

Retired professor brought language to life

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(translation)

"The university exists so that the student may broaden the horizons of his life and develop into the best individual possible. Believing in this, I have always tried to develop in my classes the type of instruction and example for living that would promote these concepts."

— Mary Bellamy

A bright-eyed, vital woman, Mary Bellamy brought the Spanish language and culture to life at UNCW. Her enthusiasm, ready smile, and steady encouragement endeared her to students and faculty.

Bellamy, former assistant professor of Spanish, retired June 30 after 40 years of service at the university and with the New Hanover County school system.

"I really have enjoyed my career," she said. "It's been very interesting to be part of education in this time, and it really has been exciting to watch the growth and development of UNCW."

Bellamy began her career in 1947. "I had just graduated from East Carolina Teachers College when Mr. Thomas T. Hamilton, first president of newly opened Wilmington College, said, 'I've got an interesting job for you if you can go to work tomorrow.'" The job involved teaching 15 veterans of World War II. "I taught Spanish I and II and French I and II, all in a self-contained classroom, all at one time," she continued. "It was the blackboard, the book, and me—no recorded methods, no cassettes. It was fascinating, teaching individually."

Bellamy worked part-time as a teacher of Spanish at Wilmington College from 1947-49. She also taught at New Hanover High School until 1961. She then returned to

UNCW and remained for 27 years.

One of the happiest times in Bellamy's career was working together with her husband, Heyward, at New Hanover High School from 1950-54. "He taught chemistry and I taught Spanish and we chaperoned every student activity imaginable," she said. Her husband went on to become superintendent of the New Hanover County schools from 1968-81.

Teaching is more than just going through the paces, according to Bellamy. "The rapport and the relationship between a teacher and student is the most essential element of learning," she said. "If you can keep the excitement of a student, they're apt to excel." Teaching, she paraphrases, creates the learner.

Advancements in technology have enhanced language learning. "The audio lingual approach allows students to hear native speakers," she remarked. "Video is really opening up new vistas. You get the total impact, not just the listening but the visual impact in building basic skills."

The Spanish language could be described as rhythmic and very phonetic. "I urge them (students) to speak it," said Bellamy. "I tell them not to worry about grammar. Say something — communicate!"

"You've got to be willing to be laughed at," she continued. "You're going to make mistakes. The native speaker would rather laugh at you than you at him!"

Bellamy not only taught the Spanish language, but also Spanish civilization and literature. She trained over 100 student teachers as well.

But her favorite subject remains elementary Spanish. "It's the excitement of helping a student discover a beginning language," she explained. "What is truly exciting is when a student finally makes a breakthrough — eureka!"

Bellamy believes Spanish is important to any curriculum. "Spanish is of special importance because of business opportunities in Latin America," she pointed out. Bellamy went on to mention that there are more than 20 million Spanish speaking people in the United States.

One former student of Bellamy's sells aircraft in Latin America. "His skill with the language is what gave him the edge over others interested in the job," Bellamy believes.

Bellamy has had a distinguished career. Among her many accomplishments include being a scholar of the National Endowment to the Humanities at the University of Georgia and a Fulbright-Hays scholar at the University of Valladolid, Spain, where she studied Spanish history, literature, civilization, and language. She has served on many evaluation teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has been active in the Foreign Language Association



Mary Bellamy (center) is joined by (l-r) C. D. Spangler, Jr., president of the University of North Carolina General Administration, Carl Nelson, former lecturer in mathematical sciences, Charles Cahill, UNCW provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Rolla Nelson, former assistant professor of physics. Bellamy, Nelson, and Nelson, all faculty retirees from UNCW, were honored with a reception hosted by the UNC Board of Governors in Chapel Hill.

of North Carolina. In addition, she's been active with several committees at UNCW and was an advisor to students in the General College.

"If you asked me what I'll miss the most,

I'll miss the everyday relationship with the students and I'll miss my department," Bellamy noted of retirement.

And they, too, will miss her.

— Allison Norment

Marine biologists submerge themselves in new research

Scientists at UNCW's Institute for Marine Biomedical Research netted big research dollars this spring.

The National Undersea Research Program (NURP), established at UNCW in 1980, received \$1.1 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The money will support continued scientific research of the continental shelf off the Southeastern U.S. The continental shelf is the submerged portion of a continent, extending to a point of deep descent to the ocean floor.

Under the direction of Dr. Alan Hulbert, NURP will use the grant to accomplish three objectives: 1) undersea research on environmental, fisheries, and pollution issues; 2) development of new diving technology and tools for undersea applications; and 3) development of a new initiative to better understand the ecology of the continental shelf and slope.

Specific areas of research include studying the cause and prevention of the red tide as well as studying the impact that coastal development, phosphorite mining, and oil and gas exploration will have on North Carolina. These projects will be conducted using mixed gas SCUBA diving, underwater robots, and research submersibles.

"We are very excited about participating in a research program that will directly

benefit the Southeastern United States," Hulbert said. "Through this research we will better understand the processes on the continental shelf that control important resources such as fisheries."

In the area of developing new diving technology, Operations Director David Dinsmore will oversee programs designed to evaluate mixed gas diving applications of Navy diving equipment, such as rebreathers, for scientific use. Innovative gas mixtures, such as Nitrox, that will allow longer bottom times, will also be examined. In addition, Dinsmore will be working with the development of new tools for underwater robots and submersibles.

A new science director, Andrew Shepard, has been given the job of coordinating the NURP program at UNCW. Most recently working as deputy science director at the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut, Shepard has also worked as a NOAA corps officer aboard a research vessel and at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He holds a master's degree in marine science.

"His past experience will strengthen the scientific expertise of the National Undersea Center at UNCW," Hulbert said.

— Mimi Cunningham

Allison Norment contributed to this story.

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