Representing UNCG’s finest ideals, at Faculty & Staff Excellence Awards

The Faculty & Staff Excellence Awards honorees represent UNCG’s finest ideals, Chancellor Franklin Gilliam, Jr., said at the beginning of awards ceremony. “The ideals are only ideal when they are translated into action,” he added.

Through films highlighting the recipients, attendees would see some of the research and creative activity, mentoring and teaching excellence that distinguish this year’s honorees. “We salute the recipients for all their accomplishments,” he said.

He recognized Staff Star recipients, in a special section of the audience near the front center.

He also recognized Service Pin recipients of 30, 35 and 40 years.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Michelle Lamb Moone served as mistress of ceremonies, welcoming attendees. She spoke of appreciation as an important human need as well as a source of continued motivation.

She acknowledged the creative work of Media Studies students in creating the faculty/staff highlight videos seen during the ceremony.

The ceremony was held May 2 in EUC Auditorium.

The honorees were:

UNCG BOG of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence - Dr. Sharon Morrison (Public Health Education)

Mary Settle Sharpe Award for Teaching Excellence - Dr. James Fisher (Theatre)
James Y. Joyner Award for Teaching Excellence - Sheryl Oring (Art)
Anna Maria Gove Award for Teaching Excellence - Wade Maki (Philosophy)

O. Max Gardner Award nominee - Dr. David Wyrick (Public Health Education)

Gladys Strawn Bullard Awards -
Anna Poteat (student, Geography)
Dr. Brett Carter (staff, Dean of Students Office)
Dr. Samuel Miller (faculty, Education)

Staff Excellence Awards -
Angela Mahoney (Human Resources)
Kara Baldwin (Student Success Center)

Holshouser Award for Excellence in Public Service nominee - Dr. Christine Murray (Counseling and Educational Development)

Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award - Dr. Cheryl A. Buehler (Human Development and Family Studies)

Senior Research Excellence Award - Dr. Sat Gupta (Mathematics and Statistics)
Junior Research Excellence Award - Dr. Amanda Tanner (Public Health Education)

Student Learning Enhancement Awards -
Kinesiology, EdD program
Kinesiology, MS program
Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award - Dr. Nadja Cech (Chemistry and Biochemistry)

By Mike Harris
Photograph by Martin W. Kane

See additional post on the Research award recipients at the UNCG Research web site.

###

**Sharp shooters: UNCG students take work to Cannes**

The sophomore media studies major has yet to do his first in-school filmmaking assignment, but this month he’ll screen his short, “Foodie,” at one of the world’s most noteworthy film venues.

In the fall semester he wrote and directed “Foodie” in the span of a week, as part of the Campus MovieFest competition. It took three major awards at UNCG—the Audience Award, the Silver Tripod Award for Editing and the Jury Award given to four finalists.

But then came the big news. It was selected to be a part of the Campus MovieFest roster for Cannes 2017, as a part of the Short Film Corner program.

Malone will travel to the festival in southern France with the film’s producer Alex Suggs

Most filmmakers don’t make it to the Cannes Film Festival through food fight stories, but that’s just one thing that makes UNCG student Brendan Malone unusual.

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Malone will travel to the festival in southern France with the film’s producer Alex Suggs, who is also a sophomore media studies major at
A Greensboro native, Malone attended Bishop McGuinness High School. When he started making films, his high school friends liked his ideas, but it was difficult to come up with a complete film crew. He had to hold a few scripts, like “Punchline,” until he got to college and found more people to work with.

At UNCG he met Suggs, who he says is a big motivating force for him, as well as a skilled videographer and a partner in creative decision-making. When Malone has an idea, Suggs starts planning the schedule.

So far, the two have made two short films together, and this summer they will work on a third, “The Red Rockets,” a sports comedy about competitive foosball teams. For their biggest project yet, they may have crew of up to 40 people, many of whom Malone has met through UNCG connections.

Greensboro locations figure prominently in Malone’s films. You can easily spot Nazareth Bread Company in “Foodie,” and several familiar locations in “Punchline”—the Bestway grocery store, the UNCG Pedestrian Underpass, a UNCG parking deck, and Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

Before coming to UNCG, Malone was 90 percent self-taught, through directing and screenwriting books. He admires DIY-style filmmakers, such as Wes Anderson, Richard Linklater and Kevin Smith. An essential part of his training was also his involvement in Greensboro’s 48-Hour Film Festival. He was on the team of two festival projects where he learned, among other things, “how to sacrifice the idea of perfection in favor of handling the tasks and just getting the project done.”

“Foodie,” the film they will take to Cannes, is a character-based short about a man on a mission to get free food. He participates in a contest that promises a free plate of enormous food with a catch—it has to be eaten in one sitting. The protagonist collects a dedicated audience for his task, but isn’t so courteous to them when he begins to fail at his mission. (Picture food flying toward the onlookers, in the moment of defeat.)

Malone says that “Foodie” was a reflection of what his life felt like at the time—“free if you can finish it.” When his friends and family asked if they could help he said, “I think I’ve got a place for you.” Malone’s father can be seen being hit in the face with a hamburger. His mother, School of Nursing professor Dr. Laurie Kennedy-Malone, can be seen as well in the crowd of bystanders.

When the time comes for Malone to make films as part of his academic studies, he certainly won’t object to that—he’s already connected with UNCG Media Studies professors Matthew Barr and Kevin Wells, who have given him feedback on scripts and advice on shooting.

But initiating and executing his own projects alongside his college courses has given him a distinct motivation.

“There are really no limits,” he says.

Learn more about UNCG Department of Media Studies here.

Watch “Foodie” here.

By Susan Kirby-Smith
Photograph by Martin W. Kane. Brendan Malone (left) and Alex Suggs (right).

###

Bones and butchery in UNCG Anthropology
UNCG Campus Weekly
May 9, 2017

UNCG takes pride in its hands-on, experiential learning opportunities.

Whether it’s through innovative teaching in the classroom or undergraduate research in the lab, UNCG faculty want students to not only learn the material, but to get their hands dirty in the process.

For students Kevin Covell and Robert Sanderford, “getting their hands dirty” is an understatement.

Under the leadership of Dr. Charles Egeland, the two anthropology students participated in an undergraduate research project this spring that explored the evolution of skill acquisition through animal butchery.

The acquisition and butchery of large mammals with stone tools represents the earliest and most enduring manifestation of human interaction with technology. So how can we gauge butchery skill in a prehistoric context?

According to Egeland, the answer is in the “cutmarks,” or the incisions produced on the surface of the bones by stone tools.

“Researchers are just beginning to systematically test the relationship between experience and cutmarks,” Egeland said. “Our hypothesis was that experienced butchers would create cutmarks that are close to each other and make anatomical sense.”

Over the course of the semester, Egeland enlisted the help of Covell and Sanderford to test this relationship. Covell, an “expert” butcher who previously worked as a professional chef, and Sanderford, an “amateur” with experience hunting animals, met several times a month to butcher deer legs supplied by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Other novice butchers participated as well.

The students used replicas of prehistoric stone tools to remove soft tissues from deer legs as if they were butchering for consumption. Egeland, Covell and Sanderford then identified the cutmarks, took high-resolution digital images of each cutmark cluster and used statistical analysis to analyze cutmark attributes.

The conclusion? Novice butchers left very different cutmark patterns on the bones relative to the more experienced butchers.

“If we can identify differences in cutmark orientation among skill levels in an experimental context, it gives us the opportunity to do so in archaeological contexts,” Egeland said. “This, in turn, may allow us to track the evolution of skill acquisition, at least as it pertains to animal butchery.”

Last month, Egeland presented the research findings at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver. Covell and Sanderford were co-authors of the paper.

For the two budding anthropologists, it was a unique opportunity to not only participate in ground-breaking research, but to develop the kinds of skills – such as digital photography, image manipulation, utilization of geographic information systems (GIS) programs and specialized analytical skills – that will be used in the field.

“I’m excited about the skills we’ve acquired with this research,” said Sanderford, who will graduate this week. “I’ve definitely learned what goes into the research process.”

Ultimately, Egeland hopes this study and further studies will allow us to learn more about human culture.

“While humans are not the only species that have culture or make and use technology, the degree to which humans rely on culture and technology as a fundamental component of our adaptation is unique,” he said. “Therefore, tracking the development of skill acquisition opens a window to the evolution of human culture.”

Check out the video below to learn more about the research project.
Chinese visiting artists part of UNCG global community

For over a decade, UNCG has been developing significant relationships with several Chinese universities, through faculty exchanges, delegation visits and artist-in-residence stays.

Those who attend concerts at the School of Music may remember Narisu, a throat-singing specialist who came for six weeks to teach UNCG students and to perform with them in late February. Two years before Narisu’s visit, the School of Music hosted another memorable and unusual performer, Aorigele, a master of Mongolian horse-head fiddle. Both artists came from the Inner Mongolian University of the Nationalities (IMUN), one university that has formed a close connection with UNCG.

“There’s such strong interactions between our guest artists from China and our students,” said Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts Dr. Peter Alexander. “There’s a really solid impact on the state, since both Gavin Douglas and Dennis Askew have taken guests to perform at Wake Forest and NC State. There’s a high level benefit to these residencies—it’s important for students to understand musical traditions are quite varied, to understand that music has a different definition in different cultures.”

Several of the short-term faculty visitors from China are professors of music and dance. UNCG Professor of Voice Nancy Walker, who has taught at IMUN, says that may be because of the strength of the programs, but also because the disciplines themselves work well for exchanges.

“There’s so much show and tell,” she said, meaning that artists are able to communicate with their students about the artistic work they’re doing even when they don’t know the other language.

This past semester, Walker served as the faculty host for Qiaoyan Gao, a scholar from IMUN. Gao is sponsored by the Chinese government to study western pedagogy and write an analysis of UNCG’s teaching of voice compared to the style at IMUN. Gao is a voice teacher herself, as is her husband, Burgud, a specialist of long tune singing. He can be seen in the video of Narisu’s throat singing class.

While IMUN and Guangdong Ocean are two institutions with whom UNCG has a close relationship, there are Chinese visitors from other institutions as well, and in other disciplines aside from music and dance. Professor Jing Fu is visiting the UNCG School of Art from Chengdu University, where she is an associate professor of design in the Department of Environmental Art. Fu is studying art pedagogy and Associate Professor of Art Education Eun-Hee (Maria) Lim is her faculty liaison.

“Dr. Lim’s class made the biggest impression on me,” Fu said. “UNCG professors use a variety of hands-on activities that interest students.”

Upon her return to Chengdu University, Fu plans to use what she saw at UNCG in her own courses. However, it is not only the visiting scholars who benefit from the cultural exchange.

“Hosting visiting scholars and artists-in-residence is part of UNCG’s mission as a global university,” said Lawrence Jenkins, associate dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “Stronger connections with individuals and institutions abroad—in this case in China—allows us to participate in the global community of scholars and to forge relationships we can build on moving into the future. Visiting scholars also expand the horizons of our students, and this is particularly true of artists-in-residence who generally have sustained contact with students in workshops and master classes.”
Dean Alexander agreed, saying, “There’s a lot of back and forth and I think it’s great. The university should be about opening up new perspectives and new territory for students, and these connections are doing a great job of that.”

To read more about UNCG’s connections with Chinese institutions, see last week’s story on UNCG faculty visits to China.

By Susan Kirby-Smith
Photography by Susan Kirby-Smith, visiting scholar Jing Fu (left) and Eun-Hee (Maria) Lim (right)

###

Summer schedule for UNCG Campus Weekly

After next week, UNCG’s Campus Weekly (CW) will begin its summer schedule of publishing every other week. It will resume weekly publication the latter part of July. The publication dates for CW this summer are:

- May 17
- May 31
- Jun 14
- June 28
- July 12
- July 26
- Aug. 2
- Aug. 9
- Aug. 16

Fall 2017 classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 15.

###

UNCG Police, student groups hosted community cookout

Approximately 350 UNCG students and employees joined with 34 UNCG police officers on April 28 to enjoy food and fun at the first annual Spring Community Cookout.

Sponsored by the UNCG Police Department, Campus Activities and Programs (CAP), Student Government Association (SGA) and the Residence Hall Association (RHA), the event provided a space for students and police to get to know each other and build community on campus.

“We enjoyed all of the food, fun and festivities, but more importantly we enjoyed the opportunity to interact with our campus community,” said UNCG Police Chief Paul Lester. “We’re looking forward to doing it again next year.”

Check out highlights from the event in the video below.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kegri-wve0

###

Gen Ed: May faculty development workshops
The General Education Council will offer four faculty development workshops to support campus wide Writing Intensive (WI) & Speaking Intensive (SI) efforts on May 22 and 23.

UNCG faculty can access workshop descriptions and reserve seats here.

Attending the WI & SI summer workshops does not involve any homework, Kim Cuny says. “Faculty simply need to register in advance & show up ready to learn!”

Light snacks and drinks will be provided by The University Writing and Speaking Centers. Faculty will receive a $100 stipend for participation.

###

**UNCG Softball takes top seed**

Senior Day couldn't have gone much better for UNCG Softball Sunday. The Blue & Gold earned a 7-2 victory over the ETSU Bucs to win a share of the Southern Conference regular season championship and the No. 1 seed in the SoCon tournament.

The championship is the first for UNCG Softball since joining the SoCon in 1998 and the first conference regular season title for the Spartans since winning the Big South in 1996.

“We have been solid throughout conference play,” said Head Coach Janelle Breneman. “We set out for a SoCon championship and it takes sharpness every weekend. I felt like we did that winning every conference series but one. Coming in we obviously knew this series was going to be big but it was nice that we got to dictate our future and win the No. 1 seed in the tournament. That's huge.”

The team now turns its attention to the SoCon Tournament later this week in Chattanooga, Tenn.

See full report at UNCG Athletics site.

Photograph of post-game celebration courtesy UNCG Athletics.

See Coach Breneman take a celebratory Gatorade bath, after Sunday’s big win.

###

**Anne Wallace honored at Faculty Senate mtg**
Dr. Anne Wallace is completing her second term as Faculty Senate chair. She was the first to serve under the revised rules providing for two-year terms for each chair.

She will be succeeded by Dr. Andrea Hunter, who'll serve two terms.

Wallace began her term about the same time Chancellor Gilliam began his term as UNCG’s 11th chancellor.

The chancellor surprised her with a special, informal presentation at the end of the academic year’s final meeting, speaking for 10 minutes about her:

“Wallace receives a token gift from the chancellor

“She helped show me the ropes in my first year,” he said. “She has deep institutional knowledge, and has been generous in sharing that.”

“She is an advocate for the faculty - she tells me the concerns of faculty, such as during the strategic plan process.”

She also encouraged him in likewise building a strong relationship with Staff Senate,” he added.

“Minerva McGonagall” is how Wade Maki described her in a video with lots of campus and senate voices - the chancellor had noted her appreciation for the Harry Potter series.

“If I’m Dumbledore, then she's Minerva McGonagall,” the chancellor’s lighthearted post-event tweet noted.

###

**More Than Meets the Eye workshops at Weatherspoon**
Looking is just the first step to seeing.

Inspired by the book “On Looking: Eleven Walks with Expert Eyes” by Alexandra Horowitz and WAM’s Art of Seeing program, curator of education Ann Grimaldi leads visitors on an interactive tour about building visual awareness. Guided discussions in the galleries along with a simple sketching or writing activity are included.

The sessions at the Weatherspoon Art Museum will be on three Wednesdays:

May 17, June 21, and July 26, 11 am -12 noon.

Free for adults, but reservations are requested. Sign up for one, two, or all three programs by emailing ann_grimaldi@uncg.edu or calling 336-256-1448.

###

Alianza – UNCG Latino Faculty and Staff End of Year Social Lunch this Friday

Alianza is UNCG’s faculty and staff organization for Latin@ and Hispanic issues. Since 2013, UNCG’s Alianza has been a gathering point for university employees who are interested in collaborating around issues that impact Hispanic/Latin@ staff, as well as initiatives that enhance activity on campus related to the Hispanic/Latin@ cultures and communities.

Alianza invites the entire campus community to join them for the End of Year Social Lunch on Friday, May 12, at 12 noon at Pedro’s Taco Shop. 948 Walker Ave (near Tate Street).

Questions? Please contact Estela Ratliff, Alianza Board chair for 2016-2017, by phone at 336-334-3230 or email at eyratlif@uncg.edu.

###

UNCG Libraries’ Jackson Society select rare books for collection

The University Libraries' Third Annual Members’ Choice Event was held
on April 20. At the event, members of the Jackson Society voted on their preferred selection of books to be added to the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives. These additions, many of which are first editions, will commemorate the 125th anniversary of UNCG and help grow the collection as it strives to meet the research needs of faculty, students and the broader community. The items added to UNCG’s Special Collections and University Archives ranged from “Slavery Days in Old Kentucky” by Isaac Johnson to “Emma” by Jane Austen, from “Narrative of Sojourner Truth” by Sojourner Truth to Abraham Lincoln’s “Political Debates.” Full story and listing at the Friends of the UNCG Libraries blog.

###

**Dr. Stuart Schleien**

Dr. Stuart Schleien (Community and Therapeutic Recreation) received an award from the Mayor’s Committee for Persons with Disabilities. The Brant Taylor Barrier Free Success Award recognizes and honors an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to creating a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities.

He was honored at the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce annual Small Business Awards ceremony last week.

At the ceremony, three other Spartans received awards. Tinker Clayton, a UNCG alumnus and one of the owners of Hudson's Hill, received the Retailer of the Year award. Minority Small Business Persons of the Year were Randy Wadsworth and Damion Moore, owners of Dame’s Chicken and Waffles.

###

**Those apples: trends and wishes and Minerva**

I only noticed a few coins at Minerva in the past weeks. I noticed no flowers there.

No paper notes were seen this entire semester.

Students left dozens of red apples and green apples on the statue’s base. Several apples prominently bore the subject of the wish, in silver ink or black ink - such as a history class “final paper.” One showed a Political Science course number.

The evening before exams began, about 65 apples lay at the Minerva statue. The morning of exams, the number had dropped (apparently some enterprising squirrels had, uh, squirreled some away overnight). But by the end of the first day of exams, the statue sported a lot of apples.
I stopped by to check them out again last Thursday. A tall young man stopped, placed his apple on a corner of the pedestal, looked at me as he paused and then looked at all the apples. “Traditions,” he said. And continued on, presumably to his exam.

I’ve been asked what the notes have said, in past years. Fact is, I’ve never opened a folded note to Minerva. Some have been folded tight. Very tight. As if the wish might spill out otherwise. One tiny missive, in a past year, was addressed simply to M. I wouldn’t have opened it and read it in a million years. It wasn’t addressed to me.

I did learn a secret technique this week. A student sitting on the bench near the statue told me a strategy for getting an apple into the hand of Minerva. It involved spearing the apple with a very long stick. Last year she and some fellow Spartans did just that, and cheered when they were finally successful. She bet that cheer could be heard throughout campus.

I should have asked her how she did on her exam. Seeing that kind of tenacity, I bet she did well.

There are a lot of hopes and ambitions represented in the apples. Every one of them carries a story. Most will never be told. But the desire and hard work behind each one will yield something powerful. You can bet on it.

See news report on WFMY-News2.

Story and photos by Mike Harris

###

**UNCG Grounds in high gear for Graduation**

Rain and more rain. It keeps the campus green, but for a couple of weeks there, it was a bit much.

“It rained on Monday and Tuesday (March 27-28) and it was so wet Wednesday we couldn't mow,” said Hal Shelton, director of Grounds in Facilities. “It washed mulch out of beds everywhere on campus so we spent Thursday and Friday cleaning up and mowing.”

It rained so much, the wisteria in Peabody Park hardly had any blooms this year.

Then a storm lashed campus last Thursday night, with strong winds. “There were a lot of limbs down.” But Grounds has put things in order.
A common refrain among visitors to campus? It’s beautiful. Its natural beauty shines through. Here at the middle of Commencement Week, just as exams are finishing up, the campus has never looked better. Just a little more tidying by Grounds.

“We’ll have the campus ready for graduation by Friday,” Shelton said.

###

**Looking Ahead: May 10, 2017**

Board of Trustees meeting
Thursday, May 11, 8:30 a.m., Alumni House

Staff Senate meeting
Thursday, May 11, 10 a.m., Moran Commons, Room 109

UNCG May Commencement
Friday, May 12, 10 a.m., Coliseum

Baseball vs. Citadel
Friday, May 12, 6 p.m., UNCG Baseball Stadium

###

**See/hear: May 10, 2017**

A hungry con-man finds a new venture to sink his teeth into, in this film created by two UNCG undergraduates, as part of Campus MovieFest. See story about the UNCG students’ upcoming trip to Cannes.

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