Welcome to Campus Weekly

UNCG Magazine: Nurses on pandemic’s front line

“Rise to the challenge,” says the cover. And from front to back, the just-published UNCG Magazine explores the many ways Spartan alumni, students, faculty, and staff are doing just that.

Among the story highlights:

**Rise to the challenge**
The Nursing & Instructional Building will provide the space to instruct and mentor the nurses and science professionals our state needs. See additional, prospective projects on the horizon, which will help the University serve its students and the region.

**Simply unprecedented**
As the COVID-19 pandemic reached North Carolina last month, this campus - in accord with
the UNC System – acted quickly. Classes went online, and the University’s mission moved forward.

**Grace under pressure**

Hear from alumna nurse Grace Cindric ’16, whose meme visual went viral. See why national Fox News and MSNBC have called on nurse alumnus Ernest Grant during this pandemic. **Hear from the father/daughter duo** who are not only study partners but work in the same emergency ward during this outbreak.

**New arts leader**

Ryan Deal ’18 blends his corporate, nonprofit, and artistic experience (yes, he toured nationally in “Cats”) as Greensboro’s first-ever chief creative economy officer.

**Kyle Hines’ return**

Only one American has four championship rings in EuroLeague basketball play – Kyle Hines. He’s considered the greatest player in UNCG men’s basketball history, and he may go down as the greatest in European basketball history.

Plus there is a variety of updates and items, including the story of how the Bryan School’s Allen Scholars originated, the upcoming Dave Brubeck celebration, UNCG’s “culture of care,” a residential college’s 50th anniversary, the Triad’s LGBTQ+ history, and much more.

As you read the individual stories, share them via social media to amplify their reach.

The magazine was released online Monday. Nearly 70,000 alumni and friends of the University will receive print copies this week.

The online version of the magazine with great videos is at [alumnimagazine.uncg.edu](http://alumnimagazine.uncg.edu).

**UNCG graduate showcase, a virtual scholarship hub**
Megan Damico, a graduate student in biology who studies gut microbiome in honey bees. Her project is featured in the Showcase.

Every spring, UNC Greensboro graduate students present work at the Graduate Research and Creativity Expo.

This large public Graduate School event is an opportunity for close to 100 UNCG master’s and doctoral students to share their scholarship with a broad audience, including about 30 community members who come to campus to serve as judges for the competition. Through the expo, the greater UNCG community sees the diverse array of innovative research that graduate students have undertaken.

This year, as campus facilities are closed during the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States, the Graduate School created a virtual space where graduate students could post video presentations to share their research, the Showcase of Scholarship.

Instead of an intensive round of judging with winners in several categories, every student who participated by uploading a presentation received a cash prize.

“The Graduate School is incredibly proud of the way that our students quickly pivoted to the online event and brought the stories, excitement, and passion for their scholarship to life in this virtual setting,” said Associate Dean of the Graduate School Greg Bell.
The presentations are organized into four categories: **Arts, Humanities, and Professional Programs; Health Sciences; Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences; and Social Sciences.**

Projects show a diverse array of research topics such as:

- **In honey bees, does host lifestyle, genetics, or bacterial warfare impact the composition of the gut microbiome?**
- **The Politics of Norplant: Contraceptive Technology, Feminism, and Social Policy in the 1990s**
- Explorations of creative projects undertaken to complete MFA programs in **dance** and **creative writing**
- **Biomechanics, Birth Control, and Biochemistry: Examining a Risk Factor for ACL Injury Using a Three-Pronged Approach**
- **Federal Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Experiences in Rural Appalachian North Carolina**
- **The role of habitual fluid intake on health and wellness**
- **Understanding the consequences of invasive grass species**
- **(Physical) Skin to (Virtual) Skin: Understanding Gamers’ Virtual Apparel-Related Purchasing**

*Story by Susan Kirby-Smith, University Communications*
*Photography by Jiyoung Park, University Communications*

**How UNCG handled the 1918 flu pandemic**
Sophomore Abigail Knight

COVID-19 is not the first pandemic our campus has faced. In early 1918, influenza made its way to North Carolina and hit what was then called State Normal and Industrial College. Of the 1,164 students enrolled for the 1918-1919 academic year, about 200 students contracted the flu. Remarkably, no students died.

Sophomore Honors College student Abigail Knight began researching the flu pandemic’s effects on State Normal and Industrial College, North Carolina State University, and UNC Chapel Hill in University Archivist Erin Lawrimore’s “Interrogating UNCG’s History” Honors College seminar last fall. As a nursing major with a minor in anthropology, this subject married two of Knight’s interests, and Lawrimore urged her to further pursue this research in the spring semester to present at the Undergraduate Research Expo.

Neither Knight nor Lawrimore could have predicted that this research would become so relevant.

“Abigail’s research demonstrates the continued relevance of history,” says Lawrimore. “When she first selected this research topic, we had no idea just how relevant it would be. But we can examine the past, learn from successes and mistakes, and think critically about how we can apply that knowledge to our situation today.”
Learn more about Knight’s research in the Q&A below:

**How did State Normal and Industrial College handle the flu pandemic?**

We followed the directives of the state and modeled what other universities were doing. This was also during the time of WWI, and because we were an all-female school, we didn’t have army training camps on campus, so State Normal responded by shutting everything down. Their version of quarantine was that no one was allowed to leave campus, and no one was allowed to come onto campus.

Students and faculty also had to practice social distancing, much like we’re doing today. They limited the number of students that could be in one place at one time. This all proved to be pretty effective because most students at State Normal didn’t contract the flu. This is pretty remarkable because the other colleges I looked at, NC State and UNC Chapel Hill, were not so lucky.

It was also interesting that the school’s resident physician, Dr. Anna Gove, was in France during this time supporting the war effort abroad. This meant that campus had a different physician, Dr. Anna Kleegman. During the pandemic, Foust and Kleegman worked together daily to manage the situation on campus. Pleased with how Dr. Kleegman handled the pandemic, and Foust sent her flowers and a letter telling her thank you for all she had done.
as he was certain she had helped save many student lives.

Forest Street Infirmary in 1917, photo taken by Dr. Anna Gove
Graph of Infirmary Statistics at State Normal College during influenza epidemic, October, 1918.

Average no. in Infirmary in normal times.
Comparison of graph with red line shows deviations and extent of abnormal conditions.

Days in October.
What are some of the biggest similarities and differences between State Normal and Industrial College’s situation with the flu pandemic and our current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic?

Social distancing is one of the biggest similarities. Students weren’t allowed to go places or gather in groups, and just like today, their everyday social lives were disrupted. Not only did the campus shut down, but everywhere else pretty much did as well. They weren’t going to church or shopping like they normally would. They even canceled Founder’s Day, a tradition we still celebrate today.

One of the things that surprised me during my research is that it was really hard to find letters of students who lost hope during the pandemic, even though the flu was targeting the young and healthy individuals who wouldn’t normally get sick. I’m sure some were, but it didn’t really stop students from doing what they needed to do. People were still carrying on with their lives as much as they could, just like we are today. For example, we are continuing education online, and back then, they continued classes as well as they could. We know this because President Foust sent a letter to faculty giving them a list of distance students who were in Greensboro, but not on campus, and he made sure faculty members were staying in contact with those students to continue their education.

One of the biggest differences was the fact that students stayed on campus and rode out the pandemic. Another difference was how President Foust handled most of what the university went through. Most of my research has been reading his letters from the time of the pandemic, and he fielded a lot of questions. For example, there was an infirmary on campus with a high number of students sick. For every student and every day she was in the infirmary, President Foust would send each student’s family a letter updating them on her condition. That was a personal touch I wouldn’t have expected, and it was fascinating to read those letters.

Mr. J. W. H. Davenport,
Pineville, N.C.

My dear Mr. Davenport:-

Your daughter, Miss Marie Davenport, was taken ill yesterday with what appears to be influenza. Her condition this morning is greatly improved and we feel absolutely confident about her speedy recovery. There is no reason for your being uneasy as she is receiving every attention and I shall certainly notify you at once if there is any change for the worse.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

President.
Oct. 19, 1918.

Mr. E.T. Daniel,
Weldon, N.C.

My dear Mr. Daniel:

I have received your letter of the 17th instant and am glad to report that conditions at the College are entirely satisfactory today. During the past few days our admissions to the infirmary have not been above normal. It seems that we reached the “peak” Friday, Oct. 11th, and things have been gradually clearing up since that time.

Of course, you must decide about the removal of your daughter but I really think there is no safer place in North Carolina for her than here at the College. We all feel exceedingly grateful that we have not been stricken like many other communities. I should like to write you at length, but I am sure you understand that my time is thoroughly occupied trying to prevent an epidemic. We are taking every precaution.

With sincere good wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

JIP/w

President.

Letters President Foust wrote to the families of students who had contracted the flu to
update them on their condition

What do you think we as a university community can take away from this research and this historical event?

I think one of the biggest things we can take away is that all will eventually get better if people are willing to do what needs to be done. I’m sure that even in 1918, no one wanted to self-quarantine anymore than anyone does today, but they did for a long time, and it eventually paid off. The flu peaked at State Normal in mid-October in 1918, and by the time Christmas break rolled around, students were finally allowed to leave campus and come back for the spring semester. In the spring semester of 1919, when fear of the flu began to subside, students came out to celebrate their release from being trapped on campus. The restrictions that had been imposed during quarantine no longer dangled over their heads, and the fact that none of their classmates had been lost to the disease that seemed to be taking so many left great cause for celebration.
On the evening of February 3, 1919, as students celebrated the end of quarantine, the “most elaborate entertainments in [the] history of the college” took place in in the dining hall. The event was recounted in the Greensboro Daily News where some 700 students dressed in costumes and went before a panel of faculty judges for a variety of awards.

What was one of the most interesting things to come out of your research?

I feel like I became close to President Foust in a way as I read almost all the letters he wrote in 1918. An account that stands out to me is that he and President Graham of UNC Chapel Hill were pretty close acquaintances, and they would write letters back and forth. When President Graham died from the flu, President Foust wrote a letter to his sister calling his death the greatest and most severe loss that North Carolina has seen in the past several years.

What is the importance of this research as it relates to our current situation?

It’s important to look back at the past. With every new disease, we learn a little bit more. Back in 1918, they were trying to come up with ways to keep people healthy and safe, and a lot of the measures that they were taking then, we can see reflected in today. So, looking at the past and seeing what has worked and what hasn’t can help shape what we do in the future when we face a pandemic.

It’s really interesting to go back and see that 100 years ago, the people that were going through this had the same fears and emotions as we do today, and they were able to get through it. It is encouraging to consider how resilient State Normal and Industrial College was. Records of students and accounts of faculty members hardly dwell on the difficult times. No matter how many class scrapbooks and personal manuscripts one might look through, one would be hard-pressed to find accounts of how the quarantine impacted the lives of students. Instead, they were writing about the bonds and friendships that they had with one another.

Learn more by watching Knight’s virtual Undergraduate Research Expo presentation.

Story by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications
Scanned materials courtesy of University Libraries

April 22 virtual Town Hall recap

On April 22, Faculty and Staff Senates hosted the second spring virtual Town Hall with
Chancellor Gilliam and Provost Dunn, prior to a UNCG General Faculty Meeting and a mandatory UNC System call for the chancellor and provost.

Faculty Senate chair Anthony Chow welcomed the attendees. He mentioned that a vote feature had been added to the Zoom format. The Town Hall will be posted in full on the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate websites.

The chancellor offered opening remarks. He stated that through the CARES Act, UNCG expects to receive $18.6 million, half of which must be used for emergency funds and half of which will offset COVID-19 expenses and revenues.

There is hope of being able to use UNC System emergency funds but the amount will be determined in the future. The chancellor mentioned that colleges and universities will not benefit from the second wave of federal stimulus money.

The chancellor mentioned and praised both the incoming Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Bob Shea and the departing Interim Vice Chancellor Charles Leffler.

He also spoke positively of incoming Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management Tina McEntire and the incoming Associate Provost of International Programs Maria Anastasiou, who will succeed Nell Pynes.

The chancellor also mentioned the search for a new provost, which is underway through virtual visits and the upcoming search to find a new director for the Weatherspoon Art Museum.

He also spoke of the new website launch, led by ITS and University Communications, and how both entities will be looking for input from faculty and staff to connect our resources, tell our story, and function across the University.

The following questions were posed and responded to by the chancellor and provost.

**When will campus re-open?**

The chancellor stated that the UNC System office has asked universities to plan around a variety of scenarios. They are working with the system office to figure out the best and safest way to conduct the fall semester. There is a vigorous national debate about this, and opening dates will be led by the System and the governor. The provost stated that given the uncertainty that may remain for some time, all faculty should do their own contingency planning and prepare to meet their classes online as well as face-to-face.
“The best approach is to be ready, with whatever circumstances unfold,” she said.

There will be more support for faculty over the summer for adapting to the changes.

**How are we working with students who had trouble getting online and accessing classes?**
The chancellor reminded everyone that for the fall, we will have more time to plan for this, and that the online transition for the first wave occurred within six days.

ITS did a lot of troubleshooting with students and will continue to do so. For getting students online, it is only possible to solve the problems that are known.

There is equipment that can be made available to students. In the future, hot spots could be provided to students who are without internet. There is discussion about providing socially distant technology space on campus if stay-at-home is lifted.

**Are students still paying wellness and activity fees if facilities are closed?**
Students will pay for access to wellness resources, but facility fees will not be charged if the facility is not open.

**Will faculty and staff receive refunds for current parking?**
Usually you can receive a refund until March 1. This semester, if faculty and staff want to cancel their passes, they can drop them off or mail them in by May 8 to receive a refund. If stay-at-home ends, and they come to campus, they will have to re-purchase their passes.

**Are new hire searches moving forward?**
Yes, selectively. There will be some permanent funding cuts due to student enrollment reduction. The provost is working with each academic unit to make strategic choices. A fraction of lines will be pulled back. There is a hiring pause for the UNC System, but it is not a freeze. Each hire is case-by-case per individual campus.

**Is there a plan for reaching out to students for relief packages?**
Guidelines are still being developed for how half of the CARES Act funds will be used. Rescue funds can be issued directly to students for paying tuition. Guidance is still coming in from the UNC System and specific categories are still being determined, such as for international students.

**If faculty are not fully certified for online delivery in the fall, and classes are online, will students receive a discount?**
The hope is that all faculty can be credentialed to teach online, through faculty development opportunities offered now and especially in the summer.
Is there concern about furloughs?
It has not yet been discussed at a System level. It is not known how long we will need to make up a loss of revenue. Lower enrollment is a factor. There is optimism about Tina McEntire’s new role and contribution to enrollment. The preference is not to furlough.

Is it possible to compensate faculty for extra time needed to go online in the summer?
A plan for $1,500 for faculty summer participation is in place.

Several college presidents have announced pay cuts to help. What plans do we have for that?
The chancellor stated that if pay cuts were necessary, it would certainly apply to upper administration.

When do we anticipate enrollment projection numbers for next year?
It won’t be known until the add/drop dates in the semester. SOAR registration is up, which is good news, but we don’t know the numbers yet.

The provost reminded listeners that we are looking at all three semesters and not just fall. Admission is usually known in June, but there are disruptions this year, and we don’t know what a post-COVID-19 world will look like for families, spouses, etc.

The provost stated that while the environment is uncertain, without work and travel at hand, it may be a good opportunity for students to invest in themselves through online classes, which may help enrollment. Students who withdrew this semester are being contacted.

“We are turning laser light focus on enrollment management,” said the chancellor.

Is there a plan for employees who cannot work remotely or those on administrative leave?
There are some areas where employees can’t do their usual jobs, but other opportunities have opened up, or other offices or areas need help. We are thinking about how to “cross-train” staff for other areas.

For tenure-track faculty who have started the process, what about the “tenure clock”?
The provost stressed flexibility and working with faculty and departments case-by-case. One year has been added to each tenure process. The next step is to rethink a future research program.

When campus fully re-opens, what social distance effort will be there?
UNCG will follow all system guidelines with the priority of keeping our campus community safe. Cleaning frequency and thoroughness is paramount. The System will need to dispense resources to test and trace, and we need to find the support to handle that level of effort.

**What is the plan following the end of stay-at-home orders?**
Most likely a phased re-open.

“It’s not a light switch kind of moment or timeline.” said the chancellor. “Things are going to be different in a post-COVID-19 world. We will see what System guidelines will be.”

Provost Dunn offered the following closing remarks:

“This will be temporary. We will navigate through this to the other side having learned a lot. If we work collaboratively, I am confident we can work through it. We are very privileged to work in a university environment. I understand concern and questions, but we only know so much right now. As soon as information is available we are committed to passing it along. All communications channels have been enhanced and we will continue to communicate over summer. Some plans will be contingent. We are right there with you.”

And Chancellor Gilliam offered the following:

“It was no small thing to pivot the way we did. One concern I do have is people’s mental health. Encourage everyone to take care of themselves and their families. Find ways to relieve stress and anxiety. Take walks, exercise. We are committed. The University will be here in a post-COVID-19 world. I am confident we will come out the other side, and learn a lot about ourselves, and will continue to offer high quality education to students.”

**UNCG announces new director for Weatherspoon Art Museum**
UNC Greensboro today announced the appointment of Juliette Bianco as director of the Weatherspoon Art Museum and adjunct faculty in the College of Visual and Performing Arts as of September 1.

Bianco will succeed Nancy Doll, who steps down on July 31 after 22 years of dedicated and successful service. Ann Grimaldi, Weatherspoon’s curator for education, will serve as acting director for August.

Bianco has 25 years of experience as an art museum professional. She comes to UNCG from the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, her undergraduate alma mater, where she has served in various leadership capacities, including deputy director since 2013. The American Alliance of Museums calls the Hood Museum a “national model” for college and university museums. Bianco oversaw the museum’s operations and a recent $50 million museum renovation and expansion, managed exhibition planning and design, and led strategic plan development.

Her scholarly interests focus on transformational leadership in higher education and university museums as centers of innovative teaching and learning and hubs for exploring diversity, creative partnerships, and the benefits of strategic planning. In addition to curating and co-curating numerous exhibitions including those of artists Wenda Gu, Stacey Steers, and Edward Burtynsky, Bianco has published on art and museum practice, including “Off the Shelf: A Conversation with MANUAL” (Gulf Coast, 2015) and “Go with the Flow: Fluxus at Play in a Teaching Museum” (Museums, Etc. 2011). Needless to say, her experience and philosophy align completely with UNCG’s mission and “giant steps”
mentality.

Bianco holds a master's degree in art history from the University of Chicago and is a graduate of the Getty Leadership Institute's residence program for museum administrators. Bianco completed the Doctor of Education degree at Northeastern University in 2020.

“Provost Dana Dunn and I would like to thank the search committee and search chairs Margaret Benjamin and Peter Alexander, whose efforts and expertise saw us through the search to this very successful conclusion,” said UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. “We welcome Juliette and thank Nancy Doll, whose outstanding leadership has been transformative, resulting in significant increases in non-student attendance, loan requests from major museums on a global scale, fundraising, and enhanced curricular incorporation across a wide array of disciplines. Juliette is well prepared to further this legacy and continue to grow the Museum’s impact on this campus, this community, and beyond.”

Quick Look: April 27, 2020

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

- On April 22, the chancellor and provost spoke at a virtual Town Hall hosted by the Faculty and Staff Senates. Read the recap here.
• Changes are afoot in the UNCG web world. Read about improvements in website accessibility here and the launch of a website redesign project here.

• In May, the Campus Weekly email will transition to employees only. Retirees will begin receiving the Top 5 email in May. To read about the differences between the Campus Weekly and Top 5 enewsletters, visit the website here: https://news.uncg.edu/about/

• UNCG Online has organized “Applying the Quality Matters Rubric,” a free online workshop facilitated by Dr. Racheal Brooks of NCCU. The workshop for faculty and staff introduces participants to the Quality Matters Rubric and how to apply its standards to develop high-quality online courses and evaluate them. Register by May 1. The workshop occurs over two days virtually in Zoom on Wednesday, May 13, 1-5 p.m. and Thursday, May 14, 1-5 p.m. Quality Matters workbooks and handouts will be mailed cost-free to participants in advance to the address they provide to sebaker2@uncg.edu. For registration instructions and other helpful details, please visit this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FyGk4ufw_UotzwrznonjLMVq-MZ-uvUjdYTkdtkREoQ/edit?usp=sharing

• The Humanities Network and Consortium announces a call for interest for a plague study group and shared folder. Those interested can read a blog entry, “Gender in Time of Pandemic” and an article, “The City Has United Before to Confront a Deadly Virus,” by Dr. Ann Parsons, and attend the upcoming Zoom seminar “Rethinking the History of the Plague in the time of Coronavirus,” which, through analyzing Renaissance paintings, examines how gender and class tie into a pandemic. The speaker is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University Nükhet Varlik. RSVP here: https://islamicstudies.harvard.edu/plague

• The Campus Weekly e-newsletter observes an every-other-week schedule during the summer. See our schedule here.

To see the previous week’s Quick Look, from April 14, 2020, go here: https://news.uncg.edu/quick-look-april-14-2020/

UNCG to honor Class of 2020 with virtual celebration
The Class of 2020 will be remembered as perhaps the most resilient graduating class in UNC Greensboro history.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, graduating students were forced to leave campus in mid-March and finish their last semester online. They have had to adapt quickly to virtual capstone projects, presentations, and dissertation defenses, while facing economic challenges, health concerns, and uncertainty about the future.

The in-person commencement ceremony has been postponed, and the University is working to identify a future date to hold this traditional ceremony. Nevertheless, the Class of 2020 deserves to be recognized and celebrated for its many achievements and the way it has responded to this global crisis.

Based on survey responses from students, the University has planned a special virtual celebration to honor the nearly 3,000 students who will earn their degrees in May.

The online festivities will take place May 4-11. Here’s what you need to know:

The University’s news site - [news.uncg.edu](http://news.uncg.edu) - will transform into the online hub of the virtual celebration.

The website will include profiles of graduating students, video messages from Chancellor
Gilliam and Provost Dunn, and other special content honoring our graduates.

**UNCG’s social media channels will have new GIFs, stickers, and frames, and all the Class of 2020 content you’re looking for.**

Share your favorite UNCG memories and celebrate your accomplishments on social media using the hashtags #UNCGGrad, #UNCGWay, and #SpartansTogether. UNCG will share Spartans’ posts throughout the week.

Instagram will have themed story templates – access them in the the #UNCGGrad highlights on the @UNCG page. Themed GIFs and animated stickers are available to add to posts. Facebook frames are also available here and here. And you can virtually “turn your tassel” with a new Instagram and Facebook story filter. The Instagram filter is available here, and the Facebook filter is available here.

Each college and school will celebrate their students in unique ways.

Check in with your college or school to make sure you’re connected to their celebrations.

**The annual Red Carpet Reception for new graduates will go virtual.**

Graduating students, Spartans of Promise, and other young alumni leaders will have the opportunity to give a toast to the Class of 2020 using UNCG Alumni’s social media channels. Alumni, faculty, and staff are also encouraged to participate by giving their well-wishes and pieces of advice as “Words of Wisdom” videos or quotes on social media.

The Alumni team will host its traditional #UNCGNewAlum photo and video contest throughout the week. The office will accept graduation photos that have already been taken on campus or photos using a virtual UNCG Zoom background or Instagram sticker. The Alumni office will also spread Spartan spirit by accepting videos from students singing the chorus of the UNCG alma mater (which can be entered into the #UNCGNewAlum contest). Make sure to use the #UNCGNewAlum hashtag and tag @UNCGAlumni on social media. Please be sure your social media profile is public to enter your submission. Learn more and check out the Zoom backgrounds at alumni.uncg.edu/uncgnewalum.

Finally, every graduating student will receive an email from the UNCG Alumni team to claim their free Class of 2020 T-shirt, featuring an original design celebrating all 2020 grads from all University schools.

**The UNCG Mobile app will launch a special “Celebrate 2020” persona.**

This new persona will feature a variety of content – videos, profiles of graduating students,
and social media posts – from our virtual celebration of the Class of 2020.

In addition, UNCG Mobile has launched a UNCG sticker pack for Apple devices that lets you add UNCG landmarks, icons, and more to your iOS text messages and FaceTime calls. To access the sticker pack, make sure you’ve updated your UNCG Mobile app to the latest version, and look for the #letsgoG sticker image with your other sticker packs on your text screen.

**The University has also planned some non-virtual ways to honor grads.**

The names of all graduating students will be printed in the Greensboro News & Record, Charlotte Observer, and News & Observer on May 10. On May 8 and 9, Greensboro’s downtown buildings will light up in blue and gold to celebrate both UNCG and N.C. A&T graduates. Last but not least, UNCG will fly an airplane with a special graduation banner over Greensboro and Raleigh on May 8. The best time to go outside and see the plane will be shared as the date approaches.

UNCG expects to award 2,211 bachelor’s degrees, 616 master’s degrees, 129 doctoral degrees, and 12 specialist in education degrees. Approximately 116 of these degrees will be awarded to international students.

**UNCG website redesign project launches**

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. recently announced that UNCG is launching a major redesign of the University’s website.

The Web and Mobile Operating Committee, in collaboration with Information Technology Services (ITS) and University Communications (UC), is leading the project as we rethink the University’s digital and mobile strategy to best tell our story, showcase our strengths, and connect with our key audiences – especially students and prospective students.

The redesign will be data-driven and based upon quantitative and qualitative research. The project’s goals include improved website engagement, user experience, and efficiencies, with the following deliverables:

- A new home website for the University;
- Modernized and branded shared assets to be implemented on college, school, and department websites;
- A website design that is more responsive to various screen sizes, and that meets the needs of target audiences such as future and current students, alumni, and others who engage with UNCG.
More than 300 existing UNCG websites will be a part of this project, therefore campus community participation is needed.

“There will be plenty of opportunities for faculty, staff, and others to have input along the way. It will take a year or two, but the new website will substantially improve how we connect, how we tell our story, how we work together online, and how we function across many dimensions of our operations,” said Gilliam during the April virtual Town Hall with faculty and staff.

UNCG has secured Raleigh-based Visionpoint Marketing as its website redesign vendor partner. Visionpoint has an 18-year history of helping universities tell their story, and the company is 100% focused on higher education.

Visionpoint has begun working on a current website audit and analytics review. In the coming weeks, virtual or in-person focus groups will be held with the campus community. Information regarding opportunities to participate in the process and updates on progress throughout the project will be communicated regularly.

**Efforts underway to improve website accessibility**

As the University prepares to continue offering all courses online and to operate offices virtually for the summer, it is necessary to check the accessibility of UNCG public-facing websites that are critical for essential functions. Because it is no longer possible to access these essential functions in the traditional face-to-face setting, it is vital that they are accessible online to all students, but especially to students with disabilities.

In the upcoming weeks, UNCG Online’s accessibility team will reach out to University departments that have websites which are critical for essential functions. These are websites that a user must access in order to conduct University business or perform necessary or required tasks. The accessibility team will review the sites for accessibility and work with departments to remediate any issues that are found.

This endeavor is intended to triage the immediate need for essential University websites to be accessible to all students. The Next Generation Web Presence project that is currently underway will formally address accessibility of all UNCG websites through the [website redesign process](#), and will allow the chance to develop a detailed plan for how web managers will incorporate accessibility features as they build and maintain their websites going forward.

For more information about web accessibility or UNCG’s Information Communication Technology (ICT) Accessibility policy, visit [accessibility.uncg.edu](http://accessibility.uncg.edu).
Faculty, staff recognized for student advising excellence

Award recipients (l to r): Cristina Moreira, Elliott Kimball, and Jennifer Reich

The UNCG Division of Student Success has recognized three outstanding student success champions with the Outstanding First Year Student Advocate and Advising Excellence awards.

The Academic Advising Excellence Award recognizes outstanding academic advising that supports students’ academic experience at UNCG. Recipients demonstrate exceptional knowledge of campus resources and career-related information, the use of innovative techniques and tools in advising students, and work to support advisor training and development across the University.

The Outstanding First Year Student Advocate Award recognizes and celebrates the efforts and significant contributions of UNCG faculty and staff who provide leadership in creating a positive transition to college and a successful learning environment for first-year students.

2020 Advising Excellence Awards

Faculty: Dr. Cristina Moreira, Lecturer in the Department of Biology

Staff: Jennifer Reich, Director of undergraduate advising and student success in the College
of Visual and Performing Arts

**Outstanding First Year Student Advocate:**

Elliott Kimball, Assistant Director for Intercultural Engagement at UNCG; LGBTQ+ Outreach and Advocacy.

**Other nominees for this year’s award included:**

**Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award**

Julie Boyer, Lloyd International Honors College  
Bill Johnson, Health and Human Sciences Advising and Personal Development Center  
Denisha Bland, Division of Student Success, Office of Strategy & Innovation  
Jessica Quattrucci, The Bryan School of Business, Undergraduate Student Services  
Britton Flanagan, School of Nursing Advising Center  
Kelly Young, Division of Student Success, TRiO Student Support Services

**Academic Advising Excellence Award-Faculty Category**

Joyce Clapp, College of Arts and Sciences, Sociology Department/Liberal Studies Program  
Robin Maxwell, College of Arts and Sciences, Biology Department  
Tracey Howell, College of Arts and Sciences, Math Department  
Franklin Donaldson, College of Arts and Sciences, Media Studies Department  
Gary Rosenkrantz, College of Arts and Sciences, Philosophy Department

**Academic Advising Excellence Award-Professional Advisors Category**

Megan Cayton, Health and Human Sciences Advising and Personal Development Center  
Philip Simpson, School of Nursing Advising Center  
Julie Boyer, Lloyd International Honors College  
Kymberley Hoffman, School of Nursing Advising Center  
Ciara Marable, School of Education Office of Student Services and Advising  
Amanda Everhart, The Bryan School of Business, Undergraduate Student Services

Dr. Cristina Moreira’s Advising Excellence Award was also highlighted in the recent UNCG News feature on the 2020 Faculty Awards.

**Campus Weekly summer publication schedule**

During the summer months, the Campus Weekly enewsletter comes every other week instead of every week. The Campus Weekly summer schedule will begin the week after the May 8 graduation celebration.
The following is the Campus Weekly schedule for the summer months:

May 20
June 3
June 17
July 1
July 15
July 29
August 12
August 26

Campus Weekly resumes weekly after August 26.

Steve Cramer

Steve Cramer (University Libraries) has been awarded the 2020 BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship by the Reference and User Services Association division of the American Library Association (ALA).

Sponsored by Mergent and FTSE Russell, the BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship Award was established in 1989 and offers $4,000 and a citation to a librarian that has distinguished themselves in the field of business librarianship. The selection of a recipient is accomplished through a review of written nominations by the BRASS Award for Excellence in Business Librarianship Committee.

Dr. John Willse
Dr. John Willse (Educational Research Methodology) received new funding from Guilford County Schools for the project “Accountability Support with Guilford County Schools 2020-2021.”

Funding supports research services by the Office of Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Services (OAERS) related to data analysis, data management, and report writing.

Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji

Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji (Mathematics & Statistics) is recipient of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics

A highly regarded mathematician, teacher, and mentor, Shivaji is an AMS Fellow with multiple NSF grants and more than 150 publications. In the classroom, his lectures convey an “infectious enthusiasm” for mathematics and a desire to guide students toward the discovery of ideas.

Students have referred to his board work, beautifully written with multiple colors, as a work of art. As a mentor, Shivaji is dedicated, compassionate, and inspiring. His former students speak passionately about wanting to pass along the same love of mathematics to their students that Shivaji has encouraged in them.
The Southeastern Section of the MAA advances the mathematical sciences within the states of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee by considering mathematical professionals at all levels in the design of its programs and activities, with a special emphasis on the collegiate level.

Dr. Tsz-Ki Tsui

Dr. Tsz-Ki Tsui (Biology) received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “Collaborative Proposal: Response of mercury cycling to disturbance and restoration of low-gradient forested watersheds.”

Atmospheric deposition of mercury (Hg) to forested watersheds can be through a combination of wet and dry deposition, with the latter pathway considered to be more important due to enhanced dry deposition to the forest canopy. Thus, alteration of the forest canopy is expected to result in changes in the relative contribution of wet vs. dry deposition as well as the amount of deposited Hg. Once deposited, Hg can be exported by streams and can potentially contaminate downstream ecosystems. A portion of this deposited Hg can be microbially converted to methylmercury (MeHg) under anoxic conditions. MeHg, a potent neurotoxin, can strongly bioaccumulate and biomagnify in natural food webs, posing a serious threat to natural populations of wildlife and humans.

Forest restoration is a common practice for restoring native species, protecting endangered species, and improving ecosystem services. Since there is an intimate relationship between Hg cycling behavior and various properties of forested watersheds (including canopy cover, soil saturation, etc.), it is important to examine if and how forest restoration, a common forest management tool, may affect Hg cycling in forested watersheds.

Newsmakers: Strickland, Debbage, Keller

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:

- Nursing doctoral student Bevin Strickland was interviewed by WUNC on her temporary position at Mount Sinai hospital in New York City. [Listen here.]
- Dr. Keith Debbage wrote a piece for the News & Record about the geography of COVID-19’s spread. [The article.]
- MyFox8 featured comments from Christopher Keller about newly online freshman orientations for local universities. [The piece.]