

## Welcome to Campus Weekly



UNCG

CAMPUSWEEKLY

### What's new: Some items of interest for faculty/staff



As we head into the new year, here are a few items to know:

- UNCG has five new deans. A reception for them will be Sept 5. The new deans are Dr. Karen Bull, *UNCG Online*; Dr. Andrew Hamilton, *Associate Vice Provost of Student Success and Dean of Undergraduate Studies*; Dr. Carl Mattacola, *School of Health and Human Sciences*; Dr. Bruce McClung, *College of Visual and Performing Arts*; and Dr. Sherine Obare, *Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering*
- New mobile app If you haven't downloaded the UNC Greensboro Mobile App or have an older version of it, you'll want to head over to the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play](#) store and install the new version. The app has personalized home screens based on the user's choice of a persona, which they choose when they first open the app. Presently there are seven personas: Faculty/Staff, Student, New Student, Graduate Student, Prospective Student, Alumni, and a community persona called Families, Friends, and Fans. All personas are available now, but the Student and New Student personas have been developed with targeted content. Look for the Faculty/Staff and Alumni personas to be further developed with targeted content in the coming months. [See details.](#)
- UNCG's Business Affairs Conference, scheduled for October 15. This year, it will focus on the University and Business Affairs Strategic Plan. The division is planning to make the conference more streamlined than before. Details will be in CW as the event approaches.
- Career Services has a new name. Their department name is now Career & Professional Development. essential to communicate to stakeholders the breadth of

offerings. Career Services has taken the proactive step of conducting a broad review of its target audiences to evaluate how it can strengthen its outreach and impact. That review is the catalyst behind the decision of creating a new identity for the department that better reflects the full range of outcomes from graduation career-readiness to long-term career development: Career & Professional Development. The department's new website URL will be [cpd.uncg.edu](http://cpd.uncg.edu).

- Among the changes in student academic support services is: In order to better meet the needs of students, the Tutoring and Academic Skills Program and The Supplemental Instruction Program have merged to form the Academic Achievement Center (AAC). They will provide the same support for students, including Supplemental Instruction and small group tutoring in many courses, academic skills and outreach workshops on learning skills. Any UNCG student is welcome to participate in academic skills coaching or workshops, and tutoring and Supplemental Instruction will continue to be available for students enrolled in supported courses. Online and evening appointments will also continue to be offered. Their offices are located in the Forney Student Success Commons, suite 114. Information is at <https://studentsuccess.uncg.edu/home/> In the next two week, CW will interview Andrew Hamilon and give a broad update on what is new in Forney.
- The men's basketball season will have some pre-preseason excitement and generate buzz and community fun with a daylong 3 on 3 Tournament. Ticket sales are very strong, we have learned. See more here.
- Au Bon Pain is no longer located in Bryan Building. [See a construction update here.](#)
- See [some Key Dates for the coming weeks here.](#)
- And for a full update on eateries and what's new in UNCG Dining – plus many more “what's new” updates, [see this UNCG Now post.](#)

*Assembled by Mike Harris*

**Popular Collage concert at UNCG Sept. 7, in Charlotte Sept. 15**



Collage is one of the School of Music's biggest and most exciting events. This year there will be an additional date - in Charlotte.

During the concert, more than 300 students, along with many faculty-members, perform at various places in the venue, in a fluid and wonderfully diverse tableau of music. The performance is a highlight every year, and every year sells out quickly, so make sure to buy tickets now.

The first performance of Collage was in September 2008, to celebrate the reopening of UNCG Auditorium following two years of renovations. It was an opportunity for the entire School of Music to come together to showcase the excellence of our faculty and students through a unique concert experience.

Twelve years later, Collage is one of the premier performances annually on UNCG's campus, raising money for scholarships and giving hundreds of students an opportunity to perform for sell out crowds alongside their faculty mentors. The fast-paced concert features a wide variety of music delivered from all around the auditorium. Incredible lighting effects highlight each performance in seamless flow.

Since 2008, Collage performances in Greensboro have raised over \$160,000 for student scholarships in the UNCG School of Music.

Collage expanded its audience base with a performance in Raleigh in 2017. This year's Charlotte performance will expand its outreach even further, with the School of Music's excellence on full display.

The Charlotte performance will be at the Knight Theater at Levine Center for the Arts, September 15, at 7 p.m.

The Greensboro performance will be at UNCG Auditorium, September 7, at 7:30 p.m.

See more information and buy tickets here:

<https://vpa.uncg.edu/music/degrees-and-programs/special-programs/collage/>

## MFA Readings launch with new faculty Xhenet Aliu



New faculty member [Xhenet Aliu](#) will give a reading Thursday, August 29, at 7 p.m. in the UNCG Faculty Center. The event will be the first of many readings presented by the MFA in Creative Writing program this year.

Aliu joined the MFA in Creative Writing program this month. Her novel, “Brass,” was a Barnes & Noble “Discover Great New Writers” selection, was long-listed for the 2018 Center for Fiction First Book Prize, and was awarded the Georgia Author of the Year First Novel Prize. Her debut fiction collection, “Domesticated Wild Things,” won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction. Aliu’s writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Glimmer Train*, *Hobart*, *American Short Fiction*, *Lenny*, *LitHub*, *Buzzfeed*, and elsewhere.

A few particular readings in the coming weeks to mark on your calendar:

Michael Parker (professor emeritus) reading – Friday, September 6, 4-6 p.m., with reception.  
Hodges Reading Room, Jackson Library

Fred Chappell (professor emeritus and former NC poet laureate) reading from his new book, “As If It Were: – Thursday, September 12, 7 p.m., UNCG Faculty Center

Alumna Nicole Stockburger, reading from her award-winning debut collection, “Beulah Land” – Friday, October 18, 7 p.m., UNCG Faculty Center. This is a UNCG Homecoming event.

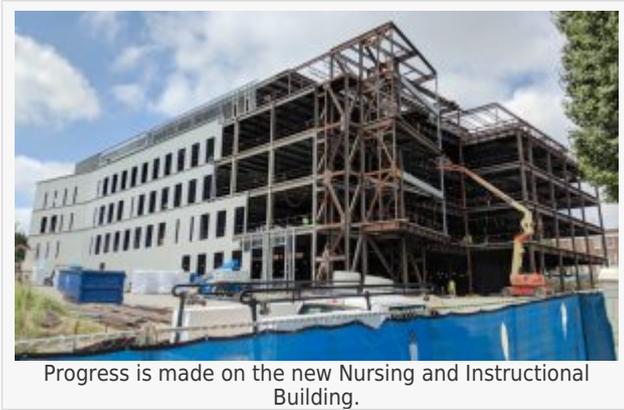
See the [MFA events Facebook page](#).

## UNCG campus construction updates as Fall 2019 begins

As we enter into the fall semester, here’s a breakdown of the current construction projects going on around the UNC Greensboro campus.

### **Nursing and Instructional Building**

Pedestrian detours around the site and to Tate Street will continue through summer 2020. The building facade and interior drywall should be complete by winter break.



### **South Chiller Plant**

The impact of site work on Forest Street and Oakland Avenue will end by early September.



### **Ragsdale Mendenhall Residence Hall**

The elevator tower is under construction on the North Drive side of the building. A construction fence is in place, but no road closures are expected.



### **Steam Line Replacement**

An underground steam line replacement on the Mossman side of Elliott University Center is fully underway and will last through October. Construction fencing is in place. Pedestrian detours around the south side of Kaplan Commons will be in place through construction completion.

### **Foust Building**

An electrical transformer replacement on the east side of the building will take place from October through December.



The main entrance to Foust Building.

### **Tennis Court Resurfacing**

This project is scheduled to take place in phases starting this fall.

### **Stone Building Entrance Repair**

This is now scheduled to begin in May 2020.

### **McIver Street Building Demolition**

This project is near completion.

### **Taylor Theatre Monument Sign**

This project is complete.



New signage installed for Taylor Theatre reflects the updated

UNCG logo and branding.

### **Mossman Building**

Furniture is installed and occupants have returned for the Chancellor's area, Registrar's Office, and Enrollment Management Office.

### **Bryan Building**

The former Au Bon Pain area renovation will continue through fall semester. An elevator modernization project will be complete by the end of this month.



The Joseph Bryan Building.

### **Coleman Building**

The Academic Success Center for athletes renovation will continue through fall semester.



The UNCG Dance Theatre entrance of the Coleman Building.

Campus renovations are managed by UNCG Facilities Design and Construction. For the latest construction alerts, maps, Spartan Chariot changes, and general FAQs visit their website at <https://facdc.uncg.edu/alerts/>

*Compiled by Matthew Bryant*

## Reduced speed limit on the inner campus



The UNCG police will continue efforts to improve safety on campus in the new academic year.

Recently, the speed limit on the inner campus was reduced to 15 mph, with new signs going up on Gray Drive and North Drive. Other improvements to traffic safety include installing radar speed limit signs, repainting crosswalks, and increasing traffic enforcement around campus.

This month, the police department have presented at a variety of events: Aug. 5 HR Liaison Meeting, Aug. 12 Governor's Safety Summit, Aug. 13 Faculty/Staff Kick-Off Luncheon, Aug.14-16 Operation Move-In and Aug.19 NAVIGATE. They will also take part in the Aug. 26 House Calls, in which several departments across campus will welcome newly moved-in freshman students in their residence halls.

## New Deans' Reception Sept. 5



You are cordially invited to attend the New Deans' Reception Thursday, September 5, 2019.

It will be held in the Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House, 3 - 5 p.m.

Stop by to meet the new deans who have joined UNC Greensboro:

Dr. Karen Bull, *UNCG Online*

Dr. Andrew Hamilton, *Associate Vice Provost of Student Success and Dean of Undergraduate Studies*

Dr. Carl Mattacola, *School of Health and Human Sciences*

Dr. Bruce McClung, *College of Visual and Performing Arts*

Dr. Sherine Obare, *Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering*

## University Libraries hosts Fall 2019 Webinar Series for Faculty and Staff

UNCG faculty and staff can sign up to attend one of the many sessions available through the University Libraries' Online Learning and Innovation or Research and Application webinar series.

The webinars are thirty minutes in length and are recorded through Webex Meetings. Instructors, faculty, graduate students and staff are welcome to attend.

This semester, the webinars will cover several topics, including research identity, library databases and data, predatory journals, Google, creating accessible courses, Canvas analytics, and web capture. On Aug. 28 at 11:30 a.m., the series will launch its first webinar of the semester, "Researcher Identity Management" with Associate Professor and Coordinator of Metadata Services Anna Craft.

Visit <http://uncg.libguides.com/webinars> to view the complete schedule, for more information or to register.

## Play some hoops! Founders Day and basketball



UNC Greensboro Athletics is hosting the inaugural "3-on-3 with the G" on Saturday, Oct. 5 at LeBauer Park in downtown Greensboro in anticipation of the 2019-20 UNCG men's basketball season.

The 12-hour event, which will begin at 8 a.m., will give fans and community members alike the opportunity to participate in a unique, all day 3-on-3 game. Teams will compete in 30-minute time slots with a running score throughout the duration of the day. All teams will be comprised of four members with three on the floor plus one substitution. Interested players may sign up as individuals and be assigned a team or sign up a whole team at once. Time slots will be allocated based upon age groups.

Registration for the event is \$10 per person and includes a ticket to the UNCG Men's Basketball home opener vs. North Carolina A&T on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the Greensboro Coliseum. All registrants will receive a 3- on-3 with the G t-shirt as well. If your age group is sold out, please fill out the que

[Click here for registration information.](#)

If your age group is sold out, please fill out the questionnaire at the bottom of the registration page.

Additionally, members of the UNCG basketball teams will make appearances during the event while UNCG spirit squads and Spiro will also be present. There will also be giveaways and music.

Questions? [Learn more here.](#)

## Spartans in London to study T.S. Eliot



Associate Professor of English Anthony Cuda traveled to London with four UNCG students for the the T.S. Eliot International Summer School, a celebrated and highly prestigious program dedicated to the study of Eliot.

Cuda was named the director of the International School last year and is one of the editors of the award-winning Eliot Editorial Project.



This year the program welcomed students from 14 nations. At the University of London in Bloomsbury, they listened to lectures by premier scholars in the field; attended readings by prize-winning poets and novelists; and talked one-on-one with Eliot's biographers, editors, and estate trustees.

## Charlie Maimone accepts VC position at NC State



Charlie Maimone, UNCG's vice chancellor for business affairs and chief financial officer, has accepted the position of vice chancellor for finance and administration at NC State University.

"We are pleased that Charlie will remain in the UNC System, and I know that he will provide to NC State the expertise and vision that has made him such a valuable leader here at UNCG," Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. said in announcing the news.

Maimone joined UNCG in 2014. He previously served in similar leadership positions at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington and earlier at The College of William and Mary, where he earned his MBA.

Maimone will remain with UNCG until Sept. 20.

"I've had so many wonderful memories," Maimone said. "What a great place to work, with so many committed people."

The construction projects along Gate City Boulevard including the Kaplan Center for Wellness and Spartan Village II, the renovations throughout campus, and technology upgrades will be part of his UNCG legacy.

In addition to the privilege of working with Chancellor Gilliam and Executive Council, trustees and UNCG staff, he noted working with UNCG's dedicated faculty members and particularly the "courageous students," largely through the outstanding Student Government Association.

When the date, time, and location for a farewell reception is announced, Campus Weekly will update this post.

## Newsmakers: 'State of Things,' Yang, Holroyd, library legislature tour, Kane, Woodstock

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. Stephanie Pickett (Nursing) was interviewed on WUNC Radio's "The State of Things" Tuesday about her research examining cardiovascular risk factors, with a particular interest in obesity and obesity-related chronic illnesses among young African American women. [The interview.](#)
- Dr. Zhiyong Yang was quoted in a WalletHub article on children with credit cards. [The article.](#)
- Amy Holroyd, costume supervisor for UNCG Theatre, spoke to Triad City Beat for a cover story on UNCG's costume archives. [The piece.](#)
- The News & Record featured NC lawmakers' tour of the Jackson Library. [The piece.](#)
- Dr. Michael Kane was featured in a BrainWorld Magazine piece on daydreaming and creativity. [The article.](#)
- The News & Record featured UNCG's exhibition of Woodstock photos taken by the late Arnold Doren, and referenced Dr. Allan Goldfarb's Woodstock memories. [The feature.](#)

## Dr. Jeremy Bray awarded Jefferson-Pilot Professorship



UNCG Bryan School professor Dr. Jeremy Bray '89, '92 has been named the new recipient of the school's Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professorship due to his research excellence and leadership within his discipline.

Bray has been a faculty member at UNCG since 2013, when he joined the Bryan School of Business and Economics as professor and head of the department of economics. He has fostered transdisciplinary health and wellness research within the Bryan School and across the university through his leadership and mentoring of faculty and students.

Bray is a nationally- and internationally-recognized authority on the economics of risky health behaviors and the economic evaluation of behavioral health interventions, including workplace substance abuse prevention programs and alcohol screening and brief interventions for at-risk drinking. Over his career, he has published numerous peer reviewed journal articles, research monographs, book chapters, and editorials. He has led or co-led more than a dozen external grants or contracts. As investigator or principal investigator, he has received more than \$30 million in funding. He currently serves on two editorial boards, has served as a grant reviewer for NIH, AHRQ, and the UK NIHR, and is a visiting full professor at University College Dublin in Dublin, Ireland.

## Sam Seyedin



Sam Seyedin (LaunchUNCG) will participate in this year's Leadership Greensboro, a program of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce.

Leadership Greensboro is a three-part, nine-month leadership development program featuring a customized, innovative curriculum from the Center for Creative Leadership. Its mission is to provide Greensboro with an ongoing source of diverse leaders who are committed to serving as catalysts and sustainers of positive change for the quality of life in the Greater Greensboro area.

The Leadership Greensboro class of 2020 is made up of 46 participants who represent a cross-section of Greensboro's businesses and non-profits. They will graduate in May 2020.

Seyedin is the program manager for LaunchUNCG, located in the MHRA building on the UNCG

campus, which guides entrepreneurial Spartans who want to start a business, find collaborators, find funding for their research, or join the startup ecosystem.

## Dr. Susan Calkins



Dr. Susan Calkins (Human Development and Family Studies) received a continuation of funding from the US DHHS NIH National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for the project “Developmental Trajectories of Early Behavior Problems.” This proposal describes an adolescent follow-up of 447 boys and girls, the abstract says. “By extending our biobehavioral model to incorporate cortical functioning and specific dimensions of psychopathology and risky behaviors, this longitudinal sample is uniquely suited to study the role of self-regulation in psychosocial adaptation and functioning in adolescent boys and girls.”

Calkins also received new funding from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University for the project “Psychobiology of Cognitive Development.”

## Dr. Beth Koelsch



**Dr. Beth Koelsch (University Libraries)** received new funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources for the project “Women Who Answered the Call: Digitizing the Oral Histories of Women Who Served in the U.S. Military and the American Red Cross.” Dr. James Gwynn is a co-principal investigator on the project.

The project will digitize and preserve at-risk audiovisual materials (303 audio cassettes, six open-reel audio tapes, and one VHS video tape) that are part of the Women Veterans Historical Project. These at-risk magnetic media items consist primarily of 225 oral histories with women veterans of World War II and subsequent conflicts, recorded between 1999 and 2008. Also included are six audio “letters” sent by a Vietnam War veteran. The recordings present an invaluable portrait of the lives of women veterans and issues they faced during and after service. This project will allow the audio recordings to be presented alongside existing text transcripts for the first time, permitting researchers to hear these important stories in the actual voices of those who lived them.

## Dr. John Kiss



Dr. John Kiss (Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences) received new funding from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the project “Novel explorations into the interactions between light and gravity sensing in plants.”

The Seedling Growth (SG) series of plant biology experiments is part of a barter agreement between NASA and ESA. The major goals are: (1) to determine how gravity and light responses influence each other in plants; (2) to better understand the cellular signaling and response mechanisms of phototropism and of light stimulation; and (3) to study the factors affecting the proliferation and growth of meristematic cells in order to analyze in how auxin (i.e., a plant hormone) transport and perception act in the regulation of these cellular functions.

## Dr. Evan Goldstein



**Dr. Evan Goldstein (Geography, Environment, & Sustainability)** received new funding from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the project “Flow of Water, Carbon, and Sediment within the Land Sea Continuum.”

Goldstein will lead the development of a new delta classification targeting the 48 ‘representative’ deltas from around the world used in other studies (Tessler et al., 2015). Classification will be based on temporal synchrony between:

- 1) Time series of suspended sediment in delta waterways.
- 2) Time series of NDVI in waterway-adjacent wetland environments (a measure of standing biomass).

Synchrony between these two time series is hypothesized to control delta growth. Sediment delivery should occur at mean values of NDVI to result in maximum sediment deposition (e.g., Nardin and Edmonds, 2014). Sediment delivery at low biomass conditions results in sub-optimal trapping of sediment by plants. Sediment delivery at high biomass conditions can block sediment-laden flow from spilling onto wetland surfaces. Classification of this synchrony is key first step in addressing this hypothesis. Is there a ‘typical’ synchrony between vegetation growth and sediment delivery across deltas of the world?

## Dr. Nicholas Oberlies



**Dr. Nicholas Oberlies (Chemistry & Biochemistry)** received new funding from Boston University for the project “Tumor Specific Delivery of Verticillin A Overcomes Epigenetic Silencing Responsible for Drug Resistance.”

This proposal pursues the systematic development of a novel small molecule epigenetic agent, from the verticillin A family (epipolythiodioxopiperazine alkaloids), and chemotherapeutic along with a unique drug delivery systems that localizes and concentrates the agents to peritoneal tumors for the treatment of mesothelioma. Alteration of the epigenetic profile to overcome drug resistance is a key strategy for improving cancer patient care. Specifically, this class of epigenetic agents restores the activity of well-established and commonly used chemotherapeutics (e.g., paclitaxel, cisplatin and 5-fluorouracil) through up-regulation of BNIP3 via histone methyltransferase inhibition rendering it a compelling agent in combination therapies.

## Dr. Hemali Rathnayake



**Dr. Hemali Rathnayake (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering)** received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “Nano Mosaic: A Novel Nano-Framework for Lithium.”

The global demand for lithium is expected to witness substantial growth owing to its increased demand for energy storage, electronic bikes, electrification of tools, and other battery-intensive applications. For example, the lithium ion battery market itself is projected to reach US\$ 92 billion by 2024. It is unlikely that traditional lithium extraction operations from hard rock and brine deposits will be able to respond to future lithium markets to meet current demands.

Mining lithium from hard rock deposits requires high operating cost regardless of its low technology requirements and short processing time. Generally, lithium brine deposits economically advantage in terms of operating costs, as lithium is already isolated and is in solution within the deposit, negating the requirement for drilling, blasting, crushing and physical separation. However, the current brine operations are more capital intensive, incur significant lead times to generate high grade lithium production. Therefore, efficient, rapid, and cost-effective lithium extraction technologies are needed to ensure that supply matches the growing demand.

The goal of the proposed project is to develop a fibrous mat derived from a novel coordination polymer framework that possesses molecular sieving and selective chemical affinity to lithium, providing fast and efficient lithium extraction and recovery from salt lake and oil well brines. The current stage of the technology focuses on developing the fibrous mat with tailored porosity and high-density chemical affinity to demonstrate its utility and versatility for selective extraction of lithium ions from salt solutions and seawater. The results will lead to the development of liners, membranes, and filters for extracting high grade lithium from brine beds and ponds. The embodiment of the technology will provide efficient and cost-effective service to lithium extraction companies and energy storage sectors to extract, recover, and store lithium as either lithium carbonates or lithium hydroxide with high purity.

## Dr. Lori Sands



**Dr. Lori Sands (School of Education)** received new funding from the United Way of Greater Greensboro for the project “Thriving at Three.”

The Teaching Resources Center (TRC) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) proposes a partnership with the Moss Street Partnership School (MSPS) in Reidsville, N.C., to provide a series of literacy-based and STEM-focused programs at the partnership school. The project will use the MSPS library and makerspace to engage the Moss Street community with children’s education through programs addressing reading at home, building home libraries and creative making with siblings and parents. The MSPS community will benefit from greater access to local library resources, books for the home and a greater connection to a child’s education in the crucial early years. The TRC, a model school library media center housed in UNCG’s School of Education, will benefit from pre-service teachers and future librarians gaining first-hand experience with program planning, implementation and book selection for elementary students. The proposed project expands a partnership between UNCG and MSPS, which opened in August as a laboratory school under the University’s leadership.

## Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz



**Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz (Center for New North Carolinians)** received new funding from United Way of Greater Greensboro for the project “Immigrant Health ACCESS Project Support.”

**Purpose/Problem:** Immigrants are uninsured and face multiple barriers to access appropriate and available health care and often end up at the Hospital Emergency Departments for non-emergency health issues, and many who have real emergencies go without care.

**Objective:** To assist immigrants in gaining access to health care services and navigate the health systems by providing interpreters and community Health Workers.

**Method:** Working in conjunction with the Guilford Community Care Network, provide screening, assessment, and referral and identify the uninsured and seek solutions to connect them to a local integrated health clinic.

Sienkiewicz also received a continuation of funding from United Way of Greater Greensboro for the project "Refugee and Immigrant Social Work Education (RISE) Program."

The RISE Program serves the most vulnerable immigrants and refugees, described below, in Greensboro by helping them access services and resources that contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty. The program utilizes social work student interns and AmeriCorps members (supervised by CNNC staff) to work with clients experiencing significant difficulties accessing and utilizing services. Interns and AmeriCorps members are trained to provide culturally appropriate case management and interpretation services to ensure that program participants are connected to the right supports and services and take steps to ensure that information and resources provided are utilized. Newly arrived immigrant and refugee families experience significant barriers navigating the seemingly ever-changing landscape of health, human, and social services in Greensboro (i.e. limited knowledge of English, challenges with public transportation).

Through RISE, participants will increase their self-sufficiency through information referral, training, and support. Specifically, clients learn and practice the following skills: communicating in a new language, making telephone calls, scheduling appointments, requesting language interpretation, utilizing public transportation, completing program registration paperwork, and identifying and accessing safety net and support services. RISE operates primarily out of the CNNC's three community center sites in addition to accepting referrals from external agencies and other CNNC programs. Currently, the program runs throughout the academic year only. Pending additional funding, this program would operate year-round eliminating the gap in services currently experienced during summer months.

Sienkiewicz also received a continuation of funding from United Way of Greater Greensboro for the project "Greensboro Refugee Employment Advancement Team (GREAT)."

The Greensboro Refugee Employment Advancement Team (GREAT) has existed informally since 2012 and as a formal group since early 2015. UWGG previously funded a portion of the

CNNC's employment program, CLASS, that was and remains a component of GREAT. GREAT assists unemployed and underemployed immigrants and refugees attain and retain family-sustaining employment. Upon enrollment, all participants provide past employment history and complete an Employment Accessibility Plan (EAP). Through this plan participants identify employment goals and are then referred to an appropriate track based on those goals.

Participants also complete an English Language Assessment to ensure that the track matches their English Language level. Tracks include: Job Preparation, Career Advancement, and Vocational Training. The Job Preparation track helps individuals with basic skills such as preparing a resume, learning job search techniques, and practicing interviews. The Career Advancement track helps individuals with jobs improve their employment situation and includes obtaining the NC Career Readiness Certificate. The Vocational Training Track is for individuals looking to start a new career where training is required such as a Certified Nursing Assistant program, Forklift Training, Apartment Maintenance Technician, Phlebotomy or Pharmacy Technician.

## Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji



**Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji (Mathematics and Statistic)** received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project "Collaborative Research: Mathematical and Experimental Analysis of Competitive Ecological Models: Patches, Landscapes, Stage Structure and Conditional Dispersal on the Boundary."

The purpose of this collaborative project between two mathematicians, an ecologist, and undergraduate/PhD students will be an integration of reaction diffusion models, mathematical analysis, and experimental analysis to explore the effects of habitat fragmentation, conditional dispersal, and interspecific competition on the population dynamics and coexistence of species from the patch to the landscape level. The project has two objectives: (1) investigate the effects of conspecific and interspecific density, patch size and matrix hostility on species dispersal behavior, patch-level population dynamics and coexistence; and (2) extend this work to the landscape-scale by exploring the effects of competition and conditional dispersal on population dynamics and coexistence in multi-patch systems. The researchers will use *Tribolium* flour beetles as a model experimental system and diffusive Lotka-Volterra competition systems with nonlinear boundary conditions modeling density dependent emigration (DDE) both at the patch and landscape levels. This study will help answer important biological questions such as: 1) What effects do competitors have on a species' boundary behavior and emigration?; 2) Do different forms of DDE (positive, negative, and U-shaped) affect regional population dynamics and coexistence of competitors?; and 3) How does conditional dispersal affect the occurrence and strength of

competition-dispersal tradeoff that are thought to be a key to coexistence of competitors?

## Dr. Christopher Kepley



**Dr. Christopher Kepley (Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering)** received new funding from the UNC-CH Thurston Arthritis Research Center for the project “Glycolipid-Mediated Allergy Effector Cell Activation in Alpha-Gal Allergy.”

Alpha-gal mammalian meat allergy is a novel food allergy associated with tick bites and specific IgE antibody to the oligosaccharide galactose- $\alpha$ -1,3-galactose (alpha-gal). Alpha-gal food allergy challenges the current paradigm for food allergy because reactions are usually delayed 3-6 hours following red meat ingestion; IgE antibodies form against a carbohydrate moiety rather than a protein; and the allergy can develop in adulthood after many years of safely tolerating red meat.

The lipid content of ingested meat appears to impact reaction consistency and severity. Immunogenic lipids complexed with the lipid antigen presenting molecule CD1d influence cytokine production by professional antigen presenting cells (APCs) and unconventional T cells like natural killer T (NKT) cells. Our preliminary results suggest that alpha-gal-specific (s)IgE binds mammalian glycosphingolipids complexed with CD1d and that alpha-gal-containing glycolipids can activate basophils sensitized with alpha-gal-sIgE.

Thus, we hypothesize that glycolipids are involved in the effector phases of alpha-gal

mammalian meat allergy. This proposal seeks to demonstrate glycolipid-mediated allergic effector cell activation in alpha-gal allergy. Proposed studies will provide mechanistic insight into the effector phase of alpha-gal allergy; generate novel reagents with potential use as diagnostic tools in patients with alpha-gal syndrome; and optimize in vitro models of alpha-gal allergy that can eventually be used to flesh out mechanisms of pathogenesis and test potential therapies.

## Dr. Eric A. Josephs



**Dr. Eric A. Josephs (Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering)** received new funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for the project “Mechanism and Architecture of EndoMS/NucS Mutation Avoidance in Mycobacteria.”

In 2017, there were 10 million incident cases of tuberculosis (TB) worldwide, over 500,000 of

which were resistant to first-line antibiotics and over 400,000 of which resistant to multiple drugs. While Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that causes TB, acquires drug resistance exclusively through chromosomal mutations events, the molecular processes which govern the mechanisms of mutation and mutation avoidance in M. tuberculosis remain poorly understood. We will use next-generation biotechnologies to understand how a newly-discovered but cryptic mutational avoidance mechanism works in M. smegmatis (a model organism for M. tuberculosis) in order to gain new insights into how drug resistance emerges and how we can combat it.

## Dr. Daniel Herr



### **Dr. Daniel Herr (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering)**

received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “2019 NSF Grantees Conference.”

The proposed NSF Nanoscale Science and Engineering (NSE) Grantees Conference is a program review and research networking workshop that will highlight the ongoing research and educational activities of the NSF NSE grant programs. The NSE Grantees Conference has been held annually in December in the Washington DC area for over a decade, funded by NSF, and organized by NSE Centers or Networks. The primary goals for this proposed 2-day conference are to promote dissemination of innovative research progress, to facilitate research partnerships, and to identify future research directions. Keynote speakers, panel discussions, and a poster session will promote inter-university and academic, industry, government, and national laboratory interactions, a vital step toward the advancement of the goals of the U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative ([www.nano.gov](http://www.nano.gov)). The initiative goals are::

\*Conduct research and development to realize the full potential of nanoscale science and engineering;

\*Develop the skilled workforce and supporting infrastructure needed to advance research and development;

\*Better understand the social, ethical, health, and environmental implications of the technology; and facilitate the transfer of new technologies into commercial products.

## Dr. Samantha Raynor



**Dr. Samantha Raynor (Office of the Provost)** received new funding from the University of North Carolina System Office (UNC GA) for the project “Disrupting the Churn: The Effect of Targeted Supports on Late College Outcomes.”

The project will explore the effects of a financial aid incentive inspiring students not on track to graduate in five years to explore and select efficient degree plans. For the purposes of this study, the sample population will be first-time, full-time students with 46-90 credit hours (of which no more than 15 have been earned while in high school), have a cumulative GPA between 2.0-2.99, and are enrolled in a degree program housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Health and Human Sciences, or the Bryan School of Business and Economics. Seventy-three percent of our student body receives some sort of financial aid. Based on this statistic, the researchers hypothesize that the majority of students in this study will demonstrate some level of financial need.

Students will be randomly assigned to control and treatment groups. Those receiving the treatment will be awarded a grant of \$300-\$500 to participate in “transitional advising.” Transitional advising will consist of financial and academic counseling illustrating “the math and the path,” to either facilitate a more efficient degree path or more informed curricular planning and navigation. More about the specific design of the transitional advising approach is available in the section below. During summer 2019, the study population will be identified, and transitional advisors will receive training. The intervention will launch in fall 2019.

Raynor also received new funding from The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) d/b/a VentureWell for the project “Transfer Partnership.”

This project provides co-orientation to support entering GTCC students who indicate a desire to complete a four year degree by transferring to UNCG. This orientation would provide early connection and advising to these individuals to hopefully ease their transition to UNCG.

Raynor also received new funding from The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) d/b/a VentureWell for the project “Faculty Development & Culturally Responsive Pedagogy.”

This is a professional development program for faculty focused on culturally responsive pedagogy, promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in teaching and learning.

## **Dr. Jacqueline Debrew**



**Dr. Jacqueline Debrew (School of Nursing)** received new funding from North Carolina AHEC for the project “RN BSN Educational Mobility 2019 – 2020.”

The Educational Mobility Grant (\$99,000), funded by NW AHEC, provides continued support of five cohort programs for RNs seeking BSN degrees. The five established cohorts are located on the campuses of Davidson County Community College in Thomasville, Gaston College in Dallas, Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Technical Community College in Kernersville, and Piedmont Community College in Roxboro.

## Dr. Wendy McColiskey



**Dr. Wendy McColiskey (SERVE Center)** received new funding from Forsyth Technical Community College for the project “Forsyth Technical Community College Improving Student Achievement through Faculty Development (Title III) Evaluation.”

Forsyth Tech (FT) is working to redesign course evaluations to solicit formative information about students’ experiences earlier during the courses in which they are enrolled. A team of FT faculty is working to determine the specific information to solicit through the course evaluation and SERVE will design the course evaluation items.

## Dr. Melissa R. Floyd-Pickard



**Dr. Melissa R. Floyd-Pickard (Social Work)** received new funding from the Guilford County Department of Public Health for the project “ Proposal for Health Department Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor/Care and Linkage Coordinator.”

UNCG will enter into a contract with Guilford County EMS and the Department of Public Health to hire and supervise a Licensed Clinical Social Work Associate to provide care and linkage/coordination of services for those affected by or at risk of contracting hepatitis C. This social worker and the programming provided will be supervised by a part-time (15-20 hour per week) fully Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who will provide clinical supervision and oversight. Additionally, social work faculty will oversee the project and will help with clinical and administrative supervision.