



Health Matters!



**Inside this
issue:**

Ms. Vickie Parker	2
Dr. John Bennett	3
Dr. Ellie Covan	4

RETIREMENT SPECIAL EDITION

This newsletter comes with mixed feelings as we announce the retirement of three long-serving HAHS faculty members, Ms. Vickie Parker, Dr. John Bennett, and Dr. Eleanor Krassen Covan. Between them they have contributed 76 years of service to UNCW! Please join the HAHS faculty and staff in wishing them the best in their retirement.

Ms. Vickie Parker

UNCW Service:
32 Years



Dr. John Bennett

UNCW Service:
21 Years

Dr. Eleanor Krassen Covan

UNCW Service:
28 Years



Ms. Vickie Parker

Ms. Vickie Parker – For almost 27 years, Ms. Parker was quite literally the entire Recreation Therapy Program and she has announced her retirement after 32 years of dedicated service. She has played an instrumental role in moving Recreation Therapy from a single person teaching a single course to an academic degree program with 5 faculty members with over 150 students, and one that is currently ranked in the top five nationally. She has been awarded the state's Outstanding Educator in Therapeutic Recreation and Recreation Therapy multiple times. To honor her distinguished career, the Recreation Therapy faculty members have just announced their establishment of the Vickie Parker Scholarship in Recreation Therapy.



Vickie's numerous contributions to the school included serving as chair of the SHAHS Graduation Committee; faculty advisor for Rho Phi Lambda, the national recreation honor society; and chair of the Derrick Davis Scholarship Committee. In addition, she served on the Board of Directors of the Therapeutic Recreation Division of the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (NCRPA), and the North Carolina Recreation Therapy Association (NCRTA). She also served on the NCRPA Scholarship Committee, and chaired the Student Professional Issues Forum for NCRTA. To honor her work with these organizations and her dedication to her students and advancing the profession of recreation therapy, she received the Educator of the Year Award from both the TR Division and NCRTA. Vickie has also been an active member of the Duplin County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

By Candy Ashton—Forrester

Dr. John Bennett

Dr. John Bennett, a faculty member at UNCW for the last 21 years, will be entering phased retirement on July 1st, 2013. He is retiring after a 44 year career in education. While at UNCW he served as President of The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD). His professional service has included some 125 elected or appointed professional positions. He has received many awards from professional organizations throughout his career and while at UNCW received Honor Awards from his professional organizations at the state, district and national levels for his excellence and outstanding contributions to HPERD programs at all levels.



John's teaching accolades while at UNCW are numerous, having received almost every recognition that the university bestows upon its faculty for excellence in teaching. Perhaps the most prestigious is his recognition for the North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2000. This is The North Carolina University System's highest honor for exceptional teaching. His scholarly efforts are numerous with over 100 career publications.

Prior to UNCW, John had a 15 year career at the public school level teaching in six Elementary Schools, three Middle Schools, one High School, and serving as a Central Office Administrator at the public school levels. Just before he came to UNCW, he served as the Director of Healthful Living Education in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

His main plan is to spend time with his bride of 44 years, Claudia, children Zack and Rebecca and their spouses, and their only grandchild Eli for many years to come. He will undoubtedly spend time surfing, fishing, dancing and hunting with his local buddies in the future as well.



By Steve Elliott

Dr. Eleanor Krassen Covan

Dr. Eleanor (Ellie) Krassen Covan will be retiring as Professor and Coordinator of Gerontology at UNCW. In a career that has spanned over 40 years, Ellie has amassed an unparalleled professional record. To read it is to bear witness to an incredibly active scholar and a tireless advocate who has dedicated her life to advancing the cause of aging persons, particularly those who served in our military. She has also encouraged her students and scholars elsewhere to conduct qualitative research in which gender makes a difference, helping them to publish their work. What her academic record may not adequately show is the relationships Ellie has formed with her students. She is one part teacher and mentor, one part professional colleague, and a whole lot of parts friend.



While she lauds the accomplishments of each of her students, Dr. Covan is particularly proud of Elizabeth Fugate-Whitlock whom she mentored as a freshman through her PhD studies. Dr. Covan's legacy continues as Dr. Fugate-Whitlock remains on the gerontology faculty at UNCW. Many of Dr. Covan's students have truly benefitted from the enduring relationship they have with her. Dr. Covan has been awarded Faculty Emeritus status. Emeritus status is an honor accorded to very few faculty in recognition of their distinguished and sustained service to the university.



In retirement Dr. Covan will spend time with her husband while continuing to serve as editor-in-chief of *Health Care for Women International*, a position she has held for more eleven years. Covered in teal, UNCW will continue to receive recognition around the world for this work.



By Chris Lantz

The Seahawk spirit is truly unmistakable in these three retiring HAHS Faculty members. In recognition of their unique energy and deep commitment to UNCW, we are excited to announce three Scholarships / Trust Funds that you can make a donation to in their name. Financial gifts will go to work immediately to support the best of UNCW and HAHS - quality academics, student scholarships, and applied learning initiatives (research, study abroad, internships, service learning and leadership opportunities).

Name _____ UNCW ID # (if known) 850- ____ - ____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home () _____ Work () _____ Cell () _____

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$ _____ for:

- The Vickie Parker Scholarship in Recreation Therapy Endowment
- The John P. Bennett, Ed.D. Scholarship in Health & Physical Education
- The Gerontology Program Fund (in honor of Dr. Eleanor Krassen Covan)

Notification of your gift will be sent to the appropriate honoree.

Please print this form and enclose it with your check made payable to UNCW. Our mailing address is:

Advancement Services, UNCW, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403-5905

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Advancement Services: (910) 962-3593 or toll free at 1-866-468-6291.