

Welcome to Campus Weekly



UNCG

CAMPUSWEEKLY

Ken Jeong tells graduates: Find your passion, be persistent



It was a day of celebration at UNC Greensboro, with nearly 2,500 Spartans turning their tassels at May Commencement and embarking on a new journey as future business executives, health professionals, artists, teachers, and community leaders.

It was also a day full of laughter, thanks to comedian, actor, writer, producer, and physician Ken Jeong, who imparted words of wisdom and shared his personal story – often irreverent and unfiltered – to the Class of 2019.

A Greensboro native, Dr. Jeong began his remarks by talking about his connections to the city and to UNCG. His sister graduated from UNCG's [Master of Library and Information Studies Program](#), and Dr. Jeong himself took organic chemistry at UNCG – and spent many hours studying in Jackson Library – between his freshman and sophomore years at Duke University.

Throughout his speech, Dr. Jeong had the audience in stitches. But his key message to the graduates was serious: Find your passion.

Dr. Jeong talked about how he found his passion later in life – at age 38 – after working for years as a physician in California. At first, he was apprehensive to take the plunge into the entertainment industry. But with the encouragement and support of his family, he decided to quit his day job and pursue his passions of comedy and acting full time.

“The only thing I have to offer in life is my passion. I think that’s the only thing that keeps me going,” he said. “I’m just looking at every single student here: Find your passion, and if you’ve found your passion, as you graduate, let that evolve.”

He also recognized and celebrated the first-generation students who graduated today, and applauded the University’s efforts to support these students. Approximately 38 percent of UNCG students are the first in their family to attend college.

Dr. Jeong finished by telling the graduates that his biggest talent is persistence.

“After my show got cancelled, I stuck it out. After good things happen, I stick it out. I keep moving no matter what. And I encourage you, good times and bad, keep moving, keep finding your passion. I honestly say to every single soul in this coliseum: If I can do this, and if I can do what I want, so can you. You have the light and the future and the universe ahead of you.”

See full story and social media highlights and photos at [UNCG Now](#).

See a highlight video of Dr. Jeong’s speech at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFqbXD1m8Ds.

Teaching Excellence Award Recipients from each part of UNCG



Each year, UNCG’s many schools award faculty members for outstanding performance in the classroom. This year, seven professors have been named recipients of the respective schools’ Teaching Excellence Awards:

- Dr. Hamid Nemati (Information Systems & Supply Chain Management – Bryan School)
- Dr. Haimeng Zhang (Mathematics & Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Dr. Ali Askerov (Peace & Conflict Studies – School of Health and Human Sciences)
- Dr. Cynthia “Cindy” Bacon (School of Nursing)

- Ms. Janet Allard (School of Theatre, College of Visual and Performing Arts)
- Dr. Eric Josephs (Nanoscience, JSNN)
- Dr. Melody Patterson-Zoch (Teacher Education – Higher Education – School of Education)

Greensboro Bound literary festival this weekend



Greensboro Bound: A Literary Festival strikes up, with the opening reception at UNC Greensboro’s [Weatherspoon Art Museum](#) the evening of May 16, and an event with bestselling author Zadie Smith at the Elliot University Center on May 18.

The festival is a free, weekend-long series of readings, discussions, and events focused on books, writing, diverse voices from around the world, North Carolina’s literary traditions, and an inclusive community of readers from Greensboro and far beyond.

UNCG is one of the Greensboro Bound’s most prominent partners, with leading sponsorship from [University Libraries](#), as well as support from the Office of the Provost, the [Humanities Network and Consortium](#), the Weatherspoon Art Museum, and the faculty and alumni authors and musicians who are participating in the festival.

“Literary festivals are great moments to celebrate what we most admire in our culture and what issues are getting attention in terms of literary treatments,” said Dean of University Libraries Martin Halbert. “It’s an opportunity for the city to come together and explore different parts of our shared culture. The festival puts Greensboro on the map in a new way, and University Libraries is a very happy partner.”

Award-winning writer Zadie Smith will read from her work and join Halbert in a conversation at EUC’s Cone Ballroom at 7:30 p.m. on May 18.

Smith is the author of the bestselling novel “White Teeth,” which won numerous awards and was included in Time magazine’s list of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to

2005. Her 2005 novel “On Beauty” earned the Orange Prize for Fiction, one of the most prestigious literary awards in the United Kingdom. Her most recent published works are “Swing Time,” a novel, and “Feel Free,” a collection of essays that received the 2018 National Critics Circle Award.

Tickets for the event’s main space are sold out, but free overflow tickets for seating in the EUC Auditorium are available [on the event site](#), and attendees are invited to [submit questions for the conversation](#).

From the preceding Thursday through the following Sunday, Greensboro Bound also offers many opportunities to hear and experience the work of UNCG faculty and alumni writers, and to celebrate literary culture through campus connections.

The kick-off party begins Thursday, May 16, at 5:30 at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, and will feature the work of [School of Art](#) faculty member Sheryl Oring with her “I Wish To Say” project.

[See full story at UNCG Now.](#)

Newsmakers: Journell, “Instrument Petting Zoo,” DeJesus, and Debbage

Whether researchers with timely insights or students with outstanding stories, members of the UNCG community appear in print, web and broadcast media every day. Here is a sampling of UNCG-related stories in the news and media over the week:

- Dr. Wayne Journell spoke on the Visions of Education Podcast about his new book, “Unpacking Fake News: An Educator’s Guide to Navigating the Media with Students”. [The episode.](#)
- The News & Record highlighted photos from the “Instrument Petting Zoo” at LeBauer Park, which is hosted by School of Music students and held the first Monday of every month from May through August. [The pictures.](#)
- Dr. Jasmine DeJesus was featured in a WFMZ piece on helping parents deal with picky children. [The article.](#)
- The Winston-Salem Journal spoke to Dr. Keith Debbage for a piece on the Smith-Reynolds Airport’s potential legacy status. [The piece.](#)

'Reach the unreachable star' with Triad Stage/UNCG Theatre's 'Man of Mancha'



The 60s were a time of social upheaval driven by hope and idealism. Now, to bring the year-long "The 60s: Exploring the Limits" series to a close, UNCG Theatre has partnered with Triad Stage for a production of Dale Wasserman's classic musical about pursuing dreams in the face of harsh reality, "Man of La Mancha." The musical was a great hit during its 1965 debut, winning five Tony Awards, and has been performed worldwide and revived on

Broadway four times since.

In prison, the poet Cervantes tells the story of the knight Don Quixote and his squire, Sancho Panza, as they embark on a quest to fight a giant and win the heart of Quixote's beloved Dulcinea. Featuring favorite songs such as "The Impossible Dream," "Dulcinea, and "I, Don Quixote," the play reimagines the original novel as a story about courage and striving to "reach the unreachable star."



The cast and staff include a number of UNCG students, faculty, and alumni in the production:

- Students: Kemari Bryant (José), Christina Duchesne (Antonia), Yansi Fatama (Fermina), Kezia Moore (Captain of the Inquisition), J. Andrew Speas (Anselmo), Forrest Wilson as Juan
- Alumni: Bradley Carter (Paco), Michael Tourek (The Governor/The Innkeeper), Dr. Justin P. Cowan (Musical Director), Virginia Hirsch (Dramaturg)
- Faculty: Christine Morris (Maria, The Innkeeper's Wife/Housekeeper), Denise Gabriel (Choreographer), Jim Wren (Resident Fight Choreographer)



“Man of La Mancha” will run for two more weeks, and tickets are still available. To see the schedule and purchase tickets, see the web entry on Triad Stage [here](#).

*Compiled by Avery Campbell.
Photography by Vanderveen Photography.*

Spartans in top photo: J. Andrea Speas, Kemari Bryant, Bradley Carter, Forrest Wilson

Spartans in middle photo: Christine Morris, Christina Duchesne

Spartans in bottom photo: Yansa Fatima, Christina Duchesne

Come enjoy! UNCG Baseball hosts regular season’s final games



This weekend, UNCG Baseball hosts its final home series of the season. Come enjoy! Admission is free, and you’ll see some of the best baseball around.

The team is at 32-16 overall and is 22-5 at home. The Thursday and Friday games start at 6 p.m, and Saturday’s game is at 2 p.m.

The Spartan pair of [Chad Sykes](#) and [Corey Jackson](#) have proved to be one of the best bullpen duos in the Southern Conference this season. Collectively, they have six wins and seven

saves in 20 appearances for UNCG in league action. Four of the six wins belong to Jackson, who is a perfect 4-0 in SoCon action, while all seven saves belong to Sykes.

Sykes is among the nation's statistical leaders in several major categories – including ERA, where he is first with a 0.74 mark. He is 20th nationally in hits allowed per nine innings (5.77) and is 24th in saves (10).

While you're at the game, be sure to say Hi to Juanita Newcomb, who warmly greets all fans coming through the front gate. ([See story.](#)) She recently celebrated her 90th birthday, and was well-celebrated by UNCG Athletics.

Police rapid deployment training May 21 and May 23

The UNCG Police will conduct rapid deployment (active shooter) training on May 21 and May 23, 2019.

UNCG's McCormick Residence Hall will be the site for the training. A plan is in place to notify all of the shops adjacent to that hall. A larger police presence will be evident in and around the hall. UNCG Police will fire blank rounds inside the building. The training will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on those two days. Questions? Contact Captain S.C. DeDona at scdedona@uncg.edu.

Honoring police officers killed in line of duty

Four members of the UNCG Police Department have made the trip to Washington, DC, this week, representing the department in paying respect to officers killed in the line of duty.

Police Major Richard Bailey, Captain Steven DeDona, Lt. Ashley Westbrook, and Sgt. Hopkins are attending Police Week observances.

At least one officer from UNCG Police has made this trip annually since 2002, following the 9/11 attacks.

In our nation, 158 officers were killed in the line of duty last year, nine from our state.

Particularly meaningful each year is the candlelight vigil, which was held Monday night, Bailey says. "After the sun goes down, approximately 30-40 thousand people will gather on the Mall holding candles as every name of the officers that perished in the line of duty have their names read followed by the somber toll of a bell. Seeing the families, especially the children of the officer, gather in front of the crowd evokes many feelings; sadness, pride, and disappointment that an annual trip of this kind is necessary."

Other events, he explained, include attending the famous Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where various police honor guard units participate alongside the Old Guard in conducting the well-known ceremony.

They also pay their respects at the Police Memorial Wall, where the names of fallen officers are etched.

"The trip is at the same time sobering and gratifying."

Information is at www.policeweek.org/schedule.html.

Major, Assistant Chief of Police