Welcome to Campus Weekly

New leader for Student Success and Undergraduate Studies

When Dr. Andrew Hamilton, the new Associate Vice Provost of Student Success and Dean of Undergraduate Studies at UNC Greensboro, is asked what student success means, his response is enthusiastic. “Student success is the relationship between student outcomes and what’s actually happening between students and teachers in the classroom – the place where the rubber hits the road.”

Hamilton, who joined UNCG in July, brings a wealth of experience from his previous roles as Associate Dean in the Honors College and later the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, both at the University of Houston. He also served as Executive Director for Academic Innovation at UH. Before that, he was a faculty member and graduate program director in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University.

Hamilton will oversee the University’s existing student success operations, including the Student Success Center, the Students First Office, New Student Transitions and First Year Experience, and College Completion Initiatives, while building towards the next steps in supporting students.

The Dean of Undergraduate Studies part of Hamilton’s title means that he oversees the general education curriculum. A goal for Hamilton in this area is for faculty and administrators to better articulate to students why their general education requirements matter and how those courses can benefit them in whatever career and life paths they choose.

Two of the key areas of focus for Hamilton and his team will be student retention and
creating better cohesion and communication between the Student Success Division and each academic unit on campus.

“We are in the transition from a model where we support teachers from an outside, centralized approach to a new mode of operations where we see ourselves as an embedded resource for the front-line troops who do the work of teaching and learning,” says Hamilton.

Hamilton notes that a major goal of Student Success is to better serve non-traditional students. Transfer students, military veterans, older students, students from rural backgrounds or low income families, first generation students, and students who are parents require more flexible and innovative resources for support than traditional students. The Student Success team is charged with figuring out better ways to lower barriers to academic success for these groups.

Another key goal for Hamilton and his team is to make sure students understand that they have been accepted to college in order to embark on a journey to discover their true selves.

“Student success lasts a lifetime,” says Hamilton. “Being admitted to college is not just completing requirements, but is about discovering who you are, what you are good at, and what you really want to do.” Steering students toward discovery, exposing them to new ideas and opportunities, and allowing students the room to fail in productive ways are all approaches in which Student Success can support their academic journey.

“When students find their flame, get out of the way,” Hamilton says. “We want to make sure that we’re in the business of setting students up for success in their college careers and then in later life, which includes their personal and professional lives. And we’re trying to plant the seeds of success.”

For more information on the UNCG Student Success Center, visit https://studentsuccess.uncg.edu/

In next week's CW, an update on UNCG’s student success initiatives and offerings.

By Matthew Bryant
Photo by Martin W. Kane

Upcoming shows as the theater season begins
A new season of UNCG School of Theatre productions is almost here. Over the 2019-2020 school year, there will be a great selection of plays and musicals at the Taylor and Sprinkle theatres.

In addition to individual tickets, a full season pass is available for $100. And, a six-show pass for current and retired UNCG Faculty/Staff is available for only $60.

The shows in the next theater season will be:

- **Pippin**: Pippin, heir to the Frankish throne, searches for the secret to true fulfillment in battle, romance, and politics, before discovering it lies not in extraordinary quests, but in the simple moments of the everyday. Dates: Sept. 27-29 and Oct. 2-5. Sign Interpreted Performance: Oct. 4
- **The Wolves**: A girl’s soccer team navigates adolescence, interpersonal conflict, and tragedy through conversations over the curse of pre-game warmups, in this award-winning play. Dates: Oct. 24-27.
- **The Normal Heart**: A searing drama about one man’s lonely fight against public and private indifference to the AIDS crisis of the mid-80s. Dates: Nov. 7-10.
- Roald Dahl’s **The Witches**: An adaptation of the classic children’s book, about a boy and his grandmother who must fight a cadre of evil witches. Dates: Nov. 16-17 and 19-23. Sign Interpreted Performance: Nov. 23
- **The Tempest**: One of Shakespeare’s most iconic plays, The Tempest concerns the exiled magician Prospero, who draws a group of his enemies to his isolated island. Dates: Feb. 14-16 and 19-22. Sign Interpreted Performance: Feb. 21
- **Flyin’ West**: Flyin’ West is the story of a group of African American woman who settle in an all-black frontier town in 1898, and the personal and interpersonal struggles they grapple with. Dates: Mar. 27-29 and Apr. 1-4.
- **Urinetown: The Musical**: A satirical comedy about a town where, due to a water shortage, the public have to pay to use toilets, and the group of rebels who fight against the social order. Dates: Apr. 17-19 and 22-25. Sign Interpreted Performance: April 24.
For more information, and to purchase tickets, see the website here.

Copy from UNCG School of Theatre

Edited by Avery Campbell

Share your pet photos! #UNCGpets, #Findyourwaghere

Is your Spartan dog (or cat) a star?

This summer the UNCG Magazine staff and social media team spent some time with Spartan pups and their faculty, staff, and alumni owners.

Look for photos in the magazine this fall, plus enjoy social media posts, starting with a National Dog Day Twitter post of Nia, pup of Jason Herndon, director of the UNCG Psychology Clinic.

Also, share your own Spartan pet photos on social media – and be sure to tag them with #UNCGpets or #Findyourwaghere!

Happy #NationalDogDay to our Spartan pups and companions! We invite our campus community to share photos of their dogs for a special feature. Include a fun fact about them and tag your post #UNCGpets!

Pictured: Nia (Dr. Jason Herndon, @uncg_psych)#UNCGWay #Findyourwaghere pic.twitter.com/XPKxocwHR5

— UNC Greensboro (@UNCG) August 26, 2019
Large-scale photography in “Keith Carter: Fifty Years”

A new exhibition of a legendary artist will open at the Greensboro Project Space in September. UNCG’s CVPA will present “Keith Carter: Fifty Years,” an exhibition celebrating the artist’s large-scale photography work.

Often called “a poet of the ordinary,” Carter through his work shows an evocative sensitivity to the everyday. Through what he refers to as a “visual diary,” he examines the history of photography and vernacular culture, and explores our own shared histories.

On September 5, there will be an artist talk at the Weatherspoon at 6 p.m. The day after, the exhibition will officially open at GPS with a reception and book signing. It will run through September 27. For more information on the Weatherspoon event, see here, and here for more information on the GPS exhibition.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Maggie and Gene Triplette Program Fund at UNCG, and is curated by Lori Vrba.

*Copy from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Edited by Avery Campbell*

**College Colors Day this Friday!**

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the general public – please wear your blue and gold this Friday. And share your Facebook photos using #letsgoG.

On that day, which is the national College Colors Day, UNC Greensboro Athletics will partner with the UNCG Student Government Association (SGA) to host the annual “Great T-Shirt Exchange.” The event will take place outside Fountain View dining hall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Students are encouraged to bring a T-shirt of another institution and exchange it for a new UNCG T-shirt. All submitted shirts will be donated to Goodwill. UNCG shirts are available for the first 1,000 students who participate.

The Greensboro Review partners with UNC Press

The Greensboro Review has formed a new publishing partnership with UNC Press. The Greensboro Review is a biannual UNC Greensboro literary journal that dates back to 1966. Every issue includes new and risk-taking fiction and poetry from a diverse set of writers.

Through the new partnership, UNC Press will manage all current and new subscriptions, journal distribution, and bookstore orders. Faculty and students in the UNC Greensboro MFA Writing Program will continue to curate, edit, and produce The Greensboro Review. UNCG’s MFA Writing Program received the Thomas W. Ross Fund Publishing Grant from UNC Press to support the partnership transition.

Individual issues and subscriptions are now available here.

Read an interview with Terry L. Kennedy, editor, and Jessie Van Rheenen, associate editor, in the UNC Press blog.

UNCG free Professional Development Offerings, Fall 2019
A great variety of professional and personal development workshops are available courtesy of UNCG Human Resources. You can learn time management skills, how to use improv to improve your work, how to better use online tools like Starfish, grant-writing, and much more.

Workshops are free for employees, and an excellent opportunity to expand your professional and personal skills.

See below a brief list of some workshops in the next weeks:

- **Face-to-Face Feedback**: Join the Teaching Innovations Office for group sessions where faculty members can discuss ideas, receive feedback, and lead mock teaching sessions for other attendees. Develop your teaching skills and test new teaching techniques with supportive, non-evaluative feedback from your peers. Sep. 3, 1 p.m. and Oct. 18, 10 a.m.
- **Mentors Meeting: Mentoring Undergraduates in Research and Creative**: In this workshop presented by Lee Phillips, faculty will explore how to support and encourage meaningful scholarly experiences for undergraduate researchers. Sep. 4, 8:30 a.m. and Jan. 16, 9:30 a.m.
- **Reinventing Yourself**: This workshop will take faculty/staff through the self-reflection, planning, and self-improvement techniques needed to reinvent yourself in response to changes at work, at home, or internally. Sep. 4, 12 p.m. and Oct. 7, 12 p.m.
- **Practical Ethics: Professional Life Beyond the Legal Minimum**: Wade Maki will lead a frank discussion on ethical tools, frameworks, and challenges, and solutions to ethical problems faced by university employees. Sep 10, 11 a.m.
- **Viewpoints of Inclusive Student Experiences**: VOISES is a series of student panels aimed at faculty, where panelists from marginalized identity groups share their perspectives. The panels are moderated and give faculty the opportunity to ask questions while reflection on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion at UNCG. Sep 12, 10 a.m., Sep. 25, 11 a.m., Oct. 23, 11 a.m., Nov. 5, 11 a.m., Jan. 29, 11 a.m., Feb. 13, 11 a.m., Feb. 18, 11 a.m., Mar. 19, 11 a.m., and Apr. 8, 11 a.m.
- **Grant Writing for Maximum Impact**: Dive into writing for grant proposals with practical tips, proven strategies, and real-world examples with Dr. Aubrey R. Turner and Julie Vorhees. Sep. 18, 12 p.m. and Nov. 6, 2 p.m.
- **UNCG Still Cares**: During this 2-hour training, UNCG faculty and staff will learn how to recognize student distress, how to reach out, and how to refer students in distress to
the proper on-campus resources. Sep. 27, 2 p.m. and Feb. 17, 2 p.m.

• **Coping During Uncertain Times**: This training addresses ways to cope with uncertainty in today’s world. It will examine how to remain positive and functional despite risks, how to re-establish control in your life, and how to talk to children about fear. Oct. 2, 12 p.m.

• **Campus Violence Response Center Full Training**: CVRC’s three workshops (Interpersonal Violence Survivor Support Ally, Supporting LGBTQ+ Survivors of Violence, and Managing Secondary Traumatic Stress) will be held in one day on these days, with a lunch break. Oct. 15, 9 a.m. and Jan. 7, 5 p.m. See the full schedule for dates of the individual workshops.

• **Running on “E” Adding Energy and Fun to Your Work**: Build skills to survive and thrive in today’s high-pressure world. Unleash your energy, ignite your enthusiasm, and find the fun in your job to maximize your work performance and make your day better. Oct. 30, 12 p.m.

• **Managing Your Time Effectively: Stop Chasing the Clock**: This workshop will help you sort through tools to help you organize your life, and find the ones that are right for you. Improve your time management skills and learn useful tips and online tools. Nov. 13, 12 p.m.

See the full list of offerings [here](#).

**Matt Barr’s “Union Time: Fighting for Workers’ Rights” named “Best Documentary” at festival**

This summer, the film “Union Time: Fighting for Workers’ Rights” won the Best Documentary Feature Award at the Workers Unite! Film Festival, the largest worker-related festival in the US.

“This festival attracts films from all over the world, and so I was blown away to take the Best Documentary Feature Award,” said Matthew Barr, professor in Media Studies.

“This is truly a story of the little engine that could, as I was up against feature docs that had much bigger budgets.”
Two UNCG grants totaling $10,000 funded his early work on “Union Time,” while $85,000 from individuals, including relatives, enabled him to complete the project in 2016. It premiered that year. A 2018 Faculty First Summer Scholarship Support Award for $5,000, he notes, enabled him (and editor Fausto Barrionuevo, MFA in Film and Video Production at UNCG) to do a restructuring of the film to enhance it.

The film has been shown at festivals and community events and has also been extensively utilized in the training of union organizers in the US, Japan and Canada, he adds. It is now being distributed by The Video Project, an educational/community engagement distributor based in San Francisco.

Also, just recently, the film was accepted by the Nordic Labor Film Festival in Malmo, Sweden, as well as the Awareness Film Festival in Los Angeles.

See more at workersunitefilmfestival.org.

See more about the film at researchmagazine.uncg.edu.

**HNAC, with new leaders and kickoff event**

The Humanities Network and Consortium (HNAC) will host a welcome-back reception on Wednesday, September 4, at 4 p.m. at the Alumni House in the Virginia Dare Room. Provost Dana Dunn and the deans of HHS, CVPA, and CAS will make remarks.

The welcome-back event will also introduce two new leaders of HNAC. Art history professor Elizabeth Perrill will be director and history professor Asa Eger will be associate director as well as programming director. They will take the reins from co-founders Jen Feather and Lisa Levenstein. History professor Jeff Jones will be the liaison with associated programs such as the Liberal Arts Advantage and Humanities Action Lab.

HNAC brings together scholars from a wide variety of disciplines to promote faculty research and to engage the broader public. They support humanities-related events throughout the
year, including writing groups.

“I like being able to reach across all the schools and break silos,” says Perrill, who previously served on the HNAC the steering committee. “Bringing people together is what’s interesting to me.”

“In our current fraught environment, we are still a community, and now is a time for dialogue,” adds Eger. “At this moment in time, it is so important and necessary for us at UNCG to talk and learn from one another and to reach out, and to include the wider community as well.”

The new theme for 2019-2020 is **CL2 HN**: Civic Life, Civil Listening, Humanities Now. In particular, HNAC will promote events surrounding issues of democracy, elections, and the 100th-year commemoration of women’s suffrage.

One main thing on the HNAC agenda this year is to host regular “HNAC Café” events throughout the year. HNAC Café will take place at the Weatherspoon Art Museum on the third Friday of each autumn month at 3:30 p.m.

The dates and themes are:

- Sept. 20: “50 Years After Stonewall: Humanities Reflect”
- Oct. 18: “Health and Humanities: Disability Studies and Research at UNCG”
- Nov. 15: “40 Years On: The Greensboro Massacre”

Each HNAC Café will bring together UNCG scholars and students with community members to engage in crucial conversations impacted by the study of humanities. Presentations and panels by researchers and community members will be followed by casual time to talk over coffee and cookies. The topics for the presentations touch on key events in civil rights history and civic engagement in Greensboro and beyond.

HNAC has also helped plan and organize Frame/Works events for October and February around the UNCG Theatre productions of “The Wolves” and “The Tempest,” respectively.

Visit the HNAC [website](http://example.com) to learn more, follow HNAC on Twitter, or email eaperril@uncg.edu or aaeger@uncg.edu.

*Text and photo by Susan Kirby-Smith*
Spartans, volunteer at the North Carolina Folk Festival

UNCG invites faculty, staff, and students to be Spartan Way Ambassadors, spreading Spartan Spirit at the 2019 NC Folk Festival.

Volunteers will greet festival attendees and provide UNCG “swag” to festival attendees, encourage social media posts, and survey visitors. Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt to wear during their shift and keep afterward. Sizes from Small to 3XL will be provided. Be sure to provide your size when you sign up.

Organizers need staff and faculty volunteers to check-in student volunteers, staff our tents, greet visitors, and assist with various activities. Please sign up here: go.uncg.edu/ncff-spartans

Students can earn Service Hours by volunteering at this event. Here is the Spartan Way volunteer registration form for students: go.uncg.edu/ncff-students

The NC Folk Festival features musical performers from around the world, activities, arts, and food trucks. More information about the NC Folk Festival can be found here: https://ncfolkfestival.com

The days and times for the Festival are:

Friday, September 6: 5 – 10 p.m.
Saturday, September 7: Noon – 10 p.m.
Sunday, September 8: Noon – 6 p.m.

Starfish News and Reminders - Fall 2019
Starfish technology is now available to all instructors, advisors, academic support staff, and students for the fall semester. Starfish is an early-alert system that allows UNCG to take a more holistic approach to student success. Starfish allows instructors, advisors, and other staff members to track student progress and remain in the loop about their shared students. Users can log into Starfish at starfish.uncg.edu.

Updates and Reminders

- **Communication plan for flagged students:** Students who are issued academic flags and/or kudos via Starfish now receive email communication addressed from their course instructors. This change was implemented in Fall 2018 as a result of consistent feedback received from faculty and instructors at UNCG. This update to email communication will further personalize the correspondence that students receive and enhance engagement with their course instructors. Instructors may reference the Starfish for Faculty & Instructors webpage to see sample email templates. Previously, these emails were addressed from the Students First Office.

- **Flag options for advisors:** As of Spring 2019, academic advisors can issue Starfish flags to their advisees! These two flag types are the **Personal Concern Flag** and **Retention Concern Flag**. Advisors should raise the Personal Concern flag to report non-emergency concerns for student well-being to the Dean of Students Office. Advisors should raise the Retention Concern to notify UNCG when they become aware of students who may not remain at UNCG in the current and/or upcoming semester. Advisors may reference the Starfish for Advisors and Program Coordinators webpage for more information related to the use of these two flags.

- **New Starfish resource available:** There is now a comprehensive guide that summarizes the UNCG flag, kudos, and referral options available. This resource summarizes the Starfish feedback options available for instructors, advisors, and academic support staff to raise and view for undergraduate students. Please check out the Detailed Guide to Flags, Kudos, & Referrals!

New to Starfish? Here is some information on how UNCG currently uses this technology.

*Instructors and faculty use Starfish to:*

- Raise alert flags for your students with academic and personal concerns so that they can connect with the resources and people that may help them. **Note:** You should never raise flags for emergency concerns requiring immediate attention.
- Give kudos to students who are performing well or showing improvement
• Issue referrals to connect students to campus resources that may help them
• Complete Academic Status Reports throughout the semester to flag many students at once. Instructors will receive email alerts on the following dates: September 10, October 1 & November 5
• Post office-hour availability and manage student meetings
• For more information on instructor use of Starfish, visit the Starfish for Faculty & Instructors webpage

Advisors & academic support staff use Starfish to:

• Stay in the loop on which advisees have been flagged for academic concerns and provide additional support
• Raise the Personal Concern Flag to report non-emergency concerns for student well-being to the Dean of Students Office
• Raise the Retention Concern Flag to notify UNCG when you become aware of students who may not remain at UNCG in the current and/or upcoming semester
• Issue referrals to connect students to campus resources
• Post appointment availability and manage advising appointments
• Maintain appointment notes and outcomes
• Clear flags as concerns resolve
• For more information on advisor and support staff use of Starfish, visit the Starfish for Advisors & Program Coordinators webpage

Students use Starfish to:

• Keep track of the academic feedback they get from their instructors
• Know when to take action to improve course performance and meet with instructors
• Receive campus resource referrals from instructors, advisors, and support staff
• Schedule appointments with their instructors and advisors who use Starfish for online scheduling
• For more information on how students can use Starfish, visit the Starfish for Students webpage

Starfish Support & Training

• For Starfish assistance: Individuals, groups, or departments who would like to request a Starfish training session should send an email request to starfish@uncg.edu
• Students, staff, and instructors are encouraged to explore UNCG’s Starfish website for additional information about Starfish and available training guides.
Who won Campus Kickoff UNCG Mobile App raffle?

Congratulations to the following winners of the UNCG Mobile App raffle during the recent Campus Kickoff on August 13th:

Spartan Dining ticket #442352
10-meal pack and $35.00 certificate

**Winner: Angela Matkins**

Spartan Dining ticket #916248
10-meal pack and $35.00 certificate

**Winner: Heather Stewart**

Barnes & Noble ticket #191035
$50.00 certificate

**Winner: Marie Land**

Barnes & Noble ticket #936005
$50.00 certificate

**Winner: Unclaimed**
Starbucks ticket #794517

$50.00 certificate

**Winner: Unclaimed**

Raffle ticket holders for the remaining unclaimed prizes should contact uc-ops@uncg.edu to claim their prize.

Thank you to everyone who has downloaded the new UNCG Mobile App. Spartans have downloaded the app over 8,000 times to date, and UNCG will match 1,223 of those downloads with a food item donation to Spartan Open Pantry, benefiting students in need. If you have not downloaded the new app, do so today and access the University’s key features and resources from the palm of your hand!

**Newsmakers: Miller, Picket, and Adams**

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:

- The News & Record wrote a feature on former College of Arts and Sciences dean Bob Miller’s life and experience during and after World War II. [The piece.](link)
- Assistant professor of nursing Stephanie Pickett was interviewed on “The State of Things” on WUNC 91.5 about her fight to reduce African American health disparities. [Listen here.](link)
- Dr. Rebecca Adams’ research on relationships was highlighted in an Atlantic article on why people want to say friends after a breakup. [The piece.](link)

**Christine Murray new director of Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships**

Dr. Christine Murray, formerly professor in the Department of Counseling and Educational
Development, will now lead UNCG’s Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships.

The Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships (CYFCP) was established in 1996, bridging research, policy, and practice to advance the health and well-being of children, youth, and families. Through collaborative partnerships with families, service providers, researchers, teachers, and communities, CYFCP reduces disparities, builds capacity, effects systems change, and promotes sustainable solutions.

Located within UNCG’s Office of Research and Engagement, some of the center’s research and technical assistance initiatives include prevention and intervention in early childhood; juvenile justice/mental health/substance use cross system improvement; program evaluation; court interventions and community safety; community health; system of care and cultural competency; and workforce development to advance educational success, health and well-being of youth, families, and communities.

CYFCP works with more than 150 community and state partners in research, evaluation, and training and technical assistance collaborations.

Murray served for 14 years as a faculty member in the UNCG Department of Counseling and Educational Development, where she coordinated the Couple and Family Counseling track. UNCG’s counseling program is consistently rated by US News and World Report as one of the top five in the nation.

Murray’s research interests include couple and family counseling, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, family violence, sexuality counseling and preventive interventions.

She is a co-founder of the See the Triumph Campaign (www.seethetriumph.org), which is a research-based social media campaign that highlights the stories of hundreds of survivors of past abuse. She also serves as director of the Guilford County Healthy Relationships Initiative (www.guilfordhri.org), a partnership between UNCG and the Phillips Foundation to promote happy, healthy, and safe relationships of all kinds.

She received her Ph.D. in Counselor Education/Marriage and Family Counseling at the University of Florida; and M.Ed./Ed.S. in Marriage and Family Counseling, also at the University of Florida; and her B.A. in Psychology and Sociology at Duke University.

Murray was named Counselor of the Year in 2015 by the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina for her research, teaching and community efforts related to domestic violence.
Dr. Stuart Schleien

Dr. Stuart Schleien (HHS - Community and Therapeutic Recreation) received new funding from The Arc of Greensboro for the project “Student External Experience.”

The Graduate Assistant’s (GA) role at The Arc of Greensboro is to assist the Executive Director (ED) in providing quality programs and services to the individuals we serve. The GA will perform a variety of administrative tasks including preparation of PowerPoint presentations, data entry and analysis, assist in updating of website, collating marketing materials and presentations. He/She will aid in event planning by attending team meetings and helping with coordination of marketing materials and volunteers. The GA will assist ED and Program Directors in researching grant opportunities, possible fundraising events as well as help with pursuing sponsorships for programs and events. Education and communication is vital to ensuring people are aware of our services as well as other resources in the community. The GA will help The Arc in social media and mass communications.

Dr. Tsz-Ki Tsui

Dr. Tsz-Ki Tsui (Biology) received new funding from Clemson University for the project “Storage, Reactivity, and Bioavailability of Mercury in Managed Forests – Balancing Mercury Toxicity and Wildfire Risks through Effective Fuel Reduction Techniques.”

This project is supported by funds from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The abstract notes that prescribed burning and mechanical thinning are essential forest management practices in the Southeastern U.S., having many beneficial objectives including reduction in the susceptibility of forests to both southern pine beetle attack and wildfires. The four-year project will involve controlled field studies, laboratory studies, and watershed monitoring study to evaluate prescribed burning and mechanical thinning practices, roles of OM/DOM, formation of black carbon, and landscape processes on the transport of different forms of Hg via catchments and downstream Hg transformation mainly microbial methylation. Forest floor sample materials will be collected from experimental plots with different burning schedules and frequency and will be incubated under field conditions.
Forest floor materials under different practices will be further tested for their propensities in leaching Hg and further methylation. An unmanaged and a managed 1st order watershed at three locations in North Carolina and South Carolina will be used to evaluate the landscape processes on the exports of Hg. With the results of the control study and field investigation, a box model describing production of methylmercury, toxic form of mercury, in forested ecosystems under different forest management practices will be developed.

Dr. Karla Lewis

Dr. Karla Lewis (SERVE Center) received new funding from Winston-Salem State University for the project “Life STEM: Promoting STEM Engagement, Identity, and Career Awareness via a Culturally Relevant and Technology-Infused STEM-Based Curriculum.”

This exploratory project will develop and pilot test the STEM program. The evaluation will implement an exploratory design without a comparison group. This design will mainly study whether the program is working and whether it leads to the desired outcomes with participating teachers, students, and families.

Dr. Amanda E. Tanner

Dr. Amanda E. Tanner (Public Health Education) received a continuation of funding from Wake Forest University Health Sciences for the project “Evaluating Locally-Developed or Adapted (Homegrown) Combination HIV Prevention Interventions for Transgender Persons who have Sex with Men.”

The southern United States (U.S.) is experiencing disproportionate HIV and STD infection rates compared to other regions of the country and has been referred to as the “new” and “latest” U.S. HIV epicenter. 21 of the 25 U.S. cities and major metropolitan areas with the highest rates of new infections per capita are in the South and the majority of all new U.S. AIDS diagnoses occur in this region. Latinas/os in the U.S. are disproportionately affected by HIV and STDs – they have the second highest rate of AIDS diagnosis of all racial/ethnic groups and 3 times the rate of new cases of non-Latino whites. Rates of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis are 2-4 times as high among Latinos as among non-Latino whites. Latina/o transgender persons carry even more burden.

Further, in many Southern states, including North Carolina (NC), consistently lead the U.S. in reported cases of AIDS, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis. In NC, HIV incidence rates are 40% higher than the national rate, and HIV and STD infection rates for Latinos are 3 and 4
times that of non-Latino whites. Compared to Latinos in traditional settlement states with longer histories of Latino immigration, including US-Mexico border states (e.g., AZ, CA, and TX), Latinos in new settlement states are more likely to be from rural southern Mexico and Central America; report lower educational attainment; and have arrived more recently without families.

New settlement states lack developed infrastructures to meet Latinos’ needs (e.g., limited bilingual/bicultural services) and tend to be more hostile towards Latinos. Accordingly, the goals of this study are to refine, fully implement, and rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of a locally developed and culturally congruent combination HIV prevention intervention designed to reduce the disproportionate HIV burden borne by Latina/o transgender persons who have sex with men and increase their access to and use of transition-related healthcare services.

Dr. Tyreasa Washington

Dr. Tyreasa Washington (Social Work) received new funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for the project “Family’s Impact on the Development of African American Children in Kinship Care.”

African American children are at risk for social skills deficits, academic underachievement, and behavior problems. This is a public health concern because these problems have been linked to mental health, substance use, and delinquency problems. Understanding the strengths and resources of kinship care families that contribute to children’s social, academic, and behavioral outcomes will lead to the development of prevention and intervention services that can have a positive effect on children’s present and future lives.

Dr. Christina O’Connor

Dr. Christina O’Connor (Moss Street Partnership School) received new funding from Action for Healthy Kids for the project “Sensory Hallways at Moss Street.” Kristin Carter and Amy Thompson are co-principal investigators on the project.

The Moss Street Partnership School proposes to install two sensory hallways in the school building, to complement the one existing sensory hallway, as well as add a sensory pathway leading to a new school garden — all to create more “BE Time” at school. Action For Healthy Kids offers funding to schools implementing physical activity and nutrition best practices.
while simultaneously increasing opportunities for more unstructured free time during the school day. In addition to the hallways, pathway and garden, MSPS will hold an Every Kid Healthy Week event in April 2020, and will reach out through this program to parents and community members to focus on healthy habits and eating. This will be a one-year project from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.

Barbara Campbell Thomas

Barbara Campbell Thomas (Art) will have a solo exhibition of her paintings at The Painting Center in New York City, October 1-26, 2019.

A full-color catalog will accompany the exhibition, designed by UNCG School of Art Assistant Professor of Art Rachele Riley and including an essay written by Jennie Carlisle, Director of the Smith Gallery at Appalachian State University.

Campbell Thomas is Associate Professor of Art in the UNCG School of Art.

Dr. Joanne Murphy

Dr. Joanne Murphy (Classical Studies) was invited to be a traveling scholar for the Archaeological Institute of America this semester. In that role, she will lecture this week at the University of Montreal. In the past three years, in addition to presenting at peer reviewed conference in the US, Greece, Austria and France, she has also been invited to speak on her work at Pylos and Kea in Greece (University of Kalamata, Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies in Athens), Croatia (University of Zagreb), Ireland (Trinity College Dublin) and Canada (University of British Columbia Vancouver). She has also given numerous invited talks here in the United States, such as at Coe College, Mississippi State, Guildford College, Appalachian State. The most notable of her recent lectures in the US was at the New York Aegean Symposium at the Institute of Fine Arts in March 2016.

Dr. Murphy’s research focuses on diverse elements of the Greek Bronze Age, including mortuary and religious activities, production and prestige, and archaeological methods. She has a field project on the Greek island of Kea, which explores the value of surface survey as an archaeological method. She will lead UNCG students at this archaeological site again this coming summer.

Dr. Qibin Zhang
Dr. Qibin Zhang (Translational Biomedical Research) received new funding from the National Institutes of Health for the project “Protein Markers to Islet Autoimmunity and Type 1 Diabetes Progression.”

He is associate professor and co-director, UNCG Center for Translational Biomedical Research.

Dr. Ang Chen

Dr. Ang Chen (Kinesiology) received new funding from the National Institutes of Health for the project “The Science of Essential Balance.”

The purpose of the project is to design and field-test The Science of Essential Balance (SEB) curriculum for high schools. The project seeks to develop a 40 lesson curriculum to teach the science of energy-balanced living. The curriculum will incorporate mobile technology to deliver course assignments that lead students to engage, experiment, explain, elaborate and evaluate data they collect from themselves about nutrients intake and expenditure. Learning the science of energy balance will provide opportunities for students to study the relationship between nutrition, exercise and health, and between nutrition, exercise and injuries using scientific inquiry processes.

Dr. George Hancock

Dr. George Hancock (SERVE Center) received new funding from Brunswick County Schools for the project “Brunswick County Schools Comprehensive Needs Assessment.”

A comprehensive needs assessment is a systematic assessment of practices, processes and structures within a school 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 road map 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.
Hancock is the Executive Director of the SERVE Center and the Director of the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE). His work in education includes the areas of technical assistance, policy development, and inter-organizational collaboration.

**Dr. Sonja Frison**

Dr. Sonja Frison (Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships) received new funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust for the project “Increasing Access, Decreasing Disparities, and Increasing Treatment Engagement with Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Partnerships.”

The North Carolina Institute of Medicine noted in their 2016 Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Report that 20 percent of adolescents have a substance use or mental health disorder. The NCIOM report also outlined the need to support System of Care and Collaborative initiatives to address access and disparities based on age, gender, race, and other factors. “We would therefore like to build capacity for this work by developing a multifaceted, data driven approach to increase access, decrease disparities, and increase engagement in treatment for cross system teams,” her abstract says. “We propose to develop and pilot this approach in year 1 with two JJBH teams (Guilford and Gaston) that represent at least 500 youth and then open up to at least three other teams in Year 2 (single and/or multicounty teams representing at least 1500 youth) with sustainability implementation including a plan for training other teams through our JJBH work.”

**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 (epipolythiodioxopiperizine 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. Penelope Pynes

Dr. Penelope Pynes (International programs) has been appointed as a lab advisor for the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Laboratory. The Lab advisors provide support for the Laboratory’s cohort, working closely with their given Lab institution.

The current cohort has the support of four Lab advisors, experts with a wide range of background and experience in campus internationalization.

Pynes is Associate Provost for International Programs and Director of QEP on Global Engagement, leading the internationalization efforts at UNCG. Since 1995, she has worked to promote student/faculty exchange at UNCG and in the state. She piloted the Baden-Württemberg state-to-state program, which led to the establishment of UNC’s system-wide exchange program housed at UNCG. In 2005, she represented the UNC system in an administrative exchange at the Ministry of Science and Arts in Baden-Württemberg. Penelope facilitates diversity and intercultural workshops on and off campus to prepare faculty and students for successful experiences abroad.

She is a former Fulbright scholar to Heidelberg, Germany, and was awarded a Rotary Club Study Exchange Scholarship to Norway.