

STEM Advisory Board FY23 - UNG College of Science & Mathematics



Mr. D. Stewart Swanson (UNG '85) was among the first UNG graduates with a BS-Computer Science degree. He obtained dual minors in Mathematics and Physics. He holds an MBA in International Marketing from Mercer University and attended Executive Management programs at Duke, Emory and London Business School. He is a retired sales executive for CISCO Systems, Inc. Stewart was active in the telecommunication technology industry for 36 years where he had roles in Sales, Marketing, Engineering and Business Development with global leaders Cisco, Qualcomm and Nortel along with four technology start-ups. Stewart was a VP, Global Sales for 7 years where he traveled the world extensively. He serves on the boards of the UNG Foundation, the N.E. Georgia Boy Scouts of America, Foxfire Fund Inc., and The Folk Pottery Museum of N.E. Georgia. Stewart's wife Carol (UNG '86) is a Mathematics major and she had a successful career in the Commercial Insurance business. Carol and Stewart are the proud sponsors of the Swanson Student Success Center at UNG bridging students with career opportunities. Stewart is enthusiastic to Chair the STEM Advisory Board for FY23 under the leadership of Dr. John Leyba and Mr. Steve Shepherd.



Mrs. Jane Hemmer serves on the UNG Board of Trustees and was a chemistry major at UNG, then graduated with a B.S. degree in Medical Technology from the Medical College of Georgia, followed by graduate work in anthropology at UGA. She is a recognized Georgia artist in fine and forensic art in her business, White Sulphur Properties. She was elected as a Hall County Commissioner in 1987 and the Georgia State Senate- 49th District in 1992. Jane has been a board member on numerous organizations was in Leadership Georgia in 1990, and was named the 2014 Woman of the Year by the Rotary Club of Gainesville. She and husband Dr. John Hemmer live on White Sulphur Farms which has been in her family for over 200 years.



Mr. John Orrison is retired Principal Consultant at Draper & Associates, who is a Professional Engineer with fifty years' experience who has worked on notable national and international projects. He has served at all levels of the project delivery process from concept development, thru preparation of design and tender documents as well as oversight and management of construction. His academic credentials include a BSCE from the Virginia Military Institute, MBA from Georgia State University, and the US Army Engineer Officer Advanced Course.

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Mr. Zach Husk is the CEO of Qitek Labs, LLC and a proud UNG Chemistry alumnus. Zach's wife, Kelly, is also a UNG Chemistry alumna and is the Lab Manager. Qitek Labs USA consists of Qitek Labs in Duluth, GA and Qitek Labs of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, OK. Both facilities are state-of-the-art independent reference laboratories offering a broad array of diagnostic tests. Qitek's test menu includes toxicology, pharmacogenomics, respiratory infections, UTI/STI, wound infections, vaginitis, urethritis, nail fungal infections, and COVID-19 testing. Their facilities are operated by highly skilled scientists with degrees in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, and chemical engineering from respected universities. Qitek Labs strives to provide physicians with an environment that supports transparency and collaboration, ultimately delivering individualized patient-centered care.



Mrs. Connie (Cloer) Swanson graduated with a B.S. Chemistry '92 from UNG. She is the retired co-founder, Chief Commercial Officer and Executive Vice President of Alaven Pharmaceutical, LLC. Currently, she serves as an Advisor to Avego Healthcare Capital, a company delivering expertise and growth capital to build successful healthcare companies. She is the founder and President of the Joseph Daniel Howard Foundation, which supports special needs children in North Georgia. Her husband Jim is a UNG '92 English major and a Distinguished Military Student. They have two sons, a senior at Sewanee and a rising freshman at UNG.



Dr. Claire Livingston, owner of Cavender Creek Vineyard and Winery in Dahlonega, Georgia, holds a PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology. Over the years, Claire has taught anatomy and related subjects at the Medical College of Georgia, Middle Georgia College, Paine College, and Heart of Georgia Technical College. She is originally from Dublin, Georgia and moved to Dahlonega in 2015. Aside from being a winery owner, her passions are mothing and bird watching.



Dr. John Leyba is Dean of the College of Science & Mathematics and a Professor of Chemistry. He has worked in corporate, governmental, and academic entities prior to coming to UNG in 2014. From 2002 – 2014, he was Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics and a Professor of Chemistry at Newman University in Wichita, KS, where he was involved in a capital campaign for a new science building. Dr. Leyba holds a B.S. in Chemistry '86 from Truman State University and PhD '90 in nuclear chemistry from UC Berkeley. His research interests are radioactive materials and he is widely published in peer-reviewed journals, books, and lab manuals.

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Dr. Sarah Formica is a professor of Physics at UNG and the Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chair. She graduated from the Univ. of Albany, Albany, NY, with a B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Physics in 2006. Her research interests are in X-ray fluorescence. Sarah is the lead STEM Lab faculty instructor and has published on education in transdisciplinary STEM Labs.



Dr. David Patterson is an assistant professor of biology at UNG, who co-manages the SCALE Lab for undergraduate research with his wife Jessica Patterson, a UNG biology lecturer. He is a paleobiologist with a B.S. and M.S. from Georgia College and State University and Ph.D. in Human Paleobiology from George Washington University. His research interests center on relationships between the ecosystem and mammalian evolution in North America and Africa. He is currently working with National Geographic Society on a research grant focused on the ancient ecosystems of coastal Georgia.



Dr. Jill Schulze is a Professor of Biology and Associate Dean of the College of Science & Mathematics at UNG. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Binghamton University, an M.S. in Zoology from the University of South Florida, and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Georgia. In addition to her interests in ornithology and animal behavior, she studies the ecology of coastal Georgia marshes and coral reefs in Belize. Jill has been leading study abroad classes and mentoring undergraduate research abroad since 2005.

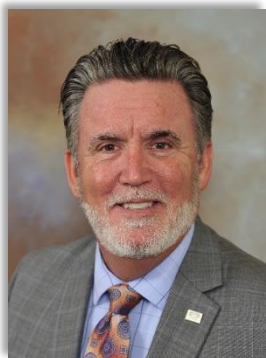


Dr. Brad Herbert is a Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and has taught instrumental, analytical, and freshman-level chemistry at UNG since 1995. Dr. Herbert holds a B.S. in Chemistry '88 from Michigan State University with minors in math and geology, and a Ph.D. '95 in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Cincinnati. He worked from 1988-1990 in Chicago as an analytical chemist in sweetener development and patent protection, for the NutraSweet Company. His wife Rose Mary has an M.S. in Molecular Biology; they live with their five children in Cumming.

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Dr. Dan Thompson is a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UNG. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematics from East Texas Baptist University (1980), his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Oklahoma State University (1985), and did post-doctoral research in Medicinal Chemistry at The University of Michigan. His teaching career began at Baylor University and Mississippi State University culminating in a 27 year stint at UNG. He taught General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Advanced Organic Chemistry, and Advanced Spectroscopy and directed undergraduate research in conducting polymers and renewable feedstocks. He also performed maintenance, tuning, and calibration of departmental instrumentation. He remains active in the community through Dahlenega Baptist Church, Georgia Baptist Mission Board Disaster Relief, leading Bible studies for student groups and singing with the UNG Singers and ensembles.



Mr. Steve Shepherd joined UNG in November 2021 as the Director of Development for the College of Science & Mathematics. A graduate of the University of Florida, Steve previously held two positions with the University of Florida – as the Director of Corporate Partnerships with the UF Alumni Association, and as the Director of Development with the UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Steve also served 25+ years as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Florida, Santa Fe College and Flagler College.



Dr./Ms./Mr. Future Board Member