education in the state. Those findings, coupled with overwhelming support from the university community and Board of Trustees as well as health systems, became the driving force behind UNC's response to the community's call to act and begin working to establish a College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Over the past two years, the university has taken several important steps toward making its vision of a new College of Osteopathic Medicine a reality.

- It has submitted for and been granted applicant status with the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.



“There are many aspects of UNC that will allow us to develop a unique and special college. Most osteopathic medical schools are housed in private nonprofit and a few in for-profit universities. UNC COM will be only the ninth college located within a public university.

There is also a need to increase diversity in the medical profession. While increasing numbers of Black and Hispanic students are entering medical school these numbers still need to increase. The American Medical Association recognizes that racial and ethnic diversity among health professionals positively impacts access to care and the quality of care provided to underserved populations. UNC’s commitment to diversity provides a foundation to develop programs targeting mentorship and recruitment of underrepresented minority medical students.”

—Beth Longenecker, D.O., M.S., FACOEP, FACEP  
Founding dean, UNC College of Osteopathic Medicine

- It has received statutory authorization from the state to offer specialized degree programs in osteopathic medicine through the unanimous passage of SB22-056 in March 2022.
- It has hired Beth Longenecker, D.O., M.S., FACOEP, FACEP, as founding dean for the proposed college.
- It has raised more than \$30 million in philanthropy to support the project and begun work with other donors and state partners to secure the remaining funds necessary.
- It began securing the necessary clinical rotation sites required for third- and fourth-year students.

“I am grateful for the vision of the board and staff of The Weld Trust in making this gift. Their investment, along with commitments from other local philanthropists, signals a clear need that Colorado must prepare more doctors,” said Allie Steg Haskett, ’03, vice president of University Advancement. “This transformational gift is an example of what happens when people come together around a shared purpose.”

According to Feinstein, the university’s next steps include securing the remaining funding necessary and continuing work to identify key health care partners to secure clinical rotations and other opportunities for collaboration.

“As we make progress toward opening the College of Osteopathic Medicine, we will look to stakeholders across the state, including our elected officials and leaders in medicine, to join us in meeting this important need,” said Feinstein. **UNC**

## A MATTER OF DEGREES: DO AND MD

The university decided to create a college that grants Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degrees, as opposed to one that grants Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degrees because osteopathic medicine — one of the fastest-growing health care professions in the country — is a field with a long tradition of providing care in rural and underserved areas. These are exactly where Colorado needs doctors now.

In addition, a College of Osteopathic Medicine builds on UNC’s existing strengths and depth in both the sciences and health sciences. UNC is home to nationally ranked nursing and public health programs as well as programs in behavioral sciences, biology, chemistry, audiology and speech-language pathology.

While both MDs and DOs undergo four rigorous years of medical school and additional residency training to be eligible to practice medicine in the U.S. DOs are also trained to recognize the interrelated unity among all systems of the body, including an additional 200 hours of study on the musculoskeletal system with hands-on musculoskeletal training.

## EXPLOSIVE GROWTH PREDICTED IN OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

“Over the past three decades, the total number of DOs and osteopathic medical students has more than quadrupled to reach 186,871 in 2023. Currently representing more than 11% of all physicians and 25% of all medical students in the U.S., the osteopathic medical profession is positioned to continue growing exponentially.”

Source: American Osteopathic Association

“In the 2022-23 academic year, more than 35,000 osteopathic medical students are studying to become osteopathic physicians, an all-time high. This represents a 77% increase in the last decade.”

Source: American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

“As a profession, DOs are more likely to enter into primary care—nearly 57% of DOs vs 28% of MDs.”

Source: American Medical Association, 2020-21 report

By Christina Abel | Photos from Performing and Visual Arts faculty, staff and students

# TAKING UNC ARTS TO NATIONAL, GLOBAL STAGES

Performing and Visual Arts students take their talents on the road to the delight of audiences in New York City, the Dominican Republic and the Czech Republic.







**WHILE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MAY NOT ONLY BE IN VOGUE BUT ESSENTIAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, IT'S USUALLY RELEGATED TO THOSE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO AFFORD THE COST OF SUCH EXPERIENCES, SUCH AS STUDYING ABROAD.**

For College of Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) Dean Cristina Goletti, MFA, this is something she hopes to tackle at UNC as she begins her third year.

Goletti sees these trips as not just about experiential learning, but also about cultural immersion and on-the-job training for a wide array of students.

“Because of the socioeconomic background of many students who come to UNC, we must acknowledge that not everyone has the resources to travel. Since these experiences are very important and we want to provide them, it is crucial that we find the necessary resources.”

When the Dominican Republic’s Director of the National Theatre invited PVA Professor of Music, Socrates Garcia, D.A., ’13, to perform in Santo Domingo around its 50th anniversary, Goletti thought about how to make the most of the trip for students, faculty and staff. This is the definitive example of experiential learning, which is the process of learning by doing, and includes internships, apprenticeships, studying abroad, field research and more, according to the Institute for Study Abroad.

What resulted was a week-long trip for more than 40 university performers who led workshops, attended classes, gave lessons and, ultimately, performed at the national theatre, Teatro Nacional Eduardo Brito, which was packed with 2,000 people, including the Vice Minister of Culture and the U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. The trip was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Embassy.

With its long and storied history and musical traditions, the Compass Jazz Orchestra, the university’s premier jazz ensemble, learned much about the roots of Afro-Latino and Afro-Cuban jazz music, especially by playing with an all-Dominican drum line comprising iconic figures of the island’s jazz scene, including Felix Garcia “El Abuelo”, Raul Sanchez, Ramon “Papatin” de Castro, Edis “El Guru” Sanchez, Leo Pimentel and Javier Vargas.

The trip to the Dominican Republic was just one of three experiential trips PVA students participated in 2023. More than 90 choir students traveled to New York City to perform at the illustrious Carnegie Hall and five Design and Technology students built and displayed an interactive installation of objects and the personal stories behind them in the Czech Republic at The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space. The former was established in 1967 to bring the best of design for performance, scenography and theatre architecture to the front line of cultural activities.

All of the experiences were made possible, in part, thanks to the PVA Student Travel Experiences Fund supported by the generosity of alumni and donors.



UNC Director of Music Technology Socrates Garcia, who is originally from the Dominican Republic, conducted part of the concert.

Goletti championed the creation of the student travel fund, which was launched as part of the 2023 Bears Give Back Day of Giving and is now a permanent fund donors can support. Gifts to this fund directly support experiences such as the three outside-the-classroom experiences in 2023.

Much like student experiences in the other four colleges, these serve as on-the-job experiences for PVA students, which is critical to their professional success.

"The arts are not something you just do for passion. While passion is important, it's a career," Goletti said.

Socrates Garcia, who is the director of Music Technology, said the experience for his students in Santo Domingo was one-of-a-kind.

"It was a dream come true ... we had been talking about it for 10 years ... I hope it opens a lot of doors for UNC," Garcia said. "The students were ecstatic. You could see it. They were bubbling."

For Tom Call, a Jazz Studies doctoral student, it was a chance to bridge cultural and musical barriers.

"As a composer and performer, it was an incredible opportunity and honor to have the chance to share my music with the world in this small way. And I look forward to exploring the music and ideas that were shared with us on this cultural exchange," Call said.

For Brian Hapcic, professor of lighting and sound design, he wanted to give his students an experience similar to what he felt as a participant at The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space in 2015.

Hapcic hand-picked five seniors he knew were up to the challenge of creating a theatrical installation for the Prague competition Festival of the Rare. Working with the theme, *What is Rare in Society*, Hapcic's students spent the fall 2022 semester envisioning the answer to this question in a way that would be experiential for an audience. They were doing something called scenography, which includes the use of scenic design, lighting design, sound design and costume design to craft a stage environment or atmosphere.

The students thought about how polarized the world has become and how charged political conversations can result in people not really listening to each other. That's when they invited members of the community to bring in objects and record their stories about them, which would create a much more inclusive and intimate experience. Those objects were then collected in an installation, *Can Your Hear Me*, and each was labeled with a QR code, which the audience could scan to play the owner's recording.

Hapcic said the students had the experience of a lifetime in Prague.

"They were all blown away, of course, like I was in 2015...they will carry some of these ideas with them into the world," Hapcic said. "Only 12-13 schools were selected out of 40 worldwide."





Finally, for the choir trip to Carnegie Hall, Choir Director Jill Burgett, D.A., needed to find a way to fund more than 90 students traveling, lodging and dining in New York, an expensive endeavor.

The student travel fund provided \$124,000 for the trip, which enabled more than 90 UNC students to perform Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* to a nearly packed house.

The inaugural debut of the UNC Choir at Carnegie Hall impressed Burgett, the students and alumni alike.

Catherine Freeland, '96, who studied acting at PVA, and has lived in New York for 10 years but hadn't had a chance to visit Carnegie Hall, was at the performance.

"Going to hear the choirs from my alma mater in that famous space was electrifying. The performance was superb, and I was truly the proudest I've ever been to be a UNC Bear," Freeland said.

For Goletti, all these opportunities are an effective way to get UNC's name out into the world of performing and visual arts and raise the visibility of the university to national and global audiences as an excellent place to study the arts, both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

While she was in the Dominican Republic, for example, Goletti met with the Vice Minister of Higher Education about opportunities for college graduates from that country to continue their doctoral studies at UNC as there are no graduate programs in music in Santo Domingo.

It's also about getting UNC students out onto the world stage, which takes additional funding to make possible.

According to CNBC, "The cost of studying abroad may be one of the biggest deciding factors in who gets to go.

Musicians from UNC's Compass Jazz Orchestra perform on stage in the Dominican Republic.

Students who come from demographics more likely to be able to afford the extra cost — such as those from wealthy families, who are disproportionately white — seem to be more likely to go abroad."

While these PVA trips are less time-intensive, they do open doors for students.

"There's a different experience as a performer when you walk on the Carnegie Hall stage. It means something different; you feel you are part of a tradition. You are stepping onto a stage where the biggest composers, singers and performers have been," Goletti said.

"These are deep educational experiences," Goletti said. "Your knowledge goes up a notch. The exponential growth that can happen through these trips is incredible."

According to Farouk Dey, Ph.D., vice provost for integrative learning and life design at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, such experiences are critical. As one of LinkedIn's Top 10 Voices in Education, he is recognized for his research on the future of work, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

"These experiences are just too important to miss. They are the experiences that prepare students for the workforce, the experiences that expand students' minds and expand their networks," Dey said.

"They are the experiences that inspire students to make bold decisions and audacious moves." **UNC**







# NO LIMITS

By Ryan Mueksch  
Photos by Woody Myers and NOCO Sports

Ed Lamb, first-year head coach of the Bears football team, organized the first “No Limits Camp” in June of 2023, providing a platform for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities to engage with UNC student-athletes for a day. Despite the camp being organized quickly in Lamb’s first few months on the job, the impact was much greater than anyone could have predicted.





**As a first-year head coach of a Division I college football team, the “to-do” list is about as extensive as the length of a football field:**

- Hire a coaching staff
- Secure your recruiting class
- Get to know the current players on the team
- Establish roots in the community
- Build a culture
- Instill expectations
- Install playbooks

These are just a handful of the priorities a new head coach has on his plate as soon as he takes on a new role. And given the pace of college athletics—fast and furious—it all happens quickly.

That’s what makes the priority list of Ed Lamb, UNC’s new head football coach, that much more intriguing.



There’s likely no one who better understands Bear football now than Eddie Gonzales, B.S. ’19, MBA ’20. After playing defensive line at UNC from 2015-21, he was a defensive line coach on the Bears staff in 2022 and then hired by Coach Lamb as chief of staff and director of football operations this year. Gonzales already earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UNC and is now pursuing a doctorate—breaking the mold as a first-generation student. His passion for the Bears is evident—as is his desire to help young men succeed—something Coach Lamb didn’t want to have walk away.

Gonzales transitioned into his new role in January, shortly after Coach Lamb was hired. Holding a blue and gold notebook with the letter “E” on it, Gonzales flips to the first page. “This is where my notes working for Coach Lamb start,” he said.

When asked what’s on the first page, he says, “No Limits. That was one of the very first things Coach Lamb talked to me about.”

“No Limits” refers to the No Limits Camp the UNC football program organized on June 22, 2023. The title of the camp is fitting, because after the camp, everyone involved—players, participants and coaches—realized there truly are no limits to not only what the participants of the camp are capable of doing, but also the impact the football program can have on the Northern Colorado community.




Lamb might be known to many as a football coach. But for him, football has never been his top priority.

That would be family. A father of four, Lamb’s youngest son, Edward, has “completely shaped our family, in the best way possible,” he said.







Edward is 13 years old and has autism. He is considered nonverbal, meaning he is unable to speak and has high support needs. In individuals who are considered to be nonverbal autistic, it is oftentimes difficult to determine the emotions they're feeling.

Edward has been at the center of Coach Lamb and his family's lives, something that hasn't changed since they moved to Greeley. As Edward has gotten older, Coach Lamb has realized the challenges that come with raising a child with special needs, and the sad reality that many opportunities that exist for high functioning children aren't available for children with special needs.

This led him to think about how he could combine some of his greatest passions — family, supporting special needs children and football — into something that would not just positively impact Edward, but many individuals and families in Northern Colorado.

That idea became the No Limits Camp, a football camp designed to serve the special needs community in Northern Colorado. As listed in their promotional materials, "The mission of this camp is to bring the special needs community and the UNC Football community together as one."

"It's totally in line with my goals for the program," Lamb said. "From the very first meeting with our players, I told them our goal is to win multiple championships while treating people with a first-class manner. We want to change the way the community sees the football program."

Bringing this idea to Gonzales' attention his first week on the job is not an exaggeration. "It was my first big task," Gonzales said. Gonzales garnered support from inside and outside of the university to put this idea in motion.

He got tremendous help from UNC's expert faculty and staff in the School of Special Education, Lori Couch, director of development at The Arc of Weld County, and staff from the university's GOAL (Go On and Learn) program, a federally designated Comprehensive Transition Program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Taking place at Nottingham Field in June, the No Limits Camp was less of a traditional football camp and more of a carnival-style day featuring different stations with various games to accommodate each participant. Participants engaged in a range of football-related activities from throwing footballs into buckets to making diving catches onto a crash pad and tackling dummies to non-football-related activities including a station to create your own TikTok and a station to bump, set

and spike volleyballs with UNC's volleyball team. Other kids simply blew bubbles to relax and catch a break.

Campers were each paired with a football student-athlete and received individualized attention to "meet the participant where they were at," Gonzales said.

Jennifer Lieber, '94, M.A. '98, M.A. '01, Ed.D. '02, undergraduate academic advisor in the School of Special Education, created a special instructional video for the football players before the camp to make sure they were adequately prepared since the level of time and experience each student-athlete had with individuals with disabilities varied.

"We treated it just like what we do with our playbook," Gonzales said. "Prior to practices, we require the players to watch our videos that simulate different plays. It's an expectation everyone watches the videos so they know what to do when we get to practice. This was no different."

Lamb has emphasized the importance of having a strong culture in his first year on the job. For example, he encourages players to eat meals with one another and to connect with different players each day. He works out in the weight room with the players, demonstrating there's nothing he would ask his players to do that he wouldn't do himself. The No Limits Camp was another example of how tightknit the team has become.

"It wasn't a mandatory event, but we had near full participation from our team," Lamb said. "To see that high of a participation rate was very rewarding for me. Equally rewarding was the amount of gratitude players expressed following the camp, sharing how glad they were they had that opportunity."

The camp, which lasted four hours, had many highlights throughout the event. But for many, one element stood out above the rest.

Every participant got their own No Limits jersey and just like the Bears football team does before every home game, everyone got to run through the inflatable Bear onto Nottingham Field. Unlike Bear home games though, each participant got to hear their name announced on the public address system as they ran out.

"It was mind blowing to hear my name called out and to run through the inflatable bear," said Hunter Shultz, a No Limits Camp participant. "I've never heard my name called out in a stadium before. It was a pretty cool experience."

Abby Bush, a sophomore soccer player, was also in attendance. Her younger brother Jackson has Down syndrome and attended the camp "with a smile that didn't go away that day."

“It was one of the coolest things I’ve ever experienced, being at the No Limits Camp,” Bush said. “It means the world to kids with special needs to do something like this—it doesn’t happen very often. These football players are like celebrities to Jackson. To know it’s my school doing this is so awesome. My mom cried at the camp because it’s such a big deal to Jackson and the other kids who were there.”

Many tears of joy were flowing from parents that day, including from Kristin Stevenson, whose son Emmett attended the camp.

“You feel pretty special when you get to hang out with an entire football team and they genuinely want to be with you,” Stevenson said. “They put that energy out. That’s pretty amazing for a group of 18–22-year-olds. These are the moments that build confidence so when you have a bad day at school, you can reflect on this and know you have a whole football team behind you.”

When asked how she would sum the day up, Stevenson said, “with the word ‘joy.’ The joy in the student-athletes, in the kids coming in with big personalities themselves, the joy that enveloped these kids—every one of them came out of their shell and tried new things. I think being at this camp inspired the kids and the student-athletes were inspired by them, too.”

Couch, who started the Northern Colorado Down Syndrome Association and has a son, Caleb, with Down syndrome, was instrumental in developing the camp. But she is quick to give credit and praise to Coach Lamb, who had the inspiration behind it.

“To think UNC coaches and players took a day out of their training and saw value in that, it almost makes me emotional,” Couch said. “The fact that Coach Lamb knew his time being with these individuals would bring his team together and grow his program is quite overwhelming for a mom who has a kid with a disability.”

Caleb had such a great time at the camp, bonding with those he met, that he invited the two football players he was paired with to attend his baptism this fall. “He understands that these players want to be friends with him,” Couch said.

“They wanted to engage with him. It was so much more than just doing a drill. It was a real, genuine connection.

“A lot of times when you have a kid with a disability you’re not invited to the table, don’t have a place. You almost become accustomed to not being invited or not having opportunities, being left out, not seen as capable or valuable. This was a contrary experience. The kids were included, involved and celebrated. It was beyond what I thought it could be.”

While football camps typically come with a fairly high price tag to participate, the No Limits Camp cost only \$5 for families to participate, largely thanks to the generosity of donors, including Vinny Pallone, ’07, a former captain on the Bears football team, and his wife Mandie Pallone, who have a nephew who is autistic. As soon as Vinny met Coach Lamb and heard about the camp, he was inspired to give.

“I thought about my nephew running around the same field my brother and I played on—that was very moving,” Pallone said. “Coach Lamb’s vision is truly incredible.

“He came to Greeley and immediately did something for some of the most forgotten people in our community. The foundation he is building is rock solid. This man is the truth.”

The truth is Coach Lamb and his staff plan to hold the No Limits Camp again in 2024 and in future years, aspiring to make it bigger and better.

The Bears football team hopes that participants in the camp truly feel part of the program. One way to symbolize this feeling is that any camper who wears their No Limits jersey to a home football game this fall will receive free admission to the game.

“Inclusivity is the word of the year for our team,” Gonzales said.

Although the Ed Lamb era at UNC officially started on August 31 against Abilene Christian University, the first true win of the season came on June 22. **UNC**









# Meeting Colorado's Workforce Needs:

## IT'S ALL IN THE DATA

With a 20-year-old promise to provide career support to alumni for life, the university launches an extraordinary Alumni Employment Dashboard powered by actual career data.

The average person will now change careers three to seven times during their working life, and an American employee changes jobs on average 12 times, according to a 2023 article on Zippia, a top career-planning website. Their research further revealed 91% of millennials say they expect to change jobs every three years.

While navigating and changing careers can be challenging, job changes are clearly becoming commonplace, especially post-pandemic, according to Zippia. The reasons are many. People are seeking greater stability, flexibility, financial security or new interests, or they have shifting values or priorities, among others.

Late this summer, the Division of University Advancement launched an Alumni Employment Dashboard, an interactive online career exploration platform built on industry data and thousands of actual career paths of UNC alumni. The tool helps job seekers and others understand different career paths for UNC degree programs and identify which ones have a strong pipeline for UNC alumni.

Anyone can explore the dashboard at [unco.edu/bears-go-big](https://unco.edu/bears-go-big). Users can simply click on one of the charts to be able to manipulate the employment data with different filters based on interests. Anyone—including alumni, students, advisors and parents—can research careers and see which majors or fields of study graduates studied at UNC and the careers in which they are currently employed. Data is updated weekly.

“As UNC aims to be the university that Colorado looks to as the future of higher education, we have an opportunity to align the impact of alumni careers with institutional transparency and strategic priorities for career readiness,” said Lyndsey Crum, ’05, Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations.



“And it all begins with data.”

The dashboard also features a map showing the geographic distribution of alumni to illustrate how far-reaching Bear careers go across Colorado, the region and the nation, demonstrating the power of UNC's alumni network as well as the strong contributions to the state's workforce and talent.

UNC is the first university in Colorado to build a public dashboard populated by actual alumni employment data.

While the daily data fluctuates, on average, the career data populating the dashboard represents 45% of UNC alumni from the 1960s-2020s drawn from multiple sources. These include self-reported data, LinkedIn information sourced from LiveAlumni, university event attendees and communication information, an annual alumni survey and various university updates. Currently, the data comprises undergraduate alumni only, but future plans will include data from graduate alumni.

**The dashboard data and filters include:**

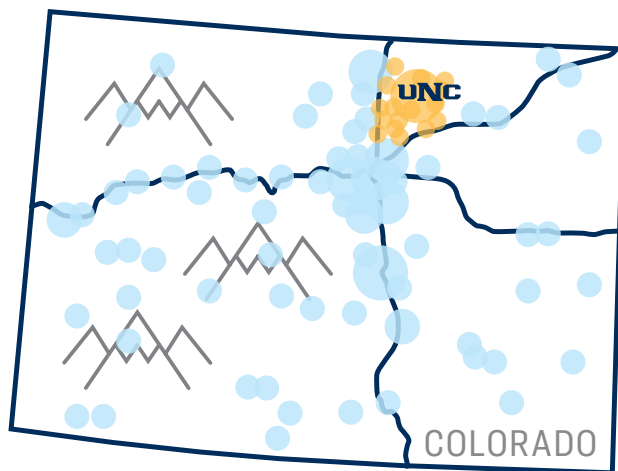
- Academic college and major
- Industry (classification of employer)
- Profession (classification of a position or occupation)
- Donor-funded scholarship status
- First generation student status

## FINDING YOUR PASSION AND A JOB, TOO

Alumni know all too well the power of a UNC degree. But now, they can see tangible, aggregated data visually depicting alumni successes. Alumna Ashley Valenzuela-Ruesgen, '11, Human Resources Director for United Site Services and a member of the university's alumni board, sees tremendous value in and application of the new dashboard.

“Data is powerful, and seeing is believing,” said Valenzuela-Ruesgen. “All universities love to tout their alumni network and job placement but it's pretty rare to have actual alumni data, tangible numbers. [The dashboard] provides true visuals of who's hiring UNC alumni, where alumni are going and what they are doing with their careers.”

“I had a non-traditional path as a student at UNC,” explained Valenzuela-Ruesgen, who majored in Political Science and Mexican American Studies with a Spanish minor. “I am grateful to have explored such different areas that interested me. No one ever told me that you have to go from point A to point B to point C in your career. Careers are rarely built on a highway, frequently, it's not a straight shot. Often careers have on and off ramps. There are traffic jams, construction, detours, speed bumps — all nature of obstacles along the way to navigate — and that's OK! The journey provides us with unique experiences and perspectives.”



### UNC Alumni Are Colorado's Workforce

UNC is proud to call Greeley home, and so do the many alumni who choose to live and work in Weld County and across Colorado. Yellow bubbles indicate cities/towns in Weld County. *UNC Alumni Employment Dashboard, 2023*

“It's about finding joy and purpose in your work. And making a decision [of what to study] with data is incredibly helpful,” said Valenzuela-Ruesgen, who went on to earn a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico and a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Strategic Human Resources from Regis University.

## WHERE THE BEARS ARE

The university is putting actual alumni data into the hands of students and influencers to help incoming and current students find the best career path for them. By accessing the Alumni Employment Dashboard, admissions counselors, academic and career advisors, high school guidance counselors and teachers can provide up-to-date information to help students research careers, industries and the academic majors at UNC that lead to jobs.

This student-centric approach of empowering students with data early in their college career can help them bridge the gap between their education and the job market. They can see how their interests, experiences, skills and academic major and coursework build on each other to prepare them for the workforce. Students can access alumni data and industry insights via summaries of aggregated demographic, geographic and employer data. They can also see trends by academic major, graduation year and geographic location. The dashboard illustrates the power of a UNC degree.

“Graduates of UNC go on to do *big* things — leading companies, leading social change and even leading major league baseball clubs,” said Crum. “With nearly 140,000 living alumni making up the global Bear Network, we

want to continue to be intentional in our efforts that tie curriculum to career paths that will help our students become the future leaders, change-makers and innovators we need in the world.”

For students struggling to find their purpose and settle on an academic major and for parents concerned about them landing a good job, the Alumni Employment Dashboard offers convenient and quick ways to research professions and jobs and obtain career guidance and advising, but it also helps them forge connections with UNC’s vast alumni network. Alumni often serve as invaluable career resources, mentors and professional contacts for current students, while fostering connection and providing insights into the job market or specific professions, all with a shared UNC experience.

### SUPPLY AND DEMAND: GETTING TO WORK

The powerful career platform is also a valuable tool for incoming and current UNC students as well as parents, counselors and advisors to explore the data behind successful alumni careers as they consider potential careers. It takes the guesswork out of identifying industries and career paths with in-demand, well-paying jobs in a changing workforce.

The annual Colorado Talent Pipeline Report identifies areas of growing demand and opportunity, key features of the current labor force and strategies to balance the supply and demand equation for talent. It also highlights the top jobs in Colorado—jobs with high annual openings, above average growth and a good wage.

In July 2022, CNBC ranked Colorado the number four state in the country to do business, and number one in the nation for workforce. At the time, Colorado had two job openings for every available worker.

UNC graduates are filling these jobs, significantly educating and training students to meet the needs of Colorado’s employers, businesses and the top industries. More than 11,000 undergraduate alumni are working in these in-demand fields in Colorado: education, health care, computer and math areas, social and community services, and life and physical sciences. The chart on the next page shows the percentages of alumni from each college at UNC who are now working in education-related professions. This truly demonstrates that all disciplines contribute to the in-demand workforce of education.

While K-12 is the #1 industry for UNC graduates, the data reveals that they show up inside and outside the classroom as principals, superintendents, school psychologists, nurses, nutritionists, coaches, biology teachers and other roles. With strong representation in these industries thanks to its legacy of preparing teachers and education professionals, UNC is well-positioned to continue building a strong workforce for Colorado and to ensure students pursue career paths and programs that guide them to upward social and economic mobility. Forbes has called college “one of the most important investments of students’ lives” so it makes sense that they are looking for an excellent return on that investment.

### Colorado’s Top Jobs by Major Occupational Profile in 2022

Colorado Workforce Development Council’s Talent Pipeline Report, 2022.

UNC offered degrees/study

Computer and Mathematical	Architecture and Engineering	Life, Physical and Social Sciences	Education	Health care	Community and Social Services
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers (7,808 annual openings)	Civil Engineers (1,243 annual openings)	Biological Technicians (466 annual openings)	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education (2,307 annual openings)	Registered Nurses (4,024 annual openings)	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder and Mental Health Counselors (1,431 annual openings)
Computer User Support Specialists (1,606 annual openings)	Architects, Except Landscape and Naval (1,449 annual openings)	Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health (346 annual openings)	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education (1,461 annual openings)	Massage Therapists (1,452 annual openings)	Paralegals and Legal Assistants (925 annual openings)
Computer Occupations, All Other (1,369 annual openings)	Electronics Engineers, Except Computer (605 annual openings)	Clinical, Counseling and School Psychologists (248 annual openings)	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education (1,161 annual openings)	Dental Assistants (1,308 annual openings)	Child, Family and School Social Workers (909 annual openings)



## BUILDING A BEAR WORKFORCE

The Alumni Employment Dashboard is also strengthening UNC's strategic partnerships with local and regional organizations on workforce development. One important collaboration is with The Weld Trust, with \$12.8 million in funding in 2022 to advance its mission of positively impacting the education and wellness of the people of Weld County.

UNC recently partnered with the philanthropic organization to build a custom employment dashboard so they can track the students they support through Bright Futures, a workforce initiative launched in 2015 to financially assist students pursuing post-secondary education or training and certification programs at a Title IV accredited institution.

"Bright Futures programming helps students attain their educational and vocational goals with the big picture goal of retaining Weld County's homegrown talent and enhancing our community pipeline," explains Lisa Taylor, senior program officer for The Weld Trust. "One of its core pillars is to guide long-term sustainable strategies for workforce development."

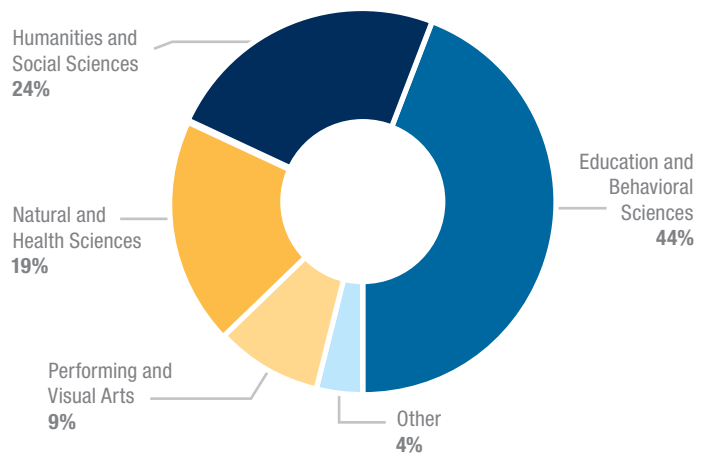
"But tracking labor data, especially when someone exits our program, can be problematic. We want to know where our [Bright Future] students are going — the fields and industries, the jobs and geographic locations," said Taylor. "The dashboard helps us track this data and is part of how we measure the long-term effectiveness of our program."

"We are invested in individual student success as well as the impact our Bright Futures scholars will have in Weld County's workforce" adds Taylor. "The employment dashboard is a tool we can use to continue growing and improving our services."

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO WITH MY DEGREE?

UNC made a promise to its graduates 20 years ago that it continues to uphold. During the first three years after graduation, alumni can obtain support from the Center for Career Readiness. They can access the full suite of services including the online platform Handshake to find jobs, new career opportunities or schedule appointments with staff.

After three years, Bears can seek career support from the Office of Alumni Relations for a range of services, including coaching sessions during career advancement or changes, career panel discussions, referrals to other alumni working in a desired field to discuss advancing or transitioning your career, and resume review among others.



*Note: Data reflects undergraduate alumni from 1960-2023 who are currently employed.*

### Education Professionals: By Their College of Graduation

Users can select a profession to see the percentages of alumni currently working in a specific profession by the college from which they graduated. The example above is for Education-related professions (either teachers/educators or educational administrators). *UNC Alumni Employment Dashboard, 2023*

According to a 2021 survey by The Motley Fool, a leading provider of investing and financial advice and related research, nearly 55% of Millennials, about 22% of Gen Xers, 15% of Gen Zers and 7% of Baby Boomers have changed career paths, not just jobs since March 2020. One-third of millennials said they would look for a new job, a larger percentage than any other generation, according to a 2021 survey from Prudential, and 26% of all workers have plans to look for a job now that the pandemic is no longer an issue.


Since we have returned to life post pandemic, the workplace has changed and so have people's expectations, needs and desires.

Whether you are a recent graduate, a rising professional, established professional or are re-entering the workforce, UNC's Alumni Relations can support you.

"We are committed to supporting the long-term careers of our alumni, providing assistance during all phases of their professional lives," said Crum. "We are here to help you navigate your career journey, make meaningful connections, overcome challenges and celebrate success." **UNC**



Share your career updates and your de-identified data will be aggregated into the dashboard's weekly refresh. Learn more at [unco.edu/bears-go-big](https://unco.edu/bears-go-big).



Associate Professor of Chemistry Geneva Laurita teaches a Chemical Reactivity Lab course at Bates College, inspiring the next generation of scientists like her UNC professors encouraged her to think bigger.

PHOTO BY PHYLLIS GRABER JENSEN/BATES COLLEGE

**GENEVA LAURITA, PH.D. '10**  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
and Biochemistry at Bates College

## UNC Served as 'a Nice Playground' for Chemistry Alumna

### Chemist awarded prestigious \$582K National Science Foundation Early CAREER Award

Geneva Laurita, Ph.D. '10, an associate professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Bates College in Maine since 2017, has received a five-year, \$582,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. This is the first time the chemist applied for the award to support her research on pyrochlore oxides, which may have energy and electronic applications.

The NSF CAREER award, considered to be one of the foundation's most prestigious awards for faculty members who are just beginning their teaching and research careers to propel them to the next level, is based on both Laurita's scientific research in solid state materials and how she brings undergraduates into this area of scientific exploration.

She describes the compounds as a "poorly understood family of materials" that could provide a useful alternative to other materials in technology-driven applications thanks to their less-toxic, potentially lead-free composition.

"Pyrochlores can be metals, they can be insulators, they can have magnetic properties or non-magnetic properties," she explains. "They're so adaptable that they provide a nice playground for chemistry."

But this playground has serious potential for use within energy and electronic applications. "We want to think about how we can manipulate these materials, using external things such as electric and magnetic fields," Laurita said.

Her work includes using advanced neutron and synchrotron X-ray scattering techniques to learn more about the structure of these materials. Laurita's research emphasizes



scattering experiments performed at national laboratories, which she was first introduced to at the University of Northern Colorado as an undergraduate.

It took Laurita some time as an undergraduate student at UNC before she found her way to chemistry. She tried out quite a few majors before finding the right one, considering majoring in music or becoming a pharmacist. But during her junior year, she took inorganic chemistry with Professor Robin Macaluso, Ph.D., and found her passion when she was introduced to the concept of superconductors.

“Things really clicked into place,” Laurita remembers. “I was like, ‘This is amazing’.” She took a fifth year and conducted research with Macaluso who sent Laurita to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), in Gaithersburg, Maryland, to do her first neutron-scattering experiment.

“I point to that particular trip as why I am doing everything that I’m doing today. It really sparked my love for neutron science, and this passion that I really do feel for undergraduate exposure to the national labs, because that’s when I got it.”

Laurita recalls the experience that would shape her career. She flew to Washington, D.C. herself, then took a train to Gaithersburg, arriving alone at NIST, where she was met by a scientist with whom Macaluso worked as a post-doc. She was awestruck by the facility, by the giant instrumentation and by the sense of proximity to real, high-stakes science.

“One of my pillars is giving undergraduates exposure to National Laboratories,” she says, referring to the powerhouse network of 17 research laboratories under the U.S. Department of Energy. “This NSF grant supports travel for undergraduate students to these National Labs where we can do some of these really cool experiments.”

In 2019, Laurita, whose parents are both UNC alumni, returned to campus to receive the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department’s Distinguished Alumni Award that year. She describes the department fondly saying “not only was [it] a source of education and professional development opportunities, but this department was a family and a home to me during my time here.”

When it came time to decide where to go to college, the choice of maintaining the family legacy was an obvious one for Laurita. Raised in a small agricultural community, Greeley felt like the perfect place to expand her horizons while living in a community that felt close to her roots. In classic UNC fashion, her parents met

while taking a Spanish class together and married after graduating with degrees in Business and Spanish from the university.

“From the very beginning, I felt like the faculty I interacted with were invested in recognizing my strengths and guiding me towards a path where I could find success,” said Laurita, recalling the close-knit community she built “that could weather the toughest storms.”

“When I enrolled at UNC, I wanted to be a Music and Chemistry double major, but I quickly realized the demands and rigor of both programs and decided to declare a Chemistry major.”

Her major advisor and organic chemistry professor, James Schreck, Ph.D., noticed how much Laurita was comfortable in and enjoyed the laboratory. He advised her to stay the course with her chemistry degree rather than leaving to pursue a pharmacy degree after two years.

“I remember several occasions frantically running into his office in a panic about my future career. He always calmly and patiently listened and provided guidance and advice,” recalls Laurita. “I am grateful that I took his advice. If I would have left after my second year at UNC, I would have missed three years of courses, research and summer experiences that completely ignited my passion in my current field of solid state chemistry.”

After meeting chemist Mas Subramanian, Ph.D. during a summer Undergraduate Research Experience program at Oregon State University, she decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry there and study under him, working on various oxide materials and employing many of the skills she learned at UNC with Macaluso. She then did postdoctoral work researching materials for solar applications at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Laurita strives to pay it forward to the next generation of chemists and scientists, just as Macaluso and Schreck helped her. The NSF grants have enabled Laurita to introduce students to concepts and research work that are typically available only to graduate students. As a result, undergraduates conducting research in Laurita’s lab have even been able to get published as her co-authors in academic journals.

In tackling today’s big problems, including renewable energy, Laurita explains that “we really need to bring everybody to the table.”

—Debbie Farris

*This story includes reporting from Bates College’s Communications and Marketing team.*

# Alumni Notes

## 70s

**Gineva Malliet**, B.A. '78, Alexandria, Virginia, will publish "The Washing Away of Wrongs," the 8th book in the Max Tudor series of crime novels.

**Michael Ahrens**, M.A. '78, P.S.Y. '86, Green Bay, Wisconsin, finished running a marathon in every state and on every continent.

**Tom Kummer**, B.A. '75, Erie, coached 24 years at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa before moving to Boulder High School where he coached another four years. Kummer remained a teacher of Health and Wellness, only retiring after 46 years in education.

## 80s

**David Sanford**, B.M. '85, Northampton, Massachusetts, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters department of music in 2022.

**Nomie Wells Ketterling**, M.A. '85, Eaton, and her husband, Mike, were awarded the Greeley Chamber of Commerce Leann Anderson award as they care deeply about and serve their community and the entire Northern Colorado Region.

## 90s

**Debbie Painter Montefusco**, B.A. '93, Cranston, Rhode Island, has gone back to school at Providence College to obtain her master's degree in Literacy so she can become a reading specialist.

**Jim Olsen**, Ph.D. '94, Macomb, Illinois, served as a mathematics faculty member in teacher education at Western Illinois University from 1994 until retiring in the spring of 2023.

**Bryan Guest**, B.S. '95, Greeley, was named regional president overseeing the Wyoming, Colorado and Arizona markets for First Interstate Bank.

**William Martinez**, B.A. '99, Westminster, won a Telly award and two AVA digital awards for

his inspirational keynote presentations "You Have Changed My Life" and "The Power of Belonging" reminding all educators of their incredible influence on their students' lives. Combining American Sign Language and singing, William has keynoted for over a quarter of a million educators across 45 states in several hundred school districts, as well as for the U.S. Department of Education.

## 00s

**Wendy Franz**, B.A. '00, Boulder, became Managing Director of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in 2015, the second oldest Shakespeare festival in the U.S. In addition to overseeing business operations for the festival, Franz directs and produces plays for the summer season as well as the festival's innovative Shakespeare and Violence Prevention school tour.

**Anna Green**, B.A. '01, Greeley, has been promoted to UNC's director of university events.

**Marty Unrein**, B.A. '04, Houston, Texas, began working on a drilling rig for Patterson-UTI in Colorado after graduation. In January, he was named the senior vice president of Sales & Marketing for Patterson-UTI.

**Marta Clausen Hurst**, B.S. '04, Boerne, Texas, started a business at the end of last year to help bring awareness to jobs in the retirement plan industry. She also helps interested students find jobs and make connections to give mentorship and aid career advancement.

**CeCe Majchrowski**, B.A. '05, Severance, presented at the 2023 National Association of Workforce Boards Forum to discuss high performing local boards.

**Chad Clark**, B.A. '06, Lakewood, has worked as a probation officer for 16 years specializing in juvenile justice. Clark served on the Advisory Commission on Youth from 2013 to 2016 following his appointment by previous Denver Mayor Michael Hancock.

**Ryan Bigley**, B.M.E. '08, Denver, spent 15 years as a music teacher all over Colorado. While teaching, he gained an interest in working behind the scenes at high school

and college sporting events as a public address announcer. Bigley has held positions as the first announcer for the Grand Junction Rockies team, DJing with the Colorado Eagles hockey team in Loveland and a job doing the scoreboard graphics with the Colorado Rockies.

**Cristina Mares**, B.A. '09, Highlands Ranch, has worked as the CRM and email marketing manager at Modern Elder Academy since December 2022, after receiving her HubSpot certification in Email Marketing that fall.

## 10s

**Lamar Reams**, Ph.D. '12, Pickerington, Ohio, has accepted a position as professor and department chair of sports administration in the College of Business at Ohio University.

**Mariah Cabrera**, B.S. '13, Littleton, works for a national nonprofit helping low income and formally homeless populations. Every summer she takes more than 50 at-risk youth fishing in one of our state parks and the youth receive a brand new fishing rod and backpack for attending the workshop.

**Colin Gause**, B.A. '19, Greeley, was hired back as UNC's director of player development for men's basketball in 2022 and was newly promoted to assistant coach in 2023.

**Suzie Mahon**, M.A. '19, Laramie, Wyoming, was recently nominated by the State of Wyoming Vision Outreach Services for the APH Scholar award.

## 20s

**Chloe Resler**, B.M. '20, M.M. '22, Gardena, California, will be performing at the International Bluegrass Music Association conference in September and presenting new research at the Jazz Education Network Conference in January. Resler is currently working in music education, restarting a music program at a high school.

**Nick Goldstein**, B.S. '20, Stillwater, Oklahoma, joined the Oklahoma State University athletic training staff in August of 2020 as a graduate assistant. He was promoted to full time athletic trainer in January of 2022.

 **Submit Alumni Notes online**  
at [unco.edu/unc-magazine](https://unco.edu/unc-magazine)

 **Follow along on Twitter @UNCBearsAlumni**  
for up-to-date alumni news and highlights

Editor's note: Alumni Notes items are submitted by alumni and are not fact-checked or verified for accuracy by our editorial team. While we welcome alumni news, *UNC Magazine* is not responsible for the information contained in these submissions.



# Mailbag

## Catching an Uber

I am thrilled to share that I recently graduated from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) with a bachelor's degree in Sport and Exercise Science with an emphasis in Sport Administration, along with a minor in Business Administration.

My time at UNC was truly transformative, and I am grateful for the valuable skills and experiences that have prepared me for the next phase of my life. As a marketing and fan engagement intern for UNC Athletics, I had the opportunity to contribute to multiple marketing campaigns and create engaging content that resonated with our fans. These experiences taught me the importance of effective communication, creativity, and attention to detail in building a strong brand.

Additionally, serving as the President of the UNC Club Swimming Team was a highlight of my time at UNC, and I am proud to have led such a talented and dedicated group of individuals.

I am beyond excited to share that I have landed a job as an Account Representative at Uber. This opportunity allows me to combine my passion for people with my interest in business and marketing. As an active ambassador of Uber Eats, I am committed to creating positive and impactful first impressions with potential restaurant partners. I work tirelessly to establish strong and sustainable partnerships that benefit both parties. Through effective communication, negotiation, and implementation of best practices, I am confident in my ability to foster long-term relationships with our restaurant partners. I am grateful for the support of my fellow alumni, and I am excited to see what the future holds.

Thank you for your continued support and Go Bears!

—Nathan Leigh, B.S. '22  
Parker, Colorado

## Journalism Educator Receives High Marks as Teacher

Upon my graduation I moved to Denver and taught in Denver Public Schools until 2000. As I retired, I was honored and humbled to be chosen as Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Subsequently, I was inducted into the Colorado Springs High School-Palmer High School Alumni Hall of Fame. That was a most honorable and humbling experience.

In 1973, I was awarded a master's degree in Journalism, after which I taught for eight years. The last 11 years of my career I was the coordinator of Gifted and Talented, primarily focusing on Odyssey of the Mind, a team competition for creative problem solving. During my career, I was also involved with creating and establishing Denver Area Youth Services. Following which I served many years as a board member including as treasurer, vice president and president. I retired from the board in 2018. Also, I served on the first anti-gang task force — a collaboration between Denver Police Department and Denver Public Schools.

In closing, I conclude by stating that the education I received from Colorado State College, now University of Northern Colorado, prepared and propelled me to a unique and magical career. I am married to Sally and the father of Nicole and Erica. They have distinguished themselves as biologists and an early childhood teacher. Sally is also a retired teacher having had a distinguished career.

—Ed Augden, B.S. '68  
Denver, Colorado

# Engage with YOUR BEAR NETWORK

The UNC community you knew as a student is the network you connect with as a professional. Get involved with current Bears, bond over shared experiences and help each other grow into powerhouse professionals.

- Mentor students and alumni
- Participate in Bear-to-Bear admissions outreach
- Hire a fellow Bear
- And so many more opportunities



Learn all the ways you can give back, visit [unco.edu/alumni/bear-network/get-involved.aspx](https://unco.edu/alumni/bear-network/get-involved.aspx) to learn about all of the ways you can give back and put your Bear network to work.



The Bear Sync event, 2022

**Lyda Fontes McCartin**, Ph.D. '20, Lexington, South Carolina, was named the new director of the School of Information Science at the University of South Carolina.

**Rachel Bolton**, U.CERT. '20, B.A. '21, Greeley, was awarded an internship at the public defender's office in August 2019 before being hired in November 2020.

**Sam Cook**, B.A. '22, Hillsboro, Oregon, has been accepted into an APA accredited doctorate program in clinical psychology beginning in August 2023.

**Haley Hulse**, B.A. '22, Fort Collins, was hired to go to New Zealand for a year with a Colorado family to homeschool their children using the Colorado curriculum.

**Denin Koch**, B.A. '23, Richland, Washington, won a full-time position on the jazz faculty of the University of Tennessee Knoxville beginning in the fall of 2023. He recently published a new article in *Jazz Research Journal* 16.1 and is slated to release a new album, "It Comes in Waves," in the fall of 2023 as well.

Hellzabruin 1949



## FROM THE VAULT

### The Homecomings of the Century: From Hellzabruin to Bear Sync

As the old French proverb says, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." This is definitely true for the past 100 years that UNC has celebrated homecoming. Calling home alumni from all graduation years, gathering around the bonfire with friends new and old and enjoying all the festivities celebrated that year has been the norm from the very beginning. This year, the week-long annual celebration featured classics like the football game and a tailgate, bonfire, fireworks and Bear Sync, among many others.

A little-known fact about the hit Bear Sync is that it has roots in a contest dating back to the 1940s. The group lip-syncing competition originated as "Hellzabruin," a student talent competition, in which featured acts would even lip-sync on occasion. While programming evolved to fit contemporary student and alumni interests, Bear Sync is proof that many events stand the test of time.

Diving deep into the archives and digging up photos from all the way back to the first homecoming, nothing evokes a sense of nostalgia quite like looking back at the beginnings of our mighty Bears. What better way to commemorate a 100-year run of UNC's beloved week of Homecoming celebrations, than a stroll down memory lane?



### Creating Art to Inspire Colorado's Latino Leaders

Julio "Juls" Mendoza, B.A. '12, Denver, was commissioned to create a live painting at the 2023 Colorado Latino Leadership and Legacy Gala earlier this fall. The annual gala serves as a platform to recognize, empower and connect the exceptional Latino leaders who are redefining our cultural and political landscape. Julio is a Denver-based multi-disciplinary artist born in El Paso, Texas and raised in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Juls' style is defined greatly by his Mexican heritage and Latino culture. He has created large-scale murals across Colorado and in Mexico.



# In Memory

## 1940s

Viola Wheeler, B.A. '42  
Barbara Reichen Noone, B.A. '45  
Joyce Anderson Tibbetts, B.A. '48  
Bonnie Lynch Garramone, B.A. '49  
Mildred Slater Hill, B.A. '49, M.A. '55  
Ed Vejvoda, B.A. '49, M.A. '51

## 1950s

Jamie McClendon, B.A. '50, M.A. '51  
Helen Poeppel Dalzell, B.A. '51  
Bob Gordon, B.A. '51  
Jack Hancock, B.A. '51  
Jack LaBonde, B.A. '51, M.A. '53  
Harold Hinkley, B.A. '52  
Wil Stutheit, B.A. '52  
Maggie McGowan Divelbiss, B.A. '53  
Samuel Dreith, B.A. '53  
Beulah Kennicutt, B.A. '53  
Albert Rich, B.A. '53, M.A. '58  
Tom Tsuha, B.A. '53  
Guy Abramo, B.A. '54  
Bob Brenner, M.A. '54, Ed.D. '68  
Donna River Cook, B.A. '54  
Miriam Michel Graetzer, B.A. '54  
Thomas Hallstrom, M.A. '54, Ed.D. '65  
Sallie Jacobson Johnson, B.A. '54, M.M. '80  
Ardyce Stevens Lightner, M.A. '54, Ed.D. '66  
Curt Lundberg, B.A. '54  
Clairelyn Lyngholm Pfeifer, B.A. '54  
Wil Wolf, B.A. '54, M.A. '61  
Bill Dumler, B.S. '55  
Hoy Frakes, B.A. '55  
Phyllis Richard Schlosser, B.A. '55  
Lisso Simmons, Ed.D. '55  
Billie Collins, B.A. '56, M.A. '57  
Sonny Darien, B.A. '56  
Donna Yearous Dimas, B.A. '56  
Jim Hansen, M.A. '56  
Ward Lee, B.A. '56  
Phillip Reigenborn, B.A. '56  
Philip Royer, B.A. '56, M.A. '57  
Bob Walters, B.A. '56, M.A. '57  
Lowell Cook, M.A. '57  
Norma Daane Frick, B.A. '57  
William Frick, B.A. '57, M.A. '59  
Spud Holdren, B.A. '57  
Harold Vander Laan, M.A. '57  
Shirley Dickenson McCune, B.A. '57  
Ruth Zimmerman Stumpf, B.A. '57, M.A. '70  
Jeanette Tisdale, M.A. '57  
Don Ater, B.A. '58, M.A. '61  
Carl Holt, B.A. '58  
Jerome Kessenich, B.A. '58  
Bob Laney, B.A. '58  
John Reimer, B.A. '58, M.A. '60  
Donald Shorman, M.A. '58  
George Walters, M.A. '58, Ed.D. '68  
Margaret Weigel Arfsten, B.A. '59, M.A. '65  
Alfred Brophy, B.A. '59  
Colleen Estes Cassell, B.A. '59  
Stella Talagan Contos, B.A. '59  
Vernon Cozad, B.A. '59  
Don Cummins, B.A. '59, M.A. '62  
John Gamet, B.A. '59  
Ronald Grandahl, M.A. '59  
Sandy Mason Harden, B.A. '59, M.A. '63  
Robert Huntington, M.A. '59  
Vonetta Chandler Kennedy, B.A. '59, M.A. '63  
Katherine Matayoshi, M.A. '59  
Betty Schimpf McGranahan, B.A. '59  
Jean Sheppard Overturf, B.A. '59, M.A. '68  
Charlene Daily Petrie, B.A. '59  
Howard Pigg, M.A. '59, Ed.D. '66  
Mons Roll, M.A. '59

Steve Stavrakas, M.A. '59  
Jean Allan Wilson, B.A. '59, M.A. '83  
Lorraine Skaff Winger, B.A. '59, M.A. '63  
Frederick Wostenberg, B.A. '59, M.A. '62

## 1960s

Jim Genasci, Ed.D. '60  
Don Lester, B.A. '60, M.A. '62  
Cletus Miller, B.A. '60  
Moe Mosley, B.A. '60  
Trish Dent Murphy, B.A. '60  
Marjorie Brunner Straube, B.A. '60  
Bob Asmus, B.A. '61, M.A. '64, M.A. '72  
Fernie Baca, B.A. '61  
Jack Kahler, B.A. '61  
Don Larson, B.A. '61  
Roland Marlatt, B.A. '61  
Don Martin, B.A. '61  
Norm Peercy, B.A. '61, M.A. '65  
Gordon Peterson, M.A. '61  
Larry Price, M.A. '61  
Ronald Ritchhart, M.A. '61  
Mary Jimenez Roldan, B.A. '61, M.A. '64  
William Sievers, M.A. '61  
Bonnie Spitzer, B.A. '61  
Freddie Zona, B.A. '61  
Ben Cimino, B.A. '62  
Larry Dodd, M.A. '62  
Thad Englert, B.A. '62, B.A. '62  
Donna Harvey Garland, B.A. '62  
David Jackson, B.A. '62  
Dale Jacobs, M.A. '62  
Phil Larson, M.A. '62  
Genevieve Nachtman, M.A. '62  
Elsie Reid, B.A. '62, M.A. '65  
Patricia TeMaat Ryden, B.A. '62  
Joan White Trukenbrod, B.A. '62  
Loretta Sloan Abbott, B.A. '63  
Ronald Bailey, B.A. '63

*Support  
Bears*  
**TODAY – AND  
TOMORROW**

Giving through your IRA rollover is an easy way to make a lasting and life-changing difference at UNC.

Whether you're exploring year-end gifts through your IRA or planning a legacy gift, we are here to help you take your impact even further.

James Harner, M.A. '63  
 Charlene Desiato Hemphill, B.A. '63, M.A. '80  
 Patrick Holligan, B.A. '63  
 LeVern Jensen, M.A. '63  
 Max McMillan, B.A. '63  
 Barbara Wallace Meanor, B.A. '63  
 Barbara Pinkerton Nootz, M.A. '63  
 Larry Oelschlager, B.A. '63, M.A. '67  
 Ann Smith Rafert, B.A. '63, B.A. '63  
 Janet Roth Walker, B.A. '63  
 Raymond Bailey, B.A. '64  
 Kenneth Carey, B.A. '64  
 Dona Richeson Cason, B.A. '64  
 Helen McDonald Cook, B.A. '64, M.A. '69  
 Glen Earthman, Ed.D. '64  
 Rich Green, B.A. '64  
 Raymond Helling, B.A. '64  
 Rod Holst, B.A. '64  
 Andrew Kerby, B.A. '64  
 Joann Miner Lewis, B.A. '64  
 Joyce Mrkvicka Lindholm, B.A. '64  
 Doug Noffsinger, B.A. '64, B.A. '64  
 Marian Eberle Reeves, B.A. '64, M.A. '69  
 Ruth Austin Simmons, B.A. '64  
 Jerry Truesdell, M.A. '64, D.A. '81  
 Wayne Buhlig, M.A. '65  
 Dianne Travis Davis, B.A. '65, B.A. '68  
 Grace Boddy Kanani, B.A. '65, M.A. '67  
 William Keller, Ed.D. '65  
 Jerry Krause, M.A. '65, Ed.D. '67  
 Andrew Lake, B.A. '65  
 Jim McNeal, B.A. '65  
 Joan Miles Pharr, M.A. '65, Ed.D. '74  
 Richard Reimer, M.A. '65  
 Sandra Matthews Reiter, B.A. '65  
 Gary Schreiber, M.A. '65  
 Molly O'Brien Shown, B.A. '65  
 Richard Sorenson, M.A. '65  
 Floyd Behrens, Ed.D. '66  
 MaryAnn Burton, M.A. '66  
 Tony Calabro, M.A. '66, Ed.D. '73  
 William Crosby, M.A. '66  
 Harry Garrett, M.A. '66  
 Jerry Heydon, B.A. '66  
 Carl Johnson, M.A. '66  
 James McDowell, B.A. '66  
 Verl Nelson, M.A. '66  
 Patricia Papenheim, M.A. '66  
 Gary Rankin, Ph.D. '66  
 Joan Whittington Stanley, B.A. '66  
 William Weaver, B.A. '66  
 Alfred Abramowitz, M.A. '67  
 Andy Anderson, Ed.D. '67  
 Brian Brown, B.A. '67, M.A. '71  
 Bill Byers, B.A. '67  
 David Erickson, M.A. '67  
 Colleen McCune Foster, B.A. '67  
 Katherine Jackson Kitamura, B.A. '67  
 Sandra Koppenhafer, B.A. '67

Frank Meyers, Ed.D. '67  
 Frances Nicols Parmelee, B.A. '67  
 Pat Patterson, Ed.D. '67  
 Thomas Radford, M.A. '67  
 Richard Roberts, B.A. '67  
 Tom Sheldahl, M.A. '67  
 Arlee Waring, B.A. '67  
 Alice White, M.A. '67  
 Martin Woolford, B.A. '67  
 Gwendolyn Chase Anderson, M.A. '68  
 Bill Austin, B.A. '68  
 Bert Budd, M.A. '68  
 Harold Dunn, M.A. '68  
 David Hirsch, B.A. '68  
 Stanley Lampe, M.A. '68  
 James Lyke, Ed.D. '68  
 Michael Peters, B.A. '68  
 Steve Peterson, B.A. '68, M.A. '71  
 Terri Riffe, B.A. '68  
 Curtis Winterfeldt, M.A. '68  
 Polly Pulsipher Artz, B.A. '69, M.A. '80  
 Dick Brown, M.A. '69  
 Bob Carmosino, B.A. '69  
 Jeanne Winslett Jones, B.A. '69  
 Dale McCoy, B.A. '69  
 Jack O'Brien, B.A. '69  
 Charles Schoonover, M.A. '69  
 Ron Walker, B.A. '69, M.A. '73  
 Evelyn Olson Ward, M.A. '69

## 1970s

Arthur Bates, Ed.D. '70  
 Myrene Larson Bunge, M.A. '70  
 Lou Ann Marquardt Fankhauser, M.A. '70  
 Merry Gotch, B.S. '70  
 John Helmut, B.S. '70  
 Bob Hicks, M.A. '70  
 Marsha Baker Howery, B.A. '70  
 Wilmer Kirschenmann, Ed.D. '70  
 Verva Lacy, M.A. '70  
 Jerry Peters, B.A. '70  
 Brian Rich, M.A. '70  
 Jim Snook, M.A. '70  
 Janna Sittler Thiel, B.A. '70  
 Ruth Stallings Aultman, M.A. '71  
 Mary Beek, B.A. '71  
 Joanne Gochenour Bracker, M.A. '71  
 Suzanne Bright, B.A. '71  
 Charla Beck Brown, B.S. '71  
 Gary Bryan, B.A. '71  
 Bob Carlson, B.A. '71, M.A. '75  
 Lon Cassino, B.S. '71  
 John De Santo, Ed.D. '71  
 John Drake, B.A. '71  
 Nona Lindsey Hentschel, B.A. '71  
 Bruce Jensen, B.A. '71  
 Leona Karr, M.A. '71  
 Arden Kirkpatrick, B.S. '71  
 Dick Lindeman, M.A. '71, Ed.S. '72, Ed.D. '73

Bob Lundeen, B.S. '71  
 Jean Odstrcil Mallett, B.A. '71, M.A. '72  
 Mike McMillan, B.A. '71  
 Gene Nuss, B.A. '71  
 John O'Neill, Ed.D. '71  
 Patricia Sconiers Spaulding, B.A. '71, M.A. '74  
 Rob Stoffregen, B.A. '71  
 Charles Thelen, M.A. '71, Ed.D. '73  
 Benino Trujillo, B.A. '71, M.A.  
 Dennis Lihs, M.A. '72  
 Joe McFadden, B.S. '72  
 Fran Pfalzgraff, B.S. '72  
 Lorraine DeVries Picker, B.A. '72, M.A. '76  
 Larry Powers, B.A. '72, M.A. '74  
 Randall Reed, B.A. '72  
 Lee Tompkins Roe, B.A. '72  
 Robert Seedroff, B.A. '72  
 Gloria Gonzales Swetlic, B.A. '72  
 Stephen Webster, B.A. '72  
 Jennie Lamutt Williams, B.A. '72  
 Merrideth Akers, M.A. '73  
 Dick, Betting, Ed.D. '73  
 Mary Camp-Johnson, B.A. '73  
 Renee Pater Clemann, B.A. '73  
 Leslie Francis, Ed.D. '73  
 Paulette Fisch Haley, B.A. '73  
 Mike Johannes, B.S. '73  
 Joseph Langley, M.A. '73, Ed.D. '81  
 Maureen Jaap McClanahan, B.A. '73  
 Daryl Newman, B.A. '73  
 George Partilla, M.A. '73  
 Doyle Richardson, M.A. '73  
 William Sanchez, M.A. '73  
 Bob Wiley, M.A. '73  
 Ted Bishop, M.A. '74  
 Charles Bohn, B.A. '74  
 Elva Stander Chilson, B.S. '74  
 Tom Graves, Ed.D. '74  
 Joann Hanson, Ed.S. '74  
 Larry Harper, B.S. '74  
 Mary Lawlor McCarthy, M.A. '74  
 Susan Hiebert McFarland, B.A. '74  
 Kathleen Corrigan Newman, M.A. '74  
 Jim Richardson, B.A. '74, M.A. '79  
 Kirk Robertson, B.S. '74  
 Mildred Hall Smith, M.A. '74  
 John Waterbrook, Ed.D. '74  
 Roger Ailman, B.S. '75, M.S. '77  
 Ken Albertsen, M.A. '75  
 Thomas Allen, B.M.E. '75  
 Jan McLellan Cochran, M.A. '75  
 James Cox, M.A. '75  
 Lorna Harris, B.A. '75, M.A. '76  
 Eddie Morin, M.A. '75  
 Rock Sassano, M.A. '75  
 Jerry Siote, B.S. '75  
 Dick White, B.A. '75  
 Jeanne Thompson Ambrosier, M.A. '76  
 Lindy Lamont Churchill, B.A. '76



Mark Goulette, B.A. '76  
 Greg Lane, '76  
 Becky Shirbroun Mangin, B.A. '76, M.A. '78, M.A. '82  
 Bill Miller, Ed.D. '76  
 Evelyn Anderson Morrison, B.A. '76, MPH '96  
 Julie Lowe Muller, M.A. '76  
 Marty Murphy, M.A. '76  
 Sandy Githens Olson, Ed.D. '76  
 Arlyn Ristau, Ed.D. '76  
 Joanne Rudoff, M.A. '76  
 John Sonnelitter, M.A. '76  
 Gus Spano, B.A. '76  
 Timothy Tyler, M.A. '76  
 Marguerite Brady-Ciampa, Ed.D. '77  
 Steve Cassaday, B.A. '77  
 Kathy Diver Jacobsen, B.A. '77  
 Ron Kozma, M.A. '77  
 Lee Lindbloom, B.A. '77  
 Leila Pass, M.A. '77  
 Marianne McCarthy Quinn, M.A. '77  
 Becky Archuleta Sais, B.A. '77, M.A. '81  
 Les Stiles, M.A. '77  
 Allen Tubbs, D.A. '77  
 Pat Lock Hinrichs, M.A. '78  
 Jay Justis, M.S. '78  
 Marilyn LaMarsh, M.A. '78  
 Katherine Klinzmann Larsen, B.S. '78  
 Bruce McLean, M.A. '78  
 Donna Pellican, M.A. '78  
 LeAnna Johnson Skogen, M.A. '78  
 Chryl Clapper Statler, B.A. '78  
 Hugh E. Sweeney, M.A. '78  
 Sheryl Williams Winds, M.A. '78  
 Mike Bishop, B.A. '79  
 Jim Brundige, B.S. '79  
 Robert Bowles, B.A. '79  
 Linda Burchfield, M.A. '79  
 Michael Carsella, B.A. '79  
 Palma Wolff Chambers, M.A. '79  
 Diane Halla, B.A. '79  
 Andy Anderson Nichols, B.A. '79  
 Bruce Patrick, M.A. '79  
 Jean Patrick, M.A. '79  
 Norman Pfancook, M.S. '79  
 Mike Ridgeway, B.S. '79  
 Robert Sims, M.A. '79

## 1980s

Judith Bennett, B.A. '80, M.A. '96  
 Beverly Howard Ford, M.A. '80  
 Kenneth Hallgren, Ed.D. '80  
 Monica Greig Kahn, B.A. '80  
 Diane Kirk Kirkpatrick, B.A. '80  
 Deanna Sprind Lewis, B.S. '80  
 Barbara Sturm Nesland, M.A. '80  
 Stephen Pribyl, M.A. '80  
 Jay Raschke, M.A. '80  
 Lona McMakin Stanley, M.A. '80  
 June Sullivan, Ed.D. '80  
 Paula Brooke, M.A. '81

Johnnie Hall, M.A. '81  
 David Hartenbach, Ed.D. '81  
 Kathleen McGee, M.A. '81  
 Jim Sears, B.S. '81  
 Vickie Pohlman Tucker, B.S. '81  
 Russell Ware, M.S. '81  
 Ron Winter, M.A. '81  
 Leesa Bonkiewicz Anthony, B.S. '82  
 Merle Harris Ashley, M.A. '82  
 Richard Barrett, M.S. '82  
 Oscar Cantu, M.A. '82  
 Norma Carter, B.S. '82  
 Byron Gardiner, B.A. '82  
 Marian Barr Griffen, M.A. '82  
 Helen Hammond Ingalls, M.A. '82  
 Virginia Struckman Stoddard, M.A. '82  
 Tom Veneziano, B.S. '82  
 Rick Hubbell, MBA '83  
 Cheryl Richert, B.A. '83  
 Gundar Savig, B.A. '83  
 Randall Sirowy, M.A. '83  
 Gregory Beytien, B.S. '84  
 Alois Breuer, B.A. '84  
 Bob Larzelere, M.A. '84  
 Phyllis Vale Smith, B.A. '84  
 William Wride, B.S. '84  
 Katrina Baca, B.S. '85  
 Rebecca Shafer-Chunko, B.A. '85  
 Sandra Grchan Duran, B.S. '86  
 Mary Folladori, B.S. '86, M.S. '97  
 Robert Fox, M.A. '86  
 Andrew Kassel, B.A. '86  
 Michael Verchota, B.A. '86  
 Carolyn Moyer Daigneau, B.S. '87  
 Mary Ann Hubbard, M.A. '87  
 AJ Spade, B.S. '87  
 Norma Ohlson Gress, M.A. '88  
 Jeanette Rosenthal King, B.S. '89  
 John Piccotti, B.S. '89  
 Bruce Riser, M.A. '89  
 Jeffrey Romero, B.S. '89  
 Donna Jensen Geckler Solod, BAE '89

## 1990s

Karen Crowder Love, M.A. '90  
 Michael Fern, BAE '91, M.A. '97  
 Mark Olson, M.A. '91  
 Christopher Walker, B.S. '91  
 Elaine Berson Connolly, M.A. '92  
 Amy Haselgren, BAE '92  
 Beth Rhoades, B.S. '92, M.A. '94  
 Melinda Gable, B.S. '93  
 Lon Gunderson, B.S. '93  
 Carla Foley-Trumbo, M.A. '93  
 Sherri Hamm Nord, B.M. '93  
 Laura Cudmore, B.A. '94  
 Jennie Knippelmeyer Kasid, B.A. '94  
 Dale Meyer, B.A. '94  
 Eleanor Fullerton Phillips, B.S. '94  
 Jeff Verretta, B.S. '94

*"I have always wanted to sing in Carnegie Hall. When the trip was first proposed, I was unsure if I would be able to go because of my financial status.*

*When we found out that the trip would be covered via the PVA travel fund, a huge weight was lifted off of my shoulders. I was able to focus on performing at Carnegie instead of worrying if I was going to have enough money to be able to attend in the first place."*

—EMMA LARSON, '25  
 MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR



**Ensure students are ready for the next step in their careers**

You can support students beyond the classroom by providing opportunities for meaningful research and enrichment experiences.

[give2unc.org/career-ready](https://give2unc.org/career-ready)

Ron Williamson, M.A. '94  
 Ken David, B.A. '95  
 Amy Bachman Gentry, B.S. '95, M.S. '98  
 Maria Chavez Spoon, B.A. '95  
 Rickey Hayes, M.A. '96  
 Kerri Hancock Lenhard, B.A. '96  
 Adina Garcia-Premier, B.A. '96  
 Amy Eitemiller-Morrison, M.M. '97  
 Lisa Meiklejohn Heinz, B.S. '97  
 Lee Sanne Hanson Roy, B.S. '97  
 Donavan Brown, B.A. '98  
 Linda Kelly, Ed.D. '98  
 Aaron Aure, M.A. '99  
 Erin Parkison Bond, B.A. '99  
 Betty Mahaffy, M.A. '99

## 2000s

Eunice Sternat Krivonak, B.A. '00  
 Scott Redfield, B.S. '00  
 Jamie Greenfield Linville, B.A. '00  
 Darcy Pullin Titus, B.A. '01  
 John Tresner, M.A. '02  
 Scott Nash, B.S. '03  
 Laura Grimshaw Hale, B.A. '04  
 Adrah Leitner, B.A. '05  
 Brad Forbush, B.A. '06  
 Jammie Massey, M.A. '06  
 Phill Sjoberg, B.A. '07  
 Ashley Dryer, B.A. '08  
 Brian Yurko, B.S. '08  
 Katee Pearce, B.S. '09  
 Whitney Smith Vaughns, B.A. '09

## 2000s

Sean Ilgen, B.S. '11  
 Tyler Ohlson, B.S. '11  
 Roslyn Wright, B.A. '12

## 2010s

Sean Ilgen, B.S. '11  
 Tyler Ohlson, B.S. '11  
 Roslyn Wright, B.A. '12

## 2020s

Annalise Appel, Ed.S. '20  
 Sam Degraw, B.S. '20  
 Ren Nisley, B.A. '20  
 Becky De Oliveira, Ph.D. '22  
 Katherine Whisenant, B.A. '22

## Faculty and Emeritus Faculty

Tess Malumphy  
 John Vonk  
 Lesley Manring-Borchers  
 Doris Steffy  
 Wanda Eastwood Brewer, M.A. '61, Ed.D. '68  
 Larry Harrison  
 Shad Shadwick  
 John Dietz, M.A. '63

## Tributes

**John Dietz, M.A. '63**, was born May 4, 1938, in Broken Bow, Nebraska. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska Lincoln in three years. Later, John taught at the Broken Bow Junior-Senior High School while managing the family farm. During the summers, he attended the then-Colorado State College (now UNC) in Greeley, Colorado, where he earned a master's degree. In 1967, he accepted a faculty position in the Geography Department at Colorado State College in Greeley, where he remained until 2001 when he became Professor Emeritus. Dietz was an active member of his community, participating in the UNC Emeritus Faculty Association and Friends of the UNC Libraries among many others.

Memorial gifts may be made in John's memory to the Dietz-Cummins Scholarship Fund at UNC.

**Frank Lucero, B.A. '74, M.A. '77**, was born in Monte Vista, Colorado. He earned his bachelor's degree in Social Science and Secondary Education as a first-generation student in 1974 after serving in the Army. Later, Lucero returned to UNC earning his master's degree in Educational Administration in 1977. After earning a doctorate in Organizational Development from Colorado State University in 1985, he returned to UNC serving as the assistant dean of students for cultural diversity and director of the Hispanic cultural center. His career was dedicated to serving others and creating opportunities for students to succeed.

Memorial gifts may be made in Frank's memory to the Dr. Frank J. Lucero Memorial Scholarship.

**Bob Blasi, M.A. '57**, was born in rural Cunningham, Kansas, in 1930. He graduated with his undergraduate degree from Colorado A&M University in 1953 and later earned his master's degree in K-12 Physical Education from UNC in 1957. Blasi took the helm as UNC head football coach in 1966 and had a remarkable 30-year run, retiring after the 1984 season as the winningest coach in UNC football. Credited with putting UNC football on the map, Coach Blasi led the Bears to six conference championships and amassed an overall record of 107-71-3.

Blasi built the UNC football program into a powerful, dominant force. His 1969 team finished 10-0, won the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference title and was ranked No. 3 by United Press International. In 1980, during the team's first full season in the North Central Conference, considered one of the top NCAA Division II leagues in the nation, the Bears won the conference title and earned their first Division II playoff berth. In 1995, Blasi was inducted into the UNC Hall of Fame Class and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2010.

Memorial gifts may be made in Bob's honor to the UNC Quarterback Club.



To make a gift in support of one of these funds, visit [give2unc.org](https://give2unc.org) or mail your gift made payable to the UNC Foundation, Campus Box 20, Greeley, CO 80639.



# Farewell to a Champion for Education and a Transformational Leader

## Former UNC President Richard Bond Passes Away



The Bear community mourns the loss of Richard Bond who passed away on Thursday, Oct. 26, at the age of 95. As UNC's ninth president, Bond served the university from 1971-81 after serving as vice president of academic affairs at Illinois State University, an institution like UNC in mission and purpose.

"Dick was a great leader, and the legacy he left on our university is eternal. He cared deeply about UNC and worked tirelessly on behalf of our students, faculty and staff," said current UNC President Andy Feinstein.

Bond grew up in a small West Virginia town during the Great Depression. His upbringing shaped his democratic values toward education. He became deeply committed to the idea of making college

education as accessible as possible.

He earned his bachelor's at Salem College, a master's degree at West Virginia University and a doctorate in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin. After teaching biology at Salem College, he gravitated toward higher education administration at Elmira College in New York, Cornell University and Illinois State University.

In 1963, Bond moved to Africa as the dean of Arts and Sciences through Cornell's partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the University of Liberia. During that time, he counseled Peace Corps volunteers pursuing graduate school after finishing their tours. The experience shaped his views on cultural diversity.

In the late 1960s, Bond returned to the U.S. in the wake of the civil rights movement to serve as the academic vice president at Illinois State. He initiated a student exchange program with two other universities to add cultural diversity to students' educational experience. This happened at a time when the nation and students on college campuses were searching to understand identity, history and how differences fit into the idea of American culture. The program became the National Student Exchange and has since impacted the lives of more than 123,000 students across the country.

In 1971, Bond became president of UNC. His primary goals were to ensure that UNC became a teaching university with a focus on students, to create a vibrant liberal arts community atmosphere and to increase diversity and opportunities for all students.

The 1970s were a decade of transformation in education, and Bond saw to it that innovation and experimentation were hallmarks of UNC during his tenure. He established the departments of Mexican-American Studies, African-American Studies and Women's Studies. He worked tirelessly to position UNC as a student-oriented institution that makes a college degree accessible to all. Bond also advocated to expand UNC's role beyond its own campus to offer



Richard Bond (far right) is pictured here with UNC President Andy Feinstein (center) and another former President Robert Dickeson (left) at Feinstein's investiture as the university's 13th president in 2018.

what was considered ground-breaking at the time: off-campus education programs.

Thanks to his political acumen, Bond achieved a significant legislative accomplishment for UNC when he helped create a separate board of trustees for UNC in 1973, ensuring its governance remained separate from the four state colleges. He strongly advocated for UNC to be called the state's "third university," alongside University of Colorado and Colorado State University.

After retiring from UNC, Bond turned his attention to state government, serving three terms in the Colorado Legislature. Notably, he authored the Post-Secondary Options Act, which enabled students to enroll in college course work while in high school.

Bond's accomplishments were extraordinary, and UNC formally recognized them in 2005 with the naming of Bond Hall. The historic residence hall, one of four that bears the name of former university presidents, sits along President's Row on Central Campus.

Former President Bond was a generous community leader, supporter and philanthropist. Together with his wife of 77 years, Reva, he supported UNC by establishing the Richard R. and Reva S. Bond Community College Scholarship Endowment, serving on the College of Natural and Health Sciences Advisory Board since 2015 and making other gifts to the college, the annual Women's Walk, the UNC library, scholarships and athletic teams.

For more than 50 years, Dick Bond, the quintessential teacher and a lifelong learner, has been a driving force in the evolution of education in Greeley, the state of Colorado and nationally. He will be missed.





UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN  
COLORADO**

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

University Advancement  
c/o UNC Foundation  
501 20th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631-6900

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 3280  
DENVER, COLORADO



Follow us on Instagram at [unc\\_colorado](https://www.instagram.com/unc_colorado)  
**#UNCBears**



Update your address at [unco.edu/unc-magazine](https://unco.edu/unc-magazine)



And just like that the 100th  
Homecoming goes out with a bang.  
Gone, but not forgotten!