Welcome to Campus Weekly

UNCG, Cone Health selected for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

UNC Greensboro and Cone Health today announced that they were selected for a three-year award as Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The IRL program supports the vision of the foundation to build a Culture of Health, where all people have an opportunity to live their healthiest lives, and where systemic barriers to equity are removed. Two members of UNCG’s faculty along with a representative from Cone Health were selected for the 2020 Cohort of Fellows to work together on an applied research project based in a local community in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The principal investigators are Dr. Stephen J. Sills, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Housing and Community Studies; Dr. Sandra Echeverría, associate professor in the School of Health and Human Sciences’ Dept. of Public Health Education; and Cone
Health Healthy Communities Director Kathy Colville.

Being selected for the three-year program is akin to winning an Oscar, the group explained, as it is a high honor in the field for this type of research. The methodological rigor and community-based approach of the project were key factors in the selection process. As Echeverría explained, “I am thrilled to collaborate with my colleagues and community partners on this prestigious RWJF project. This collaboration serves as a model for new ways to conduct rigorous research while centering equity and justice.”

The goals of the research project are to: 1) develop and test a framework for addressing environmental justice (EJ) concerns in communities of color; 2) evaluate the effectiveness of a UNCG/Cone Health community-based environmental education program; and 3) build the case for remediation of a Greensboro park (Bingham Park) and streams under the NC Pre-Regulatory Landfill Program.

“As much as we are honored by receiving this fellowship, we are more excited about what it means for the people in the Bingham Park area,” says Colville. “This fellowship will help us better understand the impact on residents’ health today and, hopefully, inspire actions for a healthier tomorrow.”

The study builds on years of action-oriented research that Sills has committed to over the course of his career. “Partnerships like ours are rare and necessary for addressing environmental justice concerns. Restorative justice requires that the voice of the community is in the fore, supported by robust data and strong evidence.”

20th Anniversary Women Veterans Luncheon

The 2017 Women Veterans Luncheon will be held Friday, Nov. 3, in the Alumni House.

The event is 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the program begins at noon.

The Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project (WVHP) began with a luncheon in 1998 to honor the unrecognized military service of women, including many Woman’s College alumnae. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the WHVP and the 125th anniversary of UNCG, the luncheon will celebrate the history of the WVHP, and attendees from some of the veterans who are a part of the project.

Thanks to the generosity of Glenda Schillinger, UNCG alumna and U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps veteran, tickets to the November luncheon will be free. As always, the luncheon is open to everyone, so please bring family and friends. Please note the new place and time for
the luncheon.

Parking passes for the Walker Deck will be available at the luncheon.

RSVP by Oct. 23 to Beth Ann Koelsch at bakoelsc@uncg.edu.

Contact Beth Ann Koelsch at bakoelsc@uncg.edu or (336) 334-5838 with questions.

New Greensboro Project Space hosts fall exhibitions


UNCG’s Greensboro Project Space is in a new location, at 111 E. February One Place in downtown Greensboro, and will host dynamic exhibitions through the fall.

At the new space, safe policies are in place in accordance with UNCG event policies and North Carolina’s Phase 3. A maximum of 17 guests are allowed in the gallery, and masks and social distancing are required at all times. RSVPs are required during the limited-capacity evening programs but not during regular gallery hours. RSVP information for specific programs can be found on each project’s web page at greensboroprojectspace.com. Hand sanitizer is provided throughout the gallery, and there are separate entrances and exits. Instructions will be noted inside the gallery as well.
“It has been wonderful to see students using Greensboro Project Space again, albeit with a handful of COVID19 policies put in place to keep everyone safe,” says GPS Director Adam Carlin. “There is such a need, especially right now, for UNCG students to have a public platform in which to creatively respond to what is happening in the world. GPS was always meant to be a bridge between the arts at UNCG and the community, and I cannot think of a more crucial time in which to maintain this bridge.”

“In the Act of Playing” by Patrick Healy
October 6 - 17, 2020

An exhibition of sculpture and installation conceived in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Healy’s work pays attention to the way individuals navigate space and barriers, both physically and figuratively. More information about this exhibition and artist can be found here.

Upstairs at GPS  
Thursday, October 15, 5:30 p.m.  
RSVP Here (in-person, limited capacity)  
Zoom Link: https://uncg.zoom.us/j/94879135424

Thursday, November 19, 5:30 p.m.  
RSVP here (in-person, limited capacity)  
Zoom Link: https://uncg.zoom.us/j/94879135424

Join GPS for evenings of open exchange to explore contemporary issues in art for practicing artists and the interested public, hosted by UNCG art historian Nicole Scalissi and studio art
professor Mariam Aziza Stephan. RSVPs are required for in-person attendance, as capacity is limited. All events will be accessible via Zoom. More information can be found here.

“Printed Matter” by Topher Alexander
October 20 - 31, 2020

Topher Alexander is a print media artist from Wilmington, North Carolina, whose work grows from traditional printmaking techniques and which reconfigures found print material such as junk mail, magazines, and books. To learn more about this exhibition and the artist, click here.

“Call of the Wild,” by Sidney Stretz
November 3 - 14, 2020

See photographs of the postcards the artist sent to an incarcerated loved one, each with a single page of Jack London’s “Call of the Wild” written out on it to circumvent rules against sending books to prisons. To learn more about this exhibition and artist, click here.

2020 Fall Senior BFA Exhibition
November 17 - 24, 2020

Opening Reception: Tuesday, November 17, 5 - 6 p.m.
RSVP here (in-person, limited capacity)

Closing Reception: Monday, November 23, 5 - 6 p.m.
RSVP here (in-person, limited capacity)

The UNCG School of Art and GPS will collaboratively host the Fall 2020 Senior BFA Exhibition, bringing together multi-disciplinary work of graduating seniors. The exhibition is a celebration of creative and academic accomplishment, honoring resilience and passion in especially challenging times. To learn more about this exhibition and the participating artists, click here.

Celebrate UNCG staff on Thursday, October 8

Though we are not able to host a reception this year to collectively celebrate the outstanding work and dedication of our UNCG staff, their countless contributions will be recognized on Thursday, October 8, following the 10:00 am Staff Senate meeting.

Staff are invited to drop by Taylor Garden between 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to pick up an edible token of appreciation and enjoy music and a midday break in a socially-distanced
outdoor setting.

Recipients of the Staff Excellence and staff Gladys Strawn Bullard Awards will be recognized in campus media, as will Staff Stars and department/unit-level award winners.

Where: Taylor Garden, Alumni House

When: Thursday, October 8, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Chancellor Gilliam will be on site from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. to greet staff and hand out tokens of appreciation. All COVID-19 policies and protocols will be observed. Please wear your face coverings.

Faculty and staff flu shot clinics available during October

Free flu shots for faculty and staff are available on campus in the EUC Maple Room during the following days and times:

Monday, October 12, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday, October 13, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

To register and choose an appointment time, click here.

The clinic requires prior appointment registration and the completion of a consent form (two copies required). You must be over 18 years old to enter the flu shot clinic.

You can download the Blue Cross Blue Shield Consent form here. If you have other insurance please contact Benefits at askbenefits@uncg.edu for the correct form.

Flu shot appointments are available for students through Student Health Services.

Update on COVID-19 testing for the week of October 5

As the pandemic has evolved, so has the availability of testing. On September 2, 2020, 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 us to identify potential areas of risk related to the presence of COVID-19 on our campus. We have conducted clinics for UNCG students and for UNCG employees.
This testing program will provide a more comprehensive perspective on the health of our University community. The partner we are working with will submit claims with insurance, and regardless of coverage, there will be no charge for testing.

Earlier this week, we announced that a clinic will be held this Thursday, October 8. Appointments for this clinic quickly filled, so we have scheduled another clinic for Tuesday, October 13, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the EUC Dail Room. Please note that this is a location change from previous clinics (the Employee Flu Clinic will be in the Maple Room that day).

Please click here to register. Note that space is limited to approximately 350 appointments; we will continue to schedule more testing opportunities throughout the remainder of the semester.

This is an important part of efforts to keep our community as healthy as possible. And, as a reminder, test results tell you only whether you have the virus at the date and time you get tested, so students and employees are encouraged to take advantage of all opportunities to get tested.

The clinic is for individuals who:

1) **do not have COVID-19 symptoms** (are asymptomatic); and
2) **have not been in close contact** recently with someone who has tested positive.

If you have symptoms, please stay home and contact your health care provider to determine if you need to be tested.

To keep our community up to date, we are now reporting the total number of tests administered on our COVID-19 dashboard.

More information is available in the testing section of the Coronavirus FAQ page or via the complete September 2 testing announcement. If your question is not answered in the FAQ, submit it to the UNCG COVID-19 Operational team via this question submission form. We will continue to provide updates on testing opportunities for employees and students as they are scheduled.

**UNCG Psychology Clinic offers virtual group therapy**

The UNCG Psychology Clinic is now offering “Coping with COVID-19,” brief virtual group therapy, or psychoeducation, sessions over four weeks, for UNCG faculty and staff.
The sessions, led by doctoral students in UNCG’s psychology program, and supervised by a clinical psychologist, will provide coping skills to manage stress, anxiety, and negative mood, particularly for difficult emotions and challenges brought on by the rise of COVID-19.

In addition to processing how individual lives have been impacted due to COVID-19, participants will learn relaxation and mindfulness skills for coping with stress and anxiety, cognitive skills to reframe unhelpful thoughts, and behavioral skills to set goals for the future that are in line with individual values.

The group provides hand-on learning through the practice of these skills in session and additional worksheets/handouts to practice the skills outside of session. To register, contact the clinic at (336) 334-5662 or through the website. Sessions will be scheduled based on the interest and availability of participants.

Free ComPsych faculty and staff workshops

The University of North Carolina is partnering with ComPsych to provide counseling, resources, and workshops to all UNC System faculty and staff through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

At UNCG, ComPsych workshops are offered through the Human Resources Learning and Organizational Development (L&OD) department – and they are free.

Currently, all workshops are being offered on a virtual platform. Following are ComPsych workshops offered through fall of 2020.

Reinventing Yourself
Wednesday, October 7, 12 – 1 p.m.
This session will look at getting started with self-reflection and planning. The session will also look at self-improvement techniques. The role of mentors will be examined as well as ways to stay motivated.

10 Strategies for Improving Your Finances
Wednesday, October 21, 12 – 1 p.m.
The 10 financial tips discussed in this workshop will get you on the road to financial wellbeing during challenging times.

Managing Personal Finances
Wednesday, November 4, 12 – 1 p.m.
Money is a huge stressor for many people, but it doesn’t have to be. This workshop will help you demystify the numbers and get you living beyond paycheck to paycheck.
Counseling and Therapy, Demystified
Wednesday, November 18, 12 – 1 p.m.
This session will provide some insight into what happens during a therapy session and what one can expect when seeking services. Get an overview of different therapeutic approaches and discuss appropriate levels of care to address certain concerns.

How to Receive Criticism and Make if Work for You
Wednesday, December 2, 12 – 1 p.m.
This workshop will help you explore why we become defensive, deliver tips for knowing when your ‘hot button’ has been pushed and how to accept and integrate useful criticism. The training will also instruct through examples and/or role play.

FAFSA priority filing period opens Oct. 1

The UNC Greensboro priority filing period for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now open. All current and prospective students are encouraged to complete their FAFSA by Jan. 15 to be considered a priority filer.

What does it mean to be a priority filer? Think of it as having a “fast pass” at an amusement park. Filing your FAFSA during this period puts you at the front of the line to be considered for aid.
In previous years, the priority filing period was Oct. 1-Dec. 1. This period has now been extended to January to better accommodate students and provide more flexibility, especially for continuing students who are finishing up their coursework in December.

Here are five things every Spartan should know about the FAFSA and financial aid:

- Students must submit a FAFSA each year in order to continue to receive aid.
- UNCG’s institutional funds and certain state funds are limited. Students who file during the priority filing period have a better chance of receiving these funds, in addition to any federal aid they may receive, such as Pell Grants. If additional information is requested after FAFSA completion, it is important that students submit these materials as quickly as possible.
- The Financial Aid Office is offering virtual FAFSA completion workshops every Thursday in October. The workshops will take place at 6 p.m. via the [Financial Aid Facebook page](#). Additionally, financial aid sessions for prospective students will be held Oct. 12 and Oct. 19 as part of UNCG’s three-week [Fall Virtual Open House](#).
- Students will be notified of their 2021-22 financial aid packages in early March 2021. Students are strongly encouraged to resolve any financial aid issues before they leave campus for the summer.
- The 2021-22 FAFSA is based on 2019 income and tax information. If your financial situation has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) for assistance.

UNCG students receive more than $200 million in financial aid annually. Each year, the University awards $10 million in institutional aid, including scholarships. To learn more, visit [fia.uncg.edu](http://fia.uncg.edu).

**Dr. Jared McGuirt**

Dr. Jared McGuirt (Nutrition) received new funding from the Department of Defense DA Fort Bragg Army Base for the project “Development and testing of a place-based behavioral “nudge” technology intervention to promote healthier food purchases among military
service members at Fort Bragg.”

A majority of military service members are overweight or obese, leading to increased health care costs and days of lost work per year, and a potential national security threat. Several individual and community level factors influence dietary intake and thus weight status. One key environmental factor is the locations that military service has access to purchase food where they live and work.

One emerging technology to change how soldiers interact with a food environment is ‘geofencing’, which uses cellular networks and bluetooth to create a virtual perimeter that sends real-time targeted marketing or “nudges” to those with mobile devices that enter the designed space (such as within immediate proximity or 1 mile of the cafeteria or fast-food restaurant). In addition, geo-targeted messages which are place-based allow for tailored messages once service members are inside specific food venues tailored to their shopping habits and individual needs. With service members increasingly using their mobile phones, this may be a viable approach to improve the utilization of healthier dining options on military bases and improve food purchases.

Therefore, the researchers plan to do an in-depth formative evaluation of a healthy eating place-based technology pilot study at Fort Bragg to understand the feasibility of this type of health promotion program in this setting.

**Dr. Eric Grebing**

Dr. Eric Grebing (SERVE Center) received new funding from Westat, Inc. for the project “Data Visualization System, Tableau Training and Support, for Westat’s Support of 21st Century CCLC.”

SERVE will co-design a system of interactive data dashboards with Westat to support the management of and generate insight from Westat’s school support activities. SERVE will also provide customized professional learning to Westat team members on basic data management for and creation of data visualizations in Tableau, with a focus on the elements
in the co-created system of data dashboards. The curriculum design does not require any prerequisite knowledge of Tableau or any advanced statistical knowledge.

Dr. Stephen Sills

Dr. Stephen Sills (Center for Housing and Community Studies) received new funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the project “Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL) Cohort 5 – Investigating Community Social Action to Identify, Remediate, Evaluate, and Sustain an Environmental Justice Initiative.” Dr. Sandra Echeverria is co-principal investigator on the project.

Unsafe and unhealthy environments disparately impact low income and people of color and present serious environmental justice issues (Taylor 2014). Across NC there are over 2,500 environmental hazard sites including chemical spills, disposal sites, and buried landfills. Disproportionately the 656 sites of pre-regulatory landfills buried throughout the state are found neighborhoods of color. This project examines one particular community impacted by environmental racism and evaluates a process for addressing the legacy of environmental injustices. This project will extend and expand a two-year (2019-2021) implementation project addressing environmental justice (EJ) issues of a buried landfill. The proposed research engages the community, Cone Health System, and UNCG in an investigation of the impact of the implementation project. Researchers will examine the efficacy of the intervention, document the impact on neighborhood political empowerment and environmental awareness, and gauge any improvements to the environment.

This project builds upon recent EJ and restorative justice work to address adverse community conditions, encourage pro environmental behavior, examine local community-based environmental conflicts and the collision with macro-level environmental issues, and acknowledge the role of place identity and inequality and how individuals and communities respond to collective environmental threats. The project will be used to 1) develop and test a framework for addressing EJ concern in communities of color; 2) evaluate the effectiveness of our community-based environmental education program; and 3) build the
case for remediation of the Bingham Park Landfill and streams by the NC Pre-Regulatory Landfill Program.

**Newsmakers: Levenstein, Murray, voter registration, Taras, Johnson Foundation award**

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. Lisa Levenstein wrote an article for Open Global Rights on women’s rights. [The feature.](#)
- Dr. Christine Murray spoke to WFMY News2 on burnout management for parents. [Watch here.](#)
- MyFox8 featured voter registration at UNCG. [The piece.](#)
- Dr. Vasyl Taras was quoted in a World Economic Forum piece about globalization and coronavirus. [The article.](#)
- Yes!Weekly highlighted the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation award received by UNCG and Cone Health. [The piece.](#)