



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

## Ali Named Interim Dean

Acting Chancellor Dr. Dana Dunn announced in a March 30 memo that "Dr. Omar Ali has been appointed to a two-year term as interim Dean of the Lloyd International Honors College. He will assume his role August 1.

Dr. Ali is Associate Professor of Comparative African Diaspora History in the African American and African Diaspora Studies Program, with affiliated faculty appointments in the Department of History and International Global Studies. An honors graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science, he studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies before receiving his Ph.D. in History from Columbia University in New York.

Dr. Ali's scholarly work centers on the history of independent black political movements in the United States, Islam in the Indian Ocean world, and black resistance to slavery in Latin America. He has had a distinguished career in international and global education, beginning in the Department of Public Information and the Dag Hammarskjold Library of the United Nations. He taught as a Fulbright Professor of History and Anthropology at Universidad Nacional de

Colombia and has served as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of the American South at UNC-Chapel Hill and as a Library Scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University.

He is the author of four books, his latest being *Malik Ambar: Abyssinian Defender of India's Deccan*, to be published by Oxford University Press. His other books include *Islam in the Indian Ocean World*, *Black Populism in the New South*, and *In the Balance of Power: Independent Black Politics and Third Party Politics*, the latter having been described as a "landmark work" by the National Political Science Review.

Dr. Ali is the 2014 recipient of the UNCG College of Arts and Sciences Teaching excellence award. His courses include The Making of the African Diaspora, Black Populism in the New South and Islam, Africa and the Diaspora. At UNCG, with colleagues in the History and Religious Studies departments, he established the Islamic Studies Research Network to bring attention to Islamic history and culture globally."

# Navigator

Lloyd International  
Honors College

## Summer 2015

### IN THIS ISSUE



### Spotlight on Honors Ambassadors

Read about the Honors students who represent the Honors College and the pivotal role they play in building Honors College community.

Page 2



### Meet the Dean

Learn more about incoming interim Dean Dr. Omar Ali and his plans for the Honors College.

Page 5

# Artists in Residence Showcase

On April 9, the first cohort of Artists in Residence presented the results of their year-long hard work at the Artists in Residence Showcase. Held in the Collins Lecture Hall in the Music Building, the ten artists each gave a five minute presentation of their final products and reflected on what they learned in the course of the year. A dessert reception in the Music Library, where the artists' work was on display, followed the event.

Krista Blaser, a Theatre major, shared the innovative techniques she created to stage her one-woman puppet show "Star Chant." Emily Damrel, a Music Composition and Music Education major, played select movements from her composition for string quartet "He Moves Slowly." Juliet Furst, a Studio Art major, described the inspiration behind her piece "Threads," a linked series of silhouette portraits applied to fabric panels. Kristine Guhne, an Art History major, presented the painted portraits she created of women who inspired her in her series "Like a Girl." Britney Jacobs, an Anthropology and International and Global Studies major, described the creation process of her work "Black Indians: Refugee within My Land,"

which she conceived as a tribute to her grandfather.

Rose Mormino, a Theatre major, presented the various stages of visioning that finally completed her comic project "Perdu: A Compilation of the Unseen." Holly Riley, a Music Education major, performed with her banjo one of the eleven songs she composed for her project "North Carolina Tunes: Gathering Community Memories Through Songwriting." Shelby Scattergood, an Art, Drawing, and Printmaking major, explained how her pieces for "Exploration in Self Portraiture" reflected her own experiences in dealing with depression. Finally, Jackson Thomas, a Psychology major, and Taylor Kane, an English Education major, shared the photographs and stories of their "Humans of Greensboro" project, which sought to shine a spotlight on community members and give them an opportunity to talk about their relationship with Greensboro.

The Artists in Residence Program is a joint venture between the Honors College, the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, and the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Office. The program promotes creativity and fosters artistic development within the Honors College community. Selected artists receive a \$500 stipend for their year's work, plus up to an additional \$250 for materials. Artists meet monthly throughout the year to report on their progress and workshop their creations.



Artists share their reflections on the creative process at the Thomas Undergraduate Research and Creativity Expo in April. The program welcomes applications each spring from Honors College students in all majors and at all levels.

The 2015-2016 Artists in Residence will be: Amber Doniere (junior, Elementary Education), William England (senior, Music Performance), Sarah Kim (senior, Art), Elise Seifert (senior, Music Performance), Elena Slominski (senior, Theatre), Anita Tyndall (senior, English), and Xiaowei Wu (sophomore, Art).

## ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

KEEP UP WITH THE ARTISTS' PROJECTS ON THEIR BLOG, A + R  
[LIHCARTISTSINRESIDENCE.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://LIHCARTISTSINRESIDENCE.BLOGSPOT.COM)

# Honors College Scholarship Winners

The generosity of community members and alumnae allow the Lloyd International Honors College to offer several scholarships to current as well as incoming Honors Students.

Noel Lichtin, a UNCG alumna, endows the Lichtin Family Scholarship for two Honors Students: a rising junior and a rising senior. The application process is competitive, and each award carries up to \$2,000. This year, the awards are presented to rising junior Summer Drum and rising senior William Hueholt.

Summer is an Elementary Education major. She is widely involved on campus, lending her time as a Peer Academic Leader, a soprano section leader for the Women's Glee

Club, and volunteer for several organizations, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

William is a Music Performance major who has taken advantage of several opportunities offered by the Honors College and UNCG: most notably, he participated in the Honors College Think Tank Ecologically SANE, which allowed him to study sea turtles, but also travel to Washington, D.C. and Peru.

This year, for the first time, the Honors College offered ten scholarships to rising sophomore students. The Rebecca Lloyd International Honors Scholarship and the Aubrey Paul and Georgia Garrison Lloyd Scholarship were created from the generosity of Rebecca Lloyd, the College's benefactress, in memory of her and her parents, Aubrey and Georgia Lloyd. These scholarships carry an award of \$1,500 to

recognize the exceptional performance of students during their first year in the Honors College. The winners are: Heba Al-Sultani, Alison Bean, Katya Davis, Amber Doniere, Nyomi Hemphill, Meghan Kuder, Jessica Pastuf, David Patchin, Natalie Rapp, and Faith Wilfong.

Finally, the Honors College now offers the Katherine Smith Reynolds Scholarships to eight incoming North Carolina residents. This four-year scholarship includes funding for community service involvement, internships, and study abroad. This year's winners are Audrey Dubois, Rachel Fuqua, Isaac Hawkins, Harrison Phipps, Alyssa Sanchez, Andrew Savage, Larkin Schramm, and Sarah Seyler. The Honors College also offers a Lena Anne Gordon Scholarship to out-of-state applicants. This year's winner is Kate Krupp. Congratulations to all!

## AROUND THE COLLEGE

**Artists in Residence**

"Behind Bars", a drawing by Shelby Scattergood, 2014-2015 Artist in Residence.

**Honors Symposium**

The winners in the Humanities and Fine Arts division of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Honors Symposium: (l-r) third prize winner John Ruggiero, second prize winner Shannon Neu, and first prize winner Nicole Schachter.

**FAST FACTS**

# 767

Number of applications to the Honors College for the 2015-2016 academic year. The number of Honors College students at the beginning of the year typically rests around 200.

# 12.5%

Percentage of confirmed American first year Honors students coming from outside North Carolina. New students are coming from Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Puerto Rico.

# Spotlight on Ambassadors

The 2008-2009 academic turned out to be a pivotal one in the history of the Honors College. Dean Jerry Pubantz, currently preparing to return to the faculty in the department of Political Science, was then the newly appointed Director of the Honors College. This was the first year the Honors College supported Chancellor's Residential Fellows, faculty who teach full time for a full academic year in the Honors College. The Honors College had a new web presence after current Assistant Dean Sarah Krive (then Assistant Director) completed the colossal undertaking of creating an Honors College web page. The Honors College was anticipating opening the doors of North Spencer, its first Honors residence, to students coming to UNCG in 2010. And a new student group was formed: the Honors Ambassadors. The Ambassadors were student recruiters: making phone calls, sitting on panels, and hosting prospective students on campus.

All of those new initiatives from the 2008-2009 academic year took hold and blossomed into indispensable elements of the Honors College – including the Honors Ambassadors. Now coordinated by Honors Academic Adviser Shelley Ewing, the Honors Ambassadors play a critical role in welcoming new students to the Honors College (and to UNCG) and in supporting the Honors College by doing crucial behind-the-scenes work at a variety of events and functions.

Today, the Honors Ambassadors are a group of hard-working students who believe in the mission of the Honors College. Below, five Honors Ambassadors share their thoughts about their contributions: Sam Alsharif, a junior Biology major; Andrew Hiatt, also a junior Biology major; Asya Taylor, a sophomore Elementary Education major; Nisha Umesh, a sophomore Sociology and Women and Gender Studies double major; and Miranda Weavil, a senior Biochemistry major.

## Why Be an Ambassador?

The Honors Ambassadors share a desire to assist the Honors College and to find ways to get involved in leadership opportunities on campus. For Miranda, the appeal of the Honors Ambassadors started when she first learned about the Honors College. "As a prospective freshman the Honors Ambassadors drew me away from the other

schools I was applying to and straight toward the Lloyd International Honors College at UNCG," she says. "I realized where I felt I would fit best. When I started at UNCG I promised myself that I would be that person for someone in their decision-making process."

The Ambassadors all stress the element of service that underlies the work they do for the Honors College. Because the Ambassadors are not paid positions, it is the eagerness to give back that fuels their investment of time. Nisha praises the way the Ambassadors help instill a sense of service: "It teaches you responsibility and the capability to dedicate yourself to a larger community." Asya elaborates: "Being an Ambassador is a great way to serve: it's an amazing opportunity to meet great, like-minded Honors Students, it's the perfect way to reach out to prospective and future students, and it shows that you're a highly motivated, well-rounded, productive student who understand the value of service and is dedicated to improving our school!"

By interacting with students and families, each Ambassador has the opportunity to have an appreciable impact on a prospective student's impression of the Honors College. According to Ms. Ewing, the Ambassadors really shine in these roles. "When they are one-on-one with prospective students and parents at recruitment events, our students absolutely beam with enthusiasm when talking about their Honors College experiences."

Asya notes that working with prospective students is among her favorite opportunities available to Honors Ambassadors. "Taking groups of high school seniors on tours of North Spencer has to be my favorite part. Tours are the best way to really get to know future or prospective students on a deeper level." Sam points out that the Ambassadors have a wealth of experience to draw on. "We all understand how scary university life can be, but finding the right resources is also important to facilitate the transition," he says. "I always say that the Honors College is not easy, but it is not impossible, either. Once you wear those red cords on your graduation gown, you will be thankful then that you chose to join the Honors College."

Students also have a lot to gain personally from being an Ambassador. Miranda notes

that "being a part of this community has been invaluable. I have grown a lot in my public speaking and my ability to be "johnnie-on-the-spot" with questions...I love being a person that people of any corner of the world can talk to about anything."

Ambassadors also have the chance to peer into their own future by working at Honors events like the Honors Convocation and the Honors Banquet. Nisha was the photographer at the Honors Banquet in April. "It was amazing seeing where I would be three years from now, and I truly enjoyed watching the students be awarded after all the hard work they had put into successfully completing the program," she says.

## What Does it Take?

The Ambassadors have thought seriously about what makes a good Ambassador. Andrew says, "I think a love for the Honors College and the university are definitely a requirement." Asya agrees: "To be a great Ambassador, A student must be passionate about the program and UNCG's future

students!" Nisha points out that people skills are truly necessary: "It is essential that you are genuinely warm and open to the people around you. This is definitely a quality that reflects well on the Honors College, and ultimately UNCG." Miranda continues in this vein, pointing out that well-roundedness will lead to success as an Ambassador. "The qualities I think make up a good Ambassador are good communication skills, dedication to service, humility, an open-minded perspective, trustworthiness, creativity, and flexibility...Ambassadors are capable of doing anything that is handed to them."

The Ambassadors warmly encourage interested students to apply. Andrew enthuses: "Apply to be an Ambassador because this is a great way to make many connections within your time here at UNCG. You'll get to meet and assist so many wonderful faculty and staff that the College has to offer." Sam suggests that students consider the aid they can provide to prospective students who are uncertain about the Honors College. "For me, knowing that I help students to relinquish the idea

that "honors equals hard" is more than enough for me to become an Ambassador."

"The Ambassadors add value to our community by shepherding prospective students and families through the sometimes overwhelming experience of visiting and learning about the Honors College," says Ms. Ewing. "They are our shining stars of the Honors College and their impact on our community is clear every fall when we welcome new Spartans to the Honors College."

Prospective Honors Ambassadors are encouraged to attend an interest meeting to get to know current Ambassadors and the Honors College staff. Interested students must submit an application and participate in an interview with two current Ambassadors and Ms. Ewing.

Questions about current Ambassadors or questions about joining the Ambassadors can be directed to Ms. Shelley Ewing at [szewing@uncg.edu](mailto:szewing@uncg.edu).

# Undergraduate Research in the Honors College



Karys Normansell, Alyssa Mielock, and Markeela Lipscombe at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Honors Symposium.

Studies have shown that students who engage in meaningful research projects, especially under the aegis of a faculty mentor, see improvements in content knowledge, cognitive skills, and problem solving skills. Participating in undergraduate research also gives students a leg up in applications to graduate school and on the job market. It's no surprise, then, that the Honors College encourages the exploration of undergraduate research opportunities.

Each student who chooses to pursue honors in her major through the Disciplinary Honors program must complete a Senior Honors Project, a capstone project of her own devising, executed with the aid of a faculty mentor. Such projects, be they qualitative,

quantitative, creative, or performative, require the student to identify an issue of interest to her and to engage deeply with it over the course of a full semester or academic year. This year, for the first time, these projects are available to the public via NC DOCKS, a digital database available through UNCG Libraries.

An important phase of research is sharing both the process of discovery and the results of the inquiry. For the last 15 years, the Honors College has hosted the Undergraduate Honors Symposium, open to all students at UNCG, and, recently, Honors students attending local colleges and universities, including community colleges. Students give oral presentations on their research, whether the project is a seminar paper written the previous semester or a long-term research project undertaken in a lab.

The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Office (URSCO) also hosts the Thomas Undergraduate Research Expo every spring. Students' posters, oral presentations,

installations, and performances are all on display, and students have the opportunity to talk with visitors about their work.

There are presentation options off-campus, as well. Many students have the opportunity to present their research at regional or national conferences in their discipline. Students in the Honors College take advantage of the Travel Fund maintained by URSCO, which can help offset travel, lodging, and printing costs for students. The Honors College, too, offers a Supplemental Research Award to students who need additional funding to get to their conference.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT THE HONORS COLLEGE WEB PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DISCIPLINARY HONORS AND THE UNDERGRADUATE HONORS SYMPOSIUM.  
VISIT THE URSCO WEB PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE NORWOOD UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPO AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

[HONORSCOLLEGE.UNCG.EDU](http://HONORSCOLLEGE.UNCG.EDU)  
[URSCO.UNCG.EDU](http://URSCO.UNCG.EDU)

# Meet the Dean: Dr. Omar Ali

When Dr. Omar Ali arrived on UNCG's campus in 2010, he had already studied and taught in at least six different states and three different countries. That experience in acclimating to new places and new faces will serve him well when he takes over as Dean of the Lloyd International Honors College on August 1.

Dr. Ali does not assume the helm of the Honors College as a complete stranger. Over the years he has given several Food for Thought talks and has served as an Honors Liaison for the African American & African Diaspora Studies Program. But more importantly, he has been able to mentor Honors students in a variety of capacities. "I worked with a number of Honors College students," he says, "including Charles Chavis (currently in a Ph.D. History program at Morgan State) and Zhayawana Johnson (currently in a Master's in Social Work program at the University of South Carolina), as well as current Honors College students Domonique Edwards (majoring in Dance and Psychology and co-directing Community Play!/All Stars, a community-based program) and Catie Byrne (majoring in English and a lead reporter for *The Carolinian*). The students are outstanding and unique in their own way."

Dr. Ali's current research addresses the intersection of Islam and the global African Diaspora, including communities in Latin America and across the Indian Ocean. These interests developed from his early research on the history of Africans and people of African descent in North America. "As a historian I've always looked at American history within a global context." His interest in the African Diaspora began in his undergraduate days at the University of Michigan and the London School of Economics and Political Science. "I had the extraordinary opportunity to work with the distinguished Ghanaian anthropologist Maxwell Owusu in West Africa. Through him I gained an appreciation of the centrality of Africa in world history, and especially the centrality of Africans and people of African descent in the making of the modern world."

Dr. Ali's research and his own time abroad reinforce, for him, the importance of seeking out international experiences. "It turns out,

people are actually *not* the same around the world. We all experience and view things differently. Traveling and living abroad can give us an appreciation for the many different ways of being, feeling, and seeing the world. One needn't go to Zanzibar, Malaysia, or Ecuador to discover this, but such differences among people get heightened when abroad--that is, outside of what is familiar or comfortable. Gaining this appreciation allows one to better navigate new situations wherever one might be. Such abilities to navigate the world are critical for students today."

When Dr. Ali was invited to apply for the position of interim dean, he jumped at the possibility. "It's a dream job! What an incredibly challenging and creative opportunity to work with faculty, administrators, staff, and students from across the entire university. I couldn't be happier." He continues, "I think the Honors College serves as a beacon for the university in terms of academic rigor and experiential, developmental, learning. It's at once a testing site and tested ground for innovation." Dr. Ali aims to encourage Honors College students to grow in unexpected ways. Honors students, he says, can be "reticent to take intellectual risks when there are grades involved." The challenge, then, is to create experiences and opportunities for engagement that are not necessarily linked to classroom performance. "We want to cultivate compassionate, creative leaders for the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century global societies. That's our collective task!"

So what excites Dr. Ali most about the job ahead? "The possibility of building on what's best about the Honor's College--that is, providing a range of opportunities to students and consistently relating to them as *becoming, emerging, developing!* Creating innovative pedagogy and helping to further raise the profile of the Honors College are two key and very exciting parts of my new set of responsibilities." He will strive to continue to connect with students in dynamic and impactful ways. "I will continue to teach one course per semester. I love helping to unleash in others a sense of wonder about the world, to be more philosophical, and to learn new things."

## AROUND THE COLLEGE



### 2015 Honors Convocation

Dr. Lee Philips, Director of the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Office (URSCO), recognizes awardees from the Norwood Undergraduate Research Expo at the Honors Convocation on April 28.



### Study Abroad

Leonardo Miguel, tiny dragon friend of junior Savannah Smith, looks out over the rooftops of Toledo, Spain, where Savannah studied at UCLM Toledo this spring.



### 2015 Honors Banquet

Graduating senior Hayley Oosthuysen (Full University Honors) poses with Academic Advisers Rebecca Muich, Shelley Ewing, Chris Kirkman, and Assistant Dean Sarah Krive at the Honors Banquet on April 23.

# DAAD Scholar Nicole Schachter

When Nicole Schachter graduated on May 8, she capped off a very busy senior year. After spending a semester abroad in Germany, the psychology and German double major returned to UNCG and presented her research at the Undergraduate Honors Symposium and the Thomas Undergraduate Research Expo at UNCG, won a Student Excellence Award and an Outstanding Major Award in German, and graduated with Full University Honors and a 4.0 cumulative GPA. Nicole's time in Germany was similarly busy: after winning a prestigious DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) award to study at the University of Konstanz, Nicole also worked in the HR department of the Schaeffler Group, a global bearing manufacturer, working on compensation and benefits. Below Nicole shares her thoughts on study abroad and research.

## How did you first get interested in German?

My mother was born in Bavaria, Germany and came over to the United States when she was only 20. She thought it was very important that my brother and I learned about the language and the culture from an early age. It was not until college, however, that I became interested in my heritage and wanted to study German. The more I have learned about the language, culture, and people the more I have grown to love it.

## What inspired you to apply for a DAAD?

I was planning my German disciplinary honors project ["*Weltschmerz and Sehnsucht: Differences in Perceived Suffering in German and American Cultures*"] when my faculty

mentor, Dr. Susanne Rinner, brought the DAAD scholarship to my attention. I sent in my application and waited, for what felt like forever. When I finally got the call, I was absolutely overjoyed.

## How did your time in Germany change you?

My time in Germany and the work I did for the DAAD after my return really forced me to become a people-person. I have become more self-assured, confident in my leadership abilities, and self-motivated. Study abroad really emphasizes independence and making your own decisions. This has carried over in every aspect of my life, from how I handle projects to how I dress.

## What did you learn from working (not just studying) in Germany?

My time in Germany was a life changing experience. I became self-confident, my fear of public speaking completely disappeared, and, from my internship, I was able to draw comparisons between two different working cultures. I found that German working culture is much more to my liking (team-oriented, open environments, and working to live rather than living to work.) This has helped me decide what I want to do professionally.

## What drove you to become so invested in research?

My research topic was one that held incredible amounts of interest for me. It was such an exciting project for me to tackle.

When I started I had no idea if what I had observed and questioned could actually be supported. As I saw all these different fields of study come together and point me in the direction of my hypothesis I was ecstatic and kept wanting to gather more and more knowledge and information. I owe a lot of my success to Dr. Rinner, She was such an inspiring mentor and encouraged me to take my work as far as I could. This led me to presenting at different events, I really enjoyed sharing my work and a lot of people seemed interested in it, which was just another reward for all the hard work.

## Do you have any advice for other Honors students interested in scholarships or research?

Scholarships: students are often their own worst enemy, and talk themselves out of even applying. However, being an Honors Student has already shown that you are a hard worker and capable of amazing things, so take every opportunity. If you want to research make sure it is something you are passionate about, especially if you get to choose your topic. Research is very enjoyable once you find that one topic that that really captures your interest.



Nicole receiving Full University Honors from Vice Provost Alan Boyette (l) and Provost Dana Dunn (r) at the Honors Banquet on April 23.

*Cover photo courtesy of Mark Parent, studying abroad at Lyon 3 in Lyon, France*

## Lloyd International Honors College

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Location:** 205 Foust Building,  
1010 Administration Drive, Greensboro, NC 27412

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

**VOICE:** 336.334.5538

**FAX:** 336.334.4199

**EMAIL:** [askhonors@uncg.edu](mailto:askhonors@uncg.edu)