Paul Chelimo, UNCG’s first Olympian, runs Wednesday

Thirteen minutes and 35 seconds. That’s how long it took former UNCG track and field star Paul Chelimo ’14 to punch his ticket to Rio.

But for the Olympian – who will compete in the first round of the men’s 5,000 meter race on Wednesday, Aug. 17 – the journey has been anything but fast.

A native of Kenya, Chelimo discovered his speed as a young boy playing tag with his brothers.

“They could never catch me,” he said. “That’s when I knew I had something special.”

In middle and high school, Chelimo participated in track and field meets. But it wasn’t until November of 2009, one month after he graduated from high school, that he bought his first pair of running shoes and started training competitively.

Just one year later, Chelimo moved to the United States to attend Shorter University in Georgia. In 2011, he transferred to UNCG.

“Getting an athletic scholarship in the United States was a great opportunity for me,” Chelimo said. “I didn’t just want to run – I wanted a good education as well.”

His career at UNCG – which included outdoor track, indoor track and cross country – was decorated, to say the least. In 2012 and 2013, Chelimo was the national runner-up in the 5,000 meter race at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. He was also a three-time Southern Conference Cross Country Champion and a six-time All-America recipient during his career.

Chelimo’s work ethic and competitive spirit extended from the track to the classroom. The public health major was a recipient of the Irwin Belk Athletic Scholarship and the Aaron Bobb Scholarship and graduated with a 3.6 grade point average.

Upon graduation, Chelimo was accepted into the highly competitive U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, a unique opportunity that provides outstanding soldier-athletes the support and training to compete in national and international competitions while maintaining a professional military career.

“I really want to thank UNCG, the athletics department and the Greensboro community for the support,” he said. “If I didn’t have the opportunity to train well at UNCG, I wouldn’t be headed to the Olympics.”

And there’s no question that the campus community is behind him.

“To be the first UNCG Spartan to compete in the Olympics – the highest form of competition for an athlete – is incredibly meaningful,” said UNCG Director of Athletics Kim Record. “The entire Spartan family will be rooting for Paul. Regardless of the outcome of the race, he will
represent us well.”

Chelimo will compete in the first round of the 5,000 meter race on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 9:05 a.m. EST. The race will stream live at NBCOlympics.com. The final round is Saturday, Aug. 20, at 8:30 p.m. EST and will broadcast live on NBC.

Share your Spartan pride and wish Paul good luck on social media using the hashtag #ChelimoInRio.

By Alyssa Bedrosian
Photography by Cheryl Treworgy

Visual: UNCG alumnus Paul Chelimo celebrates after finishing third at the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in Eugene, Oregon, on July 9.

See full story at UNCG Now.

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**Open Education Resources save students lots on textbooks**

When Dr. Heather Helms, UNCG associate professor of human development and family studies, announced to her class of 230 students that they were swapping their $200 textbook for free, online materials last spring, she was met with loud cheers and a round of applause.

College is an expensive undertaking, and textbooks are especially pricy.

Like Helms, many professors at UNCG are trying to make the financial burden of college a little more bearable by replacing textbooks with open education resources. These resources are available for free use and re-purposing, either through public domain or open licensing, and include items such as e-books, websites, journal articles, lectures and videos.

Beth Bernhardt, University Libraries’ assistant dean for collection management and scholarly communications, has been championing the use of open education resources for a number of years. It wasn’t until last year, however, that she and her team were able to provide a tangible incentive for professors to convert their curriculum from expensive textbooks to include free resources.

UNCG’s University Libraries and the Office of the Provost provided funds to offer $1,000 mini-grants to 10 professors during the 2015-16 academic year.

Over the next two years, University Libraries will be able to provide 31 additional mini-grants to professors through an $85,000 shared grant with East Carolina University.

Not only do open education resources cut down on student costs, they allow professors to share accurate, up-to-date information in a more engaging way.

“It takes a long time to produce a textbook,” Helms said, adding that information is already dated by the time a brand new textbook hits the shelves.

The freedom to incorporate more digital materials made a difference in Helms’ class as well.
“I felt they were really engaged with the material,” Helms said. “This delivery seems more relevant to them. It seems less archaic than a bulky textbook.”

*Story by Jeanie McDowell, University Communications*

Full story at [UNCG Now](http://www.uncg.edu/now).


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**More robust Spartan welcome for distance learners**

For the first time ever, UNCG is offering a centralized, online orientation for all full-time distance learners (ie, those students who do not take classes on campus). This is required for all new distance learners beginning fall 2016.

Orientation is hosted as a required course in Canvas, and it includes video modules, quizzes and access and links to resource. It covers topics from financial aid to computing to academic support resources and more, helping students transition into the system, Dr. Kim Sousa-Peoples explains. She is director of New Student Transitions & First Year Experience.

It’s a formal introduction and hello.

The idea is to ensure online learners feel a greater part of the Spartan university experience. Distance learners can now get a SpartanCard, which they receive with a welcome letter and a UNCG window cling so they can show their pride as a UNCG student.

This orientation/welcome is a collaborative initiative, with oversight by New Student Transitions & First Year Experience and product design and implementation with DCL and Canvas, as well as the SpartanCard office. Needs assessment and content development was a collaboration with the faculty who are the online program directors.

Most of the content may be viewed by anyone on the web site [newstudents.uncg.edu/onlinelearners/programinformation](http://newstudents.uncg.edu/onlinelearners/programinformation).

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**Artist Willie Young at Weatherspoon**
The Weatherspoon Art Museum had a very special visit Aug. 2 from artist Willie Young. Young is one of those featured in the exhibition "Inside the Outside: Five Self-Taught Artist from the William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation".

Young flew in to Greensboro for the day to tour the installation and was accompanied by Weatherspoon director Nancy Doll, Angela Usrey and writer/curator Tom Patterson, along with Weatherspoon staff and interns.

The "Inside the Outside" exhibition is on view until Sept. 4.

*Photograph of Young and Doll by Loring Mortenson.*

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**Nominations sought for 2016 Spartans of Promise awards**

The Spartans of Promise awards are given to ten seniors excelling academically and in the UNCG community by the Alumni Association during the Alumni of Distinction Awards dinner during Homecoming.

Know a senior who may be deserving of this honor? Recommend a student.

Spartans of Promise must demonstrate:

- Strong involvement in campus activities
- Proven leadership in service activities
- Passion for UNCG

Qualifications:

- A minimum 3.0 GPA
- Completion of 90 credit hours, at least 30 of which are completed at UNCG

Timeline:

- Application deadline for qualifying students is 9/4/2016.
- Applicants chosen as semi finalists notified by 9/20/2016.
- Interviews on 10/1/2016.
- Reception and alumni of Distinction Awards Dinner 10/20/2016.

Faculty, staff and advisers for student groups are encouraged to recommend a student who they think should be considered for the award, by sending a recommendation letter for the student to Crystal Josey at cgjosey@uncg.edu.

Emails will be sent to all recommended students, notifying them that they have been recommended and that they are strongly encouraged to complete the [Spartans of Promise Application Form](#).

For more information and to access the form, [click here](#).
Qualifying students must complete the Spartans of Promise Application Form by Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016.

###

**Grant-seeking databases and applying for internal research awards**

Here are two workshops faculty may be interested in being a part of:

**Applying For Internal Research Awards Workshop**

Wed. 8/31/16, 9:00-10:00 am, 1607 MHRA

Thurs. 9/1/16, 2:00-3:00 pm, 1607 MHRA

Workshop covering what you need to know to successfully apply for New Faculty Research Awards and the Regular Faculty Research Awards. The application deadline is **10/19/2016**. For more information, guidelines, directions and forms, go to [http://research.uncg.edu/internal-grants-and-awards/](http://research.uncg.edu/internal-grants-and-awards/). Register at [http://workshops.uncg.edu](http://workshops.uncg.edu).

**Show Me the Money! A Guide To and Through Grant-Seeking Databases**

8/30/2016, 12:30-2:30 pm, Bryan 211

9/16/2016, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Curry 304

Faculty and graduate students often require external funding for research, scholarship, and creative activity. This workshop will explore how to get the most from grant seeking databases, including SPIN, GrantSelect, Grant Advisor Plus, and the Foundation Center. Participants learn to search for possible funding opportunities, practice identifying eligibility, and realize the importance of key words. Attendees will have opportunities to access databases and engage in searches related to their topic of interest. Presented by University Libraries and the Office of Sponsored Programs. Register at [https://workshops.uncg.edu](https://workshops.uncg.edu).

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**Risa Applegarth Wins 2016 CCCC Outstanding Book Award**

Dr. Risa Applegarth, associate professor of English, has received a 2016 CCCC Outstanding Book Award in the Monograph category for her book “Rhetoric in American Anthropology: Gender, Genre, and Science.” It was published by University of Pittsburgh Press. The Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) is a constituent organization within the National Council of Teachers of English. This award honors books within the field of composition and rhetoric.

The book grew out of her dissertation, which received the organization’s national Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2010.

The award selection committee noted noted, ‘In ‘Rhetoric in American Anthropology: Gender, Genre, and Science,’ Risa Applegarth provides a wealth of historical research to show how the development of disciplinary identity is intertwined with gender and race. Following the trajectory of American Anthropology from the 19th century through the uptake and reshaping of various genres — what she calls a ‘rhetorical archeology’ — Applegarth makes an important contribution to research on disciplinary rhetorics and genre.’
Applegarth received the CCCC Outstanding Book Award during the 2016 CCCC Annual Convention.

She joined UNCG’s Department of English in 2009, where she is associate professor. She also teaches in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. She received her bachelor’s degree from Carleton College, and received her master’s and doctoral degrees from UNC Chapel Hill.

Her research and teaching interests include rhetorical history and theory, genre theory, women’s rhetorics, and scientific and professional discourse.

Additionally, she was awarded UNCG’s 2015-16 Mary Settle Sharp Award for Teaching Excellence, in April.

More information about the CCCC Outstanding Book Award, including past winners, may be found at www.ncte.org/cccc/awards/oba.

Looking ahead: August 17, 2016

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

Fall Kickoff for students  
Tuesday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m., College Avenue

Spartan Service Day  
Saturday, Aug. 27, 9 a.m.

LeBauer Park’s UNCG connection

In the past days, Greensboro has celebrated the opening of the Carolyn & Maurice LeBauer Park.

The late Carolyn Weill LeBauer was a 1936 alumna of UNCG (known as Woman’s College). Her mother, Beatrice Schwab Weill, was in the class of 1911.

Through Carolyn Weill LeBauer’s will, UNCG received a gift to establish the Carolyn Weill LeBauer Fund in the Walter Clinton Jackson Library.

That’s cold, Spartans

Move-in has students feeling the heat? They can take a break at the Chill Zone.

Students and their families are invited to enjoy ice-cold water and frozen treats, grab a UNCG giveaway, and meet other Spartans at the Chill Zone. Plus, students will be able to register for a drawing to win a $100 gift card for the UNCG Bookstore.

Faculty and staff are also welcome to drop by the event and welcome our students to campus. Look for the Chill Zone tent on Moran Commons from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 17–19. This event is sponsored by the UNCG Alumni Association, Undergraduate Admissions, and New Student Transitions and First Year Experience.
Dr. Tara T. Green

Dr. Tara T. Green (African American and African Diaspora Studies) was invited to serve as a mentor to one of the 16 junior faculty fellows chosen to participate in Duke University’s Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement Program. She was also asked by the program's director to make a presentation, "Developing a Research Agenda and Building a Teaching Portfolio,” as one of this year's six professional development seminars.

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Dr. Thomas Matyók


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Dr. Christina O’Connor

Dr. Christina O’Connor (School of Education, Teacher’s Academy) received a continuation of funding from U.S. Department of Education for the project “Transforming Teaching through Technology (TTtT).” Transforming Teaching through Technology, a Teacher Quality Partnership project of UNCG in partnership with Guilford County Schools and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, will address Absolute Priority 1 and Competitive Preference Priority 1 by developing an innovative and replicable model for the integration of technology in the teacher education curriculum.

In order to better prepare current and future teachers to thoughtfully integrate existing and emerging technology for P-12 student learning, Transforming Teaching through Technology will:

- move beyond enhancement (substitution & augmenting) to promote transformational use of instructional technology in teaching and learning
- transform approaches to P-12 learning such that instructional technology is an integral part of learning
- alter the way we engage and motivate students in learning
- create space where teacher candidates can be engaged in instructional technology –enriched teacher education programming
- cultivate meaningful collaboration between university and schools to promote new mindsets to integrate instructional technology for learning.

The abstract further states that this project will result in increased engagement of public school students in innovation, creativity, problem-solving and entrepreneurship through the development of collaborative project-based learning environments utilizing emerging technology and 21st century skills.

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See/hear: August 17, 2016

Dr. John Kiss, who begins his first year as dean of the UNCG College of Arts and Sciences, welcomes incoming students as they begin their 2016-17 academic year. See the video clip.

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