



## News Digest January 30, 2017

### Diversity

#### **Of Ebony Embers**

On February 14, 2017 at 7:30 PM, in Rowe Recital Hall, the Council on University Community presents the Core Ensemble for a performance of the chamber music theatre work, [Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance](#).

Chamber Music Theatre is a unique performance format created by the Core Ensemble, featuring a marriage of theatrical narrative to chamber music performance.

Dracyn Blount portrays multiple characters while interacting with the onstage musical trio of cello, piano and percussion.

Celebrating the music and poetry of the Harlem Renaissance era in New York City, Of Ebony Embers examines the lives of three outstanding but very different African American poets - Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay - as seen through the eyes of the great painter and muralist Aaron Douglas.

Admission is free. Reservations are encouraged; please e-mail [boxoffice@uncc.edu](mailto:boxoffice@uncc.edu).

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#### **Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund**

The Council on University Community is accepting proposals for the Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to support initiatives promoting the daily value of diversity in the intellectual life of the campus. Students, faculty, and staff are eligible to apply for awards up to \$5,000. Restrictions on state funds apply. Potential uses of the Fund include:

- Presentations, workshops, trainings, cultural programs, exhibitions, films, or speakers that address issues of diversity
- Research on issues related to diversity
- Programs to integrate diversity into the classroom
- Programs that increase diversity in the academic pipeline
- Projects that promote diversity through linkages with the Charlotte community

Deadline for submission is March 21, 2017. For more information about the Fund, including descriptions of previously funded projects and details on how to apply, please visit [diversity.uncc.edu/challengefund](http://diversity.uncc.edu/challengefund).

### Faculty Events



## Spring Faculty Reception

The Office of Academic Affairs and the UNC Charlotte Chapter of the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi invite you to attend a [Spring Faculty Reception](#).



Tuesday, February 28, 2017  
4:00 – 6:00 PM  
Atkins Library, 10th Floor Lounge

Complimentary refreshments will be served. This is a great opportunity to get to know one another better and welcome new faculty. Please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you at the reception.

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## College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Faculty/Staff (& Friends) Talent Show

Join us for the First-Ever CLAS Faculty/Staff (& Friends) Talent Show. This event will be held in conjunction with the Spring Family Reunion event.

- Friday, February 24, 5:30 PM, McKnight Hall, Cone Center

Also, please consider showcasing your skills to participate. Enter your CLAS-sy (or not so classy) act by using this online submission form: <https://goo.gl/forms/Mz0EXmJmyyeu924d2>.

## Student Success



### 2017 Student Innovation Competition

The Carolinas Chapter of the Product Development and Management Association (PDMA) is excited to announce their 2017 student competition. It is a highlight for attendees and offers student innovators a networking forum to present their ideas and get feedback. This year's conference will be held on Friday, April 21, 2017, at The Biotech Center in Research Triangle Park, NC.

Last year, UNC Charlotte provided the competition's 1st place graduate student and 2nd place undergraduate student:

- Graduate winner – Sajad Kafashi (*sponsoring professor Dr. Stuart Smith*)
- Undergraduate winner – Jonathan Rasmussen

For details about this year's competition, visit [www.innovatecarolina.org/2017-students](http://www.innovatecarolina.org/2017-students) and see the attached [2017 Student Innovation Competition flier](#).

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## Finance 101

The Center for Wellness Promotion, in partnership with the Belk College of Business and Northwestern Mutual, is coordinating an upcoming financial wellness event titled "Finance 101." Presented by Belk College of Business instructor Tom Marshall, this program will teach students the foundations for making sound financial decisions. [Download the flier here](#).

- Thursday, February 1, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, College of Education Room 110

## Guest Speakers



## 2017 Great Decisions Lecture Series

Dr. Steve Sabol, Assistant Professor in the Department of History, will discuss the future of Europe as the first speaker in the 2017 Great Decisions lecture series. This presentation is free and open to the public.

- Wednesday, February 1, 6:30 PM, UNC Charlotte Center City

This will be a special joint program with The Magellan Society, the young professional branch of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte.

Sabol's research interests include Nationalism and National Identity, Imperialism and Colonialism, central Asian and Russian history, First World War, Soviet and Post-Soviet nationalities policy, and the American West. He is a recipient of a grant from the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University and the Bradley Fellowship from the Montana Historical Society for his project *An Uncivil War: The Montana Council of Defense and the First World War*. Sabol's book, *The Touch of Civilization: Comparing American and Russian Colonization of the Sioux and Kazakhs*, is expected out in mid-February.

The Office of International Programs coordinates the annual Great Decisions lecture series for the Charlotte community each winter to discuss foreign policy issues selected as pressing by the Foreign Policy Association. The series is coordinated in collaboration with Charlotte Country Day School and the World Affairs Council of Charlotte.

More information, including online registration and future events, is available online at [oip.uncc.edu/community-engagement/great-decisions](http://oip.uncc.edu/community-engagement/great-decisions).

Dale Smith from the Department of Global Studies will discuss Trade and Politics on February 8 in the next installment of the lecture series.

## Peer Observation of Teaching

### Teachers Observing Peers (TOP) Program

The Teachers Observing Peers (TOP) program provides UNC Charlotte faculty members with an opportunity to observe peers representing a variety of disciplines implementing interactive methods in a live classroom setting. Whether you are an instructor who has been using interactive methods for years or are trying to get ready to teach your first class, you are likely to benefit from the classroom observation by getting new ideas for effective practice and reflecting on your own practice.

For more information, please [review courses available and request a time](#). For questions, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning.

## Phi Beta Kappa Members



## Jonas Salk, Kerry Washington, and John Quincy Adams Walk Into a Bar...

...and they're not happy. Political competitions in the United States have placed the natural sciences, the fine and performing arts, and respect for the integrity of many American civic values in danger.

As historian Richard Hofstadter documented half a century ago in [Anti-Intellectualism in American Life](#), suspicion and distrust of learning and expertise has been a recurring pattern in our history. "To those who suspect that intellect is a subversive force in society," he wrote, it will not do to reply that intellect is really a safe, bland, and emollient thing. In a certain sense . . . intellect is dangerous. Left free, there is nothing it will not reconsider, analyze, throw into question."

He reminded us, though, that "the only assurance that can be given to any community is that it will be far worse off if it denies the free uses of the power of intellect than if it permits them. To be sure, intellectuals, contrary to the fantasies of cultural vigilantes, are hardly ever subversive of a society as a whole. But intellect is always on the move against something: some oppression, fraud, illusion, dogma, or interest is constantly falling under the scrutiny of the intellectual class and becoming the object of exposure, indignation, or ridicule" (p. 45).

UNC Charlotte's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is beginning the process of application to house a chapter of the academic honors society [Phi Beta Kappa](#), which for two hundred forty years has been committed to [supporting the sciences and humanities](#) in all their range and complexity.

In order to pursue this goal, we need to find current members of Phi Beta Kappa at UNC Charlotte. We don't need your money. We don't need you to commit to anything (right now). ***All we need is to know that you're here.***

So, no matter what UNC Charlotte college or unit you work for, no matter your job title or employment status, if you, like Jonas Salk or Kerry Washington or John Quincy Adams, have been inducted into PBK, please click [HERE](#) to fill out a short form to let us know you're here.

Need further inducement? OK. Any PBK member who [responds to this call](#) by filling out their contact information by midnight on February 28, 2017, will be entered into a drawing to receive a hard copy of Hofstadter's book.

If you have any questions or want to help out with the chapter application project, please contact one of the PBK Chapter Application Project Co-Chairs: Gregory Starrett at [gsstarre@uncc.edu](mailto:gsstarre@uncc.edu) or Shawn Long at [shawn.long@uncc.edu](mailto:shawn.long@uncc.edu).

## Research Administration System Demos

An effort is underway to select a vendor to provide a state-of-the-art research administration system to replace the current system, NORM. Two finalist vendors, InfoEd and Huron, have been selected to present demonstrations of their product.

UNC Charlotte will host the western region of the University of North Carolina eRA (Electronic Research Administration) system RFP demonstrations.

The second set of demonstrations presented by **Huron** will be held on **February 6 and 7**. [View the itinerary here](#). All sessions will be held in **McKnight Hall in the Cone Center**. The itinerary has details on the topics that will be presented at each session and the suggested target audience. Registration is not required to attend in person. Attendees are welcome to attend as many sessions as they would like.

The recording of the UNCC eRA demonstrations hosted by InfoEd can be found [here](#).

Contact [AURA-team@uncc.edu](mailto:AURA-team@uncc.edu) with questions.

## Dissertation Defenses

The dissertation defense is one of the ways a new scholar demonstrates readiness to join the academy and is an opportunity to share their research widely. [View All Dissertation Defense Announcements](#).

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 1** [Women and Political Ambition](#)
- Feb 2** [Faculty Executive Committee Meeting](#)
- Feb 6** [Annual Witherspoon Lecture](#)
- Feb 7** [Graduate Council Meeting](#)
- Feb 9** [Community Cultural Coffeehouse](#)
- Feb 10** [Orchid Care 101](#)
- Feb 11-14** [Valentine's Orchid Sale](#)

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*The OAA News Digest is distributed each Monday to Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff.  
Deadline for submission is 11:00 a.m. every Friday.*