Around the world on College Avenue April 8

Travel the globe on a Saturday afternoon, right on campus.

On Saturday, April 8, it’s the 35th annual International Festival, or I-Fest, offering music, food, exhibits, educational demonstrations and live entertainment from all regions of the globe. More than 29 countries and cultures will be represented at UNCG’s longest running cultural event on campus.

“UNCG is an incredibly diverse university,” said Lauren Hudson, international student activities coordinator for UNCG’s International Programs Center (IPC). “I think having a festival that celebrates and promotes cultural diversity speaks to that tradition. This event allows us to showcase and embrace the traditions of UNCG international students, scholars and visitors, as well as the greater Greensboro community.”

This year, there will be 50 booths and 20 performances along College Avenue on campus from noon to 5 p.m., with cultures from Central and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East represented. The event, sponsored by IPC, is free and open to the public.

A large Japanese Taiko drum ensemble, Earth Spirit Taiko, will kick off the festival performances at noon. Throughout the afternoon they’ll be followed by a variety of other performances, including Bollywood dance, Iranian dance, Peruvian dance, Korean pop, Nepalese dance, Colombian dance, Laotian dance, Chilean dance, Persian dance and Mexican dance from Jalisco. Many of those performing will be UNCG students.

Food will be available for purchase from food trucks, and free samples will be offered at individual booths. Crafts from different countries will also be for sale. Mock passports will be distributed again this year so that attendees can receive stamps at the numerous country booths.

“The International Festival is a great opportunity to highlight our UNCG international community not only to on-campus folks but also to those who visit from other places,” said Associate Provost of International Programs Penelope Pynes. “It is a collaboration of a variety of offices, students and local community members, making it a truly vibrant celebration. It’s amazing to celebrate its 35th year.”

For more information, visit the I-Fest website.

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2017 Graduate Research and Creativity Expo April 5
The 5th annual UNCG Graduate Research and Creativity Expo: “Scholarship That Matters” will be held on Wednesday, April 5, from noon to 3 p.m. with final judging at 4 p.m. in the Elliott University Center.

More than 100 graduate students will present their research at this event, which is sponsored by the UNCG Graduate School in partnership with the Office of Research and Economic Development.

“The purpose of the expo is to showcase the accomplishments of UNCG’s graduate students to the Greater Greensboro community, and to provide a venue for students to communicate their research and creative activities to the public,” said Vice Provost for Graduate Education Kelly Burke.

Graduate students will gain experience communicating their research and creative activities using posters, short discussions or short videos. There are 102 students from more than 30 departments registered and 89 presentations will be made from noon until 3 p.m., before the final judging takes place. The event is free and open to the public, and free parking is provided in the Oakland Parking Deck.

Community partners and area employers are encouraged to attend and engage with the students.

“Visitors to the expo will be able to see not only the depth of the expertise of our students but also the breadth of scholarship and creative activity,” said Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Terri L. Shelton, “from science and social sciences to the humanities, from the creative and visual arts to education, from basic bench science to community-engaged research.”

The expo is organized into competitions in the following topics:

- Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Creative Arts
- Professional Programs

There will be a winner in each category, presented with a $1,000 award. Winners may also be invited to participate in the State Legislature’s Graduate Education Day in Raleigh in May and honored at the Student Honors Convocation later in the semester.

Dr. Shelton believes that an expo such as this one is a highly beneficial experience for students in developing as active researchers or creators, because of the importance of communicating the quality of the research to those outside their discipline and to the public.

“This ability to speak cogently about their scholarship ... what motivated the research question, how they developed their methodology, and the lessons learned from the process. And to do so in language that is accessible to the public and free from jargon is a much valued skill that, when combined with expertise in their field, results in graduates who are well prepared to contribute substantively to society.”

A small sampling of the presentations:

- Todd Siff, advised by theater professor Rachel Briley, is doing a project in collaboration with The Color Bakery, a feminist theatre for a youth company based in India. He and the company will create a new musical that will tour in schools throughout India during the next two years.
- Craig Philips, advised by music professor Carla LaFevre, is preparing performance editions of unpublished song arrangements of Ed Smalle and Frank J. Black, known as The Revelers, of 1920s and 30s jazz, preserving the legacy of those significant early 20th century performers.
- Keith Watkins, advised by geography professor Paul Knapp, is documenting the potential of shortleaf pine trees on UNCG’s campus,
with regard to history, climate research and aesthetic value.

- Alisha Cornell, advised by professor of nursing Susan Denham, is presenting a video game learning series that nurses would use in using health care software to enter patient information.
- Cassandra Naphen, advised by chemistry and biochemistry professor Nadja B. Cech, is researching how to target antibiotic-resistant Staphylococcus aureas with a compound produced by a fungi. Naphen's work seeks to analyze and improve the capability of the compound to inhibit the mechanisms of the bacteria.
- Priyanka Ruparelia, advised by nanoscience professor Dennis LaJeunesse, is researching biocompatible material to support bone growth and replacement. The use of biomimetic polysaccharide material, which mimics native tissue environments, can reduce the need for tissue transplants.

For more information, visit https://grs.uncg.edu/grc-expo.

By Susan Kirby-Smith

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**Wetlands project underway on campus**

Excavators broke ground in the Peabody Park recreation area (between the soccer fields and native prairie) and in the adjacent Peabody Park woodland area (near the gated entrance on West Market Street) last week, initiating the first phase of construction of two wetlands on campus.

More than 100 students, staff, faculty and community volunteers, including members of the Audubon Society and Greensboro Science Center, participated in the project.

Earlier this year, UNCG received a $46,112 grant from the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund to construct the wetlands, which will improve water quality and biotic diversity, provide educational and research opportunities, spur community outreach and enhance the natural beauty of campus. Dr. Lynn Sametz initiated this project. Sametz, Dr. Park Rublee and Dr. Malcolm Schug are principal investigators for the grant.

“This project creates a living laboratory which we intend to use for education regarding the benefits of wetlands to our environment, research on the biological, plant, microbial diversity, and water quality as they mature and become permanent features of the campus landscape,” Schug said. “The wetlands create outstanding, hands-on opportunities for course activities in chemistry, biology, and throughout the curriculum.”

Looking ahead, the Wetlands Committee will be planting native aquatic and semi-aquatic plants at both wetlands sites. This process should be complete by late fall.

Long-term, the team will continue to develop curriculum activities, educational activities for K-12 teachers and students, research projects and outreach opportunities in departments across campus. The wetlands project began in the fall of 2014 when UNCG’s Research and Instruction in STEM Education (RISE) Network, led by Sametz, introduced the idea of campus wetlands. The project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between numerous academic departments and community organizations.

To learn more about the UNCG wetlands development project, visit rise.uncg.edu.

By Eden Bloss

Photography by Martin W. Kane, of Tom Biebighauser speaking with UNCG students.
Students’ Spring Break service trips through OLSL

The UNCG Office of Leadership and Service Learning offers many opportunities for students to volunteer and learn valuable skills at the same time. This year’s three Spring Break trips provided a great variety for volunteers—from the classroom to the farm to the art studio.

In the Women and Youth Empowerment experience, UNCG students worked with two organizations, Cool Girls Inc. and Wellspring Living. For the first three weekdays, volunteers assisted with the Girls Club, an after-school program dedicated to the self-empowerment of girls through education, life skills and exposure to a broader world of opportunity. For the last two days, UNCG students volunteered with Wellspring Living, an organization that helps sex trafficking victims and those at risk develop the courage to move forward and the confidence to succeed. The UNCG students received education about trafficking, tours of the facilities and opportunities to help.

UNCG students also had the opportunity to become farmers for a week, preparing greenhouse beds, starting potato fields and doing general farm maintenance. They did this work at Lynchburg Grows, a seven-acre urban farm dedicated to providing access to fresh, local, produce for Lynchburg residents, restaurants and organizations, while also providing onsite vocational training for disabled and low-income individuals. The students were a big help in kicking off the spring planting season for a farm deeply rooted in helping the surrounding community.

Students with an artistic hand or eye worked on public projects for Semilla Arts, a grassroots initiative that uses art as a catalyst for social change and artistic collaboration as a means of empowering individuals and strengthening communities. Semilla Arts’ murals and other objects have been used for art museums, public spaces and public gardens, and all artwork is based on the current needs of the community and partnership with the city. The UNCG students worked with community members and diverse groups to create public art with the potential to bring social change, transform neighborhoods and unite communities.

Visual courtesy OLSL, of an OLSL service trip.

HHS hosts Health and Wellness Expo April 6

On April 6, the School of Health and Human Sciences will host the 2017 Health and Wellness Expo, in the EUC’s Cone Ballroom 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All are invited.

Many departments from HHS will showcase their disciplines and invite participants to engage in a variety of screenings or health assessments. Healthy food will be provided by UNCG Dining Services and many of the exhibitors will have their own swag at the booths.
Falk Visiting Artist talk and reception at GPS

On Thursday, March 30, at 5 p.m., Greensboro Project Space (GPS) will host a talk by exhibiting artist Stacey Davidson, who is a resident through the Falk Visiting Artist Series, a collaboration between the UNCG School of Art and the Weatherspoon Art Museum that first began in 1982.

As a Falk Visiting Artist, Davidson interacts with UNCG students and members of the community through discussion about practice and creative process, so that they may learn from a distinguished practicing artist.

Davidson is a portrait artist who reveals the personality of her subjects through painting, sculpture, photography and animation. Her sculpted dolls are widely known and demonstrate both cultural and personal character; they are on display in the GPS gallery through Davidson’s exhibition “slow work - lies, mistakes, revisions and tenderness.” Additionally, Davidson has directed a portrait project with students using Greensboro residents as subjects, and those portraits are also currently exhibited at GPS.

Davidson’s lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a closing reception. Greensboro Project Space is located at 219 W. Lewis St. in downtown Greensboro.

Visual: As part of Davidson’s exhibition, she hosted three community engaged portrait sessions. Eight student artists created drawings of the public. These portraits then became part of the exhibition. Photograph by Chris Snow.

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‘Foster Care Chronicles’ production opens March 31

The Foster Care Chronicles project, primarily funded by the HRSA JMSW Behavioral Health Training Grant through the Department of Social Work at UNCG, the UNCG School of Theater and Triad Stage, helps people in the foster care system create and perform a production based on their first person accounts.

It gives regional youth aged 15-25 who are or were in foster care a unique opportunity to use the arts to boost their overall psychological well-being.

Playwright Janet Allard (UNCG Theatre) has melded stories of the youth in foster care into a script and will mount a full-scale production, “Foster Care Chronicles: Rise Up.” UNCG Theatre students will help the youth bring their stories to life on stage through set, props sound and lighting design.

Their six show run opens on Friday, March 31, 2017, at Triad Stage’s Upstairs Cabaret. They will also perform in Chapel Hill on Saturday, April 22, in a special one-night performance at the UNC School of Social Work.

The production is directed and produced by Alicia Kaplan, assistant professor in the Department of Social Work, UNCG School of Health and Human Sciences.

The performance dates and times are:

Friday, 3/31, Saturday, 4/1, Thursday, 4/6, and Friday, 4/7 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, 4/2, and Saturday, 4/8, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are on sale through the Triad Stage box office:
Tickets are $18 for the general public, $12 for students, and free to any youth in foster care.

###

**Tony Phillips honored for work as HUB coordinator of facilities**

Tony Phillips, UNCG’s Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) coordinator of facilities, has been central in fulfilling UNCG’s goal of providing minority-owned businesses equal access and opportunity to participate in the university’s construction program.

His work is part of UNCG’s culture of inclusiveness.

Phillips received the "Agency/Public Owner Advocate Award" from the North Carolina Department of Administration HUB Office, earlier this month at the Annual State Construction Conference.

Tony Phillips

Machelle Sanders, secretary of NC Department of Administration, and Tony Phillips

Phillips became UNCG’s HUB coordinator in 2009. He has shown a clear commitment to meaningful partnerships with HUB contractors, and during the last five years, with his guidance, UNCG’s HUB participation has been higher than 30 percent, far exceeding the state’s recommended goal of 10 percent and UNCG’s own goal of 15 percent.

Phillips has worked closely with UNCG Purchasing and many other departments in contracting with HUB firms. He has promoted HUB projects on the UNCG campus by facilitating collaboration between UNCG, HUB contractors, majority contractors and other surrounding state agencies. He also encouraged UNCG to establish a HUB participation goal for design services under the open ended design services program. He attends many stakeholder meetings with HUB contractors to help identify potential barriers and challenges.
Assoc. VC for Facilities Jorge Quintal with Phillips

Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Jorge Quintal says of Phillips, “Tony's commitment to providing opportunity for HUB firms to participate in UNCG's construction program is remarkable. Through the HUB program, local and regional HUB contractors are able to compete for construction work at UNCG and when they are successful in winning a contract, they know that Tony is always available to make sure any issue that may arise during the execution of the contract is resolved. Because of his working experience and knowledge of the construction industry, Tony is very effective in working with construction managers in identifying opportunities for HUB firms in large university projects.”

In reference to his dedication to UNCG’s HUB involvement, Phillips said, “It is my goal each year to continue making significant gains towards building a strong program dedicated to providing minority businesses equal opportunities on UNCG’s campus.”

In 2011, Phillips helped create the UNC System Triad Coalition-Annual Minority Construction and Supplier Outreach Event, a project with Winston-Salem State University and NC A&T University that provides networking opportunities for UNC system schools, HUB contractors and majority contractors. With Philip’s direction, UNCG co-hosted the NC HUB Office Contractors College, an eleven-week program dedicated to increasing the capabilities and capacities of HUB/Minority contractors. Phillips also developed a HUB Coordinator procedures manual for facilitating processes at every stage, from design through construction.

Antonio Wallace, CEO of a local HUB firm, GP Supply Company, praised Phillips by saying, “When I first met UNCG’s HUB Coordinator, Tony Phillips, I immediately sensed his dedication to providing HUB Businesses equal access to the university’s construction and procurement opportunities. After working with him the past three years, I realize that Tony is a tremendous asset, not only to the HUB community, but to everyone. He recognizes the value of relationships and encourages networking and collaboration between the university, HUB contractors and majority contractors. His efforts are consistent and his commitment to the HUB community is unwavering.”

Some text in this piece courtesy the N.C. Department of Administration HUB Office.

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Roberta "Robin" Maxwell

Roberta "Robin" Maxwell (Biology) was elected to the position of secretary of the Health Profession Advisors of North Carolina (HPANC). This is a two-year appointment, which automatically advances to the position of vice-president for the following two years, and then to president for the two years after that. In these roles, she will be helping advisors across North Carolina serve students preparing for competitive applications to health related professional schools, such as medical, dental, physician assistant, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, pharmacy, etc.

She is senior lecturer, Biology Department, and chair of the UNCG Health Careers Advisory Committee.

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Dr. James Ryan

Dr. James Ryan (Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering) received funding for the NC Science Festival event “Gateway to Science” at JSNN. The open-house event on Thursday, April 20, 2017, makes nanotechnology more understandable and is supported by the JSNN faculty, staff and students from NC A&T State and UNCG. The JSNN Gateway to Science event is free of charge. Most of the demonstrations are targeted at school-age children. Information is here.

Ryan is dean of JSNN.

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Michael Frierson

Michael Frierson (Media Studies) recently screened his documentary "Clarence John Laughlin: Artist with a Camera" (2009), a one-hour documentary on the life and times of New Orleans photographer Clarence John Laughlin, in the Laura Simon Nelson Galleries for Louisiana Art at the Historic New Orleans Collection. A Louisiana native, Clarence John Laughlin (1905–85) began his career as photographer in the 1930s, eventually emerging as one of America’s pioneers in surrealist and experimental photography. Laughlin’s best-known book, "Ghosts Along the Mississippi," was first published in 1948. The film was shown in conjunction with an exhibition, Clarence John Laughlin and His Contemporaries: A Picture and a Thousand Words.

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Dr. Ramji Bhandari

Dr. Ramji Bhandari (Biology) received new funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the project "Germline transmission of epigenetic alterations to offspring induced by bisphenol A exposure."

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Dr. Jeffrey Soles

Dr. Jeffrey Soles (Classical Studies) received new funding from the Institute for Aegean Prehistory for "Mochlos 2017:
Publication and Conservation of Late Minoan Ceremonial Complex.” This grant will support research, publication and conservation of archaeological material his teams excavated at Mochlos, Crete, from 1989 to 2016.

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**In memoriam: Charlie Patterson**

Charlie Patterson passed away on Friday, March 24.

He served as vice chancellor for development at UNCG from 1974 to 1984, says Wilson Davis, former director, Office of Information Services at UNCG.

"Charlie Patterson provided leadership for UNCG's first capital campaign, the Prospectus III Campaign, which raised $13.5 million in 1984.” He noted that Patterson’s work laid the fundraising foundation for two other highly successful capital campaigns in subsequent decades.

"Charlie was widely recognized by his peers as a highly gifted fundraiser - at UNCG and later at Wake Forest University and Guilford College. Beyond that, he was a wonderful human being and will be greatly missed by his many friends.”

Patterson’s obituary, which includes information about this Friday’s memorial service, may be viewed here.

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**Looking Ahead: March 29, 2017**

Human Rights Network Film Series: “Osama”
Thursday, March 30, 6:30 p.m., SOEB 120

Women’s Golf Bryan National
Friday, March 31, Sunday, April 2, Bryan Park

Dance: Barefoot Charity Concert
Friday, March 31, Saturday, April 1, 8 p.m., Dance Theater

Classics Day
Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m., Stone Lawn

Faculty Concert: Beaux Eaux Follies (canned food donation)
Saturday, April 1, 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall, Music Building

National Walking Day event for campus community
April 5, noon, EUC front entrance (30 min walk)

Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 3 p.m., Alumni House, Virginia Dare Room

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**See/hear: March 29, 2017**

One thing that makes a great university is strong state support. UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., says North Carolina has a history of doing just that. “We’re at a watershed in American public higher education,” Gilliam says. “For so long, the states subsidized state universities at high levels – at 75, 85 percent. And the argument was that it was a public good – that it benefited everyone.”

See more at this Higher Education Works web post.

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