112 students from state at UNCG Undergraduate Honors Symposium

Undergraduates from throughout the state filled the main floor of the EUC the Friday before Spring Break.

UNCG’s Lloyd International Honors College (LIHC) hosted the 18th Annual Undergraduate Honors Symposium in UNCG’s Elliott University Center. Sessions ran all day and an awards ceremony in the Maple Room concluded the day.

About 112 papers were presented, with 68 from UNCG students and 44 from honors students from 10 institutions across North Carolina.

Aside from UNCG, institutions represented were: Appalachian State University; Catawba College; Durham Technical Community College; Elon University; Greensboro College; Guilford College; Guilford Technical Community College; Meredith College; North Carolina State University; and UNC Chapel Hill.

Dr. Angela Bolte, LIHC assistant dean and symposium organizer, noted the symposium is a great opportunity for honors students from across the state to meet and interact with each other. It gives the undergraduates an opportunity to present in a professional style conference, and hearing others papers may spark interest in other academic areas.

Dr. Omar Ali, dean of the honors college, added “What is particularly special about the Honors Symposium is watching all the student presenters ‘perform’ being presenters? a vital skill irrespective of one’s field of study. By presenting, and seeing others do so, one can get better at this activity. It serves all students in their overall development.”

The Honors Symposium Prizes were awarded for outstanding papers. The recipients were:

**UNCG Humanities and Fine Arts**

**First Prize:** Brenda Ramirez, “Catalonia’s Fight for Independence: The Effects of an Illegal Referendum”

**Second Prize:** Carol Ann Tucciaron, “The Effectiveness of Developmental Leadership Programs on College Campuses”

**Third Prize:** Jordan Richmond, “Sociocultural Underpinnings and Political Barriers to the 2016-2018 Rohingya Ethnic Cleansing”

**Honorable Mentions**

Ivana Bogdan, “Women and Gender Politics in Venetian Renaissance Art”

Anitra Harris, “Why Standardized Tests Should Be Eliminated”

Heather Rush, “Suicide in Japan”

**UNCG Sciences and Professional Fields**
First Prize: Whitney Mantooth, “Nothing Without Us: Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Performing Arts”
Second Prize: Manead Khin, “Identification of Antimicrobial Constituents in Macleaya cordata”
Third Prize: Izna Ahmed, “Microbial Bioluminescence”

Honorable Mentions

Tiffany Branford, “A Qualitative Study of the Social Interactions in GVT (Global Virtual Teams)”
Jamie Jill Maness, “Experiential Learning Through a Summer Research Assistantship”
Natalie Suchy, “The Effect of Performance and Imagination on Children’s Memory for Related Actions”

Visitor Awards

First Prize: Catherine Koontz, Meredith College, “Pick Your Politics: Exploring Student Perspectives on Personal Political Influences During Their Undergraduate Studies”
Second Prize: Alla Alaghbri, Greensboro College, “The Definition of Reason in the Asha’ri School of Islamic Theology: Implications and Applications”
Third Prize: Natalie Johnson, UNC Chapel Hill, “The Writing on the Walls: Street Art as a Site of Participation in Discourse and a Platform for Voice in the Moroccan Public Sphere”

Honorable Mentions

Austin Collins, Catawba College, “The Heart of the Loire: The French Monarchy’s Portrayal of Absolutism in their Royal Chateaux”
Marisa Sclafani, UNC Chapel Hill, “The Integration of Migrants in Italy”
Zhane Strachan, Durham Technical Community College, “Michelangelo’s Relationship with Medicine and His Art”

Compiled by Mike Harris
Photograph of a presenter by Martin W. Kane

###

Alumnus shares his experience: ‘Becoming a stylist to the stars’

UNCG CARS Centennial Alumni Industry Speaker Series continues Monday, April 2, at 5 p.m. in Room 120 of the School of Education building.

The talk is “Becoming a Stylist to the Stars” (and the Unglamorous Path I Took to Get There).”

When UNCG alumnus Derek Roche graduated from CARS at UNCG, he had his sights set on joining the fashion world in New York City.
Although he had to make ends meet by taking some decidedly unglamorous jobs along the way (such as working as a bathroom attendant), Roche’s hard work and persistence eventually brought him to Los Angeles and his current role as personal stylist to Sean “Diddy” Combs. A star of Lifetime’s “Million Dollar Shoppers,” Roche has also styled the likes of Ne-Yo, Cassie and Nicki Minaj. Join CARS as Roche describes his journey from bathrooms to ballrooms, and everything in between.

Reception to follow.

Photo courtesy of Derek Roche

###

**Broken Politics: Saving Democracy in a Polarized Economy**

Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, will give a lecture titled “Broken Politics: Saving Democracy in a Polarized Economy.”

The talk will take place Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in UNCG’s EUC Auditorium.

Ornstein is a longtime observer and analyst of American politics and the U.S. Congress, and has been involved with the reform of political campaign finances and senate committees for decades. He is a contributing editor and columnist for the National Journal and The Atlantic. Additionally, he is a cohost of AEI’s Election Watch series, a BBC News election analyst, and the chair of the Campaign Legal Center.

The talk is presented by the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad and the UNC Greensboro Political Science Department.

Both the program and parking are free, but space is limited. RSVP at lwvpt.org. For questions, contact Questions@lwvpt.org.

###

**Call for proposals: University Libraries and the Provost Office seeks faculty to author open textbooks**

An announcement for faculty:

Open access textbooks present the opportunity to revolutionize how knowledge is disseminated. By making teaching materials freely available online, readers worldwide can engage with them, regardless of their ability to pay.

We invite UNCG faculty members to submit textbook proposals for any discipline taught at UNCG at the undergraduate or postgraduate level (a UNCG faculty member must be the sole or lead author). We seek proposals for texts that are comprehensive works geared toward a specific field of study. Preference will be given to proposals with applicability towards multiple, high-enrollment courses taught by faculty in a single department.

Faculty are invited to apply through a competitive grant process that will award $5,000 to two faculty who submit successful proposals outlining efforts to create an open textbook. The funds will be given in two payments $2,500 at the beginning of the project and $2,500 when completed. The winners will be given three years to finalize their textbook. The chosen faculty will be provided help with design, editorial and production services through the University Libraries’ participation in the Open Textbook Network Publishing Cooperative.

For more information please contact Beth Bernhardt (beth_bernhardt@uncg.edu).
PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Please visit https://tinyurl.com/textbookpropsal2018 and submit a description of your project and includes the following information:

1. Your name, job title, department; please include complete contact information. Include brief bios for coauthors if applicable.
2. A statement of support from your Department Chair, Assistant/Associate Dean or Dean.
3. Describe your intended audience, and any courses that would be likely to use the book at UNCG or other schools.
4. Provide manuscript specifics, such as a table of contents, chapter-by-chapter description, and the manuscript’s estimated length.
5. How often do you anticipate revisions/updates will be required?
6. Briefly discuss how you will address peer-review for your manuscript and please suggest 2–3 possible peer-reviewers (2 reviewers must not be affiliated with UNCG), including contact information, affiliation, etc.

Applications must be submitted by April 27, 2018.

Applicants will be notified by May 11, 2018.

Textbook will be available July 2021.

###

Creating and Performing Stories in the Humanities and Sciences

The National Humanities Center (NHC), in partnership with UNCG Lloyd International Honors College and the Medicinal Chemistry Collaborative at UNC Greensboro, invites you to join this conversation on Saturday, April 7, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the NHC in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Designed to inspire cross-disciplinary discussions, panelists will share examples of how storytelling impacts their work as both humanists and scientists.

The humanities and sciences are often viewed as distinct and separate areas of inquiry. Yet whether we study history, chemistry, philosophy, or physics, our overarching methodology is similar in that it involves gathering data and constructing narratives, i.e., telling stories. A way of framing our overlap is by seeing the humanities and sciences as (1) guided by evidence, (2) subject to interpretation, and (3) open to revision. This one-day symposium is an opportunity for humanists and scientists to come together to explore our commonalities and learn from each other.

Moderators include Dr. Nadja Cech and Dr. Omar Ali.

TO REGISTER: bit.ly/nhc-stories

###

Dr. Jianjun Wei

Dr. Jianjun Wei (Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering) received new funding from the National Science Foundation for the project “3i Nano - A Point-of-Care Biosensor for Disease Diagnostics and Analysis.”

For many years, cardiovascular disease (CVD) has been diagnosed and tested in central laboratories, which may take several hours to days. This is one of major factors resulting in low survival rates and high treatment cost. Early detection is the key, not only for CVD patient survival, but also saving cost.

This is particularly true for the rupture of atherosclerotic plaque, such as endothelial dysfunction, inflammation, oxidative stress, proteolysis, and thrombosis. Biomarkers of CVD have been found to be very important tools for early diagnosis, because they serve as hallmarks for the
physiological status of a cell at a given time and change during the disease process.

This proposal describes an investigation to determine the readiness to transition a point-of-care (POC) biosensor technology developed by a current NSF fund to a commercially viable product. The POC technology aims to achieve rapid detection of protein biomarkers of CVD at an early stage or acute attack. This project will map out a strategy for taking such technology to the next technical readiness level (TRL) by incorporating the recent advances into currently available portable commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) components.

The results of this project will provide first-hand evidence and data in both technology and market, that we can use to transform the current technology into a device, which will be lucrative in the medical industry.

###

**Dr. Jodi Bilinkoff**

Dr. Jodi Bilinkoff (History) received new funding from the City of Chicago Newberry Library for the project “John of the Cross (1542-1591): The History, Mystery and Memory of a Spanish Saint.”

John of the Cross (1542-1591) is one of the most famous and revered figures in the history of Christian spirituality. For generations he has been esteemed as a mystic, spiritual guide and one of the finest poets in the Spanish language. Yet relatively little is known about him as a person, and few historians have examined his life or cult as a Catholic saint.

Dr. Bilinkoff proposes a new approach to the life, afterlife and reception of John of the Cross. The goal is not to write a conventional biography, but rather, undertake a critical study of the manifold, at times, conflicting meanings that John has held for individuals and communities, both during and after his lifetime. The case of John of the Cross offers a remarkable opportunity to investigate popular religious beliefs and practices, interpersonal relationships, identity formation, urban and ecclesiastical politics, and the meanings of memory, from the Age of Reformations to our own times.

Dr. Bilinkoff hopes the study will interest scholars of history, literature and religion in early modern Spain and Catholic Europe, as well anyone who has ever experienced the beauty and mystery of John’s poetry.

###

**Dr. Paul Silvia, Dr. Peter Delaney and Dr. Stuart Marcovitch**

Dr. Paul Silvia, Dr. Peter Delaney and Dr. Stuart Marcovitch (Psychology) received an honor for their book, published in November, “What Psychology Majors Could (and Should) Be Doing, Second Edition: A Guide to Research Experience, Professional Skills, and Your Options After College.” The book was named an Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association (ALA).

The award denotes that the book is within the top ten percent of the 6,000 books reviewed in 2017 by ALA’s Association of College and Research Libraries’ “Choice Reviews.” Outstanding Academic Titles must demonstrate: overall excellence in presentation
and scholarship, importance relative to other literature in the field, distinction as a first treatment of a given subject in book or electronic form, originality or uniqueness of treatment and value to undergraduate students, importance in building undergraduate library collections.

The book is a complementary text to the required UNCG course “Careers in Psychology,” and helps students learn ways of developing professional skills that make them competitive in job searches and graduate school applications. The authors emphasize involvement in research and building skills in writing, public speaking and statistical reasoning.

###

**Dr. Peter Villella**

**Dr. Peter Villella (History)** received new funding from the National Humanities Center for the project "Of Ruin and Rebirth: The Construction of Aztec History, 1531-1625."

This project charts the genesis and evolution of the idea of a shared “Aztec past” among indigenous intellectuals in early colonial Mexico. New diseases devastated the Nahua (Aztec) population in the 16th century, severing the survivors culturally and spiritually from their ancestral heritage. However, a distinct antiquarianism arose among some Nahua leaders who sought to recover and study old artifacts to regain an understanding of their pre-Columbian legacy. Their sources were fragmented and contradictory, yet by interpreting and reassembling them to make them cohere, the Nahua historians “constructed” the Aztec epic, a proud new way of understanding Mexican antiquity.

###

**Join fellow Spartans on Employee Field Day April 13**

Join the fun Friday, April 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Foust Park for HealthyUNCG’s 4th Annual UNCG Employee Field Day.

UNCG Employee Field Day is an annual day of play for all UNCG employees. It is designed to relieve stress and boost morale.

The event is made up of individual and team games. This year features UNCG’s own DJ MC, food trucks, free snacks and ice cream, and free UNCG swag.

Games include hula hooping, musical “chairs” (stability balls), egg/spoon race, “Junk in the Trunk,” “Cookie Face,” ladder toss, a fitness
competition and cornhole.

It’s a day for health and wellness – and a good time with your fellow Spartan employees.

The first 100 employees to register as a spectator or a competitor get a free UNCG Employee Field Day T-shirt.

Details about the event can be found on the EVENT WEBSITE.

###

**Join UNCG teams for Heart and Stroke Walk; see contest details**

Want to know how to join a UNCG team for the Heart Walk on campus?

The annual Greater Guilford Heart and Stroke Walk will take place Saturday, May 19. The non-competitive walk, led by the American Heart Association, has set a goal of $500,000 this year to help fund heart disease and stroke prevention and research.

Faculty, staff and students now can join and form teams for the event. On the UNCG Heartwalk [site (click here)], participants can register under one of the UNCG schools, or create their own team as a captain with friends.

The Triad American Heart Association has announced a contest especially for UNCG employees, to encourage coach/team sign up. The randomly selected winner will receive a $100 Target gift card and a 2-hour Ropes Course Adventure at Kersey Valley.

There are three ways to win:

1). Register as a UNCG Coach

2). Receive an additional entry by personalizing your website

3). Receive an additional entry for every walker you recruit to your team

The promotion will run until April 10, and is only available to UNCG employees.

The Heart and Stroke Walk, with Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam as this year’s honorary chair, will also feature many activities in Kaplan Commons before the event, including a KidZone and a Pooch Parade. For the event schedule, walk route and FAQ, visit [here](#).

Check-in begins at 8 a.m., and the walk begins at 9 a.m. in Kaplan Commons. There will be free parking at the Walker Parking Deck.

Registration is free.

Full information is available by clicking [here](#).

*By Ishan Davis*

###

**McIver’s last days**
It’s finally time to say goodbye to McIver Building.

“Soft demolition” – the removal of all materials inside and outside of the building (flooring, drywall, windows, fixtures, etc.) – will be complete by the end of this week.

The work of the excavator and concrete jaw crusher (used like a giant nutcracker) begins Wednesday, April 4, and is scheduled to finish up around May 9.

Some may anticipate that it will sound loud, but the Rodgers/DPR Construction management team said most of the time noise level will not reach much higher than the sounds made by a garbage truck.

“Most of the noise will be the backup alarms (of the demolition machines),” said Bill Chatfield, UNCG’s design project manager for the new Nursing and Instructional Building.

Dust resulting from the demolition will be controlled with water hoses.

Visit thebigbuild.uncg.edu for the latest construction updates and alerts.

By Elizabeth L. Harrison
Photography by Martin W. Kane

NY Times columnist and pianist speaks at UNCG April 3

The College of Visual and Performing Arts presents an evening with artist and writer Michael Kimmelman on Tuesday, April 3, at the Weatherspoon Art Museum Auditorium.

The lecture will be at 6 p.m., followed by a reception.

“How Culture Explains (Almost) Everything” is the topic of the talk.

Michael Kimmelman is an American author, critic, columnist and active performing pianist. He is the architecture critic for The New York Times and has written about public housing, public space, climate change, community development, infrastructure, urban design, landscape design and social responsibility.

His New York Times best-selling book, “The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa,” explores art as life’s great passion, with the message that everyone has art in their lives, even if they haven’t learned how to recognize it.

Kimmelman’s lecture is made possible by gifts from Georgetown University professor Anna Harwell Celenza ’89 (dual majors in music and art) and by the Elizabeth Little Endowment for Lectures in Creativity.
It is free and open to the public.

*Photo courtesy of Michael Kimmelman*

###

**See/hear: March 28, 2018**

As UNCG’s social media manager, Morgan Glover is in the thick of it all. Her day-to-day is a constant balancing act – sharing university news, monitoring what she calls “social chatter,” responding to questions, training other social media administrators on campus and gathering content. This week, she led UNCG's inaugural "Social Media Day."

###

**Study Abroad Student and Alumni Social April 5**

The UNCG Alumni Engagement Office and the UNCG International Programs Center (IPC) on April 5 from 6 - 8 p.m. at HQ Greensboro (111 W. Lewis Street) present an opportunity for alumni and students to share study abroad stories and meet new people. Faculty and staff who have participated in study abroad or have interest are invited to take part as well.

There will be giveaways and information on alumni and IPC programming.

"We bring alumni and students together to reflect on their time abroad, and discuss what our office and the IPC are planning for the group this year," says an announcement from the Alumni Engagement Office. The event is a chance to support international and study abroad student programming. They are also partnering with the Global Opportunities Center to give information about local global opportunities in the area for students and alumni.

Alumni, faculty, staff and students may register here if they plan to attend.

Share your favorite photo of your studying abroad, on social media, using the hashtag #UNCGStudyAbroad for our contest. The best picture will be rewarded with a Spartan Prize pack at the end of the night. You can also submit photos by emailing Dorian Thompson at dthompson@uncg.edu.

Questions? Contact Dorian Thompson, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement at dthompson@uncg.edu or Tom Martinek, Jr., Associate Director of Study Abroad and Exchange Programs at tjmarti2@uncg.edu.

Admission is free. Parking is available for $2 at 123 W Lewis Street.

See photos from last year's inaugural event.

###

**Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo will be held April 3**

Undergraduate research shines next week, as more than 100 students show off their work.

UNCG’s 2018 Carolyn & Norwood Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo will be held Tuesday, April 3, in the Elliott University Center.

All are welcome to attend and learn from the students about their research and creative activity.

The expo is the campus-wide celebration of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities. All students engaged in faculty-mentored scholarly inquiry are may participate.

Students are eligible to compete for program recognition, which includes monetary awards.
Full information, include a schedule of poster presentations, performances oral presentations and exhibitions is at https://utlc.uncg.edu/ursco/expo.

###

‘Angels in America,’ playwright Tony Kushner and scholar Jim Fisher


He is also one of the foremost experts on the works of Tony Kushner.

Kushner’s Pulitzer- and Tony-winning “Angels in America,” in its 25th anniversary year, is being revived on Broadway. It opens this week, and is getting lots of media attention. Campus Weekly asked Fisher about the play, at this milestone moment:

Tell us a bit about this production. This new Broadway production, as you probably know, is based on an English revival of the plays last year. That production, starring Nathan Lane and Andrew Garfield (who are both in the Broadway production), was broadcast live in movie theaters here, and I saw it last summer.

What is significance of the 25th anniversary of “Angels in America,” in your judgement? This new production is a reminder that “Angels in America” is a major American play, belonging in the same league as Eugene O’Neill’s “Long Day’s Journey Into Night,” Tennessee Williams’s “A Streetcar Named Desire,” Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town,” Lorraine Hansberry’s “A Raisin in the Sun” and August Wilson’s “Fences.” In short, it is a quintessential American play, dealing with the nation’s history since World War II and, more importantly, moral, religious, political and sexual issues that have dominated the national conversation since the early 1980s. Aesthetically speaking, the plays are a unique merging of the epic theater style of Bertolt Brecht, mixed with the lyric realism of Tennessee Williams and the blunt force political realism of Arthur Miller.

This production is actually its second major Broadway revival since its original premiere in 1992. The play was revived in New York by the Signature Theatre Company in 2014, as part of a season devoted exclusively to Kushner’s work.

When it first was produced, what was your reaction? Frankly, I was bowled over by the play when I read it sometime in late 1992/early 1993, when it was newly in print. As a theater director, I was immediately attracted to the idea of directing it, but its size, scope and emotional demands seemed too great. But upon reflection, I decided to move to do a production as soon as it was possible. I arranged for a visit to campus at Wabash College, where I was teaching then, in 1995, and we developed a friendship that has continued since then. The following year, in 1996, I directed the play at Wabash, where it met with some controversy over its themes, but also attracted considerable positive attention and led me to write a book about not only “Angels,” but all of Kushner’s work up to that time, which was published in 2001.

Any updates in recent years, of your work about or with Tony Kushner? I directed “Angels” again here in 2009 and Kushner and I did the first of our on-stage Q&As here (at UNCG’s Taylor Theatre in 2010) around that time (see p. 4 of this Campus Weekly pdf). We’ve since done it several times, including, most recently, at the Comparative Drama Conference in Baltimore a year or so ago. Since my first encounter with Kushner, I have been frequently asked to either talk about or write about him, and I have had the opportunity of directing his free adaptation of Pierre Corneille’s 17th century play, “The Illusion,” in 2004, and, most recently, a production here of his musical drama, “Caroline, or Change,” in Taylor Theatre in late 2016. The exciting news for me is that the publisher of my 2001 Kushner book (Routledge) has asked me to do an expanded/updated second edition, which I am about to begin working on, hopefully for publication in 2021, the 20th anniversary of the original book.

Anything else you’d like to add? Only that my work on Kushner’s plays, both as a director and a writer, has been a remarkable and
challenging privilege, and I'm happy that after more than 25 years, I am still engaged with his work. And that I have had the opportunity to know him has also been a privilege - he's an extraordinary artist.

By Mike Harris

Photo of Fisher and Kushner (l-r) taken in Baltimore at the Comparative Drama Conference, when they did an on-stage Q&A as the keynote event of the conference.

###