UNCG is pleased to announce the formation of the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA), a new unit that unifies the discipline of art with the former School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Final approval was received from the UNC board of governors on Friday, July 29, to launch the new college this fall. CVPA is now the largest arts college in the state and one of the largest in the Southeast, with nearly 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students.

“The new college gives us an opportunity to build on our strengths by creating new collaborations, curriculums and international connections,” said Dean Peter Alexander. “The College of Visual and Performing Arts will continue to influence and expand arts access across our region, state and nation.”

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance was created in 2010 as a centerpiece unit for the performing arts at UNCG, linking decades of practice, performance and study within the new school.

In 2014, the installation of Alexander as dean galvanized exploration in unifying the visual arts with the performing arts. Alexander worked with UNCG Provost Dana Dunn to develop a process that provided opportunities for faculty, staff and students to engage around the unification of the arts.

“UNCG’s new College of Visual and Performing Arts brings together four areas of academic strength to create new synergies and opportunities to work across disciplines,” Dunn said. “Music, theater, dance and visual arts will be well situated to explore new collaborations between faculty and to ensure that our graduates are well equipped for post-graduation opportunities in the arts.”

The formation of CVPA comes on the heels of the launch of the new arts administration program – one of the only undergraduate programs of its kind offered throughout the UNC system – and the development of a musical theatre minor. CVPA will continue to be a leader in the arts at UNCG and within the Triad community, developing and supporting quality arts experiences for aspiring arts professionals and the general public.

Photography by Martin W. Kane

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Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness opens its doors
The Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness has officially opened its doors, ushering in a new era of recreation and wellness at UNCG focused on lifelong well-being for the campus community.

The new facility, part of UNCG’s master plan for growth along W. Gate City Boulevard, features more than 20,000 square feet of weight and fitness space, seven basketball courts, lap and activity pools (slated to open on Aug. 19) and a 54-foot climbing wall, among other wellness spaces and classrooms.

The facility also offers new programming, including nutrition services with UNCG’s registered dietitian, aquatic programs and outdoor activities – such as sunrise yoga – on the 4,100-square-foot Spartan Terrace.

“As soon as you walk in the door, you have access to everything – the pools, Outdoor Adventures programs and all the other activity spaces. That’s something we didn’t have in the other facility,” said Dr. Jill Beville, director of recreation and wellness at UNCG. “We’re really excited about the variety of equipment, programming and educational opportunities that are going to be offered.”

In conjunction with the opening of the building, UNCG’s Wellness Center and Campus Recreation have merged to create the Department of Recreation & Wellness, a unification that reflects a national trend of aligning recreation and wellness. UNCG’s Wellness program, which provides education on areas such as sexual health, mental health, sexual violence and relationships, alcohol and other drugs, nutrition and body image, is now housed in the Kaplan Center, a move that allows for greater focus on overall well-being.

Additionally, the facility will hold classes for a variety of academic departments, including kinesiology and community and therapeutic recreation.

“The Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness benefits our campus and community in multiple ways,” said Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam Jr. “In addition to promoting the health and well-being of our students, staff and faculty, this facility expands our capacity for state-of-the-art instruction and research and plays an important role in the development of Spartan Village along the Gate City Boulevard corridor.”

The Kaplan Center, which is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification, also offers a variety of social spaces and seating areas.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place Friday, Sept. 16, and is open to the public.

Kaplan Center memberships are available for UNCG faculty, staff and alumni, and members may sponsor one additional person for membership. For more information about the facility, upcoming events and membership options, visit recwell.uncg.edu.

Full story at UNCG Now.

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian

Photography by Martin W. Kane

###

UNCG’s popular Collage concert will be Sept. 10
The UNCG Collage concert has become an annual arts tradition, a non-stop evening of virtuosic performances.

The 2016 concert will be Saturday, September 10, 7:30 p.m., UNCG Auditorium.

Collage kicks off the new academic year with a program featuring works inspired by the theme “War and Peace Imagined.”

Featuring an incredible range of performers presenting one riveting work after another without pause. Special lighting enhances the experience and directs the audience's attention to performances in multiple locations around the auditorium.

Over 300 students from the college will perform on the concert, along with many faculty members, making this the most spectacular event of the year.

Collage has been completely sold out for 6 consecutive years. Mark your calendar and plan to purchase your tickets in advance (all seating is reserved).

Collage is presented with generous assistance from a presenting sponsorship from Charles Aris, Inc., and a patron sponsorship from Well-Spring. All proceeds from ticket sales benefit the UNCG Collage Scholarship Fund.

*See ticket information at [https://vpa.uncg.edu/collage](https://vpa.uncg.edu/collage).*

Photograph by Martin W. Kane.

###

**Supporting Student Research: Keith Gorman helps bring UNCG collections to area schools**

Keith Gorman, assistant dean for Special Collections and University Archives, received the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) EZ Literacy and Lifelong Learning Grant for the 2015 - 16 academic year.

Gorman said the grant went towards training Graduate students to design a curriculum with collections and archived materials. The curriculum brought collections and instruction to middle and high school students in four counties surrounding Greensboro (Guilford, Forsyth, Alamance and Rockingham). Gorman and a UNCG graduate student taught 35 classes and met with 1150 students.

The classes are designed to use both digital and analog primary sources to empower students with skills relevant in the modern workplace. Placing the sources into context, using effective strategies to access and analyze online resources are important research tools that Gorman hopes to offer students and teachers.
“Critical thinking and analyzing information is essential to everyone’s professional success,” said Gorman. “I want to give these students a glimpse of the experience most university students experience in an information literacy and research methods class - I stress that they will have a leg up on their classmates.”

While the LSTA Grant has been completed, UNCG Libraries continues to support Gorman’s program. For the upcoming 2016-17 year, Gorman will focus on schools in Guilford County.

Email Keith Gorman at k_gorman@uncg.edu for more information or to learn how you can submit an application for an archival-based research class.

By Daniel Wirtheim

###

Second in nation, eighth in nation

Two web sites have rated UNCG’s online Master’s of Education in Early Childhood Education program among the nation’s best.

UNCG’s Birth-Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development (BKISED) program is ranked second in the country among online Master’s of Education in Early Childhood Education programs. The ranking, conducted by The Best Schools, is based according to their web site on academic excellence, classes available in the program, the strength of the faculty, consideration of other program rankings, and indicators of the program’s reputation. The BKISED master’s program is jointly administered by the UNCG departments of Specialized Education Services and Human Development & Family Studies. See the website for further information about this ranking.

Another web site put them no. 8 nationally.

Best College Values (bestcollegevalues.com), an online resource that helps students find reputable and affordable degree programs, has this to say in their 2016 ranking of online Master's of Education in Early Childhood Education:

“The (UNCG) online Master of Education in Birth-Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development degree program prepares students to assume leadership roles in diverse settings (both education and community-based) that develop and implement programming for young children with and without disabilities, ages birth to five, and their families,” the web site says. “This degree is a fully online synchronous program with classes meeting online using web cameras and microphones. ... Experienced and committed faculty members from the Departments of Human Development and Family Studies and Specialized Education Services
teach, advise, and mentor students through this innovative course of study. There are two areas of emphasis - one on Early Childhood Leadership & Program Administration and another on Early Childhood Leadership & Advanced Teaching Licensure.”

Compiled by Mike Harris

###

**In memoriam: Dr. Deb Cassidy**

Dr. Deborah Cassidy, professor emeritus of Human Development and Family Studies, died July 20. She was serving as president on the Governing Board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She focused her life's work on advocating for early childhood educators and high quality early learning, the association said in an announcement of her death.

She recently retired from UNCG’s Department of Human Development and Family Studies, where she spent 26 years as an early childhood professor and researcher. That included a four year leave to serve as Director of North Carolina’s Division of Child Development and Early Education.

She was UNCG’s nominee for the 2015-16 O. Max Gardner Award. The award was established by the UNC Board of Governors to recognize faculty who have “made the greatest contributions to the welfare of the human race.” She was selected by UNCG’s Gardner/Holsouser Award Committee because of her significant contributions to the field of early childhood education. Her career has been dedicated to understanding the complex factors that contribute to the high quality early childhood experiences so critical to the future well-being of our youngest citizens. Cassidy provided substantial leadership for the development and widespread adoption of the 5-star rating system for early education settings, and her contributions included working to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of education for early childhood teachers.

A recent UNCG HDFS “Family Matters” e-newsletter reflected on her career, as she retired. “Deb’s record of scholarship is equally impressive. Over the years, she and her colleagues have secured millions of dollars of grant and contract funding to further work in the field of early childhood and make a difference in the lives of children and families.

"Her work on the North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project is a clear example of this impact. Beginning in 1999, this project has completed thousands of assessments of quality in licensed child care programs and schools around the state. These assessments provide direct feedback to programs to improve in their level of quality, thus impacting the experiences of the over 250,000 children enrolled in child care in North Carolina and progressively increasing the quality in child care across the state. This work has national implications as well, as Deb has regularly consulted with other state administrators and legislators to discuss how to improve the systems that exist in other states.”

The article also cited her work as director of the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), where she advocated strongly for improved wages for teachers of young children and for improvements in the quality of care and education that children were receiving. “In her role as the director of DCDEE, she helped guide and advocate for Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant funding that eventually brought nearly $70 million dollars to North Carolina. In her role as the director she also helped strengthen the early childhood system across the state, increasing the number of high quality programs and drastically reducing the number of low quality programs.

See her obituary [here](#).

###

**Weatherspoon hosts 'Matisse Drawings' curated by Ellsworth Kelly**

“Matisse Drawings: Curated by Ellsworth Kelly from The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation Collection” provides the unique opportunity to view the work of a modern master through the eyes of one of the greatest abstract artists of the twentieth century. Through a selection of 45 works, Ellsworth Kelly surveys Henri Matisse’s drawings from 1900 through 1950—from sketches to finished pieces—and reveals Matisse’s process and creativity as a draftsman. Matisse Drawings: Curated by Ellsworth Kelly from The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation Collection is organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum in collaboration with The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation.

To accompany Matisse’s drawings, nine works from Kelly’s own Suite of Plant Lithographs (1964–66) will be shown in an adjacent gallery in an exhibition entitled Plant Lithographs by Ellsworth Kelly 1964-1966. The coupling suggests both the sympathies and distinct differences between the two artists.

The two exhibitions were presented at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum (August–December 2014). After the only Southeast appearance at the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina (June 25–September 18, 2016), the tour continues to the Katonah Museum of Art, in Katonah, New York (October 23, 2016–January 29, 2017), the Audain Art Museum, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada (February 24–May 21, 2017), and the University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan (November 18, 2017–February 18, 2018).

Read more on “Matisse Drawings: Curated by Ellsworth Kelly” at the Weatherspoon website.

###

**UNCG Summer Music Camp hosted nearly 2,000 students**

The UNCG Summer Music Camp, held July 10-22, is known as “America’s Most Popular” - and this summer it showed once again why it’s earned that term. Nearly 2,000 middle and high school students – hailing from 20 states, Mexico, India and China – attended last month. Provost Dana Dunn and founding director Dr. John Locke spoke to all the students and concert attendees at the end of each week, inviting them to learn more about the many excellent programs at UNCG. See related story about the camp at UNCG Now.

###

**Looking ahead: August 3, 2016**

Union Square: info program followed by ribbon-cutting
Friday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m., Union Square, Gate City Blvd.

Staff Senate Full Body Meeting
Thursday, Aug. 11, UNCG Police Station

State of the Campus Address
Wednesday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m., UNCG Auditorium

UNCG Athletics 50th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, Aug. 19, Soccer Stadium
First day of classes, Fall semester
Monday, Aug. 22

###

**Job Fair Aug. 6 related to Spartan Village Phase II**

UNCG is committed to providing employment opportunities associated with the construction of the Spartan Village Student Housing Phase II Project to surrounding residents. As such, UNCG is sponsoring a job fair on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club Gymnasium at 840 Neal Street. Representatives are expected to be on hand from many companies.

It is expected that trade construction jobs will include:

- Carpentry and Framing
- Masonry
- Painting
- Roofing
- Electrical
- Heating and Air Conditioning
- Plumbing
- Building finishes
- Landscaping

For more information, contact Jonathan Snead, jsnead@edcweb.com.

*Copy provided by UNCG Campus Enterprises.*

###

**Dr. Brett Carter**

![Dr. Brett Carter](image)

Dr. Brett Carter has been named Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students. In his previous role as dean of students, Carter was responsible for the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services, the Veterans Resource Center, parent and family advocacy and support, student conduct, and student advocacy. He maintains responsibility for these functions and, in addition, he now supervises programs in Student Health Services, which include the Medical Clinic and the Counseling Center. Carter has been at UNCG for more than twenty years and also served in the Department of Housing and Residence Life prior to his service as associate dean of students and then dean of students.

###

**Dr. Robert Mayo**

![Dr. Robert Mayo](image)

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Advisory Committee at Longwood University recently recognized Dr. Robert Mayo (UNCG Communication Sciences and Disorders) with the Friends of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Award. Mayo has
taught the Cranio-Facial Anomalies course for Longwood since the program’s inception in 2006. His vast experience and expertise, in combination with his high quality instruction, ensure the students have a solid foundation of knowledge to enter the field. Dr. Lissa Power-deFur, Longwood’s CSD Program Director, commented that the faculty and advisory committee greatly appreciate Dr. Mayo’s contributions to the establishment and success of a new CSD graduate program, sharing his content expertise and the wisdom he has gained as a program administrator and faculty member over the years.

###

**Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz**

Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz (Center for New North Carolinians) received new funding from the United Way of Greater Greensboro for the project “Newcomers CLASS (Culture, Language and Adult Self Sufficiency).” For newly arrived refugees into Greensboro, language, transportation, isolation, lack of cultural brokers, and misunderstanding/lack of knowledge of American education and cultural activities present an ongoing concern as refugees seek to orient to the United States, the abstract states. The objective of this project is to help newly arrived immigrants manage their transition and begin the process of cultural integration by learning English, providing job readiness skills for adults and acting as a cultural broker.

###

**See/hear: Aug. 3, 2016**

Nancy Adams ’60, ’77 MS, with the support of UNCG Dean Eberhart, became the first genetic counselor in the state of North Carolina. Hear her tell her story, in this brief video.

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