All faculty and staff are invited to join Chancellor Gilliam and other leadership from across campus for a virtual Town Hall on Tuesday, July 28 at 9:30 a.m.

Because of expected capacity issues on Zoom, the interactive virtual Town Hall will be live streamed via YouTube here.

To submit questions ahead of and during the town hall, please use this form.

Civil rights icon John Lewis’ speech at UNCG
Rep. John Lewis, a lion of the Black Civil Rights Movement, died last Friday.

John Lewis spoke at UNC Greensboro in 1988 on the occasion of UNCG’s Second Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday was first observed nationally in January of 1986. The national holiday had been a contentious political issue in North Carolina for years, with this state’s two senators opposing the creation of the national holiday. The bill ultimately was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan. The first MLK Celebration was held at UNC Greensboro in January 1987, with activist and comedian Dick Gregory as special speaker.

When John Lewis spoke the second year, the holiday was still a contentious issue in many areas of the state.

“The King holiday is not a Black holiday, but an American holiday,” Lewis told the UNCG audience. “It should be celebrated by all Americans, and by all people who believe in justice.”

Lewis spoke about Dr. Martin Luther King’s character. “He was able to use the emotionalism of the Black Church as a vehicle, a tool. ... He had the power and moral
authority to bring more people, Black and White, into the movement. He began what I like
to call a non-violent revolution, a revolution of values.”

Student newspaper reporter Clinton Hughes described Lewis as “a legend among civil
rights circles.”

The front page Carolinian feature showed no photo, but Hughes painted the scene. “A soft-
spoken, short and balding man, he showed no physical or emotional scars of the countless
beatings he had incurred during his more than forty jailings of the early civil rights
struggles of the 1960s. But during his speech, he drew on his own experiences to describe
the effect that King has had on both himself and the nation.”

Leaders of the March on Washington, including Lewis (center), speak to reporters after
meeting with President Kennedy.

Lewis and King crossed paths often in the 1960s. Lewis was the youngest to have spoken at
the 1963 March on Washington, an event best remembered for King’s “I Have a Dream”
speech later in the afternoon. He organized the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer,
registering voters who had been shut out. He helped lead the March at Selma, and news
film of him and other Black marchers being pushed back, beaten, and tear gassed by law
enforcement near the Edmund Pettus Bridge shocked many throughout America. It is
credited with spurring passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which aimed to prevent racial
discrimination in voting.

March on Washington, August 1963

The week Lewis spoke at UNCG, other events were held on campus. Jim Clotfelter, then professor of political science and later vice chancellor for information technology services, gave a presentation on King and the civil rights movement. Clotfelter had covered the civil rights movement in the South for Time magazine and newspapers. When asked this weekend about Lewis and his place in history, Clotfelter recalled the last time as a reporter that he saw him: “He was being carried out of a segregated Atlanta restaurant, site of a sit-in. He was one of the most fearless civil rights leaders – and no one did more to make himself the fearless leader he became.”
Leaders of the March on Washington, including Lewis (top row, third from left), pose for a photo in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

Lewis’ final visit to Greensboro came in May of 2015, when he was the commencement speaker for the N.C. A&T commencement. He afterward visited the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in the former Woolworth Building.

His first time in Greensboro – as a freedom rider – was remarkable as well.

He was one of the 13 members of the first interstate Freedom Ride, in 1961, from the nation’s capital to the Deep South, challenging the enforcement of interstate transportation laws. The ride cast a light nationally on still-segregated facilities in many parts of the South and on brutal racism. Lewis was beaten in South Carolina, in a Whites-only waiting area, and beaten again at the Tennessee-Alabama border. One bus was burned in Alabama, its passengers beaten after they barely escaped the flames. Another bus was boarded by supremacists, the freedom riders beaten in Alabama. Arriving in Birmingham, the riders suffered another beating.

The riders did not fight back. Non-violence was their weapon, as they followed the strategy of Gandhi and King. Just as the Woolworth protesters in 1960s practiced non-violence, the 1963 marchers and picketers on Greensboro’s Elm Street practiced non-violence as they filled the jails, and the spring 1963 picketing by Woman’s College (UNCG) students on Tate
Street saw no fighting back, despite the women being spat upon.

The Greensboro connection? The 13 riders, including a young John Lewis, had a stopover meeting at Shiloh Baptist as they passed through Greensboro. The Rev. Otis Hairston recalled in a 1991 retrospective News & Record article by Jim Schlosser that there were several bomb threats called in, but they just continued their meeting.

No one budged.

Lewis served in Congress beginning in 1987, representing his Georgia district 17 straight terms. Details about the memorial service and burial are forthcoming.

*Story by Mike Harris, UNCG Magazine*
*Photos courtesy of Library of Congress, American Jewish Historical Society, and U.S. Information Agency Press and Publications Service*

**How is COVID-19 affecting the gig economy?**

Dr. Brianna Caza

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused drastic effects on almost every aspect of our lives, including the shutdown of the global economy. But there’s one sector of the economy that
many people in need of work are turning to, and this has presented one UNC Greensboro professor with a unique research opportunity.

Dr. Brianna Caza, associate professor in the Department of Management in the Bryan School of Business and Economics, has been studying the gig economy for eight years – particularly identity and interpersonal dynamics related to the gig economy, multiple role holding, and marginalized work populations. The gig economy is a free market system based on flexible, temporary, or freelance jobs, making it ideal for those that are seeking new work or side hustles for supplemental income during this time of economic shutdown and remote work. Some might be turning their hobby into a freelance opportunity by selling their skills online. Some might be signing up to deliver food and groceries through apps like Uber Eats and Instacart.

Caza’s research focuses on resilience in turbulent and dynamic work contexts and how professionals can thrive amidst unexpected events and environmental changes. And as independent workers and the economy as a whole face perhaps the most unexpected, significant workplace disruption of this generation, she explains the subsequent effects of the pandemic on the gig economy in the Q&A below.

Your research focuses on resilience in the workplace. Can you speak on the resilience of workers during the pandemic?

I’ve been studying resilience since graduate school. When I first started examining it, we were still trying to make the business case for resilience and why it was an important competency that all workers should develop and use. It was primarily seen as something that was only important for those who worked in certain types of occupations such as doctors, first responders, and so on. The pandemic has made it clear that we are all at risk for unexpected disruptions, and all workers need to be able to be resilient. This unexpected global challenge has disrupted many aspects of our day-to-day lives and our economy. All workers are being called upon to be agile, adaptable, and find ways to grow from challenge and disruption.

What effect is COVID-19 having on the gig economy? Is it good, bad, or both?

Both. It is impacting gig workers differently depending on their industry, location, and personal circumstances. My colleagues and I began gathering data on a group of independent scientists back in November, before the pandemic hit North America. Recently, we launched a follow-up survey to learn how their work has changed in the past few months and how the pandemic was affecting them. While we haven’t fully analyzed the data yet, an early glimpse suggests that the scope and direction of the impact is scattered across the board. Some scientists said the pandemic really impacted them negatively because they
couldn’t be in the lab, their salary was taking a hit, they couldn’t travel for their job as usual, and so on. Some said the pandemic didn’t really affect them much as they were still able to complete their gigs and work remotely. We also had some scientists report that they were getting more work because many companies were hiring scientists to investigate issues related to the COVID-19 situation.

Our data suggests that people that are already in the gig economy may be experiencing a lot of different changes – more work, less work, and so on. Freelance graphic designers whose work is typically online may not be affected as much as freelance photographers who may not have weddings, parties, or other events to cover during this time.

At the same time, based on Google trend data and anecdotal reports, there also seems to be a rising interest in the gig economy from those who were not previously working independently. This could be because people have been laid off due to the pandemic, and they are now pushed into researching independent work as an alternative source of income. Or, some aren’t laid off yet, but there’s a threat that they will be, and they want to protect their financial viability by proactively looking for second or third jobs to supplement their income. And some people just don’t feel comfortable enough to return to work at their organization as the pandemic continues to surge, so they may be looking for options for remote work.

Finally, I think there may also be psychological factors that are motivating people to investigate options in the gig economy. The sense of autonomy one gets by being an independent worker might be valued more as we see organizations potentially shutting down. Some might be less willing to rely on somebody else, like an organization, for their financial viability. All of these things may lead workers to become curious about participating in the gig economy.

**Looking back at how the last recession really ignited the gig economy, will we see this same trend following the current recession?**

This is a great question, but it is one I don’t have a clear answer for. I’ve been looking for data that accurately tracks the gig economy and the multiple job-holding sector specifically for a while, and found that it is quite elusive. I think it is difficult to get accurate numbers because of the way employment data is tracked in this country and even globally. But generally speaking, in the last ten years, there’s been a consensus among experts that the gig economy is thriving. In fact some even say that all of the net growth in the American economy in the past five years has been in the gig sector. So, the gig economy has definitely been on an upwards trend even before the pandemic and this recession. My prediction is that we will see an even higher jump in these numbers in the next few years because people are more open to considering it as a career option.
For example, I looked at Google trend data for searches on the terms “second job” and “multiple jobs,” and there was a huge spike in Google searches for “second job” in late March. So right as things were shutting down, there was a surge of interest in secondary employment. It’s definitely intuitive that people will look for alternative employment if they feel their job security is uncertain, but I was still surprised at how big the jump was.

**What do you predict for the future of the gig economy?**

It feels very hard to predict anything at the moment. But before the pandemic, I would’ve predicted that my school-aged children had a very high likelihood of generating at least some portion of their income as independent workers over the course of their careers. I think the data shows that the number of full-time organizational jobs is waning as a result of both supply and demand. We see that many workers these days hold many different jobs in their lifetime, so they are jumping from job to job a lot more than they used to be. So like I said, there has already been an increase in the gig economy. I think there will be even more of an increase now that people are seeing the benefits of remote work due to the pandemic.

I don’t think we are going to become a completely remote, online, independent economy in any way, though. There is a really important role that organizations play in people’s lives, and we’ve seen independent workers suffer from lacking this, resulting in identity struggles, loneliness, lacking a sense of belonging to a group, and so on. However, we might now see a change in organizations that might make their day-to-day operations look a little more like what we see in the gig economy. For example, with a higher level of uncertainty about the future, some organizations may opt to hire short-term contractors for projects. Additionally, the remote work imperative may mean that even organizational workers have more autonomy, flexibility, and responsibility at the moment. The increase in these job characteristics may even continue post-pandemic for some, now that they’ve proven that they can be productive when working from home with increased freedom.

**You and your research team were recently awarded a $97,000 grant from the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology for your project “Working Off the Grid: Building Resilience in the GIG Economy.” Can you tell me about the project?**

There’s a lot of industries where people can work for either large organizations or work independently as a gig worker, and my colleagues, professor Sue Ashford from the University of Michigan and Brittany Lambert, a doctoral student from the University of Colorado, and I are really interested in better understanding the differences between workers’ experiences inside and outside organizations. Specifically, we are conducting a comparison study to better understand the individual resources—the psychological tendencies and behaviors—that help people thrive in each context.
We then aim to develop an intervention that independent workers can utilize themselves – whether it’s cognitive reframing, inspired by cognitive-behavioral therapy techniques, or a small behavioral task they can enact each day – that’s going to help them when working in this organization-less environment.

We are currently in the preliminary stages of the project and will begin interviewing matched samples of independent and employed workers from the same industries this fall. Through these interviews and a series of laboratory studies, we will develop and assess three different interventions to investigate ways of helping people be resilient when working on their own without an organization providing them with different forms of support and resources. Then, in the spring, we will test the interventions we have developed in a field sample of independent workers.

Ultimately, we want to empower people, specifically independent workers, to take control of their own resilience – to be able to bounce back from setbacks – which we believe from our research is a muscle that you can build, not an innate trait that you either have or don’t have. It’s something you can develop over time through practice. The ultimate goal of our research is to help guide independent workers, to point out where they should invest their time and effort, so that they can develop greater levels of resilience.

*Interview by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications*
*Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications*

**New book explores feminist activism in the 1990s**
“Is feminism dead?”

That’s the question that Time magazine posed to its readers on a June 1998 cover. The controversial cover story ultimately concluded that the feminist movement had become largely irrelevant in the 1990s.

UNC Greensboro’s Dr. Lisa Levenstein refutes that claim with her new book, “They Didn’t See Us Coming: The Hidden History of Feminism in the Nineties.” Based on extensive archival research and more than 120 oral interviews with feminist activists, the book argues that the 1990s were in fact a pivotal decade for the feminist movement – and a decade that helped set the stage for the activism that we see today.

Levenstein is associate professor of history and director of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at UNCG. She has spent most of her career “trying to understand social movements beyond famous leaders and more celebrated instances of mass protest – beyond the sit-ins and and huge marches for abortion rights that captured headlines.”

“My research has centered women of color, working class women – those who don’t fit the stereotype of ‘activist,’” Levenstein says. “I’m really interested in uncovering strategies and tactics that these women use to promote social change, the strategies that go beyond marches or public protest.”
The idea for Levenstein’s new book, which was released July 14, came in the form of a small newspaper article about the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. Levenstein knew about the conference, which drew over 30,000 activists from around the world, but she wasn’t familiar with the dozens of U.S. feminist organizations – led by women of color – that were listed in the article.

She started researching the organizations, and one insight led to another. Feminist archives at universities across the country were vital for her research. Each oral history interview she conducted led to more interviews with women who had participated in feminist activism in the 1990s.

She found that the Beijing conference was central in getting feminists online. Women staffed a computer center at the event and trained attendees on how to use the internet and email.

From there, people increasingly found each other online, sharing ideas and forming relationships. “This was key for people who didn’t live in urban areas and didn’t have access to feminism in the same way that those living in big cities or near a university did,” Levenstein explains.

She found that women of color and women from the global South were leaders in redefining core feminist issues. For example, these women helped introduce the reproductive justice lens to reframe abortion access in broader terms. Instead of only fighting for abortion rights, the feminist movement began to change the conversation to focus on bodily autonomy – the right to have children or not to have children, and the right to raise children in safe communities. The concept of intersectionality – the relationships between sexism and
other forms of discrimination - also became an important part of a movement.

Why is this work relevant in 2020?

The Women’s March of 2017 was the largest single-day protest in U.S. history. #MeToo has shaped how many in the United States and beyond talk about - and respond to - sexual assault. These pivotal moments in today’s feminist movement can be traced back to a lot of the work happening in the 1990s.

Additionally, with ongoing Black Lives Matter demonstrations and the surging environmental movement, Levenstein’s work helps explain how women helped shape many of the strategies and tactics of other types of activism we see today.

“Mass protests don’t just spring up out of nowhere,” she says. “They build on decades of organizing that doesn’t get public attention - people working in communities, spreading ideas, talking with other people about injustice, strategizing, and laying groundwork for future mobilizations.”

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications

Graduate School sees enrollment growth for fourth straight year
Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UNC Greensboro’s Graduate School is once again experiencing a growth in enrollment.

For the fourth straight year, graduate enrollment is up, with the Graduate School currently reporting a nearly 6% increase in registered students and a roughly 7% increase in total credit hours.

It’s a significant jump, especially given the circumstances. But according to Vice Provost and Dean Kelly Burke, now may be a great time to consider graduate education.

“IT’s a challenging job market for many, particularly for recent college graduates. My advice is this: Don’t waste the time. Don’t make it just a gap year,” she said. “Our graduate programs offer an excellent opportunity for individuals to continue to pursue their professional goals, despite the very real challenges that our country is facing.”

Graduate education is primarily about the creation of new knowledge, but it is also about gaining new skill sets and advanced learning, says Burke. For some recent graduates, it’s an opportunity to continue in their undergraduate disciplines. For others, it marks a career shift – an entry point into a new field.

Enrollment growth is due in large part to the launch of new graduate programs in recent years. While the Graduate School has master’s and doctoral degree programs in traditional
fields, it has also introduced more applied programs, such as the MS in Informatics and Analytics, additional concentrations within the MBA program, the first fully-online PhD program in the state (Business Administration), and an online MS in Sustainability and Environment that launches this fall.

The Graduate School has also seen an increase in visiting students. Prospective students can “test the waters” by enrolling in courses as non-degree seeking students. This means that individuals can take courses at UNCG without being admitted to a specific degree program. If a student ends up later being accepted into a degree-seeking program, then up to nine credit hours can be applied toward the degree.

UNCG also offers a variety of certificate programs. These programs typically consist of four to six classes and offer students’ credentials that open up new career opportunities. The certificates in cybersecurity and health and wellness coaching have been especially popular.

Are any programs still accepting students? Yes – some programs have extended application deadlines, and some have altered admissions requirements due to the pandemic, such as GRE/GMAT tests. Prospective students should reach out to individual programs of interest to learn more. Additionally, visiting student applications will be accepted through the beginning of the semester.

Many graduate courses will be online or hybrid this fall. Typical cohort-building activities and events will go virtual. Faculty mentorship and research will certainly look different. But Burke is confident that the Graduate School can continue to provide an excellent education and research experience.

“We have a strong tradition of online education and online cohort-building among our graduate students,” she said. “We have the first and only online PhD in the UNC System, and we offer many online master’s programs. We’ve already started doing virtual town halls with our students. Orientations are online, and we’ll host a number of online workshops throughout the fall. I’m proud of the way our students and faculty were able to pivot in the spring, and I know that our programs will continue to engage students, serve communities, and create new knowledge, despite the circumstances, as we navigate the many challenges thrown our way by the pandemic.”

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications
“Shield Our Spartans” is the new mantra of the UNC Greensboro campus community. And as the fall semester approaches, departments and offices from across campus have been diligently preparing for the arrival of Spartans to campus, and putting protocols into place to address the health of the community and promote the practice of “Wear, Wait, Wash.”

At the core of the health and well-being of campus is Student Health Services. The Anna M. Gove Student Health Center staff have been tracking COVID-19 since early in the spring, long before students were sent home and “coronavirus” became a household name in the U.S.

In this Q&A, Student Health Services medical director Dr. Traci McMillian provides insight into how she and her staff have been following the virus and how they plan to keep students healthy this fall.

**How has Student Health Services been tracking the virus?**

We started following the virus before it even got to the U.S. We were listening to briefings from the CDC and the WHO when the virus was in China. Back in the spring, even before the students were sent home, we started meeting with the Campus Emergency
Preparedness Response Team. We have been working really hard to understand everything we can about the virus, even though the virus is only about seven months old, so things keep changing and new findings continue to come up. We take the safety of everyone – students, faculty, staff – very seriously, so we’ve been planning for a lot of different scenarios of how our clinic will run.

Lately, we’ve been monitoring and brainstorming how we can handle COVID-19 issues, especially as we enter the fall semester. In addition to participating in several University operations calls, I take part in a weekly call with counterparts from all other universities in Guilford County, and every other week I participate in a call with all of the directors of health centers in the UNC System to talk through different scenarios and discuss the latest data relating to COVID-19.

**By now we all know the signs and symptoms of coronavirus. But because coronavirus symptoms are similar to those of other ailments, such as allergies and the flu, at what point should students or other members of the campus community contact a health care provider?**

First of all, if you feel sick, stay home unless you are going out to see a health care provider or to get tested.

Deciding when to get tested or to see a health care provider depends on the individual. For example, if you have a runny nose but are also prone to allergies this time of the year, you could try taking allergy medication and see if your symptoms get better in a couple of days.

Also, think about what you have been doing and if you have recently put yourself at risk of infection at any point. Have you been social distancing? Have you worn a face covering when around others? Have you been washing your hands? If you have been doing all of those things and practicing good hygiene, that makes the likelihood of having been exposed to the virus lower. In that case, the symptoms you are experiencing may more likely be that of allergies or a cold.

If you haven’t necessarily been following social distancing measures or wearing a face covering as you should, and your symptoms are unusual or persist, talk to a health care provider or, if you’re a student, call the Student Health Center.

**What services will the Student Health Center offer in the fall?**

The Student Health Center is discouraging walk-ins and seeing students by appointment only. This is so we can screen individuals to ensure they get the appropriate care, and so we can prepare for their arrival. Student Health Services is providing students with
telemedicine services to reduce the potential for exposure during in-person office visits. Testing is available for students through Student Health Services and for employees through their health care provider and community-based clinics. Students and employees are asked to use a self-reporting tool if they are ill and/or have been tested. These self-reports feed into a case tracking tool to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the contact tracing and case management process.

How is Student Health Services testing students?

We are only testing individuals who are experiencing symptoms consistent with coronavirus on a case-by-case basis. The symptoms of coronavirus are common to many different illnesses such as allergies and strep throat, so when a student calls or schedules a telehealth virtual appointment with Student Health Services and describes their symptoms, the provider will then decide how to proceed.

If the provider determines that an individual does need to be tested, an appointment will be made. Upon arrival, the individual can check in remotely on their phone. We will then call you in to the center for testing. We are using rapid testing, and the results are received while you are in the office.

If the test results are negative, we do a backup test to be sure. Both the rapid test and backup test are nose swabs. The backup test results can take several days to come back. During that time, you are expected to isolate yourself and go home.

If the test results are positive, you will be expected to isolate yourself and go home. If you cannot go home, UNCG will assist you in relocating to one of the designated quarantine and isolation facilities on campus.

How can students, faculty, and staff do their part in protecting themselves and others as we return to campus this fall?

Campus community members should adhere to all protocols, not just one or two. This means wearing your mask inside, practicing social distancing, not congregating in groups, practicing proper hand hygiene, and staying home when you are sick – this is not the time to power through classes if you feel ill because you’re putting yourself and potentially others at risk.

Keep in mind the idea of the campus community as a whole, and the culture of care needed to have a successful semester. You’re not just protecting yourself when you follow the protocols, you’re protecting others. Similarly, if you don’t follow the protocols, you not only put yourself at risk, you put other Spartans at risk who may be more vulnerable than you.
Following the protocols the university has put in place and practicing “Wear. Wait. Wash.” is our best chance at a successful semester.

Interview by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications
Photography by Grant Evan Gilliard, University Communications

May graduate receives Fulbright Austria USTA award

Matthew Hellenbrand visits Vienna, Austria.

UNC Greensboro alumnus Matthew Hellenbrand ’20 has received a Fulbright Austria U.S. Teaching Assistantship (USTA) award to teach English to high school students in Austria during the 2020-21 academic year.

Each year, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science, and Research (BMBWF) seeks recent college and university graduates who are interested in teaching English in
Austria. Fulbright Austria (Austrian-American Educational Commission) places more than 140 Americans in teaching assistant jobs in Austria every year. The program aims to expose young Austrians to native English speakers and arouse their interest in other cultures based on cross-cultural dialogue and personal contacts.

Hellenbrand, who graduated with his bachelor’s degree in May, studied German and international and global studies (human rights concentration) at UNCG. The honors student studied abroad in Konstanz, Germany, during the spring of 2018.

“A big congratulations to Matthew for this great accomplishment!” said Dr. Maria Anastasiou, associate provost for international programs. “The USTA award is a prestigious program for student international exchange and engagement. We are very proud of Matthew and wish him all the best in this wonderful experience he is about to embark on. I know he will make an excellent UNCG and unofficial U.S. ambassador in Austria.”

For Hellenbrand, the award represents the culmination of years of German studies and international travel. He started studying German in middle school, in part due to his mother being a professor of German at Appalachian State University. In 2001, he had the opportunity to live in Germany for six months, and over the years, he has spent time in Germany and Austria during the summer months with his family.

After studying abroad in 2018, he returned to Europe during the summer of 2019 and participated in an Appalachian State program in Vienna, studying art, architecture, and culture throughout the city.

That trip helped prepare him to return to the country this fall. Currently, Hellenbrand expects to move to Austria in September, although COVID-19 may impact the timeline of the program. He will live and work in Feldkirchen in Kärnten, a town in the south of Austria.

How does he feel about embarking on this new chapter?

“It’s exciting and nerve-wracking at the same time,” he said. “Austria is a beautiful country, rich in culture, and the people are phenomenal. It’s relatively small, with strong ties to eastern Europe. For me, Austria is a compelling place to study culture and to reach out to the younger generation.”

Hellenbrand will spend 20 hours a week in an English language classroom at a public high school, supporting English teachers and helping teach about American culture. Additionally, Hellenbrand has been accepted to the game studies and engineering master’s program at the University of Klagenfurt. The interdisciplinary program teaches the technical as well as analytical and ethical issues surrounding video games and other types of games.
In his free time, Hellenbrand hopes to find opportunities to work with the local refugee and immigrant communities.

Dr. Brooke Kreitinger and Dr. Benjamin Davis of the German program and Dr. Rebecca Muich, assistant dean in the Lloyd International Honors College, served as mentors for Hellenbrand throughout his time at UNCG. The three encouraged him to apply for the award.

“They were so supportive in helping me with my application. They were, and are, just incredible professors,” said Hellenbrand. “The entire German program at UNCG did so much for me, and the Honors College provided me a strong academic outlet.”

Learn more about the USTA program at www.usta-austria.at.

Visit the International Programs Center website to learn more about international opportunities at UNCG.

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography courtesy of Matthew Hellenbrand

Flags at half-staff: Katie Dorsett is remembered

Dr. Katie Dorsett was the first Black woman to serve on the Greensboro City Council.

She became the first Black woman to serve on the North Carolina governor’s cabinet.

When she died earlier this week, just shy of her 88th birthday, she left a legacy of milestones and impact on Guilford County and this state. Governor Roy Cooper has ordered
flags at state facilities to be flown at half-staff through Friday, to honor her legacy.

A UNC Greensboro alumna, Dorsett received her doctorate in 1975.

She was a faculty member at N.C. A&T from 1955 to 1987. She served two terms on the Greensboro City Council and then was elected to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners. She served on numerous boards, such as the National Association of Counties Health’s Steering Committee.

As the News & Record reported in a front page article this week, Governor Jim Hunt personally chose her for the cabinet position. “Governor-elect Hunt said very early on to the transition staff that he wanted Dorsett on his Cabinet,” transition team spokeswoman Rachel Perry said in December 1992. “He knew she was a leader in Greensboro. He knew she was a strong and dedicated person who made things happen.”

She served in the Hunt administration as secretary of the Department of Administration.

Later, she served the state’s 28th Senate district from 2003 to 2010 in the North Carolina General Assembly. In her final term, she was the majority whip.

Her oral history interview is preserved in UNCG’s Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives. In the 1990 interview in UNCG’s Greensboro Voices/Greensboro Civil Rights Oral History Collection, she discussed her experiences in Greensboro since the 1950s and provided her observations on paternalism and civil rights in the community and work spaces.

Visit the Greensboro Civil Rights online archive to access the interview.

Story by Mike Harris, UNCG Magazine

13 Spartans awarded Gilman Scholarship for study abroad
Cameron Warren, who studied at the Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay, during the spring of 2019, visits San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina.

UNC Greensboro's International Programs Center is proud to announce that 13 UNCG students were among the 2,386 American undergraduate students selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad. An additional four UNCG students were listed as alternates and will receive the award if there are recipients who decline.

The Congressionally funded Gilman Program broadens the U.S. student population studying and interning abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding undergraduate Pell Grant recipients. Since the program’s establishment in 2001, over 1,300 U.S. institutions have sent more than 28,000 Gilman Scholars who represent the rich diversity of the United States to 145 countries around the globe.

UNCG has a strong history of Gilman awardees, with 143 recipients receiving over $475,000 in scholarship funds to put toward study abroad programs since the fall of 2012. This year, UNCG was ranked 37th nationally out of 548 institutions by number of Gilman Scholars awarded, and second out of all other colleges and universities in the Carolinas.

This ranking puts UNCG in the 93rd percentile for Gilman producing institutions.

“I am so proud of all the students who applied, received, and are shortlisted for the
prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman award,“ said Dr. Maria Anastasiou, associate provost for international programs. “Study abroad remains one of the most important high impact learning practices in higher education. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has put a temporary halt on student travel, there is no substitute for the experiential learning that takes place on a study abroad program. The IPC team is ready to support students’ global learning through different methods until travel resumes.”

The Gilman awards are made in two cycles. Cycle 1 is for spring and summer programs. Cycle 2 is for summer, fall, and academic year programs. Below are the recently announced Cycle 2 recipients.

**Gilman Cycle 2 Recipients**

**Summer 2020**

Celeste Cervantes, Peru  
Queen Huntley, Italy  
Keyla Marquez Vergel, Spain  
Daisy Martinez-Villanueva, South Korea  
Bonnie Zhang, Spain

**Fall 2020**

Alyssa Coy, Canada  
Olivia Ellis, South Korea  
German Munoz-Lopez, Spain  
Selena Polk, Uruguay  
Tatyanna Sanders, South Africa  
Kyleigh Yow, Spain

**Spring 2021**

Rachel Parker, Taiwan  
Sha’re Strachan, South Korea

**Gilman Cycle 2 Alternates**

**Summer 2020**

Malanah Hobgood, Italy  
Jade Lyons, France  
Tanner Thornton, Peru
Most Gilman Scholars are studying abroad on exchange programs at UNCG partner institutions. Three Gilman Scholars are participating in UNCG faculty-led study abroad programs. For a full list of Gilman recipients, visit gilmanscholarship.org.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the suspension of student international travel for Fall 2020, Gilman Scholars are able to defer their awards to fund in-person opportunities in 2021 or virtual opportunities for the coming semester.

To learn more about the International Programs Center or to support global opportunities for UNCG students, visit international.uncg.edu.

In Memoriam: Tom Scullion

Thomas Bernard Scullion, Jr., died July 8.

He was a faculty member in the UNCG Department of Social Work for 19 years and served as chair. Before coming to UNCG in 1989, he was an administrator and social worker at a medical school. He also served in the Army as a first lieutenant early in his life.

UNCG colleagues attest that he was instrumental in building the department and its curriculum.

He conducted research in Scotland and facilitated an exchange program there with the University of Strathclyde School of Social Work and Social Policy. He also helped to plan the Joint Master of Social Work degree program with NC A&T University.

Scullion had impact across the state, traveling frequently to Raleigh to advocate for Social Work Licensure in North Carolina, so that clinical social workers could provide services statewide.

“Tom was quite a character and was truly passionate about the people and things he cared about, even if sometimes it went against the established systems,” recalled former UNCG staff member Barbara Wike. “He was always humble about any accomplishments and avoided social gatherings as much as possible. One he did attend and enjoyed was the 20-year celebration of Joint Master of Social Work Program at the international Civil Rights Museum in 2018.”

“Over the years, around 75 UNCG students studied in Scotland, and around 30 Scottish students came to UNCG to study in alternate summers,” said Professor of Social Work
Elizabeth W. Lindsey. “After his retirement, Tom created a departmental fund that supported student and faculty travel to participate in study abroad. His dedication to providing these enriching, live-changing experiences has left a lasting legacy in the Department of Social Work and UNCG.”

Another colleague remembers:

“Tom was an amazing soul who could tell a good story and who had an amazing vision for social work in our community — BSW, JMSW and PhD all with the NC A&T/UNCG connection...Tom’s smile and wry honor lives on in my mind and heart.”

He is honored at UNCG by the Thomas B. Scullion International Program Award for students studying abroad and majoring in social work.

Quick Look: July 20, 2020

To have your announcement appear in Quick Look, email sckirbys@uncg.edu

- Each year, the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) holds an end-of-year celebration to honor the service and accomplishments of its faculty and staff. Due to COVID-19, this year’s award recipients are honored online here: https://aas.uncg.edu/cas-celebrates-its-faculty-and-staff/
Alianza, UNC Greensboro’s grassroots organization for Latinx and Hispanic faculty, staff, and students, has been chosen along with 38 groups across the country for the INSIGHT Into Diversity’s First Annual Inspiring Affinity Group Award.

The Office of Assessment, Accreditation, & Academic Program Planning moved from 821 South Josephine Boyd St to 224 Mossman on July 8.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in March, Spanish faculty members have been active in sharing best practices for online language instruction. In March, Mercedes Freeman, Cathy Lupo, and Dr. Alejandro Hortal led webinars sponsored by Difusión and the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Find them here and here. Most recently, in June, Freeman and Lupo led a webinar for the Romance Languages Department at Duke University.

Faculty and staff can join the SPEARS this year and help welcome new Spartans by handing out masks. Faculty and staff interested in volunteering for a 1-hour shift on August 18, 19, 20, or 21 can sign up via this Google form. Volunteers will be provided everything they need to be a rawkstar SPEAR, including basic training instructions, the famous lime green t-shirt, and a special face covering. For more information, contact Rachel Dodd Blakely in New Student Transitions & First Year Experience at rmblakel@uncg.edu.

To find the previous Quick Look, from June 9, 2020, go here.

Newsmakers: Coakley, Etnier, Engelhardt, Alianza, Snyder, Kuperberg, King

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:

- Dr. Tanya Coakley was quoted in a New York Times piece about strategies for parents to communicate with their children about their bodies. The article.
- The Summit for Wellness podcast interviewed Dr. Jenny Etnier on how exercise improves cognition. Listen here.
- Dr. Andrew Engelhardt was quoted in a Nature story about international students in the upcoming semester. The piece.
- UNCG’s Alianza organization for Latinx and Hispanic faculty, staff, and students was recognized with INSIGHT Into Diversity’s First Annual Inspiring Affinity Group Award. Learn more.
- Dr. Audrey Snyder was interviewed by Spectrum News1 about potential guilt after
testing positive for COVID-19. Watch here.
• Dr. Arielle Kuperberg was quoted in a Buzzfeed News piece about what college campuses are doing to keep students healthy. The piece.
• Student Mikala King was featured in a Spectrum News1 story about student efforts to help local government and nonprofits. Watch here.

Dr. Nadja Cech

Dr. Nadja Cech received a grant from the National Institutes of Health for the project “Unraveling Immunostimulatory and Immunosuppressive Effects of Echinacea purpurea.” Echinacea constitutes a greater percentage of the multibillion dollar US dietary supplements industry than any other herbal medicines, with annual sales of more than $100 million, the abstract notes. “A major goal of this project is to develop methods to produce Echinacea extracts with consistent, high anti-inflammatory activity. In so doing, we also seek to address a confounding factor in Echinacea research, which is that some immunostimulatory compounds may be produced by bacterial endophytes – microbes living asymptomatically within the Echinacea plant.”

Dr. Diya Abdo

Dr. Diya Abdo (Center for New North Carolinians) received new funding from United Way of Greater Greensboro for the project “Helping Immigrants and Refugees with Employment (HIRE).”

HIRE consists of services provided by the Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC), New Arrivals Institute (NAI), Church World Service Greensboro (CWS), and Montagnard Dega Association (MDA).

Upon enrollment, all participants conduct a thorough intake that includes identifying past employment, educational history, and employment goals. Participants are then referred to an appropriate HIRE track based on goals.
Tracks include: English Language Acquisition, Job Preparation, Career Advancement, and Vocational Training. In the English Language Acquisition track, participants complete an English Assessment and placed in the appropriate class level. With the exception of clients only in the first track, all other clients complete an Employment Accessibility Plan (EAP) in which participants identify employment goals and undergo vocational coaching and counseling. The Job Preparation track builds both ‘soft’ job skills, such as completing an application, learning job search techniques, practicing interviews, and understanding U.S. employment norms, and ‘harder’ skills needed for jobs available in the local market including sewing, manufacturing, housekeeping, poultry, packaging, etc.

The Career Advancement track helps individuals improve their employment situation through direct career coaching and referrals including the N.C. Career Readiness Certificate. The Vocational Training track is for individuals looking to start a new career with required training (i.e. Pharmacy Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Forklift Operator, and Apartment Maintenance Technician).

**Dr. Stephen Sills**

Dr. Stephen Sills (Center for Housing and Community Studies) received new funding from the Reinvestment Fund, Inc./Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the project “Invest Health Greensboro Supplemental Funds for Technical Assistance, Site Visits, and Learning Exchanges.”

Safe and affordable housing can act as an upstream “prescription” for asthma. Greensboro is presently positioned to engage and develop upstream policy and program solutions to tackle health issues that are exacerbated by substandard and unhealthy housing. By investing in affordable housing and supportive services, municipalities and health systems can leverage financial resources to improve housing quality. The researchers’ pipeline of building projects will address the link between substandard housing and asthma and build a healthier community with affordable, quality housing opportunities for more than 26,000 individuals in the city who suffer from chronic asthma (CDC 500). The goal is to meet the
needs of those most affected by 1) targeting substandard homes in neighborhoods most impacted by respiratory illness, while 2) helping to improving the quality of existing housing and reduce household utility and healthcare costs, and thereby 3) improving health conditions and reducing disparities. This project requires collaboration and continued systems/policy changes by institutional actors as well as direct input from those most affected. The project brings together a team of community members, housing advocates, a major health system, developers, municipal officials, and data scientists.

The Supplemental Funding from Invest Health is for Targeted Technical Assistance, Multi-Team Technical Assistance, as well as Site Visits/Learning Exchanges. This will includes travel to/from Spokane Washington in partnership with the IH Spokane team; a series of technical assistance webinar/virtual convening open to other IH teams (Policy Link, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Abt); Capacity building in our local team through CSH Training Subscriptions and attendance at the Center for Community Progress Reclaiming Vacant Spaces Conference; and most importantly face-to face technical assistance meetings meetings with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Charlotte, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, North Carolina Housing Coalition, and Duke Law School Community Enterprise Clinic.

**Perry Flynn**

Perry Flynn (Communication Sciences and Disorders) received new funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for the project “Exceptional Children State Speech-Language Consultant (2020-2021).”

UNC Greensboro will provide a range of professional services for the North Carolina State Board of Education during July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. The services provided for the Exceptional Children Division of the State Department of Public Instruction will be carried out by UNCG’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The services include providing assistance in the areas of speech-language pathology to the State Department of Public Instruction, local education agencies, and Charter schools.
Delivery of the services will be carried out by Perry Flynn, Lecturer in Speech-Language Pathology at UNCG. He will submit monthly reports to the Section Chief, Areas of Exceptionality, Exceptional Children Division, that address the services provided during his involvement.

**Dr. Joseph Santin**

Dr. Joseph Santin (Biology) received new funding from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for the project “Acquiring resistance to anoxia in neural circuit function.”

The goal of this project is to understand how to prevent neurological dysfunction caused by oxygen deprivation in the brain. Impaired delivery of oxygen to the brain occurs during leading causes of neurological disability such as stroke and traumatic brain injury. It is well established that hypoxia damages the brain in these conditions, killing patients or severely decreasing their quality of life. The medical and financial burden of brain hypoxia will likely increase over the next 40 years because the most susceptible part of our population, the aging, is expected to rise by about 60%. The ultimate goal for patients is “prime” their brains to work better without oxygen, so when an insult occurs, damage is minimized.

To gain fundamental insight needed to reach this goal, we will exploit a circuit that can prime itself to work without oxygen beyond that of most other neural systems- a central pattern generating circuit found in the brainstem of frogs. Like neural circuits of most vertebrates, this network needs oxygen to function. After minutes without oxygen, the network falls silent. In striking contrast, the PI found that this circuit transforms and continues to produce rhythmic activity when deprived of oxygen a day after these animals come out of hibernation. Such a dramatic improvement in circuit function during anoxia - from no activity to normal activity- has yet to be shown in any other model circuit.

We assert that fundamental concepts needed to eventually achieve anoxia resistance in patients’ brains will be easier to reveal in our system compared to other models where such a high degree of functional improvement is not yet possible.
The central hypothesis of this application is that changes supporting the energetic stress of activity and preserving neuronal firing lead to anoxia resistance of circuit function. This hypothesis will be tested by three mechanistic aims: (1) identify shifts in metabolic processes that maintain energy status of the network during anoxia, (2) assess the extent to which reducing inhibitory ion pumps promotes neuronal firing during anoxia, and (3) determine changes in ion channel expression profiles in single anoxia-resistant neurons.

These aims will afford diverse training opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students in single-cell molecular biology, patch clamp electrophysiology, fluorescence imaging microscopy, and extracellular nerve recording. Overall, this work will provide insight into how to make a neural circuit work properly without oxygen and will inform clinical investigations that must achieve this same outcome before patients’ lives can be improved when they encounter life-threatening hypoxia.