

# Friends of UNCW

SEPTEMBER 2019

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**\$19,000**

amount raised last year  
for the 2019-20 academic  
year

**15** number of grants  
supported last year

The Friends of UNCW Board of Directors needs your help to raise money for our yearly grants that support programs at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Last year the board raised \$19,000 for the 2019-20 academic year. To our past supporters, thank you! Funds provided by the Friends of UNCW enable faculty and staff to purchase equipment and provide resources that they won't have access to otherwise. A little goes a long way at UNCW, due to the resourcefulness of the faculty and staff.

**Please consider making a gift today to support these great programs.** You are receiving this newsletter

because you have either supported us in the past or you are a family member or friend of a board member. Please feel free to reach out to any of the Board Members if you would like more information. We hope that you enjoy reading about some of last year's grant recipients and how gifts make a difference everyday at UNCW.



## Friends Grant Supports Junior Seahawk Academy



Junior Seahawk Academy is a two week educational day program for middle-grade students to explore interests in STEM, health and education careers. The program targets students from economically disadvantaged and underrepresented populations. Thanks to grants from the Friends of UNCW, five children recommended by Wilmington Housing Authority were able to attend. Grants also supported health activities and healthy snacks for campers.



## Student Artist's Work Purchased for Campus Collection with Friends Grant



*The Conversation,  
Oil Painting by  
Loraine Scalamoni*

Each year art students at UNCW can participate in the *All Student Show* exhibit in a formal art gallery on campus. This experience teaches them how to price, market, and

showcase their art in a professional setting. Campus life staff select one piece to purchase from the show for inclusion in a permanent collection, thanks to gifts to the Friends Grants. It is an honor for these students to see their art displayed alongside their peers before them in the Fisher Student Center and Fisher University Union buildings.

**Make your gift online today! [giving.uncw.edu/supportfriendsgrants](https://giving.uncw.edu/supportfriendsgrants)**

## International Seahawks Receive a Warm Welcome



*International Student Lilia Aghzafi under the entry sign.*

Through the Friends of UNCW, the Office of International Students & Scholars was able to source a local artist to create a unique metal welcome sign and a wall decal that says welcome in many different languages. “This grant gave us the wonderful opportunity to provide a warm and supportive environment for all international students that visit (our office),” says Jessie Heim, Assistant Director of International Admissions.

## UNCW Explores One of the Most “Biologically Diverse” Places on the Planet

The UNCW Biology department is using remote cameras, purchased with funds from the Friends, to monitor the health of mammals and the forest ecosystem on the east slope of the Andes mountains in Ecuador. Remote cameras were purchased as part of a long-term project to monitor medium to small mammal species diversity at Wildsumaco Biological Station in Ecuador. Remote cameras provide the opportunity to study biodiversity in this region, and students gain hands-on experience using the cameras and analyzing the photos.



*Bush dog, a small 10-12 pound species of wild dog, photos were captured in Fall 2018.*

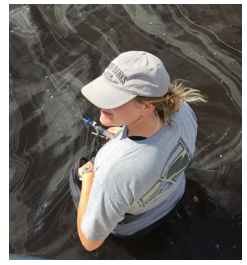


*Jaguar photos were captured for the first time in Summer 2018.*

***These grants are made possible by donors like you!***

## Wilmington Area Coastlines Studied with Shallow Water Current Meter

With the help of a Friends Grant, Marine Science students can now measure water current speeds and temperatures in their research with a new instrument - a shallow water current meter. Faculty member, Elizabeth Darrow, says that it is challenging to measure currents in shallow areas, such as oyster farms, but this tool is designed for this purpose. The meter is currently in use by graduate student Jessica Kinsella to measure currents as water passes through oyster farms on Masonboro Island. These measurements help to show the amount of suspended food available to oysters as the water passes.



*Marine Science student, Jessica Kinsella, uses meter after Hurricane Florence*

## “Turtle Trash Collectors” Purchased for MarineQuest Youth Program

The MarineQuest program at UNCW was awarded a Friends Grant for supplies to build the “Turtle Trash Collectors” program that helps children understand marine debris issues through hands-on learning. “When we



decided to convert a stuffed toy sea turtle into a model for simulating a necropsy (or animal dissection), we never imagined how impactful the experience would be for kids... It is no longer a toy, it’s a visualization of a real environmental problem that they now feel empowered to help solve,” says Sue Kezios, Director of Youth Programs. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

recognized this program and featured the turtles on their website.

## Music Students Study and Perform with Authentic Brazilian Percussion Instruments Thanks to a Friends Grant

Students in the UNCW Department of Music now have access to authentic Brazilian percussion instruments to study and perform Brazilian samba, samba-reggae and other genres. “A core belief that fuels my pedagogy is to teach music from diverse cultures with honor, respect and authenticity, and because of the Friends of UNCW, I am able to provide students and our audience with authentic musical experiences,” says Natalie Boeyink, Jazz Coordinator and Lecturer in the UNCW Music Department. In the photo here, UNCW students from Jazz Brasileiro (at left) are pictured with Coastal Carolina’s CalypSamba percussion group during a performance at UNCW.

