39TH ANNUAL MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE

RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018
THE WILLIAM & IDA FRIDAY CENTER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
CHAPEL HILL, NC

MINORITYHEALTH.WEB.UNC.EDU
WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR TODAY?
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2017-2018 MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS
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SHIKIRA THOMAS

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ANNA LEONARD
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BUSINESS OFFICER

TRINNETTE COOPER
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ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

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DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

DR. VICTOR SCHOPENBACH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, EPIDEMIOLOGY: MINORITY HEALTH PROJECT

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AVIA MAINOR
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

CHERELLE WHITFIELD
PROGRAM MANAGER

*DENOTES COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS
February 6, 2018

Dear UNC Minority Health Conference Participants:

On behalf of more than 50,000 members, the American Public Health Association (APHA) extends warmest wishes to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health for the 39th annual Minority Health Conference.

Congratulations to the Minority Student Caucus, Minority Health Conference Co-chairs, planning committee, advisors, and all others involved on another successful conference. APHA’s values are an extension of our members’ beliefs and include science- and evidence-based decision making, prevention and wellness, creating healthy communities and achieving health equity – all of which are reflected in the work of the Minority Health Conference. For these reasons, APHA is once again proud to endorse this year conference.

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health is a tier-one research institution and is preparing the next generation of public health leaders to solve some of the most pressing health challenges of their time. As the oldest student-led health conference in the nation, the Minority Health Conference continues to bring salient public health topics to a community of students, researchers, and practitioners.

This year’s theme, “Reclaiming the Narrative” is critical to understanding how we stand up and speak out in a time when it’s most needed. I hope you gain valuable information to help create healthier communities and protect the well-being of our country.

Congratulations again to all the hard working students and supporters of the Minority Health Conference in celebrating 39 years!

Sincerely,

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FNAPA, FACEP (E), Hon FRSPH
Executive Director
On behalf of the Minority Student Caucus, the Minority Health Conference Planning Committee, and the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, we welcome you to the 39th Annual Minority Health Conference.

In 1971, the Minority Student Caucus was established to draw attention to health inequities and the lack of representation of minority students and faculty at the School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. As a part of this effort, the Minority Student Caucus organized the first Minority Health Conference in 1977 on the “Perspectives on the Health of Black Populations”. Since then, the conference has grown to include other racial/ethnic minorities as well as increase in complexity by recognizing the intersectionality of sexual, class, and gender identities among many more.

This year’s theme is “Reclaiming the Narrative,” and is based on the recognition that the world is organized by the stories we tell. Stories have the power to influence the way we view ourselves and others and have the power to shape our actions. Given this sometimes unacknowledged influence, we must ask who are the storytellers, and who benefits from these narratives. The answers to these questions can offer an understanding of how we as public health professionals can progress in a meaningful way. This year’s theme challenges us to end the perpetuation of damaging rhetoric against marginalized communities. It highlights how resilient communities have fought to speak truth to power and refused to have their voices silenced. and how public health practitioners can join such efforts. By reclaiming the narrative, communities and public health practitioners can reconcile the past and present and take agency in the future to promote health for all people.

Given the sociopolitical age we live in, we felt that “Reclaiming the Narrative” was timely. With the current rhetoric of racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexism, and other oppressive hegemonies, it is now more important than ever to understand and challenge the narratives that underpin the policies and practices that affect the health of marginalized communities. As women of color, we have found that many of the stereotypes perpetuated in our society are untrue and impact virtually every aspect of our lives. We are continually inspired by communities and practitioners who organize, advocate, and resist systems that disenfranchise minorities. We are also motivated and challenged by those who use the arts and journalism to speak truth to power.

We hope that participating in this year’s conference will give impetus to building solidarity among marginalized communities, practitioners, academics, and artists to acknowledge and understand each other’s complexities, oppressions, histories, and unique strengths.

We would like to recognize the work that our interdisciplinary planning committee has done in preparation for the conference. Planning a high-quality conference of this magnitude is no easy task.
We are also appreciative of our new and long-standing conference sponsors that have supported and ensured a sustainable conference from year to year.

We would like to thank Dean Barbara K. Rimer and the Dean’s Office at the Gillings School of Global Public Health for their continued support.

To our advisors: Associate Dean Charletta Sims Evans, Ms. Chandra Caldwell, Ms. Trinnette Cooper, Ms. Avia Mainor, and Ms. Cherelle Whitfield and the NC Institute for Public Health, we are eternally grateful for your guidance and unwavering support as we navigated the planning process.

Special acknowledgement goes to Dr. Victor Schoenbach for his continued support, passion, and commitment to the conference.

Many thanks to Mr. O.J. McGee for webcast production, Ms. Becky Hart for website management, Ms. Kathy Cheek for fiscal management, Mr. David Pesci for communications guidance, Mr. Sterling Frierson for his assistance in raising funds for this event, and Ms. Mara Guevarra for her artistic vision. Without their help, the logistics and sustainability of this conference would not be possible.

Finally, we are thankful for your support and enthusiasm towards the conference’s vision. Your continued interest motivates and encourages us to work tirelessly to produce a space where our passions can ignite.

Sincerely,

Melissa Luong and Shikira Thomas
2018 Minority Health Conference Co-Chairs
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Gillings School of Global Public Health
We would like to extend a special welcome to our partner conferences participating in the William T. Small Jr. Keynote Lecture Webcast. Partners have organized local events or conferences in conjunction with our conference. We are thrilled to have these additional student and community groups join the conference as joining together reinforces and extends our collective ability to reclaim the narrative for justice and equity.

Moderator: Josh Boegner, MPH Candidate, Department of Health Behavior, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

PARTNER CONFERENCES

The University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health

Group Viewings

American Institutes for Research
Chapel Hill, NC

Brown University School of Public Health
Providence, RI

Duke Digital Health
Durham, NC

Elizabeth City State University
Bachelor of Social Work Program
Elizabeth City, NC

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Center for Health Policy at Meharry Medical College,
Professional Development Seminar
Nashville, TN

Southern Connecticut State University
Public Health Department
New Haven, CT

UNC Health Care, North Carolina Cancer Hospital
Chapel Hill, NC

University of Iowa College of Public Health
Iowa City, IA

VCU Libraries, Tompkins McCaw Library for the Health Sciences
Richmond, VA

Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity
Richmond, VA
07:30 AM  CHECK-IN/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
ATRIUM

09:00 AM  WELCOME BY CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS  
MELISSA LUONG AND SHIKIRA THOMAS  
GRUMMAN AUDITORIUM

09:10 AM  WELCOME AND HISTORY OF THE CONFERENCE BY  
SAMUEL BAXTER AND CAITLIN WILLIAMS  
GRUMMAN AUDITORIUM

09:15 AM  WELCOME BY DEAN RIMER  
GRUMMAN AUDITORIUM

09:20 AM  WELCOME BY DR. RUMAY G. ALEXANDER  
GRUMMAN AUDITORIUM

09:25 AM  INTRODUCING THE 20TH ANNUAL WILLIAM T. SMALL JR.  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER MONICA RAYE SIMPSON  
GRUMMAN AUDITORIUM

09:30 AM  20TH ANNUAL WILLIAM T. SMALL JR. KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
LECTURE: MONICA RAYE SIMPSON  
GRUMMAN AUDITORIUM

10:45 AM  POSTER PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITORS  
WILLOW AND ATRIUM

11:00 AM  MORNING CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS  
RACIALIZATION, TRAUMA, AND THE RESILIENCY  
OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES ........................................... REDBUD

THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC SPACES  
ON COMMUNITY NARRATIVES ........................................... DOGWOOD

STIGMA AND ADDICTION: THE IMPACT OF BIASED  
NARRATIVES ON SUBSTANCE USE HEALTHCARE ..................... SUNFLOWER

TOOLS FOR RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE:  
TELLING YOUR STORY WORKSHOP .................................. BELLFLOWER
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<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>REMARKS BY CHANCELLOR CAROL FOLT</td>
<td>GRUMMAN AUDITORIUM</td>
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<td>INTRODUCING THE 7TH ANNUAL VICTOR J. SCHOENBACH KEYNOTE SPEAKER VANN R. NEWKIRK II</td>
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<td>USING TECHNOLOGY AND DATA TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY</td>
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<td>SHIFTING THE GLOBAL HEALTH NARRATIVE IN ACADEMIA AND BEYOND</td>
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<td>PICKING UP THE PIECES: COMMUNITY RESILIENCY IN THE FACE OF NATURAL DISASTERS</td>
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<td>TOOLS FOR RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE: COMMUNITY AND HEALTH ADVOCACY SKILLS WORKSHOP</td>
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This current political moment is forcing the healthcare field to think more critically and expansively about our work in order to be of better service for our communities. The once dark lines of separation between sectors are blurring and the theory of intersectionality is becoming more widely understood by service providers and professionals. However, if there is a commitment to truly achieving health equity, we must also name and address the root of inequity - racism.

Black women named Reproductive Justice over 20 years ago to speak truth to power. They worked to build an intersectional movement that was rooted in the human rights framework that didn't separate our reproductive lives from the very real social justice issues that impact our ability to live healthy and free from oppression.

Reproductive Justice is a powerful movement that is helping to change the discourse on healthcare in this country as well as shift power dynamics within systems that have failed to honor the expertise and experiences of people of color. Reproductive Justice as a framework offers innovative strategies and solutions to achieving health equity by naming and defining reproductive oppression and centering the most marginalized. By seeking every opportunity to shift culture and with a focus on systematic change, Reproductive Justice as a movement and framework is imperative to transform healthcare so that it is both equitable and just.

Monica Raye Simpson is the Executive Director of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. A native of rural North Carolina, Monica has organized extensively against human rights violations, reproductive oppression, the prison industrial complex, racism and intolerance and is deeply invested in southern movement building and the fight for Black liberation. She is also committed to birth justice as a certified Doula. Monica couples her activism with her artistry and released her first live album entitled Revolutionary Love where she blends her gospel roots and her passion for social justice with deep soul to create the sound known as Revolutionary Soul. Because of her “artivism,” Monica was named as a New Civil Rights Leader by Essence Magazine and chosen as one of Advocate Magazine’s 40 under 40 leaders.
2018 marks the 50-year anniversary of one of the most tumultuous years in black history. 1968 is regarded as the informal end of the civil-rights movement, ushering in a time where King’s unfinished work clashed against the forces of a modernizing America.

But one part of that movement has grown in the 50 years since. Public health is a field that has matured and drastically changed the way people live. It’s not usually associated with civil rights, but the truth is that much of our public health system originated in the struggles for equality over the past 200 years. The connection makes sense, because the idea of public health is based on an idea that until recently might’ve been considered radical: that population health requires health equity, and that equity requires access.

The theme of “Reclaiming the Narrative” and the anniversary are good times to remember that history and assess how far the country and the world have come at ensuring the most basic right to health and life.

Vann R. Newkirk II is a staff writer at The Atlantic, where he covers politics and policy, with a focus on health policy, civil rights, and environmental justice. He earned his MSPH in Health Policy and Management from the Gillings School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, and his bachelor’s degree in biology from Morehouse College. Prior to working at The Atlantic, Newkirk worked as a staff writer at Daily Kos, and before that as a policy analyst at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Newkirk aims in his journalistic work to bring to bear both a familiarity with health policy and civil rights and a history of research in communities of color. In a world where people of color still fight for representation and where rich family histories and health stories are often lost to time, Newkirk’s work focuses on people on the margins. His body of work includes articles, essays, and analyses on race, civil rights, health-care reform, and even decades-long environmental injustices.

In 2017, Newkirk was named to The Root 100, an annual list of the most influential black people across different fields. He lives in Hyattsville, MD with his wife and son.
RACIALIZATION, TRAUMA, AND THE RESILIENCY OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Speakers: Anderson Al Wazni, MSW, Atiya Husain, MA, PhD, H’Lois Mlo, Cruz Nuñez
Moderator: Cristina Leos, MSPH

Marginalized communities are often traumatized by everyday discrimination—yet are able to remain resilient. In this session, panelists will examine the health impact of trauma that historically marginalized racial, ethnic, and religious groups often face. Solutions and paths to resiliency will be highlighted as a key subject along with the racialization of trauma in the lives of people of color.

THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC SPACES ON COMMUNITY NARRATIVES

Speakers: Donovan Livingston, MA, EdM, Lauren West-Livingston, MS

The public space is an integral aspect of American society. Public space provides a location in which citizens are able to express their thoughts and opinions through speech, art, and activism. From confederate monuments to street art, these many forms of public expression shape and impact the narrative surrounding the communal American experience. In this session, local activists and educators will explore this idea of public space and the impact of the narratives created within these spaces on the experiences of people of color.
3 STIGMA AND ADDICTION: THE IMPACT OF BIASED NARRATIVES ON SUBSTANCE USE HEALTHCARE
SPEAKERS: TESSIE CASTILLO, CAROLYN CROWDER, LCSW, LCAS, MARTIN WOODARD
MODERATOR: JUANITA DARDEN, NCCPSS, BSW, CSAC-A

SUNFLOWER

BIASED NARRATIVES AROUND SUBSTANCE USE HAVE ADVERSELY IMPACTED THE WAY HEALTHCARE FOR ADDICTION IS DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED. THESE NARRATIVES NEGATIVELY DEPICT MINORITY COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY SUBSTANCE USE AND STIGMATIZE INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING TREATMENT. THIS PANEL WILL DISCUSS THE DIFFERENT FACTORS WITHIN MINORITY COMMUNITIES THAT IMPACT ACCESSIBILITY, QUALITY OF SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT, AND MULTI-LEVEL SOLUTIONS FOR COMBATING THESE NARRATIVES.

4 TOOLS FOR RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE: TELLING YOUR STORY WORKSHOP
SPEAKER: ‘SHEMEKKA EBONY’ COLEMAN

BELLFLOWER

THIS WORKSHOP WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR THOSE WHO REPRESENT OR ARE WANTING TO ENGAGE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY HEALTH INEQUITIES. PARTICIPANTS WILL BUILD SKILLS IN TELLING BOTH PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY NARRATIVES. BY INCORPORATING BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES OF CHALLENGING THE NARRATIVE OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, THIS INFORMATIVE AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP SESSION WILL EQUIP PARTICIPANTS WITH THE TOOLS TO REGAIN POWER THROUGH STORYTELLING.

Snapchat users - be sure to use the Minority Health Conference geofilter on all of your snaps throughout the day!
In this moderated panel discussion, students and professors from the Gillings School of Global Public Health, Department of Social Medicine, and Department of Anthropology will examine how researchers and practitioners can challenge Eurocentric and Western norms while honoring traditional, home-grown approaches to healing, care, and development. These panelists will provide examples of how we can shift the global narrative through illustrative examples from their own work including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and maternal health.

Data stories combine visualizations with narrative flow to tell meaningful stories about health and equity. Data storytelling has both the potential for perpetuating a particular story or the possibility of uncovering underlying injustices. The panelists in this session will present research focused on neighborhood-level social factors, and environmental hazards contributing to geographic and racial health disparities. The panelists will also discuss the challenges associated with using technology to tell stories in health, and will include both research and community member perspectives.

**Using Technology and Data to Promote Health Equity**

Speakers: Elizabeth (Libby) McClure, MS, Lenora S. Smith, Nicole Robinson-Ezekwe, MA, MPH

*Redwood*

Data stories combine visualizations with narrative flow to tell meaningful stories about health and equity. Data storytelling has both the potential for perpetuating a particular story or the possibility of uncovering underlying injustices. The panelists in this session will present research focused on neighborhood-level social factors, and environmental hazards contributing to geographic and racial health disparities. The panelists will also discuss the challenges associated with using technology to tell stories in health, and will include both research and community member perspectives.

**Shifting the Global Health Narrative in Academia and Beyond**

Speakers: Deshira Wallace, MSPH, Raúl Necocchea López, PhD, Willa Dong, MSPH, Jocelyn Chua, PhD

*Dogwood*

In this moderated panel discussion, students and professors from the Gillings School of Global Public Health, Department of Social Medicine, and Department of Anthropology will examine how researchers and practitioners can challenge Eurocentric and Western norms while honoring traditional, home-grown approaches to healing, care, and development. These panelists will provide examples of how we can shift the global narrative through illustrative examples from their own work including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and maternal health.
Picking up the Pieces: Community Resiliency in the Face of Natural Disasters

Speakers: Linda Joyner, Diamond VE Holloman

AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW, MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA’S NORTHEASTERN REGION - WHICH BEAR MUCH OF THE STATE’S POOR HEALTH BURDEN - WERE HIT HARD BY THIS STORM AND CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD REBUILDING. PRESENTERS FOR THIS SESSION WILL HIGHLIGHT NARRATIVES AROUND GOVERNMENT HURRICANE RESPONSE, ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN AREAS DEVASTATED BY THE STORM. PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH SPEAKERS ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE FUTURE REBUILDING EFFORTS AND HOW WE CAN WORK AS A COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT TOWNS IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

Tools for Reclaiming the Narrative: Community and Health Advocacy

Speaker: Ivan Kohar Parra

THIS WORKSHOP WILL INTRODUCE PARTICIPANTS TO EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO BUILD SOLIDARITY AMONG MINORITY COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE THAT THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD IN THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SPHERES. EVEN IN TIMES OF POLITICAL DIVISION, THERE ARE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES AND TOOLS THAT BOTH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CAN USE FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY AND HEALTH ADVOCACY. THE WORKSHOP WILL EXPLORE HOW TO CONDUCT A POWER ANALYSIS TO IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND ISSUES FOR ADVOCACY WORK. PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN METHODS FOR EFFECTIVELY AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS FOR REAL ACTION AND POLICY CHANGE.
CRISTINA LEOS, MSPH
DOCTORAL STUDENT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR,
UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Cristina Leos, MSPH, is an advanced doctoral student at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health in the Department of Health Behavior. Her research focuses on adolescent development, with particular emphasis on Latino youth mental and sexual health outcomes. Cristina’s expertise centers on finding innovative ways to improve adolescent health and reduce disparities, specifically by leveraging behavioral science and digital health innovation. She is co-founder and officer of MyHealthEd, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to improving youth health education through technology, where she is working on an Office of Adolescent Health funded project to develop and implement a mobile sexual health intervention for middle school students. Cristina’s work has been generously recognized by the American Public Health Association, National Public Radio, and Forbes 30 Under 30.

ANDERSON AL WAZNI, MSW
FREELANCE WRITER/PUBLIC SPEAKER

Anderson Al Wazni graduated from Smith College in 2014 where she completed a thesis on Muslim women and feminism that was subsequently published in the NASW Social Work Journal. Anderson presented her research at the 2016 national NASW and has since expanded her talks to include teaching clinicians the trauma of Islamophobia, policy and social justice issues pertaining to Muslims and refugees, and the impact of global warming on the refugee crisis. She has given public talks and taught CEU lectures at conferences and university programs including NC NASW Ethics conference, Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies, Smith College, ECU, and non-profits. She remains active in writing including the Oxford University Press Blog, the Muslim Vibe, and Smith College Social Work journal. Anderson lives in NC and studies part time through the Al Mahdi Institute in England.

ATIYA HUSAIN, MA, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLGY, UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

Atiya Husain is an assistant professor of sociology at University of Richmond who researches race/religion, crime, post-9/11 state violence, anti-blackness, and Muslims. She has a PhD in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her work can be found in Ethnic and Racial Studies and Sociology Compass. She is working on a book that examines how anti-Muslimness shapes the US racial hierarchy and the lives of people who do not identify as Muslim in order to make sense of the most recent iterations of the US racial hierarchy.
H’LOIS MLO
STUDENT, GUILFORD COLLEGE

H’Lois Mlo is a Senior Bonner Scholar at Guilford College. She is Montagnard (the indigenous people of Central Vietnam) from the Ede tribe. She is an Accounting major with a double minor in Music and Money and Finance. She is an active community volunteer to those who are in need of basic help. She has worked on the Montagnard Hypertension Project for 5 years now, archiving materials and learning about the health of elders. Affiliated with the various organization she help with, she works on citizenship fairs, interprets and is a mentor to young adults in Greensboro and Charlotte area.

She currently is the Volunteer Coordinator for Guilford College - Newcomer's School and Coordinator for VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) this year. She is a teacher assistant and tutor to incoming refugees and immigrants at Newcomers. She works primarily with Southeast Asian Refugees because she would like to see a strong strengthening and empowerment to her community as they are lumped together with the overall Asian community. As having two refugee parents and being American born, H’Lois sees herself as a bridge where she is able to help both sides out. All of the community work she has done revolves around being a Bonner Scholar, giving her an experience as a progressing leader and activist.

CRUZ NUÑEZ
WEB DEVELOPER

Cruz Nuñez was born in Mexico in 1996. During high school, he was involved with an activist group. He graduated from Chapel Hill High School in 2014. He enrolled in Durham Technical Community College and then dropped out. He graduated from Durham’s The Iron Yard coding academy in 2015. He currently works as a web developer for a private company.

DONOVAN LIVINGSTON, MA, EDM
DOCTORAL STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

Donovan Livingston is an award–winning educator, spoken word poet, and public speaker. In 2016, his Harvard Graduate School of Education convocation address “Lift Off” went viral, reaching over thirteen million views and prompting Hillary Clinton to praise, “It’s young graduates like [Livingston] who make it clear that America’s best days are still ahead.” Since his pivotal speech, Livingston has been featured on CNN, NPR, BBC, Good Morning America, and in news outlets across Europe, Australia, India, and South Africa. His convocation address was published as a book by Spiegel & Grau in 2017.
A believer in the enormous opportunities that education provides, Livingston inspires students, educators, and communities with his conviction that every child has the right to “lift off” and achieve their dreams. Drawing on personal experiences as well as scholarship, Livingston examines the legacy of social inequalities in America’s school system and encourages educational reform as a means to greater change. An impassioned and dynamic speaker, he incorporates creative elements into his lectures such as spoken word poetry and audience collaboration.

Livingston earned master’s degrees from Columbia University and Harvard University, and is now a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. He lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

LAUREN WEST-LIVINGSTON, MS
MD/PHD CANDIDATE, WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Lauren West-Livingston is a 2012 graduate of Duke University where she earned her B.A. in Spanish Studies and a 2015 graduate of the UNC Greensboro Graduate School where she completed her M.S. in Biochemistry with a focus in nanoscience. Currently, she is pursuing an M.D./Ph.D. Candidate at the Wake Forest School of Medicine, where she is in the Molecular Medicine and Translational Sciences Ph.D. track with a research focus in regenerative medicine and tissue engineering.

During her time at Wake Forest, West-Livingston has served as Co-President of Student National Medical Association, Community and Physician Outreach Chair of the Latino Medical Student Association, Executive Director of Public Relations for the DEAC Student-Led Clinic, Cultural Awareness Council Representative in the Student Government Association, and Medical Education Student Ambassador.

As a resident of Winston-Salem, West-Livingston has volunteered with Family Services, Inc. as a sexual assault and domestic violence crisis line operator, as well as the Exchange/SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) Program as a teen group facilitator. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Duke Alumni Association Triad Regional Board. She is dedicated to contributing to the community in which she serves and aspires to incorporate her experiences into her future.

STIGMA AND ADDICTION: THE IMPACT OF BIASED NARRATIVES ON SUBSTANCE USE HEALTHCARE

JUANITA DARDEN, NCCPSS, BSW, CSAC-A
PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST, UNC HORIZONS

As a person in long term recovery, my story reflects so many individuals whose life has been affected by drugs. Both of my parents were alcoholics and my siblings also engaged
in drug use. My environment consisted of domestic violence, alcoholism, physical, sexual, and verbal abuse. This contributed to my need to escape reality so I started using alcohol and marijuana by the age of twelve. By age sixteen, my addiction had progressed to cocaine addiction. Needless to say, I dropped out of high school to pursue my addiction full-time. My drug use continued for over the next 15 years until I relocated to Raleigh NC at the age of thirty-four. By age 39, I graduated from Wake Tech with my associate’s degree in Human Service Technology/Substance Abuse. May 13th, 2017, I graduated from Shaw University with a bachelor’s degree in Social Work. I am currently working on my certification to become a certified substance abuse counselor. In addition, I am a certified Peer Support Specialist with over ten years in recovery. I have dedicated my life to helping those that continue to be stigmatized by this disease. I am here to serve as an example and reclaim the narratives of every individual living with addiction.

TESSIE CASTILLO
ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR,
NORTH CAROLINA HARM REDUCTION COALITION

Since 2010, Tessie Castillo has served as Advocacy and Communication Coordinator for NCHRC. She is the agency’s only registered lobbyist and has successfully advocated for several new laws pertaining to overdose prevention, naloxone access, law enforcement needle-stick injury prevention, and the legalization of syringe exchange programs. She produces the majority of NCHRC’s media articles on harm reduction, drug policy reform, criminal justice and law enforcement issues and has been published in Slate, Salon, The Fix, and AlterNet. She is also a regular contributor on harm reduction topics to The Huffington Post.

CAROLYN CROWDER, LCSW, LCAS
DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, LINCOLN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

(Jane) Carolyn Crowder is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist, and Certified Clinical Supervisor with 20 years of experience working with individuals who have mental health and substance use diagnoses. She is the Director of Behavioral Health at Lincoln Community Health Center, a large urban primary care “safety net” provider in Durham, North Carolina that serves approximately 34,000 patients annually. Lincoln provides many important services for its patients, including Medication Assisted Treatment for substance use disorders. Carolyn supervises MSW students from the UNC School of Social Work and North Carolina Central University School of Social Work, as well as individuals in the community who are working towards full licensure in Social Work and Addictions.

Carolyn has also worked in a variety of other settings over the years, including non-profit and for-profit agencies and State and County government. She has been a part of research teams for multi-site federal research studies with the CDC and with SAMHSA. She is the choir director and pianist for Dukes Chapel United Methodist church in Durham, NC.
MARTIN WOODARD
PROJECT DIRECTOR, NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Martin has worked in the behavioral health field for over 30 years with an emphasis on addictive disorders. Initially in the US Air Force where he grew from providing counseling to those in need on various bases to managing addictions clinics, to being handpicked to join the Inspector General’s team where he traveled throughout Asia inspecting clinics. He was also instrumental in designing the Air Force’s initial Counselor Certification program.

Upon retirement he continued to work within the addictions field in Raleigh initially as a supervisor to becoming the Director of the Alcoholism Treatment Center (ATC) and then the Executive Director of all ATC services until the programs were divested. UNC HealthCare/ School of Medicine assumed responsibility for the ATC and Martin continued serving as the Program Director.

Martin’s responsibilities then shifted to assuming the responsibility to design and implement a Tobacco Cessation program on the WakeBrook campus. In March 2015, Wake AHEC invited him to present the outcomes, innovations and lessons learned while at WakeBrook.

Martin departed UNC in April 2015 to assume his current role of working for the State Division of MH/DD/SA as the Project Director of a SAMSHA grant focusing on implementing recovery supports which enhance both treatment and recovery in several counties across the state with a special emphasis on veterans.

‘SHEMEKKA EBONY’ COLEMAN, MS
STEWARD OF COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS, 100 MILLION HEALTHIER LIVES

‘Shemekka Ebony’ Coleman, MS in Counseling Studies, is an activist for community, women, and children’s rights; she is the self proclaimed “voice to the voiceless.” She has lived experience facing health inequity and addressing food insecurity while leading others committed to creating healthy positive change in social ecosystems. Her experience as a community engager affords her a platform to create a secure place for economic empowerment and health equity engagement for those not being well represented. She serves her community as a high-demand speaker and provides services such as coaching and leadership training in community engagement.
Shemekka Ebony has dedicated over 20 years of her life to specialize in advocacy for victims and their transformation. She is committed to raising awareness to several underrepresented populations such as survivors of victimization, health and wellness inequity, and food insecurity. Shemekka Ebony is also faculty at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, for the RWJF funded SCALE grant. She serves as Community Champion Steward for community champions serving across the country with SCALE grant. She consults several NC community non-profit organization best practices in community engagement.

You will find her continuing to share hope and inspiration through her missions work with #IAmBrilliant Community Engagement.

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USING TECHNOLOGY AND DATA TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY

ELIZABETH (LIBBY) MCCLURE, MS
DOCTORAL STUDENT, DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY,
UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Libby is a PhD student at UNC studying health disparities through occupational and environmental epidemiology. She uses spatial analysis approaches for both academic and public audiences in collaboration with local health departments and organizations. Before coming to UNC, she did applied research on housing quality/access and health with a partnership connecting community groups focused on child well-being and opportunity in Boston neighborhoods.

LENORA S. SMITH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PARTNERSHIP EFFORT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHILDREN’S HEALTH

Lenora S. Smith is the Executive Director of the Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children’s Health (PEACH). PEACH is pursuing a social enterprise model that will train community residents and provide employment opportunities through a PEACH-affiliated business enterprise that provides a full range of environmental assessment and remediation services to community residents and property owners. She is a state certified lead inspector, lead risk assessor, and lead supervisor. Lenora has more than 20 years of community connectivity - creating, directing, and working with residents and other organizations to make resources available to marginalized and underserved residents throughout the community. Lenora currently serves on the Duke Chancellor’s Community Health Advisory Board, Durham Transformation in Ten Poverty Reduction Initiative, Northeast Central Durham Partners Against Crime neighborhood coalition, and the Duke Latino Health Roundtable.
Deshira Wallace is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Health Behavior in UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her research focuses on assessing the effects of stress on diabetes-related behaviors in a diverse Latinx population. More broadly, she has conducted research in the Dominican Republic aimed at exploring how individuals in rural areas self-manage their type 2 diabetes. In the summer of 2017, she continued this line of research with further investigating the mental health burden of living with type 2 diabetes through qualitative inquiry. Deshira received her B.A. in Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University and her MSPH in Health Behavior. Outside of UNC, Ms. Wallace is on the board of directors of two local non-profits focused on youth development.

Nicole Robinson-Ezekwe is a Social/Clinical Research Specialist at the UNC Center for Health Equity Research (CHER). Her research focuses on the built environment’s role in the development of chronic diseases in minority communities, and the application of GIS and spatial analysis methodologies in public health research. At CHER, Nicole is a Project Coordinator for MAPSCorps Nash and Edgecombe, which is a youth-based asset mapping and enrichment program located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. She also a coordinator and researcher for the Social and Environmental Assessment to Rate Community Health project (SEARCH) which is aimed at measuring neighborhood-level factors that influence physical activity and cardiovascular disease-related health outcomes in Nash and Edgecombe counties. Nicole received her BS from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) in Environmental Science, an MA in Geography from the University Maryland, College Park, and more recently an MPH in Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
RAÚL NECOCHEA LÓPEZ, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL MEDICINE,
ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Raúl Necochea López is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Medicine and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of History at UNC. He is the author of A History of Family Planning in Twentieth Century Peru (UNC Press, 2014). He is broadly interested in the history of medicine, sexual and reproductive health, and relations between developed and developing regions. His current book project is a history of cervical cancer in Latin America.

WILLA DONG, MSPH
DOCTORAL STUDENT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR,
UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Willa Dong is a doctoral student studying Health Behavior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before, she earned her BA in Public Health at UC-Berkeley (2009), and her MSPH in International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2012). In 2009, Willa received a Fulbright scholarship to research maternal health in rural China. Her master's thesis examined sex workers' mental health needs in southern China using qualitative methods. Currently, she researches the mental and sexual health of LGBTQ and sex worker populations.

JOCELYN CHUA, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Jocelyn Chua is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research examines suicide, death, and violence in the contemporary world, particularly the ways psychiatry and psychology intervene into these threshold experiences by endeavoring to reshape human capacities for living. It draws on the strengths of ethnography to unravel unexpected effects, contradictions and tensions that mental health interventions produce in people’s lived experience and relations with others. She is author of “In Pursuit of the Good Life: Aspiration and Suicide in Globalizing South India” (University of California Press, 2014) and is currently researching a new project on the relationships between psychopharmaceuticals, war-making, and US empire.
DIAMOND VE HOLLOMAN  
**DOCTORAL STUDENT, CURRICULUM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL**

Diamond VE Holloman is a doctoral student in the Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology at UNC-Chapel Hill. She earned her BA degrees in Journalism and Environmental Studies, and a minor in Poetry from New York University. Her community-based research focuses on the intersection of natural disasters (namely hurricanes) and socioeconomic disparity, centering people’s lived experiences of recovery in her analysis. Through an environmental justice lens, she aims to understand what recovery really looks like a year or more after a major disaster, and how we can aid these communities in highlighting their needs and increasing resilience. She is currently working in communities in Eastern North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

LINDA JOYNER  
**COMMISSIONER, TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE  
CERTIFIED CAREER COUNSELOR**

Linda Joyner is a native of Edgecombe County, North Carolina. She is the seventh of the ten children of the late Mack Lee and Mattie Joyner who instilled in her the value of family and serving one’s community.

Linda has been employed as a Youth Case Manager with OIC of America, Inc. for the past eleven years. She is passionate about working with local youth, whom she helps to learn and grow to become productive citizens in the community. Her heart’s desire is for the youth to become the leaders, to be the change and the role models our communities need.

Linda had been a community activist leader for many years utilizing her gifts of planning and organizing events for the betterment of her community.

Linda was elected to the office of Commissioner for the Town of Princeville in November 2015 and voted Mayor Pro-Tem by the Board in January 2016. She has been instrumental in Hurricane Matthew Relief efforts. She has built an outstanding rapport with the constituents in her ward as well as serving the 2200 citizens of Princeville. She has also earned the respect of many legislative and government officials in North Carolina.
Ivan Kohar Parra is an experienced community organizer and trainer. He is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Congress of Latino Organizations, Lead Organizer for Triangle CAN (Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods). Both community organizing networks are affiliated with the IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation), the nation's first and largest network of multi-faith citizen's organizations.

Ivan immigrated from Colombia in 1995 with a degree in family therapy and experience working with a nonprofit agency in the poorest neighborhood of Bogotá. Soon after arriving to North Carolina, he served as the director of El Centro Hispano in Durham and helped found the Latino Community Credit Union one of the largest financial institution owned and operated by Latinos in the US.

The North Carolina Congress of Latino Organizations engages thousands of Latino immigrants in the democratic process.

Triangle Congregations Associations and Neighborhoods is a network of over 80 institutions based in Orange, Durham and Wake Counties which develops the skills of diverse leaders to be change agents in their communities.
CLOSING PERFORMANCES

TOTAL PRAISE! BY THE UNC GOSPEL CHOIR

The UNC Gospel Choir will be singing Total Praise. Through the performing of this song, the Gospel Choir hopes to relay the message that despite the injustice the African-American community has faced for hundreds of years and still continues to be faced with today, they will continue to give God all the glory and honor through adversity.

UNC GOSPEL CHOIR

The UNC Gospel Choir is an organization that promotes and uplifts the kingdom of God. The UNC Gospel Choir is a religious-affiliated group that stands as an organization centered around community involvement and spiritual development. The choir’s purpose is to provide an opportunity for students to fellowship with individuals who share their same religious affiliation as well as provide an opportunity for spiritual growth. The UNC Gospel Choir travels to various cities within surrounding communities in order to present, promote and praise the kingdom of God through singing a diverse repertoire of songs. The choir consists of diverse backgrounds and distinctive cultures that unite to fulfill one purpose: to display God’s love on campus and to transmit an encouraging word to community members. This group stands to be an avenue to strengthen one’s relationship with God, to develop a social support system, and to enhance one’s vocal abilities.

WEST AFRICA: THE EVOLUTION OF DANCE BY ZANKILIWA

This dance showcases Zankiliwa’s interpretation of how African dance has evolved through time. It symbolizes how different dance moves have been built on one another to become what we know today as modern African dance.

ZANKILIWA

Zanki, short for Zankiliwa, is a sub-group of OASIS which stands for the Organization for African Students’ Interests and Solidarity. OASIS started on UNC’s campus in 1981 with the mission of spreading awareness of the beauty of African culture and serving as a resource for the UNC-CH campus and its surrounding communities. Zankiliwa formed shortly after the establishment of OASIS. Zankiliwa is a word that originated in Cameroon which means to “get down” and to dance enthusiastically. Zankiliwa’s mission is to express African culture through the art forms of traditional African dance and modern Afro Hip-Hop. The dance troupe strives to educate the neighboring communities about one of the most important aspects of African life — DANCE. A majority of the dancers and dance styles hail from West Africa although they also incorporate dance styles from all over the continent of Africa.
BRINKLEY-RUBENSTEIN, L., COSTENBADER, B., GOLIN, C., ZULE, W., WOHL, D. & DUBEY, M. EXPLORING THE USE OF PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PREP) AMONG INJECTION DRUG USERS IN GUILFORD COUNTY, NC.


DRAKE, J., BESS, K., DIALLO, M., HOOVER, S., DAVE, G. & CORBIE-SMITH, G. OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO BIOSPECIMEN COLLECTION IN AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATIONS.

FELDER, S. RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE: THE LIFE COURSE OF HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS.

GOODMAN, J.D. DEFINING NON-RESIDENTIAL FATHERHOOD FOR BLACK AMERICANS IN THE 21ST CENTURY.


HERNANDEZ, M. & MCMONIGLE, M. PEER NAVIGATORS: A FORMAL MECHANISM TO ENGAGE AND EMPOWER COMMUNITY.

HIGGINBOTHAM, B.L., BYRNE, V.L. & DONLAN, A.E. USING TWITTER TO ASSESS CAMPUS CLIMATE AFTER A HATE CRIME.


JONES, M., LEAK, L., ROBINSON, S., RIGGINS, L., LIGHTFOOT, A., JAMES, S., MAMO, M. & GOLIN, C. TURNING DARKNESS INTO LIGHT: RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITIES EXPLORE COMMUNITY CONCERNS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY TO INFORM HIV PREVENTION IN DURHAM.

KHAN, A., HAYES, M., EISEN, A. & HOLLISTER, N. REFUGEE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: A TRAUMA-INFORMED AND RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED APPROACH TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR RESETTLED REFUGEE FAMILIES.

MILROY, J. J. & HICKERSON, B.D. PRESENTED BY OAKES, L. USING DESIGN THINKING AND RAPID PROTOTYPING WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD) TO INVESTIGATE THEIR HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEEDS.

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REVENES, K.E., GUTIERREZ, D. & DEHAVEN, M.J. TU NO ESTAS SOLO/YOU ARE NOT ALONE: PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO LATINO IMMIGRANTS THROUGH A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.

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