Welcome to the Winter 2014-15 issue of UNCW Magazine!

Temperatures may be down, even at the beach, but research achievements at UNCW are way up. While impressive research is a well-known UNC system attribute, UNCW is unique in how we combine research with teaching.

Students aren’t simply hypothesizing; they are acting on those hypotheses and getting a glimpse of what it means to be on the front lines of research. It is an interactive experience, one that empowers emerging researchers to partner with experts in their field: UNCW faculty whose passion is matched only by their commitment to teaching. That combination of excellence in instruction and outstanding research initiatives is yet another element of UNCW that sets us apart from other universities.

If you think only of sterile laboratories when you hear the word “research,” this issue may change your perception of what UNCW’s research teams are doing every day (and some even have teal lab coats, to add some Seahawk color to the mix!). Both basic and applied research are happening here on campus, of course, but also in the region’s waterways and elementary school classrooms; via Wall Street investments; on birdwatching field trips; and even in the grocery store!

This issue shares only a glimpse of the powerful learning experience our students have when they engage in research far beyond their curriculum materials, working hand in hand with world-class faculty members to gain valuable work – and life – experience.

At UNCW, “innovation” isn’t a buzzword; it’s a key element of our culture, challenging our faculty, students and staff to go beyond what they already know to be true, delving into new possibilities and solutions that far exceed previous expectations. This is how thoughts and theories become progress and growth: when researchers take their work out of the academic arena and into the application of those approaches in other settings.

Translational science, as developed here at UNCW, could alter the face of medicine, culture, global citizenship and philanthropy, in ways the researchers of even five years ago couldn’t have imagined. Turning that science into enhanced health and wellness for our citizens, humanitarian support of the less fortunate, or revenue for burgeoning entrepreneurs is top of mind for our sharpest minds — our faculty and their student partners in research. We have already seen that work have an enormous effect on not just the Wilmington community but on the state, the country and indeed the globe.

Read on to learn more about our faculty and student researchers, the critical work they’re doing both in and out of those “sterile laboratories,” and how you can support their mission. This is UNCW research: innovation, collaboration, teaching and learning that will likely change the world as we know it. Enjoy!
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<td>Louis Adcock, now deceased, was one of the original members of UNCW’s Chemistry Department where he taught for 47 years. Wendy Strangman is a research associate professor at UNCW’s Center for Marine Science.</td>
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It's just before 9 a.m. at Dorothea B. Johnson Elementary School, and UNCW pre-licensure nursing students Kali Londa ’15 and Molly Cole ’15 are readying a pop-up puppet show stage.
Thirty-six Head Start students, kids from vulnerable populations, tiptoe into the room, pointer-fingers pressed to lips in the universal “shh” sign. The kids quietly find a seat along the descending rows of stairs, but their whispers of excitement — “There are the Puppet People!” — simply can’t be contained.

Cole and Londa, recipient of the Barnhill Contracting Scholarship for nursing, greet the audience, and then introduce today’s theme: reasons to exercise. The puppeteers ask the kids what they do for exercise.

“Dance!” cry a couple girls wiggling in the front row.

“Run around!” shouts a boy.

“I ride bikes,” says another boy. He looks up from his lap with a shy smile.

“All great ways to exercise. How about jumping jacks?” ask the puppeteers.

“Should we do some jumping jacks?”

The room becomes a thunderous “Yes!” Arms flap like airplane wings, legs kick sideways, and with the slightest bit of encouragement, 10 turns into 20. The jumping jacks portion of the program is a smashing success.

The puppet show program is one of pediatric and neo-natal nurse Patricia White’s ETEAL (Experiencing Transformative Education through Applied Learning) initiatives, a series of programs designed to get students outside the classroom and into the world, where potential patients live and breathe.

“Every patient has a story,” shares White, who transitioned from the clinical setting to join UNCW’s team of lecturers in 2010. The puppet shows are fertile ground for getting these stories.

“The kids are good at shouting out what’s on their mind,” she said with a laugh. She recalled a particularly poignant audience participation moment during presentation on Stranger Danger.

“I know what a stranger is,” yelled a child. “A stranger is someone who comes up behind you with a knife and tries to cut you.”

For White, that’s where the real education starts. The kids’ candor and unpredictable answers expose her students to real-life scenarios, where “patients” become more than medical charts, or faceless paperwork. “A patient is more than a disease,” says White.

“A patient is a person.”

It’s showtime!

The puppeteers disappear behind the black curtain; moments later, the puppets rise through the air. Today’s cast features Caucasian brother and sister puppets and an African American doctor puppet; other performances might feature a Latino police officer puppet, an Asian firefighter puppet or a Native American nurse puppet.

The kids like the dialogue, even shouting out the occasional unscripted line, but they love the physical interludes—the space between words where the puppets literally act out stage directions.

During a pantomimed walk to the store, there’s a synchronized sway over the top of the curtain. The room fills with little-kid laughter. An imaginary TV turns off and brother and sister puppets start to weed grandma’s garden, heeding a doctor puppet’s advice to “get outside.”

A virtual shovel, maybe an invisible rake and a new wave of giggles trickle down the stairs.

The puppeteers are heartened. The dialogue says to run around, play kickball, walk instead of drive to the corner store — and yet, the puppets’ physical motions say it best. From the sounds of laughter, it’s clear today’s message has reached the young audience.

Immediately following each show, there’s a Q and A from the audience, and the puppeteers give the kids fun, interactive handouts. Nutrition is another popular puppet show theme, and fruits and veggies often find their way onto exercise-related worksheets.

“Lots of kids have soft drinks for breakfast,” says White. “Unfortunately, the ‘bad for you’ foods are usually cheaper.” But seeing a superhero puppet score the winning goal after eating her spinach, and then telling mom and dad about it, just might make an impact. On the back of each handout, there’s information for parents — what the puppets taught, how the kids responded and how to help kids achieve new goals.

“Draw a circle around every vegetable,” asks one worksheet.

“Which kid is exercising?” The Wii video game station doesn’t count.

White sees education as the best preventative medicine: “Just one small change a day can make a difference.” By delivering valuable information in a kid-friendly fashion, the “Puppet People” plant the seed in the hope that good health will grow from it.

by Jamie Lynn Miller ’15M
Mobile devices are no longer looked upon as annoying distractions in the classroom.

Teachers are turning to smart tablets, phones and digital devices to engage students and enhance academic performance. Over the next three years, the state will transition funding from traditional textbooks to digital learning materials, putting more mobile devices in the hands of students.

In the meantime, educators are looking at ways to align the use of digital devices with the curriculum and to improve student learning outcomes.

A group of researchers in the Watson College of Education is studying “here and now” mobile learning and its influence on student achievement and attitude. Here and now learning gives students access to information anytime, anywhere.

“We know that when people get data in a real-time format, it can be really effective, but what is the best way to design for these mobile tablets and devices that so many teachers are using for instruction?” asked Jeffrey Ertzberger, co-principal investigator of the study and director of technology in the Watson College of Education.

“We looked at learning in context — learning about something where you are at the time when it’s relative as opposed to taking content information in an unrelated setting,” Ertzberger said.

Ertzberger, Florence Martin, a former associate professor in the College of Education, and graduate student researchers tested the efficacy of mobile devices as vehicles for learning, collaboration and reflection both inside and outside of the classroom.

In one of the most recent studies, a group of students scanned a QR code, read information about a painting and asked self-reflective questions about the artwork. A second group scanned the artwork and was directed to an iPad where they interacted with an art expert through FaceTime, a third group did not have an opportunity to reflect.

“We found that even in a here and now setting, it’s the real-time interaction with other people that is still so important to learning,” Ertzberger said.

The group that did the reflection with the virtual expert did far better in achievement than the self-reflection group and the group that did not have an opportunity to reflect. All three groups were highly motivated regarding the use of mobile devices.

“Learning isn’t a boxed behavior that only happens in one time and place; it’s something that everyone engages in every day,” said research assistant Jeff Boykin ‘12M, a graduate student in the instructional technology Master of Science program.

“Institutionalized education should cultivate the conditions for learning by encouraging these types of inquisitive behaviors and offering students multiple ways to access and engage with their education,” he continued. “Educational innovation needs to keep pace with the types of technological, sociocultural changes affecting our students, who are used to looking up information on their phones when they want to know something.”

Officials with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction are seeing increasing interest in incorporating mobile devices into the classrooms across the state with many school-based programs, pilot programs and district-wide initiatives emerging, said Verna Lalbeharie, director of digital teaching and learning with the state Department of Public Instruction.

“We would like to move the needle on how schools are incorporating mobile devices from surface-level integration to higher-order transformation of learning,” she said.

By incorporating digital devices into the classroom in meaningful ways, educators are meeting students where they are, Lalbeharie said.

“Their world is one of seamless technology use, immediate and constant access to information — why not use that to keep them engaged in learning?” Lalbeharie asked. “We are still in the early stages and student learning gains are inconsistent — in fact some schools report an ‘implementation dip’ in scores before gains are seen.”

“North Carolina is fertile ground to launch a major, statewide digital learning initiative, and it’s due to a combination of these efforts that all things are moving in the right direction,” she said.
The North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that shifted funding from textbooks to digital learning and directed the State Board of Education to develop and implement digital teaching and learning standards. The state is in the process of developing a N.C. Digital Learning Plan.

“real-time interaction with people is still so important to learning”
Lucas Gillispie ’08M, began his research on effects of 3-D video games on student achievement and engagement when he was a graduate student in the Master of Science in instructional technology program at Watson College of Education. He had no idea that his work would evolve into an international success story.

Gillispie, director of academic and digital learning for Surry County Schools, designed the World of Warcraft in Schools program in hopes of engaging at-risk students.

“Well-designed games are engines for engagement. Why not leverage them for learning?” said Gillispie, an avid gamer and the former instructional technology coordinator for Pender County Schools.

He looked at games that could be integrated with subjects such as math, social studies and English language arts. He worked with former Cape Fear Middle School principal Edith Skipper ’93, ’00M, ’13 Ed.D. and language arts teacher Craig Lawson ’08 to develop an after-school program for at-risk students. The pilot program, which began in 2009, targeted seventh- and eighth-grade students who were struggling in pre-algebra and algebra.

School officials saw immediate results with the pilot program. Sixty percent of the students who participated were proficient in math the following academic year, said Skipper, who is now the principal at Pender County Early College.

“After seeing that kind of gain, I thought ‘what can we do next?’” said Skipper.

Gillispie received grant funding to further develop the program. It was offered as an elective at Cape Fear Middle School and was later expanded to other Pender County schools.

Scott Deasy incorporated the program into his English language arts classes. He is using Guild Wars 2, a multiplayer online role-playing game with a story that progresses in different environments. Reading and writing activities center on the game’s narrative, characters and dialogue. Assignments are replaced with “quests,” and students earn points as they master the material.

“It’s basically taking the principles of reward, repetition and small goals that are inherent in video games and building a class based on that,” he said. “We are looking at the mistakes instead of the percentage that they got correct on something. So it’s a lot more individualized this way.”

Twice a week, Charnita Carswell logs into the game Guild Wars 2 to battle monsters and complete quests. Her goal isn’t to earn the title of best gamer, but to improve her reading and writing skills.

Carswell, an eighth grader at Cape Fear Middle School, is a student in Deasy’s elective class, Story and Game Academy.

“I want to apply to the early college, and I hope the class will help me get accepted,” she said as she maneuvered through the land known as “Lornar’s Pass” in the game. (Early college is a blend of high school and college that compresses the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and an associate’s degree.)

“I have never seen writing improve as quickly or students getting as much growth in their reading levels as I have in the past couple of years,” he said.

Gillispie has shared his findings on the impact of World of Warcraft in Schools program at conferences internationally, and the program has been used at more than 10 schools in the U.S. and Canada.

“We are standing at a crossroads when it comes to education in this country. The world has changed and our schools are struggling to keep up,” he said. “It’s time we upgrade to school 2.0.”

Above: Lucas Gillispie and his Minecraft Avatar

Right: Heather Ahles and Charnita Carswell, eighth-grade students at Cape Fear Middle School, work together during their elective class, Story and Game Academy.
improvement in performance has been astonishing

60% of students were proficient in math the following academic year

www.slideshare.net/lgillispie
The idea of allowing students to co-author their education inspired one of UNCW’s newest themed learning communities, Hollywood East.

Uchenna Baker, associate director of residence life, and Mike Walker, associate vice chancellor and dean of students, share a passion for finding new ways to go beyond applied learning, and Hollywood East is a living, breathing illustration that research is about much more than gathering data.

Hollywood East brings together 15 to 20 freshmen who share an interest in the arts. This “living-learning community” opens up an environment for creative alliances and allows artistic, like-minded individuals to come together, develop projects and learn from one another.

“The collaboration is creating something beautiful. It may not be numbers, but it’s art,” said Baker. “And imagine the world without art — imagine what the world would be like based only on numbers.”

The novelty of Hollywood East is its engaging atmosphere. “This generation of college students expects to learn in an active setting, so giving them an environment to learn with other peers who are also curious about similar content is ideal,” said Walker. “Best yet, they learn from each other without our direct influence. We give them the blank slate, and they create the masterpiece.”

What separates Hollywood East from two dozen other learning communities on campus is its scope and departure from the traditional educational mold. Hollywood East and Waterways (which brings together students interested in environmental and other sciences) have no associated, credit-bearing courses and allow students from across campus to be involved, not just students who live in a particular residence hall.

“What’s interesting about Hollywood East is that the focus is completely on student motivation. They’re involved because they want to take part in a community that shares their interests,” said Tim Bass ’98M, a creative writing lecturer and the faculty advisor of the group.

“I thought I would be leading them, but they [already] have the skills, and I don’t want to do anything to diminish that creative energy. I’m there to provide a little direction and a lot of creative leeway.”

Alongside support from the housing office and the dean of students’ office, Hollywood East has been propelled to another level through funding provided by an ETEAL (Experiencing Transformative Education through Applied Learning) grant.

The students now have access to high-tech filming and editing equipment, and Glenn Pack ’02M, a film studies lecturer, has donated his time to teach them the inner workings of the filmmaking process. They’re in an environment that cultivates artistic expression and exposes an avenue for collaboration — an avenue that has created a group dynamic that can’t be found inside the classroom.

“At first, it was discouraging to be around people much more talented than I am, [but] as I spent more time with everyone, I forgot about where I was in my standing and just began to have fun,” said freshman Monica Kessel, a member of Hollywood East who plans to minor in music.

“I’m used to a competitive environment where everyone just wanted to be the best, but here the craft is the goal, and that’s something special and rare that can’t very easily be achieved anywhere else.”

UNCW learning communities

11 learning communities; approximately 700 students
2003: first learning community established
Designed for first-year students
7 residential programs; students live and take most of their classes in residence halls
UNCW Hollywood East learning community member Matthew Zamorano shoots a short “party” scene for a class project with fellow learning community members as actors in his short film.
growing together
by Venita Jenkins

3000+ produce boxes assembled for Lowes Foods Carolina Crates to be sold in stores along the North and South Carolina coasts

www.feastdowneast.org
For years, Jim Lofts wanted to expand the market for his fresh produce, but, as a small farmer, getting into large grocery stores proved to be a challenge.

Lofts, who owns Triple J Ranch and Family Farm in Duplin County, was able to tap into a large retail market with the help of Feast Down East and NC Growing Together in the summer of 2014. For the first time ever, his vegetables were available to consumers at select Lowes Foods stores.

“As a farmer, you are always looking for new outlets. Lowes Foods gave us a really big outlet,” Lofts said. “It was wonderful. They used everything that we grew.”

Feast Down East, an initiative developed by the Southeastern North Carolina Food Systems Program (SENCFS), is partnering with NC Growing Together (NCGT) to establish supply chain links from farmers to grocery retail and food service markets. NC Growing Together is based at NC State University’s Center for Environmental Farming Systems. Feast Down East (FDE) serves as a food hub, research and development partner for the project.

“What we knew, from our research, is that small-scale farmers have been left out of the big agriculture model. We wanted to boost the agricultural sector by focusing on these limited resource farmers,” Leslie Hossfeld ’83, UNCW sociology professor, department chair and SENCFS co-founder.

“What we have done is create a food system. It’s very complicated; it’s very big. But the idea is to tackle poverty by helping them grow their farm businesses. When that happens, there is a multiplier effect and that ripples through the economy.”

Hossfeld worked with NC State research assistant professor Rebecca Dunning to secure a $5 million USDA grant to establish North Carolina Growing Together. Researchers will look at the triple bottom line returns — economic, social and environmental impact — potential market channels, planning and logistics, and economic viability. Their long-term goal is to aid in the sustainability of small- and mid-size farms in the state.

Lowes Foods and military bases are partnering with the program and will serve as models for other large retail and institutional buyers. Since the project began in early 2013, Lowes Foods has increased its purchasing directly from farmers and food hubs by six-fold, said Dunning, who also serves as NC Growing Together project coordinator.

“We have been working with NCGT and FDE and other partners over the past two years and have had great success in supporting supply chain connections between individual growers, food hubs and our project partner Lowes Foods,” Dunning said.

Lowes Foods Carolina Crates were sold in select stores along the North and South Carolina coasts. Feast Down East’s processing and distribution center in Burgaw served as a hub for farmers to deliver their fresh produce.

Krista Morgan, locally grown accounts representative for Lowes Foods and a research assistant with NC Growing Together, said the project has been great for opening new doors for small farms.

“It’s important for everyone to be more aware of where their food comes from and the story behind the product,” she said. “By providing locally grown products, we are supporting local farmers and businesses, which builds the sense of community and increases jobs in NC.”
500 billion plastic bags a year are used by shoppers worldwide and many end up in the ocean.

46,000 pieces of plastic in every square mile of ocean, affecting water quality and marine life.

oceancrusaders.org
Environmental politics
students' research on solid waste and ocean debris led to changes in their behavior they hope will catch on with others.

When they began their research, they found the issue was much worse than they had thought, said Jennifer Biddle, an assistant professor of public administration in the Department of Public and International Affairs and faculty advisor to environmental policy and coastal planning and management concentrations.

As part of this interdisciplinary course, the students conducted community-based research and sought solutions to environmental issues affecting Wilmington.

Biddle used a three-part methodology that consists of in-class research and demonstrations, guest lecturers and field trips.

Her students learned about the research being conducted in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Pacific and South Pacific ocean gyres—which focuses on collecting trash and finding out which chemicals leak out of it into the environment.

The guest lecturers came from a wide array of places including the Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Wilmington and the UNCW chemistry and environmental studies departments.

The demonstrations and lectures were essential for students to understand the general issues that Wilmington and the coastal environment face, but it was the field trips that had the biggest impact, Biddle said.

In the written responses to the trips, students expressed that they appreciated seeing first-hand the issues affecting the environment they live in and the impact their everyday habits have on the environment.

“I thought it was really effective to have field trips that tied with our topics. It made what we were learning real instead of just notes on a piece of paper,” Alexia O’Brien ’14 said.

On a field trip to Masonboro Island to study biodiversity, the students immediately began picking up trash, most of it plastic or plastic-based, Biddle said. Although it was disposed of properly, they realized it was going to end up somewhere else. So, the students also went to the landfill. When they saw the mountain of plastic bags and other trash that was wasted, they were inspired to change their own lives.

“They changed everything from the stuff they would purchase to using reusable shopping bags and water bottles,” said Biddle.

The students’ final project was a public service announcement that helped increase awareness about four key issues and influence citizen behavior toward addressing the problem. The class did research on how to communicate the science behind an issue, which helped them determine the content and audience for their public service announcement. By teaming with the communication studies department, students learned persuasion techniques and one of the announcements may be developed by a communication studies class to reach an even wider audience.

“That’s what’s so cool about this project,” Biddle said. “It has the potential to get out into the world. It’s gotten into the right hands.”

by Rebecca Haught ’15
When interviewing for their first jobs after college, how many students can say they managed a $1 million investment portfolio?

One group of UNCW finance students can answer any interview question with real examples from their experience researching market trends, making large-scale investment recommendations, and implementing risk management strategies to protect their investments.

The FIN 440: Portfolio Design and Management course gives high-performing students in the UNCW Cameron School of Business the opportunity to learn investment practices with a real-dollar investment fund. Mirroring the S&P 500 market, approximately 20 students split into groups and study the market trends in nine different financial sectors, including healthcare, energy, financials and telecommunications.

William Sackley, professor of finance and the FIN 440 instructor, said, “This experience provides students with a solid, logical, institutional framework to learn about realistic investment methods.”

In 2007, BB&T Corporation committed to give the Cameron School of Business $1 million to endow the investment fund and a speaker series. When defining the parameters of the fund, Larry Clark, the former dean of the Cameron School of Business, included a policy statement that gave students the opportunity to manage the fund.

Though UNCW is not the first university to receive an endowment of this size, Sackley notes that its students are some of the first in the nation to manage a million-dollar portfolio. “Much of the work takes place outside the classroom and on the students’ own time,” Sackley says.

The course exposes students to the constant effort and attention required to manage a large-scale investment portfolio. At the same time, they are learning long-term investment strategies that Sackley believes most accurately reflect how they would invest and manage their own funds in the real world.

Sean Kosowsky ’15, a senior finance major, served as FIN 440 senior analyst during the spring 2014 semester and advised his classmates as they researched the financial markets. He collaborated with two other students to study the technology sector, where the class had chosen to invest the biggest portion of its funds. Kosowsky explains the format of the class, saying, “Dr. Sackley would usually give a quick lesson at the beginning of class, but we spent the majority of our class time managing the portfolio.”

“The student investment fund, which has been invested since 2011, has benefitted from its 100 percent allocation to domestic equities,” says Roberta LaSure, who manages the BB&T endowment. “Indeed, its performance returns over this time period have exceeded that of the university’s endowment portfolio, whose allocation is more diversified and includes global equities, private investments, marketable alternatives and fixed income.”

FIN 440 students spent their semester researching the market and preparing a massive presentation of their investment recommendations for the advisory board, consisting of the vice chancellor of business affairs, two finance professors, a BB&T financial investment representative and the investment committee chair for the UNCW Foundation Board of Directors.

Students answered questions from the advisory board about their research, decisions and consideration of other factors, companies and economic forces. “After all the work and research we did all semester, we were perfectly prepared to defend our recommendations. We could answer all their questions,” says Kosowsky about the final presentation.

Nivine Richie, chair of the finance department and an advisory board member, says, “The quality of our business students has steadily improved. Every year, the board always says, ‘This is the best presentation we’ve had yet!’”

Sackley believes that the FIN 440 course is one of the best experiences finance students can have before they graduate from UNCW: “The hours are long and the work is difficult, but it all gives students a realistic look into the life of a financial investor.”
Proceeds benefit the Center for Global Capitalism and Ethics
Promotes the values and business of capitalism to students
Provides two capitalism lectures per academic year featuring respected business leaders

“logical institutional framework”
to learn about realistic investment methods
UNCW researcher receives STTR grant to develop new test for shellfish toxin levels

UNCW lecturer Jennifer McCall '13M has developed a new biological test, but it isn’t for her fellow humans. It is for oysters, clams, scallops and mussels.

She has received a federal Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant to further develop the test — the first STTR grant awarded to a researcher at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

The test evaluates the levels of marine neurotoxins present in shellfish. Harmful algal blooms, which occur naturally in coastal U.S. waters, produce the toxins. Accumulated contaminants can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea in people who consume the shellfish. In certain circumstances, the neurotoxins attach themselves to nerve cells, causing muscle pain, dizziness, short-term memory loss and, possibly, paralysis.

Oysters, an important coastal crop in southeastern North Carolina, are filter feeders, making them particularly susceptible, McCall said. To protect consumers from these natural pollutants, state agencies temporarily close contaminated shellfish beds until testing indicates the oysters and other mollusks are safe for ingestion.

Current tests utilize radioactive materials to evaluate toxicity levels. McCall’s prototype uses fluorescent light, making it safer and less expensive for test administrators.

“What we’re trying to do is develop economical and easy tests so that people, especially regulatory authorities in public health, can test the seafood and make sure it is safe,” she explained.

“It is also important for North Carolina’s economy to reopen the beds quickly. Many fishermen’s livelihoods depend on open beds.”

McCall and her husband Sam '02, an immunologist, have formed SeaTox Inc. to develop and market the test. They’ve leased lab space in the MARBIONC Building at UNCW’s CREST Research Park.

“UNCW has been great. The location is a perfect fit. The university wants researchers to develop products that have practical applications — that help people,” she said. “The building is all about the idea of collaboration between local businesses, local entrepreneurs and the university.”

by Andrea Weaver

Since 2013 UNCW has received grants from recognized institutions/organizations:

- U.S. Department of State
- Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women
- New England Foundation for the Arts
- National Science Foundation
- Small Business Administration
- Small Business Technology Transfer
- National Institutes of Health
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA)

In 2014, UNCW received the largest award from the U.S. Department of State in the University of North Carolina system’s history.
Taylor Milleson ’12 peddled at a high speed on an indoor cycle training device as a group of undergraduate research assistants collected data on his VO2 max and 10-km time-trial performance.

Milleson was a research assistant and subject in an eight-week study to determine which of two indoor cycling training devices was most effective in improving a 10-km time trial.

“That was one of the ways we could say objectively which device improved the cyclist’s performance,” Milleson said. “I saw an improvement on my 10-km time trial on the road.”

A cohort of undergraduate exercise science and athletic training students collaborated on the study. Findings from their research were analyzed and presented at regional and national American College of Sports Medicine conferences.

The cycling study is one example of how the faculty, staff and students from UNCW’s School of Health and Human Services and the Athletics Department are collaborating in scientific efforts to maximize athletes’ performance and improve their health. Athletes undergo a series of tests to gauge their stamina and strength. The data from the tests is used to create a strength program to help athletes reach their optimum performance level. The school’s Human Performance Laboratory (HPL) is used for teaching and research.

“We collect data, synthesize it and then reroute it back to the athletic trainers and strength and conditioning coaches,” said Wayland Tseh, an associate professor in exercise science.

Related to athletics, a cohort of trained exercise science students were able to convert theory into application via assessing the body composition of several teams, said Tseh.

“Using this information, strength and conditioning coaches are able to cater a specific, individualized strength program to enhance muscle mass, while decreasing fat mass. As the season progresses, student-athletes’ body composition is re-assessed, thereby giving the strength and conditioning coaches vital information to gauge the effectiveness of their exercise prescription,” said Tseh.

“Measuring body composition also serves the athletic trainers from a clinical safety perspective by allowing them to track and monitor percent body fat values of athletes.”

Tablets, like iPads, allow athletic trainers to experience “real-time” charting and access to reference material and data, said Stacy Downar, associate athletic trainer for UNCW Athletics.

“It’s our responsibility to help them transfer what they have learned in the classroom to the clinical setting,” Downar said. “One of the things that we saw that was lacking was access to technology that would help them in their future profession. Much like hospitals and doctors’ offices, we have transitioned to an electronic record system.”

Immediate access to the athletes’ information makes assessments easier, said Summer Ann Martinez ’14, a senior in the athletic training education program.

“If the athlete has an injury, we can go through the initial evaluation process and try to figure out what is bothering them,” she said. “We can keep track of every single test and have their history right there.”

The trainers will create rehabilitation programs athletes can do at home via video tutorial, Martinez added.

Adrianne L. Swinney, senior associate athletic director, said the work the students are engaged in is a classic example of applied learning.

“You can read a textbook and take a test, but until you actually get in the field and apply what you are learning, there is still a missing element. So much happens when that takes place,” she said.

Swinney added that the collaboration between academics and athletics departments is beneficial, especially when there are limited resources.

“We are able to capitalize on shared services and relationships on campus to help our student-athletes in a creative way,” she said.

by Venita Jenkins
When founding director Diane Levy started UNCW’s Honors Scholars Program, she didn’t know she was launching one of the university’s leading academic initiatives. Back in 1994, the four-year program was an experimental idea.

The faculty’s goal at the time, Levy explained, was “to figure out new ways to expand honors over all four years, to set up more interaction between students and faculty and to get students involved in research earlier.”

The four-year program grew out of UNCW’s departmental honors system, which had been in place since 1965. Upperclassmen enroll in departmental honors for the opportunity to work closely with faculty mentors in their majors. Students complete an in-depth research or study project and meet other academic requirements to graduate with honors.

“There had been a number of attempts over the years to set up a more comprehensive honors program, but we just happened to have a group of faculty and a dean [Jo Ann Seiple, now professor emerita of English] who were very dedicated to the idea of offering students engaged learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom,” Levy said.

Levy, a sociology professor who led honors for five years, enrolled 40 students in the program during the first year.

Now, as the university celebrates the 20th anniversary of the four-year program and the 50th anniversary of departmental honors, more than 650 students are participating in honors. They are enrolled in honors courses led by 60 different faculty members from 31 academic areas or in departmental honors supervised by 130 faculty members from 41 academic areas.

Psychology professor Kate Bruce, the program’s director since 1999, credits the phenomenal growth to the creative collaboration that inspires students and faculty to participate.

“The Honors Scholars College is like a lab,” Bruce said. “It allows students and faculty to try things out – new courses, book clubs, dinner speakers, seminars, service learning programs, whatever. It is a place for students and faculty to get creative.”

by Andrea Weaver
Phyllis Boyles Collier ’65 completes a departmental honors project in education and becomes the first student to graduate with honors.

Four-year Honors Scholars Program begins with 40 students.

Honors Program develops CSURF (the Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships) as a focal point for support of faculty-mentored undergraduate research.

Kate Bruce elected president of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Celebrating Honors Students

by Davis McKinney ’18
UNWRAPPING ANCIENT MYSTERIES

UNCW senior Kate Sherwood spent her summer unwrapping ancient mysteries that have been kept under wraps for quite a while. Sherwood analyzed mummies and human skeletal remains during a 10-week program with the National History Research Experience at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

She evaluated 10 to 15 mummies originating from the Four Corners region of southeastern Utah, taking CT scans of the remains and using computer software to convert the scans into 3D models of the mummies. As Sherwood explained, this approach enabled her to obtain as much information as possible about the mummies while still remaining respectful to the remains.

“Working in the museum allowed me to see how much of a collaborative effort it actually is. All of the departments work together to provide the most interesting information to the public,” she said.

Sherwood, an Honors Scholars College student who is majoring in anthropology, had the opportunity to conduct research alongside Doug Owsley and Kari Bruwelheide, national experts in the field of physical anthropology. They have handled high-profile forensic cases including the Waco Branch Davidian Compound and Croatian War dead from the former Yugoslavia as well as analyzing the remains of early immigrants to the Chesapeake Bay area.

Sherwood expressed her gratitude to the Honors College, which connected her with her previous internship at Swansea University in Wales, by saying “having a background in a museum setting and doing previous research put me in a better position to be accepted into the program and helped me succeed during it as well.”

A HIGH-FLYING FUTURE

Calling UNCW senior Troy Kling’s summer job “otherworldly” wouldn’t even scratch the surface of his experience as an intern at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL).

Triple majoring in mathematics, computer science and statistics, Kling said his internship with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s JPL California Institute of Technology was a dream come true.

Kling researched image filtering and noise reduction techniques for synthetic aperture radars (SARS), devices placed on aircrafts to scan an area of Earth’s surface while the aircraft flies overhead.

Like a television set, the images produced by SARs can become blurry and unclear due to signal interference, making it difficult to analyze. To solve this problem, Kling researched and began to develop a “nonlocal filter,” which is a computer software program that weeds out interference in the SAR image, making it easier to analyze.

Kling, an Honors Scholars College student, hopes to return to JPL after graduation in 2015. Beyond that, he plans to pursue a doctorate in computer science. He credits the honors program with helping him land the internship.

“The challenging curriculum better prepared me for this experience and helped me to stand out academically among other candidates,” Kling said.
Anthony J. “Tony” Cavalieri II ’75 is a global activist, striving to improve socio-economic conditions in communities around the world. Since 2012, Cavalieri has been a senior program officer with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, overseeing international agricultural research in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and establishing grants to fund groups that improve the productivity of small farmers.

“I was recently in Ethiopia working on a project that develops improved corn varieties for farmers there,” says Cavalieri. “Ethiopia has doubled its yields in recent years through improved farming methods, improved seeds and small amounts of fertilizer. Some of the Gates Foundation projects have contributed to this progress.”

Over his 22-year career with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Cavalieri performed research in the areas of biotechnology and sustainability. His work led to a role with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., where he advised on agricultural development in East Africa, India and Bangladesh. Cavalieri also served as a conservation agriculture advisor for the Nature Conservancy, helping to develop sustainable agricultural strategies for challenged communities around the world.

As the 2014 Distinguished UNCW Alumnus of the Year, Cavalieri was recognized for his work as a scientist, a humanitarian and a committed environmentalist. While Cavalieri received his Ph.D. in biology at the University of South Carolina and completed his postdoctoral research at the University of Illinois, he has fond memories of his undergrad years at UNCW.

“I studied biology at UNCW and received my B.S. degree there. This was my first serious encounter studying science. I took classes in ecology, cell biology and plant physiology that sparked my interest in plant science and led to my work in graduate school, postdoc and all of my jobs since. I had excellent professors like Paul Hosier, Don Kapraun and Bill Cleary. They were early in their careers, and it was an exciting time to be a biologist at UNCW,” he says.

Cavalieri generously supports applied learning at UNCW and its future alumni; they, too, have the ability to effect positive global change.

“My wife and I have supported a program for undergraduate research in the biology department. It was important to me to have the opportunity to actually do research as an undergraduate at UNCW, and I hope this will provide a way for current students to develop their research talents. We are happy to support UNCW and like to match our giving to our interests.”
For **Alexa Sterling '15**, winning the 2014 Ahuja Academy for Water Quality Undergraduate Research Award represents another step toward her ultimate goal of earning a Ph.D. in biological oceanography and becoming a policy expert in marine science.

Awards like the Ahuja grant afford her more time to research the interactions between toxins produced by harmful algal blooms and microzooplankton.

"I have been studying the same organism for the past three years," Sterling said. "It is found across the world's oceans, which makes it a pretty good model for exploring some of the questions we have about how it responds to the toxins."

Sterling has presented her findings at the Southeastern Phycological Colloquy and a State of North Carolinas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium.

The Massachusetts senior works closely with **Alison Taylor**, professor of biology and marine biology, who said, "Alexa typifies the very best in qualities that make a great researcher." Those characteristics include the "drive to gain a deeper understanding of the natural world" and the ability to "balance organization and planning with the confidence to dive right in and learn by doing."

Sterling decided to tour UNCW after meeting general biologist **Kristy Owen '02** during a high school internship at Woods Hole Science Aquarium. Owen said, "(Alexa) is probably the most upbeat person you will ever meet." She thought the young scientist-in-training would enjoy UNCW's academic atmosphere.

"I visited campus, and I loved it," Sterling said. "I loved the Honors College program. It was the deciding factor for me in coming to UNCW. I knew I would be able to get involved in research right away."

Satinder "Sut" Ahuja and his wife Fay established the Ahuja Academy of Water Quality Undergraduate Research Award to encourage students' scientific investigation of water quality. The undergraduate scholarship builds on a graduate student fellowship the Calabash, N.C., couple previously established. Both awards recognize his lifelong career in the pharmaceutical industry and his commitment to improving global water quality.

"I believe in the old message: ‘do good, and it will spread further.’ I believe in it very sincerely," Ahuja said. "Water sustainability is my primary goal. To achieve that, you need to encourage research. You can achieve the greatest, long-lasting results by supporting students."

To win the Ahuja award, Sterling participated in a campus competition sponsored by the Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, an honors program.

"It is really great to have several fellowships and scholarships under my belt," she said. "It definitely helps with tuition. It also helps me practice being competitive for grant applications and graduate schools, and frees up my time for research."

With Taylor's encouragement, Sterling has set her sights on a Fulbright award and the goal of expanding her research in the United Kingdom. "I'm very interested in the interface between science and policy."

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**Scholarships and awards**

- Ahuja Academy of Water Quality Undergraduate Research Award
- Board of Visitors Merit Scholarship Endowment
- Carl and Janice Brown Merit Scholarship Endowment
- Center for Marine Science Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- Hugh Henry Fox UNCW Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment
- Jay Hensley Scholarship in Marine Science Endowment
- Herbert and Shirley Mintzes Memorial Scholarship
- Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, a nationally competitive award sponsored by NOAA
Bill Alexander ’68 wasn’t looking for a lifelong mentor and friend when he enrolled in Jim Parnell’s Principles of Biology course, but he found one in the avid outdoorsman.

“Jim and I go back to the 1960s, so we’re talking 50 years of friendship. He’s been a good teacher, a good mentor and a great resource for me,” said Alexander, a retired biologist who taught nine years at the university level and 23 years at the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics.

Alexander, a former member of the university’s Foundation Board, and his wife Chris Deasy ’70 have fond memories of their days at UNCW. The couple has three children and two grandchildren.

Over the years, Alexander and Parnell, UNCW professor emeritus of biology, have taken countless field trips to hunt or photograph wildlife. Parnell remembers “a determined student who worked hard” and loved the outdoors. Their friendship took off during class trips to swamps, beaches and forests around the Carolinas. Parnell expected his students to apply their coursework to real-world environments.

“Those of us teaching biology in the early days felt that if you were going to be a biologist, you needed to know how to identify animals and plants,” explained Parnell, who established the James F. and Frances B. Parnell Fellowship, a merit award for graduate students interested in biology.

Alexander looked forward to the trips, often juggling his class and work schedule to go. “I learned so much,” he recalled. “In the lab and the field, that’s where biology comes alive.”

Both men enjoy capturing images of birds, mammals and reptiles in their native habitats. Parnell started photographing them so he could show the images to students in class. Alexander took up the hobby while working on his doctoral thesis in zoology at Clemson University. He studied waterfowl and used the photos to document the behaviors he observed in the field. Over the years, his photos have been featured in National Wildlife, Bird Watcher’s Digest, South Carolina Waterfowl Magazine and Birds of the Carolinas.

Alexander grew up in Wilmington, hunting, fishing and playing baseball. He never thought about becoming a biology teacher; he planned to be a baseball coach. Looking back through the lens of time, he fondly remembers the way Parnell and other biology faculty inspired him to focus on new possibilities.

“There was a very good group of professors in the biology department when I was a student,” he recalled. “They were a tough group, but they were great role models. They taught me about self-reliance and discipline. They saw something in me that I hadn’t seen in myself.”

The emphasis that Parnell and other faculty placed on applied learning inspired Alexander’s own teaching style at the Governor’s School. “I was known as ‘Dr. Bill’ to my students. That was my moniker,” he said. “I taught very bright, dedicated kids, and I drew a great deal of energy and enthusiasm from them.”

Alexander was a teaching assistant while pursuing a master’s degree in biology at Appalachian State and a doctoral degree in zoology at Clemson, and he used those skills with his Governor’s School students.

“It was never my goal to push my students into becoming biologists, but many of them have. My goal was to engender in them an interest in the natural world,” he said. “I wanted them to be environmentally aware, to understand the interconnected relationships between biological communities and to protect those resources. I figured if I could accomplish that goal, it would make a difference.”

If the emails he gets from his students are any indication, Alexander inspired them just as much as Parnell encouraged him all those years ago. One, now a biologist, spent the past two summers at a national wildlife refuge in Alaska. She told Alexander how excited she was when a pintail duck nested beside her tent. Another, now a federal judge, remembers that she saw her first white-tailed deer in his class. Another, now a federal judge, remembers that she saw her first white-tailed deer in his class.

“Earlier last year, I got an email from a young lady who just graduated from medical school,” he said. “She’s going to be an internist. She said, ‘I want you to know that I am still photographing wildlife, sliding my car off the road, looking at red-tailed hawks and driving my parents crazy.’”

Sounds like something “Dr. Bill” Alexander and his mentor, Dr. Jim Parnell, would do — with cameras in hand.
“50 years of friendship”

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“It was an opportunity for me to combine two interests,” recalled Harris, a Spanish professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. “One of my big things, in terms of my research, is giving voice to marginalized peoples.”

Harris studies contemporary Caribbean and Latin American literature and looks at ways the narratives illustrate the interconnectedness of human experiences, especially how it relates to concepts often associated with race. His research has taken him all over the world, including: Spain, Mexico, Peru, Columbia, Costa Rica, France and the Caribbean.

Through his travels and work, Harris said he has learned that “while the world is made of different cultures, ethnicities and heritages, we can all learn from and grow with one another.”

“A lot of times, people try to create barriers, obstacles or division among groups of people. The more you study, the more you read and the more learn, you realize that there is constant overlap,” he said.

“The struggles, the triumphs, the joy, the sadness, they are all the same no matter who’s telling the story or the perspective from which they come. It is all a part of the human experience and that experience is connected regardless of color, race and background.”

Harris, who teaches Spanish and Africana studies, has authored several books including his award-winning translation of the Afro-Peruvian novel Malambo. He has had numerous articles appear in Spanish and English in various academic journals, both nationally and internationally. The book he co-edited, The Trayvon Martin in US: An American Tragedy, contains various chapters written by other UNCW faculty and is scheduled to appear in late 2014.

Harris finds it just as important to stay connected with his community. He is developing a program that will enhance efforts to bring Spanish to the masses. The program would offer language classes and study abroad opportunities to adult learners in the Wilmington area.

“Working in the community is an extension of what I am doing in the classroom and on campus,” he said. “It’s all about community, scholarship and outreach.”
Betty Holden Stike passed away on June 24, 2014

She was a founding faculty member of the UNCW Department of Psychology and Education in 1963, a two-person department that grew into the Watson College of Education.

Stike began her career in education in 1946 and taught in public elementary schools for 24 years before joining Wilmington College (now UNCW), where she taught elementary and social studies education until her retirement in 1983. She continued to supervise student teachers until 1985.

“Betty was a champion of teaching and service,” said Eddie Stuart, vice chancellor for university advancement. “She was a great advocate of our university along with her son, John. They both have been important contributors to the truly transformational experience we provide to our students.”

Stike's spirit and commitment to public education live on in the Education Laboratory named in her honor and the scholarship she created at UNCW.

Lindsay LeRoy named director of alumni relations

She previously served as interim director and assistant director, building and managing the alumni association’s regional chapter program. Under her leadership, the program engaged a record number of alumni in the association’s events and mission.

“Lindsay’s passion for alumni engagement is evident in her enthusiastic and structured approach to all of her responsibilities,” said Eddie Stuart, vice chancellor for university advancement. “We look forward to watching the alumni association flourish under her leadership.”

LeRoy has a bachelor’s degree in advertising/public relations from Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining UNCW, she was employed at the University of Maryland in the Smith School of Business. She and her husband Keith have a three-year-old daughter, Violet.
Send us your news www.uncw.edu/alumniupdate

1940s
Peyton E. Pitts '49 passed away Sept. 4, 2014.

1950s
Bruce Deschamps '55 passed away June 22, 2014.
John J. Weeks '58 passed away Aug. 23, 2014.

1960s
Jerry L. Richardson '60 passed away Dec. 30, 2013.
Mary H. Farris '63 passed away Sept. 11, 2014. Farris was a former Seahawk cheerleader and went on to become a dancer and dance instructor.
John Eakins '65 and his wife, Emilie Tipton, wrote and published a family memoir, Desire and Inheritance.
Donald Skipper '67 passed away April 17, 2014.
Howard R. Elkins '68 passed away June 30, 2014.
Anne McCrary Sullivan '68 passed away June 6, 2014.
John A. Nussman '75 passed away Aug. 9, 2014.
David Hinson '76 passed away July 5, 2014.
Janet James Petris '76 passed away Aug. 20, 2014.
Carolyn Cox '77 passed away Sept. 18, 2014. She was an occupational health nurse at E.I. DuPont/DAK Americas.
Jeffrey Garrison '79 was named pastor of Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Ga.

1970s
Roy E. Moore III '72 passed away July 11, 2014.
Charlotte E. Carver '73 passed away Aug. 9, 2014.
Linda A. Nussman '75 passed away June 6, 2014.
David Hinson '76 passed away July 5, 2014.
Janet James Petris '76 passed away Aug. 20, 2014.
Jeffrey Garrison '79 was named pastor of Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Ga.

James "Jim" Bradley '84 passed away Aug. 19, 2014.
Deon Buffaloe '85 received the Department of Homeland Security Management Technical Excellence Award for his work on the Balanced Workforce Assessment Tool. Buffaloe serves as the IT project manager at the DHS Headquarters in Washington, D.C.
Bridget Grady '85 was chosen as Onslow County Schools' 2014-15 Assistant Principal of the Year. She is an assistant principal at Sand Ridge Elementary School in Hubert.
James Kilien '86 was named group manager at Sinclair Broadcast Group and is responsible for the oversight of several stations in Arkansas and Virginia.
Chuck Hobgood '88 is president of North Carolina Amateur Sports which created the Chuck Hobgood Scholarship in Athletics for student-athletes interested in pursuing a degree at UNCW.
James Smith '88 passed away May 14, 2014.
Scott Dean '89 is the chief meteorologist at WWAY NewsChannel 3 in Wilmington.
Jody Oxford-Coward '89 was appointed vice president for retirees and veterans for the GA Omar Bradley Chapter of the Association of the United States Army. She is the military liaison for the Sierra Providence Health Network in El Paso, Texas. She is pursuing a master’s degree in business administration.

1990s
William “Chip” Wilson '92 was promoted to chief warrant officer 2. United States Naval Reserve and is executive officer for the Navy Reserve-Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters Group Camp Lejeune. He has 22 years of service as a senior police officer III with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department.

Gladys Anderson '93 passed away April 30, 2014.
Francis Jacobs '94 passed away May 17, 2014.
Cici Fisher Chalus '95 acquired a Master of Jurisprudence in children’s law and policy from Loyola University Chicago in January 2014. She is the executive director of the Illinois non-profit, LaSalle County Court Appointed Special Advocates, which serves neglected and abused children in juvenile court.
Robert Rideout '95 received the Bronze Star Medal for his service as the command judge advocate of the U.S. Forces Garrison Command, Kandahar Air Field Afghanistan, from July 6, 2013 to March 26, 2014. This is his second Bronze Star Medal.
Kim Pinckney '96, a senior producer at WDBJ7, received a 2014 Emmy award for Best Daytime Newscast at the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.
John Tetterton '96M is a sales manager with Charter One's Home Lending Solutions Mid Atlantic Division, the company's first representative in eastern North Carolina.
Jennifer Young '97 shares her experiences growing up with a Down syndrome sibling in her first book, Am I Special Too?
Kate Tillman Brown '98 and her husband André, welcome the birth of their daughter, Neva Brooks, on July 30, 2014. She joins Aidan, born in 2012. The Brown family lives in Raleigh where Kate works in commercial real estate.
Richard Baldwin '99 passed away April 12, 2014.
Jason Chancer '99 graduated in May 2014 from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine degree.

Michael H. Ward ‘99 passed away Sept. 22, 2014. He was a professional bartender at All Season Sports Grill in Faison.

2000s

Rebecca A. Scherrer ’00 was listed in the 2014 edition of North Carolina Super Lawyers Magazine as a Rising Star in the field of construction litigation. She is an attorney at Hamlet & Associates, PLLC in Wilmington.

Michael Keane ‘01 passed away May 8, 2014.

Scott Leverenz ’01 passed away June 13, 2014.

Jeffrey Palis ’01 was appointed Lamar University’s first director of study abroad. He has a master’s in international studies from East Carolina University and a doctorate in curriculum studies from Georgia Southern University.

Logan Sharpe ’01 and Emily Meadows were married April 1, 2014, in New Zealand. Logan is a financial consultant with TIAA-CREF.

Karina Faysnhtein Gibbs ’02 passed away Aug. 21, 2014.

Beth Willard-Patton ’02 is the development director for Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina. She is responsible for expanding private support and raising awareness in the conservancy’s eight-county region.

Mitch Eakins ’03 was the lead actor and former UNCW student Thomas Blake was the creator/producer/director for two live comedy shows, Point Break Live! and Terminator Too Judgment Play, performed at the Bonnaro music festival, the only theater productions to ever play at the music festival. Point Break Live! is one of the longest theatre productions in Los Angeles.


Stephanie Lanier ’03 was accepted to Leadership NC. She serves on the UNCW Alumni Association Board of Directors and owns Lanier Property Group.

Sarah White Thamm ’03 and her husband Dustin announce the birth of their first child, daughter Adelaide, on April 8, 2014. The family lives in Raleigh.

Doug Starcke ’03 is the founder of First Flight Solutions, a North Carolina-based parcel spend management firm, which was ranked in Inc. Magazine’s 5,000 fastest growing private companies for two years in a row. Four UNCW alumni are among the company’s staff:

Berkley Stafford ’00, Tim Brock ’88, Neal Newhouse ’90 and Olivia Yankowsky ’10.

Carl Wallin ’03 is an account executive with the Wilmington office of Spirit Communications.

Jessica Lehman ’04 is the executive director of Reading Enriches All Children, a Norfolk-based nonprofit organization that focuses on distributing free books to children in homeless and domestic violence shelters. The organization served 775 children last year and distributed more than 12,000 books.

Heather Henry-Parker ’04 works for Disney Animation in Los Angeles as a casting associate for feature films such as Planes and Planes: Fire and Rescue.

Trevor Smith ’04 and Melissa Reid Smith ’02 announce the birth of their first daughter, Hadley Maria, on Feb. 22, 2014.

Melissa Doyle ’05 was named Onslow County Schools’ 2014-15 Teacher of the Year. Doyle is a third grade teacher at Jacksonville Commons Elementary School.

Teresa Kleitches ’05 and Alex Edwards were married June 14, 2014. She earned a master’s degree in library science from North Carolina Central University and works as a library technical assistant at the North Carolina Supreme Court Library. She also serves as a librarian at the Wilson County Public Library.

Marta Long ’05 and Kevin Corbitt were married July 2, 2014. Marta works for The Catalyst Company, a financial management firm in Maryland which provides guidance and concierge services for professional athletes. She said her proudest moment “was when one of our clients won the Super Bowl.”

Joe Colin ’06 is a hydrographic technician with McKim & Creed Inc. He performs surveys for beach nourishment programs, before- and after-dredging operations and coastal monitoring.

Kelsee Gomes ’06 received the Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year award. She is the coordinator of sports nutrition at the University of Florida.

Kenneth R. Sumner ’06 passed away Aug. 1, 2014. He was an IT security specialist at UNCW.

Jessica Ward ’06 is a helicopter flight instructor at the Cape Fear Regional Jetport on Oak Island where she works. She became a certified flight instructor in May 2013.

Zachary Zientek ’06 is a unified communications field technician for Communication Technologies at North Carolina State University. He is certified under the Cisco Certified Entry Network Technician program and is pursuing Cisco Certified Network Associate certification.

Lisa Williams ’07M passed away July 12, 2014. She was associate director, library research and service quality with UNCW’s Randall Library.

Andrew Gibbs ’08 graduated from the School of Law at UNC Chapel Hill and served as the 3L class president. He has been accepted into the UNC Kenan-Flagler MBA Class of 2016. Also earning law degrees were Brett Neve ’11, Amanda Jones ’11 and Stephen “Austin” King ’11.

Megan Jelley ’08 and Brent McCauley were married May 23, 2014, in Augusta, Mo. They live in Columbia, Mo., and work for the University of Missouri.

Sarah Partin ’08 is a mailroom specialist for DocuSource of NC.

Caroline B. Paul ’08 joined the law firm of Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman, P.A., in Durham. Her primary practice area is civil litigation. An avid animal lover, she participates in community events to raise awareness of the importance of pet adoption.

Amanda Powell ’08, recreation therapy director at Trinity Grove in Wilmington, worked with UNCW professors Candy Ashton and Dan Johnson to form a partnership between the nursing home and UNCW’s recreation therapy program.

Ashley Shope ’08, ’11M is a psychotherapist at Teen Health Connection in Charlotte. In March 2014, she was appointed as the Southern Piedmont representative of the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter Board of Directors.

Mona Vance ’08M and Dr. Saleem Ali were married Oct. 12, 2013, in Atlanta, Ga. Mona is the archivist at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library in Mississippi where she received three statewide and one national award for her work. She published her first book, Images of America: Columbus, in 2011.
Erica Zegzdryn ’08 and John McGrath were married April 20, 2013. They live in Charlotte where Erica works as an operations manager for Bank of America Corporate Security.

Erin Albee ’09 and John D. Gavitt were married April 26, 2014. Erin is the client services director at Randolph Pregnancy Care Center in Asheboro and delivers public speeches around the community. The couple resides in Randleman.

Rachel Dalmas ’09 and Wes Rose ’09 were married April 19, 2013. Rachel graduated in May 2014 with a master’s degree in school counseling from Campbell University.

Robyn Grice ’09 and Scott Goostree were married June 20, 2014. Robyn is a family nurse practitioner at Bladen Medical Associates in Elizabethtown.

Stephanie Viola ’09 completed the Widener’s Clinical Dual-Degree Master’s Program at Widener University in Chester, Pa. She received her Master of Social Work degree in May 2014 and her Master of Education for human sexuality degree in August 2014.

2010s

Jennifer Bell ’10 is the director of The Miracle League of Wilmington, which hosts accessible baseball games for children and adults with disabilities. She has a Master of Science degree from East Carolina University.

Justin Burgess ’10 is a financial adviser with Nabell Winslow Investments.

Hailey Clifton ’10 is a marketing and broker assistant at Lee & Associates.

Mary Claire Curran ’11 earned a master’s degree in vocal performance from the University of Miami in May 2014. On May 3, 2014, she debuted at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall as one of eight finalists in the New York Lyric Opera Theatre’s National Competition.

Amanda Krise ’11 and Maxwell Grieshaber were married June 21, 2014. Her bridesmaids were Sarah Edwards ’11, Kendra Granniss ’11, Casey Grieshaber ’13 and Emily Krise, a current UNCW student.

Sara Ferrell ’11 and Scott Etheridge ’12 were married Oct. 26, 2013. They live in Raleigh where Sara is an elementary education teacher, and Scott works in account management with BASF Chemical.

Joshua Freeman ’11 is a nurse practitioner with the Atlanta-based Southeastern Spine and Pain. He earned a master’s degree in nursing as an adult/gerontology nurse practitioner from the University of North Carolina.

Dustin Frye ’11 founded Wrightsville Performance Sailing in May 2014. In August 2014, he hosted two days of sailing cruises around Wrightsville Beach to benefit the Good Shepard Center in Wilmington.

Matthew Maples ’11 was named the Law Student of the Year by the Indianapolis Bar Association and received the John Paul Berlon Award for completing 2,000 hours of pro bono service while working on his juris doctorate at the McKinney School of Law in May 2014. He is a law clerk at Hocker & Associates and has been a volunteer at the Indiana University Student Outreach Clinic since he began his law school career.


BreAnna Branch ’12 founded the Lumberton Food for Thought Community Garden in 2013 in an effort to educate the Lumberton community about gardening, health and eating local foods.

Brooke Gallagher Tucker ’12 is a fifth grade language arts teacher at Lincoln Charter School in Denver, N.C. She was married April 13, 2014, and lives in Huntersville.

Jamie Hamm ’12M is a board-certified family nurse practitioner with Wilmington Health’s gastroenterology division.

Sarah Parker ’12 and Michael Phelps ’12 were married June 21, 2014. Sarah works for Wakefield High School, and Michael works for Robert Half Technology. The couple lives in Raleigh.

Esther Van Horn ’12 and Josh Clark were married Oct. 5, 2013. They live in Durham.

Warren Wilson ’12M is a regional long-term care ombudsman with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging, working as an advocate for the rights of older adults and those living in long-term care facilities.

Martha Weston ’13 and Matthew Cobb ’11 were married March 29, 2014. They reside in Wilmington.

Rachel Arredondo ’14 is spending a year in the Japan Exchange and Teaching program as an assistant language teacher in Inashiki-shi, Ibaraki, Japan.

Zach Boylston ’14 directs marketing and social media for Bombers Bev Co., a specialty craft beer retail store and tasting room in downtown Wilmington.

Molly Capps ’14 Ph.D. is the principal at Aberdeen Primary School in Carthage.

Sara Gurkin ’14 is employed by Sunshine Sachs in Washington, D.C.

Rahn Lowder ’14 is a real estate broker with Cameron Management.

Bethany Mitchell ’14 is a realtor with Keller Williams working with first- and second-time homebuyers.

Anna Phillips ’14 joined the NBC29 News Team of Charlottesville, Va., in June 2014.

Gary L. Roush Jr. ’14 passed away Aug. 15, 2014. He was a police officer with the Town of Burgaw and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Paul Walker ’15 was an intern for Nabell Winslow Investments.

Friends

Louise Burevitch passed away Sept. 20, 2014. Because of her financial contributions to UNCW, the Louise Oriole Burevitch Laboratory was named in her honor. The lab is equipped for marine mammal investigations, including whale necropesies.

Barbara Ann Greim passed away April 2, 2014. She retired after 31 years teaching at UNCW where she was instrumental in developing the computer science program and served as interim chair when the department was established in 1998.
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DIANE DODD, biology, 1984
JACK DERMID
marine sciences, 1984

MAGGIE LIBORIO ’82, ’92,
student researcher in psychology, 1992
Graduate student DON FREEMAN ’89M
and ADRIAN HURST

research