

UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
SPRING 2024

magazine

KEEPING A COLLEGE EDUCATION WITHIN REACH

New Tuition Promise program
provides free tuition for students
with the greatest financial need.
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A Family of Bears
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Fellow Bears,

After a phenomenal semester, summer is here at last! The campus has become quieter with many students graduating or moving away until the fall. Now is a good time to review our strategic plan and priorities for the upcoming academic year. I am happy to report that we are in a strong position thanks to two significant achievements that will transform our university and define its future for decades.

- We are proud to be Colorado's newest **Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)**. In March, we earned the official designation by the U.S. Department of Education that has been years in the making. This achievement opens doors for all students and faculty since the university is now eligible for new funding opportunities to support student success and help build and foster more cultural responsiveness on our campus. It also signals to our students, their families, and the broader community that UNC is a place committed to creating a sense of belonging and supporting student success. This bold vision is fundamental to who we are and to our future. ¡Vamos Osos!
- Our ambitious plan to establish a **College of Osteopathic Medicine** is moving closer to fruition. Colorado lawmakers passed House Bill 24-1231, which Governor Polis signed into law on May 1. The investment includes \$127.5 million for construction, startup and accreditation expenses and \$41 million for the escrow needs of the project. The college will enroll 150 medical students annually, with an inaugural class anticipated to start as early as fall 2026. The college will play a pivotal role in strengthening the state's health care workforce, particularly in rural communities, to address Colorado's staggering 65% of unmet physician needs (U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration).

Our progress has been nothing short of remarkable. Despite the long road and challenges of such monumental initiatives, our university community has shown incredible resilience and determination to not only maintain but also to raise our standards of excellence. These accomplishments will transform our community and our university. I hope you will share in our Bear Pride!

Join me in celebrating our 1,500 spring and summer 2024 graduates who come from 46 Colorado counties, 45 states and 21 countries. The Class of 2024 reflects the largest percentage of first-generation students receiving a bachelor's degree and is UNC's most diverse class of graduate and undergraduate students in the past five years. I think you will enjoy the story of business alum Kayla Minton, '23, with her service dog and constant companion, Banjo, from our winter Commencement.

As you take in the beautiful, long summer days, I invite you to read through the amazing stories highlighting alumni, students and faculty and their extraordinary accomplishments in this issue of the *UNC Magazine*. Thank you for all you do to support UNC.

Go Bears!



Andy Feinstein
President



The *Rowing, Not Drifting 2030 Strategic Plan* can be found online at unco.edu/strategic-plan

Bishop-Lehr Hall, the proposed site for UNC's new College of Osteopathic Medicine building. See p. 3 and p. 37 for details.

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Congrats to the Class of 2024! Thanks to
UNC's new Tuition Promise, even more
students will be able to experience days
like this in the coming years.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

I'm a Bear

A Q&A WITH BANJO, THE DOG

Kayla Minton, '23, graduated last fall with her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Computer Information Systems. During her college experience, her constant companion was her service dog (and proclaimed 'son') Banjo, who is half American Akita, a quarter German Shepherd, a quarter Belgian Malinois and 100% a good boy.

Banjo took UNC's fall graduation ceremonies by storm alongside Minton, in his dog-sized cap and gown.

"Since Banjo does literally everything with me, including going to all the same classes I did, he deserved to walk for graduation with me," said Minton.

We took a deep dive, and now present ... a Q&A with Banjo:

What was your favorite class?

I loved it whenever we had class in the computer labs since under the desk was the perfect napping spot where I could still be close to Mom [Minton].

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

My favorite spot on campus is the student lounge area in Kepner Hall, it's almost as good as napping in the computer labs.

Are the squirrels on campus friends or foes?

The squirrels are friends, the rabbits are friends, the birds are friends — everyone's a friend!

What are your after-graduation goals?

Right now, we haven't been leaving the house as much as we used to, but Mom says we have to get a job soon so that she can "bring home the bacon," whatever that means.

How can more dogs get their degree?

You have to really work for it because, man was it RUFF! Sometimes Mom even made me carry her laptop and books for class. It was hard work, but worth it!

What was your go-to study snack?

I loved it whenever Mom or one of her friends had Chipotle for lunch. I was always welcome to snack on the leftover tortilla chips. Mom also always carried some beef jerky for us to snack on between classes or when she wanted to reward me for being a good boy. And I'm always a good boy!

Thank you, Banjo, for your time, great answers and for teaching us how fellow dogs can be graduates of UNC!

—Kayla Minton, '23 and Banjo, as told to Brenna Rhiness



BANJO
Good boy

➤ Read about our 2024 Spring Graduates at unco.edu/news



News Briefs

THIS HISTORIC MOMENT: UNC RECEIVES \$127 MILLION FOR NEW COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Thanks to the passage of House Bill 24-1231 signed into law by Governor Polis May 1, UNC's proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine is closer to fruition. By educating the next generation of doctors, the new college will also address Colorado's critical shortage of physicians." An inaugural class of 75 is expected to start as early as fall 2026, with 120 medical students the next year and growing to full class size of 150 students thereafter.

The bill provides \$127.5 million to fund construction, startup and accreditation expenses. The state will also invest nearly \$41 million from its statutory reserve to cover the project's escrow needs, as required by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

Opening the College of Osteopathic Medicine requires a minimum investment of \$200 million. In addition to the state funding, UNC has initially raised \$31 million from generous donors, including a landmark \$25 million gift from The Weld Trust to support the transformative initiative. Fundraising for the new college is ongoing.

"The College of Osteopathic Medicine will yield dividends for Colorado, today and for generations to come," said UNC President Andy Feinstein. "It will play a pivotal role in strengthening the state's health care workforce, particularly in rural communities."

With the worsening health care provider shortage in the state, especially in underserved and rural communities, more doctors and health care professionals are needed to support Colorado's growth.

According to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, a staggering 65% of Colorado's physician needs remain unmet. In 2023, all but three of Colorado's 64 counties lacked enough primary care health professionals. The proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine at UNC will

ECONOMIC BOOM OF \$1.4 BILLION TO COLORADO

The proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine will serve as a powerful economic engine for creating jobs, attracting talent and boosting local economies. The initiative is expected to bring a \$1.4 billion boost to Colorado's economy over the next 20 years, along with \$84 million in taxpayer benefits, according to a recent economic impact study by Lightcast. The study also projects the new college will positively impact Coloradans well into the future, contributing at least \$197.2 million annually in added income to the state's economy after the initial 20-year period.

increase health care access for rural communities, leading to better outcomes for patients throughout Colorado.

The college would be the third medical school in Colorado and the only college of osteopathic medicine at a public university. Nationally, there are 40 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine, but only seven are at public colleges and universities.

"D.O.s are more likely to practice primary care compared to M.D.s and they have a long tradition of providing care in communities where patients lack doctors," said Dr. Beth Longenecker, founding dean of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine.

With about 26% of UNC students identifying as Hispanic or Latine, the university's new college will help diversify Colorado's health care workforce while building on its legacy of serving community needs — first addressing teacher education in 1889 at its founding and now, addressing physician education in the 21st century.

The site of the university's former Bishop-Lehr Hall will be home to the proposed college. A ground-breaking ceremony is planned during Homecoming, September 28.

—Debbie Farris

JESSICA MAY, '96
2024 Colorado Teacher of the Year

PHOTO BY NATALIE JOHNSON

BORN TO TEACH, TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Alumna Jessica May named 2024 Colorado Teacher of the Year

Jessica May, '96 is all about experiential learning, but also, gaining the respect of her students. “Your job is to gain their trust through the acts of respect and patience,” said May, who was named Colorado Teacher of the Year for 2024. She currently teaches family and consumer science at Turner Middle School in Berthoud, Colorado.

May has been in the classroom for over 20 years, and she always knew she was meant to teach.

“I always loved school and would teach my dolls and stuffed animals in my bedroom. I felt loved, seen, special and supported every day I went to school. I don’t really ever remember thinking I wouldn’t grow up to become a teacher ... the profession picked me.”

When May was studying Elementary Education at UNC in 1994, the university was piloting a program where college students taught three consecutive semesters at Mary Blair Elementary School in Loveland, which is now part of Peakview Academy at Conrad Ball after

a consolidation. She was teaching there when she was nominated for Colorado Teacher of the Year.

“Jessica’s selection for this award reflects UNC’s long tradition of excellence in teacher preparation. The fact that nearly one in three of all Colorado Teacher of the Year Award recipients are UNC graduates underscores our role as the premier teacher preparation institution in the state, as well as our deep commitment to education in Colorado,” said Jared Stallones, dean of UNC’s College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Since the Colorado Department of Education began recognizing exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled K-12 classroom teachers in 1963, 18 UNC alums have been named Colorado Teacher of the Year. In addition, the university has graduated more than 50% of the education professionals in Colorado. When alumni walk out of the lecture halls at UNC, they walk into classrooms of their own, destined to begin their own journey to shape young lives.

May’s goal is to create long-lasting relationships with students, helping them realize their full potential. After teaching middle schoolers for two decades, she understands how to run a classroom — and it all starts with setting expectations.

“... If you don’t put the time and energy into it from the start, then the rest of your year will be filled with time wasted and energy spent calling parents, writing referrals, arguing with students and squandering educational instruction for the rest of the students in your classroom,” May explained.

This all-encompassing approach to teaching is a reminder that students, no matter how old, are people with needs, emotions and personal challenges. While hitting benchmarks is important, school is also a place where students spend a lot of time. “Make a point to let them know you see them,” May said.

Student learning is influenced more profoundly by the quality of the teacher than by any other school factor, according to the National Education Association. Teaching excellence can open doors of opportunity for students and transform lives.

By providing a top-quality education for teachers and education professionals, UNC has created a thriving and supportive alumni community of teachers.

“Alumni working in K-12 represent the largest professional community of UNC alumni,” said Chris Garcia, '08, associate director of alumni relations.

One way the Alumni Association supports its alumni who teach is through the Alumni Educators Program. This outreach program brings UNC into K-12 classrooms by sending care packages to teachers to thank them for their work and celebrate their time at UNC. In addition, the university sponsors the annual District 6 School Kickoff Community Celebration, an event that provides backpacks and supplies to District 6 students.

A CIVICS LESSON

As a Colorado Teacher of the Year, May is serving on the Colorado Education Commissioner's Teacher Cabinet. According to the Colorado Department of Education, cabinet members serve as a sounding board for the implementation of state education policy.

"I hope to testify for some of the education bills to represent students and teachers," May said.

She also has dreams of bringing ideas from her colleagues to legislators, using her platform, but she knows many state and district initiatives originate at the state and district level. "There is always something to be learned from each [initiative] that will inevitably benefit your students and your own pedagogy," adds May.

As for her own goals, beyond Colorado commissions and representing the state at the National Teacher of the Year competition, May wants to fill the need when creating and maintaining relationships with her students. "Connecting to the hearts of students bridges the academic gaps that we see because they *know* they are cared about," May said. In other words, students need their needs met and the rest will follow.

With the post-pandemic struggle to bring students up to their current grade level, May's focus on meeting students where they are is more important than ever.

"They are supposed to test you and your commitment as an adult in their life — that's the developmental stage of their adolescent brains," May said.

One commonality with the subjects May enjoys teaching is they have real-world applications. Among those are not exclusively what she teaches now — family and consumer sciences — but also human sexuality, social-emotional learning, life skills and real-world reading. Making learning tangible for students means something to them, even in the middle school classroom.

Teaching truly picked Jessica May. She embodies what it means to be there for her students, support them and help them understand why learning is so important. She encourages teachers to "Feel free to be crazy and silly." Adding, "they will act like they don't like it, but deep down, they do. This is how to begin building strong relationships with even the toughest of students!"

After teaching for over two decades and having countless students in her classroom, May wants them to take away one thing: "I want them to walk away knowing that I love them, that I believe in them, and that I will always be here for them, no matter how old they are."

—Brenna Rhiness and Christina Abel

GO BEARS!

PITCH PERFECT

Pitching for seven innings, allowing zero walks, zero hits and shutting down batters with eight strikeouts, softball player Erin Caviness achieved what no pitcher at UNC had done in the NCAA Division I era. She pitched a perfect game. Caviness, a graduate student, was a force against the University of California, Santa Barbara. The team won the February 23 game 1-0.

The Bears went on to once again sweep the Big Sky Conference Championship, both the regular season and tournament, crowning them as back-to-back champions. Perfect!

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS



ERIN CAVINESS, '23, M.S. '24
Sport and Exercise Science,
Sport Administration concentration

FRESH FACES OF UNC

The Denver Gazette recently recognized two UNC alumni and one current student as breakout performers in the Colorado theatre scene. All three are talented artists, featured in the newspaper's Fresh Faces of 2023 series.

Below they talk about their inspiration, love of theatre and how they approached their roles.

MIGUEL MUÑOZ, DON QUIXOTE, THE QUEST FOR DON QUIXOTE

Do you see the windmills on the horizon?

Miguel Muñoz is a current student at UNC majoring in Theatre Education. In the summer of 2023, he played the titular role in the Little Theatre of the Rockies production of *The Quest for Don Quixote*.

The production centers on a playwright struggling with the age-old difficulty of adapting *Don Quixote* for the stage. The coffee shop where he writes becomes the scene, the patrons become the characters and Muñoz is at the center of it all, taking the playwright on an adventure of his own.

"I wanted to come off as harmless to the audience, making [Quixote] more innocent and childlike as opposed to the violent, erratic way he's written, so that audiences could connect with him more," Muñoz said. He worked alongside his best friend, another UNC student, Brian Davis, who played the struggling playwright.

Traditionally, even though *Don Quixote* was a Spanish epic novel, the main character was not usually played by a native Spanish speaker like Muñoz. "[His accent] was still difficult because I wanted it to be historical from Spain. Antonio Banderas as Zorro and Puss in Boots were some of my influences," Muñoz said.

Muñoz, ever the storyteller, was inspired to start acting in high school. Seeing how much theatre helped him grow beyond the classroom, he went to UNC to "... focus on how to grow not just theater artists, but also good humans." Because theater goes beyond the stage.

NATALIE FUENTES, YOLOT, WOLF AT THE DOOR

The big bad wolf isn't who you think.

Yolot is derived from the Aztec word for heart. And Su Teatro company actress Natalie Fuentes knows how to play the heart, constantly there, but not always at the forefront.

"A lot of [playing Yolot] was learning to exist in the open and be in the moment. And also, to have such big, huge emotions in such silence," said Fuentes.

Wolf at the Door is a fairytale meant for an adult audience. It centers on a strange woman appearing at the door of a

hacienda in Mexico in the late 1800s. What she doesn't know is the house she's arrived at is a place filled with abuse and generational pain. She is also the *Wolf at the Door*.

"Her character is there to be a witness, it's like the dog watching out the door. It's finding the balance between the wolf's physicality and the humanness in the cast. This is how we can breathe and create tension," said Fuentes. Her performance was otherworldly in a way that unsettled the audience.

With the three women of the story coming together, the wolf, Yolot, does not end up fighting for her freedom. Isadora — the long-abused woman — steps forward and finds her voice.

Fuentes credits her success to the presence of her costars and her director, "While my fellow cast was equally a part of the push, the story would never have been fully realized without being helmed by a powerful Chicana in her own right, our director Micaela Garcia de Benavidez."

eden origin, MILLIE, TONI STONE*

Are you ready to play ball?

Portraying baseball player Toni Stone's confidante and friend, Millie, eden gave a restrained performance making the character lively but not cartoonish.

Toni Stone is a story about its namesake, the first Black woman to play professional baseball. Stone was rejected by the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League because she was Black. With tenacity and motivated by her love for the game, Stone became the first woman to play in the Negro American League.

Like Stone, eden knows what it's like to shatter barriers. eden identifies as nonbinary transfeminine and was the first nonbinary nominee in Henry Awards history.

"I'm very grateful to know that I was received how I intended to be, without having to do any extra work. I was able to be honest and tell the story of a woman who lived a hundred times over without having a soul to give voice to her reality. To be recognized for showing the world that Millie was 'somebody' is incredibly special — and powerful," eden said to the *Denver Gazette*.

**eden uses she/he pronouns and prefers to use her first name in lowercase on mentions.*





MORE DIVERSE STUDENTS NEED MORE DIVERSE TEACHERS

UNC's Center for Urban Education receives national recognition for increasing educator diversity

Picture yourself as a young child in a Denver-area classroom on your first day of school. You're half your adult height. Your teacher has skin a different color than yours and talks quickly. Your English is poor, and you hesitate to ask a question. At lunch, when you unpack traditional family foods from home, you get funny looks. In gym class, though you brighten when "football" is mentioned, you slowly realize this is not the "fútbol" you thought it was.

With a day like this, you may not have the confidence to concentrate on classroom lessons. In fact, you might retreat into silence and fall behind over time.

"I was that student. When I looked around, my teachers didn't look like me," said Janai McDonald, a UNC sophomore majoring in education.

UNC's Center for Urban Education (CUE) in the Denver Center at Lowry aligns teacher preparation with the needs of local school districts and schools in early childhood education, elementary education with a culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) endorsement and special education.

"I am thankful that CUE exists to help prepare a new generation of educators for our students of today," McDonald said. "Working in a middle school [as a teacher candidate] earning my undergraduate degree is an approach that works for me. It gives me the skills and experience I need to be successful."

CUE's approach of sending racially, ethnically, linguistically, religiously and socioeconomically differentiated teacher candidates into about 75 schools across the Denver region also works for the schools, the students and their many peers who learn from their presence and contributions.

Recently, the center earned national recognition. The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) awarded CUE its 2024 Increasing Educator Diversity: Promising Practice Award for "its demonstrated outcomes and advocacy related to increasing educator diversity."

To appreciate what CUE is providing, it helps to understand that teacher preparation programs nationwide graduate an average 25% to 30% people of color, explains CUE director Rosanne Fulton. By contrast, CUE graduates about 70% people of color.

In addition, more than 90% are first-generation college students and Pell grant-eligible. This means they face significant barriers to their education, ranging from insufficient study skills to spending time working multiple jobs to earn money instead of hitting the books, exercising or resting. On a positive note, CUE student teachers can better relate to the children they encounter in their classrooms in the morning, before heading to their UNC classes afterward and on weekends.

"When students have teachers, principals, support staff who look and talk like them, it creates a sense of belonging so they can thrive and stretch themselves to learn from a place of increased security," said Yolanda Greer, '95, who served as a teacher, principal and district administrator before launching an educational consulting company.

The CUE program benefits future teachers in several important ways. First, as an apprenticeship program, it gives them in-classroom training beginning in their first semester. Most education students don't start working with kids until their third or fourth year. By the time CUE students graduate, they've accumulated 3,000 to 4,000 hours of on-the-job training plus tutoring, small-group instruction and standard classes.

Second, CUE instructors are chosen for their broad, "real-world" experience — having taught in diverse settings, worked with youth struggling to learn English, or perhaps endured tough circumstances throughout college themselves.

"We are careful about whom we hire to be professors," said Fulton. "What students really need is excellent professors who can offer both a supportive and caring program and rich and rigorous content."

Modeling culturally responsive teaching strategies is deliberate, Fulton stresses. CUE student teachers can use these insights to bring culturally responsive strategies and responses into their classrooms.

Continued page 8

Continued from page 7

A mentor program matches the college students with experienced teachers, principals and administrators throughout their program. This wraparound support includes visits to the school and provides ongoing, specific and actionable feedback.

In addition, students' paraprofessional work connects them deeply with local schools and leaders, providing them with a distinct advantage in the job market. "Principals call and say, 'Don't let her interview anywhere else. I want her here,'" Fulton said. "They all get hired when they graduate."

For school districts and principals—and, by extension, for children and families—advantages abound. The center is known for being closely aligned with area teaching needs. "We take the schools' issues and needs very seriously," Fulton said. "To be able to provide people of color and other diversities and who know the community is an asset in a teacher candidate. Principals are really happy about the whole package."

In nominating letters to the AACTE nominating CUE for its 2024 diversity award, two local principals, Blake Hammond of Greenwood Elementary and Leah Schultz-Bartlett of Beach Court Elementary, wrote: "CUE works closely with us as building leaders and our teaching teams so that their teacher candidates learn practical applications of the theories that are included in the teacher preparation courses offered at CUE."

One of those needs is diverse teacher candidates—just what CUE is supplying.

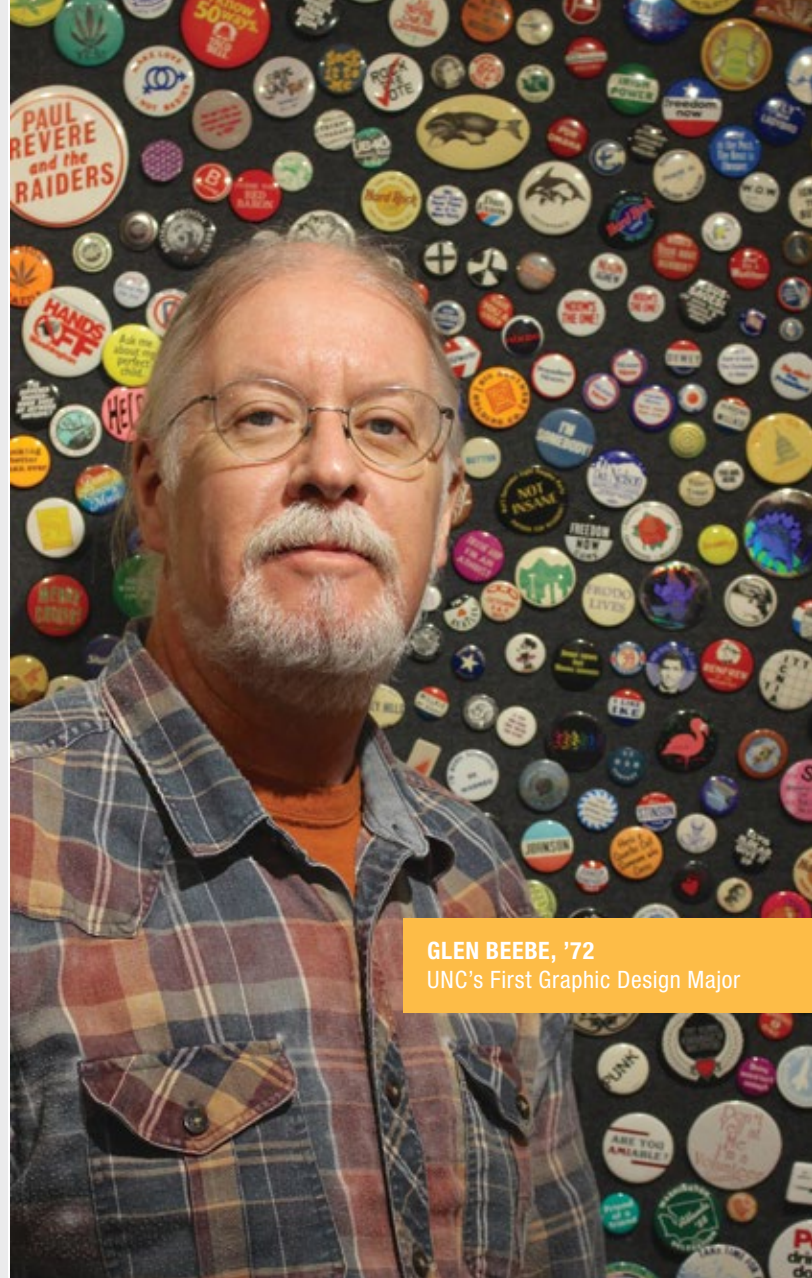
"The research is very clear," said Fulton. "If children of color have teachers of color, their likelihood of success and graduation is much higher." In a state where white teachers comprise 88% of the teaching corps, she adds, "Principals are desperate for people of color in teaching positions."

An ethnic and language mix helps as well. In Aurora Public Schools, for example, 135 home languages are spoken across the district, according to a 2017 report from A+ Colorado, an independent, nonprofit organization focused on improving education.

"UNC's program probably produces the highest percentage of diverse teacher graduates each year in Colorado," said Fulton, "which is why we got the award!"

Fulton hopes the AACTE award will help not only encourage future financial support but also "further demonstrate the center's ability to support our students' becoming strong teachers." It's one more lesson the students and graduates are imparting themselves, every day.

—Ellen Ryan



GLEN BEEBE, '72
UNC's First Graphic Design Major

FIRST GRAPHIC DESIGN MAJOR PAVES THE WAY FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

Helping Students Become Who They Are

Glen Beebe, '72 arrived at UNC by bus from Seattle in 1968 ready to broaden his horizons. As a Pacific Northwest native, he sought a completely different topography, climate, location and experience. Although he planned to major in Zoology and minor in Chemistry, that all changed at the end of his second year. Beebe set his sights on the field of graphic design as his future career. The only problem was that a Graphic Design major didn't yet exist at UNC.

So, he designed one. Working with faculty, Beebe created his own specialized curriculum.

After graduating in 1972, Beebe moved back to Seattle where he landed a job at The Boeing Company. He spent his 30-year career at the aerospace manufacturing corporation working as a technical illustrator, graphic

EVA CHAVEZ

Senior, BA in Art and Design/Graphic Design Concentration

"My passion for creativity has been evident from an early age — whether it was sewing quilts, drawing or digital design, I discovered that creativity was the best way to express myself. I'm now a senior in the UNC Graphic Design program with a double major in Digital Media, and I am incredibly grateful to be a recipient of the Glen D. Beebe Scholarship!"

"Receiving this scholarship holds vast significance for me as a struggling college student. For four years, I've worked multiple jobs and have had my parents' support so that I could afford my studies at UNC. The scholarship provides much-needed financial assistance. As a Graphic Design major, having an internship in my field of study is mandatory. With this scholarship, I can now afford college and dedicate more time to my internship without the constant stress of working every available moment. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this possible."



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

designer and "proposal king," creating executive summaries to market Boeing's innovative products and expertise to the public and private sectors.

Beebe credits his education at UNC "for teaching him how to think." This skill allowed him to transition from manual paste-up at the start of his career to using computers and design software he encountered at Boeing.

After a long career, Beebe was able to retire and enjoy his passions, but continues to do graphic design — print work for artists, musicians and other nonprofit groups. His latest publication is *Split Fountain Hieroglyphics: Psychedelic Concert Posters from the Seattle Area 1966–1969*, a book he designed and produced with the well-known illustrator Scott McDougall.

Today, thanks to the path Beebe blazed, UNC students can pursue an undergraduate degree in Graphic Design where they learn to strategize, analyze, conceive and assess visual solutions for communication challenges spanning a spectrum of areas. These include Editorial Design, Corporate and Brand Identity Design, Narrative Design, Experiential Design, Packaging, Typography, Motion Graphics and Interactive Design, among others.

The program has flourished under the guidance of Professor of Graphic Design Mark Fetkewicz, who served as its sole faculty member from 2000 to 2023.

"We transformed from a solid traditional program into a contemporary program, incorporating emerging digital technologies [and] creating a dynamic, integrative curriculum," said Fetkewicz.

In recent years, the number of majors has exploded as more students are drawn to the abundant career opportunities in the field. To meet demand, UNC hired two new Graphic Design faculty members in 2022.

Hye Jeong Park is an assistant professor for Graphic Design and Digital Art. Her interdisciplinary research and design project, *Integration of Graphic Design and Human-Computer Interaction*, focuses on user experience and the development of individuals' creative ability.

Alum Samuel Dong Saul, M.A. '11, assistant professor for Graphic Design and Digital Art, is a Mexican artist, designer and educator. In the past decade, his interests have shifted to digital illustration, interactive digital media and the implementation of user-centered design practices in college-level curricula.

Just as Beebe might have wished five decades ago, UNC students experience a comprehensive curriculum with hands-on studio experiences in state-of-the-art facilities that prepare them for professional careers in the industry or graduate school. With its nationally accredited program in Graphic Design, the School of Art and Design has become a leader in preparing distinguished artists and art educators in Colorado and beyond.

Thankful for his education and the trajectory it put him on, Beebe wanted to find a way to give back and support future Graphic Design majors at UNC. So, he established the Glen D. Beebe Scholarship Endowment in 2016, which was the university's first endowed scholarship that exclusively supports Graphic Design students.

"Much of our success relies on taking care of our students [and] addressing their financial needs. Due to people like Glen Beebe, [we can offer] scholarship funding that provides a secure environment for students to learn and grow. The Glen D. Beebe Scholarship Endowment provides an invaluable opportunity for many students as they pursue their goals and careers in the arts," said Fetkewicz.

—Christina Abel and Debbie Farris

Unlocking the Secrets of CBD's Impact on Our Health

The claims about what CBD, or cannabidiol, can do or cannot do to improve general health have spawned much misinformation.

“A lot of the information that users share is not scientifically proven. People talk about their anecdotal responses with the use of it and, unfortunately, a lot of this content is getting people to try things and pay for things that we have zero amount of research behind,” said Laura Stewart, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Nutrition and Dietetics, at UNC.

Stewart has been exploring the relationship between CBD and immune function. CBD is the second most studied ingredient in cannabis after tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Stewart has found a big difference between what the public understands about CBD, and what science has proven.

“They wanted to evaluate whether CBD had any effect on aspects of physical health, mental health, cognitive and focus ability.”



A 2018 report from the World Health Organization revealed that there are numerous CBD products being manufactured and distributed without regulatory oversight and often with unverified contents.

With two decades of experience investigating the impact of exercise and botanicals on the immune system, Stewart began to examine the impact of both cannabis and CBD on the immune system.

Her first studies conducted between 2016 and 2019 examined how cannabis impacted the immune system for users and non-users, specifically as it relates to exercise performance.

“We surveyed people who are physically active and then we moved more into some cross-sectional studies that explored the potential differences between cannabis users and non-users when it came to their health and fitness,” said Stewart. “In those projects, we looked at males and females separately and evaluated basic health measures like blood pressure, heart rate and body composition.”

In general, Stewart did not find many differences between the cannabis and the non-cannabis users in both young males and females except for power tests. Power tests consist of going as fast as possible on a lab bike for 30 seconds. Stewart’s findings indicated that some cannabis users couldn’t maintain as much power as non-users. In other words, the use of cannabis adversely affected power. Since the population surveyed was small, Stewart said the results weren’t statistically significant, but it was an interesting factor to be considered by coaches, athletes and the general population.

“The next study, which started in 2021, involved a clinical trial which involved daily CBD consumption for eight weeks. We saw some potential for natural killer cells, which are part of the immune system. We saw that they might be potentially enhanced in their ability to kill cancer cells,” said Stewart. “We also found some interesting differences between groups in their ability to feel awake after sleeping.”

In her most recent study, Stewart examined the potential effect of CBD on healthy people after she was contacted by a global beverage company to evaluate the potential impacts of regular CBD consumption on general health.

“The brand had the intention to launch a drink with some CBD, so they contacted us to conduct a clinical trial before moving forward with it,” said Stewart. “They wanted to evaluate whether CBD had any effect on aspects of physical health, mental health, cognitive and focus ability.”

Stewart’s research found that the daily use of CBD for eight weeks in healthy individuals did not affect any of the physical and mental health indicators she was measuring.

Nine years of work not only resulted in new findings from each study, but also helped Stewart build more internal and external partnerships. With support and leadership of College of Natural and Health Sciences (NHS) Dean Kammel Haddad, UNC established a brand-new Complementary Health and Integrative Physiology Center (CHIPC) on campus last year. This center will help to further research on cannabis and other natural substances and their impact on health to strengthen collaborations between academia and private companies. A future study from the center involves partnering with a pharmaceutical-grade CBD company to evaluate the impact of this substance on veterans.

“CHIPC epitomizes two of our college’s priorities: Innovation in the science of health care; and connecting with our regional STEM partners,” said Haddad. “I am thrilled that the launch of NHS’s newest center has already delivered on these two priorities.”

Stewart is also excited about furthering research on Cannabis.

“Cannabis is a very interesting plant, and we are still finding a lot more about its potential to impact mental and physical health. I am very excited to share this news with the general public.”

—Carlos Pérez Sãmano



Impact

MAKING GOOD ON A PROMISE

For college students everywhere, how they will afford a college education is a looming question often left unanswered. While rising costs at universities across the country and the globe have been an issue in recent years, it's not a new issue.

Approximately 60 years ago, when Bob Hummel attended The Ohio State University, it was not affordable for him, and he needed help to pay his way.

Fortunately, he was given \$200 toward his college education from a family friend. In return for that gift, Hummel was asked to give back in some way when he could do so. The sentiment behind that gift, and its impact on his life's trajectory, was never lost on him. In 2015, when he sold his Greeley-based company that provided animal health products, he and his wife, Carole, along with their children Rob and Jennifer created the Hummel Family Foundation to fulfill his end of the deal more than five decades later.

Today, the Hummel Family Foundation generously supports scholarships at several universities, including the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), The Ohio State University, University of Denver, Rockhurst University, University of Missouri, University of Colorado and Colorado State University.

One aspect of UNC that sets it apart from the other universities the Hummel Family Foundation supports is it is one of the two universities no one in the family attended.

"When we started the Family Foundation ... for several universities across the country, the first five were universities someone within the family attended," said Jennifer Ostenson, Bob Hummel's daughter. "Then a couple of years later, we decided to add several more universities. Since we've been in Greeley so long, my father's company was based in Greeley, and my brother and I had grown up in Greeley, we really wanted to include UNC."

The reinvestment in Greeley, by providing UNC students with Hummel Family Scholarships, has greatly impacted the lives of hundreds of students. To date, 208 UNC Hummel Family Scholarships have been awarded to students studying nursing, business and education, with 63 students already earning their degrees.



Jennifer Ostenson, Hummel Family Foundation Trustee, daughter of Bob and Carole Hummel.

"[Me, my spouse Eric, my brother Rob, his spouse Patty and my mother] always say it's the most rewarding thing we've ever done in our entire lives, and I've been blessed with a wonderful life and great experiences," said Ostenson.

Central to awarding these scholarships is inspiring the next generation to value the concept of paying it forward.

"We always tell our students: It doesn't matter how you give or how much you give," said Ostenson. "That 'pay it forward' message is really important to us and to my family."

A current Hummel Scholar is Jake Owens, a Colorado local from Aurora who took the pay it forward message and ran with it.

When it came time to apply for college, Owens knew he wanted to attend UNC. Pursuing a degree in Special Education, he could not think of a better place to study than the institution known for its long-standing legacy of nationally recognized teacher preparation programs. Owens was drawn to special education as a career while still in high school. He worked at a coffee shop and played on a soccer team where students with and without intellectual disabilities worked and played side by side. Owens was inspired by these experiences and decided to pursue a career where he could continue making a difference.

The positive impact Owens hopes to have on the next generation is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Hummel family.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

The 2024 Hummel Family Scholarship reception on April 1 in the University Center celebrated the student recipients and recognized the Hummel family whose support makes the awards possible.

“I don’t think I could attend UNC without [the Hummel Family Scholarship]. I’m so blessed to have received it,” said Owens. “I was able to do things like [reinstate] the lacrosse team because it allows me not to work all these hours and do school on top of it.” Owens restarted the Men’s Club Lacrosse team at UNC and serves as its president in addition to regularly making the Dean’s Honor Roll. To Owens, receiving the Hummel Scholarship has reinforced the importance of giving. Not only that, he explains, but it is a privilege to be able to give back and improve the lives of those around you.

“I’ve learned, especially through the scholarship, just how giving back is the ultimate gift you can give. You only have X number of days, so you might as well make it worth it and be as generous as you can. Give what you can, and that’s just my time right now. I’m happy to give all my time because I was so blessed to receive the Hummel Family Scholarship,” said Owens.

Paying it forward takes many forms — whether funding a scholarship, sharing knowledge and professional experience or volunteering time. As Ostenson puts it, it doesn’t matter how you give or how much you give, all that matters is that you do your best to help those around you.

—Tamsin Fleming

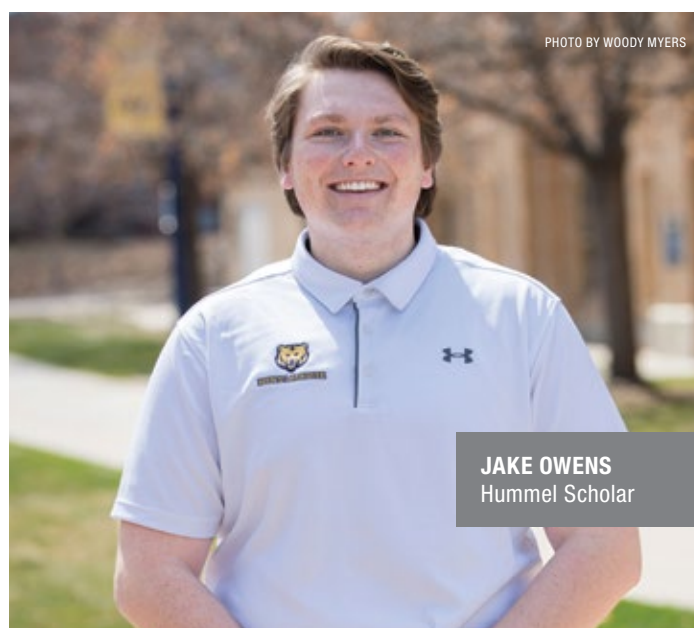


PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

JAKE OWENS
Hummel Scholar

“I’ve learned, especially through the [Hummel Family] Scholarship, just how giving back is the ultimate gift.”



KEEPING A COLLEGE EDUCATION WITHIN REACH

By Debbie Farris

New program provides free tuition for students with the greatest financial need

Keeping a college education affordable and accessible is central to who UNC is. Those attributes represent the university's core values of students first, social mobility and diversity in action. The increasing struggle of students and families to pay for college, or even to delay or forgo a college education, prompted the university to create a program to remove financial barriers: The UNC Tuition Promise.

The new program, which launches in fall 2024, covers 100% of standard tuition and mandatory fees for eligible incoming and current undergraduate students who are Colorado residents whose household's Adjusted Gross Income falls below \$65,000 or whose Student Aid Index (SAI) is 3,000 or less.

As a regional public university, UNC takes its promise to students seriously.

"The UNC Tuition Promise exemplifies UNC's commitment to being Students First," said President Andy Feinstein. "At UNC, we strive to eliminate barriers and offer students an affordable path to earning a degree, bettering their lives and their communities, and contributing to the state of Colorado."



For students from low-income families, the path to a college degree can be particularly challenging. Historically, people of lower socioeconomic status have had limited educational opportunities after high school. This disparity has hit families from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds and students who are the first in their family to attend college even harder. Financial concerns are one of the most significant barriers preventing these students from graduating from college.

This has prompted the university to double down on its commitment to low-income students with the UNC Tuition Promise, which pays for up to 16 credits or a maximum of \$5,836 per semester. The aid will increase as tuition and fees increase over time to maintain steady financial support for the duration of a student's academic education and offer peace of mind and reduced stress allowing students to remain in college and persist toward graduation and upward financial and social mobility.

A 2017 study from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation reported that students from the bottom socioeconomic quartile are eight times less likely to earn a bachelor's degree than students from the top socioeconomic quartile—7.4% versus 60%.

UNC is committed to closing that equity gap. In addition to being transparent when communicating financial information to students and parents so they can make more informed decisions, the university has developed programs that supplement state and federal aid to ease students' financial burden.

Students and alumni describe UNC as a place where they feel they belong. That sense of belonging is an attribute that is central to the university. Last year, UNC launched another important initiative to help ensure that Colorado high school students know that they belong at UNC—the Colorado First-Year Admissions Guarantee program.

This new program simplifies the college admissions process and helps boost clarity and confidence among high school students who are considering college as a next step. The first of its kind in the state, this program guarantees admission to eligible Colorado high school students and demonstrates to them that college is attainable. Together with the UNC Tuition Promise, UNC is making a strong case to attract students who might otherwise not enroll in college. Since implementation, UNC has experienced an increase in the quality of students applying and admitted to the university.

"When you pair the Tuition Promise with the Colorado First-Year Admission Guarantee initiative, UNC is well-positioned to serve as Colorado's premier regional comprehensive institution where equitable access and success are at the core of the student experience," said Feinstein.

UNC's Admissions Guarantee for first-year Colorado resident students removes the guesswork from the admissions process, offering transparency and certainty. Students who are academically qualified and meet standard

requirements are guaranteed automatic admission into the university.

Students from Weld County also benefit from additional support when they attend UNC, thanks to the Bright Futures program. Through the tuition assistance program, qualifying students living in the county receive \$3,500 per year when they attend UNC. Bright Futures, a Weld County workforce initiative designed to strengthen the community, has no income requirements for recipients and scholarships do not need to be repaid.

These tuition assistance and scholarship programs make earning a UNC degree more affordable and accessible. With a clear focus on students first, UNC provides significant financial aid and support for students to complete their degrees, setting them up for success in their careers and their lives. However, sometimes a financial gap remains. Donor-funded scholarships help supplement financial aid programs making dollars go further, so UNC students graduate debt-free or with substantially lower debt.

"Our alumni and friends are highly invested in helping today's students succeed and often that means supporting scholarships to help them persist to graduation," Vice President for University Advancement Allie Steg Haskett, '03 said.

"Last year, UNC awarded more than 2,000 donor-funded scholarships totaling nearly \$7.5 million. These donor investments are a vote of confidence in today's students and a critical way that UNC keeps a college education within reach for more students."

UNC students graduate with less debt than any other four-year public doctoral university in Colorado, thanks to a combination of financial aid and scholarships. According to the Education Data Initiative, the average student loan debt (both federal and private) topped \$37,088 in 2023. UNC graduates fare much better after earning their undergraduate degree—with a median federal loan debt of \$20,470.

Catalyzing economic mobility for students with high financial need

Despite financial aid and programs like the UNC Tuition Promise that help reduce the burden on students, a college education comes at a cost. And while cost is an important factor, so is value.

Economist David Autor attributes the growing education gap as a major cause of income inequality: "... the inevitable sticker shock that households feel when confronting the cost of college should not obscure the fact that the real lifetime earnings premium to college education has likely never been higher."

In fact, people who earned a four-year bachelor's degree earn an average of \$2.8 million over a 40-year career, nearly double what high school graduates make in the same period, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, 2023).



However, according to a poll by the *Wall Street Journal* and NORC at the University of Chicago in 2023, the public has grown increasingly skeptical about the benefits of a college degree. But only 1% of the workforce reflects workers without a college degree who earn \$130,000 or more, as reported in a study “Learning and Earning by Degrees” published last year by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University.

A bachelor’s degree has proven resilient and offers protection to weather the ups and downs of job markets. People with a bachelor’s degree are highly employable and adaptable in a changing workplace. They also face much lower unemployment rates: 3.5% compared to 6.2% for those with only a high school diploma, reports BLS. The unemployment rate is lowest for those with a bachelor’s or higher degree, nearly one-fifth of the unemployment rate for those without a college degree, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics.

“The Tuition Promise initiative is a testament to UNC’s commitment to serving Colorado students by removing financial barriers to enrolling and completing their degree programs,” said Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Cedric Howard, Ed.D.

Helping students pay for college goes beyond covering their costs and reducing their debt load. It means increasing students’ and parents’ understanding of the cost and value of investing in a UNC education. The university remains steadfast in its commitment to address large and small financial obstacles students face during their education so they can persist through graduation without racking up overwhelming, permanent debt. **UNC**

TUITION Promise

The Tuition Promise program will benefit approximately 1,000 currently enrolled undergraduates and all incoming students who are Colorado residents or ASSET-eligible students (undocumented students who attended a Colorado high school for at least one year before graduation or completed their GED in Colorado).

There is no application, so the process is simple for students. To qualify, they just need to be full-time students pursuing their first bachelor’s degree and meet program requirements, which include the following:

- Be a Colorado resident or eligible ASSET student.
- Have a household Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$65,000 or less or a Student Aid Index of 3,000 or less.
- Be enrolled in 12 to 16 credits and maintain satisfactory academic progress, a requirement for students to receive federal aid.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA) by June 1.
- Apply for and receive College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend, which provides per-credit funding from the state to off-set tuition for eligible in-state students.

A Family OF BEARS

Three generations and 60 members of the Rangel and Andrade families have built a strong family legacy that continues to thrive.

By Tamsin Fleming





Left to right: Paulette Rangel, Mark Rangel, Michael Jerome Rangel, Richard Rangel, Breanna Rangel, Ernie Andrade, Joanne Andrade, Kelsey (Andrade) Fisher, Michael Richard Rangel

In the beginning, the Rangel and Andrade families found their way to UNC through sports scholarships that would afford life-changing opportunities. Today, their family legacy continues to thrive as more family members follow in their paths.

Back in 1958, Richard Rangel, '62, M.A. '65, secured a job for himself at a grain elevator. Coming from a line of migrant farmer workers, this was an incredible opportunity for him to have stability and a steady income.

That's when he was approached by coach Bud Best about a scholarship to play football at UNC.

"I can remember Bud Best saying, 'We'll give him a full ride to the school,' and my dad saying, 'Well, I don't think that's really necessary. We already got him a full-time job at the grain elevator,'" said Richard. "God bless my mom, she said, 'Nope, I don't want to hear any more of this about the full-time job at the grain elevator, he's going to go to college and get an education.'"

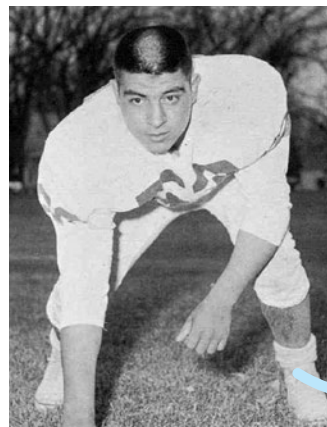
His mother's decision would make Richard the first in his family to go to college.

After Richard, his brothers, David Rangel, '66, Philip Rangel, '70, and Ralph Rangel, '74, followed in his footsteps to become Bears.

After earning his master's degree, Richard went on to teach industrial arts, physical education and health in Greeley-Evans School District 6. After years of teaching, Richard went on to become an administrator, spending more than 12 years total working for the school district.

All of Richard's sons, Don Rangel, '82, M.A. '89, Michael Rangel, '85, and Mark, graduated from UNC. In addition, Don's wife, Kristin Rangel, '83, graduated from UNC, as well as their two sons, Bradley Rangel, '16, and Matthew Rangel, '18.

"It was just one of those things, we were brought up knowing that we were going to college, and we all wanted to be educators and UNC is an education school," said Mark, "That was a big part of [why we attended UNC.]"



Richard Rangel, '62, M.A. '65
1962 Cache La Poudre Yearbook



Richard Rangel

SECOND GENERATION OF BEARS

Attending UNC with a wrestling scholarship, Mark earned an undergraduate degree in Physical Education and later a master's of Educational Technology before working at Greeley Central High School for many years. He is part of the second generation of Bears in his family.

While attending UNC, Mark met his wife, Paulette Rangel, '88, M.A. '95, while they were pursuing their undergraduate degrees. They met in their Mexican American Studies and Spanish classes, and Paulette remembers Mark as outgoing and funny, cracking jokes in class.

Being outgoing herself, Paulette made many friends during her time on campus.



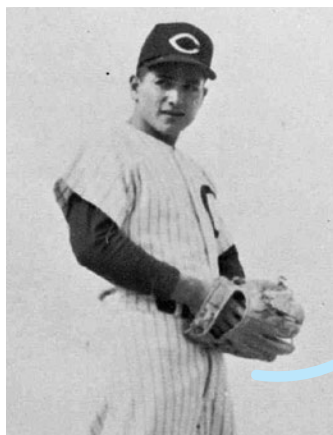
Mark Rangel, '89,
M.A. '95



Paulette Rangel, '88,
M.A. '95



Michael Richard Rangel, '85



Ernie Andrade, '62, M.A. '71,
Ed.D. '82,
1962 Cache La Poudre Yearbook



Ernie Andrade



Joanne Andrade, M.A. '78,
Ed.D. '86

"I made some really good friends that I'm still friends with to this day [who] lived on my dorm floors," said Paulette. "One ended up marrying my cousin. She graduated from UNC, too. They live in Japan right now, but they come back every summer and we see each other and keep in touch through emails."

Paulette comes from a sizable Bear family herself: a family of 37 Bears across extended family, to be exact. Paulette's father, Ernie Andrade, '62, M.A. '71, Ed.D. '82, was the second in his family to attend college after his older brother Manuel Andrade, '54, and her stepmother Joanne Andrade, M.A. '78, Ed.D. '86, earned her master's and doctorate degrees from UNC. A family of farm workers, the Andrade family boasts nine master's degrees and four doctorates from UNC across its 37 Bear graduates to date.

While earning his master's and doctorate degrees, Ernie worked in public education for 32 years before returning to work at UNC as the director of the Mexican American Studies master's program, now called Chicana/o and Latinx Studies. Later, after earning his doctorate, Ernie designed and directed the Cumbres Program, which continues to

support students pursuing a career in education with a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse focus.

Ernie was named an Honored Alumni in 1972 and inducted into the UNC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005 as a pitcher and three more times for playing in the 1960, 1961 and 1962 College World Series. Having a long and storied history on campus, Ernie is proud to be part of his large Bear family. His daughter, Paulette, shares that sentiment of their family's legacy.

"It's been great to have all our families go through UNC. I'm proud of it. I like being a part of the UNC community," said Paulette.

THIRD GENERATION OF BEARS

Michael Rangel, '13, Mark and Paulette's son, is part of the third generation of Bears from the Rangel and Andrade families and one of the Rangel side's 26 UNC graduates. Currently, he works in the Financial Aid office helping students embark on their UNC journey.

Michael's older brother, Joshua Rangel, '12, '19, who was already enrolled at UNC, really helped him feel at home on campus. Living with his older brother while a student is something Michael looks back on fondly. Joshua and Michael were also joined by their cousin Kelsey Andrade Fisher, '14.

UNC also holds special significance for Michael because it is where he started dating his wife, Breanna Rangel, '12, M.A. '14.

"We weren't married then, but we went to school together, and she goes to UNC now. She's going for her doctorate," said Michael.

Michael's favorite memory with Breanna was not when they were in school together, but when they returned to campus with their children to take a picture with Northern Vision as she started her doctoral program in 2021. For Michael, his children have grown and so much has changed since Breanna enrolled in the program — the picture serves as a reminder of where it all started.

For the Rangel and Andrade families, no matter where life takes them, they will always be a Bear family with UNC as a place to call home. Once a Bear, always a Bear. **UNC**



Michael Jerome Rangel, '13



Breanna Rangel, '12,
M.A. '14



Kelsey (Andrade) Fisher, '14



Jamar Rahming, '06

Jill Trotter, '87

Paul McClay Heidger, Jr., Ph.D., '63



Kathleen Sears, '76

Delia Haefeli, M.A. '90

Stephen Jordan, Ph.D., '71

RECOGNIZING SIX ALUMNI FOR
Distinguished Service
ACROSS THE COUNTRY

2024 *Honored* ALUMNI

In April, UNC honored six alumni who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their careers and communities and whose service and dedication to the university inspires Bears everywhere.

Since 1947, the university has honored outstanding alumni and friends whose service and achievements embody the University's tradition of excellence. The Alumni Association presents the UNC Honored Alumni Award — the highest honor a graduate can receive — annually to graduates in recognition of career success and a commitment of service to the university.





Delia Haefeli, M.A. '90

Major: Moderate Needs

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Delia Haefeli, M.A. '90, is a well-known volunteer and philanthropist in the Greeley community. She plays an active role in uplifting and empowering tomorrow's leaders by sponsoring the Junior Board for the Success Foundation, volunteering as a court-appointed special advocate for children in foster care, serving as a member of a women's group that supports women in education and hopes to become a mentor for young people at the Boys and Girls Club.

Delia and her husband, John W. Haefeli, '86, are also heavily involved in the UNC community.

Being avid Bear fans, they attend all the UNC sporting events they can. As a previous educator, watching former students play sports at UNC makes it even more fun for the Haefelis to come out and show their support. Attending productions hosted by the College of Performing and Visual Arts program holds a similar personal connection for Delia as some of her previous students are enrolled in UNC Art concentrations.

Staying well-connected to her alma mater by supporting the university and her former students comes naturally to Delia.

Growing up, both Delia and John were helped by people in their community. Now, she feels a strong responsibility to do the same for those who may not have the opportunities she did. By creating an endowed scholarship, Haefeli's generosity and commitment will be felt by many for years to come.



Paul McClay Heidger, Jr., Ph.D., '63, and Barbara Hyslop Heidger, '63

Majors: Biological Sciences, and Social Science

**College of Natural and Health Sciences,
College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Paul McClay Heidger, Jr., Ph.D., '63, and Barbara Hyslop Heidger, '63, met the first day of class while participating in (then Colorado State College's) first Honors program cohort. While at UNC, both Paul and Barbara were active members of the Honors program and remained close with their professors and classmates from the program. Paul has fond memories of engaging with peers from different departments and stepping outside his comfort zone. They were also both involved in the United Campus Christian Fellowship, attending weekly meetings and participating in local and intrastate service projects.

Barbara was very focused on and skilled at supporting people who were disadvantaged at UNC and in her professional life. While pursuing her graduate degree at Columbia University, Barbara participated in a program called Teachers for East Africa that enabled her to travel to Kenya to teach at the Kericho Secondary School for Boys and study the development of political parties in an emerging independent state.

Paul pursued a successful career in teaching and research in reproductive and cancer cell biology. He was nominated for and received many awards during his tenure at the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine. Paul's expertise in medical education proved invaluable while advising and collaborating with the founding dean of UNC's proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Beth Longenecker.

Paul has a legacy of giving back to the university through a scholarship endowment supporting Honors students studying science and another scholarship honoring Barbara's memory which supports students studying international relations.





Trustee Stephen Jordan, Ph.D., '71

Major: Political Science
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

As a student, Stephen Jordan, Ph.D., '71, quickly got involved on campus.

Joining the Men's Rugby Club, Jordan immersed himself in the sport and gained a group of friends that included Kent Stoffer. Being a Political Science major active in student government, Jordan took Stoffer up on his offer to run his campaign for student body president. And his career in government and politics took off.

Jordan was appointed to a student government office after Stoffer's win, which paved the way for Jordan to gain career-altering experiences that affected him beyond graduation. After earning a master's degree of Public Administration and a doctorate in Public Policy, both from the University of Colorado at Denver and receiving an honorary doctorate degree from University of Pecs in Hungary, Jordan was hired into his first presidential position at Eastern Washington University.

Jordan transformed a long-time commuter university, where most students drove the 30 minutes from Spokane to Cheney rather than live on campus, into a thriving university and campus community with filled residence halls. The university also became the training location for the Seattle Seahawks while Jordan was president.

After his time at Eastern Washington, Jordan returned to Colorado to become president of Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). Under Jordan's leadership, the university made significant strides in reducing the educational attainment gap for Latine students, particularly those who are undocumented.

UNC is privileged to have Jordan on its board of trustees. He brings a unique perspective to the board as an alumnus, a champion of social issues that directly affect UNC students and a highly successful track record as a university president who transformed two universities into hubs of innovation and community.



Jamar Rahming, '06

Double Major: History and Africana Studies
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

What Jamar Rahming, '06, valued most about his time on UNC's campus was the strong sense of community he found.

Rahming was actively engaged as a student from day one. He served as president of the Black Student Union and participated in the Center for Human Enrichment (CHE), the McNair Scholars Program, the History and Africana Studies Departments and the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center. Rahming's fondest memories are of the lifelong friends he made through these student groups, cultural centers and departments and programs.

As a McNair Scholar, Rahming discovered and explored the life of Willie May Ford Smith, a revolutionary gospel singer who was little known at the time. He even travelled to multiple states to learn more about Smith. This experience instilled in Rahming a lifelong love of travel, adventure and curiosity.

Today, Rahming has become a passionate champion of humanities education and public libraries, where he has built a successful career that he is passionate about. As he describes it, the humanities help us understand one another, and the public library system provides an invaluable source of knowledge to pique people's curiosity and cultivate interests.

As executive director of the Wilmington Institute Free Library in Wilmington, Delaware, Rahming has made a point of encouraging critical thinking among his patrons and community. To do this, he invites a wide range of inspiring and diverse guest speakers, some more controversial and provocative than others, to give access to the information that encourages people to critically think and consider different perspectives and then decide what they believe. At the heart of what Rahming loves about the humanities and public libraries is the intellectual freedom they foster and ultimately enriches culture. This innovative thinking and passion are what makes Rahming such a valuable member of the UNC community and an intriguing role model for students.



Kathleen Sears, '76

Major: Elementary Education
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Kathleen Sears, '76, always knew she wanted to pursue education. As soon as she set foot on UNC's campus, she felt right at home.

Learning new ways of teaching was eye-opening for Sears. Her UNC education taught her how to be an effective teacher, something she attributes to her success in the classroom.

After five years of teaching middle school, Sears took a break to become a radio producer with KUNC FM. At the radio station, she had incredible opportunities to meet and interview all kinds of people and even worked as a substitute announcer on the popular NPR news program, *All Things Considered*, before deciding to return to the classroom, this time as a graduate student.

After Sears earned her master's degree in Journalism with a focus on broadcast management from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1994, she was hired as an instructional designer at CareerTrack, a leading corporate training company at the time. Sears produced audio and video training for adults and corporations, combining her past classroom experience with her radio days. Eventually, Sears would leave CareerTrack to start her own successful corporate business training company, TreeLine Training, before selling it in 2007.

Thanks to the incredible success Sears and her husband, Jim Helgoth, have experienced throughout their lives, they created an award to recognize outstanding UNC professors. The award is unusual because the recipient must use it for something fun, like the family trip to New York City enjoyed by a past recipient. Over the years, Sears and Helgoth have been generous with their substantial support and encouragement of both faculty and students at the university.



Jill Trotter, '87

Double Major: Journalism and Mass Communication
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Throughout Jill Trotter's, '87, UNC experience and into her adult life, staying involved with the university has been something that has helped her feel connected to her community.

Having two Bear parents, Trotter felt comfortable on campus even before she became a student. Her family enjoyed coming to UNC to watch many sporting events and plays every year. It was a nostalgic experience for them, especially because Trotter's parents first met on Hi Bridge, UNC's historic and beloved bridge that led to the tradition of greeting a friend or stranger with a cordial "Hi."

Both of Trotter's parents were actively involved in Greek life at UNC, and she followed in their footsteps. Joining Alpha Phi, she made lifelong friends and joined a community that she would be intimately involved with for decades.

Volunteering as the UNC Alpha Phi chapter recruitment advisor for 24 years, Trotter has made a positive impact on hundreds of women's lives. Her goal was to help women graduate with a positive self-image, develop the habit of giving back to the community and foster participation in philanthropy.

In addition to her years of service, Trotter and her family are philanthropically invested in numerous areas across campus including raising funds to support female student-athletes through the annual Women's Walk.

After retiring from her role as advisor to Alpha Phi, Trotter volunteered her time on UNC's Alumni Board. This was an especially poignant experience, as she could remember her father's participation on the Alumni Board as a child. It was a proud moment for Trotter when she became the board's chair. Being named an Honored Alumni carries extra significance as her father proudly received this same award in 1973. **UNC**



Hear from the honorees and their nominators online at
unco.edu/alumni/events/honored-alumni.aspx

Teacher, Mentor, Inspirer of Dreams

Alum recognized as one of the top teachers in the nation

At Colorado's Greeley West High School, there are dozens of teens fresh from a Central or South American country. Dozens of first-time English learners, often not even proficient in the language of their home country. And dozens of kids newly enthusiastic about learning, thanks to a young, energetic teacher named Caleb Flores.

The Milken Family Foundation is enthusiastic, too. This year it awarded Flores, '16, M.A. '21, one of its \$25,000 Milken Educator Awards, the only one awarded to a teacher in Colorado. This national teacher recognition program empowers recipients to "celebrate, elevate and activate" the K-12 profession.

At a school where almost 20% of the student body speak no English or have only limited proficiency, Flores teaches English language arts, reading and culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) material. Among other things.

What makes a great teacher? Karen and her classmates know. Flores takes a swing at it: "Someone who can inspire students day after day to be better, who is excited to see diversity as an asset and be a champion for equity and access, who sees each child holistically in all of their promise."

Does he fit his own description? Before deciding, consider the story of young "José."

Four years ago this fall, José was an incoming ninth grader. Shy and withdrawn, he never had schooling back in Guatemala. After arriving in Greeley — where he was staying with a cousin's family, working and sending a little money back to his family in Guatemala — he struggled with his grades. Flores encountered José every day in two classes.

Soon came a family meeting at school — in Spanish. "We're not seeing the best habits. What can we do?" asked Flores. And to José, with his aunt, uncle and cousin standing behind him, he said, "You have unlimited potential."

With the family's blessing, José soon quit his job and focused on school with the confidence of someone who feels strong, supportive arms around his shoulders. "When students are aware of a target and know what they're being asked to achieve, they rise to the occasion," said Flores.

These days, José chats with Flores all the time — but in English only. After graduation this spring with a proud family behind him, José has his sights set on community college.

"Caleb is a wonderful example of a bilingual, multicultural teacher who embraces that willingness to pay it forward and go well beyond the classroom in

dedication," says said Dr. Aldo Romero, director of UNC-based Cumbres (or "summits") Teacher Preparation Program, which is a co-curricular scholarship and support service program for education/CLD majors. This spring, Romero asked Flores to give up part of a Saturday to speak at the Cumbres graduation reception. "Sí, I'd be happy to!" was his response.

As part of the curriculum, Cumbres assigns CLD students as mentors to six Denver-area school districts. These mentors meet one on one with Greeley high schoolers under Flores' supervision, which "helps offer a safe haven to be themselves and vent," he said. In turn, his language development classroom becomes almost a second homeroom, where Flores learns each student's backstory — who doesn't have laundry facilities at home, where that cut on an arm came from, who needs a winter coat.

"The more I get to know my students personally, the better they work and learn," Flores said. "That's part of what has inspired me to become a trusted adult, and that's what makes it all worth it."

Recognizing the pressures on these teens — his grandparents immigrated from Mexico, and his parents struggled in school — Flores makes sure to celebrate milestones. His team puts together an awards night with speakers and refreshments. It honors not just seniors but all CLD students who have stood out as leaders. "It's been a blast to host every year," he says said.

There are holiday parties and interdisciplinary projects that capture students' interest. Each May, a mini graduation ceremony from Level 1 English rewards kids with a certificate and photos. "Good for the soul," the Milken awardee pronounces all this. "It makes us all feel accomplished."

Given his passion for and excellence in teaching, it may come as a surprise that Flores didn't always see himself teaching high school. Business was his original plan. One imagines Flores' parents and grandparents gathering around behind him much as José's family has, pulling for him, seeing their own goals in his future.

"They are the reason I got into this profession," he reflects, citing his "intrinsic motivation" in aiding newcomers to the United States. "Education is a great equalizer. I've seen it change the trajectory of lives in my own family."

Today, social media often tells teens that education isn't valuable, laments Flores. "We tell and try to show them that education gives people a great chance to reach the goals they want for themselves, to get them to their best potential."

"In class, I set the expectation that they can't fail."

—Ellen Ryan



“Mr. Flores’ class has been a great help when learning a new language. The way he teaches classes is not only creative but also fun. There is no better way than to learn in a meaningful and social way.”

—Karen Vicente Vicente,
11th grader, Greeley West High School

CALEB FLORES, '16, M.A. '21
Milken Educator Award

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Alumni Notes

70s

Claude d'Estrée, B.A. '70, Denver, was named to the International Advisory Board of the International Commission for Human Rights and Religious Freedom.

Amos Wipf, D.A. '70, Cleveland, Georgia, celebrated his 100th birthday and was honored by The White County Board of Commissioners who proclaimed March 7, 2024, as Dr. Amos Samuel Wipf Day in White County.

Steve Antonopoulos, B.A. '72, M.A. '73, Limon, longtime Denver Broncos athletic trainer and director of Sports Medicine, honored as Pro Football Hall of Fame Awards of Excellence recipient. Antonopoulos retired from the Denver Broncos after more than four decades with the organization.

Michelle Brown, B.A. '74, Buffalo, New York, received the Howard Levine award from the New York State Bar, the Attorney of the Year Award from the Bar Association of Erie County and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Appellate Division, 4th Department.

Dave Carter, B.A. '76, Westminster, served as executive director of the National Bison Association from 2001 to 2022, where they helped lead the campaign to win Congressional authorization to designate bison as the National Mammal of the United States.

Welcome Home Class of 1974:

Congratulations to the Class of 1974 for reaching their 50th Class Year Anniversary. We are excited to welcome you home to UNC September 27-28, 2024. If you are a member of the Class of 1974 and have an interest in helping plan this year's reunion, please reach out to the Alumni Association alumni@unco.edu or 970-351-2551.

80s

Kendall Fay, B.S. '82, Littleton, celebrated her 10-year anniversary as a solution architect for Datavail, a Colorado-based IT services company.

Leanne Alarid, B.A. '89, Santa Teresa, New Mexico, was awarded the Peter Lejins Research

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

Award by the American Correctional Association for research contributions in prisons, jails and probation and parole in 2023.

90s

Alana Johnson, B.A. '97, Columbia, Maryland, celebrated her fifth year at NASA, her "NASAversary," and currently serves as a Senior Communications Specialist.

Joe Palmer, B.S. '97, Aurora, completed his doctorate in November 2023 and was promoted to assistant professor and director of Clinical Education for the University of Colorado's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program within the CU School of Medicine.

Nelson Henry, M.P.H. '98, Denver, retired from the Denver Police Department after 31 years of service.

00s

Jase Wagner, B.S. '01, Edina, Minnesota, was recently appointed president and CEO of a farm credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities.

Lori Lopez, B.A. '06, Longmont, received St. Vrain Valley Schools 2023 Teacher of the Year Award.

Aaron Lucero, B.S. '09, Pueblo, celebrated eight years of employment with Pueblo Community College and was awarded Employee of the Year for APT Employees.

10s

Eric Palmer, M.A. '13, Alamosa, published their first book, *Static Lines: Letters from a Kansas City Paratrooper*, the true story of a World War II paratrooper.

Scott Schmaltz, B.A. '14, B.S. '14, Chicago, Illinois, started a new role as manager of Market Intel and Customer Experience at Cintas.



Bears Heart Bears


Trevor Anderson, B.S. '18, and Aubrey Wells, B.A. '20, were married on May 10 in Monument. The pair met in 2016 while Anderson studied Recreation, Tourism, Hospitality and Wells studied Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Psychology at UNC. Anderson and Wells lead amazing careers since graduating and will go on to share an amazing life together. Congratulations to the couple who sent along a wedding invitation to the UNC Alumni Association!

Mason Walter, B.S. '14, Starkville, Miss., was hired as Mississippi State football's new director of football sports science. This is the next step in Walter's impressive career which includes working with 29 combat and acrobat Team USA Olympic and Paralympic teams.

Amanda Andrews, B.A. '18, Atlanta, Georgia, after working in public radio for several years, had stories published and shared nationally on NPR.

Kevo Ellis, B.A. '18, Minneapolis, Minnesota, began a new role as program manager for Grid Catalyst, a clean energy accelerator focused on northern climate solutions.

 **Submit Alumni Notes online at unco.edu/unc-magazine**

 **Stay connected! Join more than 80,000 people and follow us on LinkedIn @university-of-northern-colorado or on X (formerly Twitter) @UNCBearsAlumni for the latest alumni and university news and highlights.**

20s

Zachery Laki, B.S. '20, Bozeman, Montana, gave a presentation on Frequency Modulated Continuous Wave (FMCW) LiDAR and FMCW digital holography for long-range, three-dimensional, coherent imaging at Photonics West 2024, a globally recognized event held in San Francisco attracting over 24,000 optics and photonics professionals from more than 70 countries. He will publish a paper on that topic and graduate with his master's of Optics and Photonics from Montana State University.

Oscar Whitney, B.A. '21, New York City, New York, is making their Broadway debut this spring in Alicia Keys' new musical, *Hell's Kitchen*, at the Shubert Theater.

Lauren Derrick, M.A. '21, Villa Rica, Georgia, passed the exam necessary to become a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst.

Mary Claxton, M.M. '21, Greeley, was recently promoted to director of Teaching and Learning for Music Will, a nonprofit that serves music educators and their students.

Jim Oberlander, Ph.D. '23, Bowling Green, Ohio, after completing their doctoral degree, moved into an administrative director role at the University of Toledo.

In Memory

1940s

Marv Eakes, B.A. '49, M.A. '56
Christine Heinich, B.A. '49
Ruth Rich, B.A. '49

1950s

Jack King, B.A. '50
Margaret Kelly, B.A. '51
Ruth Muldoon, B.A. '51
Edye Nottingham, B.A. '51
Reid Pope, B.A. '51, M.A. '65
Ruth Gabriel, M.A. '51
Wilma Mirich, B.A. '52
Melvin Scarrow, B.A. '52
Geri Gernhardt Brooks, B.A. '53
Beulah Kennicutt, B.A. '53, M.A. '61
Joyce Klein, B.A. '53
Alice Quirico, B.A. '53, M.A. '65
Bennita Wiley, B.A. '53
Bettye Wallace, M.A. '53
Blaine Bond, B.A. '54
Jewel Briggs, B.A. '54
Ellsworth Lorentzen, B.A. '54
David Mejia, B.A. '54, M.A. '55
Allen Petersen, B.A. '54
Bev Porter, B.A. '54
Joseph Seamon, B.A. '54
Lois Haugen, M.A. '54
Betty Conn, B.A. '55
Dick Franz, B.A. '55, M.A. '58
Alvin Gentsch, B.A. '55
Ron Ramsey, B.A. '55, M.A. '64

Save the Date

HOMECOMING
UNC

Come home to
Celebrate
with your UNC Bear family
September 27–28, 2024

Showcase your Bear Pride by donning your Blue and Gold at this year's Homecoming festivities—you won't want to miss them!

We would like to extend a special invitation to the class of 1974. Join us and fellow Bears at your 50-year reunion.

**Once a Bear,
Always a Bear!**

unco.edu/homecoming



LIZ KISSELL, '75, M.S. '82
Nursing and Nursing Education

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

FROM THE VAULT

Back to the Future

As UNC prepares to break ground on the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, it can be easy to lose sight of where its reputation for excellence in the health sciences and preparing generations of health care professionals started. The university's Nursing program has been a leader in nursing education for more than 60 years and remains a highly competitive and sought-after course of study. And there is no sign of that changing any time soon.

While some things show no signs of change, other things have changed.

When Liz Kissell, '75, M.S. '82, was a student at UNC, the scrubs Nursing students wore looked quite a bit different. While they may not have been very practical, there's no denying they definitely had more personality and flare.

Although Nursing students' scrubs have changed and curriculum has evolved to keep up with changing requirements and discoveries to stay at the forefront, a few things have not changed. For one, the strong academic support that Nursing students receive when they walk on campus has remained a high priority. For another, the outstanding education students receive remains affordable. As the university strives to train and graduate nurses and health care providers that Colorado and its health care system desperately need, it will continue to raise the bar on Nursing education and remain one of the top Nursing schools in the country.



Nursing student, 1981
Cache la Poudre Yearbook

Join Us AT THE GREELEY STAMPEDE

Make plans to attend this signature Greeley event which runs from June 26-July 7!

Tuesday, July 2 UNC Day at the Greeley Stampede

Grab your boots and your favorite Bear Gear then head out to the annual UNC Day at the Greeley Stampede. Let's fill Island Grove with Bears of all ages enjoying the carnival, rodeo and music at the Civitas Park Music Stage.

Thursday, July 4 Independence Day Parade

UNC is again the Parade Host for the Independence Day Parade.



greeleystampede.org

Sylvia Wolinsky, B.A. '55
 Daniel Albeyta, B.A. '56, M.A. '57
 Betty Englen, B.A. '56
 Sharon Geist, B.A. '56
 Richard Hilts, B.A. '56, M.A. '61
 Dwayne Kurth, B.A. '56
 Marie Leach, B.A. '56
 Phillip Reigenborn, B.A. '56
 Chet Hausken, M.A. '56, Ed.D. '63
 Charlie Hawkins, B.A. '57, M.A. '64
 Alan Balch, B.A. '57, M.A. '61
 Chuck Brown, B.A. '57, M.A. '60
 Glenn Burnham, B.A. '57, M.A. '59
 Lila Chambers, B.A. '57
 Robert Frykholm, B.A. '57
 Jerry Henderson, B.A. '57
 Marjorie, McCauley, B.A. '57
 Ned Brainard, M.A. '57, Ed.D. '61
 Eino Martino, M.A. '57
 Armin Rosin, M.A. '57
 Clyde Edmiston, B.A. '58
 Ursula McRostie, B.A. '58, M.A. '64
 Emma Pearce, B.A. '58
 Don Redgwick, B.A. '58
 Jim Reeman, B.A. '58, M.A. '59
 Bill Vorreiter, B.A. '58, M.A. '64
 Tom Charles, M.A. '58
 Edie Evans, M.A. '58
 Evan Farmer, M.A. '58
 Maurine Faulkner, M.A. '58
 Esther McHardy, M.A. '58
 Allen Posthumus, M.A. '58
 Leonard Prah, M.A. '58
 Mary Blue, B.A. '59
 Chuck Bussing, B.A. '59
 Marianne Cardinal, B.A. '59
 Ronald Even, B.A. '59, M.A. '64
 Marilyn Kraft, B.A. '59
 Madaline Lake, B.A. '59
 Ellen Olson, B.A. '59
 Alice Osborne, B.A. '59
 Berna Renzelman, B.A. '59
 Rosemary Sekera, B.A. '59
 Shirley Snare, B.A. '59
 Ronald Weaver, B.A. '59, Ed.S. '75
 Nelson Lutey, Ed.D. '59
 Weldon Borgaard, M.A. '59
 Martha Staby, M.A. '59

1960s

Arlene Belt, B.A. '60
 Dorothy Brotemarkle, B.A. '60, M.A. '70
 Richard Carara, B.A. '60
 Charlotte Carey, B.A. '60
 Charla Filla, B.A. '60, M.A. '63
 Alan Hyslop, B.A. '60, M.A. '73
 David Jones, B.A. '60, M.A. '64
 Lynn Scott, B.A. '60
 Jerry Weber, B.A. '60
 Dennis Westbrook, B.A. '60
 Doug Clanin, M.A. '60
 Bud Gardner, M.A. '60
 Allen Gilmore, M.A. '60

Glenn Jensen, M.A. '60
 Wally Sheets, M.A. '60
 Glenn Antonopoulos, B.A. '61, M.A. '67
 Gary Beard, B.A. '61, M.A. '70, E.D. '78
 Joan Bogensberger, B.A. '61
 Betty Enderson, B.A. '61
 Nancy Franzon, B.A. '61
 Lenore Nelan, B.A. '61
 Connie Otto, B.A. '61
 Harry Schumer, B.A. '61, M.A. '65
 Maureen Soller, B.A. '61
 Bonnie Spitzer, B.A. '61
 Sue Stanec, B.A. '61, M.A. '66
 Sal Troisi, B.A. '61, M.A. '62
 Shirley Uhrich, B.A. '61, M.A. '77
 Don Wiskes, B.A. '61
 Dee Zona, B.A. '61
 Duane Blackwell, B.S. '61, M.S. '67
 Walter Kleman, M.A. '61
 Leon Kruse, M.A. '61
 Donald Trout, M.A. '61
 Arthur Hayes, B.A. '62
 Bud Hettinger, B.A. '62
 Ahna Hoff, B.A. '62, M.A. '63
 Don Hunt, B.A. '62
 Kenneth Jenson, B.A. '62, M.A. '72
 Bonnie Maul, B.A. '62
 Bob Woodard, B.A. '62, M.A. '69
 Don Gunderson, M.A. '62
 Kenneth Ivers, M.A. '62
 Ron Paap, M.A. '62
 Tony Salazar, M.A. '62
 Ron Bailey, B.A. '63
 Carol Davila, B.A. '63
 Patrick Holligan, B.A. '63
 Richard Kaneko, B.A. '63, M.A. '64
 Frank Nagy, B.A. '63
 Judy Sekera, B.A. '63
 Jim Troyer, B.A. '63
 Patricia Zulauf, B.A. '63
 Gael Bennett, B.A. '64
 Bob DeBrey, B.A. '64, M.A. '69
 Dennis Draper, B.A. '64
 Connie Eckhardt, B.A. '64
 Janet Keenan, B.A. '64
 John Lanham, B.A. '64
 Dan Mahalek, B.A. '64, M.A. '68
 James Morris, B.A. '64
 Helen Norton, B.A. '64
 Jim Oster, B.A. '64
 Georgia Parks, B.A. '64
 John Shown, B.A. '64, M.A. '67
 Allen Thieme, B.A. '64, M.A. '71
 Charles Webb, B.A. '64
 Beverly Winsett, B.A. '64
 Dottie Woltemath, B.A. '64
 James Bentz, M.A. '64
 Dot Dusek, M.A. '64
 Curtiss Mallory, M.A. '64, Ed.D. '69
 Blayne Perleth, M.A. '64, Ed.D. '71
 Eldon Peters, M.A. '64, Ed.D. '75
 Jerome Polsin, M.A. '64

Pat Best, B.A. '65
 David Carpenter, B.A. '65, M.A. '68
 Nadine Cassata, B.A. '65
 Victor Garcia, B.A. '65, M.A. '71
 Warren Kercher, B.A. '65
 Jim McNally, B.A. '65, M.A. '70
 Clem Schneidmiller, B.A. '65, M.A. '77
 Jerry Troxel, B.A. '65
 Sid Wilke, B.S. '65
 Justyn Graham, Ed.D. '65
 Darrell Mudra, Ed.D. '65
 Lee Horst, B.A. '65
 Joseph Karr, M.A. '65
 Wardell Larson, M.A. '65
 Bill McKean, M.A. '65
 Richard Reimer, M.A. '65
 Dick Shiers, M.A. '65
 Don Swain, M.A. '65
 Karen Williams, A.B. '66
 Susan Brooks, B.A. '66
 Fred Schroeder, B.A. '66
 Jan Wilder, B.A. '66
 Larry Winburn, B.A. '66
 Linda Young, B.A. '66
 Eldon Ames, M.A. '66
 MaryAnn Burton, M.A. '66
 William Crosby, M.A. '66
 Jack Kohne, M.A. '66
 Pat Papenheim, M.A. '66
 Don Schramm, M.A. '66
 Phillip Sorensen, M.A. '66
 Lynne Anderson, B.A. '67, M.A. '76
 Douglas Ewald, B.A. '67
 Chancy Goodwin, B.A. '67
 Lucie Hoyt, B.A. '67
 Sue Koppenhafer, B.A. '67
 Pearl Koshi, B.A. '67
 Marianne Michaux, B.A. '67
 Larry Moody, B.A. '67
 Diana Pitts, B.A. '67
 Carol Samide, B.A. '67
 Floyd Sasa, B.A. '67
 Jim Stalley, B.A. '67
 Judy Szabo, B.A. '67, M.A. '79
 Richard Woolverton, B.A. '67
 Dennis Humphrey, Ed.D. '67
 Al Abramowitz, M.A. '67
 Leon Ardueser, M.A. '67
 Lowell Lenarz, M.A. '67
 Beulah Polley, M.A. '67
 John Schwenn, M.A. '67
 Robert Ventura, M.A. '67
 Melvin Beede, B.A. '68
 Charlotte Benich, B.A. '68, M.A. '71
 Linda Garcia, B.A. '68
 Mike Peters, B.A. '68
 Ann Roche, B.A. '68
 Cheryl Scharp, B.A. '68
 Sandra Weiss, B.S. '68
 Dick DeFore, M.A. '68
 Dee Howard, M.A. '68
 Dennis Parker, M.A. '68

Daniel Schnell, M.A. '68
Tom DeBerry, B.A. '69
Rich Emerson, B.A. '69, M.A. '7
Romajeau Hahn, B.A. '69
Dave Hills, B.A. '69
Janice Howard, B.A. '69, M.A. '7
Patrick Kaletka, B.A. '69, M.A. '70
Blanche Lane, B.A. '69
Dale Moritz, B.A. '69
Danny Musgrave, B.A. '69
William Noel, B.A. '69
Jody Rodriguez, B.A. '69
Daniel Torrez, B.A. '69, M.A. '70
Ella White, B.A. '69
Dennis Wiseman, B.A. '69, M.A. '74
Steve Tomsic, B.S. '69, M.A. '76
Delmer Reimer, Ed.D. '69
Kenneth DuBois, M.A. '69
Elaine Gottmann, M.A. '69
JoAnn McCall, M.A. '69
Jack Morgan, M.A. '69

1970s

Marilyn Cooley, B.A. '70
Cynthia Helton, B.A. '70
Susan Kessell, B.A. '70
Albert Knoblock, B.A. '70
Sherrie McDowell, B.A. '70
Stanley Nagatani, B.A. '70
Beau Pacheco, B.A. '70
Raymond Sasaki, B.A. '70, M.A. '72
June Sheperd, B.A. '70
Minnie Shurtleff, B.A. '70
Brenda Tatro, B.A. '70
Clinton Wells, Ed.D. '70
Barbara Cizek, M.A. '70, B.S. '82
Daryl Griffith, M.A. '70
Michael Henry, M.A. '70
Marc Pecha, M.A. '70
Don Perry, M.A. '70
Al Rossi, M.A. '70
Bert Bishop, B.A. '71
Suzanne Bright, B.A. '71
Gary Bryan, B.A. '71
Greg Dannels, B.A. '71
Claudia Johnson B.A. '71
Mike Merrill, B.A. '71

Karen Oldfield, B.A. '71, M.A. '72
Rich Stubler, B.A. '71
Doug Sutch, B.A. '71
Ralph Ditallo, B.S. '71, B.A. '71
Gloria Strandquist, B.S. '71
Bob Lacher, D.A. '71
Merlyn Gramberg, Ed.D. '71
Jack O'Neill, Ed.D. '71
Leo Pauls, Ed.D. '71
Gary Steinmiller, Ed.D. '71
Roxanne Carson, M.A. '71
Mattie Edwards, M.A. '71
Debbie Bee, B.A. '72
Bob Brunacci, B.A. '72, M.A. '74
Rudy Forjan, B.A. '72
Stephen Gillott, B.A. '72
Barry Hadley, B.A. '72
Christina Hobbs, B.A. '72
Shirley Magnuson, B.A. '72
Roberto Martinez, B.A. '72
Georgia Michael, B.A. '72
Ray Payne, B.A. '72
Barry Peterson, B.A. '72, M.A. '74
Gary Stoker, B.A. '72
Jim Webster, B.A. '72
LaVern Lambrecht, B.S. '72
Joel Barbee, Ed.D. '72
Bruce Quantic, Ed.D. '72
Edward Apodaca, M.A. '72
George Belden, M.A. '72
Rick Christmas, M.A. '72,
Ed.S. '74, Ph.D. '80
Betty Drake, M.A. '72
Philip Dynneson, M.A. '72
Ron Mohr, M.A. '72
Darlene Perry, M.A. '72
Bill Rahm, M.A. '72
Kathie Blea, B.A. '73
Linda Camp-Johnson, B.A. '73
Kathleen Carter, B.A. '73
Judith Egusa, B.A. '73
Bill Hensley, B.A. '73
Jim Herrell, B.A. '73, M.A. '78
Thomas Lopeman, B.A. '73
Laura Ratcliff, B.A. '73
Gary Augden, B.S. '73, M.A. '75
Danny Harris, B.S. '73

Judy Weimer, B.S. '73
Michael Wisch, B.S. '73
Dennis Mancuso, Ed.D. '73
Chau-Ying Liao, M.A. '73
Van Liufau, M.A. '73
Jerilyn Sanderson, M.A. '73
Robert Thrasher, M.A. '73
Pete Hassemmer, Ph.D. '73
Cherryl Babbitt, B.A. '74
Chuck Bohn, B.A. '74
Frank Faiella, B.A. '74, M.A. '80
Jerry Fithian, B.A. '74
Dan Kelley, B.A. '74
Sandy Kielsmeier, B.A. '74
MaryAnn Randels, B.A. '74
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 Mei-Yau Shih, M.A. '87, Ph.D. '91

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 Kathryn Scott, M.A. '88
 Mark Aderman, M.M.E. '88,
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 Ed Bond, M.A. '89

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 Carolyn Engelken, M.A. '90
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 Janet Staats, M.A. '91
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 Ed Clark, B.A. '92
 Judy Maupin, B.S. '92
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 Mindy Gable, B.S. '93, M.P.H. '97
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 Charles King, M.A. '93
 Diane Schock, M.A. '93
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 Cindy Pollard, B.A. '94
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Tributes

Edith "Edey" Nottingham, '51

The Bear community mourns the loss of one of its biggest supporters and a beloved member of its community for nearly three-quarters of a century, Edey Nottingham. She passed away November 16, 2023, at age 93.

Edey and her husband Vic, '52, of 62 years, both fiercely loyal Bears, co-chaired fundraising efforts to build the UNC football team, track and field and other sports. In 1992, along with fellow donors, they helped raise \$3.5 million to build UNC's current football stadium, Nottingham Field, named in their honor. Their incredible and unwavering generosity, and that of many others, created multiple endowments in the Nottinghams' name that provide ongoing support for student-athletes and athletic facilities.

When the stadium opened in 1995 for its first football game, Edey along with her husband Vic, watched the Bears take the field from section D, row 25, seat 15. It's a seat that has remained hers ever since. Seat 14 belonged to Vic and after his death in 2014, UNC turned his seat gold in a sea of blue to honor him — to hold a seat for him in a way that reflected his love for the Bears.

An Elementary Education major, Edey has been a generous, longtime supporter of UNC since her graduation in the early 1950s, working tirelessly to promote UNC Athletics and recruit passionate Bear fans. Edey was a proud Bear parent and grandparent to many UNC graduates.

For more than four decades, Edey has been an ardent champion and generous contributor to the university, and her and Vic's generosity has provided support for scholarships, programs and facilities that have made a tremendous impact in Athletics and across our campus.

Nottingham Field will always be a reminder of Edey's unwavering commitment, love and passion for UNC. As she was fond of saying, Bear down!



Carl Iwasaki, '85

Former Head Baseball Coach

The UNC community was deeply saddened to learn of "Coach Carl's" passing on February 7, 2024.

A UNC alum as well as a former baseball player and coach, Iwasaki was the Bear's ninth head coach, leading the team from 2010-22. During his 12 seasons at the helm, Iwasaki amassed over 300 wins, making the Hawaii native the fourth-winningest coach in UNC program history.

As a student-athlete, Iwasaki played four seasons as catcher for UNC. Prior to becoming UNC's head coach, Iwasaki served as assistant coach and later head baseball coach at Austin College in Texas. There, he was named Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2006 and 2007. In 2010, Iwasaki made the leap back to his alma mater, UNC, a newly Division I team.

In his first three seasons, he led the Bears to a Great West Conference title and the championship game of the 2011 Great West Conference (GWC) Baseball Tournament. In 2013, Iwasaki was named GWC Coach of the Year.

During Iwasaki's tenure, dozens of student-athletes earned spots on All-Conference teams and received All-Academic awards. He was instrumental in the recruitment and development of Jensen Park, who



earned both Great West Player of the Year in 2013 and WAC Player of the Year in 2015. Park was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in 2015. Nearly a dozen of Coach Carl's players went on to play professionally in the minor leagues.

Iwasaki led efforts to move UNC into the Western Athletic Conference which has an automatic NCAA tournament berth. He also preached tirelessly about the importance of academic success, and in his final season as head coach, Iwasaki had eight student-athletes make the Summit League Commissioner's Academic List.

Iwasaki touched so many students' lives and made a tremendous impact on many people throughout his coaching career. He was known for his generous spirit and sincere willingness to help people. An organ donor, Iwasaki's last act was donating his liver to save someone's life.

Coach Carl will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

Allen McConnell, Ph.D.

Senior Professor of Accounting

Allen McConnell passed away March 13, 2024 at the age of 82. The longtime Accounting professor joined UNC's (MCB) College of Business faculty in 1968, teaching students for 50 years.

McConnell enjoyed students immensely and taught courses in finance, insurance law, auditing and governmental and managerial accounting. For over 15 years, he served as chair of the Department of Accounting and Computer Information Systems. The department earned its International Accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business under his leadership.

McConnell has received numerous honors and awards from his peers and professional organizations over the course of his career. In 2003, he received the 2003 CPA Making a Difference award from the Colorado Society of CPAs for his professional and community service and for his extraordinary work with students. He also worked as a CPA for several CPA firms in North Dakota and Colorado, including McConnell and Bohrer, LLC, in Greeley.

Perhaps most importantly, McConnell touched the lives of so many students, alumni and colleagues. He was a favorite professor of students, known for being tough but fair as well as supportive. McConnell advised MCB's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an international honor society for accounting, finance and information systems, and the Professional Accounting Association for many years.

In 2009, MCB alumni and donors established the Allen McConnell Distinguished Chair in Accounting which recently surpassed \$1 million in funding. The Chair recognizes the tremendous impact McConnell made on generations of students' educational experiences and lives while also serving to attract and retain outstanding accounting faculty to MCB.

McConnell always made time to listen or help those in need. His presence brightened the lives of all who knew him, and his absence will be deeply felt. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carol (Anderson) McConnell, his two children and three grandchildren. He established the Matthew A. McConnell Memorial Scholarship for University High School seniors in honor of his son who died in 1994 at the age of 24.

McConnell earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the University of North Dakota.

UNC is grateful for McConnell's dedication and commitment to the university, its students and for his outstanding contributions to Accounting over the span of five decades. True to his nature, he asked that random acts of kindness be done in his memory.





PHOTO BY ANDREW BUTTON

Last Look

For 63 years, the corner of 20th Street and 11th Avenue on the University of Northern Colorado campus has been the home to Bishop-Lehr Hall. Built in the early 1960s, the facility was home to the university's Laboratory School — schools that popped up in the early 1900s as places where teachers and researchers developed instructional innovation. Generations of Greeley residents attended UNC's Lab School and teacher education students trained to become classroom teachers.

With the university separating from the Laboratory School in 2002, the previously bustling classroom activity in the two-story, 124,000-square-foot building has long since faded. The hall has been underutilized for two decades and is no longer suitable as a teaching or learning environment. But its spirit will live on. The grounds Bishop-Lehr sits upon will be the new home for UNC's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Teaching and learning will continue once again.



PHOTO BY UNC ARCHIVES

The building was named for long-serving faculty members Ralph T. Bishop, an Industrial Arts instructor from 1919-55, and Elizabeth Lehr, a nationally renowned children's reading specialist who taught at the school for 45 years from 1926-69.

With the passage and signing of House Bill 1231, which provided the remaining funding necessary for the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, UNC will begin demolishing Bishop-Lehr Hall this summer. In its place will stand a new 101,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that will house the university's new college for medical education.

The absence of Bishop-Lehr Hall will certainly change the landscape of UNC's West Campus and no doubt tug on the memories of the thousands of students, alumni, teachers and staff who walked its halls, immersed in teaching and learning. But what isn't changing is the university's deep commitment to providing innovative education and its promise to rise to a new challenge, this time to meet the community's health care education and workforce needs.



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PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

**The future's so bright you gotta
wear shades!**

Watching the partial solar eclipse this
past April never looked so good.

