



# Navigator

Lloyd International  
Honors College

## Spring 2017

Volume 2, Issue 1

LUDITE, EXPLORATE, PERFCITE...PLAY, EXPERIMENT, PERFORM!

IN THIS ISSUE

## Success of NCHA 2016

Lloyd International Honors College had the privilege of hosting the North Carolina Honors Association Conference (NCHA) this past October. The theme was "Innovations in Pedagogy, Research and Learning: Using Play, Performance and Improvisation." Faculty, staff, and students who are part of Honors programs from universities and community colleges across the state presented short talks or posters on research, service projects, and other student initiatives.

This year's theme presented a unique perspective for Honors programs not familiar with the experiential learning styles of performance used to support Honors students' development at UNCG.

Developmental opportunities are not limited to undergraduate students; the Honors College recognizes that we are all life-long learners, and by providing a space for faculty and staff, we support a commitment to excellence.

Throughout the conference, laughter echoed from classrooms as students shared their research and stretched their audience to participate in fun and engaging activities that focused on improving the experiences of Honors students in both academic and social settings.

An interactive faculty workshop, involving NCHA 2016 keynote speaker Dr. Lois Holzman, fostered a sense of community between faculty and staff, as they used

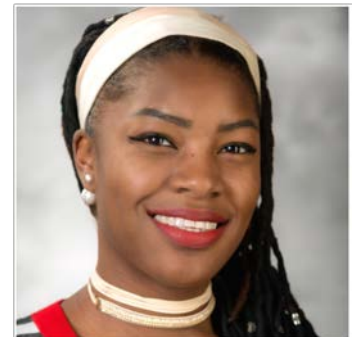
performance and improv to enhance student-professor relationships in the classrooms.

NCHA also hosted "Innovations in Pedagogy Showcase," a developmental workshop where groups of Honors students used the principles of improv to address concerns around classroom experiences. The results were amazing! Various approaches were created to address a diverse set of challenges students identified dealing with introverted learners; games for studying and improving memory in subjects specific to the sciences; and creating questions that encourage philosophical discussion in seminar style courses.

The Honors College extends a warm thanks to our Honors Ambassadors and OWLs who displayed strong leadership skills throughout the conference, assisting with the welcome and sign in, directing students to their appropriate spaces, and participating in the Pedagogy showcase.

Dr. Angela Bolte, Assistant Dean of the Honors College and 2016-2017 President of the NCHA, took charge in organizing the 2016 NCHA Conference at UNCG. Her diligence and commitment to student excellence produced a weekend of success and growth for Honors communities across North Carolina.

The 2017 North Carolina Honors Association Conference will be held at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.



### Tiera Moore

Meet the new Coordinator of Programming and Academic Adviser for the Honors College!

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### Disciplinary Honors Faculty Appreciation Ceremony

Congratulations to Honors faculty honored for their mentorship and accomplishments at the Disciplinary Honors Faculty Appreciation this past November.

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## Honors Resident Fellow Daniel Huebner

Dr. Daniel Huebner wants to know more about knowledge. The 2016-2017 Honors Resident Fellow and Assistant Professor of Sociology specializes in the social construction of knowledge, exploring how we decide who has the authority to share and disseminate information. Now in his third year at UNCG, Dr. Huebner is taking a break from teaching classical and contemporary approaches to social theory for the UNCG Department of Sociology to offer five courses to students in the Honors College, including "The Encounter of the Self and Other," a course about understanding our identities through the ways we positively and negatively interact with others, and "Science Fiction and Society," which examines how

our social imagination, even as we invent stories about alien encounters or utopian futures, is shaped by our current social contexts.

Dr. Huebner believes studying sociology is especially valuable to students who want to be able to think critically about our social world and who want to find ways to make it better. "Humans are social by nature, and social issues touch on every intellectual subject and every aspect of our lives," he says. "Sociology challenges us to investigate the myriad ways in which this social-ness matters and especially to critically evaluate social inequalities."

Before winning the fellowship, Dr. Huebner taught "Rumors, Secrets, and Ignorance in Society," for the Honors College. One of the attractions of returning to teach full-time in the Honors College was the opportunity to engage with students who were motivated to think critically. As an alumnus of the undergraduate Honors Program at Montana

State University, Dr. Huebner recalls the opportunities available to him as a student: "I have never forgotten the ways it provided me with opportunities to ask big questions and to challenge myself, nor is it lost on me that this kind of intellectual stimulation cannot be taken for granted," he says. He explains that honors programs have a major value on campuses: "By gathering people around such concerns, honors colleges create a social environment of inquiry and support that is difficult to cultivate alone."



*Dr. Daniel Huebner.*

## Distinguished Spartan Scholars

Lloyd International Honors College extends hearty congratulations to honors faculty, Dr. Charles "Chuck" Bolton and Sheryl Oring, recipients of the 2016-2017 University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Distinguished Spartan Scholars award! This prestigious title is awarded through the university's Humanities Network and Consortium (HNAC), whose mission is to bring together scholars from a wide variety of disciplines to promote faculty research and to engage the broader public.

Dr. Charles Bolton, an International Honors Professor of History, works on the history of the U.S. South in the nineteenth and twentieth century. He has a



particular interest in the use of oral history to document the region's past. His newest publication is titled "William F. Winter and the New Mississippi: A Biography" (2013). Dr. Bolton is currently teaching "Oral History and the Veterans experience", one of the signature courses offered as part of UNCG's War and Peace Imagined series. Through a

partnership with Greensboro Public Library and the national project Story Corps, the historian is working with honors students and community members to document the stories of war from individuals who have been impacted by war—from veterans to conscientious objectors to refugees fleeing conflict. As a Story Corps project, the interviews will be archived in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as well as in the Greensboro Public Library.

"Oral history is a way to preserve the voices of everyday people," says Chuck. "As people look back years from now, these stories will be important."

Sheryl Oring, former Honors Chancellor's Resident Fellow and current International Honors Professor of Art, is, in every



way, a brilliant artist. Her work examines social issues through projects that incorporate old and new media to tell stories, examine public opinion and foster open exchange. Using tools typically employed by journalists—the camera, the typewriter, the pen, the interview, and the archive—she builds on experience in her former profession to create installations, performances, artist books and internet-based work. Oring's work has been shown at the o1SJ Biennial; Bryant Park in Manhattan; the Jewish Museum Berlin; and the McCormick Freedom Museum in Chicago.

Driven by a powerful belief in the value of free expression, Oring has spent more than a decade helping people across the country voice concerns about public affairs through her "I Wish to Say" project. On April 27, 2016, a team of students from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and PEN writers invited the public to dictate postcards to the presidential candidates during the PEN World Voices Festival. To date, more than 2,200 post cards have been sent to the White House as part of "I Wish to Say". Sheryl teaches courses concentrated in New Media and Design, housed in the newly formed College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Salutations to Professors Bolton and Oring!

Photo credits: UNCG Department Webpage

## AROUND THE COLLEGE



## Spartan Showcase

Meet the new Honors Dragon welcoming prospective honors students and their families to UNCG, with Academic Adviser Chris Kirkman, Honors Graduate Assistant Julie Cline, and Honors Ambassadors President Sam Hitam.

1<sup>ST</sup> Place NCHC Newsletter

Congratulations to Honors Assistant Dean, Dr. Rebecca Muich who received 1st placement for the Faculty/Administration Electronic Submission in the NCHC Publications Board Newsletter Contest!

## CELEBRI-TEA WITH AVC JEFFREY SHAFER



The Honors College featured Jeffrey Shafer, UNCG's newly appointed Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Communications Officer, as the local CelebriTea in February. Jeff discussed ideas on enhancing the UNCG "brand" and developing a strong sense of Spartan pride.

# The Power of Play

In academia, 'Play' is usually seen in contrast to work. We are variously told 'get to work,' 'this is serious,' 'stop playing around!' However, here in the Honors College we are pioneering the use of play (improvisation and performing) as a powerful tool/approach to further enhance the academic excellence of our already high-achieving students. Yes, the rigor of research, preparing presentations, writing papers, and successfully completing final exams are critical parts of students' intellectual growth; so is their ability to develop as human beings (which includes learning to become more flexible, resilient, and open). The Honors College practices 'play'—an innovative pedagogical approach—to effectively create developmental learning environments within classrooms, as part of programming and through engaged experiential learning activities off-campus. Play, according to the Vygotskian developmental psychologist Lois Holzman, is about "creating new forms and performances of life, and new ways of being." \* Holzman was the 2016 North Carolina Honors Association Conference keynote speaker. This was an event hosted by Honors at UNCG. Her talk, entitled "Honor Your Playfulness," captured the attention of students from across the state who came to the conference whose theme was "Innovations in Pedagogy."

Honors at UNCG offers multiple creative opportunities for students to engage in low-stakes, inclusive activities. Building on Holzman's insights, Dean Omar Ali (the 2016 Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year) notes, "Play is fundamental to our ability to continue growing and developing as human beings. It's also a powerful way of building community, which can help us stretch—whether it's learning a new language, traveling to a new place, or trying a different way of doing things."

Improv theatre, it turns out, has some helpful guidance when it comes to play. Over the academic year, Honors students learn ways of practicing the 'three principles of improv':

1. Yes, and—Acknowledging what others give you (words and/or actions) and then positively, creatively, building on these.
2. Commit—Don't think. Trust yourself and go with the flow!
3. And make others look good—which is another way of saying, set others up for success.

The Honors College infuses these principles in Colloquium, through *Monday Play!*, and in Honors programming.

*Monday Play!* has become a favorite across the UNCG campus. Led by Dean Ali, Sarah Dreier-Kasik and Domonique Edwards, *Monday Play!* is a great way to kick-start your week. Students, staff and faculty participate in this open improv space every Monday at 12:14 in the Faculty Center. How is this relevant to a student's development? It helps students learn to become better listeners and risk-takers with greater resilience. Practicing improv in low-stakes environments helps students in higher-stakes environments. Through the power of play, students therefore learn to better navigate challenging situations—social and academic alike.

The Honors Colloquia are another way of supporting our students' development. This discussion-based course for all 200+ incoming International Honors students introduces students to some of the intellectual foundations of the Vygotskian-Holzman-based practice of play. In these small-setting classrooms, students contribute to philosophical discussions around this approach and, as importantly, learn to be more playful and philosophical in how they conduct their own classroom discussions. Honors Colloquium, in combination with *Monday Play!* and other engaged experiential learning outside of the classroom (including going to museums with their class or participating in service learning projects) helps Honors students grow.

Additional opportunities include the "Performing Life Series," which is a three-part workshop offered by the Honors College to help students develop professional performances—whether it is learning how to approach and have a conversation with a professor or a prospective employer, or conducting oneself in other professional settings.

Many Honors students have embraced the playful changes they are seeing (and the changes they are discovering in their own academics and life through the power of play!):



Sam Alsharif, who is an Honors Biology major, with a concentration in Biotechnology, and a minor in Chemistry, notes "Life is a stage. Everything I do from school assignments to community involvement, I perform as if I am my best, and interestingly, I actually become better." Sam is the newly-elected President of the Honors Ambassadors.

Aliyah Ruffin, an Honors Psychology and African American & African Diaspora Studies double-major, observes, "My public speaking skills and confidence when presenting at conferences has significantly increased since I started 'performing' these acts in the classroom and in Monday Play!" Aliyah

recently presented a poster at the North Carolina Honors Association conference.

Finally, Honors Philosophy major Omar Obregon-Cuebas, says "Play is essential to our development; it is transformative. I really like the idea of creating something new out of what already exists. That's when you experience growth." Omar is founding editor of the Honors College's *Y Ddraig Goch: An Interdisciplinary Honors Journal*.

Et voila! The power of play!

\*Lev Vygotsky was an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Russian psychologist whose insights on how

people learn and develop have been valuable in shaping Honors at UNCG.



## Spartans of Promise

Congratulations to our Honors 2016-2017 Spartan of Promise winners—Summer Drum, Rouven Wahlfeldt, and Hugo Coicaud! The Spartans of Promise is an annual award recognizing UNCG seniors who have demonstrated exceptional academic and service accomplishments. Supported each year by the 50th Reunion class and the UNCG Alumni Association, the award creates a unique connection between our newest generation of alumni and the members of the vanguard.

Summer, Rouven, and Hugo each demonstrate the qualities of a Spartan of Promise recipient:

- Strong Involvement in campus activities
- Proven leadership in service activities
- Passion for UNCG
- A minimum 3.0 GPA

Meet Summer Drum, a Full Honors senior studying Elementary Education with a music concentration. Originally from Jacksonville, North Carolina, Summer has made an impact on campus by mentoring freshmen in the Honors College, serving as a Peer Academic Leader working with incoming exchange students, volunteering with the Bright Beginnings project, and serving as a University Marshal. Adding to her accomplishments, she is a Katharine Smith

Reynolds Scholar and has made the Chancellor's list multiple times.

Summer plans to receive a Masters degree in Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies from the Stanford University Graduate School of Education.

Summer proudly stated—"To me, being a Spartan of Promise means that I can seek the wisdom and guidance of dedicated UNCG alumni, take a more active role as a member of the community, and leave a legacy that I am proud of."



"Hallo!" says Rouven Wahlfeldt, an international student hailing from Velbert, Germany. Rouven, who came to UNCG in August, 2013, is completing Disciplinary Honors in International Business with a concentration in Marketing. During his time as a Spartan, Rouven has maintained a high level of community engagement and academic success, all while being a member of the UNCG Varsity Men's Soccer team where he serves as captain. Rouven has made the Dean's list and Chancellor's list on

multiple occasions and is a member of the Golden Chain Honor Society.

Rouven plans to pursue his goal of obtaining a Master of Business Administration and Management in the United States.

When asked "What does being a Spartan of Promise mean to you?" he replied- "Being a Spartan of Promise represents a commitment to myself to always reflect on my college experience to stay humble, confident, and buoyant throughout my entire life!"

"Coucou!", ("hey there" in French) says a charming Hugo Coicaud, an international student completing Disciplinary Honors in Finance, with a minor in Economics. Originally from Le Havre, France, he is a member of the UNCG Men's soccer team and has won multiple accolades including first team all-conference. Hugo has held numerous internships, participates in the Spartan Investment Club, and has made the Dean's List consistently.

Hugo plans to pursue a Masters in Finance from a prestigious university in Europe.

He expressed—"Being a Spartan of Promise" is having the privilege to embody the values that bind the UNCG community together such as honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Felicitations a vous!

# Meet Coordinator of Programming and Academic Adviser Tiera Moore

Tiera Moore didn't realize she was a burgeoning poet when she used to write personalized birthday cards for friends and family as a child growing up in Wilmington. "I just thought I was good at rhyming words!" she says. It wasn't until she took an English Literature course on Revolutionary Poets of the 1700s that she understood the true power of poetry and felt the spark of interest in pursuing it herself. For her, being creative is about building community and confidence: "When I speak on issues from the heart, in my emotions, in my passions, and my frustrations, the audience feels that, and it empowers them."

As the new Coordinator of Programming and Academic Adviser for Lloyd International Honors College, Tiera strives to help Honors students build confidence through performance, play, and improvisation, just as she did when she began performing her poetry for others. "Performance is something that's needed in every area of life," she says. "Most people may think that play and improv aren't important for Honors students, but they're actually key; sometimes it's important for students to be able to think on their feet." For Tiera, the ability to perform in a variety of environments and contexts is just as important as crafting a compelling resume. That's why she puts so much emphasis on developing the skills associated with performance and improvisation in her programming. "I would like for the Honors College to become a very beneficial tool for helping students not only to succeed within the classroom, but be well-rounded individuals who can critically think and effectively communicate and navigate through a globalized society outside of school."

The Wilmington native is bringing performance, play and improvisation to the Honors College by infusing the principles in many different programs, but especially in the Performing Life Series, in which students can participate in improv-based games to tackle scenarios outside of the classroom, like talking to a professor about preparing for graduate school, or preparing to start a new job. "College does not completely prepare students – even Honors College students – for life outside of graduation, for actually being the lawyer in the office, not just

knowing the laws." By trying out different behaviors and responses in a game, students gain confidence in their ability to "perform" whatever they want to be after they graduate.

As a performer herself, Tiera recognizes that performance isn't always easy or comfortable. Her first performance was not exactly perfect. "My heart was pounding! I probably could have heard it across the room," she recalls. She was so nervous that she performed too quickly....and was asked to do it again, only more slowly. Yet despite the early stumble, the impact of the performance itself was powerful. "I felt so liberated, so I immediately went home and started to write a lot more." As she continued to perform, she also noticed that her own expectations for herself began to change as well. She now sees a connection between performing and leadership. For her, the power of performance is grounded in its ability to build confidence and to keep inspiring students to "perform" at the top of their game. "That courage that a student must have to step out there and be vulnerable and share their creations is something I think a leader has to do."

An alumna of UNCG and Lloyd International Honors College, Tiera understands and appreciates both the challenges Honors students face as well as the drive and hard work that propels them forward in their achievements, and brings a unique understanding of students' needs. She believes honors programs are critical for encouraging students to develop a sense of responsibility: "They allow students to stretch and develop their potential and interests more rigorously. Students are expected to come in and perform well." At their best, honors programs "develop iconoclasts and innovative people who are going to change the world." The opportunity to work with students who were stretching intellectually and developmentally to eventually become more globally aware students was one of the factors that attracted her to the position. "I learn a lot from their experiences," she says. "I like the opportunity to engage with people who are passionate about the same kinds of things I am."

## AROUND THE COLLEGE



### Honors College Student and Alumni Advisory Board

Honors Outreach Coordinator Domonique Edwards, and Honors alumna Stephanie Brabec organize a new advisory board to build relationships and strengthen network with current students and Honors alum.



### Courtney Ruff

Best wishes to the Honors College's previous graduate assistant in the next stages of her journey. A sincere 'Thank you', for your dedication and hard work

### Bridging the Gap: Conversation with the Community

UNCG Police Officers, faculty, and students join each other in efforts to improve student-police relations, in a low stakes and fun way! These workshops will be offered the fourth Monday in every month.





*Photos of Rebecca Lloyd, Honors mascot leads students, and says hello to Provost Dunn!*



The Welsh Dragon, *Y Ddraig Goch*, is the official mascot of the Honors College and honors the Welsh heritage of UNCG alumni Aubrey Paul and Georgia Garrison Lloyd, whose daughter, Rebecca, provided the Honors College with a generous gift. The dragon also reinforces the international and global character of an Honors education at UNCG.

*Cover photo courtesy of Jasmine Orr, studying abroad at the Universidad Catolica del Uruguay;*

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