Welcome to Campus Weekly

Nurse anesthesia students fight COVID-19 in New York

Scott Dollar and Ali Cosgrove are students in UNCG’s nurse anesthesia program. The two classmates and friends recently traveled to Buffalo, New York, to treat coronavirus patients.

After discussing it with his wife, Scott Dollar had pretty much made up his mind on where he was headed as a traveling nurse.

Dollar would help treat coronavirus patients in Buffalo, New York, but he hoped one of his UNC Greensboro classmates would come along with him. The first person he called was Ali Cosgrove, a fellow second-year student in UNCG’s nurse anesthesia program.

Cosgrove had never worked as a traveling nurse, but like Dollar, she was looking for a way to help after seeing the toll the COVID-19 pandemic was having on New York. This was the perfect opportunity to do so alongside a close friend from nursing school.
With their clinicals for UNCG’s nurse anesthesia program on hold, Cosgrove and Dollar were free to spend a month in Buffalo, working five 12-hour shifts a week at a hospital that treats only coronavirus patients. They could then spend their days off studying in their hotel rooms and completing the online assignments that are still due for their classes.

“We both felt a calling when we went into medicine to help people,” said Cosgrove, 34, who earned both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from UNCG. “So, when he called and said, ‘Are you interested in going?’ I was like ‘If I have a buddy, then yeah, let’s do this and let’s go help.’”

Bevin Strickland is working in the emergency department at Mount Sinai Queens.

On April 5, around the same time Cosgrove and Dollar arrived in Buffalo, a third UNCG nurse anesthesia student landed in New York City. Bevin Strickland is scheduled to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in August, but first she’s slated to spend the next two months working in Queens as a nurse in the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak.

Coincidentally, all three UNCG students started working on the same day last week. Strickland began in the emergency department at Mount Sinai Queens, while Cosgrove and Dollar are caring for patients at the Catholic Health COVID-19 Treatment Facility at St. Joseph Campus in a Buffalo suburb.

“My parents and my family, they were very supportive. I was a paramedic before I went into nursing, so they kind of know that I can deal with the chaos, I guess,” Dollar, 30, said. “I just kind of have that personality to jump into things.”

Strickland, meanwhile, was so desperate to help she emailed New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo
and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio asking how she could volunteer as a nurse. She also sent a message to the official Twitter account for the New York City Mayor’s Office that read, “How do ICU nurses outside of NY sign up to help?”

Strickland finally got connected with Mount Sinai Queens and scrambled to get everything in order before she left North Carolina. But her first flight to New York was cancelled.

On April 3, Strickland took part in a DNP poster presentation that the UNCG School of Nursing held over Zoom instead of in-person because of the coronavirus. Two days later, she put on a protective facemask and flew to New York against her mother’s wishes.

“I’m in a position to help, and I feel like there are a lot of people out there in nursing and healthcare that don’t have a choice about being there in New York,” said Strickland, 47, who’s an Army Reserve lieutenant from High Point. “I really felt like I had a duty being in a situation that I am able to help. I’m not working a fulltime job. I don’t have all these other commitments. My twin sons are 16 years old. They’re totally supportive of it.”

Cosgrove admitted she was “in shell shock” on her first day working at the COVID-19 treatment facility outside of Buffalo. She and Dollar were assigned to different units, and by noon, she was treating patients on her own.

She said she was relieved to see Dollar as soon as their shifts finally ended.

“To be able to come out of there and be able to see someone’s face that I knew, I mean, it’s making the transition and what we’re doing so much easier,” Cosgrove said. “Not that it’s easy by any means but having someone that you can talk to about what you saw and then to hold you accountable to get our schoolwork done, it makes a huge difference.”

*Story by Alex Abrams, School of Nursing*

**In midst of pandemic, Spartan leads nurses association**
Representing all of the nation’s 4.3 million registered nurses is a big undertaking.

 Especially during this global pandemic, when medical supplies are limited, personal protective equipment can be hard to obtain, and the whole health care system is under strain.

 Dr. Ernest Grant, a UNC Greensboro alumnus, holds that responsibility.

 “It’s vitally important that we do everything we can to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19,” he says.

 As president of the American Nurses Association, he is advocating for those on the front lines. He wants them to get the personal protective equipment they need. He is working with and encouraging government authorities to monitor supply chains to ensure that vital medical equipment goes where it is most needed.

 And through videos and social media - and through interviews with news outlets ranging from MSNBC to Fox News - he continues to spread this message: Follow your local and state directives about sheltering in place.
Physical distancing – also called social distancing – is making a big impact. It helps keep the hospitals from becoming overwhelmed, as it helps limit the spread of COVID-19. It has helped “flatten the curve” in the spike of coronavirus cases.

“I know it’s very difficult. I’m a bit frustrated, myself, with having to stay indoors most of the time, but we all must do our part,” he says.

Also, give blood if you can, he adds. “The Red Cross needs the blood supply, so if you are healthy, consider making an appointment for one of the blood services donation centers.”

He praises everyone who plays a role in the health care system, from the cleaning crews to the receptionists, from the lab technicians to the surgeons.

An expert in burn care, he oversaw the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center’s Outreach and Prevention Program, located in Chapel Hill, for many years.

Grant holds two UNCG degrees, an MSN (’93) and a PhD (’15).

When he received that doctorate, he became the first African American male to earn a doctorate degree in nursing from UNCG. In 2010, he’d been elected the first African American male president of the North Carolina Nurses Association. In 2018, he was the first male to be elected president of the American Nurses Association.

A trailblazer, he is keen to help and inspire the next generations of nurses. He grew up with limited means, the youngest of seven children in the small town of Swannanoa in the North Carolina mountains.

“I’ve always wanted to make the way easier for those who come after me,” he says.

In honor of his mother, he established the Ernest J. Grant Endowed Scholarship in Nursing to provide support for multicultural male students with financial need.

“I could not have gotten this far in my career without the education I received at UNCG.”

UNCG and its School of Nursing helps transform lives. And the nursing graduates go on to help save lives, no matter the challenge.

Even – and especially – when the unexpected happens and when crises arise.

“In typical nursing fashion,” he said, “we rise to that occasion.”

See Ernest Grant’s video on what you can do to help in the COVID-19 pandemic.
On Thursday, April 9, Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. sent a “Chancellor’s Musings” message to the campus community. The full message is below.

Over the last few weeks, in the face of this historic pandemic, UNCG had to make some quick decisions based on urgent, fast-changing, and unpredictable circumstances. We made decisions without having the luxury of time to fully process long-term consequences. We did so to keep our campus community (and the public) as safe as possible from a dangerous virus.

We asked students to move out of the residence halls on short notice, resulting in people having to make living arrangements on the fly. We shifted almost 100% of our classes online in less than a week, putting a great strain on our faculty and staff. We asked most of our staff to telecommute – creating challenges at home. We had to ask others to keep coming in because they were needed, which generated its own set of questions and concerns. We postponed commencement ceremonies, disrupting the opportunity for our students and their families to celebrate what is a significant accomplishment – getting a college degree (know that we continue to work on plans to honor our 2020 grads). And most recently, we announced that all summer school classes will be online.
I realize this has been more than a bit much. Social distancing is absolutely essential in our fight to protect the health of our community. But, it has also resulted in social disconnect – depriving us of the people and places that keep us energized and motivated, at a time when we need them the most. But the virus made us do it. It doesn’t care about schedules or plans. Nor does it allow certain people to be exempt from its ravages – we are all at risk. The upshot is that decision-making under conditions of great uncertainty is extremely challenging. We are doing our very best to do what is right. But we know that we are far from perfect.

Now, after the initial, chaotic crisis phase, the practical realities are sinking in. Maybe your living situation is less than ideal. Maybe you or a loved one has lost a job or had hours cut. Maybe you are struggling to balance working at home while taking care of your kids at the same time. Maybe living primarily in the virtual world – either by taking online classes or working remotely – is not suited for you. Maybe you live in an area where access to groceries or the internet is limited. Worse still, maybe one of your relatives is vulnerable, and you’re anxious about their health. Maybe you have lost someone. The list is endless.

There are so many aspects of people’s day-to-day realities that have been impacted by COVID-19, which are vivid and personal. In fact, we will all remember these times for the rest of our lives, the same way that other generations remember WWII and Vietnam, the Kennedy assassination, and 9/11. It is on that scale. This is not just a minor inconvenience that has waylaid your graduation or licensure; not just a temporary blip that has disrupted career plans and personal goals. This virus is a formidable foe. It is taking people’s lives. Health care professionals are putting their own lives on the line to care for the sick and keep the rest of us safe. We have seen images and heard stories of our own UNCG nursing grads and other alumni fighting the battle on the front lines. We are inspired by them – and by so many others who are making great sacrifices.

This is as real as it gets.

So, where does this leave us? Well, I’m not certain and I don’t think anyone is. But we must keep moving forward. There will be a post-COVID-19 world. What it will look like, who knows? But one thing I’m sure of: We will ultimately get back to school. Residence halls will open, students and faculty will be back in the classroom, staff will return to campus, events and activities will resume. Games will be played and concerts will be held. Research will get back into full swing and various projects around campus will proceed. Will things be scaled back? Probably. Will that last forever? Probably not.

We in the administration are engaged in a series of scenario-planning activities based on various assumptions. For example, how much lead time do we need to get a currently shuttered campus ready for the next academic year? Given the economic impact, what can
we do to continue to support our students, faculty, and staff in the face of potential budget limitations? If students have new and additional barriers to staying in school, what can we do to keep them going? If we have to remain with online courses in the fall, what can we do to better support both students and faculty? We don’t have all the answers, but we are developing what we believe are the right questions.

In the end, the concept of shared fate applies now more than ever. Our futures are inextricably intertwined with one another’s. We need each other. We truly are all in this together. And I want you to know that I have every confidence that our dedicated, well-intentioned, and professional faculty and staff stand ready to deliver on our promise of being a national model for universities blending access, excellence, and opportunity. I also want you to know that my wife Jacquie and I are more committed than ever to serving our University and community.

Students, you didn’t ask for this. You have been compelled to change your expectations, alter your reality, and rethink your plans in ways that feel scary, unfair, and sometimes overwhelming. I am proud of what I have seen from you in the face of these challenges. And yet, even now, I hope that you understand there is a significant role for you as we move forward. I encourage you to maintain your passion, focus, and drive to get to the finish line. I urge you to summon the strength that I know you have deep down inside to forge ahead in the face of uncertainty. You can become a defining generation in the history of this University.

Thank you, and as always: Go Spartans!

Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.

Carmen Sotomayor receives Excellence in Teaching award
The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has selected UNC Greensboro’s Dr. Carmen Sotomayor to receive a 2020 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Sotomayor is professor of Spanish and associate head in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. She teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and leads a study abroad program for undergraduates each summer in Spain.

Her research interests include the poetry, narratives, and visual arts of the Spanish Civil War, as well as the narratives of contemporary Spanish writers. She is particularly interested in aspects of otherness in relation to race and gender. In addition, Sotomayor studies the films of the Spanish Civil War, the Franco era, and the transition to the democracy period.

“Dr. Sotomayor is a consummate teacher-scholar who is deeply committed to the success of her students,” said UNCG Provost Dana Dunn. “This award is a testament to her hard work in the classroom, in the community, and throughout our campus, all while pursuing high-level research. We are thrilled she is being recognized for her accomplishments by the Board of Governors.”

Sotomayor is one of 17 award recipients who represent all 16 of North Carolina’s public universities and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. The faculty members were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs. Award winners will be honored at their respective institutions at a future date.

“I believe in the classroom experience as a transformational one,” said Sotomayor. “I feel
very fortunate to be able to teach about topics that I feel passionate about. Language is inseparable from culture and it opens the learner to different modes of conceptualizing the world around them. ... As a teacher, I consider my biggest accomplishment to be instilling in my students a sense of wonder and discovery of different cultures that I am familiar with, knowing how this process informs their own cultural perceptions, and expands their horizons.”

To read the full profile of Sotomayor on the UNC System website, click here.

*Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications*

**Maintaining health and wellness while social distancing**

While social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucially important to do what you can to maintain health and wellness from home.

In the following Q&A, UNC Greensboro’s Stefanie Milroy, director of [HealthyUNCG](https://www.healthyuncg.com) and
health education expert, and Cari Culp, registered dietitian, discuss how to stay healthy and well while maintaining social distance.

**What can people do to maintain wellness - mentally and physically - during these times?**

“During this time, it is important to manage our expectations,” says Milroy. “Adaptation to this new way of living life will take time. Be compassionate. Giving yourself, your family, and your co-workers grace will go a long way as we all learn alongside each other about how these next couple of weeks or months will look.

Doing your best to establish a schedule for yourself or your family can help with staying well, both mentally and physically. It’s okay if your schedule does not look like what your former work/family/self-care schedule looked like a month ago or like someone else’s! It also doesn’t have to look pretty or color-coded like the ones we see floating around social media! Create a schedule that works for you and your family. Maybe it’s something as simple as getting up at the same time each day, or perhaps it’s creating time to allow yourself breaks and time to do the things you love as a family or for yourself throughout the day or the week. Block scheduling is one type of scheduling that works well for many because it allows you freedom and flexibility within that ‘block’ of time, rather than planning out each day to the minute.

Take care of yourself mentally and physically. Along with taking stretch breaks or going for a walk or bike ride, there are some great free physical activity resources available to you. The Kaplan Center for Health and Wellness has put together a [Keep Moving](#) page with links to various activity-at-home resources. HealthyUNCG has also put together a [resource page](#) with physical activity and other wellness resources available to employees and their families. We are updating the list each week, so check in often! If you see something missing, let us know and we will do our best to find the best resource for what you are looking for. Creating schedules and staying active will help keep our minds healthy as well.

In addition, finding creative ways to connect socially can be an enormous boost to our mental health. Using Zoom, Google Hangouts, or FaceTime to stay connected with our colleagues, friends, and family can help to maintain those contact points that we are now missing in person. Take breaks from news and media if needed. Start a gratitude journal or just mentally note what is going well for you today or what you are grateful for each day.

Recognize when you need support and routinely check in with others to offer support or encouragement. This is a time where many of us are grieving or struggling in various ways. It is important to know your red flags. Being able to recognize those and identifying ways to actively reduce those can help you reset and gain control. Engage your support network of
family and close friends. Seek help from professionals to talk or process these feelings. Utilize UNCG’s Employee Assistance Program for additional support and resources.”

**Do you have any tips for maintaining good work-life and school-life balances for those who are now working and taking classes from home?**

“To paraphrase a quote I heard in a recent webinar made by Ryan Picarella, President of the Wellness Council of America, ‘We are now in a time where there is no more leaving one’s personal life at home or work/life integration. We are integrated. We are at home, in each other’s living rooms on virtual meetings, trying to live life, stay productive, raise children, and find balance in what we do.’ We are now having to find new ways to do business, support our employees, friends, and family, to teach our children, to make time for self so that we can come out better. This is our new norm and we can help employers create a new way of operating. By practicing some of the suggestions above and facilitating conversation on how we are doing and ways to improve, we can help to create these new norms that will help us to find ways to balance and live our lives happy, healthy, and well.”

**What are some free online wellness resources students, parents, and employees can take advantage of?**

“We have put together a virtual wellness resource page on our website with some of our recommended free or low cost resources. We try to add to it each week or so. There is a link to the page on our [home page].”

**How can people maintain good nutrition habits during social distancing?**

Culp recommends, “Eat a rainbow! Fruits and veggies contain vitamin C and other important plant compounds that boost our immunity and decrease inflammation. Since we are all trying to minimize our trips to the grocery store, and it’s so important to continue eating fresh fruits and veggies, stick with the heartier options that last longer in the fridge like red cabbage, Brussels sprouts, green beans, broccoli, snow peas, sugar snap peas, celery, carrots, bell peppers, beets, kale, apples, and oranges. Remember to keep some frozen fruits and veggies on hand as well. Also, try sprouting your own broccoli seeds or growing your own veggies and herbs to make fresh options more available.

Keep shelf-stable dried or canned legumes and whole grains like quinoa, barley, and oats in stock for a quick and nutritious meal.

Remember to drink enough fluid! Being thrown off schedule can result in less fluid intake for many of us. Set an alarm on your phone to remember to drink water throughout the day. Try adding well washed citrus for extra vitamin C.
Be mindful about snacking. Make sure your snacks include a fruit, veggie, or both. Take 5 minutes to consider whether you are really hungry before eating a snack to avoid unnecessary snacking. Avoid keeping trigger foods that tempt you to indulge around the house since you are there most of the time.

Make sure you are getting enough Vitamin D, zinc, and vitamin C for immune health. We get vitamin D primarily from the sun. It plays a major role in immune function. Since vitamin D deficiency is very common and we are indoors now more than ever, most people need a supplement. Extra zinc can also be very helpful for immunity during this time. Vitamin C is found in most fruits and veggies, especially bell peppers, strawberries, kiwi, citrus, broccoli, and pineapple. Get a couple servings of these foods daily.

Get seven and a half to nine hours of sleep each night. Not only does sleep boost our immunity, it also helps us control our cravings, calorie intake, and unnecessary snacking while allowing us to move more during the day.

Aim to move your body most days of the week. There are all sorts of ways to continue to exercise at home. Take a family walk, do an exercise video, use an app or an at-home exercise machine. Look at each week, make a plan for exercise, and write it on your calendar to help you stay on schedule.”

Interview by Avery Campbell, University Communications
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications

Next Virtual Town Hall is April 22

On Wednesday, April 22, please join the virtual meeting of the UNCG General Faculty from 3-4 p.m. and the second virtual Town Hall with Chancellor Gilliam and Provost Dunn 4-5 p.m. The virtual Town Hall is co-hosted by Faculty and Staff Senates.

The Town Hall will be held online only. Instructions on joining the meeting through Zoom are found below, as well as instructions for participating by phone. The Chancellor and Provost will spend the first half of the forum addressing the most pressing questions and then open it up for general Q&A. The session will be recorded and posted on both senate websites.

Submit questions here: https://forms.gle/nxaHziZdzZjo2X9K8 by Monday, April 20, at 9 a.m.

To join the meeting, login at: https://uncg.zoom.us/j/99083154981?pwd=ZTOydnZEemRnczSRk5SkFydGwyQT09
To join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please click this URL to join.
https://uncg.zoom.us/j/99083154981?pwd=ZTOydZeemRnczJ5Srj5SkFydGwyQT09
Password: 153120

To join by phone:
Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799
Webinar ID: 990 8315 4981
Password: 153120
International numbers available here: https://uncg.zoom.us/u/a4XDD0GD

Scenes of #SpartanSpring
It’s certainly not the #SpartanSpring we expected.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our campus community in many ways, and so much remains uncertain. Spartans are now faced with loss of life, economic hardship, and social isolation, among other challenges.

The campus traditions we hold near and dear – Commencement, SOAR, Reading Day, etc. – have been postponed or cancelled. It’s a troubling time for everyone, some more than others.

But each year, spring teaches us a lesson. Budding flowers, warmer temperatures, and green foliage give us hope. Springtime brings new life.
And while UNC Greensboro’s campus may be empty of people, it’s full of the sights and sounds of spring. Last week, Associate Director of Photography Martin W. Kane and Video Services Manager Grant Evan Gilliard returned to campus to document #SpartanSpring. Below is a photo essay from their time on campus.
Wednesday, April 22, following the virtual Meeting of the General Faculty, Chancellor Gilliam and Provost Dunn will speak with faculty and staff at a Virtual Town Hall from 4-5 p.m, hosted by Faculty and Staff Senates. See this post for information on how to join.

The Alumni House will be undergoing renovations through the summer and will be closed for all events until the start of the fall semester on Monday, August 10, 2020. Please note that during the 2020-21 academic year, there will be very limited bookings for non-campus clients. However, internal campus groups may reserve rooms in the Alumni House for the 2020-2021 academic year beginning today. As a reminder, the Alumni House abides by university regulations and guidelines as they relate to public health standards, weather closings, and necessary repairs. Please note that due to these guidelines, the Alumni House reserves the right to cancel reservations as warranted under these circumstances. For additional information, please contact Alumni House Manager John Comer at jfcomer@uncg.edu.

The University Libraries community would like to hear about your “comfort reads” – the books that serve as comforts and solace in times of uncertainty. Share a photo of your favorite comfort literature or a selfie of you with the book cover on an e-reader. Email the photo to libmkt@uncg.edu and tag on social media by using #ComfortLit4Spartans. The staff will plan to share the photos across social media and in the next issue of Library Columns.

Researchers are encouraged to remember UNCG’s partnership with the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD). Faculty may activate the free membership and join online here. Members have access to these resources: http://www.facultydiversity.org/membership. Additionally, NCFDD has developed a list of support resources specific to COVID-19: https://www.facultydiversity.org/covid19.

University Libraries’ new “Accessible Archives” offers history scholars and students a full-text collection of Civil War and Reconstruction-era newspapers, magazines and books, which were previously available only in microfilm or print. Included as part of the Accessible Archives database is a vast collection of 19th century African American newspapers. The easy-to-navigate environment features eyewitness accounts of historical events, descriptions of daily life, editorial observations, advertisements and genealogical records. Titles will continue to be added to the collection, covering important topics and time periods.

If you would like your announcement for UNCG faculty and staff to appear in Quick Look, please email sckirbys@uncg.edu.
Open forums for Provost search

Finalists for the position of Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor will visit campus virtually starting Wednesday, April 15. The virtual meetings will include a campus-wide Open Forum. The University community will have an opportunity to engage with the five finalists in forums on the following dates:

Candidate 1: Wednesday, April 15: 9-10:30 a.m.
Candidate 2: Friday, April 17: 1-2:30 p.m.
Candidate 3: Tuesday, April 21: 1-2:30 p.m.
Candidate 4: Friday, April 24: 1-2:30 p.m.
Candidate 5: Wednesday, April 29: 1-2:30 p.m.

Please visit the provost candidates site to access the links to the Open Forum and the candidates’ CVs (to be made available three days before each scheduled forum). The Provost Search Committee would also like faculty and staff perspectives on each of the finalists. The links to a feedback survey will also be available on the aforementioned site.

Chair of the Provost Search Committee Andrea Hunter requests a robust set of questions to pose to finalists. Questions can be submitted via this google form in advance of the forums no later than Monday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m. There will also be opportunities for questions from the gallery during each forum.

Participation is encouraged to engage the finalists and also give them a sense of who UNCG is as a university community.

To request an ASL translation, please contact Kristi Crowther at klcrowth@uncg.edu by Monday, April 13.

UNCG announces new VC for Enrollment Management

UNC Greensboro recently announced that Tina McEntire will become the University’s new Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management beginning June 1.
McEntire comes to UNCG from UNC Charlotte, where she headed the Enrollment Management unit, with eight departments and 140 employees, and was responsible for enrollment planning throughout the student life cycle, from recruitment to graduation.

Under McEntire’s leadership, UNC Charlotte has experienced a 43.2% growth in undergraduate enrollment, a 38% growth in the total population, and more than doubled the population of underrepresented minority students during the past 12 years. She is also currently working with the UNC System Office, leading the UNC Student Success Innovation Lab Completion Grant Initiative.

“With her breadth and depth of experience in the UNC System, knowledge of the demographics and dynamics in our state, and steadfast commitment to serving students through public higher education, Tina will be an outstanding addition to our team,” said UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. “Though we face many challenges in our immediate future, UNCG is in a very strong position to compete for students and drive growth across a diverse enrollment portfolio. We are indeed still poised to become a national model for how a university can blend opportunity and excellence to transform students and make a significant contribution to the prosperity of the state.”

McEntire has worked in enrollment management at UNC Charlotte since 1994. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Public Affairs from UNC Charlotte.

This role at UNCG has been filled on an interim basis by Dr. Dale Wasson, and was most recently held on a permanent basis by Dr. Bryan Terry, who now has a similar role at Arkansas State University.

**SOAR orientation program virtual in June**

The annual in-person June orientation program, SOAR, has been postponed due to the
COVID-19 pandemic. The University will host a June Virtual SOAR program and, if possible, an August in-person orientation experience prior to the semester starting.

The June Virtual SOAR program consists of the following components:

- Creation of an expanded SOAR webpage that houses all materials including handouts, videos, and powerpoints for students and families to access.
- Students will attend a Zoom virtual small group with an orientation leader on their originally-reserved June SOAR date.
- All new undergraduate students will be enrolled into a Canvas course where they will be required to review all of the onboarding materials and take short quizzes.
- Students will be pre-registered for their fall course schedule. Students will hear from their academic advisors with more details.
- Families and guests can attend a Zoom virtual SOAR session with full-time staff and select orientation leaders to learn about important information and resources, as well as ask questions real-time.

In collaboration with campus partners, SOAR coordinators are planning one-day orientation sessions in August prior to the semester starting. As with all uncertain plans, the campus community will be kept updated as we get closer to those dates.

If you have questions about SOAR, feel free to reach out to Austin McKim at tamckim@uncg.edu

Dr. Arielle Kuperberg

Dr. Arielle Kuperberg (Sociology) received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “Collaborative Research: A New Class Divide: Student Loans and the Transition to Adulthood.”

The majority of young adults now attend at least some college, and many take on substantial student debt in the process. More than two-thirds of college graduates now carry an
average of around $30,000 in student debt when they finish their 4-year degrees. Recently, politicians have discussed various plans to reduce or forgive student loans, and some colleges have begun to implement programs to reduce loans for low-income students.

This study examines college students’ and graduates experience with debt. It examines how students with loans came to take on debt, examining prior experiences with parents, advisors, and peers; their attitudes towards and knowledge about debt; and their experiences after college as they begin to pay off that debt. It also compares their experiences to those who attended a university that implemented a new program to reduce or eliminate student debt, including the experiences of those with student loan debt to those who avoided debt either because of this program or without this program. This study will help determine the impacts of student loan debt on the transition out of college and into adulthood, and how student loan debt may represent a new ‘class divide’ among college graduates that serves to reproduce inequality across generations.

Building upon an ongoing longitudinal mixed-method study, this study will involve collecting additional interviews with 24 college graduates with loans at two universities who were first interviewed right before their graduation in 2016, and have been interviewed yearly since then; this cohort will be interviewed again in 2020 and 2021. A new cohort of 48 graduating seniors will be interviewed at a university that implemented a program to reduce student loans, with interviews right before and 1.5 years after graduation. Surveys were previously collected with 3,727 college students at two universities in 2017 and 173 graduating seniors from that survey again in 2018. Those graduating seniors will again be surveyed in 2020.

A new survey will be collected at the university with the student loans program in 2020, and with graduates of that university surveyed again in Fall 2021. Instrumental variable methods will be combined with interview data to analyze selection into student loan debt, the different educational experiences of those with and without debt, sentiments and knowledge about loan debt that may affect later results, and post-graduate experiences and outcomes.

Dr. Olav Rueppell
Dr. Olav Rueppell (Biology) received new funding from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the project Dynamics of Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus Infection within Honey Bees.”

Honey bee viruses are a serious threat to honey bee health. We lack understanding of their transmission pathways and interactions with the bee host after infection. This project has two aims to contribute knowledge in these areas: 1. Quantify the amplification of Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus after bees are infected through different routes and determine resulting mortality. 2. Investigate the host transcriptional response to virus infection. Together, these aims will contribute to a better understanding of the interactions between honey bee viruses and their host to help improve honey bee health.

Dr. Melissa Floyd-Pickard

Dr. Melissa Floyd-Pickard (Social Work) received new funding from the Guilford County Department of Public Health for the project “2019 GC DPH Post-Overdose Response Team Staffing Sustainment Funding.”

The Rapid Response to Opioid Overdose project seeks to enhance services in responding to opioid overdose through a model of harm reduction. These services are in support of a larger award received by the Guilford County Health Department. Services include rapid response to those who have overdosed on opiates as identified by Guilford County Emergency Services. Additionally, funds will be used to by supplies for harm reduction
Newsmakers: Erausquin, genetic counseling, Murray and Johnson, Parsons

Whether researchers with timely insights or students with outstanding stories, members of the UNCG community appear in print, web and broadcast media every day. Here is a sampling of UNCG-related stories in the news and media over the week:

- Spectrum News interviewed Dr. Jennifer Toller Erausquin on the coronavirus and public health. The interview.
- UNC TV produced a short documentary on genetic counseling, highlighting UNCG’s new program. The video.
- Dr. Christine Murray and alumna Catherine Johnson wrote a piece for the News & Record about the increased risk of domestic violence during social isolation. The article.
- Dr. Ann Parsons wrote an article for the News & Record about the last time Greensboro united against a virus - in 1948. The piece.