On Wednesday, March 25, Chancellor Gilliam and Provost Dunn addressed faculty and staff at a virtual Town Hall hosted by Faculty and Staff Senates. Faculty Senate chair Anthony Chow called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

Chancellor Gilliam expressed his appreciation for efforts across the University to deliver first-rate education to UNCG students in the trying circumstances, for faculty and the staff who supported them who transitioned courses to an online format, and for staff members who helped residential students leave campus.

“It was a very difficult task, but handled with grace and compassion,” he reflected. He stated that there are now 120 students on campus out of over 6,000. He praised the empathy shown towards students and the broader community. The chancellor then turned
to what the University might look like in a post-Covid world, which he said he anticipated sometime over the summer.

A question was raised about how this crisis will impact the budget. Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Charles Leffler noted that there has been the added extra cost for sanitation, and the burden of operating buildings that are still open even when we’ve moved instruction online. He echoed the chancellor and provost’s concern about the coming decreased enrollment numbers for fall. Leffler and the chancellor indicated that efforts are under way at the University and System levels to pursue state and federal assistance.

A question was raised about who determines mandatory versus voluntary staff. The chancellor noted that this decision was up to supervisors, but that at this point all nonessential staff are to work remotely. Essential staff includes personnel necessary to maintain critical facility and lab operations.

Provost Dunn responded to a question about researchers’ access to labs by noting the Office of Research was working to outline a window of access for researchers to prepare their equipment and materials for reduced operation and access. It is up to each campus to make decisions on a case by case basis.

In response to a question about non-tenure track positions, Provost Dunn stated, “It’s very important we do everything possible to maintain our level of enrollment. We do not anticipate any disruption of employment of non-tenure track faculty.”

A question was raised about whether or not the University would reimburse students and families for meal plans and dorm days. The chancellor indicated that the University and System are looking into this. He had mentioned earlier that many decisions were and would continue to be made by the UNC System.

To a question about whether the semester would be extended to allow for lost class time, Provost Dunn responded that it will not. She noted that extra days are already built into the semester, and that shift to online learning will change expectations about faculty to student contact time. The provost emphasized that student learning outcomes are more critical than meeting the exact number of hours at this point.

A staff member asked if the University was following the recommended sanitization protocol, and the chancellor indicated that UNCG is working above and beyond CDC recommendations in terms of both methods used and frequency of sanitization.

Provost Dunn and Chancellor Gilliam acknowledged that some students will experience ‘technological hardships’, namely due to lack of adequate internet access or computer
technology. They encouraged faculty to be flexible and patient with this in mind.

Both asserted that supervisors need to be sensitive to faculty and staff needs as operations come back on line, such as some employees needing a bit more time to transition back to campus due to school and child care closures, or caring for family members.

Provost Dunn noted that faculty searches will continue, and both she and the Chancellor expressed the importance of supporting the recruitment effort during these times.

Regarding operations of the campus in general, the provost stated: “There are vastly different needs across the University. We will defer to experts across campus. We have a very competent emergency management department here. Sometimes leading is following and we defer to their expertise.”

“We rely heavily on them,” agreed Gilliam. “We don’t think the few of us sitting around this table have all the answers nor need to control the reaction from campus. We rely on their expertise and for them to answer our questions. To echo Dana’s comments, sometimes you have to follow in order to lead.”

Chancellor Gilliam reminded all of the exceptional nature of the current circumstances.

“These aren’t normal times and therefore our responses can’t be normal. We may have to change things up; we may have to think a little bit differently.”

Both Chancellor Gilliam and Provost Dunn praised UNCG’s Emergency Management and other units that have helped advise operations, and then the chancellor turned his praise to the attendees of the forum.

“You all have stood up in a time when we need stand-up people. You have lives, children, parents, spouses and partners, who may be facing uncertainty with their employment. The so-called enemy is invisible and you don’t know what you’re up against. So it creates a great deal of uncertainty and angst. Stay with us, stay calm. We’ll come out on the other side dinged up a bit. They’ll be some frustration, some bumps in the road. Ultimately we’ll be stronger for it, we’ll have more faith in one another to accomplish great things. I want you to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.”

A recording of the Town Hall is posted in full on Youtube and will soon be posted on the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate websites, and, as Chow said, there are plans to post a follow-up Q&A for any questions that were not addressed during the Town Hall.

Chow closed the session with a simple, crucial message: Stay safe and be well.
Mental health and COVID-19

The Counseling Center, part of the Gove Student Health Center, offers a wide range of services designed to support and challenge the personal growth, academic success, and emotional health of UNCG students. The center is now offering remote services for students. Visit shs.uncg.edu/cc to learn more.

The COVID-19 epidemic has caused another public health concern: a rise in mental health issues.

During this time of uncertainty, people are experiencing high levels of stress, anxiety, and even depression, and living in isolation only compounds these mental health struggles.

In the Q&A below, Dr. Jennifer Whitney, director of the Counseling Center at UNC Greensboro, discusses mental health in the age of COVID-19, strategies for managing stress and anxiety, and the importance of checking in with loved ones.

What are some of the mental health concerns that have emerged because of COVID-19?

Anxiety and stress are the overarching emotions folks are experiencing right now. Things are changing so quickly. The moment we think we know something and have started to plan
for it, it all changes. And that causes a lot of stress.

I often describe anxiety as free-floating fear – fear of the unknown and anxiety stemming from the uncertainty of the future can be really unsettling for all of us. Unlike many situations that have a clear beginning, middle, and end, the coronavirus pandemic and its future impacts on our work, our families, and our lives are largely unknown. For people who are already struggling with mental health concerns, such as depression or anxiety, the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 is exacerbating stress and distress.

A recent blog post from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention discusses “Taking Care of Your Mental Health in Face of Uncertainty.”

The COVID-19 epidemic has impacted university students, faculty, and staff in unique ways. Can you talk more about the mental health implications for these groups?

In addition to uncertainty, fear, and anxiety, students, faculty, and staff alike have all been faced with their semester being upended. Faculty and staff have been engaged in the heavy lift of offering online classes and remote services almost overnight. These pressures, to deliver classes and support services virtually, are in the midst of performing regular work duties, as well as managing their own emotions and reactions to the pandemic and caring for children, parents, family members, and loved ones.

The balls we juggle in the best of times have increased three-fold, and we are dropping some along the way. Employees at UNCG are high performing folks – we work hard and we care hard, which makes trying to juggle all these balls, with the reality that we just can’t juggle them all at once, difficult to accept. But accepting our limitations and realizing our own and each others’ humanity will help us be kinder to ourselves and each other, not just in this time of uncertainty, but hopefully moving forward as well.

Students are grieving the loss of their semester, at least the way they had expected it to go, as well as the loss of their university community in its traditional sense. For some students, returning home is a good thing, while for others, it only increases stress, distress, and uncertainty. Graduating students and their families are grieving the loss of their graduation ceremony, a tradition that commemorates and celebrates their hard work and accomplishments. These students are also facing the uncertainty of what the economy and job market will look like in May.

**How can individuals manage high levels of stress and anxiety during this time?**

Anxiety lives in the future – fear of what is going to come and what might happen. In the
absence of information, the brain is really great at imagining the worst case scenario. Unfortunately, we don’t have a time machine to travel into the future and see how things will turn out. Someone once shared this quote with me: “Anxiety is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn’t take you anywhere.”

The antidote to anxiety is focusing on the present moment and shifting focus to the things you can control. There are a million ways we engage in decisions everyday that underscore the control we do have. Pay attention to choosing what you wear for the day, what you eat, how you spend your time, and how you show up at work and in your daily life with the people you love. These are all things that you can control. Folks who have heard me talk on campus about the Counseling Center or mental health have inevitably heard me talk about practicing mindfulness. Setting an alarm on your phone to remind you every hour to pause and engage in some deep breathing or a two or three minute guided meditation are wonderful ways to get grounded in the present moment.

We all cope differently, but there are some fundamental positive coping strategies that we should all be paying attention to now.

1. Feed your body and your soul.

Remember to eat regularly in a varied and balanced way. Remember to move your body often and in enjoyable ways. Go outside and enjoy spring and the fresh air – just remember to practice social distancing as you walk around your neighborhood or local park. And there are so many yoga and Taekwondo studios, and other movement-based activities, moving online.

Anxiety is an emotion that has energy. You may notice that you are more fidgety, cranky, or even feel like your body or brain is unpleasantly humming. We have to find a healthy way to discharge and release that extra energy, which brings me to the next way to feed your body and soul – laughter! We often tell clients in moments of distress or despair to engage in the opposite emotion. Laughter is a wonderful way to release that extra energy that comes with anxiety and uncertainty and create structure for yourself. Moving everything to remote and online may have disrupted the typical structure of your day. Take a moment to create a new routine for yourself.

2. Practice gratitude.

It can be easy to focus on things that we are losing or can’t do as a result of this pandemic, but it is also an opportunity to practice gratitude. What you pay attention to is something you can practice controlling. Now is the perfect time to start a gratitude journal. Every morning, identify 5-10 things you are grateful for, and every evening, identify 5-10 things
that happened during the day for which you are grateful.

3. Stay connected.

Staying connected, even while social distancing, is crucial. While community events such as church services, weddings, and family gatherings have been cancelled, we thankfully have lots of technology to help us stay connected. Plan a virtual hangout with friends and loved ones. Pick up the phone and talk to friends and family.

**How can we best support loved ones who may be struggling with their mental health?**

It is key that we are reaching out and checking in with loved ones, especially those we know may be vulnerable. Consider making a virtual check-in on a regular basis, perhaps once a day or once a week. When folks are overwhelmed with anxiety or depression, problem solving or positive coping may be negatively impacted. Helping loved ones identify positive ways to cope and making them aware of the resources that are available are ways that you can support them.

Creating and tapping into community helps remind all of us that we are in this together. Knowing that there are resources like the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or the Crisis Text Line (text “TALK” to 741741) can help connect us in times of hopelessness, loneliness and struggle. And of course, empathetically listening without judgment, or deeply connecting with someone without trying to solve their problem, can help someone feel less alone, listened to, and really heard.

**What are some free online resources that students - and others - can take advantage of?**

One of the uplifting things happening in this time of great uncertainty is the number of people putting out support resources and/or making their resources free of charge. Check out our [Counseling Center Covid-19 News and Information website](#) for more ideas and lots of resources.

*Interview by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications*

*Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications*

**Enjoy Met Opera online, with help from a Spartan**
UNCG’s David Huskins (left) and Dean Bruce D. McClung (right) meet with alumna Sidney Dixon Weberndörfer outside of the Met Opera’s Live in HD truck.

The Metropolitan Opera House seats 3,800. But through livestreams in HD, music lovers at thousands of theaters around the world have thrilled to the music at the same instant. And afterward the recordings are available online to enjoy again and again.

That’s a godsend to opera lovers during this coronavirus-riven moment in time.

UNC Greensboro alumna Sidney Dixon Weberndörfer plays a big role in making these broadcasts happen.

She serves as media production coordinator in the Met Opera’s Media Department. “I am kind of their resident musician librarian/archivist. I help them decipher the scores, I help them create the camera scripts.” She explains that many of them have TV backgrounds, so she complements that with her music expertise.

“We are all very hands-on, a close-knit work family,” Weberndörfer says. “We are all jacks and jills of all trades, pretty much.”

During the opera broadcast, she is in a media truck just behind the building on Amsterdam Avenue. In the truck is Peter Gelb, general manager of the Met Opera, the HD director, the associate director, and the score consultant. “And me who, during the HD transmission,
serves as the script reader.”

The HD director calls the shots. He sees all the screens live, and can deviate from the script “on the fly” as he wants. The producers are sitting on a back bench, she says. And subtitle operators are feeding all the different languages out to the world. Ten cameras are operated by people during the shows. And a couple of remote cameras are being operated remotely from what her team calls “roboland” under the stage.
The Metropolitan Opera presents
Left: Weberndörfer takes timecode in a copy of the associate director’s script in real time during the scratch taping of an HD opera for the “Digital Screening System Playback Machine.” Right: Weberndörfer monitors the Digital Screening System machines that are recording the opera in three different viewing formats.

Weberndörfer has worked on these livestreams for the last nine seasons. Before that, she was a UNCG music major, studying voice.
“UNCG had a big impact in my life.”

She received her bachelor of music degree in 2009 in voice performance, with a minor in technical theater production. She studied under Dr. Carla LeFevre, with whom she still often studies.

She sang in a UNCG Opera Theatre production each season as a student, and was involved in Opera Greensboro’s “Amahl and Night Visitors.”

“My academic experience in the School of Music at UNCG was fantastic. It certainly prepared me to be able to handle New York and the job at the Met, where there’s high expectations.”

UNCG produces an impressive number of performers who sing on the world’s opera stages, including three other alumni who are full-time Met members. Others sing on occasion. “We just had a big UNCG reunion at the Met, basically. Several of my student-colleagues sang in productions this year.” Three in “Porgy and Bess,” one in Philip Glass’ “Akhnaten,” one in Puccini’s “Turandot.”

How did she get her foot in the door? She knew a camera operator who worked there, learned about an opening, and on her second day in New York City, she got the job as a PA (production assistant). She worked her way up from there.

That’s her day job – an outstanding one. But she also performs.

For Opera on Tap in New York, she is artistic producer as well as a performer. It was founded in the back room of a bar in Brooklyn – hence the name – and is known for engaging with audiences in a great variety of locations. “We often do shows in that very back room in that bar.”

It’s perhaps best-known for its playground series in Harlem each summer, she says.

And she sings in Utopia Opera, whose members, as they put it, “join together to create spirited representations of operatic works for the masses.”

She loves performing – and bringing art to many people. “It gives you hope, you know?”

She grew up south of the Triangle area. She was surrounded by music and other arts. Her father is Don Dixon, who played in the rock band Arrogance and was record producer for bands like REM and Smithereens. Her mother, Phyllis, is a music lover – she actually was
the sound engineer for Arrogance. Her step-mother is singer Marti Jones. Her older sister, Bonnie, majored in dance at UNCG. “We were all artists, in my house. Everyone was very supportive.”

But opera? “I didn’t grow up around opera at all. I did grow up around music. There was singing all the time.”

So what turned her on to opera, a career turn no one in her family saw coming? “We think it was the movie ‘Amadeus.’”

She loved that movie. “At age 4, I was playing that movie on repeat.”

The here and now in New York City is rather bleak. Due to the pandemic, the Met Opera, like all performance spaces in New York City, is currently quiet. But she and her co-workers meet via the web each day, keeping each other’s spirits up, at a time when the city is currently the hardest hit by the pandemic in the nation. She rarely leaves her apartment, just when necessary.

The Met opera house at Lincoln Center is a magical place. She reminisces on her first time actually being in the auditorium during a live-stream. 2011, she thinks. She was near the camera very close to the stage.

“I’d never been inside the opera theater house. I’d never seen Wagner. I’d never seen The Ring Cycle. It was so many firsts. It was overwhelming, in the greatest way.”

The inspiration that the arts bring are essential during this time – perhaps more than ever.

“I think a lot of people are inspired by the free nightly streams by the Met on the web.”

The Met Opera website is currently offering a free viewing of a Met opera from its archives each evening at 7:30 p.m. This week, each night is Wagner. See details here.

Story by Mike Harris, University Advancement
Photography courtesy of Sidney Dixon Weberndörfer

UNCG announces executive VC for finance, administration
UNC Greensboro today announced that Bob Shea, currently Vice President for Business, Finance and Technology at Elon University, will become the University’s new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration beginning May 1. At UNCG, Shea will lead an organization of more than 560 people spanning a wide range of University operations, including all financial functions, Facilities, Campus Enterprises, Human Resources, Risk Management, Emergency Management, and Campus Police.

Shea joins UNCG after spending three years at Elon University in North Carolina. There, he was in a similar role as a member of the president’s senior staff, responsible for finance, administration, auxiliary enterprises, risk management, information technology, human resources, planning and construction, and campus police.

“Bob stood out in a very strong national field because it was clear to all of us that he brings the kind of strategic thinking, creative problem-solving, and rock-solid financial acumen to UNCG that is essential – especially right now in this most complex, challenging environment,” said Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., Chancellor of UNCG. “Bob has shown repeatedly that he can lead major projects and complex organizations and throughout his career - in
the Navy and in higher education – he has proven himself to be a strong, creative, and committed leader. We are pleased that after a national search, the ideal candidate was someone who already has a presence in North Carolina and has an appreciation for what makes UNCG so vital to our region, and so unique on the higher education landscape.”

While at Elon, Shea helped spearhead the university’s 10-year “Boldly Elon” strategic plan, leading the resource allocation and analysis effort. Shea also played a major role in several transformative campus expansion projects. These include construction of the 10,000 sq. ft. LaRose Student Commons, opened in the fall of 2019; renovation of Virginia residence hall; and construction of the Elon Inn, an 80-room on-campus hotel offering high-quality lodging and conference facilities. Shea has also guided strong financial performance at Elon, delivering an annual operating surplus while managing more than $900 million in total assets and helping the Elon endowment reach a record $291 million (as of December 2019).

Prior to joining the leadership team at Elon, Shea was senior fellow for finance and campus management at the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), the professional association of CFOs in higher education, where he led the Higher Education Economic Models Project and the Endowment and Debt Management Forum. Prior to NACUBO, he was the Vice President for Business Affairs (CFO) at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) system, a four-year public institution with 18,000 students and 1,200 employees. Concurrently, Shea advised the Rhode Island commissioner of higher education on strategic and financial issues for CCRI, Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode Island, an $800 million enterprise.

A veteran, Shea retired in 2007 from the U.S. Navy as a captain. He served for 25 years with postings around the United States and the world, culminating his naval career with three years on the faculty at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the College of William & Mary and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Shea lives in Burlington, North Carolina, with Tracey, his wife of 34 years.

This role at UNCG has been filled on an interim basis by Charles Leffler since October, and was most recently held on a permanent basis by Charlie Maimone, who now has a similar role at North Carolina State University.

**Teaching piano, no matter what**
Two weeks ago, students took their books and their laptops home to continue their studies online due to the coronavirus pandemic. But for piano students in the School of Music, this wasn’t so simple.

Once the Music building closed, the pianos in the practice rooms could not be accessed, leaving many students who didn’t have a piano at home without an instrument to continue their studies.

That was until Dr. Annie Jeng, assistant professor of piano, had an idea.

Once Jeng learned that courses were moving online, she contacted colleagues and friends and posted on social media asking if anyone would be willing to lend their 88-key weighted keyboard to one of her students.

“I really just wanted our students to feel that they were cared for and supported and that they would be able to continue their piano studies during this time,” said Jeng. “I also feel like during this time is when they’re going to be needing music the most.”
Jeng was amazed by how many UNCG staff, faculty, and even Greensboro community members she had never met reached out to offer up their keyboards.

Over the course of three days, Jeng and a few of her UNCG colleagues, self-appointed as
“Annie’s Keyboard Delivery Service,” picked up the keyboards and delivered them to each student. They used disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer between each transaction and accepted only “elbow high-fives” in return.

Thanks to the School of Music Director Dennis Askew, the controller keyboards in a computer lab were donated to the 11 class piano students. And thanks to the generosity of the UNCG and Greensboro community members, all 15 piano majors who needed an 88-key weighted keyboard were provided with one.

Master’s piano student Huixian Wu with her delivered keyboard

“I am really appreciative of what Dr. Jeng has done for me and my classmates,” said master’s student Huixian Wu. “As an international student, the piano in the school’s practice room is always my only choice to practice on. I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to practice when the building closed, but Dr. Jeng solved that problem. I am so thankful because this means I can continue my studies.”

Dr. Jeng is now successfully giving piano lessons to her students from her “living room studio.” She notes that it warms her heart to see the students who received keyboards continuing to work on their craft, and she is happy to still be able to teach them.

“For a lot of these students, they came to UNCG to study piano. Piano brings joy to these students’ lives. For me as a teacher, it’s very easy to feel hopeless in this situation and feel
like I can’t do anything to help. This was my way of supporting my students, and I personally feel much more fulfilled now that I was able to do this for them. Seeing their reactions and how appreciative they were when I delivered the keyboards meant a lot to me.”

Story by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications
Photography courtesy of Dr. Annie Jeng and Huixian Wu

UNC System praises UNCG for meeting targets

Business NC Magazine posted the following brief on March 26:

“UNC Greensboro won kudos from UNC System President Bill Roper at a Board of Governors meeting last week after it was the only system campus to exceed each of its nine strategic plan metrics in the most recent year.

Roper noted that two other campuses – N.C. State University and UNC Charlotte – joined the Greensboro campus by meeting targets for each school’s five main priorities.

The system in 2017 started measuring the 16 universities’ performance in various areas including improving graduation rates, attracting low-income, diverse and rural students, and boosting research funding.
The news was an impressive result for UNC Greensboro Chancellor Frank Gilliam, who took the post in 2015 after a lengthy career at UCLA. His straight-talking style is evident in this recent YouTube video in which he discusses how the campus and system are responding to the shift to online instruction because of shutdowns due to the virus pandemic."

**Railroad bridge painting, street closures**

*Design rendering of the Tate Street bridge. Courtesy of Little Design.*

Campus area railroad bridges are about to get a makeover. UNC Greensboro, in coordination with the City of Greensboro, Norfolk Southern Corporation, and North Carolina Railroad Company, will paint a number of area railroad overpasses, two of which are on the edge of campus.

As work begins this week, the following street closures near Gate City Boulevard at each railroad crossing will include:

**Josephine Boyd Avenue:**
March 30 - April 13, 2020

**Tate Street:**
April 27 - May 11, 2020
Dates are subject to change, and any updates will be noted here.

Design rendering of the Josephine Boyd Avenue bridge. Courtesy of Little Design.

Add UNCG zing to your Zoom
Spartans sprucing up their Zoom meetings with branded backgrounds.

As our campus community has ramped up working, learning, researching, and teaching online, many Spartans are increasingly finding themselves in Zoom video conferencing meetings. University Communications would like to enhance those meetings with some fun background options that users can add to their sessions. These UNCG-branded backgrounds not only show off our lovely campus at this time of year, but help us stay connected as Spartans.

Visit the Zoom conferencing webpage for details on how to Zoom, guidelines on usage, and how-to links for installing custom backgrounds.

Zoom on!

‘Art at a Social Distance’ - a virtual Spartan showcase
UNCG alumna Gizem Yucel ('13) demonstrating what arrangers and composers do in quarantine.

The COVID-19 crisis has greatly impacted the UNCG community, including the arts. Untold performances, talks, productions, and exhibitions have been postponed or cancelled. But the Spartan creative spirit lives on.

As a response to the crisis, and to provide the UNCG community with an alternative way to view, hear, and experience the arts at UNCG, the College of Visual and Performing Arts and University Communications have compiled resources for you to access arts-related content that can be viewed or listened to online.

CVPA has established a new “Art at a Social Distance” webpage to access a diverse offering of content from across the college. University Communications has supplemented the website with the creative content listed below. Together, these resources will offer a wide array of content by faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

If you have or know of other CVPA-related arts that you’d like to submit, please use the CVPA submission form, or contact Matt Bryant at m_bryan2@uncg.edu to submit creative content that falls outside of the college. Your submission can include links to existing content on websites, social media, podcasts, etc. Content needs to be appropriate for all age groups, and must be fair use in terms of copyright for public display.
To supplement the new CVPA ‘Art at a Social Distance’ webpage, University Communications has rounded up some other public projects by Spartans and UNCG-related arts venues to check out online:

**WEATHERSPOON ART MUSEUM**

#WAMfam Connections – During homebound days, the museum’s website and social media have been transformed into platforms for re-imagined engagement. See highlights from the collection with commentary by museum staff, respond to weekly themes and questions, and submit your own thoughts and comments. Follow the discussions on the museum’s [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [Facebook](https://facebook.com), and [Instagram](https://instagram.com) channels.

**PODCASTS**

Yes, and Cafe – with Nadja Cech and Omar Ali
Aria Code – with Rhiannon Giddens
Coronavirus/cooped up – with Emily V. Gordon (SOE alum, counselor, Oscar nominee) and her famous comedian husband
The Kyle Zone – with Kyle Hines
Liquid Philosophy – with Marianne LeGreco, Justin Harmon, and Jeremy Rinker
Dear Sugars – with Steve Almond
Sustainable E – When Entrepreneurship Gets Organic! – with Channelle James and Fahbej Allen

**THEATER & PERFORMANCE**

Triad Stage – virtual content and live performances on their Facebook page

**ART**

Kotis Street Art – a new video by UNCG Media Studies alumnus Paul Byun highlights developer Marty Kotis’ support of public art on his buildings. This project was recently featured in the Greensboro News & Record.

**FILM**

“Cascade: Caring for a Place” – a short documentary by Media Studies’ Michael Frierson
“Super Yamba, Floyd 2019, Black Man’s Cry” – a short documentary by Media Studies’ Michael Frierson and his students.
Emily Spivey – And her Q & A at UNCG
Matthew Barr – see three of his films from the Folkstreams archive

**MUSIC**
Jim Avett – Spotify page for the father of the Avett Brothers
Laurelyn Dossett – Facebook page
Bruce Piephoff – access his music on various platforms
Martha Bassett

LITERATURE
Story South – the staff is made up of many UNCG MFA alumni, both near and far

Following are links to a variety of online publications (short fiction, poetry) by graduates of UNCG’s MFA program in Creative Writing:
Kelly Cherry
Kelly Link
Camille Dungy
Jillian Weise
Julianna Baggot
Lauren Moseley
J.T. Hill
Rhett Iseman Trull
Ansel Elkins
George Singleton
Jamey Bradbury
Kerri French
Claudia Emerson
Dan Albergotti

TEDxUNCGRENSBORO
https://www.tedxuncgreensboro.com/home
The goal of TEDxUNCGreensboro is to bring together the bright minds of UNCG to give talks from a wide range of subjects to foster learning, inspiration, and wonder – and provoke conversations that matter on campus and beyond.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
University Archives – hosts a rich collection of online exhibits and archived works.
Streaming Music – a comprehensive collection of music audio and videos
NC Literary Map – an interactive exploration of authors throughout our state

Story by Matthew Bryant, University Communications
If you’re looking for a way to spread a little positivity during these trying times, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day – and the UNCG Office of Sustainability is working with EarthShare North Carolina to host the “50 Actions for 50 Years Challenge” as a way for people across North Carolina to get involved in promoting the importance of a healthy planet.

The “50for50 Challenge” is a mobile app that encourages you to take 50 sustainability actions between April 1-22 (Earth Day!). As the month progresses, you’ll gain points towards prizes, compete with employees and employers from all over North Carolina, and see your positive impact measured in water saved, waste diverted, and CO2 kept out of the atmosphere. UNCG is also competing as a team against more than 40 companies and institutions of all sizes and industry types across the state.

“This is a great opportunity for the UNCG community to show the power our collective efforts can have on reducing our carbon footprint,” says UNCG Sustainability Specialist Sean MacInnes. “For each sustainable action you take, like recycling or turning off the lights, the app provides energy use comparisons and reports the amount of CO2 you kept from entering the atmosphere. It’s a great educational tool for providing some perspective on our daily habits and could be a fun activity for the family while we’re all home practicing
social distancing.”

There will be prizes for the top 5 individuals state-wide, including items from local North Carolina businesses – like Recover Brands Apparel, Murphy’s Naturals, and Greenworks Tools – and a grand prize subscription to an environmentally-friendly service of your choice (e.g. composting, sustainable grocery delivery, etc.)

Additionally, UNCG will be competing for a “50 Actions for 50 Years Top Team” trophy, and anyone who completes all 50 actions will receive special recognition.

Per EarthShare NC stipulations, this competition is only open to employees. To participate and download the app, please contact UNCG Sustainability Specialist Sean MacInnes at s_macinn@uncg.edu, or 336.334.3664.

Follow @SustainableUNCG on social media to keep up-to-date with environmental news at UNCG.

**Newsmakers: Gilliam, Debbage, Snyder, and Schwartzman**

- Chancellor Gilliam was interviewed by Thrive Global about what needs to be done to improve the US educational system. [The feature](#).
- The High Point Enterprise quoted Dr. Keith Debbage in an article on what makes a business “essential” during a crisis. [The piece](#).
- Dr. Audrey Snyder spoke to WUNC 91.5 about the struggles and realities of healthcare workers during the coronavirus pandemic. [Listen here](#).
- WFDD spoke to Dr. Roy Schwartzman about how to spot logical fallacies. [The interview](#).

**In memoriam: Tom Haggai**

Dr. Thomas Haggai, a great supporter and friend of UNC Greensboro, died Mar. 27. In addition to being a 2011 honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree recipient from UNCG, he was a philanthropist, businessman, minister, and recognized speaker.

Haggai led the High Point-based Thomas Haggai and Associates Foundation for 52 years, and served as a former president and CEO of the Independent Grocers Alliance. In 2016, the foundation established a new teacher-training program, the Haggai Academy, in UNCG’s School of Education with [a $2.3 million grant](#).

“We could not be more grateful for Dr. Tom Haggai and the Tom Haggai and Associates Foundation for their generosity to UNCG and its School of Education, ensuring its continued
success for many years to com,” says UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.

The aim of the Haggai Academy at UNCG is to train non-traditional students to become highly qualified and committed educators. See the News & Record feature on Dr. Haggai.

A memorial service will be held at a later date so that all who wish to gather and celebrate the life of Tom Haggai will have the opportunity to attend. Condolences may be made at Cumby Family Funeral Service, 1015 Eastchester Dr., High Point, N.C. 27262. The obituary may be read here.

**Dr. Noel Mazade**

Dr. Noel Mazade (Office of Research and Engagement) received new funding from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health for the project “Consultation and Planning Assistance to Develop New Leadership Fellows Academy in Texas.”

Working in partnership with relevant parties in Texas, this grant will support the provision of the following activities that will lead to the development of a new Leadership Fellows Academy. Work includes but is not limited to: stakeholder engagement; the design and development of an implementation plan for the Academy; recruitment and training of executive leadership and personal coaches for each participant; recruitment of webinar instructors to deliver content; and the exploration of potential links between North Carolina and Texas Leadership Academies.

**Dr. Eric Grebing**
Dr. Eric Grebing (SERVE Center) received new funding from the University of Indianapolis for the project “The Rural Early College Network - CELL”

SERVE will conduct an evaluation that will examine implementation of these activities and then will assess changes in the mediating factors - the treatment EC programs in the CELL EC Core Principles and the development of sustainable early college practices throughout the RECN network. For outcomes, the evaluation will assess 9th and 10th grade student impacts on attendance, success in college preparatory coursework, enrollment and success in dual credit courses (including AP), and student performance on the PSAT. The evaluation will also assess the extent to which the project is attaining its goals for sustainability and scale including the number of endorsed EC programs in Indiana and the number of teachers credentialed for dual credit.