UNCG Nursing first in the world for more realistic birthing simulator

Active labor can be one of the riskiest moments in a woman and her infant’s life. Thanks to a new, state-of-the-art full-body childbirth simulator, UNCG nursing students will be prepared for even the most critical live birth scenarios.

UNCG School of Nursing is the first school in the world to own the new version of “SimMom,” a high-tech female mannequin (accompanied by a simulated 6-pound newborn, placenta and umbilical cord) that allows students to simulate routine vaginal birthing scenarios and births with complications such as breech and vacuum-assisted deliveries, inverted uterus, and prolapsed cord.

Students engage in the entire labor and delivery process, monitoring vitals and administering fluids and medications. Instructors use a laptop to control the robot’s responses, creating an experience for students that is remarkably realistic. The event is recorded so students and faculty can debrief together.

Between 1990 and 2013, the maternal mortality ratio for the USA more than doubled from an estimated 12 to 28 maternal deaths per 100,000 births, according to the World Health Organization. With this new version of SimMom, UNCG is at the forefront of helping to reduce these numbers.

Nursing students have used an older version of the simulator for years, but the mannequin was limited in what it could do to provide real-life scenarios.

In the fall, 100 nursing students will be interacting with and learning from the SimMom upgrade, which the school purchased for $45,000 from Laerdal, the Norwegian vendor of medical simulation and clinical education equipment.


By Elizabeth Harrison
Photography of the demonstration by Martin W. Kane

Welcome to new Spartans: Open call for UNCG House Calls volunteers
Here’s a call for UNCG faculty and staff volunteers:

Are you ready? It is that time of year once again to welcome our newest Spartans to the UNCG community. The Division of Student Affairs and Housing and Residence Life need your support for the 9th annual House Calls big event. The purpose of the House Calls program is to welcome new students to campus and to provide them with an opportunity to interact with faculty members, administrators and staff on a personal level. Research supports the significant impact these interactions have on student retention and success. Consequently, this program is a valuable asset to the UNCG campus as we strive to be a more engaged and learner-centered community.

Volunteers are essential to help reach the approximately 2,300 new first year residential students joining the UNCG community this academic year. This is your opportunity to see students in their personal living environment, hear about their first week of classes, and show your Spartan Pride!

House Calls will take place on Monday, Aug. 21, 2017. If you volunteer for this program, you will be assigned to a team of UNCG colleagues to visit first-year students in one of the residence halls on campus. As a volunteer, you will have an opportunity to do the following:

- Interact with students in a residence hall environment. You will greet students at their residence hall room; initiate a very brief conversation with them about transitioning to college and ask about their first week of college life. You may be asked a few general questions about the University and your role in the community.
- Provide students with a “welcome bag of success” provided by Housing & Residence Life to support their transition to college and overall academic success.
  Have dinner with fellow volunteers in the Elliott University Center (EUC), Cone Ballroom. Volunteer check-in will be 5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. and volunteers will be dismissed to their assigned residence halls at 6:30 p.m. and should complete visitation no later than 7:30 p.m.
- Participate in a brief orientation. During dinner, Housing and Residence Life staff will provide the necessary information and materials to prepare you for your House Calls experience.

REGISTER: To volunteer for this program, click the link below to complete the volunteer form: https://hrl.uncg.edu/get-involved/annual-housing-events/august-house-calls/

Deadline for volunteer sign-up is Monday, Aug. 8, 2017. For more information, contact Erica E. Farrar, Senior Assistant Director for Residence Life and Academic Enhancement (erica.farrar@uncg.edu) or the main HRL office at 336-334-5636.

Dr. Dana Dunn,
Provost

Dr. Cherry Callahan
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

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UNCG CHANCE opens path to education
Sixty-one Latino high school students from across the state traveled to Greensboro last week to take part in UNCG CHANCE (Campamento Hispano Abriendo Nuestro Camino a la Educación/Hispanic Camp Opening the Path to Education), a three-day, intensive college readiness experience.

Students attended classes taught by UNCG faculty, participated in cultural activities, learned about financial aid and enjoyed all that UNCG’s campus has to offer – including meals at the Caf and a game night at the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness.

“This program is so important because many Latino students don’t realize that going to college is feasible,” said Kattya Castellón, associate director of Latino education affairs in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. “Because of the lack of exposure to the higher education system, or other obstacles they may encounter, they may not see college as an option.”

In addition, students worked in groups – with help from UNCG faculty – to create videos about how their experience at CHANCE impacted their lives. On the final day of camp, students presented these videos to their parents.

For UNCG graduate student Marisa Gonzalez, one of 16 CHANCE mentors, the program was an opportunity to give back.

“I was once in their shoes, and I still remember how difficult it was,” she said. “This program inspired students – they saw firsthand that it is possible to go to college, and that there is a lot of financial help available.”

CHANCE was funded by the Frontier Set, a new model of partnership and sharing best practices to improve student outcomes in higher education. The Frontier Set is managed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) through funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

CHANCE also received support from the Office of Enrollment Management, the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, the Office of Intercultural Engagement and other units across campus.

See more at UNCG Now web site.

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**Finishing touches, as Spartan Village II prepares to open**

The current phase of construction along West Gate City Boulevard is coming to a close. And hundreds of Spartan students will soon enjoy a new home away from home, in Spartan Village II.
“We’ll open on time for the fall semester,” said Jorge Quintal, associate vice chancellor for facilities.

Last week, furniture began to be moved into the two new residence halls, Lexington and McCormick, which were designed and constructed to meet LEED Silver standards.

The residents of the Spartan Village II residence halls may move in beginning Aug. 9 at 8 a.m., said Guy Sanders, associate director of administrative operations for Housing & Residence Life (HRL). Student staff will move into the two residence halls starting this week, on Wednesday, July 26.

Spartan Village Student Housing Phase II is a $50.9 million mixed-use project featuring the two residence halls along with 26,000 square feet of retail space.

The various businesses’ occupancy permits should be received in the coming weeks, Quintal explained. Some businesses had already started moving in their larger equipment.

The final “to-do” list for the latter half of July included site work such as finishing the asphalt paving of parking lots and landscaping work.

The project complements Spartan Village, which opened in 2013 with four Student Housing Phase I residence halls, developed in response to the university’s need to provide more on-campus housing for the growing student population. With Phase II opening, approximately 1,200 students in total will live in Spartan Village, which is adjacent to the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness and across from the UNCG Pedestrian Underpass and Plaza and the UNCG Police Station.

The Spartan Village II students include sophomore, juniors, seniors and graduate students, said Sanders. In particular, HRL wanted to ensure seniors who wanted to live in UNCG’s newest housing had the opportunity.

Retail space will be located on the ground level of both buildings. Retailers for Phase II include:

- Bestway Marketplace - a grocery concept operated by the owners of Bestway Grocery
- Pita Delite
- Taco Bao - An Asian/Mexican fusion street food concept
- Homeslice Pizza and Subs
- The Den by Denny’s
- Tropical Smoothie Cafe
- Recycles Bike Shop
- The Art Loft
- Millennium Salon & Barber
- And a credit union
Jorge Quintal notes that this is the long-awaited mixed-use component of Spartan Village. With stores and restaurants on site and the wellness center next door, Spartan Village II provides students a “town center” experience.

Phase II will provide a critical link between the Kaplan Center and the Phase I residence halls. Pedestrian walkways connect all residence halls to the Kaplan Center and the signalized crosswalk on West Gate City Boulevard, which leads students to the UNCG Pedestrian Underpass. The underpass connects Spartan Village, the Kaplan Center and the UNCG Police Station with the rest of campus.

Visit the Housing & Residence Life site to see a 360-degree image of the construction of the two new residence halls from earlier this year, rendering drawings of how the finished buildings will appear, plus:

- Lexington Floor Plans
- McCormick Floor Plans
- Campus Map with Spartan Village Locations
- Lexington and McCormick Room and Furniture Dimensions

*By Mike Harris and Alyssa Bedrosian
Photography by Martin W. Kane*

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**Fundraising at UNCG Athletics**

The 2016-17 season celebrated 50 years of UNCG athletics and the UNCG Spartan Club took a giant step to promote that celebration by posting a tremendous fundraising year, breaking numerous records and exceeding its goal for the sixth-straight season.

“We are grateful to our generous supporters who continue to believe in our young people and the purpose of UNCG Athletics,” Director of Athletics Kim Record said. “We set an ambitious goal to celebrate our 50th anniversary (of intercollegiate athletics) and our UNCG family came through in a big way. I appreciate the hard work our Spartan Club staff provided this past year under the leadership of Craig Fink. This is a Giant Step for the Spartan Club and UNCG Athletics.”

The 2016-17 athletic scholarship fund goal was $500,000 and the Spartan Club eclipsed that mark by raising a total of $501,591, an all-time high. This year’s total was an 18 percent increase over last year and surpassed the previous all-time record by over $75,000.

The Spartan Club also set a record with 1,093 Athletic Scholarship Fund donors, a 37 percent increase over last year’s total. Additionally, the Spartan Club broke the 1,000-donor mark for the first time in program history, surpassing the previous record of 875 in 1993. Overall cash and gifts in kind for the 2016-17 fiscal year totaled $760,219, a 40 percent increase over last year and the second-highest mark all-time behind 1993 ($818,116).

*Full story at UNCG Athletics site.*

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**NC Wine industry gathers for annual meeting**
On July 18, approximately 100 representatives from North Carolina wineries and distributors gathered at UNCG’s Bryan School for the annual N.C. Wine and Grape Council meeting. This annual gathering is an opportunity for those in the industry to learn about the work of the N.C. Wine and Grape Council, share research findings, and discuss current topics in an open forum.

The Bryan School of Business and Economics hosted the event for the fourth year. Faculty were on hand to share research conducted for the NC Wine and Grape Council. Since 2008, the Bryan School has conducted 15 projects for both the Council and local wineries.

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**Spartan sports fields: sustainably beautiful and bona fide green certified**

There’s something appealing about a vast stretch of green, healthy grass on a ball field. You only have to go to the west side of UNCG’s campus to see 17 acres of it, all year round.

"The university community enjoys the green space," said Pete Ashe, who is recently retired from the position of Sports Field Supervisor. "And the greenscapes are treasured on this campus."

It’s common knowledge that nicely kept fields are a requirement for Division I athletic programs. What may go unseen is all the work that goes into keeping UNCG’s six fields in shape, with environmental responsibility as a priority.

UNCG Sports Turf Grounds Management Operations team work out of a building behind Weil Residence Hall and the UNCG tennis courts. During the 2017 spring season, their sports fields, facilities and the team’s stewardship underwent an extensive evaluation by the Sports Turf Management Association (STMA) to determine their consistent environmental effort.

In March, UNCG became the “Sweet 16th” institution to be recognized for environmentally responsible sports turf management, through the STMA’s newly created environmental certification program.

UNCG has been a member of the STMA, an international professional organization, for more than twenty years, and Ashe helped in the certification process for other universities. The practices evaluated to determine an environmentally sustainable sports facility have a broad range. Storm water management, fertilization and associated runoff consequences, integrated pest management, recycling, composting, mowing, energy conservation, turf shop building and storage management, irrigation, water quality and educational outreach are all taken into consideration. Techniques the UNCG sports turf team uses, such as calculated root system management, soil aeration and spot-treating for fertilization, pest management and irrigation, reduce unintended effects and create turf grass density, and level playing surfaces which means safe, playable fields, for the enjoyment of student athletes and campus recreation groups. They also look pretty nice.

Twice a year the UNCG Grounds team seasonally transitions acres of turf grass populations on campus sports fields.

"We fall overseed and grow ryegrass for green fields in winter-spring." Ashe explained. "And then we work hard to transition back the dormant warm season Bermuda grass when weather heats up in late spring-summer."

October and May, the transition months, are when they face the most strenuous work. They battle the weather and the natural wear and tear that happens on the field during practices and games. And they’re not only responsible for the soccer, baseball and softball fields, but also the golf greens, the student recreation field, the new wetlands, the pollinator garden, the Piedmont prairie and “no-mow” zones sanctioned for biology research.

Ashe credited the hard work of the grounds crew for UNCG’s success in keeping these areas in top condition, in an environmentally responsible manner. He also appreciated UNCG's Office of Sustainability, the Biology Department and the involvement of student...
volunteers in campus grounds environmental improvement projects

“Earth day is every day for us,” he said. “We manage in a conscientious manner for everything we do to our fields.”

Ashe spent his career with a commitment to natural resource management, starting in the 1960s, during the peak popularity of Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring,” and when the words “conservation” and “ecology” were just coming into use.

He worked as a golf caddie and then a landscaper. Subsequently, he became a greenkeeper and a golf course superintendent for 18 seasons before switching to campus grounds and sports field management. He holds a degree in agronomy from Michigan State University and a degree in natural resources and ecology from Lake Superior State University. Ashe came to UNCG in 1999, when the baseball stadium had just been built. Before his retirement, he completed his 17th growing season with UNCG.

By Susan Kirby-Smith

Groundbreaking for ‘Research Facility Three’

A third building will rise on the Gateway University Research Park’s south campus. The campus is home of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held July 24 at the south campus on West Gate City Boulevard.

Among the speakers and dignitaries were Dr. Dana Dunn, UNCG provost and executive vice chancellor.

Afterward, attendees enjoyed a reception and tours.

See report in the News & Record.

Dr. Liuyi Hao

Dr. Liuyi Hao, a postdoctoral researcher at UNCG’s Center for Translational Biomedical Research, has received a 2017 Postdoctoral Fellowship Award from the American Liver Foundation. The fellowship is highly competitive, with no more than 10 awarded each year, and represents a significant achievement for Hao and UNCG.

The award will support Hao’s research on activating transcription factor 4, a gene transcription regulator hypothesized to play a central role in the development of alcoholic liver disease, or ALD. Approximately 20,000 people in the U.S. die each year due to ALD, according to the
Hao, who completed his PhD at Harbin Medical University and joined the Center for Translational Biomedical Research in July 2016, hopes his research will improve understanding of the biological underpinnings of the disease, and, ultimately, lead to improved treatment options.

The UNCG Center for Translational Biomedical Research is located at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. The campus houses a number of corporations, healthcare organizations, and universities that work together in a public-private partnership to better understand human health, nutrition, and agriculture. The CTBR focuses on the molecular mechanisms of disease pathogenesis and progression, biomarkers for diagnosis, and discovering novel interventions for the prevention and treatment of disease.

###

**Dr. James Boles**

Dr. James Boles (Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality & Tourism) received new funding from the North Carolina Small Business and Technology Development Center for the project “New SBA Federal Funding for the CY 2017 Program Year.” This project is supported by funds from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The grant will be used to support travel to conferences related to entrepreneurship.

Boles completed a master’s in Educational Administration and a master’s in Business Administration at the University of West Florida. He has a PhD in Business Administration from Louisiana State University. He is department head of the Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality, and Tourism Department and director of the North Carolina Sales Institute in the Bryan School of Business and Economics.

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**Perry Flynn**

Perry Flynn (Communication Sciences and Disorders) received funding from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for the project “Exceptional Children State Speech-Language Consultant (2017-2018).” Funding will allow for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to provide a range of professional services for the Exceptional Children Division of the State Department of Public Instruction July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018. Services include providing assistance in the areas of speech-language pathology to the State Department of Public Instruction, local education agencies and Charter schools.

Flynn completed a bachelor’s in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a master’s in Education in Speech-Language Pathology from UNCG. He is an AP Professor and the Consultant to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in the area of Speech Language Pathology.

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**Dr. Justin Harmon**
Dr. Justin Harmon (Health & Human Sciences - Community and Therapeutic Recreation) received new funding from Girls on the Run International for the project “Girls on the Run.” Girls on the Run was established in 1996 in Charlotte with 13 participants. In 2000, Girls on the Run International, a 501(c)3 organization, was formed. GOTR certified coaches teach life skills to girls through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games.

The project is a partnership with GOTR Triad. Funding will be used to create an assistantship for a graduate student to help the organization with program management. The student will work with GOTR Triad to recruit, coordinate, and manage volunteer coaches, facilitate trainings, plan and implement special events (including the annual 5K and coaches' meetings), and develop marketing campaigns that represent GOTR Triad in the broader community.

Harmon completed a bachelor’s degree in Leisure Studies from the University of Illinois, a master’s in Sport Management from Northern Illinois University and a PhD from Texas A&M University in Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Sciences. Harmon has worked extensively in the parks, forestry and recreation fields, and has a diverse background in practice that includes land and wildlife management, environmental and primary education, event planning, and community relations and outreach.

###

Diana Kao

Diana Kao (Chemistry & Biochemistry) received a continuation of funding from the National Institutes of Health. It is a training grant for the pre-doctoral student, as she examines the mass spec properties of fungi.

Kao received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Gettysburg College and is pursuing her PhD in Medicinal Biochemistry at UNCG. Kao’s faculty advisor is Dr. Nicholas Oberlies.

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Dr. Susan Letvak

Dr. Susan Letvak (Adult Health Nursing) received a continuation of funding from the DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration for the project “Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention - Veterans’ Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program.”

The purpose of UNCG School of Nursing’s proposed Veteran Access Program for Nurses is to provide medically trained veterans in Central North Carolina and South Central Virginia with access and specialized support in an innovative and accelerated educational program to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and find employment. The program will reduce barriers that prevent veterans from transitioning into nursing careers by offering academic mentoring through learning communities, specialized support services, cultural competence training, employment assistance and new educational models awarding academic credit for medical and life experience.

Letvak earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Nursing from Russell Sage College and finished a PhD in Nursing at Adelphi University.
Her areas of expertise include patient outcomes and nursing workforce, qualitative research methods, relational theory and gerontology.

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**Dr. Nicholas Oberlies**

Dr. Nicholas Oberlies (Chemistry & Biochemistry) received a continuation of funding from Ohio State University for the project “Anticancer agents from Diverse Natural products sources.” The project is supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute. Funding will allow screening for anticancer activity in filamentous fungi.

Oberlies completed a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Miami University and a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy from Purdue University. The Oberlies research group focuses on the isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive compounds from natural sources, including those from both fungal cultures and plants.

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**Dr. Dianne Welsh**

Dr. Dianne Welsh (Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality & Tourism) received new funding from the Coleman Foundation for “Coleman Foundation Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows.” The Coleman Entrepreneurship Fellows program supports the ongoing Cross-Disciplinary Entrepreneurship Program at UNCG with 40-plus courses in 26 departments and programs across campus. The program includes the Coleman Entrepreneur in Residence that works with faculty, staff and students across campus in classes and with their business ideas to bring ideas to actions through course preparation.

Welsh is the Hayes Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship and the director of the Entrepreneurship Cross-Disciplinary Program. She is a globally known scholar in international franchising, family business, and entrepreneurship with over 150 publications.

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**Workshop for 6th, 7th and 8th graders**

On August 3, 2017, from 1 - 5 p.m. in Jackson Library, a free workshop will immerse rising 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in an environment that encourages critical thinking, civil discourse, information literacy and a lifelong love of learning. Middle schoolers will learn how to find quality information, evaluate sources, communicate ideas effectively and develop informed opinions. Registration is required and the deadline to reserve your space is July 28. Snacks will also be provided. The event is cosponsored with Onward! and the UNCG Department of Communication Studies. For more information, to download the flyer or to register, visit [https://tinyurl.com/realtalkuncg](https://tinyurl.com/realtalkuncg).

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**Looking ahead: July 26, 2017**
Spartan Cinema: The Peanuts Movie  
Friday, July 28, 7 p.m., LeBauer Park, movie at sunset

Business Affairs Conference and Expo  
Wednesday, Aug. 2, 8 a.m., Elliott University Center

Surplus Sale at UNCG Surplus Warehouse  
Friday, Aug. 4, 8 a.m., 2900 Oakland Ave.

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

Housing and Residence Life Student Move-In  
Wednesday, Aug. 9, to Friday, Aug. 11

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**Dr. Heidi Carlone awarded Hooks Professorship**

Dr. Heidi Carlone will be the first recipient of the Jennifer Smith Hooks ’76 and Jacob T. Hooks Distinguished Professorship in STEM Education.

The professorship, announced in the fall of 2016, is a pivotal component of the School of Education’s vision to provide transformative educational experiences, advance research and innovation, and bridge research and practice.

Carlone is a professor of science education in the Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education. She is a teacher educator and educational researcher who works to make science and engineering pathways more accessible and equitable for historically underserved and underrepresented populations. She studies the potential of innovative science and engineering (STEM) learning settings in promoting STEM identities for K-12 youth who have wide-ranging life experiences, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and interests.

She publishes and presents her work in national and international venues and has earned nearly $3.8 million dollars in funding from local and national foundations. This summer, she was awarded a National Science Foundation grant of more than $1 million for the project “BRIDGES for socio-environmental good: BRoadening Identities for Diverse Groups Engaging with STEM.” BRIDGES engages diverse middle school youth and their teachers with out-of-school, problem-based learning that demands science, engineering, and computing as tools to address environmental problems.

She has received a number of awards in her academic career including: The UNCG Alumni Teaching Excellence Award, the UNCG School of Education Teaching Award, the Early Career Research Award from the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, the Early Career Development Award (CAREER) from the National Science Foundation, Sallie Mae First Year Teacher of the Year in Wake County Schools, and North Carolina Teaching Fellow.

“I am honored,” Carlone said. “The Hookses’ generous investment in the UNCG School of Education will allow us to extend and enrich our efforts in STEM research and practice.”

The professorship was established by Jennifer and Jake Hooks. Jennifer Smith Hooks ’76 is a third generation alumna of the School of Education.

Jennifer and Jake Hooks have supported the UNCG School of Education for many years, establishing the Carrie Perkins Davis/Katherine Davis Smith Scholarship in Education in honor of Jennifer's grandmother and mother. In addition, Jennifer Hooks is a member of the School of Education Advisory Board and the UNCG Alumni Board of Directors.
See/hear: July 26, 2017

The 2017 UNCG Business Affairs Conference & Expo, which are two separate events, will be held August 2 in the Elliott University Center. The Conference includes training workshops from Human Resources, Facilities, Campus Enterprises and Financial Services. Online registration is now open. As with last year, there will also be an Expo, a separate event that will highlight departments within the division that you might have heard about but didn't know exactly what their function was. The Expo will open at 11:30 a.m. and is free to attend. See video highlights clip from last year's inaugural Business Affairs Expo.

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