Welcome to Campus Weekly

Classics Day re-enactments, activities on Nov. 9

A celebration of the ancient Mediterranean world, open to all, with re-enactments, displays, hands-on interactions, and more will take place on Saturday, Nov. 9, in front of the Stone Building. The events begins at 9 a.m.

Come experience the Roman military in action, get your future predicted by an oracle, and witness ancient Greek religious rituals.

Classics Day is a multi-event festival at UNC Greensboro that celebrates some of the highlights of Classical Greece and Rome. It is planned, organized, and carried out by the members of the student-run Classical Society, which is sponsored by the UNCG Department of Classical Studies, and with assistance from faculty in the department.

Photography by Martin W. Kane.

Organ Studio Spooktacular on Halloween
Visit UNC Greensboro’s Organ Hall on Halloween at 7:30 p.m. to hear the hair-raising melodies of André Lash’s Organ Studio students. This year’s Spooktacular, a free event, is the 10th iteration of the Halloween tradition. The event will include costumes, refreshments, and pumpkin carols.

Whether or not students play organ as their primary instrument, Lash says learning to play the instrument is a tremendous asset in a musician or music educator’s set of skills. Because organ literature goes back around 600 years, and developed differently across Europe, students are exposed to immensely diverse music literature through the study of organ music. Through their practice, they also grow as accompanists and musical collaborators.

Often associated with spooky films such as “Phantom of the Opera,” the organ developed in grand church spaces. Their UNCG Organ Studio instructor, Lash, is retired from serving as accompanist at Greensboro’s Christ United Methodist Church, which draws music audiences to hear its exceptional organ. Three of the current Organ Studio students who are performing Thursday, Pingyi Song, Xiuwei Yu, and George Dent were recently hired to organist positions in Triad area churches.

Another of Lash’s students, Marya Fancey, was awarded a Fulbright fellowship in 2018 to pursue her scholarship and performance of early Polish organ music.

View the video below to hear from Lash about this year’s Halloween event.
Ready for some pancakes? How about some Panthers football?

Mark your calendars for the upcoming State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) breakfast. It will take place from 7 to 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 5 in the Fountain View Dining Hall. And on your way in, buy some raffle tickets – among the big prizes are some NFL Panthers tickets.

Come and see your favorite campus leaders flipping pancakes for a good cause! This year’s pancake flippers and servers include:

Brett Carter
Carl Mattacola
Donna Heath
Anthony Chow
Wade Maki
Sameer Kapileshwari
Jennifer Kelley
Jeff Shafer
Charlie Lefflor
Kristen Meeks
Brian Downs
William Parrish
Andre Hill
Mark McKinney
Paul Lester
The SECC campaign is in full swing and UNC Greensboro has raised over $75,000 so far in this year’s giving season. You can view the statewide stats on how much participating organizations have raised at https://ncsecc.upicsolutions.org/ncsecc/UserPreferences/Master3.html

All faculty and staff are encouraged to invite any new faculty and staff who may not be familiar with our campaign. Tickets are $6 and are available at the door during the event, and retiree tickets are $5.

Raffle prize tickets can be purchased for $1. Prizes include original art, gift baskets, a 50” Vizio 4K TV, Panthers vs. Seahawks tickets, and more. A limited number of SECC breakfast parking vouchers for Oakland Deck will be handed out at the breakfast.

For more information on UNCG’s SECC campaign see https://secc.uncg.edu/

By Matthew Bryant
Photo of Beth Fischer and Jerry Blakemore at last year’s event by Jiyoung Park.

Open Enrollment begins November 2

This year’s open enrollment is shorter than usual. The upcoming enrollment period is from November 2 to November 19. You will enroll for both your State Health Plan and your NCFlex benefits. Your new elections will go into effect January 1, 2020.

Good news for 2020! Your health plan premiums will remain the same as 2019.

Health Changes

70/30 Plan*
- Preventive services will be covered at 100% and you will no longer have to pay a copay.
- The copay for a Primary Care Provider (PCP) visit will be reduced from $45 to $30 when you use a PCP listed on your ID card.
- The out-of-pocket maximum will change from a separate medical and pharmacy out-of-pocket amount to a combined medical and pharmacy out-of-pocket maximum.
- The deductible and some copays have changed.

80/20 Plan* No Changes

* The formulary (drug list for covered medications) is updated quarterly, so there may be
changes in drug coverage for both plans.

**Tobacco Attestation**

The tobacco attestation premium credit activity has been simplified. Tobacco users must commit to visit a CVS MinuteClinic for at least one tobacco cessation counseling session by December 31, 2019, or risk losing the monthly premium credit. However, a voucher is no longer required.

**NC Flex Changes**

Dental Plan
- In addition to your current options, you’ll have a new plan to consider—the Classic Option plan.
- If you’re currently enrolled in the High Option plan, you will be mapped to the new Classic Option plan since its premiums are the same as your current option.
- The Classic Option plan features the same annual deductible as the Low Option plan with an annual maximum that is slightly higher.
- The Classic Option plan includes coverage for orthodontics.
- Premiums for the High Option and Low Option plans are increasing.

Health Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- The maximum annual contribution will be $2,700 for 2020.

To learn more about your options, visit www.shpnc.org for information about your health benefits and www.ncflex.org for information about your NCFlex benefits.

The UNCG Benefits Staff will be offering several Open Enrollment Information Sessions in computer labs to assist employees with this process. Click here to enroll in a session.

Please contact the UNCG Benefits Office at (336) 334-4514, or askbenefits@uncg.edu if you have any questions.

**Deadline for nominations for highest service awards:**
McIver and Holderness/Weaver

Since UNCG’s founding, the ongoing commitment of service to the community, state, and nation has remained central to all we do. “Service” is our motto, and the time to recognize those who have dedicated themselves to serving others is now.

In that tradition, the UNCG Board of Trustees confers its highest honors on behalf of the University to acknowledge exemplary public service and civic engagement. The Charles Duncan McIver Award was established to recognize North Carolinians who have rendered unusually distinguished service to our state or nation. The Adelaide F. Holderness/H. Michael Weaver Award is designed to recognize North Carolinians who have served our local community, but who may not have received attention for their actions.

UNCG needs your help to nominate individuals who deserve recognition for all they have done for our society. While the recipients are often UNCG alumni, the awards are intended to honor any remarkable North Carolinian, regardless of alma mater.

Further information is available at https://publicserviceawards.uncg.edu/

Please submit your completed nomination form no later than Thursday, October 31, 2019.

The awards will be presented at the University Honors event next spring. If you have any questions about the awards process, please contact Theresa Hancock, Director of Donor Relations, at 336-256-1050 or tmhancoc@uncg.edu.

‘Civic Engagement Matters!’ symposium Nov. 19

A “Civic Engagement Matters!” symposium will focus on ways to become more civically engaged with non-partisan groups such as the League of Women Voters, NC You Can Vote, Common Cause, NC, Democracy NC, and the UNCG Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement.

The event will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House.

The UNCG Association of Retired Faculty, the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and UNCG AAUP Chapter are sponsoring the event.

Also, learn about the UNCG interdisciplinary course “Reclaiming Democracy,” which involves community members learning side-by-side with students and faculty from six area colleges and universities.
For more information on the event, email Dr. Susan Dennison, professor emerita, at stdennis@uncg.edu.

**First G at the G helps first-gen students**

“First G at the G” is a weeklong series of events from November 4 – 8, 2019, with programming meant to help first-generation students connect with each other, faculty, and staff, as well as learn about campus resources.

First-generation students are more likely to live off-campus, attend college close to home, attend school part-time, and work full-time while in college. Many first-generation students are nontraditional (commuter, transfer, returning, foster, married, etc.) and therefore have a peripheral identity due to responsibilities outside of school. Some students – particularly from immigrant backgrounds – may serve as cultural brokers or translators. Many have high expectations placed on them as the first to attend college. Our goal with the *First G at the G* program is to help make the transition easier for these students.

See full event schedule and details [https://sa.uncg.edu/firstg/](https://sa.uncg.edu/firstg/)

**Nominations needed for Staff Senate Angel Tree - deadline Nov. 1**

Do you know a staff member or student in need this holiday season? The UNCG Staff Senate is sponsoring an Angel Tree this winter to benefit members of our campus community.

Please submit your nomination by this Friday, November 1, 2019, to:

Katherine Stamey, ksstamey@uncg.edu, 336-256-1397 or
Britt Flanagan, bsflanag@uncg.edu, 336-334-4686

Please obtain approval from nominees before submitting a nomination form. All information provided will be kept confidential.

**New Community Enrichment Center to offer health and wellness to local communities**

The UNCG Center for New North Carolinians (UNCG CNNC), Cone Health Congregational Nurse Program, and Phillips Management Group (PMG) have opened a new Community Enrichment Center that will bring a unique, innovative set of free nursing services, mental health resources, case management services, and community and education enrichment activities to adults and children living in four PMG-owned apartment communities in Greensboro. The official ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Oct. 29.

The center will serve Autumn Trace, Colonial, Empire Crossings, and Willow Run Apartments. Phillips Management Group donated the use of a free-standing 3-bedroom home in the Autumn Trace Apartment community to house the new Center.

The Center for New North Carolinians and the Congregational Nurse Program will provide the services, which are free to residents.

*Photographs by Martin W. Kane*
Free Upcoming Public Nights at Three College Observatory

The Three College Observatory is now taking reservations for the upcoming public viewing nights. The free events will take place on:

- Saturday, November 30, 6 p.m.
- Friday, January 3, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, February 15, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21, 8 p.m.

The observatory is located in central North Carolina approximately eight miles south of Burlington. The site was selected because of its proximity to the Greensboro metropolitan area as well as the reasonably-dark skies to the south of the observatory. As a dark sky site this location poses an excellent compromise between the need to be close to urban centers and the desire for very dark skies.

For a schedule of events and to make a reservation for the Three College Observatory: https://physics.uncg.edu/tco/public-nights/upcoming-events/

For a detailed map and driving directions to reach the observatory https://physics.uncg.edu/tco/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/03/maptotco.pdf

Plus, public nights for the UNCG Planetarium in Petty Building have been announced:

- Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 10, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 27, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

All planetarium shows take place in 310 Petty Science Building, and run for approximately 45 – 60 minutes. Reservations tend to fill up quickly. Learn more and make reservations: https://physics.uncg.edu/planetarium/upcoming-events/.

Photography by Martin W. Kane.
Make nominations for Research Excellence Awards

In 1988, the Research Excellence Awards were established in recognition of the following principle:

“Given that creating and diffusing knowledge is a formal obligation of the University, the Research Excellence Award will be given to a full-time member of the faculty whose work contributes in an exemplary fashion to this end.”

Each year, the Chancellor solicits nominations for the Research Excellence Awards and a faculty review committee studies the portfolios with regard to the following criteria: 1) the importance of the research contributions to the field, 2) the originality of thought, 3) the execution of the research, and 4) the pattern of the nominee’s research productivity.

Up to two Research Excellence Awards may be given each year. The Junior Research Excellence Award is for a scholar at the rank of assistant or associate professor and a cash honorarium of $4,500 accompanies the award. The award will be based primarily on work done at UNCG during the past five years. The Senior Research Excellence Award is for a scholar at the rank of professor and a cash honorarium of $7,500 accompanies the award. The award will be made on the basis of the nominee’s research career, with particular emphasis placed on work done in the last five years.

To nominate a faculty member for a 2019-2020 Research Excellence Award, click on this link for a copy of the Nomination Packet which includes the nomination guidelines, selection criteria, and the nomination cover sheet. All materials are to be submitted electronically. The Nomination Packet, including the signed nomination form, should be scanned as a pdf file and submitted via InfoReady Review at: https://uncg.infoready4.com/#-manageCompetitionsDetail/1794501 by December 6, 2019.

For more information, contact Haley Childers at hachilde@uncg.edu or 336-256-0426.

UNCG Nursing hosts delegation from Moldova
Like most people living in Moldova, Dr. Oxana Sarbu said her knowledge of the United States was limited mostly to what she had seen in Hollywood films.

Sarbu gained a much better understanding of the nursing profession in the U.S. after spending more than a week interacting with students and faculty members in UNC Greensboro’s School of Nursing, as well as registered nurses at Cone Health.

Sarbu was part of a small delegation of faculty members from Moldova’s Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (USMF) that visited Greensboro from Oct. 11-19. The goal of their visit was to learn best practices for teaching bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) students, which is a new concept in the small eastern European country.

USMF accepted its first class of BSN students in 2018. The students have already embraced the American standard for what nurses are capable of in their roles.

“They are very open to everything. They are much younger than us, most of them twice younger than us,” Sarbu said of the Moldovan BSN students. “So what could be a little more difficult for us, for them it’s very easy like with all the technological things. They are very open to any suggestions.

“If you would say, ‘That will be just like in the United States,’ [they will be like] ‘Oh, I will start not tomorrow. I will start today.’”

The visit from the six-member delegation was the latest in a long-standing collaboration with the North Carolina-Moldova Nursing Collaborative. It was also part of the North Carolina/Moldova Partnership for Peace program through the Office of the North Carolina Secretary of State.

During her time in Greensboro, Sarbu observed registered nurses as they provided care to patients and interacted with other members of the care team. She spoke with nursing students and watched as they participated in simulation training experiences coordinated by UNCG faculty members Dr. Deborah Lekan and Dr. Susan Collins.
Sarbu also accompanied UNCG clinical instructors Brandi Apple and Lori Hubbard and nursing students on their clinical rotations at Cone Health sites.

Sarbu said she was struck by the different ways nurses in the U.S. play a critical role in the care of patients. She learned American nurses explain information to patients, and unlike in Moldova, they coordinate with a team of physicians and caregivers to make decisions that are “most important for the moment.”

“It’s a great challenge for our system because our system of health is more different than in the United States,” said Dr. Lora Gitu, who was part of the Moldovan delegation. “But we have hope, and we have a dream to change the things in our country.”

*Story and photography by Alex Abrams/School of Nursing*

**Environmental Justice is Harriet Elliott series topic**

UNCG’s Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability will host the 2019-2020 Harriet Elliott Lecture Series with the theme of “Just Futures: Equity and Sustainability.”

The first four events in the series will take place in November:

Wednesday, November 6, 6:30-8 pm, Sullivan 200: “From PCBs to Coal Ash: Environmental Justice in North Carolina,” panel discussion

Monday, November 11, 6-8 p.m., Bryan 111: “Climates of Inequality: Stories of Environmental Justice,” panel discussion

Wednesday, November 13, 1:30-3 p.m., Faculty Center: “Rachel Carson and Environmental Justice in North Carolina,” Dr. Robert Musil

Saturday, November 23, 5-7 p.m., Music 217: “Saving the Songwood: Global Consumption, Sustainability, and Value,” Alex Smith and Tijan Dorwan.

The series’ goal is to create a sustained discussion, says Dr. Sarah Praskievicz, co-chair of the Harriet Elliot Lecture Series Committee and assistant professor. “By participating in our
events, attendees can contribute their ideas and perspectives about this topic, learn from the experiences and expertise of others, and help develop principles for building a more just future.”

She added, “We recognize sustainability as the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, economy, and aesthetics. We wanted to highlight the social equity aspects of sustainability this year. As our first event in the series, ‘From PCBs to Coal Ash: Environmental Justice in North Carolina,’ will discuss, North Carolina is widely recognized by scholars as the birthplace of the modern environmental justice movement, when civil rights and community activists began organizing in 1982 to oppose the construction of a PCB landfill in Warren County.”

She notes many pressing issues regionally and globally, from exposure to air and water pollution in North Carolina communities, to calls for a just transition away from a carbon-based economy, to the global movement for climate justice. “Through our year-long series of events, we will engage many of these issues from diverse perspectives.”

The series will continue in the spring for more events on this topic.

Learn more at GES.UNCG.EDU/HELS/

Contact Lois Carney (lscarney@uncg.edu or 336-334-5388) for disability accommodations.

**Make nominations for 2 Student Success awards**

Nominations are being sought for the Advising Excellence Awards and the Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award. Nominations are welcome from faculty, staff, and students, and are due November 8.

The Advising Excellence Awards honors one faculty academic advisor and one professional academic advisor – both recognizing, among other criteria, those who demonstrate innovative advising techniques, create positive relationships with students, and have an expert level of knowledge around campus resources, major and career integration, and academic policies impacting student success.
The Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award recognizes and celebrates the efforts and significant contributions of UNCG faculty and staff who provide leadership in creating a positive transition to college and successful learning environment for first-year students.

For more information, visit https://success.uncg.edu/awards-recognition/

To go directly to the nomination form, visit go.uncg.edu/successawards20

10,000 fans. 5 dollar tickets. Let’s step it off - then tip it off!

Basketball season is here. And the home opener next Tuesday, Nov. 5, will be big.

10,000 fans is the goal.

It’ll be UNCG faculty and staff appreciation night. They can get tickets for 5 dollars each for themselves and guests, to the game vs. in-town rival NC A&T.

Student tickets, as always for basketball games, will be free.

A spirit march announces the season opener and our Spartan spirit. At 4:15 p.m., students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends will assemble on campus in the UNCG Baseball Stadium concourse – Kenilworth Ave. entrance – for the spirit march. (The march will start at 4:45 p.m.) Wear your best blue and gold! The Grimsley High School drumline and UNCG cheer squad will be on hand for a brief pep rally. Then it’s on to the Coliseum!

The 1.1-mile route (which last year took a a brief 15 minutes for most) will be west on Walker Ave., then left on Chapman all the way to the Coliseum. The streets will have “rolling closures,” meaning police will stop traffic one block at a time. “In order to provide safety for the participants, we will have to shut some streets down between 4:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. until everyone leaves campus,” says Captain S.C. DeDonna. “Walker Avenue will close between Josephine Boyd Street and Kenilworth Street, and West Drive between Gray Drive and Walker Avenue will also close between those times. They will open back up as soon as the participants leave campus, which should be between 4:45 p.m. and 4:55 p.m.”

Free shuttles back to campus are available for faculty, staff, students, and alumni throughout and after the game.
There will be a tailgate with free pizza and music for the students, starting around 5 p.m., before the game. The first 100 faculty/staff members to check in before the spirit march, at the stadium, will receive entrance to the the student tailgate at the Coliseum. Those first 100 faculty and staff members will receive a wristband for entrance into the tailgate.

Doors to the Coliseum will open at 6 p.m. and tip off is at 7 p.m. Faculty and staff can purchase $5 discounted tickets online at this page using promo code “FACULTYSTAFF1”.

Free parking is available at Walker Deck with a shuttle to the Coliseum.

In the event of rain, the march will not happen. However, the tailgate will still take place inside the Coliseum West Wing B.

One UNCG student will win a semester of free tuition.

For more information, visit: https://newstudents.uncg.edu/yfy/storm-the-streets/

Parking:

If you are walking to the Coliseum, parking on campus is free in the surface lot at the corner of Josephine Boyd and Walker Ave. and the Walker parking deck. Due to road closures, reach these parking options from Spring Garden Street. If you are driving to the Coliseum, parking is $5 per vehicle and can be paid at the gate. Free shuttles back to campus are available for alumni throughout and after the game.

See video of last year’s “Storm the Streets” event.

By Mike Harris

Senior leadership announcement

The chancellor sent a message this afternoon to the campus community about UNCG’s provost and executive vice chancellor, Dr. Dana Dunn:

It is with tremendous gratitude and admiration that today I share with you news from our senior leadership team. Provost Dana Dunn, who has been a truly exceptional leader for UNCG, has decided to transition out of this role effective July 31, 2020. UNCG would not be
where it is today – with record enrollment, an expanding research enterprise, a vibrant and growing faculty, and a reputation for serving students that grows stronger every day – without Dana. She has been the right person at the right time for UNCG, and we thank her for her tireless service.

UNCG is strong. Our academic, financial, strategic, and operational foundations are rock solid. We will continue building on our momentum, and will navigate this transition gracefully, with Dana’s support, over the course of the coming months. We have enlisted the help of a trusted partner, Isaacson Miller, to immediately begin a national search for our next provost. Because of all Dana has helped to build and achieve, I know this will be perceived as a tremendous opportunity and we will attract world-class candidates.

Please join me in thanking Dana for all she has given to and accomplished for UNCG, our faculty, our staff, and, above all, our students. In the meantime, the work continues! I’m glad we have the rest of this year to work together to move our key initiatives forward and prepare for a seamless transition.

Newsmakers: Wyrick, O’Connor, Kshetri

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. David Wyrick was featured in an ESPN E60 video about the Hilinski’s Hope Foundation and mental health for student athletes. The video.
- The recent School of Education grant was featured in the News & Record. Dr. Christina O’Connor spoke to its impact. The piece.
- Dr. Nir Kshetri wrote a piece for The Conversation about the potential dangers of blockchain voting. The piece.

Dr. Spoma Jovanovic

Dr. Spoma Jovanovic (Communication Studies) has a chapter in a newly released book, “Creating Space for Democracy: A Primer on Dialogue and Deliberation in Higher Education.”
The book “offers a blueprint for achieving the civic mission of higher education by incorporating dialogue and deliberation into learning at colleges and universities.” See more here.

“The book chapter is about a course I teach, ‘Conversations that Matter,’ designed to offer students the knowledge and tools to engage with crucial public conversations that invite openness, inclusion, critical inquiry, and even forgiveness,” Jovanovic says. “In doing so, students practice how to express ethical values including responsibility, compassion, justice, and respect. The class was born out of the recognition that the fate of our democracy is tied to engagement, expressions of dissent, and collective action. As we educate students today, we need to be mindful of students’ complex situations while making the case for the value of dialogue and deliberation as key pathways to lifelong learning and engagement in our democracy.”

**Dr. Dianne Welsh**

Dr. Dianne Welsh, Hayes Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship, received the Barbara Hollander Award – for lifelong contributions to family business, education, and civic causes – at the Family Firm Institute, October 24, at the annual meeting in Miami.

**Dr. Daniel Herr**

*Dr. Daniel Herr (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering)* has received a continuation of funding from Georgia Institute of Technology for the project “SENIC.”
Dr. Julia Smith

Dr. Julia Smith (Psychology) received a continuation of funding from Child Trends, Incorporated for the project “National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families.” Dr. Danielle Crosby is co-principal investigator on the project.

Hispanics represent the largest, and one of the fastest-growing, racial/ethnic minority population groups in the U.S. With one in four children in the U.S. now Hispanic – and roughly one-third of Hispanic children living in poverty – the well-being of this community will have profound implications for the future workforce, economy, and prospects of our nation. To help programs and policy better serve low-income Hispanic children and families, the National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families (Center) provides research and capacity-building activities across three areas: early care and education, healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood, and poverty and economic self-sufficiency.

The center is both policy- and program-driven, and is dedicated to providing timely research findings, tools, and scholar opportunities aimed at improving the lives of low-income Hispanic children and families. Investigators at UNC Greensboro are co-leading the early care and education area to conduct research on how and why Hispanic families access ECE, and how barriers to service delivery for this population of learners can be reduced in order to promote healthy and affordable childcare as a child enrichment and work support for families.

Dr. Stephen Sills

Dr. Stephen Sills (Center for Housing and Community Studies) received new funding from the North Carolina State University, Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) Stormwater Consortium for the project “Fostering engagement in the Cottage Grove neighborhood through community involvement in riparian cleanup to enhance stormwater quality.”

This community-engaged project with residents of the Cottage Grove neighborhood in East Greensboro will address environmental justice concerns with two unnamed tributaries of South Buffalo Creek. Researchers will involve the residents through an oral history of long-time residents (>20 years), as well as surveys, focus groups, community-planning charrettes, trash/litter clean-up days with university student volunteers, and finally an educational citizen science stormwater campaign with school-age children. Researchers expect the main outcome of the project will be to build community capacity to organize and advocate for resources such as green infrastructure through the City of Greensboro’s Participatory Budgeting process. The residents will build relationships with the City of Greensboro’s
environmental educators, and those relationships build trust in government and can help connect them to other resources in the community. The project will also initiate an environmental educational program with school-age children, which will have a continuing impact as the water quality and stream studies become part of the curriculum for students. The results of the surveys will provide the Stormwater Group with rich information about how this community views their undeveloped/natural areas and how they would like to see them improved, as well as how much the community engagement activities changed their outlook about the neighborhood over the year.

Dr. Ayesha Boyce

Dr. Ayesha Boyce (Educational Research Methodology) received a continuation of funding from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign / NSF for the project “Network for Computational Nanotechnology – Hierarchical nanoMFG Node.”

The evaluation team, led by external program evaluator assistant professor Ayesha Boyce and associates from the School of Education at UNCG, will work closely with nanoMFG Node leadership to integrate formative and summative evaluation into the general operation of the program. The evaluation will use a value-engaged, educative approach (VEE) (Greene, DeStefano, Burgon, Hall, 2006; Greene, Boyce, Ahn, 2011). The VEE approach, developed with NSF-EHR support, defines high-quality STEM educational programming as that which effectively incorporates cutting-edge scientific content, strong instructional pedagogy, and sensitivity to diversity and equity issues. A key role of the evaluator is to work closely with program implementers to promote understanding of program theory, implementation, and impact.

Dr. Terri Shelton

Dr. Terri Shelton (Office of Research and Engagement / Center for New North Carolinians) has received new funding from the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service for the project “AmeriCorps ACCESS Project.” Khouan Rodriguez and Cynthia Mejia are co-principal investigators on the project.

The purpose of this project is to help immigrants gain access to human services, build
bridges with mainstream society, and assist immigrants with acculturation leading to self-sufficiency. Services to be provided include: 1. Employment Readiness and Placement, Disaster Preparedness, Volunteer Recruitment and Management, and related services to immigrant and refugees resulting in greater self-sufficiency; 2. Provide leadership development training to AmeriCorps staff; and 3. Provide community development training to community and faith-based partner organizations to help them achieve sustainability.

Dr. Terri Shelton is the Vice Chancellor of Research and Engagement and holds the Carol Jenkins Mattocks Distinguished Professorship.