

UNIC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Magazine

Pg. 22

Inspired to

PAY IT FORWARD

Pg. 14
The Marcus Garvey
Cultural Center
Celebrates 40 Years

Pg. 18
Understanding the
World, Its Places
and People Through
Geography

Pg. 28
2023 Honored
Alumni



Karen Barton, Associate Professor of Geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Sustainability

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Fellow Bears,

As we near the close of another academic year, it is an opportunity to reflect on the past and look to the future. This spring issue focuses on stories of personal growth and learning, many of which highlight the work of faculty, staff, and alumni planting seeds of inspiration in others and watching those seeds bloom into personal growth. Stories like these are all around us at UNC, and I hope these examples bring you the same sense of Bear pride they bring me.

At UNC, we commit daily to creating a supportive, welcoming, and caring culture, and we put people and community first. For example, some of you may have participated in the 40th anniversary of the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center, the first named cultural center in Colorado history. 'The Garvey' was founded to assist students who identify as Black or African American, and it has been a cornerstone of the university, building a diverse, inclusive, and equitable campus community where everyone is welcome.

We are fortunate to have tremendous faculty at UNC who inspire our students, including Associate Professor of Geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Sustainability Karen Barton. Barton won her 9th Fulbright Award, considered one of the most widely recognized, prestigious scholarships in the world. Since 2007, Barton has traveled across five continents to bring learnings and global perspectives to the classroom.

Another remarkable member of the UNC community is fall graduate and a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Shukuru (ShaQ) Rushanika, ('22). When I first met ShaQ, I was immediately impressed by his deep curiosity

and commitment to bettering his community. His passion has served as an inspiration to me, and I was honored to join his family in celebrating his many accomplishments at our December Commencement. In this issue, you can read about his fascinating academic journey, undergraduate research on breast cancer and hopes for the future as he begins Princeton University's Prospective Ph.D. Scholars program as a future physician-researcher.

There is much to celebrate this spring as we honor five of our best and brightest alumni at UNC's annual Honored Alumni Awards event March 25. I am so impressed by these distinguished alumni whose achievements in leadership and service inspire us all. We will share tribute videos of them and their nominators via email later this spring.

I encourage you to look for opportunities to cultivate relationships with people and strengthen your community. I am reminded daily that "Once a Bear, Always a Bear" is more than just a lighthearted sentiment to shout during Commencement. It is a belief that defines our unique and welcoming campus community, and I am proud to count you as part of the Bear family.

Sincerely,

Andy Feinstein
President

 The *Rowing, Not Drifting 2030* Strategic Plan can be found online at unco.edu/strategic-plan

Table of Contents

UNC MAGAZINE | UNCO.EDU/UNC-MAGAZINE
 SPRING 2023

Meet our 2023 Honored Alumni who have achieved personal and career success while remaining engaged and invested in UNC's success. Read more on pg. 28.



Features

14 40 YEARS SINCE ITS FOUNDING, THE GARVEY IS STILL A PLACE TO BE
 The Marcus Garvey Cultural Center celebrates 40 years and alumni reflect on its history and significance to them and UNC.

18 UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD, ITS PLACES AND PEOPLE THROUGH GEOGRAPHY
 Karen Barton, a professor of Geography, Geographic Information Systems and Sustainability, has been to five continents and received an impressive nine Fulbright awards.

22 INSPIRED TO PAY IT FORWARD
 Recent graduate Shukuru Rushanika overcame adversity, explored scientific research and was honored for his achievements as he developed a deep sense of appreciation for the support and guidance he received during his undergraduate education at UNC.

Departments

- 2 @UNC**
Find out what's newsworthy, noteworthy and unabashedly UNC.
- 8 Northern Vision**
Learn how UNC is making a difference locally and globally through research, teaching and philanthropy.
- 30 Blue & Gold**
Catch up with Bears near and far.

ON THE COVER

A native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Shukuru (ShaQ) Rushanika is no stranger to adversity: he and his family spent years in a Tanzanian refugee camp before landing in Greeley where he was a UNC scholarship student who pursued his passion of studying immunology with plans to become a physician-researcher.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Editor's Note

UNC's 10-year strategic plan, *Rowing Not Drifting 2030*, focuses on the following five vision elements. Look for these icons throughout this publication for stories that reflect these elements.



Students First



Empower Inclusivity



Enhance & Invest



Innovate & Create



Connect & Celebrate



PHOTOS BY WOODY MYERS

The View from Here

LIBRARY MURAL HELPS STUDENTS FEEL AT HOME

Michener Library celebrated its 50th anniversary with a brilliant new mural, “*El Centro de Educación de Aztlán*,” painted by Brenda Vargas ‘22, a first-generation Chicana/Mexicana born and raised in Denver. Her family roots trace back to Mexico City, which she considers the birthplace of her passion for art, activism and community. Vargas graduated with a degree in Chicana/o Latinx Studies and a minor in Sociology.

She and the Chicano Studies Department presented the artwork as a way to create spaces on campus where Chicana/o and Latinx Students can feel safe and welcome, the mural is strategically located where students can meet, collaborate, learn and spread revolutionary knowledge.

“Just as Aztlán is the homeland for many Chicana/o and Latinx identifying students, this space will also serve as home in an academic space. We hope the images inspire and connect with generations of students that come to UNC,” said Vargas.





PHOTO BY AUGUST MYERS



Funding Important Work

GRADUATE STUDENTS SEEK TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING IN RURAL SCHOOLS

Third-year graduate students Ashley Coburn (left) and Breanna King (right) are on their way to becoming licensed psychologists. Before they earn their doctorates, they're taking a deeper look into a topic affecting youth across the country — mental health.

A grant from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing is helping Coburn and King take action. Competing with 200 other applicants, Coburn and King won a \$5,000 grant to support their research project that will improve mental health first aid training and outcomes in rural mountain west towns.

They both had prior experience interacting with high school students, which gave them access to the Colorado Department of Education Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training. YMHFA is an eight-hour course that introduces participants to the signs and symptoms of mental health problems in adolescents and emphasizes the importance of early intervention.

Over a two-year period, Coburn and King will identify trainers already certified in YMHFA, have them implement the training in rural schools with students 12 to 18 years old in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico. They will then conduct pre- and post-surveys and focus groups to see if the school personnel found it useful or if changes need to be made.

"The idea is to determine if the training that is already established is as effective in these rural areas or does it need to be modified in some way to better suit those schools," Coburn said.

They will release results from their research in 2024.

News Briefs

STUDENTS ENJOY NEW CAMPUS DINING OPTIONS

This spring semester, students returned to find four new restaurants to choose from at the University Center (UC).

When choosing new restaurants for the UC, the university says they took into consideration student desires, type of cuisine offered and proximity of different dining options to campus.

The new options include: **Bowlful**, which offers a variety of healthy choices including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-friendly options; **Empire State Pizza**, a local New York-style pizza company; **Crisol Latin Kitchen**, a high-quality, authentic taste of Latin cuisine chosen because of an overwhelming student vote; and **Burger & Co.**, a perfect place to enjoy a great burger and watch sports.

The university renovated the west side windows in the UC as part of the construction for the new restaurants. An outdoor patio will be completed later this spring.

¡ADELANTE! HELPS LOCAL STUDENTS FIND PATH TO COLLEGE

The decision to attend college can be difficult, and for some, not knowing how to apply can stop them from even trying. To help make the application process easier, UNC developed ¡Adelante!. This new initiative that presents information to students and parents in both English and Spanish about the college search process, the application and admissions processes and ways to pay for college.

Although ¡Adelante! was designed to support Hispanic and/or Latinx-identifying students, a very important part of UNC's local community in Greeley, everyone is welcome.

"We genuinely believe that our communities can benefit if more Hispanic/or Latinx-identifying individuals could gain a college education. And we are positive that (the) ¡Adelante! event will facilitate their access to college," said Pablo Valentín, associate director of Events and Orientation for Admissions at UNC.

News Briefs cont. page 4

News Briefs cont.



Gregory J. Anton '87
certified public
accountant,
business leader

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW UNC TRUSTEE

Gregory J. Anton '87, certified public accountant, business leader and UNC alumnus is the newest member of UNC's Board of Trustees. Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced his appointment on Dec. 16. Polis also reappointed current trustee and alumnus Steve Jordan, Ph.D., who has held the presidential office and other senior leadership positions at several higher education institutions.

"I very much enjoyed my experience at UNC, not only on campus as a student, but also in various volunteer capacities, including president of the Alumni Association and as a member of the Foundation board," Anton said. "I'm very grateful for this new opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees and continue supporting the university at the highest level."

Anton, who earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting, has more than three decades of experience providing accounting, auditing and consulting services to clients in many industries at state, national and global levels. He is a founding partner of the CPA firm ACM LLP, which joined BDO USA LLP in 2020, where he is a partner and market leader for Colorado. Anton also serves on several professional boards, including the Governing Council of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the board of directors of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

He is also on the Governing Council of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), and on the board of directors of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). Anton previously served as chairman for the AICPA, receiving the institute's Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Service in 2015 — AICPA's highest award that recognizes CPAs who have made major contributions to the profession.

UNC'S ROADMAP TO A HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION DESIGNATION GAINS MOMENTUM IN PHASE 3

As UNC progresses toward becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), it's taking a moment to celebrate a key enrollment milestone. Fall 2022 enrollment reports indicate that 25.5% of UNC's undergraduate students identify as Hispanic or Latinx; just over the 25% threshold required to apply for the federal HSI designation.

For UNC, however, achieving HSI status has never been just about enrollment numbers. According to Tobias Guzmán, vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), the university's five-year HSI initiative leans heavily on the essential work necessary to successfully plan for and build the infrastructure to serve Hispanic and Latinx-identifying students.

"We don't want to just simply enroll students. We want to make sure that we have infrastructure, policies and practices — and equally important our people — ready and situated to be a true Hispanic serving institution. That means also having the systems in place to retain and graduate students so those numbers stay stable," Guzmán said.

The roadmap Guzmán refers to is the university's HSI 2025 plan, launched in fall 2020. Efforts since then have been focused on identifying resource needs, facilitating conversations and providing education about HSIs to internal and external stakeholders, researching exemplary HSI institutions and programs and identifying preliminary strategy metrics and budget needs.

According to Guzmán, the third Pre-Implementation phase, which is expected to last through June 2024, will produce more visible actionable efforts as the university moves closer to submitting an application for official HSI designation. Guzmán has already put several things in motion, including the appointment of two fellow positions to provide leadership and serve as a liaison to and resource for faculty and staff throughout the HSI initiative. Cristóbal (Chris) Garcia, associate director in the Office of Alumni Relations, has been appointed staff fellow for HSI initiatives and Jonathan Alcantar, associate professor and chair of UNC's Chicana/o and Latinx Studies program, has been appointed as faculty fellow for HSI initiatives.

➤ To stay up to date on UNC's progress toward becoming an HSI, visit unco.edu/hsi.

School of Nursing

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF NURSING EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

The School of Nursing has evolved throughout the years since it was founded in 1962: The first class was enrolled in 1963 and the following year, the first capping ceremony was held with five nursing students. In the fall of 2022, 477 students were enrolled in its 10 programs currently offered. And in total, more than 6,000 students have graduated from the School of Nursing prepared to assume leadership roles in practice, education and research, since its inception.

To celebrate its 60th anniversary, the School hosted a special ceremony on Dec. 2 in Campus Commons where faculty and alumni were honored for advancing the health of the public.

The anniversary celebration included an open house in Gunter Hall and a reception that featured live music, a silent auction and dinner. While people gathered to look back on the impressive accomplishments of UNC's School of Nursing, they expressed excitement about what the future holds.

NEW COMBINED DEPARTMENT EXPANDS RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN WELLNESS

Last fall, the School of Sport and Exercise Science and the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics combined to form the Department of Kinesiology, Nutrition and Dietetics (KiND) within the College of Natural and Health Sciences. The merger facilitates more collaboration and opportunities for students, says Professor and KiND Chair David Hydock, Ph.D.

"Many students in Sport and Exercise Science have an interest in nutrition and many students in Nutrition and Dietetics have an interest in sport and exercise science," Hydock said.

KiND will offer Exercise Science, Human Performance, Physical Education, Sport Administration, Athletic Training, Nutrition and Dietetics majors, all of which connect with the overarching concept of wellness.

It's not uncommon for athletic trainers or strength and conditioning coaches to have their clients ask about diets and the latest nutrition fads, Hydock explains. Likewise, nutritionists may be asked what types of physical activity they would recommend, so educating students in all subjects with knowledge in all subjects will support a well-rounded, more holistic education.

Discussion is underway about creating new programs under KiND, adds Hydock. However, for now the focus is to encourage collaboration and look at wellness in a broader sense to best support student success.

News Briefs cont. page 6

News Briefs cont.

CELEBRATING FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

When UNC observed the sixth annual national First-Generation College Celebration in November, they had much to celebrate. UNC saw its highest fall-to-fall retention rates for first-generation students in more than a decade last year and was ranked number one in social mobility in Colorado in CollegeNet's Social Mobility Index in 2021.

"Our social mobility ranking demonstrates our ability to provide access to deserving students from limited-income backgrounds while graduating them and preparing them for better-paying jobs than previously afforded to their families," said Cedric Howard, UNC's vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services.

With more than 40% of UNC's undergraduate population are first-generation students, the university is intentional in its efforts to create programs and resources to help support them.

"These kinds of resources benefit everyone, not just first-generation students. Making things like this available is one of the many ways we demonstrate our commitment to students," Assistant Vice President for Student Academic Success Stephanie Torrez adds.

UNC SELECTS NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dale Pratt '88 was appointed as the vice president for Finance and Administration and chief financial officer effective Nov. 1, 2022. Pratt served as interim vice president for Finance and Administration since June.

Previously, Pratt served as the assistant vice president for Finance, with responsibility for leading the General Accounting Office and the Office of Budget and Financial Planning. He joined UNC in April 2020 as university aide to the chief financial officer.

"I am confident that Dale's expertise and partnership will help guide the work underway on our Rowing, Not Drifting 2030 strategic plan," said UNC President Andy Feinstein.

Pratt received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UNC. As vice president for Finance and Administration, Pratt will manage the university's budget and financial reporting functions, as well as oversee human resources, campus police, facilities, information and technology and risk management.

"My experience as a UNC student helped prepare me for success in my life and career, and I am committed to ensuring that today's students realize the same benefits of a UNC degree," Pratt said.



Elementary school students from the Fred Tjardes School of Innovation in Greeley enjoy some outdoor activities on campus. The students were temporarily relocated to the UNC campus while construction of their new building was underway.

CUBS TEMPORARILY ROAMING, LEARNING AMONG BEARS ON CAMPUS

Along with the thousands of students learning on UNC's campus this school year, there are about 125 of them who will look a little different: They're about half the age of a typical UNC student and their peals of laughter are an entertaining and welcome reminder of just how much fun school can be.

K-8 students attending the Fred Tjardes School of Innovation in Greeley temporarily relocated their classrooms to the second floor of UNC's Tobey-Kendel Hall. The relocation was the result of conversations that began in November 2021 when District 6 approached UNC to inquire whether there was space available on campus to house the school while they awaited the completion of their new building, and the university happily stepped up.

"UNC was founded to address teacher preparation needs within our community and Colorado, and we continue to seek opportunities to expand upon the mission that launched our earliest work," said UNC President Andy Feinstein. "I am pleased that we were in a position to offer assistance to District 6, one of our important local partners. Now more than ever, we need strong collaborations to support our state's learners and educators."

This District 6-UNC collaboration means that 6-, 9- and 13-year-olds have been packing up their backpacks every morning and walking into their classrooms on a college campus.

"It's cool. It kind of makes me feel older to have all of these college kids around me," 10-year-old Aniyah Velasquez-Buxman said.



For more UNC News stories, please visit unco.edu/news

MADDIE CABOT

Business major with minors
in Criminology and Psychology

Undergraduate student Maddie Cabot is proud to follow in her mom's paw-steps as Klawz, UNC's official mascot.

DANA HOFFMAN '94

Bachelor of Science degree
in Recreation Management



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

I'm a Bear

A LEGACY OF HAPPENSTANCE

Dana Hoffman '94 was excited and eager to begin her UNC journey in 1989. She had met a cheerleader when she first toured the campus who told her the school needed a mascot. Since Hoffman was the mascot at her high school, she jumped at the chance and became Bentley Bear, the name of UNC's mascot at the time, for one year. Following in her paw-steps, her daughter, first-year **Maddie Cabot**, also pounced on the opportunity and is now Klawz, the current mascot at UNC. Here's their story about how they both put on the Bear head to represent UNC. Dana Hoffman will be referred to as DH and Maddie Cabot will be referred to as MC.

DH: Maddie called me and said, 'Guess what? I get to be the Bear,' and I was like 'Oh my gosh, no way!' And then I said, 'OK, you have to be really expressive and engage people.' I found myself giving her advice, you know how parents do, but instead of about life lessons, it was about how to entertain people dressed as a furry animal.

MC: I wasn't even planning on being the Bear, for me it was all about cheer at first. I made my decision to go to UNC on May 1, 2022, because that's when I got my cheer tryouts results back and I got the specific position I was going for, which was flyer. Then our coach told us about the open Klawz position and how there were scholarship opportunities involved. So, I first started to do it for fun, and I was really good at it because I do a lot of Tik Tok dances, and it gets a lot of crowd involvement.

DH: Klawz is really fun and fun-faced. Mine, Bentley Bear, looked like it had real bear teeth in his head. Klawz also looks more like a super-hero with a muscle suit, and he has fun tennis shoes, where my suit fell flat and had no definition.

MC: It takes me 10, 15 minutes to get suited up, and I have to have at least one person help me.

DH: Between Maddie and me, though, I think there are a lot of similarities. We like to have a lot of fun in life and make people happy and smile and that is something that motivates us.

MC: I can't talk (as Klawz), so one thing I've learned about Klawz is doing big expressions and hand gestures. My favorite part about being Klawz is messing with the athletes and goofing around with the fans. I'll look for certain people in the crowd that look more open and welcoming or are closer to the cameras. There's a lot of strategy to it. Some days I'll dance more, some days I'll interact with people more.

DH: I love to watch Maddie because she was a dancer when she was younger, so as soon as music hits you can watch the little bear tail start going, then the whole body gets going. And as a mom, it's so fun. She's still my little girl.

DH: I was mainly Bentley Bear at football games, and I remember when I put on the head and went out there, it was magical. It's the best thing when a kid high fives you or a little girl gives you a hug, you go into another world. That's why I tell Maddie, "I know you're exhausted but to that one kid who doesn't know you perform at multiple games and cheer as well, it makes their day to see you."

MC: Because she used to be the Bear, after football games she would critique me on my games. She would say, 'During this quarter you didn't have a lot of energy, did you not sleep last night?'

DH: I am always proud of her. When it first happened, I was so excited and I contacted a bunch of my old college friends and said, "Guess what?" So, yeah, it's been a blast watching her provide joy to others.

MC: This definitely wasn't planned, but it would be cool if we kept going on and we had a legacy of Klawz's in our family because we both love it so much.

—Dana Hoffman '94 and undergraduate Maddie Cabot, as told to Sydney Kern



SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR EXPLORING AI AND DATA SCIENCE**Basics:**

Coursera
Khan Academy

Practice data sets:

Kaggle

Clearly explains topics:

Machinelearningmastery.com

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS, Ph.D.
Professor of Computer Science

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Syllabus

Is AI a misunderstood sci-fi villain?

CLASS: CS 454: Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course considers the use of machine learning and data mining algorithms to discover knowledge embedded in datasets. Topics include techniques such as classification, clustering, predictive and statistical modeling.

Science fiction movies have often portrayed artificial intelligence (AI) as malicious, sentient technology belonging in a dystopian society. But could AI really just be a misunderstood, fallback villain? Starting next fall, students in the new Computer Science 454 class are taking a closer look at the potential of AI—a growing field with significant career opportunities—and a science that can offer incredible benefits for the people who use it.

This course is offered as part of the new Mathematic Sciences concentration, Statistics and Data Science. Professor of Computer Science Christopher Harris, Ph.D., who will be teaching CS 454, says the course is more about decision making than an army of robots attempting to take over the world.

“The underpinning of the class is how computers can help us make decisions. So, they’re not making decisions for us, they’re just aiding us in the decision-making process,” says Harris. “The class is about how these decisions are made with a certain amount of probability. There’s never a 100% or 0% certainty in a decision.”

Although there can be times when computers make decisions for us, usually as human beings can choose to override the decision. As an example, Harris explained that our cars can use sensors to determine if we are too close to the car in front of us and alert us if the probability of having an accident is high based on our distance and speed.

“There’s a lot of misconception about computers taking over as overlords. AI is a lot more common in our lives than people realize and most of the AI that we’re doing,

in pretty much every aspect, is to help humans make decisions better,” says Harris.

Machine learning and data science are particularly interesting because they impact everyday life with benefits you can enjoy even if you aren’t a statistician or computer scientist.

“Machine learning is certainly a newer area of computer science but it’s one that if you take this CS 454 class, gives you a lot of insight in terms of how decisions are made, so there are many avenues to go from there,” Harris says. “Somebody just starting could do something very entry-level at Google, Amazon or Facebook and use data science to help make decisions, say on advertising campaigns or political campaigns.”

Harris explains that the course’s relevance for people’s daily lives is broad and opens doors for students across many avenues and fields for strong career outcomes. Students may go on to work in AI and machine learning to solve traffic jams, ease travel through GPS and even help law enforcement track down serial killers.

The next time a traffic light changes for you when you’re the only car on the road, or your grammar software correctly predicts the form of “to” that you mean, you’re experiencing the benefits of data mining and AI, explains Harris, and you are getting a glimpse of some of the fascinating work our data science majors might be developing.

—Merina Shriver

▶ UNC will offer two new undergraduate degrees this fall — one in Statistics and another in Computer Science.

GO BEARS!

BIG SKY CHAMPION ED LAMB NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Lamb takes the helm after successes at Idaho, San Diego, BYU and others

Ed Lamb is the new head coach of the UNC Bears football program, UNC Director of Athletics Darren Dunn announced on Dec. 6.

Lamb comes to UNC with a wealth of college football coaching experience, including most recently serving as the assistant head coach and special teams coordinator at his alma mater BYU for the past seven seasons. During his tenure in Provo, Utah, the Cougars went 55-34, appearing in six bowl games.

Prior to joining the staff at BYU, Lamb was the head coach at Southern Utah University (SUU) from 2008-15. When Lamb took over the Thunderbirds program in 2008, he inherited a team that had lost 18 consecutive games. Southern Utah won four games in his first season at the helm and by his third season, they had a winning season, including a perfect 4-0 record in Great West conference play.

Helped by the school's recent success in football, Southern Utah joined the Big Sky Conference in 2012, marking a step up in competition. Just one year later, the Thunderbirds earned an invite to the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs as Lamb's 2013 team compiled an 8-5 record. In 2015, Lamb led Southern Utah to a first place finish in the Big Sky, reaching the FCS playoffs for the second time in three seasons.

During his eight years in Cedar City, Utah, Lamb's Southern Utah teams earned two wins over FBS teams (UNLV in 2011, South Alabama in 2013) and compiled a 19-13 record in its first four seasons as a member of the Big Sky Conference. On two different occasions Lamb was named a finalist for the Eddie Robinson Award, which recognizes the top head football coaches in the FCS.

"I am incredibly excited to welcome Coach Lamb, his wife Sarah and their family to UNC," Dunn said. "It was evident through our process Coach Lamb was the man to lead UNC football. He is a man of high character who is a proven winner, tireless recruiter, and developer of young men. He's won championships as a head coach at the FCS level and has worked alongside and learned from some of the best coaches in football."

Lamb, who played at BYU from 1994-96 (the Cougars 1996 team finished 15-1 and finished ranked #5 in the country), said leaving the coaching staff at



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Coach Lamb at his introductory press conference on December 7, 2022.

his alma mater wasn't easy, but the opportunity at UNC was intriguing.

"I had missed being a head coach," Lamb said. "I think Northern Colorado is a place with a higher ceiling and potential than maybe what people from the outside would give it credit for. When the position came open I was really excited about the chance to pursue it."

In his first two months on the job, Coach Lamb has prioritized developing a strong culture and is seeing positive results early on.

"We're looking for guys who are excited to be here," Lamb said. "To me, a culture is built with how we interact with each other, how we interact with the campus and how we interact with the community. It's not signs we look at or t-shirts we wear that set up a culture, it's what I see when I look at you and what you see when you look at me. That's what a culture is."

Lamb leads by example, with the mentality that he wouldn't ask his players to do something he wouldn't ask of himself. This is evidenced by him working out alongside his players every day in the weight room, something that has been a bit of a surprise for some student-athletes.

"I want to be side-by-side with the players in their training," Lamb said. "My philosophy is if we haven't coached them to perform on gameday we're not going to be able to do a lot in between the snaps to correct that. I want to make sure the work is put in during the offseason, during practices so we have confident players who can execute on gameday."

Lamb says fans can expect his teams to be tough-minded and display a strong work ethic. The groundwork for the foundation is being laid right now, he says, but he has high expectations for his players and coaches heading into this fall.

"I'm expecting immediate success but that's not something I can promise or guarantee," Lamb said. "What you're going to see out of UNC immediately is a competitive team that has a chance to win every Saturday."

The Bears' first game under Coach Lamb will be at Abilene Christian University in Texas, a team that finished 7-4 last year, on September 2.

—Ryan Mueksch



Dressing for the Occasion

Professor Anne Toewe, Ph.D., studies Victorian mourning mores and steampunk, and puts her extensive clothing history research to use in costume design for UNC mainstage productions and in the classroom.

You have shiny gold or silver buttons, replace them with dully buffed glass.

You see a widow you know at the market, shopping in her black dress; don't approach her for a chat unless she approaches you.

You're a woman mourning your husband: make sure every item of clothing is black for at least three years.

Your wife dies. Prove your love by wrapping your hat band with black crepe. Oh, another widower wraps a taller hat? Buy a hat the height of a train car to prove you loved your wife more.

These are a few of the rules and anecdotes of mourning in the Victorian era, and no one knows them like Theatre Professor Anne M. Toewe, Ph.D., costume designer and head of the Theatre Design and Technology program at UNC.

Her research on Victorian mourning took her to London in the fall of 2019 to present at the International Conference of Dress Historians, where she shared her research on Victorian mourning rules, especially for men. She found they are not any less codified than rules for women, but the mourning periods are typically shorter, as men were more likely to need to remarry to keep their households functioning. (Her presentation, "Men's Victorian Mourning Practices in America" was published in the Summer 2020 edition of the "Journal of Dress History" and will be published as a chapter in the upcoming book from the Association of Dress Historians devoted to Victorian history.) Toewe is also a contributing researcher with the University of Leeds on Frederic Forster's *Mourning Warehouse*, along with Lou Taylor, a prominent scholar on mourning practices in Europe.

Toewe's work as a clothing historian and fashion designer melds on stage and in the classroom, where she immerses her students in clothing history — a set of binders from each historical era spans half of her office — and then sets them to work using research to design costumes.

Toewe herself designs five to 10 mainstage UNC productions each year. In 2014, when the university staged *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet*

Street, director David Grapes came to Toewe with a request: To outfit the actors in steampunk garb, playing off the 1980s subculture born from sci-fi and alternate history literature.

Then, when Grapes directed George Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara* in 2017, he asked for steampunk again. This time, Toewe dug into the scholarly roots of the genre and found something surprising about steampunk subculture adherents.

"There are a lot of them out there that are incredibly studied in Victorian social practices. They've just found a way to bring that to life," she says. "Say you're not allowed to wear black. 'Oh, well then, I'm going to make my costume black.' 'My corset goes on the outside.' Which would be completely inappropriate for Victorians. 'I'm going to have three quarter sleeves.' What? Your arms are showing in the daytime?"

Toewe studied Biology as an undergraduate and went into costume design after looking for an easy "A" led her to a Costume Construction class at the College of William and Mary, which she took to boost her GPA for medical school. And that turned into another costume class. And another. She went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts — a terminal degree in the field — and became a professional costume designer, working around the country.

She entered the University of Colorado's Ph.D. program (to prove to a boyfriend that Ph.D. programs weren't that hard to get into), but found it filled the gaps left by her nontraditional academic route (as well as getting "Dr." into her name — she's from a long line of medical doctors). Toewe came to UNC for three years but has stayed 19, having found a love for research and teaching. She attributes her passion to her mentor in those undergraduate classes, and that's partly why she's a teacher now. On that note, she says research is a way to develop as a professional while still being available to her undergraduates, rather than leaving campus for weeks at a time to go design other shows.

Costume history is a great way to learn history, Toewe says. An understanding of culture gives context to clothing, and clothing trends are a way



ANNE M. TOEWE, Ph.D.
Professor of Theatre

“I am a scientist. I’m just a scientist of clothing, of fashion, of historical time periods, of mores and social cultures.”

—Anne Toewe, Ph.D.

Cont from page 10

to remember dates. She pushes her students to have extensive information on file in their brains for when a director makes a spur-of-the-moment request or comment in a meeting.

“Rumor has it that my Costume History class is the second hardest class on the college campus. Second only to Physics,” she says. “Well, I mean, 20,000 years of fashion in 16 weeks is a lot.”

In addition to helping make her tough, her Biology degree has not gone to waste.

“Everything I learned as a biologist, looking down the tube of a microscope, in terms of layers of observation, scholarly study, detail, is what I do now,” she says. She jokes that she can’t be an impartial juror because she would notice and judge every detail of a defendant and prosecutor. “I am a scientist. I’m just a scientist of clothing, of fashion, of historical time periods, of mores and social cultures.”

—By Rebecca O’Brien

Field Notes

BIOLOGY PROFESSOR SELECTED AS 2023 A.M. AND JO WINCHESTER DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

Emily Holt, Ph.D., a professor of Biological Sciences in UNC’s College of Natural and Health Sciences, was chosen as the 2023 A.M. and Jo Winchester Distinguished Scholar in recognition of continued excellence in scholarly activity at UNC for at least five years.

The award comes with a \$2,000 in monetary support and is bestowed by UNC’s Faculty Research and Publications Board. The designation as an A.M. and Jo Winchester Distinguished Professor remains for the duration of the honoree’s tenure at UNC.

Holt’s research has dual foci in lichen ecology and biology education scholarship. Most of her discipline-based scholarly activity has investigated how disturbance impacts lichen communities. She has studied how grazing, fire and bark-beetle epidemics have affected lichen communities in both arctic and temperate ecosystems.

Holt’s lab has also been a key developer of novel instruments and recently developed a novel concept inventory to quantify undergraduate students’ biotic climate literacy. Students comprise Holt’s research team, gaining valuable skills through authentic research experiences.



EMILY REID
Theatre Education

Junior Emily Reid pursues her dream of becoming a high school theater teacher, thanks to generous scholarship support from UCHealth.



Impact

SHARING A LOVE FOR MUSICAL THEATER

WITH HELP FROM UCHEALTH, UNC JUNIOR EMILY REID LOOKS FORWARD TO SHARING THEATER WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS.

For Theatre Education major Emily Reid, the UCHealth Scholarship is not only improving her life through higher education, it will also touch the lives of her future students as well.

Originally from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Reid and her family moved to Golden after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. She was five years old at the time, and she brought with her a love for dance.

Reid began dancing when she was three years old. While attending Evergreen Middle School and Denver School of the Arts, she was able to combine her passion for performing with acting and singing and fell in love with Broadway and musical theater.

“I began thinking about what I wanted to do with my future,” recalled Reid. “My entire life I’d looked at my schoolteachers and wanted to be exactly like them. In high school, I started interning with Jefferson County Public Schools in their Jeffco Summer of Early Learning program, a program targeted towards helping K-3 students catch up and prepare for the upcoming school year. That internship helped me solidify my passion for teaching. When it came time to decide what I wanted to major in, I looked at my two passions: performing and teaching.”

Reid’s father is a criminalist for the Arvada Police Department and her mother is the financial secretary for the Jeffco Remote Learning Program. Her older brother is working toward his associate degree from Red Rocks Community College, but for Emily, choosing to come to UNC was an easy decision.

“UNC was close to home and was one of the few schools in the country that offered a program specifically tailored to Theatre Education,” she said.

Reid credits the scholarship support she received from UCHealth in helping her pursue her degree while allowing her family to defer her need for student loans. UCHealth is a Colorado-

based nonprofit integrated health system with 12 hospitals and more than 150 UCHealth-owned and affiliated clinics serving patients in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska.

With a deep commitment to improving the lives of people they serve, UCHealth has generously provided support of scholarships. Thanks to UCHealth’s generous support, UNC was able to award more than \$64,000 in scholarships to 46 students this year.

UCHealth has also support capital projects across campus, such as the Campus Commons, and improvements to the College of Performing and Visual Arts — including support of the All-Steinway Initiative. This support enabled UNC to replace its old piano fleet with 96 new Steinway & Sons pianos and become one of just 230 All-Steinway Schools in the world.

For Reid, that commitment means she can continue working toward her degree and post-graduation plans.

“After I graduate, I plan to become a high school drama teacher. I’m aware of how rare it is to find a job as a drama teacher, so I plan on moving wherever I can find a position, even if that position takes me abroad,” she explains. Her future plans and goals include teaching in a community theatre setting and establishing and managing a performing arts studio.

“Thank you so much for your generosity,” Reid wrote in a recent thank you note to UCHealth. “Your contribution will greatly help me on my journey to getting my teaching certification and changing the lives of future generations.”

“The arts can spark joy, inspire empathy and bring people together, all factors that contribute to healthy communities,” said UCHealth Greeley Hospital President Marilyn Schock. “We are honored to be able to support performing arts students along their journey to improve lives and connect cultures.”

—Debbie Moors



Finding a Place: Alumnus Les Franklin '62 recalls his time at UNC, then Colorado State College, when he was one of just a few Black students.



40 Years Since its Founding

THE GARVEY

is Still **A PLACE TO BE**

By Shadae Mallory '17 | Photos by Woody Myers

One of the oldest cultural centers in the nation, the spirit of Marcus Garvey Cultural Center remains stronger than ever, celebrating and championing Black culture and history.

At the corner of 10th Avenue and 20th Street stands a house that has been part of UNC's history since the 1950s. Although the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center (MGCC) was officially dedicated in 1983, the inception of its core values dates back more than 70 years. Since it opened its doors, 'the Garvey,' as it is known to the UNC community, has gone through many changes, but one thing has remained constant: Its mission to provide a safe gathering space, critical resources and a home-away-from-home for UNC's Black community.

As the Garvey celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, the community reflects the people who made the center possible and honors its profound impact on the UNC community.

In the 1950s and 1960s, UNC, then Colorado State College (CSC), was home to a small number of Black students — among them, Les Franklin, a graduate of Palmer High School in Colorado Springs. Franklin came to UNC in 1958 to study Business, excited to attend college, especially at the same college where a few of his friends enrolled before him.

"I knew some kids who went up to Colorado State [College] before me... they seemed to have a good time, so I thought I ought to give it a shot," Franklin said.

Franklin moved into Hays Hall, across the street from the baseball field at Jackson Field) and settled into campus life. He was one of approximately 10 Black students, and although small in number they created their own spaces and community on the predominately white campus.

"We called ourselves the 'Ebony Omegas' back then," Franklin shares. "We did everything together and tried to make the best of the situation."

The Ebony Omegas often met at the Bru-Inn, the old student union located in Gray Hall. They were never a formal club, but rather a community of young men who found comfort in each other's presence.

At the time, racism was pervasive at colleges across the country, and Franklin experienced his share of racism while pursuing his education. In 1961, he was dating a young white woman who, at the time, was president of one of the Panhellenic sororities on campus.

"I took her to a concert on campus," Franklin says, "I went to pick her up from the sorority house [where she lived]. When I arrived, the other girls in the house would not speak to me."

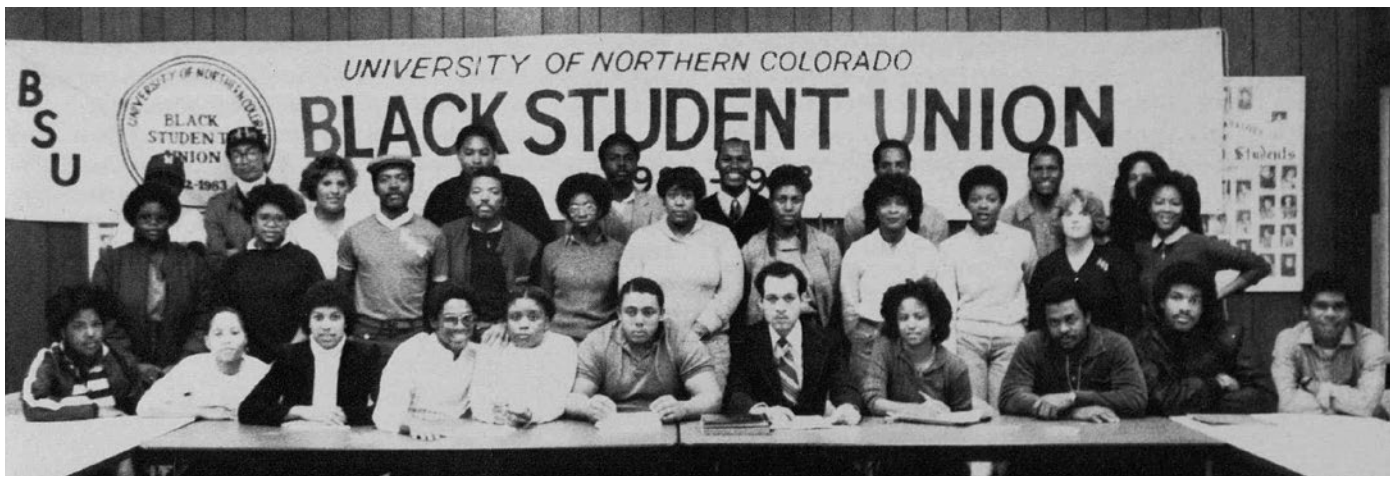
Arriving at the concert in Gray Gym, he was heckled by people in the stands. Franklin and his girlfriend did their best to ignore the harassing behaviors and enjoy their night. But a few days after the concert, targeted racist graffiti appeared on campus.

Franklin recalls feeling hurt but was not surprised by the graffiti. Interracial relationships were considered taboo, regardless of the fact that Colorado legalized interracial marriage in 1957.

Franklin graduated from Colorado State College in 1962 and went on to launch a successful career in business.

In the coming years, the university began to make important changes and strides in creating a multicultural campus. In 1969, the Afro-American Studies program, now Africana Studies program, was established and remains one of the oldest in the nation. This was a critical step





■ 1982-83 Black Student Union, photo courtesy UNC Archives.

toward recognizing Black history as American history and illuminated Black culture and history within the academic community. It was also instrumental in the Garvey's creation.

The Afro-American Studies program attracted more Black American scholars to UNC, and among them was Professor Robert Dillingham, who was hired in 1977 as a lecturer and served as faculty advisor for the Black Student Union on campus. In 1979, he became the chair of the Afro-American Studies program.

By this time UNC had approximately 300 Black students and Greeley saw a steady increase in its Black population. However, this spurred an increase in racially motivated incidents and necessitated the need for more support to Black students and community members.

Dillingham, along with UNC's Black faculty and staff, joined forces with Black Student Union president Neil Williams (B.S. '83) and other BSU leaders to improve support systems, recruitment programs and career preparation initiatives for Black students.

"We were very concerned that Black students were not getting the right guidance for their education and career," says Dillingham. "We wanted the university to form a committee that would look into these concerns."

As a result, the UNC Committee on Black Student Concerns was formed in 1982 and, after four months, drafted a report highlighting institutional racism and barriers directly affecting the Afro-American Studies department, Black students on campus and the larger campus and Greeley communities.

These efforts led to the creation of the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center.

"The MGCC was designed to assist [with] the academic enrichment skills of Black students through tutorial programs, guidance counseling, career counseling and personal counseling addressing institutional racism," said Dillingham.

"We wanted to develop a career services and cooperative education component to help students get field experience

internships, interview techniques, [access to a database for job opportunities [and] increase graduate school placements."

With a student-focused mission in mind, the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center was dedicated on February 1, 1983, with Bobby Seale — the co-founder of the Black Panther Party — giving the keynote address. However, the celebration was short-lived when just a day after the dedication, the center was defaced and vandalized with a sign featuring the imagery and values of the Ku Klux Klan left on the front door.

Clearly, there was still much work to be done.

Since its founding, MGCC has worked tirelessly to bridge gaps in student need and has become an integral part of campus. It serves as a safe and welcoming home and resource for Black students, celebrating and championing Black culture, milestones and history for the campus community.

UNC's first cultural center, the Garvey has focused on retaining Black students and providing them with access to career panels and guidance, networking opportunities and academic success resources.

Through the years, the Garvey has supported thousands of Black students, faculty and staff. From celebrating national victories for Black Americans to mourning the lives illuminated through Black Lives Matter, the Garvey has been a haven

on UNC's campus and for the community.

Alumna Monique Atkinson (B.A. '11, M.A. '17) recalls the Garvey being a place of shared celebration when Barack Obama became the first Black U.S. president.

"I voted for the first time for the first Black President in 2008," Atkinson recalled. "Campus was quiet once they announced Barack Obama was the president. The residence halls, classes, Holmes [Hall]... everything and everyone was silent. However, at the Garvey, the silence was met with celebration, smiles, laughter and excitement. The Garvey provided a space for Black

STUDENT EXPERIENCES LIKE THOSE OF LES FRANKLIN '62 AND OTHERS SPURRED UNC TO CREATE A SPACE AND SERVICES FOR BLACK AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS TO THRIVE.

students to celebrate ourselves in being a part of something so great.”

That celebration extended to student connections and service within the community. Alumna Alexis McCowan (B.A. '19) recalls the many times that the Garvey facilitated student service within the city of Greeley.

“[We] would volunteer to serve food to those facing homelessness in the Greeley area. The staff, all girls that year, [would] sing and dance as we prepared food in the small kitchen. Our giggles echoed down the stairways as we carried food into the cars for transportation,” she remembers.

“There was always joy in that place, but especially on those days, because despite what factors may have been impacting our lives academically, physically or emotionally, we always had the Garvey.”

Creating spaces for Black campus and community members to simply “be” and feel at peace became a success and pride point of the center’s creation.

“The Garvey was the first place on campus where I felt I could truly be myself outside of my dorm room.” says Shanelle Robinson (B.A. '14), “I loved the Garvey so much I ended up working there... it quickly became my second home.”

New Black staff members at UNC also found space for company and support, sharing in the hardships of job relocation, brainstorming ideas for initiatives in their departments and discussing ways to handle difficult situations.

“I have gained a lot of support in my role on campus, especially when things are hard,” shared Jala Randolph, a current UNC staff member. “I know the Garvey is a space that will walk alongside me as an advocate.”

janine m. weaver-douglas*, Ed.D., director of the Marcus Garvey Cultural Center, believes that the work happening today remains strongly aligned with the Center’s founding mission.

“We strive to be a place where Black students find challenge, and opportunity, where they can propel themselves into their own bright, beautiful futures,” weaver-douglas shares. “We aim to make those pathways permanent, while building new bridges of partnership and outreach for those we will serve in the future.”

Last summer, in collaboration with the City of Greeley and with generous support from PDC Energy, the Garvey hosted the university’s first-ever, community-wide Juneteenth celebration, now a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. The event drew hundreds of people from across Greeley and the campus community, more than double the anticipated attendance numbers. The celebration included more than 25 community and campus vendor and partner booths, which contributed material goods and money directly to Black makers, doers and creators.

On February 4, 2023, the UNC community coalesced around the Garvey — this time for its 40th anniversary — with an open house and public reception. Alumni, staff, faculty and Greeley community members came together to celebrate the many accomplishments and milestones that happened over the last 40 years. Professor Dillingham was among those who attended the event.

“It is an honor to be able to be here all these years later,” Dillingham said at the event. “It feels good.”



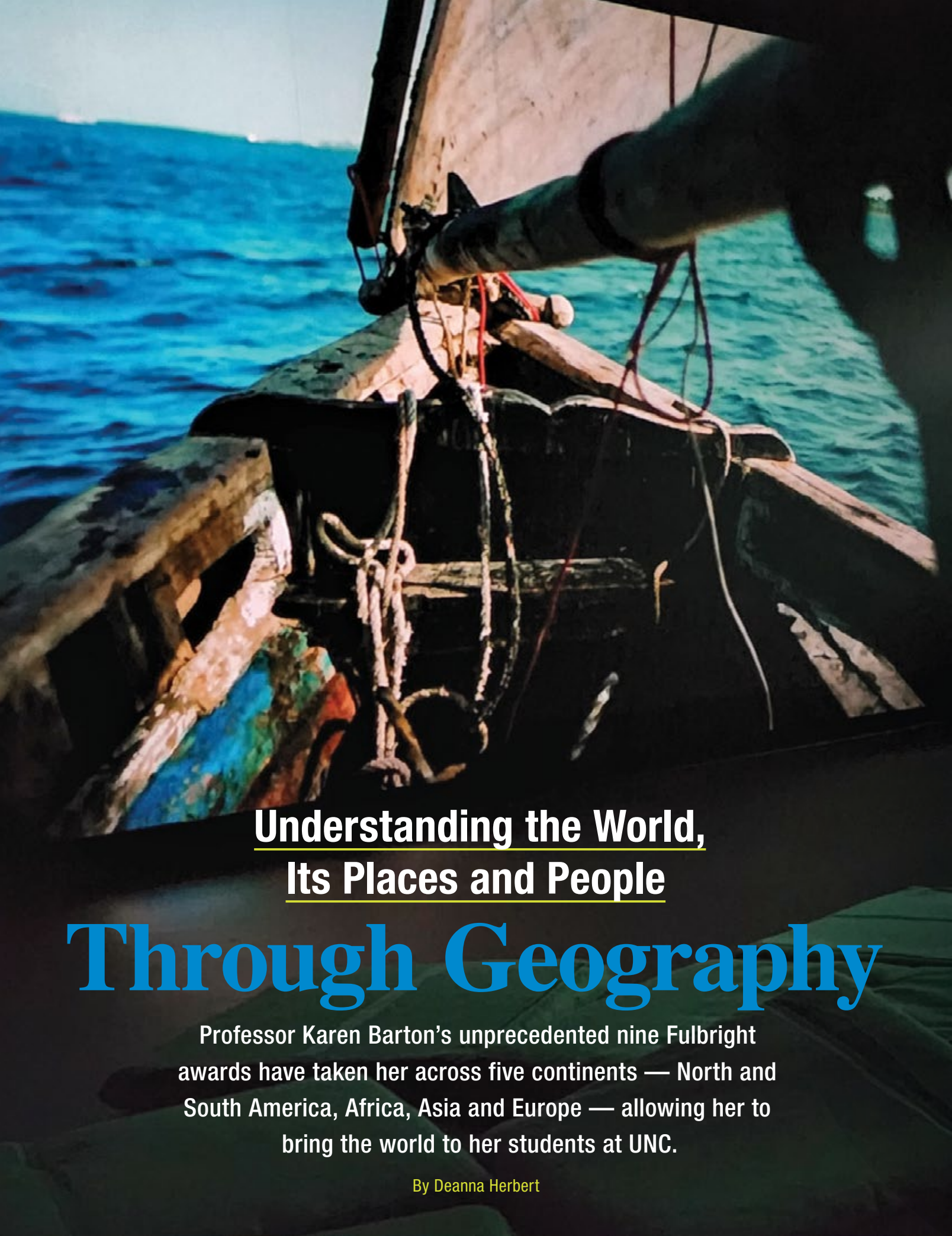
June 17, the streets in front of UNC’s Marcus Garvey Cultural Center were alive with festivities for the first-ever community-wide Juneteenth celebration.

Today, UNC has four cultural centers and four resource centers and institutes designed to empower students to reach their academic, personal and professional aspirations. Although each center has a separate mission, the entwined values and dedication to making UNC a diverse, welcoming and inclusive community for everyone is evident.

weaver-douglas said she is thrilled to celebrate the Garvey’s 40th anniversary and acknowledges the work of the many directors that have come before her.

“The Garvey benefits from a long, storied legacy of active and engaged stewardship and leadership that worked to create passageways for Black students, staff and faculty to find community, relationships and development while at UNC. We are proud to be entering our 40th year.” **UNC**

**janine m. weaver-douglas has requested that her name be recognized through the use of lowercase letters.*



Understanding the World,
Its Places and People

Through Geography

Professor Karen Barton's unprecedented nine Fulbright awards have taken her across five continents — North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe — allowing her to bring the world to her students at UNC.

By Deanna Herbert



The name Karen Barton and Fulbright Scholar have become almost synonymous at the University of Northern Colorado. A professor in College of Humanities and Social Sciences for almost two decades, Barton has been awarded nine of the highly competitive and prestigious awards over her academic career. It's an impressive accomplishment for any scholar, particularly a first-generation college student who also worked hard outside of the classroom, waiting tables while earning both her undergraduate and graduate degrees.

As someone who once thought she was on a clear path to law school, the decision to follow a different direction into a graduate program in geography prompted some questions about what that meant for her future job prospects. It's something she laughs about now, as that decision became the prelude to a journey around the world that has enriched and emboldened her as a scholar, strengthened her teaching skills and offered countless students first-hand accounts into faraway places facing

what sustainability scholars refer to as 'wicked problems' — land degradation and desertification, coastal erosion, community resilience and environmental stewardship.

Barton's interest in environmental studies is what steered her away from law and toward a master's and Ph.D. in geography, and eventually into a faculty position teaching Geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Sustainability at UNC.

"It's not just the theory that we learned as geographers about the relationships between humans and the environment," Barton says. "It's about the skill set that comes along with that: field work, using GIS and remote sensing techniques. It's this wonderful combination of theoretical principles, skill sets and operating in a real-world, physical environment.



“It feels so exciting to design projects that are important and integral for society. I just fell in love with the discipline.”

In light of what drew her to the field of geography, her pursuit of the opportunities a program like Fulbright can provide may seem obvious—a program that seeks to build connections between countries across the world, to exchange ideas and to find solutions to important international problems. But that’s not the case for Barton. In fact, the program wasn’t even on her radar until a colleague shared his own Fulbright experience which sparked her interest. In 2007, she was awarded her first Fulbright: a six-week trip to Brazil to study environmental sustainability issues in the Pantanal, the world’s largest tropical wetland.

“I cannot emphasize how much that changed my experience as a faculty member,” Barton says. “It gave me confidence, not only because I received the award, but knowing there were these kinds of opportunities for people like me who were first-generation scholars, to fund my research. When I came back [from Brazil], I was really energized to help support my students and do good research. After that experience, I just kept applying.”

Since 2007, Barton’s Fulbright awards have taken her across five continents—North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe—where she has been able to study a host of environmental challenges and successes all within the context of different countries and cultures.

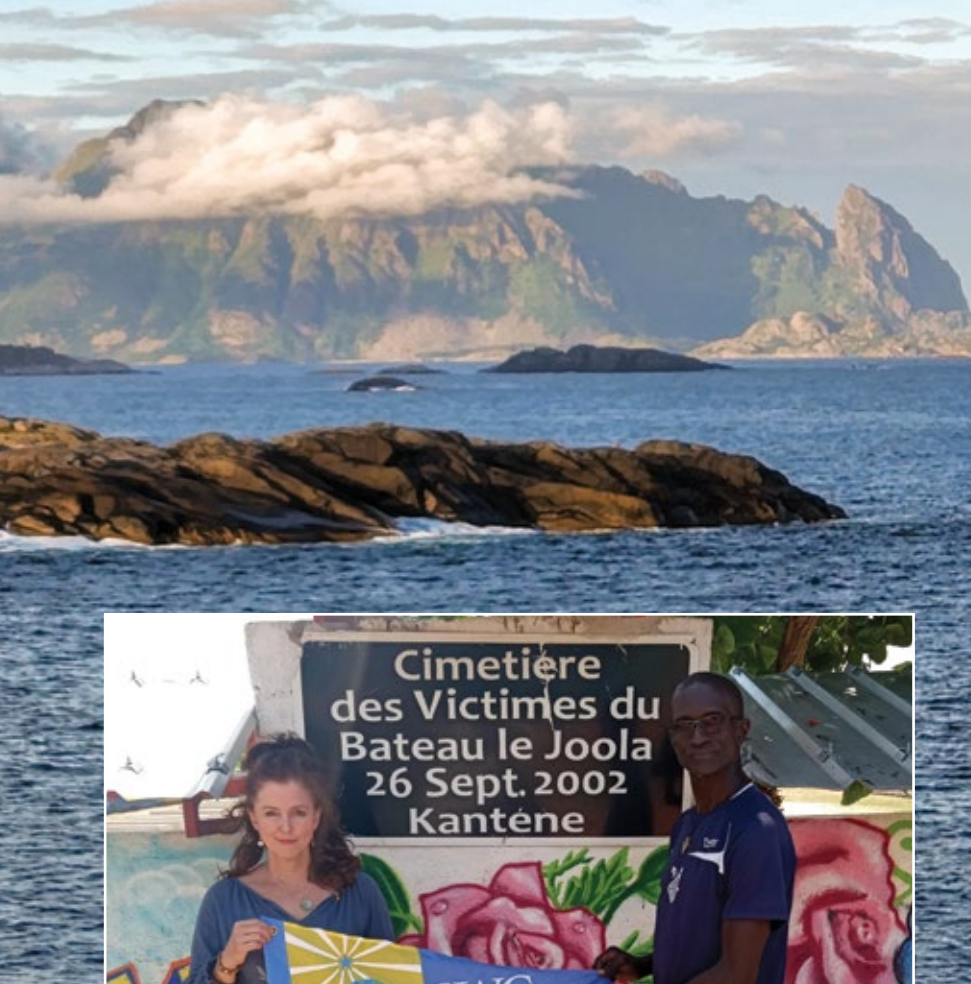
The Fulbright program gave her the funding necessary to conduct research projects in environments she wouldn’t have otherwise been able to do, and it has allowed her to create

partnerships and a robust network of other Fulbright scholars who share ideas and amplify other researchers. It’s a network she’s active in, as a past co-president and current board member of Fulbright Colorado, an advocacy organization that supports Fulbright scholars in the state.

Aside from the benefits to herself, the program has also helped inform and enhance Barton’s curriculum, providing invaluable opportunities to offer her students specialized courses and projects that draw directly from her own hands-on experiences. As a teacher, Barton is certain the wisdom she’s gained through her Fulbright awards have made her classrooms much more engaging. Maybe even more importantly, it enabled her to share critical perspectives with her students she never would have gained from reading a book.

“When you’re instructing a subject like geography, having those first-hand experiences certainly makes the learning environment more fun and energizing,” Barton says. “But the experience of being in these places has also helped humanize some of these problems we talk about.

“When I first started teaching classes in environmental sustainability, I suspect that I focused a lot on the problem,” explains Barton. “For example, I’d teach how deforestation is impacting communities in the Amazon or how overfishing by outside pirate and industrial fishing vessels is impacting a local community. But when I started to travel to other places, I was able to bring into the classroom the ways in which communities were



KNIGHTHOOD: RECOGNIZING SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Barton describes her Fulbright to Senegal in 2016 as the singular experience that changed her life. She attributes that deep connection to the cultural environment and the people, many of whom she maintains enduring relationships with.

While she was there to write about the Great Green Wall Initiative of the Sahara and Sahel, the local Casamance community's request to bring attention to a local tragedy largely ignored for years inspired her to do more. The people of Senegal recently recognized her efforts when they honored Barton as a Knight of the Order and appointed her as the designated U.S. ambassador for the humanitarian disaster of the Joola shipwreck.

"It's one of the first times a research project came out of something informed by the local community," Barton says. "I went there to write about this initiative to build a wall of trees across the desert to combat desertification and to learn how local religious groups were navigating that effort. And I did that, but while I was there the community said I needed to write a book about the Joola shipwreck. And I said 'OK.'"

The Joola shipwreck is the second-worst non-war-time maritime disaster in world history. When the Senegalese government-owned ferry capsized off the coast of The Gambia in 2002, it killed an estimated 1,863 people, more than the Titanic. But according to Barton, very little has been written about it, and surprisingly, few people even know about it. The people of Casamance, an area in Senegal south of Gambia, were hopeful that coverage would help elevate their story.

Barton published her book, *Africa's Joola Shipwreck: Causes and Consequences of a Humanitarian Disaster in 2020*. She also produced a story map for Focus on Geography about the disaster in 2016, and gave several talks on the subject. In 2021, the people of Casamance chose to honor Barton's contributions.

This past September she traveled back to Senegal as the community marked the 20th anniversary of the disaster. As part of the ceremony, Barton carried the Society of Women Geographer's flag to the site of the wreck, the same flag that Margaret Mead and Amelia Earhart carried on their expeditions abroad.

"I was very touched by the accolade and didn't see it coming," said Barton. "It was a beautiful thing. The people of Casamance have been fighting for this for 20 years, for recognition and to build a memorial. The astonishing part of this whole issue is that they're not victims here. The people of Casamance continue to fight and continue to be very vocal. And I think it reflects their desire for justice and reconciliation."



Holding the flag of the Society of Women Geographers inside Kantene Cemetery in Ziguinchor, Senegal, Barton stands with Elie Bernard Diatta, a professor of Finance at University of Ziguinchor, who wrote the forward for Barton's book about the Joola shipwreck. Diatta's brother and 26 of his schoolchildren were among the 1,863 casualties after the ferry capsized off the coast of Gambia in 2002.



During her Fulbright Hays trip to Brazil in 2007, Barton visited the music school OLEO, an academic institution located in the Amazon basin that also offers vocational training. The student she is standing with played guitar and helped make the instruments out of Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

responding, so they weren't just seen as passive victims in the face of these large global structures. They were communities who had their own systems in place to deal with these issues and fight them. I've tried to humanize the story in ways that I didn't when I first started teaching, because I couldn't."

Barton benefited tremendously from her experiences abroad that she searches for ways to offer her students similar transformative opportunities. In 2019, she expanded the scope of a Fulbright to Nepal, inviting an interdisciplinary group of 10 UNC graduate and undergraduate students to assist with natural hazards mapping for a community resiliency project. She has also organized and led undergraduate field expedition courses to Iceland, Peru, Nicaragua and Guyana. Barton is an ardent supporter of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, regularly encouraging students to apply and serving as a mentor through the application process.

While Barton knows not all of her students can travel abroad, she's a champion for those who do. She thinks the experience gives them ways to field-test their own theories about other people and cultures and a chance to develop a sense of confidence they don't always find in a classroom.

Gabby Roldan '18, was a junior majoring in Environmental Sustainability Studies when she accompanied Barton on an ecotourism expedition to Guyana. There to learn about how the community balanced tourism with land protection, Roldan describes that experience, which was her first trip outside of the United States, as magical.

"I don't even know how to exactly put it into words. There's just so much out there to learn and you wouldn't know unless you go," Roldan said.

That first trip sparked a new confidence in Roldan and when the opportunity came to accompany Barton on another adventure, she jumped at the chance. Rather than walking across the stage during her December graduation, Roldan was in Asia, joining Barton on her fifth Fulbright journey to Nepal. Roldan's role was working with other students at the Institute for Crisis Management in

It's all about the people connections. For Barton, the focus wasn't on the travel, instead, it was bringing the relationships she formed into the classroom and helping her students understand how people communicated in the past to push boundaries and create something that's fluid and works for other people and the environment.

Kathmandu, interviewing local community members about how the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, which killed over 9,000 people, had impacted them.

"This experience was extremely rewarding. I felt like I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the culture and really be a part of it," Roldan says. Roldan credits Barton for teaching her that it's possible to have adventures while pursuing the work you love. Currently a community inclusion planning specialist with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the State of Colorado, a complement to her experience in Nepal, Roldan is anxiously awaiting news on what she hopes is her next big career move. She finds out this spring whether her application to the Peace Corps, where she is pursuing the role as community economic development facilitator in Fiji, was successful.

COVID-related travel restrictions prevented Maggie McBride '20 from participating in fieldwork during her undergraduate education at UNC. But she nonetheless learned a great deal from Barton, who was her teacher and advisor, and who remains her mentor. McBride is currently a master's student at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. studying environmental resource policy. She graduated from UNC with a major in Political Science and a double minor in Environmental Studies and Geography.

"(Professor Barton's) the most humble person I think I've ever met when it comes to their own research," McBride said, referring to the fact that Barton has a way of sharing her experiences and knowledge in a manner that is anything but condescending.

"She would talk about some of her trips in class, but the focus wasn't on the travel, it was on the relationships she formed and how to communicate with people,"

McBride says. “My Political Science and Environmental Studies programs were both excellent. I had great professors and fellow students, but those programs were more focused on how to get around people rather than how to work with people. That’s something Dr. Barton was constantly talking about. How have people communicated in the past to push boundaries and to create something that’s fluid and works for other people, and also works for the environment? And how can we continue to do that in the future as technology and politics are changing?”

“It was always more about the people connections,” McBride continued. “She’s able to really form these beautiful connections across the world. And she’s able to give those to her students, too, because she keeps bringing students into everything that she’s doing. She gave me some of the best lessons that I’ve been able to take forward in my career.”

Barton closed the latest chapter of her Fulbright journey last summer, a trip to Norway where she learned more about the country’s extensive renewable energy sources and the impact the infrastructure for those resources is having on land owned by an indigenous community. Later this spring Barton heads to Bangladesh on a Fulbright Specialist award where she will collaborate with former Ambassador Tariq Karim, members from the U.S. Embassy and others to help reduce plastics pollution in the Bay of Bengal, specifically focusing on mitigation and education efforts targeting single-use plastics.

In addition to her Fulbright travels, Barton is currently writing a book about her experiences, something she once said she felt she was being called to do given her good fortune with the program. While the book is currently structured to be nine chapters, each one providing an account of each of her awards, she’s got her eye on a tenth, and final chapter. Barton recently submitted an application for a Fulbright Scholar Rwanda where she’s interested in the indigenous concepts in place that promote environmental conservation. Not surprisingly, she’s already made it past the first round.

In her hallmark humble fashion when talking about her Fulbright awards, what Barton hopes for most isn’t recognition, but inspiration.

“I want people to read a story like this and understand that their children and their colleagues can participate in these opportunities,” Barton says. “There’s a Fulbright for everyone, I think.” **UNC**

ABOUT THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

The Fulbright Program is a United States cultural exchange program offering students, teachers, scholars, scientists, artists and professionals in more than 160 countries the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to mutual understanding. It was founded by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946 and is considered one of the most widely recognized and prestigious scholarships in the world.

Barton has been the recipient of three types of Fulbright awards, the Fulbright Hays which is primarily focused on educational projects; the Fulbright Specialist award which stem from a project that has been designed by a country or institution within a country and primarily focuses on research; and the Fulbright Scholar award which can be focused on research, teaching or both. Below is a complete list of her Fulbright awards.

FULBRIGHT HAYS

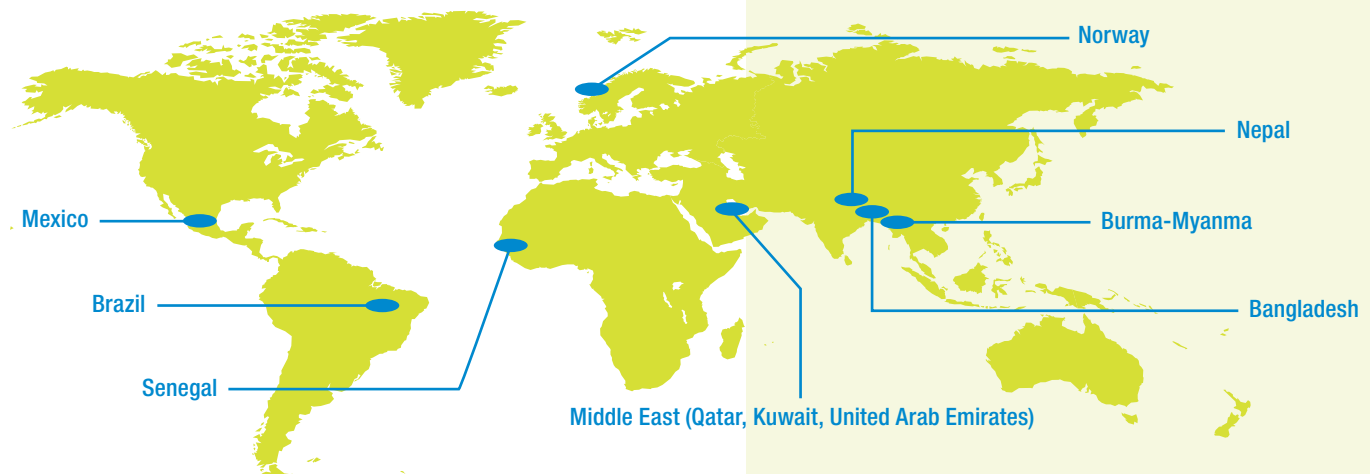
- **2007, Brazil:** Environmental sustainability in the Pantanal, the world’s largest inland wetland
- **2010, Middle East (Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates):** environmental and social sustainability in the Arabian Gul
- **2016, Senegal:** The Great Green Wall Initiative, an effort to halt land degradation and desertification in the Sahel and Sahara desert
- **2021, Mexico:** Afro-Mexican geography and UNESCO heritage sites
- **2022, Norway:** Renewable energy resources and the country’s expansion of those resources on lands owned by indigenous Sami communities.

FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST

- **2019, Nepal:** Natural hazards mapping. The work was part of a community resiliency project after the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, which killed over 9,000 people.
- **2023, Bangladesh:** Mitigation and education efforts to help reduce plastics pollution in the Bay of Bengal, specifically focusing on efforts targeting single-use plastics.

FULBRIGHT CORE FELLOWSHIP

- **2016, Burma-Myanmar:** visiting scholar at Dagon University – most teaching focused
- **2019, Burma-Myanmar:** Yezin Agricultural University – focus also teaching





Inspired to **PAY IT FORWARD**

By Shaira Brereton

Recent graduate Shukuru Rushanika overcame adversity, explored scientific research and was honored for his achievements as he developed a deep sense of appreciation for the support and guidance he received during his undergraduate education at UNC.

University of Northern Colorado December graduate Shukuru Rushanika is a young man on a mission. Affectionately known as ShaQ, the aspiring physician-researcher has dedicated his educational journey to the study of immunology, developing innovative research initiatives in his short time as an undergraduate student. As a UNC Courage to Excel Scholar, Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative recipient and McNair Scholar, ShaQ recognizes his own promise as a powerful force within the scientific community. A determined ShaQ credits his educational success to “relentless perseverance.” Indeed, his story is one of overcoming obstacles in pursuit of a dream.

ShaQ Rushanika stands in the same lab where he has logged many hours over the past four years working on research focused on immunology.



Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, ShaQ experienced tumultuous times during his formative years. He left his birth home as a young child, relocating to a Tanzanian refugee camp alongside his mother and siblings. This difficult but necessary experience was “a first official step to a future,” says ShaQ. When his family eventually moved to Colorado, ShaQ studied a standard curriculum at local schools. During his freshman year at Greeley Central High School, however, a new adversity would enter his world and ultimately spark his interest in medicine.

In a sudden bout of misfortune, ShaQ’s father was involved in a near fatal car crash. With their patriarch dormant in a coma, ShaQ and his family spent a great deal of time at Denver’s Swedish Medical Center anxiously awaiting his recovery. It was during this time, however, that ShaQ’s interest in becoming a physician began to blossom. “I was intrigued by the joy they had when serving others in need,” ShaQ says of Swedish Medical Center’s physicians.

So, a young ShaQ decided to turn a harrowing experience into a “learning opportunity.” He asked hospital management if he could shadow a few physicians during their rounds. While ShaQ gained an informal education about the physician profession, Swedish Medical Center staff showed him so much compassion that he was inspired to pursue a career as a physician himself.

“I carried this new outlook on education into my college experience,” ShaQ says of his enlightenment during a dark period in his life.

ShaQ discovered his passion for human biology after spending much time in a Denver hospital as his father recovered from a near-fatal car accident. The doctors’ compassion moved him.

When it was time for college, ShaQ decided to enroll in University of Northern Colorado’s Biological Sciences program in the College of Natural and Health Sciences, where he centered his studies on biomedicine and pre-health. Just for good measure, he minored in chemistry. In time, ShaQ’s academic interests began to pay off.

The UNC Courage to Excel Scholars program helped ShaQ “navigate through difficulties that arise in secondary education for underrepresented persons such as myself.” While the aspiring researcher admits that he has experienced his share of challenges during his studies to become a scientist, ShaQ has considered his unwavering enthusiasm for understanding human biology as a “support structure” of sorts. He acknowledges that his educational aspirations have provided him with an outlet during tough times and have served as an “intrinsic motivation when overcoming challenges.”

But ShaQ’s journey on the road to physician-researcher hasn’t been all speedbumps. As a freshman at UNC, the budding academic developed an independent project intended to serve as his senior-level honors thesis. For this project, ShaQ endeavored to discover how the CRISPR-Cas 9 protein might be used to eliminate MCF-7, a “gene myeloid stimulating factor,” in breast cancer cells.

With his interest in research, ShaQ was selected to join the prestigious McNair Scholars Program. With the purpose of preparing undergraduate students for graduate-level study through faculty mentorship and a series of research and scholarly activities, the McNair Scholars Program provided the perfect reflection of ShaQ’s academic potential as a traditionally underrepresented student in STEM.

During this time, he also began working on a new research endeavor, investigating a potential relationship between physical exercise and the turmeric compound berberine. Theoretically, this research could aid in easing assessment of metabolic behavior during strenuous activity.

This project presented ShaQ with the opportunity to participate in various academic conferences, including a “cherished” experience presenting amongst U.S. congressional members at the 2022 Posters on the Hill conference. Designed by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), the conference awards promising young researchers with the recognition and opportunity to share their findings with a larger audience. For ShaQ, who was one of just two Coloradans selected from thousands of applicants, this moment was one to celebrate. It was also an opportunity to advocate for fellow undergraduate and minority students in STEM.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS



ShaQ graduated from UNC in December, with strong support and encouragement from his parents.

“I found the experience of interacting with my respective senators and representatives enthralling; it highlighted the importance of taking the initiative as a scientist to take part in the social and political policies surrounding STEM in our nation,” ShaQ reflects.

Posters on the Hill represents just one of over a dozen conference presentations for the burgeoning researcher. ShaQ’s resume boasts participation in conferences across the country, including the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Students and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. He’s also provided posters for Princeton University’s Molecular Biology (MOL BIO) Scholars program as well as UNC’s own Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Despite a series of personal challenges that could have derailed ShaQ’s academic interests, the graduating senior is keen to continue his studies in the STEM field. Though he has been busy applying to master’s programs, ShaQ has found another recent reason for celebration in his acceptance into Princeton University’s Prospective Ph.D. Scholars program. With a seemingly bright path ahead of him, UNC is proud to welcome Shukuru Rushanika, future physician-researcher, into its illustrious and dynamic alumni community. **UNC**

IN HIS OWN WORDS: SHAQ RUSHANIKA

I want to share with you the different chances that have made my story. These chances came in different forms, but most vividly, they came in the form of American neighborly love through many different mentors, friends and family, including extended family.

In order to first understand my story, we first must understand my parents’ story.

My father as a boy in Rwanda, feared for his life and escaped the genocide to nearby Congo. In a parallel narrative, my mother was a young Congolese girl raising her seven siblings after her mother’s death. After several years of struggling to make ends meet and living with imminent threats to my father’s life, my parents decided to seek refuge in the Tanzanian camp of Nduta, where I was born.

To this day, I have not forgotten my attempts to dissipate my immense hunger by drinking water or trying to go to sleep. As a six-year-old, I would wake up early in the morning to help the family fetch water so that we could maintain water reserves in the house. Those were difficult times, and my memories of them are sometimes cloudy, but I do remember clearly how my family and I strived every day and kept hoping for an opportunity for a better life.

One of my family’s most cherished memories is when a UNICEF representative notified us that we had received a chance to begin a better life in the United States. Upon arrival in the U.S., the chances did not end. We were taken in by a local church that helped us acculturate to American society. They helped us access government social welfare programs while also helping my parents search for work. Within a short period of time, my parents found work and began contributing to the U.S., as many refugees and immigrant parents do when given the chance.

When my parents began working, we were no longer dependent on government subsidies. My siblings and I still relied upon various scholarship and government aid programs to give us an equitable chance to pursue our education and overcome the burden/barriers that education places on low-income families.

Other opportunities came in the form of free lunches and school supplies, after-school programs and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, as well as financial support for educators to equip them with tools to support students needing more attention.

I could not tell this story without mentioning my older brother, who helped me set goals and excel beyond them, and my high school coach, who, through the beautiful game of basketball, taught me that my contribution to society as a Black man does not only have to be through sport but also through my intellect.

In my senior year of high school, I decided to stay here in Greeley because home is where the heart is. I should mention that I grew up only a block from this campus, on 9th Avenue, and some of my fondest memories in Greeley were forged here. I still remember coming here for the parades as a kid and being forced by my dad to pose for photographs. After deciding UNC was going to be my home for my four undergraduate years, I decided to shadow at UNC’s Cancer Rehabilitation Center, where I was welcomed by the staff and was allowed access to patients. Those many different encounters inspired me to want to play a vital role in alleviating human suffering at the physician level.

However, my love for academic research came from many faculty and administrators, including but not limited to the School of Biological Sciences. I hope you all will please reflect on all the chances you have received up to this point, as well as encourage you to take more chances and pay it forward by giving more chances.



2023 Honored ALUMNI

The University of Northern Colorado proudly recognized five outstanding alumni at its 2023 Honored Alumni Awards ceremony this spring. Each honoree has contributed to the university and community through their belief in higher education, engagement with UNC and generous gifts of time, expertise and Bear spirit.

➔ You can learn more at unco.edu/alumni/events/honored-alumni.aspx

BRANDON BARNHOLT '81 Finance

Thanks to the strong foundation of his Finance degree, **Brandon Barnholt '81**, has built an impressive career over four decades, leading successful businesses and changing lives. His passion for encouraging, fostering and developing leaders who can transform the world is mirrored by his belief in the importance of lifelong learning and education and his commitment to UNC.



The president and CEO of KeHE Distributors since 2007, Barnholt has grown the company into one of the leading natural and organic specialty and fresh food distributors in North America. Along the way, he transformed it into an innovative organization that nurtures employees, invests in its people and gives back to communities. The KeHE Cares Foundation allows employees to give back to the causes they are most passionate about, including hands-on volunteer opportunities in the United States and abroad. The foundation has also supported scholarships — including several for students at the University of Northern Colorado.

Barnholt has given his time, talents and resources to help advance UNC's stature and impact. He has served on the UNC Foundation Board and on the Monfort College of Business Dean's Leadership Council. He was also a UNC commencement speaker and has been a judge for the business school's Entrepreneurial Challenge. Together with his wife, Donna, Barnholt has generously made a difference for students, supporting scholarships, helping to establish the Garth Allen Distinguished Chair in Finance and contributing to the building of Campus Commons.

SOLOMON LITTLE OWL '00 Social Studies

Solomon Little Owl '00 strongly believes in public education and has a passion for serving his community. He grew up on the Crow Reservation in Montana and served in the United States Marine Corps before enrolling at UNC, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Social Science.



Over the past two decades, Little Owl has strived to engage and improve various communities. As a student and director of UNC's Native American Student Services (NASS), he organized 15 successful buffalo hunts on his reservation where students and people from all over the world were able to learn about his culture and traditions. Little Owl said the hunts also helped the Crow see the many possibilities and benefits of a college education. The buffalo meat from the hunts was brought back to UNC's foodbank to provide for students and families attending college.

While at UNC, Little Owl was a founding member of UNC's satirical, multiracial intramural basketball team, "The Fightin' Whites," which he and his friends established to shed light on the problematic nature of using derogatory "Indian" mascots in Colorado schools. The Fightin' Whites created a firestorm of interest surrounding the issue of mascots and went on to raise \$100,000 in scholarship funding for undergraduate Native American and Latino students through the Fightin' Whites Foundation. Their work contributed to the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 116 in 2021 which successfully banned the use of indigenous mascots in schools.

Little Owl has worked as Executive Director of Crow Tribal Veterans Affairs where he advocated for and facilitated grants to improve the lives of Crow Veterans. He became the Tribe's CEO and was later appointed by Governor Jared Polis and serves as a District Commissioner for the 19th Judicial District in Weld County.

COLETTE PITCHER '81

Art



For more than 40 years, **Colette Pitcher '81** has shared her talents and love for art through her artwork and her ability to encourage, teach and inspire others locally and around

the world to create and enjoy art.

In the late 70s, Pitcher managed the Patio Gallery in UNC's Student Center. After graduating with her degree in Art, she went on to serve as the gallery coordinator for the Mari Michener Gallery at Michener Library for four decades. Pitcher curated exhibits and was responsible for bringing a wide range of talented artists to the gallery, creating a common connection point for the UNC community and Greeley.

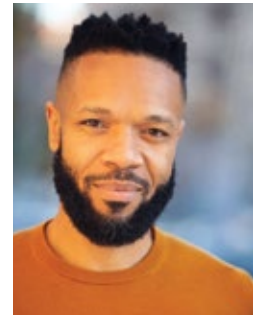
In addition, Pitcher taught as an adjunct art professor at UNC and participated in Libraries and Friends programming. She worked to foster a relationship with student artists as well as provide opportunities for them to learn about creating, jurying and hanging exhibits.

An artist herself, Pitcher is a master in watercolor painting and her bronze sculptures are on exhibit as public art throughout the country. She owns the Showcase Art Center in Greeley where she nurtures creativity, teaches classes for aspiring artists and exhibits artwork. Pitcher has juried national art shows, conducted workshops throughout the world and written books and articles, including *Painting for Dummies* and *Acrylics for Dummies*.

A signature member of the Colorado Watercolor Society, Pitcher serves on the board of the Greeley Art Association and is well known for her contributions to the Greeley Stampede Art Show and the Greeley Arts Picnic.

JASON VEASEY '02

Musical Theatre



Jason Veasey '02 can lay claim to some incredibly weighty honors and countless stage credits, with professional experience that ranges from Broadway to television. He's even brought his talents and knowledge back home to UNC to a stage from his past — co-directing a musical at and working with students who stand where he stood 18 years earlier.

Veasey took home a Tony Award in June 2022 when his highly acclaimed Broadway musical "A Strange Loop" won Best Musical at the 75th Annual Tony Awards. The show, which was nominated for a staggering 11 Tony Awards and also won Best Book of a Musical, won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The musical follows the creative process of an artist transforming issues of identity, race, and sexuality.

Veasey has appeared in the TV show "Only Murders in the Building" (2021) and in the movies "A Shot Through the Wall" (2021) and "American Gangster" (2007). He has also performed on Broadway and with national touring companies of "The Lion King."

The Musical Theatre grad returned to campus during fall semester 2021 to work with students and with fellow Musical Theatre alumna Aléna Watters to co-direct UNC's production of the popular Broadway musical "Rent." As he worked with students to help them hone their skills, Veasey shared insights, understanding and knowledge he's gathered during his time in New York and in theatre.

MEKIALAYA WHITE '08

Communication



Mekialaya White '08 gives voice to her community through her work as a journalist in multimedia as a reporter, writer, producer and anchor.

White majored in Communication Studies, graduating in 2008. She started her career at KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs before moving to Kansas to work as a reporter and multimedia journalist at KSNW-TV. From there, she headed to WCPO-TV in Ohio and Kentucky before returning to Colorado Springs as a reporter and anchor for KRDO. For nearly five years, White worked at KCNC CBS News Colorado, working her way up from reporter, to writer/producer, weekend anchor, and finally, to her current position as weekday news anchor.

In 2022, White was selected by Denver Urban Spectrum newspaper as one of the city's "African Americans Who Make a Difference."

At CBS, White covered countless stories of critical importance, ranging from in-depth coverage of the 2021 Marshall Fire to the Women's Bean Project to empower women breaking the cycle of poverty. Her work has impacted communities across Kansas, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Colorado, facilitating change while deepening understanding.

White also works closely with Colorado nonprofit Raise the Future to highlight Wednesday's Child, an initiative that helps displaced youths find family permanency. She is a community speaker at events focused on reducing recidivism, bringing awareness to the arts and helping people who are interested in careers in journalism. In February of this year, she was the keynote speaker for UNC's Future Teacher Conference sharing her story and inspiring the next generation of educators.

Alumni Notes

Editor's note: Alumni Notes items are submitted by alumni and are not verified for accuracy by our editorial team. While we welcome alumni news, *UNC Magazine* is not responsible for the information contained in these submissions.

60s

Jim Loehr '66 M.A.'68 Ed.D., Golden and Lake Nona, Florida, received the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA)'s Tim Heckler USPTA Hall of Fame Award in 2022. Loehr is a world-renowned performance psychologist, researcher and author of 17 books, including *The New York Times* bestseller, "The Power of Full Engagement." He also co-founded the Human Performance Institute in 1992. He has worked with elite performers, including Olympic gold medalists, renowned professional athletes, U.S. military Special Forces, hostage rescue teams, surgeons and Fortune 500 CEOs.

70s

David Simeone '77 B.A., Overland Park, Kansas, was recently appointed director of Education Programs with United Soccer Coaches, the world's largest soccer coaches organization, serving members at every level of the game.

Bill Martin '79 B.A., Lakewood Ranch, Florida, retired after a successful career as a broadcast journalist. He received the prestigious Headliner Award, the Cleveland Association of Broadcasters Award and won multiple Emmy and Associated Press awards for excellence in broadcast journalism. Martin was inducted into the Ohio Television/Radio Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2014. As an Ohio State Guard Officer, he received the Commendation Award, Meritorious Achievement, Outstanding Service, State of Ohio Commendation Award, Superior Conduct and Performance, Officer Candidate School Joint Training with Army Guard/Reserve Force. Martin earned a master's degree in counseling and worked part-time as a licensed clinical counselor in Ohio and Florida.

80s

Donald Forth '82 D.A., and Mary L. Forth, '82 M.A., Arroyo Grande, California, were recently honored at West Hills College in Coalinga, California, where a classroom was named after them and they were proclaimed Faculty Emeritus. The Forths were honored for their

philanthropy and long careers at West Hills in teaching and administration. They served the college for 67 years from 1968 until 2018.

Jay Littman '82 B.A., Surprise, Arizona, has worked for the NFL for 30 years, including the Dallas Cowboys, Denver Broncos and Arizona Cardinals.

Phil Skinner '82 B.S., Fort Collins, is the Deputy Superintendent of the U.S. Mint in Denver. After a career flying helicopters in the Marines, he joined the business world and eventually started an international consulting company that led him to his current position.

Danny Weiss '82 B.A., West Lafayette, Indiana, was recently promoted to senior lecturer in the Department of Music at Purdue University. His musical trio, "à gauche," just released a new CD called "Into the Ooze" on Pow! Records.

90s

Deanna Schroder '90 B.A., Aurora, is the new Associate Director of Human Resources for the University of Colorado's School of Medicine. A 25+ year human resources veteran, she discovered her true calling after a couple of years pursuing a secondary English education degree at UNC.

Diane Miller '94 M.A., Greeley, has been selected for the Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award based on her career in education, philanthropic endeavors, and contributions to society. She currently serves as chair of the board of directors for A Woman's Place, a shelter for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Miller also serves on the board of directors for the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra.

Brad Rees '95 M.M., Findlay, Ohio, was appointed Vice Provost of Tiffin University and Dean of the School of Creative and Media Arts.

Mikel Irby '96 M.A., Carlsbad, New Mexico, was recently sworn in as an Animal Control Officer and looks forward to applying himself to a job that makes a difference.

Climbing Kilimanjaro to Raise Awareness

Patsy (Tenney) Lange '86 B.S., Highlands Ranch, has been hiking with the Freedom Challenge since 2014, raising funds and awareness for human trafficking and oppressed women and children. The Freedom Climb, which became the Freedom Challenge, began in 2012 with 40 women summiting Mount Kilimanjaro. In October 2022, to celebrate the Freedom Challenge's 10th anniversary, Lange was part of a team of 24 women who set out to summit Kilimanjaro, the world's tallest free-standing mountain at 19,341 feet. Nineteen summited and the team raised more than \$272,000 for the Freedom Challenge Projects around the world.



 **Submit Alumni Notes online**
at unco.edu/unc-magazine

 **Follow along on Twitter @UNCBearsAlumni**
for up-to-date alumni news and highlights

00s

Carrie (McCrudden) Johansson '01 Psy.D., Wheat Ridge, is currently a psychologist, speaker and author residing and practicing in Denver. She recently published a book called "Self Help on the Go," which addresses ways to leverage emotional flexibility to become more resilient and improve how one responds to life's most common problems.

Ian Kelly '03 B.S., Parker, says his education at UNC gave him the foundation to build a great life. He has been a software engineer for more than 18 years and is currently a lead software engineer at a leading financial services company with global reach.

Nathan Cape '08 B.S., Pueblo, was recently selected as President of Operations, with transition to CEO in spring 2023 at Minnequa Works Credit Union, which supports more than 12,000 members and has \$234 million in assets. In addition, Cape serves on the board of directors for the Pueblo Area Chapter of Credit Unions and supports the "People Helping People" movement throughout Southern Colorado.

Karl Wyant '05 B.S., Tempe, Arizona, joined Nutrien as the Director of Agronomy, contributing proven agronomic knowledge and leadership in establishing and growing the company's commodity fertilizer products, premium crop production products, crop research programs and advanced sustainability initiatives. Wyant also represents Nutrien in publications and through speaking opportunities in professional and academic settings.

Howard Grantham '06 B.S., Bellingham, Washington, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Washington Air National Guard, a reserve of the United States Air Force.

Josh Nowak '13 B.A., Thornton, was appointed to the County Court bench in the 17th Judicial District as a county court judge by Colorado Governor Jared Polis. Nowak has been presiding over a docket consisting of criminal matters since his appointment in August 2022.

Roger Japp '07 B.S., Commerce City, was appointed director of MBA Health Administration programs at the University of Colorado, Denver.

10s

Cody Jackson '12 B.M.E., Aztec, New Mexico, recently had four articles published in various state music education magazines including "From COVID to Thriving: A Brief Reflection of Growth Amid Setback," He completed a master's in music education at Ball State University, commissioned a new musical work for a middle school band that premiered in February 2023. He recently accepted a position as the adjunct professor of brass at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico.

Whitney Dyer '16 M.S., Greeley, is a recreation supervisor for the City of Greeley and recently received The Colorado Parks and Recreation Association's Outstanding New Professional award. The award

A BEAR AT A Rodeo?

The Greeley Stampede — with its historic rodeo, Independence Day Parade, concerts, art show and more — isn't just for horses and cattle. It's an event Bears love to support, and this year UNC is again the Parade Host for the Independence Day Parade. Make plans to attend this signature Greeley event which runs from June 22-July 4!

JUNE 27

UNC Day at the Greeley Stampede

JULY 4

Independence Day Parade



greeleystampede.org

In Memory

honors one person each year who exemplifies leadership, inspiration and noteworthy contributions to the profession.

Tito Tapia '18 B.A., Greeley, is a working artist and graphic designer and has displayed artwork and murals and facilitated workshops with students of all ages. He currently works at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

20s

Yessica Rodriguez '20 B.S., '22 M.B.S., Greeley, works as a clinical research assistant for the All of Us Research Program at Banner Health Hospital in Greeley. She is part of a team that partners with the University of Arizona on a precision medicine approach looking at genetics, environment, lifestyle and symptoms for a better individualized scope of treating patients.

Michael Costello '21 B.S., Littleton, is pursuing his master's in Mineral and Energy Economics at Colorado School of Mines. This spring, he will begin a new position as an economist for Stantec, a top-tier global design firm.

Austin Sack '21 B.A., Colorado Springs, was awarded two Colorado Broadcasters Awards for Best Investigative and Feature Reporting in summer 2022.

1940s

Frank Miritello '42 A.B.
 Esther Nelson Pfenning '43 L.C. '70 B.A.
 Virginia Woodman Kelso '45 B.A.
 Bernie Marks Schram '45 L.C. '48 B.A.
 Bonnie Muhme Pepler '47 B.A.
 Doris Scherer Whitlow '47 B.A.
 Marjorie Tedford Zimmerman '47 B.A.
 Dorothy Frantz Costopoulos '48 B.A. '48 B.A.
 Dawn Babcock Nicholson '49 B.A.

1950s

Nancy Williams '50 B.A.
 Karen Kolberg Markus '51 B.A.
 Dorothy Price Thornsby '51 A.B.
 Mary Donley Cavender '52 B.A.
 Cecil DeBey '52 B.A. '59 M.A.
 Lloyd Knapp '52 B.A.
 Shirley Colby Knight '52 B.A.
 Walt Powers '52 M.A. '56 Ed.D.
 Jeanette Knodel Amman '53 B.A.
 Ilene Deane '53 B.A. '60 M.A.
 David Frasco '53 B.A.
 LaJean Cayton Gulley '53 B.A. '56 M.A.
 Dick Morton '53 B.A. '56 M.A. '72 Ed.D.
 Thomas Scott '53 M.A.
 Frank Staggs '53 M.A.
 Lester Burgwardt '54 M.A. '68 Ed.D.
 Joan Davis Engelhardt '54 B.A. '57 M.A.
 Sally Wilson '54 B.A.
 CoraLee Listach Kendall '55 M.A.
 Oliver Phillips '55 B.A.
 Laura Falk Sailsbery '55 B.A.
 Graciela Servin Ramirez '56 B.A.

Pearl Ann Budin Adams '57 B.A.
 Wayne McSheehy '57 B.A. '58 M.A.
 Ralph Murakami '57 B.A. '58 M.A.
 Jo Horn Robinson '57 B.A.
 Ernie Aarrestad '58 M.A.
 Mahlon Amstutz '58 M.A.
 Norma Fleener Anderson '58 B.A.
 Barbara Buecher '58 B.A.
 James Chatelain '58 B.A.
 Jane Velut Parton '58 B.A.
 Richard Romero '58 B.A. '73 M.A.
 Merv Self '58 B.A. '58 B.A.
 Doris Mussey Young '58 B.A.
 Jan Ziessow '58 B.A.
 Patsy Roth Brown '59 B.A.
 Warren Carere '59 B.A. '60 M.A.
 Richard Ferris '59 B.A. '66 M.A.
 Jerry Grunski '59 M.A.
 Ellen Bundy Josephson '59 B.A.
 Boni Eikermann Perkins '59 B.A.
 Courtney Peterson '59 B.A. '60 M.A.
 Carolyn Vermeer Rohlf '59 B.A. '74 M.A.
 Darlene White Sokolosky '59 M.A.
 Richard Stegner '59 M.A.
 Bobbi Wilkinson Wisdom '59 B.A.

1960s

Betty Spears Grasmick '60 B.A.
 Ivo Lindauer '60 M.A.
 Gil Valdez '60 B.A.
 Lee Williamson '60 Ed.D.
 Bill Anderson '61 B.A.
 Rich Bonato '61 B.A.
 Duane Daire '61 B.A.
 William Duran '61 B.A.
 Margie Nickell Gordnier-Lehmann '61 B.A.
 Howard Hof '61 B.A.

Alumna and Disability Advocate Excels as Sports Journalist

Jenny Siegle '04 B.A., Aurora, works as a producer for Sports and a replay operator for the Colorado Rockies. She is also a member of the Denver Broncos PR Game Day staff and a founding member of Unite4CRT (CRT stands for Complex Rehab Technology), a disability advocate. Siegle was named Ms. Wheelchair Colorado in 2004, the year she graduated from UNC.

Paralyzed at nine months old from the neck down, Siegle contracted a rare virus called Transverse Myelitis and became an incomplete C4/C5 quadriplegic. She became an advocate at a very young age, speaking to the Colorado legislature's Joint Budget Committee when she was just eight years old to stay mainstreamed and attend her home school.

In 2009, Siegle began advocating at a national level for continued access to CRT, traveling often to Washington, D.C. where she spoke to her congressional representatives and senators about the need for a separate benefit category within the Medicaid program for CRT.

Professionally, Siegle's work in sports journalism includes numerous productions: "You Bet Tonight," a sports betting show launched in October 2021; Fantasy Football Hour; "Let's Talk Sports with Vic Lombardi"; Colorado Rapids pre-game shows and games; Colorado Mammoth games; and various sporting events for the University of Denver. She covered the 2007 World Series, the Super Bowl 50 victory parade and the 2022 Colorado Avalanche Stanley Cup Final.



Mailbag

I graduated from UNC in the spring of 1998 with a degree in Accounting. At that time, my husband, who is a Registered Pharmacist, and I purchased a community pharmacy in the rural community of Atwood, Kansas.

In the last 24 years, our community has had 35 different (healthcare) providers. The most consistent healthcare provider in most rural communities is the Community Pharmacist and a handful of nurses. Demand will continue to grow and supply of primary care doctors will continue to diminish, and it is mainly due to payment. While critical care hospitals typically are paid a higher rate than non-critical care hospitals, it does not cover the cost of having a doctor in house. We just don't have the same volume, so even the higher payment doesn't cover the fixed costs that a facility has. It barely covers the cost of PAs (physician assistants) and ARNPs (advanced registered nurse practitioner who has completed a graduate-level program). This is why clinics no longer have a registered nurse on staff. Many are LPNs (licensed practical nurses) or CNAs (certified nursing assistants). All good people, but they are limited by their licenses.

Our rural health system has only recently—in the last two years—been able to afford a doctor, mainly due to the 340B program (the program helps health systems stretch scarce federal resources to reach more eligible patients and provide more comprehensive services). This year, my family's pharmacy will pay our hospital approximately \$550,000 to our local critical care access hospital. This currently pays for the one part-time doctor we have. Medicare likes to pay specialists and the new technology they use. Until we talk about how a newly minted general practitioner will get paid and how they will pay off their massive student debt without having to drive their 15-year old car for another 15 years, then our country and our healthcare system will continue to kick this can down the road.

In my county, the pharmacist, chiropractor, and massage therapist are the only ones that are actually vested with their own money to make a difference in the healthcare lives of the communities that they serve. Somehow, we have to get back to a more vested system. It honestly would bring the cost of healthcare down. Whatever UNC's Doctor of Osteopathic does to stem this tide, make sure that those doctors understand the importance that a rural Registered Pharmacist plays in these communities and that they know their patients better than (doctors) do. It is about lack of payment and how rural providers vs their administrators are paid.

Also, (doctors should) know that the pharmacy is on the line for the same reason. My husband is 63 and will be retired in two years, whether we sell the pharmacy or not. No one wants the responsibility of ownership and the dedication it takes to serve a consistent population. Are pharmacy services wanted in my community? Yes, they are, (but) payment is a real problem. Good rural health is vital.

I appreciate your article. We need to discuss this topic more vigorously and I hope your article will allow people to become more aware of this issue. .

—Dawn Hampton '98, Accounting
Owner/Accountant, Currier Drug Inc.
Atwood, KS



Save the Date

**FOR A
ONCE-IN-100
OPPORTUNITY**


**HOMECOMING
UNC**

**UNC'S 100TH
HOMECOMING**

October 14, 2023

**Come home for this centennial
celebration of Bear pride!**

unco.edu/homecoming

Daniel Montero '61 B.A. '64 M.A.
 Pat Robovsky Morgan '61 B.A.
 Warri Neifert Scott '61 B.A.
 Sonja Erickson Staley '61 B.A.
 Ken Vendena '61 B.A. '63 M.A.
 Nancy Jeremiassen Wagner '61 B.A.
 Kenneth Ackerman '62 B.A. '67 M.A.
 Pamela Peale Gerber '62 B.A. '73 B.A.
 Gretchen Bauer Hughes '62 B.A.
 Rita Appuglise Johnston '62 B.A.
 Anthony Jordhamo '62 B.A.
 Karen Karrer Klute '62 B.A.
 Fred Oetzman '62 M.A.
 Shirley Page '62 M.A.
 Leonard Pietrowiak '62 M.A.
 Carolyn McKnight Pritchett '62 B.A. '65 M.A.
 Pat Thompson Reed '62 B.A.
 Paul Seabert '62 B.A. '69 M.A.
 Lorraine Tressler '62 M.A.
 Sheila Davis '63 B.A.
 Norm Engelbrecht '63 B.A.
 Armon Johannsen '63 M.A.
 Lorna Shirk Montzka '63 M.A.
 Lois Mussett '63 M.A.
 Donald Pederson '63 M.A.
 Wally Acker '64 M.A. '69 Ed.S.
 Dexter Cramer '64 B.A. '66 M.A.
 Carol Chirnside Hawkins '64 B.A.
 Larry Jones '64 M.A.
 Gary Loo '64 B.A.
 Billy Lucas '64 M.A.
 Constance Heaser Strand '64 M.A.
 Paul Tauer '64 M.A.
 Dave Best '65 B.A.
 Donna Boe '65 B.A. '69 M.A.
 Harold Dorsey '65 M.A.
 Gwendolyn Elliott '65 M.A.
 Bette LeFeber Ervin '65 B.A.
 Mark Forkner '65 M.A.
 Robert Hughley '65 Ed.D.

Donna Johnson '65 B.A.
 Alfred Lambrecht '65 M.A.
 Larry Powell '65 M.A.
 Rogene Bertrand Shipman '65 B.A.
 Wendell Waggoner '65 M.A.
 Nancy Whitson Wuerfmannsdobler '65 B.A.
 Carol Wegher Barrett '66 B.A. '88 M.A.
 Judi Jones Buell '66 B.A. '66 B.A. '70 M.A.
 Darlene Mitchell Korf '66 B.A. '68 M.A.
 Marlene Simmons Larson '66 B.A.
 Frank Tikalsky '66 Ed.D.
 Roger Walt '66 B.A.
 Rod Ahlmeyer '67 B.A.
 Ernie Broeniman '67 M.A.
 Marie Ice '67 B.A. '71 M.A.
 Jack Lorenzini '67 M.A. '75 Ed.S.
 Ron Lupton '67 B.A. '68 M.A.
 Glenn Pope '67 M.A.
 Betty Boone Smith '67 B.A.
 Eileen Hickman Stanley '67 A.B.
 William Stanley '67 B.A. '68 M.A.
 Gene Weisshaar '67 M.A.
 Barbara Adams '68 Ed.D.
 Marye Bowyer '68 M.A.
 Ronald Cutts '68 M.A.
 Richard Galloway '68 Ed.D.
 Martha Schmidt Haffner '68 B.A. '71 M.A.
 Winifred Nellis Johnson '68 M.A.
 Billy Beam Miller '68 M.A.
 Dee Wedel Sawatzky '68 B.S.
 Pauline Connor Schara '68 B.A. '68 B.A.
 Madelyne Benson '69 M.A.
 Dana Hodek Chandler '69 B.A.
 Anthony Francavilla '69 M.A.
 Bud Hill '69 M.A.
 Beverly Krosky '69 M.A. '74 Ed.D.
 Nancy Lohmeier Mauldin '69 B.A. '69 B.A.
 Jan Thorseth McClary '69 M.A.
 Bob Palmer '69 B.A.
 Jack Reed '69 Ed.D.

1970s
 Ron Allbaugh '70 M.A. '72 Ed.D.

Al Brown '70 B.A. '70 B.A.
 Larry Brown '70 B.A. '79 M.A.
 Arch Crouse '70 B.A.
 Joanie Edwards '70 M.A.
 Gordon Ledford '70 B.A.
 BJ Mauch '70 B.A.
 Mike Owens '70 B.A.
 Larry Pfeiffer '70 M.A.
 Earl Phillips '70 M.A. '78 Ed.D.
 Ed Shipman '70 Ph.D.
 Larry Skinner '70 M.A.
 Sheryl Wagner '70 B.A.
 Robert Walker '70 B.A. '74 M.A.
 Maureen Yaksic '70 B.A. '76 M.A.
 Richard Balay '71 D.A.
 Wilda Pope Burkhart '71 B.A. '75 M.A.
 Rich Clark '71 B.A.
 Carolyn Mancera Duran '71 B.A. '79 M.A.
 Jolene Cassa Cassa-Granier '71 M.A.
 Bill Jenkins '71 B.S.
 Linda Reynolds Kettl '71 B.A.
 Donna Kucera Penn '71 B.A.
 Diane Stucke Pies '71 M.A.
 Howard Schmidt '71 Ed.D.
 Harold Chapman '72 B.A.
 Jimmy Curran '72 M.A.
 Tom Holst '72 Ed.D.
 Jean Ketter '72 B.A.
 Bill Oldham '72 Ed.D.
 Robert Salen '72 M.A.
 Bob Schobert '72 M.A.
 Jim Campbell '73 M.S.
 Timothy Dow '73 B.S.
 Ronald Edgington '73 B.A. '73 B.A.
 Jim Kraemer '73 B.A.
 Francis Shelton '73 M.A.
 Kathleen Steinmetz Thomas '73 B.A.
 Gregory Zack '73 B.S.
 Cary Anderson '74 Ed.D.
 Gregg Elsner '74 M.A.
 Douglas McFadden '74 M.A.
 Patsy Tormey Meredith '74 B.A.
 Dick Prinster '74 M.A.



Support **FUTURE BEARS**

*"I found out I could actually give more money to UNC.
 I would definitely recommend it. It's an easy thing to do."*

—JAMES BOWMAN, Ed.D.,
 on creating the James T. Bowman Work Study Scholarship Endowment
 through his annual required minimum distribution (RMD)

Read Bowman's full story at unco.edu/news/newsroom/releases/2023-jim-bowman-donor.aspx.

Learn how you can make a gift through your Required Minimum Distributions or your estate plan.
 Visit unco.edu/give, call 970-351-2551, or email donor.relations@unco.edu.

Katalin Radnoti '74 M.A.
 Rick Robinson '74 B.A. '76 M.A.
 Richard Schneider '74 M.A.
 Doug Bernhardt '75 B.S.
 Robert Dudley '75 M.A.
 Gail Haug Echtenkamp '75 B.A.
 Monty Lensch '75 B.S.
 Gary Lewis '75 M.A.
 Jim Murphy '75 M.A.
 Jeff Smith '75 B.S.
 Karen Spickard '75 M.A.
 Allan Quist '75 M.A.
 Connie Johnson Auran '76 M.A.
 Ginny Taylor Channell '76 M.A.
 Carl Madsen '76 M.A.
 Bob Nelson '76 M.A.
 Dennis Bagenstos '77 B.A.
 Diane Reutter Bell '77 B.A.
 Sam Collier '77 M.S.
 Nicholas Hamlin '77 B.A.
 Leba Sarkis '77 M.A. '81 D.A.
 Larry Shaw '77 M.A.
 Lucille Wyrick '77 M.A.
 Jim Basye '78 B.A.
 Lucy Batton '78 B.A. '78 B.A. '96 M.A.
 Annie Coates Crough '78 B.A.
 John Cunningham '78 B.A. '82 M.A.
 John Davis '78 M.A.
 Marjorie Velasquez Herrera-Gillespie '78 M.A.
 Jane Leonard Hoyle '78 M.A.
 Walter Kehn '78 M.M.E.
 Randy Klein '78 B.A.
 Janis Larrabee Kugler '78 B.A.
 Kay Lowe-Wendling '78 M.A.
 Merlin Madsen '78 Ed.D.
 John Nicklas '78 M.A.
 Dee Dee Redmon '78 M.A.
 Matt Brinkman '79 B.A. '79 B.A.
 Colleen Adams Carney '79 B.S.
 Michael Detore '79 M.S.
 J.D. Dorwart '79 B.A.
 Wendell Fugett '79 B.A.
 Gary Kuster '79 M.A.
 Tom Marick '79 M.A.
 Rosemary Pennington '79 M.A.
 Stephen Purdham '79 B.A.
 Louise Hilmer Sanderson '79 M.A.
 Kathy Houston Spangler '79 B.A.

1980s

Joe Bevans '80 B.A. '80 B.A.
 Larry Bless '80 B.A. '80 B.A.
 Liz Schroeder Gorny '80 M.A.
 Melba Williams Neel '80 M.A.
 Greta Childress Rees '80 M.A.
 Marlene Johnson Sedillos '80 B.A.
 Ruth Graessle VanderMinden '80 M.A.
 Terrie Biava '81 B.A. '81 B.A.
 William Felton '81 B.S. '83 M.A.
 Dominic Fraioli '81 M.A.
 Robert Hartley '81 M.A.
 Art Samson '81 M.S.
 John Staples '81 M.S.
 Ellen Corley Synovec '81 M.S.
 Jane Mackey Perkins '82 M.A.

Patti Massarotti Andreatta '82 M.A.
 Dave Meyers '82 B.S.
 Bob Palmer '82 B.A.
 Richard Schaadt '82 M.S.
 Karen Thorpe '82 Ph.D.
 Vinny Serniak '83 B.A.
 Sharon Raichart Hughes '84 M.A.
 Nancy Schultz '84 M.A.
 Yvonne Betlach Wittreich '84 Ed.D.
 Amy Burkholder '86 B.A.E '10 M.A.
 Kathleen Allen Lisi '86 B.A.E
 Art Mannon '87 M.A.
 David Kendrick '89 M.M.
 Tammy Kreps Pixley '89 M.A.

1990s

Alfredo Martinez '90 M.A.
 Ruth Branscum '91 B.S.
 Judy Bashline Quidort '91 B.A.E
 Elizabeth Rutherford '91 M.A.
 Jami Stafford '91 B.A.
 Karleen Skoog Wescott '92 M.A.
 Myrna Stalnaker De Milt '93 M.A.
 Janet Shaeffer Harris '93 M.A.
 Marjorie Watts '93 B.A.
 Carol Jenkins '94 M.A.
 Bill Spies '94 B.A. '94 B.A.
 Brenda Vetter '94 B.A.
 Justin Anderson '95 B.S.
 Roe Holland '95 Psy.D.
 Brenda Slife Nelson '95 B.S.
 Trevor Smith '95 B.A.
 Lois Clark McGunegle '96 M.A.
 Daniel Farley '97 M.A.
 Janet Olinger Heger '98 M.A.
 Kevin Woodson '99 B.S.

2000s

Kevin Pollock '05 B.S. '12 M.A.
 Jane Rhoades '05 M.A.
 Matthew Modjeski '06 B.S.
 Mike Slawson '06 M.A.
 Monica Gallegos Ramirez '07 B.A.
 Seth Tartler '07 B.A.

2010s

Amy Driver '13 B.A.
 Breanna Sullivan '14 B.A.
 Karen Wood Cotter '15 Ph.D.
 Michaela Goecke Richardson '18 B.A.

Faculty and Emeritus Faculty

Roberto H. Córdova, Ph.D.
 Henry Heikkinen, Ph.D.
 Kevin Pollock '05 BS '12 M.A.
 Sue Schulze
 Jeremy Smith '98 B.A.
 Sharon Wilson, Ph.D., '63 B.A.

Tributes

Irv Moskowitz, founding director for the Center for Urban Education (CUE), passed away on November 23, 2022. Moskowitz was an influential leader for education in Denver, serving first as assistant to Colorado commissioner of education in charge of public education reform, then as an administrator for Denver Public Schools. He was appointed superintendent of Denver Public Schools in March 1994, a position he held for five years before his departure to lead the CUE.

“The opportunity with the University of Northern Colorado represents a unique challenge for making change in public education. It’s one I can’t pass up,” he said when sharing his thoughts in the May 1999 issue of UNC’s alumni magazine, “Spectrum.”

As director for the CUE, Moskowitz was instrumental in creating a highly regarded program that prepares teachers to work in urban schools. He led the center for 13 years.

Roberto H. Córdova, Ph.D., was born in Montrose and graduated from Western State College (now Western State University), in Gunnison. He earned his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder and was the first Latino to ever earn a Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics from the Hispanic Studies Department. He was a UNC professor for more than 25 years and retired as professor emeritus of Hispanic Studies. In the Greeley and Weld County areas, he stood up for and promoted equal rights for the Latino community and helped establish more than 25 League of United Latin American Citizen (LULAC) Youth Councils in middle and high schools throughout Colorado.

There for BEARS WHEN THEY NEED IT

“I was able to secure safe housing with the money I received from the Emergency Support Fund. I don’t think I would have gotten to graduation without this assistance. It emphasized for me how much the UNC community cares.”

—Recent UNC grad on the impact of UNC’s Emergency Support Fund

Make a secure, online gift to the UNC Emergency Support Fund by visiting give2unc.org/emergency or call University Advancement at 970-351-2551.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Last Look

Saying Goodbye to UNC's Century-Old Silver Maple Tree

It was around 1900 when workers at then-State Normal School of Colorado planted a silver maple sapling on campus. The fledgling college was just 11 years old at the time. But over the next 122 years, the tree and the campus grew together and flourished — welcoming new students each fall with gold leaves reaching into blue skies.

Over the seasons, the tree stood sentinel through 17 university presidents, the influenza epidemic of 1918, wars and the Great Depression. It provided shade for activists marching for civil rights, equality and social justice. It endured ice storms,

high winds and blizzards and stood with comforting normalcy when the campus was quieted by COVID-19. Then, when students, faculty and staff returned in 2021, it was there lighting up its green corner near President's Row with gold leaves against a blue sky — a Bear welcome if ever there was one. Tales were told about the tree that pointed to darker times, but no evidence indicates it was ever used for anything but climbing, a shady study spot and a background for countless photos.

But the tree — which held state champion status until several years ago — has been in decline, its massive canopy shrinking due to reduction from dead wood. In fall 2022, an open cavity on the tree's trunk, large enough to be spotted from a block away, drew Shiloh Hatcher, forester with the City of Greeley, to take a closer look during a citywide tree assessment. Part of his job is determining when issues are fatal for a tree and when they can be remedied.



During an assessment of the tree, Hatcher and two members from his forestry team struck several areas around the trunk with a hammer, the hollow echoes confirming troubles in the base of the tree. They had additional concerns with the branches above, including a large dead limb that arched over common foot-traffic areas, more open cavities and areas called woundwood — a change in normal branch growth in response to a wound.

“What we try to do is look at the tree and figure out if we can reduce weight or take other measures to mitigate risk. Removal is always the last option,” Hatcher said before the decision was made to remove the tree.

“But all of these issues together have created a problem I don’t think we can prune our way around. We have to consider that this is a campus with people walking under these trees. If this tree fails,

one of the consequences is that it’s likely to hurt someone. Considering the age of the tree and the combined areas of concern, we’re doing the right thing by removing it.”

On November 8, amidst a gathering of students and faculty, the beloved tree was removed. The silver maple was the oldest and largest tree on campus, its trunk measuring over 80 inches in diameter with a canopy that at one time reached nearly 70 feet high and spanned 85 feet across.

The silver lining is the wood from the tree has been saved, with discussion underway for best uses to honor the silver maple. The tree will continue to give back to students through hands-on learning: One large round was taken for classroom use where students will study the tree’s rings. Students are giving back as well, raising funds to plant one tree for each of the silver maple’s 122 years, continuing the tree’s legacy for generations of Bears.



UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**

University Advancement
c/o UNC Foundation
501 20th Street
Greeley, CO 80631-6900

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 3280
DENVER, COLORADO

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Follow us on Instagram at [unc_colorado](https://www.instagram.com/unc_colorado)
#UNCBears



Update your address at unco.edu/unc-magazine

UNC Wrestler and Greeley Native Wins NCAA National Championship Title

UNC's wrestling program celebrated a historic win at the NCAA Wrestling Championships with Andrew Alirez, a Greeley native and a junior majoring in Sport and Exercise Science, who won the national title in the 141-pound weight classification.

Alirez finished the season with a perfect 28-0 record, capped by a thrilling 6-4 win March 18 over number one seed and then-unbeaten (20-1) Real Woods from the University of Iowa. Alirez's championship marks the program's first-ever win as an NCAA Division I program and its 10th overall.

"I've given my entire life to this game, and to be able to reap the benefits, it means everything," Alirez said. "That's years and years of sacrifice. Now that I'm here, I can do nothing but be grateful."

Freshman wrestlers Stevo Poulin and Vinny Zerban had tremendous showings at the NCAA Championships, also and just missed the All-American status top eight in their respective weight classes.

Congratulations
to Andrew and the entire
UNC Wrestling program!

