GOLDEN
Carol Ellis celebrates 50 years as a UNCW employee
FROM THE CHANCELLOR

SEAHAWK SNIPPETS
Short stories with big impact.

FEATURES

BUILDING A LIVING SHORELINE
Volunteers and Center for Marine Science researchers work to stop erosion.

SENSATIONAL SEAHAWKS
Quite simply, UNCW students are extraordinary.

GROWING TURNIPS, DEVELOPING MINDS
Becoming a student again turned Sarah Ritter into a teacher.

GOALTENDING
Former All-American Paul Cairney has high hopes for the UNCW women’s soccer program.

INVESTING IN THE VISION
Planned giving donors Steve Reilly ’89 and Larri Short believe education and philanthropy go hand in hand.

MISSION POSSIBLE
A Cameron School of Business professor proves shared cognition and Mars travel are not the stuff of sci-fi.

CLASS NOTES

THE POWER OF AN IDEA
DEAR FRIENDS,

As you make your way through the latest issue of UNCW Magazine, I believe you’ll see three themes emerge: excellence, engagement and joy.

Our excellence as Seahawks is represented in our classrooms and other learning environments; in countless areas of faculty and student research; by our student-athletes and those who coach them; and by our alumni who so passionately support UNCW with their gifts and campus involvement. In fact, our excellence is evident around the world, from the Nile to Mars (read on for those stories).

Our engagement with communities stretches beyond work with nonprofit agencies, civic groups and those in need; we are also engaged with the economy via entrepreneurial endeavors, the environment with various sustainability efforts, and the advancement of higher education with work that is both innovative and imaginative.

I don’t think I need to elaborate on all the ways we find joy – because so many of the photos in this issue tell that story. It is clear from the faces you’ll see here that Seahawks seem to be happiest when we are making a difference: academically, in our community or by giving back to UNCW.

As we have begun to implement our 2016-2021 strategic plan, which you’ll read about inside, we have continued to build upon our legacy and expand our thinking on what the coming years will bring for UNCW. With students, faculty, staff and alumni so committed to their work and improving the world around them, I believe our future is in very good hands.

Yours at UNCW,

Dr. Jose V. “Zito” Sartarelli
Chancellor
SEAHAWKS FLYING HIGH

UNCW continues to garner accolades from national publications for stellar programs, our attractive campus and commitment to teaching, research and service.

**UNCW ranked**

5th best public university in NC, 15th among private and public colleges

*USA Today and College Factual*

**UNCW highlighted**

among the nation’s Best and Most Interesting colleges and universities

*Fiske Guide to Colleges 2017*

**Watson College of Education listed**

14th Best College for Elementary Education, 20th Best College for Special Education

*Teacher.org*

**UNCW named**

Best Southeastern College

2017

*The Princeton Review*

**Cameron School of Business**

named one of the 200 Best Undergraduate Business Programs

*U.S. News and World Report*

**Rated one of the nation’s**

Cool Schools 2016

*Sierra Magazine, a publication of the Sierra Club*

[www.uncw.edu/rankings](http://www.uncw.edu/rankings)

compiled by Caroline Cropp ’98, ’06M
In collaboration with the campus community, including faculty and staff, Chancellor Jose V. Sartarelli has laid out a strategic plan that will serve as a blueprint for the university’s future through 2021.

The plan reaffirms our commitment to advance the university’s vision and mission collaboratively to the benefit of students, the community and the state of North Carolina. It envisions a university continually recognized for excellence and its global focus, as well as dedication to community engagement, diversity and innovation. Above all, it puts the success of students at the core of all research, teaching and service efforts.

“Our challenge, as the current keepers of UNCW’s legacy, is simple yet profound. We must champion our values, stand behind a unified vision for the university, and guide this institution to impressive new heights in the years to come,” said Sartarelli. “We must do this not for ourselves, but for the generations to follow, so that they will always have the opportunity to pursue their dreams at UNCW.”

The entire 2016-21 Strategic Plan and related materials are available at www.uncw.edu/strategicplan.

– Caroline Cropp ’99, ’06M
Sitting in Settings

No classroom could possibly contain what Michelle Britt ’00, ’03M, has crafted: an English literature course that is constantly on the move. With each class, Britt, a lecturer of English literature, tries to give her students a real-life literary adventure.

From the streets of 1789 post-revolutionary France in Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* to the deep thicket of the Congo in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, the importance of setting in literature is stressed by any good English professor. Britt has taken this vital aspect of literary analysis to the extreme in her undergraduate “English in Motion” course. Her class helps students understand setting in literature by enhancing critical thinking and the students’ ability to connect to the world outside of the page. She and her students meet at a different location for each class, which has convened on public buses, atop parking decks, on basketball courts, near fountains, verandas and atriums, and in gardens.

According to Britt, the class fosters a sense of community among students. She has seen countless students of all backgrounds and varied majors bond through the love of the outdoors, travel and adventure. She asserts that this class format has brought out the literature lover in even the most nonchalant students.

The basis for the class comes from the book *Literature to Go* by Michael Meyer. Three years ago, Britt was awarded a grant from the UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence to conduct the class, and since then, “English in Motion” has been on the go.

“We meet outside in rain, sun, snow, and only go inside if there is thunder or lightning,” she said. “The requirements for the class are the textbook, a hammock or chair, a journal and a good attitude.” – Caitlin Taylor ’18M

To follow the wandering adventures of Britt’s “English in Motion” class, visit their Instagram page @travelingwithclass.
A ceremonial axe from Zaire, a witch dance mask from Indonesia and an intricately woven red basket from Saudi Arabia: all of these rare items carry stories from another century. They are portals to the past brimming with the rich history of the people who crafted them. And though they come from different times and different civilizations, these artifacts have one thing in common: they can all be found in the UNCW Museum of World Cultures.

Housed in Randall Library, the museum was founded in 1981 by the late Gerald H. Shinn, professor emeritus of philosophy and religion, in an effort to show students how previous civilizations from around the world influence present-day lives and societies. Since its inception, the museum has acquired approximately 2,000 artifacts. An extensive website outlines the museum’s history and includes an in-depth virtual tour of the artifacts broken down by country and artifact type (http://library.uncw.edu/museum).

“The museum is an abundant intellectual and physical resource with tremendous potential,” said Jerry Parnell, coordinator of library special collections. “Other university anthropology museums provide a cohort from which we can derive best practices.”

One of these cohort institutions is the Wake Forest University Museum of Anthropology. The museums continuously loan one another artifacts for specific exhibits. These kinds of partnerships lend to the Museum of World Cultures’ goal of promoting anthropological enrichment for the academic community.

The museum’s staff has invested in new display cases to bring the collection out of the museum and into the workspace of UNCW students. Parnell and Sarah Watstein, university librarian, want to see the museum continue to grow, but they know it’s going to take something more than just their dedication to education.

“University and donor support are key to the museum’s future,” Parnell said. “Resources will position the library to hire dedicated staff to support the collection and perform necessary tasks like artifact research, display preparation, collection promotion, artifact preservation and outreach to the university community. We look forward to the museum being more public-friendly and offering a range of public programs, and we would like to involve students more in research and administration. They are our lifeblood!” – C.T.
Travel of Literary Proportions

Standing on a high plateau in Switzerland one day in 1980, Charles F. Green III ’71 breathed in the cool mountain air and let the sights and sounds of a foreign country wash over him.

“I tossed my head back and looked up to see the beautiful, awe-inspiring, snow-capped peaks of the mountains towering above me,” said Green. “I could take no picture that would even begin to capture what it was like to be there, and no words could truly transport the reader to that wonderful place. The experience was ineffable.”

He knew the experience would never be accurately captured by state-side study or scholarly database searches. A significant donor to UNCW scholarships, Green established the Wentworth Travel Fellowship in 2000 to connect undergraduate English students with places of literary distinction and inspiration. Each year, the Department of English sends 15-25 intrepid students to locations around the globe.

Named after Michael Wentworth, former UNCW Distinguished Teaching Professor of English, the fellowship was created with the help of Chris Gould and Richard Veit, also former distinguished UNCW professors of English. Student applicants work with faculty sponsors to craft the proposition of a journey connected to some type of literature. Most trips take place during holiday breaks. Students are awarded between $750 and $1,500 to cover travel and lodging expenses.

Liza Carrasquillo ’17 traveled to Jamaica to study the literature of Claude McKay. She spent time in the National Library of Jamaica with full access to McKay’s poetry, something not possible had she studied only in the United States.

Kaneisha De Vega ’17 became immersed in the intricate politics and shifting religious atmosphere of England in the time of King Henry VIII. She traveled to London and visited Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and Hampton Court. Her travels inspired her to continue researching history during the Tudor period and to forge ahead; she hopes to study women’s and Elizabethan literature in graduate school.

“I have been told that these trips have amounted to life-changing experiences, allowing some students to travel outside of America for the first time,” said Green. “Of all the endowments I created at UNCW, this is the one about which I am the most excited.” – C.T.

The Lure of the Bluefish Society

Funds raised via the Bluefish Society, an annual giving program, help keep the UNCW Center for Marine Science’s research, education and outreach efforts “afloat.”

An integral part of both the campus and coastal community at large, CMS provides information and research services on issues that affect the environment on both the local and global scales.

Part of CREST Research Park, CMS is home to various classrooms and labs, docking facilities, an 11,000-square-foot Shellfish Research Hatchery, and is outfitted with a greenhouse and running seawater system, which provides purified seawater. Its facilities can be toured virtually by anyone in the world via www.uncw.edu/CMS.

In addition to the opportunity to interact with world-renowned scientists, Bluefish Society members receive preferred seating at the popular Planet Ocean Seminars and invitations to select events. – C.C.

Membership in the Bluefish Society ranges from $75 to $200 per year. Join today and get hooked at www.uncw.edu/CMS.
Open hearts lead to open minds.
This is the founding principle of The Nile Project, a collective of musicians from the Nile River basin whose music inspires Nile citizens to work together for the sustainability of their river.

by Kristen Brogdon

I first met The Nile Project’s founder and CEO Mina Girgis at a meeting of North Carolina arts leaders in the summer of 2015. My colleagues and I were intrigued by the intricate beauty of The Nile Project’s music, the learning opportunities for university communities, and the similarities between the Nile and the network of rivers that runs through North Carolina. Since that summer we’ve assembled an NC tour that spans six cities and will bring The Nile Project to our state for a month in 2017; the artists will be in residence at UNCW March 25-29, 2017, thanks in part to a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

The Nile Project musicians are a tight-knit performing ensemble. Their music weaves sounds from all 11 countries along the path of the Nile. Vocalists, percussionists and string players write songs collaboratively, converging for two weeks at a time to prepare for concerts in their own countries, as well as the U.S. and Europe. Their creative process is based on shared leadership, with each member of the ensemble writing songs while supporting other members’ musical explorations.

The group’s creative process was designed as a model for cross-boundary water collaboration. These musicians make brilliant music together despite their differences in language, instruments, melodic and harmonic structure, and rhythmic patterns. The only thing they all have in common is the Nile. Our expectation is that if these disparate artists can make music together, politicians and diplomats can surely come together to address the Nile’s water conflict.
Musical collaboration and water cooperation (efforts to share this precious resource equitably) will be the topic of a lecture demonstration during the artists’ Wilmington residency, as well as a panel discussion at the Center for Marine Science. Both will feature faculty who research the Cape Fear River. The longest river system in North Carolina, the Cape Fear has many similarities to the Nile, albeit on a smaller scale.

The residency also invites our community to a day of workshops about water and food sustainability, music and dance of the Nile region and river stories. We’re thrilled to be organizing student-focused discussions about identity in the Nile Basin. Details about these activities and others will be posted at www.uncw.edu/presents.

My great hope for this residency is that our entire campus community will experience how the arts are relevant – often in surprising ways – to all areas of study, especially as a tool for increasing cooperation. Using music as a source of inspiration, we can open rivers of knowledge to address the world’s most difficult problems.

Kristen Brogdon is the director of the Office of the Arts. She oversees arts programming in Kenan Auditorium and collaborates with UNCW’s five art-based academic departments and student-supported units. For more information on The Nile Project, visit www.nileproject.org.
Ocean Devotion

UNCW’s Planet Ocean Project chapter was recognized by renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle and the international nonprofit Mission Blue. Their efforts garnered the establishment of a Hope Spot off Cape Hatteras, one of 76 worldwide and the first in North Carolina.

Concerned about the prospect of the Cape Hatteras region being pinpointed for future oil/mineral extraction, Bonnie Monteleone ’11M, executive director of the national POP and advisor to the UNCW chapter, developed a proposal outlining why the area should be protected.

The UNCW POP chapter created a website, [www.hopespotatteras.org](http://www.hopespotatteras.org), and a documentary. Members canvassed the Hatteras area to garner community support. The UNCW students’ efforts caught the attention of Earle herself, who hopes others will look to their work for inspiration. UNCW’s Student Government Association recognized them with a resolution of support.

Now that Cape Hatteras has been decreed a Hope Spot, the national POP organization will provide materials so the students can continue to educate the community.

“The students are proud of their success,” said Monteleone. “I am reminded how a small group of people can create positive change and protection for our planet.”

– Marybeth Bianchi and Caitlin Taylor ’18M
you GLOW, girl

UNCW Youth Programs gave new meaning to the phrase “hands-on” this summer. Drawing, measuring, taping, assembling and sawing are just a few of the ways 64 rising fifth-graders from the Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington participated in activities on campus and beyond to spark their interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

With their fellow summer leadership and educational enrichment campers, the girls also visited a local television station to learn how to report on the weather and designed and printed 3-D prosthetic beaks for injured birds. GLOW, the sixth- through 12th-grade single-gender public charter school that opened in August 2016, seeks to close the achievement and opportunity gaps for first generation, college-bound young women. It is modeled after the successful Young Women’s Leadership Schools, a national network serving nearly 8,000 students.

“We need to provide opportunities that engage underrepresented populations with science, technology, engineering and math,” said Youth Programs Director Sue Kezios. “The young women bring unique life experiences and perspectives to our programs, which are reflected in the different ways that they approach problems and create solutions to our STEM challenges.”

Youth Programs – based in the Watson College of Education – offered three weeklong camps through a partnership with the GLOW Foundation: MarineQuest Coastal “GEMS,” Make Room for Girls in Engineering and a STEAM GLOW camp for arts integration.

“If we are going to rise to the challenges facing our nation, we need to encourage all students – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or socio-economic status – to become involved with STEM so we can diversify and multiply the possibility of real solutions.”

For information on UNCW’s Youth Programs, visit www.uncw.edu/youth, and learn more about GLOW Academy at glowacademy.net. – Venita Jenkins

Faculty Earn Honors

Keeping “community, care and continuous reinvention” at the heart of all professor of psychology Carrie Clements does earned her the fall 2016 Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award and a Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award.

Professor of management Jessica Magnus also garnered a Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award for her early adoption of, and commitment to, teaching with technology.

Amy Kirschke, professor and chair of the Department of Art and Art History, received the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award for maintaining a scholarly focus while incorporating creativity into her teaching and research.

Stephen Harper, Duke Energy/Betty Cameron Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship, took home the 2016 J. Marshall Crews Distinguished Faculty Award for his tireless work as a mentor, advisor and coach to his students, even after they graduate.

For a list of all fall 2016 faculty accolades, see www.uncw.edu/facultyawards. – C.C.
Search for the Unknown

For Liping Gan, a UNCW professor of physics, understanding the universe doesn't consist of studying what is known, but rather what is unknown.

Each summer since 2002, Gan has taken her students to Jefferson National Laboratory (JLab) in Newport News, VA, to engage with physicists and international students in joint research efforts. This year, they went to study the mysteries of dark matter.

According to Gan, everything visible to the human eye comprises only a small portion of the universe. A much larger portion of what's out there is “dark matter,” something science knows little about.

“Discovery of any of these particles or new forces would redefine our worldview and have a profound impact on our understanding of the universe,” explained Gan. “Right now we know nothing about the properties of dark matter except its gravitational force.”

This summer’s research team included physics student Joshua Crafts ’17. At JLab, he was introduced to physicists from around the world and got acquainted with the demands of a professional research atmosphere. The experience helped him gain an understanding of industry-level physics and shaped ideas for what he hopes will be his future research. These international connections and interactions with the latest technology allow students like Crafts to be part of the global physics community.

“Collaborators from all over the world speak highly of our students,” said Gan. “I am very proud of them. In physics, we always keep learning, because we don’t know everything. I enjoy taking students to JLab because I see them learning, and I feel rewarded by that.”

– C.T.
Cuban Collaboration

“Population aging has advanced quickly in Cuba and is becoming a significant challenge. The life expectancy in Cuba is now 78 – similar to the U.S. By 2030, almost one out of four Cubans will be aged 65+. It was wonderful to have a chance to see firsthand what life is like for these older Cubans, and I hope we’ll have opportunities to pursue collaborative efforts to meet their needs for gerontology education and training.”

– Anne Glass, gerontology professor and program coordinator
Building a Living Shoreline by Venita Jenkins

An army of volunteers and UNCW Center for Marine Science researchers are working together to stop erosion and reclaim lost shoreline in Brunswick County.

Twice a year, residents and UNCW volunteers stack bushels of oyster shells along the Intracoastal Waterway behind St. James Plantation near Southport. Taylor Ryan, a St. James resident, got the idea for the project in 2004 after attending a seminar by the North Carolina Coastal Federation on restoring and rebuilding the life of oysters in NC.

Each oyster cleans about 30 to 50 gallons of water per day.

Citizens take an active role in reef development. 130 volunteers offer helping hands for the project. Volunteers stack 200-400 bushels of oyster shells each year.
“Over the last 10 years, we have added reefs, planted grasses and cleaned up the waterway,” Ryan said. “It’s a wonderful partnership with UNCW.”

The project started as a community outreach event where members of the UNCW Benthic Ecology Lab worked with citizens.

“Our original goal was to help the community design and build a living shoreline, in this case made of oyster shells, that would accumulate natural oyster larvae and develop into a functioning oyster reef,” said Troy Alphin, senior research associate at CMS. “This work coincided with other living shoreline projects that provided a baseline for comparison.”

The project quickly developed into something much bigger.

“Based on our first discussion and shell-bagging events, it was clear that the citizens did not want to be passive participants. They wanted to take an active role in both the creation of these oyster reefs and they wanted to know how the reefs were developing,” Alphin said. Many of the citizens in the St. James community have also volunteered with the project in other ways, gathering information and monitoring activities around the reefs.

The community supports undergraduate interns in monitoring the reefs and areas around southern Brunswick County. The interns collect data, assist with the community restoration activities and provide periodic reports to the community.

Madison Lytle ’16 has interned with the project for three years. She has assisted in designing and monitoring oyster beds, conducted research and helped coordinate student and youth volunteers from UNCW’s MarineQuest youth programs and children from the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina.

“This is a multi-generational project,” said Lytle, a marine biology major. “By their hands-on involvement, they’ve become true citizen-scientists.”
Carol is an outstanding example of the high-quality faculty we have always had at UNCW! She is the ultimate scholar, teacher and professional. Everyone admires her and aspires to follow in her path!

– Provost Marilyn Sheerer

Golden
Carol Ellis celebrates 50 years as a Seahawk

Five decades is a remarkable amount of time for any pursuit. Thousands of students, faculty and staff members have benefited from Carol Ellis’ steadfast commitment to the university over the last 50 years. Here, she shares her insight, her outlook and an affirmation: she’s not leaving anytime soon.
What was your first job at UNCW?
In the English department, where I ended up teaching for 36 years!

What brought you to Academic Affairs?
When Marvin Moss came in as provost, he was looking for someone in the faculty to be a liaison to the provost's office, so I began a half-time appointment: half-time in the department of English teaching and half-time working with him. That continued through the following provost up to now with Dr. Sheerer. I officially retired from the English department in 2002, but John Cavanaugh, who was the provost at that time, said, “Well, that doesn’t mean you retire from the university – you just retire from the English department.” And so I continued my 20-hour a week appointment, but I haven’t taught since 2002.

What’s been your favorite aspect of your current role?
I am the liaison for the Faculty Senate, so I still keep up with the concerns of the faculty. I’ve also been able to see how the administrative side works, including the constraints and the deadlines. And I have enjoyed both of those perspectives.

What about when you were an English professor?
Well, clearly anybody who bothers to become a teacher enjoys the subject matter and discussing it with others who are also interested. I taught freshman composition as well as my area of specialty, which was medieval literature. It’s every teacher’s goal to demonstrate the importance, the appeal, of a particular subject or field to those who don’t come to it automatically – those who are required to take it for graduation and that sort of thing.

Do you miss teaching?
I do. I miss the students. I miss the interaction in the class. I do not miss departmental meetings, grading papers, or debating the grades on those papers!

How have you seen UNCW’s campus change over the years?
I was a double music and history major here in ’61 and ’62 when it was Wilmington College and there were only three buildings. Alderman housed the library, and the bookstore was one little section of James Hall. There were classrooms upstairs at Alderman and in Hoggard, and the music department was the second floor of James.

How long do you plan to stay at UNCW?
Always, as long as the provost is amenable and as long as I feel like I can help in some way. They call me their history book around here.

What has it been like to be with the same institution for so long?
It has been a privilege to be part of an institution that has grown in size and has maintained quality. And I’ve worked with some great people. I have been very fortunate with the opportunities that I’ve had. And so I would just call all of it a blessing.

Carol was interviewed by Caitlin Taylor ’18M.
Quite simply, UNCW students are extraordinary.

They learn and lead inside and outside the classroom through rigorous study, research and community engagement, sports, travel, study abroad, entrepreneurial activities, service to our country and more. We’re proud to introduce you to just a few of them here.

Seahawks, you make us proud!
For Kristen Robinson ’16M, leaving the Marine Corps was a lot like leaving home for the first time. Enrolling in the graduate program at UNCW, she felt alone and out of place – and she struggled.

“At the start of the semester, I was completely focused on school and trying to fit in,” Robinson said. “After a few months I realized that I was lacking a support system that had seen me through similar situations, like my military family had.”

That changed thanks to some observant professors and UNCW’s Veterans Education & Transition Support Organization.

“When veterans decide to go to school, they are trying to figure out their lives outside of the military,” Robinson said. “We are older than everyone else around us. We are seen as different because we are different. After a while, you just realize that you need your people around. You need that feeling of belonging that you cannot get anywhere else besides with your military brothers and sisters.”

Robinson left the Marine Corps in 2012 as the result of a back injury. Not entirely sure of her next steps, she completed an undergraduate psychology degree online and in 2014 enrolled in the graduate social work program at UNCW. After a time, Stacey Kolomer, director of the School of Social Work, suggested that Kristen talk to Remonda Kleinberg about the conflict management and resolution program, which Kleinberg directs.

“Dr. Kleinberg is the most amazing woman and has helped me feel welcome in that program,” Robinson said. “She helped me use what I learned in the social work program to enhance my experience and realize that the conflict management and resolution program is the right program for me.”

That change, combined with increased involvement with the UNCW veterans community, made all the difference. Robinson also became active in the local Student Veterans of America chapter, which was instrumental in opening the Military Resource Lounge in UNCW’s Warwick Center in August 2015. Additional space in the new Allied Health/Human Services building, slated to open in the 2018-19 academic year, is also expected to support veterans.

“UNCW’s faculty, staff and students have an unparalleled enthusiasm for being military-friendly. Our school proves its dedication to its military community on a daily basis.”

– Tricia Vance
Sensational VOLUNTEER

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in others.” Marquis Duncan ’17 finds inspiration in this quote from Ghandi, but also sees the words as a call to action.

“Knowing I may change someone’s life for the greater — whether it is a big or small way — is what drives my happiness,” he said.

Duncan’s desire to help others began as a young man. He spent his summers providing food to Charlotte-area schoolchildren through a meal program and taught a free tennis clinic.

Volunteerism is also a way of honoring those who have supported him, Duncan explained, like the people in his community who encouraged Duncan to pursue his education, even helping him pay his college application fees.

Now a criminology and sociology major, Duncan serves as an intern at the Upperman African American Cultural Center, where he helps coordinate programs like the center’s weekly Black Friday event, a program designed to create social opportunities to improve community engagement. Duncan is also a peer mentor with the center’s Excellence Project, which supports incoming freshmen and transfer students through tutoring and mentorships.

In addition to his studies and his campus engagement, Duncan serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council, is president of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, liaison of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and is a member of both the Student Media Board and the UNCW Votes Committee.

“Being involved has diversified my experiences and given me knowledge of things that I may not have decided to venture into otherwise,” said Duncan, the 2016 Fraternity Man of the Year, an honor bestowed by the Campus Activities and Involvement Center and the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement.

Duncan hopes to pursue a career in higher education. His experiences at UNCW have laid a foundation for him to make a difference in the lives of others.

“I want to leave a legacy of leadership and involvement.” – Venita Jenkins
“I’ve been able to find a way to juggle it all and be successful. I wouldn’t be where I am if it weren’t for UNCW.”

Sensational ENTREPRENEUR

Christian Wolfe ’16 has fished the inshore and backwaters along the Carolina coastline and the Cape Fear River almost all his life. His hard-earned experience laid the foundation for his first business venture at age 14: a small bait and tackle business. By then, he’d already been taking his dad’s boat on the water by himself for a couple of years.

Wolfe has never been content to do just one thing at a time. He came to UNCW with dreams of playing baseball, and, by all accounts, he found success. Wolfe played for the Diamondhawks in the spring of 2013 and 2014, and even with the Wilmington Sharks for a time. But he says that whenever he looked up at the sky while he was on the baseball field, he always thought, “Man, this would be a good day to be on the water!”

Following the 2014 baseball season, he went to school to obtain his captain’s license and joined his father as a professional fishing guide. “I was always interested in hospitality and knew I’d probably live in Wilmington for the rest of my life,” he said. Today, Wolfe operates Seahawk Inshore Fishing Charters with his father, while pursuing a recreation, sport leadership and tourism management degree at UNCW.

He wasn’t a charter guide when he chose his major, but he realized he couldn’t have made a better choice. “When I had an opportunity to make a career out of it, there was no question about it. I’ve always loved the water.”

He is already applying what he’s learned in the classroom to his business. “I wanted to finish college as soon as I could and take the time to build a business while I was in school,” he said. “My professors knew that I was already doing what I wanted to do for a career,” noting that they were very helpful in working with him to balance being a full-time student with his burgeoning business.

Most of Wolfe’s days start before dawn – at 4:30 a.m., to be precise. After attending classes and running charters, he gets off the water by 7 p.m. and works on class assignments until midnight. He says he has no regrets about not having the typical college experience; on the contrary, his business has opened many doors.

Wolfe was recently featured in an episode of National Geographic Wild’s “When SharksAttack.” A film crew needed someone to give them a tour of the Carolina coastline for an episode about shark incidents that took place in 2015 and tapped Wolfe for the job.

“I couldn’t be happier about where I am right now,” he said.

– Venita Jenkins
Sensational TRAVELER

Even among the enthusiastic students whom UNCW English professor Paula Kamenish took to Argentina in spring 2016, Samantha Santana ’17 was a standout. Her scholarly curiosity and mature willingness to engage fully in the culture were evident throughout the two-week program, Kamenish said.

The travel abroad experience was Santana’s first, and one she never thought would be possible: for two years, “home” had been a red Chevy.

“I was homeless during my sophomore and junior years” at UNCW, she said. “Studying or doing homework comfortably was nearly impossible, so instead I used to study at Morton Hall from dawn to dusk.” English professors would often stop by to chat. “I didn’t mind too much that I was homeless then, because Morton Hall became my home. The professors and students became my family.”

Their encouragement and her tenacious work ethic paid off. She was awarded the Gerald S. Rosselot Scholarship from the English Department in 2015. “The scholarship really helped me through my struggles,” she noted.

An English major, Santana is earning a Professional Writing Certificate while minoring in Spanish, journalism and information technology. She also maintains a busy schedule away from class, holding down two jobs and a communications internship with PPD, and is active in both the English and Spanish honor societies. In her “spare time,” she pitched a business plan for a campus safety app at the 2016 UNC Social Entrepreneurship Conference.

Santana credits “Dr. K.,” as she affectionately calls Kamenish, with instilling the confidence to work the trip to Argentina into her budget. The opportunity to immerse herself in another culture and stimulating literary discussions enriched her life.

“As someone who is fascinated by culture and people, to see how life in Buenos Aires varied from the U.S. was purely awesome. I was able to see how fashion acted as a social marker in Buenos Aires.” She noted the stark contrast between those at the top of the social class, who were often dressed in the latest fashions, and working-class residents eking out a living selling handmade artistic wares on the very same streets.

There was also plenty of time for fun. The group was able to experience the local food and even learned to tango from professional dancers who taught basic steps at a café. “It was sublime,” Santana said, although she admits being a bit embarrassed when a total stranger asked her to dance.

Santana expects to graduate cum laude in May 2017 and hopes to work in the communications field, then earn a graduate degree in a related discipline. She says that her UNCW family has helped her envision a future without limits.

– Tricia Vance
Sensational ATHLETE

Alexis Dickerson ‘18 has participated in a sport every season since she was five. As a high school standout in volleyball, basketball and track, she realized that her athletic ability could build a bridge to higher education.

“You know, you could probably get a scholarship in throwing,” her dad said offhandedly one day toward the end of her freshman year of high school. “From that moment on,” Alexis said, “track was the thing we pushed for.”

Dickerson’s love for track and field began at the age of 10 while visiting relatives in New Zealand. She lived with her extended family there until the age of 13, participating in the sport in elementary and middle school. She said she was drawn to the aggressiveness of discus and shot put. “You have to pack a lot of punch in a really short amount of space. It’s all about being explosive,” she explained.

Dickerson returned to the U.S. and excelled as a high school athlete, setting the NCHSAA Classification 3A state record in indoor shot put in 2014 and records for shot put and discus at Western Alamance High School in Elon, NC. Those records, by the way, still stand.

Her dad was right: athletic scholarships were not a long shot, so to speak. She received a scholarship for women’s track and field and the George W. and David A. Potter Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to student-athletes, and her UNCW journey began.

“My goal is to set the school record in shot put and discus,” she said. Currently, she is third in all-time outdoor shot put and third in indoor shot put for Seahawk Track & Field. She also holds the fifth all-time record in discus at 141 feet 9 inches. “I’m in training to be number one in all three before I graduate!” she added with a grin.

Dickerson applies her track and field work ethic to her film studies major: being a team player, learning to work with large groups and refining her skills when working with different personalities. As an only child, she said her team is a family to her.

“Everyone is super-close. These are relationships I never thought I’d have. They have affected how I do things, because everything I do isn’t a reflection of me – it’s a reflection of my team as well.”

Like all students, Dickerson has given some thought to where she will be in a couple of years. “As a college athlete, you get to that stage where you think about what you’ll do after you graduate. Once you take away the sport, who am I without it?” Focusing on a film career will take precedence, but of one thing she is sure.

“Whatever I do, I want to influence the world in a positive way.”

– Venita Jenkins and Jennifer Giatt
For as long as he can remember, Michael Casper ’17 has been fascinated by space.

“I never tire of thinking about the countless unknown worlds and all the mysteries that remain out there,” he said. “In a nutshell, I’m passionate about the unknown, the yet-to-be-discovered and the future.”

That curiosity is being put to good use at UNCW, where Casper is a chemistry major in the Honors College with a minor in mathematics. He won’t be finished when he leaves UNCW – after graduation he plans to pursue a second undergraduate degree, in chemical engineering, from North Carolina State University.

“Chemical engineering plays an important role in space exploration,” Casper said. Many instruments used in satellites and rovers are the same type as those used in chemical labs, and chemical engineering is important in developing fuels and other materials that have broad applications, including space, he explained.

“Getting a job at a cutting-edge space company like Elon Musk’s SpaceX is one of my dreams,” he said.

Like many UNCW students, Casper has chosen to enhance his studies through undergraduate research. He is studying azetidines, organic compounds that may one day have uses in medicine, under the supervision of professor of chemistry and biochemistry Jeremy Morgan.

“Michael is a very skilled and thoughtful undergraduate researcher,” Morgan said. “He seems to always be focused on the problem at hand, while creating a fun atmosphere for his labmates.”

Casper, a member and former vice president of the UNCW Surf Club, studied abroad in Perth, Australia, and expects to graduate with university and departmental honors. He also has received the Tower 7/WBLiveSurf Scholarship, the Nunzio and Edith DePaolo Scholarship, Will S. DeLoach Chemistry Scholarship and Surf Team Scholarship, among others.

He credits his success, in part, to excellent instructors.

“I wish that the general public knew how good the teaching staff is at UNCW. Every professor really cares about each and every student.”

— Tricia Vance
Sarah Ritter ’16M never loved school all that much. Even after graduating and entering the job market, she couldn’t find something that drove her passion. She worked in the information technology field for years, but it wasn’t until she was faced with some major health issues that Ritter realized just how much of her life was taken up by something that didn’t make her happy.

“I’m really grateful for the perspective I gained during my sickness,” Ritter said. “I realized that I was spending eight to 10 hours of my 24-hour day at work, with six to eight hours of time for sleeping, and one or two hours commuting to work. Work is not necessarily going to make you happy, but your work should give you a sense of purpose. I was in a position where I needed to find more meaning.”

These revelations led her to consider becoming a student again, even though she had not found the structure of formal education stimulating. Craving a multi-disciplinary approach to education, Ritter was drawn to UNCW’s computer science and information systems program in conjunction with its strong business school and expansive entrepreneurship community. Mostly, though, she just wanted a chance to explore her future while learning about new subjects. In becoming a student again, she began her transformation into a teacher.

From the start of her time at UNCW, Ritter knew she wanted to be involved with the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and develop the beginnings of an idea she had for a startup business. She met Ron Vetter, computer science professor and associate provost for research and dean of the Graduate School, who connected her with the CIE and its resources.

“Upon meeting Sarah, I immediately recognized the unique qualities and aspirations that she brought to UNCW,” Vetter said. “Although she started out as a graduate teaching assistant in the M.S. CSIS [computer science and information systems] program, I wanted her to share her technical abilities and passion in starting businesses with other students.”

In 2015, Vetter appointed her as the first student entrepreneur-in-residence at the CIE, where she could use her talents to mentor other students while growing as an entrepreneur in her own right. Throughout her time as a student entrepreneur in the CIE, she worked with other startups and observed their processes, all the while thinking through her own ideas. She attended boot camps, met with investors and was mentored in startup ventures and software applications by CIE faculty. Ritter’s ideas eventually fused and expanded to become Turnip Learning, a digital content website and app created for teachers to buy and sell their own original educational interactive activities.

“While my studies have been focused on technical and business skills, the creative departments like digital arts and creative writing have also inspired me,” said Ritter. “My startup has given me a sense of purpose, and I am excited about how technology can change the classroom.”
Former All-American Paul Cairney has high hopes for the UNCW women’s soccer program by Venita Jenkins

goaltending

Paul Cairney '93, '95M originally planned on being a mainstay of a college campus after graduation – as a faculty member.

Prior to instructing players how to perfect a stopover or a scissor kick on the field, Cairney thought he’d be teaching college-level English. An unexpected opportunity set him on a different path, and for the past two decades he has built the UNCW women’s soccer program into a Colonial Athletic Conference contender.

The program, established in 1994, began with a limited scholarship and recruiting budget and a small coaching staff. Despite the challenges, the women’s team has appeared in CAA Championship title games in six of the last 10 seasons and won its first conference championship in 2009. In 2015, the Seahawks had a record 15 wins and won their first NCAA tournament game.

With the team’s success came numerous accolades for Cairney, including three Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year awards and being named the 2015 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of the Year. In August 2016, he achieved another milestone: his 200th career win.

“When I first started coaching, it was more of a top-down approach, because that was the way I was coached,” Cairney recalled. “But once the players feel they are a part of the process, it can really help team chemistry.”

Current assistant coach Megan Novak '11, who played for UNCW from 2007 to 2011, described Cairney as a leader who is committed to making each student-athlete a better player and a better person.

“When I have had the privilege to work with some wonderful people and soccer players in the past 21 years,” he noted. “And ultimately this is what makes this so exciting: the players.”

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Investing in the Vision

Planned giving donors Steve Reilly ’89 and Larri Short believe education and philanthropy go hand in hand.
According to Steve Reilly ’89 and attorney Larri Short, nothing is more important than a good education except, perhaps, providing someone else with the means to obtain a good education.

“Education is the only way out for people who are born into difficult circumstances or who have any level of ambition,” Short said. “So education is something we’ve decided we’re willing to commit to supporting.”

That commitment runs deep. The couple plans to donate a third of their estate to UNCW. Reilly and Short, seasoned lawyers who pursued successful careers in Charlotte, NC, Washington, D.C. and Santa Fe, NM, hold degrees from UNCW, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University and the University of Michigan, collectively.

Although other universities will also receive support from their estate, UNCW holds a special place in their hearts. Reilly treasures his personal experience at the Cameron School of Business, where he studied business management 18 years after leaving his previous institution without a degree. He considers UNCW to be an exceptional place of learning, especially for non-traditional students like himself.

“I wasn’t confident that I was going to be able to do it,” said Reilly about going back to school. “Yet getting here, and finding the support and encouragement of the entire university, made it easy for me to come forward and become a lawyer and judge. UNCW was the foundation for me to do this.”

In fact, the couple has allocated part of their donation to a scholarship for non-traditional students. Both Short and Reilly went back to school later in their lives, and they want to see more non-traditional students coming through the higher education system. They also plan to fund a professorship in the Cameron School of Business and contribute to the chancellor’s discretionary fund, because they know how vital both faculty and administrators are to an academic institution’s excellence.

Not only is the couple’s planned donation the largest they intend to give, it is also the largest single planned donation established with UNCW. According to Short and Reilly, planned gifts are easier to develop when the donors work with staff at the university, especially if they want to make the most out of their donation.

Working with the university’s development staff, she and Reilly were able to set up their future gift to fulfill their intentions.

“Through establishing this generous planned gift, Larri and Steve are showing everyone that they believe in UNCW’s vision of excellence and that they are committed to the success of Seahawk students and programs,” said Eddie Stuart, vice chancellor for University Advancement. “They will forever have a strong connection to UNCW. We are so grateful for their support and loyalty.”

For Short and Reilly, the amount of money they plan to contribute is less important than the tangible ways their contribution will enhance students’ lives at UNCW. Reilly remembers his time at the university as immersive and vital for his future successes.

“I participated on campus,” Reilly said. “Participating is a way to understand what life is about. Getting together with new people shows you how to interact with them. Your job is to get your degree, but that’s not enough. You’ve got to go out and do things and understand that those things are also important.”

Both Reilly and Short know that UNCW is about more than just words in textbooks; it’s also about engaging with a diverse community and discovering your place within that community. For them, and for the students their generosity will support, UNCW is a place that fosters students’ success and lives in their memories long after they have gotten their degrees. – C.T.
A mission to Mars may sound like the premise of a summer blockbuster, but reaching the red planet is not quite as far-fetched as it might seem. In fact, NASA has already deployed researchers to help make it happen – and a UNCW Cameron School of Business management professor is part of the team.

Jessica Mesmer Magnus is among a group of researchers from UNCW, Northwestern, Georgia Tech and DePaul universities examining the complexity of the environment in which astronauts will work and live in deep space. NASA’s goal is to collect information from academics on how to adapt the processes already in place for an upcoming mission to Mars.

“NASA has to be very deliberate in selecting a crew, designing programs and being prepared for ways to identify when teams are no longer functioning at their full capacity,” Magnus said. Her Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology serves her well in this unique project.

In 2013, NASA approached Magnus and Leslie DeChurch, a professor at Northwestern University, about conducting an extensive literature review on issues relevant to successful long-duration space exploration. One such issue was shared cognition in teams: whether the team shares an understanding of a problem, task or goal. The professors had previously published meta-analyses on shared cognition in teams and team information-sharing. They used their expertise as a starting point to make recommendations to NASA based on what is currently known about astronaut team cognition and what gaps remained.

The researchers also conducted an operational assessment for NASA. They interviewed 12 former and current astronauts and mission control staff to learn current practices in the interface among the astronauts and their support teams on Earth.

In 2014, NASA announced grants for programmatic research to address the gaps identified in the various literature reviews provided by academic researchers. Magnus, DeChurch and Noshir Contractor, also a professor at Northwestern University, were awarded two grants totaling $2,120,000: one on shared cognition issues and the other on task-switching within astronaut teams.

“We are forecasting that this will be a crew of six individuals representing four to six different space agencies throughout the world,” said Magnus.

“Now, think about all of those sub-crews and sub-teams – all those different
mission controls on Earth trying to make that one crew successful. There is a lot of opportunity for a breakdown in shared cognition, a breakdown in team understanding, in addition to the psychological and physical stress going on with the astronauts.” A simple disagreement in that kind of environment could throw the astronauts into a psychological tailspin, Magnus added.

“We need to develop tools to help NASA identify when such a breakdown is likely to happen before it actually happens,” she said. “The goal of our project is to develop a dashboard for NASA to be able to collect cues that are occurring in communication or interaction among astronauts and between astronauts and their support teams.”

To develop the dashboard, researchers are collecting case study data as well as data from the International Space Station and a research analog in Antarctica. They are also analyzing experimental data through NASA’s Human Exploration Research Analog, a unique three-story habitat designed to serve as an analog for isolation and remote conditions in exploration scenarios. Four volunteers – astronauts and those in training – are put through sample missions, sleep deprivation experiments, tasks with different levels of stress and intentional breakdowns in communication to see how they react.

To better understand how team communication and interactions may signal a breakdown in shared cognition, the research team is also conducting lexical analyses of transcripts from previous space missions as well as from passages of The Martian, a 2011 novel written by Andy Weir.

“We picked three different passages where the main character had to interact with mission control or the crew that left him behind,” said Magnus. “It was a very good representation of what could happen. It gave us some initial markers and predictive statistics to put into our model.”

Magnus and the team are also exploring issues that could arise when astronauts switch between tasks, teams and technologies.

“Every astronaut’s schedule is planned to the minute. NASA wants to know how to schedule someone’s day to be maximally effective and to minimize time lost between tasks,” she explained. The three-year programmatic research will be complete in 2017.

“This has been a very humbling experience for me, the idea that I could provide some insight like this,” Magnus said. “It is amazing to see my research applied to such a salient, real-world problem.”
1960s

Donald E. “Don” Godwin ’69 was honored as one of 2017’s Best Lawyers in America for his work in commercial litigation. Don and his fellow attorneys have successfully handled some of the country’s most significant cases, such as the landmark Deepwater Horizon oil spill. His law firm, Godwin PC, has been rebranded Godwin Bowman & Martinez.

1970s

Harvey N. Waite ’76 and his wife, Ann McCormick Waite, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Harvey and Ann celebrated at home with their four children, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

David S. Congdon ’78, CEO and vice chairman of the board of Old Dominion Freight Line Inc., was interviewed by “The Wall Street Transcript” as part of its series “In-Depth Interviews for Investors.”

1980s

Mark E. Scaife ’80, head baseball coach at UNCW, was named East Region Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association. He, and the other regional Coaches of the Year will be honored at the ABCA/Diamond Hall of Fame/Coach of the Year Banquet at the 73rd annual ABCA Convention, held in Anaheim, CA, in January 2017.

Charles E. Davis ’82, ’97, founder and board chairman of On-Time Ministries Inc., was appointed to the board of the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority by the City of Wilmington. Prior to his retirement from the New Hanover County Tax Department, he served for almost two decades in the City of Wilmington’s Public Utilities Management Department.

Faye Barnes Dunaway ’83, ’98M, chief operating officer of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, was named as one of the co-directors of the Wilmington Chamber Foundation’s Leadership Wilmington program. The objective of the program is to educate, challenge and motivate leaders to utilize their skills to better the community.

Deborah L. Newton ’83 was appointed to the UNCW Alumni Association board of directors. In July 2015 she was appointed by the governor and Chief Justice Mark D. Martin to the Governor’s Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use.

Jame W. Speight ’83 was named director of juvenile facilities operation by the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Speight has worked as director of New Hanover Regional Juvenile Detention Center for 21 years.

Ann Marie Deren-Lewis ’84 received the Century 21’s Sweyer Shooting Star Award at its annual awards ceremony.

1990s

Jim D. Godwin ’90 joined BB&T’s executive management team, which sets policy and direction for the corporation. His 20-year banking career began as a part of BB&T’s Leadership Development Program in 1996; he was named to his current role as deputy chief risk officer in January 2016.

Victoria Freeman Smith ’91 was hired as executive director by the nonprofit Savannah Waterfront Association. Smith served the last 13 years as managing director for American Council of Life Insurers in Washington, D.C. She has served as a volunteer with the national capital area’s March of Dimes as a board member, volunteer and significant fundraiser for 13 years.
Kelly Budd Batts '97, '00M, '10Ph.D. was named the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for Clinton City Schools. She began working with Clinton City Schools in July 2015 and is entering her 20th year in education.

Jennifer Price Jurney '97 was chosen as Caldwell County Schools (NC) Teacher of the Year for 2016-17.

Gregory D. Little '97 was named superintendent of Lexington County School District One in Lexington, SC, in May.

William J. “Bill” Mayew '97, '98M, professor at Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business, conducted research that indicated that historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) pay more to float bonds in the market than other schools, and that race was a factor in the higher costs. His findings attracted attention in Congress and are a factor in ongoing efforts to address the financial disadvantages for HBCUs, including a bill that was introduced to increase their access to capital.

Heath Campbell '98 was named president of BB&T’s Atlanta-based Northern Georgia Region. Campbell has served as a business banker and a business services officer in BB&T’s Charlotte Metro Region, and in 2006, he was promoted to city executive for Iredell County in NC. In 2009, he served the Greater Washington Region as an area executive in Prince George’s County, MD. In 2013 he was named president of BB&T’s Kentucky Region.

Norman E. McDuffie '98, who earned his Master’s in Education in school administration from the University of Phoenix, was named principal at A.G. Cox Middle School in Pitt County, NC. Norman has 15 years of experience in education, serving as a sixth grade math and science teacher, a high school math teacher, a high school basketball and cross country coach, and an assistant principal in Greene and Pitt counties.

Kristina “Kris” E. McNeela ’98 wed David C. Phillips in Manhattan Beach, CA, on Nov. 20, 2016.

Benjamin P. Wright '98 is the co-founder, with wife Amy, of Bitty & Beau’s Coffee, which held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark its new location on New Centre Drive in Wilmington. The coffee shop originally opened its doors in January with the intent to hire people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They rolled out their franchise package this fall. Aside from Bitty & Beau’s (named for two of their children), both Wright and his wife work for organizations that help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities find work.

David W. Brown '99 has joined Volvo Penta of the Americas as director of commercial sales. In this new position, Brown will provide strategic and administrative direction and leadership to support overall segment growth. He has a 17-year background in business development and sales. Prior to joining Volvo Penta, he was national sales director for Chemring Sensors and Electronic System.

Pamela “Pam” Casen Reynolds '99 was appointed the 34th president of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA). In addition to her involvement with GRAWA and the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, she is also active in the Monroe County Bar Association, serves as a trustee for her church and chairs its personnel committee.

Shaun D. Richards ’99 had his first exhibition, “Shaun Richards: Recent Works,” on display at Cape Fear Community College’s Wilma W. Daniels Gallery from May through June.

Jimmy Teriell Tate ’99, '01M was selected as the president of Roanoke-Chowan Community College, Tate, who has nearly 20 years of community college and university experience, previously served as the VP for college advancement and strategic initiatives at James Sprunt Community College. In addition to earning his undergraduate and master’s degrees at UNCW, he went on to study at the University of Iowa, Fayetteville State and Shaw universities, and holds his doctorate of education.

2000s

Jennifer H. Adams '00M was appointed to the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority’s board by New Hanover County; her term will run until July 1, 2019.

Bridgett Mazer ’00 was featured in the Wilmington Biz article, “Decade of Design leads to Eagle Point Gig.” She runs her own design company, Bridgett Mazer Interiors, and provides services for Tongue & Groove Custom Builder in Wilmington.

Dana E. Sachs '00M was one of the guest authors who took part in “Thirsty Tote,” a literary reading held at UNCW’s Randall Library in August 2016. Sachs read from her memoir, The House on Dream Street, which recounts her years in postwar Vietnam as a student and later as a teacher.

Alissa “Lissy” E. Wood '00 was named one of Cary Magazine’s 2016 Movers & Shakers for her work as founder and head of school at Wake Academy. The school meets the needs of gifted children.

Christy Smith Bishop '01, '07M was chosen as Pender County’s Teacher of the Year. Bishop began her career as a first grade teacher at Rocky Point Elementary, remaining in that position for 11 years, and for the past four years has served as the school’s Title 1 coordinator and reading interventionist.

Alison D. Hammett ’01 is a property management assistant with Coldwell Banker Commercial SunCoast. Hammett obtained her NC Real Estate Broker’s license in 2015.

Donald K. Hudson '01 is the senior pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Asheboro, NC.

Eric F. Irizarry ’02, '09M, '14Ph.D. is the principal of Charlottesville High School in VA. He began his career as a teacher in New Hanover County. He has previously served as principal of the middle school at Roger Bacon Academy and D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy in Wilmington.

Jonathan “Jon” E. Peele '02 and his staff at Coastline Insurance and Associates of North Carolina won “Small Business of the Year” at the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards.

Jill M. Peleuses '02, '07M was a guest speaker at the Museum of Coastal Carolina in June. For almost four years, she has taught birding programs for the Outer Lifelong Learning Institute at UNCW and works closely with the Cape Fear Audubon Society.

Candra Faye Tuit Smith '02 is a yoga instructor and massage therapist, owns and operates Maggie Valley Wellness Center in Ashevil, NC. She opened the center 10 years ago and has become a certified personal trainer at the Asheville School of Massage, completing her 500-hour certification as a yoga instructor at the NC School of Yoga.

Dustin A. Miller ‘03 is enjoying a successful career with Waffle House. He has graduated from their training program, managed one restaurant, been promoted to District Manager of three restaurants, and is now a Division Manager in Greenville, NC, managing nine restaurants in Greenville, Goldsboro and Tarboro, NC.

Brandon S. Neilton '03 was featured in The Des Moines Register in the “You Should Get to Know” section. He is a principal-senior project manager for Impact7G Inc. in Johnston, IA.

Susan M. Auten '04 co-starred in “The Mercy Seat,” which was produced by Thalian Association Community Theatre in Wilmington and was shown at the Red Barn Studio Theatre in August.

Ann Marie Beall ‘04M was appointed director of the Onslow County Extension Site for UNCW. Her work will enhance the educational programs and services the university offers active duty military personnel, veterans and their families.

Aubrey L. Eimel '04 and Margy L. Floyd '05 were married on June 7, 2016 in Marco Island, FL. Elmore is a consultant with HighPoint Solutions, LLC and Floyd is a project manager for Quintiles. The couple resides in Tampa, FL.
Michelle L. Huffman ’04, ’11M. a teacher at Richlands Primary School in Richlands, NC, was selected as her school’s 2016-17 Teacher of the Year.

Jacob Rudolph ’04, marketing director in the Office of Communications and Marketing at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, began as interim vice chancellor for communications in July. He previously served as marketing director and played a critical role in strategic communications planning and campus branding and marketing initiatives.

Dustin W. “Buzz” Wilkinson ’04 has joined Cornerstone Bank as vice president and area executive. Wilkinson, who is currently enrolled in the NC School of Banking in Chapel Hill, was formerly employed as a business banker for First Citizen’s Bank.

Heather Rath Brown ’05 and her husband, Andrew A. Brown, announce the birth of their son, Indiana Lewis Brown, on Jan. 7, 2015.

Jaclyn “Jackie” N. Deconti ’05, along with two other yoga instructors, opened Terra Sol Sanctuary on Castle Street in Wilmington. The business is housed in a former church, originally built around 1900.

Lynn Ingram ’05, ’10M appeared in TheatereNow’s summer production “We’re Just Like You, Only Prettier” and is a monthly columnist for Cape Fear Living Magazine. She has been a part-time instructor in UNCW’s psychology department since 2011 and has a private psychology practice in Wilmington.

Anna Brooks Kooiman ’05 and her husband, Andrew A. Brown, announce the birth of their son, Indiana Lewis Brown, on Jan. 7, 2015.

Jamie Gostyla Roberts ’05 was promoted to director of season ticket services with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Roberts and her husband, Ryan, are the parents of two children.

Jason Ruegg ’05 owns Off the Hook Yacht Sales, one of eight Wilmington-area businesses which made the 2016 Inc. 5000 List of the nation’s fastest-growing, privately-held companies. This is the first appearance on the list for Off the Hook, which was founded in 2012 and placed No. 13 among NC’s fastest-growing companies this year.

Ryan P. Crecelius ’06 is the principal broker for the company Nest Realty, which was named by Inc. Magazine as one of the top 5,000 fastest-growing private companies in America. Nest Realty is one of only 10 real estate companies nationally to make the list for four consecutive years. Nest Realty achieved 162 percent growth over the past three years and $10.8 million in revenues in 2015 to qualify for the list.

Jason Mott ’06, ’08M, best-selling author and teacher of both poetry and fiction, returned to UNCW as the new writer-in-residence in the Creative Writing Department. He began a three-year residency this fall. His first book, The Returned, was published in 13 languages, became a New York Times bestseller, and was made into a TV series, “Resurrection,” on ABC.

Brookes E. Musser ’06, ’09M, her husband, Donnie Stone ’07, and her parents, John and Erin Musser, opened Bill’s Front Porch, a full-service brewery and restaurant at 4238 Market St. in Wilmington.

Rebecca A. Dassau-Grant ’07 and her husband, Lucas, announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Ann, on May 27, 2016.

Todd DeFilippis ’07 was named Crew Star for the second quarter at Creative Marketing Alliance, a marketing firm located in Princeton Junction, N.J. This award recognizes a team member for his or her dedication to the company’s core values and instilling positive principles to the team, while enhancing the company’s culture.

Virginia L. Pollock Bledsole ’08 was hired as the office manager for RMB Building & Design LLC in Wilmington. She will oversee the firm’s office operations, including project documentation, accounting and public relations.

Ryan Buckley ’08 and Natalie Martin ’09 were married in Wilmington, NC on June 10, 2016. The couple resides in Los Angeles, CA.

Sean M. Griffin ’08 signed a lease for his new shop, Sean’s Private Surf Instruction. He began teaching kids in his neighborhood to surf 15 years ago and decided to fully invest in a surfing business four years ago. He will share the 300-square foot space on Causeway Drive in Wrightsville Beach with Annex Surf Supply.

Leeanne C. Grunke ’08M and Major John Eric Grunke USMC were married in Reykjavik, Iceland, on May 29, 2015.

Kelly McKenzie Struble ’08, one of the owners of Tama Tea, along with co-founders, husband Raimond “Wells” Struble ’07 and Rocco Quaranto ’08, announced plans to open three stores in the Washington, D.C. market.

Ranae Wilson ’08 played the role of Georgeanne in “Five Women Wearing the Same Dress” at Second Stage in Chicago, IL, which marked the second time Wilson played Georgeanne; the first was eight years ago when she was a senior at UNCW.

Katherine “Katie” Leigh Beal ’09, her husband and their 7-month-old daughter were rescued from rapidly rising flood waters outside their home in Denham Springs, LA in mid-August 2016. Their vehicles and newly-built home were destroyed. They are currently staying with a friend’s parents.

Edward “Eddie” W. Brock Jr. ’09 had one of the most important jobs on the Olympic golf course. Brock walked with the golfers and relayed information to the booth of the TV producers. For the past seven years, Eddie has traveled the world to work behind the scenes for golf broadcasters.

Brittney Melissa Edwards ’09 has joined Thompson & Knight LLP’s New York office as an associate in the Trial Practice Group. She has significant experience handling commercial litigation matters in both state and federal court. She received her J.D. magna cum laude from Pace University School of Law in 2013. Prior to joining Thompson & Knight she was an associate at White and Williams LLP in New York.

Angela D. Hinton ’09 was recognized with two Telly Awards for her work as director, producer and host for the “Alexander Jean Special: Indie Music Scene with Guest Host Angela Hinton.” She won in both the “Film/Video: TV Program” and “Online Video” categories.

Justin E. Longino ’09, ’13M was appointed interim town manager for the Town of Troutman in Iredell County, NC. He was the town’s parks and recreation coordinator.

Amber Sumner Parham ’09 graduated with a doctor of optometry degree with honors from Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

Ruthanne Lorraine Palumbo ’09M received her doctorate in nursing practice from Gardner-Webb University in May 2016.

Dale “Rod” R. Quick ’09 and his wife Catherine “Claire” Caldwell Quick ’09, announce the birth of their son, Dalton Reed Quick, on April 13, 2016.

Seth E. Barefoot ’10, ’12M received his J.D. from the Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law in May 2016. Barefoot joined the Tart Law Group, P.A., in Dunn, NC.

Brittany Cox ’10 and Ryan K. Ricks ’10 were married May 7, 2016 at Lake Gaston, NC. The couple and their dog Smokie drove cross-country to sightsee on their way back to Seattle, WA, where Brittany is a professional actor and Ryan composes music for film and television.

James “Seth” Frankoff ’10, a former UNCW pitcher, recently returned to the Tulsa Drillers from Oklahoma City, his 13th team since 2010. In 2016 alone, Frankoff pitched with the Tulsa Drillers, Oklahoma City and the Arizona Dodgers. He was a starting pitcher for the first time in four years, and said he’s saving his “favorite career moment” until his major-league debut.
Gustavo “Gus” Gasca Jr. ’10 was featured in a StarNews article, “Mentors Motivate Local Migrant Worker to Become Dentist.” He graduated from ECU with his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree and is working at Valerie Pollock Family Dentistry in Burgaw. He was also featured on WWAY TV3 as their “Extraordinary Person of the Week.”

Bradley “Brad” C. Griffin, Jr. ’10 was featured in the Tire Review. A bleak economy and bright opportunities at Griffin Tire & Auto persuaded him to follow a long familial line in the tire business. After his father opened a second location, Griffin spent more than two years managing it, and today he is responsible for ensuring the success of Griffin Tire & Auto’s sales and service teams.

John “Patrick” Harris ’10 was selected by SunTrust Mortgage to join their Mortgage Loan Apprentice program. He previously worked as a district manager for a Fortune 500 company.

Meghan C. Hubbard ’10 is part of a new class of resident physicians welcomed at the inaugural family medicine residents of the Harnett Health and Campbell of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to become an assistant coach for the South Carolina State University men’s basketball team. Deloach was an assistant coach for the Hawks for two seasons under Bobby Collins after a playing career at UNCW from 2009-12.

Rigel J. Kishston ’11M graduated with his Ph.D. in molecular cancer biology from Duke University in May 2016. He is currently working at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD.

Josh D. Norris ’11 was featured in Charlotte Magazine, “From Finance to Smoothies: Green Brothers Juice Co.” He and his two brothers now run Green Brothers Juice Co. in Charlotte. They opened a second location in the Duke Energy Center in March and plan to open a third in Dilworth. He is married to Stephanie Hale Norris ’12.

Lindsey E. Baggett ’11 married Brent Demony on May 6, 2016 in Wrightsville Beach. The couple honeymooned in Maui, then returned to their home in Chattanooga, TN, where Baggett works in the federal department of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

Trevor M. Deloach Sr. ’11 left the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to become an assistant coach for the South Carolina State University men's basketball team. Deloach was an assistant coach for the Hawks for two seasons under Bobby Collins after a playing career at UNCW from 2009-12.

Alanson “Lance” E. Kenworthy ’12M is serving on the board of directors of the NC Foreign Trade Promotion Council.

Emily L. King ’12 began the Management Training Program with Waffle House in July 2012. She took part in the opening of a new restaurant in NC, then was promoted to district manager in Myrtle Beach, SC, where she opened two more restaurants.

Alexandra L. “Ally” Favor ’13 is an artist who draws inspiration from the natural world of the forest for her paintings, photographs and digital creations. Her multimedia solo exhibit “Grounded” was on display at Flytrap Brewing in Wilmington in August.

Brittany C. Gamby ’13 was featured in the StarNews online article, “Wilmington firefighters fight to beat the extreme summer heat.” Gamby was hired as a Wilmington Fire Department firefighter in August 2015, but she has been in Wilmington since she first began as a shooting guard on the UNCW women’s basketball team in 2009.

Jennifer Rettew McCall ’13M was featured in Wilmington Magazine in an article entitled “Marine Sleuth” about SeaTox, a company she started with her fellow biologist husband in 2013. SeaTox, located within UNCW Marine Biotechnology, is developing a faster, easier-to-use process of testing shellfish for marine toxins.

Keith M. Rendleman ’13 is in his fourth season playing basketball overseas. Since graduation, Keith has played on teams in Switzerland and Korea, and is hoping to play in Japan.

Kathryn “Kate” E. Sinclair ’11 is enrolled in the graduate school at the New York Academy of Art in NYC.

Sophie R. Amealakin ’12 played Despina in Opera Wilmington’s production of Mozart’s Così Fan Tutte, shown at UNCW’s Mainstage Theatre.

Courtney L. Cavanaugh ’12 and Steven D. Schmitter ’10 were married on May 21, 2016, and reside in Wilmington.

Matthew H. Khouri ’12 is the owner of The Outer Banks Boil Co., which had its debut in May 2016 in Wrightsville Beach. The couple honeymooned in Maui, then returned to their home in Chattanooga, TN, where Baggett works in the federal department of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

Stephanie Titzel ’13M was the recipient of the Kenan Fellowship Program for Teacher Leadership, she worked with scientists from UNCW’s Center for Marine Science learning about cutting-edge research that is helping to advance aquaculture in NC. She was among the 41 North Carolina educators selected for this year’s fellowship.

Emily M. Happick ’14 is quoted in Fortune Magazine’s 50 Best Workplaces for Recent College Graduates, saying N2 Publishing in Wilmington has presented her with incredible opportunities, both personally and professionally.

Oyoana Allende ’11 was badly injured in 2005 during a suicide bomber attack while she was serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq. Occupational therapists helped her to relearn basic activities, and Allende decided to follow in the footsteps of those who had helped her. She received her undergraduate degree in recreational therapy at UNCW, then enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill and received her Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy from the UNC School of Medicine in August.

UNCW’s excellence is made possible by the generosity of alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends who invest in our mission. Together we are able to recruit the brightest students and equip them to change the world. Private gifts provide much-needed support for scholarships and unique hands-on learning experiences, and enhance valuable academic, student life and athletic programs.

To join other proud Seahawks who believe in making a difference in the lives of our students and our community, please visit uncw.edu/giveonline or call 910.962.7613 today. As always, you can support any area of UNCW that is meaningful to you with a gift of any amount.

In Memoriam

John D. Whitefield ’49
Max A. Newber ’56
Lieutenant Colonel William “Richard” Gates ’60
Mildred M. Botkin ’66
Ruth Batson Chagaris ’66
Richard C. Lewis ’66
Edwin W. Newman ’67
Pamela Millsaps Sharpe ’72
Michael A. Atkinson ’74
Sandra “Sandy” Boney Mixon ’74
Delores J. Keifer ’79
Christopher R. Gibson ’83
Stacy Colleen Smaltz ’83
Richard J. Harron ’86
Marjorie Zimmerman Kunemann ’88
Amanda “Amy” Langdon Beck ’96
Anne Russell ’99M
Harry A. Boylan ’00
Agnes H. McDonald ’00M
John P. Wagner ’02
Andrew W. Rose ’03, ’06M
Seven Vereen ’04
Blair Markham Henley ’06
Richard “Grey” Liston ’07, ’08M
Chad A. Lovette ’15
Matthew R. Ledford ’17
Kathryn Casey Phillips ’17
Lauren Avalon Beuttel ’19
Christine M. Vadney-Cawley ’19
Jacob “Jake” Dillard Prillaman ’20
Keely Geyer Latterly (Faculty)
William “Bill” H. Phillips (Faculty)
Jean F. Taylor (Staff)

James Michael (Mickey) Corcoran ’70, one of UNCW’s most loyal Seahawks, passed away on Oct. 8, 2016. Mickey received his B.A. in mathematics in 1970. He served on the UNCW Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2001 and the UNCW Foundation Board from 2002 to 2004. He was recognized as the Alumnus of the Year in 1999 and received many other awards in the state and from his business associations. He and his family have been steadfast supporters of many university projects, particularly of UNCW athletics and scholarships with their creation of the Janet and Mickey Corcoran SAA Scholarship to support student-athletes.
In Memoriam

Mildred “Millie” S. Alper
Stephanie Balnaitis
Margaret G. Banck
John L. Bate Jr.
Helen Hunt Bostic
John C. Davis
Ruth Duckett
James E. Everette Jr.
C. Eugene Flick
Patrick Joseph Friel
William “Jesse” J. Gore
Dr. William “Pete” B. Grine
Elsie Humphrey
Chuck D. Keubler
Howard Ling
Jessie S. Moseley
Pauline Nesselroade
Edson “Ned” B. Olds
Ernest James Puskas
Robert Ryninger
Katherine Sampson
Richard F. Schmitt
Peter H. Schult
Ruth Schreibman Stein
James A. Thompson
Clara E. Weaver
Emile Eugene Werk Jr.
William “Alan” White

Samuel Jones '14M was named principal of Walnut Cove Elementary School in Walnut Cove, NC. Previously, he was assistant principal at Surry Central High School in NC.

Thomas Leary '14 is a staff writer for the Sports Business Journal/Daily in Charlotte.

Bonnie Mitchell '14 is working with the Plastic Ocean Project, and in August 2016, she was instrumental in getting well-known environmentalist Rob Greenfield to speak at UNCW.

Emily C. Stolz '14 and Richard David Mautz '15M were married in Charlotte on April 16, 2016.

Christian M. B. Brown '15 left a job he’s had with the StarNews since he was a freshman at UNCW to pursue a new venture in the Washington, D.C. area.

Corey E. Dick '15 was named Albermarle High School’s head baseball coach. He is an Albermarle High School, NC alumnus and during his tenure there was the county’s all-time leading career home run hitter. After graduating from UNCW he spent a season as an assistant coach at South Stanly High School.

Tara Goodwin '15M was approached about a grant-writing internship with the Cape Fear Literary Council. Goodwin’s passion for literacy and her position as a grant writer grew from the topic of her graduate thesis.

Sara K. Gurley '15 is a marketing coordinator at N2 Publishing. N2 Publishing took the No. 8 spot on Fortune Magazine’s 50 Best Workplaces for Recent College Graduates.

Robert Hitchcock '15 was profiled in Behind the Steel Curtain, an online Pittsburgh Steelers magazine where he is a writer. Although he lives in Raleigh, NC, he has always been a Steelers fan.

Meaghan Lowery Holmes '15 was appointed promotions director for the Battleship of North Carolina Memorial. She was previously marketing director and specialty leasing manager for Independence Mall. Holmes will serve as spokesperson for the battleship and will be responsible for managing its advertising and marketing efforts.

Ashley Melton '15M, a Tarawa Terrace Elementary School teacher, was recognized as the Teacher of the Year for her dedication as an educator in the Camp Lejune districts.

Marissa L. Ruehle '15 operates Sundays Café in Wrightsville Beach.

Carly Silver '15 was featured in the StarNews online article, “Southeast NC Districts Recruit Dozens of Teachers During Summer.” She attended a training session at Pender County Schools’ headquarters on science and writing, creating her own experiments with sand from local beaches.

Phillip J. Stott '15, a current UNCW graduate assistant, is working with the Seahawks baseball program to hold a weekly hitting academy for area ballplayers during the offseason.

Alexandria N. Vreugdenhil '15, a graduate student currently working on her master’s in public administration, is one of a number of student researchers taking part in a survey to assess a state-run beach access program.

Tess E. Bargebahr '16 joined WECT in Wilmington as a multimedia journalist in June 2016. While at UNCW, she was a reporter and anchor for Seahawk Central Sports, as well as UNCW’s political TV show “WingSpan.” She also interned for WWAY News and WECT.

Shatia A. Cole '16, former senior guard for UNCW, was named as a second-team selection on the 2015-16 NC Collegiate Sports Information Association University Division All-State Women’s Basketball Team.

Chancellor James “CJ” Gettys '16, former UNCW basketball center, has committed to play for Rutgers University’s Scarlet Knights and is eligible now at the Big Ten School as a graduate transfer.

Nicole J. Palmer '16, along with two UNCW professors, was recognized by the Eli Lilly Open Innovation Drug Discovery for her molecular contributions to biological testing. Thanks to Palmer’s efforts, the department was able to submit 80 unique molecules to the OIDD. She recently graduated from UNCW with a B.S. in chemistry and will pursue her master’s degree in forensic chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University.

David Kostyal II '16 qualified for the 102nd Carolinas Amateur Championship in July in Charleston, SC. He earned medalist honors for shooting 4-under par 67 at the qualifying event at the Golf Club at Stoney Creek in Whitsett, NC.

Craig Clifford Ponder '16, a former UNCW guard, will start his professional basketball career with the Reading Rockets of the English Basketball League.

Leah Ann Sherill '16 founded her company, Special Pedals, last year. The nonprofit company employs and empowers adults with disabilities. Employees repair and sell bicycles for an hourly rate while receiving enough individualized attention to learn something new during each shift. The five-year goal is to employ at least five adults with disabilities at the bike shop and have similar businesses running at three other college campuses.

William “Hunter” Ridge 2009-12, who signed with the Joliet Slammers in 2014 and entered spring training in 2015, is finding his stride this season. Before joining the Slammers, Hunter played his first professional baseball season with Gateway of the Frontier League.

Colin Michael Bonner 2012-15 plays soccer for FC Dallas and made the game-winning penalty kick to lift FC Dallas past Oklahoma City Energy FC in a U.S. Open Cup match in June. Colin had played five USL games before making his MLS debut in July. On a leave of absence from UNCW, Colin planned to complete the two online courses he needs for his UNCW degree in the fall.

Jared Stephen Gesell 2012-16 and Steven Linkous 2012-16 were drafted by the Major League Baseball Colorado Rockies in the 22nd round out of UNCW in June.
The Power of an Idea – by Chad Lovette ’15

AHA!

Exactly when and where the idea came, I am not quite sure. As far as I know it could have been while I zoned out on the flickering yellow lines along the back streets on my bike ride to campus, or as I sat and read under the humming fluorescent lights of Randall Library. The sparks that flash in my head never come when I am ready for them. The light bulb is always tickling the most distant brain tissues, during the most inconvenient of times, but that tickle always manages to give me chills.

Whether I manage to truly grasp the ideas that creep into my brain is impossible to know. Every soft touch, every candle that lights inside my head, gives me a foreign feeling of something unknown. A feeling that is scary, but an idea that I know if I don’t reach for, I may never have the chance again. It will be gone forever.

And then what?

What if the blue light that teases across my vision were to make me weak, and I just allowed it to pass. What if everyone took the easy route and let it slip, and let the magic fade? I cannot help but dwell upon the power of an idea that is too strong, and that simply scares the dreamers out of acting on it – dreamers who let the fear of change, of struggle, of blood, sweat, and tears take over their minds. If there is one thing a true fan of Einstein knows, it is that he never lets an idea slip, because each has its potential for change. Whether it is broad or miniscule doesn’t matter, the power of embracing an idea is enough.

Let the ideas force me into seizure. Let the ideas dwell on my conscience for days, or weeks, or even years. You can never know when the power of an idea can go against modern ideology, turn the planet around, and fix what is broken. My greatest idea is to help the world realize the power behind a simple idea. Let the people know that it could be them who change everything. Everything. The strength of anyone’s idea, be it a child or a professor, a hobo or a priest, could bring sick children to health, or turn war into peace. The power of an idea is as strong now and as infinite as you want it to be.

My brain began to bubble, the stars began to gleam, and then, it hit me.

The Power of an Idea

Chad Lovette was a singer/songwriter who graduated from UNCW in 2015 with a B.F.A. in creative writing/non-fiction with a minor in Spanish. He loved traveling far and wide, hiking, surfing, camping and living large with his family and friends. He passed away in July following an extended battle with brain cancer. This piece was originally published as part of his senior thesis, “Life by Chance.”
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