



**UNC
GREENSBORO**

Department of
Community and
Therapeutic Recreation

THE RECREATOR

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A NEW NORMAL

A NEW NORMAL



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INSIDE THE ISSUE

Featuring articles like
"A Very New Normal" by
undergraduate student, Belle
Downing (p.5)

"A Virtual NC Folk Festival" by
professors, Dr. Justin Harmon & Dr.
Benjamin Hickerson (p.9)

Programming (p.11) and professional
development tips (p.14)

A blast from the past with "Where
are They Now?" featuring alumnus,
Dr. James Worsley (p.6); and
"Retirement Musings" featuring
professor emerita, **Dr. Leandra
Bedini** (p.11)

A special word from Department
Chair, **Dr. Stuart Schleien** (p.2) &
Dean **Dr. Carl Mattacola** (p.3)

AND MUCH MORE!

"A new normal." It's hard to believe that we've been hearing those words for almost a year now. Almost a year of masks, political unrest, and an ever-growing death toll; all rare items before 2020. This past year has taken its toll, but through its challenges we have learned to appreciate the little things, to stand up for what we believe in, and to hold our loved ones close.

We may not know what the future holds, but we, as the UNCG CTR department, intend to make the most of the challenges our "new normal" presents. We will learn from one another, appreciate every accomplishment, advocate and support each other, and most importantly, hold our ever-growing CTR family close. We hope that introducing our inaugural newsletter will do just that.

A WARM WELCOME

by Dr. Stuart Schleien, CTR Department Chair

Greetings from the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation. I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this inaugural newsletter to you. It has been the most trying of times over the past year for so many of us, to say the least. We have struggled with a relentless pandemic, systemic racism, environmental catastrophes, a weak economy, and a contentious presidential election. That said, it is somewhat miraculous that through it all, UNC Greensboro and our department have continued to thrive.

CTR remains vital and prominent within the School of Health & Human Sciences. Our department held steady in the fall semester, serving 192 undergraduate students and 39 graduate students, our largest graduate student cohort to date. Moreover, I am pleased to report that students of color comprise nearly 25% of our student body. In light of current events, CTR faculty and staff have been delving deeper into issues of structural racism in order to serve our diverse student body. We have opened our eyes wider to appreciate, acknowledge, and incorporate important new perspectives and approaches to our teaching, mentoring, and scholarship.



We have also made several exciting changes to our staff in the current academic year. Dr. Brent Wolfe was hired as a tenured, Associate Professor of Therapeutic Recreation. His research is in adapted sports, along with focusing on the lived experiences of people with disabilities and giving them a voice to share their perspectives. Dr. Wolfe also serves as the Executive Director of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA), the national organization representing recreational therapists across North America. He joins six other CTR faculty members all of whom are doing great work through teaching, mentoring students, and pursuing community scholarship.

Ms. Joan Sutton, a Licensed Recreational Therapist, is in her second year as Clinical Fieldwork Supervisor. She is doing exemplary work connecting with our community partners and placing our students in recreational therapy, community recreation and parks, and event planning sites as interns and practicum students. Dr. Ben Hickerson is serving as our Graduate Program Co-director and Ms. Kimberly Miller is our new Director of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Judy Kinney in Therapeutic Recreation and Dr. Justin Harmon in Community Recreation & Event Planning both continue to excel in the classroom and through their exciting research in the field.

This past year, Dr. Leandra Bedini retired following a 28-year tenure as a distinguished professor of Therapeutic Recreation. We are fortunate that she remains integrally tied to the department as Professor Emerita, joining Dr. Nancy Gladwell within these ranks. Please follow Dr. Bedini's lead by staying engaged and sharing your thoughts and ideas with us.

Make plans to visit virtually until we can meet on the UNCG campus when it becomes safe to do so. Now and in the future, you will witness many young people holding our leaders accountable about the issues that matter to them. You will also experience a vibrant and diverse generation of future park and recreation professionals, recreational therapists, and event planners who are already helping make our communities healthier, more welcoming, and more inclusive places to live.

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our department and for keeping in touch. Wishing you and yours a pleasant, productive, and healthy new year.

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

by Dr. Carl Mattacola, Dean of Health and Human Sciences

The School of Health and Human Sciences at UNCG comprises students working every day to make a real difference - the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation is a huge part of that equation.

I am so excited to have the opportunity to introduce myself as your dean - a role I have proudly fulfilled for over a year now.

Prior to UNCG, I served as Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky. I spent 20 years at UK, where I developed a master's in athletic training program similar to the master's in CTR, and I directed an interdisciplinary doctoral program. My research and scholarship focused on neuromuscular, postural, and functional considerations in the treatment and rehabilitation of lower extremity injury, especially following surgery. I have been focused on neuromuscular rehabilitation outcomes and functional return to pre-injury levels following ACL surgery and following autologous cartilage repair.

While I miss being as active as I once was in research, I have enjoyed living vicariously through all of the faculty in HHS. CTR is no exception. The research is applied and has immediate applications to improve care and improve the lives of the populations you serve.

As Dr. Schleien reminded me when we discussed our mutual backgrounds and interests, I have more experience in camps and recreation than I ever realized. In a previous life, I was the co-director of a sports camp that was held at Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. It was a terrific experience and one I will always cherish. A fun fact from that time in my life is that one of my camp counselors was Kirby Smart. You may have heard of him - he has done a bit of football coaching in Georgia. :)

During my time in HHS, we have worked hard to find ways to engage and communicate more effectively with our department alumni - this newsletter is one avenue for that. It provides an avenue to share and keep you connected with the "G."

Alumni engagement is a high priority for me. We recently hired a new Director of Development, Sam Wagner, and an Alumni Engagement Coordinator, Emily Britt. Sam will oversee all of our fundraising, and Emily will be your conduit back to the School of Health and Human Sciences. Look for more regular and systematic connections in the future. I realize that the School has not done the best job of keeping you informed. We will work to improve that relationship and do a better job of highlighting your successes.

Speaking of CTR alumni who rock it like a wagon wheel, we had the opportunity to celebrate David Parrish for the HHS Pacesetter Award and Laura Harkins Kelly for the HHS Emerging Leader Award. David is the City Manager of Greensboro and in the short time I have lived in Greensboro, I have seen the exciting initiatives that he has created to support our community parks and green spaces. Laura is a dynamo who has taken the results from her thesis and used the data as motivation to promote and advocate for recreational therapy in existing care facilities, and for at-home interventions. Both are amazing and caring professionals!

HHS is among the largest of the University's seven academic units. We hold some of the most highly ranked programs in the University, with national recognition. We are a school with a true "culture of care," and I believe CTR is a leader in that effort. You should feel especially proud to call yourself a CTR Spartan, and I am honored to serve you!

I look forward to meeting many of you when safe to do so. Until then, be safe and enjoy what you do.



WELCOMING A NEW CTR FAMILY MEMBER

by Dr. Brent Wolfe, CTR Faculty

Hello! For those of you who I have not yet had the chance to meet, my name is Dr. Brent Wolfe and I am the newest faculty member in CTR! I am incredibly excited to be here and be part of such an amazing program. While this first semester has been challenging for all of us, I am grateful for the welcome and support that I have received from the other faculty, staff, and most importantly, the students.

To give you all a little bit of background about me, I am a licensed and certified recreational therapist, and this is my 17th year of teaching. Prior to being here at UNCG, I was at Georgia Southern University and the University of Southern Mississippi. I love being in the classroom and working with students; I especially can't wait until we are able to engage in more service-learning, experiential learning, and hands on activities because those are the moments when things seem to "click" the best for students. Prior to my teaching experiences and getting my graduate degrees, I was a recreational therapist at a locked residential treatment center where I served adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders. My hope is that my past experiences as a recreational therapist and my past teaching experiences will enhance everything I do in the classroom.



From a research perspective, I have been studying adults with developmental disabilities using photovoice to allow them the opportunity to explain their experiences during a one-week overnight camp. I am currently working on two projects that focus on individuals with physical disabilities and perceptions. In the first of these projects I am examining how a disability simulation impacts the perspectives of individuals without disabilities and I am incredibly grateful for the students in my Introduction to Therapeutic Recreation class who volunteered to participate! The second project will look at the effects of an adaptive sports expo on the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries. With both of these projects, I hope to shed light on attitudes related to disability and incorporate plenty of student involvement!

Outside of UNCG, I serve as the Executive Director for the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. I have found that position to be very rewarding and I believe that position will benefit the students and CTR program as a whole as I stay very connected to recreational therapy on a national level. I also have a wife named Becky who is an oral surgery assistant and two daughters: Austyn Grace who is 13 and in 8th grade and Taylor Faith who is 10 and in 5th grade. We have a dog named Bella, two cats - Leyla and Blue - and a fish that I can't believe is still alive :) We love to be active and get outside as much as we can. Both of my daughters are involved in sports so we spend a lot of time watching them play.

Overall, I am tremendously grateful to be part of the CTR family and I thank everyone for the incredibly warm welcome I have received!





A VERY NEW NORMAL

by Belle Downing, CTR Club President

As I near the end of my undergraduate career, I reflect upon the goals I had set for myself just a few years ago as a hopeful and eager first year student. I had big dreams and an even bigger willingness to achieve them. As I began to get closer to “the finish line”- so close I could see it in view, my world (and the whole world) seemed to collapse beneath me. Feeling discouraged and defeated I looked at everyone around me for help while we all struggled together.

While the distance of Zoom and WebEx felt isolating, there was a sense of solidarity in the fact that we all were experiencing this together. At this point, we all had time that we had never had before- and what we did with that time could change the course of our lives. I would be lying if I said I didn’t struggle to find the motivation to even get out of bed in the morning. But when I found that motivation, I felt powerful.

I have found a few tricks that I have used religiously to help me stay on my feet and running straight towards that “finish line.” The first trick that has proved to be one of the most beneficial for me is reaching out to others. Every week I try to call or text two new people that I haven’t spoken to in a while, even if it’s just to ask them how they are. Another way to extend this trick is to start gratitude journaling. You can set tiny goals every day for yourself to stay grounded and connected to the things that make you feel loved and great (because you deserve it)!

Another tip I have used to keep me motivated is to engage in physical activity at least every other day. Since the age of Zoom began, I have enjoyed yoga, going for walks, and even just stretching outside on my porch. Just like eating food fuels your body, charging up with even some light stretches can help you pull through the day!

“ You are not alone in this. ”

Lastly my favorite piece of advice that has always been my biggest motivator is teaming up. You are not alone in this. Your struggle is real and valid, but you don’t need to experience it in solitude. Team up with friends, family, or coworkers, and make your dreams a reality. Even meeting with the CTR Club every week to plan fun events has kept me feeling connected with a purpose. If we have learned anything this year, it should be that technology can be a tool to achieve great things!

While 2020 will most definitely be in some history books, know that we as individuals, and we as a team, can write our own history. We can and we will come out of this as a generation that overcame unspeakable hardships and remained together, even if that was through a webcam.



Visit [UNCG Cares](#), a Division of Student Affairs initiative that seeks to promote a Culture of Care in the UNCG community by instilling care and support. The UNCG Cares program includes:

- Outreach and education for the UNCG community about how to identify a student in need of support
- Workshops for students and staff to encourage bystander intervention and speaking up for others
- A network of campus resources that are available to assist and support students

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Dr. James Worsley,
UNCG CTR Undergraduate
& Graduate Alumnus

Who are you?

If you would have asked me this question twenty years ago my response would have been simple, and I would have offered little dimension to my answer. Today, I cannot answer this question with simplicity because like an onion I have grown into many layers. One month after my 2003 graduation from UNCG with my master's degree in recreation management, I married the love of my life, Tara Totten Worsley and we are the proud parents of three amazing children (Lily, 14; James Jr., 13; and Bryce, 10). From 2003 to 2011, my family and I resided in Charlotte, NC where I worked for Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation in many roles such as CTRS focusing on planning and implementing programs for the homeless population; facility manager of an urban recreation center; and regional manager overseeing one-third of the park system that provided services to about one million citizens. In 2011, I accepted the parks and recreation director position in Columbus, Georgia where the previous parks and recreation director was indicted for illegal activities and misappropriations of city funds. It was certainly an arduous journey to rebuild community trust and department morale; however, after developing a high-caliber team we became the best agency in the state of Georgia, as voted by peers and we successfully earned our CAPRA accreditation. The adventure continued as my family and I moved to Virginia in 2016 after I accepted the role of parks and recreation director for Chesterfield County which is a community of about 350,000 citizens. Most recently, I was promoted to deputy county administrator for human services where I provide leadership to nearly 1,000 employees in six departments and oversee an estimated annual budget of \$95M. In addition, I have had the privilege to serve on numerous boards such as the *American Journal of Recreation Therapy* as a reviewer for the Cultural Diversity & Recreation Therapy Section; National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Supervisors' Management School, past chair; NRPA National Certification Board, past chair; and COAPRT, past council member. Locally, I've been appointed to the Capital Area Workforce Partnership; Community Criminal Justice Board; Lucy Corr Health Center Commission; and Senior Connections Board.



How has your degree helped you grow professionally?

I'm a first-generation four-year college graduate. UNCG set the foundation for my secondary education, but more specifically the CTR department is where I found my calling to pursue a life of service while working with individuals with disabilities and advocating for society's most vulnerable populations. My degree from UNCG and the CTR department has bench strength, hence the department's professional core and therapeutic recreation programs have been accredited through the Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Profession (COAPRT) since October 26, 1981. I believe it is the department's accredited curriculum that prepared me to successfully pass the CTRS examination at first attempt over 20 years ago and be prepared to work as a CTRS in various areas such as long-term care, youth development, mental health, homelessness, and community recreation. Coming full circle, due to the accredited programs within the CTR department I gained an appreciation for the accreditation process and have dedicated time to serve nationally in accreditation roles. It was an honor to serve as a council member on COAPRT from 2013 - 2019 and during that timeframe I witnessed the CTR department come before the council to be reaccredited with commendations. It is with much appreciation and gratitude that I express my thankfulness to the professors that contributed to my professional development and career successes.

Is there any advice you would like to offer to current students or recent graduates?

- For students that are pursuing research interests, it would be helpful to know how the “trifactor” COVID-19, social injustices across the nation, and a national election impacted health/wellness, access to recreation/leisure opportunities, etc., specific to African Americans and Latinx communities.
- Build strong and meaningful relationships with your professors; community stakeholders; and colleagues.
- Volunteer as much as possible in a variety of areas in order to diversify your portfolio of experiences.
- I cannot stress the importance of obtaining experience through volunteering, practicums, and internships.
- Join and get involved with your professional organizations, because relationships are developed and furthered through networking.
- Pay it forward to the next generation. Mentor others.

Pictured: CTR Faculty "clapping" for the December 2020 CTR Graduates via Zoom. Click for link to video.



Family Photos



Pictured: 2020 Homecoming Court featuring CTR student, Belle Downing (pictured fourth from right)



Pictured: CREP students at their internships. (Left to right) Seth Hardin, Carlee Crawford, Kevin Mangel.



Pictured: Alex Hauer, CTR alumni and assistant director of UNCG Outdoor Adventures, setting up the UNCG Rockwall.

Pictured: TR students at their internships. (Left to right) Kathy Horner, Jessica Ferguson, and Alexis Abbott.





VIRTUAL NC FOLK FESTIVAL

*by Dr. Justin Harmon &
Dr. Benjamin Hickerson,
CTR Faculty*

The North Carolina Folk Festival (NCFF) recently finished its third year in Greensboro, and due to the challenges brought on by the pandemic, the festival had to adapt to its current, temporary environment: it went fully online. Drs. Justin Harmon and Ben Hickerson collected demographic and economic impact data for the first two iterations of the NCFF, but they always had questions about the broader social and cultural impact of the festival: Does hosting a multicultural, free music event in Greensboro lend to creating opportunities for diverse people to socialize? Does participation in an arts and music festival broaden spectators' cultural awareness?

While having the festival online was not preferred, doing so did allow for the organizers to showcase unique cultural sites around Greensboro and Guilford County, which were also complemented by historical facts about the venues and the events that have transpired within them in their online presentation. Some of the sites where musicians performed included the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, the home of the February 1, 1960 "sit-in" at Woolworth's; the Underground Railroad Tree at Guilford Woods; and the 18th century "Old Mill" of Guilford, a key site during the Revolutionary War.

With the NCFF online this year, Drs. Harmon and Hickerson shifted the focus of their research from economic impact to participants' perception of diversity and inclusion in Greensboro and the impact participation had on feeling a sense of belongingness to the community. Data from roughly 150 online surveys yielded that over 75% of respondents strongly agreed that the event "provides opportunities for community residents to learn new things" and "leaves an ongoing positive cultural impact in the community."

Following the survey, the researchers organized a virtual focus group to explore issues related to cultural impact of the festival on attendees. One of the focus group participants had this to say about their perception of the NCFF: "My husband and I just sat outside and watched everybody and we talked about how important it was to bring light to the culture and area we are in because it's one thing to read about the sit-ins in a textbook, but another to experience the place where it happened. It's important for my son to know the culture and history behind it and how we're evolving into this amazing melting pot [here in Greensboro]. It helps to support our household ethics and morals."

We hope the NCFF is able to return to its intended in-person format for 2021, and we're excited to continue our research on the diverse benefits a largescale free event like this brings to Greensboro.

More information about the North Carolina Folk Festival can be found at

<https://ncfolkfestival.com>

UNDERGRADUATE UPDATE

by Kimberly Miller, MS., CTR Faculty and Director of Undergraduate Studies

Hello CTR family and friends. I have been blessed to be a part of the CTR family for a long time now, including as a student from 1996-2001 (BS, MS) and as an employee since 2002. As an employee, I have served in many roles including Project Coordinator for federal grants, Research Associate, Lecturer, and as an AP Assistant and now AP Associate Professor. All of these roles have presented unique and exciting challenges. However, none of them were as challenging as the one I am currently facing...attempting to fill the shoes of Dr. Leandra Bedini, who served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUGS) for CTR for many years, approached the role as an advocate—advocate of students, the department, and the field. She wanted to ensure that the department’s curriculum did not just meet accreditation standards, but prepared students to become the most effective professionals that they could be. She wanted CTR alumni to be professionals who continued to move the field forward in a thoughtful and progressive manner. Her role as an advocate for students, I believe, is the one she took the most seriously, and in fact, cherished. She stood up for CTR students when they were faced with injustice, guided them through what can be at times a very confusing university system, empowered them to find their own voice, and always viewed new policy proposals from the perspective of the student and what the implications would be on them. If that was not enough, she was simply always “there” for students. She was “there” when a student faced unthought-of turbulence in their home environment, mental health crises, or a peer or loved one passing away. She was always “there” whatever the situation, whenever there was a student in need.



When Dr. Bedini retired this summer, her role as Director of Undergraduate Studies was passed along to me and I have been left with these huge shoes to fill. I will never be able to “be” Dr. Bedini. However, what I will strive to do is to embody her principles. She taught me how to combine my love for the field and a love for students to bring 110% to everything I do here at UNCG. I look forward to bringing 110% to the role of DUGS, and trying to fill at least one of her shoes, as I will never be able to fully fill both.

STUDENT CTR CLUB

The CTR Student Club encourages participation in career programs offered by CTR. The club promotes professionalism among students, provides opportunities for professional development, creates an awareness of CTR through public relations, and provides opportunities for members to professionally and successfully make contacts in the CTR field.

Membership in the CTR Students Club is free and open to all CTR students so join today!

Contact the CTR Student Club via email at ctr@uncg.edu and follow us on Instagram for important updates!



[@uncg_ctrclub](https://www.instagram.com/uncg_ctrclub)

UNCG CTR CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bring A Friend Day

What Happens Next?

A discussion on life after college and career prep.

Student NCTRC Forum Group Attendance

RETIREMENT MUSINGS

by Dr. Leandra Bedini, CTR Professor Emerita

Greetings CTR! I am thrilled to share my “new normal” as someone who retired during a pandemic. For those who don’t know me, I retired this summer after 28 years as a faculty member in CTR. For most of my career, I could not imagine why people wanted to retire. I loved my job – serving with incredible faculty, doing exciting research, and teaching interesting and passionate students. But one day, I realized that I had things I wanted to do that had been put on the back burner. It was time to slip into the next chapter of my life. Little did I know the transition would be a bit different than I imagined because of COVID. So, here are some basic things I’ve learned over the last nine months that have helped me cope and thrive amid these challenges.

First, I am learning **patience**. So many of my retirement plans have been put on hold, but only on hold. I will be patient and look forward to traveling, visiting my family, hugging my neighbor’s kids, and dining out with friends sometime in the future. But for now, I wait. I have also honed my skills at **acceptance**. From accepting the creative substitutions on my curbside grocery orders to accepting that some folks just defy logic about if and how to wear masks. I am learning not to harp and whine about things that I cannot control. I am more “active” with my **appreciation** - telling others I love them, thanking the frontline workers, wanting less material “stuff.” Finally, I am **focusing on today**. Today, I am accepting my reality and being patient about my original plans. Today, I am actively appreciating my life including the newfound time to declutter, do small house projects, use my new fire pit, read a fun (non-academic book). I can do these things now, so why not?

These lessons have helped reduce my fears and anxieties and increased my serenity. I am full of gratitude for what I have, where I have been, and full of hope for what the future holds for me. But, right now, I am here and that is good enough. So, my closing advice to you, my CTR family, is to hang in there, reach out, be strong, laugh every day, wear your mask (properly!), and know that we have each other. Wishing you a safe and exciting 2021.



" Retirement in a pandemic...
...SHEESH!"

QUICK TIPS FOR CREATING A NEW PROGRAM

by Casey Johnson, CTR Graduate Assistant

Often, when a CTRS takes a new position, they are tasked with creating a brand new TR program or revamping existing programs that have become stale or have lost sight of the organization’s mission. I had the opportunity to develop an adaptive and inclusion support program at Kernersville Parks and Recreation as a CTR Graduate Assistant. Now that I have graduated and am working full-time, I am working on incorporating TR practice into our programs and services. As a young professional embarking on this challenging assignment, I want to share what I’ve learned the last few years.

- 1) Be Intentional- Resist the easy path! Develop programs and events that meet the expressed needs of the people you are serving. Do not just plan an activity that is easy to throw together. In Kernersville, I developed a general input survey and have crafted programs around the residents' survey responses and program evaluations.
- 2) Utilize Your Resources- The CTR Department is overflowing with support and guidance. Take advantage of your professors' and alumni's experience. Network with others in the field that have a similar position as you. Their insight and expertise is invaluable.
- 3) Be Persistent- A wise professional (shout out to Dr. Leandra Bedini) told me it takes three years to get a program up and running. Planning, marketing, acquiring equipment, implementing the program, and building a participant base takes time. Trust the process and don't get discouraged!

This year is definitely a time for those that are experts in adaptations and modifications to thrive. CTRS's around the country have been making the impossible possible with a good attitude and creative problem solving since before the pandemic. Believe in yourself, and remember you always have the UNC Greensboro CTR family behind you!



VIRTUAL REALITY

by Dr. Judy Kinney, CTR Faculty

Since I have been at UNCG, I focused on two aspects of research – one to investigate actively practicing recreation therapists (RT) who are nationally certified on two different topics. The first was on pain management that investigated knowledge and attitudes towards pain as well as if RTs were using pain management in practice and identified interventions used. The second study focused on services performed by RTs including workload, direct therapy interventions, number of clients served, types of services provided, and frequency of services to determine the impact that RTs have on clients served by our profession. These two national research studies resulted in three publications and numerous presentations at state, regional, and national conferences.

The second aspect of my research was to pursue clinical research studies at two regional hospitals working with RTs and other healthcare professionals at UNC Hospitals and Wake Forest Baptist Health. One study proposal focused on pain management and the use of virtual reality to reduce pain during wound care for individuals with burns. We were in the planning and IRB request stage when the pandemic hit. So as of last March, this study has been on hold due to the need to direct resources to dealing with COVID-19. The second study is a program evaluation of the effects of an RT outpatient neuroplasticity program for individuals with Parkinson's disease. Until last month, this program was suspended as outpatient services were paused. The third study just received IRB approval and is screening in-patients for eligibility.

This study had to register with ClinicalTrials.gov as well as register the virtual reality headset as a medical device to obtain clearance by the FDA. This study will investigate the effects of virtual reality as an RT intervention on upper extremity range of motion, cognition, and pain of individuals who experienced a stroke. Several of our graduate and accelerated master's program students and an honor student have worked on these studies learning the IRB process, conducting literature reviews, analyzing preliminary data, creating training manuals and conducting staff training either during internships, honors thesis, or master's projects. We have faced some significant hurdles in inpatient and outpatient settings due to the pandemic.

DISABILITY SIMULATION & ACCESSIBILITY RESEARCH

*by Meaghan Conway & Mackenzie
Hale, CTR Graduate Students*

People who experience or have disabilities are people. We had the opportunity to spend a weekend in a wheelchair as part of Dr. Wolfe's CTR 231 course. During this time we spent as much time out in public as we could – the grocery store, Starbucks, walking trails, restaurants, and the mall all led to similar experiences. We started this simulation being asked “Are you obeying the speed limit?” and received a wide variety of comments as it continued. One man working at the mall rudely asked, “What’s wrong with you?” Another group yelled “WHEELCHAIRS” when they realized we were behind them, and many people asked if we wanted to race them.

Everyone had a different perception of us, and many people felt their opinion needed to be shared. With this experience, we learned how challenging living in an able-bodied world can be, how important advocacy is, and how crucial it is to be empathetic and understanding. Someone with a disability can wait in line – they don’t need to go in front of everyone at the elevator or in the Chick-Fil-A line. Emotions and feelings were demonstrated in different ways throughout this experience, but being compassionate, empathetic, and open-minded were some of the most important.



UNCG CTR KUDOS

This past year has proven to us that every accomplishment, no matter the size, deserves a little celebration. So, here is a little "kudos" to our CTR family.

David Parrish

has been honored with the School of HHS 2020
Pacesetter Award

Laura Kelly

has been honored with the School of HHS 2020
Emerging Leader Award

Dr. James Worsley

has taken a new position as Deputy County Administrator
for Human Services, Chesterfield County, VA

Dr. Judy Kinney

was honored during the UNCG Faculty Excellence in
Research and Creative Activity Celebration for becoming
an Elected Fellow, National Academy of Recreational
Therapists, and for receiving the organization's
Scholarly Manuscript Award

Kimberly Miller

is now serving as the CTR Director of Undergraduate
Studies

Dr. Stuart Schleien

is under contract to edit a new book on Inclusive Camp,
Human Kinetics Publisher. Kimberly Miller is co-
authoring a chapter of said book

Dr. Benjamin Hickerson

has received tenure this academic year

Belle Downing

has been honored as a Spartan of Promise by the Alumni
Association

Scholarship Award Winners for the 2020-2021 academic year

Maddie Ward - Nell Stallings Fellowship
Drew Gehrken - Grace Blackmore Deely Award
Hillary Hedgecock - Marge Burns Fellowship
Brenda Segda - Priscilla Gowen Scholarship
Cameron King - Marge Leonard Scholarship
Sarah Ludvik - Nancy Burton Hockett Award
Tylr Stinson - Susan Stout Award
Jillian Cain - Christopher Harvey Award
Gabriel Arevalo - Marissa Gusto Award
Makayla Bullock - Dorothy Davis Award
Kim Barbosa - Silvio and Gale Bedini Award
Clayton Cilcone - HHS 20/21 Award

Share your accomplishments with us
to be included in the next issue!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

by Joan Sutton, MS., CTR Faculty

Happy 2021! It feels incredible to say that after 2020, the year of craziness. For many of us, 2020 was a challenging year. Like many of you, we at UNCG transitioned to remote learning, became Zoom meeting experts, were misidentified as superheroes due to consistent mask-wearing, and safely adapted our services to meet our students' needs. While this was and continues to be an extremely stressful time for all us Spartans, reflecting upon the past year, I reminded myself that...We SURVIVED!

Not only did we survive, but we have thrived, thanks to our dedicated community partners, students, CTR department family, and friends. Last year, with our CTR family's support, we quickly transitioned our traditional six-week summer practicum to an online remote learning format. We are fortunate that so many professionals jumped in and immediately helped us create video content that provided valuable experiential learning opportunities for our students. Many students felt that the professionals' videos gave them a lot of insight and support into what a future job or career opportunity would entail.

This past year our internship site supervisors also worked diligently to create new ways to provide students with a quality internship. The internship experience makes us remember that these opportunities are not just a "rite of passage," but a valuable involvement that provides hands-on learning and improves employable skill sets. It reminds us that participation in vital internship programs helped lay the foundation for our current jobs. While COVID tried to intervene, our creativity, determination, and passion for our field allowed us to adapt the traditional internship experience, transition approaches, and taught our students how to adjust and succeed. Our 2020 graduates were able to learn, be creative, and grow. As they seek employment opportunities for the future, they will have great encounters to reflect upon.

As we move forward to the start of a new year, and while these are unprecedented times, we will continue to be problem solvers.

For students searching for internship opportunities, remember to stay positive, don't become discouraged by rejection, ensure you have a plan or work with the CTR faculty to set something up, prepare yourself for the "hunt," and be professional.

For agency internship site supervisors, life with the coronavirus isn't what we expected it to be, but remember hosting an intern can bring new life and energy into your agency.

If you are interested in hosting an intern or need help setting up an internship, please reach out to me at jlsutto2@uncg.edu.

Your CTR family is here to help!

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

We want to hear from you!

TIMES ARE TOUGH AND MONEY IS TIGHT...

With the COVID-19 pandemic impacting everyday life, we thank you for your continued support and wish our CTR family health and peace. Right now, our department faces new challenges. As we adapt to these unprecedented circumstances, we'll continue to serve our CTR community as best we can. While there's a lot of uncertainty, we know that we need to adapt fast to our changing reality. Now, more than ever, our CTR family needs us, and we need you.

To make a gift, click the link below, and search for the area you would like to support!

[DONATE](#)

CAN'T DONATE? YOU CAN STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- Let us know of any positions opening at your agency
- Host an intern
- Nominate someone for the next issue's "Kudos" page

WRITE A PIECE FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!

Do you have a story to share with your CTR family? Interesting research, relevant topics, or opportunities? We are always looking for new writers and articles, so please let us know!

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

We are so proud of our alumni and we want to stay in touch! Let us know where you are now so we are able to keep an accurate database of our students for future opportunities.

[ALUMNI
SURVEY](#)

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