



CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THE WORLD; LOOK AT THE WAY YOU'LL CHANGE THE WORLD

IN THIS ISSUE

# Lena Anne Gordon

The Honors College has lost a very good friend.

Lena Anne Gordon passed away on December 30, 2014 after being diagnosed with lung cancer in October 2014. Gordon graduated from UNCG in 1957, then the Women's College. While a student at UNCG, Gordon worked 20 hours a week in the dining hall to make ends meet, leaving her little time for anything outside of school work. In the time since graduation, she became an active member of her community, and, knowing the value of an education, gifted the Honors College with the means of offering two merit scholarships of \$1,250 to incoming first year honors students with preference given to students in the School of Education, School of Health and Human Sciences, and the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

After graduating from UNCG, Gordon taught elementary school in Greensboro before beginning her career with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department for the City of Raleigh. In her 33 years on the job, Gordon focused a great deal of her energy on brainstorming and creating programming for the senior adult population. Among her more notable contributions are the Golden Years Holiday Celebration; the

Senior Games at the NC State Fair; and the first Senior City Golf League. During her tenure in the department, the number of senior clubs in Raleigh tripled. She also conducted more than 100 trips and traveled to 40 countries.

Her dedication to the well-being of senior adults led to the opening of two senior-focused facilities in Raleigh, one named after Gordon. More than 6,500 seniors participate the in the programs initiated by Gordon.

Gordon was inducted into the Wake County Academy of Women in 1986, and received several awards from the Woman's Club of Raleigh, including the Mabel Claire Maddrey Award, The Joyce Daughtery White Award, and the Maude Davis Benn Award.

In her retirement, Gordon enjoyed playing bridge, nature walks, bird watching, serving as a docent at the Governor's Mansion, and serving as a coordinator for Collette Travel Agency. Her love of travel and commitment to education led her to found a number of scholarships across the state.

*LHC is grateful to the Raleigh News and Observer for some story details.*



## Dean Jerry Pubantz to Resign

Provost Dana Dunn has begun the search for an internal candidate to fill the position of interim dean beginning August 1, 2015.

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## Steve Flynn

Coordinator for Prestigious National/International Scholarships and Fellowships talks about various opportunities and successful applications.

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## Honors Abroad 2015

How would you like to talk with Dr. Watson at 221B Baker Street? Walk the streets where Charles Dickens found his inspiration for *Oliver Twist*? Watch a production of a Shakespeare play in his very own Globe Theatre? Straddle the Eastern and Western Hemisphere at the Prime Meridian? You can have these adventures (and more!) on the Honors Abroad trip to London in October 2015.

Led by Drs. Hope and Chris Hodgkins of the UNCG English faculty, HSS 310 Literary London: A Week's Walk Through History will be available to all students who will be studying abroad in fall 2015.

For only the cost of getting to London and a few meals, students studying abroad can participate in a highly interactive learning experience that will take students from the streets of London to a variety of cultural museums and centers in only one week, October 20-28, 2015.

Lloyd International Honors College will cover all other costs associated with the trip, including lodging (at the Palmer's Lodge Hostel); entrance fees to all sites, museums,

and shows; special meals; and transportation around London.

Participating students will earn 3 credit hours for the GLT General Education Curriculum requirement. They will register for HSS 310 during spring 2015 registration for the fall semester.

Once registered for the course, students will meet with the Drs. Hodgkins five times during the spring semester to discuss the course readings and prepare for the trip itself. Readings range from speeches by Elizabeth I and Winston Churchill to excerpts from John Donne's *Devotions*, Samuel Pepys's diary and Richard Hillary's World War II fighter pilot memoir, to poems and plays by Chaucer, Shakespeare, Herbert, Blake, Keats, Wordsworth, Christina Rossetti, T.S. Eliot, and Philip Larkin.

The itinerary in London is scheduled over eight days and will proceed chronologically, starting with Prehistoric Lud's Town and ending with Modern and Contemporary



London. Among the sites to be visited are the Museum of London, Westminster Abbey, The Globe Theatre, St. Paul's Cathedral, The Royal Naval Observatory, and the British Museum.

In addition to visiting cultural centers, students will also enjoy traditional British cuisine, such as a high tea and local pub grub.

If you will be studying abroad during the fall 2015 semester and you are interested in participating in Honors Abroad, register for HSS 310 during the spring registration period and contact Drs. Hope and Chris Hodgkins (information below) to receive more information about the trip.

### HONORS ABROAD 2015

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

DR. CHRIS HODGKINS: CTHODGKI@UNCG.EDU  
DR. HOPE HODGKINS: HHHODGKI@UNCG.EDU

## Dean Jerry Pubantz to Return to Faculty

following a broad reconceptualization of the College and associated honors programming at UNCG. Under Dr. Pubantz's leadership, the College witnessed a period of significant growth and development in virtually every aspect of its operations. During this time, the College created the International Honors Program; increased enrollment to the Honors College by 25%; increased Disciplinary Honors enrollments by nearly 50% since 2010; designated three honors residence halls capable of housing nearly 400 Honors students on campus; created the Faculty Fellows and Chancellor's Resident Fellow programs; created the UNCG Think Tank; and much more.

In a missive to the Honors Community, Dean Pubantz recognized the support of UNCG staff, faculty, and administration in helping the college become what it is today:

"Whatever success the College has had in recent years is due to the faith and work of the faculty who serve the College, its exceptional staff, the steadfast support of the university's senior leadership especially Chancellor Brady, former provost Perrin, and vice-provost Boyette, and the help of so many offices on campus from Admissions to International Programs. I thank everyone of you for what you do for the College and for making this period a highlight in my professional life."

Provost Dana Dunn has appointed a nominating committee to identify internal candidates to fill the Lloyd International Honors College deanship on an interim basis, effective August 1, 2015, for a period of up to two years.



After serving six and a half years as Dean of the Lloyd International Honors College, Dr. Jerry Pubantz announced in early January that he would be resigning the position effective July 31 and returning to his faculty position in the department of Political Science.

Initially appointed to the position of Director of the LIHC in August 2008, Dr. Pubantz assumed the deanship in August 2010,

## AROUND THE COLLEGE

**Little Princes Panel**

Drs. Alexandra Schultheis Moore, Maura Busch Nsonwu, and Laura Taylor field questions during the Honors Panel "Little Princes: Shaking the World in a Gentle Way" in September 2014.

**CelebriTea with Dr. Dunn**

Tyra Calloway, Sequoia Hill, Jessica AsKew, Sammie Cowell, and Faith Wilfong pose with new UNCG Provost Dr. Dana Dunn during the spring CelebriTea.

## FAST FACTS

65

Number of Senior Honors Projects finished in the 2013-2014 academic year towards the completion of the requirements for Disciplinary Honors.

23%

Percentage of LIHC August and December 2014 graduates who earned Full University Honors (completing both International and Disciplinary Honors requirements).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the requirements for International Honors, Disciplinary Honors, and Full University Honors, visit [honorscollege.uncg.edu](http://honorscollege.uncg.edu)

## Spartans of Promise

In 2014, the UNCG Alumni Association presented its first Spartans of Promise awards, recognizing seniors graduating in December 2014 and May 2015.

According to their website, the Alumni Association awards students "who demonstrate exceptional achievement in both academic and service endeavors." No more than 10 graduating seniors may be selected in an academic year.

Students are nominated by faculty and staff. The Office of Alumni Relations then contacts the nominees with instructions on completing the official application. After conducting in-person interviews from the pool of applicants, the nominating committee then selects finalists and send the list for approval by the UNCG Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Among the inaugural cohort of Spartans of Promise for 2014-2015 are three Honors students: Melvin Clark, who graduated in December 2014; Jessica Straehle, who also graduated in December 2014; and Taylor Kane, who will graduate in May 2015.

**Melvin Clark**

Melvin Clark completed Full University Honors in December 2014 after returning from Caceres, Spain, and finishing his Senior Honors Project in Psychology.

Though he majored in Psychology, Melvin chose to study abroad in Spain to sharpen his language skills and fulfill his requirements for a Spanish minor. In June 2014 he contributed a blog post to There Be Dragons, the LIHC blog for students studying abroad.

Reflecting on some of the challenges he faced while living and studying in Spain, Melvin wrote: "One of the things I had to become accustomed to here is the infamous siesta (daily nap time)....Coming from the United States where hard work is a pervasive ideology I could not grasp why anyone would not want to continue working during 3 of the most important hours of the day. But shortly after becoming accustomed to the siesta I soon began taking a nap as well with the rest of the population of my small town."



*Melvin and Pablo El Dragon in Caceres, Spain.*

When Melvin returned from Spain, he spent his semester finishing his Senior Honors Project, "The Impact of Religiosity on Academic Achievement and Discrimination in Minority College Students."

**Jessica Straehle**

Jessica Straehle's path to UNCG was not the traditional one. While working as a pastry chef and caterer, Jessica began researching new degree and career opportunities before settling on Business Administration. After taking courses part-time at Alamance Community College while continuing to work full-time, she enrolled at UNCG and was quickly inspired by her Earth Science course to add a second major in Environmental Studies.

Determined to make the most of her time at UNCG, Jessica followed the advice of her adviser Ms. Eloise Hassell and joined Disciplinary Honors. "I wanted to be exceptional," she says, "and LIHC provided me with that opportunity." Jessica believes that being an Honors student had some bearing on her winning the Spartans of Promise Award. "Students who participate in LIHC desire an enhanced learning experience, they are not deterred by the challenge of additional coursework, and they strive to go above and beyond what is expected for the average student."

Jessica did indeed maximize her time at UNCG. She studied abroad in Scotland in 2012, participated in two Honors Symposia, and received a Student Excellence Award from the Management. Jessica believes the Spartans of Promise Award recognizes her hard work in and out of the classroom. "To be acknowledged for my involvement in those organizations and activities, which

enhanced my learning experience, and for my academic achievements, was very special," she says.



Jessica with Prof. Markham and Dean Jerry Pubantz at the December 2014 Cording Ceremony.

The Honors College has a special place in Jessica's memories of LIHC. "My proudest moment as an Honors Student was the day I submitted my Senior Honors Thesis to Margaret Patton in the LIHC office...That was a very proud moment for me – I

accomplished something that was above and beyond the goals I had set for myself when I began my studies at UNCG."

### Taylor Kane

Taylor Kane's final semester as a Disciplinary Honors student at UNCG is keeping her as busy as ever. In between student teaching and finishing her Artists in Residence Project, Taylor is applying to graduate school and considering varied teaching opportunities for next year.



Taylor (far left) with other Honors Ambassadors Sam Kane and Zeppelin Mayers.

Looking back on her wealth of experiences at UNCG, Taylor credits LIHC with getting her in the door. "LIHC was actually the primary reason I chose UNCG for my undergraduate career," she says. Taylor's military family found out they were being re-stationed only two weeks after she graduated high school in Texas, and Taylor had to make some quick decisions. "I got a phone call from an Honors Ambassador encouraging me to apply," she says.

Taylor's hard work in Disciplinary Honors is already paying off. "After two years of independent research, writing, and one-on-one work with my faculty advisor, hearing the news that my work has been published and will soon be presented at the Honors Symposium and future teacher conferences has been amazing! This accomplishment is absolutely my proudest moment at UNCG, as an Honors Student and as a Spartan." She adds: "I'm a first generation college student and an out-of-state student, so receiving this award had a very personal effect on me. With something this prestigious, I know that I am making my family proud."

## New Honors Collaborative in South Spencer



Lloyd International Honors College is pleased to announce the creation of the Honors Collaborative in South Spencer Hall.

Upon the announced move of Cornelia Strong Residential College to Guilford Hall, the opportunity arose for the Honors College to expand its existing housing options, which currently include North Spencer Hall and Gray Hall on the Quad. South Spencer Hall, which connects to North Spencer via a set of double doors, will open fall 2015 as The Honors Collaborative in South Spencer Hall.

South Spencer will be open to current honors students who would like to live with non-honors roommates and a select group of students from other communities.

With 105 spaces, the Hall will provide everyone from first-year students to seniors with access to Honors programming and onsite Honors advising, and will afford opportunities for collaboration with select learning communities and international students.

South Spencer will be an excellent option for the non-traditional student, the graduate student who is looking for an alternative to

the Lofts on Lee, an international student, or any other student seeking a residential community that values academic excellence and a focus on international studies.

Together with North Spencer and Gray Hall on the Quad, South Spencer will provide outstanding residential options for up to 370 high-achieving UNCG students for all four years of their time at the university.

Students who are interested in living in South Spencer must apply to live in the residence hall through Housing and Residence Life and must select South Spencer as their preferred residence. Returning students have until June 30 to apply for housing; future residents may apply from February 27-May 31.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Consult the housing information on the Honors College homepage for more information about the three honors residence hall and honors housing policies.

LIHC ONLINE  
[honorscollege.uncg.edu](http://honorscollege.uncg.edu)

# Coordinator for Prestigious Scholarships Steve Flynn

Goldwater. Fulbright. Gates Cambridge. All prestigious scholarships, sought after by the best and brightest college students in the nation. All prestigious scholarships – among many others -- that have been won by UNCG students in the last 4 years

Steve Flynn, Coordinator for Prestigious International/National Scholarships and Assistant Director of the Global Engagement Quality Enhancement Program (QEP), has a great deal to do with that impressive track record. While UNCG has had a prestigious scholarship coordinator on and off for several years, it was not until 2012 that Steve took over the position and reported to Lloyd International Honors College Dean Jerry Pubantz.

“My role is to support and demystify the process of applying and jumping through various application hoops,” says Mr. Flynn. What exactly that entails differs from student to student and from scholarship to scholarship. For example, the Fulbright Scholarship requires each campus to vet each student application thoroughly. Mr. Flynn convenes a faculty committee to review each application and to interview each applicant to ensure that UNCG sends very strong applications to the Fulbright selection committee. While other application processes might not require interviews, they do require close attention to detail. Mr. Flynn helps all applicants construct the most compelling case possible for winning an award.

In the case of most applications, that means paying excruciating attention to writing. “I spend a lot of time working with students on their essays,” says Mr. Flynn. “Almost without exception, every student struggles with the first draft of their personal statement.” He has noticed that it can be difficult for a student to let go of a tendency toward modesty. In applications for prestigious scholarships, says Mr. Flynn, students need to be up front about what they have accomplished, and what sets them apart from other applicants. “We don’t care about aspirations, we care about what you do, what you have done. Tell me something about yourself that I didn’t already know.” He helps students reflect on their cultural experiences, their life experiences, their

backgrounds. “They [students] come thinking they need to be something other than who they are, when it’s actually who they are that makes the most interesting part of the application.”

So when to begin? Mr. Flynn suggests taking a proactive approach by considering the options as soon as possible. “Our most recent winners were planning and working with me from as early in their first years at UNCG even if the application deadline was years later. Early on in their undergraduate career, our winners have usually developed strong relationships with key faculty who, after all, will be writing all those letters of recommendation.”

Applying for a scholarship of this caliber is hard work, but according to Mr. Flynn, the outcome is worth the effort. “Obviously winning one is terrific and the most hoped for outcome,” he says. “But the process itself is developmentally important, especially for students going on to graduate school.” Even if an applicant does not win the award, he or she is better positioned for the future than when they began. “You’ve effectively done most of the heavy lifting in terms of visioning and sorting out goals and dreams.”

Even with such encouragement at hand, the prospect might still be intimidating for some students. Mr. Flynn points out that GPA is not the only defining feature of a successful applicant. “The key is a good match of student to the mission of the individual scholarship or fellowship,” he says. He notes that students engaged in extra- and co-curricular activities like community service and leadership development can build a very strong application by reflecting on how those experiences shaped who they are today and what they can accomplish in the future. In the end, he says, there is no formula for success: “It’s alchemy, and it’s art, and it’s science altogether...and it’s luck!”

To learn more about prestigious national and international scholarships or to begin the application process, visit <http://fellowships.uncg.edu> for descriptions, deadlines, and helpful guidelines, and past winners. You can email Mr. Flynn at [stflynn@uncg.edu](mailto:stflynn@uncg.edu).

## AROUND THE COLLEGE



### NCHA 2014

Miranda Weavil poses with her poster “Opportunities in Lloyd International Honors College” at the North Carolina Honors Association meeting in Mt. Olive.



### Study Abroad

Tabitha Woods poses with Tim-Tam, her dragon traveling companion, while studying in Townsville, Queensland, Australia during the Fall 2014 semester.



### 2014 Cording Ceremony

Dean Jerry Pubantz stands with Prof. Miriam Stephan of Art (far left) and Jasmine Golden-Buckley during the Fall 2014 Cording Ceremony.

# Lauren Parker, MDG Scholar

The Marian Drane Graham (MDG) Scholars is a six-week summer program designed to develop leadership skills and a better understanding of issues in public higher education. The program is open to rising juniors and seniors in the UNC system. Scholars get a look into every level of policy creation by visiting UNC campuses, UNC General Administration, state government leaders, and UNC General Admissions staff in Washington, D.C. Scholars are also placed in a government agency for 15-20 hours of work a week, and, with the help of a faculty sponsor, develop and present a capstone project about higher education in North Carolina. Senior Lauren Parker was an MDG Scholar in 2014 and shares her experiences.

## Can you describe your day-to-day experience?

Once accepted as a scholar I spent 6 weeks of my summer living at NC State with 5 other scholars from various institutes. We all worked at North Carolina General Administration half of the week and the other half were scattered into our individual departments in Raleigh. I was assigned the Department of Public Administration where I learned more about the public school systems in North Carolina. Not only were we expected to go to our internships, but we traveled to a few other universities and Washington, DC.

## Can you describe your final project?

The final research project consists of a ten page paper and a visual presentation that

you must give at the North Carolina General Administration. You should choose something that interests you, but also a topic related to higher education in North Carolina. My topic was based on teacher preparation programs in our colleges and how they prepare educators to incorporate the arts within their classes. For this I decided to travel and interview over 20 current educators in our K-12 school systems about their preparation in college for teaching with the arts.

## How did you choose your faculty sponsor?

When thinking about who to pick as my faculty sponsor I reflected upon my time at UNCG. I analyzed all of my accomplishments and who has been there the most to help me out along the way. My faculty sponsor is someone whom I feel comfortable with and has supported me in my many endeavors as an undergrad. During the scholars program my faculty member kept in touch with me, and was an important resource during my research project.

## What led you to apply for the MDG Scholarship?

I have been a Spartan Guide at UNCG since my sophomore year and we receive regular weekly updates from our supervisors. One week we had an attachment for the MDG program at the bottom of our staff e-mail. I remember the advertisement emphasizing a love for travel and the higher education system in North Carolina. At first I was hesitant to apply because I didn't feel as if I

could meet all of the requirements for the program. After pushing past my comfort zone, and talking to my faculty sponsor, I applied and found out that this program was perfect for me.

## Why should other LIHC students consider applying?

If you have a love for travel, higher education, and networking then this is the perfect program for you. It will push you past levels of comfort, but will produce you as a stronger individual overall. This program gave me peace of mind for life after college and I made friends that I know I can rely on down the road.

## What is the lasting lesson you took away from this experience?

The lasting lesson I took away from this experience would be to stay confident. I discovered that I have much to offer in a professional setting and I should never sell myself short. This intense program is not only for educational purposes, but for growing as a strong individual.



*Cover photo courtesy of Haleigh Evans, studying abroad at the University of Ulster at Magee in Londonderry, Northern Ireland*

## Lloyd International Honors College

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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