Welcome to Campus Weekly

Nearly 2,000 turn tassels at Commencement

December Commencement marked the end of a long journey and the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of nearly 2,000 UNC Greensboro students.

Whether that new chapter in life means graduate school, new careers, travel, or a well-deserved break, UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. reminded graduates to honor their shared responsibility to make a mark on the world.

“I know this journey has not been easy. In fact, anything worth having is never easy,” Gilliam said. “But we know that you will go into the world with vision, with leadership, with a mission to affect change and make this a better world. A better world rests on you. You’re not students anymore, and you have to take this responsibility seriously, but you’re prepared.”

Greensboro city councilman, attorney, and UNCG alumnus Justin Outling spoke about the power of making choices. He recalled his father, who made the choice to become a garbage collector to support his family after being laid off from a factory job. Outling said that every choice has an impact, no matter how small it may seem.

“Nothing happens without choices being made, Outling said. “I know with all certainty that but for my father’s choice not to give into disappointment, not to give into the sudden great loss, the sore back and swollen feet, I wouldn’t be here today. Think about the choices that you’ve made that seemed small, but were, in fact, monumental. After today, you’re officially alumni. You’re going to have more choices to make. Make the most of them.”
The University conferred approximately 1,550 bachelor’s degrees, 330 master’s degrees, 112 doctoral degrees, and two specialist in education degrees. Of the degrees awarded, 104 were conferred to international students. These figures represent students who received degrees in August as well as those who completed their degrees in December.

Among those who graduated today are the first Piedmont Community College RN-BSN Nursing cohort, the first graduates in UNCG’s new Bachelor of Science in Integrated Professional Studies (BIPS) online program, and the first graduates from the UNCG McNair Scholars Program.

By Victor Ayala

See more photographs at UNCG Now.

**UNCG awards 112 doctoral degrees at hoisting ceremony**

Despite the chilly temperatures outside, UNCG Auditorium was a warmth of celebration Thursday, Dec. 6, as 112 doctoral graduates were honored at UNCG’s Doctoral Hoisting Ceremony.

“Doctoral education serves as the incubator for growing the commitment, passion, and vision of many of the individuals tasked with providing leadership at the local and global level as we navigate an ever-changing, complex, and complicated world,” Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. said in his remarks to the graduates.

The ceremony, a more intimate predecessor to the commencement exercises held on Friday for bachelor’s and master’s degree candidates, recognized scholars in four fields of achievement: doctor of education, doctor of musical arts, doctor of nursing practice, and doctor of philosophy.

Dr. Melanie Spence addressed the graduates, encouraging them to keep an open mind.

“Life has a way of throwing us curve balls,” said Spence, who is associate dean of undergraduate education and professor of psychology at The University of Texas at Dallas. “If that happens, it’s important to be open to new opportunities.”
Develop relationships that support collaboration, she added, and continue to seek out mentors.

Each candidate was hooded by their committee chair and crossed the stage with pride, often to a backdrop of whistles and applause from family and friends.

In his final charge to the graduates who have achieved the highest degree in academics, Gilliam said:

“We will look to you – our newest doctors – to be the guardians of higher education, of the critical importance of doctoral education, and of the indisputable role that the expertise, experience, and dedication that doctoral education conveys in furthering the betterment of society for future generations.

“Congratulations, doctors. It’s my great pleasure to welcome you to the family.”

By Elizabeth L. Harrison
Photography by Martin W. Kane

1 chancellor, 2 coaches, and 2 Guys Named Chris at Pop Up Shop

As the snow melts, Spartan Spirit is heating up in Downtown Greensboro.

Tomorrow (Thursday), Chancellor Gilliam, Men’s Basketball Coach Wes Miller and Women’s basketball Coach Trina Patterson will be joined by the Triad’s most popular morning radio show team – Rock 92’s “2 Guys Named Chris” – for a special event at the UNCG Pop Up Shop on Elm Street. They will be staffing the store and giving away some UNCG goodies from 11 a.m to 12:30 p.m. The shop is located in the heart of downtown Greensboro, between the Wrangler Store and Scuppernong Bookstore near the Washington and Elm intersection.

Help spread the word – and stop in if you can.
Spartan merchandise and apparel will be available for purchase – and you can even get special Spartan ornaments for a tree. Plus basketball tickets can be purchased too.

And there are great deals. If you’re an employee or student, bring your Spartan ID for a 20 percent discount on your entire purchase. At check-out, just show that you follow UNCG on Twitter or Instagram and you’ll be shown how to get a Barnes and Noble app so you can also receive an even bigger 25 percent discount on one of your items.

Additionally, get an extra 10 percent off any one item if you print out any game ticket and show it. This includes any Spartan Basketball ticket from this season, whether a past or future game. Limit one discount per customer. See store manager for details.

If you can, come enjoy!

Newsmakers: December 2018

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 past weeks:

- National Geographic featured Dr. Matina Rueppel’s work in an article on mouse vocalizations. [The piece](#).
- Dr. Stephen Sills spoke to the national PBS NewsHour about healthy housing and community outreach. [The interview](#).
- Dean John Kiss was interviewed by Nature for a piece on China’s experiments with plant growth on the moon.
- Spartan basketball senior guard Francis Alonso was interviewed by WFMY2. [The article](#).
- The Triad Business Journal featured Sherine Obare’s appointment to Dean of The Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering. [The feature](#).
- PhD student Peijia Ku’s first publication from her PhD work, on wildfire ash and mercury, was featured on [phys.org](#), [eurakalert](#), and [Science Daily](#).
• Dr. Marilyn Friend spoke to Education Week about the effectiveness of co-teaching in special ed classrooms. The article.

Spartan gifts for the holidays

The gift-giving season is now in swing, and UNCG has plenty to offer. From new music and novels to gripping poetry to a book based on a recent Weatherspoon Art Museum exhibition, these faculty and alumni 2018 releases make great gifts.

The Other Side of My Heart (Lorena Guillén Tango Ensemble)

By Lorena Guillén Tango Ensemble (in visual)

A musical-visual artwork composed of songs and recorded conversations with six Latina immigrants who reflected on their dreams and fears while evaluating the things they gained and lost. All interviews were conducted by the artist, School of Music professor Lorena Guillén.

Gotham: Season 4 (Fox)

Catch up on DC’s hit TV series, starring School of Theatre alumnus Chris Chalk ’01, with a DVD or BluRay set of the latest season of “Gotham.”

The Ballad of Sally Rose, Expanded Edition (Rhino/Warner Bros.)

By Emmylou Harris

This expanded version of alumna Harris’ classic 1985 country concept album features the original recordings newly remastered and previously unreleased demos for almost every song on the album.

Dread and Delight, Fairy Tales in an Anxious World (Weatherspoon Art Museum)

By Emily Stamey

The hardcover accompaniment to the museum’s knock-out fall exhibition explores fairy tales
in contemporary art and offers insight into many of the works featured in the exhibition. It also includes a new story by UNCG MFA Program alumna and recent McArthur “Genius” grant winner Kelly Link.

The Wild Inside (Harper Collins/William Morrow)

By Jamey Bradbury MFA


Still Lives (Counterpoint)

By Maria Hummel MFA

Set against a culture that often fetishizes violence, the novel “Still Lives” is a page-turning exodus into the art world’s hall of mirrors, and one woman’s journey into an industry flooded with money and secrets.

The Prom Original Cast Recording (Sony Classical)

By The Broadway Cast of The Prom (featuring Beth Leavel ’80 MFA)

“The Prom” tells the story of an Indiana high schooler banned from bringing her girlfriend to the prom, and a group of eccentric Broadway performers who arrive at the town to help. The cast recording, featuring alumna Beth Leavel, will be released digitally Dec. 14 and on CD Jan. 19.

Exhaling Space (Navona Records)

By Alejandro Rutty

With “Exhaling Space,” School of Music professor Alejandro Rutty and his cast of remarkable performers create one hour of fresh, captivating music combining Latin and world music styles with the classical tradition.

Empty Clip (University of Akron Press)

By Emilia Phillips

The poems of “Empty Clip,” by Department of English faculty member Emily Phillips, bore into the cultures of violence in the United States while candidly cross-firing upon the poets’
complicity and testifying on these cultures' effects upon female body image and mental health.


By Kelly Cherry ’67 MFA

Kelly Cherry, a UNCG Distinguished Alumna, former poet laureate of Virginia, and author of more than 20 books takes on what few contemporary poets are willing to: the ways and hows of human existence, in both personal and historical terms.

From Asylum to Prison (UNC Press)

By Anne Parsons

Parsons recasts the political narrative of the late twentieth century, charting how the politics of mass incarceration shaped the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric hospitals and mental health policy making. In doing so, the UNCG Professor of History offers critical insight into how the prison took the place of the asylum in crucial ways, shaping the rise of the prison industrial complex.

No, It’s Just You: a Memoir in 58 One-Act Plays and One Montage (Scuppernong Books)

By Andrew Saulters ’08 MFA

A collection of 58 humorous vignettes and one montage, presenting nearly verbatim conversation from the last seven years of the author’s life. Available from the publisher.

Big Windows (Carnegie Mellon Press)

By Lauren Moseley ‘08 MFA

Named as one of the 12 most anticipated poetry collections of 2018 by Bustle Magazine and in the “35 over 35” annual list for debut books, “Big Windows” examines love, family, marriage, and self-knowledge through the lens of the natural world.

Love Like Sky (Disney-Hyperion)

By Leslie C. Youngblood MFA

A story for young readers about a family facing change, the challenges of friendship, and the
strength of sibling and intergenerational relationships.

Additionally, it’s a great time of year to give some Spartan branded gear, from T-Shirt to hats to sweatshirts and more. See sales specials at the Spartan Athletics Store.

Includes copy drawn from publisher websites

Compiled by Avery Campbell

Clearing 13 inches of ice and snow

It was one of the largest snowfalls this campus has ever seen in one day. A whopping twelve inches of snow and sleet on Sunday, followed by a bit more Monday.

Fortunately, it happened after exams had ended and Commencement had been enjoyed on Friday. And UNCG Facilities Operations, Housing and Residence Life, Police, Emergency Management, Auxiliary Services and other departments maintained important operations and worked to clear the snow so the campus offices can reopen as soon as possible.

On Tuesday afternoon, two member of Facilities with “Bobcat” snowplows cleared drives and sidewalks near the McIver Deck and the School of Music Building. At the same time, Matt Kirkman, UNCG Sports Turf manager, was shoveling snow from the steps and sidewalks of 1100 W. Market Street Building (photo, left.)

Facilities Operations staff – from electricians to housekeepers to locksmiths to grounds – were removing snow, as the temperature and sunshine helped.
“It becomes all hands on deck,” said Grounds assistant director Andy Currin. There was such a volume of ice to deal with. For example, twenty truckloads of snow had been removed from the street and sidewalks on Spring Garden between Tate and Aycock, he said, which he estimated at 400 cubic yards of snow and ice. It was moved to Lot 1, near Wendy’s. That was just a small part of the big job.

Fifty worked Sunday, during the height of the snow. Seventy worked Monday, as temperatures did not rise much above freezing. On Tuesday, 143 in Facilities Operations removed snow.

“I’m extremely grateful for all the work the staff has done in Facilities Ops,” he said, as dusk approached on Tuesday.

Housing and Residence Life removed lots of snow, too, for example in the Spartan Village area. “On Sunday, HRL Facilities and Housekeeping Staff formed small teams to hit a number of locations at once, often finding that new snowfall covered paths that they had cleared, almost as fast as they cleared them,” said Tim Johnson, HRL director. “By around 5 p.m. on Sunday, they had cleared a significant amount of the snow that had fallen, enabling the Bestway Grocery to remain open most of the day.” And laying the groundwork to deal with Monday’s snow.

Several hundred students are currently living on campus.

They were kept warm, kept fed, kept secure.

And due to a lot of hard work, the campus offices will be able to reopen Wednesday at 10 a.m.

By Mike Harris

‘What would your Super Hero look like?’

December 16 through 21, Greensboro Project Space will host a superhero-themed art
exhibition created by students and families from The Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC) Community Center, with support from UNCG students, volunteers, and the CNNC Community Center Book Club. The opening reception is Friday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m.

For their work, the artists have considered questions about the nature of “super heroes,” where they come from, and who they are in neighborhoods and communities. What kind of super heroes are needed and why? Artists will make presentations about their work that are meant to inspire discussion.

The CNNC promotes access and integration for immigrant and refugees in North Carolina by bridging newcomer populations with existing communities through direct service provision, research, and training.

UNC Greensboro Project Space is located at 219 W. Lewis St. in downtown Greensboro.

Find out more about the Center for New North Carolinians at cnnc.uncg.edu, and to learn more about the Community Arts Collaborative visit https://vpa.uncg.edu/community-arts-collaborative/.

**Gingerbread cookies decorating at MSPS**

Join Staff Senate to decorate Gingerbread Cookies with the K-3 students at the Moss Street Partnership School. Students will write a story about a special, one of a kind holiday cookie. With our help, the students will have the opportunity to bring that cookie to life.

**Date:** Friday, December 14

**Time:** 1:50 to 2:35 p.m.

**Location:** 419 Moss St, Reidsville, NC 27320

The Staff Senate needs volunteers and supplies. Supply donations such as gumdrops, peppermints, candy, marshmallows, sprinkles of all kinds, dried fruit, tubes of icing in every color.

With your supervisor’s approval, use your community service hours to join the fun.

For more information or to drop of supplies, contact Sarah Alston in the HR Office or Amber Wall in the SOE, Office 342.
In memoriam: Dr. James C. Petersen

Former UNCG professor of sociology and dean of the Graduate School James C. Petersen died Dec. 4. Dr. Petersen was appointed Dean of the Graduate School and Professor with permanent tenure in the Department of Sociology in August, 2002. He returned to full-time teaching as professor in 2012 and retired in 2015. He authored and edited many books and journals and had a passion for research, in the areas of applied sociology, organizations, science and technology.

“We in the Sociology Department were lucky to have his wisdom, experience, and generosity,” said Dr. Julie Brown, chair of the department during some of the time he was a professor before retiring. “He was a wonderful colleague, always willing to go the extra mile to help out. In his kind gentle way he provided sage advice as we dealt with complex issues. We all respected his knowledge and appreciated his thoughtfulness. His teaching responsibilities included some of the most challenging methods classes in our curriculum, and his students definitely appreciated his skill and his patience in the classroom. Jim was truly a Renaissance man: scholar, teacher, artist, musician, craftsman. He will be greatly missed!”

See more at https://www.cumbyfuneral.com/tributes/James-Petersen.

Deborah Yun Caldwell is libraries’ Diversity Resident

Deborah Yun Caldwell has been appointed as the 2018-2020 Diversity Resident for University Libraries.

Caldwell comes to UNC Greensboro from Denton, Texas. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and received her master of Information Science degree from the University of North Texas in August. While in the program, Caldwell worked as a student assistant in the Department of Information Science and a graduate library assistant in Willis Library and the Eagle Commons Library.

The two-year Post MLS Diversity Residency program was established to further increase the diversity of University Libraries’ professional staff while fostering the growth and development of a new librarian. As the 2018-2020 diversity resident librarian, Caldwell will be participating in the University’s diversity initiatives and collaborating with University Libraries and other divisions across campus in developing programs related to diversity.