

UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
SPRING/SUMMER 2018

magazine



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A STEADY HAND FOR 16 YEARS

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Sport Changes Life Course for Graduate

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Theatre Students Get Noticed in New York



The View from Here

MICHAEL TROTTER '89 BUSINESS

From his company's vantage point, Front Range Roofing LLC owner Michael Trotter has a sky-high view of northern Colorado's economic expansion. But here, his view is from the University Center, with the new Campus Commons building in the background. Trotter, who came to Greeley as a UNC student in the 1980s, is a Greeley business leader, family man, community philanthropist and avid Bears fan. When he won the roofing contract for the new Campus Commons building, he was excited about being a part of UNC's student success strategy.



To learn more about Trotter, and to see photos and video of Campus Commons construction, go to unco.edu/campus-commons

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PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

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Kay Norton, who announced her retirement after serving 16 years as UNC president.

PHOTO BY STARK BELLAMY PHOTOGRAPHY

Editor's Note

UNC's women's basketball team won the Big Sky regular season and the conference tournament — which earned them a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

➔ Read more on page 7, and log on to uncbears.com/index.aspx?path=wbball

GINNY DIGUISEPPI '12



Known as “Ginny Di” in the cosplay community, DiGuisseppi is a full-time cosplayer. This March, she took time out to visit with students in Associate Professor Kristin Bovaird-Abbo’s MIND 288 Contemporary Arts Connections, “Worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien.” DiGuisseppi’s work can be found online at ginnydi.com.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

I’m a Bear

WHEN WORK IS COSPLAY

On a basic level, cosplay is people dressing up in costumes from pop culture. For some people (like me) it also means making the costumes.

Cosplay and online content creation is my full-time job now, so I spend time every single week either constructing costumes, shooting photos and filming videos in costume, or, once every two or three months, appearing at a convention or event in costume. My earnings include photo print and music sales, ad revenue, sponsorships and a number of other sources.

I had always been interested in creating and crafting. I learned to hand sew at a young age and used a sewing machine in elementary school. And I used to do text-based roleplaying and fan art and fan fiction, because my way of enjoying media was to put my hands on it and make something new. Once I learned that cosplay was a thing, I was immediately hooked.

My passion isn’t so much for “playing the character” as it is for creating new works from my favorite media. My focus is on photos, video and music, most of which I create privately and then share online, rather than performing live.

I mostly pick characters that I love and identify with, although I admit that the costume design and styling of the character plays a big role in my choices, too.

My favorite cosplay is probably Arya (from “Game of Thrones”), just because I’ve cosplayed so many of her costumes (four) and I’ve been cosplaying her for so long, I just feel connected to her. But as strongly as I feel about Arya, I do get tired of being a “one trick pony” sometimes, so she isn’t always my go-to. Usually my favorite cosplay to wear is the most recent one I’ve finished, so right now that’s Officer Jenny from Pokémon.

My most challenging cosplay to date is probably Ciri, from the video game “The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt.” That costume has so many different pieces, and each is heavily detailed and distressed. I did so much decorative hand stitching on that costume, and then had to make it all look filthy and torn up. It’s also the biggest makeup challenge I’ve done, since she has some very heavy, specific eye makeup, freckles and a bunch of scarring.

It usually surprises people to hear that I make my own work. I think a lot of people just assume I’m a cosplay model at first. For those who already “get” cosplay, I think they’re most surprised by what a high percentage of my costumes are made from thrift store bedsheets and curtains!

A lot of the business of cosplay is marketing, and marketing requires a ton of writing. I write blogs. I write social media posts. I write scripts for videos. Being able to communicate my ideas clearly and thoughtfully has been immensely helpful in building a brand for myself and reaching more people with my work.

—Ginny DiGuisseppi '12, English



Left: Newly appointed UNC president Andrew "Andy" Feinstein meets with students in April.

UNC BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINT FEINSTEIN NEXT UNC PRESIDENT

On April 24, the UNC Board of Trustees named Andrew "Andy" Feinstein, Ph.D., the university's next president.

Feinstein is the provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at San José State University, one of the largest public research universities in the West. As SJSU's chief academic officer since 2014, Feinstein oversees 154 degree programs and supports more than 35,000 students, 1,900 faculty and 550 staff and administrators in seven academic colleges.

A 15-member search committee comprising UNC trustees and student, faculty and staff representatives unanimously selected Feinstein as the finalist.

The committee called Feinstein a "proven academic leader who values collaboration and transparency." He "has shown his ability to lead and learn at three major universities. He is thoughtful, engaging, passionate about students and eager to be part of our UNC and Greeley communities."

Feinstein, who has 29 years of higher education experience, previously served as dean of the Collins College of Hospitality Management and the James A. Collins Distinguished Chair and professor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Hotel Administration from University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University. He has been married to his wife, Kerry, for 22 years and they have two children, Nicholas and Rachel.

"During the search process, my wife and I fell in love with the university community and the city of Greeley," Feinstein said. "I look forward to building on the outstanding reputation of UNC and to leading the campus through the completion of a comprehensive campaign that will provide resources for future generations of UNC Bears."

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WINS ON "JEOPARDY!"

Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Studies Lynn Klyde-Allaman, Ph.D., made her first appearance on the famous trivia show "Jeopardy!" on March 22 and 23 and took home \$8,800.

Allaman, a self-described trivia buff, follows in the footsteps of her mother, who competed on the show in 1968 (while pregnant with Lynn). Her mother used her winnings to buy new carpeting for the family's home along with a set of encyclopedias, which Lynn and her brother read extensively.

"That's how I became so good at trivia," she said.

To prepare, she read a book written by previous "Jeopardy!" champions, and used the show's online archives of questions and answers to study.

Funding Important Work

STATE AWARDS UNC \$50,000 RURAL EDUCATION GRANT

UNC and its partners were awarded a \$50,000 grant from federal funds by the Colorado Department of Higher Education to boost recruitment and retention of educators in rural areas.

Assistant professors of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Development Jacob Skousen and Amie Cimienski will collaborate on the grant with the East Central and Northwest boards of cooperative education services. Together they will develop rural leader learning communities. The initiative's activities will include providing professional development for teacher mentors to support new teachers, creating a learning community for principals and superintendents, and developing an effective principal pipeline of rural school teacher-leaders.

News Briefs cont.



Quote worthy

“Especially meaningful for me is that I will continue serving a public institution of higher education that recognizes and supports the potential of each student, including many who are first in their families to attend college. 🍌🍌

—Andy Feinstein, Ph.D.,
13th UNC president

➤ Read more about Feinstein and the presidential search process, go to unco.edu/news/newsroom/releases/unc-pres-finalist.aspx

MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT

For the men's basketball team, the 2017–18 season was a year of firsts — and lasts. By winning the 10th Collegeinsider.com Tournament March 30, they were the last team in Colorado to play this season and the first Big Sky men's basketball team to win an NCAA postseason tournament.

UNC won the championship 76-71 over the University of Illinois at Chicago in front of a capacity crowd of 3,198 at Bank of Colorado Arena at Butler-Hancock Athletic Center.

After the game, junior Jordan Davis said, “To be able to cut down the net and experience confetti and everybody rushing the court, it's a big party. I'm just on cloud nine right now.”

Players, coaches and fans were all feeling that post-win rush after a historic season for the Bears, which included all-time winningest team in UNC history with a 26-12 overall record and being the first team in Big Sky history to score more than 3,000 points in a season.

RECORD-HOLDER HIGHLIGHT: Andre Spight now sits alone atop the Big Sky Conference record book as his 23 points in the title game put him number one for single-season points. Spight finished with 855 points in his senior season and also tied for 3-pointers made in a season with 128.

HEARING CONSERVATION IN GUATEMALA

A group of faculty and students led by UNC Professor Deanna Meinke implemented a hearing conservation program at a sugar mill in Guatemala earlier this year.

Meinke, UNC graduate students Jennifer Ruths and Ashley Stumpf, and Colorado State University graduate student Grant Erlandson spent a week in Guatemala teaching about the prevention of noise-induced hearing loss. The effort included implementing best practices in the hearing conservation program at the work site of the Pantaleon sugar mill.

At the site, the group performed more than 50 noise dosimetry measurements of sound exposure on workers and taught a four-day Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation certification course to doctors and nurses from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras.

MONFORT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS TO LAUNCH FULLY ONLINE MBA

Now, more than ever, people are learning on their own devices instead of in classrooms, and UNC's Monfort College of Business (MCB) will offer its world-class business education with online flexibility and accessibility for a master's in business administration

“This move accelerates and amplifies our efforts to increase access to our MBA program — across Colorado and beyond,” says MCB Dean Paul Bobrowski, Ph.D.

CAMPUS COMMONS UPDATE

Construction on the Campus Commons began in fall 2016 and the new building is adjacent to the University Center. On January 3, the building's final beam was lifted into place behind the performance hall, bearing the signatures of alumni, faculty and staff donors.

Scheduled to open in early 2019, Campus Commons will help consolidate essential student and administrative offices, as well as add one new one — the aptly named GPS+. The service will help students navigate their way through important resource offices and university services using a case management strategy.

“Not only will students, parents, and alumni receive help completing fundamental business transactions, but our GPS+ Navigators will be available to connect students with other important resources across the UNC campus such as career counseling, major exploration, civic engagement opportunities, and study abroad to name a few,” said GPS+ director Sarah Chase.

UNC FILM TAKES A STAND AGAINST SEX TRAFFICKING

In her first semester as an adjunct instructor of Film Studies at UNC, Emilie Upczak's five-year film project, *Moving Parts*, was finally ready for show time. *Moving Parts* is a fictional story about a Chinese woman who is smuggled into Trinidad and Tobago to stay with her brother after the loss of her father. Once there, her smuggler demands more money than promised, and she decides to sell herself to help pay off her debts.

The film premiered at the Denver Film Festival last November.

FRANK COOK, PH.D.
Instructor of Music Theory

LEARN MORE:

Cook recommends these movies to learn more about the history of rock 'n' roll:

- *The Buddy Holly Story*, 1978
- *The Wall*, 1979
- *The Complete YES THAT'S RIGHT Beatles*, 1982
- *Standing in the Shadow of Motown*, 2002
- *Joy Division*, 2007
- *It Might Get Loud*, 2008
- *20 Feet from Stardom*, 2013
- *CBGB*, 2013

Syllabus

The Beat Goes On

THE LAST STRAINS OF THE SOUL SISTERS SWEEP THROUGH A REHEARSAL ROOM in Frasier Hall, and Frank Cook smiles and steps up in front of his class.

"That was The Supremes, the most successful group on the Motown record label," Cook, instructor of music theory, says. "We will talk about them later today."

They will, but first, he has to talk about the Beach Boys, and why he posted the entire *Pet Sounds* album for his students as a part of the listening assignment.

"I wanted you guys to experience the journey," Cook says. "I mean, what a beautiful album, right?"

There are many times during a session of "The History of Rock 'n' Roll," the class he's taught since 2011, that Cook sounds more like a DJ, or maybe your uncle, the one who insists vinyl is the best and still has black-light posters of Pink Floyd on his wall.

Cook sees this class as an opportunity—a rude awakening for the students who take it for an easy A and a chance to jam to some tunes for credit. But after their first assignment students get the message: This isn't a cake course. This is about studying the music and lyrics of a genre in the same way any other kind of music would be studied in the School of Music.

The class offers students the opportunity to study a music genre that has its entire history recorded. Cook covers as much as he can, from soul to folk to surf rock, up to the British Invasion and The Beatles, and then disco and into the early 2000s.

CLASS: MUS 150-006: History of Rock 'n' Roll

TAUGHT BY: Frank Cook since 2011. In 2016, due to popularity, a second section was added and is taught by Ron Brooks.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course is designed to cover as much quality rock 'n' roll as possible in the allotted time. Students listen to and discuss music ranging from circa 1920-2000.

THE GOAL OF THE CLASS: "To get kids to listen to the lyrics and think about them. There's so much that these poets are really doing. We discuss what's going on with the music."

A serious musician, Cook is a trombone player who gives lessons and plays for the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra. But he loves rock 'n' roll. "It's the music of our history," Cook says.

The music has artistic merit, he says, but the lyrics are what really impress him. He aims to turn his students—most of whom aren't music majors—into active listeners. He wants them, one day, to tell their friends at those cocktail parties about Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?"—how he wrote about the dangers of abusing the Earth, the Vietnam War, and how he wanted to resolve these issues with peace and love. Cook plays the track for his students, and once again, he's a fan, not a teacher.

"He just showed some amazing forethought," Cook says.

—Dan England

@UNC

Voices

How My Financial Aid Story Led to Meeting Bill Gates

I'VE LEARNED THAT THE POWER OF STORYTELLING IS AN INCREDIBLE THING THAT CAN LEAD TO MAJOR IMPACT.

This past summer, I wrote a short article for Young Invincibles on why there is room for improvement to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Young Invincibles is an advocacy group focused on representing the millennial voice in the political process and on issues relevant to us. One of the most important issues in higher education is student affordability, so FAFSA simplification is one of Young Invincibles' key focuses.

As a first-generation college student from a lower-income family, I depend on financial assistance to get through college. It was extremely difficult the first time I went through the FAFSA process, and I wasn't sure I'd completed it right.

I first attended Paris Junior College, in my hometown of Paris, Texas. My brother was at UNC, so I transferred here my sophomore year. I worked at UNC catering and the rec center, and to my benefit, in the financial aid office. There, I learned how to understand and work through the financial aid process, and now I help students and families navigate through it every day.

Through my own FAFSA experience, while working at the financial aid office and with Young Invincibles, I got the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet Bill Gates. Three other students from around the country and I attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., as student representatives for Young Invincibles. There, we sat down with Mr. Gates to share our stories and discuss financial aid process challenges.

Originally, we thought we'd just be meeting with the team members at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. A week out, we learned we'd be meeting with Bill Gates himself. Imagine how astonished I was after getting that call!

I'm extremely passionate about policy work, and to have the opportunity to sit down with such a powerful and influential person to discuss the barriers that hinder students from securing critical aid was incredible.

In the meeting room, the three students and I sat anxiously waiting. We thought we'd be in a big meeting room with lots of people and distance between Mr. Gates and us. To our

amazement, we sat at a small lunch table in the breakroom. We learned the meeting was going to include just Mr. Gates, the four of us, and the deputy director of Young Invincibles, who facilitated the conversation.

This opportunity was like no other, and I didn't take it for granted. I knew being one of four students in that meeting was important: We represented the voices of millions of students who utilize financial aid, and we didn't take that opportunity lightly.

Before I got to sit down with Mr. Gates, I asked people in the foundation who knew him what he was like. They all talked about how he was a computer guy, so he liked to understand processes and the root of problems. This proved true in our meeting. He was very receptive and intentional in asking each of us questions about our stories, experiences and the financial aid process.

I shared my story with him, telling him about problems I've seen students encounter every school year.

When students complete the application, it's easy to get confused, send the wrong documents and not complete the documents fully. They may enter in the wrong data or information just because they didn't understand the questions. When that happens, the federal government contacts the institution to try to clear up the wrong information. The government asks for follow-up documents, and it can be a long, tedious process—leaving students waiting long into the semester for aid, well after they need books and school supplies.


When I told Mr. Gates my parents didn't help me fill out the FAFSA, I saw him nod, maybe understanding that with first-generation college students it's not just a process for them. It's also a process for their parents because they're learning how to do these things, too.

By the end of the meeting I was confident that Mr. Gates, his team and Young Invincibles would work diligently to enact change to make the financial aid process simpler for future students. I'm honored to have had a role in that.

—Kevion Ellis is UNC's student body president. He graduates this spring with a degree in International Affairs with a Political Economy emphasis, and minors in Africana Studies and Economics.



Kevion Ellis (left) met with fellow Young Invincibles students and Bill Gates (center) to talk about improving the FAFSA.



BEAR HUG: UNC women's basketball players celebrate their Big Sky Conference Tournament win on March 10 in Reno, Nevada.

GO BEARS!

BLUE SKIES

IT'S BEEN A REACH-FOR-THE-SKY YEAR FOR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AT UNC. WITH A CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP AND BERTH INTO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT, THE BLUE AND GOLD WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND.

In October, the Bears were voted Big Sky preseason favorites by conference coaches and media, and the team didn't disappoint.

- They finished the 2017–18 season with a 15-3 conference record and 26 wins overall (a program best).
- They won their first outright Big Sky regular-season title with a 63-60 win over Portland State on Feb. 28.
- As the No. 1 seed in the Big Sky Conference Tournament in Reno, Nevada, they beat Montana and Idaho State before defeating the University of Idaho 91-69 for the Big Sky Tournament win and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.
- After the Big Sky Tournament win, Kianna Williams shared the team's emotions when she said, "It feels great today and we knew we were a good team, but we still knew we had something to prove coming into the tournament and didn't want to come up short."
- The team headed to Waco, Texas, March 16 as the No. 10 seed against No. 7 Michigan. In their first NCAA Tournament, the Bears fought to the end, with a 75-61 loss.
- Even with the loss, the Bears walked away from the Michigan game with a program best overall record of 26-7.

OTHER 2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ethridge was named the Big Sky Coach of the Year.
- Savannah Smith, a junior, earned the Big Sky's Most Valuable Player award along with her second straight All-Big Sky first team



Former women's basketball coach Kamie Ethridge cuts down the net after the Big Sky Conference Championship win. In mid-April, Ethridge accepted the head coaching position at Washington State University.

designation, and became part of the 1,000-points-scored club at UNC in January.

- Senior Kianna Williams was named All-Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year.
- Savannah Scott, a senior, was named to the All-Big Sky second team for the second straight year, earned Colorado Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District second team honors and joined the 1,000 points scored club in December.

Kyle Ward talks with a Boulder County Jail inmate before they record a children's book for the inmate's daughter as part of the "Reading for a Change" program.

KYLE WARD, PH.D.
Assistant Professor,
Criminology and Criminal Justice

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

UNC students participating in the program include:

- Graduate students: Amanda Gowan (Criminal Justice), Alexandra Murphy (Criminal Justice), Jamie Cline (Counseling; BA-Criminal Justice)
- Undergraduates: Madison Williams (senior, Criminal Justice), Nadia Rascon (junior, Anthropology)
- Alumni: Jordan Yoder (MA-Criminal Justice)

Reading for a Change

A UNC RESEARCHER SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND HOW INCARCERATION IMPACTS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INMATES AND THEIR CHILDREN WITH A PROGRAM THAT HELPS BUILD FAMILY BONDS

A program initiated by a UNC faculty researcher studying how incarceration affects parenting, helps build connections between inmates and their children at home.

Kyle Ward, assistant professor of Criminal Justice, and undergraduate and graduate students who volunteer for the “Reading for a Change” program, visit the Weld County jail weekly to record inmates reading children’s books. (He also runs the program at Boulder County Jail.)

Ward and the students burn the recordings to CDs and return them attached to the book to the jail for mailing to the inmates’ families, but not before administering a 15-minute survey that helps Ward and the students with their research.

Ward brought the program with him when he came to UNC as he studies how incarceration affects inmates’ parenting, their relationships with their children, and their families’ emotional and financial well-being.

“Overwhelmingly, inmates say they like the program and generally think it will positively affect the relationships with their children,” said Ward, who previously administered a similarly successful program for two years at a jail outside of Pittsburgh as he pursued his doctorate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

To be expected, Ward and his volunteers must follow strict protocol. The jail’s administrators dictate details such as which inmates can be involved (only low-level offenders who have jobs within the jail) and the dates and locations within the complex the interview will take place.

In addition, students must be approved by the jail for the visits. Only five can go into the complex at a time. Only one inmate can be recorded per session. And only one book may be recorded by the inmate each session.

“Security is their number-one priority,” Ward said. “We’re coming in as a visitor in



PHOTO BY HUNTER WILSON

A Boulder County Jail inmate reads a children’s book as part of a study by UNC assistant professor Kyle Ward, who is researching the effects of incarceration and family bonds.

their house, and they’ve been great to work with.”

Inmates are allowed to choose from a number of books provided to the jail through book drives and donations Ward and students organize.

Ward has built the program at UNC mostly through word-of-mouth. About two dozen recordings have been completed so far. This past fall, during a kickoff meeting to recruit students, those in attendance expressed an interest to give back and apply lessons from the classrooms. Ward assured them they’d gain that experience as he intends to turn over the bulk of the work to them. In addition to the site visits, they’re tasked with transcribing interviews, learning audio software to edit and finalize recordings, and serving as a runner to return completed packages back to the jail.

While program evaluation is ongoing and lowering an inmate’s tendency to reoffend isn’t a stated outcome of the project, Ward cites research that shows “a strong paternal role can offset a trajectory of crime.”

“The goal is to build bonds between parents and children, and as an added benefit, individuals may not want to re-offend,” Ward said.

—Nate Haas '04

Field Notes



HELP WITH UNC BIRDSONG RESEARCH

When North American ornithologists hear a bird singing, they're likely to assume it's a male. But in many species, the females sing too — and a new commentary co-authored by UNC's Lauryn Benedict argues that a better understanding of these unappreciated female songs could lead to advances in many aspects of bird biology.

Benedict and co-author Karan Odom of Cornell University urge their colleagues to spread the word that female birds sing, to share resources, and to disseminate their findings. You don't need to be a professional ornithologist in order to help expand knowledge of female song, either — Odom has created a website where any birdwatcher can upload their observations.

"If you observe a female bird singing, document it by uploading field notes, audio, or video to the collections on our website," Benedict says. "Make sure to indicate how you recognized the bird was female."



Visit Odom's website at femalebirdsong.org



FACULTY RESEARCHER EARNS FIFTH AWARD THROUGH FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Karen Barton, associate professor of Geography and GIS, will spend six weeks in Nepal next winter after being awarded a Fulbright Specialist grant to conduct a study of natural hazards.

Barton will work with the Institute for Crisis Management Studies in Kathmandu with Dr. Ram Thapaliya. Their study will involve natural hazards mapping and community resilience in the aftermath of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, which killed more than 9,000 people. Up to 10 UNC undergraduate and graduate students, co-chaperoned by UNC professor James Doerner, will join Barton for several weeks and will conduct interviews with area residents and map high-risk hazard sites.

This is the fifth time Barton — an expert on rural agricultural and fishing communities, and local responses to environmental change — has been selected for a Fulbright program award. She conducted separate seminars in Brazil (2007) and the Middle East (2010). In 2016, she was one of 16 faculty members in the nation selected to attend a five-week program on religion and diversity in West Africa, and last year she was selected as a visiting scholar at Dagon University in Burma.



UNC ONE OF TWO UNIVERSITIES SELECTED TO PARTNER ON NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

UNC has been selected as one of two partner universities in the Active Schools national collaborative to address physical inactivity and obesity among youth.

In addition, UNC Sport and Exercise Science (SES) faculty Russell Carson and Brian Dauenhauer have been appointed to positions on the nonprofit organization's leadership committees.

Through the UNC Active Schools Lab, community engagement efforts, student-centered research and school-based educational activities are already underway. Those interdisciplinary efforts include a grant exceeding \$700,000 from the Colorado Health Foundation for UNC SES faculty to contribute to building a statewide system that connects efforts to promote health and wellness for children starting in high-need schools in northern Colorado.

According to Active Schools, two out of three children don't meet the national guideline of 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Active Schools serves as a clearinghouse to help schools access best practices, programs and resources to increase opportunities for physical activity among students.



UNC FACULTY AUTHOR WRITES BOOK ON EMBRACING CULTURE SHOCK TO BRIDGE DIVIDES

Contemplative anthropologist and mindfulness teacher Michael J. Kimball, professor of Anthropology, has a new book for people who want to bridge cultural divides. It's called *Ethnowise: Embracing Culture Shock to Build Resilience, Responsiveness & Connection*.

Drawing on the latest findings in anthropology, neuroscience and mindfulness studies, *Ethnowise* helps readers learn to disrupt habitual reactions to the unfamiliar, grow resilience to cultural discomfort, and transform culture shock into connection.



SUBSCRIBE TO THE PODCAST

UNC researchers weigh in on a number of relevant topics on UNC's *Bear in Mind* podcast. Don't miss another episode.



Follow along at unco.edu/bear-in-mind



Impact

Leadership in Education

THE TOINTON INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE AT UNC IMPACTS CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

AS AN EDUCATOR WITH 33 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, Terry Deniston has participated in her share of professional development opportunities so she knows a good one when she sees it.

“The Tointon Institute (for Educational Change) has been one of the most inspiring and impactful experiences in my career,” says the teacher leader, who attended a residential academy through the institute.

Deniston is one of nearly 4,000 educators across Colorado who has been involved with UNC’s Tointon Institute since its founding 23 years ago. During that time, the institute has provided what’s considered by many educators to be the state’s premiere professional development and leadership programming for Colorado educators.

At the heart of the institute are three-day residential academies that emphasize instructional leadership to improve student learning. Participants work with practicing educators and professional learning experts.

“Our academies focus on what it means to be a leader,” said director Janet Alcorn, Ed.D., who has served as the institute’s director for 17 years. “They are about understanding people and relationships, and how leaders guide others to common goals. We’re unique in our emphasis on the individual as a leader, which resonates with school leaders who don’t always have time to think about who they are as a leader.”

Academies are followed up with individualized mentoring for participants in the years following their attendance.

“What we know from those who attend is that Tointon Academies are rejuvenating experiences that keep people in

the profession,” Alcorn said. “They get excited again, and they build networks. That kind of connection is unusual and provides support for people in rural areas as well as in larger districts.”

The Tointon Institute has worked with more than 1,200 principals in Colorado and 320 school teams with more than 2,440 teacher leaders, creating positive change for Colorado education. In June, 40 additional principals and more than 200 teacher leaders will attend academies.

“The Tointon Institute’s Principal Leadership Academy is by far the most transformational leadership training I have ever been to. Period,” says Josh Miller, principal of Cherokee Trail Elementary School in Douglas County.

And it’s a transformation that has a ripple effect that impacts teachers and students.

“If you touch one principal, you can touch 40 staff members and 600 kids in a school. Sometimes many more,” Alcorn says. “Each one of these educators has an impact on those with whom he/she works, how they collaborate, how they learn, and that’s the power; it’s huge.”

The Tointon Institute was created through a gift to UNC from Bob and Betty Tointon of Greeley. Well-known at UNC and throughout Northern Colorado, Bob is a past chairman of the UNC Board of Trustees and the recipient of an honorary doctorate from UNC. The couple’s continued philanthropy and involvement helps fund the program and drastically reduces the cost for participants to attend.

“We could not offer this level of professional development or this type of residential learning experience without it,” Alcorn says.



A STEADY HAND FOR 16 YEARS

By Gloria Reynolds

RETIRING UNC PRESIDENT KAY NORTON PRESIDED WITH CALM — AND ADAPTED ALONG THE WAY — DURING A TUMULTUOUS TIME IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY.

One of UNC's longest serving presidents, Kay Norton has announced her retirement as of June 30. Here, a look back at the challenges and changes over her 16 years at the helm.

Kay Norton's first day as UNC president was a Tuesday without fanfare. The morning of July 2, 2002, was clear and sunny, and the breeze picked up in the afternoon as the thermometer headed for 96. Otherwise, things were pretty bleak.

The smell of smoke from Colorado's largest-ever wildfire 80 miles southwest of town lingered on campus. The Colorado Legislature had just asked UNC to return \$7.8 million of its annual appropriation to help balance the state budget. Across the nation, investors reeled from corporate scandal of historic proportion, including the collapse of Enron and WorldCom. The stock market was soon to hit a four-year low.

Press reports of Norton's first day focused on the fact that UNC's 12th president was the first woman to hold the job. But many faculty, students and staff were still fixated on the contentious, months-long search that named her as the sole finalist for the position. Norton had little interest in either conversation.

Neither was she interested in having a traditional inauguration. Nor would she give the customary State of the University Address that fall, asserting that it was impossible to assess the state of the university just a few weeks into the job. She just wanted to get to work.

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

No one envisioned in 2002 that Norton would be UNC president for 16 years. At the time, the average tenure of university presidents had fallen under seven years, and that statistic wasn't the only thing working against Norton. UNC was heading into one of the most tumultuous periods in the recent history of higher education. "Quite a lot of Kay's presidency has been concerned with trying to respond to larger matters beyond any of our control," says Emeritus Professor of Philosophy Jack Temkin, who was chair of UNC's Faculty Senate when Norton took office and on the senate for most of her tenure.

In 2002, competition for students was already growing keener as the number of high school graduates leveled off yet colleges and universities continued to proliferate. At UNC, as across the nation, student bodies were becoming increasingly diverse not only in demographics, but also in academic preparation, interests, needs and ability to pay for college. At the same time, the first of two economic crises within a decade was limiting state funding for universities, with Colorado outpacing almost every state in cutting back.

Colorado ranked 47 in higher education funding in 2002 and has ranked 48 for most of Norton's tenure. Even now, UNC has not reached the \$44.8-million mark of its initial appropriation the year she became president and had to return \$7.8 million. Over the past 16 years, UNC's state funding graphs like a roller coaster, ending 2018 just \$2.6 million higher than 2002 ended.

None of this was a surprise to Norton. She relished the challenge.

UNIVERSITY OF HARD KNOCKS

Eager to get to work, Norton launched a planning process that dogs her to this day. Even when there are accolades, that process — *Charting the Future* — is often mentioned as a somber prelude.

"In the beginning, there was chaos; it started horribly with the plan for the future," says Emeritus Professor of Astronomy Richard Dietz, who chaired the Faculty Senate during the planning. Since arriving on campus in 1969, Dietz has seen six presidents, three interim presidents and well over a third of UNC's history. He considers those *Charting the Future* years one of the two most tumultuous times in 49 years. But he goes on to say: "Probably more than any other president I've known, Kay learned from her mistakes. I think she was one of the better presidents during my time here, and I'm sorry to see her go."



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—Richard Dietz, Emeritus Professor of Astronomy

Charting the Future asked faculty and staff to respond to UNC's financial challenges by rethinking the way they'd always done things. It was the quintessential culture clash. Though Norton spent four years as UNC's vice president of university affairs, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees before she was president, she'd spent most of her career as an attorney at ConAgra Red Meat Companies. The pace and style of executive leadership at the meat packing company bore no resemblance to expectations at UNC. "She came in too much wanting this to be a business," says current Faculty Senate Chair and Professor of Special Education Francie Murry. "She had a vision, but she didn't understand the role of faculty."

"That first year was a nightmare," says Norton. The more people questioned her, the harder she tried to explain; and the harder she tried to explain, the less people thought she was willing to listen. "I completely failed to account for the human factor," she says. "Tremendous time and energy and angst were spent on the wrong things. The big lesson for me was that everyone doesn't think like me. And that you have to build trust — have to earn it."

While *Charting the Future* is the most remembered, it wasn't Norton's only learning opportunity. Over time, it seemed she even began finding some perverse pleasure in reminding people of failed attempts that led to success. In 2012, when campus coalesced around a compensation plan after two years of work, Norton attributed its success to lessons learned from the 2004



Commission on Compensation that went nowhere, and another attempt in 2007. When she pushed legislators for \$38 million for the Campus Commons in 2014, she emphasized UNC's repeated attempts to plan and fund a student-focused building at the heart of campus, telling them: "We've finally got it right." Norton describes the Campus Community and Climate division she created in 2016 as "culmination of a decade-long search for how we address community."

Despite being the longest-tenured university president in Colorado, Norton says she's still learning on the job. "I don't think it diminishes a person one bit to discover they were wrong," she says. "We learn from our mistakes; that's what we're all about."

DESPITE THE ODDS

Encountering challenges, Norton refused to be a victim or to let UNC play the role of victim. On the tenth anniversary of her presidency, Professor of Theatre Arts and then Faculty Senate Chair Mary Schuttler noted that the traditional gift for such an occasion — something made of tin or aluminum — was fitting. "Both symbolize flexibility and durability," she said. "They also symbolize the ability to bend without breaking, which is certainly reflective of Kay Norton's current term in office."

Norton persistently reminded campus that it was necessary but not sufficient to adapt to less state funding; UNC also had to adapt to changing students. She embraced the changing

"When you spend 16 years at a place, it means something. She stayed. Kay is smart, she's a lawyer, and I'm sure she had many opportunities along the way — and this became her passion."

—Dick Monfort, chairman, UNC Board of Trustees

landscape as an opportunity for UNC to be master of its own fate. But the magnitude of change put Norton in a "vortex of a million things going on at once," says Murry, who is now chairing Faculty Senate for the third time during Norton's tenure. Scarcity of resources made it especially hard to foster collaboration, Murry says. "Kay had this vision of working across colleges, and as soon as the pie got smaller, everyone said this is mine, mine, mine."

Despite the odds, since 2002 UNC has increased the number of degrees and certificates it offers students by more than 30 percent and expanded its extended campus more than 300 percent. As the university increased tuition, it also increased its annual investment in financial aid from \$4 million to over \$40 million, primarily in need-based aid. UNC twice earned reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, moved from NCAA Division II to Division I and joined the Big Sky Conference. Despite the virtual disappearance of state capital funding, UNC also built two major residence halls, a new dining facility and the Campus Commons. In Fall 2017, UNC

reached its highest enrollment in a decade and welcomed almost twice as many students of color as 15 years earlier.

"I think we've been very persistent in our journey to continue to grow and get better and create a campus where people are proud to say, 'I'm a UNC graduate,'" says Dick Monfort, who has chaired UNC's Board of Trustees since 1999. "The fact that we grew the university in stature during a time of almost no new state funding is an accomplishment—an accomplishment for the entire university," he says.

Norton has "put UNC on the map" and given it a presence among Colorado's major universities, says Monfort. "She took a sleepy little school and made it a first-class university" by building strong academic programs, improving faculty salaries, making campus look more collegiate, and getting UNC into the Big Sky Conference, he says. Before Norton, people thought of UNC as a small regional college like Colorado Mesa or Adams State, but "now people are making decisions about going to UNC or CSU, or going to CU or UNC," he says. "We compete with major universities."

Monfort calls Norton a forward thinker on the look of campus, saying: "We took a ragtag set of buildings and tied them together and created the campus look and feel of a major university." The new Campus Commons is part of that look, he says, but what's more important is its student focus. "That it is totally student centered—that it's about how to make life easier on students—I think that will be a legacy of hers," he says.

According to Temkin, an important part of Norton's legacy will also be things unseen. "Kay has had a key role in preventing some things that would have been very bad," he says. For example, she didn't try to balance the budget by cutting faculty positions or academic programs, he says, "even though that would have been the first step for most presidents."

STRONG, SILENT TYPE

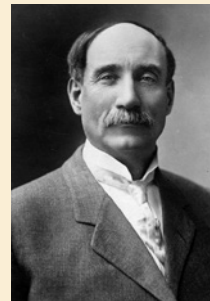
Norton pointedly avoids talking about legacy. A student of literature and a voracious newsreader, she knows that events are often reinterpreted over time. She scoffs at the notion of attempting to shape what people may someday think of her. "It's not about I did this or that. A lot of times, those things are illusory," she says. "I'm proud of what I've done, but I'm not expecting some great legacy."

There's broad agreement that Norton kept a lower profile than most presidents; whether that helped or hampered her work is a matter of debate. "I think she can't win on that one," says Temkin. Some people think presidents should be out and about on campus, and others think they should "do the things that only presidents can do," he says. Either approach is an easy target for those who want to criticize. "There's an expression that's become common ... haters gonna hate," he says. "Nothing you can do about it. I think that's what goes on a lot—not just with Kay, but with people in high positions."

Part of being president is not taking things personally, says Norton. "You have to understand that you're likely to be misunderstood. In a public position, people are going to ascribe motives to you that aren't true," she says. "I wasn't seeking popularity," she notes. "I've never put a lot of effort into that. It's really wrong to use that kind of lens when you're talking about being the leader of a university."

Not worrying about popularity makes it easier to have hard conversations, says Murry, who's had plenty of them with Norton. "She didn't need me to think she was marvelous," she says. "That's what I like about her: She didn't need me to like her." Because of that, they had

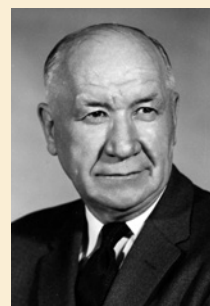
UNC'S LONGEST-SERVING PRESIDENTS



Zachariah Snyder
1891–1915



George Frasier
1924–1948



William Ross
1948–1964



Kay Norton
2002–2018

DURING KAY NORTON'S PRESIDENCY

- There were three presidents of the United States and three governors of Colorado.
- The Colorado Commission on Higher Education had 10 executive directors.
- Norton attended 78 commencement ceremonies.
- More than 40,000 students graduated (there are 149,436 alumni to date).
- UNC collectively gained \$20.2 million in state funding and lost \$25.4 million, ending up at \$39.6 million in 2018.
- The percentage of women university presidents went from 21 percent to 30 percent.
- The editor of UNC's student newspaper, *The Mirror*, worked his way up to the editor of the *Greeley Tribune*.



incredibly frank conversations, says Murry. “There was never anything I couldn’t say to her.”

Norton’s approach is the antithesis of building a cult of personality. “People come and go,” she says. “It happens with students every year. It’s why the university is an organic thing and why it continues. Leaders are important, but it’s about community, not individual leaders.” Almost 16 years after starting the job, she still just wants to do the substantive work. “What matters to me is making sure that UNC can continue to provide generations of future students the opportunity to fulfill their potential,” she says. “Leadership is about doing a lot of hard things, and not measuring whether you’re succeeding by whether your poll numbers are up.”

Keeping score gets leaders in trouble, says Norton, who hates the idea of winners and losers. She much prefers the do-over, and early lessons of *Charting the Future* taught her to let go gracefully when things don’t work. Temkin notes: “I have some difficulty letting go of things that are very important to me, and I have learned from Kay that doing that gracefully can get you even more than you wanted.”

Monfort, too, appreciates Norton’s grace under fire, calling her “a calming force” at UNC. “I think I’ve always had a sense of frustration with the pace of higher education — but rather than be a bull in a china shop, I’ve learned you have to be patient,” he says. “Kay taught me that: a little tug here and a little tug there, and you gradually get things done.”

QUIET PASSION

Norton’s persistence and resilience are widely recognized, but her passion for UNC surprises some.

“When you spend 16 years at a place, it means something,” says Monfort. “She stayed. Kay is smart, she’s a lawyer, and I’m sure she had many opportunities along the way — and this became her passion.”

That passion, says Temkin, is selfless. “She doesn’t put herself before this university. That is the most important thing about her,” he says. Norton’s love for UNC developed over time, he says, as she got to know the university and identify with the students it serves. Recalling a meeting in her office about midway through her presidency, he says: “As I was getting up, she said, with tears in her eyes, ‘You love this place too.’” He’d sensed a growing connection, but “that’s when I was really sure” that Norton had fallen in love with UNC, he says.

Nowhere was Norton’s growing love for UNC more apparent than at commencement. Early in her tenure, she seemed to consider it a chore, a two-day commitment with lots of fanfare and little meaning. But that soon changed, as the students and families she met inspired her, and she began repeating their stories to anyone who would listen. Last September, as she looked ahead to her final year as president, talking about commencement was the thing that choked her up every time.

“The students who walk across that stage at graduation — *they* are the most important reason you want to work here,” says Norton. “What happens at UNC is so much greater than all of us. Students come here seeking the transformative power of education, and whoever you are, wherever you come from, you’ve got a shot at UNC. I truly believe this is a place where the American Dream still lives.” **UNC**

—Gloria Reynolds, a onetime journalist, has served as Norton’s chief of staff since 2008.

➤ UNC milestones from 2002-2018 at unco.edu/uncmagazine

WHAT’S ON CAMPUS TODAY THAT YOU WOULDN’T HAVE SEEN IN 2002?



Campus Commons



North Hall and South Hall Residences



Holmes Dining Hall



UNC Recycling Truck



Gender and Sexuality Resource Center



UNC iPhone app and new logo


LOOKING



Samad Hinds kept his focus on his education and graduates this spring with a master's in Sport and Exercise Science.

"A lot of people said I wouldn't make it. I had coaches and teammates telling me I wasn't good enough to go to college, and I had people give up on me."

—Samad Hinds



By Debbie Pitner Moors

FORWARD

Football provided a path to college and an escape from the violence of his hometown. When adversity threatened to derail him, Samad Hinds summoned determination and resiliency and found a support network to keep his goal in sight.

As he closes in on a master's degree in Sport and Exercise Science, Samad Hinds looks forward to a future he may not have envisioned when he was growing up in Opa-Locka, Florida.

"I was in an environment where I got to fight to survive every day," Samad says of his hometown. "You don't go looking for violence. Violence is always going to find you."

Opa-Locka, about 15 miles north of Miami, is a city of about 16,000 that makes headlines for corruption and gun violence. In 2004, the FBI reported that Opa-Locka had the highest rate of violent crime of any city in the country. In 2016, the city's violent crime rate was higher than the national violent crime rate by almost 460 percent. Less than nine percent of the population has a four-year degree.

It's an area where the fight to get out is fueled by both hope and desperation. And that struggle for a better life may be, in part, why south Florida is known for high school football. In 2016, Florida high schools could lay claim to nearly 240 active NFL players. There, parents, players and coaches know that football is not just a game—it's a lifeline.

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Samad grew up playing basketball. His junior year at Miami-Dade County's Monsignor Edward Pace High School, though, he and his teammate Damien Parms (who now plays for the Carolina Panthers) decided to also go out for football.

Samad finished his first year in the sport being named to the All-County Team. Then he transferred to Miami Central High School—a football powerhouse that has produced NFL players such as Willis McGahee, Najeh Davenport and Devonta Freeman.

Like some of the athletes who walked Central's halls before him, Samad was determined to leave Miami behind, and he hoped football would give him that opportunity.

As he started his senior year at Central, it seemed it would.

Samad helped the Central High School Rockets win the district title that year. At 6-foot-5, and listed as the 34th best tight end in the nation, he began to garner interest from a number of schools.

He committed to the University of Minnesota. Life was headed in the right direction.

Then Samad received news that shifted his future from promising to uncertain: His ACT score was below the cutoff for NCAA qualification. Minnesota withdrew, and the chatter of college interest stilled to silence.

In a new high school where he only knew a few students, he struggled.

"My senior year of high school was one of my toughest years," he remembers. "A lot of people said I wouldn't make it. I had coaches and teammates telling me I wasn't good enough to go to college, and I had people give up on me."

But adversity is a great motivator.

"Coming from where I came from, my environment motivated me," he says. "And so did my family."

The second oldest of seven, Samad and his siblings were adopted by his aunt, April Hinds, who raised them on her own.

"My aunt always fought for us," Samad says. "She didn't want to see us get split up."

April would tell him, "You deserve a good life." To get there, Samad knew of two options: attend junior college for a year and then transfer, or take a year off to study and bring his ACT score into the qualifying range. He chose the latter.

"Samad is one of the most kind, caring young men you ever want to meet. You knew he was trying to make a difference in the world."

—Coach Earnest Collins

Throughout his last semester at Central and after high school graduation, life seemed to follow a line from home to the library to Miami-Dade Track Park. Every day, Samad carried his football gear, which included an agility ladder—a rope-and-rung tool spread along the ground that Samad used for footwork and mobility drills.

One afternoon on his trek home, a man named Darrell Streeter called out to him.

"I had a bag on with a ladder hanging out," Samad says. "He said, 'Man, I see you every day. What are you up to?'"

Samad answered that he'd played football at Miami Central and had interest from some colleges. Streeter said he was going to look up Samad's stats. Samad went on his way, not knowing that Streeter ran Footballville Nation, an organization in Miami-Dade that works to provide role models and empower student-athletes for success.

The next day, Streeter saw him again, and this time he gave Samad something invaluable: a name. He told him to talk to Faheem Ali.

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Nearly 20 years earlier, Faheem Ali's story had followed a path similar to Samad's. He showed promise as a football player in south Florida, but his test scores kept him from qualifying. He went to junior college, then played for Eastern Michigan University before transferring to Louisiana Tech. He returned to Miami and, not wanting other student-athletes to go through what he went through, founded Complete Athletes, an organization that works with kids in all sports to hit performance goals and prepare for college entrance exams.

"What I teach my student-athletes is, use this football as a vessel," he says. "If it's going to take you to the other side so you can use your degree, that's what you do. But you have to get the degree."

Ali connected with Samad.

"At this time, everybody had given up on Samad," Ali recalls. "I think Samad had almost given up on Samad. But God has this deal to where as soon as you think you're going to break, it opens up for you. I think I was that person to give him that second breath of fresh air."

Ali's parents own an elementary school, and Samad helped with sport camps and the young athletes in Ali's program. It gave Samad a place to gain focus.



PHOTO BY ROB TRUBIA

“Faheem, he was a blessing for me,” Samad says. “He bought me food, brought me to his house. He helped me, put me in ACT classes, trained me and kept paying for the tests.”

And late in 2012, Samad’s path took a turn north and west.

UNC assistant football coach Michael Armour, an Eastern Michigan University grad, knew Ali.

“I got a call from Faheem who basically told me about Samad, and that he was one point short on his ACT,” Armour says. “Coach (Earnest) Collins and I evaluated his films and decided if he got the score, we’d bring him (to UNC) in January.”

Samad got his passing score and signed a letter of intent Feb. 2, 2013, with UNC. Collins and Armour had offered a full ride and visited Samad and his aunt in Opa-Locka.

“When I signed, I was just so happy,” Samad says. “I couldn’t believe it. It was one of the best feelings in the world.”

Within weeks, Samad had flown to Colorado and visited campus.


His first impression?

“I loved it because I’d never seen anything like it,” he says.

Above: At Senior Day last November, Samad is with Coach Collins (center) and Aleshia Armour (married to Coach Armour). Aleshia makes the occasional meal for players and spoke highly of UNC athlete Brianna Pardner to Samad. Her high regard for Pardner wasn’t lost on Samad; the pair (below) has been together for two years now.



PHOTO COURTESY SAMAD HINDS



Samad divided his time at UNC among study hall at Butler-Hancock, football practice and classes.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

“I just felt so much opportunity that I knew I was going to make something of my life once I came up here.”

Collins could see that. “Samad is one of the most kind, caring young men you ever want to meet,” he says. “You knew he was trying to make a difference in the world.”

That June, Samad packed up his belongings, and Ali came by to give him a ride to the airport.

April remembers that day well.

“When he left, he told me, ‘Thank you,’” she says. “I said, ‘You’re welcome. Don’t forget to read your Bible.’”

And with that, he was on his way.

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Leaving family was the toughest part of the transition for Samad. He called and FaceTimed them daily—no small feat when he left his dorm room at 6 a.m. and didn’t return home until 10 p.m. after a full day of studying and football practice.

“I was sad about not seeing my little brother, Jawon, because he’s autistic and he doesn’t really understand,” Samad says. “I used to hug him every day when I’d leave for school and hug him before I’d go to football practice.”

His aunt missed Samad, too, but she didn’t encourage him to come home.

“She knew how dangerous it was,” he says. “She said that if she doesn’t see me she knows I’m doing good.”

The last time Samad went home, violence in Opa-Locka hit home. It was Christmas Eve 2016, and after visiting with his brother Chevy, Samad headed over to Ali’s house. Chevy had invited him to go out with friends, but Samad decided not to go. At 3 a.m., Samad’s sister called to tell him Chevy was at the hospital. He’d been shot.

“He walked into a situation he didn’t know he was going to be in,” Samad says. “My aunt was crying because she worked so hard for us to stay out of that type of situation.”

Chevy recovered and returned to college, but it was a reminder of what Samad was leaving behind, and it continued to motivate him.

“When I first came here, I was scared, because where I’m from people don’t go to school, and the people that do go to school end up dropping out and going back into that same environment,” Samad says. “I didn’t want to be that person.”

Required to attend 10 hours of study hall each week, Samad

"Samad was determined to make something of himself, and that's the thing I'm most proud of with him. He decided he wasn't going to be a statistic."

—Coach Earnest Collins

put in 13. He divided his time between Michener Library and Butler-Hancock.

"Samad was determined to make something of himself, and that's the thing I'm most proud of with him," Collins says. "He decided he wasn't going to be a statistic."

Brian Smith, J.D., a lecturer in UNC's Criminal Justice program, remembers taking notice during the first class Samad took with him. It was Samad's sophomore year, and he'd just taken his first exam in Smith's Judicial Process class. It's a long, detailed, challenging exam.

"Samad did pretty well on that first exam," Smith says. "And when someone does well on the first exam for me, it means they have a real aptitude. And it indicated to me that he spent a significant amount of time studying."

Samad worked closely with Associate Director for Academic Success, Jimmy Henderson; checked in with his professors weekly; talked with them about his career path; spent time in study hall and continued to thrive. Smith says Samad mentored teammates and encouraged them to do well academically, but added that Samad doesn't always see his own role in his success.

"He deserves an awful lot of credit," Smith says.

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When Samad wasn't studying, he was working out or at practice. Playing for the Bears in 2014, he caught five passes for 73 yards. The next year, he played in 10 games and caught six passes for 85 yards. Then, a couple of injuries sidelined him.

"He was really disappointed and had a freak injury during preseason for his senior year," Armour says. "But we told him we're not concerned with that. We're more concerned with him graduating and getting a four-year degree."

Collins says academic goals have led to the most recent team GPA of 2.97 (the highest it's been since the Bears joined Division I), and says that he and the rest of his coaching staff encourage players to think about earning their master's while they have the opportunity.

"The thing that surprised me most was how much Coach Collins cared about me as a person," Samad says. "He told us football is going to be over, you need to get your education and use your resources while you're here. He just wants us to be on the right path and do the right thing. And be what you're supposed to be."



Samad's aunt, April Hinds, was in Greeley when he received his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

After three-and-a-half years at UNC, Samad earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a 3.1 GPA. April was there to see him receive his diploma.

"He makes me so proud," his aunt says. "He inspires me and his brothers and sisters."

Ali points out that since Samad left Opa-Locka, his brother and sisters have followed him along the path to education, earning athletic scholarships as well.

"Samad opened up the door for them," he says. "He gave them hope."

Collins agrees. "He has changed the legacy of his family. He's an example of what you can accomplish when you just put your mind to it."

This spring, April and Ali will both be there to watch Samad graduate with his master's. He's still thinking about what he wants to do with his education, but his plans may include earning a doctorate in Criminal Justice. He also plans to stay in Colorado where his girlfriend, UNC alumna and track-and-field athlete Brianna Pardner, is going to nursing school.

"Some people where I'm from don't even make it to see 18," he says. "No one expected me to be this far. My 16-year-old self would be amazed, and I would be happy because I would be able to see myself and say, 'Man, look at me. I can do it. I can make it far.'" **UNC**

SHOW TIME

By Briana Harris
Photography by Michael Noble Jr.



The Class of 2018 wraps their University of Northern Colorado showcase dress rehearsal on March 12, 2018, at The Theater Center in New York.

UNC MUSICAL THEATRE STUDENTS SPENT SPRING BREAK IN NEW YORK CITY PERFORMING AND GAINING THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE — AND GETTING A GLIMPSE OF THE LIFE THEY'VE BEEN WORKING TOWARD FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

While waiting this spring to perform on a New York City stage, UNC's Musical Theatre seniors couldn't help but feel like they'd reached a turning point. "I was definitely nervous," says Brianna Faulk. "As much as our teachers try to tell us this isn't the end-all be-all, it's our senior showcase, and we perform in front of agents." Fellow senior Rose Van Dyne agrees. "It's hard not to put all your eggs in one basket."





Theresa Kellar is wished good luck by alumnus Jason Veasey '04 before she performs in the showcase.



Michael Allyn takes a moment before his performance.

UNC's School of Theatre Arts and Dance has organized an annual Senior Showcase spring trip to New York City for its senior class since 2002. It began as a way to jumpstart the professional careers of the school's performance program graduates. The trip includes a showcase performance for theatrical agents, casting directors and professional contacts. The model has proven to be an effective launch pad: 27 alumni from the school have appeared in 57-plus Broadway productions.

Many of the school's Musical Theatre majors hope to move to New York following graduation; for some, the showcase marks their first taste of what life as a professional actor might look like after UNC.

To prepare, students spend about seven months making song selections—material totaling around five minutes in performance. During the yearlong senior showcase class, the 18 students enrolled perform new material for the class every few weeks, then get feedback from professors and guest artists to find and perfect the best material for New York. This year's guest artists visiting campus included Broadway director Jeff Whiting; Broadway actor and feature film director and producer Aaron Galligan-Stierle; and casting director Rachel Hoffman of the award-winning Telsey and Company.

After feedback from Hoffman, senior Jill Engstrom ended up changing her solo song selection. "I only had a few weeks with the song that I chose," she says, which added an extra level of pressure.

Students traveled to New York City during the first weekend of UNC's spring break. On March 12, it was showtime. They arrived at the Jerry Orbach Theater just off-Broadway on West 50th Street.

"The vibe before we left for the trip was really tense and nervous," says Engstrom, "but once we got there, we were really excited."

Students warmed up and engaged in pre-show group rituals and acts of support. Since most of these students have taken classes together their entire time at UNC, showcase day is an emotional moment.



The Richard Rodgers Theatre, where Broadway hit *Hamilton* is showing.



Student Rose Van Dyne
on the Brooklyn Bridge.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSE VAN DYNE



Students talk with alumni after their showcase performances to ask questions about being a professional actor in New York City.

“That’s family — you’ve been with these people for four years,” Faulk says.

Many students received multiple inquiries and callbacks from agents, and some took other auditions for shows while they were in town.

They also had the opportunity to experience Broadway stars and trends in person. “Seeing shows is almost like studying for us,” says Engstrom, who saw six productions while in the city.

“I was so amazed and excited about the diversity I saw on stage. Not only were there people of every race, but also size,” says Kellar, adding that it was exciting to see the opportunities that will be available for everyone.

For Faulk, the trip confirmed her goal of moving to New York to become a professional actor. “I’m from a small town, so going to New York was a huge deal for me,” says Faulk. “Sure enough, I fell so in love. I’m ready for the city life.”

For many students, following the performance process from start to finish allows them to picture themselves taking their next professional steps.

“It confirmed that this is what I want to do for the rest of my life,” says Faulk, after seeing the revival production of *Once On This Island*. “Seeing that I could be up there doing the exact same things they are doing gave me hope.” **UNC**



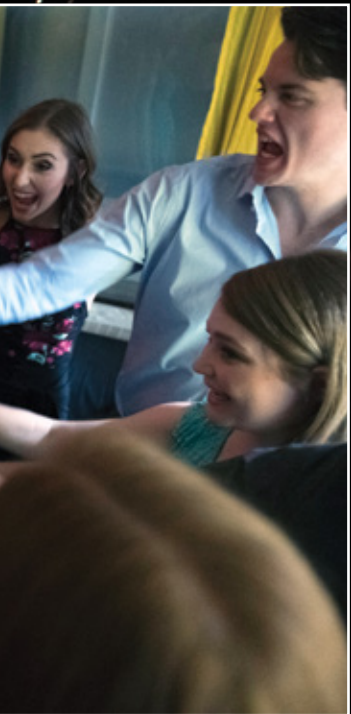
The 2018 class huddles together before their performances.



Brianna Faulk, foreground, takes the stage with classmates before their performances.



Rose Van Dyne plays piano before the beginning of the showcase.



Cody Mowry, Savannah Minnery and Graeme Schulz perform during the showcase.



**DAVID L. WOOD AND
CAROL B. WOOD,
HONORARY**

(The Griffin Foundation)

"UNC's history is in educating teachers, but as time passed and the university began to grow under very capable leadership, suddenly we had schools of nursing, business, music theater and dance that were exceptional. We thought UNC deserved to continue to prosper in those areas of expansion. We're glad to play a small part in that."

MONIKA VISCHER '89

(Program Director, Colorado Public Radio)

"What moves us along in life is when we have a special bond with a mentor; somebody who believes in you, who has credibility and who sees something in you. Somebody who tells you that you can do it. I just needed a handful of people in college to do that, and I had that at UNC."

PATRICIA ESCOBAR '07, '11

(Director, UNC César Chávez Cultural Center)

"My education has been very important in allowing me to understand the path that students have to go through. Students need connection. They need a place to belong. They need a place that believes in them. More than anything I want students to know that UNC cares that they're Latinx, that they're here, and that we want them to be successful."

Front L-R: Monika Vischer, Patricia Escobar,
Judge Paula F. Sherlock

Back L-R: Carol and David Wood, Tony Tolbert,
Erma Archibeque (C.J.'s wife who accepted the
award on his behalf)

HONORED ALUMNI

Induction Ceremony

The recipients (and a nominator) of this year's Honored Alumni class share reflections on the UNC experience.

TONY TOLBERT '97, '08
(Science Teacher, Monarch High School in Louisville, Colorado)

"The community is open and welcoming. It reshaped me and opened my vision of what a community can be. Now, when I'm down in Denver, I understand what a community can be and those are the things I'm pushing toward — all the things I was learning while I was here. It was a part of the fabric of the school."

JUDGE PAULA F. SHERLOCK '71
(Jefferson Family Court in Louisville, Kentucky)

"I made a really good foundation here, and I was able to build on that in a number of different ways. At UNC I had some extremely good professors and some great experiences. I found a generous and giving community here, and my husband and I have been able to build on this foundation our whole lives."

CJ ARCHIBEQUE '93, '02
(Longtime Youth Advocate)

Awarded in-memoriam. Remembered by UNC professor Francie Murry, who nominated him:



"CJ is in my mind a consummate UNC graduate. He always talked about UNC being the place to go. He was proud of his degrees, proud of what he accomplished while he was in school, and proud of what he did with his degrees that was different. I think CJ's legacy is that there's always a way around something. There's always a way to promote other people. To get them in a position to be able to do what they want to do."

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/uncmagazine

 **Follow along on Twitter @UNCBearsAlumni**
to read more alumni news and notes

50s

Arthur L. White BS '57, Worthington, Ohio, retired after 44 years of service with the Ohio State University in Columbus. White is planning an international consortium for research in science and mathematics education in Costa Rica.

60s

Patricia "Patti" Boles AB '61, Colorado Springs, was honored in October 2017 by the Pikes Peak Arts Council with the Lifetime Achievement Award for more than 40 years contributing to the arts and dance programs in the Pikes Peak Region. Boles was honored in November 2016 by the Carson, Brierly, Griffin Dance Library at the University of Denver as a Legend of Dance in Colorado.

Richard Ballou BA '66, Bremerton, Wash., taught for 40 years in California, Arizona and Washington and coached track and cross country. Ballou trained two High School All American athletes, two NCAA Champions and one Olympian.

Michael "Mike" Peters BA '68, Greeley, has written *The Cornfield*, a true story about the 1977 case of UNC graduate Mary Pierce, who was working temporarily at a 7-Eleven store in Greeley when she was kidnapped and murdered. The book is about that investigation, the presence of a psychic in the case and the trial.

70s

Brent Weigner BA '72, Cheyenne, Wyo., recently set the world record for running the most marathons in the most countries. When Weigner set the record, he had run marathons in 134 countries and on all seven continents. Since then, his total has risen to marathons in 152 countries. This summer, Weigner will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his first marathon.

Severin L. Blenkush MA '75, Bowerville, Minn., has been a Lions Club member for more than 20 years and served six as secretary. In June 2017, Blenkush received the Melvin Jones Fellow award for dedicated humanitarian service.

H. Don McCormick MA '75, Levelland, Texas, was given the William Truax Founder's Award, the highest award given by the Texas Counseling Association. The award was presented to McCormick to recognize his significant contributions to the counseling profession over his career.

Clementine (Washington) Pigford MA '76, Centennial, is a historian for Denver's Zion Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in the Rocky Mountain Region. Pigford has written a number of articles and self-published books about Colorado African Americans who have made significant contributions to the world. She is the founder and CEO of Imagine Scribe Service Corporation, whose mission is to address the dearth of information about African Americans in the West. Pigford is a retired Denver Public Schools educator and a current educator with the Colorado Department of Corrections. Her books can be found in various libraries including the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, Central Denver Public Library, the History of Colorado Library and the Library of Congress.

Mary Ernster-Andrews BA '78, Northbrook, Ill., is appearing in the Broadway production of *War Paint*.

Fore Leads UNICEF

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed UNC alumna **Henrietta Fore** MA '75, as UNICEF's seventh executive director. Fore, an accomplished international affairs leader, previously served as the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and as Director of United States Foreign Assistance in the U.S. State Department. "I am honored to be joining such a remarkable organization, which I have known and admired for many years, and look forward to continuing UNICEF's work to help save children's lives, fight for their rights and help them realize their potential," said Fore in the official UNICEF release.

Honored for Making Colorado Healthier

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper proclaimed December 15, 2017 as Pete Bialick Day, in honor of alumnus **Peter Bialick** MA '77, BA '75, founder of the Group to Alleviate Smoking Pollution (GASP). Bialick founded GASP in 1977 to reduce Coloradans' exposure to secondhand smoke. Hickenlooper stated that Bialick's "relentless focus and hard work over 40 years have been instrumental in championing sweeping clean indoor air policies that have dramatically reduced exposure to secondhand smoke and associated health risks throughout Colorado."

Mark (MS '78) and **Kay** (MA '79) **Richards**, Scottsdale, Ariz., have both retired.

80s

Mark Agnes BA '80, New York, N.Y., is working on the Broadway production of *War Paint*. He also worked wardrobe on *The Greatest Showman*.

Arlen Hofer MME '81, Canton, S.D., was inducted into the South Dakota Bandmasters Hall of Fame at the All-State Band concert in Sioux Falls on March 25, 2017. Hofer retired in 2014 after 40 years of teaching. During his 22-year tenure in Canton, 261 of his students qualified for the South Dakota All-State Band and All-State Orchestra.

Denise Burgess BA '82, Denver, took the gavel as the first African-American to chair the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Jurgutis V. Daukantas MA '82, Boston, Mass., received the prestigious Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the field of technology and special education.

Walter Craig Cooper BA '83, Colorado Springs, superintendent of the Cheyenne Mountain School District in Colorado Springs since 2006, was named 2018 Colorado Superintendent of the Year by the Colorado Association of School Executives.

90s

Dion Harris BA '92, New Orleans, La., oversees the new Renaissance Writing Clinic at KIPP Renaissance High School in New Orleans.

Lisa Mallory BA '93, Denver, was hired as the vice president of marketing at the Denver Center of Performing Arts.

Michael V. Kelly BA '95, South Jordan, Utah, is the IT Security Director for Clearlink in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 2017, Kelly earned his Internal Security Assessor and PCI Professional certifications.

Clara (Kroeger) Smith BA '95, Arvada, graduated with a Ph.D. in Educational Equity and Cultural Diversity from the University of Colorado at Boulder in December 2017.

Beth Malone BA '96, New York, N.Y., has been cast in the Broadway Revival of *Angels in America*.

James E. Jirak DA '96, Boise, Idaho, received the Excellence in Education Award from the city of Boise.

00s

Autumn Hurlbert BA '02, Bozeman, Mont., will appear in *Legally Blonde: The Search for Elle Woods* reunion concert at NYC's Feinstein's/54 Below in July.

Adam Flemming BA '03, Los Angeles, Calif., is an Imagineer for the Walt Disney Company, adjunct faculty with UCLA's School of Theater Film and Television, and a national freelance projection designer.

Kathryn Sherell BA '03, Seattle, Wash., has been hired as a music associate on the national tour of *Hamilton*.

Erica Sweany BA '03, Thornwood, N.Y., has been cast in the Broadway revival of the play *M. Butterfly* starring Clive Owen and directed by Julie Taymor.

Kristin Skye Hoffman BA '04, Pueblo, has been named the new director of the Durango Arts Center.

Christopher Stroppel BA '04 and **Danielle (Findley) Stroppel** BS '09 were married in September!



UNC Alum presented the Governor's Creative Leadership Award

Armando Silva '10 is the recipient of the 2018 Governor's Creative Leadership Award. The Colorado Creative Industries is proud to play a role in celebrating excellence in creative industries across the state. Each spring, during the Creative Industries Summit, Creative Leadership Awards are presented to community members who have demonstrated a significant commitment to Colorado's creative landscape through civic leadership and volunteerism including advocacy, vision, collaboration or innovation. This year the summit was held in the Greeley Creative District.

 unco.edu/one-of-us/armando

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Randy Brothers BA '06, Aurora, wrote a book titled *Start It, Build It, Grow It: The Contractor's Guide to Success*.

Chad Chisholm BA '08 and BA '05, Denver, recently published *Imbibe Worldwide*, a cocktail cookbook of 70 recipes from around the world.

Kurtis Hout BA '08, Chapman, Kan., former UNC football player and active duty Army wrote *Cold Steel Seoul* under his pen name, Turk Van Buren.

10s

Jodie Grundin BA '10, Tarzana, Calif., accepted a position for No Limits for Deaf Children, a non-profit organization. Grundin will coordinate their national theater touring program.

Cody T. Havard Ph.D. '11, Collierville, Tenn., is featured in a book about sport fandom. Havard, an associate professor of sport commerce in the Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management at The University of Memphis, was featured in the book *Superfans: Into the Heart of Obsessive Sports Fandom*, written by Pulitzer Prize winner George Dohrmann.

Tyler Ledon BA '11, North Hollywood, Calif., joined the Hogwarts Frog Choir at Universal Studios in Hollywood.

Danielle Lubbers BA '13, Centennial, celebrated three years in the Marriott International Corporation.

Margaret Heffernan BA '15, Boston, Mass., accepted a new position as production manager for WGBH-TV.

Jackie Honold BA '16, Colorado Springs, accepted a position at Discovery Canyon Middle School.

Mailbag

Excerpts from your letters:

"UNC provided me with an amazing education in school counseling. This is my sixth year working in international schools after working for 13 years in Colorado and two in Wyoming. I currently work at an international school as a college counselor. I was also fortunate enough to work at schools in England and Germany."

—Marcea (Printz) Eckhardt MA '97, BA '89, Thailand

UNC Alumna Named Colorado Teacher of the Year

Christina Gillette Randle BA '03, who teaches first grade at Soaring Eagle Elementary School in Harrison School District, joined an ever-growing list of UNC alumni to receive the state's highest honors for teaching — the Colorado Teacher of the Year Award.

Randle, who graduated with a degree in Elementary Education, has taught in the Harrison school district for 15 years. She will represent Colorado in the running for the National Teacher of the Year Award.



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ROB KUSESKI '02
Highland Meadows Tennis Center

PHOTO BY HUNTER WILSON

FROM THE VAULT

LIFETIME SPORT

UNC tennis great, now a nationally ranked player, teaches the next generation

There were times during Rob Kuseski's standout career at UNC that tennis felt like a grind. He enjoyed it, but his body ached from the physical toll.

That was in 2001, when he made the conference All-Academic team, was voted Colorado Collegiate Player of the Year, won the Rolex regional tournament, and finished sixth at nationals.

Now 38, he's a tennis pro for the Highland Meadows Tennis Center in Windsor. He spends close to 40 hours a week on the court teaching players of all ages and abilities while still competing himself. In 2016, he was the nation's top-ranked doubles player for the 35-and-over division in the United States Tennis Association. In singles, he spent 2016 ranked close to the top 10 in 35 and over. He's playing more tennis, not less, than he did in college, and he manages the physical demands more carefully.

"Tennis isn't a collision sport, but it's still physical," Kuseski says. "When you're younger, you just sort of push yourself until you break. I've gotten a lot smarter."

Since graduating in 2002, Kuseski acknowledges there are other differences as well. He's now married and has a 2-year-old daughter. He lives in Loveland, where he went to high school, and has a strict workout

routine, with lots of physical therapy and extra work on a nerve issue in his shoulder. And he has to eat a good diet and keep his weight down.

But the physical nature of the sport has one constant: Ice. Lots of ice.

"Every day, I'm icing something," he says and laughs. "But I can't complain."

He enjoys his job, one of only a handful of tennis pro jobs in northern Colorado, and he's busier than ever as a coach. He likes teaching beginners, young or old. He tries to instill in them a desire to win, but win fairly, a trait that earned him the James O'Hara Sargent Sportsmanship national award when he was at UNC. He prefers to act like a gentleman on the court, and he expects his players to do the same.

He also runs a junior program with 150 players and relishes a chance to coach some of the region's best players. One of his players, Ky Ecton, won the No. 1 singles state title last year as a junior for Poudre High School in Fort Collins.


As for his own game, Kuseski credits his high ranking in doubles to playing and practicing with a small group of older, experienced specialists who push him to be great. This year, he looks forward to aging up and competing in the 40-year-old division.

"I've always said to people that I still love playing it as much as anything I do in life."

—Dan England



PHOTO BY JOHN NEWMAN

 The UNC alumni magazine featured Kuseski in the May 2001 issue. The article, "The Quiet American," is available at unco.edu/uncmagazine.

In Memory

1930s

Roscoe Wesley "Wes" Johnson AB '35

1940s

Robert "Bob" Timothy AB '41 LLD '86

(Honorary Doctor of Law)

Eugenia Louise Beaver BA '46

Mary Ellen Vejvoda BA '48

Margaret Pray AB '49

1950s

Lois Elaine Sankey-Leicester BA '50

Robert Norman Finch AB '52

Dorothy K. Heckrotte BA '52

Samuel Salatino BA '52

Alan L. Magnuson BA '53

Richard M. Rabbitt MA '53

Carol Jean Drew BA '54

Henry G. Van Eschen MA '54

James Urban "Jim" Crouse Jr. BA '55

Luther Howell Morris MA '55

Dan Figliolino BA '56

Jean (Astell) Robertson Garner BA '56

Raymond E. Kinziger MA '56

Florence Ruby Motto BA '56

Edward Alan Pickarts MA '56

James Blair Uhl MA '56

Gerald Baird MA '57, BA '52

Vincent C. Becker MA '57

Donald Richard Natoni BA '57

Gayl Bernhardt BA '58

Terry Williams BA '58

Gano Senter Evans BA '59

Carole Claire Kanani Mauloa Campbell Paulsen
BA '59

Fred L. Simpson BA '59

1960s

Mary Alice Hawkins MA '60

Kenneth Ray Losure BA '60

David Lee Ware BA '60

Roger Wickstrom Worlock MA '60

Mary Lou Clark BA '61

Robert DiGiallonardo BA '61

Roland L. Grant MA '61

Marvin H. Kessler MA '61

Darlis Ann Miller BA '61

Vivian Arlene Swanson MA '61, BA '58

James M. Higgins MA '62

Judith Marie (Cunningham) Phillips BA '62

Jim Nowak MA '64

Howard J. Taylor MA '64

Lawrence "Larry" Snyder MA '65, BA '59

Darlene Wall BA '65

Walter Keith Christy MA '67, BA '63

Rae Marie Puderbaugh BA '67

Jane Brown MA '68

Joseph J. "Joe" Hull BA '68

Larry W. Jageman Ed.D. '68

Iris Parker McGinnies MA '68

Andrew Shelby Delaney Ed.D. '69

Bernice Marie (Dunker) Eberhard BA '69

Joseph Hineman MA '69

Richard "Rick" Sullivan MA '69

Barbara Jean Talcott BA '69

1970s

Robert G. Bell MA '70

Mary Lee Eisenreich MA '70

Charles Anthony Johnson BA '70

Margaret Wilson Carpenter Ed.D. '71, MA '63

James F. Dixon Ed.D. '71

Randy Thomas BA '71

Linda Putnam BS '72

John Andrew Shulene Ed.D. '72, MA '69

Ellen Divelbiss MA '73

Charles Daniel "Dan" Girvan BS '73

Robert Allen Lewis BA '73

Jeanne Elizabeth Parker MA '74

Colonel (Retired) Stephen Walter Westbrook MA '76

Robert A. Monteith BA '75

Master Sergeant (Retired) Herbert Denmark MA '76

Joseph R. Hager MA '76

Dale T. Ogden MA '76

Robert "Bob" Potter III, BS '76

Joseph Edward Gagan BA '77

Margaret Ross Gaiter MA '77

Randolph F. Lowe MA '77

Patricia Ann (Smith) Sabath MA '77

Janet Kay Strutton BA '77

Carol Ann Welch MA '77, BA '63

Andrew Paul Bunting BS '78

Joan Beverly Hendrix BA '78

George "Randy" Herman MA '78

George Leonard Madden MA '78

Leslie Anne McKenzie MA '79, BA '77

Gerald Davis Pittman BS '79

May Nelson Sutton MA '79

Reginald H. Turner MA '79

1980s

Dianna Lynn Schneider-Lawler BA '80

Jo Ann Adamson BS '81

Stephen William Boska MA '81

Fred Wayne Dodd DA '81

Robert Patterson-Rogers MA '81

Donald C. Ruble Ed.D. '81

Katherine Clift BA '86

Julie K. Hettinger Rasmussen BA '87

Anne Elizabeth Tooley BA '87

Tawnya (States) Swanson BS '88

Carolyn M. Stout MBA '89

1990s

Sharon Anne White MA '91

Heather Marhoefer BA '95

Doris Jean Benavides MA '96, BA '88

Juan Lopez-Mendez BA '97

Maureen Rose McVicker Trump PSYD '97, MA '84

Crystal Lynn Felipe BA '98

Donald Paul Williams MA '99

2000s

Charles "C.J." Archibeque MA'02, BA '93

William "Bill" James Coughlin Ed.S. '03

2010s

John C. Slade MA '11

TRIBUTES

Gary Allen Dutmers, a longtime UNC employee, editor of the *UNC Today* campus newsletter and contributor to *UNC Magazine*, died January 18, 2018. Dutmers served the UNC community in the marketing, news and public relations offices since 2005. Services were held January 28 in Loveland.

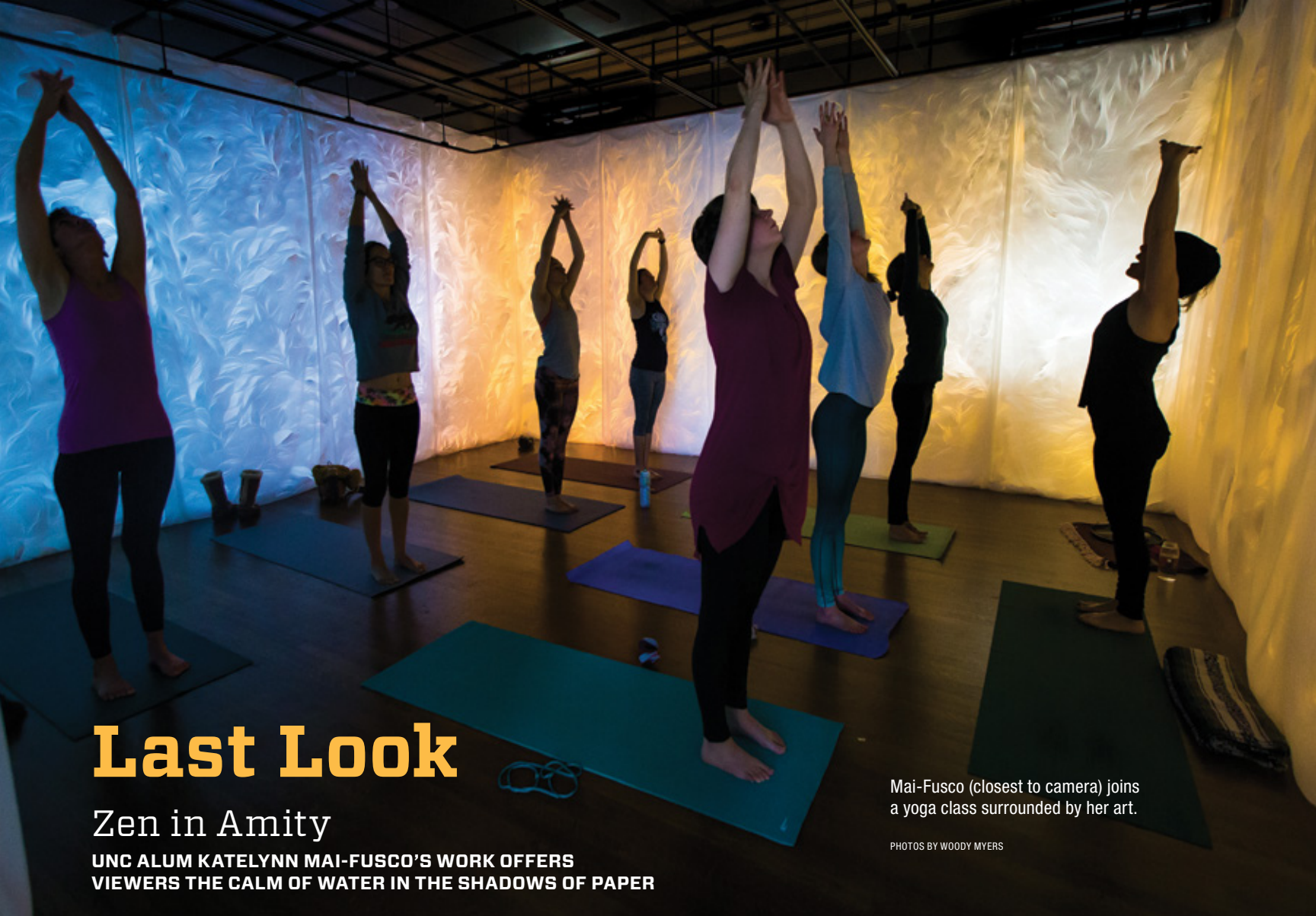
Mel Weishahn, a graduate and long-time faculty member at UNC, died January 10, 2018. Weishahn served as an education professor from 1963 to 1990 prior to retiring. He was a proponent of the inclusion of children with exceptionalities, whenever appropriate, in the regular classroom.

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Last Look

Zen in Amity

UNC ALUM KATELYNN MAI-FUSCO'S WORK OFFERS VIEWERS THE CALM OF WATER IN THE SHADOWS OF PAPER

Mai-Fusco (closest to camera) joins a yoga class surrounded by her art.

PHOTOS BY WOODY MYERS

In February and early March, in the Oak Room Gallery in Crabbe Hall, UNC alumna and guest artist Katelynn Mai-Fusco exhibited her sight-specific installation art piece "Amity." In gradients of cool blue to light purple to peach, multiple panels of paper in a distinct wave pattern are backlit. Sheets of silk chiffon hang in front of the artwork, creating a softer atmosphere in the room. A soft, ambient sound of water dripping and trickling can be heard every once in a while.

Mai-Fusco's chosen medium is Tyvek, a type of paper with high-density polyethylene fibers allowing it to be cut but not torn. With precision knives, Mai-Fusco cuts out intricate patterns.

In her "Amity" piece, Mai-Fusco cut out patterns emulating water. The weight of the paper affecting the look of her Tyvek artwork was, as she calls it, "a happy accident." Mai-Fusco's inspiration for the

piece came from the Poudre River in Fort Collins, so she started studying the sound, light and color of the river.

"I kind of became more obsessed with water and all the different aspects of water. I guess one of them being that it is a source of life; it makes up 70 percent of our bodies," Mai-Fusco said. "Then another part of it being that it's a delicate thing that can be part of rituals, like baptizing somebody. But it can also be a powerful thing that can wipe out cities. I think that water is not only the source of life, but it embodies a lot of qualities that directly reflect what everyone goes through in life."

—Mary Harbert is a junior double majoring in English and Journalism. Her interests include film, art and creative writing. She works for UNC's student newspaper, *The Mirror*, as a staff reporter. This excerpt was originally published online for *The Mirror* at uncmirror.com.



Mai-Fusco's work was installed in the Oak Room Gallery in Crabbe Hall during Spring semester.




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UNC students in Scott Douglas's
"Teaching Diverse Populations"
class take to the ice with members
of Denver's Warrior Avalanche Sled
Hockey team at Greeley's Ice Haus.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS