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Chancellor Gilliam with Lloyd the Dragon

Junior Sarah Maske
University of Hull
Hull, England

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The United Nations

Dean Omar Ali spoke at the United Nations in New York City on global African diaspora as part of the “International Decade for People of African Descent.” Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly, it will draw attention to the history and cultures of people of African descent.

National Humanities Center Meets Honors

Nearly 40 years after its establishment, the National Humanities Center joined with Lloyd International Honors College and the UNCG Medical Chemistry Collaborative for their very first partnered event. The one-day symposium entitled “Creating and Performing Stories in the Sciences and Humanities” provided space for students and professionals to engage and create dialogue about the commonalities of storytelling in various disciplines.
Mais Bien Sûr! Performing French, a weekly pop-up cultural series with an aim to introduce and expose the campus community to French language and culture through playful activity and exchange, enjoyed a successful run this semester as students, faculty and staff experienced performing something new as they followed the Talking Mustache to the twice-a-week event.

An initiative of Lloyd International Honors College, Mais Bien Sûr supports the ongoing work of infusing the power of performance and play as an effective tool to perform beyond oneself and learn.

Participants explored different regions in France, picked up vocabulary and phrases in French, brushed up on speaking skills they may have learned from high school, listened to popular French music and immersed themselves in activity and play that took the “foreign” out of “foreign language.”

The UNCG campus and community is an ever-changing, constantly developing space. As a pillar of UNCG’s 5-year Quality Enhancement Plan, Chancellor Gilliam’s community focus is to build “vibrant communities and global connections.”

Mais Bien Sûr is a reflection and response to this initiative. With 1 in 5 jobs linked to international trade and less than 10% of U.S. students participating in a study abroad program before completing their studies (UNCG Alumni Association), there is a lot of work to be done in internationalizing education in the U.S.

With intercultural programming such as this, an impressive partnering of study abroad programs through the International Programs Center, and the impact of the Global Engagement office, UNCG continues to lead the charge of creating an international campus that impacts the training students receive while earning their degree and encourages them to connect that learning beyond their borders.
For years, I have wanted to visit Washington D.C. after learning that it had a Genealogical Archives Collection. I also wanted to see the all the monuments on the National Mall. But, the Smithsonian that I looked forward to visiting the most was the National Museum of African American History & Culture. When I received the email that I had the opportunity to travel to D.C. in a few weeks, I could not believe how fortunate I was. I reread the email several times before I told anyone I was going to D.C. As a very non-traditional student, I appreciated the fact that taking a trip like this was not guaranteed in life. When you are young, you believe that all things are possible; and that is how it should be. As you get older, though, you realize nothing is guaranteed, and this is why this trip was so important to me. I loved every aspect of it.

I will always remember how beautiful the museum looked that night lit against the night sky; a sight we would have missed if everything had gone according to schedule. I will not forget the Martin Luther King, Jr. or World War II memorials. Also, I will always remember the magnificent young people who accompanied me on this trip, as they are what will change things for the better. However, the event that had the most impact on me was the African American Museum. These venues included the readings of enslaved families who were ripped apart by the auctioning off of mothers and fathers and children to other plantations. The Emmett Till memorial was also impactful for several reasons.

I had not realized that the actual coffin that Emmett was originally interred in was part of the memorial. I could only gasp at the images of brutality that had been exacted on a 14-year-old boy. Finally, the quote by Emmett’s mother who stated “The murder of my son has shown me that what happens to any of us, anywhere in the world, had better be the business of us all.” I was a witness to many of the 20-century events in the museum, yet I was still struck by how much of our narrative that we do not control. On the Slavery and Freedom level, there was a quote that said that if you can label something, you can control it. As a people, we have been labeled as “other”. But, this museum gives evidence that we are far from that. From Crispus Attucks to Black Lives Matter, we epitomize what it means to be an American, and every person of color should have the same opportunity that I did, to learn just that.
In the fall of 1980, a freshman student, Linda Dunston, eagerly moved her belongings into UNCG’s freshman dorm, North Spencer Hall (room 122 to be exact). Unbeknownst to her, this move to UNCG would be the beginning of her journey as a Spartan that would last decades.

For almost 40 years Linda has fully committed herself to bring smiles and build relationships amongst Spartans campus wide. After obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration Linda mastered multiple positions throughout the university, beginning in the Cashier’s office as a Loan Officer. Later, Linda became the Budget Manager for Intercollegiate Athletics, Alumni Relations, the Registrar’s Office and now Lloyd International Honors College.

As a Budget Manager, Linda is responsible for the day-to-day operations for the college. Duties include office management, budgets, payroll, and collaborating with the Dean, Assistant Deans and staff members, to name just a few. On top of meeting students from all over the world, working in the Honors college has a different twist compared to her previous roles.

“This assignment is different because it’s an academic unit. Working with faculty is different. Getting to see our new pedagogy we’ve adopted and infusing it in our curriculum and philosophy is different, and so is how we conduct our day-to-day business. Our pedagogy affects our business, not just the classroom.”
Senior Temesha Clark speaks with the University of North Carolina System President, Margaret Spellings

Honors + UNCG-McNair Scholars

“How Do We Know What We Know?” is a theory of knowledge course created for Honors and McNair Scholars students. The unique course is taught by a chemist, Dr. Nadja Cech, and a historian, Dean of the Honors College Omar Ali. The course engages students in exploring research from disciplinary perspectives. It includes discussion on epidemiology, methodology, and interdisciplinary research.

The federal funded TRiO program, UNCG –McNair Scholars, provides under-represented undergraduate students opportunities to complete scholarly research and helps prepare students for graduate studies.
The city of Greensboro has a rich history of exploring the residents’ quest for civil rights and social justice. Much of the College Hill neighborhood was home to protestant Christians who were also abolitionists during the Civil War Era. The International Civil Rights Museum houses the now defunct Woolworths diner where the Greensboro Four, comprised of Jibreel Khazan, formerly Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil, staged a monumental sit-in to protest segregation and Jim Crow laws during the Civil Rights Movements in 1960.

Additionally, many of Greensboro’s universities were among the first in the area to provide adequate education to women and people of color at a time when these options were otherwise inaccessible. Today, many Greensboro college students continue the pursuit of equality for all, staging protests, rallies and walk-outs to counter discrimination and inequities that many continue to face in the modern day.

Despite the advancements in technology, allowing for social justice movements to spread like wildfire through social media and word-of-mouth, many who wish to contact the organizations who spearhead these movements have a hard time doing so. One graduating senior at UNCG, however, hopes to change that.

Jessica Clifford is a Communication Studies major and is currently the Arts and Entertainment Editor at The Carolinian. As part of her Senior Disciplinary Honors project, Clifford created a website that combined her passion for social justice with her willingness to help the Greensboro community connect.

“I created ‘Voice, Activism, Democracy,’ ” said Clifford, “for the dual purpose of helping the community get involved in social justice movements in the area, and helping organizations reach out to those who want to support their movements.” Clifford explained that many people want to play an active role in the community, but don’t know how to get involved.

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Dereke Clements, a 2013 UNCG alumnus, joined the Honors College as an Assistant Researcher for the 2018 spring semester. His work offered research to support a campus-wide initiative to increase preparedness and pursuit of Prestigious National Scholarships and Fellowships. In addition, he created *Mais Bien Sur! Performing French*, a pop-up cultural series exposing the campus community to French language and culture through playful activity and exchange.

Prior to his return to UNCG, Dereke taught English throughout France and danced professionally around Europe. It was during Dereke’s teenage years that he delved into the performing arts. Playing clarinet and saxophone as a part of several youth ensembles, he later discovered dance as a Bboy (breakdancer). A late bloomer to the world of dance, his passion led him to opportunities training at Greensboro Ballet (NC), the Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance (NY), Ballet Preljocaj (France) and UNCG where he concentrated in dance and French.

Starting at Greensboro College, Dereke majored in French and created a partnership between Greensboro Ballet and the college where students could earn a professional certificate in ballet studies. He transferred to UNCG’s French program a year later and took on dance as his major. Just before graduating from UNCG Dereke fulfilled his wildest dream to study abroad in France thanks to a Kohler Travel Grant and a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. He studied French at l’Université d’Angers and l’Université Aix-Marseille III as a full-time student, trained as an apprentice with Ballet Preljocaj and taught at English-immersion camps during semester breaks.

Fast forward to 2018 and Dereke is preparing to embark on his next journey to Ireland where he will begin an M.A.-Ph.D. program in Contemporary French Studies at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. Last year he led a group in Paris working to save the former home of James Baldwin in the South of France and was interviewed by the *NY Times and Nice-Matin*. Hoping to expand the concept of national cultural heritage in a transnational society, Dereke will research French national identity and policies that guide cultural preservation projects in France. When asked if dance will have a place in his graduate studies he laughed, “Dance will find its way in there. I’m always on the move!”
In the heart of UNC Greensboro’s campus stands a suite-style dorm, Gray Hall, providing a housing community to our upperclass Honors students. One of seven residence halls that make up the Quad, Gray Hall hosts the Gray Hall Honors Fellows program. Gray Fellows are students who have been selected to create and implement monthly events in the residence hall. Gray Fellows, an initiative curated in conjunction with UNCG’s Office of Housing and Residence Life, provides students opportunities in professional development and community building through event planning.

Being a Gray Fellow requires the selected students to commit to a year-long position as a student leader, execute a minimum of 3 programs per semester created by the student, and co-organize Gray Hall’s Open House and the Reading Day Breakfast. Maria Hayden, Coordinator of Student Data and Records and Academic Advisor, also Gray Fellows Advisor, understands the load students carry as they devote many hours towards their major. Students are selected based on their short essay responses to questions regarding the type of programming they would like to do and how their past experiences will benefit them in this position. As a part of their professional development students meet with Maria on a twice-monthly basis “to share ideas for programs, work on their plan to successfully pull off the event, and to reflect on most recent events,” Maria says.

The Fellows host a variety of activities that are pertinent to personal development including DYE-versity, Financial Literacy, You’ve Got the Job, Now What?, and the semesterly Reading Day Breakfast. But this year’s Reading Day breakfast was extremely special. For the first time Gray Fellows collaborated with a local food bank to collect goods for Greensboro community members.

The hall residents were met with empty brown paper bags outside of their door to be filled with non-perishable items. Fellows collected the bags and for each item received students were allotted 1 raffle ticket for a chance to win entry into a local amusement park.

The raffle drawing occurred during Gray Hall’s April 26 Reading Day Breakfast program and the food drive had the highest participation of all the events for the year! The Reading Day Breakfast was also memorable because of the surprising fire alarm that was set off by a cooking error; the alarm gave the Fellows a chance to practice adaptability and quick thinking skills during a crisis. Once the firefighters searched the building for safety purposes, the breakfast resumed and all was well in Gray Hall.
Working with prospective students and families is just a snippet of what Julie Boyer’s day may consist of. As the Coordinator of Admissions and Academic Advisor for Lloyd International Honors College, Julie is far from a stranger to the admissions world.

Honing positions as Enrollment Manager and Associate Dean of Students at Broward Community College, Julie continues to use her previous experiences to navigate through her role today. When it comes to serving students Julie enjoys connecting with students and assisting them in any way that they need while meeting them where they are.

Julie’s background in social work has shifted her approach to admissions in a unique fashion. “I really try to think holistically about students. I don’t try to look at what classes they need for their degree. I talk to students to find out what they need to achieve their goals.”

Julie finds joy working for the Honors College because “Everyone is good at what they do. Everyone has a place. We all support each other.” Julie recently attended the Inaugural Enrollment Management Institute hosted by the National Collegiate Honors Council with hopes of bringing new strategies to utilize in the Honors college.
“Embrace a different culture, try new things, eat new food, go to new places.”

Isaac Hawkins
University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia
The newest member in the Honors Ensemble, Portia Harris recently transitioned from the Academic Advisor position at Hillsborough Community College’s (HCC) Honors program to Lloyd International Honors College as the Coordinator of Programming and Academic Advisor.

A Florida native, Portia found her way studying Communications at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC where she discovered her fascination with student affairs through heavy involvement in student activities as an undergraduate.

Post-graduation, Portia realized that she too could pursue a career in higher education, and selected the University of Central Florida Higher Education and Policy Studies program to earn her Master of Arts degree.

Portia shortly joined the Honors community after accepting her job offer to HCC. “The Honors world to me was a hidden gem,” Portia says. “I assumed Honors meant strictly academia. I didn’t realize Honors provided students with so much more, including experiential learning, traveling abroad, curating unique programs, and developing strong leaders. I’m so happy to be a part of something that leaves such an impactful footprint on college campuses and students!”

Portia will continue executing signature programs for LIHC students in addition to creating new programs to enhance the student’s experience in Honors.
Honors in Student Government Association

Congratulations to this year’s UNCG SGA Executive Board! We’re pleased to announce Honors students who are taking on major leadership: Samaya Roary, President, Olivia Tarpley, Vice President, and Kameryn Taylor, Korin Norton, Lauren Kalo, Hunter Martin, Max Nelson Sherman, and Shannon Lloyd as senators.