More than 2,000 enjoy UNCG Summer Music Camp

It’s a record year for UNCG’s 35th annual Summer Music Camp.

More than 2,000 student musicians from 21 states and Bermuda will attend the two sessions this month, making this year’s music camp the largest in UNCG history. The first session began earlier this week.

During the weeklong sessions, campers receive individual and group instruction from top musicians, including many UNCG students and alumni. Each week culminates with camper performances at venues across campus – an opportunity for students to show off what they’ve learned to their families and the general public.

Since the camp’s founding in 1983, more than 60,000 musicians have attended UNCG Summer Music Camp, widely known as the largest university summer music camp in the nation.

This year’s camp features 15 concert bands, five orchestras, four choirs and 160 pianists. According to Camp Director Dr. John Locke, a professor of music in UNCG’s College of Visual and Performing Arts, the demand this year was even greater than in previous years. Approximately 1,400 campers applied on the first day of registration, Feb. 1.

What’s the secret to the camp’s success? A combination of quality and affordability.

“We offer a really outstanding experience at a very reasonable price,” Locke said. “We have tremendous word-of-mouth reputation and a loyal following.”

For Locke, the ultimate goal is to “light a spark” in these young musicians.

“When they return home, we want them to be fired up about practicing their instrument,” he said. “I hope we can provide instruction that they’ve never had before – we want to open their eyes to new techniques.”

Performances will take place on Friday, July 14, and Friday, July 21, at 6:15 p.m. in Elliott University Center (Cone Ballroom and Auditorium), Taylor Theatre, UNCG Auditorium and the Recital Hall in the Music Building. All performances are free and open to the public.

To learn more about UNCG Summer Music Camp, visit www.smcamp.org.

By Alyssa Bedrosian.

Photo from last year’s camp by Martin W. Kane.

###
Looking Natty: Alumni revitalize Revolution Mill

And they don’t just wade into uncharted waters. They dive right in.

The UNCG alumni took a risk in 2004 when they opened Natty Greene’s in the heart of what was then a sleepy downtown Greensboro. They’re taking another leap this summer, when they open a new restaurant concept at the city’s historic – but longtime vacant – Revolution Mill.

Without a doubt, the risks have been worth it. Natty Greene’s has evolved from a beer into a brand that is recognized statewide and beyond.

Yet in the midst of their growing success, Lester and Fisher are the first to tell you that the beer and the brand have been built by the community – which is exactly how they envisioned it.

The beginnings of the brew can be traced back to UNCG’s campus in 1988, when Lester and Fisher met through their fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon. The two became good friends and roommates, and soon started working together part-time at a local beverage distributor.

It was those late nights in the warehouse that spurred their entrepreneurial dreams.

“Back then, it was probably for all of the wrong reasons,” Fisher says with a laugh. “We didn’t have a concept for it yet, but we knew we wanted to open a bar.”

It seems fitting that they opened their first bar and grill right where it all began. In 1996, Old Town Draught House opened right across from campus on Spring Garden Street.

The success of Old Town led to the opening of First Street Draught House in Winston-Salem in 1998, and then Tap Room in Greensboro in 2000.

“We started thinking, ‘We’re serving all of these great beers, we ought to brew our own,’” Fisher says. “That’s where the Natty Greene’s idea began.”

And that’s when the stars started to align for the young entrepreneurs. Downtown Greensboro was looking to revitalize, and the building on the corner of South Elm Street and East McGee Street became available.

In 2002, Lester and Fisher secured the building, the brewing equipment and a head brewer from the West Coast.

“It was awesome. Kayne and I were really dumbfounded by the community’s response,” says Lester as he reflects on the first year.

In 2006, Lester and Fisher sold Old Town, First Street and Tap Room to employees and expanded Natty Greene’s production with a new brewery on West Gate City Boulevard.

But just seven years later, Natty Greene’s faced a capacity problem. Lester and Fisher knew they needed a bigger space for production, but they also knew they needed a different space.

The two decided to partner with the nonprofit community-development organization Self-Help in order to relocate production and open a
new restaurant concept, Natty Greene’s Kitchen + Market, at the historic Revolution Mill campus just minutes from downtown.

The restaurant – with the tagline “The Butcher, The Baker & the Beer Maker” – will include a full-working butchery and a neighborhood market. It’s set to open soon in what used to be the old carpenter’s shop. The Natty Greene’s brew pub on Elm Street will continue to be a downtown staple.

For Lester and Fisher, the goals are simple. They want to bring new life to an area rich with history. They want to provide a space for family and friends to enjoy time together. And they want to see Greensboro thrive.

They also continue to invest in their alma mater. From speaking to classes to serving as a sponsor at Homecoming, Lester and Fisher have remained loyal alumni.

“UNCG is the community that spawned us and our ideas,” Lester says. “When I first came to school, I was a country boy from Virginia. UNCG provided me a canvas to grow.”

By Alyssa Bedrosian. See full feature in the Spring 2017 UNCG Magazine.

Visual: Chris Lester (left) and Kayne Fisher (right) reviewed plans in the spring for their new restaurant concept, Natty Greene’s Kitchen + Market.

###

UNCG, a Gold Star chapter of ‘Collegiate Scholars’

UNCG has been named a Gold Star chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) for the 2016-17 academic year.

The NSCS is a national honor society that recognizes the excellence of undergraduate students in their first or second year of college. Gold Star distinction is designed to formally recognize the hard work and dedication of highly active NSCS chapters.

The recent honor puts UNCG among 330 Gold Star chapters nationally. UNCG is one of two Gold Star chapters in North Carolina.

The UNCG NSCS chapter formed six years ago when a student expressed interest to Spanish faculty member Elisabeth D'Empaire-Wilbert. Now, UNCG’s NSCS chapter is one of the biggest student groups on campus, with 677 active members. D'Empaire-Wilbert serves as the group’s adviser.

In order to join, students must attain at least a 3.4 grade point average and be in the top 20 percent of their class. Additionally, the chapter members engage in service projects – recent projects include participating in the Human Race Walk, donating goods to Greensboro’s Backpack Beginnings program and speaking to students at Pearce Elementary School through the NSCS Planning to Achieve College Excellence (PACE) program.

Current officers in the UNCG NSCS chapter include undergraduate students Jessica Avalos, Jessica Kelley and Meagan Bess.

“They’re very motivated and hardworking,” said D'Empaire-Wilbert about the chapter’s members and officers. “They come up with the ideas and take the initiative.”

The next UNCG NSCS induction ceremony will be Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. in the Elliott University Center Auditorium.
Donna Heath is named Vice Chancellor of Information Technology Services

In a memo Tuesday afternoon, Chancellor Gilliam made the following announcement:

I am pleased to announce that Donna Heath has been named Vice Chancellor of Information Technology Services (ITS). Donna has shown extraordinary leadership in the year she has been Interim Vice Chancellor.

During this time, Donna has championed and helped guide the extremely complicated launch of the Banner XE project. She has provided critical leadership to the ITS management team in developing a new five-year Strategic Technology Plan. In addition, she and her team have had numerous noteworthy achievements this year – everything from collaborating with campus partners to create a virtual lab solution, to delivering high-speed networking to the research park’s North Campus.

Donna has cultivated important relationships with internal and external stakeholders on key strategic initiatives that offer opportunities for both UNCG and our community to grow, including the Tri-Gig Broadband initiative, the Connected Communities initiative, and the Smart City Smart Corridor initiative.

Donna has been a leader in Information Technology for more than 25 years. She has been with UNCG for the last 13 years, serving as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Services, Systems and Networks.

Her staff, as well as the broader campus community, have been impressed by her leadership. I can’t think of a better fit for ITS and the university as we continue to take “giant steps.”

Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.
Chancellor

Hooper will step down as HHS dean at end of 2017-18

After 11 years of dedicated service as dean, Dr. Celia Hooper will step down from the deanship of the School of Health and Human Sciences (HHS) at the conclusion of the 2017-18 academic year. Following a yearlong transition leave during 2018-19, she will return to UNCG as Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD).

A UNCG alumna, Dr. Hooper received her first permanent appointment at UNCG in Fall 2003, accepting the role of Professor and Head of the Department of CSD. In July 2007 she was appointed Interim Dean of the School of Health and Human Performance (HHP), and was awarded the position on a permanent basis the following year. During Dr. Hooper’s service as Dean of HHP, and later as Dean of HHS, the academic disciplines under her leadership witnessed significant growth in student enrollment, faculty research, and community engagement. Among her many other contributions to the University, Dean Hooper played a major role in the realignment of the School of HHP, School of Human Environmental Sciences (HES), and other academic programs, which led to the formation of today’s School of HHS. She was appointed as the new School’s first dean in July 2011.

Prior to her arrival at UNCG, Dr. Hooper served as Assistant Professor and Clinical Director at Case Western Reserve University, Director
of Center for Chronic Communication Disorders at the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, Visiting Assistant Professor and Clinic Director at the University of Kansas, and Professor and Clinic Director in the School of Medicine at UNC Chapel Hill.

Provost Dana Dunn noted that Dr. Hooper’s expertise and scholarly record in adult neurogenic speech and language disorders will further enrich UNCG’s already nationally prominent CSD Department.

She thanked Dean Hooper for her many important contributions as dean - and for the important work she will do as dean in the coming year.

A national search for the next dean will be conducted during academic year 2017-18. Details will be announced in early Fall 2017.

###

**Sparking creativity at the UNCG foundry**

This year will be Jon Smith’s 20th year managing the UNCG sculpture foundry. Every week, he guides undergraduate and graduate students as they cut and weld steel, pour molten bronze and aluminum and build 25-foot creations by hand.

Sixty to 70 students use the sculpture area each semester, working with equipment like a 10,000 pound capacity bridge crane, a scissor lift, plasma cutters, a robotic track cutter, a magnetic drill, industrial sanders, grinders and polishers, a hydraulic sheet metal shear, a forklift, stone carving equipment, gas forges, anvils, bandsaws and a gas furnace that casts up to 660 pounds of bronze in one pour. And those are just some highlights.

Smith came to UNCG as an art student in 1992. As an undergraduate, he participated in regional sculpture shows and won the Student Excellence Award. He earned his BFA degree in 1995, and in 1998, returned to UNCG as a sculpture tech assistant at the foundry. He soon enrolled in the MFA program, to work on his own sculptures and to increase his knowledge of casting in order to help sculpture students. He continued managing the foundry throughout his graduate program and up to the present day, and also teaches metal sculpture and metal casting.

Experimentation is key at the foundry, and it’s a place where students gain hands-on experience in a creative and noncompetitive environment.

“The energy’s contagious,” Smith said. “If we get a few people who are producing something, it provides an example for all the other students. They know about all the equipment and materials, but actually seeing someone build something ignites an energy.”
Smith supports that energy by helping students gain the skills they need—whether it’s operating an intimidating machine like a 155 pound air hammer or chainsaw, or using simple tools like hammers and drills. He sees a resurgence in making, with more makerspaces popping up in cities and in the popularity of handmade goods websites like Etsy.

At the same time, university sculpture foundries have been decreasing, because of the care required to maintain and operate them. As Smith points out, and as the Chronicle of Higher Education has found, hands-on experience in welding and casting at a university foundry is becoming rare. The skills students develop in foundries like UNCG’s can help them become sculptors, but can also help them establishing lucrative careers in metalworking, and various types of fabrication or art production.

“Some students come into the class afraid of fire or sparks, but some of those are the ones who get really into it,” said Smith. “They make something out of metal that’s solid and strong, and they never thought they could do something like that.”

One foundry alumna, Taylor Browning, operates Smart Department Fabrication in Brooklyn, N.Y., creating large-scale custom furniture, lighting and decor for restaurants, museums and retail spaces and outdoor spaces. Browning also produces sculptures and has mounted one in Franconia Park in Shafer, Minn.

Two others, Casey and Emily Lewis, established Beechwood Metalworks in Burlington, N.C. They provide sculptures for hospitals, museums, parks and other public places throughout the United States and internationally.

Another foundry alumna, Ivana Beck, produced an award-winning sculpture which was featured in the October 2016 issue of Sculpture Magazine and included in the fall/winter exhibition at the Grounds for Sculpture Park in Hamilton, N.J.

Professor of Sculpture Billy Lee reflected on Smith’s generosity and expertise in guiding students who develop their skills in the UNCG foundry.

“He’s one of those individuals who can fix most things,” he said. “And if he doesn’t know how, he has the initiative and ability to find out and get the job done. The sculpture area would not be able to function the way it does without Jon. He’s not only a dependable, responsible and reliable technician, but also an excellent artist.”

By Susan Kirby-Smith
Photography by Susan Kirby-Smith

###

**Films at LeBauer Park, fun throughout Downtown**

Downtown Greensboro becomes more vibrant all the time, with more restaurants and night spots, more stores, more hotels - more people enjoying the activity.

UNCG is helping make it more festive, as it partners with the City of Greensboro and civic organizations for some big events.

Starting this Friday, July 21, the magic of the movies comes to downtown’s LeBauer Park. The films are free-admission and begin at sunset. UNCG sponsors the following series of screenings in the park:

- July 21: Beauty and The Beast
- July 28: The Peanuts Movie
- Aug. 4: Lego Batman Movie
Aug. 11: Zootopia
Aug. 18: La La Land
Aug. 25: Jurassic World
Sept. 1: Captain America: Civil War
Sept. 15: Star Wars: The Force Awakens
Sept. 22: Hidden Figures

A few additional highlights in the coming weeks:

- UNCG will help sponsor the 2017 National Folk Festival Sept. 8-10. Plans are for UNCG to have a large presence on Davie Street, which will be called “Spartan Way” during the folk fest.
- Play ball! Aug. 19 will be “UNCG Night” at the Grasshoppers game. (There’ll be more details in a future Campus Weekly.)
- Run 4 the Greenway will be Oct. 28. It will be a 4 mile run, serving as a fundraiser for the Downtown Greenway. There will also be a 1.25 mile “fun run” - or “fun walk” if that’s preferred. UNCG will be among the sponsors for both the main 4-mile run and the walk - which will be a 1.25 mile track including UNCG’s campus, in celebration of the university’s 125th anniversary year.

###

More ways to stay active this summer

Last week, Campus Weekly highlighted a few ways to help the campus community stay in shape during the hot summer months. But there are more. Here are a few additional ways to stay active and beat the heat:

- ActiveU (all group fitness classes are free to employees over the summer - no membership required)
- Open lap swim (employees may swim free on Wednesday mornings 6-8:30 a.m. and Fridays 12-1:30 p.m.
- Fitness Lending Library - HealthyUNCG has more than 70 items that allow employees to be active at their desk, including many new items such as a desk elliptical (see FB link for video).
- Group Walks - every Tuesday at noon (“like” the FB page or check the website for updates. These walks are occasionally morning walks - or they are cancelled - if it will be very hot or if it is raining). Walkers meet in front of the EUC.
- UNCG also offers group or departmental classes such as chair yoga or resistance bands.
- Wellness coaching (UNCG employees get up to six sessions for free). A wellness coach can help with structure, accountability and support. Register online.
- Lime Bike - UNCG’s brand-new dockless bike-share program is simple to use and rides are discounted for employees. Click here to learn more.

See the HealthyUNCG site for more details and contact information.

###
Alumna works to improve food access in Greensboro

That idea led Casey Thomas ’16 MPH to become a key player in the establishment of the Renaissance Community Cooperative (RCC), a full-service grocery store cooperative that is a beacon for Northeast Greensboro. After 18 years as a “food desert,” the surrounding neighborhoods now have access to affordable, fresh, quality food.

Thomas has always been interested in social justice and in addressing inequality. Now, she is one of many from the UNCG community working to improve food access in Guilford County.

“Oppression can take root in people’s bodies,” she says, pointing out that low food access leads to shorter lives, more chronic pain and greater risk of getting sick.

In the winter of 2013, Thomas joined the RCC Committee, a group developing by-laws for the community-owned grocery store and a plan for its establishment. She worked alongside other board members and community partners to raise the $2.48 million needed to open the store.

Her work with the RCC became the internship part of her program in UNCG’s Department of Public Health Education. She felt very supported by the professors, such as Dr. Kelly Rulison, who showed her how to write effective grant proposals for the co-op.

Thomas continues to play a big role in the RCC by serving on the board, providing co-op education and recruiting owners. In 2016, she was appointed chair of the Owner Recruitment and Outreach Committee. The RCC now has over 1,000 owners, and Thomas hears good things said in the aisles when she visits the store.

But it’s not just about food shopping.

In addition to permanently ending the area’s “food desert” status, the RCC’s mission includes providing sustainable jobs for residents and investing profit back into the community.

“A big part of the co-op to me is that we can build wealth together,” says Thomas. “With a focus on everyone.”

This post was adapted from a UNCG Magazine story written by Susan Kirby-Smith. To read more, click here.

Photography of Casey Thomas by Martin W. Kane

Marick Lewis, Callie Moss Coward receive Staff Senate scholarships

The Staff Senate Personal and Professional Development Committee (co-chaired by Nor Othman-LeSaux and Keilan Rickard) is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 Staff Senate Scholarship recipients. Marick Lewis works in the School of Health and Human Sciences as a Coordinator of Alumni Affairs and Donor Communications. He is pursuing his MA in History/Museum Studies. Callie Moss Coward works in the University Libraries as a Special Collections Cataloging and Digital Projects Library Technician. She is pursuing her Master's in
Library and Information Studies. Congratulations to these two, who have a combined 15 years of North Carolina state service.

###

**Dr. Greg O'Brien**

Dr. Greg O'Brien (History) has co-edited “The Native South: New Histories and Enduring Legacies,” published by University of Nebraska Press. The book contains essays from leading ethnohistorians of the American South and chronicles Native American history from the 16th through the 21st century. It includes subjects such as Seminole–African American kinship systems, Cherokee notions of guilt and innocence in evolving tribal jurisprudence, Indian captives and American empire, and second-wave feminist activism among Cherokee women in the 1970s. Also featured are interviews with pioneering scholars in Native South studies, Michael D. Green and Theda Perdue.

###

**Dr. Qibin Zhang**

Dr. Qibin Zhang (Translational Biomedical Research) received an NIH R01 grant, titled “Protein Markers to Islet Autoimmunity and T1D Progression,” from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). Currently, Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) affects approximately 1.4 million people in the U.S. The proposed research will identify novel protein markers that can predict T1D and gain further insight into the pathogenesis of this disease.

Zhang has also received a Collaborative Sciences Award from the American Heart Association through collaboration with scientists from the University of Colorado, School of Medicine. The goal of the award is to identify novel glycated protein and metabolite markers to better predict progression of coronary artery calcium before onset of cardiovascular diseases in the Type 1 Diabetes population.

Zhang earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Shandong Normal University, China, and PhD in analytical chemistry from the University of California at Riverside. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Zhang is co-director of the Center for Translational Biomedical Research in Kannapolis. The Zhang research group focuses on the development of new bioanalytical capabilities.

###

**Dr. Maryanne Perrin**

Dr. Maryanne Perrin (Health and Human Sciences, Nutrition) received new funding from the Allen Foundation for the project “Optimizing the Fat and Calorie Content of Pasteurized Donor Human Milk.” Perrin’s research will conduct an environmental scan of current processes within the 27-member Human Milk Banking Association of North America and evaluate how these processes impact fat
Retention and distribution in pasteurized donor human milk. The goal is to improve the nutrition delivered to preterm infants through pasteurized human donor milk and inform evidence-based guidelines within donor milk banks.

Perrin received her bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from Purdue University and a master’s of business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - and completed her PhD in nutrition science from North Carolina State University.

###

**Dr. Susan Keane**

Dr. Susan Keane (Psychology) received continuation of funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for her project “Behavioral Health/Primary Care Integration: Reducing Barriers to Care in Underserved Populations.” The project prepares doctoral students for careers as behavioral health specialists in primary care settings. In this grant cycle, 24 doctoral trainees will participate in experiential and didactic opportunities designed to impact their career trajectories in the field. Students will be placed within six primary care locations, each of which targets a vulnerable population. These populations include: children, geriatric patients, socioeconomically deprived and homeless individuals, the chronically ill, culturally and linguistically diverse individuals, and veterans. The goal is to equip trainees to provide culturally competent, interprofessional, collaborative care.

Keane is director of clinical training for the UNCG Psychology Clinic. She received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Purdue University, and since 1983, she has graduated over 30 PhD students who hold positions at universities, medical centers and mental health agencies across the nation. She is licensed as a Practicing Psychologist/Health-Services Provider in the State of North Carolina.

###

**Dr. Laurie Gold**

Dr. Laurie Gold (Health and Human Sciences, Kinesiology) received additional funding from the National Institutes of Health for the project “Pathways from Childhood Self-Regulation to Cardiovascular Risk in Adolescence.” Gold’s research will test whether trajectories of self-regulation from ages 2 to 10 predict trajectories of cardiovascular risk factors (CVR) during adolescence, as well as whether childhood self-regulation adolescent CVR pathways are mediated by health behaviors such as substance use, exercise, nutrition and sleep.

Gold has a bachelor’s in biology from the University of Waterloo, a master’s in physiology from Ball State University and a PhD in exercise physiology from the University of Virginia.

###

**Looking Ahead: July 12, 2017**

**Staff Senate Full Body Meeting**
Thursday, July 13, 10 a.m., Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House,

**Creatives on Call with Jina Valentine**
Thursday, July 13, 6 p.m., Weatherspoon Art Museum
Summer Music Camp concerts
Friday, July 14, see CW post for times/locations

Chamber Music @ UNCG, Eastern Music Festival
Monday, July 17, 8 p.m., Recital Hall, Music Building

Spartan Cinema: “Beauty and the Beast”
Friday, July 21, 7 p.m., LeBauer Park

WAM Tour: More Than Meets the Eye
Wednesday, July 26, 11 a.m., Weatherspoon Art Museum

State of the Campus Address
Tuesday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m., UNCG Auditorium

###

See/hear: July 12, 2017

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 Fisher show you the process of creating fine craft beer - and learn more about the UNCG connection. Read more in the Spring 2017 issue of UNCG Magazine.

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