College is a transformative time for students. Coursework, class discussions, and community and campus involvement all play a part in helping students find their voices and develop their civic identities.

UNC Greensboro was recently named one of the best colleges for student voting by Washington Monthly. The University’s student voting rate is above the national average – over half of UNCG’s student body voted in the 2016 Presidential election, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

“Voting is an important form of participation in civic and community life,” said Kristina Gage, associate director for civic engagement. “College is a great place to start practicing participation and developing civic habits, which I believe will lead to stronger communities.
and a healthier democracy. We want to empower students to get out and vote and believe in their ability to create positive change.”

As the deadline for registering to vote (Oct. 9) approaches, the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement (OLCE) is committed to helping students navigate this election season with a variety of resources and events. Here are some of the ways students can get engaged:

**Vote early at the Kaplan Center.**

The Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness is one of 25 sites for early voting in Guilford County. During the early voting period (Oct. 15-31), any of the designated sites can provide the following services: voting for individuals currently registered in Guilford County, same-day registration, or making changes to existing registration (e.g., address or name updates). Learn more and view the schedule here.

**Participate in a Voting 101 Workshop.**

The voting process can be confusing. This is why OLCE is inviting faculty and student groups to sign up for an interactive Voting 101 Workshop. During the workshop, student Democracy Fellows and OLCE staff cover the importance of voting, UNCG voting rates, current voter registration requirements, and how and where voting takes place. Participants will have the opportunity to register to vote during this workshop. All content is non-partisan and friendly to all political ideologies.

To schedule a workshop please contact Kristina Gage at kristina.gage@uncg.edu or 336-256-1406.

**Register to vote using TurboVote.**

UNCG has partnered with TurboVote to offer UNCG students an easy online tool to navigate the registration process. Tailored specifically to the University’s campus and student body, this digital portal helps Spartans register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and get election reminders.

Visit uncg.turbovote.org to get started.

For more information and to view a schedule of upcoming events, such as virtual debate watch parties and voter registration drives, visit olce.uncg.edu/students/voting/.

*Story by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications*

*Photography by Jolie Helton, Student Affairs*
Slowing the spread: COVID-19 updates for the campus community

As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s important that UNC Greensboro students, faculty, and staff remain committed to slowing the spread of the virus on our campus and in our community.

Spartans must continue to wear face coverings, maintain social distance, practice good hygiene, and show care for our community in order to “Shield Our Spartans.”

While many of the University’s processes and procedures remain the same, some aspects of the COVID-19 response – including testing, the dashboard, and technology – have changed since the start of the semester.

“Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our campus community, we’ve been able to successfully slow the spread of COVID-19 here at UNCG. However, we know that we must remain vigilant,” said Zachary Smith, Director of Emergency Management at UNCG. “We’ve expanded testing and have introduced daily updates to our COVID-19 dashboard. We’re also excited about a new statewide mobile app, which will serve as another tool for our toolbox in the fight against COVID-19. Above all, we want to remind our campus community to continue to wear a face covering, maintain social distance, and wash hands as often as
possible so that we continue to slow the spread.”

Here’s what you need to know to keep you and your fellow Spartans safe:

**Reporting and contact tracing**

Students and employees who have COVID-19 symptoms, test positive, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive must complete the COVID-19 self-reporting form.

UNCG employees who have COVID-19 symptoms, test positive, or have been in close contact with someone who tested positive should also contact their supervisors, who should then complete the COVID-19 supervisors reporting form.

Completion of these forms is critical to the contact tracing process. To be clear, the CDC defines a close contact as any individual who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes from two days before illness onset (or for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

If you’re unsure of whether your situation is considered a close contact, complete the self-reporting form and someone from the COVID-19 task force will reach out to learn more and provide direction.

**Testing**

UNCG has expanded testing. On Sept. 2, UNCG began hosting a series of testing clinics targeted toward different populations in our campus community. These clinics are for asymptomatic individuals (because we know people can have the virus and not feel sick) and will help to identify potential areas of risk related to the presence of COVID-19 on campus.

Additionally, this Thursday, Sept. 24, faculty and staff are invited to participate in a voluntary COVID-19 testing clinic from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Maple Room in Elliott University Center. The clinic is for individuals who do not have symptoms and have not been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. Click here to register.

**New mobile app**

There is also a new tool available to the campus community. On Tuesday, Sept. 22, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services launched the SlowCOVIDNC exposure notification application.

The mobile app proactively notifies students, faculty, and staff about potential exposures
and enables them to act quickly to protect themselves and their communities. The more people who use the application on campus, the more effective it is in slowing the spread.

If you are notified by the SlowCOVIDNC app as a close contact of someone who tested positive, you still need to complete the [UNCG self-reporting form](https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc).

Learn more about how to use the app at [covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc](https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/slowcovidnc).

**Information and resources**

UNCG’s [COVID-19 website](https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov) remains the best place to get accurate, updated information. The website includes a [COVID-19 dashboard](https://www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov), which is updated daily at noon with positive case counts and other important information.

**Cech lab receives funding to study how plant medicines can treat disease**

In the early 1970s, scientist Tu Youyou, leading a secret research group in China called Project 523, discovered artemisinin, now the world’s most effective treatment for malaria.
Dr. Tu and her team discovered this molecule from sweet annie (Artemisia annua), a plant used in Traditional Chinese Medicine to treat fevers.

In their early experiments, the team observed that sweet annie tea could treat malaria in mice, but had difficulty reproducing their findings. Seeking a resolution, Dr. Tu studied a Chinese text called “The Handbook of Prescriptions of Emergency Treatments,” written in 340 by Ge Hong. In it, Hong recommended a cold (rather than hot) water extraction, and when the team adjusted their experiments accordingly, they found that they could get consistent results. The product of Dr. Tu’s research continues to save millions of lives, mostly in South China, Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America.

Inspired by stories such as that of Dr. Tu, the Cech research group at UNC Greensboro seeks to uncover new ways to treat infections using molecules from plants and fungi.

Cech’s inspiration for this work is personal. “I grew up on a farm in an alternative (ok – hippie) community in southern Oregon,” she says. “As a student of the natural world, I was really intrigued by the beauty of plants and also by the stories I heard about how they could work to treat disease.”

A faculty member at UNC Greensboro since 2001, Dr. Cech has made the study of plants a major part of her scientific research. Her group attempts to discern which of the anecdotal reports regarding medicinal efficacy of plant-based medicines are accurate, with the goal of coming up with new ways to cure disease.

“This research has turned out to be far more challenging than I had imagined it would be,” says Cech, who has been working in this area for nearly 20 years. “I guess it’s like anything – the closer you look, the more complicated it becomes.”

A hurdle that the Cech group quickly encountered in researching plant medicines is that plants are often used for treating disease in teas or powders that contain thousands of different molecules. The typical scientific approach to address this problem is to isolate the molecules from the mixtures and test them alone for their usefulness in treating disease. In many cases, this approach is highly effective. Artemisinin, for example, was discovered this way, as was the anti-cancer therapy taxol. Sometimes, however, the single isolated molecule does not behave in the same way alone as it would in a mixture.

Cech notes that some research suggests that a tea from the sweet wormwood plant can be even more effective against malaria than isolated artemisinin. Currently, the methods available to scientists to study how complex mixtures of molecules might work together against a disease are insufficient. This is the problem that Cech, her students, and their collaborators are attempting to solve.
In July 2020, research in the Cech group got a major boost for this work with funding for the “Center for High Throughput Functional Annotation of Natural Products (HiFAN),” a 5-year, $5 million project being conducted collaboratively with the Cech group and those of Roger Linington at Simon Fraser University, John MacMillan at the University of California Santa Cruz, and Olav Kvalheim at the University of Bergen in Norway.

HiFAN is one of only a handful of projects that comprise the prestigious CARBON program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“This program is an exciting opportunity to advance the study of complex natural products and to build transdisciplinary research capacity within the new centers and among the greater natural products research community,” explained Dr. Joseph M. Betz, acting director of the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements.

Cech is particularly happy to be a part of the CARBON program given that the success came on the heels of prior failure. The Cech group applied for funding from the program when it was launched five years ago, but the funding went instead to the team of MacMillan and Linington, who at the time were not collaborating with the Cech group.

“I told John and Roger there’s nobody I’d rather lose out to,” says Cech, referring to her first failed CARBON proposal. “They’re such great scientists doing really awesome work.” She adds, “I was really honored when they asked us to join them on the renewal application of HiFAN. It’s such great validation of the work we’ve been doing here at UNCG and it’s going to be possible to accomplish even more by collaborating with Roger and John.”

Importantly, the new funding for the Cech group will not only enable advances in research but provides the opportunity to hire postdoctoral research associates who enrich the research program at UNC Greensboro and bring new expertise. One of these scientists is Dr. Joëlle Houriet, who received her PhD from the University of Geneva and joined the Cech group as a postdoc in February.

“For me it’s a privilege to work on projects that make sense to me, but hopefully also to our society,” says Houriet. “To learn together is what is very important for me, to still be curious about everything.”

Preston Manwill, a postdoctoral researcher from The Ohio State University, was also recently recruited to UNCG to take part in the HiFAN project.

“One thing that I love about being part of a research group,” he says, “is that there are other people I can talk about plant chemistry with. Not everybody I meet on the street wants to hear about the chemistry of plants, surprisingly. It’s nice having people who are
excited about that too.”

Manwill and Houriet are part of a dynamic group of eighteen that includes postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduates who work in the Cech laboratory. The addition of their expertise to the team helps to advance the training of undergraduates, who work alongside them to solve scientific questions. Undergraduate student Samarth Khasakia (BS ’21), an international student from India, comments on what he has gained from participation in research. “Whatever we are reading in the books, whatever we are learning, we have to experience it through exposure,” he says. “It’s hands-on experience. That’s how we learn.”

Dahlia Porter (BS ’21), who comes to UNCG from a small town in North Carolina, has a similar take on the importance of her training as part of the Cech group. “It’s really important for me to be in a lab, because reading about stuff in books is all fine and great, but at a certain point it just becomes hard to visualize,” she says. “It just gives you that extra edge when you’re learning and you come out a little more well-rounded.”

As Cech reflects on this most recent funding from the National Institutes of Health, she says that the greatest emotion she experiences is relief. “Many years ago when I told my PhD mentor that I wanted to pursue a career as a research scientist in academia, he warned me that ‘you’re always one grant rejection away from losing funding,’” she says. “He was right. The struggle to remain funded in research is real and I lose a lot of sleep wondering if we’ll have enough funds to pay our people. Today, I’m just so grateful to have this funding. We live to die another day.”
Dr. Preston Manwill, a recent graduate of The Ohio State University and postdoc in the Cech lab, prepares plants for analysis as part of the newly funded “Center for High Throughput Functional Annotation of Natural Products.” Preston relocated to Greensboro in the midst of the pandemic along with his wife and three small children.
Isaiah Odoyo, research scientist in the Cech lab, transcribes data from a liquid chromatograph into his lab notebook. He is working to identify the individual molecules present in a complex mixture produced by a fungus. Odoyo, originally from Kenya, came to UNCG because of its reputation as a hot spot for research on natural products.
Joelle Houriet, who received her PhD from the University of Geneva, joined the Cech lab as a postdoc in February, just before the pandemic shutdown. She is pictured here working in Dunleath Community Garden in Greensboro, which is a source of some of the plants used by the Cech Research Group.

Story by Nadja Cech, UNCG Chemistry & Biochemistry, and Matthew Bryant, University Communications
Photography by Becky Kates
Celebrating 40 years of the UNCG Donut

When it comes to campus folklore, the UNCG Donut has become one of the most beloved – and bizarre – stories that is passed down among Spartans.

Legend has it that in 1980, Dunkin’ Donuts were served at a library staff orientation in the basement of Jackson Library. After the meeting, one donut remained, and no one wanted to take the last one.

As told in the Spartan Stories blog, which details the origins of this campus legend, the donut remained on the platter, and several days later, it caught the staff’s attention as they worked to fix the reception on their radio. After adjusting the radio antenna to no avail, they added the donut to a binder clip on the improvised antenna, and the “college radio station came in loud and clear.”

The radio was soon replaced, but the donut remained suspended from the binder clip for years. On its 10th anniversary in 1990, the donut was placed in a black, velvet-lined case, where it remains today. In 2000, the UNCG Donut found its way into the national spotlight – it was featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education and National Public Radio, and in 2001, it was included in a Ripley’s Believe It or Not column.
This November, the UNCG Donut will celebrate its 40th birthday. To mark the occasion, UNC Greensboro is partnering with Dunkin’ to create a special edition UNCG-themed donut, which will be available in participating stores across the Triad.

From Sept. 21-27, Spartans are invited to vote for which donut they would like to see in stores – the original Dunkin’ cake donut, a yeast ring donut with yellow icing and blue sprinkles, or a Bavarian Kreme-filled donut with yellow icing and blue sprinkles. The donut will be available in stores in mid-October, just in time for UNCG Homecoming.
The best part of the celebration? Forty cents from each donut sold will be donated to the Spartan Open Pantry to help fight food insecurity on UNCG’s campus.

To learn more about the UNCG Donut – and to see reactions from students who learned about the donut for the first time this fall - check out the video below.

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications
Videography by Grant Evan Gilliard and Alexandra McQueen, University Communications

Opportunities to serve - Staff Senate hosts food drive

The UNCG Staff Senate is rallying the Spartan community to offer support for our students during this difficult time. This is an opportunity in which everyone can participate in serving.

Spartan Pantry Food Drive is happening from September 16 through October 6, 2020. This event is a drive-and-drop food drive that will take place behind the Walker Parking Deck on Kenilworth Street. To ensure safety, this event will take place at this one location during designated times to drop off the much-needed items that will serve UNCG students. The drive-and-drop will take place on the following dates:

Thursday, September 24, from 3 – 5 p.m.
Thursday, October 1, from 2 – 4 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

The most needed items include:

- Monetary Donations - [donate online here](#)
- Good-condition pots, pans, and cooking utensils are especially valuable to our students
- Cereal (box or bag)
- Pasta (16 oz.)
- Chili or taco seasoning packets
- Rice (box or bag)
- Snacks (granola bars, nab crackers, etc.)
- Peanut butter (16 oz.)
- Canned fruit
- Sanitary pads

New project at the UNCG Garden plots:
If you are interested in gardening using the UNCG Garden plots to benefit the Spartan Open Pantry, please fill out this form.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Elyssa Tucker, edtucker@uncg.edu, or Britt Flanagan, bsflanag@uncg.edu.

National honors for excellence, access, affordability

It’s rankings season once again, and UNC Greensboro continues to be recognized in national ranking lists for excellence, access, and affordability.

Last week, UNCG was ranked No. 1 in social mobility in North Carolina for the second consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report. UNCG moved up four spots in the national social mobility rankings, from No. 27 last year to No. 23 this year.

The Top Performers in Social Mobility category, introduced in 2019 as part of the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings, highlights institutions that are most successful in enrolling and graduating students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

U.S. News also recognized UNCG in the National Universities and Top Public Schools categories, marking the 30th consecutive year that UNCG has been recognized as a U.S. News “Best College.”
In recent weeks, UNCG has been recognized in a variety of ranking lists – from Princeton Review to Money to Washington Monthly.

Learn more about these accolades below.

**Princeton Review Best Colleges**

For the 22nd consecutive year, UNCG has been recognized as one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduates in the *Princeton Review's “Best 386 Colleges“ guide*. UNCG is one of five UNC System institutions to be included in the guide. The University is also recognized in the “2021 Best Colleges: Region by Region” web feature as one of 142 institutions ranked best in the Southeast.

[Read more here.](#)

**Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award**

For the third consecutive year, UNCG received the *Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award* from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

The national honor recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. UNCG is among 89 institutions across the nation, and is one of just two UNC System institutions, to receive the award.

[Read more here.](#)

**Money’s 2020 Best Colleges**

UNCG has been ranked as one of the best colleges for overall value and affordability in *Money’s 2020 Best Colleges list*.

In building the rankings, Money focused on the three basic factors that surveys show are the most important to parents and students: quality of education, affordability, and student outcomes after graduation. UNCG stood out for its affordability, ample financial aid, and student success.

[Read more here.](#)
Washington Monthly's 2020 College Guide and Rankings

UNCG has once again been recognized by Washington Monthly for its contribution to the public good. UNCG ranks No. 17 in the Southeast and is recognized as a top-100 institution among national universities.

Washington Monthly ranks four-year institutions based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research, and providing opportunities for public service.

Check out the guide here.

LendEDU’s Student Loan Debt by School by State Report

UNCG continues to be applauded for affordability in LendEDU’s latest rankings, which offer an in-depth analysis of the most recent student loan debt figures at hundreds of colleges and universities across the United States.

UNCG ranks No. 5 in North Carolina for student loan debt, meaning that UNCG students borrow less money than most of their peers at other North Carolina colleges and universities.

View the full report here.

Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education Rankings

UNCG has been named a top university in the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education “2021 Best Colleges in America” list.

The ranking’s survey results show that most UNCG students believe that UNCG is the “right choice for them,” provides an “inspiring environment,” and is “worth the cost.”

View the rankings here.

UNC System seeks participation in racial equity task force questionnaire

The UNC System requests input from faculty, staff, and students for a Racial Equity Task Force system-wide initiative. Your participation is sought in this survey so that our shared, unique, UNCG voice is heard and this effort can accurately reflect the perspectives on our campus.
You are invited to complete a questionnaire to inform the work of the UNC System’s Racial Equity Task Force. The objectives of the questionnaire are to:

- Understand how racial diversity, equity, and inclusion are perceived on UNC System campuses
- Evaluate where the UNC System should prioritize efforts; and
- Give all members of the UNC System a chance to be heard by the UNC System Racial Equity Task Force

You are being asked to take part in a research study because you are faculty, staff, or student of the University of North Carolina System. You must be at least 18 years old to participate.

- The employee survey is here.
- The student survey is here.

The questionnaire will ask about your experiences and perceptions at your institution related to racial diversity, equity, and inclusion. The questionnaire will take about 15-20 minutes to complete, and the deadline to participate is Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Your participation in the questionnaire is completely voluntary, and you can stop completing the questionnaire at any time if you so choose.

All the information that you provide will be anonymous. Your name will not be associated with your responses. General results from the questionnaire will be shared with the UNC System Office to help inform efforts to foster positive campus climate at UNC institutions. UNCG-specific responses will also be shared with UNCG campus leaders. De-identified information collected through this questionnaire may be used to inform the UNC System Racial Equity Task Force’s final report and recommendations.

As with any study involving collection of data, there is the possibility of breach of confidentiality of data. Every precaution will be taken to secure your responses to ensure confidentiality.

If you have any questions about this research, please contact Dr. Shun Robertson or email srobertson@northcarolina.edu. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the UNC Institutional Review Board at 919-966-3113 or by email to IRB_subjects@unc.edu.

If you would like to discuss racial equity at UNCG, please contact either Dr. Andrea Hunter...
or Dr. Julia Mendez Smith, Chancellor’s Fellows for Campus Climate, or visit our Racial Equity website.

## Dr. Amanda Tanner

![Dr. Amanda Tanner](image)

Dr. Amanda Tanner (Public Health Education) received new funding from Wake Forest University for the project “Harnessing the power of peer navigation and mHealth to reduce health disparities in Appalachia.”

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and transgender women in Appalachia are disproportionately affected by HIV, HCV, and STIs. Currently, no efficacious intervention exists to address these intersecting epidemics. The goals of this project are to refine, test, and disseminate findings from a culturally congruent, bilingual social network intervention designed to reduce HIV, HCV, and STI in Appalachia among Black, Latinx, and White GBMSM and transgender women, populations that carry a disproportionate disease burden in the region. The intervention harnesses the complementary strengths of two evidence-based strategies to promote and support linkages to prevention and care services: informal natural helping through community-based lay peer navigators and social media/mHealth. These strategies are particularly well suited to address the health challenges facing rural Appalachian populations.

This study will advance the field of prevention research and practice through the refinement and testing of an intervention for GBMSM and transgender women living in rural Appalachia. Study results and products will include: (1) a culturally congruent, bilingual social network intervention to promote and support linkages to HIV, HVC, and STI prevention and care services among GBMSM and transgender women that may be transferable to other rural populations; and (2) a set of research, intervention, and policy priorities to improve the health of GBMSM and transgender women living in rural Appalachia that will be disseminated to inform public health practice, research, and policy.
Dr. Christine Murray

Dr. Christine Murray (Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships) received new funding from The Duke Endowment for the project “Facilitation of the Design Process for Ages Three to Five Strategy Development.” Dr. Anthony Chow and Dr. Catherine Scott-Little are co-principal investigators on the project.

The interdisciplinary team of UNC Greensboro experts in community-engaged research and evaluation, strategic planning and online learning, and early childhood development and education will facilitate the design process for ages three to five strategy development for the next phase of the Get Ready Guilford Initiative (GRGI).

George Hancock

George Hancock (SERVE Center) received new funding from Alamance-Burlington School System for the project “Haw River Elementary School Comprehensive Needs Assessment.”

Hancock also received new funding from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools for the project “Moore Magnet Elementary School Comprehensive Needs Assessment.”

These projects are a systematic assessment of practices, processes, and structures within a school to assist school leadership and key stakeholders in determining needs, examining their nature and causes, and setting priorities for future actions. The assessments guide the development of a genuine school improvement plan that is grounded in data and provides a road map to future progress. Research supports the fact that schools who undertake a true comprehensive needs assessment make better decisions, resulting in improved outcomes relative to the achievement of their students.

An assessment team (2-3 team members) will visit each school, providing an opportunity for teachers, support staff, school improvement team members, and other stakeholders to
outline current perceptions relative to leadership, instruction, professional development, planning, and operations, and family and community engagement.

Dr. Samantha Raynor

Dr. Samantha Raynor (Office of the Provost) received new funding from the University of North Carolina System Office (UNC GA) for the project “Disrupting the Churn: The Effect of Targeted Supports on Late College Outcomes.”

The project will explore the effects of a financial aid incentive inspiring students not on track to graduate in five years to explore and select efficient degree plans. For the purposes of this study, the sample population will be first-time, full-time students with 46-90 credit hours (of which no more than 15 have been earned while in high school), have a cumulative GPA between 2.0-2.99, and are enrolled in a degree program housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Health and Human Sciences, or the Bryan School of Business and Economics. Seventy-three percent of our student body receives some sort of financial aid. Based on this statistic, the researchers hypothesize that the majority of students in this study will demonstrate some level of financial need.

Students will be randomly assigned to control and treatment groups. Those receiving the treatment will be awarded a grant of $300-$500 to participate in “transitional advising.” Transitional advising will consist of financial and academic counseling illustrating “the math and the path,” to either facilitate a more efficient degree path or more informed curricular planning and navigation. More about the specific design of the transitional advising approach is available in the section below. During summer 2019, the study population will be identified, and transitional advisors will receive training. The intervention will launch in fall 2019.

Raynor also received new funding from The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) d/b/a VentureWell for the project “Transfer Partnership.”

This project provides co-orientation to support entering GTCC students who indicate a desire to complete a four year degree by transferring to UNCG. This orientation would provide early connection and advising to these individuals to hopefully ease their transition to UNCG.

Raynor also received new funding from The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) d/b/a VentureWell for the project “Faculty Development & Culturally Responsive Pedagogy.”
This is a professional development program for faculty focused on culturally responsive pedagogy, promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in teaching and learning.

**Dr. Zhanxiang Zhou**

Dr. Zhanxiang Zhou (Center for Translational Biomedical Research) received new funding from the National Institutes of Health for the project “Lipotoxicity in Alcoholic Liver Disease.”

**Newsmakers: Wester, Snyder, Levenstein, community read**

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

- Spectrum News 1 spoke to Dr. Kelly Wester about the importance of conversations between students and faculty. [Watch here.](#)
- Dr. Audrey Snyder spoke to Mel Magazine about COVID-19 testing for couples. [The article](#)
- WORT FM interviewed Dr. Lisa Levenstein about 90s feminism. [Listen here.](#)
- Yes! Weekly highlighted a new community read collaboration between UNCG and Greensboro Public Libraries. [The piece](#).