Welcome to Campus Weekly

COVID guidance updates for winter break

With thanks to all of our students, their families, our faculty and staff, and our partners and neighbors in the community, the Fall semester at UNCG has concluded as safely and successfully as possible. Our ability at UNCG to maintain our operations and manage through over three months of rigorous, meaningful academic work during this pandemic is a credit to your collective effort, focus, and willingness to adapt. Now as we look ahead toward our holiday season operations and our return to campus in January, we want to provide some key updates on recent state and national policy decisions so that we continue to be consistent and adhere to all relevant standards and protocols.

CDC Quarantine Guidance Change
You may have seen that the CDC issued new guidance giving public health officials options to shorten the quarantine period in certain circumstances. Currently, NC DHHS and Guilford County Public Health have not adopted the new guidance across the board, and are
only allowing shortened quarantine periods after consultation and in specific situations (e.g., for front-line health workers). We will continue to monitor the guidance relative to quarantine and let our campus community know should any changes be made that directly impact us.

**Modified Stay-at-Home Order**
Governor Cooper’s Executive Order 181 went into effect on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020 and will remain in effect until Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. The Order extended the following requirements regarding wearing of face coverings previously issued:

- Face coverings must be worn indoors if anyone else is in that space who is not a member of the same household.
- Face coverings must be worn outdoors if it is not possible to consistently be physically distant by more than six feet from non-household members. People must wear face coverings while exercising if they are either outdoors and within six feet of someone who does not reside in the exercising person’s household, or indoors and not within their own home.
- All workers and guests of fitness and physical activity facilities must wear face coverings when they are inside the establishment, regardless of whether they are exercising. There are a few specific guidelines related to competing collegiate athletes which will be managed by UNCG Athletics leadership and our coaching staff.

The Order also included additional measures intended to slow the spread of the virus given the high number of cases in NC:

- **Stay-at-Home for High-Risk Individuals**: High-risk individuals (those over age 65 or any person with serious underlying medical conditions) are strongly encouraged to stay at home and travel only for essential purposes.
- **Business Nighttime Closure**: Certain categories of businesses and facilities must close from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. (nighttime closure requirement). Examples include bars, fitness facilities, meeting spaces, museums, and restaurants.
- **Alcohol Sales**: Alcohol sales for on-site consumption are prohibited from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Nighttime Events**: Events or convenings outside the home must end by 10 p.m. and all guests must leave and travel home. Professional and collegiate sports events may continue past 10 p.m.
- **Nighttime Travel Restrictions (“Curfew”)**: Except for limited exceptions, a statewide curfew is imposed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. (exceptions to the curfew include: professional and collegiate sports events; religious services; law enforcement and other first responders; travel for required work; obtaining groceries, medical care,
UNCG’s COVID-19 policies and procedures are consistent with the requirements issued in the Executive Order. We will continue to monitor changes or additions to COVID-related requirements throughout the winter break, and will notify campus in early January of any changes to policy or procedure that may become necessary.

Vaccine Distribution
UNCG is in ongoing conversations with public health officials about our role in the vaccine distribution process and how it impacts our community. We will continue to update you as we learn more about both process and timeline. We recommend that you visit NC DHHS to learn more about our state’s plan to protect North Carolinians from COVID-19.

Updates for Spring Semester
We are in the process of updating the UNCG COVID-19 website to include a new tab for Spring 2021, implementing a new system that will automatically update the COVID-19 case dashboard, and will soon update the Return to Work Manual, Workplace Safety During COVID-19, the FAQs page. We will also update related videos and graphics as needed. Details on these changes and updates will be forthcoming upon our return to campus in the Spring.

Ongoing Data Monitoring
We will continue monitoring our campus data and trends in the larger community closely because we know conditions can change rapidly. During the holiday break, we can expect to see these numbers decline significantly because we measure primarily cases with direct impacts to campus. However, for all who are still here (students and employees), please continue to follow relevant self-reporting processes.

We cannot become complacent about this during the holidays and must continue to ensure that we are aware of any cases and any risks to our campus. As we have said before, if data, including metrics like multiple clusters, indicates we should change plans and move instruction to an online-only environment, or make other operational or academic adjustments for the Spring, we will do so without hesitation and communicate our plans quickly.

For the most up-to-date information, please monitor your email frequently, regularly visit the UNCG COVID-19 website, follow our @uncg social media channels, and download the UNCG Mobile app from the Google or iTunes app store to receive push notifications directly to your phone.
Nursing and Instructional Building to open in January

UNC Greensboro’s Nursing and Instructional Building (NIB) will open in January 2021.

Located on the former site of the McIver Building, the new building will provide classroom and lab space for the School of Nursing, School of Health and Human Sciences, Department of Biology, and Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The facility will include 39 labs, 14 classrooms, nine research suites, and a community engagement center.

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. and Board of Trustees Chair Betsy Oakley toured the NIB on Friday, Dec. 11. Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Sameer Kapileshwari led the tour and described the features of the new 180,000-square-foot facility.

Read more about the NIB in UNCG Magazine.

See photos from the tour below.
2020 reflections from across campus
As an eventful and tumultuous year comes to a close, UNC Greensboro faculty, staff, students, and alumni share their reflections on the difficult year – including what has inspired them – and their hopes for 2021 and beyond.

Yubisela Aranda Sandoval ’17

Yubisela Aranda Sandoval ’17
Assistant director of alumni engagement
Office of Alumni Engagement

There hasn’t been anything easy about 2020. Like millions of others, I began working from home in March and taking care of my infant daughter full-time. It took a while to get a routine going and get back into the groove of a somewhat normal life. It’s been almost a year now, and I still struggle with keeping boundaries between my home and work lives. I miss seeing my family and friends, our celebrations, our random get-togethers, our hugs, our kisses on the cheek. Some weeks are better than others, but one thing that has kept me moving forward is knowing that this won’t last forever. I also realized that to get through this, I needed to give myself grace and take care of my mental health.

Early on, I knew exercise was going to help me get through these tough times. I decided to begin practicing yoga twice a week, but soon I discovered that to keep my momentum going I needed a bigger goal. In late spring, I began training for a half-marathon. The training was tough, but along the way it gave me the clarity to see beyond the fog, to appreciate time with my child and husband, to grow spiritually, personally, and professionally, to recognize my privileges, and be grateful for our health, food, home, jobs, colleagues, friends, and family.

It’s going to be difficult spending this holiday season away from our loved ones. But let’s look beyond this short time frame and work together to keep each other safe and healthy. Making this short-term sacrifice is the biggest gift we can give one another. To all my fellow moms: Take care of your soul and your mental health. Know that you are doing an amazing job and give yourself all the grace and love you deserve!

¡Un abrazo fuerte!
Kiara Porter
Director of business operations
Spartan Athletics

This year has been full of uncertainty, especially working in Athletics, but sometimes a pause is what is needed to get recharged and revamped for the next phase in life. I took advantage of the COVID-19 shutdown and pursued some professional development opportunities that I don’t believe I would have if not for this pandemic. I helped launch a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee for our department, as well as applied for a Women Leaders in College Sports membership scholarship and a mentorship program. All three of these accomplishments are near and dear to my heart, and I’m grateful that I pursued them when I did. With every negative thing that’s going in on the world currently, we have to take the time to celebrate the small victories when we can, and I’m hopeful that we will come out stronger in the end because of this.
Dr. Randy Penfield
Dean and professor
School of Education

As I reflect on the past year, I am drawn to how the power of compassion guides individuals, organizations, and communities to collectively address our greatest challenges. We have been faced with enormous hurdles – literally life and death, freedom and oppression – and it has been inspiring to witness the principles of compassion swell to the surface: listening to understand, caring, and acting to help others. I have seen these principles in action within the School of Education, across the UNCG campus, and in our schools and communities, and I am hard-pressed to recall a situation where a compassionate approach didn’t lead us in a positive direction. Compassion works. In the coming years, I hope we remember this. I know that I will.
2020 has been a difficult year for all performing arts professionals and arts organizations. But they don’t call us “creatives” for nothing. After all of my performance gigs were cancelled for 2020, I had to pivot to keep working. This led to new opportunities with voiceover work and at-home singing jobs. I have also used the downtime to polish my promotional materials and work on other projects that had been on the back burner. It has also been great fun to be able to spend more time with my husband and daughter, since we are all working and doing kindergarten from home. I look forward to 2021 being a better year for the entire world. I am especially hopeful that live, in-person music and arts performances will be able to resume in earnest next year. We all need it.
While school looked a little different this past semester, the love I have received from the UNCG community was more than I could ever imagine. While COVID-19 held the UNCG community back from direct interactions, the love for our school and each other continued to shine brightly.

This semester has handed us many challenges. However, I am so proud of my peers for trying their best, and for pushing through. While it is important to learn from mistakes, it is also important to celebrate your accomplishments. It was truly amazing to see my friends and classmates achieve so much success, despite the unique trials we faced. Because of the support and love I received from my sisters in Chi Omega, and being elected UNCG’s Homecoming Royalty, I can easily say that this was one of my favorite semesters at the G. Thank you to everyone who lent a helping hand to someone this semester. Next semester, let’s all push hard to be our best, create new virtual memories, and keep our heads high with Spartan pride! As UNCG’s Homecoming Royalty, I say, “I believe in you, Spartans!” As Grace Murdoch, I say, “Do the dang thing!”
This year we confronted several big challenges, yet there remains much to be thankful for. Throughout the pandemic, our students, faculty, staff, vendors, and visitors have remained vigilant and heeded all the recommendations put forth by public health and our campus. I couldn’t be prouder of our constituents and our leadership team throughout this process. While addressing the details of enhanced cleaning, adherence to ventilation standards, procurement, and distribution of protective equipment, testing, etc., the campus community continued to model the “shared fate” concept that our Chancellor so often talks about, thus creating the sense of community and belonging. With regular and frequent communications through our daily and weekly meetings and town hall sessions, we remained open and transparent with each other and our community, further building the trust. These have been some of the reasons for us remaining open and successfully completing this rather difficult year.

It is important that we recognize everyone’s contribution and acknowledge that we are all in this together and all have a role to play. Everybody has worked extremely hard, and I hope everyone can take a well-deserved break during the upcoming holidays. We need everybody to be rested, refreshed, and back to tackle the next year again together. It has been inspiring to see how resilient people have been and the creative lengths they have gone to for our Spartan community.
This summer 2020 I began my directorship of the Program in African American and African Diaspora Studies. From our faculty, staff, and students’ remote locations in North Carolina, we have reconsidered the central impact of public health policy on the mental, physical, and emotional wellness of African Americans, African Diasporic peoples, and other marginalized communities of color, especially women and children. I see clearly a continued, transformed role for AADS as it advocates for these individuals and the collective. The pandemic, occurring in a continued cycle of violence directed at Black people, has underscored for me the central role of the scholar as a moral leader and advocate. AADS has always advanced interdisciplinary dialogue about the practice of knowledge. In our pandemic year and beyond, AADS scholars must speak to the world. What happens to knowledge? How is it used, and why? These vital concerns inform the public-facing role of AADS scholars as we advocate for conscientious leadership, become those leaders, and advance the value of higher education in our communities.
Matthew Russ

Matthew Russ
Tate Street Coffee owner

The news was not good and getting worse. For lack of information, we closed on that Monday in March. The state would follow suit by the end of the week. After months of anxious inactivity, welcomed empowerment came from refitting the store for the safety of the staff and community. I cut and stained wood, and as I assembled the acrylic panels, I looked forward to the day that I could take it all down, for Tate Street Coffee has always been about busting boundaries. In our 27 years, we have survived floods, fires, and recessions, and now a pandemic, but we will weather this too.
The semester has ended and, oh, what a semester it has been! As I reflect on this time as a new faculty member at UNCG, I find myself filled with gratitude. Although navigating this new position during such a tumultuous and uncertain time (hello, pandemic + societal reawakening to the realities of racism!) has not been easy, I am thankful. I am thankful for life and the opportunity to be among caring colleagues. I am grateful to have witnessed students’ perseverance and astounding coping as they moved forward with their educational goals. I am also grateful for personal growth, in learning my limits as a human being, and extending grace to myself and others. As I look onto 2021, I hold onto hope for brighter days filled with the necessary work for racial equity and justice, the energy needed for high COVID-19 vaccination rates, and the drive to challenge the status quo and question our constructs of normalcy. Onward we must go.
Shammond “Kel” Holden

2020 Homecoming Royalty winner

2020 is the year that could’ve broken me.

At the beginning, the pandemic incited abrupt changes. I had no job, no money. My mental health was deteriorating back home. Relationships that I thought were developing had been strained and were changing right in front of me. I had nothing to look forward to. Academics persisted, demanding more than ever, while race wars were brewing right outside. I had no escape. I struggled for months on end, trying to preserve what little remained of me.

The tides turned in August. I returned to campus, cultivated a space that rejuvenated me, began working two jobs, and created new relationships. I pushed myself to succeed academically and to step out of my comfort zone, running for a position on the 2020 Homecoming Royal Court. At times, I exerted myself in an attempt to restore all that had been taken, so making it through was no small feat. Now, I sit back and reflect on all that I’ve been able to accomplish despite the hardships.

2020 is the year that could’ve broken me, but I came out stronger.
Perhaps I have the right stuff to be an astronaut? Confined by space, with only one other, interacting via long-range communications for extended periods of time and making it work. 2020 has been an unwelcome test of our ability to adapt. Yet, challenge and change in our daily lives provide an opportunity to rethink how we live, what is important, and why things matter. I take the long view of 2020 as a year to test our ability to prioritize, grow, and retain the perspective of how good we have it most of the time, how bad it can be sometimes, and not let the little things keep us down. Just as those who lived through the Great Depression and world war, I hope lessons learned in tragedy build a better future. Decades from now we will tell tales of 2020 to those who didn’t live through it so that they might appreciate how small many problems are and our capacity to overcome them. It is the way.

And our reflections roundup would not be complete without hearing from the perspective of a couple of our fuzzy Spartan friends.
G’Kar
Member of the Maki family

2020 is the best. My humans are here all the time. I get to go outside and inside as much as I want. They will cuddle, feed, walk, and brush me on demand. The only improvement would be less time talking at the big box with all the other human faces in small boxes for hours every day.

Ahsoka
Member of the Maki family

2020 is the worst. My humans are here all the time. They are always watching me and telling me not to chew this or bark at that. I can’t get away with anything! Also, I miss going to the dog shows and showing those ladies who is best. It’s like I’m trapped in a prison with two guards watching my every move. Help!

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, Susan Kirby-Smith, and Matthew Bryant, University Communications

Honoring Robin Remsburg
Last week, UNC Greensboro lost a beloved community member and esteemed leader of the School of Nursing, Dr. Robin Remsburg. Many in the school had a personal connection with Remsburg and were inspired by her supportive nature, skillful leadership, dedication to nursing education, and her impressive accomplishments.

Remsburg earned her MSN from UNCG in 1982, after completing her bachelor’s of science in nursing degree at UNC Chapel Hill. Her areas of expertise were geriatrics and gerontology, long-term care, national surveys, and nursing education. She received her PhD from the University of Maryland and for 10 years held the gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist certification.

Before returning to UNCG, Remsburg held academic positions at the Eastern Kentucky University School of Nursing, the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and School of Medicine, and the School of Nursing at George Mason University, where she was associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services. She was a past president of the National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA), a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the National Gerontological Nursing Association, and the Gerontological Society of America. She maintained an active presence in national initiatives to improve the care and well-being
of older adults, such as the Advancing Excellence in Long-term Care Collaborative and the Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes Campaign.

Remsburg became dean of the School of Nursing at UNCG in July 2013 and was the first alumna to serve in this role. As dean, she grew the program, increasing enrollment and implementing the Post-BSN and Post-MSN Doctor of Nursing Practice program, expanding the RN/BSN program, and developing an accelerated Veterans Access Program for medically trained veterans to obtain their BSN degrees.

She also facilitated enhancements in the pre-license undergraduate curriculum and brought in new technology to support simulation and student learning experiences. She developed a new strategic plan that included strong initiatives and programs, and supported the nursing faculty in very visible, tangible ways. Remsburg helped to plan the Union Square Campus and the new Nursing and Instructional Building, the new home of the school, which will be open to students this coming spring.

She established three different gifts at UNCG: the Clinton William and Shirley Talbott Remsburg Endowed Scholarship in Nursing Fund in honor of her parents; the Deans’ Terrace Fund, to support the construction of a space in the Nursing and Instructional Building; and the Dean Robin E. Remsburg Nursing Habit of Excellence Award Fund, to recognize faculty members for their exceptional performance and contributions to the school, University, and profession.

Remsburg’s dedication to the UNCG School of Nursing was known by thousands of alumni, faculty, and community members. UNCG Magazine readers may remember a 2017 interview with Remsburg, and her words that – today, amid the COVID-19 pandemic – are more relevant than ever:

“I think we will produce the next generation of healthy nurses - who will take care of themselves and be role models for their patients and community. Across the nation there is great need to produce healthy professional caregivers. We will produce lifelong learners. We’ll produce nurses who are change agents and who will embrace change. We will capitalize on new technologies. And we’ll continue to be innovative and futuristic. Just as Dean Lewis envisioned 50 years ago that baccalaureate education would be the foundation for nursing in the future, we believe the DNP will be the foundation for advanced practice for the future. We are the first in the state to launch the baccalaureate to DNP program. You’ll see us continue to launch new and innovative programs to meet the future needs of nursing and our health systems.”
Several UNCG faculty and alumni have shared their thoughts about Remsburg below:

“Dean Remsburg was a visionary thinker. She did not get bogged down with obstacles, but instead sought innovative ways to accomplish the goal. Her vision and leadership are especially evident in the School of Nursing mission and operating principles, the Nursing and Instructional Building, and our Doctor of Nursing Practice program. She was always looking for ways for Spartan nurses to make a positive impact on health, in North Carolina and beyond.”

— Dr. Lynne Lewallen, associate dean for academic affairs in the UNCG School of Nursing

“Nursing and UNCG School of Nursing has lost a valued ally and advocate for the profession. Dr. Robin Remsburg has been my colleague and friend since 1985 when I first joined the faculty at UNCG. Robin was a young faculty member just beginning her career and she taught at the School of Nursing for two years. In those early days, Robin was active on campus and in nursing organizations such as Sigma Theta Tau International (the nursing honor society). She organized School of Nursing teams to walk for the March of Dimes and talked many of us into walking ten miles for the cause. Then, she moved to the University of Maryland to begin doctoral studies. Subsequently, she completed her studies, developed a research program in gerontology and geriatric nursing and contributed to nursing in many
ways. She has accomplished a great deal for the School of Nursing, especially the Union Square Campus and the new Nursing and Instructional Building. I will miss my good friend.”

— Dr. Patricia Chamings, professor emerita, dean of the School of Nursing from 1985-1990, and UNC Greensboro Foundation Board member

“Robin Remsburg had the characteristics that most people think of when they think of what makes a really good nurse. She was smart, caring, innovative, curious, compassionate, inquisitive and an advocate for her patients and nursing. Add in some humor and strong leadership, that was Dean Remsburg. She exhibited these characteristics at the highest level here at UNC Greensboro to help guide our School of Nursing over the past seven years. We are extremely grateful to have had her guidance and collaboration that have made our school stronger and prepared to move forward. She was more than just a really good nurse, she was exceptional. Her life lives on in the impact she made on others and this university.”

— Jana Welch Wagenseller ’76, chair of the School of Nursing Advisory Board, member of the UNC Greensboro Foundation Board, and past president of the UNCG Alumni Association Board of Directors
“Robin Remsburg was an optimist and a scholar and was passionate about the profession and discipline of nursing. She cared deeply for the students, staff, and faculty, and was visionary in the goals she formulated for the school. Through her leadership, faculty, staff, and students are thinking and working together for the culture of our school to construct an even ‘more excellent’ UNCG School of Nursing.”

— Dr. Heidi Krowchuk, interim dean of the UNCG School of Nursing

“Her legacy will live on in our outstanding, highly rated programs; in the thousands of nurses who graduated during her tenure; and in future generations who will study here with a world-class faculty and a state-of-the-art facility. The thing that stands out in my mind about Robin, perhaps even more than her many academic and administrative accomplishments, is that she truly loved this University, and she will be deeply missed by all of us in the Spartan community.”

— Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., in his message to the University
Remsburg with Chancellor Gilliam

Those who would like to honor Remsburg with a memorial to UNCG’s School of Nursing endowment fund may do so online at giveto.uncg.edu or by mail, Attention: Kathy Bush, UNC Greensboro, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402). No service is planned at this time.

Story by Susan Kirby-Smith, University Communications
Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications

Pandemic designs: revitalizing small towns
Public spaces are vastly important for public life.

Even if there is no interaction between strangers, having areas in towns and cities where people can see each other is crucial for healthy communities.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic changed what spaces we can occupy and how we can behave within them. Restaurants and other indoor entertainment areas must adhere to strict capacity limits. Even outdoor spaces require much more distance between people.

But public spaces are still important.

UNC Greensboro interior architecture [IARc](http://IARc) students working as Main Street Fellows with Associate Professor Travis Hicks have kept pandemic safety front-of-mind this semester as they have worked on new design projects.

Through the Main Street Program, a national program that assists in downtown revitalizations, their designs will crop up in public spaces around North Carolina in the next year. Hicks, who is the director of the Center for Community-Engaged Design, has facilitated this connection with UNCG for five years with Professor Emerita Jo Ramsay.
Leimenstoll, guiding students in providing a real-world service as they use the skills they’re learning in their coursework.

In the past, much of the work for the Main Street Program has consisted of façade enhancements and second story renovations, but this year the conversations began to revolve around how public spaces can be converted for COVID-19 safety.

When Hicks and his students sent out a request for projects related to pandemic safety, the number doubled almost overnight.

“A lot of small towns are really hungry for assistance to figure out what to do with their public spaces – alleyways, empty lots, pocket parks – to help the businesses in those towns stay afloat,” said Hicks.

The projects are meant to consider outdoor seating and dining, sheltered outdoor spaces that maintain social distancing and have other features that promote public health safety. The projects have required more interaction with city officials than the typical projects, in considering public health standards and precautions, so Hicks and the student designers have held Zoom discussions with town managers, town engineers, and the Main Street managers from various towns, as well as arts council leaders and historic commission board leaders.
An alleyway in Albermarle, N.C. that the city submitted to receive a design proposal from UNCG.

“In terms of COVID, the biggest thing that I’ve found is making sure we make it possible for people to stay six feet apart,” said Katherine Perez Nunez, a fourth-year student who has created a design for an alleyway space in Morganton, N.C. “And then another important thing was the materials that we use in the space. Even though this is an outdoor space, we still need to think about how the materials can be cleaned.”

Her designs include zones so that different groups can remain separated by enough distance, and handwashing stations.

“We want multiple stations available in a space, and for people coming from different zones to be able to reach them quickly,” she explained.

Recent graduate Bianca Jenkins worked on a design for the town of Albemarle, N.C.

“With everything, I’ve been trying to make sure that it was flexible, and it can be easily manipulated, in case they want to use a space for a small concert one night and dining the next,” said Jenkins. “The way I incorporate lighting and tables, and things like murals and planters and privacy fences, I make them adaptable. And then another big thing was to just create that sense of normalcy, because we’re trying to incorporate a different way of life. So, we’re trying to have it safe, but also still be ‘normal’ for them to be able to come in and enjoy dinner there. And making sure that all of the space is utilized well is really important when you’re designing for COVID.”
A design for the Albermarle alleyway created by 2020 UNCG graduate in interior architecture Bianca Jenkins

Albermarle, N.C., alleyway design, created by Bianca Jenkins ‘20
The designs allow the towns to address several issues at once: COVID-19 safety, beautification, and revitalization for spaces that have been dormant or in disrepair. Along with design principles, regular safety codes, and accessibility guidelines, the students have also demonstrated the connections between design and public health. And, as always, they are designing for the psychological health of communities.

“In this era, when we’re all in our own homes most of the time, these outdoor spaces are really important,” said Hicks. “Having the ability to go outside and reconnect with the community, even if you aren’t closer than six feet to anybody - I think it’s really good for our psychological and emotional health. So, these outdoor spaces are going to be really important to towns in the same way that we might have thought of indoor spaces in the past.”
UNC Greensboro’s May, August, and December 2020 classes were honored together as part of the University’s Virtual Commencement ceremony on Friday, Dec. 11.

Thousands of Spartans gathered around their screens – in North Carolina, across the country, and beyond – to celebrate their academic achievements, hear from campus leaders, alumni, and some celebrity guests, and virtually turn their tassels.

The Class of 2020 is the largest class to graduate from UNCG. The University awarded 2,809 degrees and 15 Beyond Academics certificates in May. An additional 678 degrees were awarded in August. UNCG awarded approximately 1,451 degrees in December, including 1,111 bachelor’s degrees, 286 master’s degrees, 49 doctoral degrees, and five specialist in education degrees.

Friday’s ceremony included a welcome from UNCG alumna and Saturday Night Live cast member Lauren Holt ’13, remarks from Chancellor Gilliam and student speakers, messages from honorary degree recipients Emmylou Harris and Rhiannon Giddens, and celebrity shoutouts from rapper Snoop Dogg, sports broadcaster Erin Andrews, actor Kate Flannery, and comedian and TV personality Steve Harvey.

Additionally, as part of the online celebration, UNCG created nearly 4,900 individual
graduate web pages for Spartans to share with their friends and family. The Commencement website also included student profiles, Commencement programs, and messages from deans, faculty, and alumni.

From Monday, Dec. 7, through Sunday, Dec. 13, more than 15,000 users visited the Commencement website. Nearly 10,000 watched the Commencement ceremony video.

Watch the full Virtual Commencement ceremony video, and see more Commencement-related content, at commencement.uncg.edu.

Check out some of the video highlights below.

**End of semester COVID-19 clinics for employees and students**

*This post was updated December 16, 2020.*

Due to the winter weather advisory, the COVID testing for this week has been revised as below:

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 12 – 5 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](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.
- 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 winter 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 next week. All students have received direct communication about these opportunities.
This year’s ‘Toys for Joy’ parade a success

On December 8, the Chancellor and Mrs. Gilliam, along with UNC Greensboro Board of Trustees Chair Betsy Oakley, Trustees Mae Douglas and David Sprinkle, Provost Jim Coleman, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Beth Fischer, and hundreds of UNCG staff, alumni and community members participated in the third annual Toys for Joy holiday event at Alumni House. The parade-style event was the most successful to date, with some 500 toys generously donated to children connected with the YWCA and Salvation Army of Greensboro.
Photography by Mike Micciche

Rob Knox

Rob Knox (Athletics) is featured in two recent podcasts:

“Monumental Sports Crucial Conversations on Education”
https://www.monumentalsportsnetwork.com/pepsi

“CoSIDA Through My Lens”
Dr. Christine Murray

Dr. Christine Murray (Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships) received new funding from the Justice Research and Statistics Association for the project “Identifying High-Risk, Underserved Victim Populations in Cleveland County, NC, Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Geographic Analyses.” This project is supported by funds from the DOJ Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to the International Association of Chiefs of Police to support law enforcement-based victim services. Dr. Rick Bunch is co-principal investigator on the project.

This project involves a partnership between the Cleveland County Sheriff Office (CCSO; the LEV grantee) and interdisciplinary researchers at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). The purpose of this project is to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geographic analyses to identify underserved populations by examining gaps between the victims served by the CCSO Victim Services Program and the population of violent crime victims in the general population of Cleveland County. The focus will be on all violent crimes reported in Cleveland County through 9-1-1 calls and law enforcement incident reports during the 2020 calendar year, which was the first year of operation of the CCSO Victim Services Program.

Dr. Rosemery Gray
Dr. Rosemery Gray (Psychology) received new funding from Guilford County Schools for the project “Guilford County Board of education Agreement for Administrator Training.” Dr. Susan Keane is co-principal investigator on the project.

This funding will support a contract between Guilford County Schools and UNCG. The purpose is for the UNCG Psychology Clinic to provide psychological services to students and their families of Newcomers School. The sites of such services are Newcomers School and the UNCG Psychology Clinic. The service providers are doctoral students in the UNCG clinical psychology doctoral program, supervised by faculty who are licensed psychologists.

**Dr. Emily Stamey**

Dr. Emily Stamey (Weatherspoon Art Museum) received new funding from the Art Bridges Foundation for the project “Weatherspoon Art Museum Bridge Ahead Initiative – Phase 2 – Reopening.”

Funding from the Art Bridges Bridge Ahead Initiative will support the Weatherspoon Art Museum reopening after its COVID-19 closure. Funds will largely be used for protective equipment, social-distancing signage, outdoor seating, and virtual tour technology.

**Newsmakers: Ashlyn Brady, Susan and Perry Safran, UNCG tuition, Dr. Shaylene Nancekivell**

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:

- Ashlyn Brady was quoted in Forbes magazine about the importance of gratitude. [The feature.](#)
- The News and Record published an article on Susan and Perry Safrans’ $1 million gift to UNC Greensboro for a new merit scholarship fund. [The article.](#)
• The News and Record highlighted UNCG’s plans to keep tuition right where it is again. [The article.]
• Dr. Shaylene Nancekivell’s survey on how people think about learning styles was mentioned in Discover Magazine feature. [The article.]