

Welcome to Campus Weekly



UNCG

CAMPUSWEEKLY

Big Belly receptacles now at UNCG



Innovative Big Belly receptacles on campus

Big changes are coming to UNCG's recycling program. Take a stroll down College Avenue and you'll notice the new Big Belly waste and recycling receptacles. Funded by a grant from the UNCG Green Fund, the Big Belly receptacles are a smart platform of network-connected receptacles that will increase productivity in our labor force, reduce our carbon footprint, increase our waste diversion rate, and help keep our public areas clean and green.

This new initiative at UNCG comes at a time when recycling is a hot topic of conversation across the nation, including here in Greensboro, where the City recently stopped collecting glass in residential commingled curbside recycling.

"The question I get asked most often on campus is: Can this be recycled? To me, that question reveals a couple of things," says Sean MacInnes, UNCG's sustainability specialist. "One, it shows people care about our environment and they want to help and do the right thing. Two, it reveals just how complicated the recycling process is. The Big Belly receptacles and our new recycling guide are intended to simplify and improve that process for our campus community."

The improvements the Big Belly receptacles provide:

- They are connected to the cellular network and have sensors that communicate their real-time status to notify crews when they are full and ready to be collected.

- An internal compactor provides greater capacity than the standard Victor Stanley bins.
- They have scales inside that will improve data collection for our landfill diversion efforts.
- Their design is aesthetically pleasing and allows branding and educational opportunities.
- They are solar powered.

“The ability to begin to modernize our waste management system allows us to continue to decrease our carbon footprint, while optimizing our efficiency,” says Ross Rick, assistant director for facility services. “For the students to decide that this investment was important to them is an empowering statement that they are committed to this project in the present and the future. I sincerely thank our students, the Green Fund Committee, and University Communications for their support, particularly graphic designers Ariel Hewlin and Mark Unrue, who were tremendous partners in this effort.”

The UNCG Green Fund is a campus-based grant program supported by student activity fees and is meant to forward UNCG’s Climate Action Plan. It was developed by the UNCGreen student club and approved by the Student Government Association in 2015. Through the Green Fund, UNCG students have invested over \$200,000 to support 44 different sustainability initiatives on campus, which have saved the University approximately \$16,000 in utility costs and over 200,000 kWh hours of electricity (equal to about 16 standard homes), annually.

“I’m excited about the Big Belly receptacles,” says Marc Keith, an English Ph.D. candidate and student co-chair of the Green Fund Committee. “This project not only has real, tangible benefits, but helps spread awareness about UNCG’s sustainability efforts and directly engages students in those efforts.”

UNCG recycles an average of 200 tons of commingled material annually and has an average overall landfill diversion rate of about 43% over the past five years. On top of that, all bottle sales (water and other beverages) have trended down across campus; last year sales were down 21.94% vs

the previous year. The University aims to become a zero-waste campus by 2050.

“The changes in the recycling commodities market are also being felt at UNCG,” says MacInnes. “Like Greensboro and other cities across the country, we are seeing an increase in the cost of operating our recycling program. Like all responsible businesses and stewards of our environment, we’re exploring all the options that will allow us to keep our commitment to zero-waste in a fiscally responsible manner.

“For the time being we will continue to collect glass in our commingled recycling stream on campus. But we ask those who live off campus to continue to use the City’s free drop-off locations for glass recycling. We get charged per ton and glass is the heaviest material. There’s also low demand for it in the market. Those factors,” MacInnes says, “make it expensive to recycle, which is one of the reasons the City made the decision it did. Although we operate on a much smaller scale than the City, the increase in cost is not insignificant for us and we ask everyone to be considerate of that. But if you live in the dorms or if you buy a beverage in a glass bottle from a campus vendor, please continue to recycle glass here.”

You can download UNCG’s new recycling guide [here](#). And MacInnes recommends everyone download the City’s GSO Collects app (available on Android and Apple) and take advantage of the app’s Waste Wizard. “Our recycling goes to the same place as the City’s and other than the fact that we’ll continue to accept glass bottles and jars, and plastic cups as long as they have recycling numbers 1, 2, and 5, you can’t go wrong.

“It’s also important for our campus community to keep in mind that Greensboro has one of the highest recycling contamination rates in nation and it’s an issue we have here too,” MacInnes says.

“If we want recycling costs to decrease and have more companies incorporate recycled material into their products, then we have to empty our cups and clean our food containers before we put them in the recycling bin. As consumers, we’re an important factor in the circular economy.”

Do you have an idea for a sustainability initiative? Proposals for the Green Fund are due on the 1st of every month during the academic year. Project proposals requesting \$1,000 or more in funding are only accepted on November 1 and April 1. More information and the application can be found [here](#).

Enjoy ‘Soaring Sounds’ free choral concerts this weekend



Dr. Carole Ott Coelho conducts in the Gothic Revival First Presbyterian Church

UNCG’s University Chorale, in collaboration with the Lorena Guillén Tango Ensemble, will highlight Argentine tango and its crossed-path with Jewish culture, partly through compositions of the first generation of Argentine-Jewish composers.

This collaboration is the culmination of a project initiated by Dr. Lorena Guillén, Dr. Carole Ott Coelho notes. The Associate Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor, she directs the University Chorale. It has been immersed in these pieces throughout the rehearsal process, which included lessons in tango dancing and singing in yiddish. The compositions have been arranged for choir by Dr. Alejandro Rutty.

The concert will also feature UNCG Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Welborn Young, who is director of Choral Activities and Professor. The Chamber Singers will perform Gian Carlo Menotti’s *The Unicorn*, *The Gorgon*, and *The Manticore: a Madrigal Ballad*.

UNC Greensboro’s choral program will fill Greensboro’s First Presbyterian Church – a space ideal for choral acoustics – Sunday, Oct. 20, at 5 p.m. It is free-admission.

An additional, seasonal-themed UNCG choral concert will be Sunday, Nov. 24, 5 to 7 p.m. in First Presbyterian.

Homecoming weekend holds an extra treat: The UNCG Men's and Women's Glee Clubs will hold their concert Saturday, Oct. 19, at 3 p.m. in Grace United Methodist Church, 438 W Friendly Ave, Greensboro. That is also free-admission.

See the UNCG Magazine article, "Soaring Sounds."

By Mike Harris.

Photograph by Martin W. Kane

Dr. Elizabeth 'Jody' Natalie receives career teaching award



Dr. Elizabeth ("Jody") Natalie, associate professor of communication studies, was awarded the 2019 Lloyd Rohler Career Teaching Award from the Carolinas Communication Association (CCA) for "demonstrating excellent teaching throughout her career."

Natalie has been a member of CCA for 34 years, a past president, and an active faculty mentor who has regularly sponsored student research presentations at the annual conference.

The award was presented at the 2019 conference held in Hilton Head, SC, the last weekend in September.

"My objective when teaching is to facilitate the student's critical development as a communicator, as a citizen, and as an independent problem-solver," Natalie said. "Using the knowledge of our field, I am all about sharing that knowledge so that a student can achieve communication competence, active participation as a citizen, and has the ability to approach life with problem-solving skills. "

What brings her the most joy in teaching? “When a student is able to own the knowledge of the field and become an independent learner. Then I know they are set for life. When the light bulb goes on, you just know that you did your job as the teacher-facilitator. It’s the joy of ‘paying it forward.’”

By Mike Harris

Photography by Jiyoung Park

Krowchuk, Letvak, Rowsey receive excellence professorships



Dr. Heidi Krowchuk

Dr. Heidi Krowchuk, Dr. Susan Letvak, and Dr. Pamela Johnson Rowsey were presented with the excellence professorship, which was established to honor Dr. Eloise Lewis, the founding dean of the School of Nursing.

Krowchuk has served in key positions throughout her 29 years as a UNCG faculty member. As associate dean for academic programs, she has played an instrumental role in the planning of the new Nursing and Instructional Building that is scheduled to open in Fall 2020.



Dr. Susan Letvak

Letvak joined the nursing faculty as an assistant professor in 2000, and she currently oversees the School of Nursing’s Veterans Access Program as its coordinator. The program provides support for medically trained veterans to obtain a bachelor of science in nursing degree.

Rowsey came to UNCG as a professor and the department chair of Adult Health Nursing in 2016. She has been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally for her expertise in nursing education and research and ways to improve resources for historically underrepresented ethnic minority students.



Dr. Pamela Johnson Rowsey

Dr. Kelly Stamp, department chair of Family and Community Nursing, was the only Eloise R. Lewis Excellence Professor prior to the newest appointments. The professorship includes a stipend and research funding.

Tate Street Festival Oct. 19



'Tate Street, that great street' – as the refrain goes.

The Tate Street community and heritage will be celebrated once again with the 2019 Tate Street Festival, which presents live music and performance, fine arts and crafts. The event is this Saturday (Oct. 19), 1-7 p.m., in the Tate Street business district. Be part of the free-admission celebration and discover some great new art, music, and food. This year, there will be over 60 vendors on Tate Street – including 10 booths filled with UNCG student work – selling jewelry, painting, photography, sculpture, pottery, organic health and beauty products, handmade clothing, hats, fine crafts, vintage clothing and furniture, stained glass and even more unique works of art. It's the same afternoon as the big UNCG Homecoming Party, so stop in on your way to the campus party on Kaplan Commons. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/tatestreetfestival/> or email tatestreetfestival@gmail.com for more info on the Tate Street Festival.

Presentation on suffrage, racism, and a complex history

In advance of the "She Can, We Can" series for 2020-21, which focuses on the women's suffrage movement, HNAC and the Women's and Gender Studies department will co-host the talk "When Women Won the Right to Vote: An American Fiction."

The presentation, by Dr. Lisa Tetrault of Carnegie Mellon University, will address the misleading common narrative of women's suffrage and discuss the legacy of racism in the

movement. The talk will explore suffrage's complex history and speak on strategies for continuing the project of securing voting rights for all.

The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be Monday, Oct. 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m., with a reception at 5 p.m. It will be held at the UNCG Faculty Center.

ITS: Changes coming to identity and access management



UNCG Information Technology Services (ITS) is launching a multi-phase project to modernize UNCG's identity and access management (IAM) system.

Computer and Security Account Management (C-SAM), the current system, was built in the late 1990s as an in-house solution for creating campus computing accounts. Over the last 20 years, C-SAM met UNCG's needs. However, like technology, the University is evolving rapidly. The new IAM system will meet the demands – and challenges – that this rapid evolution brings.

The first phase of the implementation will change how passwords are reset. Associated with this project are upcoming changes to password management and account authentication. Secondary accounts will be redefined into more function-specific categories for proper identification and security maintenance. ITS expects the first phase to be completed in early 2020.

Subsequent phases of the IAM modernization project will be announced as it progresses.

Follow the [IAM modernization project website](#) to track ITS' progress in improving these critically essential services for the UNCG community.

Spartans ADVANCE: \$1 million NSF grant to enhance faculty equity, diversity, inclusion



UNC Greensboro has been awarded a prestigious, \$1 million ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

This three-year award will support the adaptation and implementation of proven organizational change strategies to promote gender equity inclusive of intersecting social identities such as race and ethnicity.

“We are delighted to have received this important award. It signals our ongoing commitment to all forms of equity and provides resources to help us achieve our desired outcomes.” said Dr. Dana Dunn, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor.

Using a data analytic approach, coupled with focus group data and incorporating evidence-based practices, UNCG has committed to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic science careers, thereby contributing to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce. While the focus of the grant is to address aspects of STEM academic culture and institutional structure that may differentially affect women faculty and academic administrators, UNCG views this grant as an opportunity to enhance our commitment to a diverse professoriate across all disciplines.

The ADVANCE program activities also include key allies necessary for achieving true culture change.

Under the leadership of the principal investigator, Provost Dunn, the ADVANCE team brings together a diverse group of co-principal investigators including: Dr. Ayesha Boyce, Assistant Professor of Educational and Research Methodology (ERM); Dr. Shelly Brown-Jeffy, Associate Professor of Sociology; Dr. Cerise L. Glenn, Director of African American and African Diaspora Studies and Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Dr. Julie Mendez Smith, inaugural Chancellor’s Fellow for Campus

Climate

and Professor of Psychology, and Dr. Terri Shelton, Carol Jenkins Mattocks Distinguished Professor and

Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement. The UNCG ADVANCE team is rounded out with Provost

Faculty Fellow, 2019-2020, Professor Steve Haines; the Office of Sponsored Programs' Associate Director

of Proposal Development Services Dr. Aubrey Turner and Proposal Development Specialist Julie

Voorhees; Associate Vice Chancellor of Research and Engagement Dr. Kimberly Littlefield, and ERM

Visiting Assistant Professor Dr. Aileen Reid.

There will be a robust set of activities as part of this transformative initiative including a website that will

update the campus on activities and resources, support for ongoing implicit bias training particularly for

search committees, and reviews of barriers and innovative solutions to achieving work/life balance

while advancing in promotion and tenure among others.

All activities and initiatives will be internally and externally evaluated.

A fall launch event will be held Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House.

"We urge all UNCG faculty to attend and learn more about how they can support this important work," said Provost Dunn.

Newsmakers: Miller, Ott Coelho, Broadway at Well-Spring

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:

- Spartan basketball guard Isaiah Miller is the SoCon Preseason Player of the Year, as reported by The Times-News, News and Record, and many other outlets. [The feature.](#)
- Dr. Carol Ott Coelho co-authored a piece on how improvisational music can enhance creative expression for the National Association for Music Education. [The piece.](#)
- Jessica Vosk, known for playing the lead in "Wicked" on Broadway, will kick off the "Broadway to Greensboro" collaboration between UNCG and the Well-Spring retirement

community, The News & Record reported. [The article.](#)

Chief Data Officer candidate presentation: Oct. 23

UNCG Information Technology Services will welcome a candidate for the inaugural Chief Data Officer position to campus for a visit October 22-23, 2019. The Chief Data Officer will work in close collaboration with research and academic programs, as well as administrative groups and institutional data stewards to establish an enterprise data road map and data management processes that enable information sharing, collaboration, compliance and security, and efficient resource management. The candidate will give a public presentation on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 9:30am-10:30am, School of Education, Room 114.

Information about future candidate presentations will be announced later.

Jenny Southard receives early career teaching award



Jenny Southard, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies and University Speaking Center coordinator, has received the Mônica Pombo Early Career Teaching Award from the Carolinas Communication Association.

The award was presented at the 2019 conference held in Hilton Head, SC, the last weekend in September.

Southard says, "I want my students to become advocates for their own learning and walk out of my class being able to understand, apply, and integrate the course material into their every day lives. I also want them to see the value of learning-thinking critically for its own sake and not as a means to an end. Lastly, I want them to develop their own voice to

communicate effectively and ethically in all aspects of their lives; personal, professional, and civic.”

What brings her the most joy in teaching? “I find the most joy in the relationship building that happens between the students and myself as well as the relationships they form with each other.” She notes they learn a lot from each other. She also likes seeing former students become members of the University Speaking Center, as a passion of hers.

By Mike Harris

Photo by Taylor L. Williams

Dr. Hemali Rathnayake



Dr. Hemali Rathnayake (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering) received new funding from the Department of Defense for the project “DOD HBCUMI Instrumentation: Acquisition of a High-Resolution

Transmission Electron Microscope for Interdisciplinary Graduate Research and Educational Training.”

This DOD HBCUMI Instrumentation proposal requests funding for the acquisition of a High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) for graduate research and teaching at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN). Transmission electron microscopes provide the best means for imaging nanoscale materials with at least one dimension smaller than twenty nanometers. This TEM would feature a high-resolution objective lens with 200kV maximum accelerating voltage, a scanning tunneling electron microscope (STEM) image observation device, a high resolution digital imaging, and the ability of upgrading to in-depth materials composition analysis to identify the oxidation states of atoms. Acquisition of this new microscope will expand its utility for both faculty and students and fulfill a critical need in our instrumentation infrastructure, that is currently insufficient to better serve our students, faculty, and the Triad region. Also, our current TEM is becoming increasingly difficult to repair and service due to the product discontinuation by its manufacturer. Thus, we are seeking funds to not only replace, but also expand on our TEM capabilities to grow our graduate programs and nanotechnology research infrastructure.

As interest in nanotechnology research has grown along with the continuous growth in our interdisciplinary graduate programs, usage of existing TEM has increased from 215 hours by 10 users in 2015 to 800 hours by 20 users in 2018. Research projects to be supported by a new TEM span a broad spectrum of research fields on emerging technologies, which includes seven interdependent research platforms: Nanobiology, Nanobioelectronics, Nanomaterials,

Nanometrology, Computational Modeling and Simulation, Nanoenergy, and Sustainability. Research and Educational trainings of these seven core platforms are directly correlated to the research areas of interest in the DOD directorates of Army Research Office (ARO) and Airforce Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). Current research projects use the TEM to characterize the size and shape of inorganic nanoparticles, bacteriophages, synthetic nanoparticles, and inorganic microstructures like zeolites. Some example research projects include: characterizing and localizing carbon dots, evaluating antimicrobial properties of particles conjugated to antibiotics, and characterization of synthetic nanoparticles, inorganic nanostructures, natural nanoparticles, and bacteriophages.

Dr. Tetyana Ignatova



Tetyana Ignatova (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering)

received new funding from UNC Charlotte for the project “Small Nucleic Acids Nanoassemblies Programmed to Operate in Living Systems.”

The researchers aim to establish strong research team that will rely on continuous collaboration among diverse institutions and disciplines to address fundamental design aspects of smart biological materials programmed to operate in living cells. These materials developed for conditional activation in the diseased cells only will revolutionize many applications in the health sciences and pharmacoengineering. All results will be listed in the on-line database made available for public viewing via the UNCC website. During the course of funded period, we also plan to introduce a pilot training program in collaboration with the Office of University Communications and Marketing Services at UNCC.

The overall goal of this proposal is to engineer dynamic stimuli-responsive nucleic acid-based nanoparticles (NANPs) with well-defined biological properties. Most already existing assortment of NANPs are static and not able to dynamically interact with biological systems or other NANPs. To address this need we plan to develop a NANP-based, programmable dynamic platform that can readily interact in cellular environments to activate targeted biological properties. There are two objectives to achieve the overall goal of this program:

Objective 1: To expand a set of rules suitable for the production of functionally interdependent NANPs that can interact with each other intracellularly and provide pre-programmed responses.

Objective 2: To expand a methodology aiming to organize inorganic nanoparticles (INPs) in human cells in response to stimuli via nucleic acid-based isothermal interactions.

The team of PIs with complementary expertise is ideally suited to conduct the proposed research: UNC Charlotte (Afonin) will the design synthesis and characterization of nucleic acid based nanoparticles and their in vivo delivery; NC Central University (Taylor) will participate in chemical modifications of nucleic acids to make them amenable to functionalization with inorganic materials; UNC Greensboro (Ignatova) will provide characterization of inorganic nanomaterials and their biological conjugates both in vitro and in living cells; and NC State University (Yingling) will predict morphological phase diagrams and interaction pathways for nucleic acid nanoparticles by simulations. The students involved on this cutting-edge collaborative research project will benefit from the cross-disciplinary studies between chemistry, biology, computational and nano- science and will be carefully co-advised by aforementioned PIs. Moreover, students from UNCC, UNCG, NCCU, and NCSU will actively participate in pilot training in science communication in collaboration with the Office of University Communications and its Marketing Services Department at UNCC.

The team members have a track record of previous productive collaborations with each other: Ignatova (UNCG), Afonin (UNCC), and Yingling (NCSU) are currently collaborating on the project that involves the use of single-walled carbon nanotubes for specific delivery of therapeutic nucleic acids into the cancer cells.

For the described in this proposal collaboration, we plan to hold monthly project meetings in-person, as both campuses are within a two-hour drive or by Skype or Webex. Furthermore, we will co-advise the graduate students working on this research project.

Dr. Julie Edmunds



Dr. Julie Edmunds (SERVE Center) received new funding from the UNC System Office for the project “Evaluation of the Aggie Success Academy at North Carolina A&T State University.”

This will be an evaluation of the impact of the Aggie Success Academy on: 1) the number of credits earned in freshman year; 2) students’ freshman GPA; 3) students’ confidence and perceptions of belonging and community; and 4) students’ persistence to sophomore year.

The study uses a randomized controlled trial in which all students who meet the eligibility criteria are invited to participate in the Aggie Success Academy.

The study design and the outcomes examined will give an unbiased estimate of the impact of the program on core outcomes that are associated with long-term success in college.

Dr. Evan Goldstein



Dr. Evan Goldstein (Geography, Environment, & Sustainability) received new funding from the National Academy of Sciences for the project “NAS GRP Early Career Research Fellowship: Human-landscape systems of the Coastal USA.”

The coast is an expression of both human and non-human forces. In this fellowship the researchers propose to continue work on two main research activities. First, coastal dunes. Along the US East and Gulf coasts, dunes are the ‘first line of defense’ against storms and hurricanes. Additionally, dunes serve as both habitat and protection for birds, plants and mammals (humans!). Coastal dunes grow when the wind blows sand. Grasses and other vegetation tend to slow the wind and cause sand to accumulate. This leads to burial of the dune plants, which actually causes the plants to grow more, causing the whole cycle to start again and a dune to form. Their work is focused on understanding a range of questions about this growth process—how fast do dunes grow? How tall do they grow? How long does it take a dune to recover after a storm? What grasses grow in these harsh settings? Using a range of data from new and previous scientific studies, the researchers use computer models to develop answers to these questions and predictions about dune growth (and the uncertainty in each prediction) This work help understand dune recovery after storm events and in a changing climate.

A second line of research is focused on how humans living along the coast are changing the coastline. For example, during big storms barrier islands can be flooded. Water tends to push sand from the front of an island to the back, causing the whole island to move slightly toward land. On islands with buildings and roads, storms still push water and sand over the island, but through streets and around buildings. But which streets get flooded? Why some and not others? Where is sand deposited? Is there more or less sand moved compared to unbuilt islands? The researchers are working to understand how buildings and roads work to ‘channel’ sand and water during storm events, and how this results in the increase in vulnerability to some areas. Many storms also destroy buildings, and my work also looks at rebuilding after storm events — are homes built after a hurricane bigger or smaller? Finally, the researchers are exploring how beach nourishment — the pumping of new sand onto the beach to widen it — actually leads to changes in development practices on the coast (i.e., bigger, more expensive homes). Their work on development practices is focused on the consequences of these processes on the future of the coastal zone.

All of the researchers’ work hinges on using data in interesting and new ways. We live in a time when huge volumes of data are being recorded and stored, and computing is powerful enough to find patterns in large, complex datasets. Because of this, the research leans

heavily on the use of Machine Learning — a suite of techniques from computer science where computers can be programmed to look for patterns and commonalities in large datasets.

Goldstein also received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “COMET: the Coastlines and people Open data and MachinE learning sprint.”

The growing library of open data and free open source analysis tools enables scientists to investigate a range of societally relevant questions at the intersection of Coastlines and People (CoPe). Harnessing these resources responsibly requires novel methods, interdisciplinary teams, and open and accessible deliverables. The researchers propose to develop a new and innovative incubator approach for rapid data-driven CoPe investigations created by networks of researchers.

Modeled on other science ‘sprints’, teams of researchers will assemble to transform an idea into a scientific product within a short, fixed time window during the program. Successful examples of this model are the Santa Fe Institute’s 72 Hours of Science (SFI, 2018), Complexity 72h (Complexity, 2018) and previous work by PI Goldstein (Goldstein et al., 2018). Outcomes from all of these events were rapidly produced open-access science (publications, data, and code). Our incubator program is akin to the NSF-sponsored Eco-DAS (Kelly et al., 2017), but focused on quick turn-around open science, open data, and machine learning — harnessing the data revolution that is available through data.gov and other FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable) sources to produce science and deliverables rapidly. Participants will bring project ideas to the sprint, assemble into small teams, and deliver a science product (tool, dataset, paper/report, educational material, etc.) in a short time frame. The researchers’ goal with this approach is to develop and test a generalizable and transportable method to accelerate the pace of scientific discoveries (Mervis 2019). Researchers consider these science sprint events ‘high risk, high reward’ with the goal of catalyzing groups of researchers to address CoPe research within short windows and produce open materials for future work. The researchers’ intention with piloting this project is to lay groundwork for future innovations in CoPe hub structure and convergent science approaches.

Goldstein also received new funding from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the project “Tweets from the Stone: Assessing Uncertainty in Coastal Storm Models with Twitter Data.”

All research will be performed within UNC Greensboro.

The proposed work will attempt to use noisy Twitter data from a coastal storm (a prototypical disaster event) integrated with a numerical model of coastal storm impacts to determine how streaming social media data can work synergistically with numerical models to predict disaster impacts and separate true vs. false information.

In the first half of the performance period, the Recipient will substantially modify the existing numerical models for coastal storm impacts to incorporate stochastic parameterizations.

In the second half of the performance period, the Recipient will compare ensemble model runs with the twitter record from Hurricanes to assess coastal storm hydrodynamic predictions, looking for misfit between twitter and model predictions.

Milestones for First Part of the Performance Period (Completed in 2018):

1. Make core coastal model improvements to account for uncertainty.
2. Develop a new stochastic parameterization scheme (e.g., Berner et al., 2017).

Milestones for Second Part of the Performance Period (January 2019- June 2019):

1. Develop ensemble predictions with Hurricane data.
2. Compare geo-located and geo-parsed Twitter data with ensemble model results;
3. Analyze error between storm information in tweet vs. model ensemble output;

Milestones for Third Part of the Performance Period (July 2019- December 2019):

1. Address utility of social media in validating model results;
2. Find mismatches (fake vs. real tweets); and
3. Analyze outcome and prepare manuscript(s) and conference presentation(s) on the work.

Dr. Diana Bowman



Dr. Diana Bowman (SERVE) received new funding from the Indiana FSSA Child Care and Development Fund for the project “Increasing School Readiness in the Face of Homelessness.” The Indiana Head Start State Collaboration Office (IHSSCO), a member of Building Brighter Futures, has established a program goal of improving school readiness to better serve young children experiencing homeless. To ensure the goals set by IHSSCO and Building Brighter Futures are met, UNCG’s SERVE Center proposes to develop and facilitate a summit as well as materials related to the topics of homelessness and school readiness to be used as a part of a training series targeted to constituents of IHSSCO and Building Brighter Futures. Initial planning for the training series will also be completed. The proposed activities and related materials all have two goals: to increase the quality of early childcare and education received by young children experiencing homelessness and to increase the ability of families to support their children’s development.

Dr. Beth Thrift



Dr. Beth Thrift (SERVE Center) received new funding from the NC Department of Public Instruction for the project “Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools – Innovative Partnership Grant Review.”

Based on a request from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), researchers will conduct a review of two Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG) competitions, one in the fall of 2019 and one in the spring of 2020.

Dr. Jay Poole



Dr. Jay Poole (Social Work) received new funding from Cone Health Foundation for the project “Partnership to Address Co-Occurring Disorders in Vulnerable Populations.” Dr. Kenneth Gruber is co-principal investigator on the project.

This program seeks to increase the availability of mental health and substance abuse services for those who are homeless and those who are immigrants. Specifically, the program, hereafter referred to as the Partnership, has established the following goals.

Goal I: Develop and maintain a close working relationship with the programs involved in the Partnership as well as those entities that are community partners in this effort. Close working relationships are measured by the ability of the partners to effectively and efficiently provide needed services to those who are homeless and those who are immigrants. Meeting the benchmarks for those served by the Partnership will be an indication that it is effective and efficient.

Goal II: Increase the ability to function more effectively for those who are homeless and who suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. Effective functioning is measured by the ability to engage in activities of daily living, the ability to maintain roles, the ability to be goal directed, and the ability to reduce consumption of substances and/or alleviate symptoms associated with mental illnesses. The people served are partners with service providers in identifying needs and strengths.

Goal III: Increase the ability to function more effectively for those who are immigrants and who suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. Effective functioning is measured by the ability to engage in activities of daily living, the ability to maintain roles, the ability to be goal-directed, and the ability to reduce consumption of substances and/or alleviate symptoms associated with mental illnesses. The people served are partners with service providers in identifying needs and strengths.

Goal IV: Increase knowledge about mental wellness and the effects of substance abuse for those who are homeless and those who are immigrants. An increase in knowledge will be indicated by the comparing pre- and post-tests upon completion of education modules conducted by social work students and nurses with the assistance of an interpreter in the case of non-English speaking populations.

Goal V: Increase knowledge through specialized training about mental health and/or substance abuse concerns for congregational nurses and social work students involved with the Partnership.