



The HSS REPORT

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Fall 2016



Winners and judges of the Cosplay Contest display their costumes on Oct. 23, 2016 at the University Center. Top row: Sami Knies (judge), Kaitlyn Hanson (judge), Marly Welch, Katie Nieft, Larissa Daniels-Hill and Michael Knies (judge). Bottom row (seated): Rebekah Woolverton and Anna Williams (judge).

Modern Languages Brings Japanese Festival and Cosplay Contest to UNC

This semester, the Department of Modern Languages hosted the first ever Japanese Cosplay Contest and Festival at the University Center. The event included a cosplay contest where students showed off their costumes, followed by a carnival and traditional Japanese drum performance by Denver Taiko.

The event, which was held on Sunday, October 23rd, hosted around 400 attendees and included involvement from UNC students in the

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Cosplay Contest Winners

BEST NOVICE

Larissa Daniels-Hill
as *Sailor Pluto* from *Sailor Moon*

BEST INTERMEDIATE

Marly Welch
as *Edea Lee* from *Bravely Default*

BEST MASTER

Rebekah Woolverton
as *Robed Figure* from *Journey*

BEST OF SHOW

Katie Nieft
as *Luka* from *Vocaloid*

HSS Students Win Research Symposium

Three outstanding HSS students won the Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium and were selected to submit their presentations for the 2017 National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April at the University of Memphis. The winners were:

"Forest Cover and Change in the Kashmir Valley: Militarization, Environmental Degradation, and Adaptation" - Emily S. Doerner, Asian Studies

"An Inside View: Childhood Stress at the Greek Colony, Himera" - Melissa Chowning, Anthropology

"Music Deserts: How Social Inequality Affects Accessibility to Music Resources Important to Actively Participating in Music" - Everardo Reyes, Sociology

[Read the full story here.](#)

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Note from the Dean



As you might expect, the life of a dean has both ups and downs and I'm gratified to report that my first year and a half in the position has been mostly filled with ups. However, there is one thing that has been troubling me this fall: there have been a number of incidents of harassment and intimidation

on our campus (and across the nation). Most have been directed at students based on their identities, but in some cases have also targeted students based on their political perspectives.

As a person who always looks for the silver lining, I am embracing these negative events as a way to generate some much needed discussion of the importance of understanding others' perspectives. In our polarized society, it is more important than ever that we, as a people, learn to express our differing perspectives without demonizing those with opposing points of view. This principle of civil discourse is at the heart of

the humanities and social sciences and we are committing to a variety of activities meant to help us all learn and develop this skill.

For example, we are working with UNC's Assistant Vice President for Equity and Inclusion to schedule several workshops for students, staff, and faculty. These will cover things like bystander engagement skills, how to recognize and overcome implicit bias, effective ways for faculty and staff to support affected students, and ideas for faculty to incorporate more discussion of diversity and inclusion in the classroom. We are also organizing a variety of forums that will provide an opportunity for moderated discussion among a diverse group of people. These include a collaboration with the International Film Series to screen relevant films as well as presentations by faculty and guest speakers on current and historic issues related to equity and diversity.

I want to conclude by saying thank you to the many students, staff, and faculty who have shared their stories and who are taking positive action to combat these problems. Your dedication to equality, justice, and inclusion is truly inspiring.

Laura Connolly

Anthropology Class Partners with Gender and Sexuality Resource Center

Dr. Sally McBeth

Sally McBeth's Anthropology of Sex and Gender class partnered with the [Gender and Sexuality Resource Center](#) this semester. Working with Stephen Loveless, the new director of the center, her class produced group presentations on members of the Trans Community who have been murdered in the U.S. this year. Students researched these tragedies to provide a human and educational face to this epidemic. The class attended the Trans Day of Remembrance on November 17th where they memorialized hundreds of murdered members of the international Trans Community. Stephen Loveless also worked with



students in the class to identify other students who were willing to share their gender identity stories for students' original research paper on "gendered story-telling."

Members of Sally McBeth's class and Gender & Sexuality Resource Center Director, Stephen Loveless (far left), on Nov. 29, 2016. Photo courtesy of the Anthropology Department.

Japanese Festival and Cosplay Contest

Continued from page 1

UNC Cosplay School of Stitchcraft, Japanese Language Club, Japanese Anime and Culture Club, Chinese Culture Club, and students in Japanese lecturer Sumiko Gibson's Japanese 101 and 201 language courses. In addition, students from Kelley Walsh High School in Wyoming and Windsor High School also helped.

According to Gibson, the purpose of bringing this program to UNC was first to promote Japanese and Asian culture, but also served a number of other functions.

"Most Japanese cultural exhibitions are performed in the Denver area which is more than one and a half hours away without traffic from Greeley. Greeley area residents do

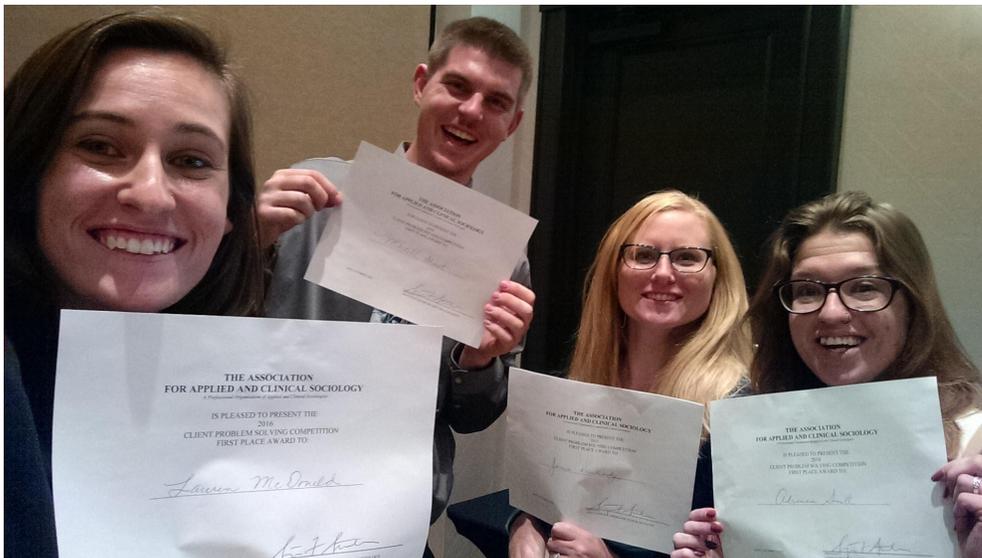
not have a chance to see Japanese culture first hand," she said. The program had the following objectives and goals:

1. To introduce Japanese culture to people in Northern Colorado and help attendees understand different cultures
2. To highlight schools in Colorado that offer Japanese programs and the importance of studying Japanese language and culture
3. To support Windsor High School's Japanese program by allowing their students to get involved in this event
4. To establish a collaborative relationship between Greeley and surrounding communities

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles (JFLA) provided the funding for this event in order for it to be hosted at UNC. According to their website, the JFLA "promotes international awareness and mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S. through cultural exchange. We administer a wide range of programs and grants aimed at introducing Japanese arts and culture, supporting Japanese Studies and language education, and promoting publications, translations related to Japan."

The department hopes to host this event again in the future with the help of JFLA.

Sociology Graduate Students' Presentation Wins AACS Competition



Sociology graduate students after their presentation at AACS. Left to right: Lauren McDonald, Mitchell Staut, Jamie Krushensky, and Adrianna Smell (photo courtesy of the Sociology Department).

the [AACS website](#), the "The AACS Client Problem Solving Competition (CPSC) provides students a meaningful way to exercise their sociological skills. It is a networking opportunity for participants and also provides students a professional experience they can include on their resumes."

Congratulations to our students and the Department of Sociology for this distinction!

The Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology annual conference was held in Denver on October 6-8 this year, where graduate students from UNC's sociology program won the AACS Client Problem Solving Competition with their presentation, "Hopeful Hous-

ing: Solutions for Refugee Resettlement Housing Crisis in Denver, CO."

Student presenters were Jamie Krushensky, Lauren McDonald, Adrianna Smell, and Mitchell Staut with their faculty advisor, Dr. Angie Henderson. According to

Watch their presentation!

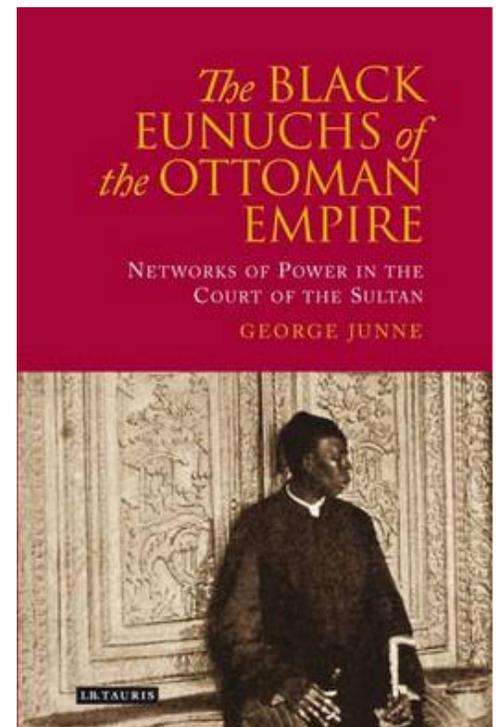
[Click here](#) or visit goo.gl/wRqW12

Books Published by HSS Faculty

The Black Eunuchs of the Ottoman Empire *Networks of Power in the Court of the Sultan*

Africana Studies Professor George Junne recently published his book, *The Black Eunuchs of the Ottoman Empire*, after more than a decade of research and travel to Istanbul.

Summary: At the height of the Ottoman Empire, Black eunuchs - rare, castrated slaves imported from Africa - became a key part of court politics. Unlike White eunuchs, who were only permitted outside the palace, Black eunuchs had access to the harem - the sultan's inner court. The Chief Black Eunuch, appointed personally by the sultan, had both the ear of the leader of a vast Islamic empire, and power over a network of spies and informers, including eunuchs and slaves throughout Constantinople and beyond. The story of these remarkable individuals, who rose from difficult beginnings to become amongst the most powerful people in the Ottoman Empire, is rarely told. George Junne places their stories in the context of the wider history of African slavery, and sets them at the centre of Ottoman history. *The Black Eunuchs of the Ottoman Empire* marks a new direction in the study of courtly politics and power in Constantinople.



American Child Bride

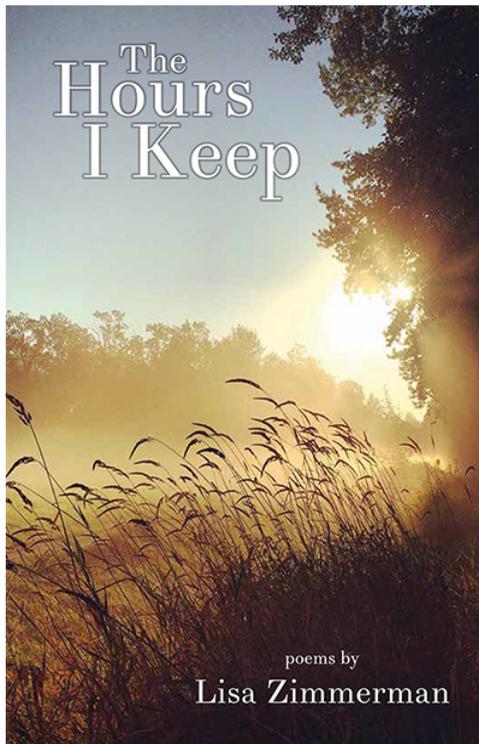
A History of Minors and Marriage in the United States

History Associate Professor and Department Chair Nicholas Syrett recently published his book, *American Child Bride*.

Summary: Most in the United States likely associate the concept of the child bride with the mores and practices of the distant past. But Nicholas L. Syrett challenges this assumption in his sweeping and sometimes shocking history of youthful marriage in America. Focusing on young women and girls--the most common underage spouses--Syrett tracks the marital history of American minors from the colonial period to the present, chronicling the debates and moral panics related to these unions.

Although the frequency of child marriages has declined since the early twentieth century, Syrett reveals that the practice was historically far more widespread in the United States than is commonly thought. It also continues to this day: current estimates indicate that 9 percent of living American women were married before turning eighteen. By examining the legal and social forces that have worked to curtail early marriage in America--including the efforts of women's rights activists, advocates for children's rights, and social workers--Syrett sheds new light on the American public's perceptions of young people marrying and the ways that individuals and communities challenged the complex legalities and cultural norms brought to the fore when underage citizens, by choice or coercion, became husband and wife.

Books Published by HSS Faculty



The Hours I Keep

Associate Professor of English, Lisa Zimmerman, published her third full-length poetry collection this fall, *The Hours I Keep*. Visit the [Mainstreet Rag Bookstore](#) website for more information.

Review for The Hours I Keep: Zimmerman's language pops and snaps, surprising at every turn, and sings with a full breath from line to line. Her imagery beautifully renders both nature's heartbreaking loveliness, its redemptive power, and its dangerous, often savage unpredictability. "See how stars are pulled down/ into sunlit river stones..." the narrator of "Gravity" writes, even as she acknowledges that force's destructive power, how "a rampage,/ disguised as a river, drags earth and rock down." These are deft, lyrical poems that express the rawest truths with grace and dignity. Zimmerman's is a universe where horses and dogs are not only faithful companions but vessels of the divine. From escaping the ghost of an alcoholic mother, to finding a rare and passionate love, to the anguish of putting down her favorite mare and her beloved dog, to the self-doubt the narrator experiences, *The Hours I Keep* resonates with raw honesty, joy, grief, and existential yearning. These are necessary, urgent poems -- difficult, wrenching, celebratory and ecstatic by turns. —Ilyse Kusnetz, winner of the 2014 T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry

Faculty-Led Study Abroad to Cuba

A number of public school social studies teachers and several UNC staff members traveled with Geography Professor Charles Collins to Cuba this fall as part of an Emerging Cuba course. The course was offered to provide educators with opportunities to experience the fundamental social, political and economic reforms that Cuba is experiencing in order to discover, write, and incorporate current Cuban reality into their courses.

Right: Participants visit Hotel Nacional de Cuba (photo courtesy of Charles Collins).



Faculty Highlights



Dr. Romano conducting interviews in Nicaragua (photo courtesy of Sarah Romano).

Researching Climate Variability Impact in Nicaragua

Dr. Sarah Romano

Supported by a Summer Support Initiative grant, Dr. Romano spent 18 days conducting preliminary field research in Nicaragua in May and June 2016. She visited seven rural communities in the Northern highlands to interview water committee members regarding how their communities were experiencing and responding to the impacts of climate variability, particularly in regard to drinking water resources. During her site visits, Dr. Romano was able to distribute copies of her recently published Spanish-language monograph, *De la gestión de recursos al activismo social: Los CAPS y la gobernanza del agua rural en Nicaragua* (From Resource Management to Political Activism: CAPS and Rural Water Governance in Nicaragua),

based upon her dissertation research (2007-2012). Copies of this publication were also shared during her attendance at a two-day risk management symposium held in the capital, Managua, which drew participants from rural water committees and diverse non-governmental organizations from across the country. With collaborators in Geography at the University of Denver and the University of New Mexico, Dr. Romano is preparing to submit a National Science Foundation proposal to examine how subjective perceptions of climate change affect decision-making on the part of non-state environmental managers, and to explore how grassroots actors both are affected by as well as push forward policy-based responses to climate change.

HSS Research Featured in the *Greeley Tribune*

The *Greeley Tribune* series "UNC in Focus," highlights engaging faculty research. Below are some of the articles featuring faculty from our college.

Andy Creekmore, Assoc. Professor of Anthropology
["Professor works to uncover ancient, Bronze Age city"](#)

Ather Zia, Assist. Professor of Anthropology & Gender Studies
["A researcher's look at feminism and activism through another lens"](#)

Elizabeth Franklin, Professor & Chair of Hispanic Studies
["Professors work to bridge gap for English language learners"](#)

Burke Hilsabeck, Assist. Professor of English (Film)
["Professor researches classic comedians as theorists, philosophers"](#)

Nancy Matchett, Assoc. Professor & Chair of Philosophy
["UNC researcher studies solutions to problems military personnel, nurses have in common"](#)

Nicholas Syrett, Assoc. Professor & Chair of History
["University of Northern Colorado professor says conservative religious sects make up small percent-age of child marriages"](#)

Faculty Highlights

RSCW Awards Announced

Faculty Reassignment for Research, Scholarship, & Creative Works award recipients for HSS were announced this semester. The awardees are:

- Robert Weis (History) for the project, “God Restrains the Devil, But Not the President”
- Burke Hilsabeck (English) for the project, “Accidental Specificity: Slapstick Comedy and Its Medium”
- Kyle Ward (Criminal Justice) for the project, “Reading for a Change: Building and Maintaining Social Bonds from Behind Bars”

- Whitney Duncan (Anthropology) for the project, “The Sociocultural Context of Mental Health and Treatment Experience Among U.S.-based Latinos”

Faculty Accomplishments

Karen Barton (Geography) was awarded Fulbright Hays grant to Senegal to spend 30 days in Senegal in summer 2016 studying peaceful existence between Muslims and Christians. Barton was also awarded a Fulbright grant to Burma to teach at the University of Yangon from June-September 2017.

Robert Weis (History) was invited to the Institute of Historical Studies at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, in Santiago, Chile, to give a graduate seminar on the History of Religion and Religiosity in recent Latin American historiography.

Britney Kyle (Anthropology) was awarded the 2016 Award for Excellence in Social Science Engaged Research at the Mountain West Community Engaged Scholars Summit.

Fritz Fischer (History) won the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award for outstanding postsecondary history teaching from the American Historical Association.

Assistant Professor Receives Engaged Anthropology Grant

Dr. Ather Zia

Anthropology and Gender Studies Assistant Professor, Dr. Ather Zia, received the Engaged Anthropology Grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation, which is one of the oldest and most reputed anthropological foundations in the U.S. Her project built on her previous study where she worked on how the women-led Association of Parents of the Disappeared Persons (APDP) in the Indian administered Kashmir. Since the armed struggle against India broke out in 1989, more than 8,000 men have been forcibly disappeared in custody by the army in Kashmir. In the counter-insurgency policies implemented by India human rights groups claim, in addition to enforced disappearances and other HR abuses, more than 70,000 people have been killed. Through this project a series of workshops were conducted to



Dr. Zia leading the workshop with activists of the Association of Parents of the Disappeared in the Indian administered Kashmir (photo courtesy of Ather Zia).

plan, strategize and formalize how the APDP as an organization can be made legally and financially more robust and create support for its members. These workshops were successful in providing a forum to generate a much-needed dialogue within the host community and resource persons. This project

enabled creating and formalizing strategies for legal cases, raising funds, acquiring property rights for the half-widows (these are the wives of disappeared men) and supporting the organization in its most crucial undertakings.

TO ALL OF OUR FALL 2016 GRADUATES: CONGRATULATIONS!

All undergraduate Fall 2016 HSS graduates and their guests are invited to a short reception following the 9 a.m. commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 10th. The reception will be held in the lower level of Candelaria Hall in room 0375.

We hope to see you there!

All of us in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences would like to offer our sincere congratulations on completing your degree at the University of Northern Colorado. We wish you the best of luck in the next stages of your journey.

We invite you to stay in touch with us! Visit us at [facebook.com/unchss](https://www.facebook.com/unchss).

Criminology & Criminal Justice Host Successful CRJ Employment Expo

Students met with a number of local and national organizations and agencies on Nov. 3, 2016. *Below: Students speak with Officer Larry Raimer (right) from UNC PD and criminal justice Assistant Professor, Dr. Victoria Terranova.*



HSS FEATURED ALUMNI

Lua Wilkinson, Anthropology '06

Lua Wilkinson majored in cultural anthropology and dietetics at the University of Northern Colorado, and completed her dietetic internship at UCSF medical center in 2006. Lua received a Master's of Arts in medical anthropology from the University of Colorado, Denver in 2010.

Lua has worked at Children's Hospital Colorado and New York Presbyterian Hospital as a Registered Dietitian, where she developed individual and group programming for children with obesity-related co-morbidities, eating disorders, neonatal complications and congenital heart disease.

In 2010, she was awarded a Fulbright and moved to China, where she researched infant feeding behavior among migrant women for two years. She continued to work internationally with maternal and child nutrition, and has carried out research in India, China, Papua New Guinea, and the United States. She speaks Chinese fluently, and Oriya with working proficiency.

Lua received her PhD in Nutrition Science in 2016 from Cornell University, where she worked under Dr. David Levitsky researching the effects



UNC alumna Lua Wilkinson in India (photo courtesy of Lua Wilkinson).

of self-monitoring on weight gain prevention among adults. She is now working as an NIH postdoctoral fellow at the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Lua is developing clinically meaningful metrics for the treatment of cardiometabolic diseases with Dr. W. Timothy Garvey. Her long-term

research and professional interests center on developing comprehensive clinical guidelines for weight gain prevention.

After living in San Francisco, New York City, China and India, Lua has perfected the art of parallel parking. She also makes a mean lasagna.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CURRENT UNC BEARS?

My best advice for undergrads is the advice my aunt gave me on orientation day over pizza at Romas. She said, "Don't focus on your long-term career at first--just begin by feeling out what you love to do or excited to learn about. As soon as you find that one class that gets you excited to get out of bed in the morning-- that's what you should major in." I've always done that, and it has led me to my dream job. I never ever would have thought at 18 that I would end up doing statistical modeling research in Alabama, and I would have SCOFFED at anyone who would tell me that I would actually love that. But I listened closely to my excitement as the years went on, and was honest with myself when my enthusiasm for certain things waned, and gave myself the space to change course. And here I am, loving every minute.



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Fall 2016



ABOUT US

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is dedicated to the highest quality of education for undergraduate and graduate students. Grounded in the liberal arts, the college is integral to the comprehensive mission of the university. The disciplines of the humanities and social sciences engage the methodologies, techniques, and technologies that prepare students to think creatively and critically about past, current and evolving social and global complexities.

CONTACT US

Candelaria Hall 0215
Campus Box 91
(970) 351-2707

www.unco.edu/humanities-social-sciences

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