Welcome to Campus Weekly

Clinical Psychology program awarded $2 million grant

UNC Greensboro’s Department of Psychology has been awarded a five-year, $2.15 million Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

The grant aims to recruit, retain, and support the training of clinical psychologists from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter primary care settings and medically underserved communities.

The ultimate goal is to diversify the clinical workforce – which is predominantly White and female – and to address disparities in mental health care access.

“This grant builds on our already strong foundation of working to reduce barriers to care for individuals in need,” said Dr. Susan Keane, professor and director of clinical training. “The
grant will help train students in providing culturally competent care for underserved populations, while continuing to include behavioral health integration within primary care as a core competency. What I love about this grant is that it addresses both of these issues of access, while also reducing barriers to higher education for students.”

Keane serves as the lead principal investigator on the grant. Dr. Rosemary Nelson-Gray, Dr. Jason Herndon, Dr. Julia Mendez Smith, and Dr. Gabriela Livas Stein will serve as co-principal investigators.

All funds from the grant will be used to provide scholarships to 17-19 clinical psychology doctoral students each year. As Herndon explains, the grant “frees up students, who may otherwise struggle financially, to really focus on their training.”

In addition to financial support for students, there is programmatic support. The innovative NextGenClin program will provide additional clinical training and mentorship to meet grant goals as well as pair students with alumni mentors who work with underserved populations and in Integrated Primary Care settings.

“We know that mentorship is especially important for students of color and for those students who have not had the educational opportunities that are often afforded to others. NextGenClin fills this void,” Keane explained.

By recruiting and retaining more first-generation students, students from low-income backgrounds, and underrepresented minority students, UNCG aims to diversify the clinical workforce to better serve communities.

“It’s important that people from a variety of communities are able to see themselves in this profession. Diversifying the workforce now will help to continue to diversify the workforce long term,” Herndon said. “Additionally, while people can absolutely serve communities that are different from them, it’s important for people to have the option to see a mental health care professional who identifies with their community.” For example, a Black woman from a disadvantaged background may prefer to work with a Black therapist who has also experienced poverty or educational disadvantage.

The grant will expose all students to coursework and clinical experiences in underserved communities and primary care settings. UNCG will team up with a variety of community partners – including Brenner Children’s Hospital, PACE of the Triad, Moss Street Partnership School, and Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine – to offer experiential learning opportunities to students.

Why is placing psychologists in primary care settings so important? Again, it’s an issue of
access.

Herndon explains that typically patients go to their trusted primary care doctor, who then refers them to other specialists, including mental health care specialists. However, this traditional referral process almost never results in the completion of a referral. Primary care integration - or having a mental health care professional embedded in a primary care practice - breaks down barriers and helps to destigmatize mental health care.

Over the course of the next five years, the research team will track students’ completion of program requirements and post-graduation outcomes - where they end up for their first job and how they contribute to diversifying the workforce. This tracking and evaluation will help measure the effectiveness of the program and inform future programs with similar goals.

Keane has spent 37 years at UNCG and has been deeply involved in similar work related to creating access for underserved populations and training students in the provision of culturally competent care. She led the HRSA-funded Graduate Psychology Education Program training grant for 15 years; the 2016-2020 grant brought opportunities for didactic and experiential training in Integrated Primary Care to the curriculum.

For her, the SDS grant is especially meaningful.

“It’s really quite remarkable to have this large pot of money to encourage disadvantaged and minority students to come to UNCG and to benefit from the training we have here,” she said. “I’m just really proud to be part of this team.”

*Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications*
*Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications*

**Alumnus-faculty team develops bioactive mask technology**
In the COVID-19 pandemic era, personal protective equipment is crucial for frontline medical professionals and those they serve, as well as for many others who cannot do their essential work from home.

Kepley BioSystems, a North Carolina biotech company, is developing new and innovative technology aimed at protecting frontline workers, patients, and travelers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The technology seeks to protect people not only from viral infections, but also bacterial dangers, which are a hidden threat for the immune compromised and others during the pandemic.

Last week, Kepley BioSystems, led by Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering alumnus Dr. Anthony Dellinger ’15 and co-founded by JSNN professor Dr. Christopher Kepley, filed an accelerated patent for its personal protection air sterilization technology.

The technology being developed comes from what might seem like an unlikely source: the company’s previous work with horseshoe crabs.
Horseshoe crab blood contains specialized cells called amebocytes, which are very sensitive to endotoxins. Amebocytes are the key component of the Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) assay the gold standard for evaluation of drug and vaccine safety. Kepley BioSystems scientists have distinguished themselves by publishing widely read work about the topic, and and by filing a grant to work further with the pathogens involved.

While harvesting the blood from the horseshoe crabs in their labs, Kepley scientists must obtain the sensitive material without compromising it. To do so, they created aseptic technique protocols to protect the LAL from airborne contamination.

When the COVID-19 pandemic arose, the Kepley team realized they had an impetus to develop something to help the medical community as well as patients and potentially others, based on the techniques they have been using in their lab with the horseshoe crab blood.

Their thoughts turned towards masks.

What if they could create a mask that could efficiently kill microbes that entered, and provide breathable, sterile air for the wearer? And what if, also, through a secondary mechanism, the mask could expel sterile air into the environment? Fully bioactive masks.
Most of the Kepley team has a background in clinical chemistry and medical technologies, including Dellinger, whose JSNN thesis focused on nanomaterials and how they affect medicine, so the turn towards this development was perfectly in line with their interests and capabilities.

The same techniques used by Kepley scientists can be adapted for use in a mask to eliminate viral, bacterial, and fungal pathogens from the air. It also makes it easier to breathe for someone who might be wearing the mask for many hours, for instance, during a hospital shift.

With the knowledge that many people with COVID-19 may also develop secondary infections and comorbidities, and that medical workers who have used what protective gear has been available to them are still contracting COVID-19, Dellinger and the Kepley team felt a responsibility to use their data and capabilities to make something that could help.

The mask could be used to slow the spread of COVID-19 and also to protect patients and others from secondary infections within medical facilities. The technology can also be adapted for use in manufacturing, shipping, and food preparation and packaging facilities, as well as in shared, enclosed spaces such as aircraft, operating rooms, auditoriums, and cars.
Dellinger states resources that will provide the antimicrobial capabilities are available, and that with the right partnerships, the bioactive masks could be produced and deployed by the end of 2020.

Successful Kepley Biosystems projects run the gamut – from a synthetic and sustainable fishing bait that helps the coastal environments, to chemistry rooted in the management of horseshoe crab blood, to odor technology to help shelter animals. The ability to diversify and to develop technology that does good through cross-disciplinary thinking and invention are the things Dellinger recalls from his time as a student at JSNN.

“UNCG and JSNN create a diverse, interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment that allows scientists to examine problems in a unique way, and to look at the bigger picture,” he says. “In any realm, we’re looking to make lives easier and environmentally better.”

(l-r) Dr. Anthony Dellinger ’15 and Dr. Christopher Kepley

*Story by Susan Kirby-Smith, University Communications
Images and photography courtesy of Kepley BioSystems*
COVID-19 and the human experience: an anthropological perspective

Dr. Cassandra Workman

The impacts of infectious disease aren’t just biological. Disease impacts all aspects of the human experience for individuals, communities, and cultures – and often results in permanent, long-term shifts.

These kinds of impacts have been the focus of Dr. Cassandra Workman’s work and research for the past decade. As a biocultural anthropologist with a background in public health, she’s particularly interested in how humans are impacted by food insecurity, water insecurity, and infectious disease.

The assistant professor of anthropology arrived at UNCG last fall after having worked at NC State for a year. Previously, she lived and worked in several countries in Africa, conducting research and working as a monitoring and evaluation specialist.

It certainly hasn’t been the year she expected. Workman, along with the rest of campus, transitioned to online learning in March, and subsequently cancelled all summer research trips.
Nevertheless, her work couldn’t be more relevant. In the Q&A below, Workman describes the intersections of food/water insecurity and infectious disease, how the pandemic will permanently change human interaction, and the ways in which she and her students have responded to these seismic changes.

Tell me more about your research and how it relates to what’s happening now with the pandemic.

I study water insecurity, food insecurity, and infectious disease. These three things tend to happen together quite frequently. For example, someone who is malnourished may also not have access to clean water, and therefore they might have other illnesses, often infectious diseases, in addition to being malnourished.

What is interesting intellectually about coronavirus is that you see a huge linkage between food insecurity and COVID-19. Coronavirus came from animals; it’s a zoonotic infection, meaning it jumped species. You see all this attention on getting rid of wet markets, but anthropologically, we know it’s impossible just to tell people to stop doing something. People rely on animals for food, so what often happens is in the attempt to try and secure food, you can put yourself at risk for infectious disease.

There are other linkages with food and coronavirus. Now, in the United States, we’re seeing that food pantries are completely empty. We’re having a food insecurity crisis because of coronavirus. Additionally, pre-existing conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure – both related to diet – seem to be huge risk factors for coronavirus.

You also have to understand the importance of water security. What happens when you don’t have water to wash your hands? How do you maintain safety if 25 people are reliant on a single pump? Or if people share water containers? Globally, we don’t have the data yet, so we don’t know how these factors could affect the course of the illness.

There seems to be growing awareness of food insecurity in the United States. What about issues of water insecurity? How are Americans impacted?

There is this assumption that here in the United States, we don’t have water insecurity. We have municipal water, and some live on well water, and there’s the idea that our water should be safe. But people who study water say that’s not actually the truth. People in the U.S. are water insecure, but we’re not totally sure what that looks like.

My colleague at Penn State, Dr. Asher Rosinger, publishes quite a bit on bottled water. When people don’t trust their tap water, they’ll buy bottled water. This puts undue financial stress on people. In Flint, Michigan, a lot of people were forced to buy bottled water
because of their unsafe municipal water. Even when they were given filters, they continued to buy bottled water, and rightfully so, because they just didn’t trust the water. I would argue that it’s not just about having water, but it’s about having water that you trust. Water that smells OK, that tastes OK – water you think is safe.

**What kinds of pandemic-related conversations took place in your class this spring?**

In the past, in my Introduction to Cultural Anthropology class, I’ve had my students draw a community map of the key resources they need to succeed. They would draw maps that had the library, their dorm, or their church – places that they feel are resources. This time, I asked them to draw their new normal – what it was like for them to experience lockdown and how has this shifted. I’m hoping to analyze these maps and work with some of my students to publish a paper.

It’s really important to see how the quarantine has impacted students. So many of my students were talking about feeling untethered. They lost the structure of the day and were challenged to put meaning back into their day. They talked about the importance of getting up, going to campus, and doing these activities that they are no longer able to do. They explained feeling anxious and depressed; they had so much unstructured time, that for many of them, it made it difficult to do anything. Others faced the stress of working during a pandemic or the stress of losing a job.

**From a broader anthropological perspective, how do you think the pandemic will impact human interaction and relationships long term?**

We will be permanently changed by this. I can liken it to 9/11 – it fundamentally shaped our understanding of terrorism and safety and the experience of flying. There’s no way this can’t permanently change something. For example, if I’m in the grocery store now and people get too close, I’m hyper-aware of it in a way I never was before.

It will be fascinating to see how people use virtual connectivity moving forward. At first, I was very excited to use Zoom. I needed that human connection, but it didn’t substitute very well. And then I found myself getting Zoomed out – it was actually more exhausting. I prefer to talk to people on the phone now. I found that really interesting, and it happened very quickly. From a public health perspective it can be very frustrating to see people not follow the stay-at-home orders, but from a human perspective, it makes a lot of sense.

Will we have a long-term shift with regard to masks? Will people be wearing masks every flu season? In multiple cultures throughout the world, mask wearing is normal. We are not a mask-wearing culture, and now we’re seeing the cultural politics surrounding masks. It will be interesting to see how things evolve.
Hopefully there will be long-term conversations about improved safety nets. I think most public health workers would say that we need that. In the U.S., there are such structural inequalities and health disparities already, and we have to remedy that. We see the Black Lives Matter movement happening at the same time as the pandemic, and these aren’t separate events. I think this is a time to sit and think seriously about the structural changes we need to make long term. How can we reduce disparities? How can we put better safety nets in place?

*Interview by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography by Jiyoung Park, University Communications*

**Spartans reflect on July 4th**

As we approach the holiday weekend, it’s clear that Independence Day feels markedly different this year.

The nation continues to face a public health crisis. Black Lives Matter demonstrations are ongoing, as communities have tough conversations about the realities of systemic racism. Divisions and disparities are perhaps more visible than ever before.

For many Americans, it’s difficult to celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness when these “unalienable rights” have always been – and continue to be – out of reach for so
many of us who call the United States home.

This July 4th, we decided to do something different. Instead of a light, celebratory story, we asked for honest perspectives from students, faculty, staff, and alumni about what July 4th has meant to them, and what it means this year.

Here’s what they had to say.

**Dr. Stephanie Coard**
Associate professor and director of graduate studies
[Department of Human Development and Family Studies](#)

We are living in a pandemic within a pandemic. One is a virus that is terribly impersonal. The other is racism (America’s original disease), which is profoundly personal. As an African American woman, mother, and faculty member, this July 4th is particularly challenging for me because I am reminded that the 4th of July is a festivity with no substance, a celebration with no soul. It is a celebration I am welcomed to attend and admittedly have tended to do so each year. However, this year I am reminded that this celebration is not for me (us). We are visitors to the celebration and I prefer not to eat the hypocrisies being served. This year I will be spending July 4th with immediate family members in a safe space (i.e., home) where I will reflect and continue to gather my thoughts. There is much work to be done, individually and collectively, and I remain committed to using my research, clinical skills, and community affiliations to foster knowledge and promote healing.

**Eduardo Pinero**
VA certifying official
Each year the 4th of July brings forth my feelings of patriotism and gratitude to a nation that opened its arms to me and my family when we needed it most. Although I tend to see the land as an example of freedom, liberty, and justice, this Independence Day is taking place during one of the most challenging times in my memory. I am letting this day serve as a time for reflection on what we have achieved as a nation and recognize that there are still many issues that must be addressed to achieve true equality and justice beyond the scopes of the values under which this nation was founded.

Due to the pandemic I have limited my social contact, and although the occasion is special, this 4th of July I will probably continue to follow these guidelines with my loved ones. I will reflect on the current social climate and hope that one day we are able to celebrate with unity.

April Marshall
Assistant director for leader development
Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement
I have been thinking a lot longer and harder about what Independence Day means to me this year, and at the end of the day, the best word I can think of to describe how I feel is unsettled. On the one hand, I am proud to be American. I served in the United States Air Force and do not regret one minute of my service. I believe wholeheartedly in my interpretation of the words of the Declaration of Independence, but what I am coming to recognize is that though the language used in the declaration sounds democratic and powerful and just – life, liberty, rights, happiness, respect – the reality of honest entitlement to those words depends on your ethnicity and gender and religious preference (among other things).

This year, I will spend the day with my three children and my partner. We will cook out and have some fun. And we will also talk about equality and equity, racism and prejudice, and what being an American means to each of us and to those around us. There are definitely some things to celebrate – and there are definitely even more things we need to acknowledge and take seriously and act on.

Dr. Jen Feather
Associate professor
Department of English
With liberty and justice for all . . .

These words, recalled from a thousand elementary school recitations, have been ringing in my ears lately as we come to celebrate the 4th of July. In the context of the Pledge of Allegiance, they are a description of the United States of America, but today they still seem more aspirational than actual. Still, they articulate a dream that acknowledges what seems only too clear: justice is a precondition for liberty.

Are you free to decline to wear a mask if doing so limits my ability to access the world without a heightened risk of infection? Does the safety a police force secures afford liberty to some while creating unlivable conditions for others?

Over the July 4th holiday, I hope to listen to the voices that are crying out for justice. Voices in books, on podcasts, and in film, but also, the voices of my friends and neighbors who still long for justice. I hope to join them in imagining an America that lives up to its aspirations, one that truly secures liberty and justice for all. I am reflecting on how we make this America a reality.

Rob Knox
Associate athletics director for strategic communications
UNCG Athletics
It will be strange not to see the beaches packed and all the great concerts this year because of the pandemic. I know that’s tough for a lot of people. But on a positive note, this weekend gives everybody an opportunity to reflect on where we are as a country and what they can do to improve racial equality, end systemic racism, and make a difference in their communities.

The 4th of July has always been another day for me. I think it’s important to understand and recognize that when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, African Americans were still slaves in this country. My plans are to drive to Georgia and spend time with my family. We’ll laugh, have fun, play games, eat well, and watch some movies. We are also planning to visit the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and the Civil Rights monuments in Montgomery, Alabama, weather permitting.

**Elliott Kimball**
Assistant director
[Office of Intercultural Engagement](#)
All of these things lead me back to one word: access. For those of us that hold marginalized identities or belong to groups that have historically been oppressed, the freedom that is celebrated on Independence Day is a freedom built by some and for some. We can look back and be thankful at the progress we have made over the last 250 years, but we must also realize that the ability to celebrate freedom is in itself a privilege. Why? Access. Everyone has not always had access to the freedom gained and celebrated on July 4th, and even now, with our lens magnifying the experiences of our most marginalized Americans, true freedom can’t be accessed by everyone.

A great example of this is in the saying we see many Black Americans using to describe their experiences: “I can’t breathe.” Breathing is something we often don’t think about. It’s effortless for many of us - until something restricts or obstructs our ability to breathe - then it becomes the most urgent of priorities. Living in America is the same way. For some people, they can breathe freely without ever having to worry about or even consider that something could interrupt that, while for others, their ability to do something as basic as exist is threatened on a daily basis. With this in mind, how do we celebrate Independence Day? I encourage you to do one thing to make the Land of the Free a little bit more free for someone with an experience different than yours. Do something to aid in moving one of many obstacles that prevent certain groups of Americans from truly being free. You are just a web search away from all of the resources you need to take even a small step in this work.

Samaya Roary ’19
Legislative correspondent and press assistant
U.S. House of Representatives
To articulate what July 4th means to me this year, I have to reflect on what Juneteenth meant for me this year – and that was grappling with the fact my ancestors didn’t learn of their “freedom” until a few years later and that their descendants (Black folks like me) are still fighting for basic human rights and true freedom over a century and a half later. However, I found comfort and pride in the words of a powerful truth by Brittany Packnett-Cunningham: “Every Black person you meet is a miracle.”

I often reflect on my mom telling me as a young girl that I didn’t have to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance because it wasn’t true for me. I always pushed back and insisted it did, mostly out of fear of being the only one in my classroom opting out. However, as a young woman on this Independence Day, I’m glad we are finally beginning to confront the harsh realities that too many of us, including myself, have let our love for our country blind us to – that liberty and justice for all doesn’t encompass everyone. Despite that, I celebrate, because the beauty of America is as a young Black woman I walk the halls of Congress, where the power presides, to ensure Black people are included in that “all.”

Independence Day for my family has always been about a day off of work, nothing more and nothing less. Simply a time to relax, have fun, and fellowship with our staple foods: fried fish and watermelon. This year, given COVID-19, we will not be gathering as a large family. Instead, I plan to wear a mask and visit the Black Lives Matter street painting with my closest friends, support a Black-owned restaurant for lunch, and ensure we find some ways to laugh, smile, and find joy amid the societal changes surrounding us.

Naglaa Rashwan
President, Graduate Student Association
The 4th of July means a day of reflection and celebration. I will be reflecting on how major changes in history were accomplished by hard work, dedication, resilience, and sacrifice. I will be thinking that we will survive the pandemic by being hopeful and seeing the hard work we do to adapt. I will give myself credit that I am trying my best to study, work, and take care of my family during the pandemic.

Independence Day was a day of accomplishment and justice for all Americans. This day was the day of the establishment of a great nation. This day will be a reminder that our nation is capable of recreating itself to be more just and equitable to all citizens. Justice is hard work and dedication to create an environment where we all feel valued, feel empowered, and feel equitable. The 4th of July this year will mean a collective sense of commitment to work together to make America a country free of racism and a country that is a place of greatness and celebration.

Austin Moore
President, Student Government Association
Senior, Political Science
July 4th is a day of reckoning. We should treat it as more than just a day of fireworks and parties. We, as Americans, should spend July 4th reflecting on not only the founding and birth of our country but also reflect on the progress and shortfalls within our nation. In light of the recent events, we must recognize this problem does not stem from something new, rather something fundamentally wrong and we must address it. As the day fades to night, we must look within ourselves and to each other for finding solutions to the turmoil we face. And as the fourth transitions to the fifth, we must address the wrongs we discovered such as systemic racism, police brutality, and countless other issues within our nation and actually fix them.

This July 4th, I plan to spend time with friends and family. For those who know me, I really enjoy making barbecue. And further to that point, I love researching history. The history of barbecue holds deep roots in African American and Indigenous culture. As I spend time with my family, I will reflect on the various people who were erased from history for the techniques and art they developed.

**Deon’te Goodman ’16 joins cast of ‘Hamilton’**

Deon’te Goodman ’16 is officially on Broadway.

The UNC Greensboro graduate has joined the cast of “Hamilton,” the critically acclaimed blockbuster that premiered in 2015 and tells the life story of “founding father” Alexander Hamilton through hip-hop, soul, pop, and R&B. His first night in the ensemble was March 5.
The role in the biggest show on Broadway came to Goodman within two years of his New York City debut in “Freedom Riders: The Civil Rights Musical,” and a variety of roles in productions at regionally prominent theaters. He has been performing professionally since 2015.

Goodman holds a bachelor of music degree in classical voice, and was also in the first musical theatre workshop cohort at UNCG. In the School of Music, he studied primarily under Professor of Voice Carla LeFevre, and in the School of Theatre worked under director of UNCG’s musical theatre program Dominick Amendum and Professor of Theatre James Fisher.

“Deon’te asked to study with me beginning his junior year to focus on in-depth technical work,” said LeFevre. “With only two years to work together, we were on the ‘fast track’ toward establishing a technical foundation he could sustain on his own after graduating. The first year, we worked on classical singing technique to establish a strong foundation for all types of singing. His senior year we branched out to adapt his technique to the musical theatre style. ... Deon’te has an incredible voice that flows from a beautiful, deep soul.”

“Deon’te was always an amazing singer,” added Amendum, who coached Goodman not only at UNCG but in New York City soon after he moved there. “He has a natural instrument that is expressive and exciting. His hard work has clearly paid off, and he is doing UNCG proud on a larger stage!”

UNCG Opera audiences would have seen him in “Galileo Galilei” and “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” directed by David Holley.

“He is multi-talented, a remarkable actor, and a great colleague,” said Holley. “His real passion was musical theater, but he was exploring what opera was all about. I appreciated his curiosity and his willingness to take risks on stage. It’s nice to see the trajectory of his career. The sky’s the limit for Deon’te!”

Holley noted that Goodman is a loyal friend to other Spartan performers in New York City, even showing up to support them at auditions.

Read more about Deon’te’s story, including an interview with him on UNCG Now.

By Susan Kirby-Smith
Photography by Anthony Chatmon
Information session for faculty/staff today at 11 a.m.

One of the significant challenges with COVID-19 is the rapid pace of change – in our understanding of the virus, guidance related to staying healthy, and in the spread of the virus itself.

During this week’s information session, we’ll summarize where we stand currently with preparations for this fall, and seek input on how we can continue to help the campus community work toward readiness to welcome back our students.

This session will be recorded and posted on the COVID-19 website. Please note: to join the session, you must use your UNCG email and Zoom account, and you will not be able to attend the meeting anonymously.

The next session will take place today:
Wednesday, July 8th, 11 a.m. – Noon

Go Link:
go.uncg.edu/covid19-info-session-pt4

Direct Link:
https://uncg.zoom.us/j/96155589270?pwd=eklFQlA5bFpQaFJObzhZTFFzekR0Zz09

Joining Details:
Meeting ID: 96155589270
Password: 090927

Final Session:
The last scheduled session (Thursday, July 21 at 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) is now a Faculty and Staff Town Hall with Chancellor Gilliam. Please use our existing online portal for submitting questions.

How quarantine has affected our family dynamics
Before the COVID-19 pandemic, families juggled busy schedules and stuck to set routines. Adults went to work and carpooled their kids to extracurricular activities after school. Many college students enjoyed their independence on campuses far away from mom and dad’s rules.

But once quarantine began, school-aged children were taken out of the structure and stability of a traditional classroom. Parents took on the role of teacher while simultaneously working. College students found themselves deprived of their newfound freedom.

So just how much family togetherness is too much family togetherness?

Family dynamics play a large role in how everyone is dealing with quarantining, and those dynamics tend to shift often, adding conflict and tension to an already stressful time.

Dr. Christine Murray, director of the UNC Greensboro Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships, identifies the shifts families are experiencing and provides insight on how to navigate these changes in the interview below.

**What shifts in family dynamics are some experiencing as a result of the pandemic?**
The answer to this question is constantly evolving and changing. What would have been the answer to this question at the beginning of the pandemic is in a lot of ways different than what the answer is today, and that answer could even change in the next hour. For example, some parents were having to play the role of teacher while children were still in school, and now, they are faced with the new challenge of lack of childcare because summer camps are canceled, daycares are closed, and so on.

As a mother to a 10-year-old and a 13-year-old, I can say that on a personal level, I appreciate the extra time I have with my kids. It’s nice to not be running from activity to activity. But then in another moment, my sons will be fighting over the Xbox, and I’ll think, “I can’t take this fighting anymore!” So, dynamics can shift pretty quickly. I think many families right now are experiencing an emotional rollercoaster with their relationships, especially for those navigating changes such as shifts in their routines and going back to work. They may be wondering, “Who will watch the kids? What if I contract the virus and bring it home?”

I think that on a week-to-week basis, sometimes even hour-to-hour, one of the things adding a lot of stress to families and relationships is just how much things are changing in the world around us. It’s putting families and relationships in a position to constantly be shifting and feeling as though you need to always be able to adapt to that change and stay on top of it. But you also need to have a sense of stability and routine in a family, especially when you have kids. So this frequent change of demands, even for people who like change and cope with it well, is very stressful because you don’t have normal connections to your usual support system.

**What can one do to navigate these shifts and additional stress?**

One of the major tips in any relationship is to spend time together but to also have time apart. It’s healthy to have outside interests and friendships or connections with your community, yet that’s been physically taken away from us. So that’s a big challenge for families as they deal with the pressures of shifting dynamics: you don’t have your normal support system to lean on. But I think people are doing a good job staying connected through social media, virtual happy hours, phone calls, and so on. It’s not going to offer you that same level of support as if you were going to school or going into work and seeing your friends every day, but it can provide some vital support.

I think it’s also important to not look too far ahead, even though you may be tempted too. So much is uncertain right now, so stay focused on what you know is happening in the world today and in your home today. If you do find yourself thinking ahead, try scenario planning for the future rather than worrying about it.
Many families now are also facing grief over health emergencies, sickness, and even the death of a loved one. Any of these situations are difficult at any time, but especially during the pandemic when people are disconnected and unable to be close to loved ones. It’s especially important for families facing these losses to reach out for support and practice self-care to honor their emotions and needs during those difficult times.

**What is the best way for individual family members to adapt and meet the needs of other family members? Whether that be respecting personal space, providing a quiet place to work, and so on.**

Good communication is so important for discussing these needs and trying to talk things through. One of the things I’ve tried to work on with my kids is constantly troubleshooting and problem-solving. What were the stressors of today? What challenges came up? What’s something I can try differently tomorrow? In my family, we’ve tried different routines and ways of managing time throughout the day. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn’t, but we are constantly experimenting with different solutions. Don’t despair and think, “This is just how it’s going to be until this is all over.” Instead, ask yourself, “What are some small steps I can take to try and improve on how I’m handling the situation next time?”

**Could you speak specifically to the family dynamics college students are experiencing and how they can cope?**

At this age, many college students need to use really good communication and problem-solving skills to help them navigate potentially being under the same roof as their parents again. I think this presents a good opportunity for college students to get to know their family members in a new and different way. Look at them as being on the same team as you to work through different problems and anticipate new challenges that might come up.

Of course, clashes are bound to happen if you’re a college student who has been operating independently and is now back home with your parents with rules to follow. That could cause a lot of tension and lead to major stress and conflict in the family. Good communication and compromise should be put into play here. Again, think of it as you’re all on the same team.

Also, college students may be grieving some losses in their lives, so it’s important that they ask for support from friends or family if they find themselves feeling sad or cheated out of their ideal college experience. I also want to mention that for some college students, being home is not a safe place to be, whether it’s a physically or emotionally unsafe environment that they’ve been forced back into. There is an increased risk for domestic violence and child abuse in families during this time. If you can’t explore and find other living arrangements, reach out for help. There are still resources available for those dealing with
abuse or even the other emotional challenges I’ve mentioned that one might experience while navigating the pandemic. Counselors are still available right now via telehealth, and it is important to reach out if you find yourself struggling. A few resources include the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the Psychology Today therapist directory, and for those that are in the area, the Guilford County Family Justice Center.

I think it’s also important for any college student that is grieving to stay connected to friends and find ways to stay connected to campus. Think creatively and problem solve. Acknowledge that this is not what you had in mind for your college experience, and think of ways you can mimic that experience you wanted. There may be clubs or groups in your community that you can connect with. Or, you can find a new interest or hobby (something that can be done while social distancing), and use that common interest to connect with people in your area.

**What are some of the major takeaways and lessons to be learned from this experience of being quarantined with your family?**

Change is hard, but it’s also an opportunity for growth. I think we will all look back on this time and realize we have become more flexible and open-minded as a result of it. There is also a level of self-awareness that comes as a result of how you manage stress and how others around you manage stress. Some of us have gotten closer to our family members or have found new creative ways to connect with friends and family virtually that can still be practiced after the pandemic.

I think this time has also allowed everyone to think about what’s important in their life. We have been given the chance to really evaluate our priorities. We live in a very busy society, and that can take a toll on our relationships by not being able to find time for togetherness. Now we have the time to truly get to know each other and spend quality time together. These are valuable lessons to have learned that will help us navigate our relationships in the future.

*Interview by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications*

**An electrifying idea**
Rathnayake and Dawood (left) hold a sample of their proprietary filter, woven at the JSNN using an electrospinning technique.

Imagine cleansing wastewater of a harmful yet valuable element while, at the same time, helping to satisfy the world’s growing demand for high-performance batteries.

Transformative research at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, or JSNN, promises to do just that. The project is led by Associate Professor Hemali Rathnayake, assisted by graduate student Sheeba Dawood.

The element lithium is in great demand as a primary component in long-lasting batteries that power everything from smartphones to Tesla electric vehicles.

“There is a huge market for lithium for energy storage applications,” Rathnayake says. Demand is so high that the light-colored substance has been called “white gold.”

The world’s largest lithium deposits are in Australia, with other large concentrations in South America. Yet trace amounts of lithium are quite common, especially in wastewater that is a byproduct of extracting petroleum from the earth.

The traditional method of removing this lightweight metal from petroleum wastewater utilizes evaporating settling ponds, a process that can take up to two years. And that’s just stage one of the reclamation process. Then, dried, settled material must be separated and
refined to be of use.

Rathnayake and Dawood have devised a new way to remove lithium from petroleum wastewater – a lithium-trapping filter derived from a renewable resource. This proprietary nanomaterial is able to trap molecules of lithium measuring only one to three nanometers, or about a billionth of a meter.

Dawood uses a scanning electron microscope to zoom in on the morphology of their nanofiber filter.

The Greensboro I-Corps program, and then a $50,000 national I-Corps Award, supported Dawood as she conducted field research in the U.S. petroleum industry, including attending a trade show where she was able to access representatives of many companies.

The researchers determined that their filter can be commercially viable when the lithium content in water is 400 milligrams per liter or greater. Dawood learned that amounts of suspended lithium in wastewater range from 400 to 1500 milligrams per liter. The filtering process is faster and more efficient than the evaporative method, able to process up to 55 gallons per minute.

Another advantage of the nano-filter process, Rathnayake says, is that the polymer used to create the filter is naturally abundant, renewable, and therefore relatively inexpensive.
With a lab-created saltwater sample, researchers demonstrate the power of their lithium-trapping method in this time-lapse photo series.

The petroleum industry, always looking for ways to trim costs and boost profits, has shown much interest in the filter, Dawood says, especially in Pennsylvania, North Dakota, and Arkansas. Those states mandate that petroleum production wastewater must be cleansed to remove environmentally harmful material.

Nationally, Dawood said, the petroleum industry annually produces 700 billion barrels of wastewater.

Like the gold dust that attracted prospectors to California in 1849, harvesting minute amounts of lithium can turn into real profits. It doesn’t take long to understand why these researchers are excited about their innovation’s potential.

Dawood, a scientist with an entrepreneur’s passion, hopes to create a company that will license the process and take it to market. She’s also identified firms that she might partner with to achieve the same end.

There’s another fascinating aspect to this nanotech innovation: The polymer that makes up the filter is a conductor. Once packed with lithium particles, the filters essentially become batteries, ready to store electricity.
Rathnayake and Dawood have trademarked a brand name for their nascent product, a name that pays homage to UNCG. It will be called Minerva Lithium.

This article was part of a larger UNCG Research Magazine feature story about campus research and entrepreneurship. Read more at researchmagazine.uncg.edu/spring-2020/its-a-go/.

Story by Tom Lassiter  
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications

Research, innovation aim to improve knee joint health

Dr. Randy Schmitz, Sam Seyedin, and Dr. Sandra Shultz discuss next steps for their prototype.

Dr. Sandra Shultz’s research focuses on what may be humanity’s most problematic joint: the knee.

Of specific interest to Shultz – and to many trainers, therapists, and physicians – is the condition of the knee’s ligaments.

Currently, Shultz and her collaborators are developing a new device to assess ligament looseness, known as knee laxity, an indicator of joint health.
Knee laxity in young women has been of particular interest to Shultz and other researchers.

“When force is applied to the tibia – the lower leg bone,” Shultz explains, “knee laxity dictates how much it moves relative to the femur, or thigh bone.” Too much knee laxity, the kinesiologist says, “is a pretty strong predictor of future knee injury in young athletic females.” In older adults, greater knee laxity increases the risk of – and can also be caused by – osteoarthritis.

Most investigation of knee laxity is accomplished by manipulating the knee by hand. Mastering the process requires significant training and practice, and each diagnosis of knee laxity is highly subjective. The amount of laxity detected determines the treatment regimen prescribed, which may involve exercise, a brace, or perhaps surgery to tighten ligaments.

Devices to measure knee laxity exist, but current instruments measure only one range of motion. The knee, however, has three axes of motion.

Shultz and Dr. Randy Schmitz, co-directors of UNCG’s Applied Neuromechanics Research Laboratory, saw the need for a device that could accurately measure all aspects of knee laxity. They envisioned a device that would not require intensive training to use. It would be sized to fit on a training table and be light enough for a trainer or medical technician to set up and use. The device would mechanically manipulate the lower leg and measure all three axes of motion.

Profit, Shultz says, was not a motivating factor. The real drivers were a passion for research and knee joint health.

“This was something we needed,” she says. “We needed to continue to advance the research. And then we realized that this has big commercial potential.”

Guided in their quest by LaunchUNCG, a hub for campus entrepreneurship, the researchers located talent and resources on campus to assist in developing a prototype.

Through the I-Corps program, kinesiology graduate student Elvis Foli conducted field research across the Southeast. He interviewed trainers and physicians for their perspectives on improving knee laxity diagnoses. The information Foli gathered confirmed demand for the device.
Elvis Foli makes final adjustments to device components created with the University’s 3D printer.

Shultz and her team knew what the device needed to accomplish, but the team lacked the engineering expertise necessary to pull off a prototype. This time LaunchUNCG had the expertise in-house. Program manager Sam Seyedin has a background in aeronautics. His engineering expertise cost the team of kinesiologists nothing.

Other campus resources helped the team further minimize costs. Then-kinesiology graduate student James Coppock collaborated with UNCG Libraries, employing their Fusion400 3D printer to create a complex component for the device. Printing the part took more than 36 hours. Not to mention all of the design work leading up to that final step.

Internal UNCG Giant Steps seed funding and a $100,000 NC Biotechnology Center grant are currently supporting the team as they continue to develop the prototype.

It was a decade ago when Shultz and Schmitz first kicked around the idea for a knee laxity diagnostic tool. But they were scientists first, not businesspeople. Without a fertile environment to nurture it, their idea lay dormant.

The development of LaunchUNCG, which created a “one-stop shop” to access all the resources available to academicians turned entrepreneurs, breathed new life into their idea.
With UNCG’s expanding resources in place to help move transformative ideas toward commercialization, the researchers are energized.

“We want to keep people healthy,” Shultz said. “We want to keep people physically active. That’s the goal of what we do in the lab.”

A version of this article was part of a larger UNCG Research Magazine feature story about campus research and entrepreneurship. Read more at researchmagazine.uncg.edu/spring-2020/its-a-go/.

Story by Tom Lassiter
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications

In Memoriam: John Lee Jellicorse

Dr. John Lee Jellicorse, UNCG professor emeritus, died July 1, 2020.

His distinguished career at UNCG and beyond encompassed a tremendous number of subject areas within theater, communication studies, and media studies.

Jellicorse began shooting 16 mm film when he was eleven, learning from his father who was a radio and television engineer. He worked as a still and movie photographer and radio announcer while a college student. He earned his AB degree from the University of Tennessee and his doctorate from Northwestern University, where he taught and became head of the Communication Studies Department, before returning to University of Tennessee as an associated professor in two departments.

Jellicorse came to UNCG in 1974 to serve as department head of the Drama and Speech Department, which became the Department of Communication and Theatre.

He initiated years of substantial growth in many areas at UNCG. He hired key faculty, launched new curricula and sources of funding, and taught undergraduate and graduate courses while also initiating new programs in speech sciences, education of deaf children, broadcasting, and cinema. Under his leadership, the Department of Communication and Theater became the University’s largest department, enrolling 1,308 students and serving more than nine hundred majors, with multiple undergraduate and graduate programs in six different disciplines. Subsequently, the five divisions of the Communication and Theatre Department all became separate flourishing departments with Jellicorse serving as the first regular department head in Broadcasting and Cinema, now known as Media Studies.
Jellicorse also served as a department head and dean at Northwestern University, University of Tennessee, and Hong Kong Baptist University, where he was founding dean in the School of Communication and acted and directed for the Shouson Theatre.

He was a frequent contributor to professional journals and associations and pursued creative work as an actor, director, and film producer. But his greatest contribution was as a teacher and curriculum developer. Throughout his university career, he taught more than sixty different courses including nine in journalism and mass media, seven in communication theory, twelve in broadcasting, twenty in cinema, two in fundamentals of speech, fourteen in communication studies, and six in theater, plus thesis and doctoral student supervision.

In 2019, the UNCG School of Theatre recognized Jellicorse as a “Hall of Fame” honoree. Greensboro audiences may remember Jellicorse as Henry in “The Lion in Winter” and Whiteside in “The Man Who Came to Dinner.”

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. John Lee Jellicorse Scholarship Fund.

To otherwise honor his memory, he requested that folks partake of their favorite adult beverage and watch a good print of Chaplin’s “City Lights.” “So fill to me the parting glass. Good night and joy be with you all.”

Memories of John Lee Jellicorse

“John Lee Jellicorse was a transformational leader. He took a small speech and theater department at UNCG in 1974, and developed it into the largest department in the University with undergraduate and graduate programs in communication studies, speech pathology and audiology, broadcasting/cinema, and theater, with 1000 majors and 40 faculty and staff. John was in every way a master teacher and administrator.”
- Bob Hansen, professor emeritus and former head of UNCG’s Department of Communication and Theatre

“Thanks to John Lee Jellicorse’s leadership we have Professions in Deafness, Speech-Language Pathology, Media Studies, Communication Studies, School of Theatre… Communication is part of so much of academia and UNC-G and he helped make that flourish!”
- Celia Hooper ’74 MA, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and former dean of HHS

“In terms of the Department of Media Studies, it owes its existence to John Lee Jellicorse. When Dr. Jellicorse arrived on campus in the mid-1970’s, he began creating courses that
were specifically in fields of radio, television, and motion pictures. In the early 2000’s when we became a separate Department of Broadcasting and Cinema, Dr. Jellicorse served as our first Department Head in those formative years. He was part of the creation of our MFA in Drama concentration Film and Video Production which was offered from the 1990’s to the mid-2000’s. He was instrumental in the creation of the UNCG Film and Video Festival which ran for a number of years. He was involved with the Department’s association with WUAG the campus student run radio station and many other extracurricular organizations and opportunities for UNCG students in media studies.”
- Frank Donaldson, Department of Media Studies

“John Lee was the department head who hired me for my first full-time ‘real’ academic job here in 1985, as a short-term lecturer. When I arrived for the interview, he handed me the keys to his car so I could check out the city (not a practice we recommend today!) His ideas about media were far ahead of his time. 21 years later, I returned to UNCG as a tenured full professor. John Lee Jellicorse played a key role in launching my academic career.”
- Roy Schwartzman, Department of Communication Studies

“He was a brilliant man and one of my favorite professors at UNCG.”
- Donegan Root ’87, Office of Alumni Engagement

**In memoriam: Linda Burr**

Linda Burr, a former development director, died July 4. She joined UNCG as a director of development on August 1, 2006, splitting her time between the Weatherspoon Art Gallery and the University Libraries. On August 16, 2010, she moved to the University Libraries full-time. She retired from the University Libraries on January 31, 2016.

Over the course of her years of service, she worked to raise money for Friends of the UNCG Libraries, the University Libraries Enrichment Fund, the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project, African American Oral History Project, Weatherspoon Art Museum, and more. She is remembered by her co-workers as a vital member of the UNCG development officer team, contributing her ideas, experience, and enthusiasm to each endeavor.

Linda had a genuine way of developing relationships which benefited her co-workers, donors, and UNCG, her former co-worker Barbara Wike explains.

She would often bring the donor a gift to show her appreciation and how much they meant to herself and the Library.

She was delightfully personable, bringing lots of joy to each occasion. A memorable reception that she worked so hard on, at University Libraries, was the Honorable Howard
Coble event – his papers were donated to University Archives. Her co-worker Robin Paschal remembers glancing over and seeing that Linda was wearing Howard Coble’s iconic hat. “This was the kind of great person Linda was.”

She cared deeply about each person, as she worked very hard and maintained such professionalism as the development officer.

UNCG Board of Trustees welcomes new member

George Hoyle ’90

UNC Greensboro today announced the appointment of a new member to its Board of Trustees. George Hoyle, a UNCG alumnus with tremendous business, civic, and community credentials, was appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger on June 25 to finish the unexpired term of trustee Frances Bullock.

Bullock is resigning as of June 30, 2020, one year prior to the end of her second term, following seven years of dedicated service. Hoyle’s term begins July 1, 2020, and will run through June 30, 2021; he will thereafter be eligible for appointment to a full four-year term.

A native of Winston-Salem, Hoyle is a 1990 graduate of UNCG with a bachelor’s degree in speech communication. He was a member of the UNCG men’s soccer team from 1987 to 1990 and was integral to the team’s success as Division III national champions in 1987. In 2007, Hoyle was named Young Alumni of the Year and was honored as one of “40 Leaders Under Forty” by Triad Business Journal. He was inducted into the UNCG Athletics Hall of
Fame in 2014.

Hoyle and wife Kathleen Kelly are founding partners of Compass Financial Partners, a Greensboro firm specializing in retirement consulting and executive benefits planning, including investments and insurance. He is a Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist (CRPS) and an Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF) and was included in 401kwire.com’s 2010 list of the “300 Most Influential Advisors in Defined Contribution.” He is in the BlackRock Defined Contribution Leaders Circle and has served on the Goldman Sachs Asset Manager Advisory Council.

Hoyle currently serves on UNCG’s “Light the Way” Advancement Campaign Steering Committee and the Excellence Foundation Board of Directors, and is co-chair of the Athletics Department’s “5 for 5” Campaign for Champions. He previously served on the 2015 Chancellor Search Committee, is a past president of the Spartan Club Executive Committee, and also served on the Students First Campaign Steering Committee. He and wife Kathleen Kelly endowed the George G. Hoyle & Kathleen A. Kelly Athletic Scholarship, and have otherwise been significant donors to the Athletics program.

An active member of the community outside of UNCG, Hoyle has served as board chair for the Carolinas Chapter of Operation Smile, was a founding member of the Greensboro Police Foundation Board, and is a member of the Greensboro Sports Council.

Said UNCG Board of Trustees Chair, Betsy Oakley, “We thank Frances Bullock for her years of advocacy for UNCG and for her valuable contributions to the University and to this Board. While we will miss her, we are delighted that George Hoyle has been appointed to finish her term. George’s ties to UNCG, his financial acumen and expertise, and his network and standing in the community will serve the University well, particularly as we navigate through such unfamiliar territory in the months and years to come. He will be a tremendous asset to our board.”

SOAR welcome sessions begin in August

The New Student Transitions and First Year Experience Office will welcome new students to campus this year through a series of eight SOAR welcome sessions.

Programming will be outdoors, in small groups, with stops in larger indoor spaces. Students will spend time with Spartan Orientation Staff (SOS) Leaders and attend GPS sessions aimed at teaching new students how to navigate Canvas, review a standard syllabus, and understand the Academic Integrity policy. The sessions will also include instruction about how to safely move about the campus, the use of face coverings, social distancing, and more. SOS Leaders will call students’ attention to the statement faculty have been asked to
include in their syllabi regarding classroom behavioral expectations during the pandemic.

All new students will begin receiving information in mid-July about the required August SOAR programs.

Dean’s Welcomes will be delivered via video either online or in person with small groups in large spaces.

All new students will receive a Keker Success Guide, as they have in the past, which is used in all FYE101: Succeed at the G courses, as well as offered to new students not enrolled in that course to use for their benefit.

The Keker Success Guide is both an academic planner and a compilation of academic success and campus resource tools. Preview the 2020 Guide here.

The Spartan SPEARS will be on hand at various intervals across these dates, as well as the first days of classes as usual, dressed in the infamous lime green shirts, offering new students assistance in finding their way to academic buildings.

The SOAR program will operate August 11-14, with the first two days for commuter students only, in two time blocks and the second two days for residential students only, in two time blocks.

Contact Dr. Kim Sousa Peoples for more information (k_sousap@uncg.edu).

**Campus Weekly submissions**

During the summer months, the Campus Weekly enewsletter is sent every other week. Remaining summer sends are July 8, July 22, August 5, and it resumes weekly August 19. The deadline for submissions that could appear in the following week’s Campus Weekly is Thursday at 5 p.m., six days before the official release date. When submitting, please provide links to pages where the information is already posted, such as on department or unit websites.

**Newsmakers: Stein, Collins, Sills, Morrissette, racial equity, LGBTQ+ history, Levenstein**

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. Gabriela Livas Stein was quoted in a Huffington Post article about how to talk to children about privilege. The piece.
• WUNC 91.5 interviewed Armondo Collins about his experience with Black history and how it connects to his work at UNCG. The interview.
• Dr. Stephen Sills was quoted in a Triad Business Journal article about evictions in the wake of COVID-19. The article.
• Dr. Noelle Morrissette spoke to WFMY News2 about racial justice and the recent protests. Watch here.
• The News & Record highlighted UNCG’s new racial equity portal. The piece.
• Yes! Weekly featured the University Libraries effort to preserve Triad LGBTQ+ history. The article.
• Dr. Lisa Levenstein spoke to WUNC 91.5 about gender inequalities during COVID-19. Listen here.

Dr. John Willse

Dr. John Willse (Educational Research Methodology) received new funding from the American Board of Pediatrics for the project “Experiential Measurement Training with American Board of Pediatrics (2020-2021).”

The primary role of the graduate assistant will be to assist American Board of Pediatrics psychometric staff with both operational psychometric work (e.g., standard setting, statistical analysis, technical report writing, practice analysis) and applied research projects (e.g., conducting literature reviews, designing research studies, analyzing data, preparing manuscripts and presentations).

Dr. Ashley Barret
Dr. Ashley Barret (School of Music) received new funding from Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies for the project “Women of Note Composition Competition and Women’s Wind Ensemble Performance.”

The sisters of the Kappa Gamma Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Iota (ΣAI) International Music Fraternity are partnering with the Women’s Wind Ensemble (WWE) on the Women of Note Composition Competition and Women’s Wind Ensemble Performance. In furtherance of promoting up-and-coming women composers as well as highlighting and honoring important American women, the Women of Note Composition Competition has been announced. The winning compositions will be performed by the Women’s Wind Ensemble as part of, “She Can, We Can: Beyond the Women’s Suffrage Centennial.” Four winners will be showcased in UNCG’s Tew Recital Hall. This lecture-recital will also include discussions on the important contributions made by each of the women represented in the winning compositions. Composers will consider the women who surfaced during the campaign for Women on the Twenty Dollar Bill. The Women’s Wind Ensemble (WWE) was formed in 2017 with the intent to showcase combinations of small and medium-sized wind chamber ensembles. Comprised of all female musicians, the WWE embraces opportunities to feature works by women composers and to encourage all young musicians to find their creative voices.

Dr. Wendy McColskey

Dr. Wendy McColskey (SERVE Center) received new funding from the North Carolina
Department of Public Instruction for the project “Extended Learning and Integrated Students Supports (ELISS).”

In May 2020, the North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 1043, otherwise known as the “2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act” [Session Law 2020-4—Section 3.3 (18)]. The purpose of this legislation was to allow the state of North Carolina to assist local governments, communities, families, workers, and other individuals and businesses in accessing federal relief and recovery funds related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation allocated $5 million to the Department of Public Instruction for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant Program.

According to the legislation, “the purpose of the Program is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for at-risk students whose learning has been negatively affected by COVID-19 impacts.” However, since the original source of these funds are from the federal government in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, these funds have a limited period of availability – in that all funds allocated from this legislation must be incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

SERVE outlines work proposed in three areas: (1) supporting NCDPI in the internal grant application/addendum review process, (2) providing technical assistance in support of grantee program implementation, and (3) managing the required grantee reporting processes, including development of the final report due to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee in February of 2021.

Dr. Daniel Bibeau (Public Health Education) received funding from Triad Health Network for the project Triad Health Network Data Analysis Contract.

The Triad Health Network is funding this collaborative project between ThinkX, Inc. and UNCG to conduct an examination of pre- and post- Px12 assessment data to evaluate the
effects of the assessment and accompanying thought-driver coaching. ThinkX will provide de-identified pre- and post- assessment data to UNCG researchers. UNCG researchers will analyze the data and develop a report that will be discussed for utility of the process with Cone Health employees, the preparation of peer-reviewed manuscripts, and grant proposals.

Dr. Sonja Frison

Dr. Sonja Frison (he Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships) received funding from NCDHHS Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services for the project “The North Carolina Tiered Care Coordination Pilot Project, 2020-2021.” Dr. Jeremy Bray, Dr. Christine Murray, and Dr. Stephen Sills are co-principal investigators on the project.

In FY16, North Carolina LME-MCOs served an estimated 1.1 M Medicaid and uninsured children and youth. That year concerns about a lack of coordination across child-serving systems resulting in insufficient assessment of behavioral health needs, slow delivery of services, and an impenetrable public behavioral health system were highlighted by the Governor’s Taskforce on Mental Health/Substance Use.

As a result of those concerns, the Governor’s Taskforce recommended that a child case management pilot (now tiered care coordination) project be implemented to test evidence-informed strategies for addressing those identified concerns. The child tiered care coordination pilot project has been established and services began July, 2017. This pilot connects two at-risk populations to behavioral health services: youth and families involved in child welfare and juvenile justice. Both populations have high rates of exposure to trauma and complex behavioral health needs. Assessing, treating, and coordinating their behavioral health and life domain needs can assist social services in maintaining or reunifying youth with their families and can assist juvenile justice in keeping youth from moving deeper into the justice system. UNCG provides management level staff to the project, High Fidelity Wraparound Implementation Team, as well as support for the evaluation of effectiveness of this pilot project.
Dr. Tetyana Ignatova

Dr. Tetyana Ignatova (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering) received funding from Pennsylvania State University for the project “RAPID: Collaborative Research: One-Step Express Test for Presymptomatic Detection to Prevent COVID-19 Spread.”

Dr. Keith Debbage

Dr. Keith Debbage (Geography, Environment, and Sustainability) received funding from InterVISTAS Consulting Inc. for the project Airports Cooperative Research Program Project 03-58: Measuring and Understanding the Relationship Between Air Service and Regional Economic Development.

Dr. Debbage shall provide services to InterVISTAS for work related to Measuring and Understanding the Relationship between Air Service and Regional Economic Development to the National Academy of Sciences. These include a literature review, data analysis and economic trends, case studies, and final report.