Introducing Our Newest Seahawk

CHANCELLOR
JOSE V. “ZITO” SARTARELLI
Alumni and friends,

As the saying goes: “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” While progress can be exciting, and necessary, it also presents a challenge in terms of what to hold onto, what should remain from the old as the new sweeps in.

UNCW has changed in size, scope and stature. We have undergone leadership transitions, and with them an evolution of the university’s direction. The higher education landscape itself has changed dramatically. A reduction in resources has forced some difficult changes, but we have endured. In fact, we have prospered.

We have devoted this issue of UNCW Magazine to just that: all of the things that have stayed the same, and have made us great, make us great and will continue to make us great.

What hasn’t changed? Our exceptional academic offerings are still led by a widely renowned body of faculty who put their students’ needs above all else. Our staff continues to operate at such an impressive level that the university received a national ranking for efficiency, which also likely plays a role in our national ranking for affordability. Our commitment to applied learning has given a new generation of students the opportunity to apply their classroom or lab instruction in various environments, which enhances their professional skills and critical thinking. Our research achievements, which are often faculty-student collaborations, continue to expand. Our alumni base is more engaged than ever and always willing to support emerging Seahawks. We continue to be connected to our region through faculty-led initiatives and partnerships, and we are a significant contributor to the economic development of the area. Our arts and cultural programming remains a huge draw for our students and our neighbors. And of course, fans of UNCW Athletics continue to be passionate and loyal – and last year were rewarded with a new logo!

Change can also be good, of course, and we are excited to have the chance to introduce you to our new chancellor, Dr. Jose V. “Zito” Sartarelli, in this issue. His energy and work ethic are a perfect fit for our campus, and we expect his thoughtful and dynamic approach will help lead UNCW to even greater heights.

As one faculty member was overheard sharing with an administrator recently: “We’re still here. No matter what changes above us or around us, we’re still here.” With an enduring commitment like that from our faculty, staff, alumni and supporters, our students receive a well-rounded, robust education that sets them up for professional and personal success – yet another thing that will never change.

We hope you enjoy this issue about some of the people and initiatives that make UNCW what it is. Go Seahawks!
DEAR UNCW
A letter from Chancellor Sartarelli

OPENING DOORS FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW
CHHS fosters opportunities for local engagement and regional impact

BEYOND COUNSELING
An MSW opens up possibilities to serve military and Latino communities

EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS
Watson College of Education initiative enhances teaching and school leadership quality

PAYING IT FORWARD
Partnership benefits teachers in Belize and beyond

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE
Film Studies aims to meet the needs of an evolving industry

SOARING SEAHAWK
John Morrison’s satellite project is out of this world

LUNCHROOM LEARNING
Farm-to-table gets real at Wagoner Dining Hall

KEEPIN’ IT TEAL
A growing student body helps deepen UNCW’s culture of community

STEADFAST SEAHAWKS
Faculty and staff members share their thoughts after 30+ years at UNCW

DREAM SEASON
The CAA trophy returns to Trask Coliseum

GROWTH FUND
Thanks to UNCW’s endowment, students enjoy once-in-a-lifetime opportunities

MATHEMATICAL ALCHEMISTS
Calculating life’s risks and rewards

ABOUT THE COVER: Chancellor Jose V. “Zito” Sartarelli at Kenan House, April 16, 2015. Photo by Jeff Janowski
UNCW Alumni and Friends,

I want to take the opportunity, in my first UNCW Magazine letter, to tell you how excited I am to be in Wilmington. I was on campus for several days in May, just before commencement, and I could feel UNCW’s energy and drive as the entire university prepared to send the Class of 2015, one of our largest graduating classes ever, out into the world. I am very grateful for the opportunity to lead UNCW, and I intend to do my best for the university every single day that I’m privileged to serve as chancellor.

My interest in this position sprang from UNCW’s reputation as an outstanding institution that values teaching, research and community engagement. From my very first visit to campus, I realized that UNCW thrives on helping young men and women evolve into knowledgeable and successful citizens. The more I learned about UNCW, the more I wanted the chance to develop its potential and guide its future growth.

I respect the high-quality student experience that UNCW faculty and staff consistently provide year after year, a fact reflected in the university’s consistently high rankings. I admire the university’s deep commitment to the community, a relationship that goes back to UNCW’s earliest days, when local citizens voted to fund a public college in Wilmington. I value the university’s focus on applied learning, effectively combining UNCW’s strengths in teaching and research with its purpose, to better the lives of students and to enhance the quality of life in North Carolina.

Taking on the role of UNCW chancellor also seemed like the next natural step in my life’s journey, which began with my youth in Brazil, continued with advanced education in the U.S. and flourished during my three decades in the private sector before I transitioned into higher education. As I have discovered during a career that has spanned three continents, leadership knows no boundaries, and I am eager to learn how my experiences can benefit the university.

UNCW is a terrific school, and over the next few months, we will work together to strategize ways to make it even better. I plan to listen, listen and then listen some more. I want to talk with our students, faculty and staff, alumni, local and state leaders and the entire UNCW community. I tend to bring many people into important discussions; it is better to have more inclusiveness, more diversity of thought, than otherwise.

We will develop a vision and define our values, which will always include focusing on students and the quality of their learning experience. We will support our faculty and invest in research. We will engage our community in the life of the university, and UNCW will actively participate in the life of our community. We will focus on building relationships with individuals and organizations to secure more philanthropic support for UNCW’s mission. We will continue to do what UNCW has done well since 1947, which is create opportunities for students to learn, grow and become productive citizens of the world.

Thank you for welcoming my wife Kathy and me to UNCW. We are proud to become members of the Seahawk family, and we’re ready to begin our new adventure at UNCW!

Yours at UNCW,

Dr. Jose V. “Zito” Sartarelli
Chancellor, UNCW
Getting to know CHANCELLOR SARTARELLI

What story does your family always tell about you?
We were six in total, three girls and three boys. My siblings always talk about how protective my father was of me when growing up – the youngest could not be touched.

What part of your morning routine do you consider essential?
Having a good breakfast of hot chocolate, orange juice, one egg and papaya.

Do you cook?
I do not, but I love eating pasta of any kind and helping to clean after a good meal.

Which book are you currently reading?
I am currently reading three books: *Isabella, The Warrior Queen* by Kirstin Downey; *Napoleon: A Life* by Andrew Roberts and *The Art of Being Unreasonable* by Eli Broad. I love reading history and the potential lessons from it. The third one is about how to question conventional wisdom in everything we do.

What do you do with 30 minutes of free time?
I make sure to walk outside, enjoy the sun, smell the flowers. The outside world is beautiful; focused on our devices, we often fail to appreciate it.

Metaphorically speaking, what is the most important tool in your toolbox?
Probably my ability to analyze and synthesize information.

For what are you grateful?
For a wonderful family with loving parents and siblings and for my wonderful wife; for strangers who have helped me in life with counsel and at times with resources; for the scholarships that have allowed me to become what I am today; for friends who have been there for me; and for my God.

What music would be on your playlist for a long road trip?
Beatles (Sergeant Pepper album), Gianni Morandi (Italian singer), Raul Seixas (Brazilian singer), Motown.

What makes you laugh?
Listening to Garrison Keillor in “A Prairie Home Companion” when he is really inspired.

What is something that is widely available and yet underappreciated?
A simple thank you.
opening doors
for a healthy tomorrow

JULY 2010
CHHS and McNeill Hall officially open

AUGUST 2011
Inaugural CHHS convocation

SEPTEMBER 2012
CHHS launches Strategic Initiatives with Faculty Champions

DECEMBER 2013
CHHS/Southeastern NC Regional Health Collaborative awarded $150,000 from the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation

JANUARY 2011
Jeanne Kemppainen appointed the Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor in the School of Nursing
On July 1, 2010, the School of Health and Applied Human Sciences, the School of Nursing and the School of Social Work came together in newly constructed McNeill Hall to begin their work in serving the community as one unit: the College of Health and Human Services.

The team wasted no time in establishing collaborations and partnerships throughout the region’s health community, making excellence in community engagement the distinguishing characteristic of CHHS, according to founding dean Charles Hardy.

Leaders from CHHS joined the South East Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) and health departments in Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties to form the Southeastern North Carolina Regional Health Collaborative.

“We’re coming together to positively influence chronic disease prevention and management of diabetes, obesity and hypertension, which are three major issues in our region,” said Dean Hardy.

“I like to say that health does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries,” said David Rice, director of the New Hanover County Health Department. “It’s important for us to work together, because what happens in Pender County affects us in New Hanover County and vice versa.”

Affirming CHHS’s excellence, the college’s Center for Health Communities has been chosen to host the Public Health Training Center for the State of North Carolina. For four years, CHHS is committed to developing the training center to host professional development and continuing education for the public health workforce in North Carolina.

“This translates into designing educational opportunities such as workshops, webinars and TED talks for public health workers in North Carolina so they can enhance their knowledge in protecting the health of our state,” said Dean Hardy. “We’re also engaged in placing our students in real-world experience, so that when they graduate they will be ready to hit the ground running.”

The New Hanover County Health Department is especially interested in bringing these highly trained health professionals onto their team. “From what I’ve seen, they’ve been engaged, enthusiastic and an added value to our organization,” Rice said of the UNCW students. “We want the very best, and that’s what’s being turned out at UNCW.”

After an inaugural five years of high productivity and community engagement, CHHS has specific goals to continue to move the program forward.

“We need to be opening another school,” said Dean Hardy. “The three schools that we have are just the beginning.” Other programs in discussion include rehabilitation sciences, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, nutrition, physical therapy, speech and audiology, biomedical sciences, child and family studies, therapeutic sciences and respiratory therapy.

The college also hopes to construct a new building to add space for more programming and new simulation labs. The building is included in the UNC Board of Governors’ six-year capital plan.

Jeanne Kemppainen, who has been part of CHHS since its inception, said, “It was exciting to watch the planning, then to actually see it fall into place. I’ve been watching changes throughout the past five years. It has been a delight for all of us to get to know each other and establish some wonderful interprofessional teams.”

Going forward, Kemppainen, the Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor in the School of Nursing, hopes to devote her time to developing a mentoring program within CHHS, similar to the Cameron Executive Network in the Cameron School of Business. CHHS maintains an extensive alumni network in North Carolina, including more than 1,000 alumni from the School of Social Work and over 2,100 alumni from the School of Nursing.

“I see us making great progress into the future and making a real difference in healthcare outcomes in southeastern North Carolina,” Kemppainen said.
An MSW opens up possibilities to serve military and Latino communities in exceptional ways
Karen Kaminski '16 sees firsthand the challenges children face as they try to meet the demands of military family life. As a school counselor at Heroes Elementary School on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, Kaminski helps service members cope with combat-related injuries and students cope with issues related to relocation and parent deployment. She hopes by pursuing a master’s degree in social work, she can do more to support military families.

"During my time here and knowing the needs of the military population, a lot of the disciplines sought are those in the field of social work," said Kaminski, a graduate student in UNCW School of Social Work’s part-time MSW program. She has a post-master’s certificate in clinical community counseling from Johns Hopkins University; a master’s degree will allow her to branch out within the military community, working with programs like Wounded Warriors and the military community, working with families. "I will be able to do work that I love and that I am passionate about."

Like Kaminski, graduate students Rosa Guerrero '14 and Mindy Thompson '16 believe a master’s degree in social work will better equip them to help military and underserved communities. Guerrero wants to address the critical need for bilingual and culturally responsive social workers in the Latino community.

The School of Social Work, within the UNCW College of Health and Human Services, began its part-time master’s degree program in 2014, recognizing its potential particularly in Onslow County, the home of one of the largest military bases in the country. The three-year program focuses on clinical social work practice with individuals, groups, families and communities, training students to help people discover and build upon their resources and strengths to meet their goals.

Based on her in-class experience, Kaminski said she can see how much social work differs from having a professional counseling degree. "What I learned as a school counselor was solution-focused and group therapy; you get them in and you get them out," Kaminski explained. "With the social work program, I see how our environment creates our life story and how much laws and policies impact our lives."

As service members transition back into civilian life, community mental health providers play a vital role helping them and their families. In particular, there is a growing interest in developing suicide prevention strategies due to the high suicide rate among veterans.

"Offering a blended part-time program to meet the state’s need for master's-educated social workers is a critical part of the school’s commitment to the region and the state," said Lori Messinger, former director of the School of Social Work. (Messinger was named associate vice chancellor for external programs in April 2015.) A hybrid of online and classroom courses at the Onslow Extension Site in Jacksonville and UNCW’s main campus accommodates working adults’ schedules.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employs more than 10,000 professional social workers, and is one of the largest employers of individuals with a master's degree in social work in the country.

"There are not many fluent Spanish-speaking clinical social workers or counselors. I definitely see a need," said Guerrero, a referral specialist with Onslow County Partnership for Children. "The Latino population is one of the fastest-growing populations in the U.S., and access to mental health services is important for their overall well-being. My master’s degree will allow me to bridge barriers within the Latino community and be an advocate for change in order to see this population prosper."

Guerrero’s desire to help active service members, veterans and military families stems from personal experience. Her husband has served in the Marine Corps for the past eight years and is currently deployed. "The military culture is unique. I want to help families become well-informed about the opportunities and services available to them," she said.

Thompson, who teaches fourth grade at Heroes Elementary School, decided to pursue a master’s degree in social work because she found herself frustrated with teaching.

"I wasn’t able to make a difference with individual kids in the way that I wanted to," she said. "You have a lot of different aspects of their lives you are responsible for, not just academic; there’s social and emotional. I started thinking about how I could work with military families one-on-one and make a difference on a deeper level."

Through social work, Thompson will be able to take what she likes the most about teaching – her relationship with her students – and affect the community in a positive way. "I would love to continue working on base with military families and veterans," said Thompson, whose husband is an Army veteran and active Navy reservist. "This is my home."
The ultimate goal of the partnership is to impact the lives, learning and opportunities available for all students."
Teachers started as students, and the best ones consider themselves lifelong learners, leading by example. Improving student learning by enhancing the quality of teaching and school leadership in the region is the goal of Watson College of Education’s Professional Development System (PDS) University-School Partnership, which connects school, district and university partners.

Watson’s PDS has a strong presence and a long history in southeastern North Carolina. The nationally recognized program, established more than 20 years ago, allows schools and districts to partner with Watson College of Education at different levels, whether it’s hosting Watson students in field experience and internship placements, participating in professional development opportunities or partnering with faculty on grants and research, according to Somer Lewis, PDS director. In 2014, the program won the National Association of Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) award for Exemplary PDS Achievement.

“The impact of our PDS partnership is reciprocal,” Lewis said. “Not only does it provide professional development and research opportunities for our partners, but it provides our students and faculty with the opportunity to work with the teachers and administrators who are doing amazing work in our local schools. The ultimate goal of the partnership is to impact the lives, learning and opportunities available for all students. The PDS provides a support structure to accomplish that work together.”

**PDS by the numbers**

- **147** partnership schools
- **2,346** partnership teachers
- **4,194** student field placements
  - Hands-on school-based experiences are designed to supplement WCE teacher preparation courses. Field placements range from 10 to 220 hours per semester, depending on program area and student schedules.
- **320** student internships
  - In 2014-15 interns completed 192,000 hours during their 15-week internship placements, serving an estimated 8,000 public school students.
- **39** professional development opportunities for partners
  - Professional development opportunities include master teacher workshops, partnership teacher refresher courses, Professional Learning Days for partnership teachers (public school teachers who coach WCE interns) and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Academically and Intellectually Gifted Reboot conferences.
Partnership benefits teachers in Belize and beyond

by Venita Jenkins

Megan Barbee ’15 had to quickly adjust to her teaching environment in a foreign country.

She had worked with students with disabilities in a self-contained classroom while interning in Wilmington and had access to numerous resources to aid students with moderate to severe disabilities.

In Belize, however, only a handful of teachers are trained in special education, and a majority of the special needs students are placed in regular classrooms. Resources are limited. Teaching tools are a white dry erase board and a marker.

Barbee, a special education major in the Adapted Curriculum Special Education Program at the Watson College of Education, soon became a valuable resource for teachers at New Horizons Primary School in San Pedro, Belize. She worked one-on-one with children during her five-week field experience and recalled one particular student with ADHD who was excited when she said she would be working with him.

“When I walked into the classroom the next day, he was working so hard,” Barbee said. “The day before he was running around, not sitting in his seat. It made a difference for him just knowing I was going to be there to help.”

For the past seven years, Watson College professors Susan Catapano and Dennis Kubasko have collaborated with educators in Belize through a partnership with the Ministry of Education, Isla Bonita and New Horizon Primary Schools, San Pedro High School, San Pedro Junior College, Galen University and the University of Belize.

Watson College students teach lessons using an indigenous curriculum that reflects the values, languages, customs and perspectives of the people living in the community.

Sarah Anderson ’15, a senior majoring in secondary science education, was impressed by how the teachers engaged students.

“Hopefully, I will be able to take some of those techniques back to the States with me,” she said.

Watson College students and faculty have assisted in improving Belize’s education system in various areas since the partnership was established. Undergraduate students have shared strategies for teaching and classroom management. Graduate students have provided literacy and writing workshops and conducted surveys to learn the needs of rural schools.

Catapano and a graduate student developed a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports framework specifically for Belizean teachers, designed to enhance academic and social behaviors of students.

“They are adopting this classroom management system for the whole country,” Catapano said.

This summer, 11 doctoral students will lead Camp Starfish, a parent-organized camp for special needs children. UNCW and University of Missouri-St. Louis students will help run the camp. Catapano was awarded a Friends of UNCW grant to help pay for supplies and books. (The Friends of UNCW organization supports and promotes educational, scientific and charitable projects on behalf of the university and awards grants annually.)

Field experience in Belize not only provides Watson College students real-world experience, but also enhances their resumes when applying for teaching positions in the U.S., said Jordon Phelps ’15, an elementary education major.

“This is going to help people stand out because it’s a unique experience, and it’s something they can put to good use,” he said. Catapano and Kubasko said the partnership provides students many experiences they can carry over into their professional and personal lives.

“One of things we highlight when we recruit students is that you will find out whether you can really teach. There is no technology and there are very few books and supplies. It’s you and the white board,” said Catapano. “Students leave this experience with a new confidence and become leaders. I think the program is going to pay itself forward multiple times.”
Left: A student stands with her desk at New Horizon Academy.
Right: Megan Barbee oversees a crafting activity for elementary school students.
In a world where an iPhone can shoot cinema-quality footage for an Oscar-winning documentary,* it’s safe to say that movies have transcended film without so much as a backward glance.

Film Studies aims to meet the needs of an evolving industry

by Venita Jenkins and Jennifer Glatt

In a world where an iPhone can shoot cinema-quality footage for an Oscar-winning documentary,* it’s safe to say that movies have transcended film without so much as a backward glance.
A unique dual focus on both the scholarly and creative sides of motion picture media is a hallmark of UNCW’s Department of Film Studies. And, with a newly minted Master of Fine Arts in filmmaking approved by the UNC Board of Governors in April 2015, the program is poised to respond to the evolving nature of the industry, perhaps even affecting the very definition of what a movie is.

“Movies are not just narrative films or consumed for entertainment,” said Dave Monahan, department chair. “They are used for marketing, advertising, gaming...Motion picture media permeates everything.”

Learning real-world skills tied directly to their interests, film studies students frequently find themselves behind the camera. Each year they produce upwards of 500 motion pictures, ranging from 30-second exercises to highly polished 20-minute exhibition films. Students serve as managing editors and the editorial board for Film Matters, an internationally distributed film journal. They also plan and host the annual Visions Film Festival and Conference, where undergraduate film studies majors from all over the world present their scholarly papers and films.

Providing valuable hands-on experience is key to helping students make inroads to the field, Monahan added. The film studies department places students in more than 100 internships annually at Wilmington’s EUE/Screen Gems Studios, the Cucalorus Film Festival and other local businesses that utilize film and television, as well as production and publishing companies worldwide, including Los Angeles, New York and England.

Taylor Abrams ‘15 served as a production assistant on an independent short film in the summer of 2014. The film was developed by the Upperman African American Cultural Center’s Black Film Collective, a campus and community organization that inspires minority students to visualize themselves in key positions in the film industry. She also received a $5,000 scholarship last year from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to train with a screenwriting mentor in Los Angeles.

Likewise, hands-on experience helped Caroline Roberts ‘08 land a job as the executive assistant of award-winning director Rob Marshall and producer John Deluca. Her résumé includes work on Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides and the Oscar-nominated Into the Woods.

“I talk to people who are at the top of their game in the field,” she said. “These are filmmakers who have won Oscars, and I can hold my own. I’m really glad I came to UNCW. It was the perfect learning environment for me.”

UNCW’s film studies program began in the late 1990s as an interdisciplinary minor and grew over the years into a full department focused on producing graduates who have applicable, creative and technical skills, who also know how to write and do research, according to Monahan. Students are well-grounded in film study with the added benefit of a comprehensive dose of applied learning, he explained.

The MFA program will build on the solid foundation of the undergraduate degree, yet will be “extended and immersive” in ways the undergraduate program cannot address, Monahan said. “Students who reach their senior year are ready to take off. This gives them a safe, supportive place to develop their style and skill.”

MFA students will each make three films during their time in the program, which could make its debut in fall 2017. They will study narrative, documentary and experimental approaches to motion picture production through courses in screenwriting, producing, directing, cinematography, sound and editing.

“The way motion pictures are made, distributed and viewed continues to evolve, and we want to be on the front end of that,” noted Monahan. “We want to be a part of the new way of looking at cinema and filmmaking that’s not limited to feature films and standard broadcast television. I think the MFA will raise the program’s profile and the profile of Wilmington as not just a production center, but as a place with a great film culture.”

The genesis of that culture is widely credited to Frank Capra Jr., first president of EUE/Screen Gems Studios. “He was instrumental in getting [the film department] started,” said Monahan, who helps administer the Frank Capra Jr. Film Studies Scholarship. In fact, UNCW students and graduates have worked on every major project happening in North Carolina, he explained.

A robust local film industry benefits the film studies program, drawing prospective students and guest speakers to the campus. Although the number of productions in the state has declined due to changes in N.C.’s tax incentive program, Monahan believes the UNCW film studies program will continue to produce results. Despite lean times in the industry, he is proud that the undergraduate program has remained on the rise throughout all.

“Shows on YouTube that are really sophisticated get millions of views, followers and subscribers, and are operating outside the standard systems,” Monahan concluded. “That’s the generation coming in here. We have a lot to offer them, and they have a lot to offer us.”

* Searching For Sugar Man won Best Documentary (Features) at the 2013 Academy Awards
When John Morrison advises students to start reaching for the stars, he really means it. The professor of physics and physical oceanography recently landed a two-year, $1.675 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to launch the university’s very first satellite, aptly named SeaHawk.

From the vantage point of space, the device will support UNCW’s expertise in marine research by capturing color data about the ocean’s surface, explained Morrison, associate director for research and academic planning at the Center for Marine Science. Since the mid-1990s, scientists have used satellites to collect color data sets that reflect changes in sea surface temperatures, salinity and other ocean processes. Consistent monitoring provides invaluable information about the health of the world’s oceans.

Although satellites come in a variety of shapes and sizes, most people picture the multimillion-dollar leviathans involved in communications, defense and weather monitoring. The International Space Station, the largest manmade satellite in orbit, has more than an acre of solar arrays.

SeaHawk will be different, part of a newer breed of nanosatellites or cube satellites (CubeSats), which are known for their affordability, as well as their lightweight boxy shape.

“It will be about the size of a loaf of bread,” Morrison said.

“This is a good scientific and educational opportunity for the university. Talk about your STEM opportunities,” he said, referring to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. “CubeSats provide low-cost access to space for training and educational purposes.”

To secure the Moore Foundation funding, Morrison recruited a “dream team” of international scientists and technical experts to construct two satellites, SeaHawk and a spare. The university’s partners are NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center and the Hawk Institute for Space Sciences, both in Maryland, Cloudland Instruments in California and Clyde Space in the United Kingdom.

SeaHawk will also be a revolutionary piece of machinery, according to Glasgow-based Clyde Space, a leading producer of nanosatellites. SeaHawk will be 130 times smaller, 45 times lighter and have a ground resolution 7 to 15 times better than the previous ocean monitoring satellite used to collect biological data from space. That satellite took $14.1 million and 10 years to develop.

If all goes according to plan, SeaHawk will soar into low orbit above the Earth in 2017.

With 40 years of professional and academic experience, Morrison is eligible to retire, but he relishes the thought of bringing new technology to UNCW. He’s currently making arrangements to obtain a satellite emulator for students to practice using, and, once the ocean color data sets start streaming in, he looks forward to working with students and faculty across campus to evaluate the ocean from a new world view.

“We have two years to do this,” he said, “and we’re going to have fun doing it.”
The CubeSat will be about the size of a loaf of bread.

SeaHawk will be

130 times smaller | 45 times lighter | 7–15 times clearer

than the previous ocean monitoring satellite
Eating local is about to take on a whole new meaning for UNCW students. Since April, the UNCW Aquaponics Demonstration Project has become the educational centerpiece of Wagoner Hall. The symbiotic growing system brings fish, plants and byproducts together to combat challenging growing conditions, serving as a multi-faceted teaching tool that allows study of broader sustainability issues.

Farm-to-table gets real at Wagoner Dining Hall

by Jamie Lynn Miller ’15M

Eating local is about to take on a whole new meaning for UNCW students.

Since April, the UNCW Aquaponics Demonstration Project has become the educational centerpiece of Wagoner Hall. The symbiotic growing system brings fish, plants and byproducts together to combat challenging growing conditions, serving as a multi-faceted teaching tool that allows study of broader sustainability issues.

Above: UNCW aquaponics advocates (L to R) Leslie Hossfeld, Anthony Snider, Matt Rogers and Roger Shew. Left: Hydron rock pellets
“There’s a genuine need for healthful food, and we need sustainable ecosystems to feed growing populations,” said UNCW’s Leslie Hossfeld ’83, director and co-founder of Feast Down East and former chair of sociology. “Aquaponics is a historical way of generating sustainable agriculture.”

Matt Rogers, resident district manager of campus dining and long-time aquaponics enthusiast, agrees. “Aquaponics is good for soilless farming,” he said. “Plants need less room to grow deeper roots.” Porous pellets of hydron rock, resembling oversized Cocoa Puffs, serve as “soil.” “When you can control what you’re giving the plants’ root systems, they don’t have to go sourcing for water. Lettuces can mature in 28 days, as opposed to the normal 60-day growing cycle in the outside ground,” he explains.

“It creates an extremely small footprint,” said Rogers, of the efficient growth environment. “Eventually, we want to get to a 21-day growing cycle. Think about how many people you can feed in 21 days!” he said with enthusiasm.

Funded by a grant from ETEAL (Experiencing Transformative Education through Applied Learning), UNCW’s quality enhancement plan, the aquaponics kit was designed especially for Wagoner. Professors and students from environmental studies and marine biology installed the 250-gallon tank, filled it with water and cultivated the initial fish and plant habitat.

Waste produced from tilapia will fertilize the plants sharing their water. In turn, the plants create a bio filter, returning clean, eco-friendly water to the fish. The fish and the vegetables will share ecosystems, becoming a viable, mutually renewable food source.

While sustainable agriculture grows in the lunchroom, Wagoner Hall has become a place of daily learning. “It’s an ongoing classroom while you’re eating your lunch,” said Hossfeld.

The project invites collaboration between people and departments as well, including Chris Finelli, biology; Roger Shew ’76, Jack Halland and Anthony Snider, environmental studies; Wade Watanabe, marine science; Leslie Hossfeld, sociology, and the College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean David Webster and Dean Aswani Volety. Evan Folds ’01, owner of Progressive Gardens, a local organic gardening consultant and retailer, will oversee all things agricultural, as students from similar fields and interests add their own expertise to the process.

Marine biology students will monitor the fish and determine how much waste the plants will need, while environmental studies students will test the pH level of the water.

“The project is about sustainability,” adds Hossfeld, something her sociology students will assess and measure – namely, how this form of agriculture affects the community and the community’s connection to this type of agriculture.

For several years, Rogers has been supporting the local food movement at Wagoner Dining Hall by literally bringing farms – and farmers – to lunchroom tables. “When folks are connected to a food source, it generates a sense of community pride. What if that food source were front and center?” he asks. “With the aquaponics project taking center stage at Wagoner, will the students’ connection get deeper? When students hear from a farmer about his day and his lifestyle, they’re always amazed. [The project] is about connecting people to a food source.”

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher has donated additional tanks, which will be installed at the DUB dining facility.

As campus dining incorporates the high yield of fresh fish and vegetables, connections to the process – and the food source – are expected to deepen.

“We’re hoping the project will launch something greater. Our hope is that this will get bigger and finer,” said Hossfeld.

Indeed, as students cultivate a connection to their plants and proteins, their interest in sustainable agriculture might just grow beyond the walls of the dining hall, into their own backyards.
Somewhere between their initial tour of campus and hearing their names called at commencement, Seahawks find their place at UNCW. “It’s hard to think I left home four years ago, only to find it here again at UNCW,” said Sarah Kordon ’15, a senior environmental studies and geosciences major. “Home at UNCW means feeling safe, included and always ready to try something new in my living community.” Support, spirit and engagement are the defining characteristics of the university’s culture of community.
SUPPORT

As the campus grows in size and complexity, a small-school environment and individualized interactions are key to maintaining UNCW’s community.

“It’s critical for us to keep that sense of community so that our students know we’re paying attention to who they are as individuals,” said Pat Leonard, vice chancellor of student affairs. “It’s about keeping a personal touch, and I think that’s a core value that hasn’t changed.”

To help students succeed in the classroom and have a positive university experience, UNCW relies on the expertise of 19 departments in the Division of Student Affairs. In addition to specialized services and attention to a variety of students’ needs, each department has a role in developing the UNCW culture of community.

UNCW was transformed from a largely commuter campus in the early 2000s, with 23 percent in student housing, to today’s residential community where nearly 40 percent call campus home. With accommodations for an additional 1,783 sophomores, juniors and seniors, every department on campus has experienced greater demand for services and has expanded to meet the needs of the growing on-campus student population.

For example, CARE (the Collaboration for Aggression Response and Education) saw increased interest in their My Stand Mentor program. CARE has trained more than 400 students to recognize and understand interpersonal violence and intervene in sensitive situations.

“This training being such a success shows that young leaders are thirsty for the knowledge of how to improve our community,” said Adam Hall ’09, ’11M, the CARE Interpersonal Violence Prevention Coordinator. “This collective community belief is critical for the success of students and the success of our community as a whole.”

SPIRIT

Time-honored events like the annual Beach Blast, Wags giving feast and Homecoming celebrations are integral parts of the UNCW community of spirit.

More than 4,200 students attended last years Beach Blast, a UNCWelcome event held at Wrightsville Beach, said Jon Kapell, director of the Campus Activities and Involvement Center (CAIC). “So many students tell us each year that this is the event that sets the stage for the rest of the year.”

The Residence Hall Association, Student Government Association and the Association for Campus Entertainment collaborated to launch a large-scale school spirit program called “Tealiversary” to celebrate the 10th anniversary of UNCW’s weekly “Teal Tuesday.”

“One of our goals as an organization was to increase Teal Tuesday school spirit,” said Mattie Kearse ’15, RHA president. “This program certainly did that.”

Of course, UNCW’s annual Homecoming events provide the opportunity for students and alumni to celebrate together. “Homecoming allows students to show their spirit and truly know what it is to be a Seahawk!” said Candace Reeder ’15, Association for Campus Entertainment president.

In the spirit of gathering Seahawks together, UNCW expanded the student recreation center in 2013, which more than doubled the workout space available, added pool space and included new sports courts. The $35 million project was supported by the Student Government Association and funded by student fees.

ENGAGEMENT

NASPA (the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) has recognized UNCW as a lead institution with regard to civic learning and democratic engagement for student affairs’ work in that area.

“Ultimately, we’re educating students to go out and be active, contributing citizens in their communities,” said Jaime Russell, assistant director of the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement. “We want them to leave here with the tools to make a difference wherever they end up.”

UNCW has an active and highly involved culture of community engagement. During the first few weeks of classes in the fall, CAIC organizes the annual Involvement Carnival with more than 300 tables for student organizations, departments, community groups and businesses.

Students can go to any university to attend classes and earn a degree. They choose UNCW for its vibrant community and endless opportunities for engagement in research, student organizations and volunteer work.

Tyler Gampp ’16, a junior mathematics major, sums up his perspective of the culture of community well: “My UNCW family is the reason why I call UNCW my home and not just my university.”

“**It’s about keeping a personal touch**”

— PAT LEONARD, VICE CHANCELLOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Compiled by Rae Beary ’15 and Davis McKinney ’18

STEADFAST SEAHAWKS

Faculty and staff share their thoughts after 30+ years at UNCW
REBECCA HARDY
Graduation Specialist
Registrar’s Office

What motivates you to come to work each day? I enjoy what I do, and I’m a people person.

What is the biggest change you’ve seen on campus during your time here? The processes. When I started working, everything was paper. During registration, you had to go stand in line and fill out your cards. In the past, you always had to interact with another person.

What professional goal would you still like to achieve? Retirement! Just kidding. To stay on top of technology and know how it works so that I don’t feel like I’m totally oblivious to the world and how the 21st-century crowd communicates.

If you had an extra hour in every day, what would you do with it? Spend it with my granddaughter. She’s 14, but she’s still my grandbaby. She’s fun to be around and she keeps me young. She inspires me and I think I inspire her. We’re a good balance for each other.
“I think we had a dream year nobody imagined we would have.”

Above: Coach Keatts holds the spoils of the winning season. Left: The UNCW Men’s Basketball team celebrates their 2015 CAA Championship trophy after going 18-14 in their 2014-15 season.
dream season

CAA trophy returns to Trask Coliseum with a new wave of excitement

by Venita Jenkins

The 2014-15 men's basketball season came down to two simple questions from new head coach Kevin Keatts to his new charges: Do you want to be a champion? Are you willing to put in the hard work to do it?

Shortly after Keatts's arrival, he asked senior guard Freddie Jackson '15 those very questions. Without hesitation, Jackson answered yes.

“Thank you let me know that [Coach] was about business, that he believed in working hard and chasing championships. That is every player’s dream – to be a champion,” said Jackson.

Keatts did not know what to expect going into the 2014-15 season, but he did know his players wanted to become a better team. “I think we had a dream year nobody imagined we would have,” he said. “Did I expect 18 wins? I don’t think so. I just expected us to do better. The guys learned how to play hard, they learned how to compete and through the process, they were able to build a lot of confidence.”

After 10 months of grueling practices and a tough 32-game schedule, the team returned the Colonial Athletic Association trophy to its place in Trask Coliseum, finishing the season 18-14 overall and 13-7 in the conference. The team advanced to the semifinals of the conference tournament in Baltimore and received an invitation to play in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT) in Huntsville, TX – the team’s first postseason berth since 2006.

Yet UNCW had been picked to finish ninth in the 10-team league in the CAA’s 2014-15 preseason poll.

“This has been a wild year,” said Jackson. “It was great how Coach Keatts changed the program around. We went from worst to first.”

Keatts, a former University of Louisville associate head coach, became UNCW’s 10th men’s basketball head coach in April 2014. The one-year turnaround of the program earned Keatts numerous accolades, including CAA Coach of the Year, the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) UPS Division I All-District coach in District 10, top rookie coach in the nation by Basketball Times, and a finalist berth for the Joe B. Hall and Ben Jobe awards from CollegeInsider.com.

“Coaches do not get [these accolades] without their players and staff,” Keatts clarified. “My assistant coaches and support staff did a tremendous job for me this year. Although I am excited and happy about the personal recognition, it came from a team effort.”

Keatts commends the team’s three seniors – Jackson, Cedrick Williams ’15 and Addison Spruill ’15 – for their leadership, and each collected well-deserved accolades in their final season.

“I am proud of their efforts. You have to give them a lot of credit for the year that we had,” noted Keatts.

Freshman point guard Jordon Talley ’18, also credited the Seahawk community for the team’s success. Game attendance grew as the team continued to win and UNCW ultimately led the conference in home attendance with an average of 3,955 fans per game.

Seahawk Club member Mike McCarley has attended the men’s basketball games since 1978.

“I went to some of the practices early on and met Kevin prior to the season and was very impressed,” he said. “He has the team in the best shape that UNCW basketball has been in for years.”

Indeed, the excitement of Seahawk basketball goes beyond campus. Keatts said when he speaks to groups in the area, people reference the team as “we” instead of “you guys.”

“We are turning a corner with the community,” he said. “We had an unbelievable home court advantage. I think our students, faculty, staff and the community helped us win a lot of games. I want to make sure people get out and come to more games next year. I’m excited about the direction the program is taking.”

Fans had more than a winning season to cheer about this year; UNCW Athletics introduced a new logo in January, the first update since 1992.
growth fund

Thanks to UNCW’s endowment, students enjoy once-in-a-lifetime opportunities

by Andrea Weaver

Support endowment giving
www.uncw.edu/scholarshipstories
On March 24, 2015 UNCW had an ambitious goal: to raise $133,801 in one day. Last year, donors gave $133,800 during UNCW's first-ever 24-hour fundraising challenge, and the university received a $24,000 gift from an anonymous donor. Given the previous campaign's success, UNCW's Division for University Advancement aimed to raise just one additional dollar from last year's total. Increasing donations by $1 would secure an additional gift of $48,000 to fund scholarships, support research, hands-on learning experiences and more. Mission accomplished!

“We are overwhelmed by the generous support we have received from UNCW alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends,” said Missy Kennedy ’01, director of annual giving. “The community has illustrated their continued commitment to the university and our efforts to provide students with the best opportunities available.”

It was late 2006, and the Cultural Arts Building had just opened. Music department chair Frank Bongiorno was encouraging music lovers to support the “Have a Seat” campaign to raise funds for departmental scholarships and programs. Ann Sherman-Skiba and her husband, Günther Skiba, responded with generous enthusiasm.

“She and her husband were buying up seats and naming them for jazz musicians. They bought a half dozen of them,” the accomplished saxophonist recalls. “We hit it off right away.”

The couple talked with Bongiorno about making a long-term investment in the music department, but Günther Skiba passed away before their plans were complete. In 2007, Ann Sherman-Skiba established the UNCW Department of Music Jazz Festival Endowment to celebrate her husband’s love of jazz, and the university named a state-of-the-art rehearsal room in his memory.

At UNCW, the word “endowment” is synonymous with “opportunities,” because that’s what these well-invested funds support. More than 400 separate funds make up the combined endowment portfolio of the university and the Foundation of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The funds are invested together to increase their earning potential. The university uses the generated income to support scholarships, professorships, lecture series and funds for research, student travel, community engagement, facilities and more.

Since 2003, the market value of UNCW’s endowment assets has increased 376 percent, from $23.3 million to $87.5 million, as of February 2015.

“The steady growth of UNCW’s endowment portfolio reflects sound investment strategies and our donors’ incredible commitment to this university,” said Eddie Stuart ’05M, vice chancellor for university advancement. “We’re grateful for their generosity and vision. UNCW's opportunity to make a bigger difference in our students’ lives, and in our community’s quality of life, increases every time our endowment grows.”

More than $1.3 million of the university’s endowment portfolio income is earmarked for scholarships in 2015-16 while $644,600 will benefit professorships. Another $1.2 million will support a variety of campus programs and services, including the annual Jazz Festival.

Bongiorno believes that the late Günther and Ann Sherman-Skiba, who died in March 2012, would have enjoyed sharing the music they loved with new generations of jazz performers and fans. He has used the funds from the Jazz Festival Endowment to bring talented professional musicians to Wilmington for concerts that are open to the public at low or no cost.

In recent years, the Jazz Festival has hosted 22-time Grammy Award winner Chick Corea, a pianist and composer; Wessell “Warmdaddy” Anderson, an alumnus of the Wynton Marsalis Septet and charter member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra; and Grammy-nominated contemporary jazz artist Seamus Blake.

“The endowment has allowed our students to have an experience they wouldn’t get anywhere else,” he said. “We’ve been able to bring guest artists, plus the bands they normally perform with, to the festival. Students have gotten to talk and play with the top people in their fields. Our faculty are performing musicians who teach full-time, but for the students to work closely with someone who performs for a living, well, that’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”
Jim Stasios '70 remembers the pride he felt when Wilmington College became the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 1969. Stasios, who grew up in Wilmington, has been a fan of the Seahawks almost as long as he can remember. Looking back fondly on his college years, he remembers when the space where Trask Coliseum now stands was a giant, unpaved parking lot. Stasios served on the student government and helped move the library's collection from its former home in Alderman Hall to Randall Library.

He attended business classes in Hoggard Hall, the university's first building at the College Road location. Stasios is quick with a quip about how long it has been since he was a student: “I pre-date the Cameron School of Business!”

Over the years, his commitment to the university has only deepened. According to the Division for University Advancement, Stasios has contributed to UNCW every year since at least 1983, as far back as electronic records go. With that kind of commitment, he’s one of the university’s most consistent donors.

“I’m just proud of the school, what its origins were and what it has grown to be,” he said. “We had approximately 1,200 students at Wilmington College and five buildings when I enrolled in 1966, and now we have over 14,000 students. UNCW has become the first choice of many applying high school seniors.”

Living locally has also offered Stasios, a sales representative with Lincoln Financial Group, many opportunities to actively serve as a volunteer on campus boards, including the Seahawk Club Board of Directors and The Foundation of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Inc. He is an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Alumni Board of Directors and received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002.

Stasios rarely mentions the numerous accomplishments the boards achieved during his service, although he was a part of efforts to establish scholarships, raise funds to support campus facilities and acquire property for the university’s benefit. He is especially proud, though, of one major success that the alumni association achieved in the 1990s: the $400,000 restoration of the historic Wise Alumni House. When Stasios talks about his involvement with the university, he usually reflects on the people he met, the friendships he made and the new chancellors and coaches he had the opportunity to welcome to campus and the Wilmington community.

Stasios has high expectations for his favorite university in the coming years. “I hope that UNCW will continue to be one of the best undergraduate teaching institutions in the country,” he said. With support from Seahawks as loyal as Stasios, UNCW is destined to keep soaring.

“I had one of the first – if not the first – UNC Wilmington decals on my VW bug,” he recalls with a laugh. “I had a Wilmington College one and when we joined the system, I went up to Chapel Hill and got a UNC one. I spliced them together, trimmed off the word college and put it on the back of my car.”
Unless you fundamentally understand mathematical and statistical formulas, actuaries may seem like wizards.

However, these modern-day risk managers don’t rely on magic to morph ordinary statistics into extraordinary results. Instead, actuaries draw on their analytical skills to evaluate data, calculating the odds of risks versus rewards for insurance companies, banks and investment firms, colleges and universities, governmental agencies and healthcare corporations, among others.

“Actuaries help organizations plan for the future and protect themselves from loss,” explains Yishi Wang, an associate professor in the UNCW Department of Mathematics and Statistics. “By understanding the very nature of risk, actuaries play a key role in the psychological, physical and financial stability of society.”

Wang discovered a lifelong interest in math and statistics as an undergraduate student at the University of Science and Technology in Beijing, China. He went on to earn a master’s degree at Zhongshan University in China and then a Ph.D. at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

“I wanted to be a programmer when I first got into college,” he remembers with a smile. “Then I realized there’s some kind of power – stats and math – behind all of those computer algorithms.” Actuaries harness that power, Wang said, and apply it to risk management scenarios in real-world situations.

He acknowledges that while actuaries cannot control the risks, they can use mathematical models to quantify uncertainties and minimize their possible economic impact.

The job market demand for actuaries has exceeded the supply for more than 30 years, according to Wang, and opportunities in the field are expected to grow by 27 percent through 2020. Given those odds – plus average annual salaries in the six figures for experienced consultants – it’s no surprise that UNCW students’ interest in actuarial science is on the upswing.

“Students are drawn to actuarial science because of its interdisciplinary nature,” he said. “A curious mind is always a plus, whether they are interested in math, statistics, physics, computer science, economics or finance.”

Actuaries take seven to nine comprehensive professional exams en route to becoming full-fledged practitioners. Since 2012, more than 60 students have participated in special topic courses that Wang designed to prepare them for two rigorous exams that actuaries must pass to enter the field.

To further assist the students, Wang recruited Wilmington resident Thomas Egan, a fellow of the Society of Actuaries, to serve as a program advocate and adviser. Overall, 10 students have passed the initial actuary exam and five have passed the second level. Two of those have passed four exams and are working with leading companies in the financial industry, Wang said.

It all begins with curiosity in the classroom. “I ask myself, ‘What kind of positive influence do I want to have on my students?’” Wang said. “I try to influence them to be passionate about learning.”
Marcia Doering carefully separated a group of red buckeye saplings and handed them to several UNCW students, faculty and staff. The volunteers worked steadily, planting the trees in pre-dug holes under a canopy of pines along the Rose Avenue section of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail.

Within an hour, 36 saplings were planted, the last of 275 trees placed along the trail to commemorate the City of Wilmington’s 275th anniversary. Doering, a horticulture specialist and certified arborist with UNCW’s landscape services, coordinated the tree-planting with representatives from the Cape Fear Garden Club Inc., the Wilmington Tree Commission and the 275th Anniversary Committee. The Cape Fear Garden Club donated funds to purchase native flowering ornamental trees for the project.

“When I was maintaining this area of the campus, I realized that it didn’t have enough color or interest for people who ride their bikes, walk or push their baby carriages,” said Doering, who is the chair of the North Carolina Urban Forest Council. “I wanted to have something eye-level because we have a wonderful overhead canopy.”

Over a period of two months in early 2015, UNCW volunteers from a host of groups – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Black Faculty and Staff Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Office of Facilities, University Advancement and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. – planted red buckeyes, flowering dogwoods and eastern redbuds along a one-mile stretch of Rose Avenue south of Hewlett Hall, Doering said.

“The groups were very enthusiastic,” Doering said. “It was a great opportunity to have different ‘trails’ cross, coming together to plant along the Cross-City Trail.”

Bill Jayne, a Wilmington Tree Commission volunteer, joined members of the Black Faculty and Staff Association and Zeta Phi Beta in planting the last set of trees.

“This is a gift to the students, to the university, to the people who use the trail and to the city,” he said. “It’s great that the university has cooperated the way that it has by providing access to the land and the volunteers.”

Beautification of the city’s parks, streets and byways is a part of the Cape Fear Garden Club’s mission. The Cross-City Trail project is an example of how collaboration between the club, the community and the university can benefit the city, said Marjorie Taylor Way, the garden club’s president.

“The Cross-City Trail cuts across all parts of Wilmington. That is what we hope our beautification projects do and that’s what the university is trying to do: be a part of the whole community,” Way said. “So, symbolically, it’s all a part of the same vision.”
Homecoming 2015

Q&A with Lindsay LeRoy
alumni relations director

Are there changes you are implementing as alumni
director that are driving the increase in participation?
Our office has been building on successes of past years.
We have gotten more sophisticated in our marketing
efforts and outreach initiatives, and, above all, alumni
are spreading the word to their networks. This increases
each year.

What is the association’s direction and vision?
The vision of the alumni association is to engage
alumni with each other, the life of the university and its
students through regional [affinity], reunion, career and
student programs. We want to engage with UNCW
alumni so they are inspired to get involved with the
university as volunteers, mentors, employers, event
attendees and ambassadors. We also hope they invest
by giving back philanthropically to support the university
and our students.

It takes a village, and there were
many partnerships across
campus and in the alumni family
to make it a successful weekend.

Congratulations to the
2015 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

(L) Distinguished Alumnus Lt. Col. Robert W. Rideout Jr. ’95
Distinguished Citizen Joshua “Josh” B. Vach ’87
(R) Young Alumnus Ryan P. Crecelius ’06

The alumni office reaches out to UNCW alumni most often
by email. Occasionally, we will mail postcards and invitations
about events taking place such as Homecoming or chapter
events. If you have recently moved, changed jobs or changed
your email address, please let us know! Update your contact
information so we can still reach you. Read the “Top 5 Things
to Do As Seahawk Alumni” at www.uncw.edu/alumni/
geinvolved.html and join the conversation on our
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/uncwalumni.
‘80s

L. Stewart Hobbs ‘83 was named the countywide athletic director for the Rowan-Salisbury school district.

Bridget Grady ‘85 was selected as the 2014-15 North Carolina Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year.

Paul McCombie ‘86 was appointed sales integration manager by NewBridge Bank.

Lori W. Gaines ‘88 was appointed deputy commissioner by North Carolina Industrial Commission Chairman Andrew T. Heath.

Toni Coats ‘89 retired from the North Carolina National Guard after 26 years of service, with the rank of colonel.

‘90s

David Kesler ‘90 joined North State Bank as vice president and commercial banker, serving the Wilmington area.

Kirsten H. Geiger Michel ‘92 founded Daydream Destinations, an experimental travel company that hosts “adven-tours” for women. Her company recently announced multi-day excursions to Aspen, CO.

Jennifer Ughetta ‘93 is the senior vice president, head of human resources for Munich Re’s U.S. P&C Operations.

Bob Alger ‘94 was named to the Leaders Council of Raymond James Financial Services, an honor recognizing the top five percent of financial advisors affiliated with RJFS. He is also president of an independent financial planning firm in Raleigh, NC.

Gant Montgomery ‘94 retired from the Beckley Police Department after more than 20 years of service. He has taken a new job as manager of asset protection and loss prevention at Wal-Mart in Beckley, WV.

Kenneth Palmer ‘94 was appointed mayor of Manchester Township on Jan. 2, 2015.

Brian Baucom ‘95 was named city executive of the Rockingham branch of First Bank.

Angie Schwab ‘95 was named executive director of Folkmoot USA, an annual folk music festival hosted in North Carolina.

Chris Williams ‘95 was promoted to environmental engineer at KapStone Kraft Paper Corporation’s Roanoke Rapids mill.

Melissa Batchelor-Aselage ’96, ’00M was named one of 12 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars for 2014. She is developing a dementia feeding skills training program based on adaptive algorithms to teach nursing home staff how best to respond to feeding behaviors when assisting persons with dementia during mealtimes to improve nutritional outcomes.

Gina Gambony ‘96, ’00M is the classical music host and arts liaison at WHQR 96.7.

Neal Richardson ‘96 recently accepted the position of associate director of undergraduate admissions at Georgia Southern University.

Steven Antini ‘97 and his wife, Amy, announce the birth of their son, Leo, on Nov. 6, 2014; he joins his older brother Marcello, 2.

Lauren Buckman ‘97 began her career as a flight attendant, allowing her to see much of the world. After working in New York City, Lauren relocated to Maryland and works with the Medical Faculty Associates Department of George Washington University.

Frederick Jaegar ‘97 completed an M.S. in chemistry and a Ph.D. in chemistry from NC State. He is a senior laboratory research analyst employed by Duke University Human Vaccine Institute, performing HIV vaccine research.

Shawn Valine ’97 is the senior video editor/cameraman at NBC Sports, and won an NY Emmy for Sports Editor (video).

Raoul Jeanmenne ’98M retired from Caterpillar Inc. and has moved back to Wilmington.

Bryan Sartin ’98 is an independent agent with Intracoastal Realty Corporation.

Teresa Cunningham-Brown ’99 was appointed chief human resources officer by the Orange County Board of Education.

‘00s

Cameron Pearson ’00M joined Guaranteed Rate as vice president of mortgage lending. Pearson has more than a decade of experience in the banking and lending industries.

J. Darby Mitchell ’01 was awarded the MIT Excellence Award for “Bringing Out the Best” in February 2014. He and his wife celebrated their son Jack’s second birthday in February and are expecting their second child in June.

Crystal D. Williams ’02 and her partner of 12 years, Shantell Murrell, were married Oct. 2, 2014.

Etienne Bejarano ’03 was appointed parks and recreation director in the Town of Cutler Bay in July 2014.

Brad Hutchens ’04 was promoted to territory manager with Kerr Endodontics and Kerr Rotary and was awarded President’s Club for his work in 2014.

Brent Liner ’04 joined Orrston Bank in Shippensburg, PA, as vice president and trust officer.

Brandon Boswell '05 published his second inspirational humor book, “Running on Empty: The Life and Times of a Gas Station Attendant,” a humorous account of experiences working at a gas station.

Hoyle Edgerton '05 and wife Elisa Kirkpatrick announce the birth of their daughter, Lila Isabella, on July 15, 2014. Hoyle is a loan trader for Bank of America working on his MBA from Colorado State University.

Sean '05 and Ashley McLellan Grimes '06 announce the birth of their son, Cole Patrick, on July 16, 2014.

John Query '05 and April Morey '03, '06M were married Dec. 13, 2014.

Ashley Little Price '06, '07M was married to Ted Price on Oct. 11, 2014.

Erin (Finke) Ridolfo '06 and Ryan Ridolfo were married Aug. 31, 2014 in Charlotte, NC.


Joe Metz '07 is in his fourth season as the athletic trainer for the Reno Aces Baseball Club and in his seventh season with the Arizona Diamondbacks’ medical staff.

Ashley Talley '07M joined Raycom Media as news director for WMBF News in Myrtle Beach.

Peter Biello '08 had his short story, “Break and Enter,” nominated for the Pushcart Prize by Lowestoft Chronicle, which published the short story in March 2014. He runs the largest nonprofit writing workshop in Vermont, called the Burlington Writers Workshop. Peter also works at Vermont Public Radio; his career in public radio began at WHQR-FM in Wilmington.

Sarah McLaurin Eidson '08 and Samuel A. Hatchel '09 were married May 24, 2014.

Patrick R. Anstead ’09 graduated from the North Carolina Central University School of Law in May 2014, passed the summer 2014 North Carolina Bar Exam and is employed by the Richardson Firm as an associate attorney.

Mike Barlas ’09M celebrated the grand opening of his business, Flytrap Brewery, in Wilmington.

Melissa Lyons Johnson ’09M and her husband announce the birth of their second son, Liam Michael, on Jan. 8, 2015. The family lives in Easton, MD, where Melissa is a school social worker.

Brittany Nelson ’09 and Ryan Jones ’08 were married Sept. 27, 2014.

Ben Powell ’09 joined the WFMN News 2 team in January 2015 as a multi-media journalist.

Susan E. Rivenbark ’09 and David Michael Perry were married Dec. 6, 2014. Susan is currently employed by Wells Fargo.

Emily Tango-Lee ’09 and Alexander Lee ’09 were married Aug. 22, 2011 and are expecting their first child, a boy, in June.

Hannah Lassiter Curtis ’10 and Joseph Robert King ’05 were married on Sept. 6, 2014.

Brian Langley ’10 was nominated as vice president of the N.C. Baptist Pastors’ Conference on Nov. 10, 2014.

Rob Warwick ’10 began working at REMAX on the Buddy Blake Real Estate Team in Wilmington.

Megan Canny ’11 was named the director of member services for the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Kayt Chadwick ’11 was awarded Teacher of the Week for Feb. 4, 2015. She works at James W. Smith Elementary School in Craven County.

Jenny Hines ’11 and Rob Warwick ’10 are engaged and are planning an August 2015 wedding.

Kelsie Cole ’12 was promoted to head brewer of Front Street Brewery, making her the first female head brewer in the state of North Carolina.

Olga Pylaeva ’12 and Sam Schuth were married Jan. 12, 2013. Olga is a first-year medical student at East Carolina University.

Rhonda Adams Smith ’12M was appointed the director of aging at Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging.

Lauren K. Testino ’12 and Tyler Fulghum Hong were married June 21, 2014.

Kaziah DiMarco ’13 is a manager of business strategy and marketing for Fisher & Phillips Attorneys at Law Carolina offices.

Monet Hardison ’13 was named Teacher of the Week in Duplin County for Nov. 5, 2014.

Melissa Heintz ’13M was named swim coach for the Georgetown County Family YMCA Wahoons. She also has a full-time job at the Wintah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Baruch Marine Field Laboratory.

Ryan Cullen ’14 is enrolled in the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Upon his graduation in 2017 he intends to seek a job in the financial sector of a corporation’s legal department.


Randolph DeWitt McIver ’57 passed away Oct. 26, 2014. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War.


Steve W. Coley ’66 passed away Dec. 31, 2014. He played four years at UNCW on a baseball scholarship before signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1965 where he spent three years before playing with the Boston Red Sox for four years.

George W. Ware ’66 passed away Jan. 26, 2015. George attended UNCW on a baseball scholarship, and signed with the Baltimore Orioles for a brief time after graduation. George later spent most of his career in federal law enforcement with the U.S. Secret Service.

Ruby Henderson Leimone ’73 passed away Nov. 25, 2014.

Martha S. Murray ’73 passed away Nov. 16, 2010.

Monica F. Whitten ’73 passed away March 6, 2015.

Henry W. Greene ’74 passed away July 21, 2005.


Dolores E. Harvey ’77 passed away Feb. 2, 2015.

John A. Murphy ’78 passed away Feb. 23, 2015. John was a retired Marine Sergeant Major and a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.


Julia Locke Kilby ’79 passed away Nov. 27, 2012.
William Daniel Lewis ’79 passed away Nov. 21, 2014.


Samuel Mark Poindexter ’81 passed away March 18, 2014.

Jeffery W. Grizzle ’81, and sister, Fay L. Gavins ’93.

Sheila Grizzle ’87 passed away Oct. 24, 2014. She is survived by her husband, John T. Hillstrom ’12, while studying at UNCW.

Donald F. Sorenson ’95 passed away Nov. 10, 2014. He served with the 82nd Airborne for four years before attending UNCW. After graduation, he worked as a counselor for adolescents with disabilities at Freedom House in Durham and Chapel Hill. He had recently completed requirements for a master’s degree.

Nov. 29, 2014.


Aug. 12, 2014.

April 12, 2014.


Elizabeth McLauchlin Hunter ’98 passed away Feb. 22, 2015. She retired from New Hanover Regional Medical Center after a long career as a medical technologist.

Vivian Hancock Hall ’92 passed away Nov. 5, 2014.

Sonni Stewart Wheeler ’92 passed away April 12, 2012.

Raymond F. Huntington ’99 passed away Nov. 10, 2014. He served with the 82nd Airborne for four years before attending UNCW. After graduation, he worked as a counselor for adolescents with disabilities at Freedom House in Durham and Chapel Hill. He had recently completed requirements for a master’s degree.

Mark Daniel Farthing ’00 passed away Sept. 29, 2014.

Junelle Allison “Ally” Rees ’00 passed away Nov. 26, 2014.

Samsir A. Bassiouuni ’02 passed away Oct. 4, 2014. He was a manager in human resources at Pharmaceutical Product Development. He met his wife, Jennifer ’02, while studying at UNCW.


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- generates additional income for the donor at great rates;
- is guaranteed by the general assets of the Foundation of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Inc.;
- provides significant tax-free income and substantial income tax charitable deduction;
- becomes a wonderful gift to UNCW when the annuity's term ends.

### One-Life Gift Annuity Rates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>84+</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
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### Two-Life Gift Annuity Rates

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55/55</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>65/65</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>75/75</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>85/85</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60/60</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>70/70</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>80/80</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>87/87+</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, please contact Lee Knight, Office of University Advancement at 910.962.3214 or email knightji@uncw.edu.

Rates are subject to change annually for new gift annuities. For educational purposes only - not intended as tax or legal advice for your particular fact situation.

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**Cape Fear** ..................................... Concert, July 30 .......................... Fall Social, Oct. 22
**Triangle** .................................. Durham Bulls Picnic, Aug. 22 ............................. Fall Dinner, Nov. 12
**Triad** .................................. Fall Social, Oct. 8
**Charlotte** .................................. Fall Social, Nov. 5
**Washington, D.C.** .......... Nationals Picnic, July 19 .......................... Winter Social, Dec. 3
**Family & Alumni Weekend** .................................... Sept. 25-27

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