

UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
FALL/WINTER 2019

magazine

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The View from Here

RECONNECTING AT THE ROCKIES

Hundreds of UNC alumni and friends gathered at Coors Field in July for UNC Day at the Rockies. Overcast skies and spotty rain showers provided some welcome relief from the hot summer sun. Fans were treated to a Rockies win, an opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and friends, and a national anthem performance by UNC vocal performance student Chavilah Anderson-Clare.

"I always look forward to the Rockies alumni event and reconnecting with people, some of whom I haven't seen in a year. When alumni are engaged and supporting UNC through events such as this, committing time and personal resources, then the university can truly thrive."

—Jill Trotter '87
UNC Alumni Board Chair

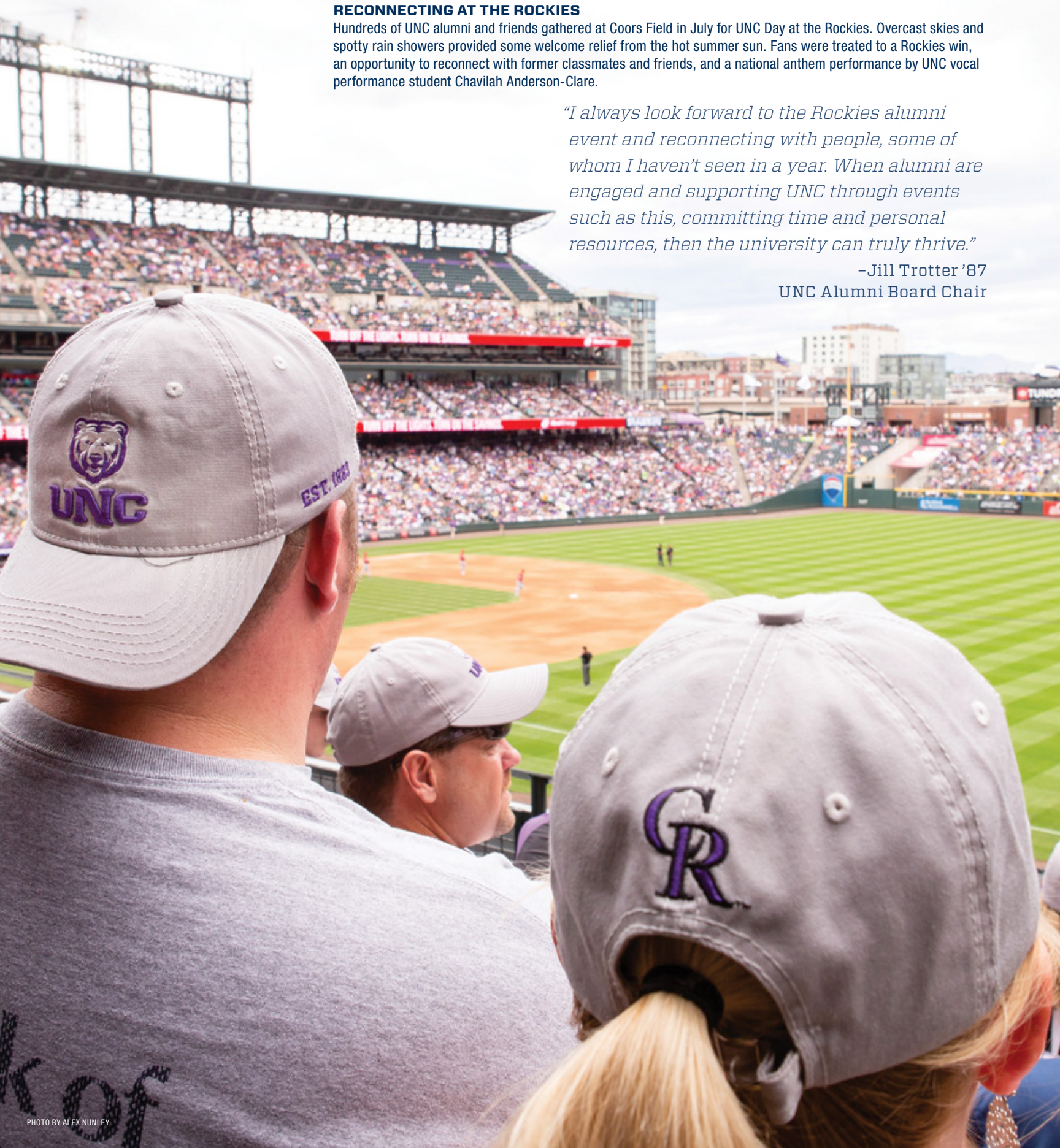
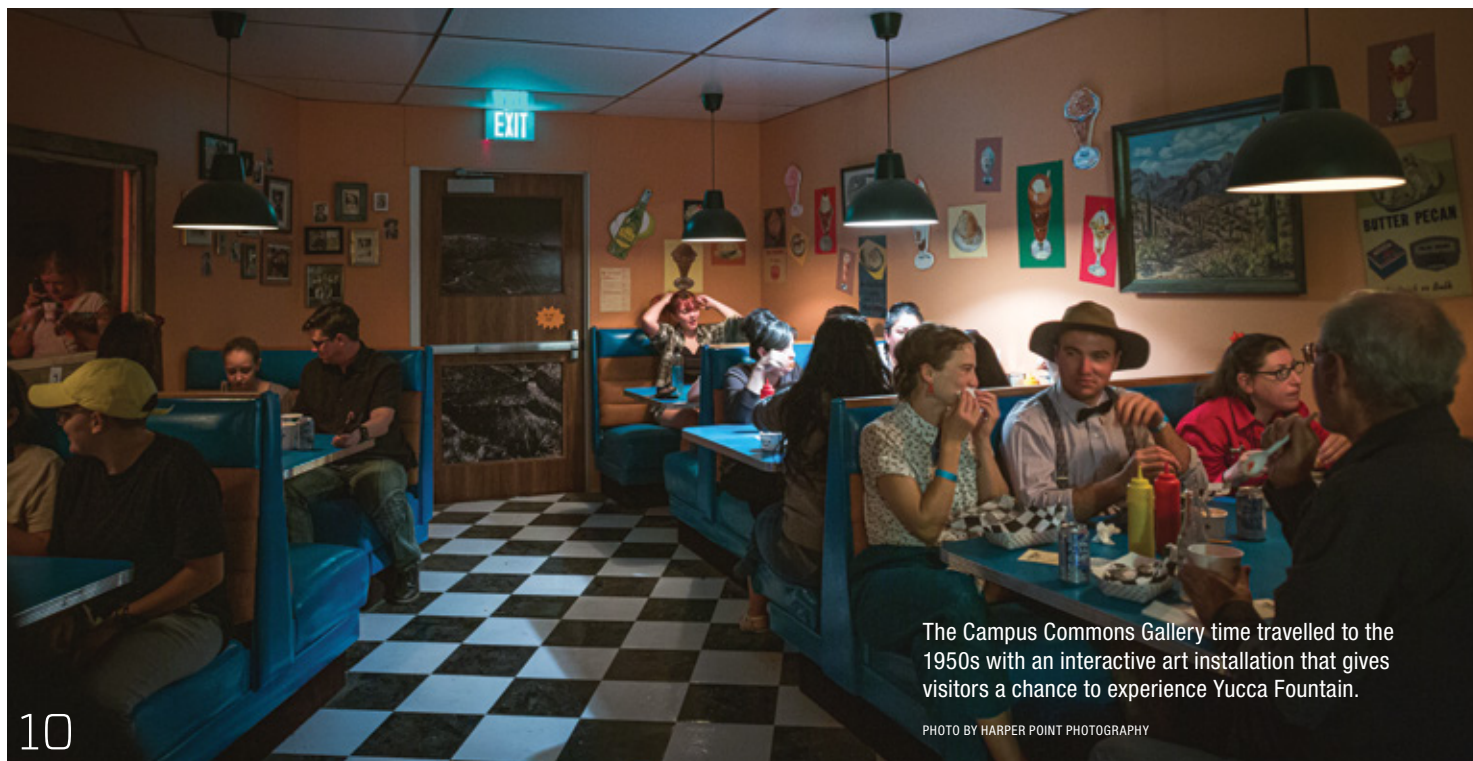


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PHOTO BY HARPER POINT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Editor's Note

UNC soccer won the 2019 Big Sky Tournament on Nov. 10, defeating Eastern Washington 1-0, in the finals. It was their second conference tournament title in program history. At press time, the team was headed to Boulder to play against the University of Colorado in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

➤ For the Big Sky championship game highlights, photos and video visit uncbears.com

KELLI JOHNSON '13, Ph.D. Candidate
Cellular and Molecular Physiology
The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

I'm a Bear

KELLI JOHNSON '13, CAME TO UNC FROM WASHINGTON STATE. NOW, SHE'S A RESEARCHER AND PH.D. CANDIDATE AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

At about six or seven years old, I'd decided that I wanted to be a doctor because of course when you're six or seven years old, you don't know the word 'scientist' or 'researcher.' I told everyone I was going to cure diseases.

I did get my associate's degree in arts and sciences (through a high school program in Washington state called Running Start), and that is one of the major things that led me to accepting at UNC. UNC really caught my attention because I knew I would be going in as a junior, essentially, and so I needed to be able to get into a lab. UNC was very supportive of that.

My UNC interview was with Dr. (Pat) Burns, who was amazing throughout the entire process. We talked about potential labs to get me into, and he's like, 'You know what? Come see my lab.' Essentially our 15-minute interview became a two-and-a-half hour 'Let me introduce you to everyone and tell you everything.' As we were leaving, my mom looks at me and says, 'So should I be telling your dad that you're going to come to Colorado?'

I got to take the cancer biology class at UNC, along with medical genetics, mammalian endocrinology, and all of the upper level biology classes, and they've really made a difference with my research experience and with my life here at Hopkins. Being able to take those classes gave me a significant head start when I got here.

One of my favorite classes was methods in molecular biology. In the lab we practiced isolating DNA, we practiced doing the western blots. That's where I learned sterile culture technique. You're not often taught those things in a normal undergraduate class because they're too expensive or you need too much experience to do it.

I was in Dr. (Judy) Leatherman's lab studying the PDGF VEGF receptors in *Drosophila* (fruit flies) as a cancer model. I joined her lab, got trained on how to handle the *Drosophila*, all of the balancer chromosomes, how to dissect using the dissecting scope and things like that. And then she kind of just let me loose.

She took me and her senior post-doc at the time to the Genetics Society of America meeting, and I had my first opportunity to present my research in a public forum, and I got to attend all of the seminars and everything as an undergraduate. I think that experience had a big impact on my acceptance here at Hopkins — that I'd gone and I'd presented data, and I had data that was essentially in review at the time.

I'm in the lab of Dr. Mark Donowitz, who is a gastrointestinal clinician and research scientist here at Hopkins, and we study intestinal epithelial enteroids as a model to study intestinal disease and physiology.

My future goals are heavily influenced by my experience at UNC. Because I had such amazing teachers who were also researchers and who were able and willing to support me not only in the classroom but also in the lab, that's what I want to do.

—Kelli Johnson as told to Rebecca Dell

PHOTO BY HARPER POINT PHOTOGRAPHY



UNC CAMPUS COMMONS RECEIVES GOLD RATING FOR BUILDING PERFORMANCE

UNC's Campus Commons was awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Buildings Council in early August. The building uses less water and energy than a conventional building, maximizes daylight and prioritizes recycled content.

"In addition to being a requirement for building projects that receive state funding, LEED is the right thing to do," said Kirk Lechlitter, assistant vice president of Facilities Management. "LEED buildings are environmentally friendly, much more efficient in terms of energy and water savings, and cost less to operate over the life of the building."

UNC, MCKINSTRY INSTALL SOLAR ARRAY ON CAMPUS

A new solar photovoltaic (PV) array was installed by McKinstry, a national construction and energy services company, on the roof of Parsons Hall. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment funded the array through its Supplemental Environmental Projects program.

The 172-kW solar PV array is expected to produce 4.7 million kilowatt hours of electricity and save the university an estimated \$176,500 over the expected life of the system. That amount of energy is enough to power more than 425 U.S. homes for an entire year. McKinstry is also delivering an interactive dashboard later this fall

to track solar PV array performance metrics, which can be used in classrooms.

UNC HOSTS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS

UNC hosted a group of 21 international secondary teachers from 20 countries participating in the Fulbright Teacher Excellence and Achievement Exchange Program (Fulbright TEA). This is the first year UNC has received funding for the Fulbright TEA, which includes participants from Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burma, Colombia, Ghana, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mongolia and Mozambique.

"Implementing the Fulbright TEA program benefits the international teachers, our UNC teacher candidates and our secondary students in District 6, as well," said Madeline Milian, Ed.D., a professor in the UNC School of Teacher Education. "The international teachers are learning to teach using more student-centered methodologies, increasing their knowledge of technology, and working with students who may encounter learning difficulties."

Funding Important Work

UNC RECEIVES GRANT TO STUDY BENEFITS OF KEFIR FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Earlier this year, UNC's Cancer Rehabilitation Institute (CRI) was awarded a \$7,000 grant from uBiome to study how kefir impacts the microbiome of cancer survivors who underwent chemotherapy and/or radiation.

Kefir is a fermented milk beverage with low levels of lactose and high levels of probiotics that stay in a person's intestines and gut longer than other probiotic products. Cancer survivors may suffer from inflammation, altered immune functionality and gut dysbiosis due to their chemotherapies and other treatments. Kefir could help these issues by promoting healthier microbiomes.

Over a 12-week span, the researchers, led by doctoral student Peter Smoak, gave 12 cancer survivors kefir and compared them to survivors who did not ingest kefir.

(See Spring/Summer 2019 issue of *UNC Magazine*, page 8, for a longer article about Smoak's research.)

🔊 Listen to a podcast with Laura Stewart, Ph.D., a professor of Sport and Exercise Science, on the grant and research: unco.edu/news/articles/grant-study-cancer-survivors-kefir-benefits.aspx

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Funding Important Work cont.

RESEARCHERS RECEIVE \$1 MILLION GRANT TO STUDY DIGITAL SCREENING INTERVENTION TOOL FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

With unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections at epidemic proportions among young people, a study is underway to evaluate an intervention system that leverages the latest technology in clinical settings for earlier identification of high-risk adolescents.

The Department of Health and Human Services recently awarded UNC a \$1 million grant to collaborate on the project with cliexa, a digital health technology company based in Denver. The funding supports a trial involving 700 participants, ages 14-24, in clinical settings where cliexa's risk screening tool (a digital platform and mobile health follow-up program) will be in use. The study sites are the UNC Student Health Center, UNC Psychological Services Clinic and Montrose County Family Planning.

The ground-breaking two-year study, led by Principal Investigators and UNC Professors William Merchant and Stephen Wright, will also assess the effectiveness of deploying the new technology in clinical workflows and the benefits of earlier identification of adolescents at highest risk for adverse health outcomes.

News Briefs cont.

OBSERVABLE BEEHIVE INSTALLED IN ROSS HALL

An observable, glass-encased beehive was installed in Ross Hall. Teresa Higgins, Ph.D., a professor in the UNC School of Biological Sciences, and Elementary Teacher Education students Ness Medina and Mollie Brandt, spent the past year preparing for the beehive and taking beekeeping classes through the Northern Colorado Beekeepers Association.

The beehive will be used to study beehive behavior in classes such as BIO 111. The public can visit the beehive any time the building is open (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday).

▶ Watch a video: unco.edu/news/articles/observable-beehive-installed-ross-hall.aspx



ENGLISH FACULTY MEMBER TO SERVE ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tara Wood, Ph.D., was elected to serve a three-year term on the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Executive Committee, a flagship national body.

"Being elected to the CCCC Executive Committee is a tremendous honor, and I am eager to contribute to the mission of the organization," said Wood, an assistant professor of English who directs the UNC Writing Program. "I hope to advocate for students and to help develop inclusive, research-based best practices in the discipline of Rhetoric and Composition and beyond."

STAFF MEMBER AWARDED FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLAR PROGRAM AWARD

Renée Welch, director of UNC's Center for Career Readiness, received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award and participated in an International Education Administrators Seminar in Germany in October.

Welch is one of over 800 U.S. citizens who will teach, conduct research and/or provide expertise abroad for the 2019-20

academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.

"I'm excited and very grateful for this opportunity," Welch said. "I hope to learn how the German higher education system prepares students for the workforce."

UNIQUE UNC ARTIFACTS FOUND ON EBAY

Faculty and staff in the University Libraries routinely search on eBay for rare UNC items to add to the archives of historical UNC artifacts. The goal of collecting these items is to tell the story of UNC as broadly as possible.

Jay Trask, head of Archives and Special Collections, said he and his team look for "unique and unusual items that we can't get anywhere else." Current items in the UNC archives include a small dish souvenir, a film reel of James Michener's 90-minute television show, and the original screenplay of James Michener's book *The Jungle*.

▶ See photos of these eBay finds: unco.edu/unc-magazine

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Instructor **DARCI HATA '10**, with
assistant instructor **IAN MICKELLS '09**

Syllabus

Cooking Good Food for Class

Darci Hata '10 feels fortunate to be teaching at her alma mater — and doubly so because she teaches a subject she's passionate about, for a class students line up to take: Environmental Studies 178 teaches students how to cook and preserve food from farm to table.

Hata works alongside her husband, Ian Mickells '09, who first proposed the class and is the assistant instructor. Together, they watch their students' culinary expertise and comfort grow throughout the semester.

"It's nice to see the growth from the beginning with students, from day one making scrambled eggs, to actually putting in the effort like 'I practiced my knife cuts,' or 'I cooked (chicken) to the right temperature,'" Hata says. "The fact that it's all hands-on really helps them learn."

Classes meet once per week on Monday evenings. Students work together to make about 10 dishes each class. They start with a 15- to 30-minute lecture, then have the next two hours to prepare all the food. "I always tell my students, 'Bring your Tupperware; take it home.'"

Students form groups at the beginning of the semester that remains together through the final. This is to mimic a real-life restaurant scenario, working with a staff to produce good food. The final consists of the student teams designing, purchasing and preparing a three-course meal, judged by a panel of culinary critics, including Hata, Mickells and a selection of special guest judges.

"They're graded on (planning), then the presentation of the menu, as well as the grocery list, and they have to stay within a \$35 budget, that's really important ... Then we base it off of course flavor, the presentation, the organization of their stations, teamwork and creativity," Hata explains. "(The budget) is part of their grade because if they go over, I won't buy it for them. So then they have to be able to work on adjusting their recipes."

Since this is the sixth time that Hata has taught this class, there are very few surprises. "We work in a classroom with these kitchen knives," she says, "and I have a very long lecture where I tell everyone, 'if you're going to have an argument, put the knife down and go into the hallway.'"

CLASS: ENST 178 Food Preparation and Preservation

TAUGHT BY: Darci Hata, with assistant instructor Ian Mickells

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to basic culinary and food preservation techniques and management of garden vegetables

THE GOAL OF THE CLASS: Students learn to make connections, write clearly and do original research while learning about food.

Hata and Mickells have utilized different resources to develop the food prep curriculum for their students. Here's a list of eight favorite food and life skill sources they've used, in order of their usefulness and impact:

The Flavor Bible, Andrew Dornenburg and Karen Page, 2008

Maangchi's Real Korean Cooking, Maangchi, with Lauren Chattman, 2015

Mastering Fermentation, Mary Karlin, 2013

Salt Fat Acid Heat, Samin Nosrat, 2017

"Salt Fat Acid Heat," The Netflix Original series, Samin Nosrat, 2018

The Art of Fermentation, Sandor Katz, 2012

The Food Lab, J. Kenji Lopez-Alt, 2015

The All New Ball Book of Canning and Preserving, Oxmoor House, 2016

Hata and Mickells are looking for ways to introduce a second section to help accommodate more students.

"I think I have more UNC Bear Pride now than I ever did as a student," Hata says. "I'm really proud of the class that we've created, and that we have this opportunity."

—Austin Huber



Quote worthy

“This is truly a win-win-win. Our students, our campuses and our community will benefit immensely from this partnership.”



—UNC President Andy Feinstein, Ph.D., on Sept. 5, introducing the new Aims2UNC program along with Aims President and CEO Leah Bornstein, Ph.D.

➤ Read more on Aims2UNC on page 37.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Opening UNC's Professional Attire Closet also opens doors for students so they can feel confident in professional settings.

UNC STUDENTS CAN BORROW PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE AT NO COST

A closet filled with professional attire is now open to all UNC students. Students borrow clothing for a variety of professional opportunities. Clothing items include suits, sports coats, pants, skirts, button-up shirts, blouses, ties and belts.

“We think professional attire shouldn't be the obstacle that sets UNC students back from succeeding in any situation,” said Melissa Hoffman, UNC professional experience coordinator, who oversees the project. Project support was provided by the donor funded Monfort College of Business Professional Experience Fund. “We hope this Professional Attire Closet will help eliminate that obstacle.”

UNC DISSERTATION PROGRAM RECEIVES STATE RECOGNITION

UNC's Library Research Services Department and Graduate School received the Colorado Association of Libraries' Library Project of the Year award for their free, multi-day program for UNC graduate students, “Dissertation Prep and Writing Intensive: You Are Not Alone.”

The award recognizes a creative and innovative project that furthers library service

within Colorado. The goal of UNC's program is to provide students an extended workshop with a supportive environment, comfortable space and dedicated time to make progress on their dissertations with advice from peers and experts.

CHAPTER OF SIGMA DELTA PI EARNS NATIONAL AWARD FOR 13TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

UNC's National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society chapter has been named an “Honor Chapter” for its outstanding activities in 2018-19.

UNC was also granted the Ignacio and Sophie Galbis Award as the chapter of the year for the 2018-19 academic year, and the Octavio Paz Award for maintaining Honor Chapter status for each year of the 2016-19 triennium.

This is the 13th consecutive year that UNC has received this award, and UNC Professor of Hispanic Studies Efraín E. Garza, Ph.D., UNC chapter adviser, was instrumental in earning this honor that was bestowed upon only 16 chapters nationwide in 2019.

➤ For more UNC in the News stories, please visit unco.edu/news/in-the-news

GO BEARS!

MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCES

It was 'Fisayo Awolaja's 23rd birthday. The 2018 UNC graduate was sitting in his room in Greeley, about to jump into the third semester of his master's degree at the Colorado School of Public Health. He had a quiet birthday dinner planned.

Then his phone rang. The voice at the other end of the line belonged to a staff member with the NFL's New Orleans Saints. "We're going to sign you."

And four hours later, he was on a plane headed to New Orleans.

Since then, he's signed a contract with the Saints, learned the playbook and had his contract waived during cuts.

But, like most athletes and graduate students, Awolaja's story started years earlier, as a kid growing up in Thornton, Colo., interested in science and excelling in basketball. His parents — both nurses — hadn't wanted him to play football because of the risk of injury (although basketball still left him with a knee injury). So when he got to UNC and walked onto the football team the spring of his first year, he kept quiet — until he re-injured his knee and had to tell his family.

Eventually, they attended a game to support him, wearing shirts bearing their pride. But even as they accepted the fact that he was now a football player, and as he further developed his strength and speed, he struggled to learn the mental side of a new sport.

Fortunately, though, he had dedicated teammates and coaches, and he took on the challenge of learning whatever he could via Google, taking notes in a composition notebook. He studied film with his teammates and coaches. He applied the same mind that had gotten him into the McNair Scholars program to football.

That program, by the way, had offered him a chance to get onto a different type of field during his college experience — a field in the mountains west of Boulder, Colo., at the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station.

He spent one summer up in the mountains, kneeling by plots of wildflowers, the stalks ending in bursts of little yellow buds. He learned to sew pollen limitation bags, captured bees and spread pollen with a paintbrush. One day, he heard something behind him and turned to see a bull moose 15 feet away.

"I thought I was big!" he says.

He discovered that the Rocky Mountain native *Thermopsis divaricarpa* was capable of self-reproduction, and he presented his findings at conferences across the country. Before that summer's research experience, he had planned to go to medical school. But as he learned research techniques, he decided that he wanted research and the environment to be a central part of his career.



'FISAYO AWOLAJA '18, Biological Sciences

PHOTO BY HUNTER WILSON

But he still had a football career to finish.

Despite the challenge of learning the game and handling an intense academic load, Awolaja worked his way up to playing in every game his final season at UNC. He went on to participate in UNC Pro Day, earning a Saints rookie mini-camp invite, then a vet mini-camp invite. At the Saints facilities in Louisiana, he ate lunch with Drew Brees, got playing tips from veteran offensive linemen, and showed off his speed in drills.

"The biggest thing for me is that, even in that environment, it's not that those people were so far ahead of me that it was unobtainable to me," he says.

Then came the phone call, the contract, the preseason participation, the waiver.

He still plans to complete his master's in Public Health and go on to earn a Ph.D. in environmental engineering, where he'll solve problems to improve people's environments in ways that impact their health. In the meantime, he's training in Denver, enjoying home-cooked meals at his family's home in Thornton (and even cooking some Pinterest-sourced recipes for them).

And he keeps his phone on. Because football might not be done with him yet.

—Rebecca Dell



Addressing the Complex Challenges of Custodial Grandmothers

William Merchant, Ph.D., assistant professor in Applied Statistics and Research Methods, has seen how his field — which may seem to be all about numbers and data — can impact people in the most personal ways. Applied Statistics and Research Methods is a “systematic way of looking at problems and situations so that their moving parts can be rearranged into a way that can be studied and understood,” he says.

Merchant, whose affinity for numbers is equally weighted with his love for the work he’s doing and the difference it can make, studies the topic of custodial grandmothers. When a child needs to be placed in care, often because of tragic or stressful circumstances, it’s usually grandmothers who step in to provide care to their grandchildren. It’s a difficult shift in roles, moving from grandparent to full-time caregiver and disciplinarian, and the challenges — from income to age — can weigh heavily on both child and grandmother.

The number of families with custodial grandparents in the United States is estimated at nearly 938,000 families. In their study, Merchant and his colleagues point out that only a handful of studies have looked at the parenting practices of custodial grandmothers, and yet understanding the challenges, stressors and pressures on the family and how they navigate the situation is crucial not only for the children but for their caregivers as well.

Merchant’s study involved more than 340 custodial grandmothers from four states (California, Maryland, Ohio and Texas), and he looked at parenting and disciplinary practices, as well as areas — like depression and anxiety — that paint a more detailed picture of how grandmothers and grandchildren were coping. The study measured participants’ responses to interventions such as counseling and support groups.

“We found that overall, their mental health outcomes were not that great. A lot of depression, anxiety and physical challenges come with taking on full-time childcare at such an old age and coupled with often stressful circumstances,” Merchant says. “The most valuable result (of the study) was that all of the interventions improved some aspect of the grandmother or grandchild’s well-being.”

Merchant says they found that interventions aimed at improving mental health or parenting skills were helpful in both areas. Another positive? The study helped to build a support network between grandmothers, fostering friendships that have continued beyond the study.

—Debbie Pitner Moors

“The best takeaway for me as a researcher is that you can design a study that truly has a positive effect on your community while also collecting important data for the scientific/academic community.”

—William Merchant, Ph.D.

Using applied statistics and research methods, Merchant and his colleagues developed new understanding and fostered support networks among participants.



WILLIAM MERCHANT, PH.D.
Assistant Professor in Applied Statistics
and Research Methods

Field Notes

STUDENTS CHASE STORMS OVER SEVEN STATES

For the second summer in a row, students travelled across the Midwest in search of storms capable of producing tornadoes. The class was led by Associate Professors of Meteorology David Lerach, Ph.D., and Wendi Flynn, Ph.D.

Students used smartphone apps, GPS satellite feeds and handheld weather instruments to collect data, as well as filed daily weather briefs and visited the National Weather Center in Norman, Okla.

"We didn't get to see any tornadoes, but I still learned a lot and enjoyed being able to apply some of the things I have learned in class, which was probably my favorite part," said UNC Meteorology junior Sydney Giesen.

➤ Retrace the journey on an interactive map: unco.edu/news/articles/chasing-storms-seven-states-2019.aspx

NEW PORTABLE HEARING DEVICE OFFERS EASY, LOW-COST TESTING

Studies show that a new portable device can detect hearing loss without the need of a sound booth. Deanna Meinke, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences, was the principle investigator for the project.

An audiometer is built into a headset and automatically controlled by a tablet computer, which can be operated by untrained individuals. The test typically takes 10 to 15 minutes. The headset was designed to reduce background noise levels in order to allow for testing outside of a clinical sound booth. This technology was developed with grant funding from the National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovative Research program and in partnership with Creare Inc., an engineering research and development firm.

This opens the door to more affordable and portable hearing testing as well as innovative research and experience with cutting-edge technology for students. Recent graduates and audiologists Ashley Stumpf, Au.D., and Jen Ruths, Au.D., used this device as part of their doctoral capstone research projects.

STUDENTS LAUNCH 3D-PRINTED VESSEL INTO THE ATMOSPHERE

Recent Physics and Astronomy graduates Brian Smith and Rydell Stottlemeyer released a balloon payload into the atmosphere this past spring. The payload measured pressure, temperature, movement and time data as it traveled 14 miles into the atmosphere.

UNC is one of 21 institutions in the Colorado Space Grant Consortium's DemoSat Program and receives \$25,000 a year to fund these types of projects and compensate the students who work on them.

"Participation in DemoSat allows students to become their own scientists, to build confidence and to work as a team. Most of all, having this experience better prepares them for life beyond UNC," said Assistant Professor Matthew Semak of UNC's Physics and Astronomy department.

➤ Watch a video with the students and of the launch: unco.edu/news/articles/students-launch-3d-printed-vessel-sensors-into-atmosphere.aspx

BIOLOGY PROFESSOR HELPS CLOSE CASE

Steve Mackessy, Ph.D., a professor of Biology at UNC, helped the Royal Canadian Mounted Police close a murder case from 2014 that involved analyzing snake venom, shed snake skins, bodily fluid samples and more.


"We used a variety of different types of molecular and protein-chemistry techniques to ask the questions: What are these species of snakes that are involved here, and are any of them potential sources for the venoms that seem to have been involved in a crime?" Mackessy said.

➤ Listen to a podcast with Mackessy about the crime and the science behind his analyses: unco.edu/news/articles/forensics-snake-venom-mackessy.aspx

YUCCA FOUNTAIN

AIR-CONDITIONED

The Yucca Fountain — a 1950s atomic era soda fountain has been brought back to life in the Campus Commons Gallery. Not only is the unique exhibit captivating minds and hearts — it's initiating some important experiences for visitors.



Impact 

Redefining the Reality of the Gallery

UNC GALLERIES' UNIQUE NEW INSTALLATION IN THE CAMPUS COMMONS IS BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AND DRAWING AUDIENCES OF ALL KINDS IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE ART MORE ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ALIKE.

Photography by Harper Point Photography

Stuffy. Pretentious. Intimidating. Boring.

When it comes to art galleries like the brand-new space in the Campus Commons, these are all too often the misconceptions curators like Pam Meadows are up against.

"I think there are preconceived notions or stereotypes about how to act within an exhibition or at a gallery opening. Visitors usually enter a space, a white cube, with artwork on the walls, and the learned behavior is to not touch anything, speak softly and spend a moment with each before moving on," says Meadows, director of UNC Galleries.

In an effort to overturn misconceptions and actively engage all UNC students and community members in a deeper appreciation of the arts, Meadows teamed up with Boston-based artists Andrew Bablo and Helen Popinchalk to completely transform the Campus Commons Gallery into a one-of-a-kind, interactive, consuming experience.

"Andy and I have been working together for about three years now doing installations focused on immersive installation pieces, and we're always trying to push the envelope," Popinchalk says. "We're changing the way something looks or the way something sounds or the way something feels, but how can we continue to push it so that we're engaging more and more senses?"



So, when the duo stumbled upon remnants of a mysterious 1950s era soda fountain, it appeared to be the perfect opportunity to take their work to another level.

“This gave us the opportunity to really transport the gallery visitor back to the desert in the 1950s with a full gallery restoration of the fountain,” Popinchalk says.

After months of meticulous planning, Yucca Fountain was resurrected in Greeley. Opening night brought just under 900 students and community members through the gallery doors. Inside, waiters decked out in soda jerk paper caps served up snacks and ice cream to hundreds of clamoring customers.

“It’s kind of like the ultimate experience. We’re taking visitors back in time. You can buy the food, you can sit in the seats, you can sit in the booths and you can buy a hot dog for 25 cents, the same price as it was in the 1950s,” Bablo says. “For us it’s a dream project. It’s really cool to bring something like this back to life.”

It’s a dream project for Meadows too; as a curator she couldn’t be more pleased about the turnout on opening night and the community support that’s making it possible to offer even more immersive experiences while UNC plays host to Yucca Fountain.

“This exhibition is a truly all-encompassing experience. It pulls you in and engages all your senses. Guests are encouraged to touch things, taste things, explore and have fun. Yucca Fountain shatters those preconceived notions about galleries that I mentioned previously,” Meadows says.



Yucca Fountain was filled to the brim on opening night. Many visitors stood in line for nearly an hour awaiting the opportunity to step up to the restored soda fountain and place an order for sweets and treats.



Visitors have an opportunity to unravel the mysterious demise of the atomic-era soda fountain, just as the artists discovered it.

That's exactly why they've planned a series of free public events to keep pushing boundaries and draw in visitors from every area of campus and the Greeley community.

"My day job is in academia, and there are always these conversations about how to create opportunities for collaboration — cross-disciplinary collaboration especially — and people are always trying to figure out how to do this. This exhibit provides a place to foster those types of collaborations," Popinchalk says.

Thanks to the support of many generous donors via a crowdfunding campaign co-hosted by UNC's Office of Advancement, additional opportunities for that interdisciplinary collaboration have become a reality. The space will play host to former Director and Curator of the Johnson and Wales Culinary Institute, author and scholar Richard Gutman. Gutman is internationally recognized for his expertise in the history of American diners. For Yucca Fountain, he will present a new talk titled, "When the Romance of the Road Meets the Reality of the Gallery."

Donor support has also made it possible for UNC Galleries to partner with UNC's Film Studies program this coming spring, to offer a series of atomic-era film screenings in the space.



The booths that line the inside of Yucca Fountain provide the perfect spot for students to sit down and study, meet up or sip some coffee.

"I'm so thrilled to host an exhibition that supports student success no matter the discipline one is pursuing. Whether you're a parent coming to UNC with a prospective student, a biology student, or someone passing through the building on the way to the dining hall, you're really going to stop and be like, wait, what is this? This show captivates you instantly, and I love that as a curator," Meadows says. "I'm pumped to share this experience with our students whether they want to make a life as a professional contemporary artist or are just exploring new things on our campus. I couldn't pick two better examples to show the students how you need to creatively problem solve and think outside of the box."

"I think that's part of why I got interested in installation art in the first place, because I just felt like galleries were becoming too stagnant for people," Bablo says. "My hope with installation art was to kind of break down that barrier of what the misconception of what the gallery really is, pull in more people, different people."

And that's exactly what Yucca Fountain is doing — redefining the reality of the gallery.

—Kaitlin Berry

By Amber Medina, Photography by Hunter Wilson

Bridging Research and *Real Life*

The Social Research Lab (SRL) at UNC builds a bridge for students to excel in their careers while connecting the community to professional-level research.





Social Research Lab Executive Director Josh Packard (left) works with graduate assistant Caitie Graefe, of Greeley, in the Social Research Lab in Candelaria Hall. The lab specializes in projects centered around data collection and analysis.

If it wasn't for working at the Social Research Lab then I wouldn't be on this path now," says Kim Trevino '14, '16. "UNC has such a gem on their hands."

Trevino is completing her Ph.D. in community analytics at Baylor University and works at the Center for Community Research and Development there. While at UNC, she worked as a graduate assistant in the Social Research Lab.

A self-sustaining, fully-functioning professional research lab, UNC's Social Research Lab is housed within the Sociology Department. The lab conducts data collection and analysis for local and national for-profit and nonprofit businesses, allowing clients to better navigate their growth, management and planning.

"I learned leadership skills, statistical analysis skills and project management skills and, even though statistical packages and methods might change, the lab gave me the ability to adapt, lead and learn," Trevino says. "Because of my experience at the lab, I know that I'm a great researcher and that I'll always be able to use those skills in whatever field I go into."

Founded in 2007, the Social Research Lab has conducted a wide array of research projects, including market research, focus groups, policy analyses, report writing, program evaluation, surveys, interviews, needs assessments and quality of life studies tailored to the unique needs of individual clients. Among its many clients are the United Way, Lilly Foundation, United Jewish Appeal, The Emmerich Group, National Speakers Association, Let's Grow Leaders, Boys and Girls Club of America, the City of Greeley, Weld County and state charter schools.

This year, dozens of students were involved in 21 research projects and more than 2,700 hours of student engagement and hands-on experience collecting and analyzing data.

Among its many projects, the lab has provided data to clients seeking to measure employee engagement, leadership efficacy, innovation and growth opportunities, productivity, community health, housing and park use.

"The lab is a really good example of how UNC is ensuring the continued value of a college education," says Josh Packard, Ph.D., associate professor of Sociology and executive director of the Social Research Lab. "We're doing the stuff that bridges what our students learn in the classroom and what they are going to face when they get into the real world. It largely is, or what should be, the future of what universities lean into; the understanding, the critical thinking skills, the problem solving; the stuff that our students definitely need and employers want."

Megan Bissell '17, says she has worked at the lab as a paid student worker and an intern, and is now a graduate assistant at the lab working as project manager and lead researcher.



UNC Graduate students Caitie Graefe (left), of Greeley, and Hannah Conner, of Fort Collins, review the data and themes collected from President Andy Feinstein's strategic planning sessions in the Social Research Lab.

➤ The refined vision statement from that project was recently released at unco.edu/president/planning

“Our clients get to do this really great thing; they get to support the university both financially and through student learning outcomes while getting something their businesses sorely need. It’s a huge win.”

–Josh Packard, Ph.D.

“I’m not a professor. I have a larger investment in it,” Bissell says. “I’m a champion of the lab because I’ve seen for years the impact it has had on students and on our clients. It’s a gateway to advance the field of sociology in addition to it being a great educational experience.”

Since Bissell has been a very consistent and passionate presence at the lab, she and Packard have developed operations processes and systems that have allowed the lab to become more advanced and grow rapidly in the last three years.

“Our processes have become sophisticated enough that we can continue to bring on a higher-level type of client and more complex projects,” Bissell says, “which means having more invested relationships with clients, growing our capacity and getting students exposed to a lot of different things.”

The Social Research Lab serves an education-first mission. This year, dozens of students were involved in 21 research projects and more than 2,700 hours of student engagement and hands-on experience collecting and analyzing data. In addition to the research, students are encouraged to explore their own interests and ideas at the lab. They are present in meetings and on calls with clients, participate in client objective mapping and project management, and author or share authorship of all technical reports.

“The profit we make largely goes right back into students,” Bissell says. “They work at the lab and get paid to learn. It’s like a teaching hospital for research. The overhead that we have is the people we invest in over and over again.”

Hannah Conner ’17 is in her last semester of the Applied Sociology Graduate Program and is a graduate assistant at the lab.

“The SRL’s main goal of educating through hands-on work experience was what pushed me to work there,” Conner says. “The overall sociological lens and

Social Research Lab Executive Director Josh Packard shows how data is visualized in reports for clients. The lab has worked with the City of Greeley, Boys & Girls Club of Weld County and Greeley-Evans School District 6 among others.

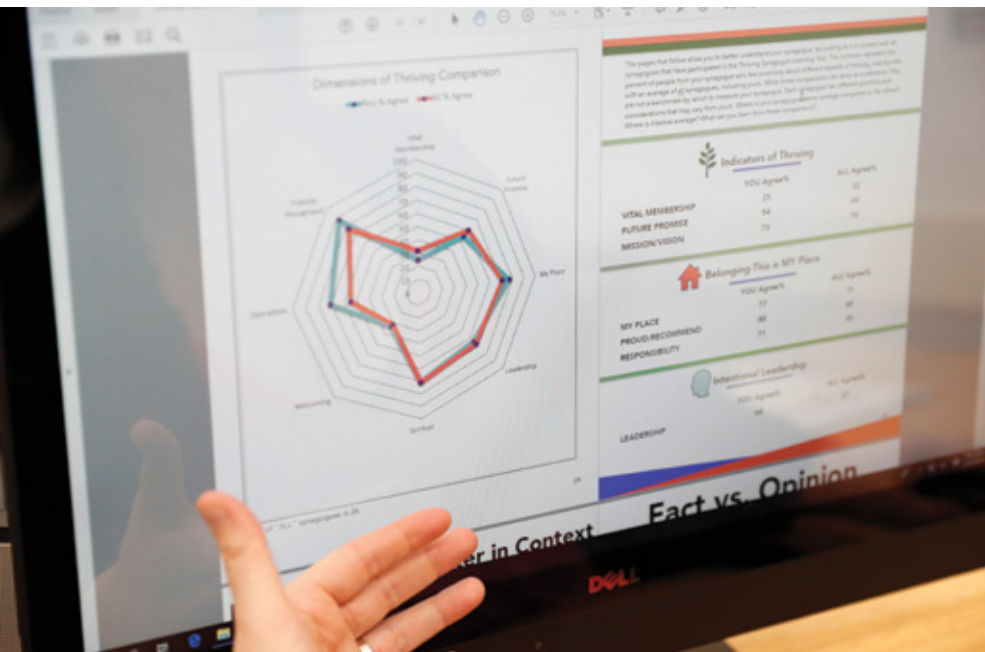


PHOTO BY MATTHEW R. MINARD



the work with a diverse clientele with a broad range of research interests is what has kept me there for the last three years.”

Conner’s work at the lab connected her to an internship at the United Way of Weld County, bridging the path to one of her main academic and professional goals to study housing stability and homelessness. She collected and analyzed data regarding regional resource programming as the CAHPS (Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System) Data Analyst Intern.

“Without the lab, I wouldn’t have had the resources or knowledge to provide research expertise on a current community concern,” Conner says. “I hope to use the skillset I’ve learned in assisting others in the community toward preventing and reducing homelessness.”

Packard and Bissell believe experiences like Conner’s represent the lab’s irreplaceable impact.

“In some ways the actual pushing out of the surveys is the least important thing that we do,” Packard says. “It’s this community-building part that is the long-term sustainable value and benefit.”

Guided by Packard and Bissell, students not only learn how to collect and analyze the data, but how to aggregate and present data reports that provide the appropriate feedback for clients to easily digest and use to make informed decisions.

“We’ve created this innovative space where there’s a lot happening that is really forward thinking, very applied and engaged with the community,” Packard says. “Our clients get to do this really great thing; they get to support the university both financially and through student learning outcomes while getting something their businesses sorely need. It’s a huge win.” **UNC**

➔ To find out more about the Social Research Lab at UNC, visit unco.edu/social-research-lab, or contact Dr. Josh Packard at 970-351-3385 or josh.packard@unco.edu.

Kim Trevino BA '14, MA '16, transferred from Aims Community College to UNC as a non-traditional, first-generation college student from Chicago. She was the first woman in her family to graduate high school. For a long time when she was 13, her family was homeless.

Trevino worked two jobs throughout her undergraduate career. The Social Research Lab hired her as a graduate assistant when she began work toward her master’s degree.

“The lab and Dr. Packard shifted my expectations of how my future would go,” Trevino says. “You just have some professors that change the world for you.”

Trevino now has two master’s degrees and is pursuing her Ph.D. at Baylor University.

“I had so much mentorship and independence working at the lab,” Trevino says. “It was the first time I was in a position of authority to give my opinion on and design projects. It gave me confidence in my abilities.”

By Rebecca Dell, Photography by Woody Myers, Alex Nunley and Conner Hemphill

OPENING DAY

Every fall, the UNC community comes together to welcome students back to campus and move new students into their residence halls. Here's what that looks like.

Volunteers from across campus show up in droves. Cars, trucks and vans fill the parking lots near UNC's 17 residence halls, bringing about 3,000 students to live on campus for the first time or as returners.

Orange shopping carts, generous hand-me-downs from Home Depot, line up near sidewalks (the same shopping carts occasionally show up, mysteriously, throughout the semester on campus). Shadae Mallory, Residence Hall Association president in 2016-17, secured the donation from Home Depot (after one too many trips to borrow carts in a UNC box truck) and made use of Bishop-Lehr Hall to store the carts.

As a student, Mallory helped organize move-in day in 2016.

"I sat in on move-in day meetings throughout the summer of 2016 and was able to see the pure amount of work and planning that went into making the operation as smooth as possible. One of the biggest challenges for me was organizing over 200 volunteers and ensuring they were equipped with as many resources and FAQ sheets as possible," says Mallory, who now works full-time in residence life. "At the end of the day, I remember feeling so accomplished as the RHA President when I saw all of my volunteers making connections with students and knowing that the students were able to get access to their spaces in a relatively smooth manner."

Join us as we revisit the annual bustle — and celebrate the planning, teamwork and resources that make UNC move-in day a successful and welcoming start to the school year.







In this photo printed in *The Mirror* student newspaper in 1964, Jean and Jane Jones unpack to move into Wilson Hall. The Jones twins came to UNC from Missouri. Visit unco.edu/unc-magazine to read the article.



On Aug. 22, UNC President Andy Feinstein met Delio Clark, 18, and his family in the lobby of South Hall. New students and their families piled into elevators with carts and dollies and climbed stairs with suitcases and armfuls of pillows, trucking in everything a student could need to make a residence hall room feel like home.

"You going to roll up those sleeves?" Belkis Clark, Delio's mom, asked Feinstein.

"I took my tie off!" Feinstein answered.

As they walked to Clark's car to gather his belongings, Feinstein and Belkis Clark chatted about move-in day: the bittersweet range of emotions Feinstein felt dropping off his son, Nicholas, for his first year of college and the last-minute trips to Walmart and Target for extension cords and hangers. Feinstein and his wife, Kerry Feinstein, had just returned from a trip to Pennsylvania State University, where Feinstein earned his Ph.D. and where Nicholas is now attending.

Delio Clark, from Highlands Ranch, Colo., is the youngest of five children and the third to attend UNC, with plans to study Psychology and Sociology. His friend Alexis Orozco helped him get settled in, just a few days before she headed out of state to move in at her university.

Back up in Clark's room, Feinstein asked if he'd hook up an Xbox — turns out, Playstation is the system of choice in the four-person suite. Feinstein told Clark he expected to see posters and decorations next time he stops by.

"Oh, you already know, it's going to be decked out when you come back!" Clark said.

Before leaving, Feinstein offered his email address in case Clark ever needed anything.

"I check my email," Feinstein said.

MOVE-IN DAY, BY THE NUMBERS

It takes the entire UNC community to get students moved in every year, showing off a coordinated effort between Housing, Dining, Student Life, the UNC Police Department, Parking, Information Management and Technology, Facilities and hundreds of additional volunteers.

"I always hope for a 75-degree day with some cloud cover and a light breeze," says Brad Shade, Director of Housing Services. Shade has participated in 26 hall openings at UNC and 32 in his career, but his move-in career started even earlier — when he moved into Wiebking Hall as a student in 1986.

Each year, Shade looks forward to helping families, students and staff troubleshoot any issues that can improve the student's environment. "I still get a little emotional when I see families parting after moving in their child and the tears begin to flow as they depart." Still, he looks forward to the energy and life that move-in day brings.

HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE LOGISTICS THAT MAKE MOVE-IN DAY SUCCESSFUL



Nearly **150 STAFF MEMBERS** are involved with move-in



More than **1,000 VOLUNTEER** slots are filled



1,571 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS lived on campus in fall 2019



60 CUSTODIAL STAFF assist with deep cleaning and preparing university housing (residence halls, apartments and university-owned houses)

HARRISON HALL, the largest housing building, is hosting **414 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS** (of 542 residents) in fall 2019



1,824 COOKIES were provided to students, families, volunteers, staff and others on move-in day



Around **160 HOURS** of student and professional staff training each summer (plus 120 hours for new professional staff)



70 SHOPPING CARTS donated by Home Depot for use during move-in



100s OF MILES WALKED through the living spaces to ensure readiness

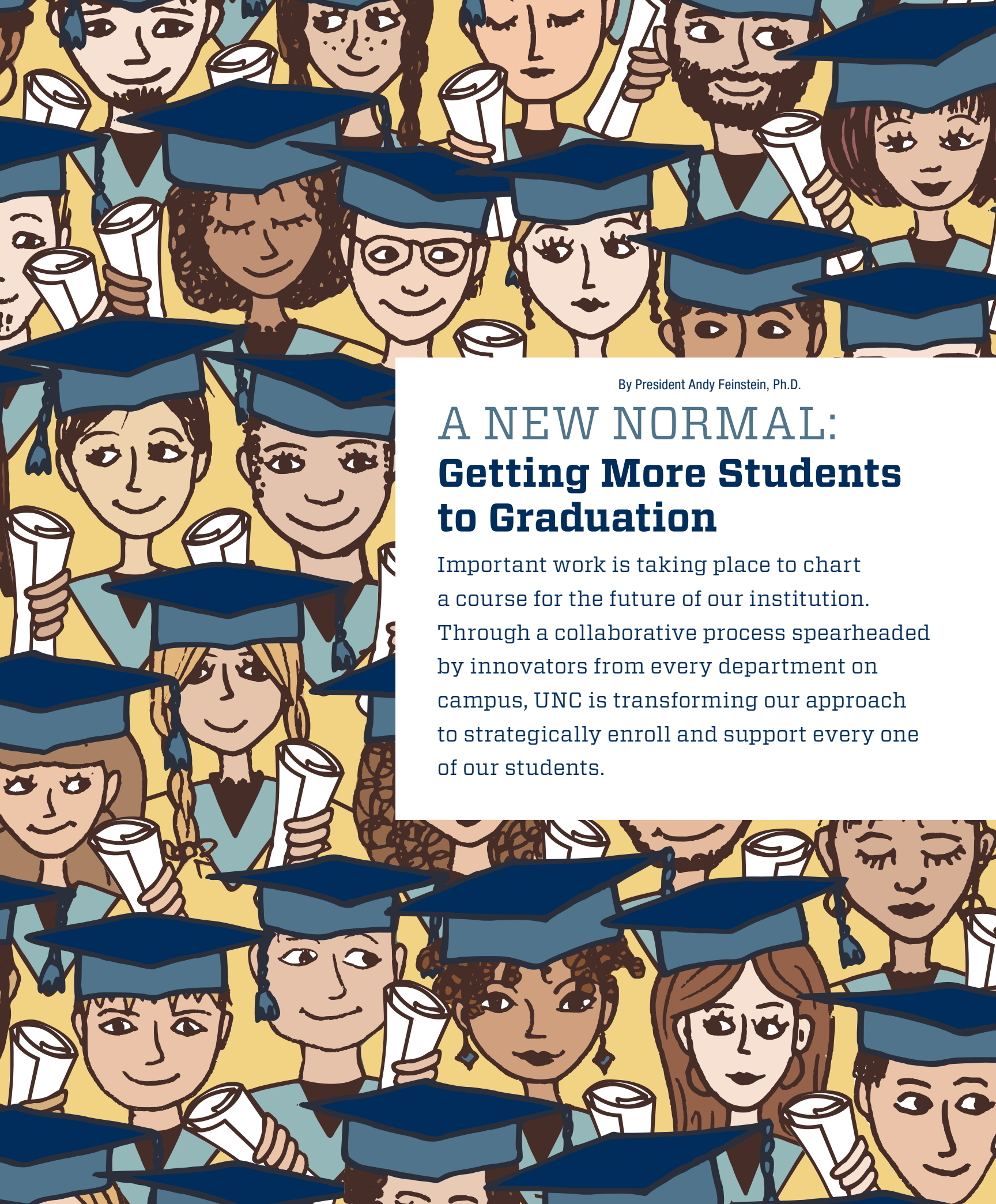


7 cardboard **RECYCLING STATIONS** collected 9 tons of cardboard recycling at hall opening



Over in Harrison Hall, where the majority of on-campus first-year students live, Sierra Beeching, 19, was just about settled in. Her parents, Rudy and Lisa Beeching, and older sister, Jordan Beeching traveled up from Spring, Texas, to help her move in as she starts at UNC. She was born in Colorado and still has family in the Pueblo, Colo., area, so she knew she wanted to go to school in the state, and UNC's Nursing program drew her in. She met her roommates via UNC's admitted student Facebook group back in September, after she earned a spot at UNC. **UNC**





By President Andy Feinstein, Ph.D.

A NEW NORMAL: **Getting More Students to Graduation**

Important work is taking place to chart a course for the future of our institution. Through a collaborative process spearheaded by innovators from every department on campus, UNC is transforming our approach to strategically enroll and support every one of our students.



Each fall brings new faces, fresh beginnings and boundless opportunities for a new class of UNC students. Students represent an array of diverse backgrounds, interests and aspirations—and each is excited to take the next step on their journey to success.

Bright-eyed and hopeful, some of these students come to UNC with dreams of becoming a doctor or nurse, teacher or musician. Some do not have any idea where their journey will lead, but one thing is certain—none of those students come to UNC to fail.

Despite that, data since 2013 tells us that for one reason or another, almost 30 percent of those first-year students are not returning for a second year; 40 percent do not make it to their third year.

Quite simply, we as an institution have to do better. We surely should not settle for seeing more than 40 percent leave before their third year.

We have to improve our retention rates. We have to fulfill our promise to students. For those who want to finish in four years, we owe them the support and guidance to succeed.

Together, with the right focus and support, we can do better, and we will do better.

That is why implementing our Strategic Enrollment and Student Success (SESS) plan is so vital.



In an effort to more effectively enroll and support our students, UNC launched the Strategic Enrollment and Student Success (SESS) plan in the spring of 2019.

The SESS plan has four key priorities, which are: strategically enrolling a greater number of first-year students, increasing transfer enrollment, developing an integrated network to support student success, and developing a proactive strategy for coaching students with the greatest risk of attrition.

Each priority has a dedicated action team that is responsible for reviewing, researching and recommending solutions to address these recruitment and retention initiatives. The collaborative work of these action teams is driven by specific measurable goals.

- 1 **ACTION TEAM 1** is working to align Admissions' efforts, and the efforts of its key collaborators, to the UNC enrollment and student success vision by intentionally recruiting, selecting and onboarding the students UNC is best positioned to support. Through these coordinated efforts, they are working to strategically grow the enrollment of first-time full-time students to 2,150 by 2023.
- 2 **ACTION TEAM 2** is developing formal and sustainable partnerships with area community colleges and establishing a deliberate strategy to grow transfer enrollment from 516 to 635 students by 2023 and enhance transfer student services in the process.
- 3 **ACTION TEAM 3** is tasked with developing an integrated network approach to partnering with students to ensure their success and progression. This should improve first-year student retention rates from 72 percent to 78 percent; improve the four-year graduation rate from 27 percent to 38 percent, and improve the six-year graduation rate from 46 percent to 58 percent.
- 4 **ACTION TEAM 4** is developing a focused, intrusive and proactive strategy for coaching students with the greatest risk of attrition. Their goal is to close the first-year retention gap between first-generation and non-first-generation students, which currently sits at 66 percent and 75 percent respectively.

Together, Professor Joan Clinefelter and Interim Assistant Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Sean Broghammer are co-chairing an implementation committee which oversees each of these action teams and ensures these key priorities are met by 2023.

- Work in each of these areas is ongoing. To stay up-to-date on the latest progress of each team, visit unco.edu/president/planning/enrollment-management
- To learn more about UNC's ongoing strategic planning efforts, visit unco.edu/president/planning



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

1

Collaborating to Recruit and Enroll 21st Century Students

The landscape of higher education has changed significantly over the past several years. While a majority of states are seeing declines in college age students, Colorado is one of a handful of states with modest gains.

Although this is good news, Colorado remains a competitive recruitment environment where students and families are presented with a multitude of options to fit their educational goals. As an institution, we simply have to adapt to the changing landscape and overcome these increased enrollment pressures.

Digging deep into institutional data, we are learning more about the students who are most successful at UNC. The students we are best equipped to serve.

Enrollment among first-generation students has increased by 11 percent since fall 2014, and that population now represents nearly half of the incoming first-time full-time student cohort.

We hear time and time again that our diverse and inclusive community makes those students feel welcome and at home, but that is not enough.

Only 51 percent of those first-generation students reach their third year at UNC. That tells me there are gaps in our services and we are failing to meet those students' needs. We have to do better.



PHOTO BY HARPER POINT PHOTOGRAPHY

Based on these findings, we are modifying our marketing, recruitment, admission, orientation and advising processes.

UNC is most effective when we seek to understand who our students are and how to connect with them. In order to remain competitive, UNC must establish a clear identity and tailor our support services to help the students who fit within that identity persist and succeed.



2

Supporting Our Transfer Students

Institutional data tells us there is one group of students who are consistently successful at UNC.

Transfer students.

Nearly half of the 2013 transfer cohort graduated within three years of enrolling, and we retain an average of 86 percent of transfer students from Aims Community College annually.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of barriers to entry for those transfer students in the past, which is why we have seen an 18 percent decline in transfer applications since 2014.

We are working to break down those barriers, simplify the transfer process and support the seamless integration of all transfer students. We are auditing the existing procedures for transfer student applications and identifying ways to streamline this process.

Since we can see that transfer students are experiencing a high level of success at UNC, we are also working to establish a deliberate strategy to continue growing our transfer enrollment and enhancing our transfer student services.

Our university is fundamentally strong in this area, but we owe it to our students and each other to make it even stronger.

Taking this one step further, innovative transition programs like Aims2UNC allow us to facilitate a seamless transition between institutions. Students who may be a better fit initially in a community college setting can begin taking classes at Aims Community College and get all the benefits of being a student at both institutions.



This fall, UNC partnered with Aims Community College to unveil Aims2UNC, a unique program that streamlines and simplifies the path for students to transition directly to UNC after earning an associate's degree at Aims.

"This is an extraordinarily exciting time for both Aims and UNC," says Leah Bornstein, Ph.D., president and CEO of Aims Community College. "This is an inclusive program, so we want to encourage anyone who is interested in moving forward in their educational opportunities to be part of this."

As a student at both institutions, participants will get access to the best of all worlds including access to UNC services, events and clubs, streamlined transfer courses, and enhanced support from an Aims2UNC transition advisor assigned to each student enrolled in the new program. These advisors help Aims students prepare for admission to UNC as students and navigate specific program requirements.

"Studies have shown that student success is correlated with building community and developing a sense of belonging. The Aims2UNC program is about student success in both their academic work and helping them achieve their career goals and aspirations," says UNC Provost Mark Anderson, Ph.D.

The program has already received more than 100 applications, and some of these students are now living in our housing and attending on-campus activities. Leaders are optimistic that Aims2UNC will not only improve the student experience but support the success of even more students well into the future.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without both Aims and UNC," says Menan Bergman, '00.

An Integrated Approach to Student Success

One of the largest challenges we face is meeting the evolving needs of students.

Although digital technology is often the preferred method of communication for our students, we have not kept up.

A majority of our student services are still designed around face-to-face contact and as a result, many students struggle to find advising support or assistance with financial aid. They sometimes do not bother to ask, which is a factor in our retention rates.

We have to start meeting students where they are and making it easier to find the support they need. This is certainly an area we are working to improve, but you do not have to look very far to find examples of effective support systems already functioning around campus.

Our Cumbres program provides individualized support and mentorship to students preparing to be English as a Second Language teachers. The leaders who emerge from this program are inspiring, and the program's consistent retention and graduation rates are something we aspire to replicate across campus.

Since 1972, our Center for Human Enrichment has supported the academic achievement of first-generation students. Offering financial literacy resources, individualized personal counseling, learning support and a unique first-year experience, this program is consistently recognized as one of the top programs of its kind in the nation.

Thanks to these services and more, 95 percent of students enrolled in CHE persisted from the fall 2017 semester to the fall 2018 semester, and 96 percent were in good academic standing at the end of the spring 2018 semester.

While those results are laudable, we are working to ensure *every* student has access to that same guidance and support, no matter their background or major.

That is why we are analyzing recent student survey results to identify the highest priority barriers students face and developing solutions. We are working to foster collaboration and implement strategies proven to support student success campuswide.

All of this will eventually lead to the creation of an integrated network of positive support systems that can meet student needs now and well into the future.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Looking at fall-to-fall retention rates among first-time first-year students, Burkhard Englert, dean of the College of Natural Health Sciences, realized they had a problem on their hands. Only 63 percent of those first-time students were returning each fall, troubling considering the 71.5 percent general UNC retention rate and the 80 percent retention rate most other Colorado four-year public institutions see.

That is why he asked Beckie Croissant to establish an NHS advising center over the summer.

"We sent out a survey to our current students regarding their advising experience, and although most of it was positive, there was a lot lacking in terms of developmental and social support. They got support on the academic side, like what classes to take, but they were missing the other side of connections being made and just having somewhere to come and feel a connection or feel like part of something," Croissant says.

Centrally located on the first floor of Ross Hall, the new space welcomes students with a living room, snacks, a microwave and access to homey offices with helpful advisors — personal touches to help create a sense of belonging that carries these students through graduation.

"We're going to really start connecting with them early and making sure they're in the right major, because even though we want to increase retention in our college, our main focus is making sure the fit is right for students," Croissant says.

The best part — the advisors located in this new NHS advising center are already collaborating with their colleagues across campus. Assistant Vice President for Student Success Stephanie Torrez is spearheading an initiative to connect and oversee all advising services on campus. Regular training and communication among the various professional and faculty advisors will ensure that no matter where a student seeks advice, they receive the same initial contacts and context they need to succeed.

Keeping Our Students on Track

There are some areas where we are finding our students need more support than others.

Nursing is the most sought-after major at UNC, with nearly double the enrollment of the next largest major (Business Administration). But at least half of our students who enter UNC seeking Nursing do not make it to their third year, often because the demand is higher than the available slots in the program.

Program capacities are not the only factor; we also lose students when they are not academically prepared to succeed.

Although unsurprising, data backs up the correlation between high school GPA and student success at UNC. Students with a GPA below 3.0 are not performing as well as their peers. These students have a much higher likelihood of failing or withdrawing from courses, which is troubling, but by looking at these trends we have already identified areas for immediate improvement.

Faculty members are now working to coordinate exam schedules for difficult classes like calculus, chemistry and biology, so students who are enrolled in those courses concurrently are not overloaded. Advisors are also working to help students strategically spread out those difficult course loads so they do not get overwhelmed.

We are identifying strategies and resources for faculty to use in critical Liberal Arts Core courses like ENG 122—College Composition, and we are testing those early intervention strategies with students in a special pilot program.

Simply by normalizing the curriculum across all college algebra courses so all students received the content at the same pace, the number of D's, F's and withdrawals were cut in half. The Mathematical Sciences Department has also added a supplemental algebra course, aimed solely at providing extra support to students enrolled in college algebra based on placement test performance.

These are small but intentional changes that are already making a big difference for our students.

Implications for the Future

Although the year 2030 may seem far off, it is really just right around the corner.

All of this work taking place in support of SESS is not only steering our students toward success, it is also laying a critical foundation for the strategic visioning and planning that we are in the midst of. As a campus, we are envisioning what we want UNC to be in 10 years—and setting clear, measurable goals to get there.

Over the course of the past year we have made significant strides in establishing a solid foundation on which our community can build.

Our preliminary efforts are encouraging. The most recent rates for fall-to-fall retention, four-year graduation and six-year graduation are all the highest rates that the university has on record for those metrics. We have done meaningful work in shoring up the budget, examining our institutional structure and laying the groundwork for unparalleled student success. Through town hall meetings, my travels around the state and various conversations with students, faculty, staff and alumni, that vision for the future has started to take shape.

But our work is far from over.

With your help, we established a vision statement this fall. This spring we turn our attention to drafting and refining goals to help us finalize our vision for 2030.

The end result will be a roadmap for our future—a future where each and every one of our students has access to the support and resources they need to graduate and achieve their dreams.

Can you see it yet? **UNC**



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

In an effort to support new students, for the first time in many years, the Kenneth W. Monfort College of Business is offering a first-year seminar, which introduces students to the basics of the business world.

The Dean's Leadership Council had long discussed the idea of creating a first-year seminar, and with campuswide discussions taking place about strategies to improve student success, this fall seemed to be the perfect opportunity to finally launch that course.

"We've seen a lot of students come in, and they want to be a

business major, but they don't really know what business is. They want to be an Accounting major, but they don't know what an accountant does, and they don't realize the broad array of opportunities that there are in accounting or finance or marketing," says Don Gudmundson, Ph.D., one of the creators and facilitators of the course.

Prior to this course, most business students did not have much reason to step foot in the building, let alone interact with successful business alumni, until at least their second year. Now that students are equipped

with context, experience and valuable contacts, college leaders hope this course will help students persist and reach that ultimate goal of graduation on time, or even early.

"What we wanted to do was to try and give the students more information earlier in their education, so they don't have to make as many changes later on. That way they'll be able to get through their program quicker and more smoothly rather than being a second semester junior who gets into some of the upper-level courses and realizes that's not what they want to do," Gudmundson says.

BLUE & GOLD



Once a Bear, Always a Bear!



Get Involved

Put Your Bear Network to Work!

When you graduate from the University of Northern Colorado, the community you knew as a student is the network you connect to as a professional. A network where every relationship creates an opportunity for you and UNC, no matter the direction your education and career take you next.

Isn't it about time that we put this network to work?

We think so, and that's why the UNC Alumni Association is calling on all Bears to get involved in supporting UNC's Strategic Enrollment and Student Success plan (SESS). Strengthening connections and getting involved will help UNC achieve its goals and plans for the future. **Get involved today!**



BUILD THE BRAND

Alumni success stories help future students become excited about being a UNC Bear. Amplify our story and yours when you support UNC's marketing initiatives and admissions programs.



IMPACT STUDENT SUCCESS

Make a gift to a UNC scholarship or academic program, and you will create an immediate impact on the retention of students and join in the celebration as they achieve milestones of success.



ADVANCE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

A UNC education is the starting point for a great career. Help students take the next step on their path to career achievement as an alumni career advisor or recruiter representing your company.

Visit alumni.unco.edu to get involved in supporting these initiatives.
Follow the UNC Alumni Association on social [@uncbearsalumni](#) [#UNCBears](#)

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.

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at unco.edu/unc-magazine

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for up-to-date alumni news and highlights

60s

Carl Silber, 1/Lt (Ret.) BA '62, Colorado Springs, worked as a civilian contracting officer for the Department of Defense for 30 years, during which he spent 18 years overseas. He recently served as a Logistics Officer at the Civil Air Patrol summer encampment at the United States Air Force Academy. Silber is now retired and spends his time as a pilot and tour guide at Peterson Air/Space Museum and Wings Over the Rockies Air/Space Museum.

70s

David King MA '70, BA '65, Del Mar, Calif., has recently returned from his fourth humanitarian aid trip in Namibia, Africa where he completed various repair tasks, which included altering and repainting his mural to reflect the expanding primary school.

Barbara J. Tiddens BS '71, New York, N.Y., retired from Infection Control at Rockefeller University after 30 years and a total of 47 years as a nurse. Tiddens plans to do extensive travelling, reading, and seeing all the theater she didn't have time for during her 30 years working in New York City.

Brent Weigner BA '72, Cheyenne, Wyo., founded the UNC Men's Varsity Cross Country sport in 1969. Weigner is still running today and in June received a Certificate of Exceptional Achievement for completing marathons in 180 countries.

Janet A. (Swinton) Call MA '73, Newark, Ohio, presently works at Central Ohio Technical College after spending the previous 35 years teaching high school English in Greeley. Her novel *Empty Desk*, published in 2018, features experiences of a public-school teacher and her students.

Rick Hays BA '73, Helena, Mont., was elected Chair of the Board for Opportunity Bank of Montana at its annual stockholder meeting earlier this year.

Margaret Mizushima BA '74, Wellington, was awarded the Silver Medal in the Benjamin Franklin Awards, named finalist for the Colorado Book

Awards for her mystery *Burning Ridge*, and is a nominee for the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers' Writer of the Year. Mizushima recently released *Tracking Game*, the latest installment of the award-winning Timber Creek K-9 Mystery Series.

Frank Cribelli BS '75, BA '68, Greeley, was awarded Marine of the Year for 2018 by the Union Colony Marines Local Detachment 1093, Marine Corps League.

David Schiessler BS '76, Mountain View, Calif., has retired after nearly a 40-year career in Life Sciences/Biotechnology. He served in various senior management roles, working on a global basis, primarily in marketing and operations roles. Schiessler is a proud member of the UNC 1974 Hall of Fame baseball team.

Barry Schlossberg BS '76, Henderson, Nev., owns the 1970 Dodge Challenger R/T Convertible driven by Woody Harrelson in the 1994 movie *Natural Born Killers*. The car will be restored to factory new condition on the popular MotorTrend Channel-Graveyard Carz.

Marvin "Marv" Tickle, BA '77, Laguna Woods, Calif., is retired after employment with the Weld County Sheriff's office, the K-Mart management system, and 26 years delivering for UPS in North Platte, Neb.

80s

Jana Martin BA '82, Dallas, Texas, has retired from DeSoto Independent School district after 28 years in education. Martin will continue to work as a Security Supervisor with Texas Rangers Baseball Club as well as begin private tutoring and consulting.

Sherry Schulz BA '82, Lakewood, retired after 30 years in special education and regular education in Jeffco. She now enjoys skiing and off-road hand cycling.

Jim Bright BS '83, Greeley, is the Practice Manager of Cardio Vascular Institute at Banner Health North Colorado Medical Center in Greeley.

Cornelius "Neal" Sailer BA '84, Leonia, N.J., works in pharmaceutical and commercial development all over the world. During the past five years, Sailer has been dedicated to improving lives with the development of the drug, Dupilumab, a blockbuster antibody indicated for severe Atopic Dermatitis, Severe Asthma and other conditions.

Mark Duff BA '85, Carbondale, published his debut novel *The Ruler*.

Don P. Cygan BA '86, Evergreen, is a History Professor at Red Rocks Community College and author of 2012's *No Silent Night: The Christmas Battle for Bastogne*.

Working for the Big Leagues

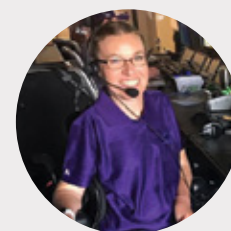
Every day Jenny Siegle '04 wakes up and goes to the job of her dreams.

After graduating with her degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from UNC in 2004, Siegle joined the Rockies as a video production specialist.

But that's not Siegle's only connection to professional sports in Denver. Now working as a full-time producer for Altitude Sports as well, she covers the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Rapids, Colorado Mammoth and Denver Broncos.

Although her day job with Altitude Sports keeps her busy, Siegle still finds the time to work a few home Rockies games throughout the season.

 Read more at unco.edu/alumni/blog/working-for-the-rockies.aspx



David Dorfmeier MA '86, Pendleton, Ore., has written *C-Lager: Stalag Luft IV & the 86-Day Hunger March* about his father's experiences as a POW in Germany during WWII. The book is a meticulously researched and well-documented account of the longest forced march of any group of Allied POWs trekking across northern Germany during the winter of 1945.

Samuel C. Andrews BA '88, Knoxville, Tenn., is the Vice President and Creative Director for The Tombras Group advertising agency in Knoxville.

90s

Lora Cheadle BA '91, Littleton, is an author, speaker and female empowerment leader. She received the Exceptional Woman of Excellence award from the Women Economic Forum in New Delhi, India for her work helping women reclaim their voice and embrace their authentic identity.

Tyson Miller BA '95, Fort Collins, is currently the Chief Financial Officer at Hill Petroleum in the Denver Metro Area.

Kevin "Chet" Wilmes BA '96, Aurora, became a Class A Superintendent with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and is the superintendent at Springhill Golf Course in Aurora.

Shawna Zachman BA '97, Arvada, has joined Gannett Fleming as its first corporate business development director. Gannett Fleming said of Zachman, "She is passionate about business development framework and leading creative teams."

Michael Sanderfer BA '98, Phoenix, Ariz., is a USA Track & Field Certified Referee.

John D. Haller BA '99, Stow, Ohio, was conferred a BFA in visual Communication Design from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. Additionally, Haller has been accepted into the MFA program in the School of Visual Communication Design at Kent State University.

00s

Andrea (Gossert) Beyer BA '00, Clay Center, Kan., was ordained in the Great Plains conference of the United Methodist Church in June 2018. She is serving as Senior Pastor of Clay Center United Methodist church.

Denise J. Shannon BA '00, Evans, received the 2019 Mentor Teacher Award.

Amy Marie Mason MA '02, Shoshoni, Wyo., was recognized in Washington, D.C. by the American School Counseling Association as the Wyoming School Counselor of the Year.

Matthew C. Brinton BS '05, accepted a position as Director of Development at the University of Texas at Tyler in May.

Jodi Malick BA '05, Garden City, Kan., was named the 2015 Secondary Teacher of the Year for USD 480-Liberal Kansas. She has presented at numerous conferences for professional development including Kansas Exemplary Educators Network (KEEN) and Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Matthew J. Gomez-Peterson BA '09, Morrison, is ACE certified and the Program Manager of Background Services at Denver International Airport.

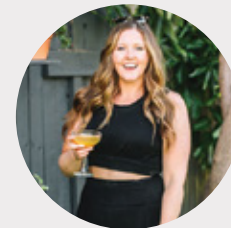
10s

Stephanie Klixbull BA '13, Ladson, S.C., received the International Max E. Lundquest, Rising Star Young STEM Educator award from the International STEM Association and the Teacher of the Year 2018-2019 for the state SCISA (South Carolina Independent Schools Association).

Jordan Ortega BA '13, Pueblo, works for GOAL High School, which is an online/blended program throughout the entire state of Colorado. Ortega is an English Language TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) and one of his main responsibilities is to deliver Sheltered Instruction/SIOP Professional Development to all content teachers,

UNC Alumna Becomes a Recipe for Success

Elizabeth Van Lierde '16 created a blog during her junior year at UNC, which rapidly grew into the art of all things domestic. Her blog and Instagram feed have drawn millions of page views and thousands of likes. *Saveur* magazine's readership voted *College Housewife* the Most Entertaining Blog of 2018, and *Real Simple* has mined it for ideas about kitchen storage and backyard party planning.



Visit the blog at thecollegehousewife.com or follow @College_Housewife



Join UNC Athletics in Boise, ID for the Big Sky Conference Basketball Tournament

March 9-14, 2020

bigskyinboise.com

paraprofessionals, and Administrators. The Professional Development happens throughout the school year and it is a way for teachers to get credit in order to renew their teaching license. Through the professional development, staff learn different strategies to make their content more comprehensible for all students, including English Language Learners and Diverse Student Populations. The goal for the professional development piece was to share concrete instructional activities and practices that teachers can use on a daily basis during their coursework and instruction.

Norman Correa BA '14, Rocky Point, N.Y., mentors young men from underrepresented groups living in New York or Massachusetts who are entering college or are current students, on what to expect after they graduate and how they can become successful in their careers.

Paisley Hemminger BA '14, Littleton, is a teacher at Grandview High School and a graduate student in Miami University's Advanced Inquiry Program. During the summer, Hemminger studied coral reefs, manatees, howler monkeys, jaguars and other wildlife while learning the methods communities are using to sustain them in Belize.

Caitlyn R. Ryan BS '16, Denver, received her master of tax degree from the University of Colorado, is a CPA and is currently working as a tax accountant at CBIZ.

Angelica Sena MS '18, BS '17, Midvale, Utah, has her first full-time job at the University of Utah as the Assistant Director of Marketing. Sena credits her experience first as an intern then a GA in UNC Athletics Marketing as the key to positioning her for her first job.

Robert Carver BS '19, Loveland, joined the UNC family as an IT Professional Business Analyst.

The UNC Department of Aerospace Studies/Air Force ROTC commissioned **Ryan J. DeMuth** BA '19 and **Elijah A. Thompson** BS '19 graduating cadets as Second Lieutenants in the United States Air Force.

Mailbag

An excerpt from your letters:

"UNC provided me a great opportunity to develop critical thinking skills and a great liberal arts education, which prepared me for graduate studies and to be an informed global citizen."

—**Nathan A. Preuss** BA '02, Powell, Tenn.

"I came to UNC after five years in the Army. My time at UNC was where I developed my love for higher education. I was involved at UNC in the University Program Council, student government, National Student Exchange (program coordinator), Mortar Board Honor Society and an Orientation Leader. I loved giving tours of the UNC Campus! The leadership opportunities at UNC were what shaped me and directed me towards graduate school. The professors were approachable and supportive and I have many great memories of the faculty at UNC. I am still in touch with many of the Student Affairs professionals who became my mentors. I worked hard while at UNC, not only in my classes, but also in my extra-curricular activities. I learned to set goals and work toward achieving those goals.

I left my career when I had my son and stayed home for eight years taking care of my two kids. When my youngest started kindergarten, I worked part-time with their school district. I worked for seven years part-time and when my youngest started middle school, I decided to try and find a job back in my career field. It took me many months of applying for jobs and updating my resume and cover letter. It was discouraging, but I kept applying. It only takes one employer to see what skills and strengths you bring to a position. I have returned to my career field and my message to others is, 'Don't give up!'"

—**Holly Underwood** BA '95, Sparks, Nev.

CELEBRATE
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OF ACHIEVEMENT



**HONORED ALUMNI
AWARDS CEREMONY
MARCH 27, 2020**

ALUMNI.UNCO.EDU.

Bidne discusses strategy with Hawai'i golfer Sahara Washington at an invitational at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf course in Oahu.

FROM THE VAULT

MAKING WAVES IN HAWAI'I

Stephen Bidne has found his career as Hawai'i's head women's golf coach.

The rolling green grass and salt spray of a Hawai'i golf course isn't an everyday occurrence for many golfers, but for **Stephen Bidne** it's a familiar setting. Bidne, the head women's golf coach at the University of Hawai'i, graduated from UNC in 2011 with a degree in Business Administration.

As a student athlete on the UNC golf team, Bidne was a four-year letterman and received the title of Co-Newcomer of the Year in the 2007-08 America Sky Golf Conference. During his first year (in 2008), he tied a school record for lowest round, and he was named player of the year in 2010.

"Two days after graduating, I packed my bags and drove to Arizona to embark on my professional golf career," Bidne says. "I went on to qualify for PGA Tour Canada, played on multiple other mini-tours throughout the U.S., and was fortunate enough to accumulate five professional wins and 13 other top-three finishes in my first two years."

While he was successful, he always had a passion for teaching the game of golf. When an opportunity to become UNC's head women's golf coach opened up, he knew it was meant to be and returned to Greeley in 2013. Throughout his time as UNC's head coach, the team went on to break several school records, launching them from 224th in the country to 80th. "Looking back, I'm so proud of every single one of the players on those teams. They bought into the process and put such a positive fingerprint on the program."

After four years as a coach at UNC, Bidne was offered his current position at the University of Hawai'i. "Deciding to leave UNC was a difficult decision. It was a place not only where I'd spent eight years both as a student and as a coach, but it's also where I met my wife Addison."

After arriving in Hawai'i in 2017, Bidne has seen his team go on to win both individual and team titles at the Anuenue Spring

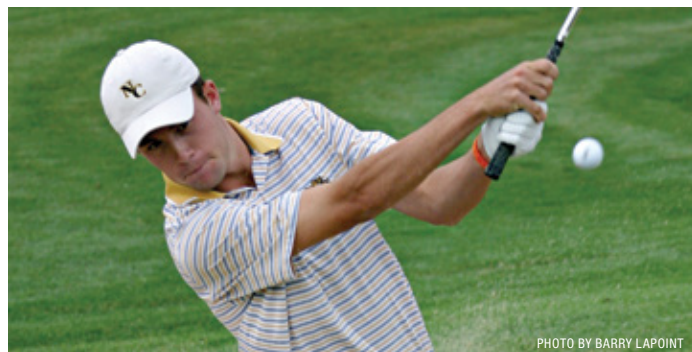



PHOTO BY BARRY LAPOINT

 Bidne was featured in the fall 2008 edition of UNC's alumni magazine, page 9, available at unco.edu/unc-magazine.

Break Invitational, as well as breaking several school records, namely the lowest team scoring average in a single season. Following the 2017-18 season, two players were given Big West All-Conference Honors, and Bidne was named the conference's Coach of the Year.

"I'm extremely excited for the direction our program at the University of Hawai'i is heading. We are a very young team with a lot of depth, and just like at UNC, I've challenged them to continue to lift the bar and take the program to new heights."

No matter where golf takes him, he says he won't forget the opportunities UNC gave him. "As the school mantra goes, 'Once a Bear, always a Bear,'" he says. "Even though I might be wearing a different color polo on the golf course now, I'll forever bleed blue and gold."

—Austin Huber

In Memory

1940s

James MacDonald Reece BA '43
Dorothy Irene Gillispie Berger BA '44

1950s

Shirley Burrell MA '51
Dorothy "Dot" Dales BA '53
Clyde Paul Latzer BA '53
Helen Irene Haley BA '54
John Urban Kranick MA '54
Harold Leslie Pedersen MA '54
John R. "Bob" Marty Jr. BA '57
Phyllis Laurine Cross MA '58
William Edward "Bill" Bear MA '59
Rodney Willis "Will" Bolin MA '59
Robert L. Plant BA '59

1960s

Janice Carol Goode BA '60
Rella Mae (Boon) Marcantonio MA '60, BA '55
Kathryn G. Stankevich-Cherrier MA '60
Robert Gene "Bob" Digiallonardo BA '61
William A. Henderson BA '61
Lynn A. Hopwood BA '61
Walter Leon "Wally" King, Jr. BA '61
Peggy Joan Rewerts BA '61
Ardis L. Rohwer MA '61
Rosemary (Berka) Stoezel BA '61
Myron James Varley MA '61
Roger Alan Capps MA '62
James John "Jim" Stark BA '62
Orville Carrington Beard BA '63
Shery Taylor Bunting BA '63
Kathryn Elizabeth "Liz" Dollarhide BA '63
Joyce Ann Jerke BA '64
Charles O'Dell MA '64, BA '60
Cliff Bartlett MA '65
Richard A. "Dick" Brown Ed.D '65, MA '58
Robert Wayne Knorr BA '65
Morris Leon Mower Ed.D. '65
Reverend Dean Paul Talagan Ed.D. '65, MA '58
Jack Leslie Dawson MA '66
Duane Earl Rector MA '66
Judy Stephenson BA '66
David F. Boynton MA '67
Billie Busby BA '67
David Richard St. John MA '67, BA '64
Sheila Kathleen Epler MA '68, BA '63
Patricia "Pat" Drange BA '69
Julianne (Bryant) Hauser BA '69
Darlene Malinda Kautz Frey BA '69
James B. "Jim" Leamer MA '69, BA '64
Sandra K. McDowell BA '69

1970s

Dallas Howard Bryant BA '70
Ronald Gene Christie BA '70
Doris Angeline Frazier MA '70
Frederick L. Greene Ed.D. '70, MA '67
Joseph Perault Hannon Ed.D. '70
Joseph E. Martinez MA '70
Robert Donald Blandford DA '71
William Joseph Donahue Jr. BA '71
Joseph George Kaplan BA '71
Lois Evelyn Nielsen BS '72
John Prieskorn BA '72
Ronald Lee Wilhelmson BA '72
Sara Jo (Hightower) Murff MA '73
Donna M. Tomky BS '73
Donald L. Johnson MA '74
Charlotte Dell "Gigi" (Hamilton) Stieb BA '74
James "Jim" Gilletti BA '75
Mary Jean LeTendre MA '75
Chere Lea Semple BA '75
USAF Major (Ret.) Douglas C. Whipple MA '75
Carolyn R. Coker MA '76, BA '69
Jack Milton Freeman MA '76
Robert Cochran Lessig BA '76
Ralph Arthur Pierce MA '76
Carolyn Davis MA '77
Marcus James Flores BA '77
Delia Garcia MA '77, BA '63
Carl Melvin Kerns Ed.D. '77
Timothy Ricketts BS '77
Luther Burns MA '78
Gary L. Campbell BS '78
Glen March BA '78
Hubert Thomas Mowery Ph.D. '78
Roger E. Parks BA '78
LTC (ret.) Allyn Campbell Griffiths Jr. MS '79
Donna J. "DJ" (Miller) Lockwood BA '79
Charlotte Ann Mason BA '79
Kristy Kay Mestdagh BS '79
John T. Modjeski BA '79
Bruce D. Parmelee Ed.D. '79, BA '67

1980s

Nancy Elizabeth "Betty" Veldhuizen MA '80
Mahlon Elwood Blagg MS '82
Michael Whitehead MA '82
Morris Curtis "Spike" Hansen Ed.D. '83
Vae Rose Fultz Ed.D. '85
Carol Ann (Nichols) Kuhn MA '85
Joel Emil Alexander MA '89
Jennifer Lynn Edgerley BAE '89
Nancy Jo Raso Eklund MA '89

1990s

Mark Allen Craddock MA '93
Diane M. Reed MS '96

2000s

Craig R. Bynum BA '04
Taneisha L'ayne Schumann BA '04
Caitlin R. Dickey BA '08

2010s

Natalie Tirzah Florentine MS '11
Constance Ann "Connie" Diaz Ph.D. '14
Mitchell W. Nilles BA '14
Kristin E. Weller BS '16

TRIBUTES

Casey and Briana Grossnickle BA '04, Grand Junction, passed away Oct. 7, 2019, in a car accident. They fell in love at UNC while they were both students. Missing them are their four children Logan, Landon, Luke and Sasha; their parents; Briana's grandparents; and their siblings, extended family, friends and co-workers.

Stephanie Smith, Ph.D., RDN, Fort Collins, UNC Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, passed away April 24, 2019.





PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Last Look

Aims2UNC

WORKING TOGETHER, UNC AND AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARE OFFERING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Aims Community College and UNC unveiled a joint program initiative called Aims2UNC, which helps create a path for students to transition directly to UNC after earning an associate's degree at Aims. The partnership, launched Sept. 5, comes as a response to Colorado's statewide goal calling for 66 percent of its residents to earn a college credential by 2025.

Aims2UNC will provide each student enrolled in the program a transition advisor who will offer support and guidance to prepare students for admission to UNC. The program will also provide guaranteed admission to UNC for students accepted into the Aims2UNC program.

"This is truly a win-win-win," says UNC President Andy Feinstein, Ph.D., who introduced the program along with Aims President and CEO Leah Bornstein, Ph.D. "Our students, our campuses and our community will benefit immensely from this partnership."

Aims2UNC began this fall and is set to expand in the fall of 2020.

—Katie-Leigh Corder



Read more about Aims2UNC and its role in student success on page 27



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#UNCBears

A vibrant blue and orange October sunset
creates the perfect Colorado backdrop
for Frasier Hall.

PHOTO BY ISABELLE CUNNINGHAM

