

## Welcome to Campus Weekly



UNCG

CAMPUSWEEKLY

### 'The Prince of Egypt': Prepping London's big new show



What do you do when you come off the high of having worked on the first national tour of smash Broadway hit production of "Wicked?" Well, you get chosen to work on a high-profile, international stage production of a wildly successful animated film.

This February, the Dominion Theatre in London will play "The Prince of Egypt," a new musical based on the celebrated Dreamworks Animation film. Alumnus [Dominick Amendum '01](#), currently the UNC Greensboro Smart-Tillman Artist in Residence in the School of Musical Theatre, is music supervisor for the production. Building upon his Broadway experience working on productions such as the hit "Wicked," Amendum joins an international all-star production team to bring this new musical to life.

See the full UNCG Now article - to be posted soon.

### UNCG and N.C. A&T awarded \$500,000 to build high-speed data network



UNCG and N.C. A&T have been awarded a two-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$499,912 to build a high-speed research data network that will both connect the two largest universities in the Triad with each other and enable faster, easier sharing of research with scientists around the world.

The Gate City Research Network (GCRN) is one of only 11 NSF Campus Cyber Infrastructure awards in the state of North Carolina and is the first award in the state for the category of Network Infrastructure. Approximately \$358,000 of the award will be managed directly by UNCG, while approximately \$142,000 will be managed by NC A&T as a “sub-award.”

The GCRN will create a multi-institutional network supporting research activities through a clean, low-latency, high-speed internet connection. This will give researchers access to dedicated, high performance computing resources while helping to eliminate issues posed by using existing networks that also carry administrative, entertainment (i.e. movie streaming, gaming), and other non-scientific data. The GCRN will enable fast transfers of the enormous amount of data that fuels innovative research. This will significantly increase the fundamental research capacity in disciplines such as chemistry, nano-engineering, nano-, computer-, and data science.

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

## **UNCG selected for national community engagement initiative**



UNC Greensboro has been selected to participate in the Partnerships for Listening and Action by Communities and Educators (PLACE) Collaboratory, a highly selective community-based humanities and civic engagement initiative.

UNCG is one of 5 Greensboro institutions and just 11 institutions nationwide to participate in the initiative, which is part of the larger Bringing Theory to Practice project. The initiative is funded by an \$800,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), which serves as the host and partner to Bringing Theory to Practice.

UNCG was selected because of its national reputation for leadership in and commitment to engaging faculty, staff, and students with diverse communities through reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships.

“We are in a special and unique position,” said UNCG Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Dr. Terri Shelton. “We have the opportunity to harness the collective knowledge and resources of six local colleges and universities to alter the landscape of community engagement to improve the quality of life for the citizens of our region, today and for generations to come. We are grateful for the generous funding from the Mellon Foundation to enable us to undertake this important work.”

One key project that will form part of the initiative is the Reclaiming Democracy course, which brings together students, faculty, and alumni from UNCG, Guilford College, Elon University, Greensboro College, and N.C. A&T, to study how democracy works in our community.

The goal of each local project will be to develop action plans grounded in community voice and enabled by academic-community partnership. The goal of the larger collaboratory will be to distill best practices for such partnerships, to model the role of the humanities in sustaining them, and to use networked collaboration to disseminate them across higher education. All projects and partnerships will include undergraduate students as key participants in the process.

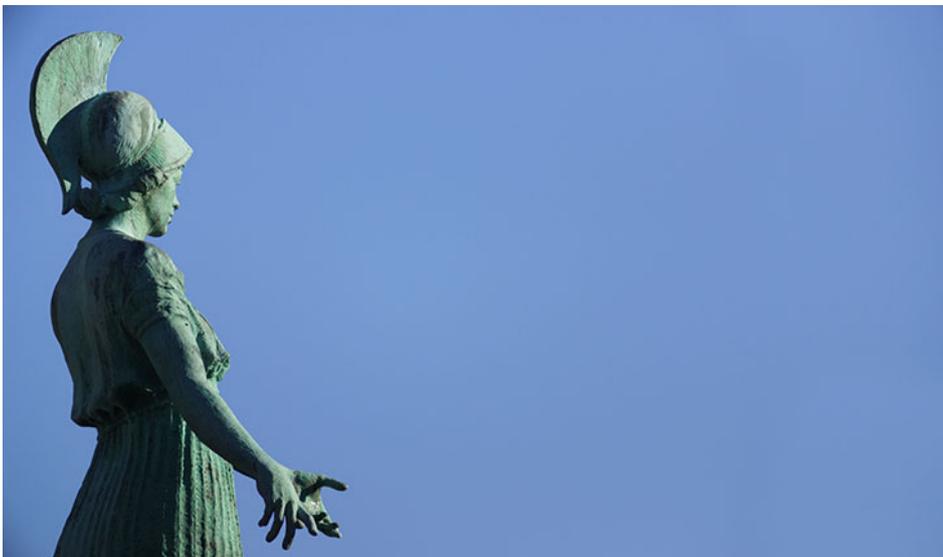
Dr. Emily Janke, director of the Institute for Community and Economic Engagement and

associate professor in the Dept. of Peace and Conflict Studies, represents UNCG on the steering task force for the Greensboro partnership.

For more information about community engagement at UNCG, visit [communityengagement.uncg.edu](http://communityengagement.uncg.edu).

To learn more about the national initiative, visit [aacu.org](http://aacu.org).

## August 13 is Kick-off; mark your calendar



Come enjoy a great meal with your fellow faculty and staff Tuesday, August 13, in Kaplan Commons.

It'll be a great time to learn about the new UNCG app and its features. Plus learn about more things in the coming year.

More detail will be announced as the event draws closer.

## Two UNCG Spartans head to Romania on Fulbright Scholarships

Two recent Spartan graduates, Kyle Kostenko and Colin Cutler, have received prestigious Fulbright Scholarships to teach and research abroad during the 2019-20 academic year.

The Fulbright Student Program, the largest international exchange program in the country, offers opportunities for recent graduates in more than 140 countries. Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields, and are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

“As stated in the University’s mission and vision statement, ‘UNCG is committed to being a global university integrating intercultural and international experiences and perspectives into learning, discovery, and service.’ We applaud these students who will take the knowledge they acquired at UNCG and apply it overseas. Being selected for the Fulbright Student Award is an outstanding achievement which speaks highly of their character and abilities,” says Patrick Lilja, UNCG Coordinator of Prestigious International/National Fellowships and Fulbright Program Advisor.

Coincidentally, both award recipients will travel to and work in Romania.



Fulbright recipient Kyle Kostenko. Photography by Brittany Hudson.



Fulbright recipient Colin Cutler. Photography by Bob Mitchell.

Kyle Kostenko (Master of Music, Music Performance ‘19) will research and collect experimental and contemporary music composed for clarinet by Romanian composers. His ultimate goal is to produce a collection of representative works for dissemination in the United States and internationally.

Colin Cutler (Master of Arts, English ‘16) will work as an English Teaching Assistant at Universitatea Lucian Blaga in Sibiu, a small city in the south of Transylvania. As a guitarist, banjo player, and singer, he will share what he learned about old time blues and Appalachian music in the Piedmont Oldtime Society and UNCG Old Time Ensemble through lectures, workshops, and community events in and around Sibiu.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards approximately 1,900 grants annually in all fields of study, with recent graduates and graduate students undertaking international graduate

study, advanced research, university teaching and primary and secondary teaching worldwide. Founded in 1946, the Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

UNCG students and recent alums interested in the Fulbright program or other nationally competitive fellowships are invited to visit the **Prestigious International/National Fellowships** webpage and submit an **inquiry form** to request an advising appointment.

*By Matt Bryant*

## Cultivate Resilient Communities: CST awarded national grant



PIC11731 2017 Summer Campus: Abstract illustrations of Ferguson Building

The UNCG Communication Studies Department has received a major grant from the National Communication Association (NCA) to host the inaugural Center for Communication, Community Collaboration, and Change (4C Center) for 2019-2021. This initiative, with the theme “Cultivate Resilient Communities,” will award a total of \$100,000 in micro-grants to area community organizations focusing on social justice and marginalized populations. Communication Studies Department Head Dr. Roy Schwartzman will serve as the principal investigator and Dr. Spoma Jovanovic will assume the role of project coordinator.

In addition to the micro-grants, Communication Studies Department faculty and community partners will conduct a preconference on the C5 grant at the NCA convention to be held in Seattle in 2021. Researchers involved with the grant also will develop a major publication to be distributed by NCA. Founded in 1914, the National Communication Association is the oldest and largest academic professional organization in the field of communication studies.

“Cultivate Resilient Communities” highlights building the community’s capacity to proactively and productively respond address issues of inequity, prejudice, and intolerance. The 4C Center will connect community organizations with engaged communication scholars, further empowering communities to sustain their advocacy for positive change. PI Roy Schwartzman notes : “This is a singular honor for the Communication Studies department and for UNCG. Cultivate Resilient Communities arose as a positive way to engage with the

many social challenges we face: xenophobia, identity-based intolerance, income inequalities, and many others. The 4C Center embodies UNCG's motto: Service."

Schwartzman notes that Communication Studies has a major role to play in building resilience. "Communication as a discipline can equip us to connect across differences. Through techniques such as dialogue, storytelling, critical consciousness, and public advocacy, we can team with our communities to enact our department's mission, using communication 'to connect people, create change, and work toward a just world.'"

## **New month for Shred-A-Thon: In September this year**

The UNCG Shred-A-Thon has usually been held in June.

This year, organizers are trying what may be a much better date:

Friday, September 13, UNCG affiliated staff, faculty, students, and alumni can drop off departmental and personal paper materials for free onsite shredding. Spartans can start dropping off their material at 9 a.m.

This event is not for the public.

The 2019 event will take place at Kenilworth St. at the Baseball Field service drive area. Organizers will have a line forming from Walker Ave. and onto Kenilworth, so they keep all traffic moving in the same direction. Questions? Contact Ben Kunka at 336-709-9707.

## **UNCG places 33 student-athletes on Spring Academic All-SoCon Teams**

UNC Greensboro placed 33 student-athletes on the 2019 Spring Academic All-Southern Conference Team. The Spartans had 10 teams represented, led by eight selections from women's indoor track. Women's golf accrued the second-most selections with five. Women's outdoor track, men's indoor track and softball each had four honorees. Baseball added three, and women's basketball had a pair of selections. Women's tennis, men's golf and men's outdoor track all had one student-athlete selected.

## **Newsmakers: Delaney, CHANCE, reading, Kshetri,**

## Debbage, Miller, and Rueppel

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:

- Wednesday, July 10, staff member Chase Holleman will sit on a televised panel discussing the opioid epidemic in the Triad, which will also include the Attorney General. The panel will be broadcast on WFMY News2.
- Gizmodo spoke to Dr. Peter Delaney, among other psychologists, for a piece on whether it's possible to forget things on purpose. [The piece.](#)
- MyFox8 featured UNCG CHANCE's efforts to introduce young Latinx people to the college experience. [The article.](#)
- A News & Record "The Syllabus" post featured the new Kecker Common Experience program, and it mentions a listing of new books by those affiliated with the MFA in Writing program. [The piece.](#)
- Dr. Nir Kshetri wrote a piece for Moneyweb about how cryptocurrency scams work. [The article.](#)
- Dr. Keith Debbage was quoted in a Winston-Salem Journal article on Forsyth County's millennial population. [The article.](#)
- UNCG men's basketball rising junior Isaiah Miller was selected to participate in the CP3 Elite Guard Camp, reported by WFMY News2. [The piece.](#)
- Dr. Olav Rueppel is editor on a new study about infectious diseases in bees. [The study.](#)

## Sameer Kapileshwari is new Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities



Sameer Kapileshwari will be UNCG's Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities.

Kapileshwari is a licensed Professional Engineer currently leading the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Facilities Planning Construction and Safety. He comes to us with more than 20 years of higher education Facilities experience. Along with his Professional Engineering License, he is a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Accredited Professional, Certified Facilities Management Professional, Certified Sustainability Facilities Professional and he holds an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Safety Certification

and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified lighting surveyor.

He earned his Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Pune, located in Pune, India, and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin.

He will join the university July 15, 2019.

## Dr. Nancy Hoffart



Dr. Nancy Hoffart (Adult Health Nursing) received new funding from the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Foundation for the project “Measuring Implementation Fidelity for a New Graduate Nurse Residency Program.”

The purpose of the study is to develop a tool that can be used to measure the extent to which a nurse residency program is delivered as planned and to pilot test the tool to evaluate implementation fidelity of a program.

## Dr. Esther Leerkes



Dr. Esther Leerkes (Human Development and Family Studies) received a continuation of funding from the National Institutes of Health Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) for the project “Biopsychosocial predictors of obesity during the first 2 years of life.”

Dr. Cheryl Buehler, Dr. Susan Calkins, Dr. Laurie Gold, and Dr. Lenka Shriver are co-principal investigators on the project.

The prevalence of childhood obesity is a significant public health crisis. Overweight children experience significantly more health and psychosocial problems compared to their same age peers and are likely to carry these problems with them into adolescence and adulthood. In this proposal, they describe a study of the early development of risk for obesity in childhood. The risk for obesity in early childhood is likely determined by multiple biological, psychological, and social factors that are observable in infancy. They propose a conceptual model, a biopsychosocial model of the early development of risk for obesity that focuses on several key biological, psychological, and social factors. Using an experienced team of investigators from multiple disciplines, they propose to investigate this model with an innovative, multi-method, longitudinal study of infants and their families (n = 288) that addresses these factors across the first two years of life. Their two key aims focus on understanding (1) factors that predict infant weight gain and (2) the ways in which this

weight gain and infant's social interactions with mothers in feeding and non-feeding contexts predict self-regulation, and subsequent obesity risk at age two. The study has important implications for the development of targeted prevention and intervention programs for families and children that may be utilized early in development, prior to the onset of weight gain that is difficult to reverse.

## Dr. Bryan Hutchins



Dr. Bryan Hutchins (SERVE Center) received new funding from the American Educational Research Association (AERA) for the project “STEM preparation experiences of non-college bound youth.”

The purpose of this study is to assess whether non-college bound youth (defined as those who do not attain any postsecondary education credential after high school) who take part in a sequence of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) coursework as well as work-based learning during high school are more likely to experience positive school-to-work (STW) transition outcomes compared to non-college-bound youth who do not take STEM courses or those who take STEM courses outside of a meaningful sequence or pathway using data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002). Few studies to date have explored whether participation in structured STEM coursework and work-based learning activities provides an advantage to non-college bound youth in particular who enter the workforce without the training and experience that would come from postsecondary education. Results from this study will inform efforts around career pathway program development and career advising that are tailored to the needs of non-college bound youth, particularly for the small, but substantive group of non-college bound youth who never enroll in college.

## Dr. George Hancock



Dr. George Hancock (SERVE Center) received new funding from Johnston County Schools for the project “Johnston County Schools – School Comprehensive Needs Assessment for Selma Middle School.”

This project is a School Comprehensive Needs Assessment for Selma Middle School in Johnston County, NC. There will be a two day on-site visit that will include classroom observations, and meetings with staff, families, and students. At the conclusion of the on-site visit, the lead reviewer will provide a summary report which will outline the strengths and

areas for development. The final report will be sent to the principal and the district superintendent, or designee.

Hancock also received new funding from The Capital Encore Project for the project “Comprehensive Needs Assessment for Capitol Encore Academy.”

**Purpose of the Project** – A systematic assessment of practices, processes and structures within a school (with specific emphasis on the SWD subgroup) to assist school leadership and key stakeholders in determining needs, examining their nature and causes, and setting priorities for future actions. The assessment guides the development of a genuine school improvement plan that is grounded in data and provides a roadmap to future progress. Research supports the fact that schools who undertake a true comprehensive needs assessment make better decisions, resulting in improved outcomes relative to the achievement of their students.

## Dr. Julie Edmunds



Dr. Julie Edmunds (SERVE Center) has been appointed as an editor of the Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness.

As the flagship publication for the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), the journal publishes original articles from the multidisciplinary community of researchers who are committed to applying principles of scientific inquiry to the study of educational problems.

Edmunds has extensive expertise in research methodology and program evaluation pertaining to the implementation and effectiveness of educational programs. She is currently program director for secondary school reform at [SERVE Center](#) at UNCG and conducts research on issues primarily related to high school reform.

## Dr. Andrew Willis



**Dr. Andrew Willis (Music)**, Covington Distinguished Professor and historical pianist, will play a concert with students Stephanie Schmidt and Robin Morace at the Blandwood Mansion in downtown Greensboro on a restored 1827 Loud & Brothers pianoforte that belonged to Eliza and John Motley Morehead. In May 2019, the piano was returned to Blandwood after a 175-year hiatus, completely restored, and expertly returned to playable condition. The restoration project was carried out

by piano specialists in collaboration with Preservation Greensboro, and the Greensboro History Museum, with the project beginning in 2017. The performance program features solos and duets ranging from the classical to the popular music of the early nineteenth century and offers the opportunity to hear the music of Blandwood's heyday on a historic pianoforte in its original setting. The concert, which is ticketed, will be held July 31 at 7 p.m.

## Dr. Spoma Jovanovic



Dr. Spoma Jovanovic (Communication Studies) will host a “featured roundtable” at an Association of American Colleges & Universities [pre-meeting symposium](#). Her discussion will be on student activism and will feature the work of students in the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation process. Jovanovic's career of community engaged scholarship has included a decade of scholarship on truth and reconciliation processes. This conference presentation is part of a Kellogg Foundation national initiative on truth and reconciliation, she notes.

Also, she has been asked to serve on the national Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council Subcommittee on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced the formation](#) of this new Academic Subcommittee on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) earlier this fall. The subcommittee will provide advice and recommendations aimed at enhancing DHS's CVE-related programs, policies and initiatives.

## Terry L. Kennedy



**Terry L. Kennedy** (English) has been named by the North Carolina Humanities Council to its 2019 panel of judges for the Linda Flowers Literary Award. Judges were selected based on level of literary involvement in the state of North Carolina.

Kennedy is the author of the poetry collection “New River Breakdown,” as well as the limited-edition chapbook “Until the Clouds Shatter the Light That Plates Our Lives.” His work appears in a variety of journals and magazines and has been anthologized in “Hard Lines: Rough South Poetry” and “The Southern Poetry Anthology Volume VII: North Carolina.” Among Kennedy's honors are the 2015 Tandy R. Willis Award for Most Promising Writer from the USC Union Upcountry Literary Festival and a 2016-17 UNCG College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Excellence Award. He currently serves as the director of the Graduate Program in Creative Writing at UNCG and as editor for both The Greensboro Review and the online journal, storySouth.

## In Memoriam: Suzanne Lea

Dr. Suzanne Moore Lea died May 29.

She was a professor of physics and computer science at UNCG, serving as director of the computer science division within the Department of Mathematical Science until 2004.

She earned a bachelor's in physics and mathematics from Rice University in Texas in 1964, a master's of science in physics from Ohio State University in 1965, and her PhD in physics from Duke University in 1970. She also received a master's of science in computer science from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1986.

With her UNCG colleagues and partners across the UNC System, she worked on a major project: ["A Consortium to Promote Computational Science and High Performance Computing."](#)

## In memoriam: Lawrence ("Larry") Queen, Jr.

Veteran North Carolina journalist and teacher Lawrence ("Larry") Talmbadge Queen, Jr., died July 6. He received a master's degree from UNCG in 1970, and had a long career in journalism, as a reporter and a youth news editor, working with high school students. In the 1960's, while with the Winston-Salem newspapers, he also did freelance radio interviews broadcast locally, and nationally by NBC in New York City and by the Armed Forces Overseas Network.

In 1985, Larry retired from the Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel newspapers after 29 years and then taught journalism at UNCG for 10 years as a visiting lecturer.

As a volunteer Larry advocated for local parks and other public projects, and was involved with Guilford County Greenways Commission, Nature Conservancy, Habitat for Humanity, Greensboro Episcopal Housing Ministry, and other organizations. Larry served with the Army in World War II in military police and combat engineers, including duty in the Southwest Pacific Theater.

He spoke in an [interview for a UNCG University Archives oral history project](#).

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 9, at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church.

## In memoriam: Michael Dean Parker

Michael Dean Parker, MD, died on June 24.

He attended Duke Medical School and served on the faculty of the UNC School of Medicine and Bowman Gray School of Medicine. After retiring from practicing radiology, he taught physiology and physics as an adjunct professor here at UNCG.

His research into antinuclear antibodies led to more accurate diagnoses of several autoimmune diseases, and his 1985 "Introduction to Radiology" textbook was used in medical schools throughout the country. He was a major in the US Air Force from 1972-1974, where he served as a teaching physician at Keesler Air Force Base and assisted in caring for U.S. prisoners returning from Vietnam. He taught himself to play guitar and played lead at many open Blues Jams sponsored by the Piedmont Blues Society.