UNCG has announced record enrollment for the University’s Fall 2018 Census. It’s the fifth year in a row UNCG has seen enrollment growth. The record enrollment comes in a year of milestones for UNCG, which also graduated its largest ever class in May (more than 2,700) and welcomed its biggest-ever freshman class in August (2,979, up 6.7% year-to-year).

According to the most recent data, total headcount for the campus reached 20,106, surpassing 20,000 for the first time in the University’s 126-year history. Consistent with its strategy, UNCG realized notable gains of 6.5% among rural counties across North Carolina. Among transfer students from community colleges and UNC institutions, UNCG saw a 2% and 10% increase, respectively.

Further, student credit hours for those studying at UNCG rose 1.6% to a record 224,632. Even more, UNCG’s online distance education programs continue to expand rapidly, with total credit hours leaping 7.2% to a record 24,663, as more undergraduate and graduate online programs continue to become available to non-traditional students. Total student credit hours exceeded 250,000 for the first time in school history.
“A tenacious commitment to student success is at the heart of our growth,” Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. “We are doing a better job of delivering the right resources to students in the right ways. We hired nearly 100 new faculty this year to better serve our students’ scholarly pursuits, without raising tuition. In record numbers, students from a vast array of backgrounds, life experiences and circumstances are finding their way to UNC Greensboro. They recognize the value we offer, the commitment we have to their success, and our ability to prepare them well to enter the workforce and make a meaningful impact in North Carolina and beyond.”

A key component of the strategic plan for the University focuses on rural outreach, to offer access to underserved areas of NC. These outreach efforts have been effective, with double-digit enrollment gains among students in rural counties: Rockingham (35.3%); Randolph (17.1%); Alamance (16.7%); and Cumberland (11.5%).

At the same time, new student growth is coming without lowering standards for admissions. The Grade Point Average (GPA) for students in the incoming freshman class remained the same as in 2016 at 3.84 (up from 3.61 in 2015) and ACT scores are holding steady from last year at 23.

Additionally, UNCG is fueling new transfer growth through innovative partnerships across the state with community colleges. To date, UNCG has partnered with six local community colleges to co-admit students who then do their first two years at state community colleges and transfer to UNC Greensboro, at a significant cost savings. Students have access to UNCG resources, including the Kaplan Center for Health and Wellness, library, career services, tutoring, and more. These new programs, most of which are less than a year old, have seen 2% growth to date.

Full census information is available HERE.
The N.C. Folk Festival will be held this Friday through Sunday in downtown Greensboro. Admission is free.

The North Carolina Folk Festival is an outdoor celebration of cultural roots and heritage held annually Greensboro. It features performances and demonstrations by outstanding musicians, dancers and craftspeople – with performing groups on multiple stages including a dance pavilion dedicated to non-stop participatory dancing. A family stage with performances will appeal to both the young and young-at-heart. This festival in Greensboro succeeds the National Folk Festival, which was held in Greensboro the past three years.

UNCG is a sponsor of the N.C. Folk Festival, and many Spartans will volunteer throughout the event. One street is renamed “Spartan Way” during the festival.

Among the UNCG alumni and/or staff who will be on stage during the festival are:

- Rhiannon Giddens
- Lalenja Harrington
- Laurelyn Dossett, host of “Songs of Hope and Justice”
- Carol Thompson, Contra dance caller
- Dom-Sebastian Alexis of “B-Boy Ballet”
- Chuck Folds and Eddie Walker of Big Bang Boom

Know of more Spartans performing at festival? Let us know.

Festival information is at https://ncfolkfestival.com/.

Want to volunteer? UNCG faculty/staff may volunteer here.

Students may volunteer at go.uncg.edu/spartanway.

Check back for more information.

By Mike Harris
A sensory garden at UNCG: where research enhances child’s play

UNC Greensboro researchers and child care professionals know that inclusive opportunity for intellectual stimulation begins long before elementary school, and that the best opportunities occur through a multiplicity of sensory experiences that encourage make-believe.

This knowledge is the source of a project recently completed by Kathy Spivey, a teacher at UNCG’s Child Care Education Program and a master’s student in UNCG’s Birth through Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development Program, offered jointly through the Department of Specialized Education Services in the School of Education and the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the School of Health and Human Sciences.

With the understanding that outdoor play reduces stress and increases confidence in young children, Spivey developed a plan to enhance the outdoor area at UNCG’s Child Care Education Program by building a sensory garden that would give children more opportunities to create and lead their own play.

“Sensory gardens are known to help children with and without disabilities with tactile stimulation, improving sensory integration and processing skills,” Spivey observed in her proposal. She intended for the garden to be accessible to children with differing abilities, and it would be her capstone project for her internship in inclusive early education, which was to reflect leadership and contribution to community.

In planning and constructing the sensory garden, Spivey not only worked with her advisor Dr. Linda Hestenes and her internship professor, Dr. Susan Kingsley, but also Dr. Judy Kinney in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation, director of UNCG’s Child Care Education Program Dr. Sharon Mims, the grounds crew from UNCG Facilities, cross-campus partners Beyond Academics and the very families whose children would eventually play in
the garden, and, perhaps most importantly, the children themselves.

To read more about Spivey’s process and the garden itself – and to see more visuals – visit the full story on the provost’s website.

By Susan Kirby-Smith
Photography by Martin W. Kane

Dr. Olav Rueppell will be Florence Schaeffer Distinguished Professor of Science

Provost Dana L. Dunn and Dean John Z. Kiss (College of Arts & Sciences) have announced that Dr. Olav Rueppell will be appointed as the Florence Schaeffer Distinguished Professor of Science beginning January 1. In making the announcement, they noted that Rueppell is an exceptional scholar and researcher, teacher, and mentor to students.

This professorship is named for Dr. Florence Schaeffer who joined the Chemistry Department in 1922. She became head of the department in 1934 and held this position for 30 years.

In making this appointment Dean Kiss stated that “Dr. Rueppell is the consummate teacher-scholar. We are very proud of his accomplishments and believe that he is a strong role model for our faculty.”

As a researcher, he uses honey bees to study the genetics of complex traits, genomics, social behavior, and aging. In addition, he has been addressing the urgent problem of honey bee health, which has been in national headlines. He also is interested in how the complex division of labor among bee colony members evolves, how behavioral specialization is determined, and what consequences at the individual and colony level can be measured.

In recognition of his research accomplishments, Dr. Rueppell has won the UNCG Research Excellence Award in 2009. Since then, he has had 76 peer-reviewed publications in prominent journals. He has successfully acquired many external grants from federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture, among others.

Regarding this strong research record, Provost Dana Dunn stated that “Professor Rueppell’s impactful research is a great example of how UNC Greensboro’s faculty make a difference by tackling issues and problems of significance.”
Rueppell started at UNCG in 2003 and has made the mentoring and training of students the highest priority in his research program. Each student that he mentors receives a high quality and intensive research experience, the announcement noted.

Five of his mentees have won UNCG Excellence Awards and a sixth won a national award, the White Research Award, for their undergraduate research. Four students have earned their Honor’s Theses under his direction. Nearly all of his mentees have gone on to successful professional careers in the sciences or medicine.

In recognition of his dedication to undergraduate education, Rueppell received the 2016 UNCG Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award and in 2015 the prestigious Mid-Career Mentoring Award from Division of Biology of the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR). He is equally dedicated to graduate mentoring, and he has graduated eight M.S. students and one Ph.D. student.

In addition, he is a superb classroom teacher, consistently receiving excellent student-based evaluations and very strong reviews from his peer faculty members. He has also been active in developing both the undergraduate and graduate curricula in biology, and he also has greatly contributed to service activities at UNCG and beyond.

**Coffee With Veterans events this fall**

The Office of Alumni Engagement’s Military and Veteran Alumni Society will be hosting Coffee With Veterans again this semester, providing all UNCG veterans, servicemembers and family members an opportunity to connect and develop their professional networks.

All military-affiliated students, alumni, faculty and staff are invited to attend these event and connect over coffee and snacks.

UNCG’s Coffee With Veterans events this fall:

- Sep. 12
- Oct. 2
Visit the Alumni Engagement event calendar for details on times and locations, as well as registration information.

Post and photograph by Victor Ayala.

2018 Faculty First awardees

The 2018 Faculty First awardees are below. The awards, which typically fund summer scholarship, are offered to tenure-track and tenured faculty. Information about next year’s awards is available here.

Applegarth, Risa – English – Children Speaking: Rhetorical Agency in Children’s Activism

Barr, Matthew – Media Studies – Re-Edit of Documentary, Union Time: Fighting for Workers’ Rights, for Education & Training Contexts

Bray, Jeremy & Gruber, Ken & Sills, Stephen – Center for Housing and Community Studies, Economics, and Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships – UNCG Eviction Diversion Research Project (EDRP): A Demonstration Project for Guilford County MetroLab Partnership

Dawkins, April – Library & Information Studies – Bridging the Gap: Community College Library Service to Early College Students

Dischell, Stuart – English – Walking the Walls of the Farmers General

Dyson, Yarneccia – Social Work – An Examination of Psychosocial and Environmental Factors As Predictors of Risk for HIV in African American College Students enrolled at HBCU’s and MSI’s

Erickson, Keith – Nutrition – Sex and genetic factors involved in the alterations of brain iron biology due to obesity

Fairbanks, Colleen & Zoch, Melody – TEHE – Immigrant and Refugee Youth and Adults’ Literacy Learning through Digital Storytelling

Gabbay, Alyssa – Religious Studies – Gender and Succession in Medieval Islam: Bilateral Descent and the Legacy of Fatima

Gicheva, Dora – Economics – Impacts of Expanding Access to Health Insurance for College Students

Grannemann, Hannah – Arts Administration – Audience Engagement and Organizational Sustainability: Research Agenda Exploration

Grieve, Gregory – Religious Studies – Evil and Video Games

Kuperberg, Arielle – Sociology – Student Loans, Strong and Weak Ties, and the Transition out of College

La Paro, Karen – HDFS – Early Childhood education Teacher Preparation: Moving Forward: Focus on Outcomes


Lopez, Fabian & Zandmane, Inara – Music – CD Recording and promotional videos, Title CD: A Few Pieces We Like

Park, Jennifer – English – Pretergenerations: The Science and Drama of Immortality

Petersen, Kimberly – Chemistry & Biochemistry – Development of Novel Reactions with Nitrile Electrophiles

Skotnicki, Tad – Sociology – Anonymous Goods and the Rise of Consumer Activism

Smyth, Clifford – Mathematics & Statistics – Addressing the Extreme Fragility of Machine Learning Algorithms that Can Perform Medical Image Recognition at Superhuman Levels

Sultana, Selima – Geography – Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) and African American Underrepresentation

Suthaharan, Shanmugathasan – Computer Science – Big Data Analytics and Machine Learning Methods for the Classification of Mixed Fruits and Vegetables

Wharton, David – Classical Studies – A Cultural History of Color in Antiquity

Copy courtesy UNCG Research and Engagement website.
Research Excellence nominations due Dec. 3

The Office of Research and Engagement invites you to nominate candidates for the two Research Excellence Awards given by the University each year:

The Junior Research Excellence Award is for a scholar at the rank of assistant or associate professor, and a cash honorarium of $4,500 accompanies the award. The award is based primarily on work done at UNCG during the past five years.

The Senior Research Excellence Award is for a scholar at the rank of professor, and a cash honorarium of $7,500 accompanies the award. The award is made on the basis of the nominee’s research career, with particular emphasis placed on work done in the last five years.

To nominate a faculty member for a 2018-2019 Research Excellence Award, go to https://research.uncg.edu/research-excellence-awards for a copy of the nomination packet, which includes the nomination guidelines, selection criteria and the nomination cover sheet. All materials are to be submitted electronically. The nomination packet, including the signed nomination cover sheet, should be scanned as a .pdf file and emailed to rsh_ptnr@uncg.edu by December 3, 2018.

Requirements for Research Excellence Award nominations have been changed from previous years:

- Individuals must be nominated each year, though the Office of Research and Engagement still encourages departments to consider previous years’ nominees.
- Departments are asked to determine their strongest nominees and submit only one nominee for each award.
- Nomination letters should now come from the department head or chair. No secondary nomination is needed.
- All nominees are asked to have at least two and no more than three external letters from individuals who can comment on the importance of the candidate’s scholarship to their field.

See the Office of Research and Engagement website for more information.

Upcoming Research and Engagement internal funding deadlines

The Office of Research and Engagement has established internal funding application and
nomination deadlines for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Community-Engaged Pathways and Partnerships (P2): Oct. 15

Community-Engaged Pathways and Partnerships (P2) is a grant-funded fellows program that aims to strengthen collective approaches to community-engaged scholarship. Scholarship is broadly defined to include research, creative activity, inquiry, and teaching. This scholarship fellows program is unique in that it spans three years, centers community-engaged practices and outcomes, supports team-based scholarship and provides professional development to P2 Fellows.

New Faculty and Regular Faculty Research Awards: Oct. 17 by 5 p.m.

New Faculty Research Awards go to full-time tenure-track faculty below the rank of professor, clinical faculty, research faculty, and academic professional faculty who have been at UNCG for three or fewer years. Regular Faculty Research Awards go to full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty, clinical faculty, research faculty and academic professional faculty who have been at UNCG for more than three years.

Click here for a complete listing of funding application and nomination deadlines.

‘Free Speech on Campus,’ a lecture by Geoffrey Stone

Geoffrey Stone, professor of law and former provost at the University of Chicago, will speak at UNCG next Wednesday on one of the more contentious topics of our era. His talk is titled “Free Speech on Campus: A Challenge of our Time.”

The talk will be held Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the EUC Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

Stone, who chaired the Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago, is co-author of “Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression (2015).” His Statement on Principles of Free Expression was written in 2012.


He is chief editor of a twenty-volume series, “Inalienable Rights,” which is being published by the Oxford University Press.
The event is part of the campus-wide series “The 60s: Exploring the Limits.” UNCG’s Atlantic World Research Network has invited Stone to speak. He is expected to discuss the history of academic freedom, some current controversies, and ideas and approaches for the present and the future.

MFA Program Distinguished Visiting Writers Series

The UNC Greensboro MFA in Creative Writing Program and The Greensboro Review have announced the following readers for their Fall 2018 Distinguished Visiting Writers Series. Collaborating departments are also listed below.

Stacey Waite, poetry
Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 PM
Scuppernong Books, 304 S. Elm Street
Hosted by the MFA Writing Program and the College Writing Program.

Nalo Hopkinson, lecture
Wednesday, September 26, 4:00 PM
EUC Auditorium
Hosted by the MFA Program and the Women’s & Gender Studies Program.

Jamey Bradbury, fiction
Thursday, September 27, 7:00 PM, Scuppernong Books, 304 S. Elm Street

Dana Levin, poetry
Thursday, October 4, 7:00 PM, Scuppernong Books, 304 S. Elm Street

Jen Julian, fiction
Friday, October 12, 7:00 PM,
UNCG Faculty Center

Lee Zacharias, prose
Thursday, October 18, 7 p.m.
Location TBA

Rebecca Gayle Howell, poetry
Wednesday, October 24, 7 p.m.
Scuppernong Books, 304 S. Elm Street

Sarah Rose Nordgren with Jenny George, poetry
Thursday, November 8, 7 p.m.
Scuppernong Books, 304 S. Elm Street

**Dr. Steve Kroll-Smith**

Dr. Steve Kroll-Smith’s “Recovering Inequality, Hurricane Katrina, the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 and the Aftermath of Disaster” is now in print. The book was featured in the most recent UNCG Research Magazine. He spoke with Southern California Public Radio about southern California last week. More about the book is here.

**Dr. Rebecca Libera**

Dr. Rebecca Libera, formerly grants specialist in the Office of Sponsored Programs, has been promoted to assistant director of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

In addition to her leadership in grants administration, Becky is a certified occupational hearing conservationist and a licensed hearing instrument specialist. She is also an active performer and teacher as a bassoonist with multiple symphonies including the Fayetteville, Salisbury, and on occasion the Greensboro and North Carolina Symphonies, and has been an executive director of a local arts non-profit organization.

**Dr. Jean Kang**

Dr. Jean Kang (Specialized Education Services) received a continuation of funding from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for the project “Preparing Post-Baccalaureate Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Educators for Working with All Children.”

According to the abstract, the primary goal of the project is to increase the number of highly-qualified personnel to work with other professionals and families to implement responsive, evidence-based practice in their work with young children in high need community-based
programs and schools, including children from traditionally underrepresented groups. The project will address absolute priority requirements including:

- Using evidence-based practices to support adult learning and to promote positive outcomes for professionals and young children with disabilities and their families.
- Incorporating principles and strategies of individualization into the curriculum.
- Providing in-depth field experiences, particularly with high-need children with disabilities.
- Incorporating national and state standards/competencies throughout the program.
- Establishing a mentoring program to enhance student retention and success.
- Conducting induction activities with program graduates to support them in the field.
- Expanding partnerships with community experts, families, schools, and agencies.

The project has the potential to impact at least 2000 children and their families.

**Dr. Brett Tangedal**

Dr. Brett Tangedal (Mathematics and Statistics) received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “UNCG Summer School in Computational Number Theory.” Dan Yasaki, Talia Fernos, Sebastian Pauli and Filip Saidak are co-principal investigators on the project.

According to the abstract, the goal of the project is to run a one-week summer school in computational number theory for approximately 35 participants in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The subjects for the upcoming summer schools will be:

- Summer 2019: Expander Graphs
- Summer 2020: Distribution of Prime Numbers and Values of Arithmetic Functions
- Summer 2021: Computational Aspects of Hilbert’s 12th Problem

Each UNCG Summer School in Computational Number Theory will run for a week, from Monday to Friday. On a typical day, external and local experts will give talks in the morning, and in the afternoon students will solve problems related to this material. These will include theoretical as well as programming problems and computer experiments. The whole group, speakers and students, will have daily lunches together to help foster exchange in a casual atmosphere between the students and the speakers.

The aim of the Summer School in Computational Number Theory is to complement the
traditional training that graduate students receive by exposing them to a constructive and computational approach to many objects in number theory. This furthers their knowledge and gives the students additional tools for their research. Furthermore, the summer school will allow the students to have the opportunity to work closely with experts in the field.

**Dr. Dianne Welsh**

**Dr. Dianne Welsh** (Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality and Tourism) received new funding from the Coleman Foundation for the project “Coleman Foundation Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows.”

The project includes three Brainstorming Meetings with Coleman Fellows and CER (early summer, September, October 2018). The purpose of the meetings will be to review accomplishments, identify the future direction of the program and earmark appropriate steps to achieve goals. We will assess the program’s status and develop yearly metrics to identify steps to better communicate with students why they should learn about entrepreneurship and be an entrepreneur. We will also develop an entrepreneurship brand for the program: EMC2 (Entrepreneurship Matters Community Connections).

**Dr. Julie Edmunds**

**Dr. Julie Edmunds** (School of Education / SERVE) received a continuation of funding from Jobs for the Future for the project “Early College Expansion Project Evaluation (I3).”

According to the abstract, the third-party evaluation of ECEP will assess the extent to which ECEP is having a positive impact on student outcomes associated with readiness for and success in college. The evaluation will also collect detailed data on implementation to examine the level of implementation and to provide useful feedback to the program developers.

The research questions include both impact and implementation questions:

- To what extent does ECEP result in improved student outcomes, including increased college preparatory course-taking and success, increased numbers of students staying in school, increased high school graduation rates and increased college credits earned while in high school?
• What services have been provided to schools? What has been the perceived quality and benefit of those services?
• To what extent have participating schools and districts implemented the design elements of an Early College?

**Dr. Wendy McColskey**

*Dr. Wendy McColskey* (SERVE) received new funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPSI) for the project “21st CCLC Cohort 13 Level I Grant Review.”

Based on a request from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), SERVE provides a proposal to conduct the Level I application reviews of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Cohort 13 grant applications in the summer of 2018 and conduct evaluation activities for the 2017-18 school year.

**Dr. Robert Henson**

*Dr. Robert Henson* (Educational Research Methodology) received a continuation of funding from the U.S. Department of Education for the project “Development of Accessible IRT-Based Models and Methodologies for Improving the Breadth and Accuracy of Item Option-Scored Diagnostic Assessments.”

Henson and the graduate student’s primary responsibilities will initially involve the programming and testing of the estimation algorithm. This will include the development of a user-friendly program in addition to a simulation program that will allow for the testing of the accuracy of the program to obtain estimates when the model is known. In addition, software will be developed to indicate general fit of the model to data. After having developed and tested this software suite, Henson and the graduate student’s responsibility will include data manipulation, model estimation on real world and possible modifications of the model. In its conclusion, software, software manuals and reports of the real world data will be provided.
Looking ahead: Sept. 5, 2018

Faculty Senate meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 5, 3 p.m., Alumni House

N.C. Folk Festival (co-sponsored by UNCG)
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 7-9, downtown Greensboro

Collage concert
Saturday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m., UNCG Auditorium

Lecture, ‘Free Speech on Campus,’ Geoffrey Stone
Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m., EUC Auditorium

Staff Senate meeting
Thursday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m., Alumni House

Film, “Fog of War, discussant Dr. Jerry Pubantz
Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m., School of Education Building, 120