Dr. Andrew Hamilton teaches in a classroom that has been reconfigured for social distancing.

As the first day of classes, August 18, approaches, updates are available concerning Community Standards, University Libraries, Parking, the EUC and Bookstore, Spartan Cards, Dining Services, and Housing.

Refer to the Return to Campus Guidebook and Workplace Safety During COVID-19 Manual for additional guidance, and visit the COVID-19 website for updates, videos, forms, and FAQs.

Each faculty and staff member who plans to be present on campus during the Fall semester must take the Canvas COVID-19 training. This course is an open enroll course, and in order to enroll you must visit the following link:
The new Shield Our Spartans video can be found [here](https://uncg.instructure.com/courses/77369).

Read a recap of the July 28 Faculty/Staff virtual Town Hall [here](https://uncg.instructure.com/courses/77369).

UNCG-branded face coverings will be delivered to campus August 6 and will be distributed to departments, one covering for each employee. These coverings may be washed and reused. The branded face coverings are not intended to replace the supply of disposable face coverings that are otherwise provided for employee use. The branded coverings are a one-time distribution to all employees as the semester begins.

Faculty and staff interested in purchasing UNCG-branded face coverings should [visit the campus bookstore](https://uncg.instructure.com/courses/77369).

To include the [Shield Our Spartans](https://uncg.instructure.com/courses/77369) graphic on your signature, click [here](https://uncg.instructure.com/courses/77369).
A student using the new dining system at Elliott University Center

A student at Fountainview Dining in Moran Commons
The Spartan Mail office, with new social distancing procedures in place.

*Photography by Jiyoung Park, University Communications*

**UNCG launches effort to document local Black Lives Matter protests**
On May 25, an unarmed George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer. The horrific video of Floyd’s death circulated on social media and spurred a new wave of Black Lives Matter protests and demonstrations across the country.

While Floyd’s death represented a tipping point, it was just one of many instances of racist violence against Black people in recent months. The killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others have also fueled activism, and demonstrations remain ongoing.

For educators, researchers, and archivists, the surge of local and national activism has posed several important questions: Who is documenting this activism? How are we preserving the voices of Black activists? How will this story be told in the future?

In response to these questions, UNC Greensboro has launched the Triad Black Lives Matter Protest Collection to document the Black Lives Matter movement, police brutality protests, and race relations in the Triad region of North Carolina.

It’s an effort that grew out of the organic response of UNCG faculty and staff. After days of protests, many local artists began to express their anger, grief, and calls for justice through paintings and murals in downtown Greensboro. Dr. Tara T. Green, among others, began to document what was happening, taking photos of the art, and striking up conversations with artists and organizers.
“I was driving down Elm Street and saw the paintings and murals. I’m always thinking about collections and preserving the voices of Black people, and I started thinking, what’s going to happen with this art?” said Green, professor and former director of UNCG’s African American and African Diaspora Studies Program.

Green connected with the University Libraries team – Associate Professor and Digitization Coordinator David Gwynn, Assistant Professor and Curator of Manuscripts Stacey Krim, and Associate Professor and University Archivist Erin Lawrimore – and started thinking through the best ways to formally document the movement. The solution was a new collection of both digital and physical materials that would help serve the community, educators, and researchers for years to come.

Collecting for the project is ongoing, and the archive is particularly interested in photographs, video, protest signs, clothing, flyers, posters, and creative works. The material can be historic, originating with the founding of the movement in 2013, as well as current. Additionally, the project team is interested in connecting with local organizations and activist groups to help tell their stories.

The project is a natural extension of the community-engaged work of University Libraries. But even more than that, it was a project that the Libraries team felt compelled to do.

“Most historically White institutions and archives have traditionally focused on documenting White history, and that includes UNC Greensboro,” said Lawrimore. “We as archivists have a moral, ethical, and professional obligation to ensure that the materials that we have truly reflect both our community on campus and our larger Greensboro community.”

Green plans to incorporate the archive in her Black Lives Matter course this fall. Dr. Sarah Colonna, who teaches a Grogan Residential College course titled The Art of Rebellion, also has plans to use the archive in her teaching.

For Green, this project is especially meaningful, both personally and professionally.

“There is a long history of protest and resistance by Black people. As a Black woman who grew up in the South, and as someone whose parents grew up in the Jim Crow era, I know that change has been made because of the work of people who risked their lives to protest and form coalitions. This collection of voices, and preserving this moment, isn’t just for me as a researcher – I see this work as necessary and important. I’m glad to be able to be in a position where I can do this work and partner with these wonderful archivists.”

Learn more and submit materials at http://go.uncg.edu/blm2020.
Spartans dig in during pandemic

L to r: UNCG undergraduate Mia Hoskins, alumna Margaret Childers, and garden co-director Dr. Susan Andreatta take a brief break from working to pose for a picture on a hot July afternoon.

As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, many Spartan students, faculty, and staff have turned to gardening as a way to find solace during difficult times, to reconnect with nature, and to get their hands dirty. Whether it’s a way to address Zoom fatigue and too much screen time, a way to find quiet among today’s heavy headlines, or a desire to connect with the soil and community, gardening has become increasingly popular in these days of face coverings and social distancing.

But one site of Spartans getting their green thumb on has been there all along - UNCG Gardens on McIver Street. Celebrating its 10th year, the fully organic gardens are a community effort among faculty, staff, and students in which participants learn all about site preparation, along with planting, maintaining, and harvesting vegetables.

Anthropology professor Susan Andreatta and her assistants, Margaret Childers ‘19 and Mia
Hoskins ’21, are managing much of the gardens during the pandemic, and the result of their hard work shows. Along with Andreatta, Dr. Corey Johnson from the department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability and two staff members - Jarrod Pratt from Facilities Operations and Guy Sanders from Housing & Residence Life - work on upkeep of the site. And the gardens even have a resident groundhog named Fred. Fred tends to take the evening shift, and focuses mainly on harvesting.

Andreatta notes that during the pandemic, the gardens are limited to 2 participants at a time and gardeners must maintain social distancing. Plots are $10 each per semester or $20 for the year, and plot occupants are responsible for managing their raised bed.

Mia Hoskins plants seeds in one of the raised beds that she helps to maintain.

She and her volunteers are a tight-knit team and they have their routine down, usually working in the gardens at least twice a week. Pre-pandemic, the students working at the site could number as many as 20, and they come from all over campus and the world. How many students have worked in the gardens over the years?

“Normally when people come, they have to sign a waiver. And I’ve accumulated well over 2,000 students who have been here for at least an hour,” says Andreatta. “And I can count on two hands now the number of former students who have bought or started farms.”

Working in the gardens gives the students valuable experience and memories, in addition to
learning hands-on skills. Pre-pandemic, they also found community and often gathered for potlucks, tea, and conversation.

“This place is kind of like a release,” says Hoskins. “During the pandemic I’ve basically been locked in my house, so just being able to come out here was my only social interaction for a while. That was the bright spot of my week – just being able to come out here and talk to Susan and Margaret.”

Childers says she’s been gardening for a long time. “My parents live on a lot of land, so we’ve always had multiple gardens at our house. Living in the city was a big change, so being back in a garden has really helped me a lot because it’s like home away from home.”

Margaret Childers and the team start their daily routine with watering, followed by weeding, planting, and finally harvesting.

But UNCG Gardens is not just about growing food and learning how to have a green thumb – it’s also a source of food that gets donated to UNCG’s Spartan Open Pantry. Every week or so, the students deliver some of the harvested food to SOP that then gets distributed to those in need.

“Spartan Pantry gives food to UNCG students and staff members and the garden is able to provide us with fresh produce. That’s something that can be difficult for us to get through
donations or to keep in stock,” says SOP student director Kellie Thomas. “It’s a way for students who are using the pantry to really supplement their diet with healthy fresh foods from the UNCG Gardens.”

Beyond campus, students, faculty, and staff have spent the summer months tending to their personal and community gardens.

Megan Doldron, a PhD candidate in the Department of Biology, began gardening in 2016 as a hobby. Over the years, gardening has provided an opportunity for her to introduce vegetables to children living in inner-cities who may not have access to fresh produce. She grows sage, thyme, sweet peppers, kale, lettuce, sweet potatoes, and rosa plums, among other fruits, vegetables, and herbs. During the pandemic, gardening has been her “peace.”

“It’s part of my daily meditation. It’s just soothing and takes my mind off of the uncertainty in the world,” she said.

Fellow PhD candidate Austin Gray has become more involved with his family garden this summer.

“This pandemic hit a lot of us hard – me and my wife especially because we were new parents. Our baby boy Milo came into the world in February. For his well being we have practiced social distancing and with that, we have not had much personal interaction with family and friends. Having the garden allowed us to go out as a family and tend to the garden and also just enjoy nature and the beauty of it. I have been working on finishing my dissertation and also looking for job prospects – each is a mentally challenging task – so having the garden there to work on was a good stress relief.”
Left: Megan Doldron tends to her garden. Right: Austin Gray and his wife grow cucumbers, garden beans, carrots, cabbage, okra, butternut squash, peppers, and tomatoes at their garden plot in Clemson, South Carolina.

Dr. Nadja Cech, Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, serves as garden manager at the Dunleath Community Garden in Greensboro. Dr. Rebecca Muich and Dr. Jonathan Zarecki, fellow UNCG faculty, also garden there.

Cech recently reflected on her pandemic gardening experience in an essay she wrote for UNCG’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Below are some excerpts.

“Before corona, gardening was a solitary activity, me and the bumblebees and an occasional garden snake. Digging at the tangled roots of relentless bermuda grass or moving mulch around in my blue steel wheelbarrow was a silent meditation, a contemplative space in which hours could go by unnoticed as I slowed my pulse to the humming of the cicadas.

“Since the coronavirus shutdown, I’ve had a lot of company at Dunleath. Plots that sat fallow for years have been adopted by my neighbors who, like countless people around the globe, are suddenly moved to try growing their own vegetables, often for the first time.

“... All of us live within just a few blocks of each other, but until coronavirus forced us all out into the garden, we had never even met.
“... This shared experience of unsettling change, with all its beauty and tragedy, is without doubt the mother of many revelations. How will they shape our individual and collective futures? When the business sets in again, I hope we will still make time to dig our fingers into cold brown dirt and feel the sun on our faces. Perhaps we’ll find our way together, back to the garden.”

Dunleath Community Garden

Have you started or resumed gardening during the pandemic?

Share your stories and pictures with the campus community by posting them on Twitter and Instagram. Include @UNCG and #SpartansTogether in your message so we can see and share them!

Story by Matthew Bryant and Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography by Martin W. Kane and courtesy of Megan Doldron, Austin Gray, and Nadja Cech
A summer of remote research for McNair Scholars

McNair Scholars participate in the online Summer Research Institute Symposium via Zoom.

A staple of the UNCG-McNair Scholars Program is the annual Summer Research Institute.

A federal TRiO program, UNCG-McNair prepares undergraduates for the pursuit of a PhD. The program is designed for first-generation students from low-income backgrounds, as well as students who are members of racial or ethnic groups that are traditionally underrepresented in graduate studies.

Each summer, the scholars receive a generous stipend to stay on campus and conduct their research alongside faculty mentors. They take an academic professionalization course and writing workshop, tour graduate schools, and prepare for the GRE. The institute culminates with a research symposium on campus.

It’s a transformative experience for scholars. However, like everything else this spring and summer, it’s an experience that was forced to go fully online.

“We recognized that the institute would look different this year, but we still wanted to create a relevant, meaningful research experience for our scholars,” said Carla Fullwood, assistant director of the program. “When instruction shifted online in March, a lot of our students were in the middle of finalizing their research proposals. We had meetings with
scholars and faculty mentors to see how their research would be impacted. Research could still happen, but it was going to look different.”

Some scholars did not have access to labs, and therefore had to spend the summer conducting data analysis on what they were able to collect before the pandemic. Students whose research involved primarily textual analysis worked with University Libraries mentors to get access to the sources they needed.

“Our goal is to expose scholars to the research process, and this is part of that process – things don’t always go as planned,” said Fullwood.

Despite the challenges, all students were able to complete their research projects and present their findings as part of last week’s online Summer Research Institute Symposium. Presentation videos are available on the symposium website.

Korrey Monroe, a junior public health major, explored the discrimination and challenges that Black communities face within the U.S. health care system. The research he conducted this summer will set the stage for a larger research project, sponsored by UNCG’s Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Office, this fall. Monroe’s long-term goal is to pursue a PhD in disease prevention and work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Monroe’s research is especially timely – the Black community has been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“How was his remote research experience?

“I still had access to a lot of the resources I needed – my faculty and librarian mentors and the academic databases,” he said. “It was difficult to not be in person with my fellow scholars who are driven and have the same goals. Even though we weren’t together, we have a group chat and we talk all the time. It’s like a family.”

Rejani King, a senior majoring in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, examined how Black women writers of speculative fiction – science fiction, afrofuturism, fantasy, etc. – explore voice and identity through intersections of race and gender, surrogacy, and Black feminist theory. She employed both textual analysis and creative writing as research
“Doing this research in the middle of a pandemic, and with the current racial climate in our country, has been challenging,” King said. “My mentor, Dr. Noelle Morrissette, helped me look at my research as a form of protest. Looking at Black women writers of speculative fiction, and being able to tell our stories from a standpoint that is in the future, that itself, in the words of writer Nalo Hopkinson, is pretty radical. Right now the lives of Black people are being taken. Our futures matter. Our stories matter. Our experiences matter.”

What’s next for the scholars? Graduate school applications, interviews, and campus visits, and hopefully, next fall, the beginning of the next chapter of their academic journeys.

“This is an impressive group of students. I can’t reiterate that enough,” said Fullwood. “Their ability to still continue with their research projects in the midst of a crisis speaks volumes of their determination and abilities. This is the next generation of researchers. We need them in the classroom, and in places like the CDC and the Department of Education.
We need them to bring their lenses, their experiences, and their sets of understanding to these fields.”

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography courtesy of Carla Fullwood and Rejani King

Chancellor July 28 Town Hall recap

On Tuesday, July 28, Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. and other University leadership presented at a virtual Town Hall hosted by Faculty and Staff Senates. Provost Jim Coleman called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

The Chancellor and Provost Coleman both addressed concerns about a recent UNC System request for hypothetical budget scenarios. Tina McIntire and Bob Shea addressed these concerns as well from their unique perspectives and areas of responsibility.

Cathy Aikens spoke about how to address the issue of face coverings during class, to make sure every student is wearing one. Jeanne Mandorin addressed a similar follow-up question about staff situations.

Zach Smith and Julia Jackson-Newsom addressed a question about how the University would deal with any cases of COVID-19. Of particular note was that a new contact tracing dashboard will soon be available on the UNCG COVID-19 Updates website homepage.

Sameer Kapileshwari addressed a question about what has been done to improve or monitor air and water quality within campus buildings, and Traci McMillian followed up with the latest information about COVID-19 transmission through air and through particles.

Kapileshwari and Tim Slone then addressed questions about the availability of face coverings, and their recommended usages in shared spaces such as offices with cubicles.

Andrew Hamilton addressed questions about the classroom teaching environment, including the used of microphones for instructors, the need for special case for face coverings such as using face shields. This was followed by a question on how faculty should address student requests to change their mode of receiving instruction.

Chancellor Gilliam, Provost Coleman, and Bob Shea addressed a question about how possible budget cuts would affect non-tenure faculty.

Next questions concerned attendance policy for students, and how fees are structured for online, hybrid, or fully in-person students.
A question about how parking passes will work for faculty who are not on campus as much due to mixed teaching modes.

The last questions were about how NAVIGATE would proceed, and clarification on how and where faculty and students can obtain face coverings on campus.

Chancellor Gilliam closed with a special thanks to faculty and staff who have children or elders to care for. He emphasized face coverings, noting that this is a health issue and not a political one. “We all have anxiety about this, but we have a very strong team working on all of this,” he said. “Stay upbeat. This too will pass, and we’ll get through this – but only if we do it together.”

**Catching Comet NEOWISE with Dr. Aarnio**

Comet NEOWISE captured by Dr. Alicia Aarnio on July 26, 50mm lens, f/1.4, ISO 1600, 17s exposure

Comet NEOWISE, or C/2020 F3 was spotted by astronomers in late March on its 6,000-year loop around the solar system. It has made an impressive appearance across the Northern Hemisphere and some have called it the best comet performance since 1997’s Hale-Bopp show.

The Campus Weekly staff caught up with UNC Greensboro Physics and Astronomy faculty to
hear how they've been observing the comet.

Assistant Professor Alicia Aarnio, new to UNCG last year, studies solar and stellar magnetic fields and how magnetic fields facilitate the flux of mass and energy within a star-disk system. Aarnio uses large data sets and the solar-stellar connection to understand stars like the Sun when it was a few million years old and how it evolved to be the star we know now.

About the event of the comet she says, “It’s not of specific research interest to us, but it’s fun to get excited about rare things happening in the sky!”

Dr. Aarnio’s photos are featured above and below, as well as her dispatches from viewing Comet NEOWISE over a few evenings during the past week.

Comet NEOWISE captured by Dr. Alicia Aarnio on July 19, 18mm lens, f/5, ISO 1600, 13s exposure. Processed by John Aarnio.

**July 20**

“I just went out tonight (er, it’s 1 a.m., so I mean last night, Sunday) and got my first glimpse. It’s setting at the beginning of the night and really hard to spot naked-eye, the comet is getting fainter the farther it gets from the Sun, and that faintness is competing with the sunset since it’s to the north-northwest. I used a digital single-lens reflex camera,
and its widest field of view first, and once I saw it on the camera preview screen, I could spot it naked-eye.

I’m not an astrophotographer by any means, but I do have some decent, in-focus pictures I’m asking my brother (a professional photographer) to help me dial in/remove power lines. I went to a trailhead near Lake Brandt; tall trees are a huge problem, I couldn’t get anywhere within walking distance of my house where trees didn’t block my view. It was really nice how many people were there with the same idea and enjoying the comet together from appropriate distances, I wasn’t expecting that.

So far, the comet has been too low to point the Three College Observatory telescope at; we have trees around the observatory to deal with, and the telescope’s mirror isn’t actually affixed to the housing. This is a feature, not a bug; gravity does the work of holding the mirror to the base of the telescope, but if we point too low, the mirror could wobble and shift out of alignment.

The forecast isn’t promising for the upcoming week, but I’m planning to keep an eye on things and potentially drive to a dark sky site if it’s possible to get more photos with my DSLR. I know Dr. Anatoly (and Dr. Steve Danford, emeritus professor of astronomy) are interested in getting a spectrum of the comet if possible.”

July 26

“I’ve attached a couple of images, one that I took tonight and the other is one I took last week that my brother very artistically processed. In one of them you can see both tails!

I couldn’t spot it naked-eye tonight, only using the camera. The Delta Aquarid meteor shower is happening now; definitely saw a few of them while we were out tonight!

Monday night might be the last call for a decent view – the moon is waxing toward full and it’s close to the comet in the sky, making it harder to see.”

Also because of cloudy weather for the rest of the week, Dr. Aarnio recommends tonight, Monday, as a last chance to see the comet.

Dr. Anatoly Miroshnichenko recommends understanding NEOWISE’s position through this website.

Photography by Dr. Alicia Aarnio
Compiled by Susan Kirby-Smith, University Communications
‘Music for a Sunday Evening’ will stream on August 9

The Music for a Sunday Evening in the Park (MUSEP) Concert Series will return for its 41st season, but this time the event will be streamed live via Facebook.

The City of Greensboro will host MUSEP on August 9 with a performance by the Greensboro Concert Band at the Van Dyke Performance Space.

Many UNCG alumni will participate in both the coordination and performances of the event.

CVPA Dean mcclung will be presenting from 5:30 – 8 p.m. and will interview alumnus Kyioshi Carter and City of Greensboro chief creative economy officer and UNCG alumnus Ryan Deal between sets.

“Events like MUSEP are needed now more than ever – as our community looks for ways to connect, heal, celebrate, and imagine together. While much remains uncertain about the summer and how we will deliver these concerts, we are pleased to affirm our commitment to the series and to the members of our creative community who help bring it to life,” said Deal.


Quick Look: August 3, 2020
To have your announcement appear in Quick Look, email sckirbys@uncg.edu

- The UNCG Committee for the Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service is currently soliciting nominations for the 2020 Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service. The deadline for nominations is extended to August 21, 2020. Visit the provost’s website for information and to nominate a colleague.

- Guilford County School art educators and Weatherspoon Art Museum tour guides, Tamra Hunt and Lauren Ward, have teamed up with UNCG writing instructor and WAM tour guide Julia Ridley Smith to create fun activities for kids and families to try at home. More activities will be added through the rest of the summer, so families should continue to check in. All activities can be downloaded and printed as PDFs. Use the hashtag #WAMSummerFun and share your creations online. See the activities here.

- The Division of Student Affairs, under the leadership and guidance of Dr. Cathy Akens, is working to develop resources for faculty, staff and students to emphasize our culture of support and care for our community in the context of mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic, social uprising, and the uncertainty of our present reality and unknown future. A website of resources was developed back in March and is updated with new resources Counseling Center Covid-19 and Your Mental Health
These resources are for students, as well as all of us in the UNCG community.

- Biology professor and Dean of CAS, Dr. John Z. Kiss, spoke about growing plants in space on the Interplanetary Podcast and Orbital Mechanics.

- Biology professor Bruce Kirchoff, in collaboration with Cornell, published a series of videos on how to present well in online recordings, intended to help researchers, such as those in the Botanical Society of America.

- UNCG Libraries is moving all library instruction online for Fall 2020, but there are a variety of online events for the Fall 2020 semester. (link to Campus Notes story)

- The University Speaking Center has new resources, and new information regarding course workshops, collaborations with faculty, and individual consultations for students. (link to Campus Notes story)

To find the previous Quick Look, from July 20, go here.

**Speaking Center at the ready**

The University Speaking Center supports oral communication within curriculum, for any discipline and through a variety of training formats. This fall, there are new resources available for faculty and students. The Speaking Center staff are prepared to assist in communication learning goals, no matter what field of study or what type of communication: public, small-group, or interpersonal.

Faculty are invited to request instructional workshops for students, or to collaborate on developing a workshop, learning video, or Canvas module that focuses on the oral communication goals identified by the faculty member. A new website holds resources specifically for faculty, and resources will continue to be added. Find more details about workshops here: https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/services/workshops/.

Workshops and consultations take place online, for both in-person and online courses, and tutors have the goal of supporting students in their progress, wherever they are in their speaking process. Students may receive feedback, ask questions, and have conversations about their communication skills in general.

Learn more about individual consultations here: https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu/services/online-consultations/

Faculty and staff may refer students to the online appointment scheduling request form.
For more information, or to ask questions, reach out to the Speaking Center staff: kimcuny@uncg.edu, edellis@uncg.edu, jskelly@uncg.edu

**UNCG Libraries’ online research events for fall**

UNCG Libraries is moving all library instruction online for Fall 2020, but there are a variety of online events for the Fall 2020 semester. We will continue with our two webinar series on **Online Learning & Innovation**, as well as **Research & Applications**. These webinars are 30 minutes, recorded, and hosted in Zoom Meetings, and cover a variety of topics useful to online learning and research.

**Online Learning & Innovation Webinars: Sign Up**

August 27th at 12pm: “Video Platform Options at UNCG” by Audrey Bryk-Lee, UNCG ITS

September 24th at 11am: “Digital Storytelling Tools at Knightlabs with Northwestern” by Erin Lawrimore, UNCG University Archivist

October 6th at 1pm: “Inclusive Design and Teaching within Online Learning” by Samantha Harlow, UNCG Libraries Online Learning Librarian

October 13th at 11am: “How to Embed Quizzes and Quiz Pedagogy” by Aprille Black, a Bryan School Instructional Technology Consultant (ITC)

**Research & Applications Webinars: Sign Up**

August 21st at 10am: “Thinking about Health Information” by Lea Leininger, Health Science Librarian

September 16th at 1pm: “Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS)” by Erin Lawrimore, UNCG University Archivist

October 27th at 1pm: “Is This a Quality Journal to Publish In? How Can You Tell?” by Anna Craft, Coordinator of Metadata Services

November 9th at 11am: “Free Data Visualization Tools” by Jo Klein, GIS & Data Visualization Librarian

November 10th at 11am: “What we talk about when we talk about algorithms” by Jenny Dale, Information Literacy Coordinator

The libraries will also be hosting **virtual orientations** for UNCG instructors and graduate
students in August, whether you’re face-to-face or online. These sessions will introduce UNCG faculty, staff, and graduate students to the library resources, website, and services. These are 30 minutes and hosted in Zoom Meetings. Please register for whichever session you would like to attend!

UNCG Libraries Orientations for Instructors/Staff – Sign up links included

UNCG Libraries Orientations for Graduate Students – Sign up links included
Please be sure to contact your library liaison for more information about online library instruction, library operations for the Fall, or any other questions you might have!

In Memoriam: Art Tollefson

Arthur (“Art”) R. Tollefson, former Dean of UNC Greensboro’s School of Music from 1984 to 2001, passed away July 24.

Tollefson came to UNCG after serving as the chair of the Department of Music at the University of Maryland, Northwestern University, and the University of Arkansas. During his 17 years as Dean of the UNCG School of Music, Tollefson balanced his career as a pianist with his position as an administrator. His accomplishments included strengthening the Music Education program, described as “exemplary” and “distinguished” in reviews by the NC Department of Public Instruction and by the National Council on the Accreditation of Teacher Education. Under his leadership, UNCG’s Summer Music Camp grew to be the largest in the South, and he oversaw the construction of the current Music Building, which opened in 1999.

While dean, Tollefson continued teaching piano lessons, with the belief that adults learn better when they come to music because they are determined to prove they can do it. As a pianist, Tollefson played in London and New York, as well as at the Ravinia Festival, summer home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Tollefson was a Past President of the College Music Society where he chaired the Ethics Committee and President of the North Carolina Association of Schools of Music. In 1999, the year that UNC Greensboro’s Music Building opened, Tollefson was honored for his contributions to the arts by Sigma Alpha Iota, the International Music Fraternity, which named him a National Arts Associate. Previous recipients of the honor included Dave Brubeck, Van Cliburn, and Henry Mancini.

“Art Tollefson was an outstanding dean for the UNCG School of Music,” said Dr. John R. Locke, Covington Distinguished Professor of Music Emeritus. “He arrived in 1984, my third year at UNCG, and served for 17 years. Art was a gentle soul and a ‘big picture’ thinker. He was also an incredible pianist and performed frequently as a soloist, including with the UNCG Wind Ensemble. The School made huge progress and enrollment growth during his
tenure, including the approval for and construction of the new music building. He earned the trust and support of his faculty, of the alumni and donors, as well as the upper administration of UNCG. We were so fortunate to have him with us. He will be missed.”

Memorial donations can be made to the Arthur R. Tollefson Student Travel Fund at Advancement Services PO Box 26170 Greensboro, NC 27402, or online here.

Dr. John Willse

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

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

Dr. Seth Armah

Dr. Seth Armah (Nutrition) received new funding from the NC Policy Collaboratory for the project “Nutrition and COVID-19 in North Carolina.”

A wide range of health outcomes have been described after infection with the novel COVID-19 virus, ranging from patients who are asymptomatic, to those with severe
respiratory illness and death. The impact of nutrition on health outcomes in individuals infected with COVID-19 virus remains largely unknown. Micronutrients such as selenium and zinc influence immune function and inflammatory status.

In this project, researchers will examine how dietary intake and status of these two micronutrients affect the severity of COVID-19 illness in a population of North Carolinians. Researchers will conduct a case-control observational study among individuals in North Carolina who have been infected with COVID-19. Individuals who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms will serve as controls to individuals who experienced more severe symptoms (N= 50 per group). Researchers will assess dietary zinc and selenium intake using food frequency questionnaire and collect toenail samples for the measurement of selenium and zinc concentrations. Regression analysis will be used to determine the relationship between intake and status of the two micronutrients and the severity of COVID-19 infection. Researchers anticipate that frequent consumption and adequate status of selenium and zinc will be associated with lower severity of symptoms during COVID-19 infection.

Dr. Harriette Bailey

Dr. Harriette Bailey (Human Development and Family Studies) received new funding from the Cemala Foundation for the project “Equipping Early Care and Education Programs for Success.”

The project will provide Non-Cash Quality Enhancement Grants for early learning materials and resources for early care and education programs (centers and homes) in Guilford County to support their work toward enhancing quality and experiences for children and families.

This project will be run by EQuIPD (Education, Quality Improvement, and Professional Development) staff, who support quality and provide technical assistance across Guilford County. The EQuIPD staff and the graduate students will work with each early care and education program to select and order materials (e.g., diversity, art, math, blocks & science) to support them through increasing quality. Skilled teachers can be amazing with limited
resources, but enhancing the materials available within the classroom and outdoor environment will allow for stronger learning potential as children and staff make use of these items.

The overall goals of the project are to: 1) Provide developmentally appropriate early learning materials to classrooms and homes based on pre-assessment needs; 2) Support the effective use of the new materials by teachers/providers; and 3) Conduct post-assessments and interviews with participating teachers and providers to document the impact of the addition of the learning materials on quality.

**Dr. Anthony Chow**

Dr. Anthony Chow (Library & Information Science) received new funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the project “Reading Nation Waterfall: Increasing Access to Literacy and Libraries for Native American Children and Families.”

The Reading Nation Waterfall project will have one primary goal: to increase access to literary resources and libraries for Native American children and families. The project also has five primary outputs, and six primary outcomes. The project will be organized as follows: Project Administration Team at The University of North Carolina Greensboro’s School of Education; National Advisory Committee representing a diverse group of experts; Project Steering Committee will meet quarterly and be attended by all senior personnel which include representatives from each of the five Reading Nation Chapters; the Five Reading Nation Chapters are across three states: Crow (Montana), Eastern Band of Cherokee (North Carolina), Lumbee (North Carolina), Northern Cheyenne (Montana), and Santo Domingo Pueblo (New Mexico).

The project is a Piloting and Scaling Project. Founded and informed by a 2018-2019 IMLS Planning Grant, the Reading Nation Waterfall project is at the piloting and scaling maturity level and seeks to directly respond to existing research along with the findings of our own year-long study that identified multi-faceted barriers to access to books and libraries for Blackfoot children and youth, collectively representing a book desert. Analysis of the data
suggest seven main findings: 1) The Blackfoot community in general did not value or prioritize reading or libraries; 2) school libraries were not well funded and students did not have easy access to them; 3) most did not visit the tribal/public library often; 4) participants were not read to frequently as children; 5) only 25% had more than 80 books in their home libraries; 6) libraries were not considered a popular destination on the reservation; and 7) significant disconnects existed between library services and programming and needs of the community.

The project will have national impact in seven ways: 1) It further pilots, scales, and extends activities previously funded and tested in the field through an IMLS planning grant; 2) Expands these activities to new audiences; 3) Is easily replicable and implementable across the field; 4) Addresses all three aspects of the core mission of IMLS – Promote Lifelong Learning, Build Capacity, and Increase Public Access; 5) Focuses on the Lifelong Learning project category by working with cross disciplinary partners working with children from 0-10; 6) Establishes a team with the expertise, experience, and culturally appropriate perspective to implement the project; and 7) Develops and disseminates, in partnership with local and national library associations and community organizations, a Native American literacy and library model. The researchers will also develop and disseminate a process to be shared via web-based toolkit and traditional academic presentation and publications for easy replication.

Dr. Noah Lenstra

Dr. Noah Lenstra (Library & Information Science) received new funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the project “HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) at the Library via Co-Developed Programming.”

The project will explore programming developed through partnerships between public libraries and community agencies. HEAL will view these emerging partnerships through the lens of health equity to distill best practices for co-developed programs in general. This will also shine light on how librarians can best integrate concepts from public health into public
librarianship to support HEAL programming.

HEAL will use an iterative research design process based around the evidence-based Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory, and case study techniques, to answer the question, “How, why, and with what impacts do public libraries collaborate with others to co-develop programming around healthy eating and active living?”

To focus the research, HEAL will address specific sub-questions:
• Internal practices — How and why do library staff incorporate partnerships into programming plans?
• Community — How does the library fit within community-level health initiatives and coalitions?
• Impact — How does access to health equity increase through these co-developed programs?

During this early career grant, led by Dr. Noah Lenstra at UNC Greensboro (UNCG), and an established Advisory Group, this project will unfold over three years in three phases. Phase 1 involves a case study methodology with fieldwork in 19 public libraries operating in strategically chosen communities across the U.S. that have all self-identified as offering co-developed HEAL programming. Phase 2 will create community conversations around the results of phase 1 at the national meetings of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries and the Public Library Association, as well as online with librarians and partners who were part of the case studies. The project culminates in Phase 3, featuring an online, one-day summit that disseminates findings and begins to build a multi-sectoral community of practice to better support the multi-sectoral networks emerging in local communities across the nation.

It is expected this project will address a gap in library service by identifying a set of best practices for co-developed programs between libraries and community partners. Few best practices have been developed to support co-developed programs in general, according to the American Library Association. Although this project focuses on the public library as a space to support health equity and literacy, its findings can be applied across multiple domains, including economic or workforce development. This lends HEAL the ability to have a broad impact while also addressing the critical issue of public health and wellness. Also, strategic collaborations are at the heart of this research, which will ultimately elevate the role of librarianship at the national level.

A significant component of HEAL is its diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) plan that will leverage the diversity of the communities represented by the participating libraries and the diversity embedded in the multi-sectoral Advisory Group. HEAL’s partnerships and recruitment efforts “go to where the diversity is,” by viewing diversity through multiple
lenses: racial and ethnic diversity, socioeconomic status and geographic distribution.
Further, in the public health space, health equity and diversity are frequently conjoined:
HEAL will explore to what extent co-developed programming supports access to health
equity, which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention defines as “when everyone
has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible.”

Jamie Stephens

Jamie Stephens (Recreation and Wellness) received new funding from UNCG Student Affairs
for the project “Implementing a multi-tier suicide prevention program at UNC Greensboro.”
George Sill is co-principal investigator on the project.

Stress, mental illness, and suicidality pose significant threats to the well-being and success
of college students. The 2019 Center for Collegiate Mental Health Annual report revealed
2,078,181 unique students had sought mental health treatment through university
counseling centers with anxiety and depression being the top two concerns. Along with the
increase in the number of college students with mental health problems in recent years,
there is the increasing prevalence of having a major mental illness as being a primary risk
factor for suicide among emerging adults. Depression and anxiety disorders represent the
most prevalent disorders that students experience on campus, while also posing a barrier to
their success academically.

In order to address these challenges, UNCG has taken a proactive approach through its
Culture of Care initiative coordinated through the Dean of Students Office. Recognizing that
faculty, staff, and students all have an important role to play as we strive to meet the mental
health needs of our community, the Culture of Care initiative focuses on equipping members
of our campus community with the skills needed to contribute to this Culture of Care.

Through the grant, UNCG seeks to (1) increase engagement of faculty, staff, and students in
training and capacity to recognize students in distress; (2) provide a timely, impactful
response to students who are identified to be in distress; and (3) integrate a proactive
mental health response component into the trainings for targeted student populations (i.e.,
SAFE Zone, Green Zone, Sexual Violence training, Greek Leadership/Advisor Training, Spartans in Dialogue, etc.).

The University plans to build upon an established foundation of suicide prevention efforts by adding an enhanced level of mental health and suicide prevention training. Both population-focused training and QPR will provide evidence-based expansions to our existing training. The QPR training is a nationally recognized, evidence-based Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training at the heart of this expansion.

**Dr. Talia Fernos**

Dr. Talia Fernos (Mathematics and Statistics) received new funding from National Science Foundation for the project “Boundaries and Nonpositive Curvature.”

This project aims to provide insight into the world of nonpositive curvature by studying the special class of products of hyperbolic spaces (and groups acting on them). These naturally belong to hierarchically hyperbolic spaces (and hence coarse median spaces). One criticism of the work surrounding HHS and coarse median spaces is that it is unclear as to whether they provide new examples or results. The researchers’ hope is that the natural and fundamental class of products of hyperbolic spaces will give way to new insight. The researchers will also continue my work on CAT(0) cube complexes. In fact, it is their expertise in this work that has lead to several insights about the geometry of products hyperbolic spaces.

More specifically, this project will have parts. First, the researchers will study geometric actions on products of hyperbolic spaces and specifically, if they admit a biautomatic structure. Second, in a joint project with Balasubramanya, researchers will relax the restriction on the action from being geometric to being acylindrical. In this context, researchers ask whether several of the known properties of acylindrically hyperbolic groups can continue in higher rank. Third, continuing the project with Balasubramanya, researchers strengthen the acylindrical condition by requiring a type of irreducibility within the product and study a variety of questions, such as the absence of parabolics and the
properties that can be inferred, such as a quadratic isoperimetric inequality. Fourth, and last, researchers will continue my extensive work in boundary theory in several ways. In a joint project with Futer and Hagen, researchers study several natural boundaries associated to a CAT(0) cube complex $\mathcal{X}$ and show that there are $\text{Aut} (\mathcal{X})$-equivariant homotopy equivalences between them. Then, in a joint project with Hagen, researchers will find a natural boundary associated to a coarse median space that will be canonically related to the already existing HHS boundary. Researchers hope that the coarse-median boundary and the HHS boundary will also be homotopy equivalent.

**Dr. Shanmugathasan Suthaharan**

Dr. Shanmugathasan Suthaharan (Computer Science) received new funding from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; Prime: National Institutes of Health for the project “Distinguishing Normal Aging from Age-Related Macular Degeneration at the Level of Single Cells in the Living Human Eye.”

Dr Suthaharan is collaborating with University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers (ophthalmologists and vision scientists) as a co-investigator (UNCG-PI) on this NIH R01 research proposal. In particular, he will contribute to the detection and characterization of biomarkers of aging and age-related macular degeneration through the development of novel computational and intelligent approaches. These approaches will include the machine learning models and algorithms for the analysis of multi-spectral and multi-modal retinal images and the segmentation of retinal pigmented epithelial cells, by treating the research domain as a big data analytics framework.

**Dr. Terri Shelton**

Dr. Terri Shelton (ORE / Center for New North Carolinians) has received new funding from FaithAction International House for the project “Safe Transitions After Resettlement (STAR).”
The purpose of this project is to provide family violence prevention training and education to immigrants and refugees in Guilford County and throughout the state. Specific responsibilities include providing training to immigrant and refugee community leaders and partnering with a cohort of leaders from faith-based and ethnic-specific organizations to increase their capacity to serve families experiencing family violence.

Shelton is the Vice Chancellor of Research and Engagement and holds the Carol Jenkins Mattocks Distinguished Professorship.

**Newsmakers: Journell, Green, Engelhardt, Johnson, Kshetri**

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. Wayne Journell wrote a piece for NC Policy Watch about the potential effect of COVID-19 on teaching licensure. [The article.](#)
- The News & Record spoke to Dr. Tara Green about UNCG’s new Black Lives Matter protests archive. [The piece.](#)
- Dr. Andrew Engelhardt was quoted in a WJLA piece about white presence at protests. [The feature.](#)
- Timothy Johnson spoke in a MyFox8 article about student move-in. [The piece.](#)
- Dr. Nir Kshetri wrote a piece for Nextgov about the danger of ransomware for universities. [The article.](#)