Welcome to Campus Weekly

End of semester COVID-19 clinics for employees and students

This post was updated November 17, 2020.

Upcoming opportunities for UNCG employees to be tested for COVID-19 before Thanksgiving are as follows:

- Wednesday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the EUC Dail Room (downstairs)
- Friday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the EUC Dail Room (downstairs)
- Monday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the EUC Dail Room (downstairs)

Pre-Thanksgiving holiday testing for asymptomatic students will be available on Monday, Nov. 23 and Tuesday, Nov 24. Testing materials have been provided by NC DHHS for these testing clinics. Details to be announced.
December testing dates for employees and remaining students have been announced as follows:

- Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the EUC Maple Room
- Thursday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the EUC Maple Room
- Wednesday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the EUC Maple Room

All of these clinics are 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.

Some important details:

- To provide maximum flexibility, no appointment is necessary for these clinics. Pre-registering with the vendor, StarMed, will help minimize any waiting time. You can pre-register by doing either of the below.
  - Text COVID to (704) 850-6996
  - Visit https://unityphm.com/campaigns/starmed
- When asked if you will be at a testing site, please select “Yes”.
- Participation is completely voluntary.
- A sample will be collected from the nose (nasal swab, not the deeper nasopharyngeal swab) and tested to see if the virus is present (i.e. if you have COVID-19).
- You will receive your results directly from StarMed within 2-4 days.
- You will be given the opportunity to sign a waiver that allows StarMed to report their results directly to the UNCG Case Management Team.
- By law, StarMed must report all results to the public health department. Guilford County Public Health, in turn, will inform us if an employee tests positive.
- Information about what to do if you test positive will be provided on-site. Additional information is also available on our UNCG COVID-19 website. General information about COVID-19 testing is also available here.
- There is no cost for testing. StarMed will file with your insurance for reimbursement.
- Regardless of whether insurance pays or not, you will not have to pay anything.
- 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.

A Note about Student Testing:
Given the current rates of COVID-19 in the community, there is considerable concern about the potential for increased viral spread during the Thanksgiving holiday. One specific area of concern is the possibility of college students unknowingly exposing their family members to the virus when they travel home for the winter break. As such, UNCG has organized a series of testing clinics throughout this week. All students have received direct communication about these opportunities.

NC Herpetology Hall of Fame inducts Ann Somers

UNCG Senior Lecturer in biology and environment and sustainability Ann Somers, the first woman to be inducted into the NC Herpetology Hall of Fame

UNCG Senior Lecturer in biology Ann Berry Somers is a well-known figure in North Carolina herpetology and public service.

She is a past recipient of the Governor’s Award for Public Service, the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award in Raleigh, the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research (NCBAR) Distinguished Teaching Award in STEM Education, and has received the UNCG’s nomination for the Holhauser Award.

Now, she is the first woman to be inducted into the North Carolina Herpetology Hall of Fame, an organization she has served since its origin, including serving as president and
chair of several committees over the 42 years.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is recognition for “Outstanding Contributions to Herpetology in North Carolina,” and the honor is bestowed intermittently. Somers is the 20th inductee.

Biologist for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission Jeff Hall acknowledged Somers’ contribution at the annual meeting this November and afterwards.

“In addition to numerous scientific publications related to box turtles, bog turtles and several other reptiles and amphibians, Ann has developed many innovations in teaching and mentoring of young people,” said Hall. “She not only educates students, but also empowers them to go out and be active in the work of conservation. Ann is an outstanding North Carolina leader in the field of herpetology.”

Across the state, Somers is known for providing access to STEM education for a diverse population of young people, for wildlife conservation, and for her overall service to North Carolina. Much of that work is through programs and curricula that she, Catherine Matthews (UNCG), Terry Tomasek (Elon University) and others, created with the HERP Project grant. These curricula, available free for any educator or citizen-scientist introduce middle and high school students from across North Carolina to hands-on herpetology research and citizen science and are compliant with Next Generation Science Standards.

Somers spent 23 years serving on the Non-Game Wildlife Advisory Committee of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and 5 years as chair. For decades she has mobilized volunteers to survey and monitor reptiles and amphibians for conservation and sustainability programs. For example, 12 years ago she founded the Box Turtle Connection, a 100-year project which now has 32 sites across North Carolina. Volunteer efforts from that citizen science project have generated more than $1 million in matching federal funds for the state Wildlife Resources Commission as they amass one of the largest box turtle databases in the world.

“I enjoy providing the people of North Carolina with a sense of wonder about the natural environment and in so doing instill an understanding of the importance of wildlife in our shared world and shared future,” said Somers. “The Herpetology Hall of Fame Award is so meaningful because it is an honor given by the organization and people who know me and my work the best. I helped found the NC Herpetological Society in 1978 and have partnered with many of the members since that time.”
View the video below about Somers’ work, from the 2019 Governor’s Award ceremony.

*Story by Susan Kirby-Smith, University Communications*
*Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications*
*Videography by Grant Evan Gilliard, University Communications*

**UNCG named 2020 Military-Friendly Online College**
On Veterans Day, the Greensboro Transportation Authority installed posters that feature UNCG student veterans on the Veterans Access Bus.

UNC Greensboro was recently named a 2020 Best Military-Friendly Online College by OnlineU.

UNCG ranks No. 2 in the state and No. 48 nationally for its dedication to serving the unique needs of military service members, veterans, and their families through online education.

“UNCG’s online program has always been popular with our military-affiliated students, particularly those who are on active duty or deployments,” said Brad Wrenn, director of Military-Affiliated Services at UNCG. “The team over at UNCG Online has done a tremendous job tailoring course offerings to fit the dynamic scheduling needs of service members, even going so far as to create a full area of focus in the BIPS program specifically for career active duty service members.”

OnlineU ranked the top institutions using an internal scoring system based on data from the government’s GI Bill Comparison Tool, which provides information about Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and Veterans Affairs approved schools. Learn more and see the full ranking list here.

In addition to the OnlineU recognition, UNCG is consistently recognized as a Best for Vets College by Military Times and a Military Friendly School according to VIQTORY.
Military-Affiliated Services at UNCG coordinates services for veterans, active duty military personnel, and their dependents. The office serves as a liaison and advocate for military-affiliated students, works to improve military affiliated student success, and develops a sense of community between UNCG’s military and civilian populations. Learn more at military.uncg.edu.

Photography by Grant Evan Gilliard, University Communications

Quick Look: November 16, 2020

- Professor of Piano John Salmon is the guest artist and clinician in the Virginia Music Teacher’s virtual conference. See his full program of presentations, which includes a recital in Tew Recital Hall and two workshops: one with co-presenter and UNCG piano faculty member Annie Jeng called “Dave Brubeck’s Classical Piano Compositions” and another titled “Improvising in Beethoven.”

- Amy Cook, accounts payable and third-party billing specialist for the UNCG Cashier’s Office was honored with the Callahan Award on Veterans Day. The award was established in 2017 to recognize a UNCG faculty or staff member for their extraordinary service to student veterans. It is named for Dr. Cheryl (Cherry) Callahan, who was the driving force behind the creation of UNCG’s Office of Military-
Affiliated Services during her time as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Cook has consistently provided individualized and compassionate service to the military-affiliated student community, and her service has helped countless students.

- Special **Commencement 2020 virtual backgrounds** have been released to help the graduates celebrate.

- Anyone requesting to hold a **UNCG-sponsored event** should [use this form](mailto:). Submitting the form does not authorize the event to take place, but a representative from UNCG will be in contact shortly as a result of submitting the form. Completing the form and gaining approval does not secure the event location. Event organizers should follow the normal process for scheduling event space on campus.

- Until Nov. 20, anyone with UNCG parking tickets may have them forgiven through “Food for Fines” donations to the Spartan Open Pantry. Bring cans or dried goods to the Walker Avenue Parking Deck, 506 Stirling Street, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Three items forgives $15, and six items forgives $35. The program is only valid for tickets of $35 or less that have been issued after 8/1/19. One ticket may be forgiven per person. No dented cans and the expiration date must be at least 1 month out. To contact the parking office you may call l(336) 334-5681 or email parking@uncg.edu

- **UNCG faculty, students, and staff are invited to participate in the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes and Global Humanities Institute virtual event “Migration, Logistics and Unequal Citizens in Contemporary Global Context,” Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 9 p.m.** The event brings together workers, researchers, activists, policymakers, civil society organizations, journalists and GHI participants to highlight and address the urgency of ASEAN migrant worker justice in Asia under the COVID-19 crisis. [Register for the Zoom event and find more information about the speakers here](mailto:).

- The **Humanities Network and Consortium** is officially putting out a call for spring events. If you have an event scheduled or planned for the spring and need help advertising, hosting, co-sponsoring, finding the right date, or otherwise, the Network would like to know. Please email hnac@uncg.edu, with anything within the humanities that you feel is deserving of support.

- See the [Campus Weekly winter schedule here](mailto:) – what weeks we publish, what weeks we are away.

Find the previous Quick Look, from Nov. 2, here. To have your announcement or deadline appear in Quick Look, email sckirbys@uncg.edu.
UNC Greensboro will host a Virtual Commencement ceremony for all 2020 graduates – from the May, August, and December classes – on Friday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m.

The Virtual Doctoral Recognition Ceremony will take place Friday, Jan. 15, at 3 p.m.

While the pandemic and associated public health directives currently restrict the ability to gather in person, UNCG is committed to honoring its graduates with a unique, virtual experience starting in late November and culminating with the Dec. 11 and Jan. 15 ceremonies. The online program will include a main ceremony featuring remarks from Chancellor Gilliam, the presentation of special honorary degrees to Emmylou Harris and Rhiannon Giddens, some of the traditional elements of UNCG’s commencement ceremonies, and a few special surprises.

Additionally, as part of these online commencement events, each graduate will have an individual web page that celebrates their achievements, and every college will have its own page, so that students can celebrate with their deans, faculty, and peers.

“Our graduating classes from 2020 deserve to be celebrated for all they have achieved and overcome,” said UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. “I have been inspired by their resilience, determination, and strength in the face of adversity since last spring. We are
honoring our May, August, and December classes together because they share a common bond and set of experiences that are truly unique. Their achievement is a source of pride for our entire UNCG community. We will do our best to make this moment as special as possible. These graduates have certainly earned that.”

The main Commencement website will launch in late November. Soon after, UNCG will email all graduates with their specific web page link. Graduates are encouraged to share their web page link with family and friends so that they can join the celebration.

UNCG will amplify graduates’ social media posts and add them to a curated display on the Virtual Commencement web pages. Graduates are encouraged to:

- Use the hashtags #UNCGGrad and #UNCGWay on photo and video posts.
- Tag @uncg and your school/college/department in graduation-related stories on Instagram, so UNCG can re-post on its accounts.
- Use Class of 2020-themed animated stickers, augmented reality filters, and other digital swag at https://go.uncg.edu/grad-swag.
- Participate in the UNCG Alumni Association’s #UNCGNewAlum contest.

When we are once again able to gather in person, UNCG is committed to hosting special in-person events to celebrate the 2020 graduates. Until then, the University will do everything it can on campus, in the community, and through the power of technology to give Spartans the special day and cherished moments they deserve.

Additional Commencement details will be shared on Nov. 23.

New anthropology course explores pandemics
It’s perhaps the most relevant course offered at UNC Greensboro this fall: Pandemics, Plagues, and Outbreaks.

The 200-level online anthropology course, taught by Dr. Cassandra Workman, examines how anthropology can be used to understand pandemics and the role of human behavior in them.

“Throughout the semester, we’ve worked historically through several previous pandemics, including the plague, tuberculosis, the 1918 flu, and HIV/AIDS. The last module will focus on COVID-19,” Workman said.

There have been two key takeaways for Workman and her students. First, the similarities among the pandemics are striking. There’s an eerie sense of déjà vu.

“Everyone is saying these are unprecedented times, but that’s not true. Almost all of this has happened before,” said Grace Kuehr-McLaren, a junior anthropology major.

Second, for most of us here in the United States, the pandemics have been largely forgotten. We haven’t learned many of the lessons of prior pandemics.
Workman views the 1918 flu pandemic as most similar to what we are experiencing now.

“There are a lot of parallels. First, there was the initial denialism when the first cases cropped up in March of 1918. Then, the cases accelerated in the fall,” Workman said. “There were a lot of people playing it down and refusing to wear masks, which is really similar to what we’re seeing now.”

It is estimated that 500 million people – or about one-third of the world’s population at the time – became infected with the virus, and at least 50 million people died worldwide. Social and economic disparities played a role, just like they do today, with certain populations and groups being disproportionately affected by the flu.

The class also studied HIV/AIDS, a pandemic that was stigmatized and politicized here in the United States. Workman was surprised to learn how few students knew about HIV/AIDS.

“As an anthropologist, I’m really interested in this process of forgetting. I don’t think it’s just a psychological response – I think there are other social processes at play that allow us to forget these pandemics.”

So how can we prevent this “forgetting” and instead learn from COVID-19 and from past pandemics to be better prepared for the future?

“I think part of remembering has to do with trust in science,” Workman said. “I feel there’s a real mistrust in the scientific process and a misconception of public health more broadly. Science builds – it necessarily changes, and that’s a good thing. Public health exists to protect communities. It’s important that people understand how these institutions work.”

Workman taught a related course, Anthropology of Infectious Disease, back in the spring, when the pandemic first hit.

For Eric Varin, an anthropology major who hopes to work in the field of medical anthropology, the spring course provided a holistic view of the role of social factors in pandemics, and gave him a framework through which to understand this current pandemic.

“COVID-19 is something that is going to impact our lives going forward,” Varin said. “Taking a course like this helped me retool how I perceive the illness. It was incredibly relevant.”

*Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications*
*Photography by Jiyoung Park, University Communications*
Spartan veteran, nurse breaks barriers

“Never let anyone tell you what you can and cannot do.”

Those words that Adrienne Crosby’s father told her as a little girl have helped guide her throughout her life – as a member of the U.S. Army, as a wife, as a mom to twin boys, and as a neonatal intensive care unit nurse.

“The word ‘can’t’ doesn’t exist in my vocabulary. My goal has always been to break barriers, especially for women,” said the 2020 School of Nursing graduate.

Crosby knew she wanted to be a leader and serve in the military since high school. Upon graduating, she heard about The Citadel, a military college in South Carolina that was a predominantly male school from which a Black woman had yet to graduate. Crosby was determined to be the first.

“I wanted to be able to show my family and the world that as an African American woman, I was not going to be held to anyone’s lower standards. I was going to do this for myself and for all women.”
And she did just that. Crosby and six of her peers made history in 2002 as the first class of African American women to graduate from The Citadel.

Over her 13 years of service in the Army, Crosby served across the nation and internationally, but the deployment that was most impactful was her tour in Iraq. There she served as a major and was responsible for training Iraqi Armed Forces on securing their communication and computer networks and assisting Iraqi women and children on receiving medical attention and providing them with necessary supplies.

“Serving in Iraq helped me appreciate the privileges and opportunities I have as an American. Seeing women begging on the streets, children with their stomachs swollen, and houses on the verge of collapsing truly humbled me.”
Left: Crosby at the Citadel. Center: Crosby with her father. Right: Crosby during her tour in Iraq.

In 2015, Crosby became pregnant with twin boys who were born prematurely at 31 weeks. Her newborns spent two months in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

“There I was – a leader to soldiers for 13 years – and yet I wasn’t able to take care of my own babies. Seeing the love, compassion, and professionalism those NICU nurses had for my sons was the moment that I knew I wanted to be a nurse.”

After her twins were born, although she aspired to become a one-star general, Crosby left the Army to prioritize her family. Two years later, watching nurses care for her father before he passed was the final push that made her realize it was finally time to fulfill her lifelong dream of pursuing a career that would allow her to take care of people.

While researching nursing programs, UNC Greensboro’s School of Nursing stood out to her because of the Veterans Access Program, which streamlined the admissions and course credits transfer process for her. She began her studies in the fall of 2018.

“Nursing school is one of the hardest things I’ve ever had to do in my life. Being a wife, a mom, and an adult student at the same time was tough, but I had the support of the staff at UNCG, especially Dr. Hoffman, the academic enhancement coordinator for the nursing school.”

Crosby graduated in May, and is now a nurse in the NICU at Wake Forest Baptist Health.

Crosby compares giving back to the moms and babies in the NICU to giving back to those that fought before her in the military.

“To me, Veterans Day means honoring all of the men and women who fought for the freedoms of this country before me, giving me the opportunities and freedom that I have today. I served in the military because I wanted to give back to my country and to the veterans before me. Now, I get to help the mothers and babies in the NICU fight for their health, just like the NICU nurses fought for me and my sons.”

Crosby isn’t finished serving others yet. Her ultimate goal is to be a women’s health nurse practitioner, fulfilling her passion of helping and empowering women.

“We as women can accomplish anything when we put our hearts and our minds to it.”

Story by Alexandra McQueen, University Communications
In the spring, the COVID-19 pandemic put study abroad programs on hold for college students across the nation. Students who were abroad made early return flights home within a matter of days, and those with hopes to study abroad in the fall watched their plans unravel in the months that followed.

At UNC Greensboro, a university with a strong study abroad tradition, it was a tough pill to swallow for Spartans whose international experiences were cut short or canceled.

While international travel remains largely on hold for now, there’s still a lot that students can do to plan their future experiences abroad. Additionally, UNCG’s International Programs Center (IPC) is launching new programs to help facilitate international experiences from home.

For students who are interested in study abroad and other international education experiences, here are five things to know.
1. It’s never too early to start planning a study abroad experience.

Tom Martinek Jr., associate director of study abroad and exchange programs, recommends that first-year students with an interest in studying abroad meet with the IPC team as soon as possible to discuss their study abroad plans.

Students can make an appointment by going to the study abroad home page and completing the Study Abroad 101 module. This module gives a quick overview of study abroad at UNCG and then provides access to a Google calendar where students can schedule a one-on-one appointment with a study abroad advisor.

2. There are plans for many summer, fall, and full-year study abroad programs.

UNCG is tentatively planning for several faculty-led programs as well as dozens of other programs through partner institutions and partner organizations to take place during summer 2021, fall 2021, and the full 2021-22 academic year.

Applications for partner institution programs open Nov. 15. Students who are interested in any of the faculty-led programs should contact the faculty leaders of the respective programs for deadlines and other information. A full list of programs can be found here.

IPC is monitoring the pandemic in each of the study abroad locations. Programs will be approved only if a certain set of pandemic-related metrics are met.

“We want study abroad to remain at the forefront of students’ minds, knowing that we would only send students abroad if it can be done safely,” Martinek said.

3. If a study abroad program is suspended due to the pandemic, IPC advisors will work closely with students to adjust their plans.

Given the uncertainty that COVID-19 presents, IPC staff will help students adjust their plans for a future study abroad term should their program be suspended. IPC staff will work with students to avoid any non-recoverable expenses associated with these programs. In addition, staff are working with students to make alternate plans to register and attend UNCG should their programs be suspended.

4. IPC is launching virtual international internships starting in spring 2021.

IPC has partnered with ISA/Worldstrides to offer Global Remote Internships for students. It is important that interested students act quickly. While the priority deadline to apply for these spring 2021 internships is Nov. 15, there may still be opportunities to apply after this
priority deadline. Students are encouraged to contact IPC (studyabroad@uncg.edu) if they do not meet the priority deadline.

Interested students can get started by attending an advising session:

Thursday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m: [Click here to join]
Friday, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m.: [Click here to join]

Visit [go.uncg.edu/global.internship](http://go.uncg.edu/global.internship) to learn more.

5. IPC will expand its study abroad offerings thanks to new partnerships with third-party providers.

In 2021, UNCG students will have access to study abroad programs through traditional partnerships as well as with providers like ISA/Worldstrides and ISEP. Currently, UNCG offers more than 100 study abroad programs annually; next year, thanks to these new partnerships, Spartans will have their choice of an even greater number of programs across the globe.

“If you want to have these intercultural and international experiences, it’s a great time to be at UNCG,” Martinek said.

**Wear blue and gold to celebrate last day of classes**
Join fellow faculty, staff, and students in celebrating the campus community’s hard work and resilience this semester by wearing blue and gold on the last day of class, Tuesday, Nov. 24. Take a picture and share your last day of class (LDOC) message that day on Twitter or Instagram. Don’t forget to tag @UNCG and #SpartansTogether!

Graphics by Jiyoung Park, University Communications

Dr. Erin Ellis Harrison

Erin Ellis Harrison (Speaking Center) has received the National Communication Association’s 2020 Preston Leadership Award. Harrison, the Center’s assistant director, has been honored for steering the organization’s Communication Center Section. She holds a
faculty appointment in Communication Studies, and has been in her position at UNCG since 2011. The National Communication Association is the largest professional organization of the Communication Studies academic discipline.

Dr. Dianne Welsh

Dr. Dianne H.B. Welsh, Hayes Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship, was recently honored with the Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers (GCEC) at their national conference held virtually on October 29-30, 2020.

“I am humbled and honored to be chosen by 25 entrepreneurship center and program directors across the world as the Legacy Award winner for lifetime contributions,” said Welsh.

Welsh, also Founding Director of the Entrepreneurship Cross-Disciplinary Program, and Founder and Inaugural Director Emeritus of the North Carolina Entrepreneurship Center at UNCG, was recognized for her long-term commitment to the field of entrepreneurship education, her commitment to serving students, other faculty, and the profession. She has built programs, launched centers, published research, served in professional organizations, and paved the way for women.

“The Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers’ Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement is highly-coveted and speaks volumes about what Dr. Welsh has meant to the UNC Greensboro community,” said Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jim Coleman. “I have been involved in supporting and even starting entrepreneurship programs at other universities, and the cross-campus program Dianne has built at UNCG is truly impressive!”,

As Sherry Hoskinson, retired Director of the McGuire Entrepreneurship Center at University of Arizona said in her nomination, “The definition of this award could have been written to describe Professor Welsh, her accomplishments, and her unfettered drive to advance entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship learning, knowledge of entrepreneurship, and
the organizations that provide the environments for the transfer of knowledge through teaching, research, service, mentoring, and leadership.”

GCEC also named Edward Roberts, Founder and Chair of the Martin Trust Center for Entrepreneurship at MIT University as a Legacy Award winner.

Dr. Minjeong Kim

Dr. Minjeong Kim (Computer Science) received new funding from UNC Chapel Hill for the project “A Scalable Platform for Exploring and Analyzing Whole Brain Tissue Cleared Images.”

Public Health Relevance
This proposal aims to develop a next-generation cell segmentation engine for whole-brain tissue cleared images. The researchers’ proposed work is built upon their previous 2D nuclear segmentation project using deep-learning techniques. However, they found that their current computational tool is limited in 2D segmentation scenarios and insufficient in annotated training samples.

To address these limitations, researchers will first develop a cloud-based semi-automatic annotation tool with the capacity of virtual reality. Their annotation tool is designed to be cross-platform, which allows them to partner with “SciStarter” (the largest citizen science projects in the world) and acquire large amount of cell annotations from science-enthusiastic volunteers. Meanwhile, researchers will develop a next-generation 3D cell segmentation engine using an end-to-end fully-connected convolution neural network. To facilitate 3D cell segmentation, researchers will also develop a super-resolution method to impute an isotropic high-resolution image from a low-resolution microscopy image.

After the development of a 3D cell segmentation engine, researchers will continue to improve its generality by developing a transfer-learning framework which enables them to rapidly deploy their 3D cell segmentation engine to the novel microscopy images without the time-consuming manual annotation step.
Finally, researchers will apply their segmentation tool to visualize and quantify brain structure differences within genetically-characterized mouse and human brain tissue at UNC Neuroscience Center.

At the end of this project, researchers will release the software (both binary program and source code) and the 3D cell annotations in order to facilitate similar neuroscience studies at other institutes. Considering the importance of high-throughput computational tools in quantifying three-dimensional brain structure, this cutting-edge technique will be very useful in the neuroscience research community.

Dr. Diya Abdo

Dr. Diya Abdo (Center for New North Carolinians) received new funding from the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service for the project “AmeriCorps ACCESS Project.” Khouan Rodriguez and Cynthia Mejia are co-principal investigators on the project.

The purpose of this project is to help immigrants and refugees gain access to human services, build bridges with mainstream society, and assist these populations with acculturation leading to self-sufficiency. Services to be provided include: 1. Employment Readiness and Placement, Disaster Preparedness, Education Support Services, Volunteer Recruitment and Management, and related services to immigrants and refugees resulting in greater self-sufficiency; 2. Provide leadership development training to AmeriCorps staff; and 3. Provide professional development training to community and faith-based partner organizations.

Newsmakers: Kshetri, Carter, Holian, Hernandez, counseling resources

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. Nir Kshetri wrote a piece for Nextgov about privacy and security concerns in remote education. The article.
- African American and Diaspora Studies senior Kennedi Carter was highlighted in The A&T Register for being the youngest British Vogue photographer. The story.
- Dr. David Holian spoke WXII 12 News about the extended election season. The piece.
- Current student Leslie Hernandez was recognized as part of the North Carolina Latinx 20 Under 20. Read more.
- MyFox8 highlighted UNCG’s efforts to provide counseling resources to help reduce students’ post-election stress. The article.