Berryhill Hall
is a building past its prime

When Joe Jenkins entered UNC School of Medicine in the 1970s, Berryhill Hall was a new medical education building that fit the times. But more than 40 years later, the building’s limitations — both in size and design — are impediments to overcome for medical students like Krishan Sivaraj.

Krishan Sivaraj of Cary considered a few professions before realizing that medicine would give him the best opportunity to help reduce social and health disparities on both a global and local scale.

When he entered the UNC School of Medicine, the amount of support he received from faculty and other students exceeded his expectations.

“I always imagined the solitary medical student studying alone for nights on end, trying to learn all the information,” said Sivaraj, a first-year medical student who graduated from William G. Enloe High School in Raleigh and Duke University. “But that’s not how it is. It’s so much better to study and work with other people. You want that collaborative experience before you’re caring for patients in real life.”

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“The camaraderie that existed at that time, from both faculty

Building the future of the state

Gov. Pat McCrory spent 30 minutes walking the hallways of the UNC School of Medicine’s Berryhill Hall on Wednesday, visiting the outdated labs and dilapidated lecture spaces that can no longer hold classes.

But it took him all of five minutes, he said, to realize the facility no longer meets the needs of its students — the state’s future doctors.

“It’s not 21st century teaching or education for 21st century doctors,” McCrory said.

Bringing the medical school up to modern times was among the many goals discussed Feb. 17 at a Connect NC Bond proposal panel discussion hosted at Carolina.

McCrory and Chancellor Carol L. Folt were joined by N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Kluttz; N.C. National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory A. Lusk; and Alamance Community College President Algie C. Gatewood at the panel to support the $2 billion bond referendum, which will be voted on March 15.

In addition to providing millions of dollars for water and sewer systems, National Guard centers and updates to 45 state parks, the bond would provide nearly $1 billion for the UNC System to build and repair facilities and more than $300 million to modernize facilities in the
Men’s tennis team wins national championship

The Carolina men’s tennis team won its first Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Team Indoor Championship in program history on Feb. 15, defeating host and top-ranked Virginia 4–2 at the Boar’s Head Sports Club in Charlottesville, Virginia.

With Virginia leading 2–1, juniors Brayden Schnur and Ronnie Schneider fought to wins at No. 1 and No. 2, pulling out third-set tie-breaker victories. Junior Jack Murray sealed the championship with a 6–4, 0–6, 7–5 win at No. 4.

“Happiness is a huge understatement,” Murray said. “Words can’t begin to describe how it feels to get the job done for my team and coaches. Our team has worked so hard and this was the epitome of all that work.”

Said Tar Heels Coach Sam Paul, “We know Virginia has a great team and it was a battle all the way to the end. I’m so proud of my guys and how hard they fought all the way through.”

– GoHeels.com

PRESERVING A CULTURE

For nearly a century, American culture has been preserved with National Historic Sites, deeming them locations of great significance. But of the 90 sites, only 10 are grounded in African American history, and they showcase just a small sliver of American history.

Betye Collier-Thomas (pictured below) has spent decades working to correct that.

“I recall when I first started teaching, many people felt that African American history was one thing, and American history was something else,” the professor from Temple University said. “African American history is deeply rooted in the history of America, and we should never forget that.”

Collier-Thomas’ speech, “African American Historical Sites: Identity, Memory, History and Preservation,” was the keynote presentation of the 12th annual African American History Month Lecture at the Stone Center on Feb. 8.

Collier-Thomas is an award-winning author and researcher of African American women’s history, religion studies, civil rights activism and electoral politics. She was invited to speak to honor this year’s national Black History Month theme of “Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memory.”

“While African Americans recognize that their very identity is enshrined in their history, and while they struggle to keep alive the physical evidence of that history through museum, oral histories, historic societies, books and other publications, they recognize also the importance of identifying and preserving their buildings, cemeteries and other places they deem to be visual documentation of history that can be seen in times and cities through the United States,” she said.

– Brandon Bieltz, Office of Communications and Public Affairs
The VOICE for the voiceless

The man Carlton Koonce approached to interview for his first story in the VOICE slowly took measure of the college student standing in front of him. After looking Koonce up and down and back, he met the student’s eyes with obvious mistrust.

“What kind of con are you running?” he asked Koonce. “There’s no newspaper around here!”

That was in 2010, when the VOICE was poised to come out in print for the first time.

Anne-Marie Slaughter to speak at Commencement

Anne-Marie Slaughter, critically acclaimed author and trailblazing public leader, who made waves with her groundbreaking 2012 article “Why Women Still Can’t Have It All,” will deliver the Commencement address on May 8.

“My goal is to inspire everyone to take a moment and consider her words at Commencement, and work together to make the world a better place.”

Slaughter’s article sparked a renewed national debate about the continued obstacles to genuine full male-female equality, ultimately spawning her 2015 book Unfinished Business.

Now the newspaper is a staple in northeast central Durham, the latest tabloid-size issue eagerly awaited by its readers at barbershops, diners and markets throughout the neighborhood. And Koonce has graduated from North Carolina Central University and mentors the teenage reporters and photographers helping to produce the VOICE in a tiny newsroom.

The walls of the 12-by-12-foot office are decorated with color printout photos of teens who have worked at the VOICE over the years. Tables pack the space so tightly that it’s hard to move around. But the VOICE pays no rent for the little newsroom in Building 4 of Durham’s Golden Belt Campus. Scientific Properties donated the space to what is officially named the Northeast Central Durham Community VOICE but is better known as the VOICE or the Durham VOICE.

“It’s a community paper for inner city Durham, staffed by college kids and teenagers from the neighborhood,” Koonce explained. “If you want to know who got shot, who got stabbed, then you can go to WTVD. But if you want to know about a camp for your kid or where there’s some service learning happening or read about the Little League team, you’ll read us.”

Four monthly print editions and five web editions of the VOICE come out each semester. Each issue combines the effort of teens in the neighborhood, journalism students and Campus Echo newspaper staffers at Central and the community journalism class taught at Carolina. Other universities have tried producing community newspapers, Koonce said, but the VOICE is the only one to use teenagers from the neighborhood.

This collaboration evolved gradually from the response journalism professor Jock Lauterer had to the tragic death of Student Body President Eve Carson in 2008. The young men arrested for, and eventually convicted of, her murder were both from inner city Durham— a foreign land only nine miles up the road.

“I took it personally that two young men from Durham would come to my town and do such a heinous crime — as if there was a wall between Durham and Chapel Hill,” Lauterer said. “It was the end of innocence. How naïve I was then.”

That year, Lauterer was in the first class of Faculty Engaged Scholars, a program in the Carolina Center for Public Service that provides $10,000 over two years for a faculty project thatdeeply involves the community.

Mai Nguyen, associate professor of city and regional planning, was also in the class and knew how upset Lauterer was about Carson’s murder. “Why don’t you go over there and start a newspaper for those guys?” she suggested. “Put cameras and notepads in their hands. Make them shooters of a gentler kind.”

Lauterer’s goal was to create a newspaper “dedicated to social change, youth empowerment and civic engagement,” but that was easier said than done. He began by buying cameras, laptops and other equipment a newspaper would need, but had no idea how to get his target audience — neighborhood teens — to work for him. Would neighborhood mothers entrust their children to this strange white guy? he wondered.

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Several kids and teenagers said yes. The rest said no. Lauterer got those who said yes to write a few weekly columns for print on Thursday nights and on the VOICE website. The rest of the kids became the newspaper’s story writers.

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Unprecedented insight into the origins of the universe

This month’s landmark discovery about the detection of gravitational waves offers unprecedented insight into the origins of the universe, creating a new era in astronomy, said Carolina gravitational theorist Charles Evans.

On Feb. 11, the National Science Foundation held a news conference to announce that scientists from Cal Tech, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration observed, for the first time, ripples in the fabric of space-time called gravitational waves. This confirms a major prediction of Albert Einstein’s 1915 general theory of relativity and opens an unprecedented new window to the cosmos.

Carolina physicists reacted with excitement about the announcement, highlighting the importance of this confirmation after so many years. They also credited the fortitude of so many scientists over so many decades who contributed to the discovery.

“What’s spectacular about this discovery is the perseverance by the LIGO team,” said Laura Mersini-Houghton, a cosmologist and theoretical physicist at Carolina. “The signal is so tiny that any background noise could drown it out, like weeds blowing in the wind or a bird chirping.

“So the team had to control for all these factors for decades without ever seeing anything, so this is really a phenomenal feat of perseverance, technology and patience, and speaks to the faith we all have in Einstein’s theory of relativity.”

The researchers detected the signal with the LIGO — twin detectors carefully constructed to detect vibrations that are so tiny, they are a billion times smaller than anything detectable with a seismometer. They then converted it into audio waves and listened to the sound of two black holes spiraling together, then merging into a larger single black hole.

“The signal that they observed was just phenomenal,” Evans said. “There is nothing like detecting gravitational waves directly in the laboratory as opposed to indirectly observing them in an astronomical system — and detecting them at two different locations just milliseconds apart.”

For the hundreds of researchers on the project, this signal represents 20 to 30 years of waiting to detect gravitational waves. The signals that make the gravitational wave are generated when huge objects, like stars moving at the velocity of light, smash into each other and make the fabric of space-time ripple.

“It’s an extraordinary feat,” said Mersini-Houghton. “Now we can use this information to study black holes and the origins of the universe in ways that we were never able to before.”

“This is a landmark discovery,” said Chancellor Carol L. Folt, who is also a scientist. “I want our students to understand the significance of this discovery and appreciate that the news, first predicted 100 years ago by Albert Einstein, will drive major advances in research and technology for decades to come. And that is truly extraordinary.”

— Thania Benios, Office of Communications and Public Affairs

FACULTY COUNCIL SUPPORTS LGBTQ INITIATIVES, ‘RECOGNIZES’ ETHICS REPORT

At the Feb. 19 meeting of Faculty Council, Chair Bruce Cairns asked members to weigh the resolutions before them — one related to the UNC System’s next president and the other to the University’s accrediting agency — and the potential impact of their actions.

The first resolution, which passed unanimously, affirmed faculty support of LGBTQ academic initiatives in light of comments that UNC President-elect Margaret Spellings made as U.S. Secretary of Education more than a decade ago. In 2005, Spellings asked the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to refund taxpayer dollars used to produce a television program featuring same-sex parents.

Cairns said he had not met Spellings, but that he was encouraged by her comments during a recent retreat with the UNC Board of Governors. “I personally believe we should give her a chance. That being said, I fully understand others who do not share my opinion on the topic.”

Before the vote, a faculty member asked Chancellor Carol L. Folt if the resolution would make it more difficult for her. “My difficulty is not the question,” Folt responded. “Your faculty colleagues have put forth a question here, and this faculty needs to do what it believes with respect to this resolution.”

With 13 faculty members involved in crafting the measure standing in front of the room as a show of support, the resolution passed unanimously, followed by applause.

The second resolution sought the council’s endorsement of the final report of the Ethics and Integrity Working Group, one of two working groups Folt created after the release of the Wainstein Report in 2014. (For more information, go to http://carolinacommitment.unc.edu/updates/).

But Jan Hannig, a professor of statistics, argued delegates had not been given enough time to read the 60-page report and called for a March vote instead.

Cairns said such a delay was unnecessary — because the council received the report in January — and that it could be harmful. A delay, he said, could send an unintended message to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) about the faculty’s response to the problems of “institutional integrity” and policy compliance cited by the accrediting agency when it imposed a one-year probation on Carolina in June 2015.

The objective of the resolution, Cairns said, was to “demonstrate to the world” that the faculty endorses the ethics and integrity report.

Hannig also asked how much money outside consultants had been paid to produce the report. None, Folt responded, adding that the report was the product of the hard work of faculty members on the working group.

The resolution passed after lengthy debate and changing “endorsing” to “recognizing.”

In other action, the board approved three amendments to the Faculty Code of University Government that passed their first reading in January.

The first amendment clarifies the procedure for filling vacancies for faculty officers; the second enlarges the Faculty Athletics Committee and updates the committee’s charge to focus on faculty oversight of varsity athletics; and the third enlarges the Faculty Grievance Committee to add more fixed-term faculty members because of the increasing number of cases involving fixed-term faculty.

— University Gazette
DeVetta Holman Nash helps troubled students make it to “the other side”

T he counselor pulled a list of names from her leather-bound folder. Her eyes were dark and intense as she introduced these students she has counseled, sharing their stories the way a proud mother shows off photos of her children. Warming to her subject, she emphasized points with her hands, the golden bracelets on her arms jingling softly as she spoke.

“She’s an Asian-Italian student from Charlotte, a Covenant Scholar, and now we’re working on her going to medical school,” said DeVetta Holman Nash, moving down her roster.

“She’s a sophomore from Charleston, South Carolina, and a Morehead-Cain Scholar. She’s determined she’s going to be the superintendent of a school system. He’s an athlete who deconstructs every narrative people have about athletes. He’s been on the dean’s list multiple times and is an Olympic hopeful.”

Holman Nash is the assistant director of student wellness services and coordinator of student academic success, the counselor students come to (or are sent to) when they are at their lowest point. “I don’t belong here. I don’t fit in. I can’t hack it, they tell her. Often they’re ready to leave college.

“Sometimes what they consider to be wrong isn’t wrong. Wrong is relative.”

For Merrick Osborne, being a young black male on a predominantly white campus compounded the stress of being a college student. He was frustrated by “subtle prejudice and racial impediments” that were holding him back. Then he met Holman Nash.

“She saw my potential before I did. She challenged me to set a standard for myself that others couldn’t reach,” Osborne wrote in his letter nominating her for the C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award. “Whenever I walked out of her office, rejuvenated, I would nod to the receptionist and begin my day with a new vigor and a new perspective. The world became conquerable with [Holman Nash] behind me.”

Osborne went from frustration to leadership as president of the Carolina Union Activities Board, vice president of his fraternity chapter and co-chair of Diversity and Inclusiveness in a College Environment (DICE), an organization founded by Holman Nash.

In the past 30 years, how many other students have entered Holman Nash’s cozy office in the Taylor Building, the one with the red chairs, and emerged “on the other side,” as she calls it? Hard to say, but her office walls are covered with letters and cards, many of them hand-drawn, and photos of special achievements: law school and medical school graduations, white-coat and hooding ceremonies.

A card she just received the other day had most of a heart drawn on it, the sides of the heart lopped off by the edges of the page. The student had written below it, “This is your heart. It is too big for this paper.”

OTHER MOTHERING

While she reserves a special place in her heart and her time for her 14-year-old son, Robert-Anthony Nash, otherwise she seems to draw no real distinction between her role (she doesn’t call it a “job”) and her life.

“When you love what you do, when it’s a passion, I don’t see it as being intrusive,” she said.

“The role I play in the lives of students here is what I hope someone will do for my son as he furthers his education. I owe each student 100 percent each time I interface with them, both in and out of the classroom.”

So perhaps it’s not surprising that she is also involved in several extracurricular groups and activities. Holman Nash is faculty adviser to the college chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She also founded DICE, described above, and Sister Talk, “a group of women of color who convene because they want to be their authentic selves, without having to explain or apologize,” she said.

To her students, Holman Nash is more than a counselor, more than a mentor. She’s more like a mother.

“There’s a concept called ‘other mothering’ and there’s a concept called ‘belongingness,’ and those two concepts fit together like a beautiful tapestry,” Holman Nash said. “Students, especially students from marginalized and disenfranchised backgrounds, who feel a sense of belonging show a higher level of engagement and involvement in school activities.”

If she knows that a student has no family or that family can’t attend graduation because of distance or finances, Holman Nash comes to Commencement to be the student’s family—cheering, hugging and smiling in their place.

She refers to students as her children, calling each son or daughter. “They get the same support I got from my household,” she said.

Holman Nash grew up in the small tobacco town of Oxford, in Granville County. Her father, a decorated World War II veteran, was a nurse’s assistant and operator of a dry-cleaning business who earned the money to pay the bills. Her mother was a “domestic engineer” who made sure that the family sat down together for breakfast and supper and that the children did their chores and their homework. Her paternal grandmother also lived with the family.

Her father withdrew from Shaw University to go to war, but there was “never any doubt” that she would graduate, Holman Nash said, even after her father suffered a heart aneurism and died suddenly when she was 15. But the college switched from private and historically black Howard University in Washington, D.C., to public and predominantly white Carolina, which was closer to her mother and younger siblings.

In the small pond of Oxford, this cheerleader captain, homecoming queen and student government vice president was a very big fish. At Carolina, she would enter as a very small fish, coming queen and student government vice president was a sister to her mother and younger siblings.

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members and students, was special,” recalled Jenkins, a urologist who worked in private practice in Washington, North Carolina. “We were the biggest class of students the School of Medicine had seen. It had just grown from 60 students per class to 100, and yet it was a close-knit community.”

Yet, much has changed in the more than 40 years that separate their experiences as medical students at Carolina.

The state’s population has climbed to 10 million. More people are older, and more have access to health care — factors that are further driving the demand for more doctors. Another factor is that roughly a third of doctors are baby boomers who are expected to retire by 2020.

In anticipation of this impending doctor shortage, the UNC Board of Governors has approved the expansion of incoming classes to 230 students. But Berryhill, which was designed to accommodate a class cohort of 100, now accepts 180 first-year students and lacks the capacity to add more.

What has also changed even more dramatically is medicine itself — both the way it is practiced and the styles for teaching it.

When Jenkins was a student at Berryhill, the large, windowless lecture halls were well suited to the classic didactic lectures of the 1970s.

Today’s curriculum, which was updated in 2014, calls upon students to learn from each other through small-group interactions that lecture halls with fixed seating are ill suited to foster.

Both Sivaraj and Jenkins support the proposed new medical school building included in the Connect NC bond referendum that voters will decide on March 15. They believe it would help medical school students to take a step forward. Pat McCrory when he toured Berryhill Hall last week.

During his tour, McCrory passed by classrooms being held in cramped hallways next to drinking fountains, peeling paint on ceilings and other inadequacies. “We need to rectify that,” McCrory said after the tour.

A new facility will allow for the increase in students, which will in turn prepare more doctors to serve the people of North Carolina.

“Berryhill is not conducive for people physically leaning in and working in groups of four or five,” Gilliland said. “Look at the business school or the pharmacy school. Chairs pivot so that students can work with a group while remaining seated. There’s plenty of room for their laptops or tablets. The students have the ability to hit a button and speak to the auditorium rather than having to project their voices across the room. Rows are wide enough so that students can get to the restroom, if necessary.”

Jenkins sees this sort of small group approach in medical education as a reflection of the nature of collaborative health-care today.

“It’s driving medical education, and it didn’t so much in our day,” Jenkins said. “None of us knows if the model will sustain itself in 25 years — if it will be a team effort, a collaborative effort — but if it does, then medical students need to know how to be at the center of that team.”

That is why a new medical education building is needed, Sivaraj said.

“I think we do an incredible job with what we have, but if we could work in better space, it would make a difference,” Sivaraj said. “You hear about other medical schools where a professor is at the front of the room teaching pathology and each small group of students has a monitor showing exactly what’s going on at the front; they can see every tiny cell. If you have such content right in front of you, it’s going to get you zoned in and paying attention to everything.”

BUILDING THE FUTURE

Carolina now attracts some of the top medical student candidates in the country to its top-ranked medical school. Those students deserve a building worthy of their potential, said Gov. Pat McCrory when he toured Berryhill Hall last week.

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– Krishan Sivaraj

MATCHING QUALITY WITH QUALITY

Sivaraj said the quality of the medical education building should match the expertise of the faculty and the talents of the students. He points to the School of Dentistry’s new building as an example.

Gilliland agreed.

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“I think we do an incredible job with what we have, but if we could work in better space, it would make a difference,” Sivaraj said. “You hear about other medical schools where a professor is at the front of the room teaching pathology and each small group of students has a monitor showing exactly what’s going on at the front; they can see every tiny cell. If you have such content right in front of you, it’s going to get you zoned in and paying attention to everything.”

CONTRIBUTED

This is the third and final story in the Gazette series looking at how the Connect NC bond could help Carolina meet the state’s growing need for doctors.

– Zach Read, UNC Health Care
NEWS IN BRIEF from page 2

2016 UNIVERSITY DAY WILL BE CELEBRATED OCT. 13 TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH YOM KIPPU

The University has moved its 2016 University Day celebrations, traditionally held on Carolina’s founding date of Oct. 12, to Oct. 13. The move was made out of respect for the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, which falls on Oct. 12 this year.

University Day, which the campus first celebrated in 1877, marks the 1793 laying of the cornerstone of Old East, the nation’s first state university building, and the beginning of public higher education in the United States. Oct. 12, 2016, is Carolina’s 223rd birthday.

More information on Carolina’s University Day schedule, including details on the University Day speaker, will be announced later this year.

CAROLINA RECEIVES $1 MILLION GRANT TO DIVERSIFY STUDENTS PURSUING DOCTORAL DEGREES

Carolina has received a $1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP), a national program that aims to diversify the pool of students pursuing doctoral degrees in the humanities, social sciences and fine arts.

MURAP works with students from under-represented minority groups, and others with a proven commitment to diversity, to support their ambitions to attend graduate school and become faculty members.

Each summer, MURAP brings 20 rising college juniors and seniors from all over the United States to Carolina for a 10-week, graduate-level research experience. Carolina faculty members serve as mentors to the students and guide their research, which explores topics in the humanities, social sciences or fine arts. The program is highly competitive and attracts outstanding students from across the country who seek admission for each class.

“Our students leave the program with the tools they need to transition successfully to graduate school and an awareness of the importance of belonging to a cohort of like-minded, diverse individuals with whom they form strong bonds that help them as they advance through the academic pipeline,” said Rosa Perelmuter of Carolina’s Department of Romance Studies, who was the grant’s principal investigator and serves as MURAP’s director.

Since MURAP launched in 1989, 468 students have participated in the program, 76 have gone on to earn a doctorate, 62 are employed in teaching or administrative positions in academia and 17 have received tenure.

The grant will fund MURAP through September 2019.

Figures from the National Science Foundation’s “2013 Survey of Earned Doctorates” underscore the need for increased numbers of minorities earning doctorate degrees — only 6.4 percent of doctorates received were by African Americans, 8.5 percent by Hispanics, 6.4 percent by Asians and .35 percent by American Indians or Alaska Natives.

The MURAP is named for Mignon Moore, an associate professor of sociology at Barnard College and MURAP’s first doctorate recipient.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Calendar**

**Conversation, performance with Roger McGuinn**

Legendary folk singer Roger McGuinn, co-founder of the Byrds, will perform and discuss folkden.com, his pioneering digital humanities project, at 3 p.m. March 1 in the Hanes Art Center auditorium. In November 1995, McGuinn began the Folk Den to preserve folk music. Each month he recorded a song, printed the lyrics and chords, added a personal note and made the content freely available for download on his website, mcguinn.com. He wanted to give everyone the opportunity to learn the songs and to be able to sing them with their families and friends. Steve Weiss, curator of the Southern Folklore Collection, will moderate the conversation.

**WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT ...**

A spring exhibition on view now in Wilson Library celebrates the Rare Book Collection’s William Wordsworth Collection and related holdings in Romantic literature and British culture. “Lyric Impressions: Wordsworth in the Long 19th Century,” on display in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room through April 15, is free and open to the public.

**‘FAMILY PAPERS’**

Sarah Stein, professor of history and Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, will deliver a lecture on a family’s instinct for preservation at 7:30 p.m. March 7 at the Friday Center. The talk, “Family Papers: A Sephardi Journey Through the 20th Century,” will explore why a family saves its paper and how the instinct for preservation defies wars, fire, genocide, migration and family feuds. This history of a single family is also a reflection on how one family archive came to be built and preserved and how it knit together a family even as the historic Sephardi heartland of southeastern Europe was unraveling.

**WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT ...**

PlayMakers Repertory Company’s production of We Are Proud to Present... continues through March 13 at the Paul Green Theatre. In this play within a play, a performance piece on a little-known episode of early 20th-century genocide takes a jolting turn when the actors — three black and three white — tap into personal resentments and ingrained prejudices. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays and Saturday, March 5, with previews Feb. 24–26, followed by opening night Feb. 27. Special performances include an all-access performance for attendees with special needs, with sign language interpretation and audio description on March 1; free post-show discussions with members of the creative team March 2 and 6; open-captioned performance 2 p.m. March 5; and free post-show “Mindplay” discussions sponsored by the North Carolina Psychoanalytic Society 7:30 p.m. March 12 and 2 p.m. March 13. For tickets, call 919-962-7529 or visit www.playmakersrep.org.

**VIOLINIST GIL SHAHAM RETURNS FEB. 25**

Gil Shaham has delighted audiences twice this season — don’t miss this last opportunity to see him perform at Memorial Hall. Master violinist Shaham will partner with the Knights, a trailblazing orchestral group from Brooklyn, New York, Feb. 25. The group’s diverse repertoire includes classical masterworks as well as jazz, klezmer and indie rock. The program includes selections from Prokofiev, Beethoven and Rebek.

**‘APPROPRIATING ASIA’**

J. Paul Getty Museum Curator Stephanie Schrader uses artworks from the museum’s collection to survey the appropriation of Asian culture by European artists from the 16th to the 18th century. The lecture, “Appropriating Asia: The Depiction of the Exotic in European Art,” begins at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in Hyde Hall. Shrader will examine complex networks of trade and religion that brought knowledge of China and Korea to Europe, providing a better understanding of how Asian luxury goods functioned and circulated in modern Europe. Her lecture is the 22nd Mary Stevens Rockford Memorial Lecture in European Studies. A reception will follow the lecture.

**BULL’S HEAD BOOKSHOP**

William Frey, interim manager of organizational and professional development in the Office of Human Resources, will be at Bull’s Head Bookshop at noon Feb. 26 to share from his new book, Ease into Freedom: Keys for Reducing Stress and Unlocking Your Potential. The author’s profits from the sale of Ease into Freedom for this event will go to the GoFundMe account for Gaylan Bishop, a Carolina employee who was severely burned recently while working in Dey Hall.

At 5:30 p.m. March 9, renowned Bible scholar Bart D. Ehrman, James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, will discuss his new book, Jesus Before the Gospels: How the Earliest Christians Remembered, Changed and Invented Their Stories of the Savior.

**CAROLINA INNOVATIONS SEMINAR**

Flavio Frohlich, assistant professor of psychiatry, cell biology and physiology, neurology and biomedical engineering, will discuss new approaches to treating psychiatric illnesses at the next Carolina Innovations Seminar. Frohlich will speak at 5:30 p.m. March 3 in Sitterson Hall room 014 about his experiences both as an innovator and an entrepreneur in the field of neurotechnology. Register in advance for the event at tinyurl.com/zumzohk.

**ARABIC MOVIE**

Filmaker Eyal Sagui Bizawe will screen and discuss Arabic Movie (Seret Aravit), his compelling documentary about Egyptian films shown in Israel, at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 29 in Hyde Hall’s University Room. Israelis still wax nostalgic about an old Friday afternoon ritual, back in the times when television had just one channel and everyone would watch the Arab movie of the week. What made the Egyptian heart-rending melodramas and musicals so dear to the Israeli viewers and how did the movies succeed to cross the sealed borders between the enemies? For more information, contact Yaron Shemer, yshemer@email.unc.edu.

**RACE, INNOCENCE AND IN THE DEATH PENALTY**

The Department of Political Science will present the two more events in its distinguished speaker series, “Race, Innocence and the End of the Death Penalty.” At 5:30 p.m. Feb. 29, Beverly Monroe and her daughter, Katie, will share their story in which Katie spent 11 years demonstrating the innocence of her mother, who was sentenced to 22 years in prison for a 1992 murder that was really a suicide.

At 5:30 p.m. March 7, Hidden Voices, a nonprofit group dedicated to telling the stories of underrepresented populations, will perform Serving Life, dramatic readings co-created with men currently sentenced to die in prison. A discussion with project leaders and prison mental health professionals will follow the performance. Both events take place in the Genome Sciences G100 auditorium. The series is made available through the Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professorship.
THE LOWEST FORM OF POETRY

HUMANITIES SCHOLARS IN ACTION

In March, history scholars will share their knowledge in programs sponsored by the General Alumni Association and hosted at Flyleaf Books. At 4:30 p.m. March 1, Katherine Turk, assistant professor of history, will address “Rethinking Workplace Equality: Gender and Rights in Modern America” in the Spotlight on Scholars Tuesdays series. At 4:30 p.m. March 2, Michelle King, associate professor of history, will explore “Two Chinas, One Cook: Culture and Conflict between Taiwan and the People’s Republic” as part of the Humanities in Action Wednesdays series. At 4:30 p.m. March 9, Eren Tasar, assistant professor of history, will speak on “Plato to Nato: What You Need to Know about Central Asia” as part of the Humanities in Action Wednesdays series. Register for each program ahead of time at humanities.unc.edu/register and pay $18 per program, $8 for GAA members. Tuition is $20 for everyone paying at the door.

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COMPANY (choreographer Justin Tornow) and MW duo (saxophonist Matthew McClure and composer/sound artist Lee Weiss) explore the space between clarity and abstraction in this new performance installation. In this latest performance in the Process Series, laser beams traverse the space in which dancers perform. By breaking the beams with their bodies, the dancers trigger samples from Merce Cunningham’s text Space, Time and Dance. Performances begin at 8 p.m. March 5 and March 6 in the Kenan Music Building rehearsal hall.

‘LAWYERS WITHOUT RIGHTS’

The School of Law will host the highly acclaimed international exhibit, “Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany under the Third Reich,” March 7–25. The exhibit documents the story of the persecution of Jewish lawyers in Nazi Germany in the 1930s through photographs, letters and testimonials. An opening reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. March 7, in the school’s rotunda, featuring remarks from Mark Martin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

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Carol Wilson Spigner, 40-year advocate for children and families, will examine lessons drawn from her policy, advocacy and research work and how they apply to social justice challenges faced today. “Social Policy and Social Change Lessons Learned from Integrating Policy and Practice in the Real World” will begin at 5:30 p.m. March 8 in the Tate-Turner-Kuralt auditorium.

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This spring, the Ackland Art Museum will present a series of film screenings in connection with the current exhibition Walls of Color: The Murals of Hans Hofmann. The selected films will explore Hofmann’s artistic world and the ways in which he also influenced the world of film. At 6 p.m. March 8, the 1973 film Painters Painting by Emile de Antonio will be shown in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

DEADLINES TO WATCH

■ March 8 — Applications for Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars. The Carolina Center for Public Service is accepting applications for Class VI of the Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars program, which brings together selected Carolina faculty from across campus to engage in a two-year experiential, competency-based curriculum designed to advance their engaged scholarship. Submit applications online at www.unc.edu/ccps/portal. For information, email kim.allen@unc.edu or call 919-843-7548.

■ March 21 — Nominations for the Thomas Jefferson Award. The Thomas Jefferson Award is presented annually to “that member of the academic community who through personal influence and performance of duty in teaching, writing, and scholarship has best exemplified the ideals and objectives of Thomas Jefferson.” Submit nominations online at faccoun.unc.edu/awards/thomas-jefferson-award.

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Make a stop at Service mural

One way to commemorate Black History Month is a visit to the Service mural in the School of Government, across from its dining hall. Dedicated in 2010, Service depicts a gathering of African American leaders at the lunch counter of a store not unlike F.W. Woolworth in Greensboro. The mural consists of eight panels, each representing an event, place or particular accomplishment in the history of North Carolina. The artist, Colin Quashie, wrote in his explanation of the piece that the reason the Greensboro Four are prominent as the chefs in the mural is “because they literally took possession of the lunch counter with their refusal to leave until served. By seeking service, they were — by extension — serving a cause greater than themselves.”

At right, artist Colin Quashie puts the finishing touches on his 50-foot wide by 5-foot tall, oil-on-canvas Service mural. The mural is on the first floor of the Knapp-Sanders Building and may be viewed any time the building is open.

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A day of remembrance — and light

The untimely deaths of Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Razan Abu-Salha in February 2015 shook the Carolina and N.C. State campuses, resulting in gatherings at both universities to mourn.

But one year later, it was a day to look at the light — not the darkness.

“Today is a very sad day,” said Mohammad Abu-Salha, Yusor’s and Razan’s father. “But instead of mourning and being sad, we decided a long time ago to put a positive spin on this and make it their legacy that we celebrate.”

Throughout Feb. 10 memorials were held at Carolina and N.C. State to pay tribute to the three students’ legacies of kindness and service to others. The Barakat and Abu-Salha families were joined by hundreds at the School of Dentistry and then at a candlelight vigil on the N.C. State campus.

“I would have learned so much from them,” Chancellor Carol L. Folt said at the vigil. “I am learning from them, and their families, some of the most profound lessons in life: lessons about love, about service, about light. From the deepest bottom of my heart, I’m grateful that they walked the Earth with us.

“We are here today celebrating their inspiration. I was changed and moved by that tragedy. But even more so, I’ve been moved to learn from so many people how to take their legacy through their work and put it into action.”

Barakat, a second-year student at the UNC School of Dentistry, and Yusor Abu-Salha, who would have entered the dental school this past fall, as well as her sister, Razan Abu-Salha, an undergraduate student at N.C. State, were the three victims of a fatal shooting Feb. 10, 2015, in their Chapel Hill apartment.

“Although February 10, 2015, was a very, very dark day, the bright lights of Deah, Yusor and Razan continue to shine,” said N.C. State Chancellor Randy Woodson.

Following the deaths, the Carolina community — led by the School of Dentistry students — rallied around the legacy left behind and planned community service projects to help the causes Barakat had supported.

“Our school community and our University all pulled more closely together,” said Jane Weintraub, dean of the School of Dentistry. “We all resolved to be kinder, more patient, more understanding, and to give back more often.

“Our school adopted the mantra to ‘Live like Deah.’ These attributes described Yusor and Razan as well. And while the world is dimmer without them, we have all worked toward shining more light into the shadows in their absence.”

At the Carolina memorial service, Weintraub unveiled two shadowboxes containing white coats. One coat was embroidered with “Deah Barakat” and the other “Yusor Abu-Salha.” They will be displayed at the School of Dentistry.

“How can we best honor these young lives?” asked Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost James W. Dean Jr. “I think that the answer is for each one of us to be a little better in our own lives and for each of us to do a little more here at UNC, across North Carolina, across this country and really around the world for other people. This is what these three amazing individuals did, and I believe this is how we can best honor them.”

– Brandon Bieltz, Office of Communications and Public Affairs
neighborhood teens gathered to teach them how to shoot photos. He taught computer skills to teens at South Eastern Efforts Developing Sustainable Spaces (SEEDS), a non-profit supporting community gardening projects. The teens put on a photo exhibit and participated in an oral history project. Still no newspaper, though.

So Lauterer reached out to Bruce dePyssler, associate professor of mass communication at Central and adviser to the student newspaper, the Campus Echo, and dePyssler’s Central colleague Lisa Paulin, associate professor of mass communication. Between the students at Central and Lauterer’s community journalism class, they would be able to staff a newspaper, and they would also work with Durham high school journalism classes and Partners for Youth Opportunity (PYO) to recruit local teens.

In fall 2009, the VOICE had a soft launch online at www.durhamvoice.org. The newspaper’s name was a natural. “Whenever we talked to people in the community, we kept hearing them say, ‘We want a voice in what’s happening,’” Lauterer said.

The road has sometimes been rocky. Funding fell through a few times, but also seemed to get picked up by another source. The Daily Tar Heel donated the first year’s worth of printing, followed by Capitol Broadcasting’s funding of the next three years. This year, the Carteret County News Times all the way in Morehead City is printing the paper for free. When Lauterer’s funding for Koonce’s position ran out, he was able to keep Koonce involved as part of his new job as PYO’s internship/mentor coordinator.

Each collaborator gets something different from the VOICE experience. For Central students, it’s “an opportunity to be real reporters” that looks good on their resume, Paulin said.

For the Carolina community journalism students, largely white, it’s a chance to cover a community that most are unfamiliar with and to learn cultural differences. For example, sometimes the Carolina students have trouble getting black residents to talk to them for stories, Paulin said. “And my students will tell them that’s because it’s a bad neighborhood and people don’t like to put their business out there.”

For Paulin, the VOICE helps fulfill service and research requirements she needs for tenure. She is at work on a readership survey to determine community impact, but “anecdotally, they’re happy to see us,” she said.

For the teenagers, it’s an opportunity to write about a wide variety of topics, much broader than at their high school newspaper. Brooklynn Cooper, the first VOICE teen editor-in-chief to attend Carolina, wrote in the VOICE last year about a fashion show, holiday outings and why people should be proud to live in Durham.

“People say, ‘You live in Durham? I’m sorry,’” Cooper said. “I actually like living in Durham. It’s a nice city. It just gets a bad rep all the time.”

For the community, the VOICE makes it clear that northeast central Durham is not all thugs and violence but the home of hard-working citizens trying to make a difference in their city. They run soul food diners, have children playing violins and soccer, provide temporary housing for those who need it and plant urban gardens.

And for Lauterer, the VOICE is a way to make peace with the people and the city he once thought of as his enemies.

“The Durham that I was angry at I now love,” Lauterer said. “I had this naïve monolithic view of the African American community in Durham, and, of course, nothing could be further from the truth. It is nuanced, layered, political, complex, proud and frustrating and rewarding. And I just love it.”

— Susan Hudson, Gazette

DeVetta Holman Nash
Home: Durham
Job: assistant director of student wellness services and coordinator of student academic success
UNC employee since: 1985
Interesting facts: In addition to the Massey, she has received several other awards and honors, including Chancellor’s Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Award, University Diversity Award, Hortense K. McClinton Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award, UNC Frank Porter Graham Honor Society and the Order of the Golden Fleece.

What it meant to receive a Massey:
“I received the information, but I didn’t digest the information until after the phone call had ended. [Vice Chancellor Winston Crisp] said he was extremely excited for me, and that without a doubt I was most deserving. I will never forget those words. He said, ‘I know what you do, I support what you do. And you didn’t just start doing this, DeVetta. You have been doing this all along.’ To have my mother there [at the awards ceremony], to have my son there — two very special people to me — that was the crowning glory to a very special day for me.”

This story is one of a series featuring 2015 winners of the C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award. The late C. Knox Massey of Durham created the awards in 1980 to recognize “unusual, meritorious or superior contributions” by University employees. The award is supported by the Massey-Weatherspoon Fund created by three generations of Massey and Weatherspoon families.

— Susan Hudson, Gazette
A drian Miller, author of Soul Food (UNC Press), came to the Institute for the Arts and the Humanities at Hyde Hall to talk about how African food and cooking styles came to the American South with the slaves. But instead of referring to notes, he took his cues from the plates his audience had filled in the buffet line.

The food served by My Cup Overflows Southern Soul Grill & Catering Food Truck almost exactly matched the representative soul food meal Miller described in his book: fried chicken, pulled pork, greens, black-eyed peas, grits, cornbread, sweet potatoes, stewed okra and tomatoes and macaroni and cheese. The menu wasn’t a complete match. “Grits, to me, is definitely part of soul food culture, but I didn’t write about it in my book because I wrote about lunch and dinner meals,” he told the diners. “I didn’t write about okra in my book because you don’t see okra that much in soul food restaurants outside the South. But things are changing. Fried okra is a bar food.”

Chitlins, that smelly intestinal delicacy that is definitely an acquired taste, merits its own chapter in Miller’s book. The caterers, mercifully, excluded it from the menu. The Feb. 12 event, “African Foodways in the American South,” was the third in the institute’s Food and the Humanities series focused on the University’s current academic theme, Food for All.

The luncheon was also an opportunity for Miller to show some love for a cuisine that he feels has been maligned for too long.

“I don’t think soul food needs a warning label,” Miller said. “I just think it needs more love.”

Miller called soul food “a more intense version of Southern food.” All soul food is Southern, but not all Southern food is soul food. In the racially charged 1960s, he said, “soul food became black and Southern food became white.” The labels still stick today.

When John T. Egerton wrote his authoritative Southern Food at Home, on the Road, in History (UNC Press) in 1986, he acknowledged that the tribute to African American cooks in the South was yet to be written.

So when Miller, a lawyer and policy wonk for President Bill Clinton and Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter Jr., found himself between assignments, he decided to focus his efforts on the definitive book about the food he loved so much. He read 500 cookbooks, 3,000 slave narratives and visited 150 soul food restaurants in 35 cities.

He even called some ex-girlfriends to get recipes. “A word to the wise: If you’re dating a good cook, get the recipes before you break up,” he advised.

Miller’s rigorously researched history with recipes, Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine One Plate at a Time, won the prestigious 2014 James Beard Book Award for Reference and Scholarship.

Miller arranged his book using a representative soul food meal, explaining the African connections to each food and how each changed in the South and with the black migration to the North. He also included traditional, low-calorie and fancy recipes for the items.

In addition to the foods already mentioned, Miller also included chapters on hot sauce, desserts and “red drink.” Red drink is ubiquitous with soul food, he said.

“You all know that in soul food culture red is a color and a flavor. We don’t say cherry or strawberry or tropical punch. It’s just red,” he said.

Like most diners, Miller couldn’t pick just one dessert, so he chose banana pudding, peach cobbler, pound cake and sweet potato pie as the initial desserts in his soul food hall of fame.

All four desserts began as luxury items and gradually became commonplace. Actually, that’s the case for most soul food — and the reason for both its cherished memory and unhealthy reputation.

“Soul food is really the celebration food of the South,” Miller said. Fried chicken was incredibly rare, and macaroni and cheese was such a treat that Thomas Jefferson had a cook smuggled into the country just to make it for his White House guests, Miller said. “Now, if you have celebration food day in and day out, that’s not going to do your body good.”

Soul food today can be traditional, down home healthy or upscale, he said. The hottest trend in soul food right now is vegan and vegetarian.

What about the future? Miller was invited to Johnson Space Center in Houston to talk about soul food in space. Now that scientists have detected water on Mars, they are growing different foods in a volcanic Hawaiian soil that mimics the red planet.

Some of the crops are soul foods, like greens. But cornbread won’t make the trip to Mars, Miller said. “In a zero-gravity environment, you can’t have anything that crumbles because it just floats forever,” he said. “You can’t do chitlins, either, because you can’t roll down the window in space.”

— Susan Hudson, Gazette

Adrian Miller (above), author of Soul Food (below) talks about African foodways in the American South at a Food for All event Feb. 12. Far left, a cook from My Cup Overflows prepares chicken for frying. Left, the buffet for the talk included these soul food classics, clockwise from top: greens, cornbread, black-eyed peas, macaroni and cheese, sweet potatoes, stewed okra and tomatoes, grits, fried chicken and chocolate cake.