

# UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
SPRING/SUMMER 2021

magazine



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## KEYS TO SUCCESS

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Working Toward  
Wellness

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Lessons of a  
Challenging Year



# Fellow Bears,

The end of the 2020-21 academic year is here — and what a year it has been. Campus certainly looked different during this time, but our mission and core values never wavered. Our staff and faculty worked diligently and creatively to find alternative ways to continue to provide an engaging educational experience, while prioritizing the health and safety of our community.

The classroom may have looked a little different, our on-campus events were limited, and our athletic teams faced some disruption due to COVID-19, but our Bears persevered through it all. I have been continually impressed with the resilience of our community. I admire the grit and determination many of our students, faculty, and staff displayed in the past year. We have all faced our unique challenges and difficult moments during the pandemic, but one thing has remained constant — Bears support Bears in times of need.

Whether it was a faculty or staff member spending additional time to support a student who was struggling, an alumnus generously donating money that helped provide students with financial relief, or a student taking the time to check in with another student who needed help, Bears have been there for one another. I have always appreciated the tight-knit community that characterizes UNC, but I saw that on display even more so in the past year. Thank you to everyone who supported the university in one way or another; I cannot overemphasize how much it has meant to me and our students.

Putting students first has always been a priority at UNC, but we are making that even more intentional in the coming years. We are currently in Phase 1 (of 5) of our 10-year strategic plan, titled **Rowing, Not Drifting 2030**. At the core of our strategic plan is the goal to become a Students First university. As articulated in our vision statement, our students will experience a personalized education, gain the skills and knowledge that provide upward mobility among alumni, and share a commitment to the values of inclusion, equity, and diversity.

At UNC, we provide our students with the keys for success inside and outside of the classroom. When our students graduate, they are well-equipped to succeed in life and in whichever career path they may choose. In this edition of *UNC Magazine*, you will read stories about the impact of a generous donation of Steinway pianos to UNC, how students and educators are placing a greater emphasis on mental health, and a reflection from three alumni in different industries about the challenges and rewards of working during the pandemic.

I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy, and I look forward to connecting with more Bears on campus again soon!



Rowing, Not Drifting,



Andy Feinstein  
President



To learn more, you can find the *Rowing, Not Drifting* Strategic Plan online at [unco.edu/strategic-plan](https://unco.edu/strategic-plan)



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PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

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### ON THE COVER

Alejandro Arroyo, a master's student in Piano Performance, is one of many students enjoying access to UNC's new fleet of Steinway pianos. "It's wonderful to have amazing instruments that respond really nicely to all the small nuances that we practice," he says.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

## Editor's Note

In the Winter/Fall 2020 edition of *UNC Magazine*, the pull quote on page 15 for Matthew Farber, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Technology, Innovation and Pedagogy, should have read, "You don't need to be a pro at online tools. For remote instruction, start with tech that you're comfortable using." In addition, a quote three paragraphs from the bottom of the story appeared out of context. We apologize for the errors. To read more about Farber's work, look for his book, *Gaming SEL: Games as Transformational to Social and Emotional Learning* (<http://bit.ly/GamingSEL>), or visit [matthewfarber.com](http://matthewfarber.com).



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NORTHERN COLORADO

# The View from Here

## TAKING YOGA TO THE POOL

Participants in a stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) yoga class at Butler-Hancock Pool took balance to a whole new level this spring. The class, led by Heather Berry of Balanced Movement Yoga in Greeley, was one of a number of recreational and fitness programs offered this spring by UNC's Outdoor Pursuits. Other offerings for the semester included mountain biking, an outdoor gear exchange, hikes, trail running, geocaching and outdoor climbing.





## Funding Important Work

### UNC ACTIVE SCHOOLS INSTITUTE RECEIVES \$125,000 TO EVALUATE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM AND DEVELOP RE-ENTRY GUIDELINES

The Active Schools Institute at UNC has received two grants totaling \$125,000 from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to improve the quality of physical education and physical activity opportunities for K-12 students in Colorado.

Last year, a bill was signed into law that included a three-year, \$90,000 grant to create and implement a physical education pilot program for Colorado schools. UNC's role is to evaluate how the pilot program is performing in three school districts in Colorado.

The second grant was provided through the Centers of Disease Control to 16 states to safely teach physical education during the COVID-19 pandemic, with Colorado being one of the selected states. UNC received the \$35,000 in funding through the CDC to develop guidelines and associated statewide trainings in the spring for schools and their stakeholders.

 [unc.link/active](https://unc.link/active)

### BACK TO CAMPUS FOR FALL 2021

After more than a year of varied course modalities due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the campus community is gearing up for a full return to campus courses and activities this fall.

The majority of UNC's courses and resources for the spring 2021 semester were offered through virtual or hybrid modalities to ensure the safety and health of its campus community members. Safety and wellness remained a priority, public health guidelines were carefully observed on campus and safety measures remained in place as UNC hosted in-person spring commencement ceremonies in May to celebrate the spring class of 2021.

Throughout the semester, on-campus testing, hosted by the state of Colorado, city of Greeley and UNC, offered campus community members and the greater Weld County community access to free, quick and simple testing. In early spring, UNC's Student Health Center began administering a limited number of COVID-19 vaccine doses to eligible campus community members based on the state's vaccine phases, and in mid-April, the university began mass vaccination efforts.

"UNC classrooms and lab spaces remain safe spaces for instruction, and I believe are one of the safest places to be," President Andy Feinstein said. "Our community has done a great job following public health guidelines, and we have no evidence that COVID-19 transmission has occurred in our classrooms."

Looking ahead, the university plans to return to a full schedule of in-person courses for the fall 2021 semester, restoring many traditional activities and events.

"As students and their families consider academic plans for the fall, it is important for them to know UNC is planning to return to a more normal operating schedule, much like we had prior to the start of the pandemic," Feinstein said. "The traditional college experience provides unparalleled opportunities, and our efforts are focused on the long-term success of our students, and the health and safety of our entire university community."

*News Briefs cont. page 4*

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## UNC OFFERS ATHLETIC TRAINING MASTER'S PROGRAM

Applications are being accepted for the new Master of Science in Athletic Training program at UNC. Athletic Training was previously offered at UNC as a bachelor's degree until key stakeholders in athletic-training education agreed to standardize the professional degree in athletic training at the master's level.

UNC has the longest-standing and first accredited athletic training program in Colorado, first offering the bachelor's degree program to students in the 1970s.

"It's the only athletic training program in Colorado that's housed in an institution that sponsors athletics at the NCAA Division I level," said Gary Heise, Ph.D., director of UNC's School of Sport and Exercise Science. "This makes UNC unique in this area. We also have a large, diverse alumni network across the country with many working in major league and professional sports as well as other clinical settings."

 [unco.edu/nhs/sport-exercise-science/athletic-training](https://unco.edu/nhs/sport-exercise-science/athletic-training)

## LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW HIGHLIGHTS FUNDING, MENTAL HEALTH, VACCINES

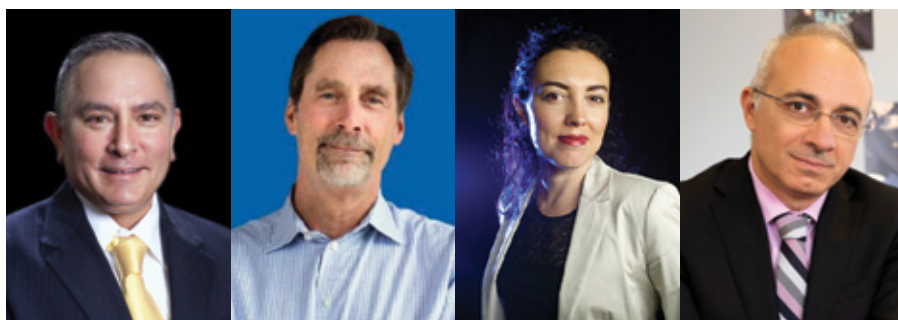
In early January, UNC convened a panel of state legislators and local leaders during the spring 2021 legislative session. Issues affecting UNC included the Joint Budget Committee's considerations of higher education and preschool through grade 12 (P-12) funding, as well as vaccine availability and administration.

This was the second annual Colorado legislative session preview, prompted by UNC President Andy Feinstein as he continues to advocate for higher-education funding and support from the state.

## KRISTEN MATTIO ANNOUNCED AS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

In early May, Kristen Mattio was announced as UNC's new Women's Basketball head coach. Mattio, a Nashville, Tennessee native, has spent the last six seasons as the head coach at West Texas A&M where she compiled a record of 154-35. Mattio secured four Lone Star Conference Titles (2016, 2018, 2019, 2020), took home two LSC Tournament Titles (2018, 2019) and won the South Central Regional Championship in 2017.





Arte Libunao,  
Executive Director,  
Extended Campus

Jared Stallones,  
Ph.D., Dean, College  
of Education and  
Behavioral Sciences

Cristina Goletti, Dean,  
College of Performing  
and Visual Arts

Kamel Haddad, Ph.D.,  
Dean of the College  
of Natural and Health  
Sciences

## UNC NAMES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THREE NEW DEANS

Joining UNC leadership are Arte Libunao, new executive director of Extended Campus; Jared Stallones, Ph.D., new dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS); Cristina Goletti, newly named dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts; and Kamel Haddad, Ph.D., newly named dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.

Previously, Libunao worked at West Coast University in Irvine, California, for eight years, where he held positions including the associate dean of nursing, executive director of operations and, most recently, provost and chief academic officer. He oversaw all operations of the university's seven campuses in California, Texas and Florida and managed the university's academic budget of \$350 million.

Stallones will be coming to UNC from the University of Kentucky, where he serves as a professor and chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, with expertise in social studies education, creating positive classroom environments, curriculum development and clinical practice. He has led the department in articulating common goals, building community across diverse programs and fostering partnerships in the community.

Goletti, who begins her role at UNC this summer, comes to UNC from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), where she's the chair and an associate professor for the Theatre and Dance department and led the curricular restructuring of undergraduate degrees and renovation of studios and classroom spaces. She also serves as the president for the World Dance Alliance Americas.

Haddad, who began his role at UNC on May 1, came to UNC from California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), where he was a professor of Mathematics with a special assignment as consultant for student success initiatives in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. He also served as vice provost and interim provost from 2014 to 2020.

## UNC CHAPTER OF MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION WINS GRANT TO HOLD COMPETITION

The Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) awarded UNC's Collegiate MTNA Chapter a Collegiate Enrichment Grant to support UNC's fourth Youth Piano Competition and Festival.

Open to young pianists ages five to 18, the February event aimed to serve community piano students with opportunities to reach new levels of musical achievement, broadening their performance and learning experiences and fostering connections between the UNC School of Music and local community.

## Field Notes

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AWARDS UNC GRANT TO IMPROVE PREGNANCY OUTCOMES IN COWS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded UNC a four-year, \$500,000 grant to improve pregnancy outcomes in dairy and beef cows.

UNC Professor Patrick Burns, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor James Haughian, Ph.D., are using fish byproducts, which are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, to improve reproduction in female cows in the dairy and beef industries.

If Burns and Haughian's research proves positive, dairy farmers and cattle ranchers could see an increase in profits that would then trickle down to consumers as cost savings when purchasing milk and beef products. Another benefit of this is potentially applying their research to other fields of biology, such as human reproductive processes.

"You often also learn something about the way humans operate, as well," Haughian said. "In some ways, we know more about how we, as humans, reproduce due to work done in cattle, sheep, pigs, etc. There's this ultimate benefit to better understanding human reproductive processes."

Burns and Haughian have partnered with Colorado State University's Animal Reproduction and Biotechnology Laboratory to house and care for the animals and feed them the omega-3-rich fish byproducts for their research. They're also conducting research in their lab at UNC with the help of numerous UNC undergraduate and graduate students.

"This gives an opportunity for undergraduates to participate in authentic research experiences and an opportunity to work with large, domestic farm animals," said Burns. "It allows these students to get into the laboratory and develop hands-on laboratory skills."

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

# I'm a Bear

CINCINNATI RED,  
UNC BEAR



PHOTO COURTESY CINCINNATI REDS

**Brandon Bailey** has worn a lot of baseball jerseys — he's pitched for Broomfield (Colorado) High School, Gonzaga University, a half-dozen minor league teams associated with the Oakland Athletics and the Houston Astros, and now the Cincinnati Reds.

He's never worn UNC's blue and gold.

But he's still a proud Bear.

He completed his undergraduate degree after being drafted by the A's in college, and now, while pitching for the Reds, is a student in UNC's Extended Campus's Sport Coaching master's program. Here's a piece of his story, as told by him.

**Ever since I had a Tommy John surgery** at the age of 17, I've had a unique perspective that most young athletes don't have, which is this sport that I'm playing right now, it's going to end one day. I'm not going to be able to do this forever.

**I started thinking about all the professional baseball players that go into coaching** when they're done, and while it's awesome from an individual perspective that they were extremely talented athletes and played at a high level professionally, it doesn't necessarily mean you're going to be a good coach. I wanted something on my resume that spoke to my desire for continued learning.

**If I'm going to do something, I want to be the best I can possibly be at it** and have the humility to know that there's a lot more

that goes into being a good coach than just understanding the game and being a good athlete. I wanted to expand my knowledge on communication skills, how to motivate athletes, how to understand long-term athletic development principles, and injury prevention, all of those things that I might not have been as well-versed in. That's kind of what gravitated me toward a master's in Sport Coaching. UNC has one of the best sport management departments in the country, and they're one of the unique schools that does offer sports coaching as a focus.

**My favorite class was long-term athlete development.** That course was really eye-opening for me because of my experience as a young athlete. Sometimes in youth development, we can get lost in the nature of wanting to focus all of our efforts toward winning. That discourages athletes from failing, and failure is honestly probably one of the best things that you can do because that's how you learn.

**I took a course called Bridge Theory** with Professor Scott Douglas, and some of the projects we did were a lot of fun. One of them was putting together a 12-month training program for a hypothetical sports team of your choice.

**I'm also really looking forward to a course focused on injury prevention** that I'll take next spring, just because I think that'll probably

offer a lot of insight and value for coaches on how to treat injuries in real time, but then also some tips and techniques that can probably help athletes stay healthy and stay on the field.

**If you have another career you're already fully engaged in, UNC's Extended Campus is a great opportunity** to be able to somewhat go at your own pace. Most of the time the assignments are due on Sunday, so you have a full week to just kind of choose days when you want to get them all done, which is extremely helpful.

**If you were to ask me what my favorite animal is, I'd say it's a bear.** And in my Native American culture and my family heritage, my native name is Nita' Iskanno'si, which means little bear.

**I definitely feel like I have some sort of connection to the university** just through this online experience. I have pride when people ask me, "Where are you getting your master's from?" To say the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, there's something about my home state, there's something about Colorado, there's something about UNC. It's a really great feeling to be a Bear and to hopefully one day have a master's in Sport Coaching from UNC on my resume.

—Brandon Bailey as told to Rebecca OBrien





## AN EMPOWERING SPACE

**Thanks to generous donors, student-athletes will return this fall to the new Empower Center, a \$4 million, entirely donor-funded sports performance building.**

For the past decade, UNC's 400 student-athletes have been training in a 3,800-square-foot space near the main basketball courts in Bank of Colorado Arena at Butler-Hancock. UNC Director of Sports Performance Jeff Butler says that student-athletes make the best of the current space, but an upgrade to the training facility is one change they often say they would love to see for future Bears.

Now, their dreams are coming true.

UNC's first 100% donor-funded campus building will be a new strength and training center for Bear student-athletes. Named the "Empower Center" by lead donors John '84 and Angela '89 Schmidt, the new facility will empower student athletes to succeed—and will help them apply the confidence and achievements they gain through their UNC experience to succeed throughout life.

The new building—to be built south of Butler-Hancock—will cover 10,250-square-feet, more than two and a half times the current space, and will allow sports performance staff to coordinate workouts in larger groups and adjust scheduling to fit each student-athlete's academic and practice needs.

The Empower Center will offer a spacious weight room featuring 15 weight racks, expanded free weights, designated areas for warming up and rehabbing, and a med ball wall. The building will also sport high ceilings (crucial for the tall athletes who couldn't do an overhead press in the previous space), indoor/outdoor access via garage doors, offices for the strength coaches, an enhanced nutrition station with dishwashers and blenders, along with the possibility to add on in the future.

With this larger space and "the best strength staff in the country," Butler says, "our imagination is the only limit."

More space means more athletes can have access to the facility at the same time—which can make a difference when it comes to scheduling and team camaraderie. With the current weight room, some teams are scheduled for very early morning workouts. Butler points out that when you



Just before the UNC Women's Walk on April 24, student-athletes and university leaders broke ground for the new Empower Center.

add in studying and other time commitments, athletes may not be getting as much sleep as they need.

"As your sleep improves, everything improves. That's one of your number one metrics for improved performance—allowing student-athletes to get better quality sleep without having the anxiety of having 6 a.m. workouts," Butler says.

Daisy Shultz, a senior Business major on UNC's volleyball team, agrees. "You can only have a certain number of teams in there at a time right now," she says. "That's a really big thing—being able to have more space and not have to work around every team. Our lifting time is at 7:30 a.m., so that wasn't a huge factor for us, but there are teams in there at 5 a.m. every single day."

Butler says that not only will scheduling teams be more efficient, but the increased number of weight racks, expanded free weights and specialty equipment will help athletes as well. "We're almost doubling everything that we have—expanding our dumbbell pit area, expanding the amount of specialty equipment that we can offer the athletes. Again, a lot more space offers a great flow where you can train multiple teams at once or give one team a ton of space for really optimal training."

*Go Bears cont. page 8*

*Go Bears cont.*

Athletic Director Darren Dunn said the new facility was a collaborative effort, and cited UNC donors for making the state-of-the-art space a reality.

“We want to recruit the best student-athletes, ‘Build Champions for Life,’ and win conference championships,” he says. “The Empower Center is a key foundational aspect to UNC’s future success, and it has truly been a collaborative effort, with donors, President Andy Feinstein, the advancement team, and coaches working together to make this project a reality. I am so thankful for our donors, Andy’s commitment to and belief in the project, Roche Constructors’ efforts, and everyone who has been involved. Our student-athletes deserve the best, and this will make such a difference for them.”

Roche Constructors, a Greeley-based company with offices in Nevada, Indiana and Westminster, Colo., is also a donor to the project and will begin construction this spring with plans to complete the project in time for fall semester 2021.

Feinstein also expresses his appreciation to all Empower Center donors. “I am so grateful for our donors’ generous investment in our students, our future and our community of Bears. I’d especially like to thank John and Angela Schmidt for their unwavering support of UNC, and their commitment to this project. Student-athletes are powerful ambassadors for our university and the Greeley community, and they represent us so well. The Empower Center is a great example of what we can achieve to position the next generation of UNC students for excellence when we work in partnership with our alumni and friends.”

Student-athletes and coaches gathered to celebrate groundbreaking for the new facility on April 24, just before the start time for the annual Women’s Walk. Assistant Vice President for Development, Jenny Shoop ’08 ’09, says, “It’s exciting to finally break ground for this fully donor-funded facility and it’s a true testament to our passionate donors who believe in UNC.”

“I’d like to give a huge thank you to the donors of the Empower Center for making it possible,” says Shultz. “Not only will this help UNC with getting better recruits here, I also think that it’s going to improve our athletes and improve the opportunities we have to be a better Division I school and a more competitive school. We’re all super grateful for that.”

(Right) UNC alumni had the opportunity to march in the inaugural parade for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

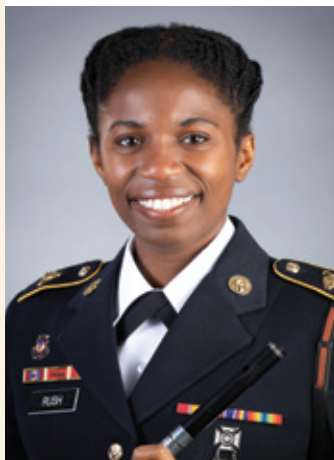
## Voices

### Bears in the Bands

#### THIS YEAR’S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION HONORING NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN WAS HISTORICAL ON MANY FRONTS,

from the inauguration of the country’s first female, first African American and first Asian American vice president, Kamala Harris, to its subdued setting and lack of crowds due to COVID-19.

Even though most Americans watched from a distance, three UNC alumni witnessed the event from the center of it, by performing during the celebration as part of three of the U.S. military’s renowned bands. Here, those alumni share their experiences from the day.



SSGT Shaina Rush '14

#### U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT SHAINA RUSH

Rush is part of The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and plays the fife, a traditional instrument similar to the piccolo. She received her Bachelor of Music in 2014 from UNC.

“This year was really exciting for me in a lot of ways because of the current climate and the inauguration of the president and the first female vice president, Kamala Harris,

so to me, that meant a lot to be part of the historic day, and it was also surreal because there was so much going on and a lot of fear of the unknown. But it ended up being an awesome day with nothing to worry about. It felt like America again, and it felt good to celebrate our democracy. I’ve only been in the corps for a year, so it was a really big event for me.”





PHOTO COURTESY SERVICE MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO JOINT TASK FORCE - NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.



SSGT Lucia Disano '13

### U.S. MARINE STAFF SERGEANT LUCIA DISANO

Disano is part of The President's Own United States Marine Band and plays the clarinet. She received her Master of Music in 2013 from UNC.

"Every inaugural ceremony feels exciting because it is such an important part of our democracy, but for this Inauguration Day, there was one moment in particular that has really stuck with me in the weeks since. 'The President's Own' United States Marine Band is always the first to play 'Hail to the Chief' and 'Hail Columbia' for the new

president and vice president. This year as I was performing 'Hail Columbia' for Vice-President Harris, I realized that I was making history by performing that piece to honor a woman for the first time. That's a memory that I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

### U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT CRAIG BASARICH

Basarich is part of The United States Army Band Pershing's Own and plays the trumpet. He received his Bachelor of Music Education in 2013 from UNC.

"Pershing's Own has been involved with inauguration since 1925, and being part of that legacy, but also the legacy of the peaceful transfer of power, bringing in a new president and honoring that office in that specific way, was really humbling and exciting. It was my first inauguration, and it was an awe-inspiring event to be a part of from a grandiose scale all the way down to how we rehearsed and what the traditions are."

—Katie-Leigh Corder



SSGT Craig Basarich '13

# The Cost of Outsourcing

Professor of Management Isaac Wanasika, Ph.D., takes a close look at the cost of outsourcing — from basic manufacturing to high tech — then gives his students the chance to dive deeply into long-term implications.

As the global pandemic began to surge, Americans learned a hard lesson in transaction cost economics theory (TCE), which looks at the costs or efficiency of buying versus making something.

“We cannot manufacture sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE),” Isaac Wanasika, Ph.D., department chair and professor of Management in the Monfort College of Business, says. “It used to be such a basic product that manufacturers decided to outsource the production. But when we get caught in a demand situation, such as the one we had, we then start begging for these products from other countries, even though PPE is very basic technology.”

Outsourcing is a topic central to Wanasika’s TCE research.

“Basically, I want to understand whether an organization should manufacture things in-house, whether they should go into long-term leasing or whether they should outsource their production entirely,” he says. “Organizations exist to minimize transaction costs, and the nature of transaction determines the emerging organizational form.”

Wanasika first became interested in these questions in 2008 while he was a doctoral student at New Mexico State University. In response to previous antitrust action against Microsoft, Bill Gates had testified to Congress in defense of the accusation that Microsoft was a monopoly, and he asserted that part of his company’s success was their ability to innovate and develop technologies internally, efficiently. “It seemed to me the government’s reaction to monopoly was always antitrust action, without attempting to seek other explanations,” Wanasika says.

“Bill Gates was basically saying, ‘We have chosen to minimize our transaction costs, and we have become very efficient to the extent that competitors cannot compete with the product. Everything is done internally, it’s done very well, and the costs are very low,’” Wanasika recounts. The sum of Internet Explorer and Windows was

larger than the parts. Even though Microsoft lost the legal battle, consumers continued to purchase Microsoft’s bundled products.

Where some saw a monopoly, Wanasika saw efficiency.

“I started looking at the tech industry and the manufacturing industry, and there seemed to be a pattern: The U.S. seemed to be losing competitiveness in many areas where they had outsourced things,” he says.

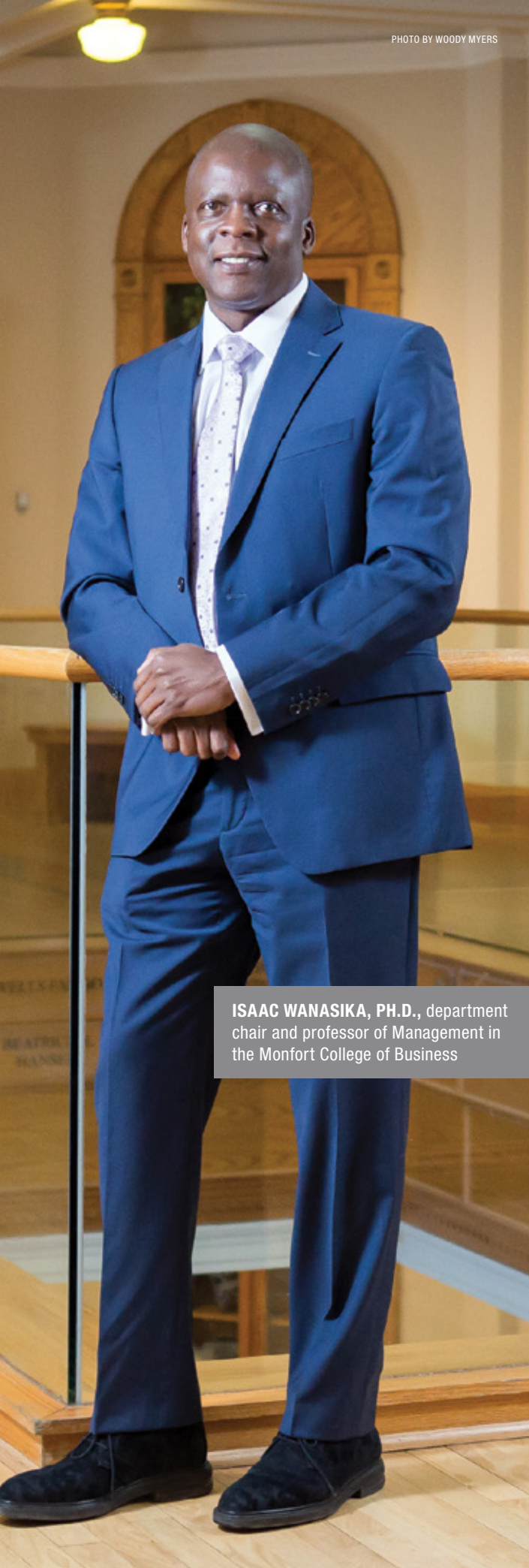
Wanasika points out that some companies are returning to manufacturing internally after facing situations where products they outsourced were poor quality, late to arrive or the manufacturing source created what he calls a “hostage situation,” as recently seen when automakers weren’t able to procure semiconductor chips for their vehicles. The shortage of chips began with pandemic-related shutdowns in assembly lines and, according to a recent CNBC article, is predicted to cost automakers billions in earnings.

“It takes about 18 months to have in-house production of microchips,” Wanasika says. “China and other Asian countries supplying these inputs don’t want to supply (U.S. automakers) with the chips because they’re holding them for their own production, among other reasons. From a transaction cost perspective, that should have been a product manufactured internally to ensure safeguards against opportunism and avoid those hostage situations.”

In addition, outsourcing can compromise intellectual property.

“The U.S. has been very competitive in technology, but the moment technology companies started outsourcing technological production — the smartphone is a good example — to countries like Taiwan and China, suddenly these countries are manufacturing very similar products. At first, they seem to be cheap imitations, but they become better and better because these countries are learning,” Wanasika says. “It’s just not possible to hang on to our





**ISAAC WANASIKA, PH.D.**, department chair and professor of Management in the Monfort College of Business

intellectual capital if we are hollowing out the production. Executing intellectual property protections in foreign lands is an uphill challenge.”

Outsourcing high-tech innovations has impacted U.S. companies on a global scale. It’s a lesson Wanasika shares with his students as they study industries, like electric vehicles, and see how outsourcing production has cost American companies the technological edge.

“China is way ahead. It has overtaken (the lead in electric vehicles). They have not done so because they are better, but because they have been able to adapt quickly and become better,” he says.

His research helps students understand TCE theory, illustrating how factors like outsourcing or ethics carry costs that can impact an organization’s bottom line. Students begin to develop a long-term perspective of strategy rather than short-term gains. Students also learn to develop safeguards against human conditions of opportunism, self-interest and imperfect knowledge.

“Ethics is very much related to transaction costs in practical ways, even though they are theoretically different,” he says. “We discuss this with the students and ask them, ‘Is it possible for a company that is efficient to survive if it’s unethical?’ We start looking at the costs of unethical behavior by sequencing long-term transaction costs associated with unethical behavior.”

Wanasika says that at the beginning of these discussions, he asks student to perform a thought experiment by assuming an amoral position. Students may push back against seemingly mundane behavior, like cosmetic companies who aren’t forthright about their products’ efficacy and limitations.

“(With certain cosmetics and nutritional supplements that are poorly regulated), you’re basically selling hope, and at the end of the day I tell them, if you don’t disclose the side effects or address the expectations, in the short term you may make a profit. But if that’s your core business, you’re not going to be around in five years, customers will find out, you’ll get bad reviews and you’ll be gone.”

With real-world examples and classroom simulations that place them in thought-provoking situations, students begin to understand the actual transaction costs associated with unethical behavior. And UNC students have learned that lesson well, consistently winning and placing high in national and international ethics competitions, including those that are part of the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program, a consortium of 11 business schools and one law school across four western states.

“They see in real time how ethics is affecting the long-term competitiveness of the organization,” Wanasika says. “The costs are quite prohibitive because they range from immediate government penalties to distant costs of reputational damage. You have customers defecting, and then you start attracting criminal-conduct costs. You have remedial costs. When you use a transaction cost approach to calculate the cost of unethical behavior, it’s simply not worth it.”

—Debbie Pitner Moors

Lofgren Scholars will gain hands-on research experience and have the opportunity to present their projects to their peers.

Impact 

PHOTO BY HARPER POINT PHOTOGRAPHY

## Sparkling Undergraduate Research

**ALUMNA'S PLANNED GIFT HONORS HER FAMILY AND CREATES NEW LEGACY SUPPORTING FACULTY-MENTORED RESEARCH FOR UNDERGRADUATE CHEMISTRY STUDENTS.**

For many students, research as an undergraduate sparks inspiration and opens doors for future studies and scholarly pursuits. For undergraduates in Chemistry, a generous gift from alumna Janet “Chris” Lofgren ’58 (BA, Elementary Education) will make those opportunities for research possible for years to come.

Lofgren generously gifted a portion of her estate to create a legacy in honor of her father, Richard Lofgren ’31 (Chemistry), which will provide lasting financial support for undergraduate Chemistry students at UNC. Chris Lofgren (1935-2019) had attributed her success and path in life to her father’s UNC degree.

“This gift is incredibly generous and speaks to the sense of community we have here,” says UNC Provost Mark Anderson, Ph.D. “Our commitment to community service is symbolized by this scholarship. It is wonderful to see donors like Ms. Lofgren set this example for others, and we have a really wonderful, deserving group of students who will benefit and make the entire Lofgren family proud.”

The Lofgren estate gift establishes the Lofgren Scholars for Undergraduate Chemistry Research at UNC, an endowment that will provide a sustainable source of funding for faculty-mentored chemistry student research projects. Students selected for annual summer research awards will receive up to \$5,000 to complete their project, with a portion of the total amount designated for research supplies and materials. When completed, each student

scholar, along with their faculty mentor, will have the opportunity to share their respective research project with their peers.

“The impact of this donation is going to go a long, long way,” says Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Hua Zhao, Ph.D. “We have a very diverse population of students, and we have a high population of first-generation students, too, so there are a lot of students who are doing very well academically but have a strong financial need.”

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry plans to honor and celebrate the Lofgren Scholars throughout the year, while continually recognizing the influence donors such as Janet Lofgren have on the UNC student experience.

“To show the scholarship of what they have accomplished in the research lab to the community and fellow students is going to influence other students who are interested in STEM,” Zhao says. “This research experience is going to have a huge impact on the students and prepare them well in summer, so they can go on to an advanced degree.”

To apply for a Lofgren Scholar Award, a student must be an undergraduate majoring in Chemistry or Biochemistry and complete a research project application ahead of the summer term award.

—Amber Medina

 [unco.edu/give/ways-to-give.aspx](https://unco.edu/give/ways-to-give.aspx)



# UNC's 2030 Strategic Plan

**THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO DEVELOP UNC'S 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN, AND THE FIRST OF FIVE PHASES IS UNDERWAY AFTER THE 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN WAS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY UNC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING.**

UNC's 10-year strategic plan — Rowing, Not Drifting 2030 — was developed following an extensive, collaborative process with university stakeholders. The resulting comprehensive vision plan is composed of the vision statement, five vision elements and 2030 outcomes that serve as the foundation in support of and in service to UNC's students, faculty, staff, alumni and extended community.

## VISION STATEMENT

The University of Northern Colorado will be the institution that Colorado looks to as the future of higher education. Our students will experience a personalized education grounded in liberal arts and infused with critical and creative inquiry, establish relationships with faculty and staff that nurture individual development, gain the skills and knowledge that provide upward mobility among alumni and share a commitment to the values of inclusion, equity and diversity.

## UNC'S SIX CENTRAL VALUES AS A STUDENTS FIRST UNIVERSITY:

- Academic integrity is valued and expected
- Excellence is sought and rewarded
- Teaching and learning flourish
- Diversity of thought and culture is respected
- Intellectual freedom is preserved
- Equal opportunity is afforded

## FIVE VISION ELEMENTS



Students First



Empower Inclusivity



Enhance and Invest



Innovate and Create



Connect and Celebrate



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

“Each member of our university community and every unit has a contribution to make on the journey toward realizing our vision for an even brighter future for UNC in 2030. I invite you to reflect upon the key actions and tactics in this plan and identify steps you can take to support the realization of our vision and the outcomes we have articulated.”

—ANDY FEINSTEIN, UNC PRESIDENT

➤ To learn more, you can find the Rowing, Not Drifting Strategic Plan online at [unco.edu/strategic-plan](https://unco.edu/strategic-plan)

Watch for these graphic icons in this and future issues of *UNC Magazine* to indicate stories that reflect and advance our five vision elements.



Assistant Professor of School Psychology Erin Yosai, Ph.D., and graduate students in her Wellness in Multi-tiered Systems of School Psychology (WiMSSY) Research Lab worked to find a way to understand how UNC students were coping with the impacts of 2020's events.



# Working Toward **WELLNESS**

By Debbie Pitner Moors | Photography by Woody Myers



A team of UNC graduate students and their professor are working to understand the challenges UNC students are facing, and finding ways to help students build resilience and wellness.

In the spring of 2020, students found themselves faced with two life-changing events: a pandemic and a social justice movement. Crowded hospitals, death counts, protests, systemic racism and food lines took center stage in the public eye, but a shadow pandemic of mental health implications paralleled those events.

College students lost connections with friends and support networks, found themselves isolated within the virtual grid of Zoom classes, worried about loved ones and worked to make sense of and address systemic racism and trauma, all while trying to focus on their studies.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about 1 in 4 adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder during the pandemic, up from 1 in 10 adults who reported these symptoms from January to June 2019. The foundation also reports that “during the pandemic, a larger than average share of young adults (ages 18-24) report symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder (56%).”

Laurie Claire Landrieu, a UNC doctoral student in School Psychology, working with Assistant Professor of School Psychology Erin Yosai, Ph.D., recognized early in the pandemic that fellow students were struggling. She and four fellow graduate students working in Yosai’s Wellness in Multi-tiered Systems of School Psychology (WiMSSY) Research Lab wanted to find a way to help.

“After COVID became this reality, many of them felt passionately about helping in any way they could within their own campus community and in the broader community,” Yosai says.

School psychologists focus on helping students and their families in a school setting, using cognitive, behavioral, social and emotional assessments and interventions, for an age range from 3 to over 21, encompassing preschool to undergraduate students.

And it was in that post-secondary group where Yosai and her students chose to focus on addressing the need for understanding during this challenging time.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES

For Yosai, the intersections of higher education, psychology and wellness offer opportunities to help young adults connect with resources that can help them thrive and succeed through college, something she feels a personal connection with.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in Psychology at a small liberal arts college in Kansas, Yosai earned her master’s degree in Experimental Psychology at Montana State University before going on to get her Ph.D. in School Psychology at the University of Montana.

It was during her pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Illinois that she became passionate about post-secondary school psychology and began to focus her work on intervention and wellness for college students.

“I think many of us in human-subjects research are drawn to things we observe and learn about as we grow into our professional identities. That was the case for me,” she says. “Mental health was a struggle of mine as an undergrad, and it affected a lot of aspects of my life. As I continued into my graduate work, I kept finding myself thinking, ‘I wish I would’ve known about different resources on my campus, in my community, so that I could’ve felt more on steady ground.’”

Asking for help — or understanding mental health and wellness — is difficult for many college students. It may not be something they’ve learned or talked about (particularly for students from rural or underserved areas), and it still carries a stigma, creating a barrier to wellness.

“Knowing that our mental health has a very important connection to our personal and academic success, it became important for me to focus my research on ways to broaden understanding for young adults and to create learning opportunities so that they could better learn about their own experiences with mental health, advocate for what resources they need, what supports they need.



Assistant Professor of School Psychology Erin Yosai, Ph.D.

**[Preliminary data] has really cemented the fact that connection is one of the most important things professors can foster right now."**

**—ERIN YOSAI**

That really led to this research line and a research lab to drive wellness research in all aspects of school life, but especially in mental health intervention and education in a post-secondary setting."

Yosai's WiMSSY Research Lab gives graduate students in School Psychology an opportunity to study "how positive, inclusive and intersectional evidence-based supports can benefit students."

Grounded in that understanding, her graduate students began to look for a way to learn how current events were impacting fellow students.

"I did some research at my undergraduate university on mental-health functioning and coping skills in older adults during things like natural disasters and how that can impact mental-health functioning," Landrieu says. "I thought, 'We should track the trends of our student population and see what effect this has and monitor the trends toward this new normal that we all feel ourselves spiraling toward.'"

The result was the "UNC and Me" project.

"Laurie Claire has been heading this project, driving the research team, and has been very passionate about getting involved with the campus community and helping in any way she can," Yosai says.

Designing a survey was the first step in the process toward exploring how the events surrounding students were affecting their mental and academic health, their decisions to continue at UNC and their awareness of UNC services designed to help them support themselves through this time.

## THE NEED TO CONNECT

The WiMSSY team started surveying students in March 2020, and about 450 students responded — more than double the usual number of responses.

"Once we started rolling out the survey," says Landrieu, "we realized that students want to get their voices heard and share their experiences."

The project will continue through the end of 2022, so data is still preliminary, but Yosai says that in general, the first wave of data is showing that students may feel a lack of connection, but the vast majority of students are staying the course at UNC.

"One of our main questions is, 'How is this impacting your educational goals and your trajectory?' We ask them if they plan on continuing with their education, if they were going to transfer to a different university, or if they were going to withdraw based on any of these COVID factors, and more than 90% of the respondents said that they were staying with UNC, and they were going to weather the storm. I found that really exciting and very encouraging that through everything going on, they were still finding ways to continue that academic journey at UNC."



From a mental-health perspective, Yosai says early data does show an elevation in some of the depression and anxiety symptoms that come from isolation and lack of connection during this time.

“It’s really cemented the fact that connection is one of the most important things professors can foster right now,” she says.

While the project still has almost two years of research ahead, Yosai points out that part of the process is identifying interventions and resources students need now and finding ways to help them access those resources.

“School psychologists function theoretically within a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) that identifies support services for different magnitudes of problems for students,” she says. “About 80% of students will need general services like tutoring services, the library, office hours with professors. About 20% may need a different level of support based on what’s going on for them academically and mental health-wise, and about 5% to 10% of students will need more individual supports and services.”

But students don’t always reach out to take advantage of resources. That’s where psychoeducation — which gives someone knowledge about a mental-health condition that’s impacting them — can empower students toward wellness.

“In this young adulthood stage, we can’t make students do anything that they don’t want to do, but we can give them information, and we can empower them to take that information to self-advocate and explore the next steps. So, it’s not saying, ‘You have this, and you have to do this.’ Instead, it’s, ‘You have this. This is what you’re experiencing. Do you want to learn more about it? Here are some resources.’”

While the UNC and Me project is gathering data to better understand what students are feeling and the types of resources they need during this time, it’s also giving students a voice, offering them new resources for learning about mental health and providing them with some tools to develop those important life skills.

## HELPING WHERE IT’S NEEDED

“We want to be able to support students, not just collect this information and say, ‘OK. We got the info. Now we can publish.’ Instead, it’s ‘How does this impact them? And how do we help,’” Yosai says.

As WiMSSY Lab students talked about how to get information about wellness and mental health to the campus community, they developed five wellness workshops (virtual this year) that were open to students, faculty and staff as ways to learn about gratitude, positive psychology, coping with stress and mindfulness. Their long-term goal is integrating that information into a class or curriculum.



Yosai meets with graduate students in her WiMSSY lab.

Another resource available to students is through the Headspace Project, which made 500 copies of the Headspace app available free to students for a year. The Headspace app teaches the user about mindfulness — which has been shown to alleviate stress — and helps them incorporate it into daily life.

“There are great wellness-based apps out there. With the Headspace Project, if students couldn’t pay for that or have access to that, we wanted to remove that barrier,” she says.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Yosai is hopeful that college campuses will recognize the impact the past year’s events will have on student mental health, college enrollment and many other factors for the next five to 10 years. After a year or more of remote learning at the high-school and middle-school levels, students may come into college with deficits or academic challenges, but they also bring strengths with them — something Yosai hopes colleges will also focus on.

“We don’t want to just focus on what they’re lacking, but what are the strengths that have come out of this pandemic? (These students) are so flexible and adaptable at this point. They’ve had to go through the wringer this last year, and they’ve survived. A lot of them have found ways to thrive, and connect with others, and do things that they never thought that they could do,” she says.

She also says that even though the team is collecting data on some of the struggles UNC students have faced as a result of COVID-19, the pandemic brought attention to helping students build strength and resilience mentally and academically.

“Jon Kabat-Zinn, one of the foremost meditation research experts, has a quote that I love to say. It’s, ‘You can’t stop the waves, but you can learn to surf.’ We can’t stop the waves of the pandemic. We have no control over that, really,” Yosai says. “But, how are we learning to surf as a campus community, as graduate researchers, as undergraduate instructors, as students? We’re getting everybody back on their surfboards.” **UNC**







# KEYS TO SUCCESS

By Debbie Pitner Moors | Photography by Woody Myers



**With the arrival of 96 new Steinway pianos and an All-Steinway School designation, UNC students have the highest quality instruments at their fingertips.**

**I**n December 2020, three large moving vans arrived on campus bearing gifts: 50 Steinway pianos were being carefully unloaded, rolled into Frasier Hall, uncrated, placed and expertly tuned. They were the final delivery of a total of 96 new Steinway and Steinway-designed Boston pianos gifted to UNC. Almost entirely funded by gifts to the university, they made UNC Colorado's only publicly funded institution of higher education with the prestigious All-Steinway School designation, and one of fewer than 200 institutions worldwide to attain the designation.

"In a year where there's just been a lot of hardship, it was really so exciting to watch," Kiki Gilderhus, Ph.D., says. She was serving as interim dean in the College of Performing and Visual Arts at the time. "I walked over from Guggenheim to Frasier, and there were three trucks, two in waiting and one that was open. They had a work crew of four or five men who were moving them in. I think about the tangibility, the physicality of these pianos; there was this kind of great juxtaposition of muscle and then delicacy because, of course, these are also fragile objects."

Gilderhus describes the moment the pianos arrived as "an unfolding." For her and others involved in the project, that unfolding brought with it a sense of both culmination and possibility: of instruments waiting to lend voice to gifted UNC students and faculty after a long, quiet year of remote and virtual music.





A Steinway-designed Boston piano is unloaded and moved into Frasier Hall — one of 96 new Steinway pianos in UNC's fleet.

“I knew how much this meant to the school, to our students, to faculty — how much it would change the whole school and what kind of service it would provide.”

—LEI WENG, Ph.D.

## FROM ASTORIA TO GREELEY

At first, the idea of an All-Steinway School seemed distant. In 2007, Professor of Piano Lei Weng, Ph.D., joined the faculty at UNC. A Steinway Artist, he remembers mentioning the All-Steinway School designation to Michael Alexander, who was then the School of Music Director, about a year later.

“I knew how much this meant to the school, to our students, to faculty — how much it would change the whole school and what kind of service it would provide,” Weng says.

Just about a decade later, Bob and Bonnie Phelps came to campus. Their son had graduated from UNC in 2012, and they had a deep sense of appreciation for the education he received and the experience he had at the university. As donors, they had worked with the College of Performing and Visual Arts leadership team for a couple of years to identify and purchase instruments, technology and equipment for the Schools of Music, Musical Theatre and Visual Arts. On that day in 2017, they came to campus at the invitation of the university to meet students who benefited from the new instruments and equipment.

Gilderhus remembers the day well. “I felt such incredible pride and gratitude. So often in administration you’re so concerned with minutiae, and you don’t always have the opportunity to see how students are being impacted. That day sparked future

conversations,” she remembers. “We started to really talk with Bob about how we could achieve the All-Steinway School designation.”

The Phelps were inspired by the impact an All-Steinway School designation would have on students and by the doors it would open for UNC as a premiere performing arts program.

Steinway’s audit of the university’s piano fleet at the time revealed most of the pianos to be in poor to fair condition.

“We collaborated with the PVA leadership and the Office of University Advancement to create an action plan which became ‘The Steinway Initiative.’ It would require almost \$1 million in fundraising from private donors to update and replace almost 90% of the university’s inventory with new pianos from Steinway & Sons,” Bob Phelps says.

The Steinway Initiative reflected the Phelps’ longtime support of many campus needs, including the Campus Commons project, which created the perfect setting for a beautiful Steinway D concert grand piano — also funded by philanthropic support. It would be the first of the new Steinway fleet.

The nine-foot Steinway D concert grand was selected in Steinway’s Astoria, New York, showroom by UNC faculty members Adam Zukiewicz, D.M.A., associate professor of Piano; Dana Landry, professor of Jazz Studies and Piano; and Weng.

Zukiewicz was in New York with two other colleagues — Gal Faganel, associate professor of Cello, head of String Area; and Jubal Fulks,





Steinway pianos take a year to make, and the final stages of building began after they arrived on campus. Once built and moved to their final destinations, professional piano tuners tuned them. The pianos were then acclimated to the Colorado climate — one of the most challenging environments for pianos due to the lack of humidity. The initial tuning lasted a few weeks with the tuners returning around a month later to tune the pianos once more.

associate professor of Violin — to play at Carnegie Hall as the Colorado Piano Trio, a chamber music ensemble. Weng and Landry flew to New York for a day to join Zukiewicz to select the piano for the Campus Commons Performance Hall.

Both Weng and Zukiewicz explained that each piano is different and selecting one can be a very personal process.

“Steinway pianos are handmade using the highest materials,” Weng explains. “The process is very consistent; however, every piece of wood is different... each worker, they are different. Each piano is different, just like a person born with a fixed set of DNA. That also exists in Steinway pianos.”

Zukiewicz says, “I think what makes a piano and an instrument really special is its capacity to express the variety of emotions, that variety of sounds, and it allows us to express our emotions through that with relative ease and clarity.”

He remembers sitting down that day to one particular piano in the showroom. “It was like a magnetic feeling. It’s like you try something, and you’re just like, ‘Oh, this is nice.’ Then you try something else, and it’s, ‘Wow, I didn’t know this has this color that I can produce.’ You develop this personal connection with an instrument, and it talks to you. You give it something, and it talks back to you. That’s the intimacy of the relationship that you have as a musician with your instrument.”

It was that piano that Zukiewicz, Weng and Landry agreed was the one they wanted for UNC’s Campus Commons Performance Hall.

“Carnegie Hall is very famous for having one of the best pianos that you can imagine. Their pianos are usually handpicked by some of the best artists. The day after our concert, I went to select our piano. In my ears, I had that instrument that I just played on (at Carnegie Hall), and I can tell you that, compared to that instrument, we got a better piano. That says a lot, I think.”





Alejandro Arroyo (left) at the keyboard of the Steinway D concert grand in Campus Commons. A master's student in Piano Performance, Arroyo is from Costa Rica, where he first heard Professor Weng (facing page, top) perform and learned of UNC's program. "With these pianos... it's very nice because they capture every detail, and the sound is always beautiful, rounded, and never too bright or sharp," he says.

## PLAYING THE MAGIC

The Steinway Model D is now one of two pianos presiding over the performance hall at Campus Commons. Its arrival on campus elevated the vision for an all-Steinway fleet of pianos.

"There was this sense that if students are going to perform on an instrument of this caliber, then think what they could achieve—and what it would do to add to the prestige of UNC's already acclaimed School of Music—if all of the pianos were of the same quality," says UNC's Vice President for Advancement, Allie Steg Haskett. "Philanthropy—led by the Phelps—made that vision a reality, and it was so exciting to see nearly 100 new pianos arrive on campus."

The pianos provide students, faculty, visiting artists and prospective students with high-quality consistency that helps them grow as artists and reach their potential and are making an audible difference in the lives of the students who are playing them.

"These pianos allow (students) to produce better music, express themselves more clearly, find more varieties of sounds, express their emotions in more diverse ways, and really engage much more with the music through having a high-quality instrument," Zukiewicz says.

Weng explains that quality can reflect a student's true ability. "The keys can respond to your touch in hundreds of ways," Weng explains. "You put a little

pressure, a little quicker, a little slower, your finger position changes from more vertical to more flat—it is all reflected in the sound. This is like magic. So, you see, now they're playing the magic."

The students can feel the difference. Masters student Yuan Li says the pianos allow her to express herself more fully. "The Steinway pianos are one of the best in the world. And when I perform on this piano, I just feel like it can really give me so much more, that can fulfill my imagination in the tones, in the sound and color. So actually, I can really achieve what I'm aiming for on this instrument."

And for future students, the All-Steinway School designation makes UNC a clear choice. "It basically tells everybody that this is a school that's serious about their instruments. They're serious about piano studies and serious about piano performances. They're serious about piano students. That's a very important sign to send to everyone out there, to our prospective piano students," Zukiewicz says.

## READY TO RETURN

Looking to the future—for both current and future students, as well as the entire university community—there is a sense of anticipation after a year of quiet isolation.

"We've had to find lots of different ways to continue to practice, to compose, to perform, to reach out to audiences and make connections," Gilderhus says. "And right now, it's largely digitally or through computers. But the thing that I think has been sustaining is the gift of these pianos. This is a gift that's waiting for that moment where we start to open up again. This is a poignant moment. We've not been able to have live performances for a year, and so there's this pent-up kind of desire to really see these pianos in action and to see the art that's being created and experience that."

Whether it's students experiencing the opportunity to play or audiences experiencing the difference these pianos make in the performance hall, there's a sense of promise that resides with the pianos, a sense that their gift to the community is waiting for the moment when they can be played—and heard—together.

"The experience is just unlike anything else, to hear the sound," Weng says of the new pianos. "Even the best technology cannot deliver that. The sound surrounds you 360 degrees—there's no gap, you are in the sound. Can you imagine? It's not a speaker coming from here, or here, or here, but the real sound of the piano. It surrounds you and embraces you." **UNC**





Weng works with Arroyo on stage  
at Campus Commons.



Piano Performance master's student  
Yuan Li on the concert grand.

# LESSONS *OF A* **challenging** YEAR

By Amber Medina

**THREE ALUMNI SHARE  
THE CHALLENGES  
AND REWARDS OF  
WORKING THROUGH  
THE PANDEMIC.**

The challenges of the past year have affected people in virtually every occupation, from all walks of life. UNC alumni — from nurses and caregivers to educators and performers — are often in settings where they work closely with people in their community. We reached out to three alumni to find out what this past year has been like for them. Each said the skills, experiences and relationships they gained at UNC helped them meet those challenges.

For Jose Martinez III '07, the decision-making and leadership skills he gained from his time in the Presidential Leadership Program, in Cumbres, and through working with the César Chávez Cultural Center, were all useful in his work as an assistant principal. Critical Care Nurse Angela Turk '07 drew guidance from the fundamentals she learned through UNC's Nursing program, and Janice Sinden '97, CEO of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, says she found support and inspiration through her continued service and connection to the university as a trustee.

Here, they share a snapshot of challenges faced and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## ANGELA TURK

Angela Turk '07 is a critical care nurse at Denver Health Medical Center, where she's worked in the intensive care unit for 17 years.

### WHAT HAS THIS PAST YEAR BEEN LIKE FOR YOU?

We've definitely been on the frontlines of COVID since last March. It's nice to start seeing the end of the tunnel and getting fewer patients. We prepped for the worst, and it was really bad, but it didn't get as bad as we feared. You get into nursing to save lives and make a difference, and then all of a sudden you might have to decide who gets a ventilator and who doesn't. It was a hard thing to think about, but, thankfully, we never got to that point.

### WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU MET THIS YEAR?

It was scary because I didn't know enough about it. I was doing my best to help and be part of the team, but at home, I didn't know how close I should get to my kids. I didn't want to see my parents, or my in-laws or nieces and nephews, because I was dealing with COVID patients every day. And the idea of possibly getting it and exposing other people was terrifying. It's been hard, like it has been for everybody. We never thought we'd be a part of history in the making. We definitely got challenged and learned what resilience was.

### WHAT WERE SOME OF THE LESSONS THAT CAME OUT OF THIS YEAR?

I work at a teaching hospital, and our practices and guidelines are evidence based. Since this was a pandemic that nobody knew anything about, every day, every shift was something different. It was constantly evolving and changing. It took a lot of communication and teamwork and learning. I relied on the fundamentals of nursing, knowing my skills as a nurse, my education and continuing to educate myself. I've become really close with my coworkers. We relied on each other. And I think as a community, it's made us realize how precious life really is.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

## JOSE MARTINEZ III

Jose Martinez III '07 is assistant principal at Bear Creek High School in Lakewood, Colorado. He won the national Milken Educator Award in 2018.

### WHAT WAS THIS PAST YEAR LIKE FOR YOU?

Thinking back to last March, a lot of it just came as a shock. We were well aware of it [COVID], but just didn't know how close it was going to get. And I remember very distinctly: It was a Wednesday afternoon, and we were hearing that we wouldn't be back in school on Monday. We didn't believe it, but it was happening. And so you want to panic, but the truth is, being in education, being in leadership and having so many people, mostly children and families, relying on you, we just didn't have time for that.

### WHAT WERE SOME CHALLENGES YOU MET THIS YEAR?

My first task was to make sure we got every kid a device who needed one. So that was the first big pivot. Another thing that really became challenging was the end of the year expectations, like prom and graduation, and realizing there was no way we were going to be able to hold those events in the traditional sense. That was frustrating for our families and for us. It really showed what a strong team, teachers and even kids, we have. There was unhappiness at every turn, but everyone was really supportive and willing to come together. Despite being separated, we were closer than ever before and communicating more than we had before.

### WHAT WERE SOME LESSONS THAT CAME OUT OF THIS YEAR?

I've learned that a lot of the institutions, structures and traditions we have — they're important and we don't want to lose them — but this has shown us just how flexible we can be. The pandemic forced us to evaluate why we do stuff the way we do in education. As we move forward, I hope we don't lose sight of that, at the high school, elementary or even the collegiate level. This is truly the future of education, and this is a really exciting place to be.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS



## JANICE SINDEN

Janice Sinden '97 is CEO of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA). She serves on the UNC Board of Trustees and is a fourth-generation Coloradan.

### WHAT WAS THIS PAST YEAR LIKE FOR YOU?

Last year was slated to be a banner year for the DCPA. Then our organization came to a screeching halt on March 13, 2020, due to COVID-19, like so many others in the community. In total, we ended contracts with 96 artists and professionals, and within a few months, we furloughed another 130. The magic just stopped. But we remain deeply grateful to our community and our audience, and we'll be back. This is just a long intermission.

### WHAT WERE SOME CHALLENGES YOU MET THIS YEAR?

We have a robust, dynamic Education and Community Engagement Department, and last year alone, we engaged 142,000 students. This past year, virtual learning became a new way for us to connect with our students, and we hope to continue to offer virtual programming going forward. Also, we turned our 10,000 square-foot Seawell Ballroom into a high-definition studio to host events of all types virtually. And we continued renovation of two of our theaters, which will be completed this spring, and our plan is to complete the capital campaign this year, as well.

### WHAT WERE SOME LESSONS THAT CAME OUT OF THIS YEAR?

We are grateful for our community, our patrons and our donors. We would not exist without these folks, just like UNC is not a university without the students, faculty and staff. We remain flexible and diligent since there are a lot of new issues and tactics to think through. We are actively planning our re-opening so our audiences feel comfortable returning to the theater and our actors and artists are ready to return to the stages. Being on the board at UNC has been inspiring during this past year. It's been nice to stay connected with President Andy Feinstein and know I'm not alone. We both have these amazing institutions and face many of the same challenges. It's such an honor to be part of that at such a critical moment. **UNC**



PHOTO COURTESY DENVER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

# HONORED ALUMNI

## 2021

The UNC Alumni Association is proud to present the 2021 honorees. This year's class reflects the university's more than 130,000 outstanding alumni who choose to represent UNC in their personal and professional lives.



### STEVEN MAURICE '72

Steven Maurice's spirit of generosity is just one of the things that draws people to him. After obtaining his degree in Business Finance from the University of Northern Colorado, he had a job as a bank teller at a small bank in Paris, Iowa, where he eventually became the assistant vice president. Maurice played in a band on the side until being awarded an Iowa Arts Council Grant for Performers that allowed him to become a full-time professional musician. Inspired by the field work the staff and students are doing in UNC's Department of Geography, GIS and Sustainability, he's been an impactful and dedicated donor, allowing students opportunities to understand how our realities are shaped by geographic locations.



### LARRY L. MILLER '61

An exceptional career in the chemistry field has elevated Larry Miller, Ph.D., to give back to the alma mater that shaped his experiences and encouraged him to break barriers. After obtaining his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from then-Colorado State College, Miller went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Illinois. He quickly gained recognition for his innovative approach in research and won multiple awards, including the Horace R. Morse award and the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. He served as chairman of the Chemistry department at the University of Minnesota and was named an Institute of Technology Distinguished Professor. In 2020 he established the Larry L. Miller Chemistry Scholarship, inspiring undergraduate seniors to continue pursuing chemistry in a graduate program.





## BETTIE STONE '72, '80, '02

Bettie (BJ) Stone, Ed.D., has touched the lives of many individuals who've crossed paths with her during her time working in the education profession. After graduating from UNC with degrees in Biology and Chemistry, she spent 34 years using her expertise and compassion transforming the lives of students and educators alike. Her influence has spanned 30 districts throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in the Bahamas, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Stone also co-authored a book that is noted as one of the most referenced books in the field of education. Stone is a teacher many students look to with admiration, and with appreciation for elevating their potential. She continues to be a passionate supporter of the university and enjoys attending many sporting events.



## BRANDON TORREZ '99, '02

Brandon Torrez exemplifies Bear spirit. Throughout his career, he's had a passion for mentoring students to go beyond their potential. As a Greeley native and proud UNC and Greeley West High School (GWHS) alumnus, Torrez was named GWHS Teacher of the Year in 2017 and sponsored the League of United Latin American Citizens club at GWHS, engaging the often underserved and underrepresented Hispanic/Latinx population of students and families the school serves. He also recently completed 20 years as the assistant coach of the GWHS boys basketball team and is a proud, loyal supporter of GWHS and UNC. Torrez attends Bears basketball games to watch some of his former players play in blue and gold, and shares his deep appreciation for his educational experiences by helping UNC's Education students gain real classroom experiences.



## NANCY WENDIRAD '05

Nancy Wendirad fulfills her life purpose by dedicating herself to serving others. Her expansive involvement in the community and at UNC has improved the lives of those around her. Graduating with degrees in Spanish and Communications, Wendirad has used her expertise to develop curricula that met the individual needs of each student she's taught, encouraging and inspiring them to reach their potential. Actively engaged in the UNC Alumni Association, Wendirad has served on the Alumni Association Board as president and vice president. In addition to her work as a volunteer and an educator, she's been recognized as the Cumbres Scholar of the Year and received the Hispanic Women of Weld County Education Award.



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

# 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

**Eileen Volpe Moore** BA '64, MA '78, Greeley, is publishing a book of poetry titled *Independent Thoughts: From California and Colorado*. It contains approximately 350 poems in six categories: states, animals, politics, religion, holidays and wars of the U.S.

**Jane Johnson** BA '65, Amherst, MA, has published a book of poems, *Maven Reaches Mars: Home Poems and Space Probes in Four Fascicles*. Some of the book's "home" poems feature her father Munro McPhetres BA '34 and her husband Keith "Kit" Johnson BA '66.

## 70s

**Edward Bingham** BA '71, Livermore, who retired from the Denver Police Department as a captain in 2005, went on to publish three fiction books in 2020. *Snow Stalker*, *Broken Justice* and *Final Justice* are available on Amazon.

**Roger Dudley** BA '71, Denver, retired from the Denver Public Library in 2019 and received the Rosenstock Lifetime Achievement Award from the Denver Posse of Westerners that same year.

**Ronald Nibbelink** BA '74, Augusta, KS, who graduated with a degree in English Education and a minor in Theatre Arts, published a historical novel this year. *They Played for Keeps* tells the story of the Nazi massacre of 642 people in the central France town, Oradour-sur-Glane, four days after D-Day occurred.

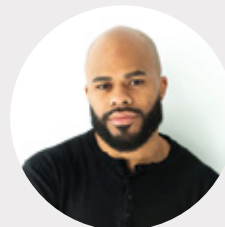
**Rick Jordan** BS '76, Monument, retired as a CPA from Lockheed Martin after 31 years.

**Vicky Daub Hayden** BA '78, Centennial, is now the Executive Director for the Veteran Servant Corps Project, a new ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Rocky Mountain Synod. Veteran Servant Corps Project's partners with faith communities to recognize and support veterans.

**Allen Huth** BA '78, Parker, played a key role in getting a Gideon New Testament Bible on the UNC campus in 1973-74. He served as a volunteer for the Gideons International for over 40 years and is currently serving a second term

### Alumnus Prepares to Release Film

Filmmaker and founder of Black Sock Productions Jonathan Martin BA '11 is preparing to release *The Confrontation Project* later this year. Martin, who founded Black Sock Productions in 2012, collaborated with author and scriptwriter Ahmad Pasley to engage and stimulate conversations among members of the law enforcement and African American communities. Martin and Pasley are currently working on raising additional funds to help make this film happen. "We believe that this is a project that can make a real difference in the world," Martin says. "This is an opportunity to have all viewpoints shown for a better understanding. The film ends with a powerful call to action that can apply to everybody, regardless of what side of the confrontation you are on." Martin says he has been blessed with many opportunities to shoot different projects all over the world, but this is the one he believes will have the most impact.



as their elected international president for over 200 countries and 255,000 volunteers across the world. The Gideon New Testament is the largest Bible distribution network in the world.

**Steve Townsend** BA '78, MA '80, Ludington, MI, retired after 42 years as a professional geologist.

**Jack Winburn** BS '78, Macon, MO, is retiring after serving 42 years with Missouri State Parks.

## 80s

**Sam Aldren** BA '81, Fort Collins, a retired teacher and principal, published a middle-years novel titled, *Brad Bateman; Brat Ratman*. The story is based on the challenges the main character faces as he transitions to middle school, and it includes a lot of humor as well as thought-provoking, real-life situations. His son, Jackson, illustrated the cover and chapter headings, and created a map.

**Dorna Schroeter** MA '81, Rhinebeck, NY, published "The Story of Velcro" which is the first in a children's book series, *How an Idea from Nature Changed Our World*. "The Story of

EcoMachines" will also be printed this summer. The stories support the Next Generation Science Standards.

**Jeff Kildow** MS '82, Parker, has published his second novel, a military thriller titled *Red Menace* in October 2020. A third novel titled *SUEZ*, also a military thriller, is to be published in the fall of 2021.

**Gary Molt** BS '82, Brno, Czech Republic, is celebrating his seventh year working for IBM in the Czech Republic. Molt had a long-held dream stemming from his time spent in Germany while serving in the U.S. Army to live and work in Europe.

**Bruce Nolan** BS '82, Girard, PA, recently began his 35th year working as a CTRS (Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist) and currently works as a recreational therapist on the mental health unit of the State Correctional Institution at Albion.

**Liz Palmer Peterson** BS '82, Las Vegas, NV, was recently named the executive director for the Nevada Senior Games Inc., an official state member of the National Senior Games Association.



**Danny Salerno** MA '82, New Britain, CT, taught sociology and political science for 33 years, with the past 14 years teaching at the University of Hartford. He retired from the state of Connecticut as a discrimination investigator with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, which is the oldest civil rights agency in the United States, established in 1947. Salerno served as an elected official, alderman at large, for the New Britain, Conn., Common Council, and was the majority leader for four of eight years. He was a Democrat who was endorsed by the New Britain Republican Town Committee four times between 2013-2021. He was also on the Board of Managers of the New Britain Institute.

**Linda Steele** BA '84, Norfolk, NE, has been elected to serve a four-year term on the Presbyterian Church USA Presbyterian Cooperative Committee for Candidate Examinations. Steele will be serving on the Bible Task Force creating and overseeing the grading of the Bible Exegesis Exams.

**Sonja Wendt** MS '84, Westminster, became a new children's book author after publishing four books in the *Cultivating Compassion in Children* series.

**Kim McCord** MME '85, DME '99, Shelton, CT, is an author, and is currently teaching post-secondary music students with disabilities. She is also an adjunct professor at New York University.

**Jennifer Taylor McHugh** BA '87, Monument, was recently hired as the first executive director of the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute. Since 1996, the organization has worked to increase the quality and quantity of leadership in the Pikes Peak region and beyond.

## 90s

**George Teal**, BA '92, Castle Rock, won the Republican Party nomination in the June 2020 primary election for Douglas County Commissioner District 2.

**Mark McCarthy** BA '93, Greeley, has authored his first book, a culinary memoir titled *Untangling My Kite* which is a raw look at the underworld of restaurant cooking and correctional food service.

**Rich Buzzell** MA '94, Kittery Point, ME, just finished his 25th year as a school district athletic administrator, having worked at Traip Academy, Kennebunk High School and Marshwood High School for the last 17 years.

**RJ Hurn** BA '94, Tallahassee, FL, is the new CEO for Georgia Pines Community Service Board. The C.S.B. provides mental health, substance abuse and IDD services to Southwest Georgia residents. Hurn has been named the Field Educator of the Year by Florida State University, and in 2019, he was awarded the System of Care Individual Merit Award for his work in helping to put school-based mental health services in place for 32 schools.

**Peter Marcell** MA '94, San Antonio, TX, has been hired as the director of learning and development of workforce technology at USAA. In his new role, he is creating a learning center of excellence to support the USAA mission of being the provider of choice to the military community.

**Beth Ruthmansdorfer Metcalf** BA '95, Oak Creek, WI, has established the law firm of Ruthmansdorfer Law Group, S.C. in South

### Colorado Governor Appoints Alumna to 20th Judicial District Court

Colorado Governor Jared Polis appointed UNC alumna Dea Marie Lindsey BA '91 to the 20th Judicial District Court effective April 1, 2021. Lindsey previously serviced as a senior assistant county attorney in Boulder. According to the governor's announcement, Lindsey's practice consists of representation and advisement for the Sheriff's Office, Community Justice Services, the Office of Emergency Management and the district attorney's office. She previously held roles as an Assistant County Attorney in Boulder County and Weld County, and served as a partner at Coleman, Liu, Lyons, Wheller and Zweibel, as well as a public defender in Greeley.



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making a gift to  
the area of campus  
that means the  
most to you.

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Milwaukee, WI. She also recently authored her first book, *The Mommy Club: A Journey of God's Will*.

**Rhett Polka** BA '96, Windsor, owner of One80 Physical Therapy and founder of The One80 System, has been issued a United States patent for his proprietary medical evaluation and treatment system. He and his uniquely trained team have been using the One80 System in his clinics in Loveland, Windsor and Highlands Ranch for several years. Polka has been sought after by NFL players, Division I athletes, Division I strength coaches, CrossFit Open World Champions, Radio City Rockettes and Olympic athletes nationally, and has held courses and trained physical therapists from Hawaii to New York City in his patented system. Due to COVID-19, he has shifted continuing education classes to an online model for medical professionals from around the world.

**Lois Flagstad** PhD '97, Miami, NM, retired after 37 years in higher education. Flagstad served students most recently as vice president for student affairs in Minnesota, Colorado, Nebraska, Lithuania and South Dakota.

**Matt Means** BM '97, Reno, NV, was recently appointed inaugural dean of the University of Nevada-Reno Honors College. While a student at UNC, Means served on the university's Board of Trustees.

**Jill Literas Miller** MA '97, Erie, has recently been given the honor of being selected as the Colorado National Distinguished Principal of the Year as an elementary principal. In her 32

years in education, she has held a variety of leadership positions.

**Carmen Polka Mudd** BA '97, MA '02, Windsor, recently received the Thompson School District Award of Excellence.

## 00s

**Jenna Yentes** BA '00, Omaha, NE, was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the spring of 2020 at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in the Department of Biomechanics.

**Nick Sunday** BS '03, Avon, recently helped create and became the vice president of the Colorado Amusement and Music Operators (CAMO), in addition to being general manager of Alpine Vending & Video, Inc. and a contributor to the Stern Operators Council (SOC).

**Molly Burich** BA '05, returned to Otsuka Pharmaceutical Companies in Princeton, New Jersey as Senior Director, Reimbursement and Health Policy.

**Esthela Nunez Franco** BS '05, Atwood, authored the BreezyGirl children's book series which include titles of *BreezyGirl*, *A Day with Mom*, *Grandpa is Happy* and *My Uncle is Sick*.

**Tyler Barnes** BA '06, Parker, was awarded the prestigious Apple Award for excellence in teaching by the Douglas County School District and was named the Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019. Mr. Barnes is a beloved teacher and

coach, entering his sixth year of teaching at Cimarron Middle School in Parker.

**Adam Cordova** BA '06, Greeley, was recently awarded with Morgan Community College's Alumni of the Decades award.

**Andy Dennis** BA '07, Cheyenne, WY, earned a second Diamond Award with the National Speech and Debate Association and was named a Golden Apple recipient.

**Terry Crull** DA '08, Hays, KS, is director of choirs at Fort Hays State University. His chamber choir has been selected to perform at the 80th Anniversary Ceremony of the Pearl Harbor attack. They will sing at the USS Arizona ceremony on Dec 7, 2021.

## 10s

**Yvette Jackson** BA '11, Beziers, France, graduated from EDHEC Business School in Nice, France with an MBA.

**David Miller** BA '11, Aurora, is helping to implement a new design software and to oversee new mapping techniques at an engineering firm.

**Kaylyn Kingman** BS '12, Greeley, became the new Head Softball Coach for the Greeley West High School Spartans.

**Sam Fox-Kantor** BA '13, MA '15, Highlands Ranch, won two Heartland Emmy Awards for team coverage for the 2019 Bomb

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—Grant Stephens '21  
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# Mailbag

"UNC will always be my home. I love this campus and community more than I can say. I frequently visit campus to see the changes being made for the betterment of the students. This is one of the greatest places I have ever been honored to call home and I look forward to returning as a graduate student soon."

—**Shadae Mallory** BA '17 Greeley, Colorado

"I loved going to UNC. Proud to say I turned my history/geography major/minor into a job as a secondary teacher. Very thankful for UNC and its impact on my life."

—**Jesse Feather** BA '08 Anton, Colorado

Cyclone and I-70 inferno crash. Fox-Kantor also got married in September.

**Christopher Rex** MS '13, Albion, IN, just finished first place out of 24 other graduate students in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) three minute thesis (3MT) competition, winning the \$1,000 cash prize and earning the ability to represent UNCG at the regional 3MT competition in February. Rex hopes to use this as a springboard to become an international science educator like Bill Nye or Neil deGrasse Tyson.

**Carolyn Shaw** BS '16, Boulder, joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) as a research associate in the cost analysis and research division of IDA's Systems and Analyses Center. IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three federally funded research and development centers in the public interest.

**Elisabeth Boyce** BA '17, completed her Master of Fine Arts, Arts Administration from Southern Utah University and shortly after began a new professional role as a Development Administrative Coordinator with the Central City Opera.

**Cameron Smith** BM '17, Glasgow, United Kingdom, completed a Master of Music in cello performance through the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and is pursuing a second graduate course of study in chamber music with additional study in composition. While in the U.K., Smith has performed alongside the Scottish Ensemble, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and has had mentoring schemes with the RSN, Scottish Ensemble and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

**Michael Hawkes** BA '18, MA '20, Thornton, as the head coach, guided the Shining Mountain girls' basketball team to the final four in the state prior to the cancellation of the tournament due to COVID-19.

**Chris Mullen** PhD '18, Fort Collins, was appointed as the executive director of The Workforce Institute, a think tank that helps organizations drive performance by addressing human capital management issues that affect both hourly and salaried employees.

**Kendall Ryan** BS '18, Dallas, TX, has achieved top 5% of BDRs in all of Salesforce in 2020 achieving 175+% quota attainment.

**Heather Geving** BS '19, Colorado Springs, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences on December 14, 2019.

**Chloe LaMar** BA '19, Erie, graduated *summa cum laude* from Regis University with her master's degree in Criminology.

## 20s

**Carina Brookover** BS '20, Denver, is working for Parsonex Enterprises as the executive assistant for the CEO.

**Molly Riggs** BA '20, Peyton, has been working with New Degree Press to publish her debut novel, *Blue Ink*. The story follows the relationship of two college boys, Charlie and Levi, as they navigate some of the challenges faced by college students today, including sexual identity and substance abuse. The book will officially be published in August 2021.

**Jasmine Sandoval-Gutiérrez** '20 was selected as a spring 2021 intern by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. Sandoval-Gutiérrez was named one of only 19 spring CHCI interns and is placed in the office of Colorado Senator Michael Bennet.

**Carly Wolf** MA '20, Lafayette, recently co-authored a book titled *ADHD, Executive Function, & Behavioral Challenges in the Classroom: Managing the Impact on Learning, Motivation, and Stress*.

# UNC

## Returning to Full On-campus Experience Fall '21

UNC is planning to return to a full schedule of in-person courses for the fall 2021 semester and restoring activities and events that will allow students to enjoy experiential learning, campus life and community engagement opportunities.



## See you on campus!

[unco.edu/fall-2021](https://unco.edu/fall-2021)

## In Memory

### 1930s

Ethel Stone Starbuck BA '38

### 1940s

Rosalie Spelts Hood AB '42  
Phyllis Baird Lawrence BA '43  
Georgia Smith LC '43, AB '46  
Henry Jensen BA '44  
Ellen Cribbs Swanson BA '44  
Louise Keena Reynolds BA '47,  
BA '47  
Rose Barone Corsa AB '48  
Barbara Forrest Hill BM '48  
Nancy Hodge Triplett AB '49

### 1950s

Mary Essig Miller BA '50  
Glenn Davis BA '51  
Chita Ludwig Lebsack BA '51,  
MA '64  
Marie Cuzzetto Miller BA '51  
Weldon Sperry BA '51  
Joe Cresto BA '52, MA '57  
Trudy Kuntz Hause BA '52  
Jay Norcross BA '52  
Jane Proffitt BA '52  
Betty Williams Story BA '52  
Jim Aubrey BA '53  
Bernard Johnston BA '53, MA '57  
Betty Goeglein Mills BA '53,  
BA '53  
Cecilia Avina Ornduff BA '53  
Walter Ouye BA '53, MA '61  
Ray Drysdale BA '53, BA '53  
Gene Graham Bishop BA '54

Jim Boulter BA '54  
Harold Burshtan MA '54  
Colleen Whittenbaugh Chance  
BA '54  
Jack Hilyard BA '54  
Gloria Evans Nicholson BA '54  
Larry Nonnie BA '54  
Clarice Notheis Poor MA '54  
Corky Randall BA '54  
Melvin Rising MA '54  
Lee Ashton MA '55  
Herschel Betts MA '55  
Peggy Weed Bowen BA '55  
Loyal Kelsey BA '55  
Rose Patton McCourt BA '55,  
MA '55  
Leona Johnson Myers MA '55  
Robert Yaklich BA '55  
Bruce Anderson BA '56, MA '59  
Joe Bassetti BA '56, MA '57  
Nancy Childress O'Neil BA '56  
Rebecca Rombach Copple BA '56  
John Cronin MA '56, EdD '66  
Darrell Farnsworth BA '56,  
MA '61  
Robert Lane MA '56  
Frank Morris BA '56  
Fred Wessendorf MA '56  
Don Chambers BA '57  
John Eskew MA '57  
Bruce Holmquist MA '57, EdD '68  
Thelma Brekke Lawler BA '57  
John Marita MA '57  
Lyle Matoush BA '57  
Duane Popenhagen MA '57

Stephen Bush MA '58  
Mark Cherrington BA '58  
Jay Dutton MA '58  
Dayton Raben BA '58, BA '58  
Jack Reak EdD '58  
George Reitenbaugh BA '58  
Alex Stoffel MA '58, EdD '69  
Marilyn Jessen Workman BA '58,  
MA '63  
Bob Arterburn BA '59  
Connie Bauman Korf BA '59  
Jerry Butters BA '59  
Gene Cantrell MA '59  
Eileen Rocchio Comstock BA '59  
Barney Deak BA '59  
Louis DeCrescentis BA '59  
James Kirk MA '59  
Bill Popejoy EdD '59  
Fred Rutherford MA '59  
Fred Rietbrock MA '59, EdD '63  
Russell Strole BA '59, MA '71  
Keith Swedlund BA '59, MA '61

### 1960s

Bob Bernd BA '60  
Donald Bondurant MA '60  
Ed Domenico BA '60, MA '68  
Sharon Smith Griffie BA '60  
Phyllis Hansen BA '60, MA '65  
Arnold Mabile BA '60  
Carol Metsker MA '60  
Bill Miller BA '60, MA '65  
Leo Sherrodd MA '60  
Lynn Severance BA '60  
Stanley Shiba BA '60

Dennis Ruble EdD '60  
Karma Dobesh Williamson BA '60  
Rolland Bowers MA '61  
Bill Fitzgerald MA '61  
Dannie Fugita BA '61  
Gary Gorham MA '61  
Arlen Gupton BA '61  
Jean Hedberg MA '61  
Kent Martin MA '61  
Larry Miller BA '61  
Larry Pearson MA '61  
Walt Staude BA '61  
Norma Johnson Ziegler BA '61  
Judi Christensen Alexander  
BA '62  
Don Barnabo MA '62  
Lloyd Bowen MA '62  
Gini Casey-Maines MA '62  
Woody Ensor BA '62  
Richard Hanson MA '62  
Bertha Martinsek Huff MA '62  
Bob Miller MA '62  
Donovan Moore MA '62  
Lyle Moskal MA '62  
Sam Pisciotto BA '62  
Calvin Sorensen MA '62  
Douglas Vap BA '62  
Sharon Widener BA '62  
Patrick Freiberg MA '63  
Betty Jo Johns MA '63  
Bill McPherson BA '63  
Richard Newton BA '63, BA '63  
Tammy Tesone BA '63  
Anna Fry Hamer BA '64  
Paul Hladun MA '64

# BLUE AND

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Dale Huebner MA '64  
 Donald King BA '64  
 Al Kochan BA '64  
 Helen Willhelm MA '64  
 John Adams EdD '65  
 Bernelda Barksdale MA '65  
 Byron Comin BA '65  
 Ron Ellison BA '65  
 Glenn Frakes MA '65  
 William Gesell MA '65  
 Jonne Hesterwerth Johnston  
 BA '65, BA '65  
 Betty Peterson Painter BA '65  
 Ronald Phillips BA '65  
 Dale Steffen BA '65, BA '65  
 Geri Huck Walters BA '65, MA '68  
 Roger Wheelwright BA '65  
 John Hadsall MA '66  
 Marlan Hill MA '66  
 Henry Hissrich BA '66  
 James Kolzow BA '66  
 Jeannette Marshall BA '66  
 EdDie Navaro BS '66  
 Bruce Smith BA '66, MA '68  
 George Stahla BA '66  
 Bob Cleary BA '67  
 Don Gabriel BA '67, MA '72  
 Eleanor Boos Gaunt MA '67  
 Chet Goodheart MA '67  
 Del Japp BA '67  
 Joan Reagan Magnusson BA '67  
 Al Rohweder BA '67  
 Pat Kilroy Werden MA '67, EdD '73  
 Bill Bragg BA '68  
 Glen Dieterich MME '68  
 Frank Jamison EDS '68  
 George Kurkowski MA '68  
 Larry MacKendrick BA '68  
 Shirley Rudolph MA '68, PhD '73  
 George Running MA '68  
 John Schmidt MA '68  
 Len Varriano MA '68  
 Darrell Wilson BA '68, MA '68  
 Barbara Barker Abbott MA '69  
 Barbara Kane Coffey MA '69  
 Diana Trojanovich Gantz BA '69  
 Barbara Dunn Houston MA '69  
 Gregory Mercer BA '69  
 Louis Parmelee MA '69  
 Warren Soeteber EdD '69  
 Donald Yacovetta MA '69

## 1970s

Robert Alexander MA '70  
 George Boeck BA '70  
 Dick Dyar BA '70  
 Mert Grabau MA '70  
 Shirley Tyler Hales MA '70  
 Jean Bitney Hardin MA '70  
 Jerral Hicks EdD '70

Jim Kleefisch MA '70  
 Jeff Palmer MA '70  
 John Russell BA '70, MA '74  
 Bob Van Galder EdD '70  
 Joann Hutchison Wilcox MA '70  
 Butch Williams EdD '70  
 Jon Eastin BA '73, MA '78  
 Dick Kakeldey BA '71  
 Neil Koeneman '71  
 David Lyon BA '71  
 Curtis Roesch '71  
 Bill Schaefer MA '71  
 Keith Shaw MA '71  
 Michael Spaulding BA '71, MA '73  
 Gail Marshall Weadon BA '71  
 Ray Barron BA '72  
 Richard Berryman BS '72, MA '77  
 Alice Cook Chambers BA '72  
 Frank Dieter BA '72, MA '72  
 Paul Fitzgerald MA '72  
 Christ Magnussen EdD '72  
 Allen Morrow BA '72  
 Michael Barnaby BA '73  
 William Hairston BA '73  
 Nancy Drexel Kauffman  
 BA '73, MA '93  
 Mark Keeney MA '73  
 Ellen Brauer Knack MA '73  
 Sally Meader Roberts BA '73  
 Bill Rodway BA '73  
 Judy Horne Tachau BA '73  
 Charles Ambelang BA '74  
 Jim Armitage MA '74  
 Bob Baker BA '74  
 Robert Beck BA '74  
 Susan Boydston Burroughs BA '74  
 Rick Eldridge BA '74  
 Jack Gordon MA '74  
 Minnie Brewton Iceson MA '74  
 Gary Obermier BA '74  
 Richard Menconceri MA '74  
 Michael Radovich BA '74  
 Vilosa Cleveland Selman MA '74  
 John Vandemoer MA '74  
 Dart Andrews MA '75  
 Janet Donato BS '75  
 James Edge MA '75  
 Pat Gittings BS '75  
 Paul Frishkorn BA '75  
 Pat Stevens Kirk MA '75  
 Bill Marr BS '75  
 Peggy Starkey Riddle BA '75  
 Robin Behel Rogers BA '75  
 Jose Sanchez MA '75  
 Joyce Snowbarger Wymore BA '75  
 Harry Stephens PhD '75  
 Bruce Armer BS '76, BS '76  
 Mary Clarke MA '76  
 Linda Dusin Deibel BA '76, MA '83  
 Charles Hoffman BA '76

Jessie Stinson MA '76  
 Deb Finch BA '77  
 Connie Hunt '77  
 Jenelle Lindsay BA '77  
 Muriel McCown EdD '77  
 Albert Moate BA '77  
 Pamela Reschke BA '77  
 Bob Schoonover BA '77  
 Millard Shirley BA '77  
 Lyle Thompson BA '77  
 Norman Van Dyke MBA '77  
 Susan Conover BA '78, BA '78  
 John Enroth MS '78  
 Mary McAfee Fike MA '78  
 Barbara Swanson Ryan  
 BA '78, MA '84  
 Scott Smith BA '78  
 Mary Croft Walker MA '78  
 John Wiker MA '78  
 Mary Young BA '78  
 JoAnn Nelson Dickerson BS '79  
 Janie Jones BA '79  
 Thomas Peischl EdD '79  
 Jean Irey Scharfenberg MA '79  
 Mark Zimmerman BS '79

## 1980s

Joe Bradberry MA '80  
 Kit Turnbull Bainbridge MA '80  
 Patrick Bartz MS '80  
 Olympia Herrera Griego BA '80  
 Ellen Gerhold Jones MA '80  
 Sid Scott MA '80  
 Debi Stewart Sierra BA '80  
 Dorothy Wilson MA '80  
 Deanna Morss Bates BA '81,  
 MA '83  
 Frances Cunningham MA '81  
 Terry Fry Ferraris MA '81  
 Jack Freese PhD '81  
 Susan Krueger BA '81  
 Margot Nacey EdD '81  
 Linda Hake Christensen  
 MA '82, EDS '86  
 Matthew Keller BA '82  
 Thomas Parr MA '82  
 Gilbert Barakat BME '83  
 Dayne Giblert BS '83  
 Shelagh Fagan BS '84  
 Kathy Burck Placek MA '84  
 Del Rounds BS '85  
 Ann Longhorn Haugen MA '86  
 Elizabeth Kunce MA '86  
 Deborah Hart Brohard MA '88  
 Laurel Fennie MA '88  
 Judith Cadarette MA '89  
 Allie Lewis Lacey BS '89

## 1990s

Sidney Johnson MA '90

Theresa Anderson MA '91  
 Mike Glenn BS '91  
 Quintin Kingfisher MA '91  
 Tony Holmes MA '93  
 Carol Sparling MA '93  
 Rudy Mayfield BS '94, BS '94  
 Dale Tramp BS '94  
 Chris Swinhart BS '96  
 Ryan Stoops BA '99

## 2000s

Christopher June BS '01  
 Frank Nguyen BS '03  
 Jennifer Andrews Young BA '03  
 Antonio Craig BS '04  
 Kati Arbegast Perdue BS '06  
 Jeffrey Sutton BS '07  
 Sam LeRoy BA '08

## 2010s

Suni Grooms BS '10  
 Luke Morris BA '10  
 Mike Kanzler BS '12 BS '15  
 Carol McConnell BS '12  
 Ramon Hernandez BA '13  
 Nicole Gilbert Maxfield BA '14  
 Zach Fluck BS '19

## Emeritus Faculty

James Doyle  
 Bill Duff  
 Pat Graham  
 Bill Heiss  
 Lynne Jackowiak  
 Martha Lilly  
 Grace Donkersloot Napier  
 Stephen Powers

## Tributes

Alumnus and retired higher education administrator **Harry Stephens** Ph.D. '75 passed away in 2020 following a meaningful career at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, and a decades-long relationship with UNC's educational leadership faculty and programs. Stephens earned a doctorate in College Student Personnel Administration, now known as Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership (HESAL), and through the program generously supported doctoral research through his personal philanthropy to the Bernie Kinnick Higher Education and Student Affairs Research Award.



## REMEMBERING VINCENT JACKSON

**Vincent Jackson** achieved greatness on the football field and in his community. The UNC Athletics Hall of Famer passed away on February 15, 2021, but left a legacy that will last for lifetimes.

"I am heartbroken about the death of Vincent Jackson," said Northern Colorado Director of Athletics Darren Dunn. "The entire Athletic Department and I send our deepest condolences to Lindsey (Jackson's wife) and their children, and his parents, Terence and Sherry Jackson. Vincent was truly a great person and a proud ambassador for the University of Northern Colorado. His impact will always be felt throughout our athletic department. He will be dearly missed but not forgotten."

The numbers say it all for arguably the best football player in Northern Colorado history. Jackson was the career leader in yards (3,548) and touchdowns (37). He is one of only two players in program history to have two 1,000 yards receiving seasons, holding the top two single-season spots. He also played basketball for two seasons at UNC, leading the team in scoring both years.

"I am deeply saddened by the news of VJ's passing," said Reed Doughty, former roommate and fellow member of the 2011 UNC Hall of Fame Class. "Vince and I met at a Colorado School of Mines football recruiting visit. On that visit, we both decided to go to UNC

and room together. He was a great resource for me when I had similar opportunities in the NFL Combine and Draft in 2006 after he had been drafted in 2005. We were inducted into the Northern Colorado Hall of Fame in 2011. It was a special evening for me. Even though he was eligible a year earlier than I was, he wanted to wait so we could go in together."

After being drafted by the San Diego Chargers in the 2005 NFL Draft, Jackson went on to a 12-year NFL career. He was selected to three Pro Bowls accumulating over 9,000 receiving yards and 57 touchdowns.

"Vincent Jackson was blessed with great football skills and a compassionate heart," said current Bears head football coach Ed McCaffrey. "He used those skills to great success on and off the field. Here at Northern Colorado, we are grieving his loss and honoring the life he led. Sending peace and strength to his wife Lindsey and his family."

If Jackson's illustrious career on the field made him well-known, it is his work off the field that made his lasting legacy. He started the Jackson in Action 83 Foundation to provide support to military families, focusing on the educational, emotional and physical health of military children. Through his charitable works, he helped thousands in the Tampa Bay Area.

**THANK YOU  
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Thank you to the generous alumni who chose to document UNC in their estate plans this year. Your generosity creates a lasting legacy in our community and the success of our students.

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# Last Look

## Paying it Forward

In mid-February, when the landscape outside UNC's Campus Commons was a monochromatic winter palette, artist and UNC alumnus Armando Silva '10 was at work creating a mural inside the building that would commemorate the César Chavez Cultural Center's 35th anniversary.

When he finished, the white expanse of wall across from the building's main entrance had been sparked with vibrant colors and a portrait of the center's long-time director, Patricia Escobar.

The mural, titled "Somo Porque Eres" (We Are Because You Are), is layered with meaning, colors and words intended to evoke a sense of welcome, acceptance and home, and to encapsulate culture, caring, activism and a legacy of "paying it forward."

"The mural has actually been student-led, and a lot of it started with our student staff here," says Joél Orozco Almeida, CCCC's associate director, adding that students Ydrenni Caparachini and Miriam Renteria Gonzalez, both seniors in Mexican American Studies, were instrumental in carrying the project forward since its inception in fall 2020.

Once the location was approved with the enthusiastic blessing of UNC leadership, Silva began to conceptualize options with the students. The idea of Escobar's portrait being central to the mural was one that resonated.

"When folks — especially students — thought about what 'paying it forward' looks like, they thought of Patricia, who has been the at the Chávez Center for 25 years, and director for 13 of those years, and she is just like the epitome of someone paying it forward," Orozco Almeida says.



Silva placed words throughout the mural, and close to the portrait of Escobar is one that many students connect with her.

"Mijita," Silva says, "is like 'my little daughter,' or 'my sweet daughter.' It's very endearing, and it's one of those words that Trish uses when she's engaging with a lot of her students. But that can also be something just in the Spanish-speaking community that is very endearing. It feels very welcoming. It feels very like, 'I'm your elder, but I'm going to take care of you. I'm going to welcome you into this space.'" The mural was revealed via a Zoom meeting on February 18, surprising Escobar, who didn't know that she was the subject of the mural.

"It's me! Oh my, I didn't know. Oh my," she said, removing her glasses to wipe away tears.

"It is a tip of the hat, a thank you, to Trish for being that force, that energy, that allows us to continue to be ourselves; to celebrate everything that is around that soul, that *estrella*, that comes from the Cultural Center itself," Silva says.

—Debbie Pitner Moors





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UNC held its spring commencement ceremonies May 8 and 9 at Nottingham Field, with more than 1,900 graduates. Joining this year's graduates were approximately 200 of UNC's 2020 graduates.



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