



## Letter from Nancy



Greeting to UNCG Alumni and Friends!

Before I write this letter each year, I read through the entire newsletter and view all the photos and updates. It is hard to describe the feelings I have as I read of your professional accomplishments and personal transitions, but pride and joy come to mind. Congratulations to all of you! You are growing professionally and contributing in remarkable ways to the field of genetic counseling. You are working in so many settings and roles—providing expert care to your clients and increasing access to testing and services, providing supervision and mentoring for genetic counseling students, conducting research and contributing to the literature, and educating health professionals and the community. In your personal lives there are engagements and marriages,

growing families, moves to new homes and beloved pets. You are also staying connected to your classmates - I love knowing that you still stay in touch, have reunions, attend each other's weddings, and catch up at the NSGC and other meetings. Your successes are a tribute to the UNCG MS Genetic Counseling Program! Thank you for this.

As many of you know, this will be my last year at UNCG. I plan to retire at the end of the Spring 2016 semester. While Roger and I are looking forward to new opportunities and adventures, this is a bittersweet decision. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at UNCG, especially the chance to teach and mentor so many talented students. As I reflect on the past 16 years, it is clear to me that the most rewarding aspect of my job as Program Director has been connecting with students during their time at UNCG and beyond. It has been a privilege to serve in this role and I am very proud of how the program has developed over the past 16 years. Thank you all, for making my job so rewarding. I also want to thank all of my colleagues in NC and beyond who have supported me and the program in so many important ways. I am very confident that the Search Committee, led by Randi Stewart, will be successful in identifying a new program director who will both value our traditions and successes and also have vision to lead the program into the future as the field of genetic counseling continues to evolve.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, this has been a year of several transitions, including our move to 996 Spring Garden Street (see p. 5) and the retirements of Sally Sprague (see p. 23) and Dr. McConnell (see p. 25). These wonderful people have contributed to this program in important ways, and have become dear friends along the way—they will both be missed!

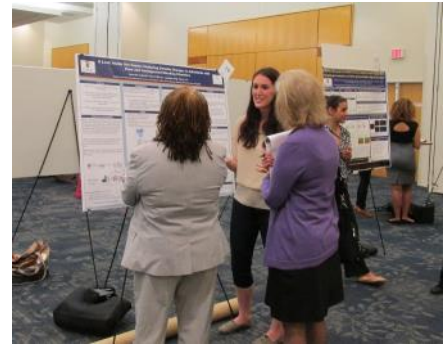
I want to end with a special note of gratitude to Dr. Tom Scullion, who has made a special gift to the program (see p. 4). We are so grateful for Dr. Scullion's appreciation for our program and the work we do and his interest in supporting us through this generous endowment.

I hope that you will stay in touch after I leave UNCG. I wish you all the very best in the future—you deserve nothing less! ~ Nancy

## Congratulations Class of 2015!



Taylor Zuck, Samantha Caldwell, Briana Lubben, Alexandra Henshaw, Liz Francisco, Caitlin Troyer, Lauren Baldwin, Juliann Koenig



Samantha Caldwell presenting her poster "A Look Inside Our Genes: Analyzing Genetic Changes in Individuals with Rare and Undiagnosed Bleeding Disorders" at the UNCG Graduate Research and Creativity Expo on April 9, 2015.



Alexandra Henshaw at Capstone Presentations

## Class of 2015 Capstone Projects at NSGC

### Poster Presentations:

Baldwin, L., Stewart, R., Lortz, A., Sdano, M. An Exploration And Analysis Of The Reproductive-Decision Making Process In Parents Of Children Affected With Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome And Related 4p Deletion Conditions. Poster Presentation, NSGC, Annual Education Conference, 2015.

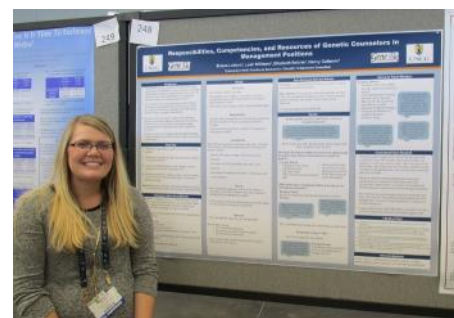
Francisco, E., Caress, J., Berry, M., Callanan, N. Perceptions And Utilizations Of Genetic Counseling By Patients With Charcot-Marie-Tooth. Poster Presentation, NSGC, Annual Education Conference, 2015.

Henshaw, A., Reitnauer, P., Namihira-Alfaro, G., Stewart, R. Spanish-Speaking Medical Interpreters' Understanding Of and Attitudes Towards Genetics and Genetic Counseling. Poster Presentation, NSGC, Annual Education Conference, 2015.

Koenig, J., Corneliussen, K., Decker, M., Quinn, K., Stewart, R. The Interface Between Genetic Counselors and Obstetricians: Education Concerning Non-Invasive Prenatal Screening. Poster Presentation, NSGC, Annual Education Conference, 2015.

Lubben, B., Williams, L., Balkite, B., Callanan, N. Responsibilities, Competencies, and Resources of Genetic Counselors in Managerial Positions. Poster Presentation, NSGC, Annual Education Conference, 2015.

Troyer, C., Callanan, N., Schoch, K., Shashi, V. Exploring the Importance of Guardianship for Individuals Coming of Age with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. Poster Presentation, NSGC, Annual Education Conference, 2015.

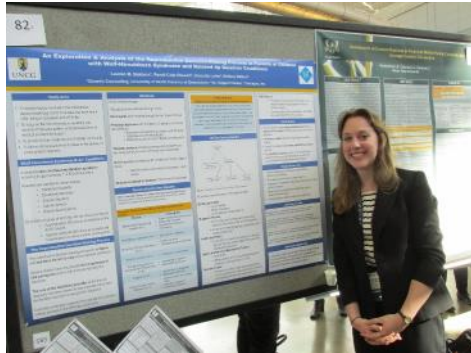


Bri Lubben at NSGC poster presentations



# UNCG Alumni & Students at the NSGC Annual Education Conference

## October 2015 in Pittsburgh, PA



Lauren Baldwin (Class of 2015) presenting her poster.



Aimee Brown and Natalie Poullard (Class of 2014).



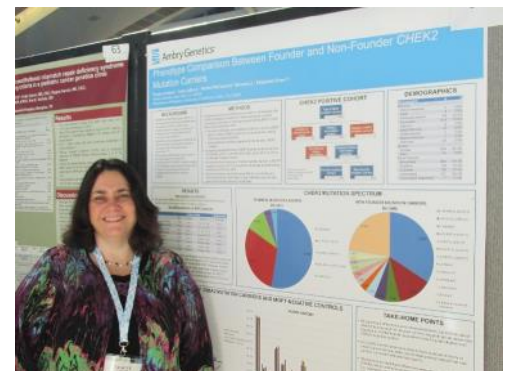
Katie Fritinger and Melissa Alderdice (Class of 2006) at the GeneDx booth at the AEC... posing with the famous GeneDx zebras!



Hanging out at the Exhibitor Welcome Reception.



Kati, Anna, Becky and Amy (Class of 2013).



Tracey Leedom (Class of 2003) presenting her poster.



Nancy visiting with alumni at the UNCG Alumni Reunion.



Lauren, Jules, Bri and Caitlin (Class of 2015) having fun in Pittsburgh!

Liz Francisco (Class of 2015) at poster presentations



Class of 2016 enjoyed meeting alumni at the UNCG Alumni Reunion.



## The Gail Pastorini Scullion Endowment in Genetic Counseling

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we announce the establishment of the **Gail Pastorini Scullion Endowment in Genetic Counseling**. This generous endowment was made by Dr. Tom Scullion in memory of his wife, Gail Pastorini Scullion. Dr. Scullion provided this brief biography:

*“Gail was the mother of three adult children and the grandmother of six grandchildren. She had worked as a librarian at a law firm, in public libraries and enjoyed a long career on the library staff of the Greensboro News and Record newspaper. She was a voting registrar and precinct official for many years. An enthusiastic participant in the work of the League of Women Voters she was also a Hospice volunteer and managed the adult and children’s libraries for fifteen years. From these experiences emerged her belief in the need for great public understanding of the actions and consequences of state and local governments on our lives. Gail became ill with cancer several years ago. With the assistance of Hospice staff our family cared for her at home until her death in December, 2013. We believe that establishing this fund in her memory is a perfect way to celebrate her personal and professional life.”*



Dr. Scullion worked in social work practice before entering a career in academia. As an administrator and social worker at a medical school he served as the staff social worker with an interdisciplinary team which had formed a genetics diagnostic and counseling program in the early 1970s. He was a member of the faculty of the Department of Social Work at UNCG for 19 years, served as Department Chair and co-planned the Joint MS Degree in Social Work with NC A & T University. He retired from UNCG in 1998.

Randi Stewart and I have had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Scullion on a few occasions and really enjoyed hearing about this work as well as his other professional roles and accomplishments. In talking with Dr. Scullion we had the impression that he had, not one, but several professional “lives” with a real diversity of interests and impacts. It was really nice to hear some of his stories and reminiscences. He also spoke about his interest in establishing this endowment to promote scholarly discussion of matters of law, policy or professional practice affecting the field of genetic counseling. We feel so fortunate that Dr. Scullion and his family choose to honor Gail Scullion through this generous endowment to our program.



We also talked with Dr. Scullion about the importance of “giving back” to one’s profession. We know that many of you “give back” through your interactions with genetic counseling students and prospective genetic counselors. Donating to this endowment fund or to the MS Genetic Counseling Program Student Enrichment Fund is also a good way to “give back”.

We hope that you will join us in recognizing the generosity of Dr. Scullion and his family in establishing this endowment in memory of Gail Pastorini Scullion.



## Moving Forward: from 119 McIver to 996 Spring Garden



The Class of 2015 had much to celebrate at the time of their graduation this May. In addition to diplomas and new jobs, they were also excited to be the last graduating class from the era of the “house” at 119 McIver Street as it was affectionately referred to. In fact, they gifted the program with a canvas print of our house that now hangs near the front door of our new location at 996 Spring Garden Street so the “house” will always be a tangible piece of our program history.

The “house” has been a part of our identity since the doors opened to the first class of students in fall 2000. “Being a part of the first class of our training program was a great experience, and it seemed extra special to me that the program was based out of a cute little house!!” says Brooke (Thompson) Smith, Class of 2002. “But the house on McIver wasn’t just a house—it was our little home away from home. It was a perfect size for our students and faculty, and it always felt warm because of the people who filled it!”

Our students and now alumni were instrumental in transforming this space into a home. “The genetic counseling house was a ‘home away from home’ during our time in graduate school. Whether it was hanging out upstairs while the first/second years had class, relaxing on the porch on a beautiful North Carolina day, chatting with Sally in the library, having meetings with Nancy and Randi in their offices, brewing coffee in the kitchen during a 3 hour MedGen lecture, or sitting together at the conference table for class – the house provided us with a place that was our own,” reflects Alexandra Henshaw, Class of 2015. “Genetic counseling is a unique profession—not only in its scope but also in the fact that there is such a feeling of community among genetic counselors. I think the house embodied that sense of community.” From the first graduating class to the present, the house meant a great deal to students during their time in the program.



On June 1, 2015 our genetic counseling program moved across campus to our new private space at 996 Spring Garden Street which Dean Celia Hooper and the School of Human Sciences helped us to secure and upgrade. This space now features a larger student lecture room and one large student workspace that doubles as a backup classroom; each room is equipped with a flat-screen television for use during presentations. We are fortunate to again offer students a comfortable atmosphere for learning and growing as professionals and as people.

We have appreciated the character that the old bank that once embodied this facility now brings to our new space. Drive-thru teller windows now provide ample opportunities for “drive-thru genetic counseling” jokes. Our conference room is now safely located in the old vault. Students seem to enjoy the proximity to restaurants along Tate Street and take advantage of our outdoor picnic table in nice weather. “Our new space is welcoming and a great learning environment,” says first year student Jaclyn Kotlarek, Class of 2017. “It has multiple rooms that can accommodate both classes, as well as a convenient set up for presentations.”

While our old “house” will be missed dearly by program alumni, it is clear that our new move was strategic and in the best interest of our current and future students. “The new building on 996 Spring Garden has so much potential to grow into a great space and become our home in this next phase of our program’s life cycle,” shares second year student Rebecca LeShay, Class of 2016. It is already providing a welcoming and comfortable environment for the noncompetitive learning that we strive for. Students and faculty are creating our new program “house” here at 996 Spring Garden Street as we move forward and continue our program traditions. Please let us know if you are in the area and would like a tour of the new “house”!



## Am I Sure About This?

Contributed by Megan Farmer, MS, CGC

Am I sure about this? I have asked myself this question fairly often since deciding on a career in genetic counseling. I had always planned to go medical school. In my pre-medical track at USF, I took a course on biomedical ethics and found the issues surrounding genetic information disclosure especially interesting. I decided to focus my thesis on this subject and learned about genetic counseling in the process. Before long, I wondered if genetic counseling might be a better fit for me than being a physician. That wasn't the plan, though. I had to ask, "Am I sure about this?"

I was. I was ecstatic to be accepted into the genetic counseling program at UNCG, my top choice. The coursework, clinical rotations, and capstone project were challenging and rewarding. My career began to take shape before I left Greensboro. I was especially drawn to cancer genetic counseling and wondered if a summer internship in the area might be helpful. I applied for the Yale Cancer Genetic Counseling Fellowship, but I didn't bet on being selected. When I was, I wondered if I was ready to spend the entire summer in New Haven, taking part in every aspect of patient care, Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 5:00. I had to ask, "Am I sure about this?"

I was. The fellowship was the cornerstone of my clinical cancer genetics training, and it confirmed that I wanted to work in this area. I felt ready for the job search. I applied and interviewed for a clinical genetic counseling position at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. UAB is a powerhouse in both genetics and cancer care. UAB also has a genetic counseling training program. This meant that if I was offered and accepted the job, I would have a busy schedule seeing patients that travel from all over the southeast and would potentially be working with students within a year. I was offered the position and realized that it would be a challenging first job. I had to ask, "Am I sure about this?"

I was. I started at UAB in 2012 and worked in cancer, prenatal, and adult genetics. At first, students observed me, and with time I became a primary supervisor. Given my interest in cancer genetics, I

eventually focused in this area and was appointed the Director of Cancer Genetic Counseling. As we worked to increase access to cancer genetic counseling in the southeast, I expanded our telemedicine program. I started teaching the Cancer and Adult Genetic Counseling course for the UAB Genetic Counseling Training Program. I also supervised Medical Genetics residents and worked with Dr. Nathaniel Robin to develop clinical competencies for the residents in cancer genetics. When the UAB representative serving on the NCCN panel on Genetic/Familial High Risk Assessment in the area of breast and ovarian cancer stepped down, I replaced her. I now get to discuss and revise national guidelines with clinicians from across the country that are the best of the best. All of these opportunities arose within the first three years of my career. Each time, I had to ask, "Am I sure about this?"

I was. I was sure because I had a strong foundation thanks to my training and the connections that I made through the UNCG Genetic Counseling program. Program leadership, instructors, and supervisors were phenomenal, and I still consider my classmates some of my best friends. It was even a UNCG alum, Katie Farmer, that first showed me the ropes as a new genetic counselor. The moral of the story is that if you're a first year student wondering if you're ready for an internship, a second year student considering a challenging first job, or a relatively new grad considering a demanding professional opportunity, you're ready, for all of the reasons that I have been.



# Genetic Counseling Now Represented in the North Carolina LEND Program!

Contributed by Megan Mann Pollard, MS, CGC

## What is LEND?

The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program is an interdisciplinary training program. Nationally, there are 43 LEND programs in 37 different states. Each LEND program is unique, but all have a minimum of 12 different disciplines represented and share the same objectives. LEND programs aim to prepare professionals for leadership roles that enable them to direct and facilitate culturally/linguistically competent and family-centered interdisciplinary efforts to improve the health status of infants, children and adolescents who have or are at risk for developing Autism spectrum disorders or related developmental disabilities. The NC-LEND program has been funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau since 1966. The Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD), a University Center of Excellence in Developmental disabilities (UCEDD) and an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC), is home to the NC-LEND program.

We recognized that the objectives of the LEND training program aligned well with many aims of genetic counseling, especially in the pediatric genetics environment. Thanks to the efforts of Jack Roush, PhD, Director of NC LEND, and Nancy Callanan, MS, CGC, UNCG Program director, among several others, the genetic counseling LEND trainee was developed. Genetic counseling students will have the opportunity to apply for this two year training program upon their acceptance to UNCG. One student per class will be selected and awarded an academic stipend. In addition to genetic counseling program requirements, the LEND trainee will fulfill the LEND core curriculum to enrich his/her training. Lillian Howard, UNCG class of 2017 graduate and inaugural NC-LEND trainee, notes "LEND has kept me very busy and has already added an extra level to my education." As a part of LEND curriculum, the genetic counseling LEND trainee will actively participate in several different multidisciplinary clinics at the CIDD, including the Angelman syndrome clinic and Prader-Willi syndrome clinics. Lillian Howard also shares that "the Angelman Syndrome Clinic is especially helpful. It is the type of setting I see myself in someday". In observing and engaging in multidisciplinary clinics, students will not only have the unique opportunity to learn from other professionals, but also to gain perspective from many different patients with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

We look forward to the challenge and opportunity that this training program has to offer for the genetic counseling students of UNCG. If you are interested in more information about LEND programs, please visit the Association of University Centers on Disabilities website ([www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org)).





## 2015 HHS Alumni Association Pacesetter Award: Kate Foreman, MS, CGC

The UNCG School of Health and Human Sciences presents the Pacesetter Award to an outstanding alumnus who has received local, state, or regional recognition by showing a dedication to scholarship, leadership or service either in their career or through civic involvement. We are pleased to announce that the 2015 School of HHS Pacesetter Award for the Genetic Counseling Program is Mrs. Ann Katherine "Kate" (Major) Foreman.



initiative that is part of the NC Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill. The mission of NC TraCS is to accelerate clinical and translational research from health science to discovery to dissemination to patients and communities. The NC TraCS Institute seeks to overcome barriers to translation by improving efficiency, training the research workforce and sharing successful research methods.

Mrs. Foreman received her undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary in 2007 and her MS in Genetic Counseling from UNCG in May 2010. During her time at UNCG, Mrs. Foreman completed a Capstone Project entitled "Practices of State-Level Newborn Screening Programs in Educating Families of Cystic Fibrosis Carriers Identified through Newborn Screening". The results of this study were presented at the 2010 National Society of Genetic Counselors Annual Education Conference. Kate's success with her capstone project was just the beginning of her involvement with clinical research.

Mrs. Foreman is also an Associate for the UNC Center for Genome and

Society. She shares "I am excited that another project I am working with, GeneScreen, will begin enrollment for its pilot soon. GeneScreen is an exploration of the possibility of population-level screening of adults for highly medically actionable genetic conditions. Adults from primary care practices affiliated with UNC will be offered a screening panel for 11 conditions." In this role, she has helped to determine which genes and conditions would be screened for and advised on procedural issues like recruitment, procedure and return of results.

Shortly after graduation Mrs. Foreman was hired by the Department of Genetics at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill as a Clinical Assistant Professor where she has found great job satisfaction. "I have the benefit of great colleagues who made UNC a wonderful place for me as a new genetic counselor, and continue to support and challenge me," says Kate. In this position, she has provided clinical genetic counseling in the Adult and Cancer Genetics Clinics. Kate has also been integrally involved in data analysis for the North Carolina Clinical Genome Evaluation by NextGen Exome Sequencing (NCGENES) study. This work resulted in being first or collaborating author for several published abstracts and platform and poster presentations at national meetings.

Kate has stayed involved in supporting our program in various ways. "I am extremely proud to be able to give back to the UNCG program through student supervision, guest lectures, and serving on capstone committees," reflects Kate on her commitment to the program. "I have a deep respect and appreciation for the genetic counselors who fulfilled these roles for me when I was a student. My UNCG experience would not have been the same without them, and I would not be the genetic counselor I am today without them." Recently Mrs. Foreman collaborated with her colleagues to create a three day mini-course on whole-exome sequencing for our students. This has been an amazing opportunity for our students to learn about and practice skills related to this cutting-edge technology. "I hope that each student I work with is able to take at least one thing from our interactions to make them a better genetic counselor. Working with genetic counseling students is also a wonderful reminder to engage in lifelong learning," she shares. (Continued on page 9)

Mrs. Foreman recently accepted a new position as the genetic counselor for the Transformative Technologies



## 2015 HHS Alumni Association Pacesetter Award

(Continued from page 8)

In the five years since her graduation from the MS Genetic Counseling program Mrs. Foreman has established herself as an expert in clinical practice, cutting-edge research and professional education. Her passion for the profession is evident. Mrs. Foreman is truly a pacesetter in our field and we look forward to having a front row seat as she continues to develop professionally and make significant contributions to the field of genetic counseling.

Please join us in congratulating Kate (Major) Foreman, the 2015 School of Health and Human Sciences Pacesetter Award for the Genetic Counseling Program.



## Current Students



### Class of 2016

Rebecca LeShay, Erica Cousins, Katie Garbarini, Chelsey Burden, Rachel Veazey, Kayla Boggs (back row); Megan Ensinger and Victoria Roth (front row)



### Class of 2017

Lillian Howard, Courtney Heckman, Ruth Lehan, Liz Mizerik (back row); Mary Hricik, Maggie Powell, Jaclyn Kotlarek, Mariah Gleason (front row)

# I'm back! or How I Never Really Left Genetic Counseling

Contributed by Alexis Carere, MA, MS, ScD, CGC, CCGC



A few times recently, I've been asked why I left genetic counseling, and it's true that my ID badge now reads "postdoctoral fellow," and that I often fail to complete the NSGC Professional Status Survey because I can't quite make my responses fit the available options. Even so, I brush off the question, because six months after completing my doctorate in epidemiology, I feel more passionate about genetic counseling – and more committed to this part of my professional identity – than I ever have.

Before I had even heard of genetic counseling, I knew I wanted to be an epidemiologist – I just wasn't sure how to get there. Historically, epidemiologists have been physicians, first treating individual patients, and then expanding their practice to the population. However, having in first-year university ruled out going to medical school on principle (what principle, I can't remember), my own path to epidemiology was uncertain. By October 2007, I had a degree in genetics and was studying philosophy in London, Ontario, but I was still trying to figure out my next move. It can perhaps be attributed to fate, then, that in my Ethics seminar that month, we were assigned two papers by the epidemiologist Abby Lippman-Hand entitled "Genetic Counseling – The Postcounseling Period: I & II." These papers, with their rich description of reproductive decision-making and the uncertainty of risk estimation, revealed a way to combine genetics, ethics, and epidemiology, and by Christmas I had applied to genetic counseling programs all along the East coast.

I graduated from UNCG in 2010, and took a job as a clinical cancer genetic counselor in St. John's, Newfoundland. To say that I loved my work is an understatement – I was so happy at my new job, in fact, that I completely forgot to be bothered by the fact that I was living on a sparsely inhabited and abundantly rainy island in the North Atlantic Ocean, three-and-a-half hours by plane from my nearest friends and family. It was in spite of my happiness – motivated not by professional dissatisfaction, but by the more mundane forces of increasing age and expiring GRE scores – that 15 months later, I was back in the United States studying Epidemiology at Harvard.

The stereotype of doctoral students is that they are sleep-deprived, overworked, and miserable, and while the first two were nearly always true for me, for the most part I loved being back at school. In many ways, though, I was a fish out of water: I didn't have a master's degree in epidemiology, I had scraped by with the fewest number of college math credits possible, and most people in my program had never heard of genetic counseling. (For one course, I proposed a project on direct-to-consumer genetic testing, and the faculty feedback amounted to: well, this is neat, but who actually cares about this stuff? I felt vindicated when, a few days later, the FDA warning letter to 23andMe effectively shut down DTC-GT in the United States, and my professor emailed me to let me know that my research was all of a sudden quite relevant!) I also missed my clinical practice, and during my first two years at school, I frequently questioned my decision to quit a perfectly wonderful job (and salary) to go back to writing exams (and accumulating debt); moreover, I could no longer see that what I was doing had any positive impact on anyone, except perhaps the shadowy figures financing my loans. (continued on page 11)

# I'm back! or How I Never Really Left Genetic Counseling

(Continued from page 10)

These feelings eventually passed, and the later years of my doctorate were spent doing exciting research on DTC-GT and whole genome sequencing, speaking at conferences across North America, and making my voice and the voices of my hypothetical patients heard. Surrounded by physicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, economists, and social scientists, I brought a unique, patient-centered perspective to study design, results interpretation, and science communication, and it was one that was increasingly valued by my colleagues as they came to recognize the unique role that genetic counselors play in genomic medicine. As my confidence grew, I made a concerted effort to share my work with genetic counseling audiences, seek out genetic counseling collaborators, contribute to the training of new genetic counselors, and consider the clinical applications of my research; most importantly, I always introduced myself as a genetic counselor first, and an epidemiologist-in-training second.

Will Ferguson, a Canadian travel writer, has said about his experience living abroad: "I read and learned and fretted more about Canada after I left than I ever did while I was home. I absorbed everything I could on topics that ranged from Folklore to history to political manifestos... I ranted and raved and seethed about things beyond my control. In short I acted like a Canadian." When I moved from London to Greensboro (and then, again, from St. John's to Boston), I experienced a homesickness that not only made me long for Canada, but also amplified my national pride and interest in all things Canadian; Ferguson's description of this phenomenon confirmed that I wasn't alone in the experience. Now, as a genetic counselor who "left" the profession for a while to become an epidemiologist, Ferguson's description resonates with me again. Pursuing a doctorate degree, joining industry, making a move into government or health policy – none of these things means that you are no longer a genetic counselor (even if your ID badge would suggest otherwise). And for me, stepping outside of the profession – where I had been comfortably surrounded by like-minded women and men who knew the value of what we do – served only to cement my allegiance with our little cardigan-wearing herd, and make me a fiercer advocate for genetic counselors in the clinic, in academia, and in research.

I've finally finished school (for real this time, I promise), and I am now a postdoctoral fellow at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, where I research genetic determinants of dementia and see patients in a lipid genetics clinic. I have time to participate in NSGC/CAGC committees again, I am the Chair of a UNCG student's capstone committee, and I'm working to build a career that combines genetic counseling and genetic epidemiology in a meaningful and productive way. So yes, it's good to be back; the truth is, though, that I never really left.

Please feel free to contact me if you want to chat about epidemiology, pursuing a doctorate, genetic counseling in Canada, research, or anything else!

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Twitter: [@AlexisCarere](https://twitter.com/AlexisCarere)



# Supervisor Spotlights

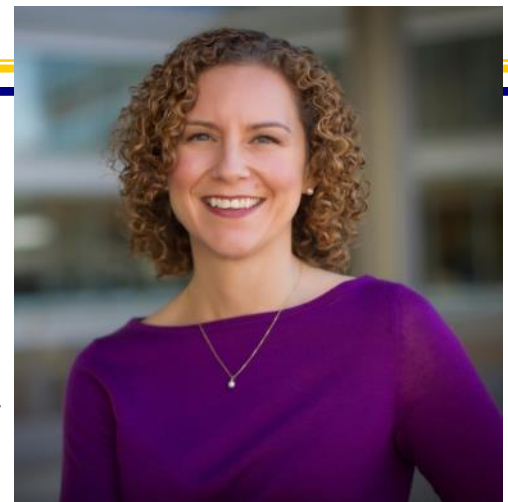
The UNCG Genetic Counseling Program is fortunate to have devoted clinic supervisors that are personally invested in the development of our students. We are honored to feature the following supervisors this year!

## Catherine Fine, MS, CGC

*Nominated by: Samantha Caldwell (Class of 2015)*

*Hands down, Cat is one of the best supervisors out there. It seemed like her main goal was to build my confidence. This was a lofty goal, as it was my first clinical rotation and I went in as a terrified student. It was amazing how quickly into my rotation that changed and my confidence increased dramatically. Cat was supportive, encouraging, and trusted me. I so appreciated her treating me more like a colleague than a student. She made an effort to always ask and consider my opinion regarding a testing recommendation or a pedigree interpretation. Her feedback was always constructive and tended to focus on what went well in the session, as students (i.e. me) tend to already be their own harshest critics. Cat's guidance and mentorship definitely shaped me into the counselor I am today and I am so grateful to have been her supervisee.*

Catherine Fine graduated from the University of Colorado Genetic Counseling Program in 2004. Shortly afterwards she began working at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in the hereditary cancer clinic and several specialty clinics. Catherine supervised genetic counseling students for nearly 10 years at UNC. More recently, Catherine chose to start her own genetic counseling private practice. She currently is involved in counseling patients for hereditary cancer risk at various locations, she consults with genetic companies in industry and continues to provide educational lectures for various public audiences, including the UNCG genetic counseling graduate students.



In response to her nomination, Catherine said “I am truly flattered to be nominated as an outstanding supervisor, especially given the number of exceptional supervisors in the area. Knowing that the work we do as supervisors helps individual students in their own journey, but also helps the genetic counseling profession as a whole is very rewarding and provides a sense of accomplishment in my own career. The accountability that comes with being a supervisor frequently reminds me of the importance of communication, honesty and respect for others, and I have come to believe that these are the most important qualities between a supervisor and student to ensure the most successful rotation”. Catherine also feels that part of her success as a supervisor comes from allowing students to have as much latitude as possible in a session, within reason, so that students can self-discover their own strengths and weaknesses which then allows them to work with their supervisor to make modifications where necessary.

Catherine continues to live in Durham, NC with her dog Lucy. Although she now calls North Carolina home, she still visits Colorado frequently. She enjoys attending sporting events, traveling, doing anything outdoors and spending as much time as possible with her family and friends, preferably while at happy hour.

# Supervisor Spotlights

## Kristy Lee, MS, CGC

*Nominated by: Liz Francisco (Class of 2015)*

Kristy Lee really thinks about her feedback and gives constructive and useful tips to improve counseling. She also is incredibly knowledgeable and being with her in clinic was probably the best replacement for medical genetics in my final semester. She also really encourages the student to critically think about the case both before and after and take on new roles and challenges when they arise.

Kristy Lee now spends most of her time as a coordinator for the Clinical Genome Resource, ClinGen. "This has been a very challenging and rewarding experience thus far," shares Kristy. "I'm learning a ton and have the opportunity to interact with many of the brightest geneticists, researchers and genetic counselors including alums Adam Buchanan and Jules Koenig." In response to her nomination, Kristy said "I am truly honored to be nominated again for a Supervisor Spotlight. Clinical supervision is such a vital part of training genetic counseling students, and it is very rewarding to be able to contribute to their training. Being an alum of the UNCG program, I have a vested interest in trying to ensure that our students thrive and will be able to represent our program well once they begin their careers. I honestly feel that the quality of students rotating from UNCG make my job as a supervisor easier and more enjoyable."



## Peggy Berry, MS, CGC

*Nominated by: Aimee Brown (Class of 2014)*

I enjoyed working with Peggy Berry during my Pediatric rotation at Wake Forest. She was a great mentor and role model who encouraged me to explore psychosocial counseling and think beyond the genetic counseling session to anticipate patient needs. She was always available to answer questions and analyze cases in a very thorough manner which helped to build my confidence and counseling skills. Additionally, she took the time to teach me many computer-based resources which I use in practice in researching variants or creating patient visual aids. Peggy was instrumental in my job search for a pediatric counseling position and was always willing to be a reference or write a letter of recommendation. I am extremely fortunate to have worked with Peggy and feel that I am better able to anticipate my patients' needs and provide them with support because of my time with her.

Peggy Berry obtained her Master of Science in Genetic Counseling from the University of Pittsburgh. She works in pediatric genetics at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston-Salem, NC and has been supervising genetic counseling students from the UNCG Genetic Counseling Program since 2001. Peggy is a dedicated supervisor and continues to attend our program's annual Supervision Workshops. She also recently served on the Capstone committee of student Liz Francisco for her project entitled "Perceptions And Utilizations Of Genetic Counseling By Patients With Charcot-Marie-Tooth". We are so grateful to have Peggy as a genetic counseling supervisor and program supporter!



# Updates from Alumni



Class of 2002

## Class of 2002

**Randi Culp Stewart:** See Faculty Update on page 24.

**Kristy Lee:** See Supervisor Spotlight article on page 13.

## Class of 2003

**Heidi Cope:** I continue to work at the Duke Center for Human Disease Modeling coordinating the Hereditary Basis of Neural Tube Defects and Task Force for Neonatal Genomics studies. My article, "Pregnancy continuation and organizational religious activity following prenatal diagnosis of a lethal fetal defect are associated with improved psychological outcome" was published earlier this year in Prenatal Diagnosis. On a personal note, my family is excited about hosting Svetlana, an orphan from Ukraine, over the holidays.

**Tracey Leedom:** I have been promoted to the position of Supervisor of Cancer Reporting in the Clinical Diagnostics department at Ambry Genetics. I've been working at Ambry since January 2014.





## Class of 2004

## Class of 2004

**Rachel Barnett:** After graduating I worked at Yale Cancer Genetic Counseling for 10 years. Starting in September 2014 (yes, 2014), I started working for InformedDNA. I really enjoy the flexibility that I'm able to have with my new position. As far as home life, I have 2 boys, a 5 year old and a 2 1/2 year old.



## Class of 2005

**Andrea Durst:** In May 2015, I received my Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) degree with a concentration in Health Management & Policy from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health. After spending 10 years in Louisville, KY where I worked in cancer genetic counseling and then developed my interest in public health genetics, I have moved back to Pittsburgh, PA to begin my new position as Assistant Program Director of the Genetic Counseling Program at the University of Pittsburgh. In this new position, I am involved in program administration, teaching, research, and student mentoring. I am thoroughly enjoying this new role, and look forward to many years of teaching, mentoring, and learning from students. In addition to my position at Pitt, I continue to do sub-contract work with the Michigan Public Health Institute as the facilitator for the Region 4 Newborn Screening Long Term Follow-Up Workgroup.

**Courtney Rowe-Teeter:** I am still practicing with the Stanford Cancer Genetics Clinic. Stanford Healthcare opened a new out-patient cancer center in San Jose, and I have transferred to this clinic to implement the Cancer Genetics Program at this location. Ben, Sophia and I have moved from Palo Alto to Campbell, which is a 10 minute bike ride to work. Sophia is now in first grade and I enjoy walking her to school every morning and then biking on to work. I continue to be involved with the Stanford Genetic Counseling Graduate Program and particularly enjoying supervising students. (see photo)





Class of 2006



Class of 2007

## Class of 2008

**Claire Healy-Hibbard:** I recently left the Dana Farber Cancer Institute after seven years and accepted a position within Yale Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program as Smilow Cancer Hospital. In my new role as Outreach Coordinator my job is to build the cancer genetic counseling services offered at Yale's many care centers located throughout the state. It's been a challenging and exciting role so far and I am really enjoying the change. Moving away from Boston was a hard decision to make but we found a nice house within walking distance to the beach on Long Island Sound which has made my daughter, who may be part fish, extremely happy. (see photo)

**Rachel Mills:** I am still working as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Center for Applied Genomics and Precision Medicine at Duke University. I've been continuing my work with Dr. Susanne Haga on clinical applications of genomic medicine, with a focus on pharmacogenetics. Our work has been highlighted in a number of peer-review publications over the past year. We have also developed a curriculum on precision medicine and interdisciplinary practice for clinicians at Duke. I am currently serving on the capstone committee for a UNCG genetic counseling candidate and I will be part of the planning committee for the 2016 NSGC AEC. My partner Justin recently proposed at a Durham Bulls baseball game and we are looking forward to getting married next year! (see photo)







### Class of 2009

**Tomi Toler:** In January 2015, I relocated from Boston, MA to St. Louis, MO and started my new job at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis seeing patients at St. Louis Children's Hospital. I am still working as a Pediatric Genetic Counselor but one of the major differences from MA is that MO has Lysosomal Storage Disease Newborn Screening. I am working as one of the primary counselors doing LSD NBS follow-up and it has been a unique learning experience, but one that I've enjoyed. Personally, the benefits of being back in MO is being able to drive (instead of fly!) to visit my family members and getting to go to Mizzou football games again!

**Kate Foreman:** See "Pacesetter Award" on page 9.



### Class of 2010

**Courtney McGuire:** My husband, Christian, and I welcomed our daughter, Sloane, on August, 06, 2015. She weighed 8 lb 11oz. Cooper is already a great big brother. Professionally, I'm still working part-time at Duke Perinatal Consultants of Raleigh and Cary. (see photo)

**Theresa Mihalic Mosher:** I continue to work as a pediatric GC at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio where I work in general pediatrics and with the Prader-Willi syndrome multidisciplinary clinic. In personal news, my husband and I are excited to announce the birth of our daughter, Cecelia Rose, born October 18, 2015! (see photos)

**Kelly East:** I am still working at the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville, AL. After being the only genetic counselor there for the past 5 years, we have recently hired two additional GCs to our team. Things are lively at HudsonAlpha these days with the opening of a clinic for genomic medicine, population based hereditary cancer screening initiative, an NIH funded developmental delay genome sequencing research study and lots of educational outreach. Outside of work I am wife and mommy to a active and super fun two-year-old red headed boy. (see photo)

**Alexis Carere:** See "I'm Back" article on page 10.



Class of 2010 Beach Reunion





## Class of 2011

**Dana Stolar:** I am currently living in Erie, Pennsylvania with my husband Greg and our beagle Allie. I have been working remotely for GeneDx as part of the Neurology team, writing and reviewing neurogenetic test reports, training a new remote genetic counselor, responding to client inquiries, and researching for test development. I enjoy working from home with no commute in the cold snowy winter and Allie McBeagle to keep me company. I also presented an abstract (poster) at NSGC – Compound heterozygosity of two MECP2 deletions with paternal inheritance of a late-truncating mutation in a female with atypical Rett syndrome.

**Melanie Hardy:** I started working for a nonprofit company within Emory University, JScreen, in February. We run an online portal for patients to pursue comprehensive carrier screening. I work from home, which is a nice change! We are also working on a research study to investigate Tay Sachs VUSs, in hopes of reclassifying them as benign or deleterious. I've continued to be active through NSGC, mostly with the Mentor Program (everyone should be part of this program!!!), and work when I can with the local Down Syndrome Society and Richmond SPCA.

**Michael Osborne:** I still live in Raleigh, NC. Taco and Helix (my dogs, a Chihuahua and a yorkie) are as spoiled as ever. I am currently working as a field-based genetic specialist for Ambry Genetics. I provide clinical support for Ambry clients throughout seven states in the SE, and am often recruited to provide grand rounds presentations, dinner presentations, etc. for academic institutions. At Ambry, I cover the cardiogenetics and whole exome sequencing product lines. I have been working on writing up several exome-related case reports.



## Class of 2012

**Ryan Noss:** I continue to work at the Cleveland Clinic as a member of our Cancer Genetics team. I staff our multidisciplinary breast cancer team as well a montly satellite clinic. Beyond clinical care, I am our sites primary clinical supervisor for Case Western Reserve's Genetic Counseling students as well as sit on their advisory board. Additionally, I am our study coordinator for our participation in the Narod study. On a personal note, my wife, Kara, and I bought a home in Bay Village, Ohio in April of this year.

**Courtney Kiss:** I continue to work as a clinical genetic counsellor at Kingston General Hospital which involves prenatal and general genetic counselling. Our group organized and hosted "Genetic Patient Family Day" this past September. Additional leadership roles this year included chairing the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors Annual Newsletter subcommittee to compile a newsletter highlighting the activities of the CAGC and spread awareness of genetic counselling; on a hospital level I represent our group's genetic counsellors in the local Union through my role as a Union Steward. I recently attended the NSGC meeting to present my poster entitled: Pontocerebellar Hypoplasia type 6: a diagnostic odyssey and genetic counselling dilemma. My volleyball team- How I Set Your Mother, is proud to report a first place finish this past year.

**Sara Wienke:** I am still living in Charleston, SC. I joined Good Start Genetics in May as a Clinical Sales Liaison. I continue to be a mentor for Big Brother's Big Sister's, matched with my little (Karmen) since March of 2013. I adopted a new dog, Chloe (a staffordshire terrier) in January. (see photo)

**Megan Farmer:** See "Am I Sure About This?" article on page 6.

## Class of 2013

**Erin (Eaton) Campbell:** I continue to work at UNC for the Prenatal Diagnosis Program in the decision of Maternal Fetal Medicine. I am grateful to have wonderful colleagues, including a fellow alumna (Kelly Gilmore). It's also a lot of fun to supervise students from our program and watch them grow in their skills/confidence. Our clinic is currently recruiting patients for a prenatal whole exome sequencing study that I find fascinating. Several of us were able to attend the International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis Conference in Washington, DC this year. I highly recommend the conference for anyone practicing in prenatal genetic counseling. It's geared solely towards prenatal diagnosis and it was wonderful to meet genetic counselors/geneticists who practice abroad. Personally, life has been treating me well this year. Chase and I moved into a new town-home in July (yay for more space!) and we love to search out new places to hike in the area.

**Rebecca Okashah Littlejohn:** I work at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio as a pediatric genetic counselor and serve several clinics including Cancer Genetics and Cystic Fibrosis. I participate in events with the local Down syndrome association and local Cystic Fibrosis community. I am the Vice Chair of the Pediatric and Clinical SIG. I am also a part of the NSGC Efficiency Task Force which hopes to find ways to help genetic counselors become more efficient with the use of various technologies or applications. Share your ideas or concerns with me regarding genetic counselors' efficiencies at [rebecca.okashah@bcm.edu](mailto:rebecca.okashah@bcm.edu). I married Martin Littlejohn in May 2015 in Atlanta, GA! (see photo)

**Ledare Finley:** I am in my second year working in Cancer Genetics at the Greenville Health System Cancer Institute in Greenville, SC. I am active in community outreach and have been speaking at many of the local cancer support group meetings, as well as co-hosting FORCE (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered) meetings in Greenville. I was very happy to publish the data from my Capstone project in the Journal of Genetic Counseling this year (Genetic Counseling Supervisors' Self-Efficacy for Select Clinical Supervision Competencies, DOI 10.1007/s10897-015-9865-1). I am a clinical supervisor for the USC Genetic Counseling program and also a member of the GHS Breast Leadership Team and the Commission on Cancer. I am getting to know the Greenville area and am enjoying being closer to Knoxville, Asheville and the beach.





## Class of 2014

**Natalie Poullard:** I am still working at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. As part of the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology department I see patients for pediatric cancer indications and have also consulted with our Sickle Cell team. However, I spend most of my clinic time seeing adult cancer patients as part of the GRACIAS Texas (Genetic Counseling and Risk Assessment In All of South Texas) project. This is a state funded grant project in which we are able to provide counseling and testing to underserved/underinsured populations in San Antonio, the Rio Grande valley, and Laredo, TX. On a personal note, Rick and I got married on May 23, 2015 and we recently bought a house in San Antonio! (see photo)

**Lauren (Griffin) Masso:** I am currently working as a prenatal genetic counselor at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. I recently passed the boards in August and joined the world of CGCs (and CEUs!). Have been enjoying lots of traveling and exploring of Charlotte and beyond.

**Jordan Dix:** I am still working as a molecular/biochem GC at LabCorp and loving it! I've also moved back to Wilmington, NC where Travis and I bought our first house, so we're having lots of fun fixing it up and making it our own.

**Rebecca Johnson:** I continue to work at Sanford Health as a pediatric genetic counselor. My first full year was a learning experience but great to feel like I am in the swing of things now! We continue to have a busy general genetics clinic but over the past year I have enjoyed branching out and really spending more time doing pediatric neurology and cardiology counseling. These ever expanding areas of genetics have kept me on my toes and make every week an exciting week! The best part about work this past year was that another UNCG alumni joined me in the pediatric clinic. It has been great to have Taylor in clinic. In person news, this past May was busy with getting married and buying a house all in the timeframe of two weeks. I love getting to decorate and it has been nice to get settled into a new home. (see photo)

**Sarah Hart:** I have continued to work at Duke Pediatrics as the coordinator for the Comprehensive Down Syndrome Clinic since summer of 2014. It has been great getting to know many of the families over the past year. I have also had the opportunity to be involved in multiple research projects, including clinical trials for interventions targeting cognitive abilities in Down syndrome. I have also had the chance to help develop exciting new research ideas for Down syndrome with the support of the Anna's Angels Foundation. In family news, we have a new baby girl who was born in February 2015, Audrey Nell Totten. Our other daughter Elle is now four years old and is extremely proud to be a big sister. The girls love to giggle together and generally adore each other!





## Class of 2015

**Alexandra Henshaw:** I am currently working as a cancer genetic counselor for the Levine Cancer Institute at Carolinas HealthCare System in Concord, NC. I just started my job in June, and am loving it so far!

**Lauren Baldwin:** In June of 2015, I began my career as a genetic counselor in the Clinical Medical Genetics Department at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. I am primarily a pediatric genetic counselor, but I also see patients for genetic counseling only sessions to discuss genetic test results, facilitate testing and offer preconception counseling. This next year I hope to spread knowledge of genetics and genetic counseling through educational outreach in the community. I will be presenting a poster of her capstone project (“An Exploration & Analysis of the Reproductive Decision-Making Process in Parents of Children with Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome & Related 4p Deletion Conditions”) at the 2015 NSGC Annual Education Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. (see photo p. 5) I will also be sharing the results of my research at the North Carolina Medical Genetics Association fall meeting in November. I currently live in Winston-Salem with my boyfriend and our two crazy cats. In my spare time I enjoy experimenting with new recipes, crafting, brewing beer and exploring the great outdoors.

**Caitlin Troyer:** I am currently working as a pediatric genetic counselor at the University of Virginia (UVa) in Charlottesville, VA! It’s crazy fun and extremely busy but I am learning so much and I love my job! My primary role is in general genetics seeing mostly pediatric and the occasional adult patients. We have three different satellite clinics around the state of Virginia that we travel to, and at those I do see a handful of cancer genetics referrals as well and get to stay current on my cancer genetic counseling! Here at UVa we have a large role in the education of medical students and residents, and I’ve enjoyed getting to show other healthcare providers our roles as GCs! Charlottesville has a thriving GC community with 10+ genetic counselors, and we all meet monthly for a cross-discipline peer supervision group and have other regular social activities. I am currently a member of NSGC and I will be presenting a poster from my graduate research at this week’s NSGC!

**Elizabeth Francisco:** I work as a prenatal genetic counselor at Greenwood Genetic Center in Greenville, SC and recently passed my boards exam in August to become a CGC.

# Faculty and Staff Updates

## Sally Sprague

After working for the program for 12 years, I have decided to retire at the end of this year. I will miss many things about my job but especially the students. I enjoy getting to know you all during your time in the program and then keeping up with you on Facebook after you graduate. Please continue to include me in your Facebook postings! In retirement, I plan to get involved with one or more animal rescue organizations, travel and do more gardening.



First and second year students celebrating with Sally at her retirement party!

After December 23, 2015 please email Randi at [Randi.Stewart@uncg.edu](mailto:Randi.Stewart@uncg.edu) with any changes in alumni personal or professional contact information.

## Sonja Eubanks Higgins



Hello everyone! Although it has already been 4 1/2 years since I left the program I still miss being there and interacting with all of you. Thanks to those of you who keep connected on facebook. Life here is quite busy with a 5 month old and almost two year old at home as well as my older step daughters. I am so thankful and blessed with beautiful happy children and a wonderful husband. My life couldn't be more different then it was as Assistant Program Director but I am enjoying this season of life and will look forward to returning to genetic counseling more in the future. For now I participate in various projects that come up to keep my mind engaged in the world of genetics. It has been fun to work with some of you on those projects. I continue to be so proud as I see the accomplishments of the alumni. Feel free to say hello over email any time - [sonjaeubanks@yahoo.com](mailto:sonjaeubanks@yahoo.com).



# Faculty and Staff Updates

## Randi Culp Stewart

This has proven to be quite the season of change! As a program alum, I was sad to say goodbye to “the house” and my office looking out onto the UNCG community garden. As program faculty though, I have seen great value in relocating to our new home at 996 Spring Garden. It was a good decision for our students.



As most of you have heard or read by now, Nancy will be retiring at the end of May 2016 and Sally is retiring in December 2015. Of course, we will never be able to find another Nancy or Sally to replace them and I miss them already. This program is so fortunate to have benefitted from the two of them for a combined total of 29 years by the time that the Class of 2016 graduates in May! I know Nancy’s mentoring and guidance along with Sally’s support and listening ear have helped shape our students and graduates into successful genetic counselors and has helped keep us connected as an alumni community.

However, soon we will find a different wonderful person to be our administrative assistant . Our search committee is also dedicated to identifying the best person to direct our program moving forward. I want you all to know that I continue to be committed to the program and will do everything possible to ease the transition during this time...I will not be retiring any time soon! Dr. Reitnauer and I look forward to sharing the culture and traditions of our program. I recognize that change can be daunting but I encourage us all to embrace these changes as well as the many positive qualities that our new program director and administrative assistant will bring.

On a personal note, Ryleigh is now 6 years old and just started Kindergarten this year. She loves to read, swim, dance and play with her brother. Dylan is 13 months old and is very skilled at discovering new ways to endanger himself on a daily basis. They keep me on my toes and I love being their mother more than anything. It was enjoyable to catch up with so many of you at the NSGC meeting this fall and hear about all of your successes. My best to you all this holiday season and always!

After December 23, 2015 please email me at [Randi.Stewart@uncg.edu](mailto:Randi.Stewart@uncg.edu) with any changes in alumni personal or professional contact information.

# Faculty and Staff Updates

## Dr. Terry McConnell



After teaching for thirty-nine years at UNCG, I have retired. The main impetus for this decision was that, due to funding cuts, I was teaching more lower-level courses with larger enrollments. I also had come to the realization that it was unlikely that I would finish my latest book project (on gratitude) unless I took this action. I also determined that my health would be better if I could devote more time to exercise.

For the Fall Semester, 2015, I am teaching one course in the Bioethics Program at Wake Forest – a modified version of Ethics and Genetics. So far I am indeed exercising more and working on the book. Let's hope that continues. I do not miss teaching large classes, but I know that I will miss the far more stimulating small courses, especially Philosophy 620!

## Dr. David Remington

I have enjoyed teaching Human Molecular Genetics for the first year genetic counseling students since fall 2014. I have been extensively involved in mentoring and training other graduate students as well as teaching graduate courses including Genomics, Genetics of Complex Traits and a DNA Sequence Analysis Workshop. The primary focus of my research is on the genetic basis of complex trait variation and evolution. Most human traits and conditions have a complex genetic basis, as do traits undergoing natural and artificial selection in plants and animals. While my primary research is in plants, the approaches I use and associated expertise are broadly relevant to understanding complex traits and conditions in humans. This photo was taken in the field on a research trip to Hawaii.



# UNCG Student Enrichment Fund

Hopefully we are not too far removed from our own training to remember what it was like to be a student...working one or more part-time jobs to try to make ends meet, clipping coupons and car-pooling on rotation days to save gas money. Yes, we have all been there at one time or another (some of us more recently than others!). When times are tight, even the smallest bit of financial assistance can make such a big difference!

The UNCG Student Enrichment Fund is a valuable resource for the financial support of students. The Enrichment Fund may be used to support student travel to the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) annual meetings. (Remember when you were one of those eight students crammed into two hotel rooms for the better part of a week?) Second year students also breathe a sigh of relief at times when this fund is able to provide support for Capstone Projects. You may not think that making a donation of \$30 is meaningful but it would be enough to allow us to help one student to disseminate their recruitment materials via the NSGC student research eblast. Again, this support makes such an impact on students during a financially challenging time of their lives.

We would like to encourage you to consider what you are able to “give back” to the program that enabled you to become the professional that you are today. All gifts are appreciated regardless of the amount. Our message is clear: please give whatever you can. We carefully consider the nature and magnitude of each student’s financial need and use money from the Enrichment Fund judiciously to further students’ professional development.

We would also encourage you to explore the possibility of approaching your institution to see if there is corporate support of an employee match program. What a great way to support the program and double the impact of your gift!

Thank you so much in advance for your gift to our program on behalf of our current and future students!

You may make a tax deductible contribution to the Student Enrichment Fund online at <http://gen.wp.uncg.edu/make-gift/> or by mailing a check payable to the “MS Genetic Counseling Program Student Enrichment Fund.” If you donate online, please select the “Other” designation and enter “UNCG MS Genetic Counseling Program Student Enrichment Fund”. Checks should be mailed directly to:

Nancy Callanan  
UNCG Genetic Counseling Program  
996 Spring Garden Street  
Greensboro, NC 20412



# Personal Updates



Courtney Teeter's daughter Sophia (as Princess Anna) who is in the first grade.

Courtney McGuire's new daughter, Sloan. Born August 6th, 2015.



Rebecca (Johnson) Loman and her husband Winston.



Randi Culp Stewart's daughter Ryleigh (6 years) and son Dylan (13 months).



Natalie Poullard and husband, Rick. Married May 23, 2015.

Heather Rocha (Class of 2014) at Simons VIP booth at ACMG meeting in March 2015.







Aimee and Lauren with Becca on her wedding day.



Theresa Mihalic Mosher and daughter, Cecelia Rose, born October 18, 2015 (above and right).



Holly , Kristen , and Whitney with Alexis Carere on her wedding day.



Sofia Reitnauer on vacation in Sawtooth Mountains, Idaho



Class of 2015 graduation trip to Charleston, SC (above and right).





Claire Healy's daughter on her first day of Kindergarten



Kelly East and family



Class of 2017 at Ruth Lehan's wedding, Oct 24th.



Leah and Rachel with Jackie at her wedding in June.



Class of 2016 at their annual Halloween party



Sara Wienke's new pup Chloe



Rachel Mills and her new fiancé, Justin.

Thank you to first year student Lillian Howard (Class of 2017) for her help in creating this newsletter!