Innovative Reach
into the community and across the globe
FEATURE: SEAHAWKS ABROAD
DEAR SEAHAWK COMMUNITY,

As this issue of UNCW Magazine clearly demonstrates, research and academic scholarship are thriving at UNCW. The innovative reach of our faculty, students and programs transcends our campus, supported by frequent collaboration with the greater community through engagement activities, volunteer experiences, applied learning opportunities and numerous partnerships. Our university’s commitment to community connections stepped into the spotlight in a big way this fall with “Wings Up for Wilmington: A Day of Seahawk Service,” organized by the Center for Faculty Leadership (pg. 10).

UNCW faculty and students excel at working across disciplines to address complex issues like coastal resiliency, economic development, health and wellness, cybersecurity and more. We have several new leaders in place to help us enhance our commitment to research, academic scholarship and community engagement (pg. 3). From artistic residencies to research partnerships, I look forward to the dynamic connections they will develop in the years to come.

The university’s mission also emphasizes a global mindset that shapes our approach to education and outreach. As you’ll read, Seahawks are forging collaborations around the world in locations as diverse as the Bahamas and Costa Rica, and reaping the benefits of study abroad in France, Africa, New Zealand and beyond.

With the end of 2019 fast approaching and the growing excitement of a new year ahead, now is the perfect time to look toward UNCW’s future. Building on the strength of our commitment to academic excellence, the university is poised to introduce and expand new and existing programs; continue progress on $400 million in construction and renovation projects; and push ahead as one of North Carolina’s leading research institutions. I want to thank our alumni and friends for your steadfast dedication and service. You represent UNCW’s history and support for its future, and I look forward to celebrating our Seahawk traditions together during Homecoming, Feb. 7-9, 2020.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

With warm regards,

Jose V. Sartarelli
Chancellor
“This is an exciting time at UNCW as it takes its place among national universities with high research activity. UNCW does high-quality research with students, the breadth of which is stunning.”

STUART BORRETT
Associate Provost for Research and Innovation

“I am thrilled to champion the incredible community-engaged programming already happening and in development at UNCW. Creating meaningful engagement experiences for our students allows them to explore how they can make a difference in the world, how their voices and actions matter, and how their education at UNCW situates them as leaders.”

JEANINE MINGÉ
Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement

“To succeed, leaders must be more global in our thinking, anticipate emerging changes and disruptions, solve highly complex problems, and engage the very best talent from across multiple disciplines, backgrounds and generations. The Swain Center will help play a key role in preparing leaders for the future, and I am excited to be part of these efforts.”

RICHARD WALSH
Director, Swain Center for Executive Education & Economic Development

“I’m most excited by the opportunities to help shape the institution as we develop our identity as a national research university. I passionately believe that higher education is a public good, and I am convinced that graduate education is critical to fulfilling our obligation to be a leader and partner in southeastern North Carolina.”

CHRIS FINELLI
Dean of the Graduate School and Executive Director of Marine Sciences

“Decisions made about the University Studies curriculum affect every single undergraduate. We’re considering the possible ways our curriculum might continue to evolve. This job is a great combination of exhausting and exciting - and I still get to teach some of my favorite classes in the English Department.”

DONALD BUSHMAN
Director of University Studies, Associate Professor of English
Cultural Immersion

In the summer of 2019, Bill Bolduc, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, and five students participated in a unique international applied learning experience in Paris, France. Bolduc took ambitious “COM studies” students to film a promotional video for the NC to Paris program, a study abroad experience for students from a consortium of North Carolina universities.

The trip was a lot of work but also a lot of fun, Bolduc says. “Getting to experience the country and the culture was awesome, but I also like having a task. Having a project adds an extra layer of intentionality to the exploration.”

Jordan Bell ‘20 says the experience gave him perspective on the differences in cultural values between Paris and the U.S.

Brittany Garshnick ’20 hopes that the group’s final product communicates to future students who may participate in the NC to Paris program that they shouldn’t go to Paris just for the tourist experience.

“I hope they see through our promotional video that it’s a real city with real people and real problems – homelessness, educational reform, climate change,” Garshnick said. “People should fully immerse themselves in a new culture whenever they have the opportunity.”

– Brea Perry ’20

Across the Ocean

UNCW hosted its second biennial Global Marine Science Summit in October at the Center for Marine Science. The three-day summit welcomed a global community of experts, and focused on coastal topics such as resiliency, changing conditions and economic development.

“The conference provides a forum for academic researchers, industry experts, agency representatives, and policymakers from around the globe to explore innovative solutions to global marine science issues,” said Lynn Leonard, interim director of the Center for Marine Science. “During the conference, they look at strategies for improving the economic climate of coastal regions, and establish new long-lasting and impactful research collaborations and educational partnerships.”

Students are also involved, both as presenters and volunteers. Several dozen were in attendance, with 20 authoring or co-authoring research posters that were discussed at the summit.

UNCW hosted the inaugural summit in November of 2017.

– Christina Schechtman
Nurturing Nature

In the words of Henry David Thoreau, “All good things are wild and free.”

For nearly 45 years, the Herbert Bluethenthal Memorial Wildflower Preserve has served Seahawks and visitors as not only an area of study and reflection, but as a place to stretch their legs while walking the tree-lined trails.

The UNCW Student Government Association’s October day of service, sponsored by the Center for Faculty Leadership, welcomed faculty, staff and students as they spread mulch, picked up stray limbs and debris and secured loose roots within the 10-acre preserve to keep it accessible and safe. The event continued the cleanup efforts begun by Physical Plant staff and volunteers in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

– Caroline Cropp ’99, ’06M

Tim Lewis, associate director of Campus Recreation, lends a hand.
For the past two years, UNCW’s leadership studies program (LED) and the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement have teamed up to address area food insecurity. Funded through UNCW community engagement grants, LED and OSLE students have collaborated on several projects, including the annual “Yam Jam,” which donates 16,000 pounds of sweet potatoes to local food pantries.

“Including students in social change is one of the foundational components of the leadership studies minor,” said Amy Garrett Dikkers, associate professor in educational leadership and leadership studies coordinator. “It’s a guiding principle that we look to strengthen through curriculum design.”

Jaime Russell ’16 Ed.D., who directs OSLE and teaches in the LED program, has planned and managed the event since 2018. Student participation in events such as the “Yam Jam,” food drives and volunteer days at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina highlight LED’s multidisciplinary approach to honing students’ leadership potential through various perspectives and contexts.

LED students and OSLE also reach into the community to work together for the “Hawk’s Harvest,” UNCW’s new campus food pantry. Located in The Newman Center at the nearby UNCW Catholic Campus Ministry, it is open to all students with a valid UNCW ID. – C.C.
Cyber Excellence

The UNCW Cyber Defense Club was one of six elite collegiate cyber teams to compete in the first-ever Wicked6 Cyber Games, a unique exhibition and fundraiser held at the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas this past August. The student organization, dedicated to cyber security awareness, education and application, has been sharpening their e-chops on the regional and national level for more than a decade and placed as one of three runners-up. Team members included Nouran Alotaibi ’19, Matt Craft ’19, Chris Nichols ’20 and Eric Vandegrift ’20. – C.C.

Pulling Your Own Weight

Resistance is not futile—and it turns out, it’s actually good for you. Alex McDaniel and Wayland Tseh, both faculty in the UNCW’s School of Health and Applied Human Sciences, taught members of Wilmington’s stand up paddleboarding community how to use their body weight and gravity as resistance to build strength, balance, flexibility and core stability.

Joined by undergraduate students Erin Shepherd ’20 (athletic training) and River Granton ’19 (exercise science), McDaniel and Tseh led a Total Body Resistance Exercise (TRX) Suspension Training System clinic during the Carolina Cup, deemed the “Super Bowl” of SUP races, in April. The elite event, held in Wrightsville Beach, draws paddleboarders from around the world.

The TRX STS is a portable gym that can fit into a backpack and allows individuals of all ages and physical abilities to perform body weight training anytime, anywhere, said McDaniel. This is the second year the clinic has been taught during the Carolina Cup. The clinic was sponsored by a community engagement grant. – Venita Jenkins
She...Just Did It

UNCW alumna Charlene Eckels ’14 was selected from thousands of individuals to tell her story in an unusual way: by designing a shoe for Nike®. Eckels’ design, titled “Paraba,” or parrot, was inspired by her Bolivian heritage and connection to a global tragedy.

“The recent fires in the Amazon hit close to home,” said Eckels. “During the fires I posted on Instagram firsthand images of the situation in Bolivia. The images got so many shares that I was approached to tell my story and submit a design.”

Eckels lived in Bolivia and went to art school there briefly, but her connection to the area runs even deeper. Her mother was born in the Amazon of Bolivia and much of her maternal family still resides there. The shoe was released for purchase for a limited time from November 1 through November 10.

– C.S.

One for the Books

Hub City Press, an independent literary press focused on publishing a diverse roster of Southern voices, awarded Ashleigh Bryant Phillips MFA ’17 the 2019 C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize for her collection, Sleepovers. The prize includes publication and $10,000. The press is managed by Meg Reid MFA ’02 and Kate McMullen MFA ’18.

For more creative writing accolades, visit uncw.edu/writers/accolades.html.

– C.C.
Critter Care

Rachel LeCates ’17 spent her summer working with some of the most adorable clientele in the sea, having landed an internship with Sea Turtle Inc., a sea turtle rehabilitation facility in South Padre Island, Texas.

“I love working to protect and conserve these endangered species,” said LeCates, who was a marine biology major. “Seeing the nesting process from start to finish is incredible. Witnessing the hatchlings make their journey to the sea after finding, excavating and monitoring the nests is so rewarding.”

Education is an important component of Sea Turtle Inc.’s mission, and LeCates did her part to inform the public about how their actions directly affect these animals.

“Common injuries are linked to trash or fishing line entanglement, fish hooks and boat strikes,” she said. “Sea turtles are resilient creatures to begin with, but it’s amazing to see their healing process under our care.”

– V.J.

Course of Study


The National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes and the OLLI institute at the University of South Florida, who serve audiences ages 50 and older, are developing a course based on the memoir. Slated to debut online next semester, White will conduct an author Q&A via videoconference.

“I’m honored and eager for this opportunity,” said White. “Vermeer is rich ground for a project like this and well-suited for lifelong learners looking for those transformative experiences through travel and art.”

Steve Thaxton, NRCOLLI executive director, said the teaching team was familiar with the book; UNCW’s OLLI program coordinator Amy Keith introduced him to White.

“I personally love his book and am happy our adult scholars will have the opportunity to speak to Michael about his experiences and scholarship on the artist,” said Thaxton.

– C.C.
Seahawks lend a wing

More than 350 campus volunteers worked more than 1,100 hours to serve 14 local organizations during “Wings Up for Wilmington,” a special day of Seahawk Service to commemorate the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Florence. In addition, 440+ pounds of food were collected for Nourish NC during an accompanying donation drive.

Sponsored by the Center for Faculty Leadership, the event was spearheaded by Diana Ashe, the center’s director, and Amanda Boomershine, associate professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

“I’m grateful to all of the volunteers, as well as to our community partners, for allowing us to commemorate the anniversary by giving back to those who help our community all year long,” said Boomershine. – C.C.
Having conversations about Italian art while eating gelato on the streets of Rome was an extraordinary experience for the UNCW Men’s Basketball team.

For eight days in August, the Seahawks explored Florence, Milan, Pisa, Rome, Venice, Verona and Vicenza while learning about historical sites. Their trip included stops at the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Roman Colosseum, the Vatican, and a gondola ride on the Grand Canal.

With the addition of eight new Seahawks this year, Head Coach C.B. McGrath felt the trip abroad would provide an opportunity to build camaraderie among current and new players.

“The team bonding was invaluable,” said McGrath. “We learned a lot about each other. We all have one common goal, and that is to be the best team we can be on and off the court.”

The team took an art history course in preparation for the trip, and were required to document their experience in a journal. “I think that really helped spur the interest of what we were seeing,” McGrath said. “It’s a great rule that the NCAA has: as long as you can raise the money, you can go on a foreign trip once every four years.”

The Seahawks squeezed in two exhibition games during their Italy tour, though the team had to adjust to the differences between American and European basketball rules. The Italy tour was made possible through private donations and the assistance of UNCW’s Office of International Programs.

— V.J.
Rosa Ponce ’20 has dreamed of conducting wildlife research in far-off places since she was a little girl. “As a child, I remember being fascinated with wildlife documentaries,” she recalled. “I was captivated by the breathtaking images of places I had no idea existed and animals so odd they seemed unreal.”

This past summer, Ponce brought her long-held curiosity to explore the diverse ecosystems of Costa Rica through the Council on International Educational Exchange’s Summer Tropical Ecology and Conservation Program, held at the 57,000-acre Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. The intensive eight-week program immerses students in tropical biology and ecology, offering a verdant locale to conduct independent research.

Ponce’s research focused on the feeding habits of the blue Morpho butterfly. Morphos feed on fermenting fruits, which produce sugars and alcohol. Ponce wanted to determine if the Morpho could learn to associate a color with a specific alcohol concentration.

“I had never even seen a blue Morpho before, and here I was in Costa Rica conducting a study on them,” said Ponce, a biology major. “I had never been outside the country without a family member or friend with me, but once I was in Costa Rica, I made so many amazing memories.” Ponce snorkeled for the first time; went on hikes in Corcovado, Santa Rosa and San Gerardo; climbed through the red mangroves along the Sierpe River; and held snakes, bats and birds.

Ponce’s adventure proves that sometimes you have to reach across the globe to come home to yourself.

Ponce’s study abroad experience was partially funded by the Diverse International Women of Color, a nonprofit organization committed to promoting and providing financial support to female students of color. – V.J.
Defense Strategy

UNCW alumna Amanda Cannady-Miller ’97, ’99 loved experiencing new cultures, so her job traveling the world supplying hospitals and clinics with medical equipment seemed like the perfect fit. When an opportunity arose for her to visit Thailand, she was thrilled – but ultimately was unable to go. As a country known for its peanut-infused cuisine, a visit to Thailand was too dangerous for her to risk.

“I was diagnosed with food allergies in my late teens,” said Cannady-Miller. “The chance of having an allergic reaction based on trace contaminants made traveling to this location unmanageable. I was frustrated that a food ingredient was holding me back from experiencing a new country.” Her frustration lingered until, years later, her first child was also diagnosed with food allergies. She knew then that she had to act.

“I wanted a solution for him and for others who suffer from this condition,” she said. “I had to do something, so I helped develop a personalized approach to food testing and allergy management.”

Cannday-Miller’s startup, Prodigy Biosciences, was founded in 2018 and utilizes a specialized biochemical test called an immunoassay to detect traces of allergens. The hope is that this assay could be further developed into a table-side food-testing device for use by people who suffer from dangerous allergies that can result in anaphylaxis. – C.S.

Prodigy Biosciences is based in Louisville, Kentucky. More information can be found on their website: prodigybiosciences.com.

“We want to offer those with food allergies one more line of defense to eliminate risky food choices and limitations caused by their allergens.”
This photo is an artistic representation of the heart, and does not anatomically place the heart in its exact position in the human body.
I arrived at UNCW from Brazil as an international transfer student. That was August 1998 – the campus was much smaller than it is today, and so was Wilmington. I hadn't visited the campus prior to moving here. I checked it out online, and it looked beautiful and there was a strong marine biology program. It sounded like the perfect place.

When I came to UNCW, my main goal was to be a researcher or work with environmental education.

I have been able to experience UNCW through the eyes of a student, staff member and faculty member. Throughout it all, I could see UNCW’s focus is the students. As a student, I didn’t know that, but I felt it. There were plenty of great professors, great classes and great work opportunities on campus. I felt it was the perfect place to be at the time. I still feel that way.

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I knew that I loved UNCW, and I knew I loved research, academia and teaching. I hadn't planned where I wanted to go. Opportunities came along, and I just took them from undergrad to master's degree. I applied to other master's programs, but something opened up for me here in the microscopy lab to learn new techniques. I’m still here because of that master's experience. Learning all those lab techniques is what landed me a job as faculty.

A couple of months before defending my Ph.D. dissertation, I learned that the biology department had an open lecturer position to teach human anatomy and physiology. Throughout my master's and Ph.D., I taught the labs for human anatomy, so I already knew the drill for the labs and the information for the course. I thought, “Hmm...I could do that.”

I want to make my students inquisitive. A lot of them have that desire to learn, and I want to foster that. I encourage them to think beyond what we are talking about in class. A lot of them do that on their own, and that's really inspiring and fun.

We purchased iPads and Osirix MD software with an ETEAL (Experiencing Transformative Education through Applied Learning) grant, awarded to UNCW faculty members carrying out applied learning projects. The technology allows students to view structures in 2D and 3D and introduces them to technology currently used in the medical field. I try to make every little piece of information relevant and show how all of those things interconnect. Why should you care about the digestive system if you’re only interested in physical therapy? I like to connect the dots for them.

Receiving the Lecturer of the Year Award in 2019 felt special because it came from the place where I grew up academically, and now I’m on the other side. I was recognized for providing the same great experience for our current Seahawks that I had as a student.
Reach, Rescue and Recovery

by Venita Jenkins

As Hurricane Dorian barreled toward his home on Grand Bahama Island, Joe Oliver ’06 and some friends rehearsed their emergency plan in case massive storm surge forced them to seek higher ground.

They would cut a hole in the roof, strap on inflated scuba vests and cling to a rope tied to the house. “We were worried about the storm surge and the tide,” recalled Oliver. “It’s like knowing you are going to be in the middle of the train wreck, but you can’t stop it, slow it down or get out of the way.”

On Sept. 1, 2019, Hurricane Dorian made landfall on the Abaco Islands as a destructive Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 185 mph. The massive storm moved across the eastern end of Grand Bahama Island on Sept. 2, where it hovered endlessly, dumping three feet of rain. At one point, sixty percent of the islands was under saltwater due to the storm surge.

“When you look at the destruction pattern of the Abaco Islands and the Bahamas, it wasn’t one disaster—it was three: a Cat 5 hurricane, 20- to 25-foot tsunami-like storm surge and half a dozen tornadoes,” Oliver said. “As a scientist, it was the most amazing thing I have ever seen, but as a person, it was the most horrifying.”

Oliver, who earned a bachelor’s degree in marine biology, moved to Grand Bahama Island in April 2019 to work as the farm manager for Coral Vita, a company that restores dying and damaged reefs. He had been planning to leave for vacation, but decided to stay when Hurricane Dorian intensified.

By staying and preparing for the worst, Oliver and his friends were able to do more after the storm, he said. They had stockpiled supplies over a course of three weeks; those resources were later used to aid communities in the eastern part of the island immediately after the storm passed.

The first person they encountered was David, a local who had not had access to food or water for two days.

“He was happy that someone had come to check on him,” Oliver recalled. “All these people opened up to us and shared their stories. At one house, half of the roof caved in the storm surge and their family was washed away in front of them.”

To weather the storm, other community members swam to their neighbors’ house and tied themselves together.

With Coral Vita offline after the storm, Oliver and company employees ran point on search and rescue, recovery, scouting missions and damage assessment, he said. Once the immediate threat to life dissipated, the team transitioned to bringing in aid with the help of Grand Bahama Port Authority.

“It went from personally picking up and delivering cases of water to arranging and coordinating supplies coming in via airplane, helicopter and boat,” he said.

With the arrival of more professional disaster relief workers, Oliver returned his focus to rebuilding the coral reefs and helping the communities in a more targeted fashion. Coral Vita is raising money to either build a sustainable community center that will provide shelter during future storms or to create hurricane preparedness kits for the community. Oliver hopes a corporate donor will step in and fund the center.

“I feel so strongly tied to this because a lot of the people I’ve been helping in these communities are carpenters, fishermen, construction guys, mechanics. They are the salt of the earth and work with their hands. For me, that’s a lot of my family. That’s why I’m helping.”
“As a scientist, it was the most amazing thing I have ever seen, but as a person, it was the most horrifying.”

– Joe Oliver ’06
Each year since 2005, the Office of International Programs has invited students to submit photos for their international photo contest. As students venture out to places unknown, they find much more than book knowledge.

Here, we see the world through their eyes.
“Studying abroad provides students with an incredible opportunity to explore other cultures, adapt to diverse situations, create unique memories, experience new learning opportunities, and form networks around the globe,” said Kara Pike Inman ’17 Ed.D., director of Education Abroad programs. “Research also finds that through their education abroad experiences students become more flexible, adaptable and culturally competent, while also improving their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. I love seeing the personal, academic and professional growth students experience and hearing their stories of the incredible adventures they’ve had abroad.”

Wesley Porter ’20
Allezles Bleus
(Marseille, France)

“This photo was taken in the summer of 2018 right after France saw the World Cup victory against Croatia. The streets were clamoring with millions of people in celebration.”

Darien Marie Bradley ’19
A Window to a Beautiful New World
(Venice, Italy)

“It was my first time leaving the country and I had no idea how much I was missing out on. I am so thankful for the experience because I never would have gotten to see that part of the world, and because I did, I now see mine differently.”
Research also finds that through their education abroad experiences student become more flexible, adaptable and culturally competent, while also improving their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. I love seeing the personal, academic and professional growth students experience and hearing their stories of the incredible adventures they’ve had abroad.
1. Hannah Stidley ’20 Overlooking Cote d’Azur (Nice, France)
2. Julia Singer ’20 Into the Deep (Cairns, Australia)
3. Ashley Krutz Parque de Amor (Lima, Peru) 4. Lynda Sierra Matheny ’21 Thoughts of Paradise (La Paz Waterfall Gardens, Costa Rica)
5. Lydia Carmer ’20 On the set of The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings (North Island Matamata, New Zealand)
7. Gavriel Kaye ’21 Camel Riding at Dawn (Negev Desert, Israel)
8. Anna Hibbard ’21 The Green Sea Turtle of the Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
9. Lesette Campbell ’20 Touch: A Language That Connects Us All (Thailand)
Special Delivery

by Venita Jenkins and Jennifer Giatt

The Obstetric Rapid Response Team is helping Nina Williams save time and lives.

If emergency drills collide with actual emergencies, it may be just another day on the job for Nina Williams. According to her, “the baby determines when it’s coming.”

Williams, a nursing lecturer in the College of Health and Human Services and a part-time staff nurse in the labor and delivery unit at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, is familiar with obstetric emergencies. She has delivered babies in the emergency department from mothers in cardiac arrest, or experiencing seizures, stroke or uterine rupture. She has delivered more than her fair share of babies in a hospital parking lot.
Nina Williams (seated) and fellow members of the Obstetric Rapid Response Team run a drill outside of New Hanover Regional Medical Center.
Williams, who is passionate about decreasing mortality and maternal morbidity rates, realized that her team needed better structure to meet the needs of those emergencies. “One maternal death is too many,” Williams stated simply. National statistics show 700 women die from pregnancy-related complications each year in the U.S. – and three in five pregnancy-related deaths could have been prevented, according to the Center for Disease Control. Thirty-six percent of pregnancy-related deaths occur during delivery and up to one week afterward. “If we can save one mother, one baby, then we have already improved what we have seen in the last four or five years.”

Babies born in less-than-ideal environments can easily get hypothermia, necessitating a stay in the NICU. Hypothermia causes compromised respiratory systems, “and then it’s a snowball effect” of progressively worse issues, explained Williams. Adequate care in the early moments of birth ensures a healthy start.

Williams found that the typical response to emergencies was “feast or famine.” “We would either have 10 people leaving the unit, then no one was left on the floor to watch patients, or we had only one person go to the code,” she said. “We never had a plan.” Even delivering babies in the emergency department wasn’t ideal, as the distance from Labor and Delivery to the Emergency Department was more than half a mile, and specific supplies were not readily available. Getting a supply cart from one location to the other proved cumbersome.

Combining her experience and ingenuity, Williams created a mobile code team and a supply kit in an easily transportable backpack. The creation of the team and Code-OB bag was the result of a Ph.D. sustainability project Williams completed in order to obtain a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Leadership degree at Gardner-Webb University. The backpack is an EMS/firefighter bag outfitted with blankets, caps, IVs and medications.
Members of New Hanover County Hospital’s newly formed Obstetric Rapid Response Team underwent extensive training and took part in impromptu drills, day and night. Williams implemented the project in February 2019, and within a few weeks, the team was put to the test.

“A code was called for a delivery in front of the hospital. The response time was greatly improved getting to the patient, which led to fewer complications for both the mother and the baby,” said Williams.

Team members are assigned roles similar to football offensive players: the charge nurse is the “quarterback” and the registered nurses are the “running back,” “center” and “wide receiver.” Each offensive player is responsible for certain tasks after the team receives an emergency code. The quarterback oversees all obstetric emergency codes, the running back carries the emergency backpack kit and assists with IV and medications, the center assists physicians with care of patients and the wide receiver documents all code activities.

“The response team makes a very chaotic situation less chaotic,” said Ashley Riley, a labor and delivery registered nurse. Additional nursing staff are assigned as back-up team members to cover patients when the emergency team is responding to a code.

“Globally, every minute a woman dies from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth,” said Charlie Hardy, dean of the College of Health and Human Services. “The United States continues to rank poorly compared to other countries. Nina Williams’ project has the potential to give health care providers the training they need to quickly, confidently and competently treat their patients, reduce extensive financial impact for both the family and the health care system, and most importantly, save lives.”

Williams is exploring the possibility of production of the Code-OB bag, already stocked with the necessary supplies for immediate use in hospitals throughout the country. Several hospitals in North Carolina have reached out to Williams to provide training to their staff. She also presented her project at the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Research Conference in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, in July 2019; Williams’ goal is to take the program abroad.

“I don’t care to make a profit off this; I just want to make it readily available,” Williams said. “This project is going to lead mothers and infants to a safer place.”

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**700 women** die from pregnancy-related complications each year in the U.S.

**3 in 5** pregnancy-related deaths are preventable

**36 percent** of pregnancy-related deaths occur during delivery and up to a one week afterward

– Source: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)
Living Classrooms

Getting their hands dirty is the way students learn.
...in bloom
Matthew Turnbull scans the landscaping outside Friday Hall, suddenly spotting an opening. He directs a UNCW student volunteer to plant a gangly shoot there. This is a four-season perennial garden in progress, and Turnbull, manager of the Kresge Greenhouse, has a carefully developed plan to fill in any gaps with plants that thrive in the sandy soil on campus. The plants in the gardens around Friday are native to the region or grow well in coastal plains. With names like spotted beebalm, pink muhly grass, Ravenel's swamp rattlesnake master, elephant's foot and pine barren gentian, they will create a textured blanket of green with brilliant splashes of color.

“The gardens are meant to become idealized plant communities for future seeding collection, maintenance, horticultural education, attracting pollinators, stormwater mitigation, plant identification, sustainability, conservation and, to me, mostly for aesthetics,” said Turnbull, who came to UNCW in August of 2018.

The same gardens serve as a living classroom for a new course in greenhouse and landscape management best practices now being offered in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology. Many of the seedlings were cultivated in the greenhouse from plants that grow on the UNCW campus, others from plants collected elsewhere. Once established, this frugal garden will be hardier and require less watering than non-native varieties and will be a showcase for an array of plants that grow naturally in this environment. It also teaches an alternative to herbicide-centric landscape planting.

Turnbull’s efforts dovetail with those of geology lecturer Roger Shew, who worked with Chancellor Sartarelli to establish the Natural Areas Stewardship Committee in April of this year. The committee advises campus leadership as well as the Board of Trustees on how to best protect and enhance the natural areas of UNCW’s campus.

As Turnbull and the students he mentors add new plants to this evolving garden, he reminds them that the changes have a purpose.

“There is a reason to it,” he said. “This is not just chaos. I think if they can get their hands dirty, that’s the way you learn.”
One professor’s research suggests that mindfulness may be the best weapon to battle stress, anxiety and depression.

Living with a serious health issue can often wreak havoc on medical outcomes and personal relationships. But with cognitive therapy, a change may be on the horizon. Assistant Professor of Social Work Josalin Hunter-Jones is studying how mindfulness-based cognitive therapy may help HIV-seropositive African American women.

“We’re focused on reducing symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression, which afflict many people living with HIV,” she said. “We provide them with steps to help get out of negative thought patterns.”

Hunter-Jones’ research is based on a program known as Project UPLIFT (Using Practice and Learning to Increase Favorable Thoughts), which was originally developed to help people with epilepsy better understand and cope with depression. It also has shown success for people with other chronic conditions like cystic fibrosis, but this is the first time it has ever focused on African American women with HIV.

Mindfulness encourages clients to notice and acknowledge when their thoughts or experiences are leading them into a depressive or anxious state and trains them to reaffirm that whatever they are feeling is only temporary, explained Hunter-Jones. “One thing happens, and then we allow our minds to build it into something bigger. Mindfulness aims to bring people back to the present.”

Her research builds on studies she conducted in Atlanta for her doctoral dissertation at the University of Georgia from 2014-17. She began with small groups for the first two phases, and is working toward a randomized clinical trial involving 35-50 women. Hunter-Jones will conduct sessions via telephone, which increases privacy as well as access for those who have transportation, distance or childcare needs.

Because it teaches about the links between thoughts, feelings, behavior and skills to gain control of those thoughts, Hunter-Jones refers to the method as “psycho-education.”

“These days, mindfulness is often looked upon as a buzzword, but it has been integrated into a number of therapies, and we have data that it works.”
1960s
Daniel V. Meier Jr. ’68 authored *The Dung Beetles of Liberia: A Novel Based on True Events."

1970s
Tony Rivenbark ’70 received a StarNews Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been executive director of Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts in Wilmington for 40 years.

Tim Willette ’77 is chief compliance officer for the University of North Texas System.

1980s
Velva Jenkins ’80, former UNCW Alumni Association board member, is interim chief executive officer of theYWCA Lower Cape Fear in Wilmington.

Col. Francis DeLuca USMC (RET) ’81 was a candidate for North Carolina’s 3rd Congressional District in the U.S. House.

Alan Sewell ’84, a UNCW Society member and former wrestling coach at Laney High School, was inducted into the North Carolina Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Robert Abbotts ’85, a Clocktower Society member, was elected to the UNCW Alumni Association Board of Directors for the 2019-22 term.

Caroline Reda ’85, a UNCW Society and Clocktower Society member, was featured in the *Business North Carolina* article “Alumni from UNC System Institutions Make Big Marks” (April 29, 2019).

Malcolm Coley ’86, ’89M, a UNCW Society and Clocktower Society member, will serve as chair of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance in 2022.

Bill Hall ’88 was inducted into the Northwood University Athletic Hall of Fame. He served as the university’s director of athletics for eight years; coach of the varsity football team for 28 years; softball team and girls’ basketball team for two years; and coach of the golf team for one year.

Brenda Mills ’88 is library system director for Halifax County (NC).

John Berry ’89, president of Central Ohio Technical College, was featured in the Newark Advocate’s article “Aces of Trades: COTC’s John Berry Sought to ‘Make Others’ Lives Better’” (June 10, 2019).

Richard E. Myers ’89, ’94M was nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

1990s
Kevin Holton ’91 is leading the Wilmington office of AAFMAA Mortgage Services LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association.

Loreen Sumner ’91, English/ESL teacher at East Duplin High School in Beulaville, NC, was WTOY’s Teacher of the Week.

Diane Babson ’92M was appointed chief financial officer of Allianz Care, an international healthcare brand.

Diane Badakhsh ’92 is director of the division of continuing education at Georgia Southern University.

Mark Bieberich ’92 is the tennis coach at Severna Park High School (MD).

Kevin Hunter ’92 was named 2019-20 Principal of the Year in Dunn, NC.

Tonya Williams ’92 is assistant principal of Union Elementary and Union Intermediate schools in Clinton, NC.

Christy Atwell Barnes ’95, a UNCW Society member, along with her husband Lee, established a fund to support the reading and literacy programs at D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy a K-8 year-round public school, jointly operated by NHCS and UNCW.

Morgan C. Jackson ’96, along with his wife Shawn, established the Elvin and Pat Wallace Jackson Honors Scholarship in Political Science Endowment in honor of Morgan’s mother, Pat Wallace Jackson, and in memory of his father, J. Elvin Jackson.

Erica Jones ’96 was elected to the UNCW Alumni Association Board of Directors for the 2019-22 term.

Dawn Kennaugh ’96 is principal of Jack Barnes Elementary School in Queen Creek, AZ.

Amy Tully ’96 is director of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance within the College of Arts and Sciences at Oakland University in MI.

Kathryn Fuller ’98, Rachel Clark Riesbeck ’05, Marissa Blackburn ’13 and Morgan Taylor ’15 participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field courses, travelling to Kenya, Australia, and India, respectively.

Kara Gansmann ’98, an elder law and estate planning attorney with Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP, was named chair of the CSH Law Elder Law and Estate Planning Practice Group. She is based in their Wilmington office.

Chase Hodges ’98, Georgia Gwinnett College’s first tennis coach, led the team to 109 consecutive wins, the longest active streak in collegiate men’s tennis.

Marcus Johnston ’98M is vice president of exploration at NV Gold Corporation, a Canadian mineral exploration company.

Teresa K. Anderson ’99 is principal of Blackwell Elementary School in Richmond, VA.

Jessica Malisch ’99, assistant professor of physiology at St. Mary’s College in Maryland, was selected by The Biology Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research as a 2019 recipient of its Mentor Award, which honors long-term efforts in supervising undergraduate research students.

Garland Yopp ’99 was promoted to captain of the NC Marine Patrol’s Southern District.

2000s
Stephania Bloodworth ’00, a Clocktower Society member, was elected to the UNCW Alumni Association Board of Directors for the 2019-22 term.

Pier-Luca Bruno ’00 joined Axiom Capital Corp in Clifton Park, NY, as senior vice president of business development.

Rebecca Knudson ’00 was selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2020. She is a personal injury attorney with Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP and is based in their Wilmington office.

Mike Mercer ’00 was named St. Louis market executive for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

Alejandra Sotelo ’00 was promoted to deputy chief within the Wilmington Police Department.

Tim Pruitt ’02 joined Roseburg Forest Products, a leading producer of particleboard, medium-density fiberboard and thermally fused laminates, as business manager of millwork.

Rachel Stantliff ’02 is a career counselor at the Michigan State University Alumni Foundation.

Tara M. Miles ’03, an employment attorney, was appointed a member of the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Oversight Committee through June 30, 2023.

Jason Porter ’03, ’04M joined Baird Global Investment Banking business as a managing director for their global health care team.

Laura Wilhelm ’03M, a professional mover, wrote and published *How to Buy and Sell Any House."

Tufanna Bradley-Thomas ’04M is New Hanover County’s assistant manager.

Ann B. Hardy ’04M retired as Brunswick County manager.

Elin Reuben ’04, ’10M is principal of Mabel Elementary School in Boone, NC.

Justin Cioppa ’05 wrote a comic play, “Django,” that was performed at the Cape Fear Playhouse in Wilmington.

Jessica M. Lipscomb ’05 is vice president of the Preston County Chamber of Commerce in West Virginia.

Stephanie Norris ’05 was named Principal of the Year for Bladen County Schools.

Aaron Pinkston ’05 won his fourth Daytime Emmy for his work as a senior field producer with “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” which won Best Entertainment Talk Show.
In Memoriam: James H. Medlin Jr.  
(1933-2019)

James H. Medlin Jr. ’52, longtime president of the Wilmington College Alumni Chapter, passed away on July 29, 2019.

A Wilmington native, he attended New Hanover High School before pursuing a degree in math at Wilmington College. After graduating, he served in the U.S. Army and later became a licensed engineer and registered land surveyor. He retired from the NC Department of Transportation in 1995 with nearly 40 years of service.

Medlin spearheaded the founding of the Wilmington College Alumni Chapter and served an integral role in championing the legacy of Wilmington College. He was also active in the Wilmington Engineers Club and the College Acres Subdivision Home Owners Association.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years Betty Jean Foglemen. He is survived by his sons, James Glenn and Brody; as well as a stepson Gregory Proctor and his wife, Brenda, and their sons, Dalton and Jordan.
Katie (Houmard) Sanderson ’12 was featured in The Daily Reflector for running the Boston Marathon with her father, Joe.

Brittany Kelly ’12, ’16M is risk management specialist in the Pender County Human Resources Department.

Cameron Baker ’13 is a member of The National Black Lawyers Top 40 Under 40.

Kathryn Dispennette ’13 was inducted into Northwood University’s Athletic Hall of Fame.


Taylor M. Rote ’13, ’15M was promoted to supervisor at SEK, CPAs & Advisors in their Chambersburg, PA office.

Logan Aldridge ’14, an accomplished para-athlete, was crowned “The Strongest One-Armed Man on Earth.”

Racheal Lenig ’14, a software developer at Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp., joined Cape Fear Women in Tech, a Wilmington-based organization that champions opportunities for women in technology.

Jason Velie ’15 joined Argent Financial in their Wilmington office.

Daniel Dozier ’16 is assistant coach of West Virginia University’s swim team.

Katrin Wesner-Harts ’16Ed.D., a UNCW Society and Clocktower Society member and director of UNCW’s Abrons Student Health Center, was elected 2019-20 president of the American College Health Association.

Rachel LeCates ’17 works at a sea turtle rehabilitation facility in Texas.

Manny Lloyd ’17, a Clocktower Society member, has been appointed to the New Hanover County Commission on African American History, Heritage and Culture, and will serve as the commission’s first chairman.

Farrell Teague ’54 attended Wilmington College with the aid of a scholarship and later returned the favor by establishing the A. Farrell Teague Scholarship.

As a student, he was the third person to receive the President’s Medal of Achievement, now called the Hoggard Medal, in honor of former President John T. Hoggard, to acknowledge the superior academic and social performance of a graduating student.

After receiving an associate’s degree from Wilmington College, he went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina. He served in the U.S. Army before a long career as an executive with Belk Inc.

He was honored by the UNCW Alumni Association as the 2016 Citizen of the Year. In addition to being heavily involved with the association, he was a member of the Rotary Club, United Way, American Legion and Cape Fear Model Railroad Society.

A native of McCall, SC, he is survived by his wife, Geraldine; two daughters, Lynn Teague of Wilmington and Wanda Horton and husband Scott of Rocky Point, NC; a grandson, Andrew Teague of Wilmington; two brothers, Bill Teague and his wife Carol of Hendersonville, NC; Tom Teague and his wife Joyce Ann of Olive Branch, MS; two sisters, Julia Weathers of Trinity, NC, and Joyce Stewart; as well as nieces; a nephew; and aunts and uncles.

In Memoriam: Arthur Farrell Teague (1934-2019)
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Evan Michael McDuffie '17 and Bailey Brooke Norfleet were married at Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Wilson (NC).

Amber Reeves '17 joined the Youngstown State women’s basketball staff as the director of basketball operations.

Mason Berne '18 was featured in the Daily Commercial’s article “Baseball player sees dreams come alive in North Port” (July 15, 2019). He is the first baseman for the Gulf Coast League Braves, the Atlanta Braves’ rookie team.

Zach Drennan '18 joined Pioneer Strategies, a Brunswick County (NC)-based public relations agency, as an account coordinator.

Christian Godwin '18 is an associate case researcher at Harvard Business School.

Ross Hogan '18 is a police officer trainee with the Laconia Police Department in NH.

Nathaniel Liu '18 joined the Peace Corps in Rwanda to train as a maternal and child health educator.

Mackenzie Brown '19M joined Moody & O’Neal CPAs LLC, a tax preparation service in Mount Pleasant, SC, as a tax associate.

Lisa Gundersen '19 is clinical operations director of cancer services at AdventHealth Hendersonville (NC).

Patrick Cover '19 won the 2019 GoPro Tour Kannapolis Open golf tournament and claimed medalist honors in the U.S. Open local qualifier at River Landing in Wallace, NC.

Davontae Cacok '19 was signed by the Los Angeles Lakers.

Justin Crump '19 was picked up by the San Francisco Giants in the 30th round of the Major League Baseball Draft.

Jacob Lail '19M is principal of West Alex Middle School in Taylorsville, NC.

Alexis Landrum '19 was selected as a Presidential Scholar for the UNC System Office for the 2019-20 academic year.

In 2018, the first fraternity of UNC Wilmington, Pi Kappa Phi, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Chartered in 1968, the Gamma Theta Chapter has endured five decades and initiated more than 600 brothers. Among the 230+ attendees at the 2018 celebration were 12 founding members of the Gamma Theta Chapter, many former and active brothers and a representation of the five decades of brotherhood built at UNCW. Also in attendance were numerous chapter “little sisters” and a member from the national headquarters in Charlotte.
In Memoriam: Micah Scott
(1959-2019)

School of Nursing faculty member Micah Scott passed away on July 11, 2019 from cancer. She brought more than 30 years of nursing experience across multiple specialties when she began in the College of Health and Human Services’ School of Nursing as the family nurse practitioner program coordinator in 2016.

After earning her RN license in 1981, Dr. Scott began her nursing career as a staff nurse in an adolescent unit at the Portsmouth Psychiatric Unit in Virginia before moving to Sentara Norfolk General, where she worked in the emergency room and the coronary care unit.

Dr. Scott maintained clinical practice as a family nurse practitioner at several different locations including Eastern Virginia Medical School, Breast Care Specialists and Digestive and Liver Specialists. She transitioned into academia in 1998, when she began working as a nurse educator at Old Dominion University.

Dr. Scott earned her Ph.D. in nursing in 2009 from Hampton University, her Master’s in Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner from Virginia Commonwealth University and her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Old Dominion University.

The College of Health and Human Services held a celebration of her life in August. Donations to her memorial scholarship may be made by visiting giving.uncw.edu/scott.
Fathoms Below

The Undersea Vehicles Program at UNCW is part of the oceanographic operations support division at the Center for Marine Science. Trained photographers often assist with research along the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. In July, the team went on assignment to survey the ocean floor near St. Croix and St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the photo below was taken.
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