HHS Celebrates
Day of Gratitude
As you see on the cover of this issue of the HHS newsletter, our feature story is about gratitude. I believe this is a fitting theme as we reflect upon the 2018-2019 academic year. HHS has enjoyed another productive, successful year and there’s much to be grateful for, to celebrate and acknowledge.

This month, we welcome a new dean to the School: Dr. Carl Mattacola, who comes to UNCG from the University of Kentucky. He was most recently associate dean of academic and faculty affairs, and professor of kinesiology and health promotion in the UK College of Health Sciences. We are delighted to have such an accomplished scholar and teacher “at the helm” of HHS.

We are proud of the 10 HHS faculty who received promotions this year in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments in teaching, research, and community engagement. We will welcome seven new faculty members in August and meanwhile, are conducting searches for additional faculty. And we are especially excited to admit the first students in the Fall to our new joint PhD in Social Work with N.C. A&T.

The dedication and leadership of our faculty and staff continue to attract students to HHS, growing our enrollment to more than 3,700 students this year. Thanks to the generosity of many supporters of the School, 119 students received scholarships totaling more than a quarter million dollars, and others are benefiting from funding that leads to experiences like our undergraduate teaching program, conference attendance, research support and working with community partners.

We appreciate our community’s support and in turn, we contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Triad community, which is one of the pillars of our strategic plan. Many of our programs and initiatives have impact well beyond the Triad, and none would be as impactful without our funders’ generous commitment to scholarships, professorships, research, programs and community partnerships.

As Chancellor Gilliam said recently, UNCG is at an inflection point—a moment of opportunity to pursue and attain new levels of success. I believe that HHS is poised and prepared for greater accomplishments and will contribute significantly to UNCG’s securing its rightful place among the best universities in North Carolina and indeed, in our country.

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your interim dean.

Dave Demo, Interim Dean and Professor

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A Farewell Message

As my retirement approaches at the end of July, I reflect on my 13 years of service at UNC Greensboro and realize the most important thing to me has been the relationships created. Whether during my first seven years as UNCG’s director of planned giving, or the past six years as director of development for this incredible School of Health and Human Sciences, I have been fortunate to assist alumni and friends with creating legacy endowments and making loyal annual gifts. Together we provide vital resources for our students and faculty, now and in the future. As an HHS donor and UNCG alumna, I look forward to seeing many of you at campus events.

With gratitude,
Barbara Wike ’80

Barbara established the Barbara J. Wike Scholarship for Non-Traditional Students in HHS and welcomes contributions to the scholarship’s spending fund: www.uncg.edu/hhs/give.
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HHS DAY OF GRATITUDE LUNCHEON
JANKE HONORED WITH FIRST-EVER AWARD

Emily Janke, associate professor in peace and conflict studies, was awarded the first-ever Barbara A. Holland Scholar-Administrator Award by the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) at their annual conference in Chicago last October.

“The award honors Barbara’s leadership, intellectual voice and deep commitment to supporting the urban mission of the CUMU membership,” said Dr. Valerie Holton, executive editor of CUMU’s Metropolitan Universities journal. “Dr. Janke’s approach to leadership shows the strength of integrating inquiry with leadership. Through that approach, she has been able to imagine and animate innovative, evidence-based solutions to the persistent and emerging challenges facing urban and metropolitan universities and their communities.”

The award was established to recognize administrative leadership and high-impact scholarship. It celebrates scholar-administrators whose leadership and intellectual voice is leading to new strategic directions relevant to current challenges in higher education.

As director of the Institute for Community and Economic Engagement (ICEE) at UNCG, Janke connects and convenes scholar-administrators from UNCG and other institutions to address community-identified priorities through partnerships. Her work focuses on multiple aspects of community engagement, community-university partnerships, and institutional culture and change strategies.

“I am honored to receive the inaugural Holland Award in recognition of my work,” said Emily. “Dr. Holland has not only led by example, but also created space for a larger community of scholar-administrators to boldly pursue unusual career paths—weaving administrative and scholarly leadership into whole cloth.”

MILROY AND WYRICK CONVEY FINDINGS ON CONCUSSION REPORTING STUDY

Public health professors Jeff Milroy and David Wyrick were awarded $400,000 in 2016 by the NCAA-Department of Defense Mind Matters Challenge for a three-year study on sport-related concussion reporting by student-athletes.

In the final year of the study, they and their research team have found that:

• An athlete’s positive attitudes and outcome expectancies, normative perceptions and self-efficacy to report are important factors when it comes to reporting their concussion symptoms.
• Communication from coaches matters – when athletes report that they have received concussion-related messages from their coaches that specifically support symptom disclosure, athletes are more likely to disclose their symptoms.
• Female student-athletes are more likely to disclose symptoms to a coach or athletic trainer, as well as encourage others to do the same.
• Students are more likely to disclose symptoms during the off-season.

For student-athletes, these factors play a significant role in their concussion disclosure intentions and behaviors,” Jeff said. “For example, if they perceive that their coaches and other athletes expect them to ‘tough it out,’ that’s what they’re likely to do. If they believe others approve disclosing concussion symptoms, then they’re more likely to report symptoms and get the treatment they need.”

Milroy and Wyrick’s team are beginning to shift their focus to another group that plays a significant role in the lives of young athletes – parents – and are specifically interested in their role in youth sports. They hypothesize that, as with coaches, if parents have positive attitudes about concussion reporting, it’s more likely their children will too. The research team has applied for another grant for this study, and hopes to begin work with this new population in 2019, ultimately leading to a media-based intervention for athletes, parents and coaches.
FACULTY

TUCKER PUBLISHES SECOND MYSTERY NOVEL

Denise Tucker, professor in communication sciences and disorders, has published her second novel, “On The House.” This is Denise’s second book in “The House” series for which she plans seven political mysteries, each taking place in a famous house, palace or castle and in which Thomas Jefferson makes a cameo appearance, setting the stage for the story. Her first book, “Keeping House,” was set in the White House, while the second book takes place in the palace of Versailles. Greensboro artist Richard Phillips created the covers for the books, which are available on Amazon (hard copy and Kindle), and on the website of the publisher, Bluewater Press.

HARMON AGAIN NAMED SUSTAINABILITY FACULTY FELLOW

Justin Harmon, assistant professor in community and therapeutic recreation, has again been named a UNCG Sustainable Faculty fellow. The Sustainability Faculty Fellowship Program aims to enhance the university’s sustainability by encouraging its integration in innovative research, teaching and service across the campus. Funding from the program will continue to support Justin’s novel hiking program for cancer survivors, and to develop a new project: a “prescription” hiking program for women undergoing treatment for breast cancer. He will partner with Traci Parry, assistant professor in kinesiology, and oncologists to study the physiological and psychological impacts of physical activity and immersion in nature on resiliency while undergoing chemotherapy.

NEW STUDY SEEKS SOLUTIONS FOR PREVENTING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

The United States has an obesity epidemic, and it isn’t limited to adults. Almost 40 percent of American children between the ages of 2 and 5 are already overweight or obese, explains Lenka Shriver, associate professor in nutrition. By their teenage years, they can develop hypertension and insulin resistance, increasing the risk for heart disease and diabetes.

“Evidence shows it’s hard to alter obesity once it exists,” says Human Development and Family Studies Professor Esther Leerkes. Can we intervene before the scales tip too far? Much of existing research focuses on preschool-aged children and older, but that may be too late, she said, and for some people, the foundation for weight gain could be laid even before birth.

Thanks to a $2.8 million grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Shriver, Leerkes and their HHS colleagues Susan Calkins, professor in human development and family studies, and Laurie Wideman, professor in kinesiology are launching a complex, multi-disciplinary study that will follow mothers and their children from the third trimester of pregnancy to age two. The project is among the first to simultaneously examine the biological, psychological and social factors that could raise obesity risk, from infancy through toddlerhood, said Calkins.

The investigators will recruit 300 families from prenatal classes, OB-GYN offices, and breastfeeding classes.

Researchers will collect blood samples from mothers, and saliva and urine from children to analyze which biomarkers can impact a child’s obesity risk. They’ll also measure whether pregnant mothers’ hormone levels, such as leptin and adiponectin, impact children’s hormone levels after birth. These hormones influence metabolism, said Wideman, and play a role in the inflammation that increases our long-term risk for cardiovascular disease. “Currently, we don’t know how early that inflammation begins,” she said.

The team will examine parent-child feeding behaviors, such as whether parents offer food to soothe a distressed child. And they’ll assess development of the children’s self-regulation abilities. Calkins said, “Early self-regulation skills influence how well a child can control their impulses to overeat, eat unhealthy foods, or eat when they are upset.”

The goal, Leerkes says, is to put children on the right track for healthy weight, right from the start. “We’re all hoping our findings will influence interventions in the future,” she said. “We’re hopeful the knowledge will be useful to pediatricians, nurses, child development specialists, parents, and educators.”
FACULTY

FOWLER RECOGNIZED AS “TEACHER OF THE YEAR”

Judy Fowler, AP assistant professor in kinesiology, was honored by the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance and Sport Management (NCAAHPERD-SM) as the University Teacher of the Year last November.

Carmyn Glynn, 2018 NCAAHPERD-SM president, said, “The individuals selected as the North Carolina Health & Physical Education Teachers of the Year reflect the highest quality of teaching excellence and dedication. We are so pleased to be able to highlight these educators as they represent the very best from the more than 4,000 K-12 health and physical education teachers working in North Carolina.”

HHS MASTER’S IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT: BEST ONLINE PROGRAM FOR 2019

OnlineMasters.com, a trusted source for unbiased college rankings and higher education planning, released its 2019 “Best Online Master’s in Child Development Programs” in February. HHS’ online master’s program was among the short list of only eleven institutions to be recognized among all such online programs at accredited non-profit colleges and universities in the country. OnlineMasters.com research annually identifies the top master’s programs in the nation based on curriculum quality, program flexibility, affordability, and graduate outcomes.

Students who pursue a master’s in child development typically become educators, youth program specialists, social workers or child specialists. Career opportunity and steady job growth in this market was one of the reasons that OnlineMasters.com researched, analyzed and ranked the top master’s in child development programs.

HHS FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE PROJECT FUNDING

Dr. Ang Chen, Kinesiology
New funding from the National Institutes of Health for design and field-testing “The Science of Essential Balance” curriculum for high schools. The 40-lesson course will teach the science of energy-balanced living, leading students to engage, experiment, explain, elaborate and evaluate data they collect on themselves about nutrient intake and expenditure.

Dr. Jaclyn Maher, Kinesiology
New funding from the University of Southern California for the project “Maternal Stress and Children’s Obesity Risk.” Working mothers and their 9 to 11-year-old children will participate in the project in six semi-annual waves over three years, to determine whether levels of stress among mothers is related to increased risk of obesity in their children.

Dr. Linda Hestenes, Human Development and Family Studies
Continuing funding from the NC Department of Health and Human Services for “North Carolina Rated License Agreement.” The project will conduct activities related to the assessment portion of the NC Star Rated License, which awards a 1- to 5-star rating to childcare centers based on compliance with quality childcare standards.

Dr. Harriette Bailey, Human Development and Family Studies
Continuing funding from the Guilford County Partnership for Children for “Education, Quality Improvement and Professional Development” (EQuIPD). The project will address a critical need — improvement in quality in community childcare settings, providing leadership through advising and consultation.
HHS ACKNOWLEDGES STAFF WITH AWARDS

Left
Amy Chandler
Community and Therapeutic Recreation

Right
Caroline Pittman
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Left
Marie Land
Dean’s Office

Right
Sherry Ritter
Nutrition
EACH YEAR, HHS GATHERS SUPPORTERS OF THE SCHOOL TO SHOW APPRECIATION FOR THEIR GIFTS AND SERVICE. In March, the event was expanded and branded the “Day of Gratitude” to acknowledge and celebrate major donors, the HHS Board of Visitors, the HHS Alumni Association board, and recipients of scholarships, professorships and awards. Following Interim Dean Dave Demo’s “State of the School” report, honored guests were treated to brief remarks by:

- **Virginia “Ginny” Johnson**, who graduated from UNCG in 1970 with a degree in Home Economics Education and later completed two master’s degrees and a PhD in Education Administration. In 2015, she established the Dr. Virginia Stone Johnson Graduate Award. Ginny said, “My undergraduate experience at UNCG provided the base for my career and the incentive to improve my skills through further education and degrees. My husband and I have chosen to support UNCG because we believe everyone should have the opportunity to explore and learn.”

- **Jonathan Tudge**, professor in human development and family studies, has long been interested in the relationship among culture, child development and everyday activities and interactions. He has studied development of gratitude in children and adolescents and said, “Gratitude is more than ‘Thank you.’ It’s more than appreciation. Gratitude builds connections.”

- **Travis Anderson**, third-year PhD student in the department of kinesiology, is advised by Dr. Laurie Wideman, the Safrit-Ennis Distinguished Professor. Travis said, “Funding for student research attracts more students to UNCG, is instrumental in supporting innovative studies, and lets us take newfound knowledge and present it to the world.”
Esther Leerkes,
Mary Kristen Clark, Hannah York,
Shannon McNelis, Holli Ward, Barry Murray

Amanda Barnes (seated), Catherine Scott-Little (seated), Samantha Cotto
(seated), Gordon Causey (standing), Sarah Shoffner (standing)

Gabrielle Johnson, Sarah White, Morgan Klinkowski, Scott Ross,
Pat Hielscher, Cathy Wagoner, Hope Poindexter, Susan McDonald

Theresa Hancock, Karen Reid, Michael Kress, Kate Barrett, Alla Hill,
Pam Brown, Jerry Tolley, Kaitlyn DeWeese

Kathy Williams, Pea Poole, Noor Ghazi, Ron Morrow, Erika Bonadio,
Doreen Larvie, Charles Williams, Autumn Yates

Rossie Lindsey, Melissa Totten, Eric Aft, Ann Burke, Barbara Clawson, Chen
Chen, Kevin Wilson, Antonia Richburg

Haley Gilliam (seated), Ben Hickerson (seated), Robin Britt (seated), Danielle
Hatchett (seated), Larissa Witmer (standing), Stuart Schleien (standing)

Mary Boiling,
Helen Wood, Taylor King,
Kristine Lundgren, Mary Frances Linker, Edward Linker,
Vicki McCready

Rita Robbins, Jim Nass, Katelyn Brady, Sterling Grissom, Buck Cockran,
Beverly Brosnick, Angelica England, Melissa Floyd-Pickard

Celeste Wilkins, Lora McDevitt, Coleman Ross, Carol Ross,
Nancy Jo Smith, Keia Harris, Bob Strack, Dynasty Jones

Juanita Haynes, Lisa Walker, Pete Rehder, Jane Lawrence, Jewel Hoogstoeel

Connor Gleason-Wallace, Chuck Moyer, Rebecca LaPlante, Rachelle Blash,
Sallie Cunningham, Lauren Paynter, Kendra Batten, Steve Fordahl

Travis Anderson, Laurie Wideman, Kristina Gregory, Tom Martin,
Killion Webster, Donna Duffy, Kristina El-Khoury, Barbara Wike
STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY


KRISTI WALLACE IS ON THE RUN

EdD kinesiology student Kristi Wallace and husband Kevin who is also pursuing his EdD in kinesiology were recently featured in the Greensboro News & Record “Triad in the Running Shorts” blog. And run they do: Kristi works full time as wellness director at the Bryan Family YMCA, and Kevin is the football coach at Northwest Guilford High School.

Kristi said, “I got into running in high school when I was cut from basketball. A friend said, ‘Let’s go out for track. The most you’ll ever have to run is a mile.’ I laugh now because I think of how many miles I’ve run since then.”

Between career and school, “That is all of our time, literally.” Her running mileage currently isn’t high, but she manages to get in one long run of eight to ten miles each week and has recently competed in half-marathons and 5K races.

But the sacrifice is worth it: “We’d both explored the possibility of getting our doctorate. Ultimately, I want to be a college professor. We were talking about it one night and both of us – that same week – had looked at the UNCG kinesiology program. It is the only online EdD in kinesiology in the country, and is by far one of the most affordable programs. We both applied and both were accepted but had to defer…orientation was during our honeymoon to Spain and we already had plane tickets!”

STUDENT INTERNS PROMOTE HEALTHY CAMPUS

Dietetic interns from nutrition shared healthy snacks and conducted a nutrition trivia game, as part of a series of week-long events to support a health and wellness to the UNCG community.

STUDENTS ATTEND MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE

Several undergraduate and graduate students in public health education participated in the NC Minority Health Conference held in February. Attending were (L to R) grad students Khristian Curry and Maureen Crouch, AP assistant professor Crystal Dixon, and undergrads Olivia Redd, Tameiah Ross, Aaliyah Belk, and Celeste Wilkins.
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS FIGHT HUNGER, FOOD WASTE THROUGH FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

The UNCG Food Recovery Network—staffed by many nutrition student volunteers—is passionate about fighting hunger and food waste on the UNCG campus and in the community. Last semester, the FRN recovered nearly 1500 pounds of food (or 1200 meals) from the UNCG dining hall and off-campus events. Students package “leftover” prepared food that would otherwise be thrown away and distribute it to those in need via the Greensboro Salvation Army and recently, Greensboro Urban Ministries, pictured.

In addition to food recovery, the FRN builds awareness about hunger, homelessness and food waste through on-campus events and fundraisers, such as partnering with other student-led organizations on a canned food drive that collected more than 230 items for donation to Spartan Open Pantry, which supports UNCG students experiencing food insecurity.

RINKER LEADS UNIQUE STUDY ABROAD COURSE

Students enrolled in HHS 589D earned six credits in a unique setting: the remote Indian state of Sikkim. This small, once autonomous Buddhist country was annexed by India and according to Jeremy Rinker, assistant professor in peace and conflict studies, is the “…perfect place to study postcolonial, environmental, human rights and social conflict theories. They can all be complicated here.”

Co-directed by a Guilford College colleague, the four-week summer session course focuses on Sikkimese culture, efforts to conserve the indigenous culture and language, land and water rights, and post-colonial conflict. Students were immersed in the region’s culture, living in small residencies and home-stays in several villages and towns, and supported villages and schools through rice planting, building libraries and supplying books, among other activities.

THREE HHS STUDENTS NAMED SPARTANS OF PROMISE

Each year, the UNCG Alumni Association recognizes ten exceptional seniors for academic excellence and commitment to service as “Spartans of Promise.” The latest honorees, named last fall at the annual Founders Day event, were selected by an alumni panel comprised of representatives of the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Council, the Alumni Association board of directors, Reunion chairs and former Spartans of Promise.

Among the 10 honorees were HHS students Alisha Woodside (Recreation and Parks Management), Keia Harris (Public Health Education) and Rhema Hedgepeth (Therapeutic Recreation).

One panel member said, “It was an amazing experience to learn how each each of our ‘Spartans of Promise’ found their way at UNCG. I look forward to the legacy they make in the future.”
THIRTEEN HONORED WITH 2018 HHS ALUMNI AWARDS

HHS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD:
Dr. Kathy Etz (MS ’95, PhD ’97 HDFS). Following a one-year postdoctoral fellowship, she joined the National Institute on Drug Abuse and has had a highly impressive career. She has been the director of the Native American Program while also serving as a program director for epidemiological research. She also served as the Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs at the National Institutes of Health, working with senior NIH leadership to advise on American Indian and Alaska Native issues. In this role she established tribal consultation activities at the NIH, ensuring that tribal leaders provide input on NIH policies and programs.

LIFETIME LEGACY AWARD:
Dr. Joanne Safrit (BS ’57 Phys Ed; MS ’62 and PhD ’67, University of Wisconsin-Madison), spent 20 years on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was named a Henry Bascom Distinguished Professor. Following her retirement, she accepted a position as professor and chair of the department of health and fitness at the American University in Washington, D.C. Throughout her career she published extensively, including textbooks and articles in research journals on quantitative measurement. Dr. Safrit has received numerous awards for her academic and research excellence and although she has been retired for some time, remains quite active in the field.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:
Jeff Bacon (BS ’98 NTR). Following graduation, Jeff combined his talents as a culinary chef with his nutrition degree to work in restaurant management but had a desire to help those who had served time in prison or who had struggled with addiction or homelessness and were underemployed as a result. In 2006, he created the Community Kitchen at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina, a 13-week training program teaching basic culinary and hospitality skills to the underemployed. In 2008, the Community Kitchen was recognized by the American Culinary Education Federation with their Quality Program Award. He expanded the idea into a full-scale catering operation to provide Second Harvest agency partners—local soup kitchens, group homes and Kid’s Café—with ready-to-serve meals. He also developed a full-service restaurant in a Winston-Salem hotel, offering a 24-month paid hospitality residency to alumni of the Community Kitchen program. A second full-service restaurant is planned.

EMERGING LEADER AWARD:
Dr. Stephanie Parade (MS ’07, PhD ’10 HDFS) is an associate professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University. She is at the forefront of research designed to understand how stress alters the developmental pathways of infants and children and is dedicated to applying these findings to improve the quality of services delivered to at-risk families. Her research team is evaluating the efficacy of various home visiting programs designed to prevent child abuse and promote effective parenting and family outcomes in Rhode Island.

The HHS PACESETTER AWARDS honor outstanding alumni who have attained local, state or regional recognition through their achievements in scholarship, leadership or service during their career or through civic involvement. Each HHS department and program selected an alumnus to honor.

Colette Edwards (BA ’72 CSD, MA in Speech Pathology, University of Tennessee) spent many years as an educator and speech pathologist. Before her recent retirement, she was on the faculty of the department of communication sciences and disorders for several years, including service as the director of graduate studies and as a clinical supervisor in the speech and hearing center. She has co-authored book chapters and articles for national publications on the topics of reader’s theatre and clinical supervision in speech-language pathology.

Denise Blanchfield (BS ’13 CTR) is a recreation therapist at Cone Health, focused on inpatient acute crisis stabilization for children and youth. She is also pursuing her MA in Teaching with a concentration in special education at Western Carolina University. In the few short years since graduation, she has restructured Cone’s Recreation Therapy program as an effective treatment service for this population and to align with licensing guidelines and standards of practice. She also designed and is implementing an intervention that has shown improvement in therapeutic outcomes of self-esteem, communication, problem solving, team building, coping skills, and anger and stress management in children.
with behavioral health issues. In addition, she has initiated other evidence-based interventions such as Animal Assisted Therapy, aromatherapy and leisure education.

Dr. Melvin Herring (PhD ‘13 HDFS) is an assistant professor in the department of social work at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte and serves as director for the school’s Master’s in Social Work program. He is widely recognized for his service engagement and public service, including cultural competency trainings with police departments. He has worked with police departments to address issues of inequality in policing, diversity, equity and inclusion in police-community partnerships.

Kim Berg (BS ‘89 Phys Ed, MS ‘00 KIN) has taught at Alamance Elementary School for nearly 30 years and plans to retire soon. She has always taken a holistic approach to education, focusing not only on the physical but also the cognitive and social components of health and wellness, and collaborated with classroom teachers to ensure the movement curriculum matched the overall curriculum. She also served as a cooperating teacher for UNCG and other institutions, mentoring physical education student-teachers and demonstrating compassionate teaching and leadership.

Dr. Paula Sisk (PhD ’05 NTR), is a registered dietitian and lactation consultant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center, as well as an adjunct professor in the department of pediatrics at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Her dissertation was the first published work to report measurements of stress and anxiety in women before and after receiving counseling on the benefits of human milk for their premature infants, and consequently, how much breast milk the mothers were able to provide their babies. She has continued to do research while working as a clinical dietitian and has published several manuscripts in high-impact journals such as Pediatrics: The Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Sisk has served as a faculty member of the North Carolina Lactation Educator Training Program for 25 years and has trained approximately 1,250 nutritionists and nurses across the state in the area of breastfeeding premature infants. She also serves as a preceptor to UNCG and UNC Chapel Hill students on their dietetic internships.

Dr. Narayan Khadka (MA ’10 PCS, PhD Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Nova Southeastern University) specializes in the pathology of family and community trauma and breakdown from violent extremism and extremist identity ideology. He is currently the senior social scientist and subject matter expert at SOS International, serving U.S. forces in Afghanistan. His prior experiences as a lawyer in his native Nepal prepared him well as a leader in his community, and he has, through a passion for conflict resolution, continued that leadership in the Triad area of North Carolina. He has served as a Center for New North Carolinians research fellow and as an Americorps Community Liaison, impacting countless newly arrived residents of Greensboro. He is the founding president of the Triad Nepalese Community Center and has helped organize many cultural programs for Nepali, Bhutanese, and other newly arrived refugee communities.

Quirina Vallejos (MPH ’03 PHE) is currently the project director for the Administrative Core Center for Regulatory Research on Tobacco Communication at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at UNC Chapel Hill. She is a leading scholar and advocate for farmworker health and Latino families in North Carolina and the nation. She is also the president of the North Carolina Farmworkers Project’s Board of Directors and has served for several years on the Farmworker Advocacy Network.

Dr. Tiffany Washington (MSW ’02 SW, PhD in Social Work, UNC) is an assistant professor and director of the interdisciplinary study abroad program in the school of social work at the University of Georgia. Her research interests include designing and implementing culturally-targeted social and behavioral interventions to reduce the burden of health disparities and improve psychosocial outcomes in older chronic kidney disease patients. She is the recipient of several research and training grants and has published 23 manuscripts on aging, minority health and caregiving. She is also faculty advisor to the UGA campus chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work and serves on the editorial boards for both the Journal of Gerontological Social Work and the Journal of Nephrology Social Work.

Melanie Hardy (MS ‘11 Genetic Counseling) is assistant director of genetic counseling services and a telehealth genetic counselor at the Emory University School of Medicine’s JScreen Program. She is licensed to practice in 21 states and provides genetic counseling by phone or video for patients and providers on screening results and testing options, as well as impacts on family members. She also supervises and trains genetic counselors, develops and maintains operating procedures for genetic counseling services, aids in marketing, education and fundraising efforts, and collaborates in planning and executing research at JScreen. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Emory, volunteers with several community organizations, and has been an active member of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, from which she has received multiple awards.
IN MEMORIUM
KATHIANN LESTER
Kathiann Lester (MA ’12 PCS and former HHS Alumni Board member) died January 10, 2019, after a three-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

She started her 25 year career in advertising and broadcasting in Atlanta, and in 2011 joined the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce as EVP of member engagement. She and her team helped to promote two signature leadership programs: Leadership Greensboro and Other Voices. She was the former board chair for the American Red Cross, and marketing and communications chair for the United Way. At the time of her death, Kathi was pursuing a PhD in peace and conflict studies and defending her dissertation, “Interpersonal Conflict in the Workplace as it Relates to Gender.”

Her family welcomes donations made in her name to: UNCG Peace and Conflict Studies Enrichment Fund, the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Minority Business Accelerator Program, or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network 1500 Rosecrans Ave. Suite 200, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

INAUGURAL WHITAKER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CARRIES ON LEGACY
Sarah Hamrick (’09, ’18 MSW), the inaugural recipient of the Jennifer Ann McLamb Whitaker Graduate Scholarship in the joint master of social work program, is preserving Jennifer’s legacy of “life, love and light.”

Hamrick was recognized with the 2018 National Association of Social Workers-NC Chapter President’s Award for her academic and leadership excellence, community commitment and professional potential to impact the field.

As a UNCG Guarantee mentor, Hamrick used her English undergraduate background to help incoming graduate students with their academic writing skills, and subsequently coordinated a mentoring program. As vice president and co-president of the JMSW student organization, Hamrick assisted in organizing service events and guest speakers. Her research endeavors included presenting data at the 2017 UNCG Graduate Creativity Expo, which examined culturally competent social work with Latinx families and an independent study course concerning maternal mental health. Hamrick’s community commitments included Greensboro Operation Transparency, a group that addresses community injustice, as well as service as a Guardian ad Litem in Guilford County, advocating for a family with six children.

ROTH CONDUCTS TRAINING FOR ILLINOIS CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS
Carla Roth (MA CTR), Rosecrance Health Network recreational therapist, was the keynote speaker at 2019 Illinois Inter-Agency Athletic Association (IIAA) training conference in Bloomington, Ill. The IIAA is a non-profit organization that provides training for child welfare agency staff across Illinois and promotes structured sporting events for teens living in residential living or group homes. Her four-hour interactive training session included 15 different therapeutic interventions and sensory-based activities to help manage and ease the symptoms of mental health and substance abuse disorders.

HDFS ALUMNA, STUDENT RECOGNIZED BY NCCU
Nina Smith (PhD HDFS), assistant professor of human development and family studies at N.C. Central University, and Shakiera Causey, graduate student in HDFS, have been recognized by N.C. Central University as “40 Under 40 Alumni.” The NCCU Alumni Relations awards recognize young alumni of the university who have made significant contributions to their professions or outstanding public service. Both were honored for their accomplishments in education and community philanthropy efforts.
HHS PRESENTS ANNUAL TECH SHOWCASE

Technology tools for online learning were presented to UNCG faculty in January at the HHS annual Tech Showcase. Faculty and staff demonstrated use of technologies such as WebEx, engaging students with iClickers, programs to create animated slides with voiceover, virtual reality and Google Team Drive.

MOTOR BEHAVIOR RESEARCH NETWORK WELCOMES ECU’S MIZELLE

Dr. Chris Mizelle, assistant professor of kinesiology at East Carolina University, was the featured presenter at Kinesiology’s Motor Behavior Research Network last fall. He spoke on “Rethinking Neuromotor Control and Limb Dominance,” and later presented “Motor Control, Neuroscience and Neuroimaging: Complementary Approaches for the Study of Human Movement” at the Department of Kinesiology Colloquium, open to all HHS faculty, staff and graduate students.

SPECIAL COLLOQUIUM SALUTES UNCG PIONEERS IN KINESIOLOGY

HHS honored its pioneers in kinesiology – Drs. Jo Safrit, Kate Barrett, Dick Swanson and Diane Gill at a special colloquium last fall entitled “Living History of Kinesiology.” In a discussion moderated by Dr. Gill, the four shared their experiences in being a part of the development of the field, and the significant contributions to kinesiology made by UNCG.

HHS SPEAKER SERIES LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY

Dr. Barbara Fiese of the University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign was the inaugural speaker for a new speaker series launched in February by the HHS Office of Research. Dr. Fiese presented “Why Family Mealtimes Matter: The Science and Politics of Food, Family, and Children’s Nutritional Health.” She is a professor in human development and family studies, holds an endowed chair in family resiliency and is director of the UIU-C Family Resiliency Center.
Peace & Conflict Studies summer session students in Sikkim, India. (See story on pg. 9)