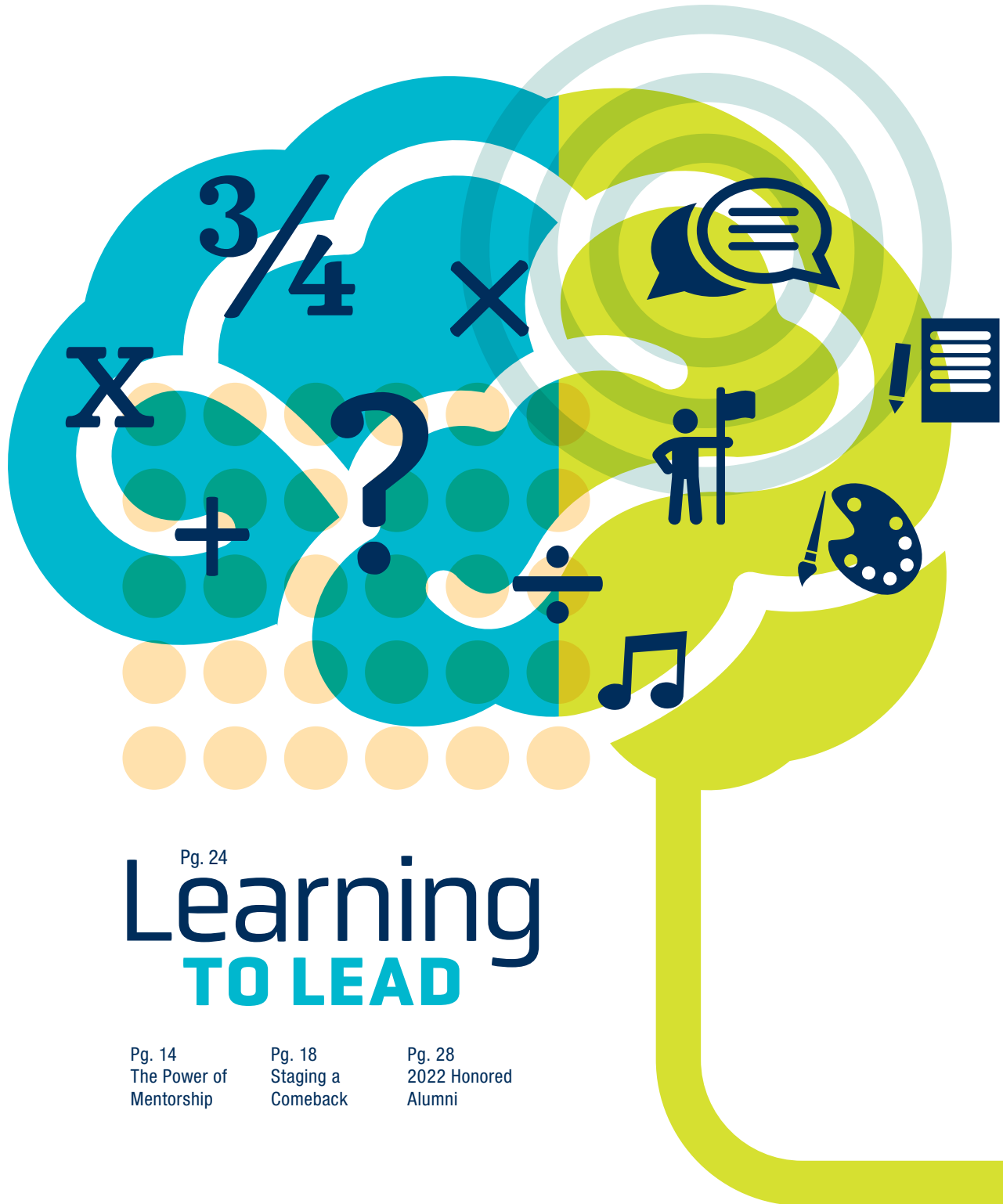


# UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
SPRING 2022

magazine



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Alumni

# Fellow Bears,

For more than 130 years, the University of Northern Colorado has served the needs of our state and communities by preparing well-trained graduates who have been leaders in their fields across Colorado and around the globe. Whether they have been educators, artists, activists, nurses, business and civic leaders, or one of the countless other careers held by our graduates, our alumni have been essential to the growth, health, and success of the people and organizations they serve.

This is possible because we do so much more than just teach at UNC. Preparing students to seize on the immense potential that resides within each of them to achieve great things is at the heart of what we do as a Students First university. Surely, the student experience looks different now than it did so many years ago when we were getting our start as a normal school. Throughout our history, we have honed the practice of guiding students in the pursuit of the knowledge, skills, and experiences that prepare them to succeed in realizing their dreams and ambitions. We are an institution whose people have been recognized many times over for their innovation and skill in these endeavors—and in this edition of *UNC Magazine*, we celebrate some hallmarks of a UNC education. Whether it is through the relationships they develop with faculty members who nurture their mastery of a craft, leadership opportunities that hone their capacity to serve others, mentorship that cultivates ideas and clarifies purpose, or so many other experiences that occur inside and outside of the classroom, a student's educational experience at UNC is enriched by human connections as they learn and grow alongside their peers and our faculty and staff. And so many of you—alumni and friends of the university—share in this by generously offering your time, talent, and treasure to support this work.

As an institution, we must continue striving to improve on what we have done so well since our founding in 1889. Sustained success depends on the contributions each one of you makes. Our *Rowing, Not Drifting 2030* strategic plan sets out a bold vision for UNC to be the institution that Colorado looks to as the future of higher education. Our students will experience a personalized education grounded in the liberal arts and infused with critical and creative inquiry. They will establish relationships with faculty and staff that nurture individual development. They will gain the skills and knowledge that provide upward mobility. And, importantly, through their participation in a community that values respect for one another, they will develop a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. I look forward to sharing our progress in the coming months as we conclude our first two-year phase of our plan and begin implementation of the second phase.

There are so many successes to celebrate at UNC as we work to realize this vision and I am grateful for each member of our community who helps to make it all possible. For all that you do, I thank you.



Go Bears!



Andy Feinstein  
President



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



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### ON THE COVER

At UNC, a student's education and preparation for success goes beyond the classroom, with opportunities for learning through campus leadership. In this issue of *UNC Magazine*, three alumni share how their student experiences have led to success in life.

## Editor's Note

UNC's 10-year vision plan, *Rowing Not Drifting 2030*, focuses on the following five vision elements. Look for these icons throughout this publication for stories that reflect these elements.



Students First



Empower Inclusivity



Enhance & Invest



Innovate & Create



Connect & Celebrate





PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

## The View from Here

### TUNNEL VISION

Each year, students are invited to participate in “UNC United: Connecting Through Color,” a mural event designed to clean and paint the campus tunnel that runs beneath 11th Avenue. We asked students to submit designs, and once designs were chosen, all students were invited to grab a paintbrush and bring some fresh color to the tunnel. This year students participated in the event on Nov. 5, 2021.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS



## News Briefs

### UNC TAKES KEY STEPS TOWARD OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE DEGREE PROGRAM

UNC made progress in exploration of creating a college of osteopathic medicine this spring. On March 17, Governor Jared Polis signed Senate Bill 56, legislation that allows the university to offer specialized degree programs in osteopathic medicine. The bill was passed unanimously through the House and Senate, receiving bipartisan support.

“I am grateful that our community, state legislators and Governor Polis share in our belief that more healthcare professionals in Colorado are needed and that a new medical college at UNC would go a long way in addressing the physician shortage that exists,” said Andy Feinstein, UNC president.

On April 12, UNC announced the selection of Dr. Beth Longenecker as the founding dean of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Longenecker, who will start her position in June, brings a wealth of experience in osteopathic medical education to UNC, both as a physician and administrator at higher education institutions.

“I am thrilled to be joining the University of Northern Colorado in developing a new college of osteopathic medicine,” Longenecker said. “It is evident that we have the support of regional partners such as Banner Health, fellow osteopathic physicians, members of the Greeley community and colleagues across the university. This sets the stage for us to create a program that will inform and empower the next generation of physicians, enabling them to join the team of healthcare professionals in serving the people of Colorado with empathy and compassion.”

As the founding dean, she will provide key leadership in creating the business plan for the college, developing program curriculum, supporting work to secure start-up funds and collaborating with partners to secure additional commitments for clinical placements and residencies. Longenecker will also lead the university through and manage the accreditation process with the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

The university’s decision to pursue a college of osteopathic medicine came after research and conversations with key stakeholders and based on the findings and recommendations from a donor-funded feasibility study. It stems from UNC’s desire and unique ability to meet the critical and growing demand for doctors across the state and region, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

The university must raise approximately \$150 million through philanthropy, state support, partnerships and other sources. Once fully operational, the college is planned to be completely self-sustaining.



Follow the university’s continued efforts on UNC’s Osteopathic Medical College Exploration webpage, [unco.edu/president/osteopathic-medical-college](https://unco.edu/president/osteopathic-medical-college)

## Funding Important Work

### UNC RECEIVES GRANT THAT WILL HELP STRENGTHEN COLORADO’S TEACHING WORKFORCE

UNC was selected in a highly competitive grant process, as a recipient of an \$850,000 Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) Back to Work grant. The funding will provide new career paths for workers displaced by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic while also addressing the need for teachers in Colorado’s classrooms.

As the state-designated teacher preparation college for Colorado, UNC is uniquely positioned to focus on strengthening Colorado’s teaching workforce, a sector that was already experiencing shortages before the pandemic.

The university will use the funds — which include \$600,000 in financial support for students, \$225,000 for “wrap-around” student support services and \$25,000 for outreach and recruitment efforts — to expand their innovative Center for Urban Education (CUE) program.



News Briefs cont.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA POLSON

## PRESIDENT FEINSTEIN HIGHLIGHTS TOGETHERNESS AND GROWTH IN STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

During the annual State of the University Address on Sept. 8, UNC President Andy Feinstein, along with several other university leaders, reflected on the challenges over the past year brought on by the pandemic and the importance of working together to overcome those challenges.

While acknowledging that the university has had to make some tough decisions to ensure as normal of a return as possible this fall, Feinstein said, “There is nothing better than being back together. It may sound cliché, but it is heartfelt and true—a UNC education is enriched by the relationships that form on our campus. Togetherness is an important characteristic that distinguishes UNC from other universities—and that’s never been more true than it is today.”

The value of working together was illustrated through numerous accounts of faculty and staff going above and beyond to ensure student success is at the core of UNC’s daily work. That includes the ongoing administrative efforts to end years of deficit spending to be able to invest in the future of UNC’s students and employees and through the university’s continued efforts to develop and strengthen relationships within the Greeley community. Feinstein also recognized and applauded the perseverance of UNC’s students through a very difficult and challenging time.

During the address, Feinstein spoke about last year’s accomplishments and plans currently in progress that advance the university’s priorities identified in *Rowing, Not Drifting 2030*, UNC’s 10-year strategic plan.

## UNC LAUNCHES WEBSITE CELEBRATING INITIATIVE TO BECOME A HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION

This year, UNC’s annual celebration of Latinx Heritage Month was coupled with an institutional commitment to better serve the growing population of Hispanic/Latinx-identifying students as the university took an important step in launching a new website, affirming their intention and progress toward becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

“President Feinstein championed UNC’s pursuit of HSI designation and that is exactly what we needed to move forward,” Tobias Guzmán, Ed.D., vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion, said. “As a university committed to putting students first, we recognized that we have some work to do to ensure we’re serving and promoting the success of all of our students.”

UNC is currently in Phase 2 of its five-year plan to become an HSI and Guzmán expects the website will grow and update as planning efforts continue. His hope is that it provides people with a better understanding of the significance and importance of what becoming an HSI means, not only for UNC but also for Weld County and communities across Colorado, as well as giving people the opportunity to become involved in and help support the process.

 [unco.edu/hsi](https://unco.edu/hsi)

## HULAC CHOSEN AS WINCHESTER DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

David Hulac, Ph.D., a professor of School Psychology in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, has been chosen as the 2022 A.M. and Jo Winchester Distinguished Scholar by UNC’s Faculty Research and Publications Board.



The award, which recognizes demonstrated continued excellence in scholarly activity at UNC for at least five years, comes with a \$2,000 monetary award and the designation as an A.M. and Jo Winchester Distinguished Professor for the rest of the honoree’s time at UNC.

Hulac’s research examines classroom management processes that teachers use. His most recent book, published with Amy Briesch of Northeastern University is *Effective Classroom Management: An Evidence-Based Approach*. Most recently, his research has focused on the effects of fidget devices and exercise stability balls on classroom and student behavior and academic achievement. Over the past five years, several devices like fidget spinners, cubes and putty-like substances have been created with claims that they help promote focus and reduce anxiety. Hulac’s research has generally found that student on-task behavior, as well as their academic performance, is lower when they use these devices.



## BOWS AND BLAZES — MUSIC STUDENTS TUNE UP THEIR COMMUNITY AS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Taber Land chose to attend UNC for one reason: to become a better violinist.

“I have a strong interest in classical composition. I’m interested in writing in my own voice, so I want to become a composer,” Land said.

That requires him to pick up his bow and practice fast passages and rhythms whenever he can. But playing an instrument isn’t the only intense activity taking up Land’s spare time. Alongside playing beautiful music, Land also helps battle raging fires that span hundreds of acres at a time.

To earn an income while he’s not in school, Land worked for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources the past two summers, responding to field fires. He brought those skills back to Colorado and the Galeton Fire and Protection District, just 15 minutes from UNC’s main campus, where he somehow fits in helping community members in need between coursework, rehearsals and recitals.

“The job is exciting. There have been calls where I was an important part of the response. Even though I’m not the most certified, it’s still really helpful to have more people there to respond to an emergency,” Land said.

Though the juxtaposition of creating beautiful melodies and fighting back hot flames would normally put Land’s college experience in a category of its own, he actually has a fellow Bear and violinist, Katherine Muser, experiencing the same contrast.



Taber Land serves his community as a firefighter while pursuing a bachelor’s in Music, Instrumental Performance.

[Read the full story at \*\*unco.edu/unc-magazine\*\*](https://unco.edu/unc-magazine)

News Briefs cont.



Cedric Howard, Ed.D.  
Vice President for  
Student Affairs

## NATIONAL LEADER TAKES THE HELM AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Cedric Howard, Ed.D., is UNC's new vice president for Student Affairs. Howard, who was selected through a national search, started his position on Dec. 6, 2021.

"This position is an important part of my leadership team and works across the university to ensure that students have a holistic educational experience best prepared to contribute to their growth and development no matter where they are in their academic journey," said UNC President Andy Feinstein. "In Dr. Howard, UNC gains a proven, student-centered leader and another advocate for our students. He truly embodies our common commitments to being a Students First institution."

Howard brings more than 25 years of higher education experience to UNC. In addition to his leadership roles at State University of New York (SUNY) Fredonia and the University of Washington Tacoma, he has also held positions at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Weber State University, LeMoyne-Owen College and University of South Florida St. Petersburg. His professional honors and awards include the National Association of Student Personnel Administration (NASPA) Pillar of the Profession Award (2019), the national NASPA Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Dean/VP (2018) and the regional NASPA Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Dean/VP Region V (2014).



## ALUMNI-LED PRODUCTION OF "RENT" GIVES STUDENTS A TASTE OF BROADWAY

In the early 2000s, two eager Theatre Arts majors had their eyes set on New York's biggest stage. Taking dance course after dance course and performing in multiple student productions, Jason Veasey '02 and Aléna Watters '03 achieved that dream, using the skills they perfected on campus and eventually showcasing them on Broadway.

Veasey has been cast in "The Lion King" on Broadway, the musical's national tour and has performed in other off-Broadway productions, as well as on-screen TV roles since graduating with a bachelor's in Musical Theatre. Watters, Veasey's fellow classmate and long-time friend, has seen her own share of success on the stage. Her Broadway credits include "West Side Story," "Sister Act" and "The Cher Show." While the pair has checked off some major career goals, they've never forgotten where it all began.

"We have been talking for years about wanting to create the opportunity for UNC students to really be abreast with how the industry is moving forward," Watters said.

Last fall, the duo shared the knowledge they've learned with current students, as Veasey directed, and Watters choreographed UNC's production of the popular Broadway musical "Rent."



For more UNC News stories, please visit [unco.edu/news](https://unco.edu/news)



# I'm a Bear

## CREATING POINTS OF VISIBILITY

**Vanja Pejic, Ph.D., '16, School Psychology**, found her true calling when she was a graduate student at UNC. A refugee from Bosnia when she was a child, Pejic is an attending psychologist at Boston Children's Hospital and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. She provides school mental health services for newly arrived immigrant and refugee youth for the Boston Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships program as well as supports community consultation and training on refugee and immigrant mental health through the Trauma and Community Resilience Center at Boston Children's Hospital. Here's her story about how she found her passion at UNC, as told by Pejic.

**I was 10 when my family came to the U.S. as refugees from Bosnia.** At the time, there were really no services for immigrant and refugee students in our area. My brother and I were the only refugees in our school. Going through the journey of acculturating into a new community, and then, later, working with immigrant and refugee student populations — many with complex mental health needs not being addressed — allowed me to understand how under-resourced and under-supported behavioral health systems were in supporting and treating these populations.

**I came to UNC after I spoke with Dr. Robyn Hess.** At the time, she was doing work with migrant communities and school mental health disparities. Our visions aligned. I will never forget, in my first year at UNC, I was doing a clinical practicum at a high school in Greeley when I was invited to talk with a classroom of newly arrived immigrant refugee students. I remember thinking, these are high school students, what do they care about this person sitting in front of the room speaking English? They were rambunctious and talking to each other, and I noticed a young man in the back of the room that just was not paying attention to what I had to say. Until, as I was introducing myself, I said, 'I, too, am a refugee,' and he stopped and looked up at me, and I saw a tear come down his face. It was a realization, among many in my life, that there was something I could contribute to this community. Despite our two very different life stories and experiences, he and I shared a mutual understanding of what it meant to be a refugee in the U.S.

**From then on, all my work centered around refugee populations.** I felt a deep calling and connection to this community. It's so important to continue to create points of visibility for immigrant and refugee communities that often experience so many hardships and barriers, from leaving their home countries to the process of resettlement. Too often the stories we tell of them focus on things that are wrong within these communities. I love the idea of being able to cultivate a different narrative, to bring change to how we understand and talk about refugee and immigrant populations and, instead, see them for the resiliency, diversity and strength they bring to our communities.

**VANJA PEJIC, Ph.D., '16**  
School Psychology



PHOTO COURTESY VANJA PEJIC

**I love the duality of providing direct clinical care** as well as being involved in research and teaching, because the immigrant and refugee youth and families I work with keep me grounded in my mission and purpose. For real systemic change to happen, I believe it starts by giving voice and power back to the refugee and immigrant communities.

**I did not believe getting a doctoral degree was even a possibility for me.** I'm the first person in my family to receive a Ph.D. Even the idea of graduate school was a distant concept until I was able to get a graduate assistantship that allowed me to pay for my graduate tuition. Opening the door for me to pursue my passion started with having financial support for individuals like myself. UNC was tremendous in allowing and creating spaces for people that shared stories like mine. Dr. Hess was instrumental in being an anchor for me, guiding and mentoring me every step of the way.

**It all started at UNC.** I had incredible faculty, mentorship and teaching, not just Dr. Hess, but the entire faculty within the School Psychology program that truly took the time to create and hone my passions and skill set. What a gift it was to be allowed, as a young person who's coming into their own, to have the backing of this community and support, whether it's financial, mentorship, education or training. The UNC community believed in me far more than I believed in myself at times, of what was possible or what was to come.

—Vanja Pejic, Ph.D. '16, as told to Amber Medina

COLIN MCGUIRE '20 AND  
PROFESSOR TRACEY SEDINGER, PH.D.

## STUDENT READING LIST

Interested in reading more? Here are a few of the reading assignments from ENG 230:

- “Superman” (first issue)
- “Wonder Woman”
- “Invincible” (issue #12)
- “Watchmen”
- Neil Gaiman, “Sandman,” MND issue
- Stjepan Sejic, “Sunstone,” Vol. 1
- Lois Lowry and P. Craig Russell, “The Giver”
- Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa and
- Francesco Francavilla, “Afterlife with Archie: Escape from Riverdale”
- Kat Leyh, “Thirsty Mermaids”
- James Tynion IV and Martin
- Simmonds, “Department of Truth,” Vol. 1: The End of the World

## Syllabus

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

## Exploring Comics in the Modern World



**CLASS:** ENG 230: Introduction to Comics and Graphic Novels

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to comics and print culture, including historical development from the 19th-century comic strip to the freestanding graphic novel. Interpretation of visual form, narrative structure, and cultural impact.

Professor of English Tracey Sedinger, Ph.D., developed a new course called Introduction to Comics and Graphic Novels and included input from UNC alumnus Colin McGuire '20.

Throughout the course, students explore many comic books and graphic novels old and new.

“The students have really latched onto it. They’re talking and making really cool observations that I never would have come up with,” says McGuire.

“Our students have such interesting things to say, so we just want to give them a vocabulary to be able to talk more about that—to think about why artists make certain choices,” Sedinger says.

Sedinger and McGuire hope to illustrate the academic value of comic books and graphic novels. They believe the popularity of comics in the modern day makes them an especially important and relevant medium to study.

“People read less and less but comics and graphic novels remain hugely popular. They’re incredibly influential and it just seemed like a logical thing to include in the English department’s offerings,” Sedinger says.

McGuire explains that readership for print media in 2020 was down—except for comics, which were up. “I think it emphasizes that comics are not just something that’s happening over on the side. It’s an important medium that a lot of people are paying attention to.”

Sedinger says “The Department of Truth” is a good example of comics addressing current topics. “It’s this really dark fantasy exploration of the fake news pandemic that we have going on and the danger that that poses to our democracy,”

They also see comics as a valuable medium for giving a voice to groups who are often marginalized in the mainstream media.

“I think comics and graphic novels have provided opportunities for people who are continuously underrepresented to be able to express and articulate their hopes, their dreams, what’s going wrong—their tragedies,” Sedinger says.

McGuire explains that exploring and studying various mediums allows students to ask what sort of things are overrepresented or underrepresented in a particular medium, or a story and what things get glossed over. “It’s always important to be critical of the media you consume,” says McGuire. “You get messages from any sort of show or movie you watch, about what is right and what is wrong, and it’s important to think about what it’s saying and what it’s trying to tell you.”

—Alani Casiano



# GO BEARS!

## PULLEY'S GOLDEN BOOT PART OF A GOLDEN ERA FOR UNC SOCCER

**Since the Northern Colorado soccer program joined the Big Sky Conference in 2006, fans would be hard-pressed to find a team with more consistent success.**

Nine straight trips to the conference tournament (the most of any team), two regular-season championships and two tournament titles to earn a pair of trips to the NCAA Tournament are just a few of the accolades head coach Tim Barrera has collected while in Greeley.

Right in the center of it all in 2022 was senior standout Lexi Pulley.

A native of Laramie, Wyo., Lexi was no stranger to UNC and its continued success.

"My sister, Jacqui, played soccer here right before me, so I already knew the coaching staff and the dynamics of the team," said Pulley. "I loved everything I saw and heard from her and knew I would enjoy playing my last years of soccer for the Bears."

While Jacqui solidified a stellar career in her own right from 2014-17, it didn't take long for Lexi to hit the ground running. Named one of the top-100 freshmen in the country by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Pulley never stopped working, both on the field and in the classroom.

"Lexi is a really heady player, tremendously skilled and an even better teammate," Barrera said. "She really creates a lot on the field, not just for herself but for everyone else as well."

While Pulley was busy stacking up all-conference selections, the chemistry major became a shoo-in on the Academic All-Big Sky list. Lexi most recently landed on the United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-Region Team, boasting a 3.68 GPA.

"Lexi is the very definition of a student-athlete," explained Barrera. "Her hard work on the field is just the beginning for her. She has excelled in every aspect at Northern Colorado and I have no doubt she will continue to do so in life after college."

A solid start in non-conference play had many feeling positive about making another run through conference play, none more than Pulley herself.



But before Pulley and the Bears took a stab at the Big Sky, she saved one of her favorite moments for her hometown fans.

Lexi had already found the back of the net in every way possible, but her 15th career goal in UNC's 3-1 win over Wyoming was the first time she'd scored in her hometown of Laramie.

Fast forward to the end of the regular season and Pulley had made a habit of scoring. Eight goals against conference opponents, including two on the final day of the season against Idaho State had Pulley leapfrog teammate Taylor Bray to secure the Big Sky's Golden Boot award and Offensive MVP.

"Winning the Golden Boot means so much to me," Pulley said. "My teammates set me up perfectly for each of my goals, so they definitely deserve just as much recognition."

Though it may not have been the picture-perfect season for Pulley and Bears with UNC falling in the conference semifinals, Lexi wouldn't trade any of it for the world.

"The culture of this program is one of the best I've seen," said Pulley. "The coaches care about your life outside soccer, which is something I don't think a lot of programs get to experience."

"I have made lifelong friends and we are all super close. It's a family-oriented atmosphere and I wouldn't have gotten where I am today without them."

—Thomas Hoffman





# Getting in Touch with Overspending Online

Two UNC professors study how technology may be able to help consumers avoid overspending.

It's an easy habit to fall into. While watching TV or folding laundry, it's almost second nature for people to pick up their phone, browse a retail site and before they know it, they've clicked "purchase" multiple times. This became especially popular since the beginning of the pandemic when many were staying at home. Though online shopping is convenient, it can also be costly.

"People tend to overpay when they pay via mobile or online because it's kind of like a painless payment. You don't have to pay with cash," said Daniel Brannon, Ph.D., assistant professor of Marketing in the Monfort College of Business (MCB) at UNC.

Brannon has been exploring theories surrounding online shopping and payment apps, specifically seeing if there is a way to help prevent people from dipping into their savings so quickly. It turns out there is.

Brannon and colleague, Moe Manshad, Ph.D., assistant professor of Software Engineering and Computer Information Systems (CIS), found a way to reduce overspending online, even if just by a little, through a 3-D printed vibration motor controller attached to a phone.

"All mobile phones have vibrations that are used to deliver notifications to consumers, for example when you receive a like or comment on a social media post," said Manshad. "We wanted to see if receiving a similar vibration notification when you are in the act of paying for something with your mobile device could affect how consumers feel about their spending on these devices."

In traditional, in-person shopping, consumers experience the physical aspect of standing in line or taking a form of payment out of their wallet, which research shows can lead to a sense of loss. Online shopping removes that, which is why

the pair looked for a different way to bring out that emotion.

"We wanted to see whether high or low haptic vibration intensity was most likely to elicit a sort of pain of payment," Brannon said.

Through the experiment, the faculty members discovered that haptic technology, which uses vibrations and motors to simulate the feeling of touch, may work.

The first step was creating a device, which Manshad was able to do using a 3-D printer located in his office. He then developed a mobile app that connected to a microcontroller with a vibration motor and hooked that onto the back of a phone.

"One of the things we worked on is developing the device that basically gives us control of the haptic part of the phone. Traditionally, on older phones, you don't have much control over the intensity of vibration, so we had to build a device," Manshad said.

With the device ready, Brannon and Manshad sought out a sample of 160 UNC undergraduate students to participate in the experiment. In the basement of MCB, a shopping experience was set up where each student chose from a shelf of various potato chips, used a mobile payment app to scan the QR code and then pressed 'purchase' in the app. Upon pressing the purchase button, the students received either low-intensity, high-intensity or no vibration feedback. They were then asked how much money they were willing to spend on a subsequent shopping trip.

Those who experienced the lowest-intensity vibration said they would spend less.

"There's a theory in psychology that low-frequency stimuli like low-frequency sounds can cause a sense of threat or danger," Brannon said. "If you think about a scary movie a lot of times



**MOE MANSHAD, PH.D.**, Assistant Professor of Software Engineering and Computer Information Systems

**DANIEL BRANNON, PH.D.**, Assistant Professor of Marketing



Getting in Touch with Overspending from pg. 11

it's that low, eerie sense that people get. It gives a sinister feeling."

Manshad says high frequency tends to have the opposite effect.

"High intensity is more associated with excitement or positivity to some extent," Manshad said. "What we're theorizing is that people who got the lower-intensity vibration tended to experience a bit more negative emotion, and subsequently they were less likely to spend."

While the findings excite Brannon and Manshad because it could help people save money, they want to take similar, future experiments a step farther, developing a Multiexperience (MX) lab for students to explore more connections between marketing, software engineering, CIS, accounting and more.

"We want to bring in marketing students to research and hold focus groups and have CIS students learn about the business process behind the development," said Manshad.

"With the MX Lab, using it for teaching and getting research out, students won't only be there for class but also to test technology," Brannon said.

"At the end of the day, each student needs value from each class to put on their resume," Manshad said. "We're showing our students that we, as faculty, are up-to-date with industry standards. We know how to use the technology involved and we can teach them these tools so that they have experience when interviewing for a job."

—Sydney Kern

Brannon and Manshad's research is published in the *Journal of Business Research* in the article entitled "Haptic-payment: Exploring vibration feedback as a means of reducing overspending in mobile payment."



## Field Notes

### \$498K GRANT FUNDS REHABILITATION EFFORTS AT AFRICAN AMERICAN TOWNSITE

The National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Grant Program recently awarded the University of Northern Colorado \$497,776 to help fund rehabilitation efforts at the African American townsite of Dearfield. For UNC Professor of Africana Studies George Junne, Ph.D., and Professor Emeritus and Research Fellow of Anthropology Robert Brunswig, Ph.D., the grant is a significant win that will help further the preservation efforts they have spearheaded at the townsite for over a decade.

Located east of Greeley along Highway 34, Dearfield was founded in 1910 as an African American farming community. The settlement, which covered approximately 20 square miles, grew to about 200 to 300 residents before being devastated by the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl in the early 1930s.

"There have been other Black agricultural communities around the country, but this is one of the only ones that has the original structures still on it," said Junne, who has been studying Dearfield since the late 1980s. "At the time, it was probably one of the most famous Black agriculture communities in the U.S."

The preservation efforts are part of the Dearfield Dream Project, a larger collaborative research and historic sites preservation effort that is an extension of work that members of the Dearfield Committee have been engaged in for the past 13 years.

➤ Junne and his work at Dearfield were featured in the Fall/Winter 2017 issue of *UNC Magazine*.

### UNC GEOGRAPHY PROFESSOR SECURES SEVENTH FULBRIGHT AWARD, ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR SIMILAR INTERCULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

Since winning her first Fulbright award in 2007, Karen Barton, a professor in the Geography, GIS and Sustainability department at UNC, has been traveling to different parts of the world, researching topics such as the preservation of wetlands in South America, natural hazards in Asia and religion and diversity in West Africa. Last summer she added another intercultural experience to her long list as she journeyed to Mexico, taking advantage of her impressive seventh award from the highly competitive and prestigious Fulbright Program.

As part of her most recent Fulbright-Hays fellowship, Barton travelled to Mexico City, exploring the cultural geographic connections between Africa and Mexico and completing a research and teaching project to bring back to her classes.







## Impact

# REFLECTING A BELIEF IN EDUCATION

**UNC TRUSTEE ANNETTE MARTINEZ '86 HONORS HER PARENTS' BELIEF IN EDUCATION BY SUPPORTING FUTURE TEACHERS THROUGH THE CUMBRES PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Annette Martinez's parents, Leo and Gregoria Romero, may not have had the opportunity to go to college, but they deeply believed in the importance of education.

"My mother did go back and get her high school GED," Martinez says. "My father did not. He was a business owner. He was on a school board for 13 years and when he was 80, I asked him, 'Do you have any regrets in life?' He said, 'My only regret was I didn't get to finish school.' And so that's the kind of environment I was raised in, knowing that education was so important."

It's a value that remains with her, and one that she supports with her time and through gifts to UNC. Martinez earned her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from UNC in 1986 and is a senior vice president at State Farm Insurance Companies, where she has worked since 1988. She was appointed to the University's Board of Trustees by Governor Jared Polis in late 2021.

Born and raised in LaSalle, Colo., Martinez says UNC's location, size, quality and affordability all contributed to her decision to become a Bear. "College was always the plan for me, and of course, having a great university right here in our backyard that was also affordable was really just a great option for me," she says.

With Greeley so close to home, Martinez was able to transition to college without getting lost in the crowds of a larger university, and she was able to stay connected to her local community.

"The truth is, I didn't see many people that looked like me, and I knew people that came to UNC who looked like me but ended up staying a year or so, then leaving," she remembers. "I had the security and support to go home every day to my family and that made it extra special for me."

Recognizing the importance of community and the sense of belonging students need to succeed, Martinez generously supports UNC's Cumbres program, housed in UNC's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. Cumbres is a scholarship and support program that prepares educators skilled in culturally and linguistically

diverse practices to serve as effective and compassionate teachers of English learners.

"Growing up and going to school, there weren't teachers who looked like me," Martinez says. "When I think about what Cumbres is doing... It is not only bringing together a group for support, a group of people who have an interest in doing such important work, it's also changing the next generation through education by being a teacher."

"I love the fact that Cumbres supports this group to continue moving forward because we have such a gap in our educational system for people of color. This was one way that I could be a part of something that was going to really make that difference."

Martinez also makes a difference for Cumbres students through the Leo and Gregoria Romero Scholarship, named for her parents. This scholarship provides support to first-generation college students enrolled in the Cumbres program.

"(My parents) made many sacrifices for me, not only to attend school, but to be able to complete my education. All four of us were able to attend college; that was a huge sacrifice for my parents."

As Martinez thought about how she could honor them, she knew that it had to reflect their belief in education, and that she wanted to help students who might not otherwise be able to afford college.

"Look at the faces of people you're making a difference for. (When making a choice about giving) I always say, 'What are the things that matter to me, and what are the things that I know matter to other people,'" she says. "I just feel like higher education should be open for everyone."

Understanding the importance of education, community and access have helped guide her philanthropic choices over the years. And, though her parents may not have gone to college, the lives of generations of students have been touched through the values and beliefs they passed on to their daughter.

—Debbie Pitner Moors



By Debbie Pitner Moors | Photos by Woody Myers

# The **Power** of Mentorship

Through UNC's McNair Scholars program, senior education major Nicola Anglo-Raymundo worked with Assistant Professor Stacy Bailey, Ph.D., on a research project that helped her define her plans for the future.

Growing up in Westminster, Colo., Nicola Anglo-Raymundo found reading and writing difficult in elementary school. While she was born and raised in the United States, Anglo-Raymundo's parents came to the U.S. from the Philippines. English was essentially a second language for her, and, while no one knew it at the time, she also had dyslexia.

"It was just difficult going through classes like that," she remembers. "But I was able to make it through because I had teachers who never gave up on me. I remember what really changed me in fourth grade was when I told my teacher 'I don't like reading; it's never clicked with me.' And she walked with me to the library, and we went through essentially most of the books until I found something of interest. Anyone who knows me now knows that I'm a voracious reader."

That moment sparked her love for reading, and it helped set her on a path to teaching, leading her to UNC's English Education program. She's currently student teaching and preparing to graduate this spring before going on to graduate school—a goal that's been developed through her participation in UNC's McNair Scholars program.

Anglo-Raymundo learned about the McNair Scholars program, one of 187 programs at institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico funded by the U.S. Department of Education, a couple of weeks before her first semester at UNC. She and her parents were

attending UNC's Center for Human Enrichment (CHE) welcome dinner when Krista Cauffman, the director of UNC's McNair Scholars program, sat down and talked with Nicola about her future plans and the McNair Scholars program.

The program helps students prepare for—and succeed—in graduate school. McNair participants are either first-generation college students with financial need, or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education who have demonstrated strong academic potential.

"We are a graduate school preparation program," Cauffman says. "Our goal is ultimately to actually diversify the professoriate. We're aiming to get more students from typically underrepresented groups to become faculty members, so they need to go to graduate school and get Ph.D.s."

The idea of pursuing an advanced degree stayed with Anglo-Raymundo as a freshman and into her sophomore year. As she explored her goals for the future, she applied for and became a McNair Scholar as she began her junior year.

## Connecting Students and Faculty

The scholar/mentor experience is key to the McNair program at UNC, and Anglo-Raymundo knew she'd need to find a mentor who could help guide her through the rigorous eight months her research project would demand.

"I wanted a professor who could match me on my passion level. I don't do lip service. I'm very, 'My actions will speak that I will advocate for my students,'" she says. "And a professor who always came to mind was Dr. Stacy Bailey. She's my academic advisor, but the passion she showed for helping students, the fact that even though we're all book nerds, she always says, 'Know that we're not teaching books, we're teaching students.' Her passion for students is what really stuck with me. So that's the reason why I approached her."

Bailey, assistant professor of English, had experienced the difference a mentor can make in reaching professional goals when she was a graduate student at UNC. At the time, she was teaching middle school and high school English in and around Greeley while raising two children.

It wasn't easy to juggle so many priorities, but she worked with Professor of English Jeri Kraver, Ph.D., and Professor of Psychological Sciences Kevin Pugh, Ph.D., and says those connections made a huge difference for her.





Senior education major Nicola Anglo-Raymundo (left) worked with mentoring professor Stacy Bailey, Ph.D., on Anglo-Raymundo's research as part of the McNair Scholars program at UNC.





Anglo-Raymundo says that the McNair program and Bailey's mentorship have shaped her future plans. "It impacted me so much that it changed how I planned out the rest of my career," she says.

### Where UNC McNair Scholars are now



**72%** have earned a graduate degree



**206** students have earned their master's degree so far

**27** have earned Ph.D.s



**15** have health doctorates (M.D., D.O., AuD.)



**5** have earned J.D.s

"Having a mentor really opened my world to opportunities that I didn't even know existed," Bailey says.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at UNC in 2005 and 2009, followed by her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology in 2014. She continued working with undergraduate students at UNC, including Anglo-Raymundo. As they started to work together through the McNair program, they were both covering new ground.

"Nicola and I both went in not really knowing what to expect, and I honestly think that it turned out beautifully because she and I already knew how to talk to each other and how to work with each other," Bailey says. "I already knew what her passion was, and she already knew about my research, so that allowed us to clear some of the logistical hurdles so smoothly."

Bailey's research focuses on social-emotional learning. "In a broader term, it's really about motivation for learning," she says. "We far better serve our students when we see them as people first, and then we can work with them and help them. And really, that's the philosophical undergirding for Nicola's research, too, not seeing students as students, but seeing them as people first. Her primary thrust for her research is culturally responsive pedagogy. She wants teachers, especially in the secondary system, to understand that the students in front of them aren't just students. They're people."

As Anglo-Raymundo worked on deciding what her research project would be, Bailey helped her narrow her focus to what was important to her.

"She was just trying to talk to me about my passions and I said, 'I really like this idea of students feeling seen culturally in class,'" Anglo-Raymundo says. "Growing up Filipino, I grew up with a stigma that each time Filipinos were talked about in class, either they were the people that America had to save, or savages."

"My methods class (when I was planning my research) was based on culturally relevant pedagogy. I told Stacy, 'I really like how you look through a culture lens, how you keep in mind how to talk about systemic issues.' Then we did a literature review and I told her I've noticed even though a lot of people claim that we don't use diverse literature in classrooms, no one has really done the data and looked through curricula. She said, 'You've found your gap.'"

### Using Numbers to Tell the Story

Bailey says that to work with her hypothesis, Anglo-Raymundo needed to focus heavily on quantitative data. "Her hypothesis was that there's not enough literature out there in secondary classrooms that really reflects who students are. I said if you want to make that argument, you're talking numbers. At heart, Nicola and I are both literature people. We're humanities, and numbers don't speak to us in that way. But she was so open and so willing."

Next, Anglo-Raymundo worked with Bailey to look at curricula used nationally in English language arts classrooms, examined the data for how the authors identified ethnically, and compared that to the student population data to see how well it correlated.

"I tried not to declare the hypothesis because I didn't want to create that bias, but deep down I felt, based on my own experiences, I was going to find that there was an over-representation of the

ethnic majority, which was non-Hispanic/white based on the categories of data I gathered,” she says.

Pulling data from the U.S. census, Anglo-Raymundo says that while 50% of students identify from the ethnic majority, 70% of the authors from all the curricula she examined were white males.

“What really shocked me is how the Latina category for the authors who identified was less than 10%, when close to 25% of students identified as Latino. There was a huge underrepresentation there,” she says.

Anglo-Raymundo’s project poses the question: “Do national curriculums or English language arts classrooms truly represent the US population?” After completing her research, she answered the question.

“No. It didn’t matter if the other groups were represented because we’re not teaching every student, but one. We’re not trying to bridge the gap for every student, but one; we’re teaching all students and we have to create this level of equality.”

Bailey says that beyond the opportunity to learn the skills for undergraduate research, the McNair program changes how students see themselves — and their future.

“When undergraduates get to pursue research that’s meaningful to them, and then when the McNair program holds the space open for them and says, ‘Here’s a mentor. Here’s how to do this. Here’s how to print a poster. Here’s research day. Here’s the physical space. Here are people to listen to you,’ it changes something for them. It gives them agency. It gives them a voice many of them don’t really believe they have,” Bailey says.

While she knew going into McNair that she wanted to train future teachers as a professor, Anglo-Raymundo says that her experience has helped her visualize plans differently.

“It impacted me so much that it changed how I planned out the rest of my career. Looking into it now, seeing that the system is the way it is because of policies, and seeing how there are Supreme Court cases that essentially declared education as a non-federal right, it made me want to pursue educational policy in grad school.”

Anglo-Raymundo also plans on working in secondary classrooms. “I am a firm believer that you can’t be an educational policy maker if you never set foot into a classroom.”

She says her dream job would be to teach in the classroom, while also speaking to the Senate about education policies and, as a professor, teaching future teachers about policies and ways to create support for students.

“When it came down to thinking about my career, I wanted to help people the way that my teachers have helped me. I want to show other students like me that you have a future, you can do stuff beyond what is predicted about you even though you don’t speak English as your first language. That even though you’re failing now, you could always have this huge chance to go back on the rise,” Anglo-Raymundo says.

“And that’s what really inspired me to go into education. Yes, I like talking about literature, but for me, it’s all about the students and the fact that I could help so many students believe in themselves and their capabilities.” **UNC**

## Diversifying the Professoriate

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The McNair Scholars program, which first started at UNC with the 1995-96 cohort, was named for Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., after his death in the Challenger Space Shuttle accident in 1986. Congress’s goal in establishing the program was to encourage low-income and first-generation college students and students from historically underrepresented groups to enroll in a Ph.D. program and ultimately pursue an academic career. UNC’s McNair Scholars program, which has graduated nearly 400 students, is one of 187 in the country.

The program is multi-faceted in its approach to preparing students to apply for and be successful in graduate school.

“We know one of the things that will both strengthen the student as an applicant, and once they’re in graduate school, is to have a robust undergraduate research experience,” says Cauffman. “So, we put that at the center of our programming.”

Students spend their junior year working on an independent research project under the guidance of a mentoring professor. At the same time, they take a class that helps support them as they develop research skills and learn the components of the research experience. By the time they complete the program, they will have presented their research multiple times, written a manuscript based on their project, developed skills that strengthen their curriculum vitae and prepared for the GRE.

“We hope that they stumble, and they have some failures in our program, so that they know how to overcome those, and when they get to graduate school and they’re doing it maybe a little bit more on their own, they have the confidence in themselves and they have the resilience to spring back from any sort of challenge that they’ve encountered,” Cauffman says.

It’s a rigorous program, Cauffman admits, and it works. “We have at least four faculty members on campus who were McNair Scholars themselves,” she says. “I’m really proud to see that the model is doing what we hoped it would be doing and some faculty members are from an underrepresented or a more diverse group that wasn’t historically part of the professoriate.”



# Staging a



The stage at Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley may have been quieted by the pandemic in 2020, but in November 2021, students, alumni and the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra came together for a heartfelt performance honoring the career of Galen Darrough, D.M.A.



# ***Comeback***

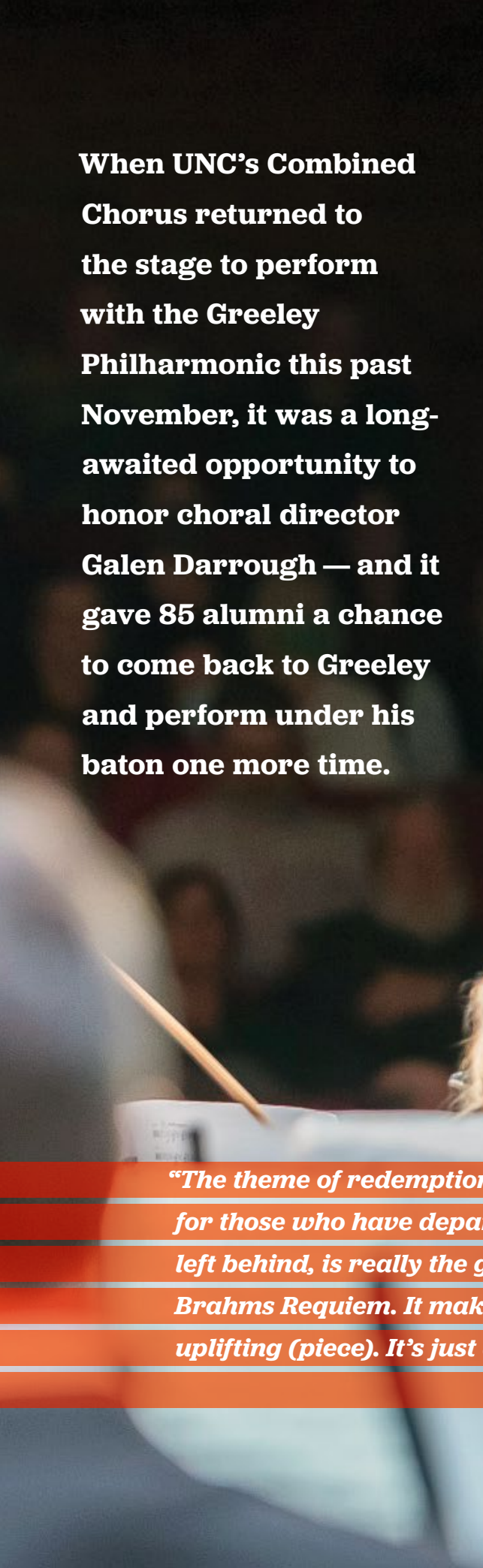
By Debbie Pitner Moors | Photos by Woody Myers





Longtime UNC Choral  
Director Galen Darrough  
raised his baton for a  
memorable performance  
with UNC's Combined  
Chorus and the Greeley  
Philharmonic Orchestra.





**When UNC's Combined Chorus returned to the stage to perform with the Greeley Philharmonic this past November, it was a long-awaited opportunity to honor choral director Galen Darrough — and it gave 85 alumni a chance to come back to Greeley and perform under his baton one more time.**

**E**ach year, the UNC Combined Chorus has capped off the academic year with an April performance with the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra (GPO), and for many years they've done so under the direction of Galen Darrough, D.M.A., UNC's emeritus director of Choral Studies.

During his time at UNC, Darrough worked with thousands of students as he conducted the Men's Glee Club for 30 years, the Women's Glee Club for 15 years and also conducted the UNC Concert Choir.

The April 2020 concert was to have been Darrough's last time conducting the Combined Chorus at the GPO, after his retirement from UNC in January 2020.

But when COVID-19 quieted the stage at the Union Colony Civic Center in March of 2020, the plans for the April Combined Chorus were cancelled.

"I thought, well, I'm kind of slipping out the back door of retirement," Darrough recalls.

But that door wasn't ready to close just yet.

Nick Kenny '16, chief executive officer of the Greeley Philharmonic, said that as he and his team were planning for the 2021 season, they wanted to hold true to presenting the UNC Combined Chorus, and they wanted to bring Darrough back in recognition of his work. They moved the concert to Nov. 13, 2021, to do so.

"Very rarely do any music students get to perform with a professional orchestra. For UNC students to get to do it almost on an annual basis, is just really special," Kenny says. "We had wanted to recognize Galen's three decades of service and partnerships with GPO, but then the pandemic hit, so we had to kind of restructure this concert."

They began by changing the pieces the choir and orchestra would perform. Originally, the April 2020 concert was to have performed Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

Kenny and his team turned instead to the Brahms Requiem. Requiems are generally a funeral mass for the dead, but the Brahms Requiem is different. "This German requiem is more focused on those who are bearing the suffering," Kenny says. "We thought that's a very powerful message for what we're going through with the pandemic, and that it would be appropriate to perform that requiem."

They approached Darrough with the suggestion, and he agreed.

***"The theme of redemption, of comfort for the living for those who have departed, for those who are left behind, is really the general theme of the Brahms Requiem. It makes it such a beautiful, uplifting (piece). It's just a life-changing piece."***

***-Galen Darrough, D.M.A.***



Darrough and Stadler take a moment to celebrate a night that capped off 30 years of performances.

***“I guess we can actually thank COVID for granting the opportunity to end with an even bigger bang than we otherwise would have. To bring so many former students ‘back home’ just made it that much more wondrous.”***

***—Michael Stadler ’98, ’03***



“The theme of redemption, of comfort for the living for those who have departed, for those who are left behind, is really the general theme of the Brahms Requiem. It makes it such a beautiful, uplifting (piece). It’s just a life-changing piece,” he said. As he spoke with Kenny, Darrough asked if he could conduct the orchestra for some of the Hungarian dances.

“To my delight, they consented,” he says. He would conduct the entire concert.

With the program settled, Darrough knew that because of the pandemic they wouldn’t have the 150 to 160 students on stage as they have in the past.

“We usually put up enough numbers to pull off a major work, but owing to COVID, there were only about 95 students,” Darrough says. “So, I asked my colleague, Dr. Jill Burgett, ‘How about if we throw it open to alums?’”

Burgett liked the idea and Darrough put the dates on Facebook. “I would say in two days, we had a choir,” he says.

In the end, 85 alumni from across the country returned to Greeley to perform with Darrough.

Among them, Michael Stadler ’98, ’03 of Evans, and S.J. Hasman, of Los Angeles, who both met Darrough as students in 1992.

“It wasn’t even a question of whether or not to go, we were invited,” says Hasman. “Dr. Darrough, Brahms... not a hard sell!”

Hasman had performed the Brahms Requiem with Darrough while she was a student at UNC. “I remember feeling so moved during that performance that I teared up several times. Afterwards Dr. Darrough saw me and my wet eyes and gave me a big hug. I always appreciated that he recognized how moved I was and that it meant something to me. It’s just one of those memories I cherish, so you can imagine how I felt when he announced that I could come sing the same piece under his baton.”

Stadler, who is a vehicle fleet manager at UNC, has been a member of UNC ensembles since 1992 and also sings with the Greeley Chorale. “How could I not want to sing once more with the man I’ve followed for nearly 30 years,” he asked.

The word “beloved” often comes up when alumni speak about Darrough. When asked why students and alumni felt such affection for him, Stadler said, “It has everything to do with having a good heart and a passion for sharing, delivered with such kindness and gentleness. He’s just the kind of person who everyone wants to be around. I guess we can actually thank COVID for granting the opportunity to end with an even bigger bang than we otherwise would have. To bring so many former students ‘back home’ just made it that much more wondrous,” said Stadler.

Everyone on stage, including orchestral members who weren’t playing a wind instrument, had to be masked.

“It muffles it about 15%,” says Darrough. “It’s not optimal and the singers have to over-articulate the text, but people love to sing and they’re not going to let something like COVID stop them.”

The performance itself—for Darrough and for those who performed—was emotional and challenging.

“The vocal demands on the students, particularly in two of the larger movements, are extreme,” Darrough said. “I think it’s one of the most taxing pieces. The choir never sits down, there’s no need to put platforms or chairs in there.”

Hasman agreed. “My feet and knees and arms did not remember how it was to stand on that hot stage holding up the music for so long. It was so grueling!”

The performance’s emotional impact was felt on both sides of the baton.

“There was just a tremendous outpouring of love,” says Darrough. “There’s a great poem by Robert Frost called ‘Fire and Ice,’” says Darrough. “I talk (to my students) about how your heart has to be on fire, but your mind has to be on ice in a situation like that. That’s the way that I had to do it, because there were a couple of times where I became really quite emotionally touched and I had to back off a little bit for the sake of clarity and technique and wanting to be a good conductor. It was really a combination of an emotional and an artistic high point in my life.” **UNC**



Answering Darrough’s call for former students to join the performance, 85 alumni volunteered and traveled from near and far to share the stage with their beloved professor one more time.









■ By Amber Medina

# Learning TO LEAD

When students take on leadership roles on campus they gain skills for life. Here, three former student leaders share the impacts that those experiences had on their careers.

So many of our alumni say the experiences they had on campus have impacted their careers and life paths. As they connected with faculty through research and became involved in campus life, they added skills for leadership and collaboration through authentic learning experiences, and they've gone on to enrich the lives of our community on campus, throughout Colorado and beyond.

"A higher education has the power to transform the lives of our students," said Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations Lyndsey Crum. "And UNC's collective effort toward student career readiness is evidenced by the excellence of our alumni; their professional achievements, their adaptability and their desire to give back and support the dreams of our current and future students."

In the *Rowing, Not Drifting 2030* strategic plan, UNC sets its Students First commitment as priority so that those life lessons, and the connections students make, continue to be a core part of UNC's long-range vision. It's a promise to continue celebrating and reinforcing the relationships with faculty and staff that nurture individual development and empowerment among students, encouraging them to make a difference through leadership involvement and advocacy.

"We know that great careers begin in Bear Country and the power of that UNC Bear network is seen through every successful alumni career connection and the Bear network begins here, with UNC's faculty, staff and students," Crum said. "Our university community offers the educational experiences and supporting relationships that create opportunities for successful careers after college. Many of our alumni choose to remain connected and engaged because they value the network that helped them launch their careers, and they want to pay it forward for the next generation of Bears."

The following are three excellent examples of UNC alumni who, through their student leadership experiences on campus, grew to be prepared and successful professionals, and are choosing to remain connected and invested in the success of future and current students.





## Meet Brian

### **BRIAN DAVIDSON, M.D. '99**

*B.A. Pre-Health*  
Physician Executive  
Banner Medical Group

Brian Davidson is physician executive for Banner Medical Group's Western Region, which includes 14 hospitals, 500-plus physicians and advanced practice providers and 1,400-plus clinic staff across six states, responsible for clinical service, care quality, financial performance, and regulatory compliance throughout the region.

Davidson credits his early UNC experiences as instrumental in guiding his career path and has found the commonality between his experience as a student leader to be very similar to his past and current roles as physician executive.

"My experiences in student government at UNC sparked my interest in leadership as I embarked on the path to becoming a physician," Davidson said. "The opportunity to interact with university leaders as a young person allowed me to gain experience and mentorship that benefitted me greatly in my eventual career."

Davidson has remained connected to and has continued to serve UNC since graduation. He served as a founding member of the College of Natural and Health Sciences advisory board from 2010 to 2014 and is currently on the university's Foundation Board of Directors, lending his leadership experience in the medical field toward the university's endeavor to establish a new osteopathic medical college.

"UNC holds a special place in my life," Davidson said. "I can trace many of my current professional and personal interests back to my time on campus."



## Meet Kevion

### **KEVION ELLIS '18**

*B.A. International Affairs with a Minor in Africana Studies and Economics*  
Lobbyist, Education Minnesota

Kevion Ellis '18 is a lobbyist for Education Minnesota, the state teacher's union, where he works for the government relations team representing around 80,000 educators and advocating for public education issues in Minnesota.

As a lobbyist, Ellis works with policymakers, legislators and other stakeholders in the education and labor arenas that are passing legislation affecting teachers, students, and families in public education.

"UNC was a safe place for me to learn about working with different stakeholders, building coalitions and trying to achieve shared visions," Ellis said. "UNC really helped me see that we all believe in the common good, we just have different perspectives about how to achieve it — and that's a lot of the work I do today."

As a student at UNC, Ellis interned at the Colorado General Assembly, where he gained some of his first insight into state politics. As a junior he served in student senate and was elected student body president his senior year. He says those early experiences in UNC student leadership helped solidify his interests in pursuing a career in public policy.

"One of the pivotal moments in my life was going to UNC," Ellis said. "I really leaned on the alumni and university community for expertise and guidance, and I would encourage UNC leaders and students to do the same. As an alum, if someone reached out to me wanting to connect, I would, especially knowing they're from my alma mater."



Great Careers Begin in Bear Country: If you're a former student leader, we want to hear from you. Email us at [uncmagazine@unco.edu](mailto:uncmagazine@unco.edu) and tell us about what you're doing now and how you are using your UNC experiences and connections in your career. Be sure to update your alumni information, get connected and stay involved!



## Meet Allie

### **ALLIE STEG HASKETT '03**

*B.A. Human Communication*

**Vice President for University Advancement  
University of Northern Colorado**

As Vice President for University Advancement, Allie Steg Haskett oversees the division and serves as UNC's chief development and advancement officer. She works closely with UNC's principal donors and investors, often alongside President Andy Feinstein, to enhance donor investment and involvement in the university while helping those individuals seek out their passions through the support of UNC programs.

"My student experiences and network are what helped me be qualified and prepared for my first job," Haskett said. "And those connections also helped me find my way back to UNC. Now, I get to pay it forward and help create a space for students and alumni to stay connected and give back. I get to help build that circle. It's a pretty cool job."

As an undergraduate at UNC, Haskett served as president of her sorority, Delta Zeta, and of the university's student run program council as well as in other leadership roles on campus.

"A large portion of my job now is about building, leading and encouraging a team," Haskett said. "My leadership experience as a student really helped me realize early on that we all encounter roadblocks and challenges both personally and professionally. As a leader, it's my job to encourage people through those moments or challenges, so we can be a successful team." **UNC**



Craig Hoskins '83



Alan Levitz '81

## Supporting Emerging Leaders through Scholarships

Craig Hoskins '83 and Alan Levitz '81 are longtime friends and former classmates who have both had successful careers in business that were impacted early on by their experiences at UNC. Together, they've established a new scholarship for students with a passion for leadership.

"Alan and I were both very fortunate to know so many wonderful people at UNC," Hoskins said. "Each of us had an opportunity to be involved and learned lessons in leadership in an open and fun environment. Those great relationships and leadership opportunities coming out of college had prepared a foundation for us to begin careers in the business world."

The Emerging Leaders Scholarship has been created with the intent that others can contribute as well, helping current student leaders by carrying a portion of the load associated with the expense of attending UNC. As the endowment grows, the fund will provide more scholarships to support those emerging leaders.

The initial \$100,000 commitment will provide \$4,000 annually toward a scholarship to be awarded to a full-time junior or senior involved in campus activities in a leadership role. The recipient must also maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater and be employed while attending UNC.

"My wife Carrie, also an alum, and I had been looking for the right opportunity to give back to UNC," Levitz said. "The UNC team had been talking with us and our good friend, Craig, at the same time; they wisely connected us. The Emerging Leaders Scholarship was born out of our mutual passion for the leadership opportunities that are possible for hard working students that graduate from the school. Carrie and I are thrilled to be connected with this scholarship program."

Levitz is chief executive officer of Alera Group, a national insurance brokerage firm, and Hoskins is president and chief operating officer of Performance Food Group, a national food and foodservice distribution company.


 To contribute to the Emerging Leaders Scholarship fund go to [giveunc.org/emerging-leaders](https://giveunc.org/emerging-leaders) or call 970-351-2551.





# 2022 *Honored* ALUMNI

On March 26, UNC honored and celebrated alumni who share their love of the university through service, commitment and dedication. The UNC Honored Alumni Award is presented annually to five graduates in recognition of career success and a commitment of service to the university. It is the highest honor presented to a UNC graduate by the Alumni Association.

 You can learn more at [unco.edu/alumni/events/honored-alumni.aspx](https://unco.edu/alumni/events/honored-alumni.aspx)



## ROBBY AGUILAR '03 B.S. Finance

Following his lifelong desire to own a business, Robby Aguilar opened a Berry Blendz location in west Greeley in 2020, followed in July 2021 by the second Berry Blendz location, adjacent to UNC's campus.

He has contributed to his community and UNC in many ways. A member of Bear Biz — a university program that partners with local businesses to create a home for UNC students in the local community — he has shared entrepreneurial career advice to students through the annual Entrepreneurial Challenge hosted by the Kenneth W. Monfort College of Business and an Entrepreneurship Alumni Career Panel hosted by Alumni Relations. Aguilar has also been a board member for United Way of Weld County, served meals at the local cold weather homeless shelter, volunteered at the annual Weld County Project Connect and built homes through Habitat for Humanity.



## NATALIE LINDEBERG '06 B.A. Special Education

Since graduating, Natalie Lindeberg has maintained close connections to the César Chávez Cultural Center and Lambda Theta Nu's Kappa Chapter at UNC.

She has presented at the annual Latina Youth Leadership Conference, which she helped organize as a student, and attended or planned many events through the Chávez Center. For several years she has organized a drive for Lambda Alumnae to help current students pay their sorority dues.

As a member of the National Association of Lambda Alumnae, Lindeberg was elected to serve on the National Board of Directors as the director of alumnae relations. She was selected to the Order of the Roses in recognition of her exceptional service to and support of the organization.

A special education teacher, Lindeberg is working to complete her master's degree in Developmental Disabilities from Columbia University.



## **JOHN '84 AND ANGELA '89 SCHMIDT**

**B.S. Finance**  
**B.A. Speech Communication**

John and Angela Schmidt believe in the spirit of reciprocity, a philosophy that recognizes their success is a blessing they choose to pay forward.

Angela serves as the family CEO, managing their philanthropic and community investments, which include generous support for various Colorado nonprofits and a personal commitment to supporting students at UNC, where the couple met, and at Regis High School in Denver. John serves as the chair of the Regis Board of Trustees and is co-CEO of WeFi Technology Group and managing partner of Jam Capital LLC.

They have generously contributed more than \$2 million to UNC, including the lead gift to fund the Empower Center, UNC's first 100% donor-funded campus building. The facility will empower Bear athletes for success on and off the field. The Schmidt's also fund student scholarships, sponsor and host events to bring awareness to UNC priorities and opportunities, serve on university boards and councils and encourage the hiring of fellow Bears in finance and investment careers.



## **TOM SEVERTSON '70, '71**

**B.A. Physical Education**  
**M.A. Physical Education**

The accomplishments on Tom Severtson's resume reveal a baseball mastermind. Severtson coached high school and amateur baseball in Colorado, leading his teams to multiple championships and taking many trips to tournament finals. He coached players who were drafted into Major League Baseball, some with long careers, and was a scout for the Cincinnati Reds for 15 years.

Throughout his career, Severtson supported his players and students, helping them see their potential and giving them the confidence to face whatever challenges may come to them — on or off the field.

Pride in his alma mater and enthusiasm for the baseball program led Severtson to become an active ambassador for the university to his students, bringing some to campus and motivating many to enroll.

Severtson's career success has been inducted into the Colorado Softball Hall of Fame, East High Athletic Hall of Fame, Colorado Dugout Club's Hall of Fame, and Colorado High School Baseball Umpires Hall of Fame.



## **ARMANDO SILVA '10**

**B.A. Visual Arts**

Artist Armando Silva has left his mark on Northern Colorado and across the state in a larger-than-life way. His murals grace buildings throughout downtown Greeley, adding color to the area's business revitalization.

Silva's talents are also showcased at UNC. Early in his career he painted a large mural of a bear in the Campus Recreation Center. For the César Chávez Cultural Center's 35th anniversary he painted a mural in the Campus Commons titled "Somo Porque Eres" (We Are Because

You Are) that features longtime center director and fellow Honored Alumni recipient Patricia Escobar '07,'11.

Silva is committed to giving back to the community and has partnered with numerous museums, community centers, non-profits and schools. He served as an Artist-in-Residence at the Children's Museum of Denver and has been recognized with the Governor's Creative Leadership award from Colorado Creative Industries and the EY Next Wave Leadership Award from the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts.



# Alumni Notes

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

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

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

## 60s

**Gus Pacheco** B.A. '60, M.A. '65, Chula Vista, Calif., Augustine (Gus) Pacheco, published a children's book titled *The Magic Seed* in 2020. His new book titled *HAIKU, Variations in Life and Landscapes*, was published in 2021. Pacheco retired after teaching for twenty years in the San Francisco Bay area and lives with his wife of 54 years in San Diego, Calif.

## 70s

**Beverly Eldridge Winter** B.A. '70, Fort Collins, retired as a CPA in 2013. She published a corporate thriller, "The Telecom Takeover," in July 2021.

**Robert Barzdukas** M.A. '72, Greeley, a finalist for Teacher of the Year in 1985, Barzdukas was local President of the Lamar Education Association many years, Robert served on the Colorado Education Association (CEA) Board of Directors from 1980–1986 and as vice president of CEA 1988–1990. After retirement, he mentored teachers in District 6 for seven years, is a PERA Ambassador, and served as President of the CEARetired Association from 2013–2019. He volunteers at the Colorado Model Railroad Museum, and is a CHSAA Track official.

**Delores Miller Wheeler** M.A. '74, moved from Los Angeles to Oklahoma City and is serving her second term on the regional Screen Actors Guild — American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) board in Dallas, Texas. A member of the Actors Equity Association, her three e-books are available on Amazon. She has written screenplays for each and hopes to produce one as a television series.

**Douglas Hartford** Ed.D. '76, Arden Hills, Minn., has retired and rekindled a lifelong interest in photography. His COVID-inspired "Camera Strolls" and "Armchair Vacation" projects were recognized in the *New York Times* daily newsletters, and his participation in international photographic competitions has resulted in his images being displayed in galleries in more than 20 countries around the world.

**Pamela Stuerke** B.M. '77, Saint Louis, Mo., was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in June 2019 and serves as a priest at two small St. Louis parishes on a part-time basis. Pamela is also an accounting professor.

**Kris Harris** B.A. '78, Longmont, published a fictional satirical crime novel called *Healthy, Wealthy, and Dies* that follows the escapades of the Hanson brothers, conjoined twin private investigators.

**Nancy Johnson** B.A. '78, Collierville, Tenn., is enjoying private practice after years of working in mental health in Washington, Tennessee and Florida.

**Donna Pavlick** M.A. '79, Columbia, Mo., was recently appointed associate dean for student affairs and dean of students at the University of Southern California School of Law.

## 80s

**Randy Mills** B.A. '82, Aurora, was awarded the "Project Lead The Way (PLTW) National Computer Science Teacher of the Year" award for 2021–22. He has been serving as a master teacher for PLTW in cybersecurity and computer science essentials.

## 90s

**Tiffany Alexander** B.A. '93, Highlands Ranch, has a successful corporate career at United Airlines and now owns her own real estate business with family.

**Georgee Tysver** B.A. '93, Brooklyn Center, Minn., became an inaugural member of the National St. Jude Hero Ambassador program this year and celebrated 11 years of owning TD's Happy Faces, a face and body painting, plus more, entertainment company.

**Jennifer Givan Stark** B.A. '94, Longmont, moved into a new position in March 2020. She was previously the Meteorologist In Charge of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pueblo.

## 100th Birthday Celebration

**Beulah M. Kennicutt** B.A. '53, M.A. '61, Fort Collins, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 20, 2021. Beulah started her career teaching in a Nebraska one room schoolhouse, then relocated to Fort Collins where she taught kindergarten for many years. More than 100 family, friends, neighbors and former students celebrated with her at the United Methodist Church where she has attended for more than 50 years.

**Brian Rugen** B.A. '94, Montrose, is a tenured English professor at a private university in Tokyo, Japan. He is also a marathon and ultra-marathon runner.

**Todd Zavorskas** M.A. '94, Brooklyn, Conn., is a 2022 Greater Connecticut Honorary Man of the Year candidate for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. To date, Zavorskas has raised more than \$236,000 to help eradicate blood cancer.

**Sean Mitchell** B.A. '96, Sterling, has a successful two-decades-long career in law enforcement.

**Karen Liston** M.A. '98, Brush, celebrated 30 years of teaching ESL/ELD in the Ft. Morgan school district.

**Sonya Hemmen** M.A. '99, Glenwood Springs is the head of school at Ross Montessori School in Carbondale and just finished her 10th year in a high-quality, authentic Montessori school.

Neyla Pekarek '09, wrote the musical, "Rattlesnake Kate," which premiered at the Denver Center for Performing Arts earlier this spring.

## FROM THE VAULT

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

### NEYLA PEKAREK TRADES THE CONCERT SET FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

**Ever since graduating, Neyla Pekarek '09, has lived on a stage. For eight years she traveled across the world performing in front of massive crowds with the highly successful folk-rock band, The Lumineers, a position she secured after answering an ad on Craigslist.**

"It was crazy that it happened the way it did. I feel lucky to have been a part of The Lumineers, but I knew it wasn't a forever thing for me," Pekarek said.

The vocalist, cellist and pianist has since decided to step off the tour bus and say goodbye to her bandmates. She's not leaving the spotlight, though, just shifting her stage setting to the theatre with the world premiere of her new musical "Rattlesnake Kate" at the Denver Center for Performing Arts (DCPA) Feb. 4 through March 13.

"It wasn't a conscious decision that I was going to write a musical, but I do think the music I grew up on and what I really fell in love with in my formative years happens to lie in musical theater sound," Pekarek said.

Growing up in Aurora, a mere 20 miles from Denver, Pekarek's parents often took her to see the Broadway tours that stopped at DCPA. The Buell Theater is where Pekarek fell in love with musicals, and what drove her to study musical education at UNC. That's where Pekarek says she realized she had the grit and guts to write and perform in her own show.



Read the Lumineers Luminary article from the Fall/Winter 2013 edition at [unco.edu/unc-magazine](http://unco.edu/unc-magazine)

"The programs are really strong at UNC and equip the students to understand the work ethic that's required to do this as a career," Pekarek said. "My courses and experiences pushed us really hard in a way that reflects the real world."

UNC is also where Pekarek first learned about Greeley frontierswoman, Kate Slaughterback, the main character in the musical. As the folktale goes, around 100 years ago, Kate, armed with a rifle and a "No Hunting" sign, fought off 140 rattlesnakes to save her son. Kate's tenacity intensely stuck with Pekarek. She knew the story needed to be told.

"I saw her adventurous spirit and a woman who was unwilling to compromise regardless of the circumstances. That was really inspiring to me," Pekarek said.

The creation of "Rattlesnake Kate" is a joint effort by Pekarek, who wrote the music and lyrics for the production, and playwright Karen Hartman. The music is inspired from Pekarek's solo debut album, Rattlesnake, released in 2019.

—Sydney Kern



## 00s

**Donald DeAngelis** B.A. '00, Colorado Springs, is the director of development with a statewide nonprofit healthcare organization supporting people living with HIV and other health conditions.

**SueAnn Highland** M.A. '00, Loveland, was recently appointed to School Specialty as their newly created National Education Strategist. She'll help communicate the voice of educators to the company, lead in training the sales team and representing School Specialty at a national level.

**Matt Wood** B.A. '00, Tacoma, Wash., was one of seven Washington state educators chosen as a 2021 KCTS 9 Golden Apple Moments honoree for excellence and innovation in teaching for the virtual physical education videos and lessons he created for his students.

**Ryan Andrews** B.S. '03, Harwich, Mass., MS, MA, RDN, RYT, CSCS, published a new e-book titled *Swole Planet: Building a Better Body and a Better Earth*, a guide to help people build a body that's functional and fit, while at the same time building a planet that's more sustainable and equitable.

**Dan Fuselier** B.S. '04, Santa Cruz, Calif., has published his book *In Pursuit of Calm*.

Brothers **Daniel Watkins** B.A. '04 and **Brian Watkins** B.A. '04 have been in the spotlight in the theater industry recently — but on different stages. Daniel is a partner at the law firm Levine Plotkin & Menin in New York City. He has been named a New York Metro Super Lawyer Rising Star in Entertainment and Sports by Thomson Reuters and concentrates his practice in the theatre industry, representing leading producers, dramatists, financiers and others. Brian is a Juilliard Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellow and a New Dramatists resident playwright. He recently finished filming

a new series for Amazon Prime called "Outer Range" as creator and executive producer, with executive producers Zev Borow, Heather Rae, and Brad Pitt's Plan B Entertainment for Amazon Studios. The series, which premiered in April, centers on a rancher who uncovers a mystery in the wilderness of Wyoming. The cast includes Josh Brolin and Lili Taylor.

**Nikki Smith Dobos** B.S. '06, Parker, has become a National Geographic certified educator and has been given the opportunity to teach research to seniors through a class called AP Research.

**Johnray Strickland** B.A. '07, Castle Rock, is director of Digital Marketing at Shane Co. and is now voicing radio commercials along with Tom Shane.

**Matt Madsen** B.A. '08, Georgetown, Texas, was promoted to creative director at Southwestern University where he rebranded the Pirates athletics (Division III) department.

**Duane R. Niles, Jr.**, D.A. '08, passed away in May 2021 at the age of 64. He was posthumously chosen as the 2022 inductee into the South Dakota Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame, recognizing his 43 years as a music educator, teaching instrumental music from elementary grades through college-level classes.

## 10s

**Lisa Drew Hudson** B.S. '10, Parker, was selected and recognized nationally as the State Star on behalf of the Colorado SBDC Network.

**Alex Renteria-Aguilar** B.A. '10, Lakewood, was awarded Airport Business magazine's Top 40 Under 40 in 2021.

**Parker Cotton** B.A. '13 M.A. '15, Bozeman, Mont., was named the sports editor of the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* in Montana in early January 2022. Prior to joining the *Chronicle*

in March 2021, Cotton covered high school and college sports for newspapers in North Dakota and Virginia, as well as professional sports for Forbes and the Associated Press in Washington, D.C.

**Michael Lord** B.S. '13, Denver, serves as Chief Operating Officer of LivWell, one of the largest legal cannabis companies in the state of Colorado. Michael has helped run, open, design and develop LivWell's retail stores and was instrumental in the design and implementation of LivWell's University program and online training platform.

**Kacie Thomas Merrick** B.A. '14, Castle Rock, recently secured the largest corporate gift in history for Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation — an \$8.3 million commitment from Panda Express. Kacie also received a national award for management of one of the fastest-growing videogame fundraising programs in the nation and graduated in the

## Nursing Grads in the Family

Sara Stoltman B.S. '04 was inspired to pursue a degree in Nursing at UNC after she spent a weekend in the NICU with her sister's newborn twins. Moved by the experience, she enrolled in nursing school the following Monday. After graduating from UNC, she was hired directly into the NICU at Denver Children's Hospital. This year, one of the twins who inspired her — niece Ashley Atencio — will be graduating with a nursing degree from UNC. "UNC has been instrumental in both our lives," she says.



**HOMECOMING  
AND FAMILY  
WEEKEND 2022**

*Mark your  
Calendar*

**September 23-25**  
to return to Greeley to  
celebrate Homecoming.

Watch for more details  
this summer

[unco.edu/homecoming](https://unco.edu/homecoming)

class of 2021 from the Institute for Leaders in Development program through the University of Denver.

**Jewel Mahoe** B.A. '17, Honolulu, Hawai'i, is the former 68th Cherry Blossom Festival Queen and Miss Congeniality and the current Miss Hawaii Earth 2021. She competed at the Miss Earth national competition in January. Mahoe is a doctoral student in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Education.

**Timmy Box** M.A. '18, Oceanside, Calif., was recently hired as the head wrestling coach at Palomar College in California.

**Helen Brewer** B.A. '18, Hamilton, New Jersey, graduated cum laude from William & Mary Law School, passed the Colorado Bar Exam and began working as the Legal Analyst for the Electoral Innovation Lab & Princeton Gerrymandering Project, focusing on redistricting and election law reform.

**Alex Traugott** Ph.D. '18, O'Fallon, Mo., is among 85 St. Louis-area educators in 2021 to receive Emerson's Excellence in Teaching Awards, which are sponsored annually by the St. Louis-based Emerson, a diversified global manufacturer and technology leader. The annual program recognizes St. Louis area instructors, selected by their schools' administrators, for their accomplishments and dedication to their students and the teaching profession. The awards pay tribute to area educators from kindergarten teachers to college professors.

**Mike Conrad** D.A. '18, Cedar Falls, Iowa, founded the Iowa Jazz Composers Orchestra in early 2020 and has been

awarded an Iowa Arts Council Art Project Grant to compose, premiere and record the "Fertile Soil Suite." In 2019, he collaborated with Stegreif Orchester in Berlin on an hour-long, creative reimagination of Beethoven's 3rd Symphony called "BTHVN2020 Musikfrachter." That same year, the USAF jazz band commissioned him to make a modern jazz arrangement of "Yankee Doodle" which premiered in Kyiv, Ukraine and was performed throughout the country on a program that featured jazz arrangements of military songs from the U.S. and Ukraine.

## 20s

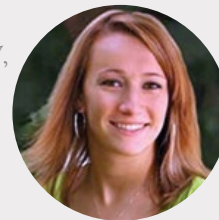
**Cole Cobb** B.A. '21, Wray, is currently dancing for Colorado Dance Collective in Greeley and danced at UNC throughout his undergraduate journey. He is still doing what he has always dreamed of doing.

**Jordan Good** B.A. '21, Colorado Springs is a TV news producer at KRDO NewsChannel 13, one of the top news stations in Colorado Springs. He is also a digital content creator for their website. He produces Good Morning Colorado on the weekends.

**Christina Eberle** B.A. '08, publishing under the name Chris Cross is a young adult (YA) fantasy author. Her debut YA fantasy novel, Brio will be published this spring by Hadleigh House Publishing. Brio is the story of two young musicians who must overcome their differences to save their world's last hope for harmony-before dissonant forces destroy it forever.

## Putting Lab Experience to Work

**Laura Gerk** B.S. '17, Holyoke, Colo., is a laboratory technician for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Aquatic Animal Health



Laboratory in Brush, Colo., which performs disease inspections for the state fish hatcheries and water bodies throughout the State. "Getting to explore this state has been awesome for me," she says, "as I grew up in a small town on the eastern plains." The laboratory tests for viruses, parasites and bacteria in fish. Gerk works alongside several veterinarians, fish pathologists and laboratory technicians that have guided her and helped her grow professionally these past four years. The Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory was also recently certified as a biosafety level two laboratory — the only one of its kind. "I have UNC to thank for igniting my passion for laboratory work! I'm extremely blessed to have the experience and knowledge that will continue to aid in my success. Go Bears!"

## Celebrate the Greeley Stampede's 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR!

**UNC** is proud to be the Parade Host for the legendary Greeley Stampede Independence Day Parade, led by the Stampede's longhorn cattle. Join us on campus July 4th for the parade along 10th Avenue then stay for the music, art and carnival!





## In Memory

### 1940s

Mildred Dohren Walter B.A. '40  
 Gwendolyn Trotter Hodgson B.A. '44  
 William Stamey A.B. '47  
 Geraldine Neumann Roukema B.A. '47  
 Lorena Sandoz Wertz A.B. '48 M.A. '64  
 Melvin Wright B.A. '48  
 Bettie Jackson Burda B.A. '49  
 Mary Krusenstjerna Hall B.A. '49  
 Fern Nordell Wesswick B.A. '49 M.A. '55  
 Elizabeth Hansen Wright B.A. '49

### 1950s

David Wilkerson B.A. '49 M.A. '51  
 Rosemary Valantine Aldred B.A. '50  
 Dick Boettcher B.A. '50  
 Kenneth Dick B.A. '50 M.A. '53  
 Mel Spence B.A. '50 M.A. '59  
 Evelyn Traut B.A. '50  
 Russell Becker M.A. '50  
 John Cook B.A. '51  
 Ruthanne Steele Hooper B.A. '51  
 Fae Lowe Kerbs B.A. '51  
 Shirley Claypool Sanders B.A. '51  
 Marie Babich Cole M.A. '51  
 DJ Giovanini Anselmi B.A. '52  
 Betty Frasier Miller B.A. '52  
 Earl Opheim M.A. '52  
 Verner Story A.B. '53 M.A. '60  
 Virginia Raffaelli Mattarocci B.A. '53  
 Doris Ludwig Niesen B.A. '53  
 Richard Beitzel M.A. '53  
 Marvin Spracklen M.A. '53 Ed.D. '65  
 Cal Craig B.A. '54 M.A. '60  
 Jean DeSalle B.A. '54  
 Alice Lorenzen Eades B.A. '54  
 Rose Provenzano Falgien B.A. '54  
 Patricia DiGiacomo Seader B.A. '54  
 Donita Sellens Seirer B.A. '54  
 Carolyn Nelson Fazio M.A. '54  
 Shirley Hofmann Hofmann M.A. '54  
 Gladys Armstrong Freeman B.A. '55  
 Joan James Harr B.A. '55  
 Shirley Konig Klinginsmith B.A. '55  
 Ethel Sanderson Lane B.A. '55  
 Charles Monteith B.A. '55 M.A. '57  
 Patrick Eagan M.A. '55  
 Kent Hill B.A. '56  
 Bud Howshar B.A. '56  
 Sonja Rasmussen Walek B.A. '56  
 Dorothy Williamson B.A. '56  
 Lou Klitzke M.A. '56 Ed.D. '60  
 Bill Layton M.A. '56  
 Grace Pille Mueggenberg M.A. '56  
 Margaret Martin Russell M.A. '56  
 Kent Brandeberry B.A. '57  
 Barbara Fryrear Saylor B.A. '57  
 Polly Munson Cronin M.A. '57

Carolyn Clyde Massey M.A. '57  
 Ralph Merklinger M.A. '57  
 Victor Sullivan M.A. '57  
 Pat Powers Bishop B.A. '58  
 Dick Brown B.A. '58 B.A. '58  
 Carol Chalmers Foulk B.A. '58 M.A. '67  
 Doris Wisehart Harrington B.A. '58 M.A. '60  
 John Hibler B.A. '58  
 Juils Jorgensen B.A. '58 M.A. '61  
 George O'Donnell B.A. '58 M.A. '66  
 Philip Peters B.A. '58  
 Marilyn Ruth Ross Pyle B.A. '58  
 Bud Davis M.A. '58  
 Esther Thistle M.A. '58  
 Lowell Latimer M.S. '58  
 Shirley Johnson Breden B.A. '59  
 Jimi Strong Choice B.A. '59  
 James Cox B.A. '59  
 Kathy Brazelton Daron B.A. '59  
 Frank Garcia B.A. '59  
 BJ Barstow Lindauer B.A. '59 M.A. '60 Ed.D. '74  
 Pete Pedersen B.A. '59  
 Ernie Saylor B.A. '59  
 Bill Smith B.A. '59 M.A. '64  
 Marilyn Scheideman Smith B.A. '59  
 Vernon Spencer B.A. '59 M.A. '67  
 Tom Vanderhoof B.A. '59 Ph.D. '69  
 Lois Ward Williams B.A. '59  
 Duane Shook M.A. '59

### 1960s

Jennie Bunt Pugh B.A. '60  
 Rich Sachoff B.A. '60  
 Merrill Tregoning B.A. '60 M.A. '64  
 Gene Buxa M.A. '60  
 Marcia Tozer Osborn M.A. '60  
 Robert Ramlet M.A. '60  
 Warren Anderson B.A. '61 B.A. '61  
 Robert Bernhardt B.A. '61  
 Larry Dilts B.A. '61 M.A. '64  
 Robert Hite B.A. '61  
 Theo Holland B.A. '61  
 Judith Hall Lindstrom B.A. '61  
 Bernie O'Neill B.A. '61  
 Norma Cullen Polley B.A. '61  
 Don Green M.A. '61  
 Bill Kerrigan M.A. '61  
 Loren Lutz M.A. '61 Ed.D. '66  
 Butch Gardner B.A. '62  
 Keith Grossaint B.A. '62  
 Melba Cartelli Martinet B.A. '62  
 Bob Motis B.A. '62  
 Jeanne Grosinger Pomajzl B.A. '62  
 Alan Wise B.A. '62  
 Fred Taylor Ed.D. '62  
 Jim Feloney M.A. '62  
 Chuck Chamberlain B.A. '63 M.A. '64  
 JC Gilbert B.A. '63  
 Carol McFarland Lowery B.A. '63  
 Philip Hosford Ed.D. '63  
 E. Woody Ed.D. '63  
 Gene Armstrong M.A. '63  
 Marvin Collins M.A. '63  
 Donna Lewis M.A. '63

Teddy Anderson Purcelley M.A. '63  
 Lynn Settje '63 M.A. Ph.D. '69  
 Dick Yeargan M.A. '63  
 Patricia Thompson Hopkins B.A. '64  
 Joyce Jacob Johnson B.A. '64 M.A. '74  
 Art Lind B.A. '64  
 Sharon Bosley Markus B.A. '64  
 Don Martin B.A. '64  
 Murton McGirr B.A. '64  
 Suzanne Finley Pedersen B.A. '64  
 Mary Gaughen Roesler B.A. '64  
 Katherine Mariani Smith B.A. '64  
 Marti Weber B.A. '64  
 Sally Ryan Zurcher B.A. '64  
 Lorraine Jenny Quie M.A. '64  
 Merle Richmond M.A. '64  
 Don Severson M.A. '64  
 Tony Chacon B.A. '65  
 Roger Horn B.A. '65 M.A. '66  
 Betty Kopsa B.A. '65 M.A. '66  
 Linda Meyer McCauley B.A. '65  
 Dave Russell B.A. '65 M.A. '80  
 Janice Bailey Zobeck B.A. '65  
 Jim Brunner M.A. '65  
 Ervin Hammond M.A. '65  
 Gary Hudson M.A. '65  
 Ray Moeckly M.A. '65  
 Mary Thomas Bourn B.A. '66  
 Eileene Harbert Convery B.A. '66  
 Susan McWilliam Flermoen B.A. '66  
 Cheryl Crosson Hellmann B.A. '66  
 Doug Smith B.A. '66 M.A. '73 Ph.D. '93  
 Robert Rice Ed.D. '66  
 Kenneth Bateman M.A. '66 M.A. '66 B.S. '72  
 Paul Chance M.A. '66  
 Gerald Markuson M.A. '66  
 Harold Stolt M.A. '66  
 Donald Crow B.A. '67  
 Nelda Rudolph Mickens M.A. '67  
 Donald Stabler B.A. '67  
 Nita Sween Stubblebine B.A. '67  
 Billie Bowers Sundquist B.A. '67  
 Virginia Albert Tidwell B.A. '67  
 Robert Lemmon Ed.D. '67  
 Jeannette Moen Barnhart M.A. '67  
 Edward Hoing M.A. '67  
 Jennie Yamada Kellogg M.A. '67  
 Dick Deeds B.A. '68  
 Sharon Bigelow Dupont B.A. '68 B.A. '68  
 Kenyth Fausz B.A. '68  
 David Frie B.A. '68  
 Vernon Lowery B.A. '68 M.A. '70  
 Scott McCabe B.A. '68  
 Robert Balcomb M.A. '68  
 Patricia Conroy Emrick M.A. '68  
 Joyce Ballew Rich M.A. '68  
 David Hendrickson MME '68 M.A. '73  
 Stan Cebula B.A. '69  
 Glenn Clark B.A. '69  
 Bohn Dunbar B.A. '69 M.A. '76  
 Philip Gleckler B.A. '69  
 Kris Fredrikson Johnston B.A. '69  
 Todd Lowther B.A. '69

John Miller B.A. '69  
 Lee Monroe B.A. '69 M.A. '76  
 James Sheridan B.A. '69 M.A. '70  
 Richard Smith B.S. '69  
 Howard Bailey Ed.D. '69  
 Max Fuller Ed.S. '69  
 Jerry Narveson M.A. '69 Ed.D. '75

## 1970s

Paula Drake Ainsworth B.A. '70  
 Dorys Treinen Fehringer B.A. '70  
 Miles Feldbaum B.A. '70  
 Dave Melton B.A. '70  
 Susan Meyer B.A. '70 B.A. '70  
 Annette Di Tirro Schantz B.A. '70  
 Joyce Starkjohann B.A. '70 M.A. '71  
 Dennis Yost B.A. '70  
 Betty Larson Clithero M.A. '70  
 Eldon Linscheid M.A. '70 Ed.S. '71  
 Juanita Preston Sparks M.A. '70  
 Jerry Ferguson Ph.D. '70  
 Lorraine Reese Bartlett B.A. '71 M.A. '76  
 Ray Corn B.A. '71  
 Cheryl Hagedorn Creech B.A. '71 B.A. '71  
 Shirley Henry Crow B.A. '71  
 Charles Dillon B.A. '71  
 James Idler B.A. '71  
 Kenneth Iten B.A. '71  
 Beth Ferguson Johnson B.A. '71 B.A. '71  
 Dorri Karolick B.A. '71 Ph.D. '01  
 Rich Lundien B.A. '71  
 Tim Markham B.A. '71 M.A. '72  
 Joseph Mele B.A. '71 M.A. '73  
 Mick Mizner B.A. '71 M.A. '74  
 Kathleen Munro B.A. '71  
 Dennis Myllykoski B.A. '71  
 Katherine Lucke Napolitano B.A. '71  
 Suzanne Elwick Penn B.A. '71  
 Mike Quigg B.A. '71  
 Bob Rutz B.A. '71  
 Phil Shaffer B.A. '71 M.A. '72  
 Jene Stencil B.A. '71  
 Jim Beemer B.S. '71 B.S. '71  
 Donna Scott Thomas B.S. '71  
 Roger Hauser Ed.D. '71  
 Lou Brown M.A. '71 Ed.D. '76  
 Dick Doherty M.A. '71  
 Joyce Hollembeak Kirkpatrick M.A. '71  
 Erika Madrid M.A. '71  
 Marilyn Blehm Blehm B.A. '72  
 Sue Stach Leyba B.A. '72  
 Robert Monahan B.A. '72 B.A. '74  
 James Oswald B.A. '72  
 Charles Pacheco B.A. '72  
 Linda Hummel Richman B.A. '72  
 Michael Bannister B.S. '72  
 Kathy Kirby B.S. '72  
 Bill Starck B.S. '72  
 Gary Williams B.S. '72  
 Barbara Bryan Leyendecker M.A. '72  
 Mary McGinn M.A. '72  
 Kenneth Usiak M.A. '72  
 Larry Barber B.A. '73  
 Don Box B.A. '73

John Fanella B.A. '73  
 Rita Breidenbach Godin B.A. '73  
 Larry Hanson B.A. '73  
 Ralph Morrow B.A. '73 B.A. '73  
 Billy Nielson B.A. '73  
 Norma Moore Smith B.A. '73  
 DeeAnn Simmons Groves B.S. '73 M.A. '87  
 Joan Nicholl Tutor B.S. '73  
 Judy Butts Wadman B.S. '73  
 Monica Devine Devine M.A. '73  
 Thomas Felton M.A. '73  
 Barbara Fowler M.A. '73  
 Dick Kendrick M.A. '73  
 Ken Douglas Ph.D. '73  
 Larry Adams B.A. '74 M.A. '92  
 Monica Linssen Cody B.A. '74  
 Melvin Nachtrieb B.A. '74  
 Robin Bradley Garneau B.A. '74  
 Jerry Green B.S. '74  
 Mike Underwood B.S. '74  
 Laura Lansford Ed.D. '74  
 Anne Finley Ed.S. '74  
 Billie Burnham Lesh M.A. '74  
 Ted Novack M.A. '74  
 Charles Siemers M.A. '74  
 Marshall Wolfe M.A. '74  
 Patrick Gorman Ph.D. '74  
 Nancy Brauer Dukes B.A. '75 M.A. '78  
 Ed Moreno B.A. '75  
 Steve Pittman B.A. '75  
 David Sanchez B.A. '75  
 Sharie Colas Lemon B.S. '75  
 Corky Swanson B.S. '75  
 Joe Walthall Ed.D. '75  
 Sam Batey M.A. '75  
 Cecil Nist M.A. '75  
 Philip Wedding M.A. '75  
 Kelly Fornes B.A. '76  
 Susan Kauffman Gill B.A. '76 B.A. '76 M.A. '81  
 Ervin Gonzales B.A. '76  
 Cindy Peters Payne B.A. '76 M.A. '91  
 John Roberts B.A. '76 M.A. '88  
 Jean Trejo Trejo B.A. '76  
 Fred Wesemann B.A. '76  
 Janey Davis Stampados B.S. '76  
 Robert Watford Ed.D. '76  
 Mildred Aybar M.A. '76  
 Sandra Hansen M.A. '76  
 Jimmy Hodgkin M.A. '76  
 Gordon Hyde M.A. '76  
 Bob Montgomery M.A. '76  
 Steven Nick B.A. '77  
 Diane Wooster B.A. '77 M.A. '99  
 Larry Hardin Ed.D. '77  
 Chuck Luna Ed.D. '77  
 Richard Andrews M.A. '77  
 John Goodman M.A. '77  
 Gary Hicken M.A. '77  
 Tom Johnson M.A. '77  
 Inez Green Jones M.A. '77  
 Theresa Lamirato M.A. '77  
 Champak Sheth M.A. '77  
 Ada Bolden Smith M.A. '77  
 Caesar Spero M.A. '77



*"It's really important to us to pass on the ability for people to go to school, and to impact teacher candidates in our society. We believe that if you can assist somebody else and leave a legacy for your family, that's really a wonderful thing."*

—Delia Haefeli '90 and  
 John W. Haefeli '86

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Giving to UNC through your estate plan helps you leave a legacy for future generations of Bears while planning for your future financial needs. To learn more, or if you have included UNC in your estate plans, email donor.relations@unco.edu or call 970-351-2551.

Leland Thompson M.A. '77  
 David Woodward M.A. '77  
 Dan Turner M.A. '77  
 Dan Giles B.A. '78  
 Beverly Harris Given B.A. '78  
 Dennis Jones B.S. '78 M.A. '84  
 Thomas Muterspaugh B.S. '78  
 Deb Lowe Stricker B.S. '78  
 Pat Staebell Stainbrook Ed.D. '78  
 Sue Dolezal Buckingham M.A. '78  
 Edward Griffin M.A. '78  
 Mary Dalton Rusch M.A. '78  
 Evelyn Wynn M.A. '78  
 Paula Wellingham Baum B.A. '79  
 Shirley Bellis Harris M.A. '79  
 Steve Lewis M.A. '79  
 Kathy McCollor Stigman M.A. '79  
 Arie Stouten M.A. '79  
 Gary Ball M.S. '79  
 Roy Smith M.S. '79 Ed.D. '82

## 1980s

Tina Eaves B.A. '80  
 John Nitta B.A. '80  
 Elaine Emery Patrick B.A. '80



Linda Wade Pierre B.A. '80  
 Robert Duran B.S. '80  
 Bill Williams B.S. '80  
 Lee Patri Messman M.A. '80  
 Lynn Rogers Rogers M.A. '80  
 David Trout M.S. '80  
 Darek McGhee B.A. '81  
 Ellie Miller Greenberg Ed.D. '81  
 Francie Krabacher Bronner M.A. '81  
 Dick Jostes M.A. '81  
 Karen McCubbin-Linch M.A. '81  
 Lynette Bruckner Pahs M.A. '81  
 Bernard Pitts M.A. '81  
 Jerry Rush M.A. '81  
 Nelmarie Sidlow Steele M.A. '81  
 Louise Whitmire West M.A. '81  
 Al Gugenberger M.S. '81  
 Shane Kephart Dickson B.S. '82  
 Ed Kiley B.S. '82  
 Alan LaBonde B.S. '82  
 David Todd B.S. '82  
 Dale Leonhart M.A. '82  
 Terry Messenger M.A. '82  
 Dale Moyer M.A. '82  
 Phyllis Potter M.A. '82  
 Amy Farrell B.A. '83 B.A. '83  
 Denise Abeyta Pickens B.A. '83  
 Scott Smeeton B.A. '83  
 Roy Sargent B.S. '83  
 Cheryl Gilreath Gotto B.A. '84  
 Scott Bumgardner B.S. '84  
 Yvonne Adams DiPaola B.S. '84  
 Elke Swofford Peterson B.S. '84 M.A. '90  
 Dianne Lloyd Lloyd M.A. '84  
 Diane Harrahill Palachek M.M.E. '84  
 Connie Frazer Ed.D. '85  
 Lynn Keber M.A. '86 M.A. '02  
 Jerry Powers M.B.A. '87  
 Gayle Hackett Thomas B.A. '88  
 Lynda Eaton Reynolds B.A.E. '88  
 Christy McCormick Walters B.A.E. '88  
 Jim Causer M.A. '88  
 Deborah Watkins M.A. '88  
 Kenny Ray Chenevert B.A. '89  
 Christy Richardson B.A. '89  
 Steve Schillereff B.S. '89

## 1990s

Diana Grueninger Page D.A. '90  
 Janice Lawson M.A. '90  
 Tammy Garcia B.A.E. '92  
 John Green M.A. '92  
 Timothy Roberts M.A. '92  
 Michael Lockyer B.A. '93  
 Lory Pierce Merriman B.A. '93  
 David McCormack Ph.D. '93  
 Jerry Barnhart M.A. '94  
 David Sheehan M.A. '94  
 Aime Berry Brown B.A. '95  
 Karen Kaltenbach Liden M.A. '95  
 Doris Koerner Willoughby M.A. '95

Parker Newbanks B.A. '96  
 Steven Willson M.A. '97  
 Jimmy Sheppard B.A. '98  
 Eric Sellers M.A. '99

## 2000s

Karen Barbre Farmer M.A. '00  
 Michele Johnson M.A. '00  
 Patricia Boone M.A. '02  
 Ed Ahumada M.A. '03  
 Angie Bell M.A. '03  
 Vanessa Holland McKenna B.A. '04  
 Thomas Newland M.S. '04  
 Brandon Beard B.A. '05 M.A.T. '06  
 Page Peters B.S. '05  
 Toni Murry Gomes B.A. '08  
 Duane R. Niles, Jr., D.A. '08  
 Tricia Turpin B.A. '09

## 2010s

Kyle Hitt B.S. '11  
 David Reavill Ph.D. '14  
 Shari Nixon M.A. '15

## 2020s

Kelsey May B.A. '21

## Emeritus Faculty

Ed Caffarella  
 Robert Hamerly  
 Rita Brady Kiefer  
 Jay R. Schaffer Ph.D. '97  
 Sarah "Sally" Shaw

## Former Faculty

David Tavel

## Tributes

**Larry Adams** B.A. '74, M.A. '92, former Bears football coach passed away on January 23, 2022, after a courageous six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Adams was a physical education teacher at Eaton High School from 1979 to 2005, where he touched the lives of countless students, encouraging them to be the best they could be. Known as "Coach" to most, he exemplified what a true coach is. He

loved football, but even more, he loved what he could teach through it: commitment, respect, effort, discipline, integrity and toughness. His impressive coaching career lasted 46 years, including 17 years at UNC, where he was a wide receivers coach when the Bears won Division II national championships in 1996 and 1997. He was inducted into the UNC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006 and 2007. After coaching at UNC, he returned to Eaton, helping the Reds win back-to-back state championships.

**Nelda Rudolph Mickens** M.A. '67, professor emerita in Music Education, passed away on Sept. 1, 2021, in Highland Village, Texas at the age of 91. A Greeley resident for 56 years, she earned a Master of Arts from Colorado State College (now UNC) in 1967. A gifted musician and educator, she also taught in Greeley schools and at the UNC Lab school. She and her husband, Howard (also a UNC professor emeritus, who passed away in 2007), shared a love for music, and their children were also musicians and music educators. For a time, the whole family performed in the Greeley Philharmonic and church orchestras.

**Andrew Jay Svedlow**, Ph.D., professor of Art History at UNC, passed away at the age of 65 on Nov. 24 after succumbing to cancer. For the past 16 years, Svedlow taught art education, art history, arts administration, aesthetics and studio arts at UNC. He was the former dean of UNC's College of Performing and Visual Arts, as well as the former dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, and taught at several institutions throughout his career.

In addition to his teaching career, Svedlow was also an accomplished artist. His work was shown in more than 40 exhibitions across the world, including New York, Colorado, Canada and Ukraine. His style evoked his surroundings, was a translation of human emotions and reflected his empathy for humanity and natural beauty.



*"Being a part of COSI has allowed me to not worry as much about the financial burden that comes with being an independent student."*

—Taw Paw, Criminal Justice and Criminology major, Sociology minor  
 Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) Recipient

Generous UNC donors have given **\$335,000 in dollar-for-dollar matches** to the COSI program.

Read Taw's story and make a gift at [unco.edu/give](https://unco.edu/give)



# Last Look

## Sharing Advice and Experience

About eight times each year, alumni take time out to participate in career panels, sharing their professional experiences and insights.

Hosted by the UNC Alumni Association, Norma Juarez, assistant director of Alumni Relations, says the panels are part of a range of resources available to alumni. “The Bear Network gives you access to thousands of UNC alumni career connections. This network exists to support your career after college through industry insight and valuable introductions.”

Panels are offered in-person or via Zoom.

“The virtual platform gives alumni around the world the opportunity to participate, which they wouldn’t be able to do if we only hosted in-person events,” Juarez says. “Last fall we had an alumnus join us from the Czech Republic. How cool is that?”

The panels are open to alumni and students interested in gaining understanding and insights for their careers and work life. Panels have ranged from “Understanding Your Worth” to “Careers in Government.”

The Zoom screenshot above was from one of last year’s panels, “Diverse Identities at Work.”

Alumnus, UNC Alumni Association Board Chair and financial representative for Modern Woodmen of America, Quinston “Q” Daugherty (’97, ’00, Music with a master’s in Theory and Composition), facilitated the conversation with participating alumni:

**Kevion Ellis ’18**, International Affairs with a Political Economy emphasis, and minors in Africana Studies and Economics. Ellis is a lobbyist at Education Minnesota (the State of Minnesota’s public teachers union).

**Elise Flores ’15**, Communication Studies with a minor in Sociology. While serving on the panel, Flores was a workforce specialist for Arapahoe Douglas Workforce Center and a career coach for the Douglas County Youth Employment program.

**Tim Hernández ’19**, English with emphases in Secondary Education and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). Hernández is associate manager of the high school leadership program for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and an English and emerging multilingual teacher at North High School in Denver Public Schools.

**Stephanie Moir ’06**, Sport and Exercise Science with a minor in Dance. Moir is a community initiatives and training coordinator for Hawai’i Public Health Institute.

**Flor Varela ’13, ’19**, Spanish Education with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) and Bilingual Bicultural Education endorsements and a master’s in Foreign Language: Spanish Teaching. Varela teaches Spanish at Greeley Central High School.

—Debbie Pitner Moors



To watch the Diverse Identities career panel — or other past career panels — go to: [youtube.com/watch?v=KuxKBkRfu28](https://youtube.com/watch?v=KuxKBkRfu28)

To learn about future UNC Alumni Association career panels, go to [unco.edu/alumni](https://unco.edu/alumni)





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## Jazz Takes Center Stage

In late April, the UNC Greeley Jazz Festival brought together internationally recognized artists, jazz lovers, award-winning clinicians and more than 250 college, high school and middle school big bands, combos and jazz vocal groups from across the country.



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



PHOTO BY ALEX NUNLEY