‘Vanguard’ Will Help Members Connect

A “vanguard” is defined as “a group of people leading the way in new developments or ideas” or “those who are leaders of an action or movement in society, politics or art.”

OUR Vanguard, an organization of UNCG and Woman’s College graduates of 50 or more years, is celebrating a renaissance of interest, and plans are under way to sponsor gatherings of Vanguard alumnae from across North Carolina to honor both our WCUNC heritage and UNCG’s present and future.

Sixty percent of Vanguard members live in North Carolina, so we’re hoping that alumnae in various regions throughout the state will gather to suggest programs for local Vanguard occasions.

Our Alumni Office in cooperation with a Vanguard steering committee stands ready to assist local groups with event planning, recruit UNCG speakers if requested, invite geographically appropriate Vanguard members and provide a UNCG presence at the meetings.

The annual Vanguard meeting to induct new members of the class celebrating the 50th anniversary of its graduation will continue to be held during reunion weekend every spring. Some events for Vanguard members have been arranged on the Friday afternoon before the Saturday events, along with tours of new campus buildings and tours of the campus in general. Additional tour opportunities will be available for Vanguard members following the Vanguard induction brunch on Saturday. The schedule for the April 10–11 reunion event is included inside this newsletter.

There will also be a Vanguard presence at the Homecoming week each fall with a special seating area for Vanguard members to gather and pin on special chrysanthemum corsages.

Not only are we seeking local Vanguard planners to consider regional UNCG Vanguard gatherings, but our small Vanguard steering committee needs a few more people to work with Alumni Relations Director Mary Landers and Assistant Alumni Director Mary Swantek on “the Vanguard project.” We are seeking steering committee members who represent additional classes and who are comfortable using email for communications among the committee participants and the Alumni office.

This first newsletter is being mailed to all Vanguard members. Because of postage costs, we plan to send future Vanguard newsletters via email when possible. To be sure we have your current email address, please send it via email to m_swante@uncg.edu or to a member of the steering committee. If you have been receiving email regularly from UNCG, there is no need to send your address unless you wish to change it.

We are so pleased to be a part of this resurgence of our Vanguard. We hope you will join us with your presence, ideas and enthusiasm.
Reunion Weekend Promises Learning and Fun

Friday, April 10  

12 Noon-4:30 p.m. – Registration, Vanguard Check-in  
*Azalea Room, Elliott University Center*  
  Vanguard members are invited to join the Class of 1965 50th reunion for the afternoon of activities. Participants who prefer may view exhibitions at Elliott University Center or return to the Alumni House to visit with each other. Shuttle service runs from the hotel to campus from 12 noon until 4:30 p.m.

1:15-2:30 p.m. – *Looking Back ... Moving Forward*  
*Moderated by Charlotte Williams, Class of 1997*  
*Elliott University Center, Maple Room*  
  From the Woolworth sit-ins and the Tate Street pickets to the Neo-Black Society, UNCG was an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement in Greensboro. This interactive session will explore the student experience of the 1960s as well as the community involvement to embrace the social and political charge of the decade. Current students, alumni and community leaders will explore both the inspirational moments and the challenges of the campus experience. All are welcome to attend.

2:45-3:45 p.m. – *How We Got to Now*  
*Professor Hephzibah Roskelly*  
*Elliott University Center, Dogwood Room*  
  A tapestry is only as beautiful as the threads that compose it. Come hear the stories of some of the most brilliant of those threads – women and men whose intellectual energy and skillful leadership helped form the tradition of excellence at UNCG. All of us who have been part of this institution have inherited a rich legacy from these leaders – teachers and students from the earliest days of the Normal School to UNCG – and Professor Roskelly shares the tales of a few whose example inspired and enriched the experience of all of us.

4-5 p.m. – *Tour of the Renovated Quad*  
  Come see the lovingly restored Quad. Meet in the first floor of Shaw for this student-led tour. We'll even have the opportunity to view a student’s room – you won’t believe the difference! While we enjoy Yum Yum ice cream, we will review local restaurant menus and plan for dinners in class groups. A shuttle will return us to the hotel from the Shaw classroom.

Two Hotels Available during Reunion Weekend  
Because of a great response from alumni attending Reunion Weekend, two hotels are available for lodging.

A block of rooms has been arranged at the rate of $94/night, plus taxes, at the Courtyard Marriott, located at 4400 West Wendover Avenue. When making your reservation, be sure to mention that you’re with the WC/UNCG Reunion Group. Only a limited number of rooms are available at this rate, so please call now to reserve your room. The telephone number for the Courtyard Marriott is 336-294-3800 or 1-800-321-2211.

A block of rooms also has been arranged at the rate of $97/night, plus taxes, at Hyatt Place Greensboro, 1619 Stanley Road. A free breakfast is provided guests. Again, when making your reservation, be sure to mention that you’re with the WC/UNCG Reunion Group. Only a limited number of rooms are available at this rate, so please call now to reserve your room. The telephone number for the Hyatt Place Greensboro is 336-852-1443.

Shuttle service will be available from the hotel to the UNCG campus or you may enjoy free parking in the Walker Avenue Parking Deck located at 1360 Walker Avenue. The shuttle schedule will be included in your welcome packet.

For reunion updates, go to uncgreunion.info.
Saturday, April 11

8:30 a.m. – Shuttle service begins from the hotel to campus. Last shuttle leaves campus at 2:30 p.m.

8:30-11 a.m. – Registration and Vanguard Check-in
Azalea Room, Elliott University Center

9 a.m. – Class Meetings
The Classes of 1940, 1945, 1950, 1954, 1955 and 1960 will gather in various rooms at Elliott University Center for class meetings. Room designations will be in your welcome packet at check-in.

10-11 a.m. – Vanguard Reception
Foyer of EUC Auditorium
As the Vanguard expands from the annual meeting during Reunion weekend to meetings around North Carolina and perhaps the country, this gathering will provide an opportunity to meet Alumni Association leaders, discuss ideas for future Vanguard meetings, and to toast the new Vanguard symbols and spirit.

11 a.m. – Grand Reunion Brunch
Welcome the Class of 1965 as they join the Vanguard. With a procession through a modern version of our daisy chains, the Class of 1965 will share in their first Vanguard lunch, formally receive their Vanguard pins and enjoy some entertainment as they cap several days of remembrance and fun celebrating their 50th reunion.

12:30 p.m. – More Touring and Visiting
Following the brunch, Vanguard members are welcome to use the Alumni House as their headquarters for visiting, planning future events or beginning tours. Student ambassadors and their golf carts will be waiting to take you wherever you would like to go.

Getting Around Campus
The UNCG campus has grown larger since “our day.” To help all visitors find their way, the Alumni Office staff has carefully selected students from all undergraduate classes to be Student Ambassadors. The ambassadors are the student faces of the Alumni Office.

Using a fleet of golf carts in several sizes, these ambassadors will take visitors on campus tours, back and forth from the various parking decks, or wherever we would like to go. Their smiling, welcoming faces will be all around us when we are there in April.

Campus Tour Preview
At the Cary Vanguard event, I was asked about the updating of the Quad. If you haven’t seen our freshman dorms with new entrances, parlors and updated facilities, make a trip to do so!

Now the main entrance is from the inside of the Quad, not the street. Evidence of the digital age and new conveniences abound as one explores the first floor.

Elsewhere on campus, the new education building meets the national “green” standards and was the site tour by members of the Class of ’54 during its 60th gathering last April.

Imagine walking through the new tunnel under that railroad that has up to 70 trains daily going by overhead. There’s a new multi-story dorm to marvel over and other ways to see how the buildings and facilities on campus have expanded. Vanguard members are interested in seeing where they once studied and walked as well as new places. The Alumni Building looks the same, whereas Elliott Hall differs in many ways with a connection to the Library.

- Barbara Mitchell Parramore

Save the Dates!

UNCG Reunions
April 15-16, 2016
April 7-8, 2017
April 20-21, 2018
April 12-13, 2019
April 17-18, 2020

UNCG Homecoming
October 17, 2015

The kick-off for UNCG’s 125th Anniversary will be held during Homecoming 2016. Date and more information will be coming soon!
Vanguard: Taking UNCG on the Road

Research Triangle
A lovely, sunny fall day on Nov. 6, 2014, found eight graduates from the 1940s, 16 from the 1950s and nine from the 1960s gathered at the Mathews House in Cary. They made sounds just like those heard in the Woman’s College dining halls of earlier years. Lots of talk with tea and cookies had Steering Committee member Anne Prince Cuddy, ’64, nearly shouting for quiet to begin the program.

She welcomed UNCG officials and staff to the Research Triangle and then introduced Chancellor Linda Brady, who reviewed the current state of UNCG. When asked about her proudest accomplishments during her administration, she promptly responded that the retention and graduation rates have gradually improved. Many students are the first in a family to go to college and need support. Faculty and administrative programs are in place so these students, when faced with a crisis, get through and go on to graduate.

A handout providing Vanguard information shows a total number of 7,486 undergraduates graduating between 1935 and 1964. Sixty percent of these graduates are residents of North Carolina while 6.5 percent live in Virginia, 5 percent in Florida, 4.7 percent in South Carolina and 3.1 percent in Georgia.

Moore County - Southern Pines
Two Vanguard members in Moore County – Alice Joyner Irby, Class of 1954, and Elaine Morgan Sills, Class of 1963 – are collaborating with the UNCG Alumni Office and the Vanguard committee to present a program for local Vanguard members on April 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Country Book Shop in Southern Pines.

The speaker will be Elizabeth Hudson, UNCG Class of 1995, who is editor-in-chief of Our State magazine.

People from Moore County and adjacent counties will receive invitations. If you would like to attend, please let Mary Swantek (m_swante@uncg.edu) know. A report on this event will appear in the next Vanguard newsletter.

Vanguard in 2016
Not only will 2016 be the 125th anniversary of the founding of the school we now know as UNCG, but we will be welcoming a new chancellor. To celebrate both events, be thinking of how you’d like to celebrate in your community. Anne Prince Cuddy can help you get a list of graduates in your region, so you can plan a gathering where you live.