

Commencement | December 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE



Friday, the Thirteenth of December
Two thousand and twenty-four

Program

COMMENCEMENT DECEMBER 13, 2024

PROCESSIONAL* Marietta Cameron, Mace Bearer,
Dean of Natural Sciences

Faculty
Degree Candidates
Platform Party

RINGING OF THE ALUMNI BELL* William Fairley, *Class of 2027*

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER* Isaac Hadden, *Class of 2025*

WELCOME AND OPENING Kimberly van Noort, *Chancellor*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT Yvonne Villanueva-Russell,
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Roger Aiken,
Chair, UNC Asheville Board of Trustees

GREETINGS FROM THE UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS Joel Ford,
Member, UNC Board of Governors

STUDENT SPEAKER..... Alondra Barrera-Hernandez, *Class of 2025*
Vice President, UNC Asheville Student Government Association

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE Kimberly van Noort,
Chancellor

Recipient: Oscar Wong

COMMENCEMENT REMARKS Oscar Wong,
founder of Highland Brewing Company

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATES Kimberly van Noort, *Chancellor*
Yvonne Villanueva-Russell, *Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

Candidates do not receive degrees in alphabetical order.

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Bachelor of Science

CLOSING Kimberly van Noort,
Chancellor

ALMA MATER*	Alondra Barrera-Hernandez, <i>Class of 2025</i>
RINGING OF THE ALUMNI BELL*	William Fairley, <i>Class of 2027</i>
RECESSIONAL**	Platform Party Faculty Graduates

**Please stand as you are able.*

*** Please remain seated until an usher escorts you to rejoin the graduates.*

UNC Asheville Commencement is a smoke-free event.

UNC Asheville guests can use our guest network for internet access. Search and connect to “UNCA_Guest” network. Once connected, your device will be automatically directed to a registration page to grant access.

Live captioning is available via the livestream video of today's program on youtube.com/@UNCAshville

Show Callers: Kenya Lipplett

Student Marshals: Mikaela Futrell, *Class of 2027*; Sylvia Hanson, *Class of 2025*; Owen James, *Class of 2025*

Faculty Marshals: Erica Abrams Locklear, *Professor of English, Thomas Howerton Distinguished Professor of Humanities*; Lei Han, *Interim Dean of Special & Graduate Programs and Professor of New Media*

Staff Marshals: Grace Champion, Klari Farzley, Paula Pound, Rowan Stuart; *Division of Student Affairs*

Highland Bagpiper: Michael Waters

Drummers: Members of the Afromusics Ensemble

Director: Adame Dembele, *Adjunct Professor of Music*

Alondra Barrera-Hernandez

STUDENT SPEAKER



Alondra Barrera-Hernandez is vice president of the Student Government Association at UNC Asheville. As student body vice president, they have worked to increase student support on campus, with particular emphasis on mental and physical health, environmental impact, and school spirit. They have also focused on building a more inclusive, respectful, and equitable campus community.

Originally from Rutherfordton, North Carolina, Barrera-Hernandez is a senior majoring in music with a concentration in classical voice performance. They also participate in several music ensembles, including the Asheville Singers, Wind Ensemble, and Studio 018. Barrera-Hernandez serves as a resident assistant, voting ambassador, and orientation assistant on campus. They also represented the student body as a member of the Chancellor Search Committee.

Oscar Wong

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Photo courtesy of Highland Brewing Company

The son of Chinese immigrants, born and raised on the island of Jamaica, Wong came to the U.S. in 1959 to earn degrees in civil and structural engineering at the University of Notre Dame. Beginning his career in nuclear power plant safety analysis, Wong would later start his own company focused on nuclear waste treatment systems. This same entrepreneurial spirit led Wong to launch Highland Brewing Company, Asheville’s first craft brewery since prohibition, beginning the trend that made Asheville “Beer City, USA” and Wong dubbed the “Godfather of Asheville craft beer.” After earning every major recognition in his field, Wong retired a second time, leaving Highland Brewing to be run by his daughter, Leah Wong Ashburn. In 2023, Wong was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the North Carolina governor to individuals who have shown extraordinary service to the state and their communities.

Candidates for Degrees

BACHELOR OF ARTS, BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Macy Duray Abramson

Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)

Sarah Kathryn Adams

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Psychology

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Diana Aguilar Robles

New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in New Media

Matthew Corey Anders

Accounting (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Accounting

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Matisse S. Araque

Art (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Art

Avis Atkins

English (Bachelor of Arts)

Anthony Francesco Aversano

Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Brian Phillip Badesco

Art (Bachelor of Arts)

Physics (Bachelor of Science)

Rashaun O'Shea Baldwin

Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Interdisciplinary Studies

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Owen Parker Baloga

Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts)

Distinction in Art

Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Alana Janae Barber

Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Jasmine Cynthia Barry

Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Biology

CUM LAUDE

Conor Behan

Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Lillian Grace Bennett

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Psychology

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Ava Simone Bjorkman-Tracy

Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Environmental Science

Distinction as a University Research Scholar

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Michael Edward Bodenhamer

Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Wyndham Kennedy Bostian

Jazz and Contemporary Music
(Bachelor of Fine Arts)

Distinction in Jazz and Contemporary Music

Ashley Brooke Bowden

New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Olivia Marie Bowden

New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Sunny Micah Brown

New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Phoebe Campbell

New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Skyelar Kathryn Chancellor-Thigpin

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Angela Chavez-Binuelo

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Avery Elizabeth Childress

Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Mass Communication

CUM LAUDE

Giuliana Michelle Chiquito

Music Technology (Bachelor of Science)

Aether Coby

Physics (Bachelor of Science)

Satiana Bianca Cochran

Languages and Literatures (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Languages and Literatures

Distinction as a University Honors Scholar

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Briar Coleman

Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts)
Distinction in Art
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Arlie England Collett

English (Bachelor of Arts)

Cameron Bennett Collins

Philosophy (Bachelor of Arts)

Ethan Troy Colon

Philosophy (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Philosophy
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Noah Wayland Connor

Management (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Management
CUM LAUDE

Mik Correia

English (Bachelor of Arts)

Dawson Eric Cronkhite

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Nadine Ciel Cook Del Gallo

Health Sciences (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Health Sciences
Distinction as a Community Engaged Scholar
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Ethan J. DeLiso

English (Bachelor of Arts)

Joel Thomas Denton

Computer Science (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Computer Science
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Trinity Anne Denzler

English (Bachelor of Arts)

Anna Sophia Doane

Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Environmental Science
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Kiarra Teresa Driscoll

Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Emma Catherine Edes

English (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in English
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Myles Gregory Edmondson

Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Health and Wellness Promotion
CUM LAUDE

Sarah Evannes Edmonson

Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Alexandra Rose Eichinger-Wiese

Engineering (Bachelor of Science)

William Alexander Elliott-Heagler

Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Klara Lucille Esau

Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Interdisciplinary Studies

Charlie Ellis Farrar

Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Jay Fender

Biology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Jeffrey Heath Flathau

Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Health and Wellness Promotion
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Alana Joy Foodman

Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)

Henry Forbes Fowler

Biology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Biology
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Andie Iphis Fox

Biology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Biology
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Clare Spurrier Gaffney

Anthropology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Anthropology

Grace Cain Galeota

Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Political Science
Distinction as a University Honors Scholar
CUM LAUDE

Miguel Angel Garrido
Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)

Monica Leigh Goedl
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Health and Wellness Promotion
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Edvin Carl Grolimund
Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)

Brandon Jason Grovenger
Music Technology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Music Technology

Lydia Maren Guth
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Psychology

Isaac Lee Hadden
Jazz and Contemporary Music
(Bachelor of Fine Arts)
Distinction in Jazz and Contemporary Music
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Dylan Michael Hadley
Environmental Studies (Bachelor of Science)

Jenna Parker Haggett
Art History (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Kaya Brienne Hall
Biology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction as a University Honors Scholar

Seth Andrew Hammond
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)
CUM LAUDE

Dylan Lea Harbison
English (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in English

Angelina Nicole Herbert
Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Environmental Science
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Haley Paige Hewkin
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Psychology

Gracie Faith Hicks
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Marina Elaine Himes
Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Ethan Xavier Hoge
Mathematics (Bachelor of Arts)

Hayden Anderson Holbrook
Computer Science (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Computer Science

Daphne Jane Homen
Environmental Studies (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Christopher Lynn Hooke, Jr.
Computer Science (Bachelor of Science)

Carolyn Grierson Howell
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)

Benson Stirling Hughes
History (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in History
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Syndni Lauren Humphery
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)
Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Health and Wellness Promotion
Distinction in Interdisciplinary Studies
CUM LAUDE

Liza Jane Hurley
Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)

Clayton Warren Hutchison
Jazz and Contemporary Music
(Bachelor of Fine Arts)

Trevor Dylan Hynes
Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)

Sarah Macauley Jackson
English (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Nina Danielle Jiggers
Biology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Biology
CUM LAUDE

John Tyler Jamison
New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Doriyan Ashford Mitchell Johnson
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)

Krystyn Destiny Johnson
Accounting (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Accounting
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
CUM LAUDE

Josef Hamit Kalna
Mathematics (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Mathematics

Kathryn Leigh Karp
Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Interdisciplinary Studies
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Sybil Keil
Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Isabel Klich
Art and Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Jonathan Nicholas Knox
Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)

Tara Elizabeth Lambert
Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Mass Communication

Payton Dakota Lawrence
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Jonah Hecht Levy
Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Mass Communication
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Elisha Franklin Lewis
Business (Bachelor of Science)

Omar Alonzo Lopez, Jr.
Computer Science (Bachelor of Science)

Ettie Elizabeth Lyles
Anthropology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Anthropology

Cameron Dominic Mackie
History (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in History
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
CUM LAUDE

Kylie Noelle Mangione
Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Rowan Elizabeth Manzer
Ancient Mediterranean Studies
(Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Ancient Mediterranean Studies

Jessica Danielle Martin
Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Owen Austin Mauch
Music Technology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Music Technology
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Samantha Rose Mazze
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Melissa Leigh McAllister
Mathematics (Bachelor of Arts)

Megan Kathleen McFarland
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Health and Wellness Promotion
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Ian Sander McGill
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)

David Alexander Grant McKelvey
Music Technology (Bachelor of Science)

Timothy Michael McMahon, Jr.
Economics (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Economics
CUM LAUDE

Dylan Ridge McMichael
Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Interdisciplinary Studies
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Jonathan Paul Miller
New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Hannah Jamie Milling
Art (Bachelor of Arts)

Julian Mistretta
Jazz and Contemporary Music
(Bachelor of Fine Arts)

Jessica Adi Mitchell
Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Zoe Addison Montgomery
Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Environmental Science
CUM LAUDE

Sara Nicole Moody
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Samantha Nelba Morin

Art and New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Art

Distinction in New Media

CUM LAUDE

Sydney Jane Morrison

Interdisciplinary Studies (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Interdisciplinary Studies

CUM LAUDE

Stefani Nicole Neal

Physics (Bachelor of Science)

Madeline Le Nguyen

Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Mass Communication

CUM LAUDE

Cody Thomas Novotny

Music Technology (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Music Technology

CUM LAUDE

Naomi Juanita Olsen-Zelman

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Psychology

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Chloe Dana Olson

Anthropology (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Anthropology

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

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Art (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Art

Amber Nicole Owen

Health and Wellness Promotion

(Bachelor of Science)

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Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Tristan Pariseau

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Alastair Parker

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Psychology

CUM LAUDE

Sarah Rebecca Parker

Languages and Literatures (Bachelor of Arts)

Tess Marie Parker

Environmental Studies (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Environmental Studies

Elvis Samuel Perez Morales

Business (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Business

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Giovanni Marsh Perlain

Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Political Science

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Emma Lauren Perrotta

New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in New Media

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Brooke Marie Peterson

Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Biology

CUM LAUDE

Thomas Carlton Philipps

Computer Science (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Computer Science

John Russell Pickett

Accounting (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Accounting

CUM LAUDE

Cooper Quentin Pine

Art (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in Art

Jason Ross Posner

Political Science (Bachelor of Arts)

Presley Savannah Price

Environmental Science (Bachelor of Science)

Chloe Michelle Princenthal

English (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in English

Georgina Provencio Martinez

New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Distinction in New Media

Distinction as a University Honors Scholar

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Sophie Elizabeth Pruett

Chemistry (Bachelor of Science)

Distinction in Chemistry

Distinction as a University Research Scholar

CUM LAUDE

Beulah Irene Quinn

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Madison Renee Randolph

Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Bryson Trent Rankin
Mass Communication (Bachelor of Arts)

Mariana Restrepo-Molina
Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Cayla Marie Ritchy
Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts)
Distinction in Art
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Heather Nicole Roberts-VanSickle
Sociology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Sociology
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Aidan Matthew Rogers
Accounting (Bachelor of Science)

Jessica Hope Rogerson
Environmental Studies (Bachelor of Science)

Andrew James Rowe
Environmental Studies (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Aisling Rowe
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Psychology
CUM LAUDE

Noah Caswell Samms, Sr.
Chemistry (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction as a University Research Scholar

Hannah Lynn Sample
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Psychology

Devin Christian Sanguinetti
English (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in English
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Roger Charles Sanguinetti
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Christian Cameron Schuler
Health and Wellness Promotion
(Bachelor of Science)

Skyler Drew Seal
English (Bachelor of Arts)

Madison Kay Shilling
Mathematics (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Mathematics
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

David Wayne Smith
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Jacob Adrian Sonney
Atmospheric Sciences (Bachelor of Science)

Kasey Dawn Soprto
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Psychology
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Olive Lena Spence
Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts)
Distinction in Art
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Jacob Lee Spooner
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Katelin Elizabeth Staton
Art (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Art

Bug St-Cyr
English (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in English
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Seth Jordan Stockmaster
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Psychology
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Fox Stroud
Music (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Music
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Morgan Elizabeth Sturtevant
Art History (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Art History
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Nathan Suarez
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Morgana Orion Suslowitz
Sociology (Bachelor of Arts)

Abigail Lucy Suttles
Economics (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Economics
CUM LAUDE

Kayla Nikole Sutton
Engineering (Bachelor of Science)

Hailie Lynne Tagner
English (Bachelor of Arts)

Zackery Daryl Talton
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)

Windham Daire Teddy
Health Sciences (Bachelor of Science)

Mick Trexler
Anthropology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Anthropology
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Joseph Trujillo
Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Celie Frances Waddington
Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts)
Distinction in Art
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Tavius Demetrick Walker
Business (Bachelor of Science)

Edward Michael Walsh
History (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in History
Distinction as a University Research Scholar
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Lacy Brooke Westle
Business (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Business
CUM LAUDE

Zackery Chase Whaley
English (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in English
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Elijah Mason Whitlow
Music Technology (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Music Technology

France Widmann
Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Michael Noah Wilkerson
Management (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Management
CUM LAUDE

Ren Williams
New Media (Bachelor of Arts)

Hailey Olivia Grace Wisker
Ancient Mediterranean Studies
(Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction In Ancient Mediterranean Studies
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Terah Danielle Wunder
Biology (Bachelor of Science)

Benian D. Yao
Business (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Business

Olivia Leigh Yost
Anthropology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Anthropology
CUM LAUDE

Olena A. Zelenina
Psychology (Bachelor of Arts)
Distinction in Psychology
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Melissa Marie Zenz
Health Sciences (Bachelor of Science)
Distinction in Health Sciences
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

MILITARY RECOGNITION

Graduates who are veterans or active members of the military wear red, white, and blue cords, a symbol of UNC Asheville's appreciation for their service and sacrifice

Rashaun O'Shea Baldwin
United States Marine Corps
Critical Skills Operator, Sergeant

Elisha Franklin Lewis
United States Air Force
Special Operations Electronic Warfare/Senior Airman

Seth Jordan Stockmaster
United States Marine Corps
Intelligence Analyst, Sergeant

Officers of the University

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UNC Asheville History

As the designated liberal arts and sciences university within the University of North Carolina System, UNC Asheville provides a distinctive undergraduate experience, one that is recognized routinely in every major college ranking for academic excellence, value, access to faculty and staff, and quality of life.

Founded in 1927 as Buncombe County Junior College, the institution underwent several name changes, mergers and moves, including 12 years in Seely's Castle, before relocating in 1961 to its present campus in north Asheville in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. Through those early years, the institution was led by campus deans or presidents, with the first chancellor named as the University joined the statewide UNC system in 1969, becoming the University of North Carolina Asheville.

Our practice of the liberal arts emphasizes the centrality of learning and discovery through exemplary teaching, innovative scholarship, creative expression, co-curricular activities, undergraduate research, engaged service, and practical experience. UNC Asheville is primarily undergraduate, with all programs of study leading to the bachelor's degree, with the exceptions of teacher licensure programs and the Master of Public Health (MPH).

The University Seal

The seal is the official mark of the University, symbolic of a strong historic link with the community and mountain region. It was created in the 1930s as a modified version of the City of Asheville seal, with the depiction of Mount Pisgah and the University's motto, *Levo oculos meos in montes* ("I lift up my eyes to the mountains"), encircled by the name of the University and date of its founding. The seven tall fir trees below the mountains represent the seven classical liberal arts: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy.



Land Acknowledgment

ᏊᏊᏊᏊ – *Togiyasdi*, Where They Race

The University of North Carolina Asheville acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is ancestral land of the *Anikituwagi*, more commonly known as the Cherokee. We recognize the Cherokee as the native people and original stewards of this land.

To the *Anikituwagi*, this land was known as *Togiyasdi*, Where They Race, and was part of the Cherokee Nation, *Tsalagi Ayeli*, which covered as many as 108,000 square miles of the American Southeast as late as 1730 and consisted of 60 or more towns. The stories that come from this land teach how to live, interact and mutually care for all relations.

We, as an institution, understand that there is a need to listen and learn from the people of this land. We acknowledge that an act of recognition is not enough to overcome the settler-colonial history that has attempted to eradicate indigenous people from the history and consciousness of these lands.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee and UNC Asheville seek to affirm our work together to ensure a strong relationship rooted in relevancy, responsibility, respect and reciprocity. Therefore, as an institution UNC Asheville has a responsibility to commit its efforts and resources to the health and priorities of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the students who attend this University and all the varied Indigenous people who live in and around the lands this University is situated on. As these words are spoken and heard, we renew and reaffirm this campus as Cherokee homelands.

Commencement Traditions

Senior Walk

Before the Commencement ceremony, seniors walk past the statue of Rocky, the school mascot. Following a tradition begun by the Class of 1999, graduating seniors rub the statue's head for good luck and future success. They continue along Alumni Walk and their arrival at the ceremony is heralded by a traditional Highland bagpiper. The seniors then walk between two rows of faculty, who welcome them with enthusiastic applause in honor of their accomplishments.

The Mace

The UNC Asheville mace was presented by the Class of 2001 and created by sculptor Jennifer Costa, class of 1996. Since medieval times, the mace has been used as a ceremonial staff, symbolic of strength and authority. Today the mace represents order during ceremonial occasions such as Commencement.

The Alumni Bell

The tradition of ringing the Alumni Bell was introduced by the Class of 2007. In that year, the original bell, an antique school bell given by alumna Rickie Lowe '82, cracked during its ceremonial debut. A new bell was commissioned in 2008. It is rung at the opening and close of Commencement and is used for university ceremonies and at times of celebration and remembrance. The bell was designed by Christoph Paccard Bell Foundries of Charleston, South Carolina, and was cast by world-renowned bell maker Paccard Fonderie des Cloches of Sevrier, France. Emblazoned with the university's seal, the cast-bronze bell weighs nearly 200 pounds and is finely tuned to ring G4. The bell is a gift of several alumni and friends of the university.

The Chancellor's Medallion

The UNC Asheville Chancellor's Medallion is the university's highest distinction, given to recognize individuals who demonstrate the highest commitment to community service, national leadership and enhancement of the university. Past recipients include Linda Earley Chastang, Esq., CEO for the John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation Inc.; PBS President and CEO Paula A. Kerger; A-B Tech President Emeritus K. Ray Bailey; university leaders Ruth and Luther Barnhardt; educator Lin Brown, founding director of the College for Seniors at OLLI at UNC Asheville; educator Francine Delany '66 (posthumous), the university's first African American graduate; journalist Gordon Greenwood '30 who operated the *Black Mountain News*; philanthropist Adelaide Daniels Key, guiding force in the creation of the Lewis Rathbun Center; and attorney Karl H. Straus, one of the founders of the Legal Aid Society.

Academic Regalia

Academic attire that distinguishes faculty and graduates has its roots in the European Middle Ages, when scholars were members of the literate class, the clergy. The desire for a uniform appearance and a code to distinguish bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree recipients led to the development of today's academic regalia.

The bachelor's gown, designed to be worn closed, has pointed sleeves. The master's gown may be worn open or closed and has oblong sleeves. The doctor's regalia include an elaborate gown marked by velvet panels down the front and around the neck, as well as by three bars of velvet on the bell-shaped sleeves. Hoods differ in length for the three degrees and are lined with the official colors of the institution that conferred the degree. The hoods also are edged in the color designating the field of study as follows:

Arts, Letters & Humanities.....	white	Music	pink
Accountancy & Business	light brown	Philosophy.....	dark blue
Economics.....	copper	Physical Education	sage green
Education.....	light blue	Public Health.....	salmon pink
Engineering.....	orange	Science	golden yellow
Fine Art	brown	Social Science.....	cream
Journalism	crimson	Social Work	citron
Law	purple	Theology	scarlet
Library Science	lemon		

The square, stiff-crowned Oxford cap is worn for most degrees. The tassel that hangs on the left side is black for masters and gold for doctors. Faculty members with a doctoral degree sometimes wear a soft round cap known as a tam or Tudor bonnet. Some graduates in today's ceremony will wear distinctive tassels, cords, and stoles for special recognition.

Welcome to the UNC Asheville Alumni Association

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the UNC Asheville Alumni Association, it is my honor to welcome you to our alumni family. As an alumna/alumnus, you now belong to an ever-growing network of more than 26,000 former UNC Asheville students living in all 50 states and several foreign countries. Every graduate of UNC Asheville is automatically a member of our alumni association.

My name is Steve Tuttle, class of 1981, and I am the chair of the UNC Asheville Alumni Board of Directors. This Board is comprised of dedicated and passionate alumni who provide leadership to our Alumni Association. We have three standing committees: Alumni Connections Committee, Student Engagement Committee, and the Philanthropy Committee. Collectively we support and advance the mission of this amazing institution. We encourage you to stay involved with our alma mater through events, volunteer programs, and philanthropic support.

Our Alumni staff is eager to connect with you and assist you in strengthening your relationship with UNC Asheville. You are encouraged to share your accomplishments by submitting a Class Note. Whether it is a career promotion, receiving an award, or family news, please share those with us so we can celebrate you! You can also visit alumni.unca.edu to update your email and mailing address, and each month you will receive an alumni e-newsletter.

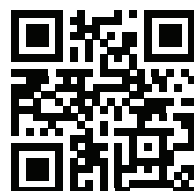
The Alumni Association hopes to keep you connected to UNC Asheville. Whether you live down the street, across the country, or halfway around the world, we hope you keep this spirit of UNC Asheville close to your heart. You can always reach out to the Alumni staff at alumni@unca.edu or (828) 251-6512. Our social media pages will connect you to fellow alumni and also provide many ways to stay in touch.

With Bulldog Pride,



Steve Tuttle, Class of 1981

Chair, UNC Asheville Alumni Board of Directors



giving.unca.edu/benefits

Alma Mater

Music by Jesse Padgett

Hail our Al - ma Ma - ter, hail U N C A! Learn - ing be your
watch - word, great - ness be your way. High up - on the moun - tains
in the land of sky stands our Al - ma Ma - ter; lift your voi - ces
high! No - ble Al - ma Ma - ter, hear our words of praise:
May we love and ho - nor you un - til the end of days!

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score ends with a double bar line.