Many have called the UNC College of Arts & Sciences the heart and soul of Carolina, and no wonder: We are home to 88 percent of Carolina’s 18,000-plus undergraduates and nearly a quarter of its graduate students.

We are doing big and bold things in the college. We are rethinking and reshaping our curricula — the discipline-specific and core courses every Carolina undergraduate takes — to ensure that our students receive a well-rounded education in the arts and sciences, including such 21st-century essential skills as digital fluency, entrepreneurial thinking and the ability to work together across disciplines.

Our mission statement, “Think. Communicate. Collaborate. Create. … for meaningful lives,” guides us in all that we do. We are seeking more ways for students to learn by doing: conducting original research, studying abroad, completing internships — all of which bring textbook lessons into real-world practice.

We are expanding our culture of success through greater support for our renowned faculty, so that they may advance their research, teaching and service. This includes support for graduate students — the leaders, innovators and scholars of tomorrow.

We are removing the silos that separate the traditional disciplines, allowing us to approach problems from multiple perspectives and a diversity of backgrounds. The many centers, institutes and programs based in the UNC College of Arts & Sciences do precisely that.

These efforts, together, are embodied in our Synergy Unleashed mindset, which celebrates how we are creating an environment for our best minds to come together to solve the world’s grand challenges.

I hope our ambitions and innovations inspire you to become a part of our upward trajectory by participating in the Campaign for Carolina. Our vision, our commitment, is to reimagine the arts and sciences for the public good — for all kind.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Guskiewicz
Dean
Our Promise

The UNC College of Arts & Sciences prepares students to lead meaningful lives through the empowering effects of education and self-knowledge. We instill a broad and deep liberal arts education to provide perspective, context and understanding. We recognize that today’s students will likely have multiple careers — and our job is to provide the foundation that enables them to adapt, to excel, to explore the unexpected path.

Every day, our people and programs work to invent a better future. We seek to identify and solve some of the world’s great challenges — energy efficiency, clean water, economic disparities, urban sprawl, religious intolerance, to name just a few. We disrupt to drive positive change.

Solutions to the greatest challenges of our time — and identifying the significant emerging issues of tomorrow — will require collaborative approaches and diverse perspectives. We will break down traditional academic silos to “unleash” new thinking and opportunities by bringing together scientists, humanists, artists, entrepreneurs and technologists. From cross-disciplinary courses that encourage team teaching to renowned research centers that fuel innovation to dynamic new facilities that inspire creativity, we will catalyze the convergence of ideas, people, programs and connections to spark greater synergy with world-changing impact.

Our Purpose

Turning Talents Into Strengths

Student support enables undergraduate and graduate students to explore their passions in the arts and sciences while learning from renowned faculty. Scholarships allow us to recruit and support the best students, while graduate student excellence funds help us prepare the next generation of superlative teacher-scholars. Innovative experiential learning opportunities take learning beyond the classroom and prepare our students to become thoughtful leaders in an ever-changing world. Honors Carolina provides cutting-edge learning opportunities and challenges for exceptional scholars; the Learning and Writing Center equips all students with resources to help them excel at Carolina and beyond.

Expanding Our Culture of Success

As a global leader in teaching, learning and discovery, Carolina boasts a long tradition of academic excellence in every program, classroom and laboratory, advancing human welfare in all its manifestations. The premier faculty in the UNC College of Arts & Sciences, where all undergraduates spend their first two years, epitomize the heart and soul of that excellence. Our faculty are vital to our success. We must sustain and strengthen them to stay at the cutting edge of research and teaching.

Leveraging Innovation for Experiential Education

To ensure Carolina’s competitiveness in an evolving global environment, the college must invest in strategic interdisciplinary priorities for the 21st century. From renowned research centers in which innovation thrives to dynamic new facilities that inspire creativity, we will catalyze the convergence of ideas, people, programs and connections to spark greater synergy with world-changing impact.

Translating Ideas Into Reality

As a renowned global public research university, Carolina aspires to lead the world in research, academic scholarship and creative endeavor. Our faculty and students must be equipped with the resources they need to be successful. Building the world-class facility that will become the home for the new UNC Institute for Convergent Science will bring together great minds from across the University who will break through the boundaries of human knowledge to solve real-world problems in areas such as water scarcity, brain disease and energy resources. Renovating Hill Hall is providing our music department with new space for teaching, learning and performing.

Sustaining Our Capacity to Lead

The Arts & Sciences Annual Fund allows the college to respond quickly and nimbly to our highest priorities and to emerging opportunities, while fulfilling our ambitious teaching, research and public service missions. Unrestricted support enables us to remain one of the elite research universities on a global scale, differentiating Carolina as a leader in higher education and a true game-changer. Your investment in the annual fund is the key to helping us ensure a bright future of innovation and excellence for the UNC College of Arts & Sciences.
How are women taught to exist in the world? It’s a question M.F.A. candidate Sarah Elizabeth Cornejo seeks to answer.

Mentors in the Department of Art and Art History have challenged and prepared her to explore these big questions. “The faculty I work closely with push me in directions not conceivable before coming to graduate school. They offer guidance when it comes to figuring out what it means to be a practicing artist in the world.”

Carolina’s fundamental belief that the arts are for everyone, that they promote dialogue and provoke action, has been instrumental in Cornejo’s development as both a student and a teaching assistant. “After arriving at Carolina and beginning to work with undergraduates here, I began reflecting on my experiences prior to arriving,” said Cornejo. “There is a good deal of sameness in academia, in the sense that there is only so much opportunity for students to really think divergently. But in my short time at Carolina, I’ve realized and begun to interrogate the way that our very language seems almost stifling to the capacity for empathy and emotion.”

Philanthropic support provides more opportunities for exploration and connections for students like Cornejo. “Due to the support of generous donors, I have had the ability to make my work and participate in the program with a focus that would not have otherwise been possible. These funds have provided me the financial opportunity to take risks and try new materials I would never have considered,” said Cornejo.

On a given day, you might find Ryan Fox in the lab synthesizing new high-performance polymer-graphene nanocomposites or volunteer teaching elementary school students about polymers. It’s all par for the course as a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Applied Physical Sciences, the first new science department launched in the UNC College of Arts & Sciences in nearly 40 years.

Fox’s nanocomposite research in the lab of Professor Theo Dingemans has potential applications in a variety of industries, such as aerospace and automotive engineering. Strong yet lightweight and able to withstand extreme temperatures, these new structural and multifunctional materials, whose physical properties can be controlled, will “open the door to unforeseen applications,” said Fox.

Beyond the lab, the college’s professional development and career-building opportunities set students like Fox up for success. “These programs are invaluable to students looking for guidance and support as we pursue our postgraduate career goals,” said Fox.

Ultimately, Carolina is the only place Fox could flourish: “I was drawn to apply to Carolina, and specifically the Department of Applied Physical Sciences, because of the world-class research being conducted here and the outstanding opportunities for personal and professional growth. Being surrounded by some of the best faculty in the world allows me to learn and expand my knowledge further than what I could accomplish at another institution.”
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is a place like no other.

It’s a place built from a public mission, propelled by a shared desire and unafraid to fight for a better future. We come together to make the world a better place for all.

The UNC College of Arts & Sciences epitomizes that mission. With you, we will have what humankind needs.

The world is listening. What will you say next?

For all that’s now, for all that’s new, for all that’s next. For everyone today and in the future, join us in the next step for all kind.

To learn more about how you can support the UNC College of Arts & Sciences and the Campaign for Carolina, visit college.unc.edu or campaign.unc.edu, call 919-962-0108 or email asf@unc.edu.