UNCG’s staff will be recognized and applauded Monday, May 20. Please come and enjoy the special event.

From 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. that afternoon, the University will host its inaugural all-staff celebration and appreciation event at Alumni House and the adjoining Taylor Garden (weather permitting).

At 3:30 p.m., the Staff Senate chairs will provide a welcome, and Chancellor Gilliam will provide remarks on the critical role staff play at our university, before presenting the Excellence Awards and Gladys Strawn Bullard Award.

Staff award recipients – including those who have received unit awards – will have special nametags marked with ribbons so they can easily be recognized throughout the afternoon.

Earlier in the day, the three Staff Excellence Award honorees and the Staff Gladys Strawn Bullard Award winner will have a special lunch with Chancellor Gilliam and members of the Bullard family.

Questions? Contact Sarah Alston at s_alston@uncg.edu.
Hooding ceremony is Thursday, Commencement is Friday

UNCG expects to award more than 2,500 degrees at the University’s May Commencement Ceremony and Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

UNCG will confer approximately 1,867 bachelor’s degrees, 578 master’s degrees, 111 doctoral degrees, and 20 specialist in education degrees. Ninety-three of those degrees will be awarded to international students.

The Commencement Ceremony will be held Friday, May 10, at 10 a.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum. The University’s Doctoral Hooding Ceremony will take place Thursday, May 9, at 3 p.m. at UNCG Auditorium.

Actor, writer, producer, and Greensboro native Ken Jeong will deliver the keynote address at Friday’s ceremony. Also a physician, Dr. Jeong earned his undergraduate degree at Duke University and went on to get his medical degree at UNC Chapel Hill. He attended Page High School here in Greensboro, where his parents still live.

Dr. Jeong is perhaps best known for his scene-stealing abilities and has established himself as one of today’s top comedic stars. He gained international fame for his role in the sleeper-hit film “The Hangover,” one of the biggest comedy franchises of all time, and starred in the No. 1 box office hit, “Crazy Rich Asians.”

Tierra Thompson, a senior majoring in political science and sociology, will deliver the student speech.

Dr. Gaëtane Jean-Marie, dean of the College of Education and Richard O. Jacobson Endowed Chair of Leadership in Education at the University of Northern Iowa, will serve as the speaker for the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

General seating at the Greensboro Coliseum is unlimited and is not reserved. Parking at the coliseum is free for all graduates and their guests, and parking permits are not required.
the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, parking is available in the lot behind the Graham Building and Weatherspoon Art Museum.

Park & Ride buses will be available to transport volunteers, students, staff, and faculty between campus and the coliseum. Buses will depart campus every 30 minutes beginning at 7 a.m., with the final shuttle returning to campus at 1 p.m. Passengers may board the bus on Stirling Street in front of Elliott University Center.

For those who cannot attend Friday’s ceremony in person, a livestream of the event can be accessed here.

For more information, visit UNCG Commencement Central.

May 18 at UNCG: Guilford County Heart & Stroke Walk

Life is why we walk. On Saturday, May 18, walkers, donors, and volunteers will walk UNC Greensboro’s campus to raise awareness and funds to save lives of the country’s number 1 and number 5 killers – heart disease and stroke.

The free, 5K (3.1 miles) noncompetitive Guilford County Heart and Stroke Walk is the American Heart Association’s premier event. Hundreds of people will step out in the name of heart health and stroke prevention from Stirling St., at 9 a.m.

Join a UNCG team and receive a T-shirt by completing the online sign up on the UNCG Walk Page. Children who attend (5th grade and under) will receive free passes to Wet’n Wild at Emerald Pointe.

Last year, UNCG raised $7,911 and had 144 walkers. As of this week, UNCG has 38 walkers registered with donations at $2221.

Tents and check-in open at 8 a.m. followed by a “Puppy Parade” at 8:45 a.m. There will be an after-party with music, kids' activities, and light refreshments beginning at 9:30 a.m. Strollers and leashed dogs are allowed, and the route is accessible to people with disabilities.

Parking is free at the Oakland and Walker Parking Decks.

For more information on the 2018 Greater Guilford Heart & Stroke Walk, visit the event
Make nominations for Biotechnology Excellence Awards

Triad BioNight, a premier event for our region’s biotechnology community, takes place June 20, 2019.

The Biotechnology Excellence Awards are the cornerstone of the Triad BioNight celebration. Nominated leaders from the Piedmont Triad will take home awards in five categories: Academic Development; Biotechnology Community Leadership; Biotechnology Service/Support; Entrepreneurial and Research & Development.

Award submissions are due by May 23.

UNC Greensboro is closely engaged with the event. Dr. Kim Littlefield, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, serves on the awards committee. Dr. Terri Shelton, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, serves on the board.

Learn more at www.ncbiotech.org/events/triad-bionight-2019

Four INNOVATE grants awarded

Four faculty members have received grants for Intentional, Notable, and Valued Teaching Experiences (INNOVATE) Research Projects, awarded by the Office of the Provost.

The awards are one-time mini-grants to conduct research that investigates the development, evaluation, and promotion of student success through innovative teaching practices at the University.

Mariche Bayonas (LLC) received the INNOVATE grant in Spanish to support the assessment of “Boomalang” software to facilitate speaking practice in both online and face-to-face introductory Spanish courses. The software was studied across four courses using both self-report data from student questionnaires and comparative data from summative assessments in the form of exams and compositions. The research has been presented widely, including an international conference (AESLA in Cadiz, Spain), two national conferences (AAAL in Chicago and ACTFL in New Orleans), and two regional conferences (SLINKI at Wake Forest and MIFLC in Knoxville). Those presentations have now become manuscripts submitted to the Hispanic Studies Review journal, in addition to several Conference Proceedings.
Diane Gill (Kinesiology) received an INNOVATE grant for evaluation of the online EdD program with a focus on how the program facilitates student progress through the dissertation and professional development. The Doctor of Education in Kinesiology Online program provides a distinct case for evaluation of the factors that promote student success in this environment. The study, with assistance from an independent consultant, looked at a variety of metrics across each of the four existing cohorts, including course evaluations, student self-efficacy, and sense of community. Internally, the Kinesiology department has used the evaluation findings to help better meet the needs of students, especially the students starting their dissertations, through a task force and EdD faculty committee. Externally, the project leads have presented the evaluation work in two sessions at the AIESEP World Congress in Edinburgh, UK. The findings are also being prepared in two related manuscripts to be submitted for publication.

Hemali Rathnayake (Nanoscience) The interdisciplinary graduate program in Nanoscience used the INNOVATE grant to pilot a new model for scientific communication education to practice written, visual, and oral communication skills through professional skills in synthesis of literature reviews, oral presentations, and research proposals. Measurable targets included the ability to interpret and synthesize scientific literature and effectively communicate scientific material in written and oral formats, which were assessed using the National Communication Association’s evaluation rubric. The grant helped to fund seven group sessions in collaboration with the Speaking Center, modeled on their sessions for non-native English speakers, that were open to all JSNN students. The project culminated in several workshops and an open forum, which included practice “TED-like” talks. The project has produced two manuscripts which are currently under revised submissions. It has also served as the foundation for a grant proposal to the NSF-IGE program, which is under review.

Iglika Pavlova (Biology) The INNOVATE grant helped the Biology department to expand research capacity for evaluation of the effect of course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) on improving equitable access and preparation toward STEM careers. Initial data from implementation of CUREs in BIO 112 showed promising improvement in research skills, but the INNOVATE grant facilitated research into whether effects persist across semesters and different instructors, expanded the markers of improvement to be observed, and helped to work towards an expansion of available CURE labs. This work was done in collaboration with Mark Davenport in Institutional Research, John Wilse’s team in ERM, and Sara Heredia in TEHE. Preliminary findings from the research have already been shared with the UNC System, as well as at two national conferences (ASM and SABER). Since the research continues following the INNOVATE grant, submission to peer-reviewed journals is planned for 2020, upon completion of data analysis across four semesters.
Fun in the great indoors, at UNCG’s Employee Field Day

When clouds threaten, you just move the fun inside! More than 225 competitors and spectators enjoyed the annual Employee Field Day, held in the Kaplan Center for Wellness.

Highlights from the day:

- 7 teams competed in the team competitions
- Over 50 individual game winners in the events of hula hooping, egg and spoon race, ball toss, three legged race, musical “chairs,” cookie face, and junk in the trunk!
- Lots of food donations for the Moss Street Partnership School – about ten full boxes.

(see photo)
The UNCG Employee Field Day Champions:

**Push Up Competition Champion**: David Fuller- Facilities Operations, Housekeeping

**Burpee Competition Champion**: Jeff Milroy- Public Health Education

**Plank Competition Champion**: Kyle McCoil- New Student Transitions & First Year Experience

**Obstacle Course Relay Champions**

SOARing to the finish line

- Ally DeLucia
- Kyle McCoil
- Rachel Dodd Blackley
- Austin McKim

**Chicken in the Hen House Champions**

SOARing to the finish line

- Ally DeLucia
- Kyle McCoil
- Rachel Dodd Blackley
- Austin McKim
Tic Tac Toe Champions
UNCG Human Resources
- Sarah Dreier-Kasik
- Linh-An Doan
- Cati Munoz
- Marge Webb

Photos on this post by Jiyoung Park. More pictures from the event are here.

Community-Engaged Pathways and Partnerships (P2) info session Tuesday

A Collective Scholarship Fellows Program will be hosted by the UNCG Institute for Community & Economic Engagement and the UNCG Office of Research and Engagement. Applications are due October 11, 2019. Questions or want to learn more? Contact Lori Kniffin, lekniffi@uncg.edu.

And continue reading:

PROGRAM PURPOSE

This grant-funded fellows program aims to strengthen collective approaches to community-engaged scholarship through the development of sustainable pathways and partnerships that build deep, reciprocal processes to achieve mutually beneficial, community-identified priorities. Scholarship is broadly defined to include research, creative activity, inquiry, and teaching. This scholarship fellows program is unique in that spans three years, focuses on community-engaged practices and outcomes, supports team-based scholarship, and provides professional development to P2 Fellows.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Community-university partnerships are often limited in their capacity, reach, effectiveness, and sustainability, because the relationships and activities are focused on the aims of individual scholars and partners. By connecting to larger, more collectively-designed, teams
in which the relationships, vision, plans, efforts, and outcomes are shared, the partnership can reach its full potential.

This program supports the *visioning and planning* needed to develop sustainable and reciprocal community-university *partnerships*. Highly collaborative, reciprocal, community-university partnerships are foundational to transforming regions, students, and scholarship (key areas in the UNCG Strategic Plan) and are increasingly required to secure external funding. Therefore, this three-year grant provides the time and support needed to develop sustainable pathways and partnerships.

An information session will be held Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 9-10 a.m. in 3603 MHRA Building.

*Please register here*

Learn more at https://communityengagement.uncg.edu/uncg-engagement/community-engaged-pathways-and-partnerships-grant/.

**UNCG Nursing collaborates with Swiss university for nurse practitioner program**

As a former forensic pathologist, Dr. Ursula Klopfstein-Bichsel smiled like a kid playing with a new toy as she performed a virtual autopsy on a digital cadaver.

To examine the male cadaver’s large intestine, all she had to do was make a few incisions by running her right hand across an Anatomage Table, which resembles a massive iPad.

Klopfstein-Bichsel, a lecturer in the Department of Health at Switzerland’s Bern University of Applied Sciences, observed a variety of new things while visiting the UNC Greensboro School of Nursing for two weeks in April. She watched nursing students attend classes, perform simulations, and take their objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). She also attended a Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball game.

Klopfstein-Bichsel’s visit was part of an international collaboration in which UNCG faculty
members are helping Bern start a nurse practitioner program this fall. The partnership could eventually expand to include a global exchange program that would give UNCG nursing students the opportunity to study in Switzerland.

“I guess both sides are very excited about this collaboration,” Klopfstein-Bichsel said, “and we at Bern are very very happy for all those things we learn from UNCG because you have much more experience in nurse practitioner courses than we have.”

More than 20 students have already enrolled in Bern’s nurse practitioner program. With the first day of class quickly approaching, Klopfstein-Bichsel traveled to the United States to work with UNCG faculty members on creating the program’s curriculum. They also developed content for courses that Swiss professors will teach, including in pathophysiology and pharmacology.

Nurse practitioner is a new profession in Switzerland, and it has become a problem that there are some regions of the country where nurse practitioners aren’t available. At the same time, Klopfstein-Bichsel said some Swiss physicians have raised concerns about Bern starting a program that trains nurses to perform certain procedures that doctors have traditionally done.

“My medical colleagues, some are very excited, and the others are very critical. They say, ‘But nurses can’t do this,’” Klopfstein-Bichsel said. “They fear nurses will pick work from them, and they’re very skeptical. We have to work on that to make them confident about this new role.” As a result, there is pressure for Bern’s program to have a successful launch in a few months to avoid further criticism. UNCG’s nursing faculty have provided guidance along the way.

“Since they’re just starting the nurse practitioner role, it will not be equivalent to what is in the United States,” said Dr. Kelly Stamp, who has been instrumental in UNCG’s collaboration with Bern as an associate professor and department chair of Family and Community Nursing. “But I think giving Ursula the opportunity to see where the role will go over the years and where it will end up is important. It’s helpful for her to see how independent we teach our students to be and the level of nursing that we’re teaching.”
UNCG’s partnership with Bern is actually several years in the making. In 2013, Stamp started traveling to Switzerland to teach as a part of a global exchange program that Boston College has with the University of Lausanne. At the time, she was a faculty member at Boston College. In addition to teaching, Swiss officials asked Stamp to give talks about her research on heart failure to doctors around the country. They later asked if she would continue to collaborate with them on new projects after she joined UNCG’s faculty in August 2017. In the spring of 2018, when Bern administrators needed help starting its nurse practitioner program, they reached out to Stamp.

“We’ll be there on the side to make sure they’re sustainable,” Stamp said. “If we need to go over to Switzerland, we’ll go over. If we need to talk via Skype more often, we’ll do that to help mitigate any barriers that Ursula is having along the way.”

By Alex Abrams

Dr. Ursula Klopfstein-Bichsel in both photos, with Dr. Kelly Stamp in red jacket in the top photo. Photos by Alex Abrams.

History Museum will screen Frierson’s film on Cascade Saloon Building

Enjoy a free screening of the documentary “Cascade: Caring for a Place” at the Greensboro History Museum on Wednesday, May 15, at 6 p.m. A discussion with filmmaker Michael Frierson, professor in the Department of Media Studies, and several people involved in the rehabilitation of Downtown Greensboro’s Cascade Saloon Building follows the film.

The 18 minute documentary chronicles the transformation of a decaying building that sits between South Elm Street and the railroad tracks into the bustling office of the Christman Company, a firm that specializes in historic preservation. Preservation Greensboro led a decades long battle to save the building, built in 1895, which had fallen in to complete disrepair by the 1970s. The film records the great effort required to save the building, from partnership with the City of Greensboro to the reconstruction of the building’s interior. The rich history of the property includes a period when African American couple Wiley and Ida Weaver owned and operated a café in the building around 1907, unusual for a segregated southern business district in that era.

Four guests who were intimately involved in the rehabilitation of the building will be present
to discuss the project: Benjamin Briggs, executive of Preservation Greensboro, and Chris Brummel, Sarah DosSantos and April Larkins of the Christman Company. Richard Cox from UNCG Libraries’ Well Crafted NC research project will also be on hand to offer some history of Greensboro saloons.

The Greensboro History Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is located at 130 Summit Ave., next to LeBauer Park.

**Newsmakers: Nash, Leavel, Parker, Dial-Stanley, UNCG Police**

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:

- A Discover magazine article featured Dr. Donna Nash’s contributions to the rediscovery of the recipe of an ancient Incan drink. [The piece.](#)
- Beth Leavel is a nominee for a Tony Award this year, as reported in the News & Record. [The piece.](#)
- Michael Parker was featured in a News & Record article on retiring professors. [The article.](#)
- UNCG’s vigil for UNCC last Thursday was featured in multiple publications, including WFMY News2, WXII 12, and the News & Record.
- UNCG Police’s “Run.Hide.Fight” safety training was featured on News2, on WXII, and Fox8.
- UNCG undergraduate Raven Dial-Stanley was interviewed for a story on the teaching of U.S. history and the history of Native Americans in our public schools. [The story.](#)

**Dax, the second K9 in the UNCG Police Department, has died**
UNCG Police Department has announced the passing of retired K9 Dax (2007-2019) on May 1.

After the formation of the department’s K9 Unit in 2007, Dax was the second K9 selected by the department. Dax worked with his K9 handler Sgt. J.B. Smith until 2010. At that time, Dax was medically retired due to health reasons.

Dax had numerous deployments for searches and apprehensions. Most noteworthy, Dax and Sgt. Smith greatly contributed to building the foundation and ultimate success of our UNCG Police’s K9 Unit.

In its announcement of this death, the department finished by stating:

“UNCG PD extends our sincere gratitude to Sgt. Smith and his family for taking great care of him after his retirement. Rest in Peace Dax – job well done!”

You’ve gotta smile. Juanita Newcomb welcomes everyone to Spartan games.

If you’ve been to UNCG games, you know Juanita Newcomb. That smile. That welcome.

Players graduate. One year rolls into the next. But Ms. Newcomb is always there, season after season, with a smile and a “Welcome, good to see you!”

Baseball games. Softball games. Women’s soccer. Men’s soccer. Women’s basketball. At men’s basketball games at the Greensboro Coliseum, she greets the players and the media
at their entrance. She notes that the Spartan men’s basketball players give her a hug at every game.

“I’m 90,” she tells us. She has been welcoming fans and helping tend the gate for about 20 years.

Lynn Clark, her daughter, joined her at the entrance for a recent UNCG Softball game – and listened as her mother reminisced about her playing days in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. In between her mom greeting fans, that is.

Newcomb grew up in the mill town of Roxboro, North Carolina. When the New York Yankees were on the radio, her father would tell her, “Skeeter, it’s baseball time!”

Enos Slaughter and his brother Sam Slaughter grew up close by. They were both great players, she remembers – Enos was a Hall of Famer.

Her father took care of the community ball field in their part of Roxboro and ran the concession stand. And Ms. Newcomb developed a passion for sports.

“I love sports,” she says. In addition to softball, she played six-on-six basketball.

She tried out for infield positions in softball, then tried centerfield. “Centerfield was my spot.”

She played for Roxboro High School – and continued playing on a community team after that, taking on softball teams from other communities.

“We went all over. We had fun,” she says.

On her recent 90th birthday, members of the UNCG Athletics department surprised her at home with Spartan goodies. (Her daughter was in on the surprise.) Softball Coach Janelle Breneman joined Jarrett Rice, Phil Strobel and Dennis Jansen in Facilities & Game Operations in the fun visit.

“(We) wanted to see her and surprise her on her big day,” Janelle says. “We enjoyed time with her at her house and brought her some UNCG swag along with a huge birthday balloon. Juanita is kind and such a special person to so many in the athletics department – we certainly wanted her to feel special on her 90th birthday.

Only a few more home games remain this year for UNCG Athletics. The baseball team hosts Winthrop May 14 and then Wofford May 16-18. Admission is free.

Juanita Newcomb will be there at the front gate, welcoming fans. And she’ll be at the UNCG
Soccer Stadium entrance in August, welcoming fans to the games to we start another Spartan season.

When you see her, give her a big Hello.

By Mike Harris
Photo at recent UNCG Softball game of Juanita Newcomb with her daughter, Lynn Clark.