Welcome to Campus Weekly

David Giddens, Fred Chappell, and Marty Barber recall Emmylou Harris era

By the time Emmylou Harris arrived at UNCG in 1965, a tiny bit of a folk scene seemed to be emerging on campus. An increasing number of UNCG students were playing guitar and singing, in the era of Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Odetta, the Seegers and Peter, Paul, and Mary.


Emmylou Harris was one student that she knew. “She was in my dorm.” That was Bailey Residence Hall. All the halls on the Quad were freshmen-only in that era, she explains.

“I remember she would practice singing with this guy who would come up from Chapel Hill. His name was Mike Williams, and his sister was a Girl Scout that I knew.” Barber had grown up a few miles from the Williamses, in neighborhoods off Friendly Avenue.

“He would come up on his motorcycle with his guitar strapped onto the motorcycle, and they would sit in the parlor of Bailey and practice,” Barber recalls.

“Whenever he would come up, they would practice and everybody would kind of hang around, listening, trying not to be too obvious.”
What was Emmylou like? “Very demure, quiet, studious, but more into the drama. Not drama in her life, but drama as far as acting, singing, and things like that. She was just a really nice girl. She didn’t stand out - nor did any of the other people. But she was a bit more interesting, looking back on it.”

She still has a get-well card with great signatures from some classmates, Harris included.

Barber has continued to play. She even still has some of those old 45s from the Elliott Hall jukebox. She would ask for them when they were regularly replaced for fresh singles. She simply loves music. And she is looking forward to Friday’s big concert. She notes it’s the first time her classmate Emmylou Harris has played on campus since she was a student. Barber has tickets on the very front row.

The following is a tale of upstairs, downstairs. Envision a two-story apartment building on Spring Garden. “A block west of Yum Yum.”

Fred and Susan Chappell, along with their young son, lived on the first floor.

Emmylou Harris lived on the floor above them - she and apartment-mate Gay Bland. Bland sometimes baby-sat the Chappells’ son.

Fred Chappell had joined the University in 1964. This was 1965-66. He was years away from becoming world-renowned as an author, recipient of the Bollingen Prize, the O. Mac Gardner Award, and the French Academy’s Prix de Meilleur des Lettres Étranger. She was years away from being a chart-topping music star.

“We talked together some,” he recalled in a phone interview recently.

How would he describe her? She was “a slender young lady, and lively.”

He often taught classes at night. When he got home, he’d put on an album, usually something like Bartók or Beethoven. It’d be late, but he didn’t think it bothered his family or anyone upstairs. No one ever complained. Not all of his albums were highbrow. He had two Hank Williams 12 inch albums. One was “spoken poems,” he explains, “Luke, the Drifter.”
The other had some of Williams’ standards, like “I’m So Lonesome I Could Cry.” That album reminded him of home, in the mountains of North Carolina. One night, he put that one on.

He passed Emmylou the next morning. She said, “Well, at last you played something worthwhile.”

That quip may be her best line ever.

Did he ever see her play? One time. Chappell says he stopped in the Red Door on Tate Street briefly and saw her performing. The Red Door was a small, narrow joint – “like a wide hallway” – with a tiny stage at the rear and the bar to your right, as you entered, he recalls. Maybe 20 people could fit in the space; he thinks it had once been a coffee shop. On that evening it was filled with soldiers from Ft. Bragg, and they were cheering her. They liked her.

David Giddens played his guitar and sang downstairs at the King’s Inn Tavern near Moses Cone on weeknights, to earn some money, once he enrolled in 1965. He’d often play there with UNCG student Betty Anne Myatt. He’d play whatever people wanted to hear, he says, hoping for more tips. “I did that every night. That’s how I put myself through school.”

And he played downstairs in UNCG’s Elliott Hall on many weekend nights, just for enjoyment. There, he played what he wanted, which was mainly folk.

Anyone could play there. Emmylou Harris and one guy would often duet, he remembers. Barbara Wesley Baker often played too. Baker noted that Giddens took the initiative, of the core group of performers.

Giddens says, “I don’t remember who exactly pulled it together and helped me on that – I know I didn’t do it by myself. It was my idea to pull it together.”

He adds, “We would convert it into a coffee house, and myself and other musicians would come in and perform, and one of those musicians happened to be Emmylou Harris. She came in with a guy she was performing with, and it was great.”

The duet partner’s name? “I don’t know his name. He was backing her up and occasionally I think they sung duets, but most of it was her.”
How would he describe Harris? “She was friendly, she was kind, she was thoughtful. She had a beautiful voice. She played the guitar very well. She was soft-spoken. ... I never performed with her, no. I’d loved to have, but I never did.”

Those were great days, for playing and singing at UNCG. “It was a delightful time, honestly. There was a lot of folk music going on at the time, and there was a lot of reason for a lot of folk music going on at the time. There were reasons to protest, or reasons to carry a message. I wasn’t really much of a protestor, but I did my share of singing protest songs.”

His academic focus was rigorous. “My major was music education. My primary instrument was voice.”

Due to a stroke seven years ago, he no longer plays guitar, but he still loves to sing.

Where did he learn to develop that love of singing, when he was a boy? He reminisces. “I used to go out in the woods and sing as loud as I wanted to, because I couldn’t sing as loud as I wanted to anywhere else. But I guess, you know, church, at home, watching religious shows on TV. A little Mahalia Jackson, watching her on the morning religious shows, and others. My father sang, so he had a vision of the three of us, my brother and my sister, coming together and forming a little trio or whatever and singing. We never ended up doing that, but all of us did enjoy singing.”

He notes that his younger daughter, Rhiannon Giddens, performed at a “celebration of gospel” concert at the Obama White House, on the same bill with Emmylou Harris. His older daughter, Dr. Lalenja Giddens Harrington – who many at UNCG know as director of academic program development and evaluation at UNCG’s Beyond Academics – is also a musical artist. Each are UNCG alumni (Rhiannon attended graduate school and Lalenja earned her doctorate), and each has a remarkable voice and artistic vision.

And all the artistic individuals featured in this three-part Campus Weekly series – from Sandra Forman to Barbara Wesley Baker to David Giddens – are part of an unbroken band of artistic creativity that is a hallmark of this campus.

By Mike Harris

Top visual: 1968, courtesy Marty Barber. From left to right: Barb Staderman Holt ‘69, Marty Barber (on guitar), Maria Hernandez Johnson ‘70, Kathy Wilson ‘69 (on guitar). They would play and sing on the stairs between Grogan and Reynolds residence halls. Here, they are on 8th floor.

Bottom: David Giddens, 2012, performing at a coffee house, courtesy Giddens.

See related articles:

The story behind that iconic Emmylou Harris ‘The Tempest’ photograph.

Barbara Wesley Baker’s freshman memories with Emmylou Harris.

Enjoy UNCG masterclass and Q&A with Emmylou Harris Jan. 24

All are invited to masterclass and Q&A with Emmylou Harris

Roots music icon and UNCG alumna Emmylou Harris will present a masterclass and Q&A session hours before her big UNCG University Concert & Lecture Series performance.

The masterclass event Friday, Jan. 24, will be held at 3-4:15 p.m. in UNCG Auditorium.

The Emmylou Harris concert that evening is sold-out.

The masterclass event presents an opportunity for UNCG music students – and anyone in the campus community or larger community – to learn from her experience as a songwriter and performer. UNCG music professor Gavin Douglas will be the moderator.

While geared toward students, it is open to the public. Seating is limited. No admission will be
charged for this afternoon event.

**Five Greensboro-based community organizations receive first-ever UNCG funding**

Five innovative Greensboro-area community organizations have just received special recognition and funding support from UNCG, the first of its kind from the University.

UNCG’s Department of Communication Studies, the host institution for the National Communication Association’s Center for Communication, Community, Collaboration, and Change (CCCC), has awarded a total of $20,000 for programming and research to five Greensboro-based community organizations for the 2020-2021 school year. The programs advance the theme “Cultivating Resilient Communities” by featuring vibrant citizen participation that focuses on improving the lives of people in Greensboro, making explicit connections to communication, and offering ample opportunities for curricular and student partnerships.

UNCG’s deep roots in community engagement have led to the first-ever grant, which will support (financially and with research) community groups that are engaged in social justice-based work to uplift under-resourced members of the community. Researchers will evaluate programs and perform research on how communication influences, shapes, and leads change of lasting impact.

Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Dr. Terri Shelton and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. John Kiss were attendance at the award ceremony in the Faculty Center on January 13.

“You can see lots of connections between these projects and the way in which people are thinking about communication, community, and change. Democracy, sustainability, justice – these are really core commitments for us, and this is an opportunity to really exercise some of these skills, sensibilities of compassion, and empathy so that we can really make some
change and impact in our community that continues to evolve and grow,” said Professor of Communication Studies Dr. Spoma Jovanovic.

The five community organizations that were recognized include:

**Growing Green for Greens (Neighborhood Markets, Inc.)**
The Green for Greens program enables customers at two of Greensboro’s local farmer’s markets to purchase healthy, locally-grown food using SNAP/EBT. Using a token-based system, customers can double the dollar amount of SNAP-approved foods that they can purchase, allowing their limited funds to go twice as far. The program is supported by donations from individuals, churches, and other local institutions. The grant from CCCC will allow the program to develop a more sustainable donor network and expand the awareness of the program, reaching more families who experience food insecurity.

**Democracy Tables: An Experiment in Community Connection (Greensboro History Museum)**
Democracy Tables are a series of facilitated discussions designed to attract city residents, particularly those from traditionally underrepresented communities, into dialogues on locally-based issues and concerns. Participants will explore collaborative processes to understand the diversity of experiences among city residents and how people can connect to government mechanisms that support change. The project seeks to involve a multi-generational cross-section of Greensboro.

**Greensboro Learning Circles: Journeys into Knowledge (Greensboro Public Library)**
In an increasingly digital world, members of marginalized communities often find themselves lacking the resources to truly benefit from all the knowledge opportunities that are available online. Learning Circles will bring together members of the community who are participating in online study courses to provide peer support and to help them navigate the digital world. Participants will have a space to meet and access to the internet in order to take online courses and receive technical support. Support from peers and facilitators is designed to motivate participants to further pursue online educational opportunities and improve their use of digital tools.

**The Peacemaker Collaborative & Urban Farm Project**
This initiative addresses food insecurity through community engagement, partnership development, and sustainable practices. Nearly four acres of donated property will be transformed into a local urban farm to provide area residents access to healthy foods, as they learn about local agriculture issues, training and workforce development opportunities, and available entrepreneurial activities. The farm plans to provide 1,056 families with fresh produce at little or no cost while encouraging innovation and resilience among families of need in the community.
How We Get Free
How We Get Free is a series of conversations and gatherings focused on exploring the needs, dreams, and aspirations of Black youth in Greensboro. These conversations will operate as a location for young Black people to bring their knowledge, experiences, and visions together for the future. Activities such as small group discussions, art-making, and role-playing will help participants break down various barriers - including age, gender, and sexuality - in order to cultivate a space for engagement and dialogue surrounding systemic oppression, and to craft strategies that empower communities for a brighter future.

Call for nominations: Provost Student Excellence Awards
Lloyd International Honors College invites nominations for the 2020 Provost Student Excellence Award, which is conferred each spring at the Student Honors Convocation. This award is the highest academic honor given to undergraduates at UNCG. Lloyd’s Honors Council celebrates the most outstanding of UNCG’s undergraduate students by selecting the winners from among the nominees. The Honors Council bestows the award on those seniors with high academic achievement who have engaged in the following criteria:

- Creativity, initiative, and/or perseverance inside and outside the classroom
- Significant service and leadership at the University
- Other ways of enriching communities on and beyond campus

Evidence of these accomplishments is usually demonstrated inside the classroom by the achievement of high grades and the superior completion of specific projects and assignments. Outside the classroom, evidence typically includes such activities as independent research and other creative activities, study abroad, and community involvement that are linked to the student’s academic studies. The nomination, as well as one or two faculty recommendations, should speak to these criteria and address student performance in both settings and should include specific examples. The process for submission has been updated and is now paperless. All information will be uploaded to the links provided below. These links will also be available on the Honors College website.

See the nomination form.
See the recommendation form.

The Convocation will take place the evening of Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the auditorium of the Elliott University Center. Each department or program will be allocated a certain number of Provost Student Excellence Awards (PSEA) based on their number of majors. Departments and programs with 1-99 majors will be allocated ONE award; those with 100 to 499 majors will be allocated TWO awards; and those with 500 to 2,000 majors will be allocated THREE awards. Nominated students must have at least a 3.80 GPA and at least 90 semester hours earned from all institutions (with at least 45 semester hours earned at UNCG) as of January 2020. Hours of academic credit earned abroad while a student at UNCG should be included as UNCG hours. December 2019 graduates who meet these criteria are eligible. A student may win the award only once.

If two or more departments or programs wish to nominate the same student who is a primary or second major (or a minor) in those departments/programs, those departments or programs may initiate a co-nomination to consist of separately submitted nomination forms (one from each department or program) plus at least one supporting Recommendation Form (but not more than two) from each nominating department or program. The deadline for receiving nominations from Department Heads or Program Directors is February 7th, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Each nomination package must include the following:
1. The completed Nomination Form providing all the information requested and signed by the Head or Director.
2. One or two faculty recommendations for each nomination (one completed form per faculty member) that speak to the criteria listed above. (Please note: two recommendations will signify stronger support than one recommendation.) Please fill in the necessary sections. Recommendations do not have to be from the Head or Director. NOTE: Faculty recommendations must be submitted using the fillable Recommendation Form. (No individual letters will be accepted.)
3. The student’s curriculum vitae (CV)/resume.

If you have any questions regarding the Provost Student Excellence Award, please call 336-334-5538.

**Newsmakers: Harris and Deal**

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 last week:
• **Emmylou Harris** returns to her roots at UNCG. [The article here.](#)
• GreenScene photos of welcome event at Chancellor’s residence features new Greensboro arts director **Ryan Deal.** [p.89 in gallery here.](#)

**Chamber music concert for inclusivity**

CATCHFIRE COLLECTIVE will present a special chamber music recital Sunday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

“Dreamscapes: The Music of George Crumb” will be performed in the atrium of the Tew Recital Hall in the UNCG Music Building. Admission is free.

Based in North Carolina’s Piedmont Triad, Catchfire Collective is a mixed chamber music ensemble reigniting the traditional idea of chamber music concerts to build relationships in their community. By collaborating with composers of this generation, and shining a light on music of the past, Catchfire presents innovative and powerful concerts that strive towards inclusivity.

The members are:

Carmen Granger, violin
Kyle Kostenko, clarinets
Robin McLaughlin, piano
Isaac Pyatt, percussion
Jillian Storey, flutes
Peter Swanson, cello

Madeleine Klee, violin
Andy Hudson, clarinet
Chris Eaton, percussion
Gilson Fearnow, percussion

**In memoriam: Sally Cone**

Sally Lee Schindel Cone, a great supporter and friend of our university, died Jan. 17. An alumna, she earned her master’s in library education from UNCG in 1972. She served on the UNCG Board of Trustees from 1985 to 1993, and she and husband Alan Cone in 2012 received the UNCG Holderness Weaver Award, which honors individuals who have rendered distinguished public service to the community and state.

UNCG Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam Jr. noted that Cone “was a remarkable role model for our
students and touched the lives of countless Spartans. A fearless visionary in every sense, she was a stalwart supporter of our Women’s Studies program.”

He added that she continued to give and serve the community throughout her life, receiving UNCG’s highest award for service.

Dr. Lisa Levenstein, director of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, noted that “she and her late husband established our annual Sally and Alan Cone Awards, which offer financial support to students and recognize outstanding work in the field. These awards have helped hundreds of students pursue coursework in WGSS, travel to conferences, and develop innovative projects.”

A memorial will be held at WellSpring Retirement Center. Date, time, with additional details to follow at www.haneslineberryfhnorthelm.com. The obituarary may be read here.

Dr. Eric Grebing

Dr. Eric Grebing (SERVE Center) received new funding from RTI International for the project “Tableau Training and Support for RTI Center for Education Services.”

SERVE will provide customized professional learning to Research Triangle International Center for Education Services team members on basic data management for and creation of data visualizations in Tableau. The curriculum design does not require any prerequisite knowledge of Tableau.

Dr. Stacy Sechrist

Dr. Stacy Sechrist (NC Network for Safe Communities) received a continuation of funding from the Lexington Police Department for the project “Support of Lexington Police Department’s Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative.” Dr. John Weil is principal co-investigator on the project.

North Carolina Network for Safe Communities (NCNSC) has been the training/technical assistance and evaluation partner for the replication of the Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative in Lexington, North Carolina, since the project began in 2014. A portion of Lexington Police Department’s grant with the NC Governor’s Crime Commission (GCC) will be to continue to support NCNSC’s on-the-ground support of the initiative in Lexington, which will include continued data tracking and evaluation, assistance with systems and processes,
and documentation of the new addition of a Jessica Gonzales victim assistant within the police department, including outcomes and process changes. The Jessica Gonzales position will be a position funded through the GCC grant to Lexington Police Department.

**Dr. Stephen Sills**

Dr. Stephen Sills (Center for Housing and Community Studies) received new funding from the Reinvestment Fund, Inc./Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the project “Invest Health Greensboro Supplemental Funds for Technical Assistance, Site Visits, and Learning Exchanges.”

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 researchers’ 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.

The Supplemental Funding from Invest Health is for Targeted Technical Assistance, Multi-Team Technical Assistance, as well as Site Visits/Learning Exchanges. This will includes travel to/from Spokane Washington in partnership with the IH Spokane team; a series of technical assistance webinar/virtual convening open to other IH teams (Policy Link, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Abt); Capacity building in our local team through CSH Training Subscriptions and attendance at the Center for Community Progress Reclaiming Vacant Spaces Conference; and most importantly face-to-face technical assistance meetings meetings with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Charlotte, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, North Carolina Housing Coalition, and Duke Law School Community Enterprise Clinic.
Dr. Paul Knapp

Dr. Paul Knapp (Geography, Environment, and Sustainability) received new funding from UNC Wilmington for the project “Next Generation Optogenetics for Vision Restoration.”

This research project will investigate fire history at the Nichols Preserve, a rare, old-growth piedmont longleaf pine ecosystem undergoing restoration. Researchers will examine fire scars in remnant longleaf-pine stumps in order to determine the historical fire frequency of this forest. Results from this project will inform management practices for the North Carolina Zoo and will have broader impacts for longleaf pine growing throughout the Piedmont region.