SERVE receives $15.6 million from Department of Education

UNCG’s SERVE Center has been awarded a five-year, $15.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a regional comprehensive center designed to improve educational opportunities and academic outcomes for disadvantaged and low-income students.

SERVE, UNCG’s education research and technical assistance center, will operate the U.S. Department of Education’s Region 6 Comprehensive Center, which will provide support and services to K-12 education systems in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Researchers will collaborate with educational agencies in three states to ensure college and career readiness, address issues of equity and disproportionality, and support the region’s lowest performing schools.

“Creating opportunities for students to succeed is what we do,” said UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., “and to lead this effort is an opportunity for the University to make a significant impact on the future of education in the southeast. Our experience with innovative instruction and community engagement positions us well to shape the future of K-12 education, and make positive, lasting change. This generous award enables UNCG to make real progress, and ultimately change life trajectories.”

The U.S. Department of Education supports 19 regional Comprehensive Centers nationally, awarding funding based on an applicant’s ability to provide high quality, capacity-building services to
state clients, and to develop and sustain effective evidence-based practices that support improved educator and student outcomes.

In recent months the SERVE Center also received $6.2 million in funding to continue operating the National Center for Homeless Education, and $5 million to assess North Carolina’s Career and College Promise program, which offers high school students opportunities to earn credits for college or career and technical education programs. In the same period, UNCG’s School of Education received a $6.1 million grant to partner with Rockingham and Surry school districts to improve teacher training.

“UNCG is bringing significant expertise and resources to bear in the effort to improve educational outcomes for all children and youth,” said UNCG Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Terri L. Shelton. “The $32.9 million in new education funding we have received over the last four months is a testament to our reputation for collaborative partnerships, research, and translating research into practice in this field.”

**Dr. Nell Pynes will retire as associate provost next summer**

Dr. Penelope Pynes will step down as associate provost of international programs on June 30, 2020.

During her tenure here at UNCG she has spearheaded many initiatives, including co-chairing UNCG’s ACE Internationalization Lab (2010-12) and most recently serving as the director of our Global Engagement Quality Enhancement Plan (GE QEP), a direct extension of the ACE
Lab experience. A leader in the field and frequent presenter at conferences promoting international education, she has widely shared UNCG’s story.

She joined UNCG in 1991 as a newly appointed faculty member in the Department of German and Russian just as the International Programs Center was being founded and quickly became involved in all things international on campus helping to establish international partnerships and advising prospective study abroad students. She served as director of Study Abroad and Exchanges from 2001 to 2008, and since then as associate provost.

She is particularly proud of leading a team of consummate international educators who have worked consistently across campus and beyond to move internationalization from the periphery to the core of our institution.

She is looking forward to continuing her connection to international education leadership over the next few years as a senior associate for Internationalization with the American Council of Education (ACE) while spending more time outdoors.

A national search for her successor will launch this fall. Dr. Omar Ali has been selected to chair the search committee. More details will be announced soon.

*By Mike Harris*

*Photography by Jiyoung Park*

**Chancellor Gilliam, Dean Obare are TBJ Power Players**

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. and JSNN Dean Sherine Obare have been named *Triad Business Journal’s* 2019 Power Players.

Each year, the Triad Business Journal identifies key leaders who have put impactful ideas into action to lead the region forward.
The Triad Business Journal recognized Chancellor Gilliam’s efforts in guiding the school’s Millennial Campus initiative, as well as enhanced research opportunities through a two-year grant that will result in a high-speed data network.

The Millennial Campus will create opportunities for growth, development of innovative academic experiences, and the creation of unique public-private partnerships for the University. Two areas of campus will be recognized as new districts for future development: one primarily along Gate City Boulevard, which will focus on health and wellness, and the other along Tate Street, which will focus on visual and performing arts.

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

Dr. Obare, who joined the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN) as dean in January, has established an internationally recognized and externally funded research program that has fostered successful collaborations in chemistry and environmental engineering globally. She has received many awards and accomplishments including the National Science Foundation CAREER award, the Mary McLeod Bethune Award for Science and Technology, and the American Competitiveness and Innovation Fellowship of the National Science Foundation. She has also been named one of the top 25 women professors in the state of Michigan by Online Schools Michigan.

Her research work lies in the area of designing nanoscale materials for drug delivery, environmental remediation, improved healthcare, alternative energy, and in developing strategies to improve STEM education. In addition to her work as associate vice president for research, Obare serves as a research leader fellow at the American Public and Land-Grant University Council on Research.

Obare was chosen by the Triad Business Journal because she has “quickly become the person
to know in the Triad regarding technology and innovation.”

SECC Breakfast prize winners announced!

Congratulations to all of the following 2019 SECC breakfast prize winners!

- Madison Gilhool: Large Canvas Bag filled with Athletic Swag
- Joyce Clapp: 2 tickets to Panthers vs Seahawks
- Richard Ratcliffe: 4 UNCG Coffee Mugs
- Beverly Lucas: Weatherspoon Membership & Large Bag
- Phillip Kluttz: 4 North Carolina Zoo Passes
- Andi Smith: Greensboro Children’s Museum Family Pass
- Ida Johnson: Large Canvas Bag filled with UNCG Swag
- Winners of handcrafted wood decorations & jewelry:
  - Patrick Martin
  - Kathy Baker
  - Laura Pearce
  - Donna Huff
- Michael Hemphill: Large Canvas Bag filled with Athletic Swag
- James Ferriter: Handcrafted Ironsmith Fireset
- Linda Dunston-Stacey: Gift Basket with UNCG Swag
- Barbara Tookey: 3 Donkeys Original Painting
- James Ferriter: Sterling Silver Jewelry Set
- Ellen Ashley: Echo Smart Speaker
- Kathy Williams: Handcrafted Wood Memory Box
- Allan Goldfarb: Snap Crackle Pop Puzzle
- James Ferriter: 50” Smart TV

Those who have not received their prize should arrange to pick up from Cathy Church, McNutt Building (ITS), mcchurch@uncg.edu.

The SECC campaign will continue through November 20.

See for the latest statewide SECC donations to date.

Nancy Doll will step down as Weatherspoon’s director next
After 22 years of dedicated service, Nancy Doll will step down as director of the Weatherspoon Art Museum on July 31, 2020.

In sharing this news with the campus community yesterday afternoon, Provost Dunn said: “Under Nancy’s outstanding leadership, the Weatherspoon’s collection has continued to be known and highly regarded on a global scale, as indicated by the growing number of loan requests we receive from major museums in this country and abroad. Nancy has overseen impressive enhancements in the museum’s service to the national and international arts communities, as well as to the UNCG campus.

More faculty than ever, representing a wider array of disciplines, have incorporated Weatherspoon exhibitions into their curricula and assign classes to visit the galleries in support of class projects. Non-student attendance has also grown steadily, reaching more than 38,000 annual visitors.

Nancy has been successful in raising funds from individuals, corporations, and foundations to advance the mission of the Weatherspoon. Supporters have included the National Endowment for the Arts, North Carolina Arts Council, Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation, Cemala Foundation, Joseph M. Bryan Foundation, Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, Andy Warhol Foundation, Deluxe Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. Working with the curatorial staff, Nancy has led the charge to diversify our collections, exhibitions, and programs to include many more artists of color and women artists. Because of her steady commitment to these issues, the Weatherspoon’s audience has also greatly diversified. Nancy was also instrumental in marshaling the Weatherspoon through two successful reaccreditation reviews by the American Alliance of Museums.”

Nancy Doll was appointed director of the Weatherspoon Art Museum in July 1998. She had been executive director of the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum in California.

She had earlier served as:

- Curator of 20th Century Art at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Students’ perceptions of UNCG campus climate? The results are in.

The University and the Division of Student Affairs strive to promote a climate at UNCG where everyone feels supported and welcomed. UNCG’s iBelong Project, launched last spring, will help us better understand student experiences here.

A survey, developed by the National Institute for Transformation and Equity, has measured UNCG students’ perceptions of our campus environment.

Some key findings indicate the following:

- 85% of students surveyed were very satisfied or satisfied with their college experience at UNCG. Just under 5% were dissatisfied, and 9% were neither satisfied or dissatisfied.
- Students were also asked to describe why they selected their response about their level of satisfaction. The top three response categories were: people they encountered (152 responses), professors (129 responses), and faculty/staff (82 responses).
  - Students were also asked in a likert scale question about perception of faculty commitment to success. 79% of students agreed/strongly agreed that educators care about students at UNCG.
- 64% of students agreed or strongly agreed that “I feel like I am part of a community at UNCG.”
- 71% of students agreed or strongly agreed that “I feel like I belong at UNCG”. The three demographic groups that were significantly more likely to agree with this response were students who lived on campus, students who identified as female, and traditional
college-aged students.

- Online students reported not participating in campus activities, and transfer students also reported needing support, suggesting the need for additional or new efforts with online and transfer students to ensure a sense of belonging.
- Overall, most students (81%) agreed or strongly agreed that diversity is a major priority at UNCG.
- 81% of students reported rarely/never experiencing any form of prejudice while at UNCG, compared to 66% reporting never/rarely seeing someone else experience prejudice.

“Our student survey has given us rich data to inform current and future efforts at UNCG, in order to build a greater sense of belonging and connection for all our students,” said Dr. Julia Mendez Smith, co-chair of the iBelong project and Chancellor’s Fellow for Campus Climate.

“We know that when our students have the resources they need and receive holistic support, they thrive. I’m excited about the upcoming conversations and working with many groups on our campus on these important issues.”

Dr. Cathy Akens, co-chair of the iBelong project and Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs, said, “This project is one more example that highlights UNCG’s culture of care. We care about the experience of our students and we want to understand how we can best help all students succeed here. The conversations that we have with our students and other groups on our campus will help us plan for the future.”

How was this Culturally Engaging Campus Environments survey conducted? 7,000 undergraduate students were randomly sampled from the UNCG roster to provide a representative sample of our student population. Selected students were then invited by email to complete the survey, and students needed to complete at least the first major section – 53 questions (21%) – of the survey in order to be included in the final sample. The final sample used to compile the results included 1,127 undergraduates, including online and transfer students, and their demographic data mirrored the general demographics of the UNCG student body.

The survey is based on a conceptual framework that identifies external and internal factors that impact student success, some of which include family, finances, employment, demographics, initial academic dispositions, and academic preparation. It seeks to showcase student voices and create conversations about inclusive excellence, learning, and sense of belonging. The specific goal of the iBelong Project is to understand how students experience our campus now, and how to help the University better meet the learning, professional, and personal needs of all of our current and future students.

A full report is at UNCG’s iBelong website, sa.uncg.edu/ibelong. A feedback form on the
website allows you to share your reaction and input.

As the University continues to learn from the results of the survey, next steps will proceed throughout the 2019-2020 academic year. Undergraduate students will be able to learn more about the survey and share their input at two Town Hall-style meetings this month.

Additionally, a similar survey will be administered to graduate students in the upcoming Spring 2020 semester. To measure change over time, UNCG plans to readminister a campus climate survey every three years. Increasing sense of belonging for students will assist with their persistence to degree and student success. Therefore, intentional conversations about belonging and helping students build connections throughout their college experience will be critical to continue to improve this indicator.

Please visit sa.uncg.edu/ibelong to learn more.

**UNCG staff and faculty members, please give input on UNC president**

The Presidential Search Committee has initiated a process to identify and evaluate candidates to serve as the next president of the UNC System. The UNC System President will lead the 17-campus system and numerous other critical programs and facilities, which not only impact our great state but more broadly our nation and world. For this reason, the UNC System deserves nothing less than the finest leader. Defining the essential qualities of the ideal candidate for our leader is the search committee’s first priority. The committee is seeking UNC Staff input in defining those qualities.

UNCG staff members are invited to take the survey here.

Faculty members and all other stakeholders may take the survey here.

The search committee requests all survey responses be completed by Nov. 15.

Additionally, another survey – on Campus Priorities Survey for faculty and staff – may be taken here.

View information about the UNC System presidential search.

**2019 Spartans of Promise recognized**

The Spartans of Promise award honor for UNCG seniors who have demonstrated exceptional academic and service accomplishments during their time on campus. Ten seniors are
honored each year. The award recipients were recognized at the UNCG Alumni Awards Celebration during Homecoming Week and will participate in UNCG alumni events throughout the year.

This year’s award recipients are:

- Brianna Bogga: Public Health
- Cassidy Burel: Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies
- Justin Cato: Communication Studies, Drama
- Preston Ellington: Kinesiology
- Alexandria Johnson: Special Education
- Marianna Levithan: Communication Studies, International and Global Studies
- Ashley Murray: Nursing
- Olivia Tarpley: History, Women’s and Gender Studies
- Carver Thompson: Marketing, Sustainable Tourism, and Hospitality
- Cameron Warren: Business Administration

For more information, see the website here.

Salute! 2019 Veterans Day at UNCG

UNCG will hold Veterans Day activities on campus Monday, Nov. 11, starting at 10 a.m. with a special program on Kaplan Commons (EUC lawn) at 1:30 p.m.
From 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Student Veterans Association (SVA) and Staff Senate will hold a holiday card signing for deployed service members in the EUC Commons. Military recruiters, various lawn games, and military vehicles will be on the Jackson Library lawn, and SVA will host a YETI fundraiser. The Marine Corps will offer a combat fitness test, and the Military Affiliated Students Association will offer MRE sampling for those who would like to taste field rations.

The 1:30 p.m. program will include a poetry reading by student and warrior poet Aaron Graham and keynote speech from former city attorney of Greensboro Jim Hoffman.

UNCG Seraphim will perform the National Anthem, and the UNCG Army ROTC color guard will present the colors. The U.S. Marine Corps will conduct a swearing-in ceremony for recruits. The program will be followed by a reception in the EUC Commons for special guests, student veterans, and their families.

Flags will be set up on the southwest corner of Kaplan Commons to represent the approximately 1,500 military-affiliated students at UNCG.

In honor of Veterans Day, UNCG Athletics is offering a discounted $5 ticket rate for military-affiliated students’ friends and family for the UNCG men’s basketball game against Averett at 7 p.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum. The first 100 to buy discounted tickets will receive an additional $5 concessions voucher for the game courtesy of the Military Affiliated Students Association.

Click here to RSVP for the event. To order additional tickets at $5 each, click here and enter the code VETAPPRECIATION. Deadline to order is Monday, Nov.11, at noon. Call 336-334-3250 for more information.

By Alexandra McQueen

Photography by Jiyoung Park

‘Pose’ star to give lecture at EUC
Tuesday, Nov. 12, Dominique Jackson will speak at the EUC Auditorium as part of the Office of Intercultural Engagement’s Intercultural Lecture Series.

Jackson stars in the acclaimed FX series “Pose,” which made television history with the largest cast of transgender actors in series regular roles. In addition to her work as an actress, Jackson has worked as a model, published a memoir, and is known for her work as an activist and advocate.

The event will be at 7 p.m., in the EUC Auditorium. Admission is free and open to everyone.

‘Microbes, Fluids, and Rocks: Life Beneath the Seafloor’ at symposium

UNC Greensboro departments of Chemistry & Biochemistry and Biology will co-host “Microbes, Fluids, and Rocks: Life Beneath the Seafloor,” a talk by visiting scientist Julie Huber from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

The Syngenta Science Symposium is free and open to the public, and will take place on Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, at 1 p.m. in Sullivan Science Building, Mead Auditorium.

Exploration of the sea over the last 40 years has resulted in astounding discoveries about the extent and diversity of life in the deep ocean, pushing our understanding of the intimate connections between the biosphere and geosphere to the extremes, including the discovery of chemosynthetic ecosystems at hydrothermal vents and active microbes buried in sediments, kilometers beneath the seafloor.

This lecture will focus on microbial communities in the largest actively flowing aquifer system
on Earth, the fluids circulating through oceanic crust underlying the oceans and sediments, and include recent discoveries and the technology that enabled such discoveries at both well-studied underwater volcanoes and completely novel and unexplored systems, including the worlds’ deepest hydrothermal vents.

“The Normal Heart” at UNCG’s Sprinkle Theatre

The acclaimed play “The Normal Heart,” about a gay activist grappling with the rise of the HIV/AIDS crisis, will open this Thursday, Nov. 7, at the Sprinkle Theatre. There will be a discussion following the show.

MFA Directing student Kyle Metzger will helm the searing drama, joined by UNCG Theatre students and faculty.

Following the opening, there will be additional performances Nov. 8, 9, and 10.

To purchase tickets, go to [https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/15078/sprinkle-theatre](https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/15078/sprinkle-theatre)

Poetry Flow: An LLC Celebration of Words on Nov. 6

The UNC Greensboro Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC) will sponsor the event *Poetry Flow: A Celebration of Words* on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Elliott University Center.

The event will take place in three simultaneous venues:

- a Poster Presentation option so that students can showcase their work (Cone Ballroom C)
- workshops in which students and faculty will work on language-specific activities related
to poetry (in several EUC rooms)
  • an open mic session (Cone Ballroom A and B) for students who love to recite poetry.
    Students will have the opportunity to participate according to their proficiency level and
    their personal preference.

This year’s goal has been to embed poetry in LLC courses so that this event serves as a
催化剂 of the work done previously by students. A second goal is to expose UNCG students
to the rich cultural traditions of the languages that are taught in LLC. This multifaceted event
will provide students with a venue to showcase their work as well as to appreciate the work
of others.

The mission of this LLC initiative is to highlight LLC’s diversity, common love, and respect for
all languages and cultures, as well as the desire to instill in our students an appreciation for
cultural diversity through language and other forms of cultural expression. LLC seeks to spark
students’ interest in languages through several creative outlets. Therefore, LLC will offer
several opportunities throughout the day for students to be exposed to the aesthetic side of
all the languages studied in the LLC Department: ASL, Arabic, Chinese, French, German,
Korean, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.

Learn more about LLC at llc.uncg.edu.

Chief Data Officer – third candidate

UNCG Information Technology Services will welcome a third 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’s presentation will be this Friday, November 8, at 11 a.m. in the School of
Education Building, Room 120.

CW schedule for remainder of 2019

UNCG’s Campus Weekly will publish the next two weeks (the newsletter will be emailed Nov.
13 and 20), then return after the Thanksgiving break, on Dec. 4.
CW enewsletter dates for the remainder of the year are:

- Nov. 13
- Nov. 20
- Dec. 4
- Dec. 11
- Dec. 17 (on Tuesday)

Campus Weekly will publish again on Jan. 9, 2019. (Classes resume on Jan. 13.)

If you have a submission in the coming weeks, please send it to us by the Thursday before the enewsletter is emailed. Earlier is preferable. (We normally publish items on the CW site Thursday through Mondays.) On Tuesdays, we create and proof the enewsletter, which is normally sent early on Wednesday mornings.

Questions? Email us.

**Newsmakers: SERVE’s grant, Community Enrichment Center, Bull, Gibson, Social Work**

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 ran a front page feature on UNCG SERVE Center and its new 15.6 million grant that will assist state and local K-12 education officials in North Carolina and two other nearby states. [The story.]
- MyFox8 highlighted the opening of the new Greensboro Community Enrichment Center. [The piece.]
- Dean Karen Bull spoke to WFMY News2 about the opportunities offered by UNCG’s online courses. [The interview.]
- Sophomore Ty Gibson was featured in the News & Record, discussing his success as a comedian on Tik Tok and his dance, the Kick Swivel. [The feature.]
- WFMY News 2 highlighted UNCG Social Work’s internship’s role in fighting opioid addiction in the area. [The article.]
EUC’s blood drive will be Nov. 12

The Elliott University Center will host its second Red Cross Blood Drive of the 2019-2020 academic year on Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Cone Ballroom, EUC.

Schedule your donation appointment today and help the EUC reach its 200-pint goal.

For those wishing to donate double red blood cells, the Red Cross is currently accepting only blood types A negative; B negative; O positive; and O negative.

Be sure to come prepared when giving blood. Have a light meal and plenty to drink. Bring your Red Cross donor card (optional), driver’s license or two other forms of identification. And bring the names of any medications you are currently taking.

For more information on giving blood, and to schedule your donation appointment, visit http://euc.uncg.edu/mission/blood-drive. Appointments will be given priority. Walk-ins are welcome.

At WAM, ‘Art and Practice of Slow Looking’

The Public Talk “The Art and Practice of Slow Looking” will be presented by Shari Tishman, Harvard University, Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 2 p.m.

It will be held in the Weatherspoon Art Museum’s Dillard Room, and is sponsored by the UNCG College of Arts and Sciences.

Shari Tishman is a lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Senior Research Associate at Harvard Project Zero, where she recently served as director. Her research focuses on the development of thinking and understanding, the role of close observation in learning, and learning in and through the arts. Her most recent book is “Slow Looking: The Art and Practice of Learning Through Observation.”
Syndemic Food and WASH Insecurity: Social science approaches and future directions

On Friday, November 15, at 4:30 p.m. in the Faculty Center, the International and Global Studies Department will be presenting the Fall 2019 Global Spotlight Lecture.

Dr. Cassandra Workman, Assistant Professor of Anthropology here at UNCG, will speak to students and faculty about how water, food, and sanitation insecurity work in concert to lead to negative biological, psycho emotional, and social outcomes and how healthcare practitioners and policy makers define these issues.

Light refreshments will be provided.

For disability accommodations, contact Yvonne Matlosz at ymatlos@uncg.edu