Discussion Item

UAC – 4  Announcement of Chancellor’s Approval of Named Spaces

4.1  N. Frank Woods Library

4.2  Lorenzo “Logie” Meachum Office

4.3  Ponder Classroom - Room 106, School of Education Building

Background Information

Vice Chancellor Beth Fischer will announce the Chancellor’s approval of named spaces.

Beth Fischer
Vice Chancellor, University Advancement
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF NON-DONOR NAMING PROPOSAL

PROPOSED NAME:
N. Frank Woods Library

DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY OR UNIT TO BE NAMED:
Curry 349H (AADS Suite), 369 sq.ft., $25,000 minimum value

PURPOSE:
To honor the intellectual and creative legacy of AADS’s longest-serving faculty member and director of the program.

HONOREE’S CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. N. Frank Woods  nfwoods@unCG.edu (retired)  336-697-0179
Order of the Longleaf Pine, retired 2020

RATIONALE FOR NAMING PROPOSAL (HONOREE ACHIEVEMENTS/HONOREE RELATIONSHIP WITH UNCG):

EDUCATION
BFA, UNC Chapel Hill
MFA, Studio Arts, UNCG, 1978
PhD, Art History, The Union Institute and University

Giving to UNCG: $55.00, Friends of the Library, Annual Fund

PROFESSION
Dr. Woods is an emeritus professor of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Program at UNC Greensboro. His service to the university and its students spanned nearly forty years, which made him the program’s longest-serving faculty member. He taught courses in African American history, art history, music, film, and popular culture and regularly published in these areas. He authored several books including Henry Ossawa Tanner: Art, Faith, Race, and Legacy and African American Pioneers in Art, Film, and Music. He is also a noted visual artist and regularly exhibited his work in the community.
AWARDS
Order of the Long Leaf Pine, May 2020

IN THE NEWS
Dr. Woods latest book, Race and Racism in Nineteenth-Century Art: The Ascendency of Robert Duncanson, Edward Bannister, and Edmonia Lewis, was just published June 2021 by the University Press of Mississippi.

Dr. Woods has left a creative and intellectual legacy by supporting the development and sustaining of African American and African Diaspora Studies at UNC Greensboro. He taught thousands of students at the University over a span of nearly forty years. His legacy demonstrates his “outstanding personal character” and substantial contributions as a member of the University faculty who supported the mission of the University.

He reflects the traditions and history of the University through his generous and sustaining education of UNC Greensboro’s now thriving minority student body. AADS requests formal institutional recognition of his works and his legacy, as he has made an impact of UNC Greensboro through the Program in AADS and the students they have taught.
Name of Nominator (please print)  Title of Nominator
Noelle Morissette  Dr./Program Director, AADS

Noelle Morissette  01/27/22
Signature of Nominator  Date

John A. Kiss  01/27/22
John A. Kiss, Dean  Date
School of Arts and Sciences

Debbie Storrs, Provost  Date

1/24/2022

I certify that this naming proposal and any accompanying agreement(s) comply with UNCG and UNC Board of Governors’ policies.

Beth Fischer  02/07/22
Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor  Date
University Advancement

Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.  2/16/22
Chancellor  Date

☑ APPROVED

☐ NOT APPROVED

If not recommended for approval, please include the rationale for the Advancement Committee’s decision.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF NON-DONOR NAMING PROPOSAL

PROPOSED NAME:
Lorenzo “Logie” Meachum Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY OR UNIT TO BE NAMED:
Curry 349F (AADS Suite), 159 sq. ft., $25,000 minimum value

PURPOSE:
To honor the educational and creative legacy of one of African American and African Diaspora Studies’ longest-serving lecturers, a Greensboro native, lifetime blues musician of the Piedmont, and community-engaged educator of Greensboro area children.

HONOREE’S CONTACT INFORMATION:
Mr. Ralph Meachum (Logie is deceased 2018) 336-588-5513

RATIONALE FOR NAMING PROPOSAL (HONOREE ACHIEVEMENTS/HONOREE RELATIONSHIP WITH UNCG):
Service to UNCG:
Adjunct Lecturer, African American and African Diaspora Studies, 1997-2013; 2016-2018
African American Studies Advisory Board, 2009-2012
Friends of Library Advisory Board, 2011-2014

Lorenzo “Logie” Meachum left a creative and intellectual legacy by supporting the development and sustaining of African American and African Diaspora Studies at UNC Greensboro. He taught thousands of students at the University over a span of nearly forty years. His legacy demonstrates his “outstanding personal character” and substantial contributions as a member of the University faculty who supported the mission of the University.

He reflected the traditions and history of the University through his generous and sustaining education of UNC Greensboro’s now thriving minority student body. AADS requests formal institutional recognition of his works and his legacy, as he has made an impact of UNC Greensboro through the Program in AADS and the students they have taught.
Giving to UNCG: $25.00 Friends of the Library spending fund

Educational History:

Master of Arts, Education Curriculum and Instruction, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1994.
Graduate studies in English, UNC Greensboro (doctoral program) 2007-2012

Career History and Professional Accomplishments (including but not limited to civic, academic, philanthropic, scientific, artistic, business, etc.):
Coursework, North Carolina Central University, 1970-74.
Distinguished Service, United States Marine Corps, Viet Nam. Honorably Discharged. 1974-76.
Director, Winston-Salem State University Drama Guild. 1995-2015.
Adjunct Professor, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, Winston Salem State University, 1995-2012.
Exhorter, Persimmon Grove AME Church, 2000.

Additional teaching appointments:
Adjunct Appointments:

Author:

Performer:
UNC Greensboro Friends of the Library Board of Directors annual dinner, 2012.

Sound Recordings:
full-length CD, “Bump & Logie After Hours.”
Several musical compositions and folktales.
Board Memberships and Community Involvement:
Member, Friends of the UNCG Library Board of Directors 2000-2018.
Played a key role in recruiting the National Folk Festival to Greensboro 2015-2017.

Advisory Board Appointments:

Will Lou Grey School
Columbia, SC
Board of Advisors (1989 – 1993)

Provided academic counsel for 700 at risk students on co-ed campus
Provided whole language instruction in literature and performing arts twice annually.

Greensboro Cultural Center/African-American Atelier
Greensboro, NC
Board Member (2002-2003)
Board of Advisors (2003-2004)

Presented and participated in annual fundraising campaigns:

Guilford County Grass Roots Funding
Greensboro, NC

Sat on grants panel that provided funding for local arts organizations.

Professional Organizations and Societies

National Education Association
Education International
International Reading Association
National Council for Teachers of English
Florida Council for Teachers of English
North Carolina Theatre Conference
Southeastern Theatre Conference
Piedmont Blues Preservation Society (Founding Member and Lifetime Trustee)
Southern States Communication Association
American Antiquarian Society

Awards and Recognition

O. Henry Lifetime Achievement Award. 2017.

Keeping Blues Alive Award. 2009.

Piedmont Blues Preservation Society’s competition, advancing to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. 2007.
Distinguished Service with The United States Marine Corps – Honorably Discharged
Marine Combat Crew Readiness Training Group 20
Greensboro Fire Department – Five Year Service Award
Kennedy Family Citation for Special Olympics
Panellas County (FL) Schools (1992)
Guilford County (NC) Schools; Guilford Middle School (1988)
National Association of Negro Business and Professional
Women Service Award (1988 – 1992 consecutive years)
Piedmont Blues Preservation Society Blues Heritage Award (1995)
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Honors (1999)
Exhorted Persimmon Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church (2000)
Teacher of the Semester – Fall 2002 (Winston-Salem State University Student Appreciation Award)
Winston-Salem State University Campus Activities Board Award (2000-2004)

Explanation

Storyteller and blues musician Lorenzo “Logie” Meachum (1952-2018), a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, traveled the world sharing his love of stories, music, and folk wisdom with audiences. He was what the African American community deems a “professor”: an individual with a wealth of knowledge who educates and uplifts the community one individual at a time. Although in his lifetime he functioned as a “professor” of North Carolina history and African American folk wisdom and music, he was unable to fulfill his dream of receiving a doctorate from UNC Greensboro, where he was a graduate student in English, before he passed away from prostate cancer.

“Professor” Meachum was the director of the North Carolina Drama Guild at Winston Salem State University for fifteen years, directing and acting in many definitive productions of plays, such as August Wilson’s The Piano Lesson and George Wolfe’s Colored Museum. He also taught in the African and African American Diaspora Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from 1992 until 2013, and again in 2016-18. His interactions with students and audiences have left a lasting impact. “Many of my favorite moments are really not my own, but those I have observed from the back of an auditorium when one or a group of my students were on stage,” Logie once observed.* Many of his former students credit him with their later successes in performance and language arts spanning theatre, education, music, and literary studies.

These subjects formed an immersive culture for Logie as a child raised in Greensboro, NC, by parents and grandparents from this same region. As the Rowan Public Library of Salisbury, NC, stated in a press release, “Meachum credits a childhood steeped in music with influencing his life’s path. ‘I delighted in poetry and its creation, and I also liked to sing,’ he said. He often sang with his father and the rest of his family, and he learned to love poetry from relatives, including his grandmother, who often recited it by heart.” Among those poems were James Weldon Johnson’s “The Creation” and Paul Laurence Dunbar’s “Little Brown Baby.”

Logie was drawn to the power of ancestral experience, finding in the wisdom of his grandparents not simply a history of slavery but a story of the centrality of black culture to North Carolina’s folk and folkways. He often performed Bill Withers’ “Grandma’s Hands” to impart this lesson to his audiences, be they Black or white. Logie placed his many stories about his maternal grandparents, Mary Lilly (“Miss
Mae Lilly”), and Norman Franklin Chavis. Of his Miss Mae Lilly, Logie fondly recalled: “Jesus sat at her table.” “Her spirit was powerful enough to affect nature...a prayerful acceptance of her place in the scheme of all of nature and a fearless will to set right the sins of men.”

Logie once observed, “Of all that I am, most of what I am, is a child of Chavis.” He drew from the wellspring of his grandmother’s worldview and cultural practices to share them in his performances and in his written works, from his essays in *O.Henry Magazine* to his children’s book *Great Googley Moogley* (2016). In college, as a member of the North Carolina Central University Touring Ensemble, he performed throughout the United States and later traveled abroad with the company Poetry Alive! This later experience formed a deeply moving experience for him, in which he realized that educational theatre could serve as his ministry and his life’s meaning. “That experience and the response I received from the educational community across America set the compass for me.... This process brought me to God and education as a ministry,” he revealed.

Pursuing this mission, he earned a Masters in Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. From there he expanded his community-engaged outreach to communities across the Triad and the state of North Carolina, imparting his blues wisdom and love of African American folk culture in song and story to UNC Greensboro students, staff and faculty; to schoolchildren of all ages; and to a broad community of participant-listeners that would ultimately include an audience at the Kennedy Center.

Logie was a founding member of the Greensboro-based Piedmont Blues Preservation Society (PBPS), a non-profit organization whose mission is “to help the youth of our community discover the wonder of music by raising awareness and providing music education to our community and schools.” The PBPS’s outreach includes the annual Carolina Blues Festival, concerts, competitions, workshops, and educational programs. “Blues in the Schools” is one of the educational programs sponsored by PBPS, and Meachum regularly traveled the state of North Carolina, performing for children of all ages, from elementary to Middle College, for more than two decades, while teaching and studying for his doctorate. “I have discovered that I come back to performance and music because my journey in life is the utilization of the tools of the spirit,” he said.

One of Logie’s last performances took place in UNC Greensboro’s Music Auditorium, as part of the 2018 dramatic reading of James Weldon Johnson’s sermonic poems, *God’s Trombones*. He poured his soul into the performance of “Listen, Lord.” Nine months later, he passed away.

“Professor” Meachum’s lifelong mission to educate through performance, music, and the arts affirms the mission of UNC Greensboro to “mak[e] a difference in the lives of students and the communities it serves.” Logie’s life was made meaningful by his engagement with local and global communities of listeners and learners. His service to learning, and to meeting the challenges of humanity with humility and a will to understand, has left a deep mark on our university. As Logie performed across the United States and abroad, he always returned to North Carolina.

* All quotations in this section are taken from Rowan Public Library of Salisbury, NC, press release, 8-17-2017.
Name of Nominator (please print)  Title of Nominator
Noelle Morrisette  Dr./Program Director, AADS

Noelle Morrisette  01/27/22
Signature of Nominator  Date

John Z. Kiss  01/27/22
John A. Kiss, Dean  Date
School of Arts and Sciences

1/24/2022
Debbie Storrs, Provost  Date

I certify that this naming proposal and any accompanying agreement(s) comply with UNCG and UNC Board of Governors' policies.

Beth Fischer  02/07/22
Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor  Date
University Advancement

Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.  Date
Chancellor

☑ APPROVED

☐ NOT APPROVED

If not recommended for approval, please include the rationale for the Advancement Committee’s decision.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DONOR NAMING PROPOSAL

PROPOSED NAME:
Given by Mrs. Carrie Davis Ponder, Class of 1958 and Dr. Reginald Ponder In memory and in honor of the Davis sisters, all educators: Elizabeth ’38, Katherine ’44, Hilda ’56, and Carrie ’58 (text on plaque)

DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY OR UNIT TO BE NAMED:
Room 106, School of Education Building
(Classroom with 41 seats, 758 sq. ft.)

PURPOSE:
This naming honors the four Davis sisters who graduated from The Woman’s College with degrees in education: Elizabeth Davis Hall Crumpler (1938), Katherine Davis Smith (1944), Hilda Davis Jennings (1956), and Carrie Davis Ponder (1958).

DONOR INFORMATION:
Carrie Davis Ponder graduated from the Woman’s College of the University of North Carolina (now UNCG) in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. She later earned her Master’s in Education from Western Carolina University. Carrie has served her community as a public school teacher; her family as a wife, mother, and homemaker; and her church as the spouse of a Methodist minister and denomination leader. Carrie’s family has been a living illustration of the famous quote from Charles Duncan McIver, UNCG’s founder and first President: “...when you educate a woman, you educate a family.” Carrie’s mother, Carrie Naomi Perkins Davis, attended the University in 1910, when it was known as the State Normal and Industrial College. Becoming the Woman’s College of the University of North Carolina (“WC”) in 1934, Carrie’s sister, Elizabeth Davis Hall Crumpler, graduated from WC in 1938; then another sister, Katherine Davis Smith, graduated from WC in 1944; then another sister, Hilda Davis Jennings, graduated from WC in 1956, just two years before Carrie’s graduation. Continuing the tradition, a niece in the family, Jennifer Smith Hooks, graduated from UNCG in 1976; and another family niece, Wendy Lorraine Davis, graduated from UNCG in 1995, and then earned her Master’s at UNCG in 1997.

DONOR CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT: $100,000

DATE OF GIFT (RECORDED): 11/1/21
GIFT TYPE (IF IT IS NOT A SINGLE PAYMENT, DESCRIBE THE TERMS):
Pledge 2022 – 2026 (Carrie Davis Ponder ’58 Endowed Scholarship in Education)

RATIONALE FOR NAMING PROPOSAL (DONOR ACHIEVEMENTS/DONOR RELATIONSHIP WITH UNCG):
Donor for 52 years, $612,840.00 total giving.
Funds:
- Carrie Davis Ponder ’58 Endowed Scholarship in Education (CRT Beneficiary $400,000)
- Carrie Davis Ponder Charitable Gift Annuity #5
- Carrie Ponder & Dr. Reginald Ponder Charitable Gift Annuity

Dr. Randall Penfield
Name of Nominator
(please print)

Dean, School of Education
Title of Nominator

Randall Penfield

02/16/22

Signature of Nominator
Date

Debbie Storrs

02/17/22

Debbie Storrs, Provost
Date

I certify that this naming proposal and any accompanying agreement(s) comply with UNCG and UNC Board of Governors’ policies.

Beth Fischer

3/1/22

Beth Fischer, Vice Chancellor
Date
University Advancement

Gifts $100,000 or less – Chancellor Signature

Frank Gilliam, Chancellor

3/1/22
UNC Greensboro

☑ APPROVED
☐ NOT APPROVED
If not recommended for approval, please include the rationale for the Advancement Committee’s decision.