



## 20th Anniversary Women Veterans Luncheon

The 2017 Women Veterans Luncheon will be held Friday, Nov. 3, in the Alumni House.

The event is 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the program begins at noon.

The Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project (WVHP) began with a luncheon in 1998 to honor the unrecognized military service of women, including many Woman's College alumnae. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the WHVP and the 125th anniversary of UNCG, the luncheon will celebrate the history of the WVHP, and attendees from some of the veterans who are a part of the project.

Thanks to the generosity of Glenda Schillinger, UNCG alumna and U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps veteran, tickets to the November luncheon will be free. As always, the luncheon is open to everyone, so please bring family and friends. Please note the new place and time for the luncheon.

Parking passes for the Walker Deck will be available at the luncheon.

RSVP by Oct. 23 to Beth Ann Koelsch at [bakoelsc@uncg.edu](mailto:bakoelsc@uncg.edu).

Contact Beth Ann Koelsch at [bakoelsc@uncg.edu](mailto:bakoelsc@uncg.edu) or (336) 334-5838 with questions.

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## Ashby Dialogue seminars next semester

The College of Arts and Sciences Ashby Dialogue program awarded UNCG's LGBTQ+ Education and Research Network (LEARN) funding to support a dialogue for Spring 2018.

Titled "Mass Impact: The Impact of Mainstream Media on Perceptions of LGBTQ+ Identities," this dialogue will bring together students, faculty and staff for a conversation about how state legislation affects perceptions of LGBTQ+ communities.

Students at UNCG (graduate and undergraduate), staff and faculty are invited to participate in this two-seminar dialogue. The university community will be invited to a symposium following the seminars.

Questions? Visit [hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/cwhw/learn/](https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/cwhw/learn/) or contact LEARN Coordinator Brad Johnson, [rbjohnso@uncg.edu](mailto:rbjohnso@uncg.edu); or Jay Poole, LEARN Pedagogy Committee, [jaypoolephd@gmail.com](mailto:jaypoolephd@gmail.com).

To participate in the dialogue, contact Love Odetola, CWHW doctoral student research assistant, [loodetol@uncg.edu](mailto:loodetol@uncg.edu).

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## Blast off: SELF Design Studio and the great balloon launch



Great teachers tell students to shoot for the stars. UNCG School of Education students literally help them do it.

This past spring, UNCG's School of Education's SELF Design Studio (SDS) worked with the Kiser Middle School Meteorology Club and N.C. Near Space to launch a high-altitude balloon into the stratosphere, more than 100,000 feet above the earth's surface.

With the help of UNCG student and pre-service educator Eric Winkelman, and N.C. Near Space's Paul Lowell, Kiser students began designing their payload, contemplating what to send to the stratosphere. Ideas ranged from Hot Cheetos to a bacon shell, to see if it would cook from exposure to solar radiation. Finally, they decided on a raw egg, and created world's highest egg drop experiment, and they also sent along a small tiger, Kiser's mascot.



In the weeks leading up to the launch, Winkelman led the students testing parachute designs, building an extension arm, and practicing filming videos with on-board cameras. The balloon was cleared for launch by the Greensboro Fire Department, and the Kiser students were assigned to Mission Control, Launch Control and C



Chase teams.

On the morning of May 8, the Launch team arrived at 7 a.m. at the Grimsley High School football field to set up for the big moment. A few minutes after 9 a.m., with the balloon filled with hydrogen, the cameras activated and the payload secure, the students counted down and released the tether line holding the balloon. Over the next hour, the balloon drifted to its highest altitude of 102,000, when it burst over Apex, North Carolina.



From there, the attached eight-sided parachute (created with rip-stop nylon, string, sewing thread and lots of hot glue), descended into the field of a lumber yard in Smithfield. The Chase team, led by UNCG SDS Assistant Director Matt Fisher, recovered the payload and returned to Kiser to preview with the Kiser students the on-board video captured in flight.

The onboard tracking devices tracked the payload's location for the entire journey and gathered data for the Meteorology Club. The data can also be used to inspire new ideas for their next launch, planned for Spring 2018.

See full documentation of the project on the [NC Near Space page for Space Flight 53](#) and watch the video below of the launch, flight and descent:

*Copy and photographs courtesy of UNCG's SELF Design Studio.*

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## **Dig it! Archaeology Day this Saturday**



“Exploring the Past Through Archaeology” is the theme Saturday, Oct. 14, on the grounds of the Greensboro History Museum.

The family-friendly event will be 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It is hosted by the UNCG Archaeology program and the Greensboro History Museum

Enjoy hands-on activities, see casts of fossils and learn about ground-penetrating radar, very helpful in the field of archaeology.

Dr. Linda Stine notes that UNCG’s archaeology professors enjoy doing this for the community. And it’s excellent outreach experience for the UNCG students, whether they are making poster presentations about their personal research projects or fielding general questions.

“They are applying their classroom/lab knowledge outside the classroom and lab - gaining experience in public speaking and interaction while promoting UNCG and archaeology to students and kids and parents,” she said.

They are also showcasing UNCG Archaeology’s wide range of experience globally: Tanzania, Peru, the Southeastern United States, Greece, and former Roman provinces.

Questions? Contact Linda Stine at [lfstine@uncg.edu](mailto:lfstine@uncg.edu).

*By Mike Harris.*

*Photo of 2016 Archaeology Day at Caldwell Park / Bicentennial Garden.*

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## Dr. Chris Payne



Dr. Chris Payne (The Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships) received new funding from the Guilford County Partnership for children for the project Bringing Out the Best: Supporting Young Children’s Social and Emotional Development.”

Social-emotional development and school readiness/success in young children is clearly linked with children who have behavioral or emotional challenges being at risk not only for later mental health challenges but also for school failure. Estimates are that 10-14 percent of children ages birth to five years old are likely to have a serious enough challenge in social/emotional or behavioral development to warrant intervention. This equates to approximately 4,000 children in Guilford County.

Dr. Payne’s project will increase school readiness/success by improving the quality of the early education and care experiences for these infants and young children. More specifically, Bringing Out the Best (BOB) builds the capacity of early education and care providers, Pre-K teachers, directors/administrators and families to reduce behavioral challenges and support social/emotional development through evidence-

based prevention and intervention services.

Project activities will result in infants and preschoolers with behavioral challenges maintaining their child care/preschool placement; families and child care providers/teachers/directors developing new skills to support children's social-emotional development; and earlier screening and intervention reducing behavioral challenges and increasing social emotional competencies. The impact of this project will be to intervene early to support children who will be ready for school and ready for life. Bringing Out the Best continues to play an important role in advancing the mission of the Guilford County Partnership for Children to support, educate, connect, and advocate through the services it provides for children, early educators and families. BOB fulfills a critical need to provide services where no comparable services exist.

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## **Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz**



Dr. Holly Sienkiewicz (Center for New North Carolinians) received new funding from the North Carolina Council for Women & Youth Involvement for the project "Safe Transitions after Resettlement Program (STAR)."

Domestic violence is a growing concern in Guilford County among relocated immigrant and refugee populations. The Center for New North Carolinians (CNNC) will utilize a three-pronged approach to address domestic violence with refugees in Guilford County that includes: 1) continued collaboration between domestic violence and refugee service providers; 2) awareness and education pertaining to the various manifestations of family violence in relocated refugee populations; and 3) increased capacity and infrastructure to better meet the needs of refugee victims of family violence.

First, refugee service providers and domestic violence agencies will continue to meet quarterly to share current needs and concerns. These meetings will be a place for continued training and provide opportunities to brainstorm future collaboration. Second, the CNNC will increase awareness among Guilford County residents to depict the complex and multi-faceted dimensions of domestic violence in refugee communities. Through research and continuous dialogue with bi-cultural refugees, the CNNC will examine the lesser- explored topics of forced and/or arranged marriages, human trafficking and basic cultural understandings of gender and marriage within relocated refugee populations. Third, the CNNC will engage (mostly) female interpreters in specialized domestic violence trainings to serve as interpreters and cultural brokers during domestic violence encounters.

Currently, the majority of trained interpreters speaking Nepali, Swahili, French, Burmese and other languages native to Burma are male and many ethnic communities are relatively small. This can be problematic for women seeking to report domestic violence. There is a strong need for female interpreters that are trained in domestic violence, speak key languages, and know the contextual cultural background. Trained interpreters will help to create the infrastructure within the broader community to respond to domestic violence encounters in culturally appropriate ways.

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## **Enjoy the fun: Homecoming 2017 next week**



The bonfire and food trucks are back, and so is our campus' most festive week.

Homecoming 2017 will be in full swing Monday, Oct. 16, through Sunday, Oct. 22. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, family and friends are invited to come out and enjoy the many activities in store and celebrate the university's 125-year history.

The weekdays will feature a Kick-off Party, a Homecoming Royal Court Contest, Glow Party and many departmental get-togethers and reunions. Friday will include a big bonfire and food trucks at Kaplan Commons at 7 p.m., as well as a women's soccer match against Mercer also at 7 p.m. in the UNCG Soccer Stadium and the GOLD Alumni 3rd Annual Spartan Hop in Kaplan Commons.

Saturday, Oct. 21, will be packed with fun events starting at 8 a.m. Festivities include:

- Cars and Coffee - Ferrari's to Fiats, 8 a.m.
- Homecoming 5k run, 9 a.m.
- Children's Festival, 3-6 p.m.
- Performances by the Sleeping Booty Band, 4 and 5:30 p.m.
- 13th Annual All Black Attire Party Masquerade, 10 p.m.
- Homecoming Soccer Match vs. Mercer, 7 p.m., UNCG Soccer Stadium

Homecoming 2017 is a great opportunity to reconnect with fellow Spartans while also showing your school pride in this 35-year-old tradition.

The campus community is encouraged to wear Spartan blue and gold all week long.

Also one note: UNCG Nursing faculty and students will be offering free flu shots starting at 3 p.m. in Kaplan Commons - until they're all gone.

Have questions or want to volunteer? Visit <https://homecoming.uncg.edu/hmcmng/2017/> or contact Donegan Root '87 at [d\\_root@uncg.edu](mailto:d_root@uncg.edu).

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## Gay Ivey, new Moran Distinguished Professor in Literacy, brings unique perspective



The key to getting kids to read? Find out what they're thinking, says Dr. Gay Ivey, UNCG's new William E. Moran Distinguished Professor in Literacy.

“Most of my research has centered on getting kids’ perspectives on things,” Ivey said. “Lots of people promote the idea of kids choosing what they can read, thinking that if they read more, they will get better. My research involves trying to understand what they’re getting out of it.”

Ivey is an elected member of the Reading Hall of Fame and has spent her career helping teachers help children learn to read and expand the thought process around reading instruction in schools.

In her native Virginia, Ivey began her career as a reading specialist and middle-school teacher. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the College of William and Mary, an M.Ed. in Reading Education from the University of Virginia and a PhD in Reading Education from the University of Georgia. Before joining the UNCG faculty this summer, she served as the Tashia F. Morgridge Chair in Reading at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and she held positions at James Madison University, the University of Maryland at College Park and the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University.

“What I didn’t know about myself is that I was really interested in research,” Ivey said. “And learning how we could expand and improve reading and writing practices in school for kids through studying kids and teachers in their classrooms.”

Classroom-based research, she added, allows her to learn from kids by spending time with them in the classroom.

What happens when children are given the opportunity to find reasons of their own to read in school? A question that has recently driven Ivey in her research.

“When kids are engaged in reading things that matter to them, they are at their most strategic,” Ivey said.

Too often the reading children do in school is in response to an assignment rather than for their own reasons. Reading instruction in school is focused on getting better at reading, comprehension and memorization. All good things, Ivey said, but it’s not the reason kids read.

“They read to make sense of their lives, to grow their social lives and get a better understanding of themselves and the world,” Ivey said. “We’re not situating it in ways that make sense to them or add value to their lives.”

Ivey’s research centers on what engagement in reading means for the literary, academic, emotional and relational lives of children and adolescents. One of the draws of UNCG, she said, is that it affords her the opportunity to combine research with public engagement and engagement with schools.

The renowned literacy faculty was another draw.

“It was a team I wanted to join. I saw a place I could be collaborative with colleagues who were like-minded and interested seeing how research can really impact schools and communities,” Ivey said.

And she was also attracted by the diversity of the student population: “I feel a connection with the students here.”

Ivey says she plans to make North Carolina her home for many years and hopes to see UNCG’s graduate programs in literacy flourish.

“I also hope to become heavily involved in engagements with school districts across the state of North Carolina,” she added.

*By Elizabeth L. Harrison*

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## **Greensboro Dance Film Festival Oct. 21 at GPS**

Sugarfoote Productions presents the fourth annual Greensboro Dance Film Festival with support from the UNCG School of Dance and the Greensboro Project Space on Saturday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m., with rolling screenings at GPS (7 p.m.), HQ Greensboro (7:30 p.m.) and VCM Studio (8 p.m.). This year’s festival is also part of the Burning Bell Festival in Downtown Greensboro.

Associate Professor Robin Gee hosts the Greensboro Dance Film Festival in three locations along the south end of Elm Street. The festival, the first of its kind to reside in Greensboro, features dance films from 17 countries in both student and professional categories. The event will also host an opening reception at HQ Greensboro featuring live dance and music performances. The programs will also feature works that specifically address issues of race, place and identity in a modern and ever-changing world. Each location will feature a program designed for and unique to the space. GDFF will also culminate with a touring program that will travel to several locations around North Carolina as well as the Dance In/Out Festival in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, West Africa, as well as partner organizations around the country.

Sugarfoote Productions is a multipurpose arts organization created to help local audiences experience the richness of African and Diasporan cultural traditions. GDFF is a boutique film festival seeking to connect diverse populations through the innovative genre of dance on screen. Merging performance and cinematic aesthetics screen dance has expanded the possibilities of choreographic composition and structure by pushing the boundaries of dance beyond its staged possibilities. The festival highlights films from around the world and supports artists through interdisciplinary collaboration and artistic exchange.

For more information, contact: [gso.dance.films@gmail.com](mailto:gso.dance.films@gmail.com) or [rmgee@uncg.edu](mailto:rmgee@uncg.edu) or visit [greensbordancefilms.org](http://greensbordancefilms.org).

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## Katharine Smith Reynolds Scholarship turns 50



When the Reynolds Foundation bet on Alyssa Sanchez's success, the odds were in their favor.

"Gambling on my ability to succeed has further fueled my drive to do more," said Sanchez, a Katharine Smith Reynolds Scholar majoring in biochemistry (pre-pharmacy) on track to graduate with full honors in 2019. "Achieving is the least that I could do to repay the Reynolds Foundation for all that they have done for me."

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of Katharine Smith Reynolds Scholars at UNCG.

Since its inception, more than 500 Katharine Smith Reynolds Scholars have graduated from the university. Through the receipt of this award, these scholars have been provided the tools they need to excel within and beyond the classroom, serve their communities and become exemplary leaders.

Sanchez said that without this life-changing scholarship, it's likely she would not have attended UNCG.

"For many students today, it is only through a combination of part-time jobs, financial aid and loans that earning a college degree is even possible," said Jane Taylor Brookshire '67, '70 MED, a Reynolds Scholar who established her own endowed scholarship fund for undergraduates. "I know the impact that a scholarship and the decision to attend UNCG had on my future success. I want those same opportunities for today's students."

In 1962, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Trustees established a merit-based scholarship program at UNCG, then Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, to commemorate the life and legacy of alumna Katharine Smith Reynolds – wife of R.J. Reynolds and mother of Z. (Zachary) Smith Reynolds.

The first scholarships were awarded to women, all residents of North Carolina, in their freshman year (1963-64). The scholarship was expanded to male students in 1980, effective 1981-82 academic year. In 1997, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation pledged \$5 million to the university over 10 years. \$4.3 million of the pledged amount was to fund the Katharine Smith Reynolds Scholarship Endowment and \$700,000 was reserved for support of out-of-classroom learning activities such as travel abroad, research and service projects.

Dean Omar H. Ali of UNCG's Lloyd International Honors College, which awards the Reynolds Scholarships, described its impact:

"Reynolds Scholars embody the best of North Carolina's students. High-achieving, community-engaged, globally minded and forward-looking, our scholars develop as leaders in their respective fields of study, refining their academic and social skills through innovative pedagogy, research and experiential learning opportunities in the Honors College."



Scholarships are competitive and awarded to students on the basis of superior achievement and potential, qualities of leadership, evidence of interest in others and motivation toward useful purposes in life. Reynolds Scholars receive four years of generous funding and are eligible to receive stipends for community service involvement, participation in an internship and study abroad.

“Affiliation with the Reynolds Foundation has provided opportunities for me to grow as a student and leader,” Sanchez said. “Having the financial and supportive backing from the Reynolds Foundation has encouraged me to do more.”

*By Elizabeth L. Harrison, University Communications and Shaheen Syal (Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation)*

*Photography by Martin Kane*

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## **Looking Ahead: October 11, 2017**

Staff Senate Full Body Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m., Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House

Volleyball vs. The Citadel

Friday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m., Fleming Gymnasium

UNCG Women's Choir and Men's/Women's Glee Clubs

Saturday, Oct. 14, 3:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church

Women's Tennis Spartan Classic Invitational

Saturday Oct. 14, UNCG Tennis Courts

UNCG Chorale and Chamber Singers

Sunday, Oct.15, 5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church

[Tips on Mentoring Undergraduates in Research and Creativity Inquiry](#)

Monday, Oct. 16, 3 p.m., Faculty Center

Talk: George Mehaffy, "The Faculty Role in Student Success: Insights from the Field"

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 3:30 p.m., Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House

Faculty Forum: General Education Program Review

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 3 p.m., Alumni House

Guest Artist Recital: "Zirardo Duo," flute & guitar

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m., Organ Hall

Lecture: The Nursing Virgin: Mary in Egyptian Christian Art

Thursday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m., Weatherspoon Art Museum

Theatre: "Two by Tenn," Abrahamse and Meyer Productions

Thursday, Oct. 19, 8 p.m., UpStage Cabaret, Triad Stage

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## **Mehaffy on "The Faculty Role in Student Success" Oct. 17**

Dr. George L. Mehaffy, Vice President for Academic Leadership and Change, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, will visit campus next Tuesday.

He will speak on "The Faculty Role in Student Success: Insights from the Field" Oct. 17, 3:30 - 5 p.m., in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House.

The Office of the Provost is bringing Dr. Mehaffy to speak.

Research shows that the faculty-student relationship is fundamental to student success within the academy. In the effort to help students toward degree completion, we must turn our attention back to learning and understand strategies that faculty can employ to enhance student success. Dr. Mehaffy brings to campus experience working with faculty on building a stronger campus culture based on student success. Dr. Mehaffy will share insights on the faculty role in student success based on his extensive experience working with public institutions on a variety of innovative initiatives of national and international scope.

Questions? Contact Ben Peterson at [bcpeters@uncg.edu](mailto:bcpeters@uncg.edu).

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## One typewriter, one novel will yield one remarkable piece of visual art



When someone's typing, maybe just leave them be? With performance artist Tim Youd, the more observers the better.

This week through Friday, artist Tim Youd will be performing a new entry in his "100 Novels" series at the Weatherspoon Art Museum. For each entry in the series, Youd retypes a 20th-century novel at a location of historical significance to its writing. Youd writes on a single sheet of paper, with another under it, that is repeatedly run through the typewriter. Once finished, the two pieces of paper are mounted side-by-side as a diptych.

Youd describes his process as "ecstatic reading", and as an attempt to "experience deep engagement with the book." Although the typed pages, containing the entire text of the novel in tattered and illegible form, are the result of the project, the core is the performance itself. Over a course of days, Youd publicly reads and re-types his chosen novels, displaying the intense focus and "out-of-body experience" provoked by deep connection to art and literature. Through this exhibition, Youd reveals the intimate, often secret connection between artist and art-in-production, and displays it to the audience as performance.

While at WAM, Youd will be retyping North Carolina author Daphne Athas's "Entering Ephesus." This exhibition is part of a three-novel retyping Youd is performing in North Carolina this Fall. For more information on the artist and his stay at UNCG, visit the entry on [WAM's website](#). In addition, The Hanes Gallery at Wake Forest University will be showing a selection of Youd's completed re-typings, and related artwork. For more information on that exhibit, go [here](#).

###

## Quad was packed with fun for Founders Day



Thousands of UNCG students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered together

last Thursday for a campus-wide Founders Day celebration. And it was one for the ages.

Festivities included the annual luncheon, a special Founders Day Festival on the Quad – featuring a 125-foot-long birthday cake – and an anniversary concert by UNCG’s own Rhiannon Giddens.

UNCG opened its doors to 198 students on Oct. 5, 1892. Fifteen faculty members taught in three areas: commercial, domestic science and pedagogy.

Now, UNCG boasts nearly 20,000 students, more than 2,500 faculty and staff, and over 120,000 living alumni.

“I think we can say it’s been a pretty good 125 years for UNCG,” said Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. during the Founders Day Festival. “One thing I can tell you is that we’re only going to get better.”

UNC President Spellings spoke to the large crowd of Spartans as well. “Wow, what a terrific day to be in Greensboro and to be at UNCG!”

She and the chancellor led everyone in the singing of singing ‘Happy Birthday’ for the university with UNCG’s Bands of Sparta pep band joining in.

See lots of social media photos and posts at UNCG Now.

*By Alyssa Bedrosian. Storify by Morgan Glover.*

*Photography by Martin W. Kane.*

###

## **Reel Talk: Dialogue and Dinner Film Series**

Students, staff and faculty are invited to attend the next Reel Talk program, the second in an ongoing series that offers participants an opportunity to educate themselves and their fellow attendees on topics related to interracial and intercultural understanding. Focusing on the experiences, perspectives, and responsibilities of people of European descent, the Oct. 17 program will examine how Americans of European as well as of non-European descent can together – through dialogue and collaboration – tackle the prejudices and policies that have resulted in a society that has yet to fulfill its promise of liberty, justice and equal opportunity for all.

The event will be Tuesday, Oct. 17, 5:30-8 p.m. in Phillips Hawkins Residence Hall, Lower Lounge.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Engagement and Housing and Residence Life Faculty-in-Residence Sarah Carrig.

Questions? Contact Faculty-in-Residence Sarah Carrig at [smcarrig@uncg.edu](mailto:smcarrig@uncg.edu); or Assistant Director of the Office of Intercultural Engagement Carla Fullwood, [atccfullwo@uncg.edu](mailto:atccfullwo@uncg.edu).

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## **Retrospective of painter Louise Fishman’s work at Weatherspoon**



A noteworthy traveling exhibition will make only one stop at a museum in the South. That museum is the Weatherspoon.

The retrospective of painter Louise Fishman's work marks the first survey of Fishman's work, notes the museum's newsletter. It charts her lengthy career from her beginnings in the 1960s up to the present day. Fishman is known for large-scale, abstract expressionist paintings that combine feminist, lesbian and Jewish themes.

The exhibition, which opened last weekend, charts the evolution of Fishman's art, as her style and influences developed and changed. Of particular note are her early grid paintings, her "Angry Paintings" of the 70s and the gestural paintings inspired by her Jewish background she began to produce after a life-changing visit to Auschwitz and Terezin in 1988. These paintings remain among her most well-known and affecting work.

"Louise Fishman: A Retrospective" will be in residency at the Weatherspoon Art Museum's Bob & Lissa Shelley McDowell Gallery through Dec. 22. The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated scholarly monograph on the artist's work.

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## Rhiannon Giddens performs at UNCG, jams with Old-Time Ensemble



Distinguished guest artists come to UNCG's campus every semester, but for the 125th anniversary Founders Day concert, the music star was one of our own.

Last Thursday, just days before [receiving the MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant."](#) Greensboro native, former UNCG opera student and founding member of the Grammy award-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops Rhiannon Giddens paid a visit to her alma mater to give a powerful, dynamic Founders Day concert.

In one of the most widely anticipated events of the 2017-2018 University Concert and Lecture Series, Giddens and her band performed for a full house in UNCG Auditorium. Many of the songs were from her 2017 album, "Freedom Highway," focused on civil rights and slave narratives.

During the first set, the spellbinding song, "At the Purchaser's Option," inspired by a 1792 newspaper slave advertisement, showed Giddens' commitment to historical infusion in her songwriting.

“Well, it’s getting out,” Giddens told the audience. “I’m a bit of a history nut, and I read a lot.”

The stirring lyrics and Giddens’ tremendous vocal talent worked in tandem with riveting instrumental work that blended blues, old time, rock, Cajun, jazz and country, with band members Jason Sypher, Jamie Dick, Hubby Jenkins and Dirk Powell, the producer of “Freedom Highway.” Along with original songs, Giddens sang covers originally performed by Etta James and Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

UNCG alumna Laurelyn Dossett and Giddens’ sister, Director of UNCG’s Beyond Academics program Dr. Lalenja Harrington, joined Giddens for “Freedom Highway,” and Dossett also sang on Tom Petty’s “I Won’t Back Down.”

Earlier in the day, Giddens, who has shared the stage with Aretha Franklin and Emmylou Harris at the White House, held a masterclass open to the UNCG community and also played in a jam session with UNCG’s Old-Time Ensemble, directed by Dr. Christen Blanton Mack.

“Seeing the Old-Time Ensemble students jamming with a musician of that caliber was awesome,” said Mack. “Rhiannon gave the group some amazing feedback about drive, pulse and groove in fiddle tunes. Drawing on her own experiences, she brought the players to a whole new level.”

Giddens shared her comprehensive knowledge of music history throughout the masterclass and the jam session with the 22 students and several faculty and staff members.

“This music was for dances,” Giddens told the Old-Time Ensemble. “In that time, when this style of music began, if you had a band, it was for a dance. Experiment with why it existed, and you can pull that into a performance.”

At the masterclass, Giddens encouraged students to be fully involved in their education and to lead with their hearts while still developing skills that can benefit their careers in the long term.

Giddens detailed her own experience with Greensboro Youth Chorus and family singing as her only musical training until she arrived at Oberlin Conservatory, admitted on the strength of her ear, as she said.

Many students, both music students and those from other disciplines, said they felt inspired by both Giddens’ career and what she shared with them about her musical history.

“I had been struggling with participating in the Old-Time and Celtic culture in a way that speaks to me through music and dance,” said senior biology major and fiddle player Olivia Deitrich. “I didn’t know this until I got in the jam session, but Rhiannon’s words in the masterclass had freed me to just do what I love – play music.”

“Her level of musicianship and performance is so high that it seems unreal,” said senior English major and banjo player Jeremy Glasgow. “The opportunity to play with Rhiannon was an honor in itself, and to hear about her experience with the Old-Time music tradition was eye-opening.”

Concurrent to studying opera at UNCG as a master’s student in the early 2000s, Giddens picked up the banjo and fiddle, exploring both Gaelic and Old-Time music styles and playing at contra dances. She co-founded the Carolina Chocolate Drops in part to honor her mentor and friend, North Carolina fiddle master Joe Thompson – a detail she brought up in the masterclass to illustrate the value of crafting a career path that’s led by the heart.

“Whatever you’re doing,” she told UNCG students. “The core should be something that really speaks to you.”

Giddens played an old-time song during the evening concert’s first set and gave a shout-out to the UNCG Old-Time Ensemble.

“We had a lot of fun today,” she said.

*Breaking news: [Rhiannon Giddens will receive MacArthur Grant](#) (known as the genius grant).*

*By Susan Kirby-Smith*

*Photo by Martin W. Kane*

###

## **See/hear: Oct. 11, 2017**

UNCG’s diversity is a hallmark of the university. The first African American students to enroll moved into Shaw Hall in 1956. In this video,

one of those two students, JoAnne Smart Drane '60 - who later became vice-president of the UNCG Alumni Association and a UNCG trustee - reflects on her experience. See more about UNCG's history in the special [125th Anniversary edition of UNCG Magazine](#).

###

## The Coalition for Diverse Language Communities invites grant proposals

The Coalition for Diverse Language Communities (CDLC) provides competitive grants to support those engaged in research, grant writing and project implementation activities that fulfill the [CDLC mission](#). Individuals and groups, including at least one UNCG tenured, tenure track or clinical faculty, may apply. Research groups are also encouraged to include graduate students.

See more and submission information at [cdlc.uncg.edu/newsandevents/cdlc-fellowships/](http://cdlc.uncg.edu/newsandevents/cdlc-fellowships/).

###

## UNCG HR Epic Fall Town Hall

The new UNCG 5-Year Strategic Plan has been unveiled. The major focus of the plan is Transformation – of students, knowledge and our region. Now, we have to start bringing this plan to life. Join us as we share how the university's brand development, new technologies and, most importantly, UNCG's people, are critical to successful transformation.

Faculty and staff, come and participate with great guests, fabulous presentations, demos and videos, interactive discussion, food, giveaways and lots of fun.

The forums will be Oct. 11, 17, 18 and 19.

Kristine Sunda, executive director of ENGAGE, shares a powerful presentation and demo of the future state of **Technology Transformation**. Jeff Shafer, associate vice chancellor and chief communications officer, will highlight the UNCG story and walk us through our ongoing, dynamic **Brand Transformation**. Michelle Lamb Moone, associate vice chancellor and chief human resources officer, will present innovative human resources programs and initiatives with a drive towards **Talent Transformation** and ensuring UNCG has the kind of diverse, inclusive climate and culture that we need to be successful.

Are you a Change Agent? Are you ready to take Giant Steps forward? Click the [REGISTER](#) link now to learn more.

Contact Sarah Dreier-Kasik, [sdreier@uncg.edu](mailto:sdreier@uncg.edu), if you have questions or need more information.

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## UNCG's Healthy Relationships Initiative expands community partnerships



"Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Sesame Street?"

It's the chorus most adults these days can recite by heart. Thanks to community partnerships involved in UNCG's Healthy Relationships Initiative, on Oct. 18, a national affiliate of the beloved children's television classic will make two stops in Greensboro to introduce new resources that leverage the power of the muppets to help children facing difficult issues in their lives.

The partnership with Sesame Street in Communities is just one of many being fostered by the UNCG's Department of Counseling and Educational Development, ranked No. 4 nationally by U.S. News & World Report.

The Healthy Relationships Initiative, housed within UNCG and in partnership with the Phillips Foundation, was launched in February 2017. HRI is a community-wide effort promoting happy, healthy and safe relationships to improve quality of life across Guilford County.

The initiative offers a range of relationship-enrichment and family-wellness educational programs, face-to-face workshops and online learning. One of the main goals of HRI is to equip local nonprofit and community organizations to empower their clients with skills and information to promote healthy relationships.

The partnerships that underlie HRI reflect UNCG's commitment to community engagement. A sampling of HRI's recent activities shows the diverse network of community partners involved in the initiative. In September alone, HRI hosted a workshop for single moms at the Women's Resource Center of Greensboro; co-developed a social media outreach series and community education event with Fellowship Hall, a local residential addiction treatment facility on the impact of addictions on families; and launched its #FindHelpFridays series to help local residents learn more about community resources, such as the Guilford County Coalition on Infant Mortality and Guilford County Schools Exceptional Children Division.

This month, Sesame Street in Communities will expand HRI's partnerships even further. In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, HRI is partnering with the Guilford County Family Justice Center and Guilford County's Ready for School, Ready for Life for a professional training on the new Sesame Street in Communities Child Trauma Digital Toolkit. Another event will be held at the Greensboro Public Library to help local parents and caregivers learn how they can use all of the Sesame Street in Communities resources to foster their children's health, school readiness and social and emotional development.

"The partnerships we have through HRI are key to embedding the outreach and programming of the initiative within the community," said Dr. Christine Murray, associate professor of counseling and educational development. "Our goal is to work with existing partnerships and build new ones so that healthy relationships information and resources can be infused throughout the Guilford County community. We want to help make these resources as accessible as possible."

To learn more about HRI and its upcoming events, connect with HRI at <https://www.facebook.com/guilfordHRI/>.

***Want to attend one of HRI's Sesame Street in Communities events?***

- Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m., [Greensboro Public Library: Sesame Street in Communities](#) (a national initiative) will introduce parents to their resources at [sesamestreetincommunities.org](http://sesamestreetincommunities.org). For parents of kids ages 0-5 years.
- Oct. 18, 1-2 p.m., [Family Justice Center](#): The Sesame Street in Communities team will focus on training professionals working with FJC partners on the new Sesame toolkit on trauma for children, released in October. Advance registration is required.

*By Elizabeth L. Harrison*

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## **Vagina Monologues auditions Oct. 17-18**

The annual "Vagina Monologues" performance presented by UNCG Housing and Residence Life will hold auditions on Tuesday, Oct. 17, in the EUC Maple Room and Wednesday, Oct. 18, in the Shaw Tillman-Smart Room (Quad), from 7 to 9 p.m. both days. No appointment nor previous acting experience is needed. Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to participate. Each person auditioning will read a monologue from texts that will be distributed at the audition, so advanced preparation is not necessary.

Performances will be at the EUC Auditorium Feb. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. "The Vagina Monologues" is an award-winning play based on the work of V-Day founder Eve Ensler, and is part of a movement to end violence against women and to raise awareness about related issues. This production will donate its profits to the Clara House, a local domestic violence shelter.

Contact Maggie Gillespie, [magilles@uncg.edu](mailto:magilles@uncg.edu), for details.

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