

## Welcome to Campus Weekly



UNCG



## Flights of fancy and Summer Solstice at the Weatherspoon Art Museum



It's the longest day of the year, and the best evening for artistic fun at UNCG's Weatherspoon Art Museum.

Friday, June 22, 6 to 9 p.m., the museum hosts its [14th annual Summer Solstice celebration](#) in the Sculpture Garden and during the celebration, galleries are open for viewing. Between food, musical entertainment, kids' activities and conversation, Solstice revelers can also experience nearly every medium across three lively exhibitions curated by Elaine D. Gustafson.

"Extreme Measures" puts bold pieces, from WAM's permanent collection into conversation with each other. A wild array of melted plastic chairs, buckets and coat hangers stands in contrast to a somber statue of a 1930's era man listening to a radio "fireside chat" broadcasts by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Among the small-size works in "Extreme Measures" is a box that allows the viewer to peer into a minuscule scene of the interior of a Manhattan studio. Many of the other pieces are large and in charge. Energetic colors and lively patterns surround, and the juxtapositions "give people something to talk about," says Gustafson. It's art that beckons audiences of all types - from kids attending the UNCG Summer Arts and Design camp to seasoned connoisseurs seeking a glimpse of unusual collection items. "Extreme Measures" is open through July 15.

Can't travel this summer or wish to revisit cities you know? Across the hall, "City, Village, Exurbia: Prints and Drawings from the Collection" shows off a variety of European and American landscapes. The fine details of bridges and smokestacks, castles and skyscrapers emerge through diverse illustration styles. From Verona to New York City, go on a summer tour through the artists' eyes. There's even a 1942 sketch of Tate Street, for those who like to stay close to home. "City, Village, Exurbia" is open through August 26.

Lastly, in the first-floor gallery, a video installation, "migration (empire)" by Doug Aitken, gets a little wild. For the video, the artist hosted a variety of indigenous wild animals in a roadside hotel and documented their experience. You may see some ruffled feathers here and there.

In the adjacent gallery, Weatherspoon collection items provide repeat Aitken's motifs and provide reflection on his concept of displacement. Together, the two displays are "Single Channel-Catalyst III," open through September 30.

In addition to the [Summer Solstice Party](#), the Weatherspoon will host an evening event series, Tours & Treats, three times throughout the summer - June 14, July 12 and August 9. The free events include 30-minute guided tours, hands-on activities and cool treats in the Sculpture Garden. Find more information about [Tours & Treats here](#).

The Solstice Party is free and open to the public, and WAM members receive two complimentary drink tickets. Visit the [WAM website](#) for regular visiting hours.

*By Susan Kirby-Smith*

*Photography courtesy of Weatherspoon Art Museum; Visual: Peacocks on a hotel bed; still from Doug Aitken's video "migration (empire)"*

## **UNCG partners with community to improve health in Guilford County**



More than 60 faculty, staff and community stakeholders gathered on campus at the Lifetime Eating and Physical Activity Practices (LEAP) summit May 11. The summit, made possible by a collaboration between UNCG, Cone Health and the Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services, was held to discuss common indicators that existing program providers and residents can use to inform their health and wellness efforts.

“The LEAP summit is an excellent example of community-academic partnerships working together to improve the health and well-being of Guilford County residents,” said Dr. Lauren A. Haldeman, associate chair and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Nutrition.

Multiple nonprofits, city and county departments, and health organizations contribute to LEAP initiatives, including Guilford County Schools, Greensboro Parks and Rec and Ready for School Ready for Life.

Read the full story at [UNCG Now](#).

*By Elizabeth Harrison.*

*Visual: UNCG faculty, including Dr. Emily Janke (pictured), were part of the summit.*

*Photography by Martin Kane.*

## National Healthy Homes Month kick-off



On Friday, June 1, UNCG received national attention as the official kick-off site for The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Healthy Homes Month.

Dr. Stephen Sills (in visual), director of the UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies, organized the Innovations in Planning for Better Community Housing and Health Symposium in conjunction with the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation to share lessons learned, best practices and insights from a variety of thought leaders across the region.

The event drew the attention of HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson, who delivered keynote remarks, as well as local dignitaries, business leaders, including Cone Health CEO Terry Akin, along with city planners, community officials, nonprofit leaders, researchers, students,

advocates and other professionals whose work relates to health and housing.

See the full story in [UNCG Now](#).

*Interested in housing topics? The next Housing Hangout will be held Friday, July 13, noon to 2:00 PM in MHRA Building, Room 1607. The topic will be [THE STATE'S ROLE IN HOUSING POLICY](#). At this Housing Hangout, learn about financial tools that are available for municipalities from state agencies and discuss past and upcoming legislation related to housing.*

*Snacks and refreshments are provided to all attendees. Presentations will begin at 12:15pm, following 15 minutes of networking for attendees.*

## **With Michael Parker, the stories keep coming**



UNCG creative writing professor Michael Parker is one of the foremost voices in contemporary Southern literature. With six novels and three collections of short stories under his belt, and a new novel forthcoming, it's full speed ahead.

His short story "Stop 'n' Go" was selected for inclusion in the 2018 Pen/O. Henry Prize Stories anthology, an annual collection of the top twenty stories among the thousands published in the past year by U.S. and Canadian magazines.

The O. Henry Prize Stories anthology has been an American literary institution since 1919, and in 2009 was renamed to reflect the partnership with PEN American Center. This was Parker's third time winning an O. Henry Prize and the story was the second that came from his most recent book, "Everything Then and Since," published last year by Bull City Press.

"My feeling about those stories was that they would not be to everyone's taste, and that if ten people read the book, I'd be happy," said Parker. "I was thrilled to have published the story in the New England Review, and doubly thrilled to have it appear again in the O. Henry."

But, if not to everyone's tastes, the stories are certainly to a lot of people's tastes. The collection of 23 micro-stories was a "staff pick" of the Paris Review and received enthusiastic praise in a number of other periodicals. Each story displays Parker's unforgettable humor,

woven between the small but poignant moments that reveal the rich internal lives of his characters, most of them firmly rooted in the rural South.

Parker has received fellowships from the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Hobson Award for Arts and Letters and the North Carolina Award for Literature. His work has been anthologized in the Pushcart Prize Anthology and New Stories from the South. Recently, he spoke on a panel with writer Lee Smith at the Greensboro Bound literary festival.

Parker came to teach in UNCG's MFA Creative Writing Program in 1992 and in 2015 was honored with the first Vacc Distinguished Professorship, a recognition for a faculty member with a record of outstanding accomplishment as a teacher, scholar or practitioner. The appointment has allowed him to bring in high-profile visiting writers and to create writing residency opportunities for graduate students.

"His work and the creative writing program are an exemplar of excellence at UNCG," said Provost Dana Dunn.

And the proof's in the pudding; among the many other accomplishments of his former graduate students, Kelly Link had a story in the 2013 Pen / O. Henry Prize Story anthology and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2017.

Parker deeply values the opportunity to work with students in the MFA program, which was one of the first in the nation.

"Our students keep in touch, with us and with each other, and we're always hearing news of their success in publishing," he says. "The MFA degree takes only two years to achieve, but it lasts a lifetime."

Michael Parker's newest novel, "Prairie Fever," will be published by Algonquin Books in 2019.

*By Susan Kirby-Smith*

## **UNC System's new student success innovation lab and UNCG's Spartan StartUp**

The UNC System will launch a Student Success Innovation Lab, a newly created initiative that will help fund and evaluate cost-effective innovations that drive improvements in student success.

"We know it's not enough to get students into school. This initiative will leverage our System platform for research and development on student success," said President Margaret

Spellings. “By supporting promising initiatives at our campuses, and funding researchers across UNC System institutions to rigorously evaluate those projects, the Student Success Innovation Lab will help us identify what works to raise completion rates and take those ideas to scale.”

The Lab will link two key assets: student success initiatives developed and implemented by institutions and faculty with expertise in program evaluation. As a result of the Student Success Innovation Lab, the UNC System will be able to develop rigorous evidence on the effectiveness of student success interventions, increase collaboration and communication across institutions, and assemble the data necessary to maximize the return on taxpayer dollars.

The Lab will be launched with funds provided by just over \$3 million from the ECMC Foundation and the John M. Belk Endowment.

At UNCG, the new Spartan StartUp program is funded in part by the System Student Success Innovation Lab Grant as well as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Spartan StartUp is a five-week, residential program limited to a select group of incoming first-time freshmen during the summer term. The students in this Frontier Set program will receive individualized academic support and advising as well as the personal attention of faculty in an intensive, yet nurturing environment. Participation in Spartan StartUp, which begins later this week, is by invitation only, and UNCG anticipates 40 students will participate this summer. They will have the opportunity to earn seven credits in a five-week period and will experience a variety of out-of-classroom activities designed to familiarize them with campus and campus services.

And it doesn't end with the summer program. Spartan StartUp is actually a year-long transition program that begins with the five-week component in June/July, and continues throughout the academic year. The students will live with other students in the Spartan StartUp cohort, take selected General Education classes together, and participate in various co-curricular activities as a group.

## **Spartans in Raleigh for Graduate Education Day**



Three winners of UNCG’s 2018 Graduate Research and Creativity Expo represented UNCG during Graduate Education Day in Raleigh May 30. Graduate students Elizabeth Ellis, Alla Letfullina and Yener Ulus spoke with state legislators about their research and how it benefits North Carolina.

They were accompanied by UNCG’s Greg Bell, associate dean of the Graduate School, and met with Representatives Amos Quick, Jon Hardister, John Faircloth and Pat Hurley.

Ellis, an M.A. student in history, shared her research on North Carolina’s complicated Civil War past and how that past informs the state’s policies and memory of the Civil War.

Letfullina, a Ph.D. candidate in nanoscience, discussed her research on creating an improved, cost-efficient and recyclable solid-state lithium ion battery. Her work contributes to North Carolina’s clean air and recycling initiatives.

Ulus, a Ph.D. student in environmental health science, shared his research on how rising sea levels affect mercury in the coastal plain wetlands of North Carolina. His work is important for both fisheries and the environment in North Carolina, the U.S. and the world.

## **Joint PhD program in Social Work will launch Fall 2019**

The UNC Board of Governors has approved the establishment of a Joint PhD in Social Work between UNCG and North Carolina A&T State University.

The Social Work PhD program, which has been in development for the past seven years, meets an unmet need in North Carolina. Until today, the only PhD in the NC system (or the state) was at UNC Chapel Hill.

The program is unique in the United States; it’s the only joint Social Work PhD between a historically black college or university (HBCU), and a historically white institution. It is one of only six PhD programs in Social Work at HBCUs.

“UNC Greensboro has long been recognized for our commitment to public service to providing access to the best resources to educate future leaders,” said Provost Dr. Dana Dunn. “We are grateful to the Board of Governors and proud to partner with our colleagues at NC A&T on this new PhD program. Social workers play a critical role in our society; they are a

repository of wisdom and compassion, bridging the complex relationship between public and private issues, and between case and cause. Today, more than ever, our community needs a cadre of committed professionals to guide them to successful life outcomes. We can't wait to get started."

The program builds on the 20-year successful partnership of the [Joint Master's in Social Work Program](#) as well as the 44-year-old historic partnership between the two institutions' [Joint Bachelor of Social Work Field Programs](#).

Capturing a unique market niche, the program will offer both a part-time and a full-time cohort and focus on educating community-engaged, teacher scholars.

Interested applicants can contact [Dr. Melissa Floyd-Pickard](#), Department Chair for Social Work. Additional information will be forthcoming in anticipation of a Fall 2019 launch.

## **Collage tickets on sale July 1**

This year's Collage concert, featuring CVPA students and faculty, will be Saturday, Sept. 8, in UNCG Auditorium. The theme will be "Bernstein at 100."

Campus Weekly will have a full post about this big, annual fundraiser concert later in the summer - but for those who want the best tickets, note that tickets will go on sale July 1.

[Ticket information is here.](#)

## **Educators workshop: Mindful Making at Weatherspoon**

Wednesday, June 27, and Thursday, June 28, the Weatherspoon Art Museum will host an art-making workshop for educators. Participants will explore methods for cultivating inspiration and new ways of seeing through art and writing. The workshop will investigate the possibilities inherent in close observation, abstraction and building on chance opportunities. Writer and teacher Julia Ridley Smith will join WAM's associate curator of education Terri Dowell-Dennis in leading this workshop.

Participants should bring bag lunches. A certificate of participation will be provided and can be used for CEU credit with the prior approval from a school system. Pre-registration is required. Contact Terri Dowell-Dennis at [t\\_dowell@uncg.edu](mailto:t_dowell@uncg.edu) or 336-256-1449. The cost is \$35 for WAM members and for \$50 non-members.

## In Memoriam: Dr. Donald F. Allen

Dr. Donald F. Allen, professor emeritus of sociology at UNCG, died May 31.

He joined UNCG's Department of Sociology in 1962 and retired after 30 years of service to the university, his obituary notes. He taught social theory, social problems and sociology of religion courses.

The full obituary may be viewed [here](#).

## In memoriam: Pearl Berlin

Dr. Pearl Berlin, retired UNCG professor and former head of the Department of Kinesiology, died on May 17, 2018.

The Brooklyn, N.Y., native came to North Carolina to lead UNCG's Kinesiology department in 1971. She was the first professor in Kinesiology hired specifically to develop research across the (then) School of Health and Human Services, the obituary notes.

The UNCG Pearl Berlin Writing Award, given to graduate students for excellent thesis and dissertation writing, is named in her honor.

A public memorial will be held in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House June 14 at 3 p.m.

Her obituary may be viewed [here](#).

## Dr. Stephen Sills



Dr. Stephen Sills (Center for Housing and Community Studies) received new funding from Guilford County Emergency Services and Department of Health and Human Services for the project "Guilford Solution to the Opioid Problem (Guilford STOP)."

There have been over 600 overdoses from opioid in Guilford County since January 2017. This project leverages one-time funds allocated by the NC General Assembly to design, implement and evaluate a rapid response program intended to decrease mortality from opioid overdoses among the opioid user population. Guilford Solution to the Opioid Problem will engage citizens who overdose in harm reduction practices, distribute naloxone, conduct community health education, coordinate community resources and build relationships focused on ending

opioid overdose. The project will also include extensive evaluation and research components.