HHS PARTNERS WITH OTHERS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR HEALTH-RELATED CAREERS
On the cover: Tom Wall, MD, Chief Clinical Officer at Triad HealthCare Network, speaks about the importance of interprofessional education during a workshop sponsored by UNCG, NC A&T State University and High Point University. See article on pages 10-11.
One of my first jobs out of graduate school was providing speech and hearing services at what we then called “the county home.”

Knollwood Hall opened in 1930 as a tuberculosis hospital in Forsyth County and was later renovated to be a residential facility for older adults. That’s where I started work in 1975, as the only speech language provider for 400 adults. I loved it, and I learned so much because we treated a wide variety of conditions – patients with ALS, strokes, head injuries, multiple sclerosis and chronic neurological diseases.

But I’ll never forget my first day there. I realized almost immediately how much I hadn’t learned in school about other professions. From Day One, I was expected to partner with nursing and others to care for our patients, and I hadn’t ever done that in graduate school.

I got my interprofessional education on the job.

The School of HHS and the School of Nursing at UNCG are working hard to change that. In these pages, you will read how we are striving to offer students interprofessional education much earlier, well before they start their careers.

We are joining with two other area universities – NC A&T State University and High Point University – to bring health care students together across disciplines to share information, understand each other’s roles, and learn to communicate as one unified health care team. Similar efforts are under way in the K-12 educational settings where our HHS students are gaining work experience.

This is wonderful for our students, and it’s even better for the patients and clients on the receiving end of health care.

If students know immediately how they fit as part of the health care team, there are better outcomes. Our patients and clients are not looking for us to learn on the job; they expect us to interact and communicate well from the start, so they can receive the best possible care.

My time at Knollwood Hall made such a big impression on me that I applied to doctoral programs to continue my interprofessional education. Today, our goal is to provide students with that important learning all along the way.

Thank you for being loyal supporters of HHS, including our faculty, our programs and our students. I look forward to staying in touch!

HDFS Ranks 5th in North America in New Study

The Department of Human Development and Family Studies ranks 5th in North America among similar programs. The latest ranking, by researchers presenting at The National Council on Family Relations, is based on many factors including the number and frequency of faculty publications, grant productivity, participation on editorial boards and positions that doctoral students receive after graduation.

“Our faculty and students should be very proud of this,” says Dr. Mark Fine, professor and chair of the department. “It brings positive national attention for the good work that we’ve done together for quite some time.”
This summer, 19 students from the School of Health and Human Sciences studied abroad for three weeks in Costa Rica as a part of the Language and Culture Immersion program that UNCG has hosted since 2006.

This year, the trip was led by Dr. Donna Duffy, an AP assistant professor in Kinesiology, and Lisa McDonald, an AP associate professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Duffy explained that the goals of the trip were to help “students gain personal and professional experience, which better informs them to work with people from diverse backgrounds and with people who have needs that are different from their own.”

UNCG partnered with Centro Panamericano de Idiomas (CPI), allowing students to explore Costa Rican culture through language training, unique trips to ecological and cultural sites, and rooming with local families.

A typical day for the UNCG students included both educational and leisurely activities. Desiree Louvierre, a Social Work major, explains:

“A normal day in Costa Rica was waking up around 5 a.m., getting ready and eating breakfast with our host families, then walking to our meeting point to join our group of students and professors. We would drive to whatever our day field-trip was, such as touring coffee plantations or schools, then we would eat lunch at a local restaurant and drive back to school for our four-hour Spanish class. Once class was over, we would head back home to eat dinner with our host families and call it a night.”

This condensed trip abroad offered students various opportunities for cultural immersion: Desiree explains that knowing another language, working with children and understanding how different countries deal with welfare and poverty will help her in her future career in social work. “This definitely jump-started my efforts to learn more Spanish and I hope to continue learning,” she said.

See more at http://blog.studyandtravelcostarica.com/?cat=105
UNCG Named One of Nation’s Healthiest Campuses

Based on story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Relations

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro was one of just five universities in the United States to receive the 2015 Active Minds Healthy Campus Award.

Active Minds, a national nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues, named five campuses across the nation as leaders in prioritizing health and demonstrating innovation and excellence in promoting student well-being. UNCG joins Cornell University, University of Texas at Austin, University of Minnesota and Western Washington University as the nation’s leaders in creating a culture of health on campus.

“UNCG’s efforts are a model for campuses nationwide and demonstrate what is possible when students, staff, faculty and administrators from across an entire university work together so that every student has the opportunity to thrive,” said Sara Abelson, vice president of student health and wellness at Active Minds.

HHS Dean Celia Hooper says she is proud that this was a campus-wide effort that involved Student Affairs, the School of Nursing, the School of HHS and others. “This award illustrates that we’re very innovative in creating a healthy college community,” she said. “This means every student at UNCG has the opportunity to become more healthy, and this includes physical, mental, spiritual and environmental health.”

Active Minds will share best practices from UNCG with higher education institutions nationwide to inspire locally driven change across the country. Some of UNCG’s efforts include:

- Incorporating health and wellness in the university’s strategic plan in order to pursue a comprehensive, coordinated, university-wide approach to student well-being.
- Beyond Academics, a program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities; the Institute to Promote Athlete Health & Wellness, which is at the forefront of excellence in health promotion for athletes of all ages and levels of competition; the Spartan Wellness Living-Learning Community, which focuses on fostering the eight dimensions of wellness (emotional, financial, social, spiritual, occupational, physical, intellectual, environmental) among first-year students; and an award winning ADHD Clinic serving the campus and community.
- Empowering the student voice and using effective peer education to exceed national averages in the dissemination of health information and mental health education on campus.
- Investing in student health and wellness services, including the construction of a $91 million student recreation center slated to open in fall 2016.

Chancellor Franklin Gilliam Jr. praised students, faculty and staff for their commitment to physical and mental health initiatives.

“I don’t want to be a best kept secret. I want people to know who we are,” Gilliam said. “I think this award speaks to our quality and our commitment to excellence.”

Program Ties Art to Health Fields

Representatives of the School of HHS were interviewed on WUNC’s State of Things about an art program at the Weatherspoon Art Museum.

The “Art of Seeing” program uses art to enhance observation skills in nursing and the health and human sciences fields. WUNC host Frank Stasio talked with Weatherspoon curator of education Ann Grimaldi; doctoral candidate in nutrition Lauren Sastre ’12 MS and Anne Brady, professor of Kinesiology.
Health Coaching Program Holds First Conference

More than 100 providers and 20 UNCG student volunteers participated in the inaugural health coaching conference.

The UNCG Health Coach Training Program and Northwest Area Health Education Center (AHEC) held its first conference on Oct. 1, connecting more than 100 providers who want to deliver quality health care that improves patient outcomes and satisfaction.

The conference marked a significant milestone for this growing program, which trains people to partner with clients and patients to improve their health. Health coaching can include a focus on diet, exercise, weight loss, managing chronic conditions and more. Conference presenters included:

- Dr. Susan Butterworth, principal and founder of Q-consult, LLC, who has more than 20 years of experience in health promotion and chronic disease self-management. Dr. Butterworth shared strategies to help coaches improve their outcomes and patient engagement.
- Tom Wall, MD, Chief Clinical Officer of Triad HealthCare Network
- Grace Terrell, MD, Chief Executive Officer of Cornerstone Health Care
- John Jenkins, MD, Vice President and Executive Medical Director, Primary Care Collaborative
- Cathy Cole, MSSW, LCSW, President of Cathy Cole Training

The conference sessions focused on effective health coaching strategies that improve patient outcomes, best practices in health coaching in community and public health agencies, success stories of transformative value-based health care, and research updates on the effectiveness of health coaching. Twenty UNCG students volunteered at the conference.

Health coaches can work anywhere from doctors’ offices and community care settings to pharmacies and elsewhere. Their contact with patients may be in person or via telephone.

UNCG’s Health Coaching Program offers a wide variety of training ranging from one-day workshops and three-day certification programs to webinars, specialty training, motivational interview training and skills refreshers.
HDFS Graduate Student Embarks on Fulbright
Based on an article by University Relations

Natalie Hengstebeck, a graduate student in Human Development and Family Studies, credits her professors with helping her obtain a Fulbright Scholarship for nine months of research in the Netherlands.

Hengstebeck’s Fulbright research began in August and focuses on how policy differences between nations affect couples’ relationship dynamics. She’ll use data from surveys administered in 15 European countries to look at how satisfied couples are with their relationship and how satisfaction varies across different policy approaches.

Hengstebeck came to UNCG to study with Dr. Heather Helms, an associate professor in Human Development and Family Studies. Hengstebeck was interested in Helms’ research on Mexican immigrants who disproportionately face stress due to legal status, poverty and other challenges.

A first-generation college student, she said the support she received at UNCG was invaluable.

“Dr. Helms, in particular, really opened a lot of doors,” she says. “I am so grateful for the investment she and others have made in me to enable me to pursue these opportunities.”

Dr. Daniel Perlman, a professor in HDFS, also introduced her to a key researcher — Dr. Pearl Dykstra of Erasmus University Rotterdam — who agreed to support her Fulbright application.

Hengstebeck has been more than just an exceptional student. She recently won the Gladys Strawn Bullard Award, given each year to one student, one staff member, and one faculty member for their service contributions and leadership to UNCG.

Before the Fulbright began, Hengstebeck spent the summer in California at RAND Corp. She was hired as one of about 30 graduate student summer associates. The program receives more than 600 applications each year. At RAND, she studied the impact of deployment on military service members’ family relationships.

She’ll return to UNCG in 2016, after her Fulbright, to complete her doctoral dissertation research.

After Battling Cancer, UNCG Student Now Enrolled in Master’s Program
Based on article by University Relations Staff

Thanks in part to the support of the UNCG community, student Dan Elder has completed cancer treatment and returned to school to pursue a master’s degree in Public Health Education.

In the fall of 2013, Dan was a busy undergrad finishing up his nutrition and wellness degree when he was diagnosed with Stage 4b Hodgkins lymphoma. He was 26. Cancer had spread to his bones, lymph nodes, spleen and lungs. The good news: The disease, even at that advanced stage, was treatable.

“The chemotherapy was brutal,” he says. “It basically feels like you’re drowning in a sea of poison. You’re always sick, you always feel like you’re going to die.”

The oncologist warned him that continuing to go to class while taking chemo would be all but impossible. The cancer drugs cause “chemo brain” and short-term memory becomes unreliable. And there’s the fatigue.

“You just feel tired all the time,” Elder says. “If you sleep for eight hours it feels like three.”

Dan didn’t have family in North Carolina, but a support network materialized from UNCG. Classmates volunteered to take him to his chemo sessions every two weeks. Faculty members, such as nutrition instructors B. Burgin Ross and Laurie Allen, would bring food to his apartment, check in via email and visit him. “I remember a couple of times when Ms. Ross would come and just sit and talk,” he says. “I had such a great relationship with my professors. I really genuinely felt like they were there for me.”

His last chemo treatment was in March 2014. That fall, he returned to full-time classes, finishing up courses he had started a year earlier. He graduated in May 2015 and is now pursuing his master’s. Dan hopes to teach health and wellness eventually, perhaps at a community college.
Alumna and Husband Give Back through Charitable Annuity

Reprinted from the UNCG Planned Giving Website

As educators, Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Stone Johnson ’70 and Linwood Johnson, Sr., say they “don’t have a million dollars to give the university.” Instead, the couple finds that a charitable gift annuity is the perfect way to have a long term effect on students’ lives.

Ginny grew up in Kernersville and attended Meredith College. “I transferred to UNCG my sophomore year, which allowed me to pursue my entire degree program in home economics education at a single institution,” she says. “It was a much larger school, but there was no loss in value. I received an excellent education here.”

She says she was able to land a job straight out of college based on the quality of her UNCG degree. She taught in eastern North Carolina for several years before pursuing two master’s degrees and a doctorate. She worked as a school administrator for years, as did her husband, Linwood.

“We are both firm believers in lifetime learning,” Ginny says. “Even after I made the leap from teacher to principal, I learned to keep going back to the classroom. I liked being able to see both the broad picture and the lives of individual students.”

Ginny retired in 2000 and is happy in retirement. She has remained involved with UNCG, especially through the Council for the Advancement of Graduate Education (CAGE).

“Linwood and I designated our planned gift, a charitable gift annuity, to support a graduate award in the School of Health and Human Sciences, and we hope that this fund will encourage others to become lifelong learners as well.”

To learn more about how to support the School of HHS through planned giving, visit http://giftplanning.uncg.edu.

Peer Counseling Shows Impact on Friends’ Substance Abuse

A study on substance abuse by Dr. Kelly Rulison, assistant professor of Public Health Education, was covered by Reuters and published by news outlets worldwide.

According to Rulison’s study, teens may be less likely to drink and smoke if their friends participate in substance abuse prevention programs.

Rulison and colleagues followed 5,449 students who didn’t participate in counseling that was offered at their schools. At the start of the study, there were no differences in tobacco or alcohol use among the teens who didn’t participate in the counseling program. But as time passed, the teens who had more friends in the program were much less likely to get drunk or smoke than their peers who didn’t have any.

“Adolescents are often influenced by their friends,” Rulison said. “Teens whose friends participated in a family-based substance use prevention program benefited from the program even though their own families did not participate.”
Graduate students in the Department of Nutrition recently worked with Guilford County Schools Nutrition staff to make homemade wheat rolls from a recipe that can be used in school cafeterias. The students also provided the staff with the full nutritional analysis for the recipe as part of its regular School Nutrition Association workshop series. The UNCG Food Recovery Network picked up the warm rolls and took them to Greensboro Urban Ministry for the Potter’s House, a local food assistance program.

Training School Nutrition Staff

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Gerontology Network Sponsors Two Aging-Related Lunch and Learns

UNCG’s Gerontology network recently held two “Lunch & Learn” events -- one focused on music and aging, and the other addressing hearing loss and hearing-related disorders in aging adults.

The first program, called “Music and Aging: Deadheads and Other Babyboomers,” included an overview of the effects of aging on music consumption and the challenges they pose to identity and community. Dr. Rebecca Adams, UNCG Gerontology Program Director, led this discussion. She has explored connections between music and identity since she taught research methods and social theory to sociology graduate students by taking them on tour with the Grateful Dead in the summer of 1989.

The second event featured Dr. Lisa Fox-Thomas, an AP associate professor in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and coordinator of Audiology Services at the UNCG Speech and Hearing Center. Dr. Fox-Thomas spoke about her work with older adults who have hearing loss and hearing-related disorders such as tinnitus and sound sensitivity. She discussed both educational and technological approaches to minimize the impact of hearing loss on daily living. She also emphasized the importance of comprehensive hearing health care to ensure a positive impact on communication, cognition, daily health and safety, as well as psychological and social well-being.

The programs were sponsored by GROWTH – the Gerontology Research, Outreach, Workforce and Teaching Hub at UNCG.
As any of us who go to a doctor’s office or file an insurance claim know, the American health care system is undergoing a profound transformation. A system that has, for years, revolved around expensive procedures and inpatient hospital stays is now charged with keeping people well and providing highly coordinated care that is also cost effective.

That means a dramatic shift in how students must be educated for future careers in health care.

With this in mind, UNCG’s School of HHS is spearheading work to bring health care students together across disciplines to share information, understand each other’s roles, and learn how to communicate as one unified health care team.

“Interprofessional education is an important national and international trend in the health-related fields and allied health fields,” says Dr. Dave Demo, associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Health and Human Sciences. “At UNCG, we’re emphasizing this important aspect of education to improve outcomes for patients and families and to prepare our students to deliver the highest quality of care.”

Part of this work includes a concerted effort to increase the number of interdisciplinary courses within the School of HHS. Previously, doctoral students might have spent four to five years doing most of their work in one department. Now HHS offers six courses that bring together professors and students across disciplines to learn together. These include course offerings on statistics, research methods, professional development and more – all with the prefix HHS.

“Students have responded very positively,” Demo says. Faculty members also have the opportunity to work, research and engage in community activities together, which helps break down “silos.”

As a next step, HHS and the UNCG School of Nursing have launched a collaborative effort with three Triad universities to help health care students learn from one another and engage in networking opportunities. Along with Demo, Dean Celia Hooper of HHS and Dean Robin Remsburg of Nursing are both involved in the interprofessional work. This collaborative brings together:

- High Point University students in pharmacy, physical therapy and the physician assistant program;
- NC A&T State University students in social work and nursing;
- And UNCG students in social work and nursing.

More than 100 students from the collaborative attended two workshops this fall – one at Moses Cone Hospital, the other on the UNCG campus. Another is planned for February.

Students heard speakers discuss the value of interprofessional education and its impact on improving patient outcomes. They learned about effective communication on health care teams, and heard more about one another’s role and job duties in health care.

Dr. Tom Wall, Chief Clinical Officer, Triad HealthCare Network, was a featured speaker at one of the fall workshops.

“Interprofessional care is the way of
the future, and it’s already here,” he said. “Those of us in health care don’t need to be in competition any more. We need to collaborate. If the primary care physician is the quarterback, we need the entire multidisciplinary team – of specialists, office staff, care management, nurses, health coaches, social workers, physical therapists, physician assistants and others – to provide the best patient-centered, value-based care.”

The current payment structures in health care also make it necessary to collaborate, and at the same time, they ensure that all professionals are rewarded for their time. “We have to develop innovative ways to see these patients other than just in an office or hospital setting,” Wall said. “By working closely together, we can expand the number of patients cared for on a given day.”

Justina Simmons, who is pursuing a master’s degree in the Joint Masters of Social Work Program at NC A&T and UNCG, says the workshops have taught her the importance of patient-centered care and how to be most effective in practice. “Attending the interprofessional workshops has given me the opportunity to learn from my peers in other health care arenas and has provided me with great insight on how each profession complements the other,” Simmons says. “To effectively deliver patient-centered care, professionals need to cooperate, coordinate their care and collaborate. Effective communication and collaboration between the professionals can result in fewer hospitalizations, diagnostic testing and specialty referrals for clients.”

While interprofessional education such as this often occurs within a single academic institution, Demo says this may be the only program in North Carolina involving different institutions. “There’s tremendous potential because we’re talking about bringing together students from three diverse institutions,” he said. “This will provide intercultural education and prepare students for working with diverse sets of clients in the future.”
As the Syrian refugee crisis dominates the news, a UNCG professor has significant firsthand experience that she is sharing with her students and using in her work with refugees locally.

Public Health Education Associate Professor Dr. Sharon D. Morrison recently returned from Austria, where she visited and assisted refugees during an educational group visit sponsored by the Association of Refugee Service Professionals. A research fellow with the Center for New North Carolinians, Morrison is a well-respected local leader in educating on health outcomes, integration challenges and empowerment strategies of newly arrived and post-resettled refugees in the Triad region of North Carolina.

Given the current debate over the Syrian refugee crisis, Morrison wants to ensure people are educated about all the safeguards in place before individuals or families are resettled in new countries. “Every aspect of their lives are examined, and this process can take two or three years,” she says. “When refugees finally make it on U.S. soil, they have undergone extensive Homeland Security investigation, cultural orientation and, in fact, they can be stopped at any point in the process. … What we’re trying to do is dispel the fears, because if we don’t, we go back to the post 9/11 environment, and we’re trying not to have that happen.”

Morrison joined others in her group to volunteer at the train station housing refugees. She assisted people with personal hygiene needs — handing out diapers, shaving supplies, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes. Nearby, other volunteers were “putting their best foot forward to give out fresh fruits and vegetables, meals, water, freshly baked bread. People were giving out SIM cards so people could be in touch with families.”

Morrison, who has also visited refugee sites in Malaysia and Rwanda, feels a responsibility to impart her learnings to her students. “I want them to really have that mindset of competence knowing about the history of these regions and what’s going on,” she says. “I want them to have a capacity to work with communities that are different from theirs. I feel like I’ve just become a walking textbook. I think a lot about how to best communicate this.”

If she succeeds, she says, her students will contribute much. “They are very competent and passionate,” she said. “I have faith that they can take this important work to the next level.”

Campus Weekly staff contributed to this article.
Above: Dean Hooper and CSD AuD externs Jeff Mills and Lindsay Pape compare a noise meter phone app against an external noise meter used by audiologists.

Left: Nutrition students Rachel Isom, Shaikhah Almesbah, Jaron Roberts, and Hanan Alshaqsi visit the HHS tent during Homecoming. The nutrition display was fabulous and the most hardworking group there.
HHS recently honored donors for their consistent and continued generosity during the 2015 Donor Celebration at the Alumni House on campus. Speakers included Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam Jr., Dean Celia Hooper, and student Mary Lor, who represented HHS Scholarship recipients for the 2015-16 school year. Dean Hooper stressed the importance of the School’s role in health promotion, citing the recent announcement of UNCG’s “Healthy Campus” designation, and thanked donors for the part they played in supporting our students, program, and faculty.
Run Honors Bill Evans, Raises Money for Scholarship

As a public health education professor, Bill Evans inspired people to do great things. Now, people are continuing to make a difference in his memory.

Faculty, students and supporters came out Oct. 25, 2015, to participate in the second annual Bill Evans 5K and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk.

The event benefited the Bill Evans Student Leadership Scholarship Fund in the Department of Public Health Education. The fund is just $5,000 away from reaching the endowment level. If you would like to be part of creating the legacy to Bill Evans, please contact Barbara Wike, Director of Development for the School of Health and Human Sciences, at bjwike@uncg.edu or 336-404-8469. You can also send your donation directly to the Bill Evans Student Leadership Fund, UNCG Advancement Services, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.

Pet Therapy

The HHS Alumni Association hosted a “We Feel Your Pain” coffee break for students during reading day of exam week in May. Kopper Top Life Learning Center brought therapy animals to help reduce students’ stress. The director of Kopper Top, Deborah Meridith ’87, serves on the HHS Alumni Board.
HHS Recognizes Faculty and Staff with Awards

THE SCHOOL OF HHS RECOGNIZED FACULTY AND STAFF WITH THE FOLLOWING ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THEIR SERVICE, SCHOLARSHIP AND TEACHING:

**HHS GRADUATE MENTORING AWARD**
**Dr. Esther Leerkes**, a professor in Human Development and Family Studies, received the HHS Graduate Mentoring Award for her work to assist students in clarifying and advancing their academic and professional goals. Dr. Leerkes has a mentoring philosophy that encourages students to pave a path of their own interests. She also helps them network with multiple faculty while challenging students to engage in work that matters in the “real world.”

**COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**
**Dr. Donna Duffy**, an AP assistant professor in Kinesiology, is this year’s Community Engaged Scholarship awardee. As Director of the Program for the Advancement of Girls and Women in Sport and Physical Activity, she provides students with important and timely research and educational opportunities with a range of community partners. She is also instrumental in disseminating evidence-based knowledge to improve practice.

**HHS TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**
**Dr. Catherine Scott-Little**, an associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, received the HHS Teaching Excellence Award. She is described by her nominator as one of UNCG’s very best teachers. Dr. Mark Fine, professor and chairman of the HDFS department, said he continually hears positive comments about her teaching. Her style creates an atmosphere of mutual respect in the classroom, and students describe her as “awesome, positive, inspiring and encouraging.”

**MARY FRANCES STONE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD**
**Karen “Pea” Poole**, an AP associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology, received the Mary Frances Stone Teaching Excellence Award. The award was established to honor a faculty member who displays teaching excellence in the School of Home Economics, now the School of Health and Human Sciences. Described as an exceptionally strong and effective teacher, Poole is willing to teach a wide variety of courses in the department. Students are very complimentary of her teaching and appreciate her approachability, patience, encouragement, constructive feedback and especially her sense of humor.

**GAIL HENNIS GRADUATE TEACHING AWARD**
**Dr. Sharon Morrison**, associate professor in the Department of Public Health Education, received the Gail Hennis Graduate Teaching award. The award honors Dr. Hennis, who was a long-time faculty member in Kinesiology and former assistant dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Morrison was described as a dedicated professor who challenges her students to learn, sets high expectations and then helps students reach them. This type of focus is also critical in the public health arena, as practitioners must meet people where they are and then help them achieve the health they desire.

**SENIOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD**
**Dr. Susan Calkins**, Bank of America Excellence Professor in Human Development and Family Studies, received the Senior Research Excellence Award for her role as a prolific researcher and excellent collaborator who has worked tirelessly to enhance the research environment of UNCG. She is an internationally recognized expert on emotion regulation across childhood and into young adulthood. Her highly productive and impactful research provides students and junior colleagues with rich and meaningful opportunities to engage in research with her. She launched the Child and Family Research Network (CFRN), a highly active research network on campus with 184 members across disciplines.

**JUNIOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD**
**Roger Mills-Koonce**, associate professor in Human Development and Family Studies, is this year’s awardee. He is a talented and prolific researcher tackling topics of high relevance to children and families. Dr. Mills-Koonce is committed to supporting the research endeavors of other faculty and students, and he has become an active and highly sought after mentor to UNCG students.

**OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD**
**Verna Leslie**, the pre-award research administrator in the HHS Office of Research, received the HHS Outstanding Staff Award for providing outstanding leadership and service beyond the normal scope of her responsibilities. She was recognized for her unwavering devotion to duty, her willingness to work over and above what is expected, and her innovation. Her experience, knowledge and work ethic make her the “go-to” person in the office.
Dr. Leandra Bedini, a professor in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation, received the prestigious Fellow Award at the recent 2015 NC and SC Recreation & Park Association Joint Conference. The Fellow Award is the highest award the association bestows for outstanding service and leadership. Awardees have a minimum of 10 years of experience in the field of recreation and parks; service contributions to the recreation and park movement through the association and other organizations; and exemplary professional leadership and character.

Dr. Daniel Bibeau, professor, and Dr. Mike Perko, associate professor, both in the Department of Public Health Education, have received new funding from the Wellness Council of America to look at national trends and future best practices for employee health and wellness. The Wellness Council of America is the largest member organization in this country dedicated to worksite wellness. Drs. Bibeau and Perko will analyze one decade’s worth of the organization’s data on what America’s healthiest companies do to help employees become healthier and reduce risk for disease.

Dr. Deborah Cassidy, a professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, received new funding from the Guilford County Partnership for Children for a project to improve quality in community child care settings. The project addresses activities for family child care homes and centers including professional development, program enhancement through individual consultation, community learning sessions and workforce retention strategies including compensation. The Department of Human Development and Family Studies will provide project leadership through advising and consultation. The project will be conducted in Guilford County early care and education programs.

Dr. Jessica Dollar, post doctoral fellow in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, received new funding from the National Institutes of Health for the project, “Childhood positive affect and anger as predictors of adolescent risky behavior.” Adolescent engagement in risky behaviors, including substance and tobacco use, early sexual contact, and antisocial behaviors, is a “significant public health concern because it exacts a toll on individuals’ later functioning, as well as negatively affecting others,” the abstract states. “Yet, the mechanisms that explain adolescent risk-taking have not been identified. The proposed work takes a developmental perspective and integrates multiple levels of analysis to identify childhood biological and behavioral mechanisms of adolescent risk-taking.”

Dr. Melissa Floyd-Pickard, professor and chair of the Department of Social Work, received a continuation of funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Mental Health Services for the Joint Master of Social Work’s program in Behavioral Health Workforce Education Training. The Joint Master of Social Work Program educates future social work clinicians who are committed to social justice and diversity and inclusion. “Our recent shift to a multicultural clinical model and the current behavioral health service delivery system in North Carolina necessitates that students be trained to practice interprofessionally,” the abstract states.

Dr. Perry Flynn, an AP professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders, has received funding from Phoenix Academy for a “Speech Language Pathology Service Contract with Phoenix Academy.” The purpose of this agreement is to provide speech and language therapy services to children in the Phoenix Academy who qualify for these services.

Dr. Catherine Scott-Little, associate professor, and Teresa Sumrall, PhD candidate, in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies have received new funding from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Child Development for the project, “Early Learning and Development Standards: An examination of caregivers’ knowledge, practices and professional development support and needs.”
Student News

FIVE SPARTANS OF PROMISE FROM SCHOOL OF HHS

Five of the University’s ten 2015 Spartans of Promise are HHS students. The Spartans of Promise award is given annually by the UNCG Alumni Association.

The following students were recognized at the Alumni of Distinction Award Dinner on Oct. 15.

• Carissa Crews ’16 is from Kittrell, NC, and is majoring in Public Health Education with a concentration in Community Health Education. Carissa is the co-founder and vice president of “1st G,” which is a student-led organization focused on first-generation college students. She has also participated in NC State Upward Bound, Winter Walk for AIDS and has earned the Silver Seymour Award. She was chosen to speak and ring the bell at the dedication of the Mary Channing Coleman building. She would like to obtain a full-time position as an HIV/AIDS professional to improve the community’s awareness and knowledge about the disease.

• Shelton Young ’16 is from Henderson, NC, and his undergraduate focus is Social Work. Shelton has been active in both the university community and the Greensboro community as a learning community ambassador, senior resident advisor, and a volunteer with the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. He is a member of the Golden Chain Honor Society and is on the dean’s list. He wants to “focus on bringing unique knowledge and skills to the educational system and student services teams by assisting with mental health, behavioral concerns as well as academic and classroom support.”

• Kendall Phillips ’16 came to UNCG from Asheboro, NC. Kendall has a double major in Public Health Education and Religious Studies. Kendall has received the bronze, silver and gold medallions from the Office of Leadership and Service Learning for campus leadership and involvement. Kendall has also been inducted into Eta Sigma Gamma, the honor society for Public Health Education, and would like to become a health education specialist.

• Shaikhah Almesbah ’16 is originally from Kuwait and currently resides in Greensboro, NC. Shaikhah is a Human Nutrition and Dietetics major. She has served as a research assistant and is a university marshal. She has made the chancellor’s list and is a recipient of a School of Health and Human Sciences scholarship. She intends to become a professor of nutrition.

• Bess Hopkins ’15 is from Reidsville, NC. Bess comes from a long line of UNCG graduates including her grandmother, mother, aunts and sisters. She is majoring in speech language pathology and audiology. Bess serves as a Spartan Guide leading university tours, has been a university marshal, and serves as a volunteer coordinator for the Tap College Ministry at Daystar Church. Her academic achievements include dean’s list and chancellor’s list every year, Kappa Omicron Nu National Honor Society for Health and Human Sciences. She would like to be a speech language pathologist so she can help people overcome speech, language, and voice limitations.

Alumni News

Paula Bonner ’75 was named to the University of Wisconsin Hall of Fame for 2015. As a university athletics department administrator from 1974-1989, Bonner was a champion for the rights of female students who sought a chance to compete in intercollegiate athletics, according to a release from the university. That included overseeing the transition for women’s sports as they officially joined the Big Ten and the NCAA in 1982. During her tenure, the budget for women’s sports increased from $780,000 to $1.2 million. She also co-hosted the first radio show for women’s sports at UW and guided the 11-sport women’s program to the 17th-best in the country in 1989. Today, she is president of Wisconsin’s Alumni Association, which has been a national leader in providing opportunities for women and minorities. According to the Wisconsin State Journal, she “has worked tirelessly promoting diversity and equal opportunity in athletics and throughout the University.”
New Faculty Hired

The School of HHS has hired the following new faculty members:

- Dr. Kathy Shapely, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.
- Dr. Judith Kinney, an assistant professor in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation.
- Dr. Daniel Rhodes, an AP assistant professor in the Department of Social Work.
- Dr. Gregory Daniels, an AP associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology.
- Dr. Jeremy Rinker, an assistant professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies.
- Laurie Allen, an AP assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition.

New Department Chairs Appointed

The following new faculty chairs have been appointed:

- Dr. Ron Morrison in the Department of Nutrition.
- Dr. Tom Matyók in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies.
- Dr. Tracy Nichols in the Department of Public Health Education.