Welcome to Campus Weekly

Spring COVID-19 testing opportunities and vaccination update

The following University message was sent out to all faculty and staff on Jan. 4, 2021.

Though approval and ongoing distribution of multiple COVID-19 vaccines is encouraging, we need to remain vigilant and cautious as we approach the Spring 2021 semester. Our COVID-19 related processes and protocols for spring will remain largely the same as they were this fall.

**Self-Reporting**

Employees and students should use the self-report portal to notify the University that you have COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. University staff will continue to conduct contact tracing, working closely with public health officials.
Quarantine and Isolation Protocols
As communicated prior to the break, Guilford County and NC DHHS have not authorized us to adopt changes to the quarantine and isolation periods. Quarantine remains 14 days and isolation remains a minimum of 10 days from first symptoms or a positive test (if asymptomatic).

Testing
We are fortunate to be able to continue to offer free testing for our students and employees. Please note that testing is for UNCG employees and students ONLY. We can not provide testing for family members at this time. Family members of our employees and others in the community should continue to seek other testing services and resources. Employees and non-residential students will have several opportunities for testing over the next two weeks.

When:
Wednesday, Jan. 13 and Thursday, Jan. 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: EUC Dail Room
Who: The UNCG 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.

Pre-register:
In order to ensure the most efficient process, we strongly recommend you pre-register on Tuesday or Wednesday before arriving. You may be asked to step out of line to register if you have not done so in advance. Note: due to technical limitations, pre-registrations on Monday may not be accessible in the system by Wednesday; please pre-register beginning on Tuesday.

- 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”.

Additional important details:
- Participation is completely voluntary.
- The testing is conducted by an outside vendor, StarMed.
- 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 or student 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.

Re-entry Testing
Residential students received notice prior to the break that re-entry testing is required (with a few exceptions) and will be available on campus Jan. 6-14. This is a separate testing effort from that detailed above.

Vaccination Update
We are in close communication with our local public health officials regarding distribution of the vaccine to employees and students. We are awaiting further guidance, working with county officials, and will share any updates we receive as soon as possible.

Individuals who may be in the groups identified by the state for the initial wave (Phase 1A) of vaccination have been or will be directly contacted by North Carolina state health officials. Please continue checking the UNCG COVID-19 website for the latest updates.

Teleworking
Employees should continue to work with their supervisors regarding work schedules and teleworking.

Course Delivery
The distribution of face-to-face, hybrid, and online courses remains much the same this spring as it was this fall. Though we had no evidence of transmission of the virus in a classroom setting, out of caution and to decrease the numbers of students in quarantine, we have reconfigured a number of classrooms to allow for increased distance this semester. Should we receive additional guidance from public health or system officials regarding concerns about holding face-to-face classes, we will let you know immediately.

Shield Our Spartans
Please stay diligent. Wearing a face covering, washing your hands frequently, and waiting 6 feet or more from others continue to be the best way to avoid becoming ill or spreading the virus.

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.

Thank you.

**UNCG establishes new general education curriculum and faculty fellow**

This fall, UNCG will take a bold step in advancing the personal and academic development of our students through the implementation of a new General Education program, called Minerva’s Academic Curriculum. The main goal of the new curriculum is to provide students with foundations and alternative perspectives for the more specialized knowledge gained in their majors, while ensuring that learning in the major builds upon and extends the work done in General Education courses.
A MAC Implementation Committee led by co-chairs Dr. Andrew Hamilton, vice provost for student success and dean of undergraduate studies, and Dr. Joi W. Bulls, AP associate professor in the School of Health & Human Sciences, will work to implement the new curriculum over a phased, four-year plan.

To assist in this process, Bulls has taken on the inaugural role of a new MAC Faculty Fellow in the office of the dean of undergraduate studies. She will act as the key contact and liaison between deans, faculty, and the Implementation Committee, and will work to advise on the process of incorporating new and existing courses into the new curriculum.

The new MAC curriculum conceptualizes a framework structured around competency achievement and includes “areas of knowledge.” Through MAC coursework, undergraduate students will engage in learning experiences to achieve 11 competencies across an equal number of courses, totaling 33-34 semester hours. Two of those competencies are new: health and wellness, and a foundations course aimed at helping new students transition to university life.

There are numerous motivations for the General Education revamp, including the need to streamline and clarify the GE requirements and unit hours to make it easier for students to navigate their progression. MAC will also focus on having students complete their GE requirements as early as possible, mostly during their lower-level courses. The knowledge and skills these courses provide will benefit them more if they encounter them at an earlier stage in their academic trajectories, helping to ensure their success later on as they progress through their majors, and will undoubtedly help with student retention as well.

“We have a lot of first-generation students, and many of them don’t know what they don’t know. They may think they don’t need a foundation’s course, but in fact, most do,” says Bulls.

Other needs for the new MAC include standardizing the total number of GE units required, and streamlining the student grade appeal process.

“We’re excited about the MAC because General Education is the beating heart of college-level learning, and this curriculum does a lot for students, including giving them a lot of freedom in choosing what topics and subjects to focus on as they develop and demonstrate core academic competencies. They will get to choose their own adventures in ways not possible in the current curriculum,” says Dr. Hamilton.

As the new MAC Faculty Fellow, Bulls will work with deans to make sure their curricula sync up with MAC, will help align course requirements with students transferring in from NC community colleges, and will work with departments to align their bachelor degree
plans with the new General Education program. She will coordinate her work as Fellow with the Faculty Senate, so that progress on the new GE curriculum is transparent and communicated to faculty.

The Fellow will also work to encourage coordination and faculty development related to MAC through UNCG’s various multiliteracy centers, which include The Writing Center, The University Speaking Center, and The Digital ACT Studio, infusing work from those respective efforts within the new GE curriculum.

Bulls notes that many people from across campus have contributed to the development of the new MAC program. “Many representatives from departments across campus and undergraduate studies really took the time this last spring, summer, and fall to develop some great courses and they were really working hard with us. So I feel it’s important to thank them.” Hamilton agrees, “We are very grateful to our faculty partners for the work they did on MAC while managing their other duties in the disrupted Spring and Fall 2020 terms.”

The current stage of the MAC implementation focuses on the coordination of existing courses into the new curriculum. The Implementation Committee has set a deadline of February 1, 2020, to submit proposals for courses that are to be included in MAC.

But perhaps most importantly at this time, Bulls wants faculty and departments to know that they do not have to figure this all out on their own.

“There is help. They don’t have to do it alone,” Bulls says. “That’s what we’re here for, to help with any questions or concerns they have about the process or developing appropriate courses for MAC. So we have a portal and the General Education Council is a part of our team. If some departments are feeling overwhelmed by this process, call me, even if they just want to talk it out.”

Dr. Bulls can be reached at jwbulls@uncg.edu, or 336.303.0433.

For more information including the four-year phased plan, see the MAC website at https://success.uncg.edu/undergraduate-studies/minervas-academic-curriculum/

**School of Music ranked No. 1 in ’20 Best Colleges for Music 2020’**

UNC Greensboro’s School of Music was recently ranked no. 1 in the “20 Best Colleges for Music 2020” by the Best Value Schools website.
To determine the rankings, the website uses key data factors and statistics provided by the National Center for Education Statistics. The list compares and ranks the top 20 colleges in music in the U.S., and provides a guide to each ranked program.

View the rankings [here](#).

**UNCG launches provost search**

The search committee for the next provost and executive vice chancellor has been selected and will commence its work immediately. It will be working with the search firm Isaascson, Miller, which will help lead the process. Look for a future Campus Weekly piece about the best ways the campus community can provide input. The committee includes:

- **Greg Bell**, Associate Dean, Graduate School and Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences (search committee chair)
- **Ayesha Boyce**, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Research and Methodology, School of Education
- **Tim Bucknall**, Assistant Dean, Electronic Resources and Information Technology, University Libraries
- **Nadja Cech**, Patricia A. Sullivan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Duane Cyrus**, Professor, School of Dance, College of Visual and Performing Arts
- **Sarah Daynes**, Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences and Faculty Senate Chair-Elect
- **Randy Elder**, Professor and Chair, Department of Accounting & Finance, Bryan School of Business and Economics
- **Nicole Hall**, Director, Career and Professional Development, Division of Student Affairs
- **Austin Moore**, Student Government Association President, Political Science ’21
- **Tina McEntire**, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
- **Tracy Nichols**, Professor, Department of Public Health Education, School of Health and Human Sciences
- **Randall Penfied**, Dean, School of Education
- **Naglaa Rashwan**, Graduate Student Association President, MPH ’21 in Community Health Education
- **Ratchneewan Ross**, Cone Health Distinguished Professor, Department of Family and Community Nursing, School of Nursing
- **Waiyi Tse**, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor
Chris Jasso selected as new assistant chief of UNCG Police

UNC Greensboro today announced that Chris Jasso has been selected as the University’s new Assistant Chief of Police, succeeding Major Richard Bailey who recently retired.

Major Jasso has been serving as the interim Assistant Chief of Police since September 1, 2020, where he quickly adjusted to budget reductions, personnel shortages, and operating in a global pandemic.

When notified of the promotion by Chief of Police Paul Lester, Jasso expressed his excitement to lead a team of talented professionals who share a commitment to safety, service, and community. Jasso said, “We must continue to foster trust and strengthen the relationships with all members of our campus community. Ensuring that our department is creating and supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion in our daily operations is of utmost importance. We have to build on what we’ve accomplished and continue building a close, trusting, transparent relationship between citizens and police where we work together to protect our community.”

“Major Jasso’s direct experience with and knowledge of the UNCG Police Department makes him the most qualified candidate for the Assistant Chief of Police position,” said Chief Lester. “He has the credentials, education, and years of progressive responsibility in a
Major Jasso has a deep understanding of the University’s mission, and the role that our department plays in achieving institutional goals.”

Since July 2007, Assistant Chief Jasso has served in nearly every position in the department including Police Officer, Telecommunicator, Detective, Professional Standards Commander, and most recently Field Operations Commander.

Jasso holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Mount Olive College, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University, and a Graduate Certificate in Security Studies from East Carolina University. He has also received extensive law enforcement training and has been selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

UNCG announces new ITS Chief Information Security Officer

This week, UNC Greenboro welcomes Dr. Casey Forrest as the new ITS Chief Information Security Officer. Casey has more than 19 years of technology experience within the UNC System, which have included management roles in Client Support Services, Systems Administration, Enterprise Resource Planning, and Information Security.

Prior to UNCG, he served in various IT capacities at UNC School of the Arts, and most recently, as the Information Security Manager at Winston-Salem State University. Casey has held membership in a number of UNC System working groups and community organizations, such as UNC Shared Enterprise Application Services Committee, UNC Information Security Council, UNC Financial Systems Conference Board, and NCSECU Advisory Board.

In addition, he has taught several courses in Business and Management Information Systems as an adjunct faculty member at Salem College. A native of Mount Airy, N.C., Casey earned his bachelor’s degree in Management Information Systems and a master’s degree in Business Administration from Winston-Salem State University. He received his Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from North Carolina A&T State University.

UNCG grad finds national, international success with photography
Alycee Byrd ’19

For most photographers, publishing work in the New York Times and the Washington Post would represent the pinnacle of success.

But for UNC Greensboro alumna Alycee Byrd ’19, it’s just the beginning.

In recent months, Byrd’s photography has been featured in a variety of national and international publications. It started in the summer, when Men’s Health reached out to her to photograph an activist in Charlotte who was being featured in a story on prominent 20-somethings.

Then came an assignment for the Washington Post for an article on Black voters. The New York Times reached out to Byrd in October for a story on Halloween. Byrd has also published in L’Officiel Belgium, Creators Mag, Mordant Magazine, and LUCY’S Magazine this year, and recently worked with Eddie Bauer for its One Outside Program.

“To be in these kinds of publications has been a dream come true. It’s been a blessing for me. It’s something that I never expected to happen, especially so quickly,” she says.
Byrd has been behind the camera since high school. For the first few years, she would often borrow friends’ cameras, first to take photos for her Tumblr page, and later, as she grew as a photographer and artist, to work on conceptual fine art and self-portraits.

She bought her first professional camera at age 17. At UNCG, the marketing major started to focus on fashion photography, shooting the annual UNCG Threads fashion show, an experience that allowed her to make important connections and become part of the artistic community in Greensboro. She organized photo shoots with models, many of them fellow UNCG students, on the weekends.

She also interned with University Communications, the marketing and communications office on campus, for all four years as a student. She started in the photography department, working under photographer Martin W. Kane, and later transitioned to the social media team.

After graduation, she landed a full-time job as a photo editor at Pace Communications, a marketing agency in Greensboro where she still works. But on the weekends, she’s continued to grow her freelance photography business.

In March, she saw everything come to a standstill due to the pandemic. But slowly, the shoots started to return, and her weekends filled back up with work. One big assignment led
to another, and soon her goal of being published in a big-time, national publication was being realized month after month.

The New York Times shoot was one of the most challenging. While much of her work is focused on portraiture and fashion photography, this shoot forced her to flex her photojournalist muscles and tell a story through her photography. Thankfully, she was able to fall back on some of her UNCG training.

“Martin Kane taught me a lot about photojournalism. I don’t think I would have been able to do that shoot without my internship experience.”

She also credits UNCG for helping her develop a strong work ethic, and for offering support and encouragement along the way.

“I was taking classes and working on photography on top of my classwork. The faculty didn’t know I had a side hustle, but they were always really supportive and understanding,” she says. “And my roommates and friends from UNCG have been my number one supporters, even when I had crazy ideas and set up shoots in our suite.”

Byrd is part of Diversify Photo’s #HireBlackPhotographers database, which connects photo editors and art directors to Black photographers across the country and around the world. Being a part of this list, she says, has helped bring visibility to her work.

“When I first started in photography, it was hard to find where I was going to fit as a Black woman,” she says. “It’s been great to see so many Black photographers getting more opportunities. Growing up, I didn’t see as many people like me working in photography and getting national and international recognition. Now, people are looking to us more and actually respecting our work. It’s been really uplifting and has been motivation for me to keep doing what I’m doing.”

She adds, “People are looking more to us to tell our stories. I’m excited that people are recognizing that stories should be told from the perspective of people who understand them, and they’re seeing these stories through our lenses.”
Click here for the online version of the Men’s Health story featuring Byrd’s photography.

So what’s next for Byrd?

Right now, she’s enjoying her work at Pace and the community she’s built in Greensboro. With so much work in North Carolina, she doesn’t feel the need to move to a larger city anytime soon.

Long term, her dream is to open her own photography studio and work full-time as a freelance photographer.

“I’ve always wanted to have my own space dedicated to me creating whatever I want to create,” she says. “I would love to be fully freelance, shooting fashion photography, editorial spreads for magazines, and campaigns for brands. These are things I’ve wanted to do since the beginning. And I would love to make more connections with local creatives. Our area is so lively with creative people.”

Learn more about Byrd and her work at www.alyceebyrd.com.

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications
Photography of Byrd by Martin W. Kane, University Communications
Dr. Omar Ali featured in latest episode of ‘Yes, And Cafe’

In the latest episode of the “Yes, And Cafe” podcast, entitled “Creating New Possibilities”, the hosts welcome 2021 with an episode that offers hope despite the state of a polarized political landscape.

Dr. Omar Ali (Lloyd International Honors College), who typically co-hosts the show, steps over to the other side of the microphone as guest. A historian and scholar of independent politics, Ali has been a long-time community organizer. He shares his insights on the heels of the release of the new edition of his book, “In the Balance of Power: Independent Black Politics and Third Party Movements in the United States.”

“I’m optimistic because I’m seeing cultural changes afoot that are creating new possibilities,” he says.

Matt Bryant (University Communications), who is the producer of the podcast, joins the show as co-host, and offers a story about collaboration between unlikely fellow travelers.

“Just as race was created as a way of dividing and conquering poor people... across American History in order to control labor and power, ideology has been used in the same way to divide people against each other who actually have much in common,” says Ali. “To me, we’ve been bamboozled, hoodwinked, as Malcolm would say, into thinking that there are these great divides between us, when in fact they’re relatively superficial... The more important thing, that is, being a fellow human being, a fellow citizen, these things are much more important than ideological differences.”

You can find the episode at:
UNCG News: https://news.uncg.edu/yes-and-cafe-podcasts/
The podcast is also available on major platforms such as the Apple Podcasts app, Google Podcasts, and Spotify.

Dr. Stephen Sills nominated for Holshouser Award
Dr. Stephen Sills (The Center for Housing and Community Studies) is the 2020 UNC Greensboro nominee for the UNC System’s Holshouser Award.

Sills’ academic research centers around housing, health, and labor – especially pertaining to minorities and immigrants.

As a lead principal investigator, he has been awarded more than 60 external grants and is co-principal investigator on dozens of others.

His work has largely been community-engaged and collaborative, leading to real impact at the individual, neighborhood, institutional, and governmental levels in policy changes and new practices. His numerous Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) studies across North Carolina range from an analysis of community and family resilience in High Point, to a report on fair housing in Surry, Yadkin, Stokes, and Davie Counties, to a study of the quality of life in Southern Appalachia.

Professor of sociology and director of the UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies, Sills has served on the UNCG faculty since 2006. His education impact work goes back further.

“I have been an educator since 1991, teaching at all levels from kindergarten to university,”
he says. “I have taught in rural North Carolina, inner-city Seattle and Detroit, and abroad in Taiwan. I have taught in a variety of institutions such as vocational high schools, English language institutes, community colleges, and traditional university settings. The common thread throughout these experiences has been my commitment to providing students with a comfortable setting in which they may explore concepts and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are applicable to solving current social issues.”

An innovative educator, he has created several experiential and high-impact opportunities for students at UNCG. An example was an International Service-Learning Study Abroad Program titled “Global Servants,” which allowed students to conduct applied research in Taiwan and the Philippines. The students studied global labor migration first-hand while conducting ethnographic work with factory workers and returning migrants.

Sills himself was a UNCG undergraduate in the early 1990s, when he earned his BA in Spanish. He later earned his master’s and PhD in sociology from Arizona State University.

He grew up in a family that was engaged in social justice issues. His father was director of a number of non-profit agencies including Greensboro Urban Ministries and FaithAction International House. His mother was a counselor who worked with at-risk youth. “They both instilled in me a need to serve and to work on addressing issues in our community and to apply my research and methods skills toward making an impact. Now though, my motivation really comes from the people in the organizations and communities with whom I partner. I look for answers to the questions my community partners are asking whether it is by gathering and analyzing data, researching best practices and policies, or demonstrating efficacy of a program or intervention. Most of these research questions are related to exploring root cases of inequality and disparate outcomes.”

Real-world impact is key to his work. For example, the topic of evictions has been a focus in recent years.

“In 2016, I began to research the volume and dynamics of evictions in North Carolina. While other jurisdictions across the country had begun to consider ‘right to counsel’ ordinances in eviction cases, tenants in North Carolina seldom even appeared in court and lacked legal representation when they did appear,” he says. “I conducted interviews with individuals who had been evicted one-year prior, finding that landlords used eviction proceedings as a collections tool, to move out long-term tenants and make way for higher rents, and that many tenants were unable to pay full rent due to high utility bills resulting from the poor conditions of properties. I also found that evictions lead to increased financial burdens for both landlords and tenants and often homelessness of displaced occupants.”

With funding from a UNCG P2 grant, the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, the
United Way of Greater Greensboro, and the Ford Foundation, he began to design a series of interventions to address the high rate of evictions in Greensboro and to reduce the displacement of families to prevent homelessness.

His work, as it provides research opportunities for many current students, is helping many people in our society.

Photography by Martin W. Kane, University Communications

In Memoriam: Larry Taube

Dr. Larry Taube, associate professor in the Information Systems and Supply Chain Management Department, passed away in mid-December.

Larry joined the Bryan School in 1982 and was director of the School’s Undergraduate Program. He helped to create UNCG’s current general education program and more recently served on the committee for the new general education curriculum that will be implemented soon. He also served the UNC System in developing course articulations with community colleges. Larry was an officer and board member of the Wesley-Luther Foundation, which supports Campus Ministries and the Spartan Open Pantry.

Dean of the Bryan School, Dr. McRae Banks, shared the following words about Larry:

“I suspect that those who knew Larry best knew that he was an effective and well loved teacher who always placed students at the center of his efforts in the classroom. He went to great lengths to make sure that his students were prepared for their future careers and regularly taught professional certification courses for them. We are forever grateful for his many contributions to the Bryan School and UNCG.”

In Memoriam: Richard Cox

Professor emeritus Dr. Richard Cox died Dec. 25.

He was professor of music at UNCG from 1960 until his retirement in 2002. Between 1970 and 2011, he wrote three books related to vocal and choral music, which continue to be used as references.

Cox also founded and directed the Bel Canto Company (1982-1987) and for many years guided choral preparation for the Greensboro Opera Company. He received numerous awards over the years, most recently the ArtsGreensboro O. Henry Award (2014), and was inducted into the North Carolina Music Educators Association Hall of Fame the following
year.

One former student wrote, “I am grateful every day to have had a mentor who put the music first – it was never about him—just the music and the singers; who supported equal rights and lived in a way that promoted social justice; and who supported and encouraged all of his students.” Another wrote, “I have had the privilege of knowing some incredible musicians in my lifetime, but I have never known a more consummate musician than Richard Cox. He simply was music and you could not help but be musical in his presence.”

In reflecting upon his life recently, Cox wrote:

“Finally, don’t grieve for me! I’ve had a really wonderful life. I’ve been blessed with an incredibly wonderful wife, who, in addition to taking care of me, has filled our home with beautiful and charming things, including herself. I’ve had intelligent, productive, and loving children who further blessed me with terrific spouses and delightful grandchildren. I’ve spent my life among many of the world’s greatest composers, and I’ve had gifted and responsive students, many of whom went on to distinguished careers. What a life!”

A UNCG scholarship bears his name, the Richard Cox Vocal Arts Scholarship.

**In Memoriam: Shakina Dillard**

Shakina Dillard, human resource and talent management officer in University Advancement, passed away December 31.

Prior to her most recent position, Dillard served UNCG as a benefits specialist for several years, and she also worked at North Carolina A&T State University for more than five years and Guilford Child Development for more than six years as an HR/benefits coordinator.

She is remembered by colleagues as a kind, talented person who was a true HR professional. They appreciated her unique combination of critical thinking and genuine concern for employee engagement.

“She believed in the development of people, getting the right people who believed in the university’s mission and values and keeping them engaged,” shared Robert Saunders, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Advancement Operations. “Our team will miss her delightful presence and excellent work.”
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. Brian Clarida
Dr. Brian Clarida (Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations) received new funding from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools for the project “Assistant Principal Leadership Academy.”

The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to develop participants’ capacities as assistant principals who make vital leadership and managerial contributions to their current schools, and to prepare participants for potential transition into the principalship.

**Dr. Paige Hall Smith**

Dr. Paige Hall Smith (Public Health Education) received new funding from the Governor’s Crime Commission for the project “NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative – 2020.” Dr. Stacy Sechrist is co-principal investigator on the project.

This two-year project continues the collaborative efforts of the Center for Women’s Health and Wellness and the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence to develop a statewide training and technical assistance (TA) program for improving services to LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence.

The researchers’ goal is to advance the knowledge, skills, and resources of Domestic Violence Service Providers (DVSP) staff and personnel, and other allied health professionals throughout N.C. to ensure that LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence receive consistently excellent and culturally relevant assistance wherever they seek help.

The researchers will continue providing ongoing training and technical assistance to their three regional partners: Outerbanks Hotline, LGBTQ Center of Durham, and Helpmate, and their University-based partner, the Campus Violence Response Center at UNCG. They will also support their capacity-building efforts within their respective communities thus ensuring that the knowledge and skills gained through this project is disseminated to other relevant agencies and organizations. The researchers will cultivate a community of practice to improve LGBTQ competency among those who serve them, develop a web-based resource for professionals and survivors, and evaluate the extent to which the program meets our
goal and performance measures.

Dr. Gideon Wasserberg

Dr. Gideon Wasserberg (Biology) received new funding from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for the project “NCDHHS Contract to Survey Tick Distribution in NW NC 2020-2021.”

Based on the past three years’ sampling at the northwestern Piedmont region and western Appalachian foothills, there is a clear north-to-south pattern in Ixodes scapularis numbers and their respective Borrelia burgdorferi (Bbss) infection rates. Also, preliminary results suggest larger numbers and infection rates along the New River compared with eastern reference sites at Alleghany, Surry, and Wilks counties.

For the coming year, researchers will test the “New River invasion corridor hypothesis” which posits that LD spreads faster by dispersing ticks along the New River basin that act as a natural corridor connecting the current southwestern VA hotspot of Pulaski/Wythe/Giles counties with the high LD incidence in northwestern counties of Ashe and Alleghany.

Based on this hypothesis, the researchers predict a more southerly expansion of I. scapularis distribution and Bbss infection along the New River Valley compared with the western Piedmont. Researchers will test this hypothesis using tick flagging in 10 sites: 5 along the New River (two sites in southern Virginia including Pulasky and Carroll counties, and three sites in North Carolina including Alleghany, Ashe, and Watauga counties) and 5 in latitudinally parallel sites in the western Piedmont (two sites in southern Virginia including Franklin and Patrick counties, and three sites in North Carolina including Surry, Alleghany, Wilkes counties).

Sites will be surveyed at least one time between November-January and at least one time between April-June, with at least 5 100m transects per site. Ticks will be collected (stored in 95% ethanol), speciated, and sent to CDC for pathogen testing.
John Weil

John Weil (NC Network for Safe Communities) received new funding from the Governors Crime Commission for the project “Building Capacity to Identify and Serve Victims of Human Trafficking in Underserved Areas of Eastern North Carolina.” Dr. Stacy Sechrist is co-principal investigator on the project.

This project is a continuation of a 2018-2020 GCC-funded project to build capacity of communities to identify and respond to human trafficking (HT) and coordinate anti-trafficking efforts in two rural, traditionally under-resourced regions in Eastern NC: Roanoke Chowan and the Outer Banks.

Within each region, researchers will conduct in-depth, geographic-specific environmental scans of available resources/professionals and perform capacity assessments of agencies’ ability to identify and respond to HT.

Findings from this process will inform about specific capacity-building needs within each region. The project will include training and outreach efforts within each region and ongoing monitoring and performance measurement. Capacity-building will include a position to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts and develop a better coordinated multidisciplinary response to HT victims in each region.

The ultimate goal is to increase victim identification and service provision through two participating direct service provider partners in each region: Roanoke Chowan SAFE and Outer Banks Hotline.

Zachary Smith
Zachary Smithg (Office of Emergency Management) has been recognized as one of the Triad’s “40 Leaders Under 40” awardees.

Smith has provided incredible leadership for our campus during the pandemic. He is well-respected in the larger community and across the state for his leadership and expertise in emergency management, and he continues to serve as a volunteer firefighter in his community even while giving so much of his time to the University.