

# cancerlines



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LINEBERGER

## Carolina Breast Cancer Study enrolls record 3,000 participants

Breast cancer survivor Deborah Manning believes in the power of knowledge when it comes to finding a cure for cancer. “The best knowledge we can provide as cancer survivors is what our lifestyles are like, what our habits are like, what our genetics are like, so maybe we can find some common thread that will link us all together and help find a cure.”

Manning, who battled breast cancer in 2009, will be one of a record-breaking 3,000 cancer survivors to do just that over the next five years as a participant in the third phase of the Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS). UNC Lineberger researchers hit the milestone earlier this fall, making this study the largest-ever population-based study of breast cancer in North Carolina and one of the largest in the world.

Launched in 1993, the study aims to improve understanding of breast cancer, including why the disease’s fatality rate is higher in African-American women. Phase III will focus specifically on how treatment decisions, access to care and financial or geographic barriers impact breast cancer outcomes, and whether these outcomes are predictable or altered by genetic breast cancer subtypes.

Participants were identified from a list of newly diagnosed breast cancer patients provided by the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry (NCCCR), which identifies and registers all new cancer diagnoses in the state. Participants were then selected through a scientifically sound, randomized process, and physicians were notified of the study’s intent to contact their patient.



The Gingko “Living” Tree displays thoughts and reflections from breast cancer survivors in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study

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Blue Ribbon Gala Honorees — Dr. Ben Calvo (on behalf of the late Dr. Keith Amos), Dr. Barbara Rimer, Lee Henningsen and Bob Ingram

## Honorees recognized at inaugural Blue Ribbon Gala

As 450 guests gathered for the inaugural UNC Lineberger Blue Ribbon Gala on September 27, it became clear it was not your ordinary black tie event. This was the party that not even glass-slippered Cinderella could finagle an invitation to — tickets were sold out weeks in advance.

During the reception, guests were enthralled with cleverly designed, interactive exhibits that conveyed the latest in cancer innovations on topics such as nanotechnology, DNA sequencing, targeted therapies and robotic surgery. The ballroom at Carolina Club bedazzled with light blue silken tablecloths topped with white and blue floral creations arranged in scientific beakers and enough glassware to fill a giant laboratory.

And in fact, the program that followed during dinner gave guests the impression of entering a virtual laboratory as they were further introduced to the spectacular advancements made by some of UNC Lineberger’s world-class scientists and the

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the inside line up



3 Ribisl to lead new Center for Regulatory Research on Tobacco Communications



4 Stephanie Wheeler: From Hollywood to Public Health



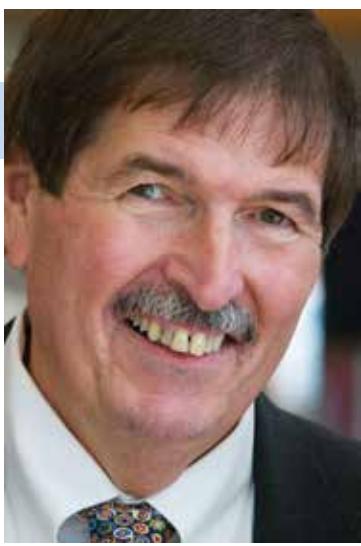
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7 Coaches Williams and Cowher team up for Fast Break Against Cancer



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CANCER CARE



Shelley Earp, MD

# director's message

UNC Lineberger faculty, staff and supporters are having a “banner” 2013. Our first-ever Blue Ribbon Gala was a tremendous success with 450 in attendance.

Honoring

Bob Ingram, Lee Henningsen and Barbara Rimer highlighted the evening; a touching remembrance of Keith Amos brought us all together. Roy Williams' 9th annual Fast Break Against Cancer also set records with Pittsburgh Steelers' former coach Bill Cowher talking about his experience as a single father due to cancer. Our faculty continues to make great advances. For example, the FDA approved a new breast cancer genomic test based on discoveries by UNC Lineberger Breast Program leader Chuck Perou, and his collaborators. The federal fiscal year ended with the award of over \$100 million in grants to our Prevention, Basic and Genetic faculty teams. This included a \$194 million grant led by Kurt Ribisl, leader of our Cancer Prevention and Control Program, to establish a Center for Regulatory Research on Tobacco Regulations.

These examples typify the significant results and

positive economic impact of UNC Lineberger faculty and the opportunities afforded by the University Cancer Research Fund (UCRF). UCRF support directly yielded \$1058 million in yearly research funding from outside North Carolina in FY 2012–2013. This funding was garnered by the world-class faculty recruited or retained with UCRF funds or specifically linked to the innovation grants, technology, and infrastructure investments by UCRF. As UNC Lineberger teams secure these large grants, we have been able to make a significant impact on jobs in our state, creating 1,900 jobs this year.

Some of these jobs are being created because of UCRF's emphasis on building North Carolina as a hub for biotech startup companies. Our faculty members are successfully establishing companies to turn discoveries into products improving patient care. These start-ups attract company grant support and venture capital investment. A recent example is G1 Therapeutics, a company based on discoveries made at UNC Lineberger in Ned Sharpless' lab. G1 recently received \$12.5 million in venture capital to launch human drug trials aimed at decreasing the toxic damage done to bone marrow by common cancer chemotherapies and radiation. Other companies are creating new prototypes to improve computed tomography scanning (CT) and mammography and developing new tests for lung cancer typing.

These UCRF accomplishments add more than \$250 million in economic impact for North Carolina this year, a return on investment of over \$5 for every UCRF dollar expended. The remarkable performance by the faculty — new ideas and high impact publications — has been duly noticed by our peers across the country who judge grants for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). UNC has risen in NIH funding ranks, moving from 12th in 2007 to 9th in 2012; the current data from FY 2013 have UNC in 7th place nationally. No other university has made that leap during the last five years. We're proud of UNC Lineberger's role in these achievements and of the momentum that UCRF has given to the pace of scientific discovery, clinical advances and outreach across North Carolina.

Lastly, we've had the distinct pleasure of introducing UNC-Chapel Hill's new Chancellor Carol Folt to UNC Lineberger and UCRF as she assumes her oversight role as chair of the UCRF Cancer Research Fund Committee. Chancellor Folt's energy and excitement in her new role are palpable. She shares our enthusiasm for UCRF and its accomplishments and future.

UNC Lineberger is proud to serve North Carolina citizens, cancer patients and families and, thanks to UCRF, to help stimulate the state's economy. As the public cancer center for the people and state of North Carolina, we must always strive to do more. 

## Blue Ribbon Gala *continued from page 1 — see more photos on page 8!*

honorees that played a part in making their discoveries possible.

Honorary co-chairs of the event were University of North Carolina President Tom Ross and his wife, Susan Ross; Drs. Bill and Maryann Roper, and Drs. Shelley and JoAnne Earp.

In his welcoming remarks, Tom Ross quipped, “Sloan-Kettering, you better look out, UNC Lineberger is going to see you in the rear-view mirror soon.”

With a generous presenting sponsorship made possible by Boddie-Noell Enterprises on behalf of Hardee's and other generous sponsors and Ambassadors, the event raised more than \$225,000.

At the heart of the evening's program was the awards presentation honoring four individuals — Lee Henningsen, Bob Ingram, Dr. Barbara Rimer and the late Dr. Keith Amos — all of whom have made an indelible imprint on the world of cancer.

Dr. Shelley Earp noted that Lee Henningsen's philanthropy “has transformed the cancer center and Lee's largesse has changed the face of cancer in North Carolina.”



Dr. Ben Calvo, a friend and colleague of the late Dr. Keith Amos, accepts the award from UNC Lineberger Director Dr. Shelley Earp

Lee, whose passion has been to fund early-phase cancer research thanked four UNC Lineberger physicians he credits with saving his life and underscored how pleased he was with progress made in novel research.

Former GSK CEO Bob Ingram, who was honored for his founding role with the CEO Roundtable on Cancer and his global impact on cancer, noted, “We are poised to discover great outcomes for cancer patients all over the world and it can start right here at Lineberger.”

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Dean Barbara Rimer stated, “Lineberger is a gem and philanthropy is essential

to keep that gem burnished and even more brilliant in years to come”. She was honored for her 20 years of work in cancer research and her recent appointment by President Obama to chair the President's Cancer Panel.

Dr. H.J. Kim spoke about his late colleague Dr.

Keith Amos and noted, “we have lost a beloved surgeon and great friend. Keith showed us that one person can indeed make a difference and I hope each of us will too”. Dr. Amos, a UNC Lineberger breast cancer surgeon and scientist, died suddenly earlier this year while on a Dr. Claude Organ, Jr. Travel Award from the American College of Surgeons.

The magical evening ended as dramatically as it began — bringing the gala theme of *Explore, Celebrate, Imagine* to full circle. Cancer survivors who were featured in a newly unveiled cancer center video took to the stage and bid guests goodnight with an emotional message. Ray Hutchins expressed faith in our ability to explore and find answers to his incurable sarcoma. Lanier Swann Hodgson thanked Lineberger for being able to celebrate her wedding following her battle with kidney cancer. Twelve-year-old Ashley Burnette, who was successfully treated at Lineberger for advanced brain cancer, encouraged guests to close their eyes and imagine a world without cancer.

We want to salute our distinguished honorees, guests, gala ambassadors, sponsors, faculty, cancer patients and staff — all of whom we owe a great deal of gratitude for making the first gala so special. 



Mayo and Jean Boddie of Tarboro, NC, with presenting sponsor Boddie-Noell Enterprises

## Going bench to bedside: UNC Lineberger discovery receives FDA approval



A laboratory genetic test that estimates the risk of breast cancer relapse in spite of anti-hormone treatment has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This technology is based on a gene signature known as “PAM50”

originally discovered at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center by Chuck Perou, PhD, professor of genetics and pathology and UNC Lineberger member. Additional UNC inventors included Joel Parker, PhD, research assistant professor of genetics, and Maggie Cheang, PhD, a research associate in the Perou Lab.

“This approval marks more than a decade of work with my fellow researchers and highlights the growing importance of genomic and genetic tests in the oncology clinic,” said Perou. “This test is the result of data coming from modern, cutting-edge genomic technologies, and thus it is exciting to see the bench to bedside story fulfilled.”

A team of UNC researchers and collaborating researchers from three other institutions — Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Utah and the BC Cancer Agency — designed this test that categorizes breast tumors into one of four main subtypes. Data from the four subtypes — luminal A, luminal B, HER2-enriched and basal-like — are then combined with a standard pathology variable to deliver a “risk of recurrence” score that predicts the likelihood of that patient’s disease returning within the next 10 years in order to accurately identify those low-risk patients for whom standard hormone therapy is sufficient.

The test, called Prosigna™ and manufactured by NanoString Technologies, comes with a machine and kit, so patients’ tumor samples do not have to be sent to a single laboratory for analysis. Currently the test is being distributed to pathology labs around the world and is also approved for use in the European Union. [B](#)

## UNC Lineberger to house Center for Regulatory Research on Tobacco Communications

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have awarded UNC Lineberger a \$19.4 million, five-year grant to establish a center to study issues related to tobacco prevention communication and regulation. UNC received two grants under the program, the only institution in the country to do so. The center will be directed by UNC’s tobacco prevention expert Kurt Ribisl, PhD, program leader of Cancer Prevention and Control Program at UNC Lineberger and professor of health behavior at UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health. To read the full story, please visit <http://bit.ly/1fCoRAI>



## UNC Lineberger announces 2013 Joseph S. Pagano Awards

Post-doctoral fellows Scott Rothbart, PhD; Gidi Shemer, PhD; and Angela Wahl, PhD, are the recipients of the Joseph S. Pagano Award in recognition of outstanding papers published by postdoctoral fellows in 2012. To read the full story, please visit <http://bit.ly/17uZNM7>

## Carolina Breast Cancer Study *continued from page 1*



CBCS Advisory Board member Valarie Worthy with UNC Lineberger Director Shelley Earp

This landmark study, initiated 20 years ago by UNC Lineberger in the Breast Cancer SPORE grant, has changed the world’s thinking about breast cancer and associated risk factors. “Dividing the diagnosis of breast cancer into at least four subtypes allowed the first phases of CBCS to determine that younger African-American women were more likely to have an aggressive breast cancer subtype. The findings also showed that outcomes and even risk factors such as childbearing, weight and alcohol differed by subtype,” said Shelley Earp, UNC Lineberger director. “CBCS III will delve deeper into the molecular genetics of subtypes in younger and older women and will follow women and their treatment. The findings will vastly improve our understanding of what works and what does not in community setting.”

Data from earlier CBCS research were key to a 2006 finding by a UNC Lineberger team that included the late Dr. Robert Millikan, PhD, DVM, Charles Perou, PhD, professor of genetics and pathology, and Lisa Carey, MD, physician-in chief of the N.C. Cancer Hospital and chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology in the Department of Medicine. They found that premenopausal African-American breast cancer patients have the highest prevalence of a subtype of breast cancer called “basal like” cancer.

The latest study phase was named after the late Jeanne Hopkins Lucas. She was the first African-American woman to become a North Carolina state senator and she died of breast cancer in 2007. CBCS is conducted by UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and UNC School of Medicine faculty with funding from the University Cancer Research Fund, the National Cancer Institute, UNC Breast SPORE and Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. [B](#)

## Stephanie Wheeler: From Hollywood to Public Health

It's fortunate for UNC Lineberger that Stephanie Wheeler didn't answer the call of Hollywood. The cast member of the hit movie "The Notebook" decided instead to pursue a career in public health. Now an assistant professor of health policy and management in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, Wheeler dedicates herself to finding creative ways to address health care disparities in cancer and other conditions.

She explains, "My work is focused on trying to improve outcomes, reduce morbidity and mortality, and improve quality of life for patients with cancer. The sole purpose of all my research is to help ensure that all cancer patients, regardless of race, income, religious background, and education, have access to the same types of life-prolonging therapy - that they all have an equal chance."

Although Stephanie never considered going to Hollywood, it came to her when "The Notebook" started filming in Charleston while she was completing her undergraduate degree at the College of Charleston. The production crew was looking for extras and had a cancellation by an actress with a speaking role. "A friend encouraged me to talk to the director, and I was hired. It was just 2-3 lines, but I spent an entire day in costume filming and still get royalty checks from it," she laughs.

Early in her education at the College of Charleston, she says, "The Dean of the Honors College, Dr. John Newell, encouraged me to begin thinking about postgraduate opportunities. I became interested in HIV and applied for and was awarded a Rotary International Ambassadorial-Academic fellowship in South Africa to pursue my Masters of Public Health degree at the University of Cape Town,

internationally regarded for their HIV research.

"My South African experience convinced me that public health was where I needed to be to make the largest impact, so when I returned to the US a year and a half later, I began investigating public health doctoral programs. UNC was the obvious choice. When I visited here it was very apparent just how welcoming and supportive it was."

She began her doctoral program still doing HIV work. A project with Bryan Weiner, PhD, professor of health policy and management, and Bill Carpenter, PhD, MHA, associate professor of health policy and management, drew her interest to breast cancer. "As I started reading more about breast cancer, I realized there were many disparities in treatment receipt and outcomes. The reasons for these disparities, such as lack of insurance and poor access to care, were similar to the reasons for disparities in HIV outcomes.

"I decided to pursue a dissertation focused on breast cancer, timeliness of treatment, and access to care. I totally switched my disease focus from HIV to breast cancer. A big jump, but one I wanted to take."

Her leap has paid off. Wheeler was recently awarded a five-year, \$727,000 grant from the American Cancer Society (ACS) to understand and improve use of guideline-recommended endocrine therapy among racially diverse breast cancer patients.

Her ACS grant came after developing preliminary data with a seed grant from UNC Lineberger.

"At the cancer center, senior faculty and leadership are strongly and personally engaged in junior faculty development. I feel like here



I can succeed, get grants, establish working relationships, and do collaborative research easily. Coupled with that are many resources that have helped me tremendously in my work, such as the Integrated Cancer Information and Surveillance System (ICISS) and the Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS). Leveraging these resources definitely made my application more competitive." Wheeler's research goals are clear: "I want to be involved directly in interventions that can improve cancer care and outcomes for all patients."

She and her husband, Scott, welcomed their first child, Brooks Harrington, in September 2013. She loves cooking, "which comes from being a South Carolinian," and with Scott, she enjoys kayaking, running, hiking, and traveling. 📖

## After 30 years of dedicated service, Dianne Shaw retires



After 30 years of dedication and tireless support, UNC Lineberger Deputy Director of Communications Dianne Shaw has retired from the center. Dianne, a fixture for many in the cancer center, brought warmth and passion to her work in promoting cancer research and treatment at UNC. Dianne singlehandedly established the communications department at UNC Lineberger and led the charge in creating the Patient and Family Resource Center. Dianne also served in several national leadership roles with the National Cancer Institute Public Affairs and Marketing Network, including chair, vice chair and treasurer.

"Dianne was one of the 'originals,' people who joined the Cancer Center in its early days. She has chronicled UNC Lineberger's success in the research and clinical arenas for three decades with sharp journalism, integrity and wit. In addition Dianne took on the task of helping to build our patient support programs infusing it with structure, a smile, and a very compassionate soul. UNC's Cancer Center, its patients and I owe Dianne a great deal for her wonderful work over the years," said Shelley Earp, M.D., director, UNC Lineberger.

Director Emeritus at UNC Lineberger Joe Pagano added, "Dianne Shaw not only projected the excitement and significance of cancer research at UNC Lineberger but also its human dimension by reaching out to the families of our patients in ways that made our Center an early leader nationally."

Dianne touched so many lives, but here are a few reflections on the tremendous impact Dianne has made during her career. 📖

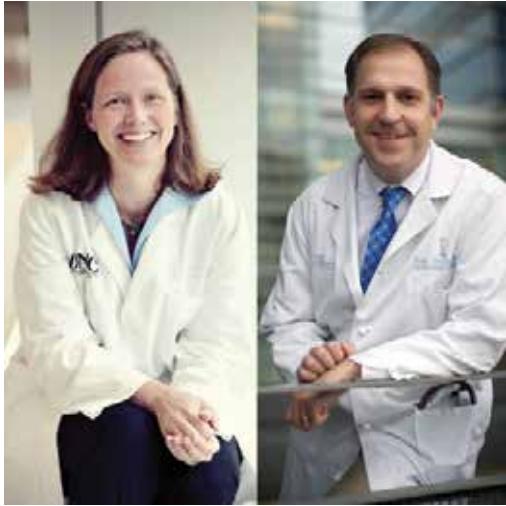
"Dianne is kind, caring and always has a smile — and a great joke. She's a really special person who touched our lives and the life of our daughter, Katherine, who lost her five-year battle with small cell lung cancer at age 28. Dianne supported Katherine throughout her entire treatment at UNC Lineberger. We still have the hand-written notes Dianne wrote to Katherine and will treasure them forever." —Anne Wilson, Morganton, NC, Member, UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors

"Dianne has remained my greatest mentor for the past 21 years. During my eight years at UNC Lineberger, I was inspired and motivated by her commitment to her work and her love for serving patients and families."

— Anne C. Washburn, MPH, Associate Director for Community Outreach, Education, and Affiliations, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

"Dianne is the quintessential Lineberger cheerleader and team player. She has mastered all of her jobs over the years with a unique combination of professionalism, devotion to the Lineberger cause and unwavering compassion."

— Sue Moore, Rocky Mount, NC, Former Member, UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors



## Dees, Voorhees appointed to clinical research leadership positions

E. Claire Dees, MD, associate professor of medicine, and Peter Voorhees, MD, associate professor of medicine, have been appointed to leadership positions in UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Dees will serve as medical director of the Clinical Protocol Office and Dr. Voorhees will serve as chair of the Protocol Review Committee.

The Clinical Protocol Office provides centralized management and oversight of clinical trials including protocol registration, regulatory affairs, patient management, and compliance committee work. The Protocol Review Committee is a multidisciplinary standing committee charged with the peer review of local and national research protocols involving cancer patients or a focus on cancer to ensure the scientific quality and patient safety of proposed studies.

Dr. Dees currently co-leads the UNC Lineberger Clinical Research Program and leads the Early Phase Clinical Research Unit. Dr. Dees previously chaired the Protocol Review Committee. She is a medical oncologist with the UNC Breast Center. She joined the UNC faculty in 1999.

A medical oncologist, Dr. Voorhees directs the UNC Myeloma Program. He joined the UNC faculty in 2004 and has previously served as the co-chair of the Protocol Review Committee. To read the full story, please visit <http://bit.ly/17uZVLq>



## Basch studies link between prostate cancer treatment and quality of life

Abiraterone acetate, a recently FDA-approved drug used to treat men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, significantly delays progression of pain and quality of life deterioration when taken in conjunction with prednisone.

The study, led by Ethan Basch, MD, director of the Cancer Outcomes Research Program at the UNC Lineberger, measured the pain and quality of life impact of abiraterone acetate, an orally prescribed treatment marketed under the trade name Zytiga, when administered to 1,088 patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer at 151 sites in the U.S., Europe, Canada and Australia.

The combination of abiraterone acetate and prednisone significantly prolonged the time until clinically meaningful worsening of pain intensity as well as quality of life deterioration compared to patients receiving the placebo and prednisone. Patients reported a more than eight-month delay in progression of pain, and a more than four-month delay in quality of life deterioration. Significant improvements were also seen in how pain interferes with daily activities, and time until opiate use.

The design of the study emphasized the importance of patient-reported outcomes in evaluating new treatments. In previous publications, Dr. Basch has shown the importance of evaluating how treatments impact how people feel and function during drug development. Pain is a significant predictor of overall survival, and the ability to delay suffering represents a meaningful clinical benefit to patients, according to Dr. Basch. To read the full story, please visit <http://bit.ly/17uZAbU>

## Emanuele receives V Scholar

Michael Emanuele, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and one of UNC Lineberger's newest recruits, has received a V Scholar Award from the V Foundation for Cancer Research. Dr. Emanuele is one of 18 recipients in the United States to receive the two-year \$200,000 award this year. Since the V Scholar program was established, UNC Lineberger researchers have been awarded 10 V Scholar grants totaling \$1.2 million.

Dr. Emanuele will use the grant to further his research to understand how protein degradation is regulated globally and how this regulation contributes to normal cellular functions that are dysfunctional in cancer. He will work to develop and apply genetic and proteomic screening methods to define the ubiquitin protein's signaling networks that respond to cellular damage, identifying signaling system components that serve as high-priority candidates for small-molecule inhibitor development to combat cancer.

The V Foundation was founded in 1993 by ESPN and the late Jim Valvano, legendary NC State basketball coach and ESPN commentator. In its 20 years, The V Foundation has awarded more than \$100 million for research into all types of cancer to more than 100 institutions in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

## Thoracic Oncology welcomes new faculty

UNC Lineberger is pleased to welcome three new recruits to its lung cancer program who bring novel clinical, translational and fundamental research approaches. Jason Akulian, MD, MPH, an interventional bronchoscopist, has arrived from Johns Hopkins and will provide a new range of therapeutic and diagnostic options. Jason Long MD, MPH, from the University of Michigan will focus on minimally invasive lung cancer surgery. Joining the team from M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Chad Pecot, MD, is a medical oncologist with research focused on nanotechnology delivery of novel therapeutic agents. He was attracted to Lineberger's world-leading nanotechnology effort and will help provide the clinical arm of this program.



## UNC Cancer Care now available in Hillsborough

UNC Lineberger's nationally recognized cancer care is now much closer for patients west of Chapel Hill with the opening of the new Hillsborough Medical Office Building. The addition of this new location provides integrated, convenient and patient-centered care for UNC Cancer Care patients in Hillsborough and surrounding areas.

This new location offers many services including clinic appointments with medical or surgical oncology, infusion, bone density tests, mammography, blood drawing, and more. For more information, please visit [www.unclineberger.org/hillsborough](http://www.unclineberger.org/hillsborough).

# volunteer profile



## Elaine O'Neil

Think of an iconic North Carolina place and you've likely seen it in an Elaine O'Neil textile art creation. From Grandfather Mountain to Bald Head, she depicts beloved North Carolina locales and artistic traditions such as pottery, literature and music in her whimsical textile collages and calendars.

This year, the longtime volunteer has created her fourth calendar in support of UNC Lineberger while the creations for her first calendar hang in the hallway to the N.C. Cancer Hospital.

The noted artist's association with UNC Lineberger goes back a number of years. She recalls, "I first heard about UNC Lineberger from my friends and neighbors, Drs. Kathy and Tom Shea. I had exhibits in the hallway of the old Gravelly Building where patients were treated before the new cancer hospital opened."

She created a collage in memory of her friend, Nancy Mills, which now hangs in the breast imaging clinic in the North Carolina Cancer Hospital.

Kathy Shea suggested the idea for the calendar to Elaine. "We have a number of her early pieces. Several years ago, I received an art calendar I looked at it and said, 'This is nowhere near as beautiful as what Elaine does. Her work really lends itself to a calendar format.' Around the time the cancer hospital was being built, it occurred to me that a calendar would be a wonderful fundraiser, so I talked with Elaine. I hooked her up with the development team at UNC Lineberger, and it took off from there."

Elaine's love of fabric and textiles goes back to her childhood and the influence of her mother, a home economics teacher, and her grandmother, a seamstress. "Their love of cloth, of fabric, is something they shared with me." Her passion led her to the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science.

"There I learned color and composition and principles of design. It was heaven to be in the midst of all that." Elaine met her future husband, Glenn, during an internship before her last semester. "We fell in love, I finished my final semester, and we were married a few months later." She worked in design and in fabrics after graduation, explaining, "I did all kinds of things, designing gardens, designing kitchens, furniture, and then I did slipcovers, draperies and kept my hands on fabrics that way."

The calendars reflect her training and her creativity and are an ongoing process of collecting ideas. "I have a list and a thick notebook/sketchbook of great things in North Carolina. I jot things down whenever I visit a place, read about it or get a suggestion from someone. I try to include beach and mountain places and cultural things, things that North Carolina is known for. I focus on those places that we all emotionally connect to. I often work from pictures that I took or someone else did."

Next comes design. "Design comes first, then I go to my fabrics and make a color palette the way a painter does." Making the calendars takes approximately three weeks.

She says, "The calendar is such a special project. I just want to make people smile and remember the happy times when either they were at that place or doing something similar. For example, a beach memory, whether you were at Bald Head or not, it doesn't matter, but maybe it will conjure up some memories or some happy times."

"That's what been rewarding about the 2011 collection hanging in the cancer hospital hallway. I've gotten emails from patients who said that when they sit on the benches, maybe when they're waiting for a ride, they look at the pictures and can find something to relate to. I got an email from a man who loved the NASCAR piece. There's something there for everybody. It makes me feel good that it does make people smile. It makes them feel better just for a little bit."

"We all have had so many people whom we love be affected by cancer. And every single one of us can relate to how that feels, how scary it is, or how painful it is. What they do at UNC Lineberger is just mindboggling, and I'm really lucky to have a teeny way to be involved with all the great work that goes on there."

Elaine and Glenn have three sons: Hayden, a member of the US Coast Guard who is stationed in Charleston; Conor, a student at East Carolina University; and Fletcher, a student at UNC-Charlotte.

***"We look forward to the amazing designs Elaine creates every year. Together, our partnership has raised more than \$23,000 for patient support programs at the N.C. Cancer Hospital."***

— Debbie Dibbert, Director of External Affairs, UNC Lineberger

A portion of the 2014 calendar sales will benefit UNC Lineberger. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar, please call 919-966-5905 or visit <http://bit.ly/HRKGRm>



Event Sponsor Eddie Smith bids during the live auction that featured, among other things, a seat on the UNC bench during a men's basketball game



Dr. David Ollila encourages Mary Beck to increase her bid on a silent auction item



Coach Williams and Keynote Speaker Bill Cowher with Fast Break Presenting Sponsor Rusty Carter of Atlantic Packaging

## Fast Break Against Cancer raises \$180,000 for cancer research and treatment

For the ninth year in a row, UNC Men's Basketball Coach Roy Williams kicked off the season with his annual fundraiser Fast Break Against Cancer, raising \$180,000 for cancer research and treatment at UNC Lineberger and in our community. This year's program featured guest speaker Bill Cowher, former head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

## Governor Pat McCrory and First Lady Ann McCrory visit UNC Hospitals

The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of the State of North Carolina, and First Lady Ann McCrory visited the North Carolina Children's Hospital on September 13 to proclaim the day as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in North Carolina.





## Get Heeled 5K raises over \$53,000 for Pediatric Oncology

On September 14, over 1,000 people gathered for the Get Heeled 5K in Chapel Hill to walk, run and raise money for UNC Lineberger's Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Clinic.



## Pink Heals Tour visits UNC and Chapel Hill

The national Pink Heals Tour visited UNC with a fleet of pink fire trucks, a bus and emergency vehicles. Chapel Hill Fire Department, the host for the visit, brought their Carolina Blue fire truck. Cancer survivors and family members were invited to sign the vehicles with messages of hope and love.



## Community turns pink for October

UNC Lineberger patients and families will benefit from funds raised during October's Turn the Town Pink activities for the UNC Comprehensive Cancer Support Program. Businesses, volunteers and community groups organized successful events and promotions in support of the month.

Local firefighters and first responders partnered with the UNC ZTA sorority for a "Fill the Boot" drive benefiting Turn the Town Pink.



Above: Donating their time, tips and all proceeds, staff at the Ye Olde Waffle Shoppe raised \$2,359 with their annual Breakfast for Dinner event; Right: The Performance Chevrolet 3rd Annual Charity Car Show benefitted Turn the Town Pink; Far Right: Even Rameses wore pink to the Cancer Awareness Football game against Boston College on October 26



# Woerner family gift helps ease financial burden for families impacted by cancer



Although Otto Woerner's giving was not widely known, he was a philanthropist in every sense of the word. Much of the support he gave to several organizations in Burke County, N.C., was anonymous, or kept quiet at his request. So was one of his final contributions, a large gift to UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Now Otto's widow Betty Woerner and son Drew Woerner are comfortable sharing the story of Otto's generosity in the hopes that others will follow Otto's wonderful example and contribute to the Betty and Otto Woerner Endowment Fund at UNC Lineberger. The fund provides direct financial support for cancer patients and their families, helping to alleviate the many non-medical costs that come during cancer treatment. Otto's intent was to help cancer patients at UNC Lineberger with expenses related to rent, mortgage payments, utilities and groceries and other necessary items a family might need.

Otto died in June 2013, at age 93, less than a month before his 94th birthday, "still sharp as a tack," said Drew.

Cancer has had a deep effect on the Woerner family. Otto's first wife (and Drew's mother) Wynne died of breast cancer in 2001. Drew's sister Kathy died from glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer, in 2011. Drew himself had bladder cancer before coming up with a rare form of head and neck cancer. He was treated at UNC Hospitals for the head and neck cancer, and is now cancer-free. Also, Drew's son Tom was treated and surgically cured for epilepsy at UNC.

"When I was getting my treatment, everyone at UNC was terrific," Drew recalled. "The nurses are great, everyone is trained so well. Even the woman at the Lineberger Cancer registration desk remembered my name every time I came for chemo and radiation. It was just amazing."

"When my dad was looking for a place to make a major donation, he knew that both Tom and I had great experiences at UNC," Drew continued. "He was also friends with John and Anne Wilson of Morganton, whose late daughter Katherine was treated at Lineberger. So he wanted to make his gift there. Dad was also impressed with the Comprehensive Cancer Support Program within the N.C. Cancer Hospital and viewed it as a model in the nation. He felt they would be good stewards of his funds."

Dr. Don Rosenstein, director of the Comprehensive Cancer Support Program helped set up the distribution of the fund along with the Woerners so that as many patients with demonstrated need could be assisted without a lot of red tape. The cancer support program includes patient education, counseling, nutrition, symptom management,

survivorship, caregiver support, and financial aid for patients. It was this last area that excited Otto Woerner, Rosenstein said, because living with cancer requires tremendous resources of all kinds.

"In addition to the physical and emotional toll it takes, cancer is among the leading causes of personal bankruptcy in this country," Rosenstein said. "Treatment can last years. People obviously lose time off from work, and may even lose their jobs. Treatments are expensive and not all are covered."

On top of the medical bills, there are significant personal expenditures, Rosenstein said. Patients at UNC Lineberger come from all 100 North Carolina counties, and beyond.

"The fund provides direct financial assistance to patients whose cancer care is threatened by their financial situation," Rosenstein said. "Otto was very thoughtful about his philanthropy. It was most important to him that people who needed it had support."

Together with Drew, Betty said she is telling Otto's story so other people know about the fund at UNC Lineberger.

"That is my hope, to honor him, to tell his story and what the fund is for," she said.

"Maybe if people knew the story, they would be willing to contribute or even establish their own fund like Otto did."

Drew and his wife Tammy have also become members of the UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors, and enjoy learning how UNC Lineberger is fast becoming one of the best comprehensive cancer centers in the United States. Like Betty, they encourage others to participate in supporting this outstanding institution. 

# calendar of events



UNC  
LINEBERGER

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Chapel Hill, NC  
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## February

1<sup>st</sup> Lineberger Club Luncheon and Basketball Game  
(The Carolina Inn)

## April

11<sup>th</sup> Board of Visitors  
Spring Board of Visitors Meeting (Friday Center)

To purchase tickets or for more information about these events and other UNC Lineberger news, visit [www.unclineberger.org](http://www.unclineberger.org), or follow us on [f](#) [t](#)

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center  
CB# 7295  
School of Medicine  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7295  
(919) 966-5905  
[www.unclineberger.org](http://www.unclineberger.org)  
Address service requested.

# Blue Ribbon Gala

David Routh, UNC Vice  
Chancellor of Development,  
Tom Ross, UNC System  
President, and Ned  
Sharpless, MD, UNC  
Lineberger Deputy Director



Stuart Gold, MD, and Blue  
Ribbon Gala Ambassador  
Joan Gillings



Patient Ambassadors Ray Hutchins,  
Lanier Swann Hodgson and Ashley Burnette



Matthew Ewend, MD, Lisa Carey, MD, Shelley Earp, MD, UNC Chancellor Carol Folt, and Honoree Bob Ingram



Blue Ribbon Gala  
Ambassador Bill Millis  
and David Ollila, MD



Ned Sharpless, MD,  
with Blue Ribbon Gala  
Ambassadors Ann and  
Jim Goodnight



Dean Bill Roper, MD,  
Kathy and Art Pope