Share Spartan pride with Believe in the G

Feb. 21 and 22 (today and tomorrow) mark the fifth annual Believe in the G – a 48-hour celebration of Spartan pride for the entire campus community and beyond.

Alumni, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to wear blue and gold, share their UNC Greensboro stories on social media using the hashtag #BelieveintheG, and make a gift to the university.

Spartans also can upload a themed Facebook frame to their profile pictures or use a special Snapchat filter Wednesday and Thursday around Elliott University Center and Moran Commons.

“Believe in the G is a huge celebration of pride,” said Michelle R. Doebler ’09, director of annual giving. “It is extremely rewarding to be a part of something that will ultimately translate into more readily available educational access, groundbreaking research, hands-on learning opportunities and graduates who are prepared to make a difference.”

According to Doebler, the university hopes to receive gifts from 1,000 Spartans.

In addition, this year’s celebration includes events across the country. On Thursday, Feb. 22, alumni gatherings will take place in Charlotte, Raleigh, Atlanta, New York City and Washington, D.C. Back on campus, alumni and students are invited to the Spartans Connect Alumni + Student Networking Night.

To cap off the week, alumni, faculty, staff, parents of students and friends of the university will show off their school spirit at the Spartan Spot event – complete with food and giveaways – at the men’s basketball game on Friday, Feb. 23.

To learn more about this special celebration, make a gift and register for events, visit believeintheg.com.

By Alyssa Bedrosian

Photography by Martin W. Kane

Large ‘German Requiem’ by Brahms this Sunday
The UNCG Symphony Orchestra and University Chorale and Chamber Singers will have a performance Feb. 25 at 3:30 p.m. in UNCG Auditorium. The performance is free and open to the public.

The concert will include popular works such as “blue cathedral” by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon and “A German Requiem, to Words of the Holy Scriptures, Op. 45 (German: Ein deutsches Requiem, nach Worten der heiligen Schrift)” by German composer Johannes Brahms.

“‘Blue cathedral’ sets up a unique sonic architectural space in which to experience the timeless beauty and message of the Brahms Requiem,” said Dr. Carole Ott. “We hope the audience will leave with a sense of transformation – a sense of being led into a beautiful space where mourning can be transformed.”

Dr. Kevin Geraldi, associate professor of conducting, and Dr. Ott, associate director of choral activities, are conductors for the concert.

“When we programmed these pieces a year ago, we did so because they both emphasize loss, remembrance and comfort, themes which are globally relevant in a time that seems so fraught with conflict,” said Ott. "Both pieces commemorate living and depict the transformation of grief into comfort and joy."

About half of the School of Music will be present for the concert with an 85-member orchestra and 130 singers.

For more information, click here.

By Ishan Davis

UNCG to host Fit Expo 2018 at Kaplan Center

UNCG will host Fit Expo 2018 – a national conference for young fitness professionals – this weekend at the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness on campus.

More than 600 fitness instructors from across the country will arrive in Greensboro on Friday for the three-day event, which includes student presentations, classes with master trainers, breakout sessions and a keynote presentation by Jericho McMatthews, a Beachbody Live Super Trainer and co-creator of Core De Force.

“We are showcasing to the world what’s to come in the fitness industry,” said Kyle Anderson, assistant director for fitness in the Dept. of
Recreation and Wellness and Fit Expo event coordinator. “From global premiers for Beachbody Live, Plae Hard and Les Mills, to workouts developed at universities across the country, this event will have a significant impact on the industry.”

Two fitness classes are open to the public: Beachbody Live on Friday at 7 p.m., and Core de Force Live on Saturday at 6 p.m. Friday’s class is offered free to the public, and Saturday’s bonus session is $10 at the door.

Want to learn more? Visit fitexpo2018.com. For more information about UNCG’s Department of Recreation and Wellness, visit recwell.uncg.edu.

By Alyssa Bedrosian
Photography by Martin W. Kane

###

Softball's Janelle Breneman looks to season ahead, with 'Team 33'

UNCG Softball is coming off a great 2017 season. With 11 wins and 6 losses in Southern Conference play, they earned the program’s first ever regular season title since joining the conference in 1997.

Now they’re atop the coaches’ Southern Conference preseason poll for the first time under head coach Janelle Breneman’s six-year tenure.

“The team is dedicated,” Breneman said, “They have high determination for a championship and a regional appearance.”

She noted their goal of winning the regular season, which would place the team in the top seed for the SoCon Tournament. The winner of that tournament advances to the NCAA postseason.

It would be a milestone. UNCG Softball hasn’t been to the NCAA Tournament since joining the Southern Conference.

Coach Breneman believes that the core of a great softball team isn’t just individual talent, but cohesiveness and coordination. This season’s team is the 33rd in UNCG Softball history. They call themselves “Team 33”, and they’re a group of diverse personalities who like each other and work well together, she explained.

“When it comes to softball,” she said, “and how we treat each other, we’re gonna be great teammates, respect each other, and make sure everyone’s doing their part.”

Spartan softball has posted a winning record every season since Breneman became coach six years ago. Her teams have topped 30 wins in three of the previous five seasons. During her tenure, UNCG has had 12 first team All-Southern Conference selections, 15 second teamers, two SoCon All-Freshman, a pair of freshman of the years, three SoCon Pitchers of the Month, four SoCon Players of the Month, 14 SoCon Players of the Week, and five SoCon Pitcher of the Week awards.

In addition to their achievements on the field, the Spartans are also outstanding in the classroom.

“The players’ number one priority is academics.”

Six players maintained a 4.0 GPA during the fall 2017 semester, and the team as a whole had a record high GPA for UNCG Softball. 15 members of the team also made the Athletic Director’s Honor Roll, and 13 the Dean’s List. UNCG Softball has also earned two CoSIDA Academic All-District selections, and a second team CoSIDA Academic All-American during Breneman's coaching tenure. Breneman is proud of her team for their success both on and off the field, and is excited to see where their future takes them.

“When softball ends,” she said, “I want them to be in the forefront” for their job search.
“The teamwork and skills they’ve worked on, those are going to really help them in their careers.”

Breneman arrived at UNCG with 17 years of coaching experience under her belt, including 9 years as head coach at Bucknell and East Stroudsburg. As a starting shortstop at Bloomsburg, Breneman broke several records, including the still-standing career record of assists with the Huskies.

This season, the Spartans have fourteen returning players and five newcomers.

“It’s been on the minds of the players to reach a championship and play well,” Coach Breneman said.

For the seniors, it’s their final collegiate softball year. They want to be the first UNCG softball team in the SoCon era to go all the way to the NCAA Tournament.

Coach Breneman is looking forward to seeing how far Team 33 goes.

“I’m excited for them,” she said, “They’ve fought and worked hard.”

Marisa Sholtes, first baseman, was chosen as a Southern Conference Player of the Week for her strong offensive performance. Other strong early season performances have come from new and returning players including Makenna Matthijs, Alicia Bazonski and Jordan Gontram. This early play sets a strong precedent for the rest of the season.

*The UNCG Invitational will be this weekend. Feb 23, UNCG will play Seton Hall; the 24th, Seton Hall and Virginia; and the 25th, Virginia and Appalachian State. These games will be held at the UNCG Softball Stadium, and admission is free.*

[See the full schedule of upcoming games here.](#)

*By Avery Campbell*

###

**Musical satire ‘Heathers’ at Taylor this weekend**

UNCG Theatre’s production of “Heathers” opened this past weekend and runs through Feb. 24 in Taylor Theatre. The show is directed by graduate student Victoria Hirsch as her master’s thesis production.

The play is an unusual genre for UNCG Theatre, and for Hirsch: the dark satire comedy based on a 1980s movie with a small cult following.

“‘Heathers’ is a graphic, twisted show,” said Hirsch. “It’s also hysterical, touching, and heart-rending. Audience members fall somewhere on a scale between never having heard of ‘Heathers’ and being die-hard fans who sing along under their breath to every number.”

The story is that of high schooler Veronica Sawyer, who takes on “the Heathers,” the school’s most elite and socially cruel clique. She woos them with forgery talents and rises to notoriety through her friendship with the Heathers. What follows is a darkly comedic satire that includes violence and death, but also a sincere message. In the end, Veronica condemns and subverts violence, as well as her school’s stiff social hierarchy.

“Over the course of the show, she’s presented with every method of coping: complicity by trying to stay invisible, participation by becoming part of the ruling class of the school, and opposition through anarchy/vigilante justice,” Hirsch explained.
This production contains strong language as well as situations that some viewers may find uncomfortable.

You may purchase tickets online [here](#), at the box office, M-F 1-5 p.m. (336-334-4392), or by visiting the ticket window in the Brown Building. Tickets are also available by calling Triad Stage's box office at 336-272-0160 or visiting the Triad Stage box office.

*By Susan Kirby-Smith*

*Photography by Martin W. Kane*

###

**Who makes all those T-shirts? A CARS alumna’s experience**

[Image]

The next talk in the CARS Centennial Alumni Speaker Series is coming up Feb. 26. This time, the speaker will be Summer Scott-Samuel (BS ‘96), Merchandising Manager for Gildan, the largest T-shirt manufacturer in the US. Her talk is titled “Working Internationally: What I Know Now That I Didn’t Know Then”. Scott-Samuel will discuss her unconventional route to success and the insights she has learned along the way, all leading back to her time in UNCG’s CARS programs. The event will be February 26 in EUC Alexander, at 5 p.m. A reception follows after the talk. For more information, see [https://bryan.uncg.edu/centennial/](https://bryan.uncg.edu/centennial/).

###

**800 came for Science Olympiad Saturday**

[Image]

On Feb. 17, close to 800 or more middle and high school students came to UNC Greensboro to compete in challenges like Remote Sensing, Mousetrap Vehicle, Forensics, Anatomy and Physiology, and Mission Possible. Most events took place in Sullivan, Petty and Moore Nursing Buildings. (A few photos are [here](#).)

Julia Loreth (Lecturer, Biology), Bob Muir (Professor Emeritus, Physics) and Jerry Walsh (Professor and Associate Department Head, Chemistry & Biochemistry) served as regional co-directors for the Greensboro Regional Science Olympiad.

Science Olympiad is a national organization that supports elementary, middle and high school science competition events across the country. The North Carolina Science Olympiad, centered at NC State University, organizes 15 regional competitions across the state, one of which is at UNCG. The program brings to our campus very strong science and technology students from regional schools.

###
Five Spartans recognized in Triad Business Journal’s 40 Under Forty Awards

Five UNCG alumni were recognized at the Triad Business Journal’s 15th-annual 40 Under Forty event, honoring young leaders across the Triad, held at UNC Greensboro’s Elliott University Center on Thursday, Feb. 15.

Sponsored by the Bryan School of Business and Economics, the annual event honors the top movers and shakers – under the age of 40 – from across the Triad. The 2018 honorees represent a variety of industries.

The Five Spartans recognized are:

Susanne Hall ’17 MBA
Executive Vice President, Wysong Parts and Service

Rachel Kelly ’07 (political science, geography), ’09 MPA (local government management - citizen communications)
Director of Public Policy, City of Burlington

Shinika McKiever ’05 (political science)
Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, NC A&T State University

Ashlee Wagner ’11 (business administration)
Senior Associate Practice Leader, Charles Aris

Kiya Ward ’09 (communication studies)
Staff Pastor and Resource Director, Mount Zion Baptist Church

Photography by Martin W. Kane

###

This week’s Faculty Forum topics

The February Faculty Forum will feature two initiatives from the Faculty Senate Committees focused on constitutional review and faculty welfare. The Faculty Senate is engaged in a two-year multi-phase process to review the Constitution of the General Faculty. The first phase has begun with the Faculty Government Committee and will be presented for discussion. The Faculty Compensation and Welfare Committee is developing a UNCG Faculty Morale Survey, last conducted in 2014, and will be seeking faculty feedback.

###

Talk: The Difference Agrarianism Makes

Dr. Norman Wirzba will give a talk titled "The Difference Agrarianism Makes: Encountering The World As Gift" on March 1, as part of the Ashby Dialogue Series, “The Universe Story and the University: Education for Justice and Sacred Earth,” sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. It will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the School of Education Building, Room 120. The talk is open to the public.
Wirzba is Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Agrarian Studies and Senior Fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke Divinity School. The talk will be facilitated by Dr. David McDuffie from the UNCG Department of Religious Studies.

###

**Giant Steps grant recipients are announced**

Last fall, the Provost and the Office of Research and Engagement announced the release of funding for Giant Steps Research Development Grants. The goal of this program is to provide seed funding for projects that enhance UNCG’s external visibility, encourage research and have the potential to leverage preliminary results to obtain significant future funding. A requirement of the award is the submission of at least one research proposal to an external funding source by the end of the award period.

This year, 11 projects received Giant Steps Research Development Grants:

**Transforming workplace wellness: A strategic partnership and national research agenda**
Jeremy Bray, Dan Bibeau, Mike Perko, GracieLee Weaver, and Nilay Unsal
Economics and Public Health Education

**Healthy Girls Initiative**
Susan Calkins, Laurie Wideman, Robin Bartlett, Kelly Rullison, Lenka Shriver, Sandy Shultz, Gabby Stein, and Kelly Wester
Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Nursing, Public Health Education, Nutrition, Psychology, and Counseling and Educational Development

**Tracking of head trauma in youth sports**
Donna Duffy, Chris Rhea, Jenny Etnier, Laurie Wideman, and Roger Mills-Koonce
Kinesiology, and Human Development and Family Studies

**EquaIPing Us for Giant Steps: Developing a new measure for states to use in the quality ratings of early child programs**
Linda Hestenes, Sharon Mims, Karen LaParo, Danielle Crosby, Catherine Scott-Little, Mary Porterfield, Lia Rucker, Rebekah Pierro, and John Willse
Human Development and Family Studies, and Educational Research Methodology

**Fundamental mechanisms of mercury-mediated development of cardiovascular disease**
Zhenquan Jia and Martin Tsz-Ki Tsui
Biology

**Metabolic reprogramming of adipose tissue cells into tumor targeting mast cells for breast cancer immunotherapy**
Chris Kepley
Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering

**Building computational and data infrastructure for exploring honey bee diseases via text mining of scientific literature**
Prashanti Manda, Esmaeili Amiri, and Olav Rueppell
Computer Science and Biology

**Leveraging Twitter and big data analytics for natural disaster management and recovery**
Somya Mohanty, Fred Sadri, Rick Bunch, Richard Cox, and Lynda Kellam
Computer Science, Geography, and University Libraries

**Molecular engineered chemistry for health and wellness and vibrant communities**
Hemali Rathnayake, Mitch Croatt, Kim Petersen, and Dennis LaJeunesse
Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering and Chemistry

**Tri-axial knee laxity measurement solutions**
Sandra Shultz and Randy Schmitz
Kinesiology

**Characterization of Lyme disease spread**
Gideon Wasserberg, Malcolm Schug, Matina Kalcounis-Ruppell, and Clifford Smyth
Biology, and Mathematics and Statistics
HealthyUNCG offerings and updates

*There are several new offerings and announcements by HealthyUNCG:*

1. **Nutrition consultation slots open**

   Cari Culp, registered dietitian, has several nutrition consultation appointments open. These consultations take place on campus for your convenience. As long as you have BCBS insurance, there will be no cost to you. Use [this link](#) to sign up before they are gone.

2. **Find health information.**

   HealthyUNCG, in conjunction with University Libraries, is offering a workshop for finding trustworthy health information. This workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the lower level of Jackson Library in the Ottoman Empire. Snacks provided. Register [here](#).

3. **Eating Real Food for Health On-the-Go**

   Our registered dietitian, Cari Culp, is offering a nutrition workshop on March 9 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Bryan School, Room 113. The workshop will focus on how to avoid processed, convenience food and incorporate healthy choices into a busy lifestyle! You can register [here](#).

4. **Employee Field Day** registration is [now open](#).

5. **ActiveU Classes** are still being offered at Kaplan. [Learn more](#).

6. **School of Health and Human Sciences Health and Wellness Expo** is March 22 in the Cone Ballroom, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

7. **The Fitness Lending Library** is still in action. [Click here](#) for resources to help you reach your 2018 goals.

8. **Are you a follower?**

   Follow HealthyUNCG on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! Each Wednesday, they will be posting a Wellness Wednesday video. These videos may include stretches, desk exercises, healthy recipes, resources on campus and more.

   For any questions or concerns, contact HealthyUNCG at [healthy_uncg@uncg.edu](mailto:healthy_uncg@uncg.edu) or visit [http://healthy.uncg.edu](http://healthy.uncg.edu).

###

**Donate supplies for area classrooms**

The average public school teacher spends plenty of their own money on school supplies for the classroom.

Here’s a way to lessen some of that burden:

The UNCG Staff Senate partners annually with the the Guilford Education Alliance Teacher Supply Warehouse, which offers new and gently-used school supplies to Guilford County Schools educators at no cost. Shelves are kept stocked through monetary donations, individual supply donations, and supply drives. Every donation made directly helps a Guilford County Schools educator.
Most-needed supplies include:

- #2 pencils
- Colored pencils
- Colored markers
- Comp notebooks
- Copy paper
- Construction paper
- Facial tissue
- Hand sanitizer
- Adult scissors
- Glue sticks

Donations can be dropped off in gray collection bins at the following locations through March 2:

- Jackson Library Access Services Desk
- EUC Bookstore
- MHRA lobby
- School of Education mailroom
- Ragsdale/Mendenhall
- Sink 2nd floor
- Mossman 1st floor
- Bryan 401D
- Becher-Weaver 1st floor

Questions? Contact e_marshb@uncg.edu.

###

March Housing Hangout

Coming up in March is the next Housing Hangout, a monthly informal discussion about housing-related issues. This time, the topic will be “Housing, Home and Health.” The discussion will be March 2, 12 - 2 p.m., in MHRA 2711. For more information, visit the Facebook event page.

Researchers at the Center for Housing and Community Studies will be presenting on a variety of topics related to local housing, including eviction, re-entry housing, housing and health, rural housing, food deserts and LGBTQIA+ housing. There’s almost certain to be something interesting for everyone.

Housing Hangouts are on the first Friday of every month. Future topics are “Fair Housing” (April 6), “School Catchment Areas and Housing Choice” (May 4) and “Gentrification” (June 1). See this webpage for more details.

###

Speaking Center offers new support option for non-native English speakers

It’s a blending of Virtual Reality (VR) and Conversation Practice.

English language learners in Interlink Language School levels CS 4 & CS 5 or any UNCG student, staff or faculty who speaks English as an additional language are invited to participate in these 30-minute face-to-face English conversation practice consultations that incorporate VR.
Sessions start with viewing 10 minutes of a VR science/nature/arts/culture/travel/news video before shifting to conversations about the shared VR experience. Students will be asked to bring their smartphones with them. We will provide the VR viewing devices that attach to the phone. These sessions take place in MHRA, Room 3211.

A full listing line up of offerings for non-native English speakers can be found here.

###

**Dr. Danielle Swick**

Dr. Danielle Swick (Social Work) received new funding from the North Carolina School-Based Health Alliance for the project "An Analysis of RAAPS Data from North Carolina School-Based Health Centers."

The purpose of this project is to develop an initial survey to assess the North Carolina School-Based Health Centers’ (SBHCs) current use of RAAPS and for those using RAAPS, use of risk assessment data for quality monitoring and program planning. For NC SBHCs that currently use the RAAPS, Dr. Swick will approach them to ask if they would be willing to share their de-identified RAAPS data with Dr. Swick on behalf of the NCSBHA in exchange for RAAPS data summaries by county and in aggregate form across counties. Swick will collect these data, summarize the data, and will create county level and state level summaries.

###

**Dr. Heather Holian**

Dr. Heather Holian (School of Art) had an essay, "New and Inherited Aesthetics: Designing for the Toy Story Trilogy One Film at a Time," published in January 2018 as part of the edited volume “Toy Story: How Pixar Reinvented the Animated Feature,” released by Bloomsbury Press. Edited by animation scholars Noel Brown, Susan Smith and Sam Summers, the text is the inaugural volume of Bloomsbury's series, 'Animation--Key Films.' Dr. Holian has also recently signed a book contract with Disney Editions for her manuscript on Pixar, tentatively titled, “Art and Filmmaking at Pixar: Collaboration, Inspiration and Collective Imagination,” with an anticipated publication of 2021.

The publication came about as a result of the international conference, Toy Story at 20, hosted by Sunderland University, Sunderland, Great Britain in November 2015. Holian presented on this topic there and then was invited to expand the piece for publication. She received funds for international conference travel from the School of Art and the Kohler Fund of International Programs for that trip. The volume is available on Amazon.

###

**Dr. Jeffrey Soles**
**Dr. Jeffrey Soles (Classical Studies)** received a continuation of funding from the Institute of Aegean Prehistory for the project "Mochlos 2018: Publication and Conversation."

This grant will support research, publication and conservation of archaeological material excavated at Mochlos, Crete, from 1989 to 2016. It is the second year of a continuing three-year grant that was awarded in 2017.

###

**Dr. Jewell Cooper**

**Dr. Jewell Cooper (School of Education)** was recognized as a local SHErO at the inaugural SHEroes gala and awards ceremony Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Proximity Hotel.

Dr. Cooper was nominated for her work offering professional development in local and regional school districts and as chair of the Multicultural Education Special Interest Group of the Association of Teacher Educators, the News and Record reported.

The SHEroes gala lauded local women whose work in the community may fly under the radar, the report added. The event raises money for the Shirley T. Frye YWCA Greensboro.

###

**See/Hear: Feb. 21, 2018**

In case you missed it, three Spartan couples shared their love stories and UNCG memories last week in celebration of Valentine's Day.

###