Developmental Milestones

KEY:
CHHS: College of Health and Human Services
SHAHS: School of Health and Applied Human Sciences
SON: School of Nursing
SSW: School of Social Work

2007-2010

March 2007: Provost charged Task Force on the Future of Health-related Programs at UNCW.


March 2008: Proposal to establish a new administrative unit, the College of Health and Human Services, approved by the University of North Carolina Wilmington Board of Trustees.

May 2008: UNC Board of Governors approved the request for authorization to establish a new administrative unit, College of Health and Human Services, effective August 2009.

June 2008: Irwin Belk Distinguished Professorship in Nursing was established by Irwin "Ike" Belk to promote health and nursing care for underserved and vulnerable populations in rural Southeastern N.C. with mental health disorders and other chronic illnesses.

June 2010: McNeill Distinguished Professorship in Nursing was established by John A. “Sandy” McNeill and his wife, Deborah, to promote a successful aging process in older adults.

July 2010: Dr. Johnson Akinleye appointed Interim Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. College officially opened with the following Schools: School of Health and Applied Human Sciences (SHAHS): Dr. Terry Kinney, Interim Director; School of Nursing (SON): Dr. James McCann, Director; and School of Social Work (SSW): Dr. Reginald York, Interim Director.

July 2010: McNeill Hall officially opened. The 75,000 square foot building was named in honor of the McNeill family, and the total building cost was $30.1 million dollars. The building anchors the Health Sciences Quad on the UNCW campus and includes 10,000 square feet of simulation lab space.

2011

January 2011: Dr. Jeanne Kemppainen was appointed the first Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor in the School of Nursing.
July 2011: Dr. Charles J. Hardy was appointed Founding Dean and Professor, College of Health and Human Services.

September 2011: Dr. Robert Boyce (SHAHS) received the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award. Brandy Mechling (SON) received the UNCW Lecturer of the Year Award.

October 2011: Inaugural CHHS Convocation held in Kenan Auditorium. Chancellor Miller provided the Keynote Address and Founding Dean Hardy provided the state of the College report.

November 2011: Distinguished Professorship in Oncological Nursing, Lucy Ann Boddie Brewer was established by members of the Brewer and Boddie families of eastern North Carolina to enable the SON to develop new programs focused on cancer. This is the third Distinguished Professorship in the SON/CHHS.

2012

February 2012: In collaboration with the UNCW Office of Alumni Affairs, CHHS held its Inaugural Alumni Breakfast in celebration of the University’s 2012 Homecoming Celebration.

September 2012: CHHS launched Strategic Initiatives complete with Faculty Champions: Art/Science Integration in Health and Human Services; Impact of the Coastal Environment on Human Health and Life Quality; Global Health, Health Equity and Vulnerable Populations; Healthy Aging; Obesity Prevention; Understanding and serving our Military Community – Veterans, Active Duty Soldiers and their Families; and Embracing Technological Innovations to advance Health and Human Services Education, Research, Service and Management.

September 2012: Dr. Steve Elliott (SHAHS) received the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award.

2013

February 2013: CHHS established the Southeastern North Carolina Regional Health Collaborative (SENCRC), partnering with health directors from New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Pender and Onslow counties and the CEO of the Southeastern Area Health Education Center.

February 2013: CHHS established the Health Transformation Lecture Series. The inaugural speaker was Dr. Donald Fisher, President and CEO of AMGA. Fisher addressed focused on implementation of the Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act. Event was co-sponsored by Wilmington Health Associates.

March 2013: CHHS established a formal affiliation partnership with the region’s Veteran’s Affairs Administration (Fayetteville VA Medical Center).

April 2013: CHHS faculty approved the CHHS Organizational Structure, establishing a parallel structure across the college management structures for operations, academic affairs, resource management, community engagement and impact, student success, and research and innovation. The structure was unanimously approved by UNCW Faculty Senate at the May 2013 meeting.

May 2013: Dr. Jeanne Kemppainen, Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor in the SON received the UNCW Honors Faculty Mentor Award.
May 2013: Associate Provost for External Programs Johnson Akinleye and Resource Manager of Academic Affairs Resource Management Sherri Batson received the initial CHHS Unsung Hero Awards for 2013 at the CHHS Spring Picnic.

August 2013: CHHS implemented a Support Team Model with three Core Support Teams: Business Core Service Team, Student Success Core Service Team and Operations Core Service Team. Unique Core Service Teams were established in each of the academic Schools.

August 2013: The Human Performance Laboratory established in the SHAHS through renovation and expansion of Exercise Science Laboratory located in Trask.

August 2013: Student Learning Commons opened in McNeill Hall as part of the College’s Student Success Initiative.

August 2013: CHHS/SON launched RN/BS partnership with Academic Partnerships, Inc.

August 2013: CHHS/SHAHS launched Dog Assistance Program/ Curriculum.

August 2013: Miracle Field opened in Wilmington and is hailed as one of UNCW’s 13 in 13. Dr. Dan Johnson (SHAHS) appointed as board chair for the Miracle Field League.

August 2013: Dr. Barbara Lutz was appointed the McNeill Distinguished Professor in the SON.

September 2013: At the Fall UNCW Faculty meeting, Dr. Deborah Pollard (SON) received the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award; Dr. Laura Spivey (SHAHS) received the Lecturer of the Year Award; Dr. Sue Combs (SHAHS) received the Distinguished Scholarly Engagement and Public Service Award.

December 2013: The CHHS/SENCRHC was awarded $150,000 from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to further the development of the regional health collaborative and the startup of the Center for Healthy Communities.

2014

February 2014: Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accepted accreditation application for standalone baccalaureate program in Public Health Studies.

April 2014: CHHS was awarded $40,000 from the Cape Fear Memorial Foundation to further develop the Healthcare Transformation Lecture Series.

April 2014: The inaugural CHHS Health and Human Services Week was held April 7-11. Events included the State of the Region Health Forum, Yoga workshop, a fitness walk, a global health presentation, a workshop on the use of Art Expression in Social Work, our first CHHS Research Day lecture and poster presentations by faculty and students and Keynote Address delivered by Dr. Glen Mays, College of Public Health, University of Kentucky.
May 2014: Accessible Coastal Carolina Events Sports and Services (ACCESS) of Wilmington, N.C. and CHHS signed an MOU to formalize a partnership to offer collaborative programs at the Miracle Field.

May 2014: The UNC Graduate Council approved the Request for Authorization to plan a new degree program for the Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP).

July 2014: Dr. Justine Reel appointed the first Associate Dean of Research and Innovation and Professor, College of Health and Human Services.

July 2014: Tanya Armour was appointed the first Major Gifts Officer for the College of Health and Human Services.

September 2014: CHHS was awarded $60,000 from the Cape Fear Memorial Foundation to further develop the Center for Healthy Communities.

November 2014: CHHS was awarded a four-year cooperative agreement from the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, to develop the North Carolina Local Performance Site of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Region IV Public Health Training Center.

2015

June 2015: Initial meeting of the Dean’s Advancement Council planning group.

August 2015: The School of Social Work initiated the Substance Use Disorders and Addictions Certificate, open to social work practitioners with a MSW. The certificate meets the educational requirements for the Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) credential administered by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (NCSAPPB).

September 2015: Inaugural meeting of the CHHS Dean’s Advancement Council. Founding Board members: Louise Coggins (Council Convener), Caroline Neal, G. Wayne Long, Marilyn Bollinger, Dr. James Hundley, Lee Garrett, Dr. Henry Temple, Dr. Nelson Reid, Dr. Lee Whitehurst, Wendy Simmons, Antoinette (Tonye) Gray and Leigh Venter.

September 2015: CHHS was awarded a three-year grant totaling $390,000 from Duke Energy to develop programs to strengthen workforce development for the local clinical research industry.

September 2015: At the Fall UNCW Faculty meeting, Dr. Steve Elliott (SHAHS) received the Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award and Dr. Chris Hall (SSW) received the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award.

October 2015: UNC Board of Governors unanimously approved the request for authorization to establish the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

2016

March 2016: Connect NC Bond proposal supported by voters. Bond includes $66 million to construct the Allied Health and Human Services Building.
March 2016: The Simulation Learning Center in the School of Nursing conducted its first-ever emergency trauma simulation. Participating students gained hands-on experience working as a team, prioritizing treatment plans and delivering care to various patients.

April 2016: Dr. Nancy Ahern (SON) was inducted into the National Academy of Practice as a Distinguished Scholar and Fellow.

May 2016: Dean Charles J. Hardy was selected for membership in the North Carolina Institute for Medicine.

August 2016: Doctor of Nursing Practice inaugural class (N = 9) initiated.

October 2016: CHHS held its first College-wide faculty and staff meeting.

November 2016: Dr. Dan Johnson (SHAHS) was named a “Health Care Hero” by the Greater Wilmington Business Journal in the category of Community Outreach for his involvement with Accessible Coastal Carolina Events and Sports Services (ACCESS) of Wilmington and the Miracle League of Wilmington.

November 2016: Nate Miner appointed as first Assistant Dean for Finance and Resource Management.

November 2016: Sheri Shaw appointed as first Assistant Dean for Student Success.

2017

January 2017: The School of Nursing launched the MSN/Nurse Educator in the Online Accelerated Program (OAP) model with Academic Partnerships.

June 2017: The revised strategic plan, developed by the CHHS Strategic Planning Task Force, was affirmed by the Leadership Team and implemented by the Dean. The plan will guide the CHHS from 2017–22.

September 2017: At the Fall UNCW Faculty Meeting, Dr. Elizabeth Gazza (SON) received the Excellence in e-Learning Award; Angie Vandenberg (SSW) received the Lecturer of the Year Award; and Dr. Susan Sinclair (SON) received the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award.

September 2017: Leah Mayo appointed coordinator for the Center for Healthy Communities.

October 2017: Tiffany Erichsen appointed coordinator for the Center for Clinical Research Workforce Development.

October 2017: Dean Charles J. Hardy presented the CHHS Story to the University of North Carolina System President Margaret Spellings and members of the Board of Governors.

2018

January 2018: Ashley Wells appointed the first Assistant Dean for Community Engagement.
January 2018: Groundbreaking Ceremony held at the site of the new Allied Health Building.

January 2018: The University of North Carolina Wilmington has been ranked #7 on the U.S. News & World Report list of Best Online Bachelor’s Programs. CHHS was recognized for its two qualifying programs, nursing and clinical research.

February 2018: The Center for Healthy Communities received the 2018 Public Health Partners Award from the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors for support of the Southeastern North Carolina Regional Health Collaborative.

March 2018: Amy Mangus appointed the first Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

March 2018: Dr. Jaci Webb-Dempsey appointed the College’s first Director of Program Assessment, Accreditation, and Development.

March 2018: MS in Social Work and MS in Nursing were ranked 75th and 141st by U.S. News & World Report list of 2018 Best Graduate Schools.

April 2018: Dr. Susan Sinclair (SON) received the 2018 Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

April 2018: Dr. Kristin Bolton (SSW) was received the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. Barbara Lutz (SON) received the UNCW Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award.

May 2018: The College of Health and Human Services held its first-ever standalone Commencement Ceremony at Trask Colosseum. Six hundred and thirty-four students from the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences, School of Nursing and School of Social Work received their diplomas.

June 2018: The Recreation Therapy program was awarded the 2018 Community Engagement Scholarship Award, the Association of Public Land-grant Universities and the Engagement Scholarship Consortium for outstanding community involvement.

July 2018: Dr. Steve Elliott assumed the position as Director of the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences. Dr. Chris Lantz assumed the position as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

July 2018: CHHS collaborated with colleagues across campus to create STEAM Team, a week-long residential summer camp for underserved 9th and 10th graders from New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick counties.

July 2018: Athletic Training program was awarded CAATE accreditation.

July 2018: The NCPHTC was re-funded for 2018-2022 as a community-based training (CBT) partner with the Region IV Public Health Training Center (PHTC) headquartered at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

September 2018: Dr. Beth Gazza (SON) was inducted as a National League for Nursing Academy of Nursing Education Fellow (ANEF).
October 2018: Dr. Justine Reel (Associate Dean for Research and Innovation) was awarded the Wilma Magazine Women to Watch award in the education category.

November 2018: Dr. Stacey Kolomer (SSW) was appointed to the NC Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Board (NCMFTLB).

2019

January 2019: Debra Rhodes (SSW) was awarded the UNCW Discere Aude Award.

January 2019: UNCW was ranked 8th in the nation on the U.S. News & World Report list of “2019 Best Online Bachelor’s Programs. This includes two CHHS programs: RN-BSN and Clinical Research.

January 2019: The UNC Board of Governors approved the College’s request to establish the Masters of Healthcare Administration (MHA) degree program. The program is projected to begin Fall 2019.

January 2019: The following CHHS faculty were awarded 2019 Cahill Grant Awards: Dr. Hayley Estrem (SON); Dr. Anne Glass (SHAHS); Dr. Kris Hohn (SSW); Dr. Josalin-Hunter Jones (SSW); Amanda Mitchell (Research Assistant, SON); Jillian Perry, (Gerontology Graduate Student, SHAHS); Dr. Anka Roberto (SON); Dr. Angie Sardina, (SHAHS); Dr. Alicia Sellon (SSW)

January 2019: Center for Healthy Communities engaged community partners in Brunswick County through contracting with Brunswick County Health Services to lead their Community Health Assessment and partnered with Brunswick Wellness Coalition and Dosher Memorial Hospital for their Walk With A Doc program.

February 2019: The new Master of Athletic Training program was approved by SACSCOC. The program is projected to begin Summer 2020.

February 2019: Assistant Dean for Community Engagement Ashley Wells appointed as UNCW representative to the NC Governor’s Internship Council.

March 2019: UNCW’s master’s degree programs in nursing and public administration each moved up 12 places on the U.S. News & World Report list of “2020 Best Graduate Schools.” Social work also made the list.

March 2019: CHHS was awarded the UNC System Office Digital Innovations Platinum Award at the inaugural Digital Learning Initiative Symposium held at the Carolina Club in Chapel Hill. The award was presented to CHHS for excellence and innovation in online learning through its Online Accelerated Program (OAP), which makes select CHHS degree programs available to adult learners.

March 2019: Ashlee Jensen was named as the new Executive Assistant to the Dean.

March 2019: School of Social Work Director Stacey Kolomer was elected to serve on the board of National Association of Deans and Directors Schools of Social Work
April 2019: The College of Health and Human Services and University Advancement hosted a scholarship and donor appreciation luncheon, bringing together donors and student recipients to celebrate student success.

April 2019: On April 11, Dean Charles Hardy, along with Chancellor Sartarelli, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Aswani Volety and Director of Military Affairs Bill Kawczynski, celebrated the “Topping Off Ceremony” at Veterans Hall, which included the placement of the final steel beam on the building. Before the celebration, they signed the last beam.

April 2019: Center for Healthy Communities received grant funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. The funding, totaling $583,000, will support rural health departments in navigating the state’s Medicaid transformation plan.

May 2019: The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education granted the School of Nursing accreditation for its Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and Post-Graduate APRN Certificate programs for 10 years. Additionally, CCNE granted accreditation to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program for five years.

May 2019: Assistant Dean for Student Success Sheri Shaw won the Education Award at the YWCA’s Women of Achievement Awards. Chair of the Dean’s Advancement Council Louise Coggins won the Lifetime Achievement Award.

May 2019: Melissa Sinclair named Director of Development for Major Gifts.

June 2019: Dr. Linda Haddad was appointed Director of the School of Nursing and Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor.

August 2019: Dr. Kit Huelskamp (SHAHS) was awarded the Excellence in Applied Learning Award.

September 2019: CHHS, in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science, North Carolina Biotechnology Center and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Identity Sciences (I3S), held its first Artificial Intelligence & Health Seminar Series event, as part of a yearlong grant-funded series.

October 2019: CHHS transitioned its undergraduate athletic training program to the master’s degree level.

October 2019: CHHS launched its newest degree program, Master of Healthcare Administration.

October 2019: The SON Prelicensure Program hosted its first-ever White Coat Ceremony for its students. The White Coat Ceremony signifies a nursing student’s transition from didactic learning to clinical learning.

October 2019: SHAHS was approved as a Registered Yoga School for the Yoga Studies Minor through Yoga Alliance.

October 2019: Dean Charles J. Hardy won the Greater Wilmington Business Journal’s “Healthcare Heroes” Lifetime Achievement Award.
**October 2019:** Center for Healthy Communities Coordinator Leah Mayo elected as vice president of the North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA).

**November 2019:** SON launched four Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree concentrations: two BSN to DNP concentrations: Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and two MSN to DNP concentrations: Nurse Executive Leadership and Post APRN.

**November 2019:** Dean Charles Hardy and Dr. Jennifer McCall (SON) were named to “WilmingtonBiz 100,” an initiative of the Greater Wilmington Business Journal to recognize the top “power players, influencers, innovators, connectors and rising stars” in southeastern North Carolina.

**December 2019:** The Cape Fear Coalition For A Drug-Free Community held their Agents of Change Breakfast, where the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences won an award in the category of Community Organization for playing a key role in organizing and conducting Alcohol Purchase Surveys with local stores as part of enforcement efforts to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage individuals.

---

**2020**

**January 2020:** UNCW was ranked 8th in the nation on the U.S. News & World Report list of “2019 Best Online Bachelor’s Programs. This includes two CHHS programs: RN-BSN and Clinical Research.

**January 2020:** Dr. Lorie Sigmon (SON) and Dr. Wayland Tseh (SHAHS) won the Discere Aude Award.

**February 2020:** Dr. Jennifer McCall (SON) was inducted into the James F. Merritt Million Dollar Club, which honors UNCW researchers and faculty who have received more than $1 million in research funding.

**February 2020:** Dr. Tammy Arms (SON), Dr. Debra Hrelic (SON) and Dr. Justine Reel (Associate Dean for Research and Innovation) were recognized at UNCW’s annual Research Reception with the highest number of journal article publications for fiscal year 2019.

**February 2020:** Dr. Ashley Wells (Assistant Dean for Community Engagement) was recognized as one of top five scholars with the most grant submissions at UNCW for July 2018 to June 2019.

**February 2020:** Center for Healthy Communities and School of Social Work partnered with Lower Cape Fear Life Care to conduct an opioid grief support needs assessment. Students from Public Health Studies and Social Work assisted with phase two of the assessment.

**March 2020:** Stefanie Powell was named the Assistant Dean for Administration and Resource Management for the College.

**March 2020:** CHHS received SACSCOC approval of the Respiratory Therapy substantive change.

**March 2020:** Master of Healthcare Administration program started its first cohort.
March 2020: The coronavirus forced UNCW to go virtual. CHHS transitioned to a virtual campus through online instruction and teleworking for administration and student success services.

March 2020: The College created a Virtual Cafe and Virtual Resources/Learning website in response to COVID-19, led by Dr. Ashley Wells, Natalie Lucero (Community Engagement) and Amy Mangus (Marketing and Communications).

April 2020: The School of Social Work’s Governor’s Institute Scholars (Jake Burns, Davonna Cohen and Shannon Allen) in the substance use disorders and addictions program in the master’s program delivered a presentation for the Wilmington community and the Bair Foundation. The purpose of the presentation was to enhance knowledge and skills to foster parents dealing with addiction in families.

April 2020: The School of Nursing received the largest scholarship endowment in its history: more than $700,000. This endowment is from the estate of Ida P. FormyDuval to fund the F. L. FormyDuval Family Nursing Scholarship.

May 2020: College formed Interprofessional Teaching Clinic Task Force led by Dr. Ashley Wells, Assistant Dean for Community Engagement.

June 2020: The Exercise Science program within the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences was approved a National Strength Conditioning Association (NSCA) Education Recognition Program (ERP).

June 2020: Master of Science in Athletic Training program started its first cohort.

July 2020: CHHS moved into the newly completed Veterans Hall.

July 2020: Sara Miller (SHAHS) was appointed to the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) Board of Directors.

August 2020: Dr. John Lothes (SSW) became a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Certified Clinician through the DBT-Linehan Board of Certification. Less than 2,000 people in the world that have received this certification.

September 2020: The Healthful Living and Fitness Education (SHAHS) program launched its Virtual Nutrition Education Program in collaboration with Feast Down East and Local Motive.

September 2020: Dr. Eric Richardson (SHAHS) received the Excellence in eLearning Award for his course, HCA 500, “Introduction to Healthcare Management.” Dr. Jacquelyn Lee (SSW) won the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award, Barbara Pennington (SON) won the Lecturer of the Year Award and Dr. Stephanie Smith (SON) won the Distinguished Scholarly Engagement and Public Service Award, Junior Scholar.

September 2020: Dr. Stephanie Turrise (SON) was elected as a Fellow of the American Heart Association. This election recognizes Turrise’s years of work in cardiovascular nursing, related to scholarship/research, practice/education and her service to the American Heart Association.

September 2020: Through their 3 planned gifts, Dr. Justine Reel and Robert Buccionere support several facets of the CHHS experience. Their third planned gift will establish a fund for research and
innovation in CHHS and their generosity is honored with a naming and plaque in the Problem-Based Learning space in Veterans Hall.

**October 2020:** Recreation Therapy Professor Candy Ashton-Forrester (SHAHS) was awarded the 2020 American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) Distinguished Fellow Award. The award is given annually to one person and is the highest recognition award given by ATRA.

**October 2020:** The Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) announced FuseCR as one of three finalists for the ACRP 2020 Innovation in Workforce Development Award. The annual award recognizes organizations who exemplify the spirit of creativity and innovation through adaptation, improvement, or development of new processes or tools that result in workforce development quality.

**October 2020:** Governor Roy Cooper appointed Carolyn Craddock (SSW) to the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board.

**October 2020:** Dr. Jordan Weber and Dr. Amelia (Kit) Huelskamp (SHAHS) were named educators of the year by the N.C. Society for Health and Physical Educators (NC SHAPE).

**October 2020:** Dr. Brent Hawkins (SHAHS) was inducted into the National Academy of Recreational Therapists (NART).

**November 2020:** Dr. John R. Corbett, a long-time supporter of CHHS and UNCW, established a $750,000 CHHS Support Endowment Fund (unrestricted) and contributed another $450,000 towards the completion of the Human Cadaver Laboratory in Veterans Hall.

**November 2020:** The Recreation Therapy program (SHAHS) received initial accreditation through 2025 from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). SHAHS joins only 10 other programs that have this type of accreditation in the field.

**December 2020:** In honor of Giving Tuesday, Ronald McNeill and Liberty Healthcare Services generously gifted CHHS $50,000 to complete construction on the Human Cadaver Laboratory in Veterans Hall.

**December 2020:** The Recreation Therapy program (SHAHS) earned its initial accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon recommendation by the Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education (CARTE).

**December 2020:** Dr. Sabrina Cherry (SHAHS) won the 2020 Franklin H. Williams Award. The award recognizes ethnically diverse returned Peace Corps volunteers who demonstrate a lifelong commitment to civic engagement, service, diversity, inclusion and world peace to the Peace Corps’ Third Goal of promoting a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. Cherry is one of six recipients of the award.

**2021**

**January 2021:** Dr. Sabrina Cherry (SHAHS) was elected to the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) Board of Trustees. She will serve a two-year term enhancing SOPHE’s public standing, ensuring ethical accountability and, determining and monitoring SOPHE’s programs.
January 2021: Dr. Matthew Gallek (SON) has been selected into the 2021 National League for Nursing Leadership Institute.

February 2021: Ida Formy Duval generously gave the School of Nursing $607,842.80. Three-fourths of the funds will be designated for the F.L. Formy Duval Family Nursing Scholarship Endowment and the remaining funds will be designated to the F.L. Formy Duval Family Nursing Applied Learning Award Endowment.

February 2021: George P. Barnes, Jr. contributed another $70,000 gift to the Leonora Barnes Scholarship in Nursing Endowment, named in honor of his late wife who was a proud UNCW alumna.

February 2021: CHHS hosted its first Fulbright Scholar: Saidah Najjuma, dean of the Social Sciences Department at Ndejje University in Uganda.

February 2021: School of Nursing faculty and students partnered with New Hanover Regional Medical Center to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to the public at the Pointe 14 Cinemas in Wilmington.

March 2021: CHHS hosted its first ever virtual Health and Human Services Week. Programs were offered live and recorded.

March 2021: Dr. Martin B. Meyerson and Deborah J. Meyerson ‘94, ‘01M established the Martin B. Meyerson, MD and Deborah J. Meyerson Endowed Trust Fund, with a gift of $500,000, to advance nursing programs and student pipeline initiatives in the College of Health and Human Services. A portion of their gift will also facilitate research and innovation efforts championed by CHHS faculty, particularly those pursuing federal grants. In honor of the Meyersons’ support of these initiatives, the CHHS Office of Research and Innovation will be renamed in their honor.

March 2021: Nina Williams (SON) was awarded the North Carolina Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Nurse Leader of the Year Award for her continued dedication to women and children’s health in North Carolina.

April 2021: Center for Healthy Communities was awarded 3 grants, totaling over $900,000, from Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of N.C. to work with tri-county health departments to prepare for Medicaid Transformation and slowing the spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable populations.

April 2021: Seahawks Give was a record-breaking one-day giving challenge with 1,888 donors helping to raise a total of $372,138 university-wide. The College of Health and Human Services raised almost $13,000 from 90 donors.

May 2021: Paula Baisden won the School of Nursing’s inaugural DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty. The DAISY Award is an international recognition program that celebrates faculty for their commitment and inspirational influence on their nursing students.

**May 2021:** Sixteen students in the inaugural cohort of the Assistance Dog Training minor graduated in May. The School of Health and Applied Human Sciences partners with paws4people to offer this interdisciplinary minor in assistance dog training to empower students to use animal assistance interventions in a variety of settings.

**May 2021:** Ryan Estes (SSW) appointed to the North Carolina Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper. The Commission’s mission is to promote excellence in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs for persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse disorders in North Carolina.

**Spring 2021:** School of Social Work hosted diversity, equity and inclusion programs and events, including a healing generational trauma workshop, a conversation series exploring experiences of Black women in professional settings, an author talk with Kiese Laymon (Heavy) and a racial disparities in health and mental health film series.

**June 2021:** The College of Health and Human Services had its most successful philanthropic year in the 10-year history as a college, raising over $3.35M to support student scholarships, research, faculty and facilities across the three schools. These funds will help to drive the college’s mission of improving health and quality of life in the region and beyond.

**August 2021:** UNCW announced its collaboration with the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy in a shared commitment to train the future public health workforce. The two universities are creating an Early Assurance Program, offering an automatic interview with the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy’s Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program admissions committee for qualifying UNCW students. UNCW will verify that interested students meet the participation qualifications identified by the two schools and provide processes and resources to support interested students. The partnership will involve the College of Health and Human Services and the College of Arts and Sciences.

**August 2021:** The School of Nursing was named a 2021 National League for Nursing (NLN) Centers of Excellence. Each year, the NLN selects schools of nursing and health care organizations as its Center of Excellence honorees based on demonstrated excellence in a specific area. UNC Wilmington’s program was one of 23 programs selected and was one of six schools recognized in the area of Promote the Pedagogical Expertise of Faculty.

**September 2021:** At the Fall UNCW Faculty meeting, Dr. Wayland Tseh (SHAHS) received the Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award; Dr. Alexia Franzidis (SHAHS) received the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award; Lori Dugan (SSW) received the Lecturer of the Year Award; Jessica Hartmann (SHAHS) and Brian Williamson (SSW) received Part-time Lecturer of the Year awards; and Dr. Elizabeth Fugate-Whitlock (SHAHS) received the Excellence in e-Learning Award.

**September 2021:** Dr. Amanda Culp-Roche (SON) and co-investigators Dr. Tammy Arms, Dr. Sara Hubbell, Dr. Anka Roberto, Dr. Tami Link (SON), Kristen Bolton (SSW), and Robin Post (UNCW Theatre Department) received a $340,000 federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) for the next three years.
**October 2021:** The School of Health and Applied Human Sciences established the Dr. Deborah Dowd Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of the late Dr. Deborah Dowd. The fund will support exercise science undergraduate students.

**October 2021:** Leah Mayo, coordinator for the College’s Center for Healthy Communities, has been inducted into UNCW’s James F. Merritt Million Dollar Club. The James F. Merritt Million Dollar Club is an exclusive club of more than 100 scholars and researchers who, due to their commitment to excellence, are on the cutting edge of research, teaching and service, reaching $1M in total external funding during the fiscal year.

**November 2021:** The UNCW College of Health and Human Services has received a $100,000 grant from the New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation South East Area Health Education Center Legacy Fund to help support the construction of an on-campus human cadaver laboratory.

The New Hanover Regional Medical Center Foundation SEAHEC Education Legacy Fund grant, in combination with a gift received from the Cape Fear Memorial Foundation and two private gifts secured during Like No Other: The Campaign for UNCW, will fund the lab.

**November 2021:** Two UNCW researchers have received grants, totaling $168,009, from the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium to develop accurate field testing for shellfish farmers and to study Florida Red Tide migration.

Jennifer McCall, an assistant professor in the Clinical Research Program in the School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services, and Susan Niven, a research specialist at the Center for Marine Science, are collaborating with Mote Marine Lab to provide better real-time information to shellfish farmers during harmful algal blooms of Florida Red Tide.

**December 2021:** Dr. Valerie Tarte, a clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing, has won the School’s DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty. The DAISY Award is an international recognition program that celebrates colleges/schools of nursing faculty for their commitment and inspirational influence on their nursing students.