As we enter our second year as the new School of Health and Human Sciences, we can look back on the completion of one full cycle of our academic calendar! We have watched all four seasons come and go, as we offered a wide range of classes, hosted our traditional alumni and donor events, and held faculty town hall meetings, awards programs and two open houses. Bryceton Proctor and Maggie Taylor at the recent Ask a Gerontologist event.

I have spent this summer and fall visiting many of you across North Carolina and in Orlando and Tampa, FL. I spent time with a group in Morehead City, where we shared information not only about HHS but all of UNCG. Representatives from the School of Education and the Bryan School of Business and Economics joined us to provide updates on everything from our quad renovation to our living and learning communities and our expansion into the Glenwood area. It was a very worthwhile exchange of information!

Your incredible support has also allowed us to establish two new professorships, student travel awards and faculty development awards this year. We are so grateful for your continued dedication to HHS.

DEAN’S MESSAGE, continued

I have spent this summer and fall visiting many of you across North Carolina and in Orlando and Tampa, FL. I spent time with a group in Morehead City, where we shared information not only about HHS but all of UNCG. Representatives from the School of Education and the Bryan School of Business and Economics joined us to provide updates on everything from our quad renovation to our living and learning communities and our expansion into the Glenwood area. It was a very worthwhile exchange of information!

Your incredible support has also allowed us to establish two new professorships, student travel awards and faculty development awards this year. We are so grateful for your continued dedication to HHS.

FURTHERING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

This year, we have created three offices, each with faculty leaders, to focus on Community Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion, and Internationalization. Community Engagement is a natural fit at HHS, with so much of what we do revolving around engaged scholarship. This office has developed an interdisciplinary course on community and foundation grant writing, and it has some fabulous speakers planned for next semester. Our Diversity and Inclusion team got started this fall under the leadership of Dr. Andra Hunter, associate professor in Human Development and Family Studies. It has already sponsored a workshop and several speakers.

Our international efforts are growing too, with an exchange program now offered through the Conflict and Peace Studies Program and a planned faculty and student trip to Costa Rica, which will combine service with Spanish immersion. HHS also plays a vital role in the health and wellness efforts outlined in UNCG’s comprehensive Strategic Plan. I have the privilege of leading a dedicated group of faculty, staff and others to work on the plan’s “lifespan goal.” We will focus on “enhancing and extending health, wellness, and quality of life for children, adults, families, and communities, through scientific inquiry and application, workforce development, reduction of disparities, sustainability efforts and recreational opportunities.” How very exciting! This work will include continuing relationships with Wellspring Senior Living Community, our own Speech and Hearing Clinic, our Middle College and the Child Care Education Program.

OUR HISTORY

Speaking of Child Care Education, we honor in this issue two very dedicated women who founded our work in this growing field. We are saddened to share that Dr. Mary Elizabeth Keister and Dr. Helen Canaday died within the last year, both in their 90s. These women pioneered what is now UNCG’s Child Care Education Program, which was founded in 1965 and now involves more than 60 students each semester in research projects, observations or work there.

I had the opportunity to experience their work during a graduate school internship in “the nursery” during my student days in speech-language pathology. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Keister and Dr. Canaday, whose work helped ensure safe, developmentally appropriate care for young children across our nation. So as you can see, our roots at HHS run deep. We look forward to seeing these roots sprout and bloom into something beautiful with your continued support and engagement. Thank you for all you do for UNCG and our HHS community.
Want to Know More about Aging?

DR. JAN WASSELL’S phone rings often. As chair of the UNCG Gerontology Program, she receives questions about everything from home care and long-term care to dementia concerns and the physical symptoms of aging.

“We may not have all the answers, but we can help people find resources in the community to get these questions answered,” she says.

Wassel and her students are taking their important expertise on the road with a new program called “Ask a Gerontologist.”

They offered sessions in September and October at Senior Resources of Guilford in downtown Greensboro, and one more is planned for Nov. 7. In the future, they hope to provide similar sessions at grocery stores or restaurants that attract a large cross-section of the community.

“People come to us and ask anything they want,” Wassel says. This includes questions from older adults or younger caregivers who are anticipating issues with aging parents or loved ones.

At a recent session, the students spoke with one man who wondered if being tired was a normal aspect of aging. Another woman questioned whether she should slow down more to fit society’s – and her daughter’s – expectations of aging.

The gerontology program at UNCG has between 20 and 30 students pursing either master’s degrees in gerontology or dual degrees, which include an MS in gerontology and an MBA. After graduation, Wassel says, her students have great success finding employment. Jobs can range from administrators in hospital settings and long-term care facilities to non-profit work, public policy roles or even marketing aimed at older adults.

Wassel and her team are planning to offer an undergraduate course in gerontology this spring, with an eye toward offering a minor in gerontology soon.

HHS Opens Comprehensive Advising Center for Students

TWO STUDENT ADVISING PROGRAMS have come together to form the new Health and Human Sciences Advising Center.

The center located in the Mciver building offers current and prospective HHS students one-stop shopping for a wide variety of services including academic advising, mentoring, life planning, and career and personal development work. The center’s mission includes helping students make informed decisions as they identify and pursue educational goals.

The space is shared by Bill Johnson, Student Success Coordinator with the Office of Life Planning and Development, and Jennifer Clark, Director of Undergraduate Advising and Mentoring in the Office of Student Services.

The office can help students who are:

• Having difficulty in classes.
• Considering questions about their major.
• Struggling with how to finish college.
• Considering what they want to do in life after they get a degree.
• Looking for internships, mentoring or career experience.

The center operates from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact the center by:

CALLING 334-9753
EMAILING ASKHHS}@UNC.G.EDU
EMAILING JENNIFER.CLARK, DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING AND MENTORING, AT JENNIFER.CLARK@UNC.EDU.

Raleigh named director of Speech and Hearing Center

LOUISE RALEIGH is the new director of the UNCG Speech and Hearing Center. She was previously the center’s assistant director, and she replaces Vicki McCready, who has retired.

Raleigh, an associate professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders, is a nationally certified and state-licensed speech-language pathologist. She has provided speech-language therapy in a variety of settings to individuals of all ages, from infants to seniors. She specializes in reading and writing disorders, foreign accent and dialect modification, and clinical supervision.

Raleigh currently represents UNCG as campus coordinator for the NC Consortium for Distance Education in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and serves as president of the NC Speech, Hearing and Language Association. The NC Association of Supervisors in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, which Raleigh has also led as president, named her the NC Supervisor of the Year in 2008.

Social Work Program

THE NC&T AND UNCG Joint Master of Social Work Program has been ranked nationally by US News & World Report.

The program, which was ranked 95th nationwide, was the third-highest ranking program of its type in North Carolina. The Joint Master of Social Work Program is a unique program between the two universities and is accredited by the Council of Social Work Education. Students and faculty have access to the full range of instructional and research support available at both universities.
1. Pea Poole, a Kinesiology professor, (center) speaks with a student and Patricia Hielsher (right), who has been honored with the establishment of the Physical Education Class of ’75 Hielsher Teaching Scholarship. In the fall of 1971, more than 40 young people became the Class of ’75 physical education majors at UNCG. Hielsher, a second-year instructor and coach of the volleyball team, was assigned as their class advisor. The combination of that class and their advisor was something special and a lifetime bond was created between them.

2. Provost Dave Perrin talks with Ann and Donald Burke, who provided the Ann B. Burke Nutrition Scholarship.

3. Student speaker Layne Spencer ’13, a physical education major

4. Student speaker Angel Dunbar ’12 MS Human Development and Family Studies

5. Dean Celia Hooper (center) visits with Charles C. and Charlyene J. Moyer, who have a scholarship in Nutrition in their name.

At the Scholarship Luncheon, HHS Associate Dean Dave Demo talks with Vira Kivett who has endowed the Vira R. Kivett Outstanding Graduate Publication Award in the Human Development and Family Studies Department.
UNCG Alumna Urges Dancers to ‘Nourish’ Themselves
Excerpted from an article by Lanita Withers Goins, Staff Writer, University Relations

IN ALL HER YEARS of dance instruction, no one ever mentioned to Allyson West ‘12 the correlation between a good diet and strong performance.

“One day, I wasn’t feeling so great nor was I performing well,” West recalls. “I said to myself, ‘You’ve been eating burgers and fries and you’re not feeling well. There has to be a connection.’ I did some research. It opened my eyes.”

A trained dancer and Greensboro native, West received a second undergraduate degree in Nutrition from UNCG last year. Now in the Dietetic Intern Program at UNCG, she is studying to become a registered dietitian and has created the online newsletter “Nourish” full of nutritional wisdom on how dancers can fuel themselves for the rigors of performance.

Her excellence in the classroom has been rewarded with a prestigious Excellence Award from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions.

West is preparing to make a positive impact on the lives and careers of young dancers. Once licensed, she envisions herself giving presentations at dance conferences and festivals on the importance of proper nutrition. “The fuel you put in your body does reflect how much energy you’ll have to perform,” she said. “If you’re training to be a professional, you have to understand why that’s important.

“The Middle College at UNCG

THE MIDDLE COLLEGE AT UNCG, the non-traditional high school launched jointly with Guilford County Schools in 2011, has received a $100,000 grant from AT&T.

The Middle College was one of 47 schools nationwide chosen to receive part of a nearly $10 million AT&T Aspire Grant. It received the competitive award for its demonstrated success supporting and motivating traditionally underserved students to stay in school and prepare for the next step of life.

Students in The Middle College must have an interest in health, medical or youth development service careers. In addition to taking honors-level classes, students may earn up to two years of college credit, and may also take Advanced Placement courses. The school, which opened in the fall of 2011 with 50 ninth-graders, is adding a new class of ninth-graders each year until it reaches its maximum enrollment of 200 students in 2014-15.

“The Middle College at UNCG gives capable high school students a head start not only on their college education but also on their future careers,” said UNCG Chancellor Linda P. Brady. “We are thrilled that AT&T recognizes and supports our efforts to provide access to higher education and prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.”

The Middle College is giving a head start to students like Merriam Willis. “The Middle College at UNCG has opened up so many opportunities I wouldn’t get in a regular high school,” Willis said. “The education provided is phenomenal. I want to become an ultrasound technician, so since I already know what I want to do, I can go to a school that will prepare me to reach my goal quicker. The teachers are really nice and caring, and we all know each other at the school. It’s like a family.”

Students in this small school setting are accountable not only to teachers, but also to each other and their mentors, creating a web of social and emotional support that helps students understand their value. The course of study also includes weekly career-focused learning and internship opportunities in partnership with the business community.

“Every student has the potential to learn. Some just have bigger hurdles to clear. Guilford County Schools’ Middle College concept recognizes that,” said Cynthia Marshall, AT&T’s North Carolina president. “The Middle College at UNCG provides students the positive learning environment and social network needed to succeed, but it also holds them accountable. This is exactly the kind of program AT&T’s Aspire contribution was designed to support.”

AT&T’s Aspire contribution will be used to provide essential materials and supplies for The Middle College at UNCG and fund student transportation costs during the school’s expansion.

Middle College Receives $100,000 Grant from AT&T
Excerpted from an article by Lanita Withers Goins, Staff Writer, University Relations

THE MIDDLE COLLEGE AT UNCG has been named a School of Excellence by Guilford County Schools.

UNCG and Guilford County schools opened this non-traditional high school in 2011. Congratulations to Dr. Tom Martinek, a Kinesiology professor and UNCG’s liaison to the Middle College; Angie Polk-Jones, principal; and the faculty, teachers and graduate students who helped in this effort.
THINK BALANCING work and family life is an issue only women face? Think again.

There was “not much difference” between the responses of male and female UNCG employees when surveyed on the work/life balance in their lives, said Dr. Paige Hall Smith, the director of the Center for Women’s Health and Wellness at UNCG. Smith, along with a cohort of graduate students, has completed a study looking at issues that impact employees’ ability to balance their work obligations with their personal lives at the Triad’s biggest university.

Among their findings:

• Incidents of work/family conflict are very common and impact almost every employee group on campus regardless of their position, gender or whether or not they have children.
• Student employees as well as staff and faculty suffer from strains that can come from finding the time and energy to manage both work and family life.
• Female employees, on the other hand, are more likely than men to worry about the welfare of their children while they are at the office.
• Managerial support had a considerable impact on employees’ ability to find balance.

The findings are relevant to the campus community and beyond, said Smith, a professor of public health education in the School of Health and Human Sciences.

During the recent economic downturn, many employers — state agencies included — haven’t increased employee pay. Policies like flexible work scheduling and work locations, which UNCG offers, help employees balance their lives with minimal expense for the business. These types of policies ultimately help improve the work environment, Smith said.

There’s an overarching question employers need to ask, Smith said. “Do we want a workplace where people have the attitude ‘Thank God I have a job, but I don’t like it here’ or do we want to have a workplace where people want to be?… What kind of workplace do we want to be and how do we want employees to feel about working here?”

FOR MORE ON THIS STUDY, VISIT http://www.uncg.edu/hhs/cwhw/Spr11HEA676.html

FACULTY, STUDENTS AND OTHER GUESTS check out the equipment in UNCG’s newly opened Virtual Environment for Assessment and Rehabilitation Laboratory. The new lab is equipped with specialized treadmills, cameras and computers that can replicate real-life situations to help patients cope with injuries, disease or the effects of aging. Christopher Rhea, an assistant professor in the department of Kinesiology, is director of the facility.

VEAR Lab Now Open

Research Explores Work/Life Balance for Employees

Excerpted from an article by Lanita Withers Goins, Staff Writer, University Relations

FOR MORE ON THIS STUDY, VISIT http://www.uncg.edu/hhs/cwhw/Spr11HEA676.html

CTR Faculty, Students and Alumni Recognized

FACULTY, students and alumni of UNCG’s department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation received multiple awards at the 2012 North Carolina Recreation and Park Association’s Therapeutic Recreation Section’s Annual Conference.

Dr. Leandra Bedini received the Therapeutic Recreation Instructor of the Year Award.

Kathryn Giampa, a second year master’s student, was named Best New Therapeutic Recreation Student.

Dr. Stuart Schleien and Ginger Walton, project co-directors, and Lindsay Blake, project coordinator, were recognized for the Best New Therapeutic Recreation Program for their Photovoice initiative.

Kimberly Epley MS ’05 received the Individual Therapeutic Recreation Service Award.
THE SCHOOL OF HHS has another thriving program to add to its growing reach in practice-oriented, human science fields.

The Conflict and Peace Studies program – which trains students in managing conflict to help build supportive, safe communities – joined the School this summer. The program offers master’s and post-baccalaureate certificates, educating students in mediation, negotiation, violence prevention, anti-bullying initiatives, problem solving and more.

“HHS is a natural fit because we work to integrate practice and theory,” says Dr. Thomas Matyók, an assistant professor and director of graduate studies for the program. “HHS gives us a wonderful home and a school that’s committed to this kind of engaged scholarship.”

Previously part of the Division of Continual Learning, the program began about eight years ago. While the number of students enrolled has remained fairly constant, Matyók says the program has increased its involvement in a variety of initiatives locally and internationally.

This semester, for instance, it launched a pilot exchange program with the University of Konstanz in Germany. The program is also building new relationships with the University of Linnaeus in Sweden and the Arthur V. Mauro Center for Peace and Justice at the University of Manitoba in Canada.

At the same time, Matyók and Dr. Cathryn L. Schmitz, director, are working to launch a bachelor’s degree program by the Fall of 2013. The program already offers two undergraduate courses, including Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies and Peace and Violence in the Modern World.

The interdisciplinary program attracts students from a broad spectrum of majors, including sociology, therapeutic recreation, business and public health, for instance. With about 53 students enrolled, the program also offers individual classes to hundreds across the UNCG community.

Graduates have a wide variety of opportunities, Matyók says. Some work as mediators in family court or pursue law degrees. Others focus on organizational development or human resources. Still more work in conflict resolution programs in education, healthcare systems, international nonprofits or even the United Nations.

The program is actively involved in the Greensboro area as well, having placed students in learning and service roles at the Newcomers School and the Center for New North Carolinians, among others. It also regularly hosts events, training, and workshops for UNCG and the public—empowering everyone to defuse disputes and build peace.
Public Health Faculty Use Grant to Study Health Departments

IN A TIME of shrinking budgets, knowing what works is critically important to policy makers, communities and funders.

Three Public Health Education faculty members—Dr. Kay Lovelace, Dr. Robert Aronson and Dr. Kelly Rulison—have been awarded a $200,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to do just that.

The researchers will investigate factors at the local, regional and state level that influence health departments to use evidence-based public health strategies to address a population’s overall health, social factors that bear on health, and health disparities.

Researchers have “learned a lot being engaged with local health departments, but sometimes there’s a gap between research and practice,” Aronson said. “This is a great opportunity to look at the set of challenges local health departments have and apply what has been learned.”

“By finding the things that matter, we can make a difference,” Rulison noted.

UNCG’s grant is one of 11 totaling $2.7 million. The projects are focused onMenu

POCKETS OF HOPE: Professor Works with Student to Realize her Dream

WHEN PHD CANDIDATE Yuliana Rodriguez ’09, ’11 MS graduated from high school, she was 5th in her class—never mind that English was her second language. Even so, this star student’s requests for college guidance went unanswered.

Fortunately, UNCG provided her with a different experience. “There are pockets of hope in Yuliana’s story,” says Dr. Heather Helms, her professor in Human Development and Family Studies. “Sometimes students need someone to notice them. That’s what UNCG does very well.”

Helms learned about Rodriguez through her colleague, Dr. Andrew Supple. He saw an opportunity for the two to partner on Helms’ research studying marital quality among Mexican immigrants in North Carolina.

Helms’ study, which is funded through the USDA, is one of the few in the nation that looks at marital challenges of a minority population.

Rodriguez joined the project her junior year and continued conducting interviews and managing data through the completion of her master’s degree. She became an accomplished researcher, presenting findings at regional and national conferences. She also found that she could help people who are in the very place she had been—wanting to advance their education levels and contribute to their families and communities, but unsure how.

She recounts how during every interview, the parents would eventually ask her to share her story of pursuing not just one, but multiple degrees. They wanted to know how they could help advance their children’s education.

“I became attached to the idea of helping them at a deeper level,” Rodriguez says. “I want to make sure parents know their children have the capacity to succeed. That there are resources and people who care.”

People like Heather Helms.

Helms was impressed by Rodriguez’s thoughtfully written papers. She encouraged her to speak up more in class. She mentored her as a research assistant. She worked with Mary Crow in the Office of Undergraduate Research to fund a research assistantship so Rodriguez wouldn’t have to work so many jobs. And she nominated her for the Graduate School Inclusiveness Fellowship Award, which Rodriguez won.

“Dr. Helms made me feel I could make a difference.” She also inspired her to pursue advanced degrees.

Helms was recently selected to give the UNCG commencement address at December’s graduation program. She was also awarded the Alumni Senior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award for exactly these kinds of contributions.

“This is why I’m here at UNCG,” she says. “I wouldn’t trade this for anything. I have my feet in both worlds, teaching and research. My colleagues and I experience tremendous joy in helping students realize their dreams.”

Rodriguez now sees a PhD in her future and looks forward to a career spent educating and helping others. She plans to be a professor.

Already, she has returned to her high school to meet with immigrant families. And she shared her story in early November with more than 300 area Latino high school students and their parents at the Soy un Lider (“I am Leader”) Conference at Guilford College. She hopes her academic journey will inspire others.

“There are so many little things that could make a big difference,” she says, “If we reach out to others.”

HHS Recognizes Faculty for Years of Service

THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES has recognized nearly 50 faculty and staff members for five-year milestones of service. Those recognized include seven people who are celebrating milestones of 20 years or more. They are:

Dr. James Sellers, a professor in Community and Therapeutic Recreation, 35 years
Dr. Tom Martinek, a professor in Kinesiology, 35 years
Dr. Mary Morgan, an associate professor in Human Development and Family Studies, 30 years
Dr. Deborah Cassidy, a professor in Human Development and Family Studies, 25 years
Dr. Diane Gill, a professor in Kinesiology, 25 years
Dr. Elisabeth Hurd, an associate professor in Social Work, 20 years
Dr. John Rife, a professor in Social Work, 20 years

Dr. Heather Helms (right) mentored student Yuliana Rodriguez ’09, ’11 MS as a research assistant. In the process, she guided Rodriguez toward her own dream of being a professor.
Faculty News

Dr. Jim Eddy, a veteran educator and researcher at UNCG, has been named the editor of the American Journal of Health Education (A-JHE). Eddy is the interim dean of the Division of Continental Learning and a professor in the department of Public Health Education. Previously, he served as the director of HHS’ Office of Academic Outreach. As a leading journal in the field of health education and health promotion, A-JHE provides information to practitioners to design interventions that improve the health of all people. Now in its 44th year, the journal is distributed to more than 6,000 subscribers and numerous academic libraries.

Dr. Catherine Ennis, a professor in Kinesiology, has been named a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association for her outstanding, high-impact research achievement. Ennis’ research focuses on curriculum theory and development in physical education with specific applications to urban school settings. She has published more than 60 research articles, edited many journals, authored two books and delivered more than 150 presentations to international, national, and regional audiences. She has been the principal investigator for NIH grants totaling more than $15 million.

Dr. Esther M. Leerkes, associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies, received the Junior Research Excellence Award from the Office of Research and Economic Development for her work on parent-child relations in infancy and early childhood. Dr. Leerkes’ research centers on maternal sensitivity and how it relates to child outcomes. She attempts to identify factors contributing to sensitive maternal behavior, particularly in response to negative child emotions, and she examines links between specific types of maternal sensitivity and subsequent child outcomes, with an emphasis on emotional well-being. Dr. Leerkes has excelled in terms of funding, publications, and professional development, contributing to approximately $3 million in external funding in seven years. She has published 35 peer-reviewed journal articles and is on the editorial board of two leading journals in her field.

Student News

Paul Chellino ’15, a sophomore majoring in public health education and an NCAA All-American runner, was featured in the News & Record for his achievements in running. He is one of the most decorated athletes in NCAAD Division One History.

Stephanie Flowers ’12 CSD, a first-year graduate speech-language student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, is one of seven students nationwide to receive the Scholarship of Excellence Award from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. She was recognized Oct. 24 at the association’s annual conference in Orlando. Stephanie is the second consecutive HHS student to receive this prestigious award. The award recognizes outstanding allied health students who are achieving academic excellence and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in allied health professions.

Honing Our Retirees

THE SCHOOL of Health and Human Sciences marked three retirements this year. The School honored:

Vicki McCready, a professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders, who began her career at UNCG in 1983. She also served as director of the Speech and Hearing Center.

Dr. Jacyln A. Clear, an associate professor in Social Work, who began her career at UNCG in 1996.

Dr. Marion O’Brien, a professor of Human Development and Family Studies, who worked at UNCG from 2001 to 2012.
University Remembers Two Pioneers in Early Childhood Development

The last year has marked the loss of two women who were instrumental in shaping UNCG’s early childhood development program as well as building national policies and research in this field. Both were in their 90s.

Dr. M. Helen Canaday died on Dec. 30, 2011, and Dr. Mary Elizabeth Keister ’34 died on Aug. 2, 2012.

A professor emerita of early childhood development at UNCG, Dr. Canaday was born in Malvern, Ark., and held degrees from Louisiana State University and Penn State University. As former director of the university’s Child Care Education Program, she devoted her life’s work to empowering, educating, and enjoying children. She started her career at UNCG in 1958 as an associate professor and taught child development and family relations. She was soon named director of the nursery school and later was appointed director of the combined Preschool Laboratory Programs: the Nursery School, the Toddler-Two Program, the Carter Infant Care Center, and the Carter Child Care Center. Helen retired in 1984 after having worked with more than 1,000 children and hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students.

She was a national consultant for the Head Start Program. Later in life, she authored the book, “The Wit & Wisdom of Children.” UNCG hosted a book signing for her on her 90th birthday.

Memorials may be made to the Dr. Helen Canaday Scholarship Fund at UNCG, 1000 Spring Street, Greensboro, NC 27403.

A professor emerita of early childhood development at UNCG, Dr. Keister was born on April 19, 1913, in Mt Vernon, Iowa. She was a graduate of Woman’s College as well as the University of Iowa and the University of Chicago. She went on to become head of the Child Development Department and professor in the College of Home Economics of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Her career included a professorship at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville as well as extended travel to India and Rome to strengthen domestic sciences programs internationally. In 1965 she took a professorship at UNCG and became the director of the Demonstration Research Project on infant group care. In 1974 she received the Irwin V. Sperry Award from the NC Family Life Council and the prestigious Dr. Max Gardner Award, given annually to one faculty member from the 16 UNC branches that “made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.” She served many state agencies focused on daycare, children and youth.

Memorials can be made to the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 501 S Mendenhall St, Greensboro, NC 27405 or Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro, 2500 Summit Ave, Greensboro, NC 27405.

Alumni News

Yu-Kai Chang PhD ’08 has received the highest honor for a young scholar in Taiwan – the 2012 Da-You Wu Memorial Research Award of the National Science Council in Taiwan. Chang is the first scholar in the discipline of physical education, sport and exercise ever to receive this honor, which aims to encourage long-term achievement in scholars younger than age 42. Chang is currently an associate professor in the Graduate Institute of Athletics and Coaching Science at the National Taiwan Sport University and director of the Physical Activity Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory.

Vicki Simmons ’75, ’84 MEd, was voted teacher of the year at the Haynes-Inman Education Center in Jamestown, NC, a public school for children ages 3-22 who have multiple disabilities. Simmons is a National Board Certified Teacher and a Certified Adapted Physical Education. She was honored in 2008 by the NC Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance as the “Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year.” She also serves on the local advisory board of the Program for the Advancement of Girls and Women in Sport and Physical Activity.

In Memoriam

Dr. Linda Lee Buettner, a professor of Community and Therapeutic Recreation at UNCG, died on April 26, 2012. She was 56. Dr. Buettner was world renowned for her research of therapeutic programs for older adults with secondary symptoms of dementia, depression, delirium, and apathy and for her evaluation of non-pharmacological interventions. She was also an adjunct at Binghamton University and the University of Stavanger in Stavanger, Norway. She was the editor of the American Journal of Recreation Therapy and the Activities Directors Quarterly. She authored many books and hundreds of publications and received numerous grants and awards. She competed in triathlons and had been on the U.S. Woman’s Soccer team. As the former soccer coach at Ithaca College, she received Coach of the Year and was later inducted into their Hall of Fame. Linda received her undergraduate degree at Cortland State University, her master’s degree at Bowling Green University in Ohio, and her doctorate in gerontology and recreational therapy from Penn State University.

She was equally passionate about animal-assisted therapy and worked tirelessly for Pet Partners (formally the Delta Society), becoming a trainer and facilitating classes to prepare hundreds of Pet Partner teams. Memorials may be sent to the Pet Partner program or UNCG’s Lin Buettner Memorial Fund. For more information about that fund, please contact Amy Chandler in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation at 336-334-5327 or via email at amchandler@uncg.edu.

Theodore Spencer Williams, the sponsor of a UNCG scholarship, died on Feb. 27, 2012. Mr. Williams was also the father of Kathy Williams, a professor and associate dean for undergraduate programs in the School of Kinesiology. Memorial contributions may be made to the L.M. Williams or T & L Williams scholarship funds at the School of HHS.
Share Your News

WANT TO READ MORE ABOUT YOUR DEPARTMENT IN HHS ONLINE? Share your good news with Michael Scotto, Facilities and Communications Manager, at mfsotto@uncg.edu.