

A dissertation in 3 minutes? Registration for 3MT competition opens today.



Imagine describing your entire thesis or dissertation to a general audience in just 3 minutes.

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Rada Petric (left) did just that, earning her title as the winner of the 2018 Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition. Rada is currently working towards her Ph.D. in Biology at UNC Greensboro and says she was urged to enter the competition by her academic advisor. Rada's research focuses on the effects of man-made noise on wild mice. She says that the 3MT competition greatly improved her public speaking skills as well as her ability to explain her own research to anyone. Rada now will compete at the United States Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Association conference in Charleston, South Carolina, in late September.

Registration is now open for the 2019 3MT competition: <https://forms.gle/4hkGebxuHZ7NXkPB9> Preliminary rounds will be held October 29th-30th with the final round being hosted by The Graduate School on November 14th in the Alumni House.

More information about the competition can be found on the graduate school website, or: <https://grs.uncg.edu/3mt/>

Chancellor's Town Hall for Faculty and Staff Oct. 17



A Chancellor's Town Hall for Faculty and Staff will be held Thursday, Oct. 17.

The event will be held in the EUC (room is pending), 3-4:30 p.m.

Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. will offer brief remarks and then he and Provost Dana Dunn will take questions from faculty and staff.

The chairs of Faculty Senate and Staff Senate will facilitate the Town Hall, which will provide time for questions from the senates, from the audience, and from online submissions.

This is the third Chancellor's Town Hall for faculty and staff. The first was held last fall, and one was held in the spring.

Faculty and staff are invited to submit questions via [this Google form](#).

Or if you prefer, you may ask your questions from the floor at the event.

Call for speakers: TEDxUNCGreensboro theme will be 'empower'



Speakers at last year's event

Do you have an idea to share with the world?

Take a chance and step onto a TEDx stage right on campus. For the second year, UNC Greensboro will host a TEDx event. The event will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2020. All UNCG students, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited to apply to speak.

TEDx is a showcase for speakers presenting great, well-formed ideas in under 18 minutes. The program is an outgrowth of TED, a global community of curious minds and inspired thinkers sharing ideas both online and at events throughout the world.

The theme and title for the evening will be “Empower,” pending TEDx official approval. [Dr. Omar Ali](#), a veteran TEDx speaker and dean of Lloyd International Honors College, will co-emcee the event with colleague Portia Harris. The event will take place in the EUC Auditorium.

Potential speakers are encouraged to contemplate how their chosen topics relate to and empower people on campus or in the broader community. Each speaker who is selected will have the benefit of at least two individual coaching sessions with UNCG alumna Katie Marshall, of [Creative Machine Consulting](#). All those interested in presenting a talk should complete [this online form](#) by Oct. 4, 2019. Each speaker must attend the following meetings prior to the event:

All Call Group Meetings – Nov. 22 @ 1:00 and Jan. 17 at 1 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal – March 12 or March 13 at 3-6 p.m.

Applicants should take time to review “[What is a TEDx Talk?](#)” and the YouTube video “[What Makes a Great Ted Talk](#)” before submitting their ideas.

Learn more at the TEDxUNCGreensboro website: <https://www.tedxuncgreensboro.com>.

Dr. Lois Holzman to discuss ‘performance and play in higher ed’ on Sept. 19

Dr. Lois Holzman, Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Vygotskian Practice and Performance in Lloyd International Honors College, will give a lecture on “Performance and Play in Higher Education” at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, in the School of Education Building, Room 114.



Dr. Lois Holzman, courtesy of Dr. Omar Ali

Holzman is “a leading proponent of a cultural-performatory approach to human development and learning based on the work of the developmental psychologist and educator Lev Vygotsky and the philosopher of science Fred Newman,” says Dean Omar Ali, who has infused performance and play into the Honors College as a way of supporting the learning and development of students, faculty, and staff.

A principal organizer of the bi-annual Performing the World conferences, Holzman is part of an international cross-disciplinary community of practitioners and scholars who take a cultural-performatory approach in addressing today’s educational, mental health, and social policy issues and challenges.

The lecture will be followed by a roundtable conversation facilitated by Ali and will include Dr. Nadja Cech, Sullivan Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Lalenja Harrington, Director of Academic Programs in Beyond Academics, each of whom use performance and play in the honors courses they teach.

The event is free and open to the public.

Collaboratory hosts Community-Engaged Scholar Gathering on Sept. 26



The UNC Greensboro Institute for Community and Economic Engagement (ICEE) will host the 3rd annual [Community-Engaged Scholar Gathering](#) on Sept. 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. at [Greensboro Project Space](#). The purpose of this event is to convene UNCG and North Carolina A&T faculty, staff, and administrators who are enacting or supporting community-engaged work.

ICEE participates in [Collaboratory](#), a publicly searchable, online database that shares an institutional story about who, what, where, and to what ends community-University partners are working towards community-identified priorities for shared learning and mutual benefits.

This year, ICEE will celebrate over 100 activities in Collaboratory and will share opportunities

and resources with attendees. The event is free and open to all faculty, staff, and students. RSVP by September 19.

Emilia Phillips



Emilia Phillips (English) published a four-book review in the New York Times' Shortlist titled "[Confronting Grief, Mental Illness and Marginalization, in Verse.](#)" Available online now, it will appear in the printed version of the New York Times on Sunday, Sept. 29. Phillips is the author of three poetry collections from the University of Akron Press, "Signaletics" (2013), "Groundspeed" (2016), "Empty Clip," and four chapbooks, most recently "Beneath the Ice Fish Like Souls Look Alike" (Bull City Press, 2015) and "Hemlock" (Diode Editions, 2019). Her poems and lyric essays appear widely in literary publications including Agni, American Poetry Review, Ploughshares, Poetry, and elsewhere. She teaches in the MFA Writing Program.

Deaf Awareness Week events

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures will present two American Sign Language-centered events on campus this weekend in honor of Deaf Awareness Week.

Saturday, Sept. 21, Deaf artist Nancy Rourke will give a painting workshop 1 to 4 p.m. in the Elliott University Center, Kirkland Room. The event is free but registration is required. Email kmdenapl@uncg.edu for more information.

Sunday, Sept. 22, Deaf "Kiss-Fist" will showcase talents by Deaf children and adults at the Elliott University Center. The event will begin at 2 p.m. and will include stories, jokes, skits, and songs, signed in ASL and voice interpreted. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12 and free for ages 5 and under.

Parking is free for both events, in the Walker deck.

For more information, contact Karen De Naples at 336.543.2193 VP or kmdenapl@uncg.edu.

Upcoming sustainability film series



A still from "The River and the Wall"

The UNCG Sustainability & Film Series, the longest running program of its kind in the region, is back for the 2019-20 academic year. Come watch films on various contemporary sustainability issues and participate in constructive discussions on how to address these issues. And, all showings are free.

The films in the series are:

- Sept. 19: "Hidden Rivers of Southern Appalachia:" Explore the rivers and streams of North America's most biologically rich waters, those of the Appalachian region. The work of the conservationists and biologists highlighted show both the beauty and the vulnerability of the area. 6:30 p.m., EUC Alexander Room.
- Oct. 17: "The Human Element:" Photographer James Balog explores how the lives of regular people in Tangier Island, Colorado, Kentucky, and California are affected by climate change. Through his investigation, he argues that humans are a part of nature as a whole, not separate from it. 6:30 p.m., Weatherspoon Art Museum.
- Jan. 30: "A Quest For Meaning:" A Quest For Meaning tells the story of two childhood friends who travel the world and meet great thinkers of diverse traditions in an effort to better understand climate change and how to make change themselves. 6:30 p.m., Weatherspoon Art Museum.
- Feb 27: "The River and the Wall:" This film follows a diverse group who journey down the Rio Grande to document the US-Mexico border and to explore the impact of a border wall on public lands, immigration, and the environment. 6:30 p.m., location TBA.

For more information, see the website [here](#).

Copy from UNCG Office of Sustainability

Edited by Avery Campbell

Call for raffle prize donations and save the date: 3rd annual SECC breakfast



Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications Jeff Shafer and Women's Basketball coach Trina Patterson work the grill for last year's breakfast.

Faculty and staff are invited to partake in good food, good fun, and a good cause by attending the [State Employees Combined Campaign \(SECC\)](#) annual breakfast on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The event cost is \$6 and will take place in Fountain View Dining Hall from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Pre-event tickets are available through the [SpartanCard Center](#) in Moran Commons and will also be available at the event. Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. will open the event with remarks.

Event organizers request that Spartans donate items to be used as prizes during the breakfast raffle.

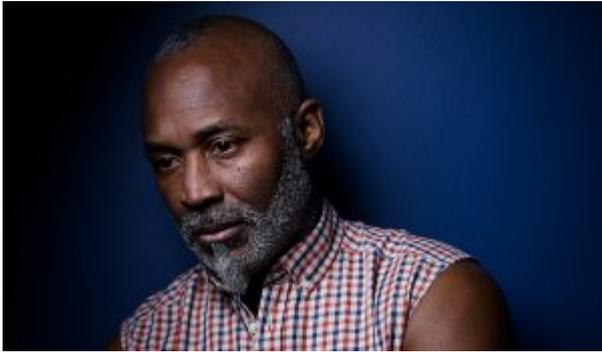
Faculty and staff in the past have donated handmade items such as jewelry boxes or other crafts, UNCG swag, gift certificates, and jewelry. The items up for bid are diverse - there is something for every interest. The raffle tables are always popular.

The deadline for raffle item donations is Oct. 21. For drop-off locations and times, contact Tammy Downs at adowns@uncg.edu.

Last year, the breakfast raffle and ticket proceeds yielded \$2,039 of the \$173,396 total raised by UNCG.

Created in 1984 by the state of North Carolina, the SECC is the official workplace giving campaign for state employees. The principal aim of the SECC is to strengthen and sustain North Carolina communities and their citizens. The campaign gives state employees and retirees continuous opportunity to support charitable organizations that are accountable, fiscally sound, and committed to improving the quality of life in our state, nation, and the world.

UCLS launches with multidisciplinary artist Nick Cave



Next week, UNCG hosts a notable artist who works within a variety of mediums and fields of study: art history, studio art, dance, fashion design, and anthropology, to name a few.

Visual and performing artist Nick Cave and his partner and collaborator Bob Faust will speak at Elliot University Center Auditorium Thursday, Sept. 26, at 6 p.m. The University Concert and Lecture Series (UCLS) event is free and open to the public.

Cave works through a wide range of media, including sculpture, installation, video, sound, and performance. His pieces blend fashion, sculpture, and performance. Drawing on his dance training with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as well as his study of fiber arts at the Kansas City Art Institute, Cave is best known for his Soundsuits—vibrant, wearable sculptures in which the artist and others perform. One of those very Soundsuits is on display currently at UNCG’s Weatherspoon Art Museum as part of the exhibition “Here We Are: Painting and Sculpting the Human Form.” Cave’s solo exhibitions have taken place in the United States, France, Africa, Denmark, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean. Most recently, Cave and Faust have opened a 20,000 square-foot collaboration incubator for young artists in Chicago.



UNCG professors in various fields have incorporated Cave and Faust's visit into their coursework this semester.

Lecturer in the Department of Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies Anne Mitchell relates Cave's work, particularly the Soundsuits, to trends in nationally prominent fashion magazines.

"From a CARS department perspective, I would say that dress and identity are key, as well as looking at his work from a cultural anthropology angle. In other words, how might we understand and interpret his work in a broader context such as areas like visual merchandising, trend forecasting, apparel design and consumer behavior?"

Associate Professor of Art History Elizabeth Perrill brings Cave's art into her course material on West African masquerade and art production. She notes that his work incorporates historical knowledge of movement and performance into the contemporary global art world and intersects with histories of oppression, protection, and performance in relation to gender, queer identities, and African American/Black histories.

"His Soundsuits are at once a protection and an evocation of histories of Black performance. He uses the body and movement to break art out of static gallery or museum displays."

The event is organized by the Weatherspoon Art Museum and co-sponsored by UNCG's College of Visual and Performing Arts, School of Art, and Department of Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies.

Compiled by Susan Kirby-Smith

Photography courtesy of the Weatherspoon Art Museum and the artist

Weatherspoon hosts researchers of Cone Collection



The Cone Sisters with Gertrude Stein

Sunday, Sept. 22, at 2 p.m., join Dianna Cameron and Carrie Streeter, co-curators of the Blowing Rock exhibition “Modern Visions, Modern Art: The Cone Sisters in North Carolina,” for a special talk that explores the story behind the Weatherspoon’s Claribel and Etta Cone Collection.

The curators will present new research on the history of the Cone Collection and the Cone family through the lens of Claribel, Etta, and their sister-in-law Laura Cone’s lifelong interests and commitments to women’s education. The Weatherspoon has lent multiple artworks from its Cone Collection to this exhibition at the Blowing Rock Art & History Museum.

The event is free and open to the public. Learn more about the Cone Collection at the Weatherspoon here: <https://weatherspoonart.org/cone-collection/> and more about the event here: <https://weatherspoonart.org/event-sep-22-curators-talk-cameron-and-streeter/>

Newsmakers: U.S. News & World Report, Dr. Jensen, food insecurity, opioids, Dr. Obare, and men’s basketball

Whether researchers with timely insights or students with outstanding stories, members of the UNCG community appear in print, web and broadcast media every day. Here is a sampling of UNCG-related stories in the news and media over the week:

- UNCG was ranked no. 1 in the state and no. 27 nationally for social mobility in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges 2020. [See the full report here.](#)
- Dr. Michaeline Jensen was quoted in a U.S. News article on a study about the effect of technology on young people’s mood problems, which she co-authored. [The article.](#)
- UNCG’s efforts to reduce food insecurity for students were highlighted in a front-page News & Record story. [The piece.](#)

- Dr. Melissa Floyd-Pickard and Chase Holleman were quoted in a News & Record piece on the opioid crisis, which also highlighted the GCSTOP program. [The piece.](#)
- Dr. Sherin Obare’s appointment as dean of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering was featured in The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education. [The feature.](#)
- The upcoming men’s basketball game between UNCG and NC State was featured in a 24/7 Sports piece. [The article.](#)

UNCG Religious Studies fall 2019 events



The Department of Religious Studies has announced fall events, including speakers and a film. All events are free and open to the public, as well as faculty and students.

Still from “New Muslim Cool”

“Women Outside Their Apartments: A Moroccan Feminist’s Cinematic Vision,” a lecture by Dr. Florence Martin from Goucher College

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 6 p.m., Faculty Center

Moroccan, Muslim, feminist pioneer filmmaker Farida Benlyazid has always been subversive. Looking at the arc of her work from her auto-fiction *A Door to the Sky* (1988) to her current documentary project on Moroccan feminist Fatema Mernissi, this talk will examine how Benlyazid has consistently disturbed the boundaries between autobiography and fiction, the personal and the political, Muslim spirituality and feminism, by deploying the liminal spaces traditionally occupied by women.

Florence Martin is Dean John Blackford Professor of French and Francophone Studies at

Goucher College. She holds a Doctorate from Université de la Sorbonne, Paris, and has published articles and book chapters internationally on the blues, francophone literature and French and francophone cinema. Her recent work focuses on postcolonial cinema, the cinema of the Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) and French and Francophone women's films. She is an editor for the scholarly journal *Studies in French Cinema* (UK) and for *Proto*, a peer-reviewed journal for undergraduates in the Middle Atlantic region (US).

Co-sponsored by Lloyd International Honors College, the African American and African Diaspora Studies Program, the Department of History, and the Muslim Student Association.

**“Dancing with the Angel of Death: Demonic Femininity in the Ancient Synagogue,”
a lecture by Laura S. Lieber from Duke University**

Thursday, October 24, 7 p.m., Location TBD

What makes a woman powerful? And dangerous? Can what makes her “good” also be a potential “evil”? In this talk, we will consider a striking presentation of demonic femininity in early Judaism (ca. 5th-6th centuries CE). At the center of this presentation is a dramatic poem that elaborates on the biblical ritual of the suspected adulteress, the *Sotah* (Numbers 5). In the course of our examination of the long-forgotten composition, we will explore how the synagogue performance expands on traditions preserved in more familiar Jewish sources, and ways in which this work resonates with magical texts, amulets, and traditions; and we will consider how the portrayal of the accused woman relates to universal human fears and the female power to compel the male gaze.

Laura Lieber is Professor of Religious Studies at Duke University, where she directs the Duke Center for Jewish Studies as well as the Center for Late Ancient Studies. She holds secondary appointments in Classics, German Language and Literature, and the Duke Divinity School. A native of Fayetteville, Arkansas, she received her BA in English Literature and Classics from the University of Arkansas (1994), has rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (1999), and holds a PhD in the History of Judaism from the University of Chicago (2003). Her most recent books are *A Vocabulary of Desire: The Song of Songs in the Early Synagogue* (2014), and *Jewish Aramaic Poetry from Antiquity* (2018), with a volume on Classical Samaritan Poetry coming out in 2020. She has held ACLS and National Humanities Center fellowships, and received grants from the American Philosophical Society and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. While her research focuses on Jewish life and culture in the Roman world, particularly on theatricality and performance in the world of the synagogue, Lieber's teaching spans from the biblical period to the present day.

“New Muslim Cool,” a film screening followed by discussion led by Dean Omar Ali, Lloyd International Honors College

Thursday, November 14, 4-6 p.m., Location TBD

Puerto Rican-American rapper Hamza Perez pulled himself out of drug dealing and street life 12 years ago and became a Muslim. Now he’s moved to Pittsburgh’s tough North Side to start a new religious community, rebuild his shattered family and take his message of faith to other young people through hard-hitting hip-hop music. But when the FBI raids his mosque, Hamza must confront the realities of the post-9/11 world, and himself. “New Muslim Cool,” an award-winning documentary, takes viewers on Hamza’s ride through streets, slums and jail cells – following his spiritual journey to some surprising places in an America that never stops changing. (-PBS.org)

Omar H. Ali is Professor of Comparative African Diaspora History and Dean of Lloyd International Honors College at UNCG. A graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science, he studied ethnography at the School of Oriental and African Studies before receiving his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. He is the author of four books and the recipient of numerous awards, including an Excellence in Teaching Award and a Chancellor’s Recognition of Contributions to the UNCG Community.

Co-sponsored by the Lloyd International Honors College and the Muslim Student Association.

Dr. William Adams



Dr. William Adams (Kinesiology) received new funding from QKC, LLC for the project “Use of an isotonic hydration beverage on acute hydration status.”

Maintaining a state of normal hydration on a day-to-day basis is essential to sustain life and has been shown to reduce risks of long-term morbidities. Maughan et al., has previously tested various beverages’ ability to retain total body water when consumed acutely and tracked over the subsequent 4 hours. B beverage hydration index (BHI) was then developed to provide a practical and objective determination of a beverage’s ability to restore hydration when compared to water with a higher BHI value interpreted as a greater volume of water

retained over that of water. Sollanek et al., expanded on this research to examine the influence of body mass and sex on BHI showing that the BHI is valid across sex and variations in body mass. In situations (i.e. athletics, military operations, occupational work) where fluid needs to be restored over a short period of time, consuming a beverage that increases body water retention is advantageous and may prevent the deleterious effects of dehydration. Unknown in scientific literature is the influence of an isotonic beverage on the ability of the body to retain body water in free living individuals. Thus the purpose of this proposal is to determine the body water retention capabilities of Hoist.

Dr. Paul Davis



Dr. Paul Davis (Kinesiology) received new funding from Cone Health for the project “BELT Program (2019-2020).”

The purpose of this project is to continue operation of an ongoing sustainable exercise component of the Bariatric Surgery Program known as the Bariatric Exercise Lifestyle Transformation Program.

Dr. Sara Heredia



Dr. Sara Heredia (Teacher Education and Higher Education) received new funding from Exploratorium for the project “Spanning Boundaries: A Statewide Network to Support Science Teacher Leaders to Implement NGSS.”

Dr. Heredia will have overall responsibility for the research, including design and iteration of the professional learning program, supervision of the graduate student and research associates during data collection and analysis, and dissemination of research.

Dr. Linda Hestenes



Dr. Linda Hestenes (Human Development and Family Studies) received new funding from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), Division of Child Development and Early Education for the project “North Carolina Rated License Agreement Project.” Dr. Steve Hestenes and Dr. Sharon Mims are co-principal investigators on the project.

The North Carolina Star Rated License was established in 1999 to better define the quality of child care in the state and to assist parents in choosing child care. The North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) awards the Star Rated License to child care centers, family child care homes, and school-age programs based upon total points earned in two areas: (1) Program Standards and (2) Staff Education Standards. Program Standards points are awarded as child care programs meet basic licensing, enhanced standards, and ratio requirements. It is in this area that Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R, ITERS-R, FCCERS-R, & SACERS-U) assessments are used. Child care programs with higher rating scale scores can earn more Program Standards points. Since June 1999, the UNC Greensboro has successfully managed the Environment Rating Scale assessment portion of the North Carolina Star Rated License process.

Dr. Sophia Rodriguez



Dr. Sophia Rodriguez (Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations) received a continuation of funding from the University of South Carolina, Prime: Spencer Foundation for the project “Promoting education equity for immigrant students: Examining the influence of school social workers.”

This mixed-methods study focuses on the role of school social workers in promoting access and education equity for vulnerable immigrant students in public K – 12 schools. School social workers may play an important role in shaping school climate and directing immigrant students to key resources, but we know relatively little about how they are doing so—or why, under some conditions, they are not. Beginning from the assumption that school social workers are structurally positioned within schools to shape the (re)distribution of goods and services available to students, the researchers use the framework of street-level bureaucracy to identify the ways in which school social workers broker resources for immigrant students, and how their own views of immigration influence the choices they make along the way. Their project includes a national survey of school social workers and in-depth interviews with a subset of this national sample. The researchers’ contribution promises to advance how we understand access, opportunity, and education equity for immigrant students by highlighting the influence of school social workers within schools.

Workshop, Tumblr meme guru open meme series at University Libraries



This year, University Libraries will raise the level of discourse on memes at UNCG with a series of meme-focused guest speakers, interactive workshops, a student art contest (with prizes), and a student-curated digital meme collection.

"Uplifting Memes" is a library outreach project aimed at connecting students with library resources and spaces while also addressing critical, intersecting literacies that help students develop transformative life skills necessary to be informed and engaged in society and navigate digital resources and content.

The project is not just for students. The activities and workshops will be of interest to faculty and staff as well.

"There are any number of ways to incorporate meme-making and analysis into classes across the curriculum. We find that having students create their own memes in the context of academic courses is a great way for instructors to assess comprehension of disciplinary content. It also encourages students to practice translating and distilling their own arguments or ideas from research assignments into a different medium, for a different audience," say Jenny Dale, University Libraries' information literacy coordinator and liaison to English, Media Studies, Communication Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies.

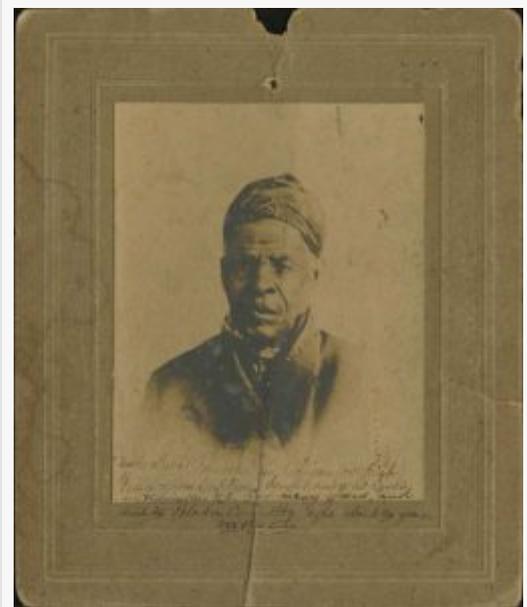
The first guest speaker will be Tumblr meme guru Amanda Brennan, presenting "A Brief History of the Internet" on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the Elliott University Center (EUC) Auditorium.

The first workshop will be "Let's Get Ethical: Copyright, Fair Use, and Attribution for Memes" on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 5 to 6 p.m. in Jackson Library Lab 177A (next to the Superlab).

Beginning in January 2020, students will be invited to submit meme-related artwork in three categories to a juried art contest with prizes. There will also be a call for all Spartans to submit to a new library meme collection.

The full schedule of speakers and workshops can be found on the [Uplifting Memes website](#), and more information about the project can be seen on the [University Libraries announcement page](#).

Smithsonian speaker on Muslim slaves in America



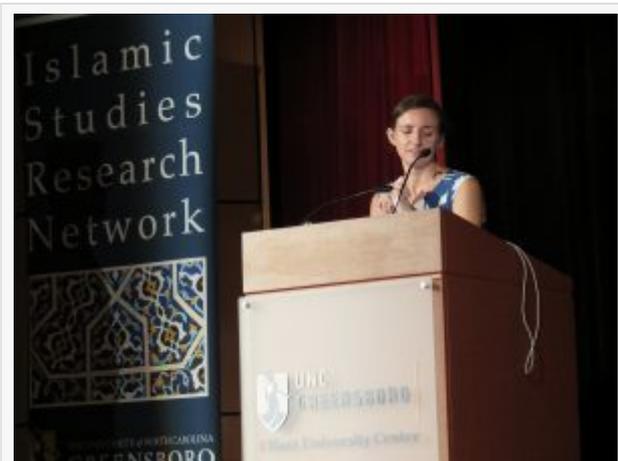
Omar ibn Said, courtesy UNC CH Southern Historical Collection

Omar ibn Said wrote in Arabic. Educated in the Senegal region, he converted as an American slave to Christianity, but his writings lead one to believe he continued to follow Islam. His autobiographical slave narrative, written in Arabic, became a part of the Library of Congress collection this year.

Ayla Amon, curatorial assistant at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, spoke last Tuesday in the EUC Auditorium on Omar ibn Said and many other slaves in 18th and 19th century America who were Muslim.

Dr. Omar Ali - who noted that UNCG has a new Islamic Studies minor - introduced the speaker. Dr. Asa Eger assisted in ensuring all the questions were addressed during the Q&A portion.

Perhaps 20 percent of the slaves in the Americas were Islamic, she said.



Ayla Amon at EUC Auditorium

As Amon noted, our society has tended to believe slaves arrived in America with a blank slate of religion, and were converted to Christianity. It's a simplistic, inaccurate narrative. The fact is: Many had been Muslim and many more had been exposed to Muslim views and culture. Slaves were bringing their spiritual beliefs and cultures with them.

Writing in Arabic and retelling the Koranic passages they remembered (if imperfectly) were acts of rebellion and ways of retaining and expressing their identity.

Some of the existing writings of Islamic slaves are in museums and archives labeled as “Lord’s Prayer” or “John 3:16.” In fact, when you translate it, you often see it’s actually a passage from the Koran.

There’s a lot more to know, she explained. As she said, many of the original writings were destroyed or are lost. But she suspects there are more that exist – perhaps stored away in attics.

Another rich area to explore: Some writings of ibn Said and other Muslim slaves in America included visuals. She showed an example, written by ibn Said. Are they related to Koranic amulets?



A page written by Omar Ibn Said

Editor’s note: Twelve months ago, UNCG alumna Rhiannon Giddens in a Q&A with Dr. Ali and Francisco Turrisi told the audience she was working on a project about Omar ibn Said. (Story [here](#).) Both she and Ali spoke about him that evening. This summer, the [New York Times](#) reported she is writing an opera for next year’s Spoleto Festival in Charleston based on the autobiography of Omar ibn Said.

Story and Amon photograph by Mike Harris

Dr. Jeffrey Milroy



Dr. Jeffrey Milroy (School of Health and Human Sciences - Institute for Promotion of Athlete Health and Wellness) received new funding from Prevention Strategies for the project “SBIR: APC: A collaborative approach to reduce time between concussion symptom onset and treatment.”

The goal of the proposed research is to translate empirical evidence into a web-based segmented behavioral intervention targeting Athletes, Parents, and Coaches (APC) to

decrease the time between concussion injury, onset of symptoms, and treatment among high school and youth sport athletes.

Nearly 4 million sport-related concussions (SRC) are reported annually in the US, and this number has been steadily increasing, in part due to greater awareness about the nature of the injury. Although concussions do occur outside of sport, student-athletes competing in contact or collision sports are at greater risk for multiple head injuries. These injuries can result in significant short-term deficits, including diminished neurocognitive function (e.g., attention, learning and memory, complex problem solving, processing speed/efficiency, and reaction time), postural control and self-reported symptoms. Consistently, findings indicate rates of depression and diminished quality of life are likely to occur in weeks to months post-concussion.

Consequently, declines in academic performance for student-athletes are also linked to SRCs. The post-injury recovery period is a particularly vulnerable time as sustaining additional head trauma has been linked to a myriad of serious long-term neurological deficits. Therefore, immediate removal from play of a student-athlete who has sustained a potentially concussive impact is a critical strategy for risk reduction. Alarming, recent studies suggest that among high school student-athletes, more than 50% of potential SRCs go unreported.

As such, the specific aims of this Phase I SBIR project are to 1) create a detailed outline of the first 4 digital media intervention component prototypes for athletes, coaches, and parents (12 total), 2) develop one fully functional digital media intervention component prototype for parents and coaches and develop 2 fully functional digital media intervention component prototypes for athletes (4 total), and 3) pilot test the scientific and technical merit (feasibility) of each (4) of the fully developed digital media intervention component prototypes. The objective of each fully completed digital media intervention component prototype is to target known individual and environmental risk and protective factors related to concussion reporting by athletes. We will conduct a feasibility study to examine both the commercial feasibility and potential program effect of the prototype modules. A phase II proposal will be dedicated to fully developing and testing the completed intervention.

Dr. Evan Goldstein



Dr. Evan Goldstein (Geography, Environment, & Sustainability) received new funding from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the project “Flow of Water, Carbon, and Sediment within the Land Sea Continuum.”

Goldstein will lead the development of a new delta classification targeting the

48 'representative' deltas from around the world used in other studies (Tessler et al., 2015). Classification will be based on temporal synchrony between:

- 1) Time series of suspended sediment in delta waterways.
- 2) Time series of NDVI in waterway-adjacent wetland environments (a measure of standing biomass).

Synchrony between these two time series is hypothesized to control delta growth. Sediment delivery should occur at mean values of NDVI to result in maximum sediment deposition (e.g., Nardin and Edmonds, 2014). Sediment delivery at low biomass conditions results in sub-optimal trapping of sediment by plants. Sediment delivery at high biomass conditions can block sediment-laden flow from spilling onto wetland surfaces. Classification of this synchrony is key first step in addressing this hypothesis. Is there a 'typical' synchrony between vegetation growth and sediment delivery across deltas of the world?

Dr. Stephen Sills



Dr. Stephen Sills (Center for Housing and Community Studies) received new funding from Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) for the project "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for the Surry Home Consortium."

The project involves compiling, analyzing, and mapping local jurisdictional, state, and national data sources on residential housing disparities for the seven federally protected categories: Race, Color, Religion, Sex, Handicap, Familial Status, and National Origin. Local mortgage markets, house sales, public housing, voucher programs, market rental patterns, fair housing complaints, and other data points will be referenced. Collection of primary data from stakeholders and key informants through public and stakeholder meetings and interviews will aid in providing a comprehensive understanding of fair housing in the region. The analysis also includes review of all the jurisdictions' laws, regulations, and administrative policies, procedures, and practices and an assessment of how those laws, etc. affect the location, availability, and accessibility of housing. Based on the analysis, they will develop conclusions pertinent to equal access, free choice, and equitable outcomes in the housing for all despite race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and handicap needs, and produce a Fair Housing Plan recommending a course of action on how to address any identified impediments to fair housing choice.

Sills also received new funding from Reinvestment Fund, Inc./Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the project "Invest Health Greensboro Creating a Pipeline of Asthma-Safe

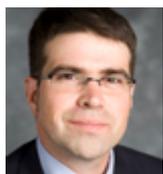
Housing Projects.”

Safe and affordable housing can act as an upstream “prescription” for asthma. Greensboro is presently positioned to engage and develop upstream policy and program solutions to tackle health issues that are exacerbated by substandard and unhealthy housing. By investing in affordable housing and supportive services, municipalities and health systems can leverage financial resources to improve housing quality. The proposed pipeline of building projects will address the link between substandard housing and asthma and build a healthier community with affordable, quality housing opportunities for more than 26,000 individuals in the city who suffer from chronic asthma (CDC 500). The goal is to meet the needs of those most affected by 1) targeting substandard homes in neighborhoods most impacted by respiratory illness, while 2) helping to improving the quality of existing housing and reduce household utility and healthcare costs, and thereby 3) improving health conditions and reducing disparities. This project requires collaboration and continued systems/policy changes by institutional actors as well as direct input from those most affected. The project brings together a team of community members, housing advocates, a major health system, developers, municipal officials, and data scientists.

Additionally, Sills received new funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro for the project “Cottage Gardens Community Resource Center.”

The UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies has been invited to collaborate with Mustard Seed Community Health, the Collaborative Cottage Grove, the Greensboro Housing Coalition, and Cottage Gardens Apartments to operate a resource center for residents of the 177 unit apartment community and beyond. The principal mission of this site will be to provide community health outreach and act as a two-way conduit for resources and referrals. In addition, staff and students will provide tutoring, basic health checks, counseling/therapy, referral and case management, and health education. UNCG will be partnering with the Mustard Seed Clinic, Collaborative Cottage Grove, the Greensboro Housing Coalition, Cone Health, as well as NCA&T and Guilford College as referral partners, health care assistance, and volunteers.

Dr. Nicholas Oberlies



Dr. Nicholas Oberlies (Chemistry & Biochemistry) received additional funding from The Ohio State University for the project “Anticancer agents from Diverse Natural products sources.” This project is supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute.

Funding for the project will be used to screen filamentous fungi for anticancer activity. Promising extracts will be grown on a larger scale. Hits will be pursued via bioactivity-directed fractionation until pure compounds are isolated/characterized.

Oberlies completed a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Miami University and a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy from Purdue University. The Oberlies research group focuses on the isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive compounds from natural sources, including those from both fungal cultures and plants.

Dr. Andrew Willis



Dr. Andrew Willis (Music Performance) has released a new CD of Chopin chamber music for piano and strings, on Albany Records. It is titled "A Prayer for Poland: Chamber Music of Frédéric Chopin." Willis was joined on the recording by UNC Chapel Hill colleagues Brent Wissick, cello and the late Richard Luby, violin. A [CVNC review](#) notes that Willis plays a period keyboard instrument – "his Pleyel grand #15270, made in Paris in 1848, a year before Chopin died. The simple English action yields a bell-like, crisp and clear sound even on the low register, and its middle register is especially pleasing. Instead of overwhelming the gut-stringed violin and cello, the Pleyel blends with them readily."

Honorary degrees nominations

The Committee on Honorary Degrees invites you to identify people who would be good candidates for honorary degrees to be granted at the 2012 commencement or subsequent commencements. Honorary Degrees recognize men and women of high distinction as well as indicate to the public that we as an institution of higher learning value those people and their accomplishments.

The person selected may be distinguished in any number of areas: humanities, sciences, arts, public service and education, to name a few. Only those currently holding public office in the state and the permanent staff of our state universities are not eligible. The achievements may vary in scope from prominence on the international or professional scene to vital contributions to the University, North Carolina, and beyond. A previous connection to the University or state is not mandatory but is considered a strength. For more information, see <http://provost.uncg.edu/publications/personnel/honorary.asp> Guidelines and Procedures for Honorary Degrees approved by the UNCG Board of Trustees at its November 21, 1996, meeting.

In order for you to have an idea of the persons who have received Honorary Degrees, you are

invited to examine the names of awardees from past years: Thomas Haggai (2011); Margaret Maron (2010); Rebecca Lloyd, Nido Qubein (2009); Fred Chappell, Tom Ross, Kay Yow (2008); Irvin Belk, Betty Ray McCain, Edwin S. Melvin (2007); Molly Broad, Henry Frye, Shirley Frye (2006); Muriel Siebert (2005); Jim Hunt (2004); Jaylee Mead (2003); Michael B. Fleming, Stanley Frank (2002); Kenneth L. Adelman, Bonnie Angelo, Jean Brooks (2001); Erskine Bowles (2000); Maud Gatewood, Eloise R. Lewis (1999); Carolyn R. Ferree, Calvin Trillin (1998); Mary Ellen Rudin, LeRoy T. Walker (1995); T. James Crawford (1994); Maya Angelou (1993); Richard C. Atkinson, Robert E. Ward (1992); Doris W. Betts, John H. Franklin (1990).

The committee asks that initially you submit candidates on the form available at <http://provost.uncg.edu> along with biographical information. After the first screening, we may request additional information. Please keep in mind the need for confidentiality, as candidates should not be aware that they are being considered. The deadline for nominations is Monday, Nov. 7, 2011. Please send the completed nomination form to the University Committee on Honorary Degrees, Office of the Provost, 201 Mossman Building.