

EXCHANGE

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS & SCIENCES



12 What Does It Mean to Be Southern? The Question Yields Complex Answers in Today's Global World

INSIDE: Catching the Collaborative "Wave" Professor Puts Stamp on Science Study Abroad: In the Mirror of Time
What Would Nature Do? One Pair of Shoes at a Time Creating Dialogue Endowment Inspires

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12

What Does It Mean to Be Southern?

This question yields complex answers, shaped by the region's historical context and the impact of increased diversity.

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Dear Alumni & Friends,

The central paradox of the machines that have made our lives so much brighter, quicker, longer and healthier is that they cannot teach us how to make the best use of them; the information revolution came without an instruction manual. All the data in the world cannot teach us how to sift through data; images don't show us how to process images. The only way to do justice to our onscreen lives is by summoning exactly the emotional and moral clarity that can't be found on any screen. (Pico Iyer, "The Joy of Quiet," NYT, January 1, 2012).

While an instruction manual is not exactly a vibrant metaphor, Pico Iyer's words resonate for me because they make concrete the inexpressible activity inherent in a liberal arts education—the search for meaning in a world full of infinite wonder—a world, however, that is also mysterious and perplexing. It is the job of a college of liberal arts and sciences to make our students comfortable with such a world so that they can create lives of purpose and joy. Having an "instruction manual" at hand is the key.

This issue of Exchange contains examples of faculty, students, and friends of the college who have wielded their individual instruction manuals in remarkable and sometimes disconcerting ways.

The cover story asks the question, "What does it mean to be Southern?" Faculty from history, English, and geography open a new world to us in examining what we think we know. Likewise, Professor David Goldfield, in his recent book, *America Aflame*, asks us to rethink what we believe we know about the Civil War.

An instruction manual can also be a guide for change.

Professor Ken Bost writes his own instruction manual for the successful start-up he and his colleague Professor Ken Piller have created. Chemistry Professor Dan Rabinovich finds ways to engage non-chemists in the sciences, in part with his extensive stamp collection showcasing chemists and chemistry.

Dr. Ruth Shaw, celebrating the life of her mother by thinking about the future, offers support for young humanities scholars, who in turn, reflect upon the difference her endowment has made on their research and teaching. Alumna Lisa Mabe, working in the present in order to shape the future, effects change through her public relations company's efforts. And student Bronwyn Kate Buedel shows us how we can help in giving children the shoes they need.

Students and faculty explore their roles as global citizens as they experience study abroad in the course, "Beijing in the Mirror of Time: Glimpses of Old China in a Modern Metropolis."

All of these people and others featured in the magazine have done as Iyer suggests. They have called forth their own "emotional and moral clarity" to pursue knowledge and insights. They give texture and meaning to this complex world in which we live.

Shoes, stamps, study abroad—shorthand for individual instruction manuals: we hope these stories will inspire you as you continue to design your own instruction manual. It's something that a liberal arts education aspires to let you do (and re-do) every new day. &



Nancy A. Gutierrez

DEAN NANCY A. GUTIERREZ
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES



news



2



3



4



7

1

MPA Program Ranked In Top 60

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program in the UNC Charlotte College of Liberal Arts & Sciences again has been named among the top 60 public affairs programs in the country in the Best Graduate Schools by U.S. News Media Group rankings.

The program tied for 59th place in the 2013 ranking, in a slight change from its last ranking of 57th. Other universities in UNC Charlotte's tier include Brigham Young University – Provo, CUNY-John Jay College, Indiana University-Purdue University – Indianapolis, Northwestern University, University of Central Florida, University of North Texas and University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

The rankings are calculated based on responses of deans, directors, and department chairs representing 266 master's of public affairs and administration programs, two per school.

The primary objective of UNC Charlotte's MPA Program is to provide professional training in public and non-profit administration. The MPA Program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

speaks to a scholarly audience beyond anthropology, as well as to the general public, about key issues, such as genetic reductionism, the belief that by understanding humans at the molecular level, one will understand more about what it means to be human.

A highly regarded authority on anthropological approaches to race and human evolution and variation, Marks has helped grow the department and attract talented students to UNC Charlotte.

A prolific scholar, Marks has authored or co-authored nearly 80 journal articles and five books, including the award-winning *What It Means to be 98% Chimpanzee: Apes, People and Their Genes*.

His contributions have been recognized by the Biological Anthropology section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), for which he served as president from 2000-02, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section H, among others.

2

Anthropology Professor Receives First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal

Jonathan Marks, professor of anthropology, is the 2012 recipient of the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal. This prestigious award, presented by First Citizens Bank and UNC Charlotte, honors faculty scholarship and intellectual inquiry. He received the award on April 4.

Marks is widely regarded as an expert and has been an important leader, mentor and role model to colleagues and students, significantly contributing to the productivity and excellence of UNC Charlotte's Department of Anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

As an outspoken advocate on

behalf of ethical issues in biological anthropology and molecular genetics, Marks has been influential in helping to keep the ethics surrounding genetic studies of minority communities at the forefront of scientific debates. He



Additionally, Marks was a visiting research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in 2010 and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Most recently, he was elected to serve a three-year term on the AAA executive board.

3 Faculty Member Conducts Research in Poland as Fulbright Scholar

Alan Freitag, APR, Fellow PRSA, and a professor in communication studies, is spending six months doing research in Poznan, Poland under a Fulbright research grant. He is researching international corporate communications.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, Freitag retired in 1995 as a lieutenant colonel after 22 ½ years of service. He spent nearly half of those years stationed in Europe, including a three-year tour with NATO in Belgium from 1990-93.

He earned a Ph.D. in mass communications from Ohio University before joining UNC Charlotte in 1998. His experience at a 2005



conference at the Poznan University of Economics in Poland inspired him to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship.

"I'm humbled by the honor of the award of a Fulbright," he says. "I consider the Fulbright appointment to be the apex of my academic and professional careers."

The international research fits in with his book, *Global Public Relations: Spanning Borders, Spanning Cultures*, published in 2009.

His research in Poland will focus

4 College Researcher's Company Wins Charlotte Venture Challenge Prize

CanDiag Inc., founded by UNC Charlotte researcher Pinku Mukherjee, was selected the grand prize winner of the Charlotte Venture Challenge. The company has developed a novel technology that accurately detects early breast cancer.

Winning the grand prize of a \$50,000 convertible-debt note from Vattera Capital, would "pave the path for further clinical validation and regulatory approval to offer women an early detection breast cancer blood test," Mukherjee said.

Mukherjee is Irwin Belk Distinguished Scholar of Cancer Research at UNC Charlotte. She is a faculty member in the Department of Biology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Eighteen finalists competed for the grand prize.



on how companies can build effective internal communication programs to make their employees feel respected, valued and well informed. Conducting his research in an international setting will yield greater understanding of how cultural context can impact communication strategy.

He hopes the research will help companies from the United States as they establish operations in other countries to better understand unique communication issues in those countries.

Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then-Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and funded primarily by an annual congressional appropriation to the State Department. It currently operates in more than 155 countries. Each year,

the core Fulbright Scholar Program sends about 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year.

5 College Faculty Sign On to Lead CTI Seminars

Three College faculty members are leading seminars in the 2012 Charlotte Teachers Institute seminars for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools teachers. Over 100 teachers are fellows in the latest sessions, which will span several months.

College faculty members who are part of the eight seminars to be offered are: Jeffrey Leak, English and the Center for the Study of the New South, "Reading African American Lives"; Dan Grano, communication studies, "Reading Media Imagery: Critical Thinking and Literacy"; and Heather Smith, geography and urban studies, "All Immigration is Local: Exploring the New Geography of Immigration." Peter Tkacik, mechani-

cal engineering in the Lee College of Engineering, will lead “The Science of Nascar.” Four other faculty are from Davidson College.

An educational partnership among UNC Charlotte, CMS and Davidson College, CTI is an affiliate of the Yale National Initiative to Strengthen Teaching in Public Schools at Yale University, providing intensive, content-based professional development for local public school teachers. The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences hosts CTI.

In last year’s cohort, 82 teachers participated. Together they have taught for 960 years with 762 of those years in CMS, and together they plan on teaching for an additional 1,163 years.

They will teach over 10,000 students during the next twelve months.

These 82 teachers plan to share the curriculum unit they wrote for CTI with over 500 other CMS teachers, and 7,200 students will be taught the unit they created in the seminars. Together these teachers have written approximately 1,640 pages of new curriculum that will be accessible to teachers around the world through CTI’s and the Yale National Initiative’s websites.

6 Botanical Gardens Receive Grant to Develop Native Plants Area

A \$22,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust will result in a redesign of a one-fifth acre section of the 3-acre Susie Harwood Garden into a venue for showing how native plants

can be worked into home landscapes.

The grant marks the third time the gardens have received funds from the trust. The project complements the certificate in native plant studies program that began three years ago.

The “Native Plants in the Landscape Display Garden” will be designed to simulate features of the home garden, such as low stone walls, patios and steps and will showcase native plants that fulfill common landscape needs such as for groundcovers, specimen plants, privacy hedges, and foundation plantings. The space would be designed to host small workshops to educate visitors, landscapers, and participants in native plant studies courses on the successful use of native plants in attractive, functional landscapes.

7 Jerusalem Tomb Exploration Reveals First Archaeological Evidence of Christianity from the Time of Jesus

The archaeological examination by robotic camera of an intact first century tomb in Jerusalem has revealed a set of limestone Jewish ossuaries or “bone boxes” that are engraved with a rare Greek inscription and a unique iconographic image that the scholars involved identify as distinctly Christian.

The four-line Greek inscription on one ossuary refers to God “raising up” someone and a carved image found on an adjacent ossuary shows what appears to be a large fish with a human stick figure in its mouth, interpreted by the excavation team to be an image evoking the biblical story of Jonah.

James D. Tabor, professor and chair of religious studies,



details the findings in a preliminary report at www.bibleintertep.com. The publication of the academic article was concurrent with the publication of a book by Simon & Schuster entitled *The Jesus Discovery*. &

In Memoriam

Dorrie Fretwell

Dorrie Fretwell, the wife of former Chancellor E.K. Fretwell, Jr., died on December 30. In her honor, the Fretwells had established the Dorrie Fretwell Professional Development Fund, which provides scholarships for doctoral candidates in health psychology.

The Fretwells moved to Charlotte in 1979 when he became chancellor of UNC Charlotte. In 1985, she was among the first graduates of UNC Charlotte's master's degree program in psychology. Soon after, she began her career as a practicing psychologist and published a number of articles related to depression and headache management.

She received special recognition during the dedication of the Fretwell Building, which houses the Dean's office and many college departments. She learned, in a surprise announcement, that her name would be included in addition to the chancellor's name in the building's official name.



As a high school student, her first job was shelving books in the City Library, and her interests in culture, charity, and church continued throughout her life as she pursued a career in financial services. She moved to Charlotte in 1966, worked in banking and was a vice-president with Merrill Lynch.

She had been president of the Friends of UNC Charlotte and a member of the UNC Charlotte Foundation. She supported scholarships and initiatives at UNC Charlotte, including in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Tom Mattingly

Dr. Tom Mattingly, professor emeritus of chemistry, died May 17. Mattingly earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Yale University and was a National Institutes of Health Fellow in Munich and Darmstadt Germany. He was a senior research chemist at American Cyanamid, where he explored chemical reactions that result in the production of light.

This technology has useful applications, including the development of glow sticks for use when electricity is not available. Although he was intrigued by his research, he missed working with students. He left industry to be a lecturer and then a visiting assistant professor at Cornell University.

In 1974, he came to UNC Charlotte as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1979 and retired in 2005. He was a pre-medical advisor for chemistry majors and was a university representative in the UNC Charlotte – Kingston University Exchange Program. &

Glenn Stephen Burne

Dr. Glenn Stephen Burne, professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of English, died on April 22.

Burne joined the United States Navy and served as a naval officer in the South Pacific during World War II. He was presented with a presidential citation for his participation in the Battle for the Philippines, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and the Battle for Okinawa.

After serving as chair of the English Department, Burne continued to teach until he retired in 1987. During his career, he was an active scholar and published several books. As chair, he became concerned with the status of children's literature and recruited well-qualified faculty in the field and encouraged the development of courses. A memorial fund in Burne's name is established in the English Department.

James Graham McKernan

James Graham McKernan, who founded the McKernan Research Scholarship, funded by the Carolina Chemical Club, died November 25. The scholarship benefits UNC Charlotte chemistry students.

McKernan served as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater and graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in chemical engineering. He worked at E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company for 34 years. In 1982, he started his own company, J. G. Chempac, in Charlotte. He was an active officer in the Carolina Chemical Club and in his work in the chemical container industry until he retired in 2011.

Carol Douglas

Carol Douglas died August 4 in her Charlotte home, after a nearly three-year battle with multiple myeloma.

feature

Personally Speaking Series Shares Authors' Research With the Community

Four UNC Charlotte College of Liberal Arts & Sciences scholars will explore an array of topics during their talks in the 2012-13 Personally Speaking Series, presented in partnership with J. Murrey Atkins Library.

"We support the University's mission to serve as a resource to the greater Charlotte area, and this signature series is an excellent way to share with the community the knowledge and expertise of our faculty," says Nancy Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

The series further connects the community with college faculty and their research. The authors consider contemporary issues addressed in their books. A reception provides a chance to continue the dialogue in an informal setting. The events are provided complimentary to the community and begin at 6:30 p.m. The talks are:

- Richard Leeman, *The Teleological Discourse of Barack Obama*, September 18, UNC Charlotte Center City.
- Kent Brintnall, *Ecce Homo: the Male-Body-in-Pain as Redemptive Figure*, November 13, Atkins Library.
- Joyce Dalsheim, *Unsettling Gaza: Secular Liberalism, Radical Religion and the Israeli Settlement Project*, February 12, 2013, UNC Charlotte Center City.
- Tanure Ojaide, *The Beauty I Have Seen*, March 26, 2013, Atkins Library.

Leeman is a professor in the Department of Communication Studies. His areas of interest include

rhetoric, public address, political communication and African American oratory. His book offers an in-depth analysis of President Barack Obama's speeches and writings to explain the power of the 44th president's speaking. This book argues that, from his earliest writings through his latest presidential speeches, Obama has described the world through a teleological lens.

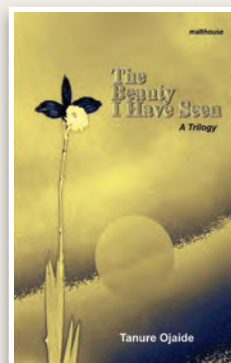
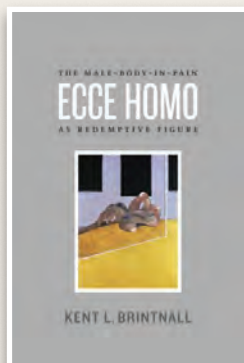
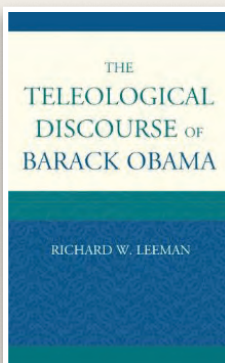
Brintnall is an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies. He teaches courses in feminist and queer theory, literary theory, masculinity studies, visual and popular culture and the Christian tradition. His book draws on perspectives from a range of disciplines—including religious studies, gender and queer studies, psychoanalysis, art history, and film theory—and explores the complex, ambiguous meanings of the enduring figure of the male-body-in-pain.

Dalsheim is an assistant professor in the Department of Global, International and Area Studies. She studies nationalism, religion and the secular, and conflict in Israel/Palestine. Her book is an ethnographic study based on fieldwork in the settlements of the Gaza Strip and surrounding communities during the year prior to the Israeli withdrawal. The book poses controversial questions about the settlement of Israeli occupied territories in ways that move beyond the usual categories of politics, religion, and culture.

Ojaide is a professor in the Department of Africana Studies. His specialties are African, Pan-African/black, Caribbean and non-Western & post-colonial literatures; folklore and oral literatures of Africa and the African Diaspora; and creative writing (poetry). His book comprises three phases in a poetic journey, ranging from the poet as

a public figure, a traveller and observer of humanity, to one grounded in the landscape and fate of his native land. Ojaide received the Cadbury Prize for Poetry from the Association of Nigerian Authors for the book. &

words: Lynn Roberson



humanities

America Aflame

Book Brings New Focus to Civil War Discussions

Historian David Goldfield's acclaimed book *America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation*, continues to attract attention a year after it was published, as readers respond to its interpretation of the Civil War.

Goldfield, who is Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at UNC Charlotte, offered a major new interpretation of the Civil War as not a triumph of freedom but as America's greatest failure, the result of a breakdown caused by the infusion of evangelical religion into the public domain.

The book considers history through the eyes and minds of the people who lived it, on the battlefield and in their homes and communities. The panoramic narrative features compelling people who are well known, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Walt Whitman, as well as lesser-known people, such as war hero Carl Schurz. Goldfield has been praised for the gritty and evocative details that transport the reader in time. He says he wanted readers to smell the smoke and feel the dirt and death around the soldiers, in a stark contrast to an often-romanticized version of the war as a great adventure. Several reviewers and news outlets have cited the book as one of the top non-fiction books for 2011.

In one of the most recent instances, History Tech, an online resource for social studies teachers, has named the book as one of seven great books for summer reading.

"The most rewarding thing is that it has achieved a wide public readership," he says. "Most of the time historians write for each other, and we read each other's books, and the books don't make their way into the public. I wanted to write a book that everybody could read and understand. I try to put readers into that time period."

Historians frequently consider things from a vantage point of contemporary times. "We have to take these people on their own terms, not on our terms," Goldfield says. "The best way to tell history, to relate history, and to teach history is to tell stories about people. We talk about events, we talk about theories, and we don't talk enough about people."

Goldfield approached the subject as a Southern historian, not a Civil War historian. He had become dissatisfied with other interpretations of the origins of the war, the war itself and its aftermath. He considered them incomplete because

they neglected the critical element of evangelical religion.

"I'm very pleased with the success of the book, particularly with the reaction that the book has generated," he says. "It's quite controversial. There have been some surprises, and on the other hand, there have been some responses I expected."

He had anticipated that the book might upset Southern evangelicals. "Instead, they've had some very thoughtful comments and responses," he says.

He especially enjoyed the dialogue when he was a guest of Dr. Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, on his podcast program, "Thinking



DAVID GOLDFIELD

“THE BEST WAY TO TELL HISTORY, TO RELATE HISTORY, AND TO TEACH HISTORY IS TO TELL STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE. WE TALK ABOUT EVENTS, WE TALK ABOUT THEORIES, AND WE DON’T TALK ENOUGH ABOUT PEOPLE.”

in Public,” which considers theological and cultural issues. Certainly some people have been critical of the book's interpretation, but Goldfield welcomes the discussions.

The book has affected Goldfield in many ways. "Any time you write a 640-page book with the research to back it up, it definitely changes you," he says. "I've become much more aware of the processes by which we go to war."

Goldfield has published 16 books on various aspects of southern and American history and is vice president and president-elect of the Southern Historical Association for 2012-2013. He reads southern novels, jogs and watches baseball when he is not teaching, writing, researching and giving talks about his research and his books. &

words: **Lynn Roberson**

picture: **Wade Bruton**

social sciences

Catching The Wave

Professor, Students Publish Book Through Energizing Collaboration



BRUCE A. ARRIGO



HEATHER Y. BERSOT



BRIAN G. SELLERS

An ocean wave builds to its peak power as it crests, forming the curl that surfers prize. For Bruce A. Arrigo, the image defines how he, Heather Y. Bersot and Brian G. Sellers collaborated on the book *The Ethics of Total Confinement: A Critique of Madness, Citizenship, and Social Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2011.)

“When you are collaborating, you have an energy for working together, and it’s like being in the curl of a wave or the note of the music,” says Arrigo, a criminal justice and criminology professor. Working with students can prove especially fulfilling and energizing, he says.

“I’m always humbled by the fact that I’m a teacher,” Arrigo says. “What fuels me is working with the students. The gifts that students give me are curiosity, reflection, honesty of thought.”

Arrigo is a prolific writer with over 20 books and countless articles he authored, co-authored, edited or co-edited. His latest book examines the “society-of-captives” thesis and argues that current risk management strategies do more harm than good for victims, those who offend, and the communities that tether them together. In order to overcome the “madness” that follows from sustaining this debilitating condition, the book recommends future research and reform within institutional practice, programming, and policy.

Bersot and Sellers had completed their master’s degrees when working on the book with Arrigo. It is rare for students at that early stage to publish a book with such a noted press.

“I could never have imagined having the opportunity to have completed a book at this stage of my career,” Bersot says. “The book serves as a testament to Dr. Arrigo’s commitment as a scholar to developing other scholars. The book is not the end. It really is just a beginning of new areas to explore.” Bersot currently is co-editor of *The Routledge Handbook of International Crime and Justice Studies*.

Sellers is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of South Florida, where he also is an adjunct faculty member. Sellers first met Arrigo years ago when he took an honors undergraduate course the professor taught.

“The passion that he had in his teaching was inspiring for me,” Sellers says. “He was engaging to the point where he wanted me to formulate my ideas, stand by them and defend them. That encouragement helped me to grow personally, not only as an academic but as a person and as a citizen.”

The three authors shared a common interest in the issue of confinement, set in the context of human and social problems, Bersot says. As they worked on the book, they convened in person and by telephone to discuss their ideas and approaches.

Arrigo had guided each student as they worked on their theses and on journal articles and other projects.

“The idea then became, “Let’s do a book.” We all had the kind of skills to make a book happen,” Arrigo says. “Early on in the process, it was obvious we could work together.”

Bersot and Sellers demonstrated sensitivity to details and organizational abilities, in addition to their spoken and written communication skills – all of which are essential for a book, he says.

Arrigo has served on countless university and community boards and committees. He has received numerous awards, including the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal, presented each year to one faculty member university-wide. Yet, perhaps his greatest reward comes from helping students reach beyond what is already in their grasp. “I see potential that just wants to be unleashed,” he says. &

words: **Lynn Roberson**

pictures: **Lynn Roberson, Heather Bersot, Brian Sellers**

science

Stamp On Science

Chemistry Professor Uses Collection to Showcase Science

For chemistry Professor Daniel Rabinovich, a lifelong collection of thousands of postage stamps helps him showcase science for students and others worldwide.

Rabinovich has acquired stamps since he was a boy of 10 in his native Peru, amassing a diverse collection that includes stamps featuring scientists and scientific subjects. The stamps act as an interpretive tool.

“People see the science that can be conveyed on these small pieces of paper,” he says. “In introductory classes, students can be a little shy about talking. The stamps can help with that. I like the opportunity to teach chemistry



DANIEL RABINOVICH

in these classes, where the majority of the students are not chemistry majors. I am happy when students gain a basic understanding of chemistry and can respect what chemists do.” Rabinovich also writes columns about stamps for *Chemistry International* and gives public talks about the stamps and the subjects they feature. The publication is the news magazine of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Rabinovich’s columns can be found on the IUPAC website at www.iupac.org/publications/ci/ His energetic presentations mix biographical information with a dose of science and a dollop of historical perspective – plus of course the visuals provided by the stamps.

He came to UNC Charlotte in 1996, and he and his wife and their three teen-age children live in the Charlotte area.

His scientific research focuses on synthetic and structural inorganic, bioinorganic and organometallic chemistry. “For the last three or four years, I’ve focused on the preparation of new antibacterial agents,” he says.

“These are compounds that contain copper or silver. Bacteria develop resistance all the time. There is a constant need for development of drugs that are radically different.”

His role focuses on the chemistry side of the question, and he works with colleagues in biology, in research that



draws from both disciplines and addresses critical issues for society. “It’s intellectually rewarding to look at the frontiers of science,” he says.

Rabinovich seeks to share that experience with students, currently working with four graduate and six undergraduate students in his lab. “I try to get them started doing research as early as possible,” he says. “It’s important because research is exciting. It’s challenging. It’s probably more important for maturing as a scientist than any single class they could take.”

Rabinovich earned his Ph.D. from Columbia University and completed his post-doctoral work at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was a Fulbright Scholar, a Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar and an IUPAC Young Observer. He recently returned to UNC Charlotte following a two-year stint as a program officer with the National Science Foundation, where he learned much about the nation’s scientific priorities from a funding and research perspective.

While he has been the recipient of NSF grants, the additional perspective has broadened his understanding, much like other aspects of his career have become intertwined.

“I’m always trying to balance research and teaching, and the ideal is when you can combine them,” he says. “The best role models I’ve had are those who knew how to balance and combine teaching, research and service.”

For Rabinovich, the stamps will continue to offer tiny tools that help him talk about science to a broad range of audiences. [R&](#)

 words/picture: Lynn Roberson

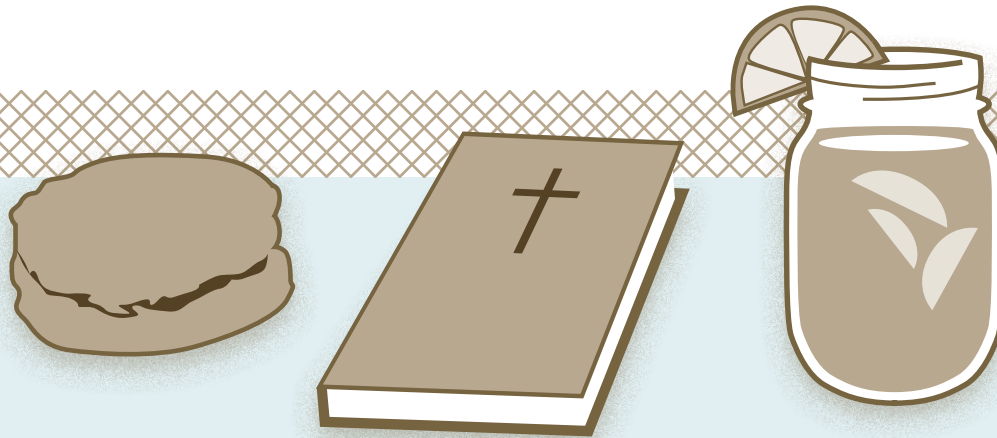
The Question

WHAT
DOES
IT MEAN
TO BE
SOUTHERN
?

Yields Complex Answers in
Today's Global World.

WORDS: LYNN ROBERSON

PHOTOS: GLENN ROBERSON



Ask what it means to be Southern, and the answers likely will touch on the region's traditional foods, music and iconic images.

Biscuits and grits. Gospel music and country churches. Sweet tea and front-porch swings.

While all these things are relevant cultural markers, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences faculty who have long studied the region suggest that today's answers to the question are significantly more complex, shaped by the region's historical context and the impact of increased diversity.

"For us as southerners, what it means to be southern has to do with our connection to history and all that comes with it and also our ability to transcend that history," says Jeffrey Leak, director of UNC Charlotte's Center for the Study of the New South. "It really now depends on who it is you're talking to. You can't assume a common knowledge. It's much more calibrated to a person's experiences."

The center, which makes its home in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, promotes the interdisciplinary study of the New South through collaboration among UNC Charlotte faculty, the broader world of scholars, and the Charlotte community.

While the center considers the New South term to relate predominantly to southern cities, the impact of the New South also spreads to smaller and more rural communities.

Some aspects of the southern identity are spoken

aloud, and others are unspoken, says Leak, also an English professor. Traditional elements remain part of the region's identity, even as the region changes and becomes more diverse.

"To be southern, there's an element of pride where we've come from," says Leak, who grew up in the region. "But there's also a sense perhaps of shame or embarrassment." The South continues to deal with the vestiges of integration and other issues, he says.

"It comes down to what scholars call southern distinctiveness," says history professor Karen Cox. "That concept of southern distinctiveness is changing somewhat. There's a visceral feeling or an innate sense of what southern is. But when you get to talking about it, the definition expands exponentially."

Cox's book, *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Popular Culture*, details how from the late nineteenth century through World War II, popular culture portrayed the American South as a region ensconced in its antebellum past and draped in moonlight and magnolias. The College, in partnership with the Levine Museum of the New South, featured Cox and her book in an annual lecture series.



NEW SOUTH



“My book was an opportunity to take a different perspective and take a look at how others see us,” she says. “It’s important we understand how much these things shape how people see the region and people who live here.”

Her blog, *Pop South: Reflections on the South in Popular Culture*, is one place where she writes about current impressions of the region. Stereotypes continue among some, perpetuated in part by the media and television shows that depict the South as a rural, white, poorly educated region.

Recent news coverage of U.S. presidential candidates’ visits to the South also has perpetuated those portrayals. Leaders in Charlotte, including from UNC Charlotte, are working to showcase the diversity of the region when the Democratic National Convention comes to Charlotte in September.

The connection to the past in the South may also result in a stronger connection to people, says David Goldfield, UNC Charlotte’s Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History. “Southern also means an appreciation for a certain pace of life, a little more deliberate,” he says. “Maybe we’re more attuned to other people. That derives from our connection to the past; we’re also connected to the people around us.”

Goldfield has published 16 books on southern and American history. Among his books are his most recent, the critically acclaimed *America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation*.

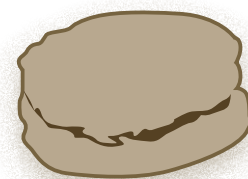
His other books include *Black, White and Southern*; *Cotton Fields and Skyscrapers*; and *The South for New Southerners*.

“I think the key thing is that we’re born with a past,” Goldfield says. “Of course everybody’s born with a past, but for whatever reason, the past seems to flourish here. I mean not only our families’ histories, but the South’s distinctive history as well.”

The difference may derive from nurturing the sense of the past, Goldfield says. “Certain things tend to resonate more with southerners than with people from other parts of the country,” he says. “When you say Civil War, that’s just another event for someone from Montana. Here it’s fraught with meaning, both good and bad.”

Tyrel “Tink” Moore, professor of geography, considers the South from an idiographic approach, a process used in regional geography to establish and explain differences and unique aspects between places.

“You look at characteristics that would identify the region,” he says. Food, music and immigration patterns all played a role in the development of the southern identity. Additionally, colloquialisms and manners of





Dr. Jeffrey Leak,
Director of UNC Charlotte's Center
for the Study of the New South



class and race are often wedded. We're starting to level off with the economy. We were soaring racially, socially and culturally. In this period of contraction, you have some people attempting to retreat into their cocoons."

Many houses of faith are focused on diversity and are opening their doors in an inclusive manner, Leak says. For southerners, faith remains an important aspect of their communities.

While Gallup classifies 40% of Americans nationwide as very religious, the number ranges as high as 59% in Mississippi. Eight of the 10 most religious states in 2011 are in the South -- Mississippi, Alabama (56%), Louisiana (54%), Arkansas (59%), South Carolina (54%), Tennessee (52%), North Carolina (50%), and Georgia (48%), according to Gallup. Utah and Oklahoma are the other two states in the top 10.

The rankings are based on respondents' statement that religion is an important part of their daily lives and that they attend religious services every week or almost every week. Results are based on telephone interviews conducted as part of the Gallup Daily tracking survey Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2011, with a random sample of 353,492 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Gallup research suggests that the differences among states appear to be part of a state's culture, rather than related to race or religious identities, such as Catholic or Protestant.

So, with all of these uniquely shared experiences, grounded in the South's past, one might ask, must a person be born in the South to be a southerner?

"No," Goldfield says. "Not any more than somebody who is American has to be born in America. There are people who come from other parts of the world, and they are part of the culture, they contribute to the culture, and they take ownership of the culture." &

speaking define some of the South's character.

"One thing southerners do is, by and large, they go a long way around an issue or a long way around a conversation to keep from saying something bad about someone," says Moore, who grew up in the South. "I could be idealistic about this, but that's what I think. At some level, we don't want to intrude. We don't want to be insensitive."

The geography also has influenced the people of the region, including the mountains of Appalachia and the coastal areas. "The things that make the South the South, parts of it are the things we see on the landscape," Moore says.

The most recent waves of newcomers from other countries are adding new dimensions to southern communities, Moore says. "It's expanding our culture and making it more richly diverse and with more depth to it," he says.

"With North Carolina's population -- I'm sure like other Southern states -- the fastest growing population is Latino," Cox says. She cites as an example a friend who was born in Philadelphia, spent formative years in Guatemala and definitely considers herself a southerner.

The South must stay attuned to avoid backsliding in its efforts to be inclusive, Leak says. UNC Charlotte also is focused on increasing diversity among its students, faculty and staff. The university and the college provide opportunities to explore global influences in formal and informal settings.

"In some ways I see the South re-segregating, from a legal standpoint not by race but by class," he says. "But

words: **Lynn Roberson**

pictures: **Glenn Roberson and Lynn Roberson**

feature

In the Mirror of Time: UNC Charlotte Students Experience Beijing

Students' exclamations echoed off the grey stones as 15 undergraduates in a UNC Charlotte study abroad course braved the cold and wind to hike the Great Wall of China. They made their way up the steep steps of the famous rampart, which stretches from the East China Sea over 5,000 miles west to the Gobi Desert.

Class members explored the ancient turrets and searched for traces of the military brigades that once manned them, drawing upon information they had learned from student presentations on the history of the Great Wall, ranging from its origins over 2000 years ago to its renovations in recent decades.

in the spring 2012 study-abroad course "Beijing in the Mirror of Time: Glimpses of Old China in a Modern Metropolis." Most had no prior experience studying Chinese language, history, politics, or business.

"I thought [the trip] was awesome," says sociology major Danielle Dolphin. "We got to see firsthand what this city is like. We've seen the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and many great sites. I think students should definitely do this. It's very eye-opening."

The class spent the week of spring recess exploring vestiges of China's imperial past and monuments to its recent history. Students took turns sharing prepared



Study abroad participants at Tiananmen at the entrance to the Forbidden City, the home of the emperors from the early 15th century until 1912

"It's unbelievable to know that you're finally here after so many pictures and videos," says religious studies major Honey Lee. "This is IT, and it's unbelievable."

A diverse cohort of undergraduates in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the Belk College of Business, the College of Arts + Architecture, the College of Education, and the William States Lee College of Engineering enrolled

"I think it's more of an immersion program coming here ... you definitely get a different cultural experience here. We really just felt like part of the city."

— KATIE BOURGEOIS

presentations of the sites while visiting them. They learned about the political intrigues of the Forbidden City and the lavish home and court of China's emperors from the 14th century until 1912. They gained insights about the architectural splendor and economic controversy surrounding the Summer Palace, the country residence of the imperial family; and they considered the triumphant and tragic events that took place in Tiananmen Square, the political heart of the modern nation.

The course encompassed much more than simply a tour of famous sites. "I think it's more of an immersion program coming here," says Katie Bourgeois, an international studies major minoring in holocaust, genocide, and human rights. "I've gone to other places and you definitely get a different cultural experience here. We got to see how Chinese live. We really just felt like part of the city."

Classmates practiced the martial art taiqi quan with locals in the Altar of Heaven Park, received the blessings of a Daoist priest as he recited for them the Incantation of the Eight Great Deities at the White Cloud Temple,



Summer Palace, the summer resort of the emperors until 1912

haggled with local merchants in the famed Pearl Market, and spent time in the modest home of a painter who explained how deeply the political turmoil of the 20th century affected her life. In between, students were literally immersed in the daily life experiences of the city's 22 million inhabitants as they negotiated thick crowds of commuters on buses and subways.

The students are taking home new friendships, photographs, videos, writing projects about the experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Students who participated in the study abroad experience were Danielle Dolphin, David Blankenberg, Dominique

Rafetto, Honey Lee, Kathryn (Katie) Bourgeois, Kristen Reynolds, Lindsay Munn, Lucy Williams and Sandra Builes from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; James Vas, Daniel Hamilton and Jonathan Baker from the Belk College of Business; Joanna Leslie from the College of Education; Rachel Cowles from the College of Arts + Architecture; and Roderick Davis from the Lee College of Engineering. &

words: **David Mozina**, co-instructor of the course and assistant professor of religious studies, and **Jing Wang**, co-instructor of the course and director of the Chinese Language Program.

pictures: **David Blankenberg**, religious studies major

Study Abroad Leaders Reflect on the Experience

Study abroad courses are privileges. For our 15 students, China is no longer an abstract concept; it is a real place filled with real people with real stories. Each of our students is now personally connected to that place, and any reading here at UNC Charlotte on the history, religion, politics, and business conditions in China – not to mention any Chinese language work – should feel very different from before.

We encourage our students to continue the relationships they began in Beijing by seeking out China-related courses offered throughout the university.

-- **Jing Wang**, co-instructor of the course and director of the Chinese Language Program.

One of the great virtues of studying abroad is that it makes one feel on a gut level that the assumptions each of us take for granted do not necessarily apply to all people at all times. I think one of our students, Katie Bourgeois, put it well when she said, "We're on the other side of the world, entirely, and it feels that way." Great swaths of people in the world have been formed by very different histories and live their lives in very different ways. Our adventures in Beijing made the students in this course feel some of those differences. Hopefully, they will now see Charlotte in a different way, and notice peculiar cultural assumptions and practices that they would never have noticed before. The real value of traveling abroad is the perspective it lends upon coming back home.

-- **David Mozina**, co-instructor of the course and assistant professor of religious studies.

faculty

What Would Nature Do?

At SoyMeds, Inc., Soybean Seeds Offer One Answer



For the last few years of her life, my mother received injections of Enbrel (Etanercept) for her rheumatoid arthritis, with a price tag of about \$20,000 per year. The FDA has recently approved several new cancer drugs, including Provenge (Sipuleucel-T) for prostate cancer and Yervoy (Ipilimumab) for melanoma at a cost of approximately \$93,000 and \$120,000, respectively, for a single course of treatment. Like me, you may have had experiences that lead you to ask why some prescription drugs cost so much.

These new prescription medications are part of a growing number of FDA-approved drugs referred to as “biologics.” Many biologics are proteins, and herein lies the problem. These therapeutic proteins are manufactured, and they often are called “recombinant proteins.”

They can be expressed in large vats containing bacterial cells or yeasts, or produced in voluminous cultures of mammalian or plant cells. Such production facilities can be expensive to maintain, and, unfortunately, only a small percentage of the mass of these growing cells represents the therapeutic biologic that must then be extracted. This process of purifying the biologic from all the other cellular contaminants is also an expensive proposition.

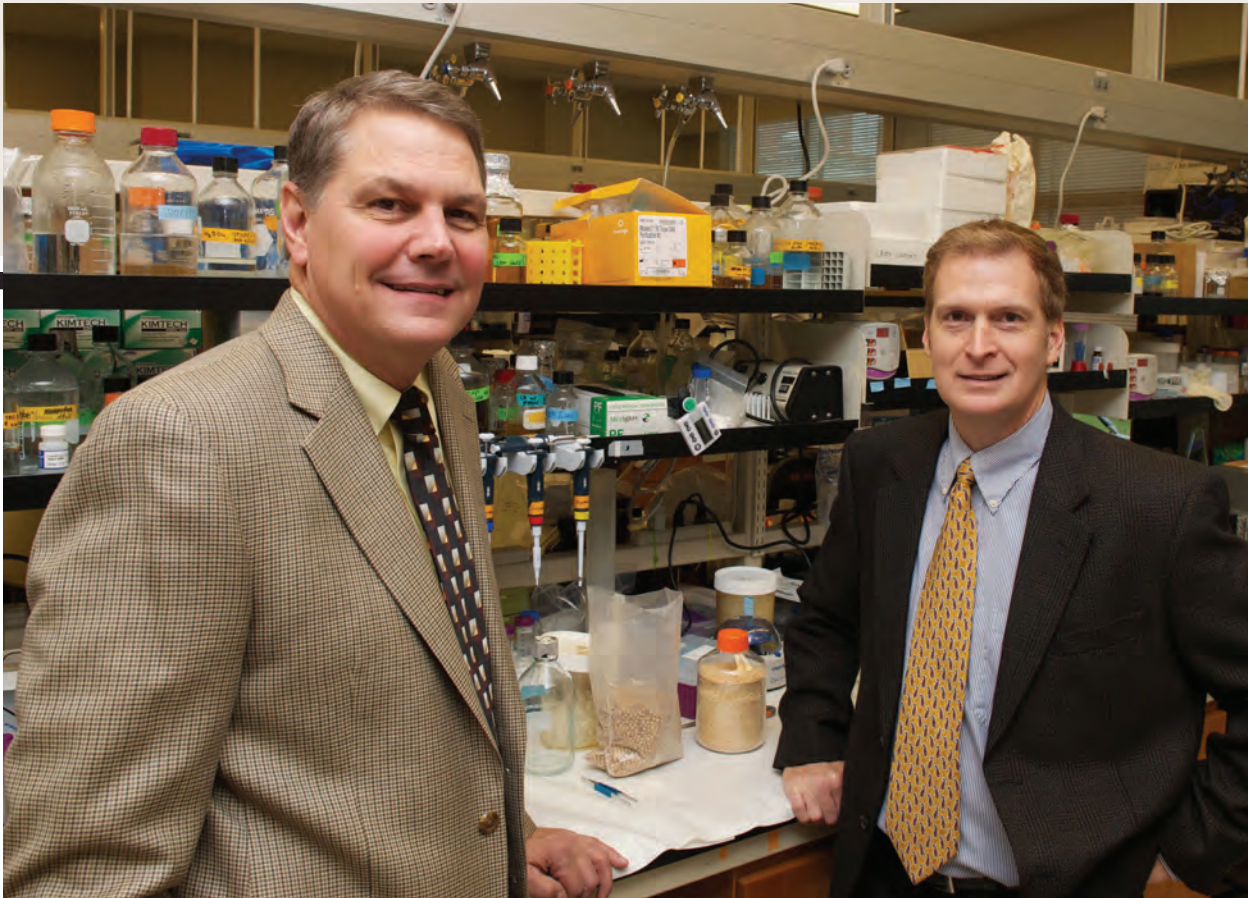
In 2003 Ken Piller and I began to question whether there might be a more cost-effective and sustainable process for expressing “biologics.” We began by asking, “What would nature do?” Fortunately for me, Ken Piller had recently relocated to UNC Charlotte from his position at Monsanto in the plant biotechnology division. It is not often that a plant cell biologist and an immunologist like me get together. Yet, our combined expertise suggested one solution to the problem of manufacturing therapeutic proteins.

Seeds, and in particular soybean seeds, are some of the most concentrated sources of protein known. Nature has figured out how to squeeze a lot of protein into a very small package. We considered if it could be possible to use this fundamental property of the soybean seed to express biologics cheaply and in large quantities.

With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Ken and I started to address this possibility. Early successes began to transform this initial research and development effort into a more entrepreneurial venture. It became clear early on that this was not just a basic research project. We were trying to make a better mouse trap. Mark Wdowick, UNC Charlotte’s director of the Office of Technology Transfer at the time, told us, “If you want to make a product, you need to start a company.” Unfortunately, neither Ken nor I had experience as entrepreneurs.

After much consideration and some consternation, in 2005 we co-founded a UNC Charlotte spin-off called SoyMeds, Inc., with the goal of expressing therapeutic and diagnostic proteins in transgenic soybean seeds. The people who have “suffered” through our naivete and helped us grow our company are too numerous to name here; we have many to thank at the university, and its Charlotte Research Institute, the Office of Technology Transfer, the Ben Craig Center (recently renamed Ventureprise, Inc.), the Small Business and Technology Development Center. While our learning curve over the past few years has been exponential, this venture continues. This is largely due to the amazing capacity of the soybean seed to function as a protein storage facility.

We have found out some exciting things. When soybean seeds are transformed to express a biologic, we can express several milligrams of that protein per



Ken Bost (left) and Ken Piller are faculty in the Department of Biology and partners in a UNC Charlotte spin-out life-science company called SoyMeds, Inc.

seed. This high level of expression translates into a low cost of production - \$.0005 per milligram. Theoretically an entire year's supply of my mother's Enbrel could be expressed in about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of seeds at a production cost of about \$1.25.

Purifying biologics from soybean seeds is also much simpler. Thousands of contaminating proteins must be removed from current cell cultures before the biologic can be considered "purified." Conversely, the mature soybean seed only expresses about 40 major soy proteins that have to be removed during purification of soy-derived biologics.

Finally, dried soybean seeds serve as natural protein storage facilities, even when kept at room

temperature for years. This ability of the seed to protect its proteins from degradation also translates to the biologics that we express. Transgenic seeds can be stored for more than 5 years without any degradation of the expressed protein. This is important because it allows transgenic seeds to be harvested and stored for many years until needed. The ability to separate the production of biologics from their purification in the manufacturing process is an advantage that no current technology has.

So, the soybean seed offers one answer to the question, "What would nature do?" While new and existing biologics hold great promise as therapies for cancers, autoimmune and infectious diseases, the expense of these drugs raises questions about the long-term sustainability of our ever-increasing health care costs. One solution to this problem is to simplify the way such recombinant proteins are manufactured. At SoyMeds, Inc., we like the soybean seed. &

words: **Ken Bost, Chief Scientific Officer, SoyMeds, Inc.**

Belk Distinguished Professor of Biology

pictures: **Lynn Roberson**

SoyMeds, Inc. won the North Carolina Technology Association's (NCTA) 21 Award in the category of Technology Industry as Life Science Company of the Year.



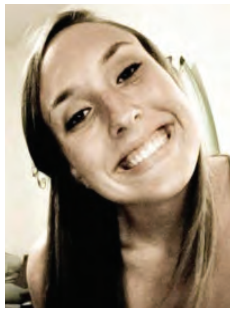
student

Student Seeks To Change the World

One Pair of Shoes at a Time

Starting the TOMS Campus Club at UNC Charlotte has been the most rewarding decision I have made during my college years. My dream has always been to contribute to a meaningful cause that aims to make a difference in the lives of others around the world, and that is exactly what I have pursued with the founding of this club.

I first heard about TOMS shoes when company founder Blake Mycoskie's MasterCard commercial aired about six years ago. He was promoting how the card company helped with his entrepreneurial endeavors with TOMS. I was intrigued by his stories of visiting South America and how he was inspired to help those less fortunate who are affected by a very simple yet complex issue.



BRONWYN KATE BUEDEL

With its One for One™ initiative, TOMS gives a pair of shoes to a child in need for every pair of shoes its customers buy.

Mycoskie founded the company in 2006 after he visited Argentina and saw extreme poverty and children without shoes.

So many people in the world find it easier to turn a blind eye to major issues because the solutions seem unrealistic. However, TOMS has aided in giving away millions of pairs of shoes to children and adults in need all over the world.

Inspired by the company's great impact, I explored how I could become involved with its mission. I teamed up with Michael DeStefano and began sorting out the fine details that would allow us to become an accredited club at UNC Charlotte. Along the way we gained many members who were devoted to helping others through community service and donations.

Due to our great success in gaining members and initiating involvement, TOMS Campus Clubs headquarters named our UNC Charlotte chapter "Campus of the Week" in April 2011. Since then, we have been featured in *The Charlotte Observer*, *The University Times*, and many other UNC Charlotte publications.

Along with hosting documentary screenings and TOMS'



Jessica Martinez chalks a sidewalk to raise awareness.

annual One Day Without Shoes event, the club then held its first Style Your Sole Party. UNC Charlotte art students designed shoes for attendees, who also enjoyed food and games. A grant from the Student Organizations Office helped buy supplies, food, and paints. The turnout was incredible and we were able to collect about thirty pairs of donated shoes to send to a remote village in Africa in November. Many other events followed this successful event, as the club continued its efforts in spring 2012.

Serving in leadership roles and simply being a part of this club has been a huge honor and privilege for me. I truly believe that our club is making a difference in other people's lives whether through our Hickory Grove Elementary volunteer mentor work or the donations of shoes to be used by people who may never have had shoes before. Our mission clearly is catching on around UNC Charlotte. With our growing membership, I know that the UNC Charlotte TOMS Campus Club is making its mark to change the world, one pair of shoes at a time. &

words/pictures: **Bronwyn Kate Buedel**, communication studies, international public relations major; **TOMS Campus Club founder**

alumni

Creating Dialogue

Alumna Integrates Abilities with Interests for Fulfilling Career

College alumna Lisa Mabe (B.A. '05) has blended her skills as a digital marketing and public relations professional with her interests in Middle Eastern cultures and food to build a successful career as the owner of a digital communications consultancy firm that helps companies connect with consumers.

Mabe is the founder and owner of the Washington, D.C.-based Hewar Social Communications. Hewar is an Arabic term for dialogue, which is what the company helps clients

create. Her company is a leading pioneer in marketing to Muslim consumers, one of the fastest growing consumer segments. Prior to opening her own firm, the 2005 graduate worked with two leading communications agencies, Mullen and Burson-Marsteller.

"I attribute a lot of my success to my amazing educational experience at UNC Charlotte,"

Mabe says. "I was fortunate early

on to realize, at least to some degree, what I wanted my career to focus on and as a result I spent my time at UNC Charlotte on a mission to learn as much as I could and gain as much experience as possible."

Mabe earned her bachelor's degree in the public relations track in the communication studies major. While at UNC Charlotte, she logged an impressive number of internships, working with the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, the Lyster Agency, the Citizen Soldier Support Program, SPX Corporation and Epley Associates (now Catevo Group.) She also was a research assistant for an international PR textbook.

"Having several different internship experiences made the transition from university student to a new professional that much easier," Mabe says.

She also studied international public relations in London one summer. "That experience in London was priceless in that it enabled me to learn about a wide variety of industries and categories," she says.

Alan Freitag, a communication studies professor who is a mentor to Mabe, says she shows great skill in interacting



LISA MABE

Accolades

- *PRWeek* magazine, the public relations industry's influential trade publication, named Mabe's agency in its Digital Campaign of the Month in January 2012 for its work with client Saffron Road Foods and its teaming with Whole Foods Market to reach Muslim consumers during the month of Ramadan.
- The Advertising Research Foundation has awarded Hewar and Saffron Road Foods its prestigious David Ogilvy Award for the Digital + Media category.
- Mabe speaks this summer at the largest specialty foods trade show, the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade "Summer Fancy Food Show," addressing how faith and culture impact consumer behavior.
- Mabe is frequently a resource for news media and others on multicultural marketing, the Muslim consumer market and public relations.

with people. "Lisa is one of the most polished and poised young professionals I've ever had the pleasure of guiding," he says. "She can bridge the very complex worlds across cultures and across national borders. She can navigate those intricacies of cross-cultural communication and commerce."

Mabe encourages students to think about ways they can address unmet needs and pursue their passions, as she has with her company. "Working in the area you're truly passionate about makes work that much more fulfilling," she says.

She also urges young people to embrace diversity, as she did when she first came to UNC Charlotte from a smaller Winston-Salem area community with less diversity. She participated in international activities and interfaith dialogues to broaden her awareness.

"It's important to meet people from other cultures, other faiths, other countries who are different from you," she says. "I seek out people who are very different from me. I find people interesting because they're not just like me." &

words: **Lynn Roberson**

picture: **Lisa Mabe**

donor

Endowment Inspires Humanities Faculty

Awards Contribute to Teaching, Research, Writing



When Ruth and Colin Shaw of Davidson sought a way to honor Ruth's mother, a belief in the importance of liberal arts education led them to establish the Frances L. Gwynn Endowment to support junior faculty members in the humanities in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

"My mother believed the liberal arts provided a very firm foundation for further education," Shaw says. "She believed once you knew how to learn, analyze, synthesize and problem-solve, it really gave you a window into any occupation or profession." Gwynn was a public school educator and counselor who delighted in hearing from faculty who benefitted from the endowment. She died in February 2011.

The awards from the endowment have contributed to research and teaching, the writing and publishing of books and other works, and the ability to obtain additional funding from other sources. Pre-tenure faculty in English, philosophy, religious studies and history are eligible for the competitive awards.

Mark Wilson, now an associate professor in history, sees a link between his 2008 grant and a \$50,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant he is receiving in 2012-13.

"The Gwynn award allowed me to conduct archival research in business records that has been very important to my book project about American business during World War II," Wilson says. After the Gwynn Endowment paid for a first trip for Wilson to access its collection, the Hagley Library awarded a research travel grant in 2010 for a follow-up visit.

"I will always be grateful to Dr. Shaw for creating this award, which provides invaluable assistance to junior scholars as they strive to make original contributions to the humanities," Wilson says.

Tony Scott, now an associate professor of rhetoric and writing, received his award in 2005 and used it for research in writing assessments. Scott published *Dangerous Writing: Understanding the Political Economy of Composition* in 2009. The book built upon the earlier work that the endowment helped fund.

Grants that allow faculty members to work on research and publish their findings are invaluable, Scott says. "What we want is time, and money buys time," he says. "I think if you enable scholars to have time, good things will happen."

When she received her award, Aimee Parkison had written fictional stories that she was placing in publications such as *Feminist Studies* and *North American Review*. She also was working on other stories.

"I knew I needed more time to get them together in a book," she says. "I needed the funding and the support to help me do that." BOA Editions' American Readers Series is publishing the book. Parkison's first story collection, *Woman with Dark Horses*, won the first annual Starcherone Fiction Prize and was published in 2004.

“My mother believed the liberal arts provided a very firm foundation for further education ... She believed once you knew how to learn, analyze, synthesize and problem-solve, it really gave you a window into any occupation or profession.”

— RUTH SHAW

The support from grants also benefits students, she says. “You have the sense that you’re in this community, and someone has recognized your work early on,” she says. “It gives you even more energy in the classroom. My research is very much tied to my teaching. That’s what makes it credible, when I’m teaching a class in creative writing, that I am writing also. The students are really hungry for that first-hand experience in their professors.”

Jennifer Munroe, now associate professor of English, used the grant to finish her first monograph, *Gender and the Garden in Early Modern English Literature*. She also started work on a second monograph.

“The grant also helped to fund my travel to the archives in the British Library,” Munroe says. “Archival work, such as I did that summer, was critical to my finishing the book, and work on women’s manuscripts, which is what I did in particular, is among the cutting-edge feminist work in my field. The book has since been very well received and reviewed multiple times.”

The grants offer individual and broader benefits, she says. “It is generous awards such as this that help faculty maintain an active research agenda, which enables their personal advancement even as it allows the university as a whole to advance its research status,” she says.

Gwynn reveled in “hearing that something that was done

in her name and her honor was making such a difference,” Shaw says.

Nancy A. Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, expresses gratitude to the Shaws. “Gifts such as this generous endowment allow us to inspire our faculty, provide enriching experiences for our students and encourage partnerships that enliven our shared economic and cultural future,” Gutierrez says.

The faculty members who have received awards from the Frances L. Gwynn Endowment, in addition to Munroe, Parkison, Scott and Wilson are: Kirk Melnikoff, English associate professor; Heather Perry, History associate professor; Ritika Prasad, history assistant professor; and Maya Socolovsky, English assistant professor; and John Staunton, who no longer is with UNC Charlotte.

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences relies on the generous investment and support provided by dedicated alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff. More information on ways to give can be found at <https://giving.uncc.edu/> 

Portions of this story originally appeared in UNC Charlotte magazine (Q1 12.)

words: **Lynn Roberson**

picture: **Glenn Roberson**

College Names Development Director

Mai Li Muñoz has joined the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences as director of development. Muñoz has a decade-long career in fundraising, volunteer recruitment and coordination and communications.

Immediately prior to joining the college in October, Muñoz was director of development for Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. Previously she worked with the University of South Carolina as director of development for the Cancer Research Center. She also was director of development with the College of Social Work and assistant director of development with the Office of Foundation Relations, also at the University of South Carolina. She also served as director of public relations and marketing for college relations at Livingstone College in Salisbury.

Muñoz earned her master’s degree in philanthropy and development from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota and her bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina.



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botanical

Hydrangea

The Susie Harwood Garden in the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens in summer is full of bird and insect activity among the flowers. The garden features meandering paths, an Asian Garden and naturalistic rock work. In addition to the hydrangeas, the waterfall pond, daylilies, and butterfly terrace are especially nice this time of year. The blooms of the hydrangeas cluster for dramatic displays that add interest to the gardens. Picture: Lynn Roberson.