UNCW's in-house book publishing imprint is making a name for itself
Colonies of nature’s tiny but tireless workers are making a home for themselves on campus, thanks to the UNCW Beekeepers Club.
FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S DESK

EXCELLENCE DEFINED, SEAHAWK-STYLE
Recognition comes in many forms, but it doesn’t come easily.

SEAHAWK SNIPPETS
Short stories with big impact.

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING
An interview with new men’s head basketball coach C.B. McGrath, high-fives to the Seahawk Club and a roundup of fall sports achievements.

FEATURES

ECONOMY OF SCALE
Evolving from undergraduate to assistant professor, Danny Soques ‘10 proves that a little interest goes a long way.

JAVA REVOLUTION
Seahawks are changing the world, one cup of coffee at a time.

FAMILY TREE
Alumna and faculty member Lolita Bryant’s connection to UNCW is deeply rooted.

LITERARY GIANT
Lookout Books, UNCW’s in-house book publishing imprint, is making a name for itself.

TWO TO TANGO
Dance is just one way the Office of the Arts hopes to inspire patrons during their next action-packed season.

CLASS NOTES
DEAR FRIENDS,

As I reflect on the outstanding academic year that UNCW just concluded, my thoughts turn to the university’s great legacy. Our institution was established 70 years ago with an overarching dedication to community engagement, service, leadership and educational opportunities for the sons and daughters of North Carolina. That vision has guided UNCW’s mission from the very beginning.

Just think about the deep sense of community behind a milestone year for the Seahawk Club (p. 14) and a historic gift commitment from Dr. Yousry Sayed and his wife Linda ’78, ’85M. The university’s support for military-affiliated students and their families also remains an integral part of our mission (p. 6).

Excellence — derived from the powerful combination of teaching, faculty-mentored research and applied learning — has been an institutional hallmark for generations. How we teach, conduct research and interact with students has evolved over time, but our faculty and staff’s resolute support for students has never changed. How do we gauge excellence? No single measurement will suffice, but the Fulbright Awards, national recognition and athletic success that our students, faculty and staff achieved over the past year demonstrate how UNCW soars (p. 3-5).

An institution’s legacy is only as big as the hearts of the people who are devoted to it, and Seahawks have always given their all to this place. Consider the story of Lolita Bryant ’04, ’11M (p. 22), a faculty member in the College of Health and Human Services. Her family connection to UNCW extends back to the very roots — literally — of our South College Road location. UNCW wouldn’t be the institution it is today without Lolita’s family.

The most enduring lesson from our legacy, though, is a visionary approach to building the UNCW of tomorrow. The leaders who moved our institution from the original Isaac Bear Building near downtown Wilmington to what is now our 647.5-acre main campus were preparing our university for a future they could only imagine. Now, thanks to the Strategic Plan approved last year and the Facilities Master Plan process now underway (p. 9), we are doing the same for the Seahawks who will follow long after us.

Imagine, for a moment, the UNCW Class of 2087 — the graduates who will finish their degrees 70 years from now. Who will they be? Where will they come from? What will be their hopes and dreams? Those are questions we cannot answer, but we have the opportunity to follow our founders’ flight path and enhance this great university’s legacy to make sure UNCW continues to thrive.

Go Seahawks!

Jose V. Sartarelli
Chancellor
Recognition comes in many forms, but it doesn’t come easily. Yet year after year, UNCW continues to garner accolades, and a commitment to excellence permeates every endeavor.

UNCW’s version of excellence begins with a time-honored commitment to teaching, research and service. Academic programs inspire students to make the most of every learning opportunity, and campus life experiences guide them as they become active and engaged citizens who are prepared to take on leadership roles wherever life takes them. UNCW’s focus on quality and distinction also extends far beyond the classroom, shaping economic development efforts, global collaborations and community partnerships.
UNCW’s strategic vision to be recognized for “excellence in everything it does” may sound like a lofty ambition, but students, faculty and staff have always aimed high. It’s what Seahawks do.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS (STUDENTS)

During the spring semester, Tiffany Ernst ’17 and Nicholas Sweet ’17 received Fulbright scholarships to continue their studies in the Netherlands and Germany, respectively.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS (FACULTY)

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Aswani Volety was awarded a Fulbright for an International Education Administrators Seminar in France.

Ann Potts, associate dean for teacher education and outreach in the Watson College of Education, and Elizabeth Barber, a Watson faculty member, received Fulbright scholarships to continue their research on literacy development in Malawi.

COMMUNITY

Mary Jaskowiak ’17 won the BB&T Discovery Forum Series competition for young social entrepreneurs and received a $10,000 award for developing an affordable, effective method for testing water quality using a substance found in laundry detergents.

UNC AWARDS

Recognized as a gifted teacher, scholar and mentor, psychology professor Carrie Clements won the prestigious UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award underscores the importance of teaching, emphasizing the recipient’s efforts to encourage, recognize and support excellence in teaching across the university. Clements also received the UNCW Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award.

Edel Segovia, director of UNCW Centro Hispano, and Chris Montero, MI CASA program advisor, received the 2017 John L. Sanders Student Advocate Award, the highest honor bestowed by the UNC Association of Student Governments, for their efforts to provide mentorship, community engagement, networking and cultural education opportunities on campus and in the community.
NATIONAL FUNDING
UNCW is part of a $250 million public-private national initiative, announced in January 2017, designed to bring safe drugs to market faster and educate a new biopharmaceutical workforce. The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals, based at the University of Delaware, will involve more than 150 companies, educational institutions, nonprofits and government partners.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION
UNCW was one of 18 universities nationwide named one of the “2017 Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs,” according to a national study conducted by the Center for Higher Education Enterprise at The Ohio State University. “It’s an honor to work with such a competent and dedicated group of professionals,” said Patricia Leonard, vice chancellor of the Division of Student Affairs.

ATHLETICS
The men’s basketball team scored 29 victories during the 2016-17 season, setting 63 team and individual records while winning the university’s sixth Colonial Athletic Association championship and moving on to compete in the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row. The men’s tennis team claimed their fifth CAA crown. (See more sports highlights on page 14)

Twelve of UNCW’s 18 teams in the NCAA Academic Progress Rates (APR) report achieved a perfect score of 1,000 for the 2015-16 academic year. (Every NCAA Division I team calculates its APR based on the eligibility, graduation and retention of each scholarship student-athlete.) Teams that reached perfection include baseball, men’s cross country, men’s golf, men’s soccer, men’s track and field, women’s cross country, women’s golf, women’s beach volleyball, women’s swimming, women’s tennis, women’s track and field and volleyball.

UNCW’s baseball, women’s tennis, men’s soccer, women’s swimming, men’s golf and volleyball teams earned Public Recognition Awards for placing among the top 10 percent nationally in the classroom in the multi-year calculation for their sports.
A Major Change

Judson Bledsoe '17 began his academic career with every intention of leaving UNCW. A student of the NC State Engineering 2+2 Transfer Program, Bledsoe planned to transfer to NC State University to complete his degree. This carefully laid plan, however, crumbled when Bledsoe met a particular UNCW staff member.

Through her work as administrative associate for the chemistry department and executive director of the Plastic Ocean Project, Bonnie Monteleone '11M acquired a device to turn plastic into oil. Bledsoe seized the chance to work with Monteleone, recognizing that no other institution could offer him this kind of hands-on research opportunity.

"I heard about the depolymerizer turning plastics into oil, and I thought that was so innovative," Bledsoe said. "I've always been interested in alternative fuel...reusing stuff. I've helped convert an old Mercedes to run on vegetable oil. That's how I met my wife! We courted in the back of Japanese restaurants, harvesting oil from grease traps."

Finding new ways to use the depolymerizer turned into a love affair of a different sort for Bledsoe.

After changing his major to environmental studies, Bledsoe discovered that with a few calculated changes, the depolymerizer could create paraffin, a highly marketable product found in wax paper, cosmetics and candles. He and fellow students presented their research at the 2016 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Columbia, SC.

-- Caitlin Taylor '18M

"Every paint surface, every plastic, every coating has oil in it...everything," Bledsoe said. "It's either going to sit there forever, or we can reclaim some of that energy that we've already put into it. We can get it back out and it won't be wasted."

Spousal Support

UNCW's Student Veterans Organization is lending a helping hand to military spouses seeking to further their education. The organization has set up a scholarship for military spouses who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at UNCW.

"Our organization was inspired to contribute to this scholarship in recognition of the critical support spouses and family provide," said Zachariah Zhorne, secretary of the UNCW SVO. The UNCW Office of Military Affairs, along with the Division for University Advancement, has been working to finalize a partnership between UNCW and the National Military Family Association, a nonprofit organization that offers scholarship opportunities, professional development and career guidance to military spouses. One stipulation of the partnership is that the university provides a scholarship specifically for military spouses.

"When the Student Veterans Organization heard about our efforts, they immediately responded to the call for action and, within a few weeks, had raised the necessary funds to establish a scholarship for a deserving military spouse," said Siobhan Norris, military student support specialist.

The SVO scholarship application process is now open. Visit uncw.edu/finaid to learn more. -- Venita Jenkins

"With this scholarship, we hope to support and encourage military spouses to pursue their life's goals and dreams. Our mission is their success."

- Zachariah Zhorne
CESTEM Lassos the Universe

With a hand-held remote, Chris Gordon, interim director of UNCW’s Center for Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (CESTEM), can manipulate time and space. He can display a small portion of the Alaskan night sky or study Aztec constellations from the far-flung past.

Though this sounds like fiction, it is actually revolutionary technology in action. Gordon and Amy Taylor, associate professors in the Watson College of Education, have purchased a Digitalis digital planetarium for CESTEM to better provide professional development for teachers. The planetarium is part of their technology loan program, where CESTEM staff coordinate workshops demonstrating new technologies for teachers to utilize in their classrooms. CESTEM will teach instructors how to set up the equipment and how to operate a planetarium show.

“CESTEM has always embraced technology,” said Gordon. “A textbook doesn’t compare to allowing students access to this kind of technology. The planetarium should be in the hands of as many teachers as possible.”

Gordon believes the planetarium has applications for countless departments across campus and the community.

“This technology shows kids what stars and planets really look like,” Gordon said, “It’s one thing to talk about how stars are born, but when you show kids actual pictures, you can see how excited and engaged they are. After each presentation, I always want to go outside and see how many kids are standing there looking up at the sky.” – C.T.
The 2016-17 Black Graduate and Professional Student Association

- LRae'Shelle Drayton '18M.Ed. Higher Education (marketing/public relations co-chair)
- Phillip Boyd '18M.Ed. Higher Education (social co-chair)
- Anthony Holloman '18M.Ed. Higher Education (marketing/public relations co-chair)
- Briana Carr '18M.S.W. (treasurer)
- Tanika Palmer '17M.Ed. Higher Education (president)
- Brittany Burroughs '17M.Ed. Higher Education (secretary)
- Keith Cutler Jr. '17M Conflict Management and Resolution (social co-chair)
- La'Mon Johnson '18M.Ed. Higher Education (vice president)
BGPSA

Graduate Assistance

Minority graduate and professional students have a new resource to aid them in their academic and professional development: the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association. Established by students in January, the association is a network of scholars dedicated to serving the larger minority community at UNCW.

“There is a lack of opportunities for black graduate students to network and socialize with other black graduate students across different majors, disciplines and professions,” said Tanika Palmer ’17M, BGPSA’s president. “Graduate school can sometimes be a difficult transition. In addition to the environment, students must acclimate to the academics and the social settings,” she continued. “BGPSA was created with this in mind.”

Once a month, BGPSA meets in the Upperman African American Cultural Center to brainstorm ways to support and encourage black graduate and professional students. Currently, the association offers professional development and hosts an open forum called “Brave Space” to address topics in an environment that is non-judgmental and empathetic. One initiative it hopes to launch is a professional closet, from which members can borrow donated professional clothing for interviews.

“We are elated to officially be a registered organization. We plan to create and build a network and support system that will create a more positive and encouraging environment for black graduates and professionals,” Palmer said. – V.J.

Growth Goals

UNCW has a challenge not many colleges do — students would rather live on campus.

Additional student housing is one of the priorities at the forefront as UNCW updates its Facilities Master Plan in alignment with the university’s current Strategic Plan. The planning effort is a visioning process guided by input from the campus and community and other external stakeholders. UNCW is working with Philadelphia-based design firm WRT on a space needs analysis.

“When students arrive on campus, the major concerns they (and their parents) have are where will they eat, park and sleep,” said Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Rick N. Whitfield. “The more students we have, the more employees we need, and they need places to park and eat, too. All of our current goals are related to growth.”

In addition to brick and mortar space, UNCW’s technology infrastructure is being considered, since today’s students arrive on campus with multiple electronic devices.

“There are a lot of needs to consider, in addition to what can be funded and what meets state regulations,” said Whitfield. “Academic spaces need to be at the center of campus and members of the public need places to park when they attend a campus event. It’s a long journey.”

The final draft of the Facilities Master Plan will be completed during the fall of 2017. – Caroline Cropp ’99, ’06M
Inspecting a honeybee hive requires protective clothing for associate professor Anthony Snider (second from left) and his environmental studies students.

The discovery of a honeybee hive existing quietly in her parents’ home led Maddi Ruff ’17 to develop a newfound respect for — and fascination with — these peaceful pollinators.

Ruff began toying with the idea of extracting her parents’ bees to collect their honey when she took a beekeeping class offered by Anthony Snider, associate professor of environmental studies, through the New Hanover County Beekeepers Association. The class garnered so much interest that Ruff and Snider were inspired to form the executive board of what is now known as the UNCW Beekeepers Club.

As president of the organization, Ruff is spearheading the building of an apiary on campus for club use. For both Ruff and Snider, beekeeping is more than just a fun hobby — it’s a vital endeavor.

“Beekeeping not only provides a way to help our local agricultural economy, but a way to gain a deeper understanding of the natural world around us,” Snider said. “Beekeepers must be keenly aware of what is in bloom throughout the year so that they can manage their hives in response to nectar flows. By watching the cycle of flowers, we begin to pay attention to other aspects of nature as well.”

The apiary will be housed on a 37 ft. by 10 ft. grassy area at the edge of campus. Ruff says the club will begin with four or five hives, order their bees from a local beekeeper, and expand to eight hives. The club is seeking grant funding to build a fence around the apiary to keep out wild animals. They are planning a trip to NC State’s apiary and beekeeping program to learn as much as they can about best practices, and Snider will be teaching a beekeeping course at UNCW next spring using the apiary’s hives.

“Bees are so underrated,” Ruff said. “People don’t realize how important they are. We can thank bees for so much of the food we eat! I want people to gain appreciation for that. I have discovered a passion I did not know I had. Bees have taken over my life!” – C.T.
North Carolina designated the European honeybee (Apis mellifera) as the official state insect in 1973.

Source: Americanbeejournal.com

Follow the apiary's progress at facebook.com/UNCW.Beekeepers

A honeybee can fly for up to six miles at a time and as fast as 15 miles per hour.

Honeybees pollinate about 80% of all insect-pollinated plants.
UNCW students **Bethany Showers ’17 and Holly Tucker ’18** didn’t “go Greek” at UNCW, but certainly felt the pull of the Far East. They are some of the first Seahawks to graduate with minors in Japanese, an option that UNCW began offering in the fall of 2016.

Senior lecturer Yoko Kano taught the first Japanese course at UNCW in 1995 and was instrumental in getting it offered as a minor. Requirements include 18 semester hours: six dedicated to core language courses and 12 elective hours that offer study of Japanese culture, writing, cinema, religion and history. Kano says students from a variety of academic disciplines choose it as a minor.

“This tells us the diverse influence and possibilities Japanese has in any field. Those who graduate with the minor have taken a significant step toward becoming a global citizen,” Kano said.

Showers studied French in high school and didn’t think languages were her strong suit. During her freshman year, she studied about Japan as part of a global communications project in a writing class, and it opened up a whole new world to her. Finding the language fascinating, she enrolled in Kano’s introductory Japanese course.

“It’s one of the most difficult languages for native English-speakers to learn, but I found it very fluid and natural,” she said. “I studied four or five hours every night and fell in love with the language.”

Tucker’s father worked for the U.S. Department of Defense and would often travel to Japan for work. As he shared elements of Japan’s culture, her interest flourished.

The students’ hard work is paying off; they both competed in the annual Japanese Speech Contest at Duke University last spring. Showers placed third at the 300-division level and Tucker placed third at the 200-level — the first UNCW students to do so.

Both women serve as executive officers in the UNCW Japan Club and intend to travel and work in Japan after graduation, where they will have no trouble “talking the talk.” – C.C.
Salute to the 70th

by Lindsay A.T. LeRoy
Director, Alumni Relations and Executive Director, UNCW Alumni Association

As I consider UNCW’s upcoming 70th anniversary, I cannot help but think of the time that has passed:

25,550 days encompassing
613,200 hours filled with
36,792,000 minutes.

Time, however, is just one part of the story. The true life of this university is defined by its people.

Wilmington College took her first breath in September 1947 as she welcomed her first students and exhaled in 1949 with the first graduating class. During the first commencement exercise in 1949, Dr. John T. Hoggard said, “I am not the first to realize and I shall not be the last to point out that the graduates here today have, by their industry and intelligence, turned a dream into reality.”

From that moment forward, countless lives have been changed and dreams have come true. The magic happens every year among the thousands who have chosen to continuously engage with UNCW as volunteers, mentors, employers, investors and ambassadors. Each interaction shapes and molds the university that we hold dear.

Today, more than 75,000 Seahawks encompass UNCW’s alumni body, a slight increase over that first graduating class of 14. Over the next year, we’ll reflect on the power of unifying the alumni network and the amazing future that our great university has in store.

Putting Language to the Text – Tim Bass ’98M

Recently, a student emailed to say he was having trouble enrolling in a class: “Hey time I keep trying to register for Crw 496 but I keep getting an error on it.”

This required some deciphering. I believe “time” referred to my name, and the student needed help getting into our Creative Writing 496: Senior Seminar. Clearly, he had typed the message on his cell phone.

My students seem to be addicted to their phones. Those ubiquitous and pricey devices, ever present on classroom desks or semi-hidden in laps during lectures, have become an essential accessory, as students use them for easy video viewing (constantly), text messaging (constantly), tracking or contributing to weirdness on social media (constantly), sending email (occasionally) and having actual phone conversations with actual human beings (rarely).

In the Department of Creative Writing, I see more and more students who use their phones to write — or rather, to type. Working fast in a tiny space, they have adopted the familiar cyber shorthand that uses the fewest words while eschewing punctuation, capitalization and revision. This achieves efficiency for the writer, but it demands that the reader decode the messages. For example, “yo u wanna gt grub” might mean “Hi. Would you like to meet for dinner?” (At least I hope that’s what it means.)

As a writing instructor, I admire writing that cleverly does a lot with a little. At the same time, though, I cringe at “sentences” that ignore formal conventions. Trouble will come to students who can’t distinguish between casual text talk and professional communication. It just won’t do to begin a job application letter with “sup dude i need $tdy ncme.”

Fortunately, most students know the difference — they can switch seamlessly between informal and formal, just as we alter our accents by location. (You should hear me when I visit my rural hometown.) Still, mobile phones have changed not just our mode of communication but the substance as well. Language is elastic, ever-changing, and in a hundred years — or 50, or even 20 — we will, no doubt, witness the enduring impact of our habit of speaking in fragmented English and cute emoticons.

I haven’t lost all hope, though. On the same day I got the email from the student who needed a seat in our senior seminar, I overheard another student texting by voice. At the end of every sentence, she pronounced an emphatic “period.” Bless her. She was teaching her phone — and her listeners — an important lesson about writing. I hope it sticks.

Tim Bass is a senior lecturer in the Department of Creative Writing and teaches undergraduate courses in writing fiction, nonfiction and forms of the narrative. He is a former newspaper reporter. He earned his M.F.A. from UNCW in 1998.

UNCW’s 70th anniversary date is Sept. 4, 2017. Watch for more information about forthcoming celebratory events!
Hitting the Ground Running

After playing point guard as a collegiate standout under Roy Williams at the University of Kansas and serving on his coaching staff at North Carolina for 18 years, it’s now C.B. McGrath’s time to shine.

Since his days at KU, McGrath has aspired to be a head coach. Mentoring student-athletes and building a powerhouse basketball program are two enticing reasons he came to Wilmington.

McGrath was named the new head coach of UNCW men’s basketball in April, describing the position as his “dream job.” He said he has followed the program since former Coach Jerry Wainwright led the Seahawks to two NCAA Tournament appearances.

“I’ve been persistent about going after it,” McGrath said of the head coach position. “The timing is right this year. Wilmington is a great community and a great place to raise a family. The university is top-notch and the athletic department has a long line of success. I am going to continue to improve on what Kevin [Keatts] did, and I aspire to do even better.”

McGrath’s goal is to “make some noise” in the NCAA Tournament. “That’s the biggest stage and I want our program to be known as a national one,” he said. “I’m looking forward to putting my stamp on it.”

McGrath’s game plan for the first six months is to build his coaching staff, his team and support within the community for Seahawk basketball. Seahawk fans should again expect exciting, up-tempo basketball next season, a style that has brought the team much success.

“We’re going to play fast. We are going to play hard,” McGrath said. “It’s an exciting time for Seahawk basketball. I am going to hit the ground running doing the only thing I know how: working hard to achieve success.”

A Milestone Year for the Seahawk Club

UNCW athletics teams weren’t the only ones breaking records in 2016-17. The Seahawk Club, UNCW athletics’ fundraising organization, reached 2,000 members for the first time, resulting in record contributions for student-athlete scholarships.

Membership in the Seahawk Club has grown nearly 240 percent over the past five years, climbing from 598 members in 2012 to 2,033 in 2016.

“We appreciate all of our Seahawk Club donors for allowing us to provide a memorable experience to all UNCW student-athletes,” said Derek Denton, executive director. “The Seahawk Club will continue to keep the momentum going in 2017 and try to reach even newer heights in membership and dollars raised.”

The mission of the Seahawk Club (UNCW Student Aid Association) is to support, strengthen and develop the intercollegiate athletic programs at UNCW by raising funds to support athletic scholarships. It also raises money for the improvement and construction of athletic facilities, increases the university’s athletic scholarship endowment fund and provides operational and supplementary support for the university’s sports programs.

Go Seahawks!

– V.J.
BASKETBALL
(Men’s) Posted a 29-6 overall record, 18-3 in the CAA

Third consecutive regular season championship and back-to-back in the CAA Tournament

Second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament, losing to UVA in the first round

Set a CAA record by winning 11 nonconference games during the 2016-17 season

Tied the CAA record by winning its sixth conference championship

Set a combined 63 school records in 2016-17, including 43 new team and 20 individual marks

(Women’s) Reached the quarterfinals of the CAA Championship after defeating College of Charleston in the first round

Cross-Country
(Men’s) Received the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic Team honor

Finished first in Delaware's Blue & Gold Invitational

(Women's) Received the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic Team honor

Finished first in two races during the season, winning the Campbell Invitational and Delaware's Blue & Gold Invitational

Golf
(Men’s) Captured first place at the Tar Heel Intercollegiate in Chapel Hill

(Women’s) Posted its best finish of the fall season at the William & Mary Invitational, earning 5th place among 11 teams

Soccer
(Men’s) Posted an 8-6-3 record

Fifth consecutive appearance in the CAA Championship

Hosted its first CAA Championship since 2009

Received the NSCAA Team Academic Award for the 2015-16 academic year, the sixth time in the last seven years

(Women’s) Posted a 10-5-4 record

Earned the No. 4 seed in the CAA Championship

Received the NSCAA Team Academic Award for the 2015-16 academic year, for the 15th consecutive season

Coach Paul Cairney, who completed his 21st season as the Seahawks’ leader, earned his 200th career win

Swimming & Diving
Allen Crosby named CAA co-diver of the year

Divers Allen Crosby and Addison Lowe qualified for the NCAA Zone B Regionals

Senior Tad Spence was the CAA champion in the men’s 100 backstroke; Allen Crosby was the gold medalist in the men’s 1-meter diving competition

Meagan Johnson was the CAA silver medalist in the women’s 200 butterfly

Volleyball
Posted a 17-11 record

Compiled by UNCW Athletics
Clinical Cooperative

Innovative programs need a place suited for hatching ideas and watching them take flight, which is precisely the concept behind a newly renovated space to support a cooperative partnership between UNCW and the growing clinical research industry. In a custom space at the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, students, faculty, staff and clinical research professionals help each other enhance their skills and training, develop new ideas and support a burgeoning regional industry.

“They will learn from each other and mentor each other, and they will work together to advance the clinical research field and launch new ventures,” said Kathy Browder, associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services, which oversees UNCW’s undergraduate and graduate clinical research degree programs. “Students will gain valuable experience, while participating companies will have access to our faculty and staff expertise, as well as a space designed with their needs in mind.”

UNCW is enriching its clinical research and applied statistics curriculum by integrating the latest industry tools and hands-on experiences. Faculty and staff will provide professional development and other services to contract research organizations. A competitive fellowship program offers selected students scholarships to help fund their education while working in the industry.

The renovated space is a component of a $390,000 workforce development grant awarded to UNCW by the Duke Energy Foundation in 2015 to more closely align the goals of higher education with the needs of the business community. The programs supported by the grant supplement the efforts of the N.C. Coast Clinical Research Initiative — an economic development partnership including UNCW, the North Carolina Biotechnology Center Southeastern Office and contract research organizations.

“With the generous support of Duke Energy and UNCW, the new program will be a game-changer for our region, allowing us to take the next logical step to help the clinical research industry cluster thrive here,” said Randall Johnson, executive director of the Southeastern Office.

UNCW offers an undergraduate minor and a graduate certificate in clinical research, which allow students studying in other areas (e.g., statistics, business, science writing, chemistry, operations management, etc.) to master the fundamentals of clinical research and be more competitive for jobs in the industry.

As it happens, CIE is a natural partner in this effort. “What we’re trying to do is innovative and entrepreneurial, so it fits well into the mission of CIE,” Browder said. – Tricia Vance
Economy of Scale

Evolving from undergraduate to assistant professor, Danny Soques ’10 proves that a little interest goes a long way by Tricia Vance

Like many college students, Danny Soques ’10 came to UNCW without any particular major in mind. But after taking an economics class to fulfill a general education requirement, everything added up.

“Dr. Schuhmann changed my way of thinking about economics,” Soques said, referring to his professor of economics — and now colleague — Peter Schuhmann. “He opened my eyes to how broad the subject is.”

Though Soques chose to major in business administration, he pursued his master’s degree and Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Soques returned to UNCW in 2016 to join the faculty as an assistant professor of economics in the Department of Economics and Finance.

“It was always my dream to come back here,” he said. He now works alongside his former faculty mentors, including Tom Simpson, Executive in Residence at the Cameron School of Business and 30-year veteran and senior official of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C.

In fall 2009, Simpson formed UNCW’s team to compete in the Fed Challenge. The competition requires college students to learn how the Federal Reserve system works and try their hand at preparing the type of economic forecasts that help drive decisions on interest rates. Competitors hone project management and presentation skills that will serve them in business while developing a deeper understanding of the role of the Federal Reserve and its impact on the economy.

As a competitor on that first UNCW team, Soques found the Fed Challenge to be a valuable experience. “I could apply what I was learning in macroeconomics as it would be used in the business and banking worlds,” he said. “It is the thing I got the most out of as an undergraduate.”

Soques now sings the praises of the Fed Challenge to his own students. He coaches the UNCW team with Simpson and associate professor of economics Adam Jones, and believes participating in the challenge as an undergraduate informs his coaching.

He enjoys when his students begin to see economics as a fascinating field, not merely a career. “It’s rewarding to see them become passionate about economics and see its usefulness as more than a paycheck.”

“Dr. Schuhmann changed my way of thinking about economics,” Soques said, referring to his professor of economics — and now colleague — Peter Schuhmann. “He opened my eyes to how broad the subject is.”
Seahawks are changing the world, one cup of coffee at a time

Bitty & Beau’s Coffee is more than a place to grab a cup of joe.

“A human rights movement disguised as a coffeehouse” is how owners Ben Wright ’98 and his wife, Amy, see it.

Since it opened its doors in January 2016, Bitty & Beau’s has offered employment opportunities to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities — and changed perceptions along the way.
“I think people come to experience what’s happening here,” said Ben. “You find some people in the workplace with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but they are always the exception, not the rule. At Bitty & Beau’s, that is the rule and not the exception.”

The couple founded the coffee shop because they felt it was the right thing to do for their family, friends and the community, said Amy, founder and CEO. It is named after their two youngest children: Beau, 12, and Bitty, 7, both of whom have Down syndrome. Recognizing that their children would one day be seeking employment, they chose to create the accepting environment they sought.

“We wanted to help transform Wilmington into a place where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are valued and accepted,” said Amy. “Most communities aren’t that way. I really feel a shift here.”
Bitty & Beau’s opened with fewer than 20 staff members. Today, the coffeehouse employs 40 people.

Maddie Ashcraft ’16, who majored in special education at UNCW, works alongside the employees as Amy Wright’s executive assistant. Although Ashcraft loves the classroom, she said there is something different about working with adults and helping them with the next steps after high school.

“A lot of people think I took a little bit of a turn [from education to this job], but this is my classroom and I teach every moment,” she said.

A simple cup of coffee has helped break down the walls between people with and without disabilities, she added. “We say, ‘It’s more than a cup of coffee,’ because it really is,” Ashcraft continued. “Seeing the community come together and support the vision of the shop is something I could have never imagined in the beginning.”

Within a matter of weeks of its opening, Bitty & Beau’s became a community staple. The coffeehouse has received numerous accolades and awards, including 2016 Coastal Entrepreneur of the Year, a joint program by UNCW’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Greater Wilmington Business Journal. Amy was named a 2017 Lower Cape Fear YWCA Woman of Achievement.

The shop has also garnered state and national attention, and has been featured on “The Rachael Ray Show,” “Harry,” “Good Morning America,” HLN, and in People and Southern Living magazines.

A “Wall of Thanks” lists the numerous community members who have supported Bitty & Beau’s, including philanthropist, alumnus and former UNCW Trustee Allen Rippy. By July 2016, the business had outgrown its first location, a 500-square-foot building on Wrightsville Avenue. Rippy and his family donated the 5,000-square-foot building that now houses the coffee shop on New Centre Drive.

“The Rippy family has been so generous about letting us grow into this space,” said Amy. “We’re a good team.”

Rippy, whom the employees affectionately call “Pops,” jumped at the opportunity to help the Wrights.

“I’ve become so passionate about it,” said Rippy, who also serves on the UNCW Foundation Board. “Without a doubt, this is the purest thing that I have been involved in my life. Folks who work here have become a part of our family. This is the happiest place in Wilmington.”

The outpouring of support for Bitty & Beau’s doesn’t come as a surprise, he said. The coffeehouse’s mission resonates throughout the community and beyond. “When you can put this type of business model together, you are going to change the world.”

Good news! Bitty & Beau’s recently announced plans to add a location. A Charleston, SC, shop is expected to open in fall 2017.

It’s one big, happy family at Bitty & Beau’s.

Left to right: Luke, Maddie Ashcraft ‘16, Jackie, Megan, Amy Wright, Ben Wright ’98, Allen Rippy and Christine
Lolita Bryant’s connection to UNCW is deeply rooted

Two miles from her office at UNCW’s McNeill Hall is a piece of Lolita Bryant’s history: the property where her great-great grandfather, Abram Bishop, raised his family and operated a small farm. Today, Trask Coliseum rests on her family’s former homestead.
“I am part of what was here before UNCW became what it is today,” said Lolita Bryant ’04, ’11M. “My family owned that land, and I am proud to say that. It could have been anywhere, but Trask sits where my dad used to play as a little boy.”

Bryant learned about the history of the land when she was in high school. Her father often drove through the campus and shared stories about their family’s history.

The heirs of Abram Bishop were part of a group of four landowners Wilmington College approached in the late 1950s. At that time, Wilmington College was located on Market Street. The college’s board of trustees was seeking a new location that would accommodate the college’s growth. The Bishop family owned a 43-acre tract east of N.C. 132 with 1,500-feet of frontage on the east side of the highway. For many years, a pear tree in front of Trask served as landmark where the home used to sit.

Bryant first shared her family’s connection to the university during her remarks at her RN to BSN ceremony in 2004. “It’s like I am keeping the spirit of my family here through me,” she said. “God blessed me to be an undergraduate, graduate and full-time faculty member at UNCW.”

Encouragement and support from her professors during her time as an undergraduate sparked Bryant’s interest in teaching. She joined UNCW as a part-time faculty member in the College of Health and Human Services’ School of Nursing in 2013 after 34 years with New Hanover Regional Medical Center as a nursing supervisor and administrative operations officer. She has taught classes at the hospital and university since becoming a full-time faculty member in 2014.

Being an engaged alumna is important to Bryant. She currently serves on the alumni board of directors and chairs the alumni scholarship and awards committee. She is also a member of the African American Graduate Association steering committee and is a past association chair.

“I am proud to be a Seahawk and a UNCW alumna. I volunteer because I enjoy the camaraderie,” she said. “I donate because it supports the university and assists in funding projects and scholarships that would not have been possible otherwise.”

Bryant knows firsthand the impact scholarships can have. She was awarded the Duke Endowment Scholarship by New Hanover Regional Medical Center to complete her MSN degree. She’s exploring the creation of a scholarship to help nursing students—and to keep her family’s legacy alive.

“It would be a blessing if I could make it happen,” Bryant said. “Scholarships really helped me obtain my degree and that’s why I am able to teach at a university level.”

With the university’s upcoming 70th anniversary, Bryant finds herself reflecting on how the legacies of the university and her family are intertwined. When asked what she thought her great-great grandfather would say about her roles at UNCW, she smiled.

“I think my great-great grandfather would say, ‘Continue to do what you are doing by giving back to students and teaching, allowing our legacy to live on. I am very proud that you are able to do that.’ He’s looking down at me now saying, ‘Look at you!’”

From tract to Trask — Abram Bishop’s 1,100-square-foot home sat where current student-athletes soar.
Lookout Books, UNCW’s in-house book publishing imprint, is making a name for itself.
Emily Louise Smith ’06M works with words and books every day — and she’s always reading between the lines. She’s adept at bridging what is and what can be.

As a graduate student, Smith helped co-found the creative writing department’s literary magazine, Ecotone, in 2005. “From the very first issue, Ecotone pieces were being picked up for the ‘Best American Short Stories’ series. Over the next few issues, they were included in the O. Henry prize series and the Pushcart Prize,” Smith said, referring to prestigious awards that honor authors and small presses.

Smith was hired as director of UNCW’s Publishing Lab in 2007. She saw potential for the success of Ecotone and its authors to translate to a book imprint of its own.

“I thought long and hard about what would keep me engaged as an academic, researcher and publisher, and increase the level of engagement for our students.” She proposed a literary imprint housed within the Publishing Lab but distinct from its original editorial mission and suggested inviting Ecotone authors to submit full-length projects.

Lookout Books, established in 2009, combines the editorial strengths of Ecotone with the Publishing Laboratory’s in-house design and production capabilities, enabling the magazine to highlight its best authors and offering the Publishing Laboratory opportunities to grow its catalog. Lookout Books publishes one or two books per year, rotating between fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

Smith knew that she wanted Lookout Books to be useful for the students in the M.F.A. and B.F.A. programs and not just its authors. “I saw a chance for students to really understand and practice developmental editing, book design, marketing, sales and promotion on a more extensive level,” she explained.

Though she is often asked if the imprint publishes only UNCW faculty or students, Smith is quick to point out that the scale of the imprint is international.

‘Edith Pearlman’s Binocular Vision, Lookout’s first book, will ultimately have been published in seven different languages. It was the first book from a debut press to be a finalist for three of the major book awards — the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Story Prize,” she said.

Lookout’s most recent title, We Show What We Have Learned by Clare Beams, has received praise from the New York Times, Oprah Magazine, Publishers Weekly and acclaimed author Joyce Carol Oates. Beams’s book was also a finalist for the 2017 PEN Bingham Literary Award for debut fiction alongside books from bigger houses like Farrar, Straus & Giroux and Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Penguin Random House, as well as a finalist for the Shirley Jackson Awards and the Young Lions Fiction Award from the New York Public Library.

“Having an in-house book imprint is extremely rare,” Smith noted. “A lot of universities have an academic press, or a press exists and later finds a home at a university, but it’s unusual to find one that is integral to and grew organically from within a creative writing department.”

Smith continues to imagine how Lookout Books can grow with the right opportunities and resources. After pursuing and solidifying a partnership with HarperCollins, one of the big five New York publishing houses, she is excited to see how this connection will benefit both the imprint and her students. The affiliation with HarperCollins will offer students direct contact with publishers and editors, opportunities previously missing from the publishing certificate program.

“HarperCollins professionals now visit campus regularly and Skype with our students,” Smith shared. “They have offered to do individual mentoring...and to give feedback or match them with appropriate job openings. Though there are no promises that UNCW students will be hired for these jobs, they’ll at least get in the door. Our students come out of a program people in the industry respect and admire.”

Kate McMullen ’17, former Lookout publishing assistant, said that her work with the imprint was a vital part of her M.F.A. experience. “As I look for jobs, I’m drawn to other presses like Lookout that put as much care toward their authors and books,” she noted. “I’m on sure footing after the publishing experiences I’ve had here.”

“Understanding the foundation that the lab offered — the bindery equipment, trimmer and in-house desktop publishing suite — I saw what it could be. It’s the perfect marriage of art and business.”
– Emily Louise Smith
Kristen Brogdon’s love of the creative process drives many of her decisions when planning UNCW Presents events.

“Our vision is to inspire, connect and cultivate,” said Brogdon, director of UNCW Office of the Arts. “I keep those three actions in my heart and mind throughout the process.”
The 2017-18 UNCW Presents season will not disappoint, as patrons enjoy a variety of programming, from renowned chamber music ensembles to tango and contemporary dance. A new addition to the lineup is the Lumina Festival of the Arts, a summer festival that will run July 14-30 and is built around the Opera Wilmington’s summer production of Carmen.

In March, the university announced a partnership with Opera Wilmington to bolster performance and education programs. Opera Wilmington now serves as a resident company of UNCW, providing scholarly opportunities for students and faculty, and the chance to expand and create new opera programs for people throughout southeastern North Carolina.

Brogdon has high praise for Opera Wilmington. “They bring an incredible amount of creative energy to UNCW,” she said.

In addition to Carmen, the festival will include a production of Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing, directed by assistant professor Christopher Marino and set in post-Civil War Wilmington. Cinema lovers will enjoy two outdoor film screenings at the UNCW Amphitheatre, co-hosted by the Cucalorus Film Festival.

Since her arrival in June 2015, Brogdon has worked with campus partners to offer programming that allows students to interact with artists and build connections within the community. In April, she collaborated with campus constituents to offer workshops and master classes for The Nile Project, a collective of musicians from the Nile River basin who work together for the sustainability of their river.

“I love the idea of Kenan Auditorium as a laboratory for faculty and student artistry as well as community engagement,” Brogdon said.

For the holiday season, the Office of the Arts will present Ebenezer: A Christmas Carol, written and directed by communication studies professor Frank Trimble.

The office will partner with Centro Hispano on a Seahawk Family Arts Matinee performance with singer-songwriter Sonia de los Santos, and with the Upperman African American Cultural Center on LA Theatreworks’ production of The Mountaintop.

“Our work with cultural centers helps us bring artists to UNCW Presents who will be especially relevant to students and communities of color,” Brogdon said. “We aim for inclusion in all of our programming, and you will see diverse artists throughout the season. These collaborations also help us reach an audience that enjoys performing arts as a part of an overall cultural experience on campus.”

UNCW Presents programming is tied to the university’s commitment to community and student engagement, Brogdon added. “Creative inquiry, critical thinking and thoughtful expression are inherent in the arts, and we bring artists who have the capacity to engage students and inspire responsible citizenship.”

For a complete list of 2017-18 UNCW Presents series programming and ticket information, visit www.uncw.edu/presents.
1950s

Joseph Anthony Schlegel '55 and his wife, Patricia, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 7, 2016. They reside in Castle Hayne, NC and have two children and three grandchildren.

Linda Hines Hollis '58 established the Hines-Hollis Teaching Scholarship to support students planning to be classroom teachers. Linda is a 2016-17 UNCW Society and Clocktower Society member.

Jack McPhail '58 and his wife, Barbara, founded the University Need-Based Scholarship to support students in serious financial need. They are members of the E.L. White Society.

1960s

Nathaniel Bost '63 and his wife, Sandra, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 27, 2016. They have two children and three grandchildren and reside in Wilmington.

Donald E. Godwin '69 made the 2016 Texas Super Lawyers list for the 14th consecutive time. He was again named to the list of the Top 100 Super Lawyers in Texas for 2017. His second poetry collection, "Letting the Sun in," was released in 2016.

Kenny House '78 was featured in the StarNews for his work in community wellness. Founder of CHANGE, he hosts a monthly breakfast meeting to discuss topics including race, justice and faith. He is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

1970s

Cecil Reynolds '75 and his wife, Julia Hickman, established the Dr. Cecil Reynolds Travel Award in Psychology. A longtime supporter of the university, Cecil was the 1984 UNCW Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and a 1998 Razor Walker Award Recipient. He is a member of the 2016-17 UNCW Society.

Skip Watkins '80, '88M is on the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority board. He is an independent financial adviser with Capital Investment Group and was elected to the New Hanover County board of commissioners.

Lisa Moore Harris '84 joined Corning Credit Union as a mortgage originator in its Wilmington market. She has more than 20 years of experience and is a Salesforce.com Certified Administrator.

1980s

Richard “Sam” Barbee ’76 became president of the NC Poetry Society in May 2017. His second poetry collection, “That Rain We Needed (Press 53),” was a 2016 finalist for the Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry, a contest recognizing the best NC poetry collections.

Christopher Ide ’77 retired from teaching political science at Savannah State University in Georgia.

Lisbeth “Beth” Shannon MacKenzie ’77, a substance abuse counselor at Cone Health Behavioral Health Hospital in Greensboro, appeared on Fox 8’s segment “House Call,” addressing the signs and symptoms of addiction. She is a member of the Alumni Association Triad Steering Committee and a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

David Condon ’78, CEO of Old Dominion Freight Lines, was a presenter at SMC’s Jump Start 2017 held in Atlanta, GA.

Kenny House ’78 was featured in the StarNews for his work in community wellness. Founder of CHANGE, he hosts a monthly breakfast meeting to discuss topics including race, justice and faith. He is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Bobby Bell ’79 won Century 21 System’s Centurion Producer Award for a fifth consecutive year.

Bobby Parker ’79 joined the Salisbury Post’s copy desk (NC). He previously worked at the Wilmington StarNews and The Fayetteville Observer.

1990s

Greg Marinich ’84 and his wife, Cat, opened Nothing Bundt Cakes in Wilmington. The shop and bakery carries cards, party supplies and tableware. They are 2016-17 UNCW donors.

Edward Lee Paul ’84, owner of Landfall Eye Associates, rebranded and expanded his practice. Paul Vision Institute has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis (his other alma mater), and will bring interns and residents from SCO for clinical rotations.

Hugh Caison ’85 celebrated the grand opening of a new McDonald’s in Clinton, NC. Hugh and his wife, Nan ’83, own and operate seven McDonald’s in Sampson and Duplin counties. They are sponsors of UNCW Athletics and are 2016-17 UNCW Society members. Nan serves on the Friends of UNCW and Hugh is on the UNCW Foundation Board.

Steve Caudill ’85 of Builders FirstSource was honored as Supplier of the Year by the Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association.

Kathy Schmugge ’85 received Papal Honors, awards handed down from Pope Francis. Kathy received the Benemerenti Medal for outstanding service to the Catholic Church. A lifelong Catholic, she serves as the Diocesan Director of the Office of Family Life of the Charleston Diocese and is a member of St. Philip Neri in Fort Mill, SC.

Ami E. Wilbur ’85, director of the UNCW Research Hatchery, spoke at a Shellfish Workshop hosted by the North Carolina Sea Grant in October 2016. Ami and her husband, Thomas Lankford ’86, are 2016-17 UNCW donors.

William “Monty” Graham ’86 is director of the newly formed School of Ocean Science and Technology at the University of Southern Mississippi. In 2011, Monty joined Southern Miss as a professor and chair of the division of marine science. Prior to joining the university, he was a marine science faculty member at the University of South Alabama and a senior marine scientist at Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Dauphin Island, AL.

1990s

Margaret Barclay ’87 and her husband, Ned, established the Margaret and Ned Barclay Scholarship in Business to support students in the Cameron School of Business. Longtime supporters of the university, they previously established the Roger P. Hill Scholarship Endowment in honor of Hill, who served as Margaret’s college advisor.

Shannon Bourne ’87, ’08 was one of the UNCW faculty members whose work was featured on the inaugural UNCW Campus Art Walk in January 2017.

Barry Garten ’87 is area ranger for the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, headquartered in Marion, VA. He oversees approximately 200,000 acres of National Forest System lands covering five counties and 500 miles of trails.

John Goode ’87 began his first year as principal of Lakewood High School in Salemburg, NC. He was honored as Principal of the Year for Sampson County Schools for 2015-16.

Anne Precythe ’87 was appointed director of the Missouri Department of Corrections.

David Cain ’88 expanded his company, Greenville-based PORT Health Services, into Wilmington. PORT Health Services helps NC residents with mental health and substance abuse issues. With the new location, PORT Health now has three treatment centers.

1990s

Jeana Carr ’88 was recognized as the regional Administrator of the Year by the North Carolina Association of Educational Administrators. She has been with Sampson County Schools for 28 years.

Maria Johnson ’88 was honored as the 2017 North Carolina Southeast Region Principal of the Year.

Courtney Malahias ’88 was one of 16 teachers nominated for New Hanover County Schools’ first “Rookie of the Year” award.

Terry Schappert ’88 hosted “Asia’s Special Forces with Terry Schappert,” on the History Channel. A former Green Beret with a military career spanning 23 years, he reflected on his experiences and discussed training regimens.
As a member of UNCW’s volleyball team, Kendall Bender ’18 is carrying on a family tradition in UNCW athletics. Her father, Greg E. Bender ’89, played basketball for UNCW from 1985-89 and served on the Board of Visitors and is a 2016-17 member of the UNCW and Clocktower Societies.

Ruth Ann Glaser ’89, president of Pender Memorial Hospital, won the Greater Wilmington Business Journal’s 2016 Health Care Heroes award in the category of Health Care Executives.


1990s

Rob Miecznikowski ’90 is the first head men’s and women’s swimming and diving coach at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA.

Daniel Ray Norris ’90 and Mary Anne Russ were married on Dec. 16, 2016 on Lea-Hutaff Island, north of Figure Eight Island. The bride and groom, who met in second grade, reside in Hampstead, NC.

Tom Setzer ’90 was featured in an insideBIGDATA.com article, “The Rise of Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Imaging and Web Developers.” He is a software product director at Accusoft.

Major Charles “Vic” Ward ’90 was appointed by the governor to serve as deputy commander of the NC State Highway Patrol. He has served with the State Highway Patrol since 1990.

Claudia Ray Unsicker ’91 and her husband, David ’99, started their own team in real estate sales/brokerage in New Bern, NC. She is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Robert “Bob” Norem ’92, ’93 was honored by WWAY as a “Teacher of the Week.”

Brian Brinkley ’93, ’99M, director of the Education Lab at UNCW’s Watson College of Education, traveled to the Leo Bradley Library in Belize to provide the educators and library staff with critical professional development that connects information systems and technology with classroom teachers and community resources. He is a 2016-17 UNCW Society and Clocktower Society member.

Paul Cairney ’93, ’95M, head coach of UNCW Women’s Soccer, earned his 200th career win with a 2-0 non-conference victory over Campbell in August 2016. He is a member of the 2016-17 UNCW Society and Clocktower Society.

Kym Crowell ’93 was unanimously appointed as the New Hanover County Clerk to the Board. She joined New Hanover County in 1994 and has served as deputy clerk since January 2008.

Glenn Erik Newbury-Smith ’93 and his wife, Amy, own the Lucas Farmhouse in Rocky Point, NC. The couple purchased the 1903 Victorian farmhouse five years ago and have been restoring the property ever since, offering the house as a gathering place and inn.

Judge Scott Ussery ’93 was appointed chief district court judge for Judicial District 13 (Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus counties). He served as a district court judge from 2009-17; as an assistant district attorney from 2007-08 and as a magistrate from 1997-2000. He earned his juris doctor from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 2002.

Phil Berger, Jr. ’94 is a sitting judge on the 15-member North Carolina Court of Appeals. He was elected for an eight-year term and took the oath of office and seat in January 2017. He joins Judge John M. Tyson ’74, winner of UNCW’s 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award and the first Seahawk state appeals judge, on the court.

John Donnehy ’94 released “Clockwork Universe” in November 2016. Mostly horror and suspense, his stories have appeared in magazines such as Typehouse Literary Magazine. He has two books planned for release with Severed Press in 2017 and a supernatural horror novel under review with a publisher.

Shannon Myers ’94 opened Ogopogos Toys and Pop Culture Museum in Lexington, NC. The establishment offers a combination of nostalgia, collectibles, figurines, posters and other items of interest for kids of all ages.

Christopher Nesselroade ’94, president and co-owner of WB Brawley, announced that the design and construction firm has launched a new commercial division. WB Brawley does business in 27 states and seven countries.

Barbara J. Barry ’95, RN, MSN, CNE joined the ranks of the International Nurses Association. She works at Cape Fear Community College and is affiliated with New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Lorraine Perry ’95, ’05M, founder and coordinator of the Healing Arts Program of the Lower Cape Fear Hospice, was recognized as an Albert Schweitzer Honors Scholar. This honor is bestowed annually by UNCW’s Honors College and Randall Library. Lorraine was recognized as “Volunteer of the Year” by the Cape Fear Arts Council and as a Cape Fear Woman of Achievement by the YWCA. She also received the NC Governor’s Award for the Arts.
Mark Sudduth ’95, founder of HurricaneTrack.com, was interviewed on “WeatherBrains, the official webcast for people who love weather.” Over the past 18 years, Mark has worked with local, state and federal agencies to develop award-winning hurricane awareness projects.

Joseph “Joe” Choi ’96, co-owner of Wholesome Greens, is one of a number of Wilmington chefs from several smaller restaurants joining the cooperative 40 EATS. The group will bring smaller restaurants/chefs together to help put Wilmington on the map as a culinary destination.

Johnsie Daniels Davis ’96, director of patient safety at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, was a finalist for the 2016 Health Care Heroes awards in the Greater Wilmington Business Journal’s Medical Center, was a finalist for the 2016 patient safety at New Hanover Regional Commerce board of directors. She also sits on the Vacation Rental Managers Association’s Africa Healthcare Summit.

Melaney Robbins ’96 was elected to the Southport-Oak Island (NC) Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Beth Oyarzun ’96, ’05M received a 2016 Online Learning Consortium Award. To honor her commitment to online learning, Beth established the Excellence in e-Learning Award at UNCW this spring. She is a 2016-17 UNCW Society and Clocktower Society member.

Jon Franke ’97M was appointed vice president of generation technical services at Pacific Gas & Electric. He will be responsible for leading functions in PG&E’s Generation line of business related to technical, strategic and project support.

Vern Granger ’97 was appointed interim vice president for strategic enrollment planning at The Ohio State University.

Robert Griffitt ’97 was named chair of the division of coastal sciences and associate director of the newly formed School of Ocean Sciences and Technology at the University of Southern Mississippi. His work on the evaluation of fish’s immune function and increased susceptibility to pathogenic bacteria due to oil-contaminated sediments from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill gained national and international notoriety.

Hal Routh ’97M is vice president of national accounts at EMJ Corporation. He is responsible for all sales activities with the goal of promoting growth and revenue for EMJ’s family of companies.

Jeff Bell ’98 and his friend Warren Hicks created the podcast “Don’t Lie to Me,” to demystify the local art world to the uninitiated. The format of the show is still developing, but will be mostly interview-based.

Anna Marie Cancelli ’98, ’03M was featured in the Jacksonville Daily News for her extensive volunteer work with various NC agencies including Onslow Parks and Recreation, Onslow Women’s Center and the Swansboro Historical Association.

Eric Jones ’98 was featured in the Baltimore Business Journal’s “People on the Move.” He is vice president and chief customer officer of Groove, a creative marketing, web design and development agency.

Dawn Oswalt ’98 was selected as the “Teacher of the Month” for January 2017 by the South Carolina Education Association. Dawn has taught at Oak Pointe Elementary since it opened in 2006.

Vaughn Reynolds ’98, ’99M sits on the Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina board of directors. He also serves on the UNCW Foundation Board, UNCW Alumni Board of Directors and the Charlotte Steering Committee. Vaughn and fellow Cameron School of Business alumnus Malcomb Coley ’86, ’89M established the Dr. Fara Elkai Scholarship in Accountancy and Business Law at UNCW. Vaughn and his wife, Krista ’99, both played soccer at UNCW and are members of the 2016-17 UNCW Society and Clocktower Society.

Kevin Snyder ’98 won the Best Sailboat award at the 2016 NC Holiday Flotilla in Wrightsville Beach with his entry, Coastal Christmas. He serves on the Triangle Area Alumni Chapter Steering Committee.

Laura Maree Beachum ’99 graduated with a doctorate of education from Wingate University in December 2016. She is the assistant director of Union County (NC) Public Schools’ Exceptional Children’s programs.

Erinn Beekman ’99M was hired by Cornerstone Business Advisors as a senior consultant to expand its health care consulting practice. She has helped health care organizations improve service quality and efficiency through training, process consulting and mergers and acquisitions for more than 20 years. She serves as president of the Wilmington Medical Group Managers Association. She is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.


Chris James ’99 is president and CEO of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise. In this role, he will lead the longest-running Native American economic development organization. His professional record spans small business operations, tribal economic development and senior positions in federal government.

Stephanie Bloodworth ’00 was nominated as a YYCA Woman of Achievement in the business category. She is vice president of UNCW’s African American Graduate Association and a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Angela Drayer ’00 was named controller for Wohlsen Construction in Lancaster, PA.
Shawn Cagle Horton ’00 is the past president on the Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association Board. He is a member of the 2016-17 UNCW Society and Clocktower Society.

David Alan Jones ’00 and his wife, Kacy, welcomed a baby girl, Leighton Belle, on Dec. 19, 2016.

Jennifer Shelton “Jenni” Pleasant ’00 was inducted into the Triad Business Journal’s “40 Under 40.” The program honors young leaders across the Triad. She serves as the membership director at Forsyth Country Club and is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Dana Sachs ’00M, Honors College faculty member at UNCW and columnist for Salt magazine, was granted the Award for Excellence in Creative Writing from the NC Sorosis Night Department. She is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Perry Smith ’00 performed at Beckwith Recital Hall for UNCW’s Alumni and Faculty Showcase, “The Minimalists.”

Laura Taylor ’00, ’04M received the 2016 Marilyn Goodman Anderson Award for Excellence in Teaching at Cape Fear Community College. The award is given annually to a CFCC faculty member who demonstrates a positive impact on the life of students, a mastery of subject and an outstanding teaching philosophy.

Lee Spencer Temple ’00 and Erin Scherer were married on Oct. 15, 2016, in Asheville, NC.

Bonnie Braudway ’01 joined the Wilmington law firm of Marshall, Williams and Gorham LLP as a partner.

Martin Jarmond ’01 was included in the Sports Business Daily Journal’s “40 Under 40” Class of 2017.

Kristi Pindell ’01M was featured in the “People on the Move” section of the Charlotte Business Journal. She is a tax partner at BDO’s Core Tax Services and has more than 16 years of corporate tax experience serving clients in the retail, manufacturing and technology industries.

Laurie M. Whalin ’01 was promoted to vice president of clinical support services at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. After graduating from UNCW, she received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Campbell University, completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency at NHRMC and became a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist in October 2010.

Christina Brown Hudson ’02 and her family won the Best Powerboat (23-31 feet) award at the 2016 NC Holiday Flotilla in Wrightsville Beach with their entry, The Pirates of Wrightsville. She is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Harvey Johnson ’02 was a “Featured Mover” in The Daily Record. He is a CPA, CGMA and partner with PBMares, an accounting and business consulting firm in Virginia. He was also recognized by Inside Business as one of the year’s “Top 40 Under 40.”

Chad Keith ’02 served as the production designer for the Oscar-nominated film “Loving.”

Adrien Lopez ’02 welcomed a baby boy, Lucca Emiliano Lopez Lima, on Aug. 19, 2016. A former UNCW student body president, Adrien serves as a member of the Metro Washington, DC Alumni Group Steering Committee. She is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Bradley Scott ’02 joined LA-based MANDT VR as head of production. An award-winning filmmaker with vast experience in television production, he will oversee the development of immersive content.

The Class Notes are compiled by the Division for University Advancement.

Share your news at uncw.edu/alumniupdate.
Hilary Snow ’02 is the content marketing editor/writer for the Greater Wilmington Business Journal and WILMA Magazine. She has nearly 15 years of experience in journalism and marketing writing, having worked for several area print and online publications including The State Port Pilot and Port City Daily.

Richard Edward Stanley ’02 and his wife, Chelsea, welcomed a baby boy, Richard Easton, on Dec. 27, 2016.

Susan Bishop Crispell ’03, published The Secret Ingredient of Wishes in September 2016. She is a member of the Cape Fear Alumni Chapter Steering Committee. She and her husband, Mark ’02, are members of the 2016-17 Clocktower Society.

Tara Paige Cumbee ’03 was honored by WWAY as a “Teacher of the Week.”

Justin Heatherly ’03 is head football coach of the East Henderson High School Eagles. He joined the Eagles with 11 years of coaching experience in Henderson County Public Schools (NC), where he served as a teacher, coach and middle-school athletic director.

Tara Mulvey ’03M was named the New Hanover County Schools “Gifted Education Teacher of the Year.”

Thomas Ammon “Tom” O’Neill ’03 was promoted to vice president/director of sales for Wilmington-based Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage.

Sara Ray ’03 was promoted to vice president of the Douglas County Chamber (GA). She has served the chamber as director of communications and community affairs since 2010.

Alison Renee Baringer ’04, NC Azalea Festival executive director, was invited to serve on the International Festivals and Events Associate Foundation board of directors. The 2017 NC Azalea Festival, which took place in April, marked her 12th year with the organization.


Rebecca D’Amico Kelley ’04 is director of communications for the governor of Vermont. She is responsible for the development of the administration’s public information systems.

Susie Hamilton ’04M was named secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources by NC Governor Roy Cooper. The department oversees North Carolina state parks, museums, aquariums, historic sites, archives, and library and arts programs.

Jill Hannah Harrington ’04, ’13M and her husband, Steve, owners of Steviemack’s International Food Company, partnered with chef Keith Rhodes (Catch the Food Truck) and Port City Produce, to feed Duplin County (NC) residents affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Nanda L. Jones ’04 was awarded the Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers in October 2016. This designation is awarded to those who demonstrate excellence in the field of bank regulatory compliance. Nanda has been employed by First Citizens Bank for 11 years, where she is an assistant vice president/compliance officer. She lives in Pine Level, NC.

Joel Justus ’04, who joined the University of Kentucky men’s basketball team two seasons ago as the director of analytics and then special assistant to the head coach, moved to one of the three assistant coaching positions this season. As a student-athlete, Joel helped the Seahawks capture two CAA titles, made three postseason appearances and was named to the starting lineup of the team two seasons ago as the director of analytics and then special assistant to the head coach, moved to one of the three assistant coaching positions this season. As a student-athlete, Joel helped the Seahawks capture two CAA titles, made three postseason appearances and was named to the starting lineup.

Cherie Lea ’04 is an assistant coach for the women’s basketball team at Duquesne University (PA). As a student, she was the recipient of the Estell Lee SAA Scholarship. After graduating from UNCW, she played basketball overseas.

Laura Mortell ’04M, City of Wilmington budget director, was recognized by the Local Government Federal Credit Union for completing the 2016 Leading for Results Course as an LGFCU Fellow at the University of North Carolina School of Government.

Sean D. Ruttkay ’04 created the official artwork of the 2017 NC Azalea Festival. The piece, “Sea of Spring,” was unveiled during a ceremony at the Hanover Seaside Club in Wrightsville Beach, NC.

Ryan Christopher Abrahamson ’05, project manager for ECS Carolinas LLP, has moved to Wilmington, where he will be responsible for client contact to identify project requirements and project execution. ECS provides environmental, engineering, facilities and construction services across North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

Laura Boscaljon ’05 and her husband, Peter, welcomed a baby boy, Carlyle Asa, on Aug. 8, 2016.

Aja Cann ’05, ’09M joined 3-C Family Services, P.A., a research-based clinical practice of psychology, psychiatry and counseling professionals in Cary, NC. A licensed clinical social worker and clinical addictions specialist, she is a member of the National Association of Social Workers.

Jessica Elizabeth Cottle ’05 is a broker at Just For Buyers in Wilmington.

Jaclyn “Jackie” DeConti ’05 was featured in a Wilmington Business Journal article, “Young Female Entrepreneurs Build Their Names.” She and two friends opened Terra Sol Sanctuary in an old church in Wilmington in August 2016.

Brian Marshall Johnson ’05, ’08M is engaged to Morgan Gress. He is the director of federal relations for the American Petroleum Institute and as a freelance reporter (CT), created a WordPress site for writers and reporters. In 2013, he started “Gangrey: The Podcast,” and has talked with some of the most well-known narrative journalists about their work.

Taylor Vaughn ’05, a former UNCW tennis player and assistant coach, returned to his alma mater as a volunteer assistant coach for the men’s tennis program. He is a 2016-17 Clocktower Society member.

Joseph “Brent” Boswell ’06 and his wife, Lauren Goodman Boswell ’05, welcomed a baby boy, Joseph Goodman, on July 22, 2016. They are members of the 2016-17 Clocktower Society.

Mark Armstrong ’06 and his wife, Leslie Balch Armstrong ’96, won the People’s Choice award in the 2016 NC Holiday Flotilla at Wrightsville Beach with their entry, Hang Claws, featuring a surfing dog. This was their third People’s Choice award in four years in participating in the flotilla. Their $1,500 prize went to RescueConnect, a nonprofit animal rescue and adoption group, which Leslie co-founded.

David Mills ’06 is a partner at the Holly Springs (NC) location of Back in Action Physical Therapy.

Meade Horton Van Pelt ’06M is executive director of the Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center, a nonprofit center in Wilmington that provides services and a place of collaboration for organizations who serve people in need. She was previously at Pitney Bowes, Inc. for 21 years.

Mary Beck Skinner ’06 was promoted to relationship manager of PNC Bank’s Raleigh-based commercial banking team.
Jennifer Allen ’07M wrote “Down East Folks Cry Foul Over Team Name” for Coastal Review Online. The article explores the naming of the new Kinston (NC) minor league baseball team, Down East Wood Ducks.

Justin Cody Batts ’07 is head basketball coach at Carrboro High School (NC). As head coach at William Amos Hough High School, he accrued 45 wins in the last two years.

Adam Gilbert ’07 and Austin Stinson ’11, owners of Wilmington-based photography and videography company Blueberry Creative (formerly Blueberry Fusion), have launched a separate brand, Blueberry Commercial, to handle their increasing demand for commercial work.

Justin Hoke ’07 performed at Beckwith Recital Hall for UNCW’s Alumni and Faculty Showcase, “The Minimalists.”

Hilary Leigh Peoples ’07M was honored by WWAY as a “Teacher of the Week.”

Jeremy Edward Tomlinson ’07 launched the Cape Fear Craft Beer Alliance to promote awareness and increase visibility of craft beer in the Cape Fear region through education and participation in community events.

Kathryn Sister Waple ’07 was featured in the WILMA Magazine article, “Take a Hike.” Finding that her family’s mood improved the more time they spent outdoors prompted her to start “Families Hiking in Wilmington,” a Facebook group of more than 200 members who share trail tips, swap advice and plan meet-ups.

Amy L. Broderick ’08M rejoined Grossman St. Amour CPAs in NY as a supervisor in the audit services group.

Devin DiMattia ’08 received the StarNews Media Wilmington Theater Award for Best Original Production for writing and directing the play, “The Continuing Adventures of the Crimson Shadow.” The show was produced by Pineapple-Shaped Lamps, the theater troupe he co-founded with fellow alumni Wesley Brown ’09, Ryan Trimble ’13, Jordan Mullaney ’12, Jake Steward (2009-11), Zach Pappas ’11, Rachel Helms ’12 and Ben Henson ’12.

Jillian Faville ’08 was promoted to detective with the Gloucester Police Department (NY). She is the first female detective in the department’s history and was the first female member of the department’s SWAT team.

Krysta Nichole Gaver ’08 and her husband, Charles, welcomed a baby boy, Levin Charles, on Aug. 12, 2016.

Leeanne Grunke ’08M was nominated for Military Spouse of the Year for 2017. New to the military community, Leeanne volunteers on her squadron’s command team and is the president of the Officers’ Spouses’ Club. She is a member of 2016-17 Clocktower Society.

Jordan Coyne Messick ’08 won the Crowd Favorite award in the 2016 NC Holiday Flotilla at Wrightsville Beach with his entry, The Jolly Jellyfish.

Kristen Lynn Penegar ’08 and her husband, Cam, welcomed twin daughters, Lily Anna Joy and Ella Claire Noel, on Aug. 11, 2016.

Rocco Quaranto ’08 and Wells Struble ’07 have partnered with local restaurant Baba Ghannouj to begin franchising the business. Baba Ghannouj has been rebranded Peño Mediterranean Grill and plans for more locations in Wilmington and further expansion within the state and throughout the southeast.

Caile Kempf Terranova ’08M is a sales engineer for the controls department for Brady in Wilmington. Brady, a family-owned enterprise headquartered in Greensboro, NC, provides energy savings through comprehensive HVAC building solutions for commercial and industrial facilities across the state.

Amanda Couter ’09 is the executive director of The Full Belly Project. The Wilmington-based nonprofit is dedicated to ending poverty and hunger in developing countries.

Ian Andrew Cronouge ’09 and Nina Rita Chavez ’10 were married on Sept. 3, 2016. They reside in Washington, D.C.

Kyle Sanders ’09 joined Chamber Hill Strategies, a Washington, D.C.-based bipartisan government affairs firm, as a principal. Kyle served as legislative director and counsel for Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC), where he managed a comprehensive legislative portfolio including health care, tax and transportation issues. His transition to Chamber Hill Strategies was noted in “POLITICO Playbook.”

Gary Steele ’09 performed at Beckwith Recital Hall for UNCW’s Alumni and Faculty Showcase, “The Minimalists.”

In Memoriam

Steve Stephanadis ’50
Robert Craft ’53
Joseph Schlegel ’55
Dozier Murray ’56
James Rogers ’56
Lee Armstrong ’57
Betsy Wallace ’61
James Crowell ’62
Radford Rich ’62
John Lorek ’64
Shery Cheston ’67
Edson Norris ’69
John Braswell ’70
Ken McKeithan ’71
Andrew Williamson ’71
Virginia Baysden ’72, ’06M
Jim Hearn ’72
Robert Walton ’72
Kathy Powell ’73
Carrie Autry ’74
Cathy Brewington ’74
James Hankins ’74
Leo Nowak ’74
Marian Boyle ’75, ’83M
Charles Balser ’77
James McKitrick ’77
Suellen Cashwell ’78
Iris Fowler ’78
Roger Wiggs ’78
Glenda Daniel ’80
Paul DaSanMartino ’80
Lee Doak ’80
Ross Earnest ’80
Carolyn Morris ’80
Kimberly Baggett ’82
Paula Suber ’82
David Everett ’84, ’88M
Karen Matchunis ’84
Emily Wilson ’85
Tamara Willis ’86
Frank Foronda ’88
Daniel Kiser ’90
James Wilson ’91
Vernon Pinkston ’92
Alvin Phillips ’94
Jennifer Passantino ’95
Jason Weart ’95
2010s

Rebecca Baugnon '10. UNCW's Randall Library special collections specialist, has archived more than 500 notebooks that the library received from the Kindred Spirits Mailbox in Sunset Beach, NC.

Hunter Crump顿 '10, '13M was one of the finalists for the WILMA “Women to Watch” award in the Rising Star category. Hunter was also one of the finalists for the 2016 Greater Wilmington Business Journal's Health Care Heroes awards program in the Community Outreach category. She is a 2016-17 UNCW Society member.

Kevin Dublin '10 released his first "chapbook,” How to Fall in Love in San Diego. After graduating from UNCW, he earned his M.A. in English at ECU, where he taught English composition for a year. He then completed his M.F.A. in San Diego and is currently an editor at Etched Press and an academic admissions advisor at Academy of Art University in San Francisco. He returns to NC each summer to teach creative writing with the Young Writers' Camp at Duke University.

James L. Farnsworth II '10 is an assistant professor of exercise science at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA.

Colleen Griffiths '10M, '16M wrote "5 Reasons to Use Digital Badges in Your Classroom" for the publication Fractus Learning.

Matt Harris '10 joined the WSOC-TV Eye Witness News team in Charlotte as a sports anchor/reporter in September 2016. Before moving to Charlotte, he was the weekend sports anchor/reporter at KSLA in Shreveport, LA, where he earned an Emmy nomination.

Kendall Henderson '10 is the director of business development at RowanWORKS. She has six years of experience in business development, most recently as senior business development manager for Phase 3 Marketing and Communications in Charlotte.

Christine Elisabeth Lambertson '10M was promoted to museum director of the Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens in Wilmington, where she has worked since 2013.

John "Colby" Lewis '10 is a male principal standby understudying for the roles of a number of different characters, including George Washington, in the Chicago production of “Hamilton.” After graduating from UNCW, he earned an M.F.A. at the University of Connecticut in 2014, where he was a member of the University President Theatre Association. He appeared as Cassius Clay in the Denver Center Theatre production of “One Night in Miami.”

Leland Pinder '10 co-anchors “WIS Sunrise” weekdays at WIS TV in Columbia, SC. He previously worked as a weekend evening anchor and reporter at WCTI in Eastern North Carolina.

Daniel Soques '10 and his wife, Brittany, welcomed a baby boy, Carter Soques, on Dec. 21, 2016. They are 2016-17 UNCW donors and he is an assistant professor of finance at UNCW. (See p. 17.)

Rob Warwick '10 is on the brokerage team at Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage. Rob has been a realtor since 2014 and a consistent top producer in the firm’s Wilmington market. Rob and his wife Jenny '11 are members of the 2016-17 UNCW Society and Jenny is a member of the UNCW Board of Visitors.

Charles Freeman III '11 is a broker at Freeman Commercial Real Estate in Winston-Salem, NC.

Walt Gray '11M, '12M, former chief deputy secretary of the Department of Transportation, was hired as the director of health plan operations for the State of North Carolina. The NC State Health Plan provides healthcare coverage to more than 700,000 state employees and retirees, including teachers, current and former lawmakers, state university and community college personnel and their dependents.

Maria Johnson '11 was a Lenoir County (NC) Public Schools Teacher of the Year finalist. She has taught kindergarten at Banks Elementary School since 2013. She was a student teacher at a primary school in Swadesi, South Africa, as part of a program offered through UNCW.

Royce Marcus '11 and his partner, Ian Renz, co-founded ShowMeVirtual, a company that uses special cameras and software to create computer-simulated virtual reality worlds.

Mark Maynard '11M is finishing the downtown Wilmington development of South Front Phase II for his family business, Tribute Investment and Development Inc. The development on South Third Street will include apartments, lofts and commercial tenants.

Bonnie Monteleone '11M, founder of the nonprofit Plastic Ocean Project, is working to convert ocean plastic into fuel. She is collaborating with a team that includes chemistry professors, business and environmental science students, and has also partnered with PK Clean Technology, a Utah-based startup founded by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Bonnie is a 2016-17 Clocktower Society member. (For more on the conversion efforts, see page 6.)

Addie Wuenisch '11. a longtime employee of Bottega Art & Wine, is the gallery and wine bar’s new owner. She has moved the establishment to North Fourth Street, in the Brooklyn Arts District of Wilmington.

Kathryn Marley Parsons Crouch '12 received her doctor of physical therapy from Elon University in December 2016.


Brandy Nicole Lawson (Burnette) '12 established High Cotton Events by Design, LLC in Charleston, SC.

Amanda Powell '12 is director of marketing for Campbell University athletics. She was the director of marketing at Western Carolina University and is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Logan White Thompson ‘12M is Welcome Home Angel of Wilmington’s first executive director. Welcome Home Angel’s mission is to bring joy and comfort to children in the area with chronic and debilitating illnesses or
injuries. Prior to this position, she served in development roles with Good Shepherd Center, United Way of Onslow County, Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity and The Children’s Museum of Wilmington.

Katelyn Whiteley ’12 received her doctor of physical therapy from Elon University in December 2016.

Wesley Baker ’13 is the assistant director of college counseling at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, FL. She joined the Oxbridge faculty after extensive work at the University of Florida, teaching the university’s signature first-year experience course.

Brittany Chester ’13 joined FinTrust Investment Advisors in Greenville, SC, as vice president of operations.

Ed Hall ’13 was highlighted in a Greater Wilmington Business Journal article about the process startups and entrepreneurs face in getting the attention of investors. Ed is the founder of Petrics, a startup that uses technology to help pet owners keep track of their animals’ eating patterns and health care.

William Johnson ’13M is the assistant Edgecombe County (NC) manager. He has been with the county for two years, first as the assistant finance director, then as interim finance director.

Kelly Wells Lanier ’13 and her husband, Lantz, welcomed a baby girl, Karley Ann, on Sept. 24, 2016.

Natasha Alden ’13 and Cameron Seagle are driving across the continent of Africa and chronicling their adventures on theworldpursuit.com. They’ve been recognized by a number of well-known travel websites, including Lonely Planet.

Doug Rizekos ’13, technical director with DreamWorks, is working on “Larrikins,” an animated movie set in the Australian outback and scheduled for release in 2018.

Anna Christine Stanfill ’13 was honored by WWAY as a “Teacher of the Week.”


Taylor Yakowenko ’13 joined KNOE 8 News in Monroe, LA, in January 2017.

Stephanie Bowen ’14, was named executive director of Brunswick Family Assistance Agency in Shallotte, NC, in September 2016 after a year as the organization’s program manager.

Jared Cline ’14 performed at Beckwith Recital Hall for UNCW’s Alumni and Faculty Showcase, “The Minimalists.”

Victoria Lee Van Etten ’14 is an account executive at Wilmington-based Sage Island. She has worked with Fortune 500 companies IBM, Microsoft and Adobe.

Chalmeta Evans ’14 was featured in a StarNews article, “Local School Districts Grapple with Bus Driver Shortages.” While at UNCW, she drove buses for Brunswick County Schools part-time.

Heather Simons ’14 is a teen life coach at the Montgomery-Register Teen Center of the Brigade Boys and Girls Club in Jacksonville, NC. She oversees the Brigade’s Youth Development to Workforce Pipeline program, which provides high-risk teens access to job shadowing, off-site apprenticeships, certificate programs and community college associate degree programs.

Sam West ’14, a TAC support technician and a full-time student pursuing a master’s in psychology, won the fall 2016 UNCW Staff Senate Scholarship. Sam is the first staff member to participate in this intensive research program.

Lori Beth Adams ’14, a former UNCW golfer, participated in the first stage of LPGA Tour Qualifying School in Southern California, tying for 27th place and advancing to the second stage. As a student, she was the recipient of the Dr. Fred Eschelman SAA Scholarship Endowment.

Madison Joy Norris ’14, director of sales and marketing at the Vision Hospitality Group/Hampton Inn by Hilton, is treasurer of the 2016-17 Wilmington Area Hospitality Association board of directors. She is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Anna Phillips ’14 was featured in The News Herald article, “Former BCPS Student Now a News Anchor.” Anna double majored in communications and English at UNCW. She landed her first job at WWAY NBC29 in Charlottesville, VA, where she worked from 2014-16. This past summer, she returned to North Carolina to work as the weekend night anchor for WITN in Greenville.

Paul Flowe ’14 has been named manager of Alder Energy Systems Greenville/Spartanburg, SC branch. He joined AES in 2015.

Alexandra McCollister ’14 joined the Peace Corps and is living in the African nation of Malawi, which is among the world’s least developed countries. During her interview with The Stanly News & Press, she explained that her interest began while she studied abroad in South Africa.

Angela Marie Pollock ’14 was honored by WWAY as a “Teacher of the Week.”

Angela Adams ’14, Naval Hospital Camp Lejune’s Tobacco Cessation Program coordinator, was featured in an article for The Globe. She created a tobacco cessation workshop, coordinating with a clinical pharmacist to allow same-day access to nicotine patches and gums and same-day appointments with providers for medical therapies. Participation in the workshop significantly increased in one year’s time.

David “Dave” Lloyd Evans ’14, ’16M received the 2016 Cashman Award, a cash award given in honor of longtime Lower Cape Fear Historical Society archivist Diane Cashman. Dave’s thesis, “No Business as Usual: The Diplomacy of the 1980 U.S. Grain Embargo on the Soviet Union, Human Rights and the End of Detente,” was selected by the UNCW Department of History for its outstanding work. Dave is a military veteran and is pursuing a doctoral degree in history studies at the University of Connecticut.

Debra Saunders-White

(Jan. 8, 1957 – Nov. 26, 2016)

Debra Saunders-White, North Carolina Central University’s 11th and first female chancellor, lost her battle with cancer in November 2016. From 2006-11, Dr. Saunders-White served as UNCW’s vice chancellor for information technology systems and as interim associate provost and chief diversity officer in the Office of Institutional Diversity from 2007-08.

While at UNCW, her accomplishments included developing a computer literacy program for the Wilmington Housing Authority’s Hillcrest neighborhood; improving emergency communications, mobile services and cost-effective classroom technologies; and co-developing the UNCW Learning Commons, a technology-supported library space for student learning and collaboration.

“Deb was an energizing force wherever she worked,” said UNCW Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Patricia Leonard. “Her smile, compassion, professionalism and intelligence had an effect on everyone she met. UNCW, and the UNC system, was lucky to experience her leadership.”
Tyler Todd Graham ’15M and Matthew Hazen Khouri ’12 took a business plan that began as a senior project at UNCW and launched their first restaurant in Matt’s hometown of Corolla, NC. Outer Banks Boil Company, a storefront restaurant and catering company, achieved the #1 restaurant ranking in all of Coastal NC (per TripAdvisor). They have now opened a second location in Carolina Beach, NC.

Lucas B. Nelson ’15 is working on a master’s in divinity at Duke University. He is a 2016-17 UNCW donor.

Renee Peletier ’15 (and current UNCW graduate student) was presented the Alexander Sisson Research Award by the Geological Society of America. This award is open to candidates pursuing studies in Alaska and the Caribbean.

Johnny Shi ’15 is the development lead for Turnip Learning, having recently joined the startup company founded by Sarah Ritter ’16M, with the help of the UNCW CIE. Turnip Learning, with a focus on project-based, applied-learning classrooms, will allow teachers to create mobile-friendly digital content that can be bought and sold via Turnip’s online marketplace.

Phillip Joshua “Josh” Stott ’15 (and current UNCW graduate student) brought his idea for a developmental academy for young ballplayers to fruition at an instructional clinic hosted by UNCW in November 2016.

Kristine Pepper Testori ’15M and her husband, Doug, opened Port City Escape in Wilmington in June 2016.

Taylor Waddell ’15 was promoted to associate account executive at Howard/Merrell, a full-service strategic branding and advertising agency in Raleigh.

Tyler Wittkofsky ’15 is the public information officer for Brunswick Regional Water and Sewer H2GO in Leland, NC.

Nathaniel Akers ’16 assisted in the development of Nash Community College’s Biodiversity Center in Rocky Mount, NC. He was among the first cohort of students to participate in the waterdog research. Upon graduation from NCC, he transferred to UNCW where his research examined the zonation in salt marshes. He is employed as a conservation and research technician at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Jerry Douglas Coleman ’16M is director of Cape Fear Community College’s Small Business Center. A Wilmington native, he started out in sales and customer service for Carolina Power & Light. After 10 years with CPL, he left the utility company to join his family business, Porta-Nails Inc., where he ultimately rose to the position of president and COO. CFCC and UNCW were partners in Porta-Nails’ growth.

Samantha Farquhar ’16 began work in Nepal on an aquaculture project that empowers women. The project is designed to teach malnourished women in rural communities how to fish in community ponds, increasing their intake of protein and vitamin A. The project will also empower them economically as they sell fish at the market, increasing their household income, which they often use to send their children to school.

Rachel Bodkin-Fox ’16M opened The Foxes Boxes with co-owner husband, Randy, in December 2016. Located in the Brooklyn Arts District in downtown Wilmington, the restaurant partners with community organizations to help provide on-the-job training for marginalized populations, aimed at developing skills for employment in the hospitality industry. As a student, Rachel was the recipient of the Holt Oil Company Fellowship in Public Administration.

Olivia Hall ’16M is a language arts/social studies educator at Midway Middle School and Roseboro-Salem Middle School, where her work in the classroom earned her the 2015-16 Sampson County (NC) “Teacher of the Year” and the 2016-17 Sandhills Region “Teacher of the Year” honor.

Matthew Kane ’16 was honored as the UNCW 2016 Outstanding Graduate in Entrepreneurship and Business Development. From 2008 to 2012, he served as a Scout Sniper Team Leader in the US Marine Corps, with tours in Afghanistan, Haiti, Oman, Kuwait and Djibouti. He currently works as a requirements analyst for Deloitte Consulting LLP in Arlington, VA.

Cameron Gregory Meredith ’16 (and current UNCW graduate student) is working with the UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship as the CEO of Re-Markable and The Meredith Media Group.

Emily Mitchell ’16 competed in the Miss Goldsboro Scholarship Pageant.

Karsu Naile Nalbantoglu ’16 joined the Wilmington office of Sweeney, a leading full-service marketing and publications agency, as a videographer, photographer and account coordinator. She previously interned at the agency.

Kailey Savacool ’16 is a marketing associate at New Jersey-based Marketsmith Inc.

Breanna Lee Tenda ’16 joined Viamark Carolinas in November 2016 as an assistant marketing coordinator in their Wilmington office and was promoted to marketing director in March 2017.

Chad Porter ’98  
Distinguished Alumnus of the Year  
Porter takes pride in representing the university in the most positive way. He is a member of the Zig Ziglar International Team, an elite group of highly skilled and knowledgeable corporate trainers. He is a member of the board of directors for Access of Wilmington and vice chairman of the board for the Miracle League. He has spent numerous hours talking to students across the country about making the right choices. “I see it as my responsibility to serve and give back to those who need help and am proud to do so however possible,” he said.

Darion Jeralds ’10, ’14M  
Distinguished Young Alumnus of the Year  
Jeralds graduated cum laude in 2010 as the Outstanding Graduate for Operations Management. He is the senior sole sourcing program manager for global nuclear fuel at GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas. Jeralds shares his knowledge with students by participating in Business Week, hosted by the Cameron School of Business. He serves as a volunteer youth basketball coach, a March of Dimes Ambassador Family, a Communities in Schools volunteer and a Work on Wilmington project leader.

Chip Mahan  
Distinguished Citizen of the Year  
The founder, CEO and chairman of the board of directors of Live Oak Bank, Mahan is also a founding member of nCino and serves on its board of directors. He was CEO and chairman of the board for S1 Corporation and founder of Security First Network Bank, the world’s first internet bank. Mahan has served as a member of the UNCW Board of Visitors, the Foundation Endowment Board and the Cameron School of Business Advisory Board. He is involved in humanitarian and community activities and co-founded Phoenix Hometown Hires, a nonprofit organization that helps people overcome obstacles to find work and stability.
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