The Great Call of China: UNCG faculty go global

In a display case in the atrium of the Music Building, there’s an unusual instrument: an authentic horse-head chi fiddle, inscribed “to School of Music of University of North Carolina at Greensboro,” in English and in Chinese characters.

The instrument was a gift from Inner Mongolia University for the Nationalities (IMUN), which presented it to Director of Opera David Holley in 2009, when he brought the Charles A. Lynam Vocal Competition winners to perform there. Former UNCG German professor Doryl Jensen helped arrange the tour, as he had done for several UNCG performers in previous years, but the connection with IMUN was still just forming.

“That horse-head fiddle that David Holley brought back—that’s what really started it all,” said Professor of Voice Nancy Walker, who became the first UNCG faculty member to teach in China through the connection with IMUN.

In May and June of 2012, she was in residence there for four weeks. She, like many UNCG professors who would follow her, brought a Western, student-centered teaching style and Western ideas about classical music to share with students and faculty at IMUN. But when she returned, she brought back knowledge of Chinese culture and music.

“I’m a strong believer in what connecting with another culture does for you,” Walker said. “It’s an eye-opening, life-changing experience. We should be doing it with as many cultures as we can.”

This month, Associate Professor of Voice and Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy Robert Wells will teach and perform at IMUN, as well as at Guangdong Ocean University. Associate Professor of Music Education and conductor of UNCG Sinfonia Rebecca MacLeod will travel to Shaoguan University and Xi-an Conservatory, to work with music educators. This will be the second trip for both music professors; Wells also went to China in 2015, and MacLeod went last year, when she taught at Shaoguan for six weeks, including leading the wind ensemble there, and conducted a two-day clinic with approximately 50 public school music teachers from Guangdong Province.

“Navigating the cultural differences in communication style, classroom environment and methods of feedback was complicated, and stimulating,” MacLeod said of her past teaching experience in China. “I know that the experience made me grow as a teacher and has allowed me to meet the needs of more diverse students and learning styles. Sharing philosophies, values and strategies with my Chinese colleagues was an incredible experience.”

Associate Professor of Dance Duane Cyrus will also make a trip to China this month, to Shaoguan and Xi-an. This will also be his second trip. In 2014, he and Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology Gavin Douglas took a group of UNCG students to IMUN, where they had the opportunity to learn and perform alongside Chinese students. This year, supported by a Strategic Seed grant focused on vibrant communities, Cyrus will share his current research project “Comanche: Hero Complexities” with Chinese students and explore its themes through choreography.
“Visiting China and sharing dance with the students at Chinese universities allows us to communicate beyond language barriers,” he observed.

All three artists are looking forward to their trips, made possible by more than ten years of connections created by the UNCG International Programs Center and key figures in the College of Visual and Performing Arts as well as the Graduate School. Since 2006, Jensen and a Chinese friend to UNCG, Tang Cai, have been facilitating faculty visits to institutions in China, and they always made opportunities for faculty performances a priority.

The performers included Jazz Studies Professor and pianist John Salmon, his student Antonio Truyols, Professor of Music and pianist Joseph DiPiazza, Associate Professor of Music and violinist Fabian Lopez, and Head of the Department of Dance Janet Lilly, who created a performance piece with Chinese students. The East Wind Ensemble, which included current Vice Provost for Graduate Education Dr. Kelly Burke, also performed in several cities in 2008, including at the Shanghai for the International Arts Festival and the Shanghai Radio and TV Broadcast Conference.

The UNCG professors and performers who travel to China expand their cultural knowledge and share teaching techniques with Chinese institutions, but they also create a pathway for artist-in-residence exchanges. The visiting artists that come to UNCG have chosen to come here because of the performances and teaching that UNCG faculty brought to their institutions, and the relationships they created.

Salmon, along with many other UNCG faculty who have performed in China, spoke highly of his experiences there, and of working with several Chinese students who come to the UNCG School of Music from the IMUN. Chinese students make up the largest international group on campus, and each faculty member who has visited China or assisted in hosting Chinese visitors on campus has the prediction that the strong connection with IMUN and other Chinese universities will continue to expand, providing more global opportunities for UNCG students and faculty and for Chinese scholars and artists.

While it isn’t played often, the inscribed horsehead fiddle in the display case is clear evidence that the connections are appreciated.

“It’s gratifying to me to know that I was a part of the early part of this collaboration,” said Holley. “To see how it’s grown and flourished, to know the exchange of cultures and ideas through the mediums of music and dance.”

Next week read about Chinese artists and scholars who have been in residence at UNCG.

By Susan Kirby-Smith
Photograph by Martin W. Kane

Pictured: IMUN visiting scholar Qiaoyan Gao, David Holley, Nancy Walker

###

Commencement will be May 12

More than 2,600 students will become UNCG alumni at the university’s 2017 May Commencement on Friday, May 12, at 10 a.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum.

UNCG will award approximately 2,623 earned degrees: 1,989 bachelor’s degrees, 540 master’s degrees, 12 specialist in education degrees and 82 doctoral degrees. Seventy of these degrees will be awarded to international students.

Honorary degrees will be presented to Dr. Mansukh C. Wani and William “Bill” Mangum Jr. ’75, ’83 MFA. Wani, an internationally-
recognized scientist and pioneer in the field of cancer research, will receive a Doctor of Science honorary degree. Mangum, an acclaimed visual artist, entrepreneur, author and philanthropist, will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree.

UNCG will also award its first doctor of nursing practice degree, as well as the first bachelor of science degree in psychology. Previously, UNCG offered only a bachelor of arts degree in psychology.

Margot Lee Shetterly, best-selling author of the book “Hidden Figures,” will present the commencement address to the university’s 2017 graduating class.

“We are honored to welcome Ms. Shetterly to UNCG as our 2017 Commencement speaker,” said UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. “I can’t think of a better person to address our graduating class with a message of excellence and opportunity – that regardless of your background or socioeconomic status, incredible things are possible with hard work and commitment.”

Maya Perry, a senior majoring in political science and sociology with a minor in Spanish, will serve as the student speaker.

The ceremony is free and open to the public, and parking at the Greensboro Coliseum is free for students and their guests. As a service to the campus community, Park & Ride buses will transport volunteers, students, staff and faculty between campus and the coliseum. Buses will depart campus every 30 minutes beginning at 7 a.m., with the final shuttle returning to campus at 1 p.m. Passengers may board the bus on Stirling Street in front of Elliott University Center.

Individuals who are unable to attend the ceremony may watch a live stream here.

For more information about May Commencement, visit the Commencement Central website.

By Alyssa Bedrosian

###

**Changes to performance management system for SHRA employees**

*Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Michelle Lamb Moone announces changes - and a series of workshops:*

**SHRA PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR 2016-2017 AND NEW PROGRAM FOR 2017-2018**

**Completion and Submission of 2016-17 PMP Forms**

All completed PMP forms for the cycle April 1, 2016-March 31, 2017 were due to the Office of Human Resources by April 30, 2017 (extended date). Please scan and email your completed documents to PMP2017@uncg.edu. PMPs will not be accepted by fax or via HR staff’s personal email address.

**Completion of the performance evaluation process is mandatory for all supervisors and managers with subordinate staff.**

**SHRA Performance Management Plans for 2017-2018**
I am pleased to announce some exciting changes to our current SHRA Performance Management Program. SHRA employees and those who have responsibility for evaluating SHRA employees will receive information this week about their role in this process and training opportunities that will orient them to the new tools and processes. Meanwhile, please review carefully the attached memorandum regarding the process, training times and locations, and who to contact for questions.

Registration for these sessions is not required.

Read about the FY18 PMP Cycle and Timeline and Schedule of PMP Training & Information Sessions: [http://web.uncg.edu/hr/performancemgt/pmpmemo.pdf](http://web.uncg.edu/hr/performancemgt/pmpmemo.pdf).

###

49 Spartans inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

UNCG’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter, the Epsilon chapter, inducted 49 new members on April 17 in a ceremony at the Weatherspoon Art Museum.

Assistant Professor of Economics Dora Gicheva and Associate Professor of Music Aaron Allen gave the welcome address and introduced the new members. Provost Dana Dunn and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences John Kiss also greeted the new inductees. Dr. Tom Mould, Elon University professor of anthropology and folklore, gave the address.

Established in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most widely known of collegiate honorary societies, and includes members such as former U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter; NFL quarterback Peyton Manning; historian John Hope Franklin; poet Rita Dove; and film director Francis Ford Coppola.

UNCG’s Epsilon chapter was formed during the Woman’s College era in 1934 as a branch of the UNC Chapel Hill chapter. In 1956 it became an independent chapter and in 2006, the national society named Epsilon the nation’s most outstanding chapter at a public university. UNCG is one of only seven institutions in North Carolina to have a chapter. Others are UNC Chapel Hill, N.C. State University, Wake Forest University, Davidson College, Duke University and Elon University.

PBK recognizes outstanding scholarship in the liberal arts and sciences. Inductees must have high grade point averages, at least six credit hours of a foreign language at the intermediate level and three-fourths of the total number of hours in courses of a genuinely liberal character, as determined by the chapter.

INITIATES OF 2017

Dahlia Alharoon, Psychology, Raleigh

Sydney Katherine Barker, Sociology (Spanish), Holly Springs

Karen Boger, Psychology (Sociology), Mocksville

Milton Yates Brannan, Geography (Classical Studies), Zebulon
Candace Marie Chilcoat, Humanities, Winterville
Itané Coleman, Political Science, African American/African Diaspora Studies, Charlotte
Caroline Grace Countryman, History, Spanish (English), Graham
Tyler Daye, Political Science, Sociology, Greensboro
Sarah Christine Duncan, Classical Studies, History, Lenoir
Carly Olivia Elkins, Biology (Chemistry), Winston-Salem
James Brian Etling, English, Greensboro
Rachel Moriah Garner, History, Lenexa, Kansas
Olivia Rae Gerald, History (Community & Therapeutic Recreation), Greensboro
Veronica Gonzalez Meza, Latin American Studies, Spanish, Yadkinville
Ethan Gordon, Economics, Charlotte
Taylor Edwin Grubbs, Physics (Chemistry, Mathematics)
Mehik Iqbal, Biochemistry (History), High Point
Hannah Kristina Johnson, Anthropology (Classical Studies), Hines, Vt.
Ashley Elizabeth Jones, Mathematics
McKenna Dawn Kormanik, Biology (Chemistry), Seattle, Wash.
Liat Lebovich, Anthropology, Archaeology, Raleigh
Lei Liu, Biology (Chemistry)
Will Joseph McGarty, Media Studies, Communication Studies, Winston-Salem
Jennifer Caroline McGuirk, International and Global Studies, Media Studies, Greensboro
Emmanuella Ofori Mensah, Biology, Charlotte
Eni Minerali, Biochemistry, Korce, Albania
Yasmeen Mjalli, Art History, Greensboro
Alexander Nelson, German, French (Russian)
Jordan Rhea Peitz, Archaeology, Anthropology (Classical Studies, History), Pinehurst
Courtney Renee Perry, Social Sciences, Winston-Salem
Christopher Neil Pritchard, Mathematics, Greensboro
Toni Michelle Quick, Psychology (Sociology)
Natalie Gray Rapp, Dance, Psychology (Spanish), Raleigh
Caitlin Victoria Reid, Biology, Winston-Salem
Seth Rumbley, Anthropology, Asheboro
Benjamin Walker Sanderford, Humanities, Selma
Alexis Antonnia Shaw, Russian Studies, Charlotte
Susanna Sheley, Music (French), Otterberg, Germany
Allison Smith, Environmental Studies, Political Science (History, Math), Union
Candace Merritt Strickland, Anthropology, Sociology (Spanish), Knightdale
Patricia Ann Tanzer, Music, Computer Science (Mathematics), McLeansville
Ashley Bodenheimer Underwood, Psychology (Business), Trinity
Anna Gabrielle Warner, Psychology (Anthropology), Winston-Salem
Corey James Wernette, Psychology (Sociology), Saline, Mich.
Faith Wilfong, Anthropology, Archaeology, St. Louis, Mo.
Amanda Michelle Wils, Classical Studies (English), Greensboro
Uyeong Yang, Economics (Mathematics), Gwangju, Korea
Matthew Yengle, Computer Science, Jamestown
AbaGayle Frances Younts, Mathematics, Economics, Taylorsville

Alice Joyner Irby ’54 and Epsilon Chapter members are thanked for their contributions to help defray the cost of the initiation fee for new members.

###

**Starfish Updates: Summer 2017**

*A note from the Students First Office:*

With the spring semester coming to a close, the Starfish Outreach Team in the Students First Office would like to wish students, staff, and faculty a productive and restorative summer. As the university transitions out of the spring term, we would like to remind the campus community of important information about the Starfish features available over the summer.

**Starfish Features: Summer 2017**

- The ability to raise Starfish flags and kudos will be turned off on May 3 and will be unavailable until Fall 2017 begins.
- Referral options will remain available for use over summer. The following referral options are available to instructors and student support staff: Academic Skills, Speaking Center, and Math Help Center.
- Online appointment scheduling will remain available over the summer to all instructors and staff who post availability in Starfish. Instructors and staff who will be away from campus during this time should remove all calendar availability prior to leaving.

**Workshop Opportunities**

If you are new to Starfish or would like to refresh your knowledge, please consider attending one of our faculty/staff Starfish workshops in the spring. View available workshop times and sign up via workshops.uncg.edu. If you would like to request a departmental Starfish training, please email starfish@uncg.edu.

**Starfish Support**

For assistance using Starfish, please email starfish@uncg.edu. Students, staff, and instructors are encouraged to explore UNCG’s Starfish
webpages at studentsfirst.uncg.edu/starfish for additional information about Starfish and available training guides.

###

**Enjoy UNCG Magazine: Nursing’s 50th, Natty Greene’s, Olympian Paul Chelimo**

The spring 2017 UNCG Magazine is available online.

Enjoy lots of features and news items, including:

*Traditions & Transformations* UNCG Nursing has been defined by service, education, research, practice and leadership from the start. One school. Thousands of alumni. Millions of lives touched.

*Revolution Revitalized* A historic Cone mill in Greensboro is brought back to life. And Spartans are among those leading the way.

*Pedal to the Medal* Alumnus Paul Chelimo shatters his personal record to make the Olympics Finals. Then shatters that mark in the Finals to surprise the world, taking Olympic Silver at Rio.

Six film clips can be enjoyed at the site:

**UNCG Nursing celebrates 50 years**

UNCG alumni, faculty, current students, deans and former deans share their experiences in UNCG's School of Nursing. It's a look at the past half-century — and a vision for the future.

**Crafting a book by hand**

See Andrew Saulters make copies of Stuart Dischell's new poetry volume by hand for Unicorn Press, a fifty-year-old poetry publisher.

**Natty Greene's Revolution**

Did you know UNCG alumni Kayne Fisher and Chris Lester dreamed of opening a place like Natty Greene's when they were undergraduates in the 1980's at UNCG? That's where it all started. Watch Kayne show you the process of creating a wonderfully crafted beer.

**Verdi's ‘Requiem’ at UNCG Auditorium**

Experience a highlight from Verdi's monumental work. The UNCG Symphony Orchestra was joined on Feb. 24 by the UNCG Chamber Singers, University Chorale, Women's Choir and Glee Clubs. Featured performers include Jill Bowen Gardner, Stephanie Foley Davis, Daniel Stein and David Weigel.

**Paul Chelimo, Olympic medalist, hangs a ride with the chancellor**

You're on the go with alumnus Paul Chelimo, as he rides with Chancellor Gilliam through the campus. Their discussion is wide-ranging, the ride is fun.

**Paul Chelimo, from Kenya to UNCG to Rio**

On his first return to campus after the Olympics, Paul Chelimo reflects on his journey. “UNCG has been my family,” he says, in an interview in Alumni House's Parish Library.

You may download and view the pdf magazine here. See the full web site here.
Semester's final Faculty Senate meeting today

Faculty Senate meets today (Wednesday, May 3), at 3 p.m., in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House. Refreshments are available at 2:30 p.m.

Anne Wallace, Faculty Senate chair, will give welcoming remarks. Brad Johnson, Faculty Senate secretary, will give the minutes and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Dana Dunn will deliver remarks and take questions.

Pamela Williamson, faculty fellow to the provost and associate professor in specialized education services, will give a presentation on behalf of the Retired Faculty Association.

Colleen Fairbanks, chair of the Academic Policies Committee, Donna Nash and Ken White, will present Resolutions from the Academic Policies, followed by David Carlone, who will present a resolution from the General Education Council.

Stoel Burrowes, Elections Committee chair, will share the Senate Elections Committee Report. That presentation will be followed by remarks by Andrea Hunter, Faculty Senate chair-elect, and announcements.

Gulf South Summit 2017

Attendees from 90 institutions and 23 states converged at the Downtown Greensboro Marriott for this year's Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education (http://www.gulfsouthsummit.org). For three days, over 350 educators, practitioners and students gathered to discuss best practices, share research and foster a professional network.

Because of UNCG’s institutional commitment to service-learning and community engagement, it was fitting that UNCG host the annual conference for the first time in North Carolina. UNCG's Office of Leadership & Service-Learning (OLSL) aspires to create Citizen Leaders. Dr. Cathy Hamilton, director of OLSL and chair of this year's Gulf South Summit, defines the vision of Citizen Leader development as one “integrating service, leadership and civic engagement programming that weaves together the fabric of the student experience in and out of class, on campus and in the community into a tapestry of profound and transformative engagement.”

The Gulf South Summit's North Carolina sponsors included Greensboro’s Visitor’s Bureau and Convention Center, UNCG, UNC Chapel Hill, Elon University, The University of North Carolina at Asheville, Wake Technical Community College, East Carolina University, Campus Compact's Southern Region, and Western Carolina University, as well as other more than 20 other universities and vendors who provided resources including time and talent.

More information: http://www.gulfsouthsummit.org/

2017 Community Partner Appreciation Breakfast May 16

UNCG’s Community Partner Appreciation Breakfast will be held Tuesday, May 16, in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Anyone on campus who has worked with community partners? Please invite your community partners to attend with you.

The event will be a celebration of UNCG’s many partners in the community - and the impact our collaborations have on the many lives and the overall well-being of our community and the Triad regions.

You may register, at no cost to participants, at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf--nex9TASQnoRdKToRZK25NZQxxFCjIXLEQb-K0g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Any questions? Contact UNCG’s Office of Leadership and Service-Learning at lead@uncg.edu.
Anna Marshall-Baker honored by Interior Design Educators Council

How do the materials around you affect you, and how have they affected those who produced them and the environment?

Dr. Anna Marshall-Baker, professor and chair of the Department of Interior Architecture, can tell you. Her research concerns the interconnectedness between the environment, human health and well-being, economic conditions, and aesthetics.

In March, she received the Arnold P. Friedmann Educator of Distinction Award from the Interior Design Educators Council. IDEC’s most significant award recognized her contributions to interior design education, her leadership, her innovations in the profession and her excellence in teaching.

Marshall-Baker’s work on sustainability in interior design has not just influenced operations and academics at UNCG, but that for every student who studies with an interior design educator. In previous years, as president of IDEC, Marshall-Baker guided the organization to adopt core values in sustainability, so that all educators incorporated it into their coursework and all interior design students gained a fundamental knowledge of sustainability. Through her research and leadership, Marshall-Baker has put the focus on interior design’s interaction with human health and environmental health.

“We need to understand the effect of informed design decisions, and the designer’s power and responsibility to influence quality of life,” she says. “Whether it’s in a home, in a medical facility or on an assembly line.”

Marshall-Baker’s work examines aspects of design such as indoor air quality and the use of nontoxic materials that support normal human development. She has given particular attention to environmental safety for young children, and a good part of her research and advocacy concerns newborn intensive care units (NICUs).

She is a member of the Consensus Committee on Recommended Standards for NICU Design, which combines the efforts of a variety of experts from all fields in analyzing healthcare environments and seeks to implement evidence-based requirements and best practices in design standards. The committee publishes their findings in the Journal of Perinatology.


She also works in biophilia, which is the study of our inherent connection to natural conditions. Marshall-Baker can point to statistics on health and productivity that relate to biophilia. For designers, the challenge is to understand features of the natural world that can be designed into space such as colors, shapes, proportional relationships, and textures that are found in nature. Windows in offices, for example, are desirable to fulfill a human need for natural light conditions.

At UNCG Marshall-Baker promoted sustainability on campus when she was Faculty Senate chair and when she was co-chair of the Sustainability Council. In those roles she facilitated connections across campus and interdisciplinary interaction centered around sustainability – and worked closely with Academic Affairs and Business Affairs to find sustainability-based economic savings.

In the UNCG Department of Interior Architecture, Marshall-Baker compiled a materials library, which is a valuable resource for interior design students. Each material in the library has a documented life history, from its creation to disposal, which students can analyze to discover how “green” a material may be. The emphasis is not only on where the material came from, but on the health of the humans who have worked to produce the material, those who live with it while it’s in use and how it affects the environment after it is discarded.

“Through the library, students develop a process for evaluating material, and for making informed decisions,” she explained. “When they join design firms they’ll be able to advocate for sustainable choices.”

For UNCG, Marshall-Baker sees a future interacting with renewables, and entrepreneurship in green energy. She celebrates UNCG’s efforts to recycle water from chillers, and students’ contributions to and guidance of the Green Fund. She also sees opportunity for even more green
education on campus, through classes and initiatives, and through asking questions about our progress toward a healthier planet.

“Students learn about sustainability and then influence how it is taught and practiced at UNCG,” she said.

By Susan Kirby-Smith

###

ORED will become Office of Research and Engagement

UNCG’s Office of Research and Economic Development will change its name to the Office of Research and Engagement.

This name change, effective July 1, reflects an internal restructuring that more directly focuses the university’s efforts on supporting and enhancing research, scholarship and creative activity while continuing its strong commitment to community engagement. The name reflects our Carnegie Foundation classifications as an R2 research and community engaged university.

More information about the new structure will be available in the coming months.

###

Research, advocacy at UNCG for homeless students

Twenty minutes north of UNCG’s main campus is the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), a technical assistance center that has been a part of the university for nearly 20 years.

The center, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is driven by data. And there’s one number that stands out above the rest.

It’s the number of children and youth across the country identified as homeless: 1.3 million.

Homelessness in the United States takes on different forms. Families might be staying in a shelter, spending nights in a car or couch hopping, relying on the kindness of friends and family and bouncing from home to home at a moment’s notice.

In schools, it’s not easy to identify young people in these situations. Homeless students often go unnoticed and, as a result, lack the educational resources they desperately need.

That’s where NCHE steps in. Housed in UNCG’s SERVE Center – whose mission is to work with educators and policymakers to improve education – NCHE is the technical assistance and information center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program.

EHCY oversees the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act. The law grants specific rights to homeless children and youth, such as immediate enrollment in school, transportation, free meals, clothing, school supplies and tutorial services. However, accessing these resources can be difficult, and many families are unaware that they are available.

“Homeless children and youth and their families don’t have the time and resources to try to navigate systems across cities or states,” says George Hancock, NCHE director. “We work with coordinators and liaisons to provide a coordinated point where these families have access
to the resources they need.”

NCHE publishes hundreds of different briefs, handbooks and toolkits, holds more than 40 webinars each year and fields approximately 200 emails and calls each month in order to support the state coordinators and local liaisons that work directly with homeless youth.

And it’s not just K-12 students who receive support from NCHE. Homelessness on college campuses continues to be an issue across the state and the country – approximately 58,000 college students nationally reported that they experienced homelessness during the 2014-15 academic year.

While research and evaluation are critical to the center’s mission, it’s the passion behind the percentages that define the work of NCHE staff.

“It’s never just a job,” says Diana Bowman, senior program specialist at NCHE and former director of the center. “People are so invested in the issue and are so passionate. This field attracts the most amazing people who work tirelessly on behalf of homeless children and youth.”

According to Hancock, finding solutions to these multi-layered problems can be a difficult task. Yet despite the complexities of the situation, one thing is certain: All children have extraordinary potential.

“Children are children. They want to learn and they want to be engaged,” Hancock says. “If you can find a way to light that spark, it doesn’t matter where they come from.”

This post was adapted from a UNCG Research Magazine story written by Alyssa Bedrosian. To read the full story and more, click here.

Photography by Mike Dickens

###

Gate City Writes fundraiser this Saturday

Gate City Writes will hold an all-day fundraiser this Saturday, May 6, featuring a variety of activities for book enthusiasts of all ages. The event will be at the Barnes & Noble at Friendly Center.

Gate City Writes (GCW) is a program managed by UNCG’s School of Education (SOE). It facilitates opportunities for teachers to write and develop their skills in teaching writing to K-12 students. The program also supports young writers in grades 3 through 12 in a summer writing camp, in producing writing projects and publishing them using digital media. The SOE Teacher Education and Higher Education work with the educators to build a collaborative writing community.

The Saturday schedule of events and activities starts at 9 a.m. with Yoga & Write In,

A few highlights are:

10:15 a.m. reading by Caroline McAlister, author of “John Ronald’s Dragon,”
11 a.m. session with Maker’s Space,
2 p.m. Meet the Young Writers Camp instructors,
5 p.m. Music with Blake Waters, followed by
6 p.m. Spoken Word with Josephus & Poets.

Visit [http://www.gatecitywrites.com/book-fair.html](http://www.gatecitywrites.com/book-fair.html) for more information - or to support the event online from May 6 to May 11. A percentage of the Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit Gate City Writes.

###

UNCG’s popular LiveSafe app

UNCG’s LiveSafe personal security app, designed for UNCG students, faculty and staff, is available for free from the Apple App Store and from Google Play.

The UNCG police department continues to promote the app to campus.
The Safewalk feature is the most popular reason students are using the app. With Safewalk, students, faculty and staff can enable friends or family to track them as they walk on or off campus, through GPS location monitoring.

For more information, visit the UNCG LiveSafe website at livesafe.uncg.edu/FAQ/. It only takes a minute to download the free LiveSafe app from the Apple App Store and from Google Play.

###

**Baseball, Softball going strong - Webster holds nation’s best BA**

UNCG Softball is currently tied for first place in the Southern Conference, at 9 wins, 5 losses. Their overall record is 26-21. They will host East Tennessee State this Saturday and Sunday.

UNCG Baseball is currently in second place in the Southern Conference, at 10 wins, 5 losses. Last weekend, they won their series at league-leader Mercer, winning 2 of the 3 games. Their overall record is 26-16. UNCG freshman Caleb Webster, a kinesiology major from Randleman, holds the best batting average in the nation. They will host The Citadel May 12-14.

As the season winds down and we head to the SoCon tournaments, see current standings and stats for both teams at http://www.soconsports.com/standings/Standings.

###

**Looking Ahead: May 3, 2017**

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

Exams begin  
Thursday, May 4

Guest Artist: The New Baroque Chamber Players  
Thursday, May 4, 7:30 p.m., Organ Hall, Music Building

Softball vs. ETSU (Doubleheader)  
Saturday, May 6, 1 p.m., UNCG Softball Stadium

Concert, Dancers Connect  
Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Dance Theater

Noon at the 'Spoon  
Tuesday, May 9, 12 p.m., Weatherspoon Art Museum

May Commencement  
Friday, May 12, 10 a.m., Greensboro Coliseum
Housing Hangout: rural housing

The Center for Housing and Community Studies (CHCS) will host a Housing Hangout this Friday, May 5, at noon in MHRA 1607. The focus is on rural housing, and there will be three speakers: Trevor Nuttall, Community Development Division Director of Asheboro; Margrit Bergholz, Senior Supportive Housing Development Officer for the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency in Raleigh; and Phillip Sheldon, from the research staff of CHCS. All are welcome, and refreshments will be provided.

###

UNCG’s plants: A walk on the wild side May 16

UNCG’s next Staff Senate workshop is titled Walk on the Wild Side.


Learn about the herbs, medicinal and edible plants on the UNCG campus. The Staff Senate sponsored tour will be led by Stacey Krim, UNCG librarian and amateur herbalist and wildcrafter.

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 - noon-1 p.m. - Meet in front of EUC - Raindate is May 23, 201

For event accommodations, contact Lisa McLaughlin, lmmclaug@uncg.edu.

###

Diversity in Language and Culture Conference coming in fall

The Diversity in Language and Culture conference will take place Sept. 23, 2017, and this year’s theme is “Teaching Today’s Evolving Learners: A Commitment to Critical Approaches and Pedagogies.” The three keynote speakers are Dr. Django Paris, Dr. Jennifer Leeman and Dr. Imagni Goffney.

###

See/hear: May 3, 2017

This year, Spartans have once again experienced outstanding performances in the arts. Enjoy a highlight from Verdi's monumental ‘Requiem.’ The UNCG Symphony Orchestra was joined on Feb. 24 by the UNCG Chamber Singers, University Chorale, Women's Choir and Glee Clubs in UNCG Auditorium. Featured performers include Jill Bowen Gardner, Stephanie Foley Davis, Daniel Stein and David Weigel.

###

Dr. Sat Gupta
Dr. Sat Gupta (Mathematics and Statistics) has been selected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA). He received this highest professional honor in the field of statistics for important research contributions in the area of randomized response methodology, for his distinguished service to ASA through his leadership role in the North Carolina Chapter of ASA; for distinguished service to the theory and practice of statistics by founding and editing the Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice; and for exemplary statistical consulting, both on-campus and off-campus.

Last fall, Gupta also received the prestigious Sankhyiki Bhushan Award from the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics.

Finally, Gupta was a co-author and lead statistician on a paper that won the 2016 AORN (Association of periOperative Registered Nurses) Journal Writers Contest. The article, written in collaboration with nurse researchers at Cone Health, was titled “Pressure Ulcers: Factors Contributing to Their Development in the OR.”

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Dr. Wendy McColskey

Dr. Wendy McColskey (SERVE Center) received new funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) for the project “21st Century Community Learning Centers Evaluation.” The 2017-18 scope of work will be an evaluation of the NCDPI 21st CCLC program for the 2016-17 academic year and is a continuation of earlier evaluation work SERVE Center has completed.

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Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson (School of Health and Human Sciences - Dean's Office) recently presented ‘Reinventing Academic Coaching with Life Design in Mind’ in Raleigh during the NACADA Region 3 Annual Conference. This presentation won ‘Best of Region’ and will be presented at the National NACADA Conference in October in St. Louis, MO. Additionally, he was asked to be the Keynote speaker due to unforeseen circumstances and was given major accolades and a standing ovation with his speech entitled: Purpose and Meaning Inspired Advising and Coaching for Success. He also did a pre-conference workshop called Find Your Why: Meaningful Work, Meaningful Life.

He is Student Success Navigator and Life Design Catalyst Coach for the School of Health and Human Sciences.

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