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SPRING 2026



the MELTING POT ISSUE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

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The newest NC State Student Media outlet, Roundabout is a glossy general interest magazine that covers student life, arts and culture.

MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief	Layney Keesee
Photo Editor	Lily McCabe
Copy Editor	Chase Alston
Design Editor	Marlowe Henderson
Assistant Design Editor	Autumn Tate
Promotions Director	Alannah Anderson
Adviser	Ray Black III
Business Manager	Layla Faith Batts

CONTACT STUDENT MEDIA

Phone	(919) 515-2411
Email	Media-Sales@ncsu.edu
Office	307 Witherspoon Student Center
Director	Patrick Neal
Business Adviser	Abi Barefoot

FRONT COVER

Dancers Zhou Jingyu and Zhang Jing bow after a performance during the North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival at Koka Booth Amphitheatre on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026. The festival features over 40 lantern displays made by Chinese artisans, as well as traditional dances.

Photo by Lily McCabe

BACK COVER

Cristian Martinez dances in the men's grass style during the 30th Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration at the North Carolina Museum of Art on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025. The celebration featured intertribal powwow dances in a wide variety of styles, as well as demonstrations in traditional craftsmanship, such as pottery, quilting, and silverwork.

Photo by Lily McCabe

I LIVED ON CAMPUS FOR BOTH MY FRESHMAN AND sophomore years at NC State, something of a rarity unless you're an RA or part of a Living and Learning Village. As a resident of Owen and Turlington Halls, I naturally treated Talley Student Union as my living room, idly walking in my pajamas, (both late at night and early in the morning), as I hunted for caffeine in whatever the most easily-available form happened to be. Often, I found myself horrifically underdressed for the events that routinely brought swathes of people to the campus' cultural hub.

As a firm believer in minding my business, I never lingered very long when I found myself in the eye of a crowd hurricane. But I would take a moment, with my Port City Java latte in hand, and admire the cultural celebrations in front of me. Sparkling traditional clothing, melodic folk songs and impressive dance performances – every weekend was like traveling to another country. I don't even have a passport, so I appreciated this aspect in particular.

NC State hosts many international students, further fusing cultures in the giant melting pot that is our campus. However, as the school admits students from all over the country and takes a percentage from all parts of the state, there are tens of thousands of individual experiences that make up the larger narrative of student culture. *This issue celebrates the communities on campus that bring together people of similar backgrounds and gives them the courage to unapologetically stand in their respective cultural identities.*

So, with the help of our own little community at Roundabout, I present to you the Melting Pot issue! My hope is that you learn something about the campus and the people in it! As always, I bestow oodles of gratitude to my beloved editorial staff: Marlowe, Chase, Alannah, Lily and Autumn, for all their continued hard work, dedication and support. And, of course, who could forget our awesome adviser, Ray, for always encouraging us to strive to put out the best work we possibly can!

See you at the Roundabout!

MEET THE STAFF



Layney Keese
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Marlowe Henderson
DESIGN EDITOR



Lily McCabe
PHOTO EDITOR



Chase Alston
COPY EDITOR



Alannah Anderson
PROMOTIONS



Autumn Tate
ASST. DESIGN EDITOR



CONTENTS

06 Stages Without Borders

- 08 THE HEARTBEAT OF NC STATE'S ANNUAL POWWOW'S: NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- 10 CELTIC CROSSOVER: WOLFPACK'S IRISH DANCE TEAM
- 12 SHARING TRADITIONS UNDER THE LIGHTS: CARY CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL
- 16 ASIA NIGHT

18 Heritage Meets Classroom

- 20 THE STONES, THE BONES, THE THRONES, AND THE TONES: NC STATE ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH
- 24 WATUAGA HALL: NC STATE'S OLDEST RESIDENCE HALL
- 26 POWER OF THE TONGUE: NC STATE'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH
- 28 THE GLOBAL EDGE OF SKEMA

30 Appreciation in Action

- 32 FROM FIRES TO FRONT PAGE: THE RISE OF THE NUBIAN MESSAGE
- 36 KHAYRALLAH LEBANESE CULTURAL CENTER
- 38 COME FLY WITH THE CRANE COLLECTIVE

Staff photos by Emily Peedin



A crane lantern on display during the North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival at Koka Booth Amphitheatre on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026. The festival features thousands of lantern displays made by Chinese artisans, as well as traditional dances.

Photo by Lily McCabe

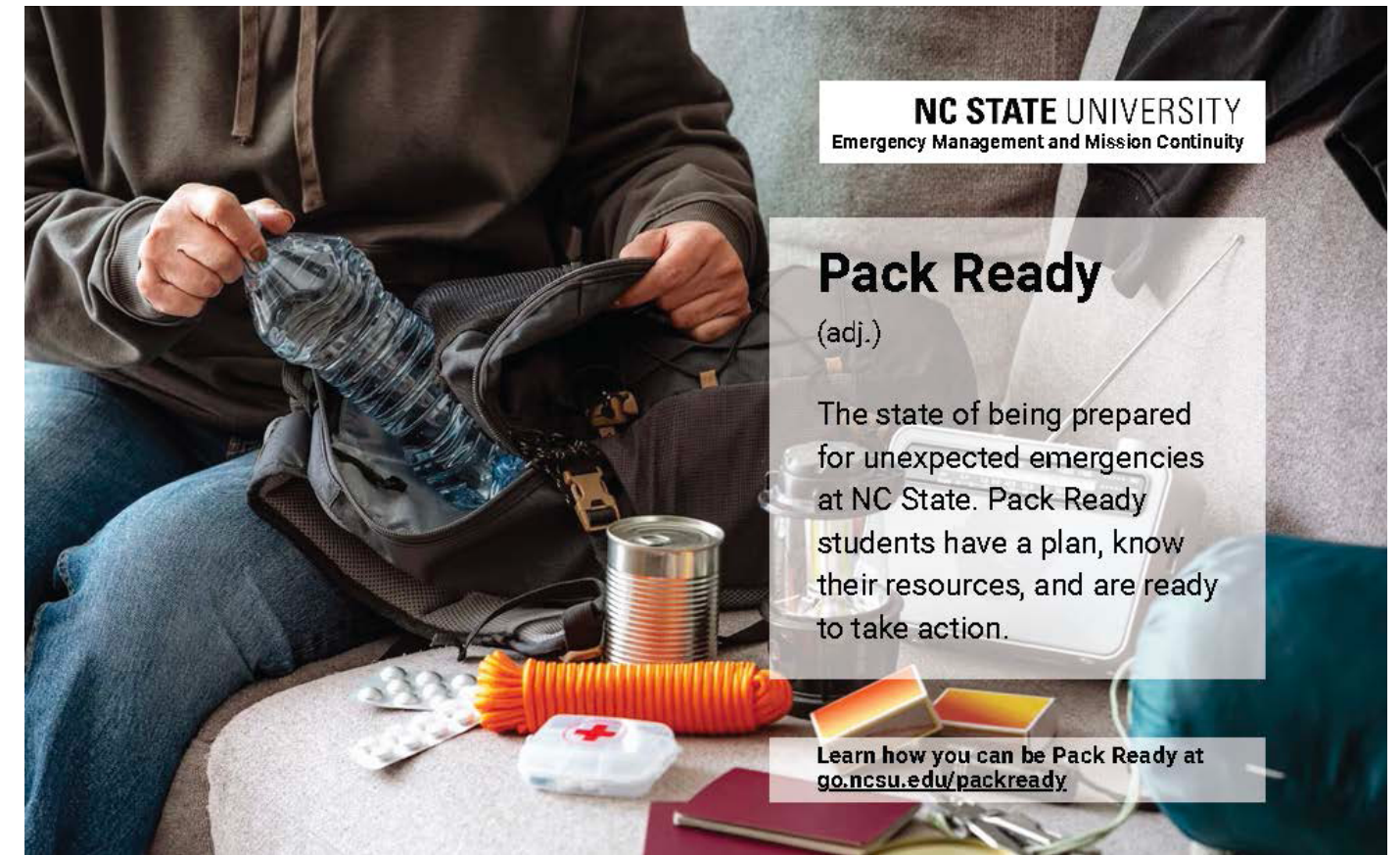
Stages without Borders

We can't talk about a melting pot without celebrating our arts, and NC State does a great job of highlighting heritage through musicality, dance and celebration.

- 08 THE HEARTBEAT OF NC STATE'S ANNUAL POWWOWS: NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- 10 CELTIC CROSSOVER: WOLFPACK'S IRISH DANCE TEAM
- 12 SHARING TRADITIONS UNDER THE LIGHTS: CARY CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL
- 16 ASIA NIGHT

Heritage Meets Classroom

Appreciation in Action



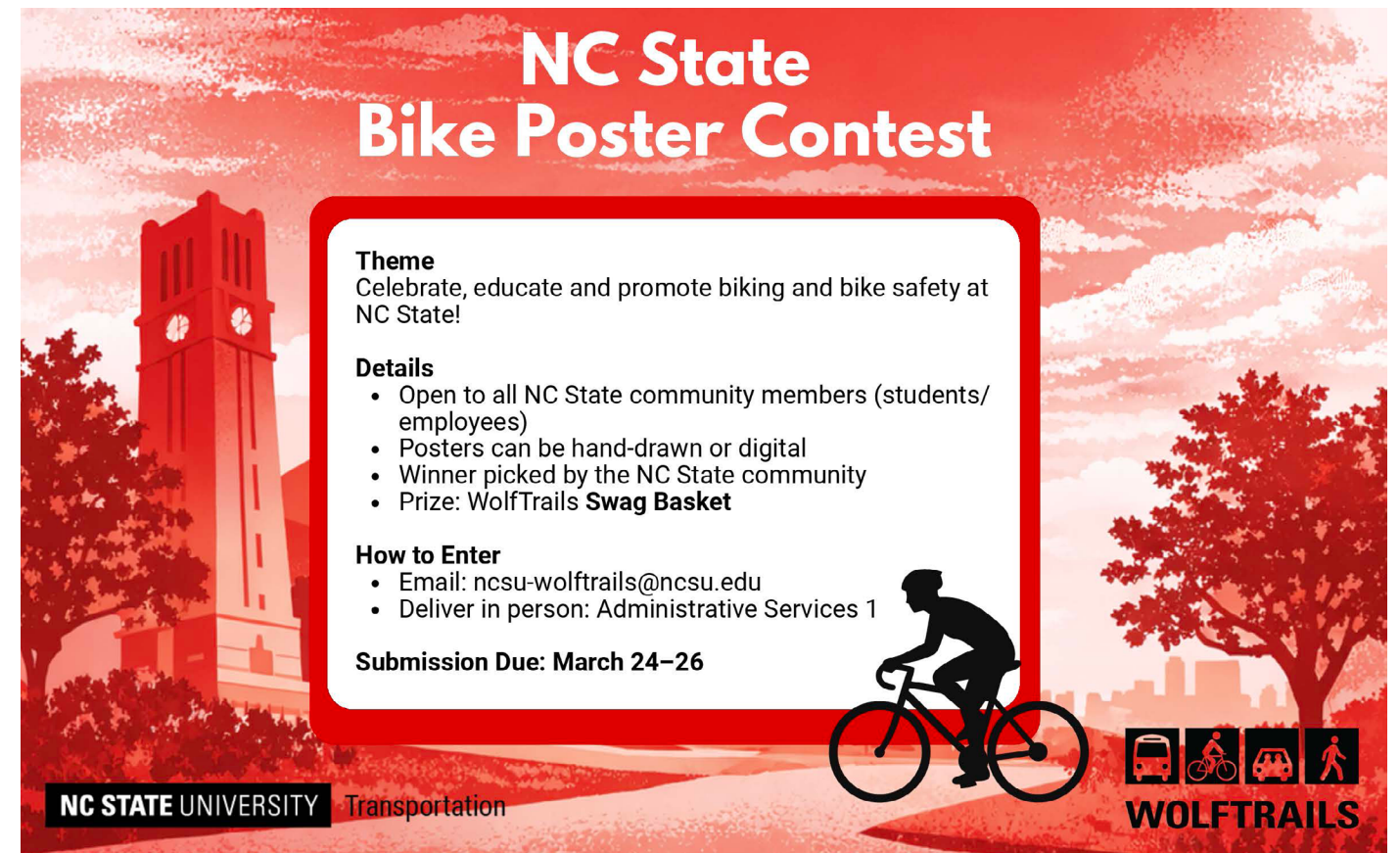
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NC STATE UNIVERSITY Transportation

WOLFTRAILS

The Heartbeat of NC State's Annual Powwows: Native American Student Association

BY KAYLA STACKHOUSE
PHOTO BY KAELA BELINGTON

A powwow is a cultural event among Native American cultures involving a celebration with singing, dancing and having a good time. Powwows are community-led and created to celebrate the history, traditions and culture of Native Americans. Holding a powwow on college grounds is not only significant, but an amazing opportunity to introduce oneself to Native American culture. When first starting out at NC State, powwows were primarily organized by student organizations; you have most likely heard of hosting being done by the Native American Student Association (NASA) or the Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA). Over the years, NC State powwows have seen a growth in collaboration from a wide range of student life. Whether it's exploring curiosity, familiarizing yourself with powwow etiquette or joining in on the dancing or merchandise vending, NC State's staff, students and community members ensure powwows are a safe space for cultural learning and engagement.

In preparation for NC State's 36th Annual Powwow, it's time we take remembrance of past powwows and recognize the love and hard work put into them throughout the years. I had the pleasure of interviewing the event organizer and the assistant director of NC State's Multicultural Student Affairs, Gavin Bell. Gavin Bell is a part of the Lumbee tribe, standing as one of the largest tribes in North Carolina. NC State's annual powwows bring

together different walks of life and showcase the uniqueness of different tribes through art, song and dance.

Dances seen at a powwow are divided into two categories, male and female, and Gavin has a favorite dance for both: grass dancing for the male category and jingle dress for the female category.

Grass dancing originates from young men stomping down tall patches of grass in preparation for ceremonies.

Mahlea Celeste Hunt of the Lumbee tribe dances during the Women's Red Dress Special at the 32nd Annual NC State Powwow in the Carmichael Gymnasium on Saturday, April 1, 2023. The event was hosted by NC State's Multicultural Student Affairs, and consisted of dance performances, craft vendors, and traditional drum groups.



Their regalia – often colorful and custom-made as a symbol of self-expression – includes long stringy fringe to mimic the tall grass that would be stomped on. Growing up in Durham, grass dancing resonated with Bell as its “smooth footwork” was reminiscent of the hip-hop culture he was exposed to growing up.

“In my head, I was always trying to find commonalities between the city culture of Durham and native culture; and as a kid watching grass dancing I thought, that’s like how we dance over here. Whether it be on the block or at a party, it’s very similar.”

There are different stories behind the origin of the Jingle Dress dance, but in Gavin’s retelling, the daughter of a chief had fallen ill. One night the chief had a dream where he was given instructions on a particular dress to make for his daughter, and if she put the dress on and danced in it, she would be healed. The dress had different shells that made a jingling sound when moved, hence the name jingle dress.

Fast forward to today, Jingle Dress is known as a dance of healing. Healing any hurt or challenges a community is facing, native or not.

“They always look so regal, and there’s like a pride, there’s a power. We don’t function without our women, and so being able to have different dance categories that show that and allow them to bring that forward, is a really cool thing that powwow culture allows.” Bell’s testimony shines light on the importance of femininity in Native American culture and how it resonates with the showcase of dance in.

You can’t have dancing without music, and powwows never skip a beat. Drummers are one of the main sources of music at a powwow, and at a collegiate powwow, you will see up to six drum groups performing. Miskwa Waya, a drum group on campus, has built a community hosting open drum practices at NC State and other collegiate powwows such as UNC and Duke. Students from different tribal communities show up to practice to represent their tribes, learn music and connect with students from a similar background.

One of the first songs Gavin learned from practice with the Miskwa Waya was Southern Thunder, one of the most played songs at powwows. It is a fast-paced tune that is particularly recognized by the crowd. Its upbeat nature connects all who listen to the community and history it fosters, which is the true reason behind powwows and this song ensures its success.

Bell claims that *“this particular style is supposed to mimic a heartbeat, representing the heartbeat of everything. Whether that’s dancing or just us in our day to day lives. That’s the base, that’s the core.”*

Along with being handmade and prayed over, lots of work goes into making these drums, and the songs learned are meant to connect

people and the drummers themselves to their culture.

Self-expression and hard work are not just seen through dance and song, but also the vendors attending this event. At NC State’s Annual Powwows, vendors show off their beadwork, clothing and other countless works of art available for purchase. The individuals selling their art are more than vendors; they’re also the Wolfpack who help grow and promote NC State’s annual Powwows.

To name a few, you can expect to see tabling from NC State’s Native Greek life (fraternities and sororities), the American Indians of Science and Engineering (AISES), the College of Engineering and the Gregg Museum.

“It’s like a nice braiding, if you will, of those different native communities, those different native associations, as well as the NC State students and NC State staff. It’s a braiding of everybody in one place,” says Bell.

Over the years we have seen a growing number of contributors and they all have the opportunity to table and introduce themselves to tribal communities, current NC State students and potential students. Tabling impacts students as they have the opportunity to get familiar with campus life, opportunities and resources available to them.

On March 28 of this year, 2026, NC State will host the 36th Annual Powwow. When you hear the beating of drums and echoes of laughter, be sure to join the NC State for a grand celebration of rich culture.

Bell says, *“It’s a free flow event, you can show up at 12, you can show up at three, you show up at five. We want everybody to come out there. That’s part of the goal.”*

Be on the lookout for other collegiate powwows from March to May, like the 38th Carolina Indian Circle Powwow at UNC Chapel Hill. •

CELTIC *Crossover:*

Wolfpack's Irish Dance Team

BY ALANNAH ANDERSON
DESIGN BY AUTUMN TATE

The NC State Irish Dance team, better known as the Celtic Wolves, is an organization embracing cultural diversity that you might not know about. Associated with glamour and skill, this club represents the Celtic traditions that began as early as the 17th century in Ireland, yet the club was only established on campus in 2023.

The Celtic Wolves state their purpose is *"to spread the joy and culture of Irish dance to people through practice, performance, education, and competition,"* according to their website. Within the organization, the team offers two types of membership: general and active. General membership requires no audition, but there is still an opportunity for participation in performances, as long as you attend the weekly meetings and/or practices in addition to paying a small semesterly due. Active members are those with the potential to be involved in the competitions that the Celtic Wolves participate in, therefore requiring an audition and attendance of the weekly meetings, practices and rehearsals.

One of the competitions that the Celtic Wolves partake in every year is the Collegiate Irish Dance Association Nationals. CIDA developed in 2012 as Villanova University Irish Dance co-captains attempted to find ways for Irish Dance teams across the nation to come together and compete. While NC State did not participate in the first Irish Dance Festival in 2013, as they would not be established until 10 years later, this was a turning point in the celebration of Irish culture and dance for colleges in the nation. Currently, the CIDA has over 50 schools in membership with a *"goal to continue spreading to more institutions every year, giving dancers an opportunity to create new friendships based on their similar passions and allow scholarships to be given by universities who recognize the dedication and intelligence these dancers possess."* Last year, the NC State Irish Dance team came second place in the CIDA Nationals.

The Celtic Wolves, amongst the other teams within the CIDA, *"accept beginners who wish to learn Irish Dance for the first time which promotes the culture of Irish Dance in new communities while allowing dancers to gain invaluable teaching experience."* This promotion of Irish culture internationally is what keeps it alive.



A BRIEF HISTORY

While the origin of Irish dancing is uncertain, by the 17th century it gained substantial popularity, with traveling dance teachers to thank. Irish dancing is not as simple as it seems due to a vast variety of styles. The dance can either begin as a solo performance or social routines, frequently referred to as céilí routines. Then, the dancers use complex footwork, high kicks and hops. If you've ever watched an Irish dancer, you'll notice they don't use their arms, keeping them tight by their side. Their rigid arms are no lack of skill, rather the absence speaks volumes to the talent the dancers have by highlighting their intricate footwork.

It is important to note a common misconception about Irish dancing: jigs. In general, jigs are a part of folk music with 6/8 time. Some jigs are a part of Irish dancing, but not all jigs represent Irish music.

Fast forward to today, Irish dancing gained another wave of popularity due to Riverdance's performance in 1994 during the Eurovision Song Contest. Riverdance led to a rejuvenation of Irish dance culture. While the tight ringlets of hair with fitted dresses of bright colors and patterns are aspects of the glamor you can still see, Riverdance brought a new generation of costumes and presentations, such as long flowy dresses. This year, Riverdance will go on tour to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

From the Celtic Wolves to the Collegiate Irish Dance Association Nationals and Riverdance to beyond, Irish dancing isn't fading away any time soon. It is essential to support these organizations in order to keep that tradition alive. To support the NC State Irish Dance Team, *scan the QR code below to make a donation.*



Sharing Traditions Under the Lights:

The Cary Chinese Lantern Festival

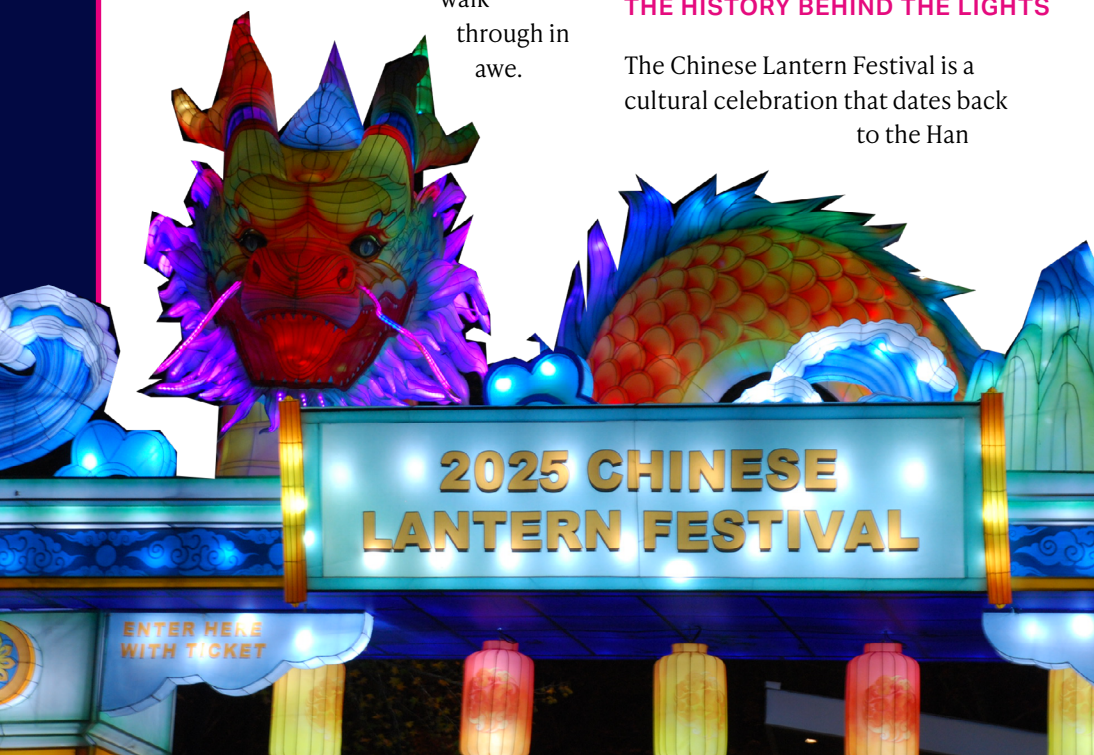
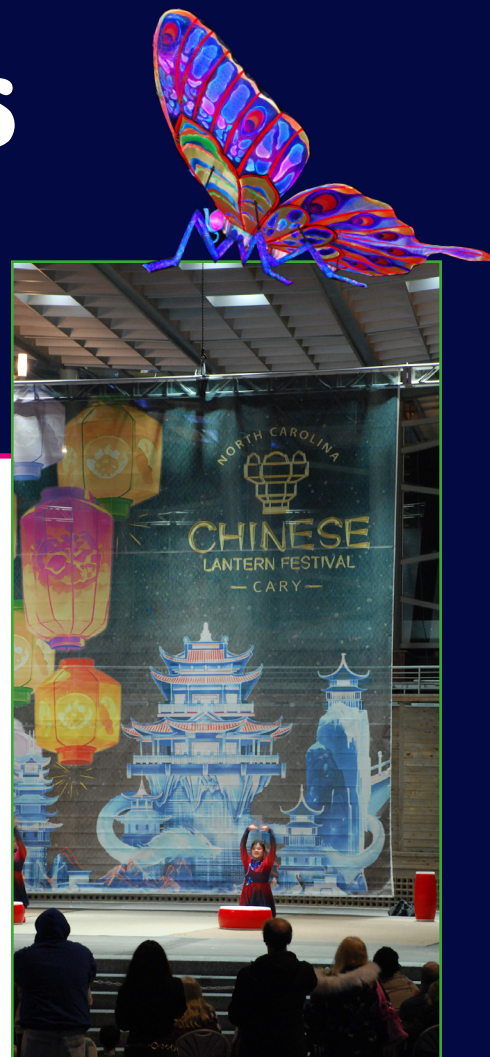
BY AVA GONSIEWSKI
DESIGN BY AVA GONSIEWSKI
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY AVA GONSIEWSKI AND BELLA MABE

Cultural appreciation and understanding often begins with the sharing of experience and in Cary, North Carolina, that experience shines bright at the Chinese Lantern Festival. The NC Chinese Lantern Festival, which was held at Koka Booth Amphitheatre, began November 15 and concluded January 12. The Koka Booth Amphitheatre is an outdoor space owned by the Town of Cary and it is open to hosting all kinds of events. For over a decade, the Chinese Lantern celebration has transformed the amphitheatre into a place of wonder and rich culture. Thousands of lights and handcrafted displays are

There is more than just the typical hand held lanterns than one would expect, for there are massive displays of light; all of which are carefully crafted with silk and metal frames, representing Chinese culture. The displays range from beautiful flowers, to pandas and even Chinese zodiac animals. Along with the wondrous lights is a stage where authentic cultural performances are showcased such as singing, dancing and martial arts. It is truly an experience that gives respect and recognition to Chinese culture. While walking through the displays, you are also met with shops that sell traditional Chinese toys and collectibles as well as a variety of Asian cuisine food trucks. The entire experience incorporates various aspects of Chinese culture that work well together to provide people with an immersive connection to the culture.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE LIGHTS

The Chinese Lantern Festival is a cultural celebration that dates back to the Han



Dynasty, over 2,000 years ago. The event was celebrated to mark the first full moon of the Lunar New Year, which is typically the 15th day. This celebration represents reunion, peace and hope for the new year, and as people light lanterns to honor their ancestors, good fortune is summoned to act as a guide for spirits and to ward off evil. Traditionally, lanterns were utilized to send off prayers and hope for the new year, but in modern years, lanterns are an artistic representation of culture. The event is still celebrated in China and in Asian communities around the world. The festival is always a big production where good luck and family remains represented.

NC STATES SUPPORTS A MULTICULTURAL STUDENT BODY

With a multicultural student body inhabiting NC State, it is important that each student's culture is embraced and supported. As part of the University Housing program, this past November, NC State hosted a night for students to attend the Cary Chinese Lantern Festival with food, transportation and tickets provided to them. The event was organized by Patrick Stephenson, a program director for the NC State Transfer Connections Village.

When asked why he chose the event for students to attend, Stephenson replied, "The North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival is a long-standing event in the Triangle, and it is a great opportunity for students to experience something meaningful together off-campus that familiarizes students with the larger Raleigh area...we are intentional about choosing off-campus events that align with University Housing's learning outcomes." The Cary Chinese Lantern Festival recognizes culture and tradition and was chosen with intent for students to experience something impactful. Stephenson speaks to the goals of University Housing and supporting the multicultural

student body by saying, "University Housing supports institutional goals by supporting a wide range of student experiences through offering a variety of academic, co-curricular and community-based opportunities. We focus on creating spaces where students can connect, engage and feel supported within the broader campus community."

Regardless of background, the Cary Lantern Festival invites anyone to come learn and celebrate Chinese culture together, as Stephenson explains the event is good for anyone to attend, saying that "Events like the North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival allow students to engage with Raleigh community traditions, learn more about community groups and the arts through storytelling in a shared and interactive way."

By not only encouraging attendance at events like this, but also supporting students the whole way there with tickets, food and transportation, it shows how NC State is dedicated to its multicultural student body by promoting cultural awareness, inclusivity and opportunities for students to experience and appreciate traditions beyond their own.

REFLECTIONS OF THE AUTHOR

As a transfer student to NC State and a Chinese American, I was delighted to see a large part of my identity represented, not only that, but to see my fellow peers in awe of my culture made me proud, and overjoyed. I couldn't believe that I got to participate for free through University Housing and experience something that was especially meaningful to me. I went with my roommate and friend, Bella Mabe, and while we walked, I got to talk about my culture and share my traditions. I am proud to go to a school that encourages and fosters events to celebrate others. When people learn other traditions and culture, it fosters

respect and admiration within our differences. Events such as the Cary Chinese Lantern Festival curates appreciation instead of separation and manifests the fact that culture should not be something that divides us, but something to be shared and ultimately strengthen us as a society.





Crane lanterns fly over a forest scene during the North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival at Koka Booth Amphitheatre on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026. The festival features thousands of lantern displays made by Chinese artisans. Chinese lantern-making dates back over 2000 years.

Photo by Lily McCabe

Asia

BY AVA GONSIEWSKI
DESIGN BY AVA GONSIEWSKI AND MARLOWE HENDERSON
PHOTOS BY VIOLET BEESLEY

NC State's KPack, a Korean-pop dance group, forms hearts during Asia Night in Stewart Theater Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025. Asia Night is hosted by the Asian Students Association and featured various performance groups from NC State and across the Triangle.



As the lights go dim inside of Stewart theater, a night of culture and tradition unfolds. Hosted annually by NC State's Asian Student Association (ASA), Asia Night is one of the largest events on campus dedicated to Asian culture and heritage. It is a night that welcomes everyone regardless of background or culture. "At its heart, Asia Night is NC State's annual celebration of Asian culture and heritage," Asia Night directors Allison Emborsky and Seemal Syed shared. The night is meant to share Asian culture with the university where students can both feel seen and connected. On the stage will be performances of music, dance and fashion.

This year Asia Night is taking place on March 31, 2026. Emborsky and Syed remarked that planning had started in April of 2025 for an event this large. Each year, there are an average of eight to ten group performances, a fashion runway highlighting asian designers, a raffle and a special feature performance at the end. Emborsky reflects on the previous production as she says, "Last year's big performer was Your Crush, a dream-pop duo from California who absolutely rocked the stage with their lo-fi-style bedroom pop performance."

Syed, who will be attending Asia Night for the first time this year, is excited to see different kinds of Asian culture represented, saying, "...what pulled me to Asia Night is how you get to experience so many different rich cultures in a

A member of Triangle Chinese Dance, leans over while other members pose in the background during Asia Night in Stewart Theater Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025. Asia Night is hosted by the Asian Students Association. Triangle Chinese Dance is a dance group formed in 2008, that promotes Chinese folk and classical dances.



Night

single night. It honestly sounds so beautiful to witness the rich diversity of Asia through traditional dancing, singing and food." For Emborsky, she feels rewarded by seeing crowd reactions as she says, "I really love to watch all of the performers put on their best show for the audience. Seeing the crowd feed off of the performer's energy and get excited is such a fun experience!"

Asia Night's goals align with the overall mission of the Asia Student Association. ASA works hard to "represent Asian youth, celebrate cultural differences and shed light on current struggles Asian American and Pacific Islander people face. Our main goal is to create a community of students which can support and uplift one another in times of need" as stated by Emborsky and Syed. Not only does ASA host Asia Night, but the club also holds a multitude of other events throughout the year to show representation and appreciation for the Asian student body. Emborsky and Syed acknowledge how NC State caters to a multicultural student body as they say "NC State has a plethora of resources for students from all backgrounds. The Multicultural Student Affairs suite on the 4th floor of Talley Student Union is a great resource for support, career development and community building. There are also student organizations designated to celebrate every identity with fun club events. You can check GetInvolved to find your community!"

To keep up with events, and learn about this year's Asia Night performers, follow ASA's instagram, @ncsuasa. •

A member of Sunny Performing Arts dances at Asia Night in Stewart Theater on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Sunny Performing Arts is a non-profit Chinese dance troupe.



Thandav Dance, a NC State's Indian classical dance team, performs at Asia Night in Stewart Theater on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. This event was held by the Asian Students Association and featured 12 different performers showcasing their talents.

Stages without Borders

Heritage Meets Classroom

Classrooms aren't only about lectures and homework. Learn about how NC State curates spaces where heritage and the classroom can be one.

- 20 THE STONES, THE BONES, THE THRONES AND THE TONES: NC STATE ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH
- 24 WATUAGA HALL: NC STATE'S OLDEST RESIDENCE HALL
- 26 POWER OF THE TONGUE: NC STATE'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH
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The Stones, The Bones, The Thrones and the Tones: NC State Anthropological Research

BY EMMA PENA AND ANNA PETRIE
PHOTOS BY LILY MCCABE

ANTHROPOLOGY: an underdog in the social science world that puts human culture under a microscope. The *how* and the *why* to everything human – a complex field focusing on the intersection of culture, society and biology to shed light on the evolution of human behavior. In short, it’s the science of humanity and everything that we encompass from the very beginning to modern day.

Here at NC State, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology is rather small, with only 25 full-time faculty members and roughly 700 students, which makes up about 0.02% of the entire (almost 40,000!) student body at our humble university. While this department might be small, it certainly is mighty as it offers four anthropological subfields for students to concentrate in:

Archeology (The Stones)

More than just digging up old bones and clay pots, this subfield is the collection and understanding of cultural diversity through the material remains of former civilizations.

Biological Anthropology (The Bones)

Standard biology’s cooler cousin, studies the form and function of the human body to analyze the evolutionary change of *Homo sapiens*.

Cultural Anthropology (The Thrones)

Insatiably curious right down to its core, this is the most common subfield

with a birds-eye view of human societies, cultures, beliefs and customs.

Linguistic Anthropology (The Tones)

The youngest brother of anthropology; ready to take on the science of language, its evolution, its relationship to other languages and its role in society.

The anthropology program offers unique and riveting courses that scope out topics such as ancient civilizations, the impact of technology in society and all things bones.

A LONG STANDING HISTORY

Recently retired NC State professor and former director of the anthropology program, Dr. Tim Wallace, shared with us the program’s history and purpose, an underdog story of hard work, resilience and identity. In the beginning, the Department of Sociology and History was one entity before eventually splitting off into two departments. However, the Department of Sociology didn’t remain lonesome for too long with the addition of anthropology in 1953. Dr. Wallace’s appearance in the early 70s marked him as NC State’s third anthropologist faculty member, right at the cusp of a turning point moment for the department with the development of a degree in sociology with a concentration in anthropology.

Close-up of an articulated common carp tail on display in the anthropology teaching lab at Park Shops on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026.

Cue the early 2000s: the emergence of low-rise jeans, flip phones and NC State’s undergraduate degree in anthropology.

By 2007, the master’s degree program was up and running. The uphill battle to claim an undergraduate and graduate program in anthropology had less to do with NC State, and more to do with the Board of Governors’ policies. “[They] wouldn’t allow two universities that are close together to get the same degree program, so since Chapel Hill had a big anthropology program, they weren’t going to let us have one,” Dr. Wallace said.

However, policy changes didn’t stop the path to recognition. While anthropology now had its own undergraduate and graduate programs, the program was still tied to sociology in the ways that mattered. As Dr. Wallace put it, they were separate but always together. Without its own administration, the program developed a unique way to operate with leadership roles and program directors like Dr. Wallace himself.

Although unrecognized within official university business, it was an informal role “carved out as part of [the] identity as anthropologists in the department.”

It was a system formed out of the passion and devotion of anthropologists, and maintained through that same passion – a labor of love that transformed itself into a crucial part of their identity. “That’s been the role that we carved out, and, you know, I’m fine with that.” Even within a field as small as anthropology, there still remains a

runt of the litter out to prove itself: linguistic anthropology. After this spring semester, NC State’s linguistic anthropology course is facing the chopping block as Dr. Wallace, the sole standing professor for the course, prepares to fully retire. With linguistic anthropology’s dwindling popularity, the possibility for a new professor to take over is unlikely. According to Dr. Wallace, “*In the four fields of anthropology, language is the one that has the least number of anthropologists in it. Although there are plenty of linguists, but, in terms of linguistic anthropologists, there aren’t as many, and it’s always been kind of the fifth wheel of the four-field approach with cultural, physical and archaeology.*” While the program falls short in some areas, it certainly flourishes in others. The biological and archaeological concentrations have only continued to grow in popularity, with some extra attention focused towards the cultural concentration as two new cultural anthropologists join the team. While experienced and long-time faculty members keep the program alive, coming up with new ways to keep students engaged and connected to local hands-on work is of utmost priority. As Dr. Wallace said, “*I think that it’s staying on track, staying on target – we just need more folks.*”

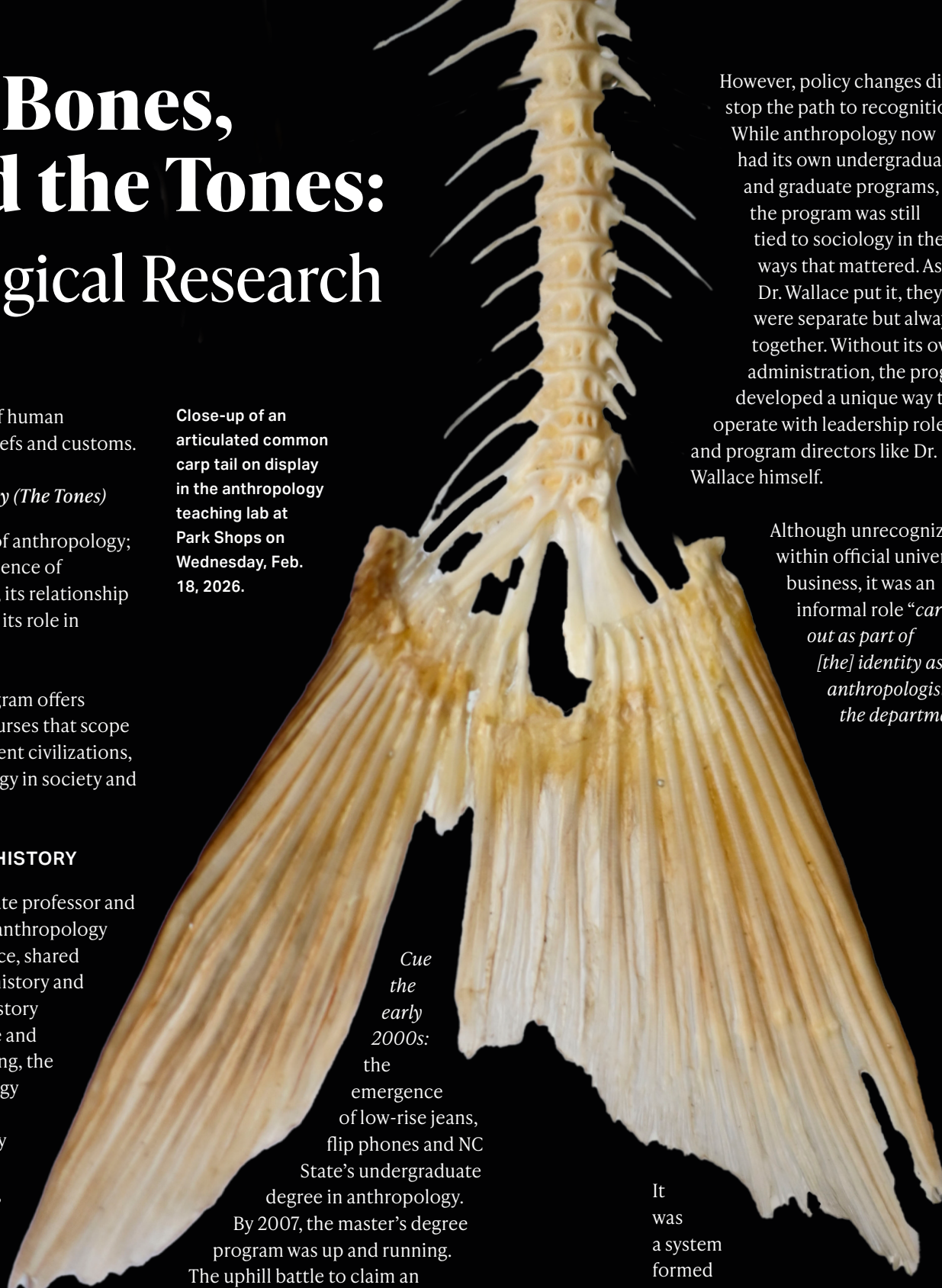
PRESENT WORK AND OPPORTUNITIES

In our conversation with Dr. Wallace, we learned the importance of hands-on learning for not only anthropology students, but for any student searching for their spot in the world. As of right now, there are ample opportunities for students to get involved outside the classroom. Resources like the WolfWebs Speaker Series, the Colloquium Speaker Series, the Graduate Research Symposium and the Department Graduate Research Symposium are amazing tools utilized to learn about ongoing research conducted by professors, associate professors and graduate students. Currently, 14 faculty members have

conducted and published their own research, ranging from social problems experienced by black mothers to immigrant civic engagement in the United States. As Dr. Wallace explained, hands-on applied learning is a cornerstone of education. In the world of anthropology, ethnography and ethnographic fieldwork (the immersion of a researcher into a community’s daily life) is borderline essential for an anthropologist to thrive. But according to him, ethnographic research is not solely reserved for anthropologists. “*I think one of the things that was important to me was to teach students that participated that you didn’t have to be an anthropologist to use these skills. They could be used in many research settings, because trying to understand people is a special skill of and in itself.*”

The goal of ethnographic methods is the communication and understanding of another community, an important skill to learn for any and all students. During his time as director of the anthropology program, the Ethnographic Field School at NC State was alive and prosperous, led and directed by Dr. Wallace himself for 25 years up until his retirement in 2019. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic took many parts of life with it, including the field school, despite Dr. Wallace’s best attempts to find a successor. “*You know, I retired in 2019, the pandemic was in 2020, so the plans I had for finding somebody to continue essentially died with the pandemic.*”

Although the Ethnographic Field School is not currently running, his legacy at NC State lives on through the Tim Wallace Research Endowment Scholarship for all aspiring anthropologists, funding undergraduate students who strive to conduct research in the Latin Americas and the Caribbean. Additionally, NC State is not short of opportunities for anthropologists and other curious souls to get their hands on some serious learning, as study abroad opportunities





(LEFT) An articulated rhesus monkey skeleton on display in the anthropology teaching lab at Park Shops on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026.



(ABOVE) An articulated pig skeleton on display in the anthropology teaching lab at Park Shops on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026. The anthropology teaching lab houses remains and articulated animal skeletons for study.



(LEFT) An articulated common carp on display in the anthropology teaching lab at Park Shops on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026.

are ripe with archaeologists, physical anthropologists and even a cultural anthropologist. One of the present opportunities offered by NC State's study abroad program is the summer Archeological Field School in Cyprus led by anthropology professor Dr. Kathryn Grossman and history professor Dr. Tate Paulette. Dr. Grossman and Dr. Paulette's program harkens back to Dr. Wallace's Ethnographic Field School days and serves as a testament to the continued thriving spirit of anthropology.

WHAT THE FUTURE COULD HOLD

Going forward, one of Dr. Wallace's hopes for the anthropology department is that it continues to recognize the importance of hands-on education for undergraduate students and proceed to implement archeological and ethnographic field programs that offer real-world experiences pre-graduation. The goal, after all, is to prepare students for the real world with all the tools necessary to fly. "We always offered an ethnographic field methods course, a research methods class in cultural anthropology, and that was always a central component," said Dr. Wallace. "I thought that the field component, whether it be getting ethnographic data or doing an internship, was essential. I just thought that we needed to teach students how to get jobs, and explain to them what kind of jobs were out there." The importance of acknowledging a "complete four-field approach" to anthropological disciplines, with

linguistic anthropology no longer being left in the dust and underappreciated, is one more way that the anthropology program continues to grow. With these programs and methods of study being fully recognized for the benefits that can be offered, not only to the department as a whole, but to students of all majors and disciplines, and to the community of Raleigh.

One such example is the Friends of Oberlin Cemetery project, which serves to preserve original African American homes, restore historical headstones and preserve the history and culture of Oberlin Village. Without these kinds of experiences, anthropology students don't have the opportunity to interact with the faces behind their research or recognize the why behind the what. A main principle of anthropology is a "people first" mentality through face-to-face interaction and facilitating communication and understanding. "A lot of our work is participatory, in the sense that we want the people we work with to participate in the research that we do," said Dr. Wallace. "You just don't take data from people, you interact with them, you have to explain why you're doing it and how – What's the benefits to them? And so forth."

Moving forward, anthropology will continue to be recognized as just that, a study made for the people by the people.

Special thanks to Dr. Emily Dew and the department of anthropology.



WATAUGA HALL:

NC STATE'S OLDEST RESIDENCE HALL

BY LAYNEY KEESEE
DESIGN BY AVA STEELE



A regal construction of the characteristic NC State red bricks stands proudly against a backdrop of aesthetically similar brethren. Amidst the scenic Mary Yarbrough court, the historic Holladay Hall and the iconic belltower, Watauga Hall represents over a century of collegiate camaraderie. But it hasn't always been an idyllic slice of paradise. In fact, it took many years, a few renovations and several social reforms to establish the miniature pastoral haven now gracing our campus.

BEGINNINGS

While Watauga Hall was technically the fifth dormitory constructed, it is the oldest of which still stands, and so is commonly referred to as being the first. The building was named after the founding club of NC State: The Watauga Club. The club consisted of a group of young men pursuing technological advances and pushed for the establishment of a technical school in North Carolina. While their views were progressive, the members did not wish to align themselves with the Progressive Movement of the period, and so they borrowed an indigenous word (which is also the name of a county in the western portion of the state). In this club were several NC State namesakes, including: Dabney, Page, Leazar and Peele, amongst others. The original Watauga Hall construction, consisting of a bottom floor dining hall and dorm rooms above, would burn down with the turn of the twentieth century and have to be rebuilt from the ground up.

This iteration of the dormitory would stay as-is until 1925, in which it was remodeled and redesignated as an upperclassmen-only dorm. The boys of the so-called "Seniors' Paradise" were known for being a particularly rowdy bunch. Practical jokes ranged from dismantling and reassembling a cannon on the roof of the dormitory, bringing live bears from Pullen Park into the building and a rampant rumor of an underground moonshine distillery, though this would never be confirmed nor denied. This rambunctious attitude

would continue even through post-WWII room crowding due to returning soldiers.

NC STATE'S FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

In 1956, NC State would make history with the admission of the first four black students of the university. Among these four was Irwin Holmes (namesake of Holmes Hall), who would be the first black graduate in 1960. During his four years at State, Holmes resided in one of two rooms in Watauga Hall reserved for non-white students. In a 2014 interview for the North Carolina State University Oral Histories project, he would share many experiences he had while earning his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering, including his time in the residence hall. He stated, "...they would cram all of us in those rooms. You roomed with somebody; they handpicked you because they were black and you were black, and they put you in that room."

Though the black population grew steadily throughout those four years, the space they were allowed to occupy would not. Holmes stated, "...we never had more than two rooms, but we had as many as six in those rooms, even though there were only supposed to be two in there." Because the college only allotted two rooms for the entire black population, students were not split up by gender. Holmes reminisces on the year there were two women, who ended up leaving the school after only three semesters: "The only student I ever knew at NC State that made an A in English was this black female...she was obviously a smart lady."

THE WOMEN OF WATAUGA

In 1964, Watauga Hall became the first dormitory on NC State's campus designated specifically for female students. While this would be a huge step forward, the women of Watauga

Hall would face stricter house rules than their male counterparts, including enforced curfews and a required system to check in and out of the building, though NC State was far from the only university in the country to establish these kinds of rules for their female students.

This change would also make Watauga Hall a target for harassment. Women would face difficulties across campus, including a catcalling incident in front of Lee Residence Hall. Reported in the Technician in November of 1964, two female students walked harmlessly across the yard in front of the Lee dormitory, unknowingly setting off a chain of events that would result in vandalism and a swift dropping of the hammer from the university's board. Male students from both Lee and Bragaw would catcall and insult the two girls, according to the Technician article. While exactly what happened next is somewhat hazy, it is reported that "The crowd that resulted quickly decided to march on Watauga, and amid the noise and confusion...the movement snowballed." The movement in question? The archaic practice of a "panty raid." It's pretty much exactly what you think it is.

While there would be no reports of physical harassment from the residents of Watauga, thanks to a small group of resident advisors barring the several hundred men from entering the dormitory, there is plenty of evidence of continued verbal harassment. When the boys found failure at Watauga, they moved onto the St. Mary's boarding school, where they damaged property and continued their yelling. The university, naturally, was more than displeased with the whole affair, and the Technician records their action as being swift and severe. Banks Talley, the namesake of our beloved student union, threatened the use of police force the next time the men of NC State's campus dared to host such a display. •

The Power of the Tongue: NC State's Foreign Language Research

BY SOPHIA CEDERBURG
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LILY MCCABE

In high school, many of us took several foreign language classes. However, once in college, most leave behind the years of experience they have acquired. For some, it's because they never enjoyed learning languages in the first place, but for many, it's because they don't know how easy and beneficial it is to continue learning a language in college and beyond.

Our foreign language department offers a variety of language majors and minors, from Spanish to French to Russian studies and even foreign language education. Director of undergraduate advising, Alexandra Marano, explains why students should be interested in pursuing a foreign language path. *"We live in an increasingly global world, and learning a second language, or even a third language...signals to employers that you have a cross-cultural mindset."* Getting a major or minor in a foreign language is more than just learning the language; it's immersing yourself in culture and expanding your boundaries. It allows people to work in multicultural environments and engage in more meaningful communication. Even inside the U.S., we live in an incredibly diverse country, and by knowing

another language and respecting different cultures, a multitude of new opportunities can open up.

For anyone interested in continuing to learn or starting a new language, getting a minor through the foreign language department is an easy path to take. Any student, regardless of their major, can add on a language minor. It is as simple as reaching out to the department

but nothing a student can't work out with the incredibly helpful department heads.

Learning a foreign language can be for anyone, from meteorology to computer engineering. I spoke to two NC State students who are currently part of the foreign language department: Talia Hallerman, a third year meteorology major with a Spanish minor, and Israel

Mattocks, a second year double-major in computer science and world language and culture with an asian language concentration. Talia, already proficient in spanish from high school, wanted to continue developing her fluency in the spanish language. A big reason she decided to pursue language was to

build stronger connections. *"I just want to communicate with people,"* says Hallerman. She believes that speaking with someone in their native tongue makes them feel more comfortable and allows for a deeper connection. She urges new language students to take it easy on themselves and *"know you aren't going to get it immediately, language takes time. Learning a second language is worth it."*

Mattocks chose to pursue a foreign language for a different reason.

Despite his passion for engineering and sciences, Mattocks says, "I would feel incomplete if I didn't also do humanities." He believes that learning a language is very important because it takes you back to being an infant. You have to learn everything from the ground up, which gives you a new perspective as you are learning emotions and context again. "You can not learn another language without learning the culture." Both students raved about the faculty, "The faculty has been nothing but super kind with me, so patient. They've really gone above and beyond," says Mattocks. Professors have exceeded expectations in assisting their students, and are welcoming to everyone, no matter their skill level or proficiency. Hallerman and Mattocks hope to see more students join the world languages and cultures department in the future.

Learning a new language is more than just memorizing words and conjugations. The best way to master a language beyond surface level is to immerse yourself in the language through study abroad and getting involved in cultural activities.

Studying abroad in your desired language is undeniably the best way to fully comprehend the language. You are not only surrounded by people constantly speaking that language, but you also become part of the culture.

department that allow students to become more involved with their language path, without the stress of traveling and additional expenses.

Students coming to NC State with previous foreign language experience are already on track to become part of the foreign language program. *"If I could tell students anything about our department, it's that... if you have already studied a language, keep studying a language, it's really easy to do."* Says Professor Marano. There are classes available for all skill levels, and even for those hoping to learn a new language, there's a path to earn a certificate. In the future, the foreign language department hopes to keep growing by building upon its old programs and bringing in new ones.

Foreign languages are for everyone, and in this increasingly diverse world, knowing another language or culture is more important than ever. So don't overlook NC State's foreign language department – there's something for everyone.





The Global Edge of Skema

BY SOPHIA CEDERBURG
PHOTO BY LILY MCCABE

NC State is an increasingly global campus, with countless opportunities for students on main campus to go abroad, as well as housing many international students. There are around 6,000 international students representing 120 countries here at NC State. SKEMA, NC State's French Business school, houses about 500 of these students.

SKEMA Business School is a university with several satellite campuses around Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa; one of these locations being on NC State's campus. *A satellite campus is a physical location at a college that operates under the accreditation and administration, but offers different educational credentials that the parent university cannot provide themselves.* This allows a space where specialized programs can thrive and reach a larger audience of students that it could not reach in its original location. SKEMA shares NC State's Centennial Campus with the engineering and textile colleges. Students can receive a BBA in International Business, a BBA in Management, a Masters in Management, and an MSc in Financial Markets & Investments, International Business, and International Marketing & Business development. These programs can last from one to four years, depending on which path a student chooses.

International students will find many opportunities on campus, should they decide to study at NC State. NC State is located in the Research Triangle Park, a state of the art scientific research hub which is home to several international companies where students can find employment in several different fields. Additionally, international students will find the same opportunities local students do, such as NC State facilities, athletic events, libraries, fitness centers, dining halls and over 600 student clubs. Students experience the perks of living in the city of Raleigh, with many local events and various locations for food, shopping and activities, while simultaneously living the college dream.

SKEMA is a world renowned business school, receiving accolades from Forbes, The Economist and the Financial Times. SKEMA's programs not only provide students with a degree, it equips them with real world experience and career ready skills, prepping them for the workforce. Inside SKEMA's programs, students are able to find even more opportunities to grow. *If you're interested in forging a new path with the assistance of SKEMA, check out their website and see what options fit your future best.*



Multiple exposure photo of a neon sign reading "Skema" and wine bottles at Red Line Bar on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026. Skema is a French business school with satellite campuses in the United States, Brazil, Spain, South Africa and China.

Stages without Borders

Heritage Meets Classroom

Appreciation in Action

NC State continuously opens the door for students to show their leadership skills through the formulation of the organizations they believe matter. Through planning and goal setting, students facilitate appreciation, one organization at a time.

32 FROM FIRES TO FRONT PAGE: THE RISE OF THE
NUBIAN MESSAGE

36 KHAYRALLAH LEBANESE CULTURAL CENTER

38 COME FLY WITH THE CRANE COLLECTIVE

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FROM FIRES TO FRONT PAGE: THE RISE OF THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

BY ALANNAH ANDERSON AND CHASE ALSTON
DESIGN BY LILY DRIVER
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

A FIERY HISTORY

The Nubian Message had a fiery start, but at Roundabout Magazine, we think their flames are burning brighter than ever. Technician, NC State's first campus newspaper, was founded in 1920, with The Nubian Message not coming into publication until 1992, 72 years later. In March 1992, demands across UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State for an independent, free-standing Black cultural center were coming to light, made in particular by members of the Black Awareness Council (BAC) at UNC-Chapel Hill. Students from NC State set aside biases against their football rivals and stood with UNC-Chapel Hill, taking part in protests and demonstrations, particularly impassioned by a rally hosted by the BAC. The Black student body at NC State took a stand and criticized the university for the management of the African American Cultural Center during the Student Government forum of September 1992.

"Narrow-minded racist Ku Klux Blacks," Steve Crisp wrote in the Sept. 23, 1992 Technician edition — a comment describing the

members of the BAC during their rally. Another student, Jeff Rom, referred to these participants as "terrorists" in the same edition. As disparaging as these remarks were, they gave The Nubian Message the fire needed to begin their journey.

After that edition of the Technician was published, more than 200 students

“NUBIAN HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MORE PEOPLE THAT GO THROUGH SIMILAR EXPERIENCES TO ME”

gathered in the Brickyard and set fire to the pages. There would no longer be a shortage of Black perspectives, with their predominant goal aiming towards inclusion and equality. With Tony Williamson as the founder and first editor-in-chief of The Nubian Message, the first issue was published on November 30, 1992. "The Nubian Message should and will be the media voice for African-Americans at NC State," Williamson wrote in the first publication. By 1994, The Nubian Message gained official recognition by NC State Student Media.

NO MORE SILENCE

What did it mean when The Nubian Message began to publish articles made by Black students, share insight into Black culture or simply give voice to the students that were silenced for too long?

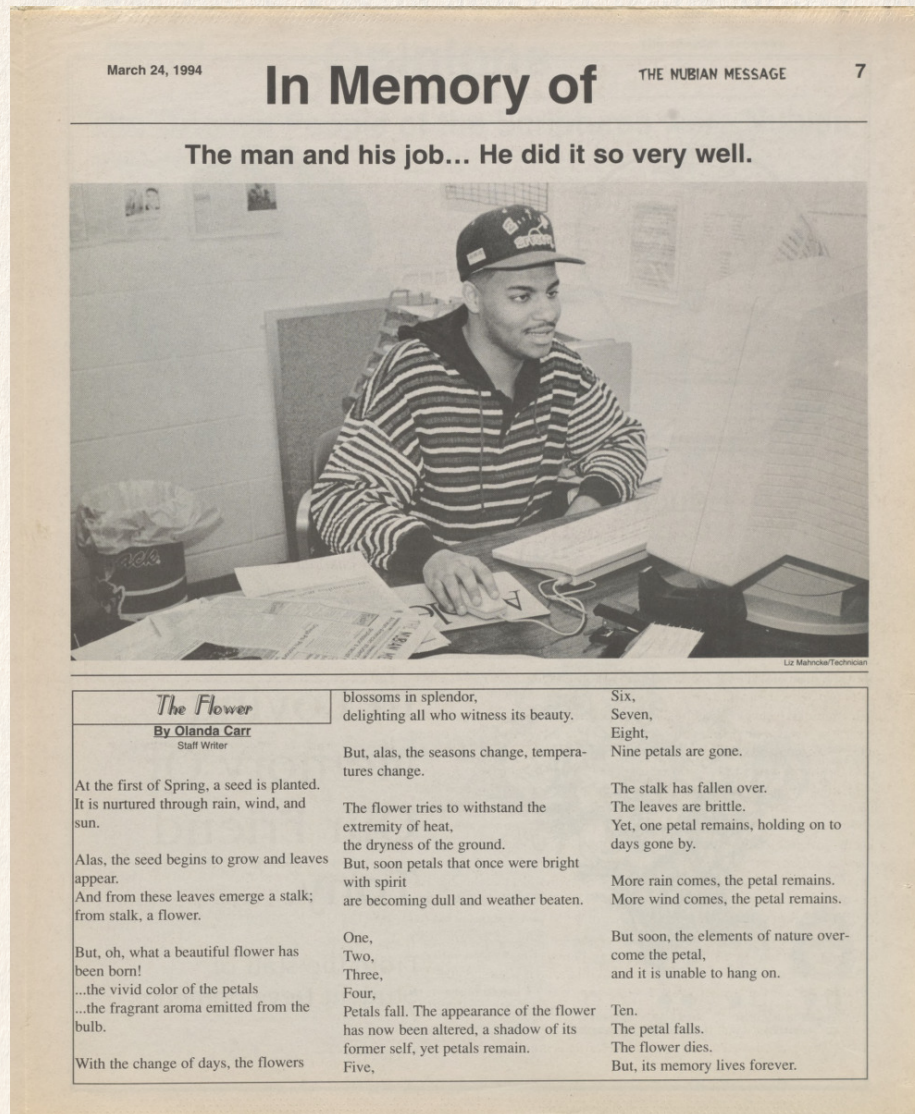
It meant there was space for support.

The Nubian Message made space on campus where Black students could unite and share their experiences, feeling safe and supported. The Nubian Message not only shed light on Black culture, but celebrated it. As a result,

conversations were made and as we know, conversations lead to change.

One change that The Nubian Message made was the expansion of the demographics covered in editions. Today, The Nubian Message voices all minorities and marginalized groups at NC State.

Now, current managing editor Ross Emelle, a fourth year student studying English with a concentration in rhetoric and professional writing, continues to serve the initial mission that Tony Williamson once did.



A memorial page for The Nubian Message's founding editor Tony Williamson in the March 24, 1994 issue. Williamson died unexpectedly during his senior year.

"I always knew I was going to go to NC State, but it did feel sometimes a bit isolating being often the only Black student in my class, and Nubian has given me the opportunity to meet more people that go through similar experiences to me," Emelle said.

Emelle is referring to experiences that aren't frequently talked about. With divisive political decisions at an all time high, it's important to stay in the loop and keep others in too. "Like last year with the shutdown of Black Male Initiative, there are so many things where we have to, where it's not always widely known, it's not widely circulated

information, and so making sure that people are informed and making sure that they understand," Emelle said.

Although at times it must feel like a hamster running on a wheel, The Nubian Message keeps up. From coverage of Latinx Heritage to Pan-Afrikan Week to numerous art pieces made by Black artists, The Nubian Message is here and they're here to stay, to paraphrase Williamson.

MAKING WAVES AT A PWI

To say that NC State is a predominantly white institution is one thing, but to understand what that means is

another. PWIs have greater risks of the voices of marginalized groups slipping through the cracks. While this risk isn't guaranteed to occur, it's important to take preventative measures.

"I think it's all about perseverance," Emelle said.

Feature editor Kristopher Porter, a fourth year student studying art studies with a concentration in visual arts, understands what media coverage means.

"I just think we have to actively seek out those stories," Porter said. The Nubian Message's transformative change to represent minorities as an entity takes dedication, research and attention to the news that needs to be covered in order to achieve fair representation.

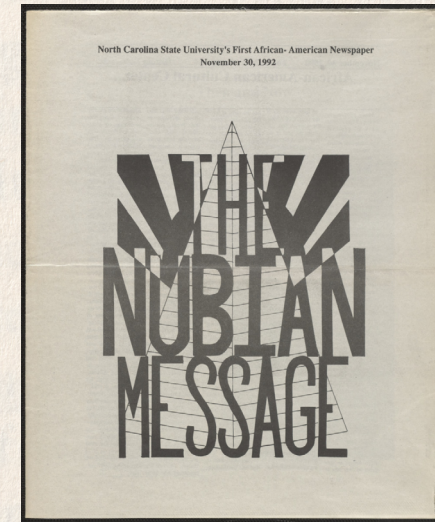
Emelle is especially prideful in this sentiment. "I always felt we just have to cover our community with care," he said. "Really trying to research these stories, really trying to understand what we're going into and really trying to highlight as much as we can. Because that's our job." The intent of The Nubian Message has always remained the same: to represent and shape the experiences of minorities within a PWI campus, but now its intent reaches a greater purpose through a wider audience.

There has been significant criticism from outside sources towards Student Government as budget constraints will restrict The Nubian Message's reach through print products on NC State's campus. Multimedia editor Olivia Henson, a fourth year studying design studies, reflects on the importance of The Nubian Message now that they must cut costs through the reduction of print editions. "It's kind of like our safe haven to share the voices of things that are being stripped away daily," Henson said. With Student Government's recent refusal to increase funding towards Student Media, The Nubian Message now has to contend with the cut of

14 print issues a year to just six, which means the editorial team must pivot to more digital-first methods to ensure stories can still be told. Similar changes will also be taking place at Technician in the 2026-2027 academic year. "I think we just had to really rethink how to evolve from print to digital and how to really get our messaging in people's hands... We just have to continuously re-think how to creatively keep people's jobs, keep the layout and creativity for the writers." Despite adversity, The Nubian Message continues to make waves as its intended purpose.

"We always have, and we will continue to persevere through these things, but one thing I do want people to understand is that it's bigger than print," Emelle said. This is the most important aspect of The Nubian Message according to Emelle, and despite the pivots needed within The Nubian Message, the physicality of The Nubian Message must remain to empower campus voices. "[Print] is what people think of when they think of The Nubian Message. We're a visually oriented paper and not all of that translates perfectly to our online elements," said Emelle. The physicality of Nubian is what draws readers attention into the lives of NC State's minority population and is vital to its success. Despite this, The Nubian Message's main goals moving forward is to increase outreach, grow staff and increase readership as much as possible, according to Emelle.

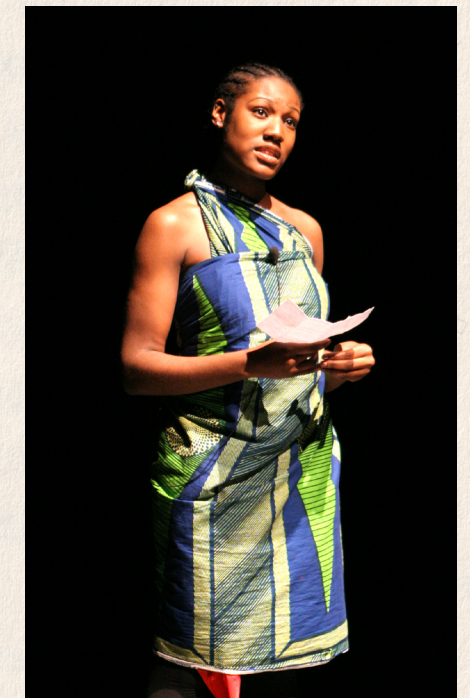
Despite the upcoming change in their methods, The Nubian Message's goal remains the same: to keep POC voices heard – on NC State's campus and beyond.



The very first front page of The Nubian Message from Nov. 30, 1992.



The men of the Kappa Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, were one of four fraternities to step in the 2009 Pan-Afrikan Festive Step Show. Here, Justin Ratliff, a senior in sociology jumps over Justin Gorham, a junior in Computer Science.



Chinyere (Chi Chi) Onuoha provided a heartfelt performance with the poem "Who is Wole Soyinka?" at Africa Night 2008: The Lion and the Jewel on Sunday, March 30, 2008.



Elvin James, a junior in first year college, holds up a "Help Haiti" sign in front of the atrium on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. "We're from the Xi Zeta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma", said James. "We're collecting money for the Haiti relief, we're accepting donations." The fraternity was giving away pizza to anyone who gave a donation.

LEBANON



Booklet that includes many pictures and descriptions of tourism opportunities in Lebanon.

experiences from the immigration of diverse communities to America. Dr. Akram Khater has been a Professor of History at North Carolina State University since 1994 and is the Director of the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies and serves as the Khayrallah Chair in Diaspora Studies. He not only proposed and completed the PBS documentary, but also curated the museum exhibit of the same topic which followed in 2014.

As Dr. Khater explains, the center functions as “both an archival center and a storytelling center,” collecting an abundance of donated materials – from letters and photographs to digital recordings – which come from across the United States, South and Central America and Western Africa.

Since its establishment, the center has been involved in a multitude of research projects that serve to preserve and represent the history and culture of Lebanese individuals. Such research projects are chosen in one of three ways. One way is when donated materials are used as the inspiration behind research projects conducted by the center. This was the case in one of the more recent exhibits, which is the digitalization of “*Dr. Abdou’s Travels*.” In 1907, Dr. Nagib Abdou published a 676 page long directory which acted as a guidebook that immigrants could use to navigate state bureaucracies and commercial transactions throughout countries. This was the first of its kind and included maps, images and texts containing information, not only on specific countries, states and provinces, but also the history and biographies of important individuals.

“It gave such an expansive view of where these people were.” Dr Khater said, and thus a project was launched to make this information accessible. Post digitalization, the center also created a searchable database which displays an

interactive dashboard and easy-to-navigate maps that synthesize the information in an extremely accessible and user-friendly manner.

Other projects are inspired by one of the most important parts of human interaction: communication. The documentary “*Herb Nassour: The People’s Doctor*”, produced by the center in March of 2019, came about from a conversation with the son of Dr. Herbert Nassour, who shared the racial roadblocks his father experienced as a Lebanese-American physician attempting to bring affordable and accessible healthcare to all Texans. Finally, research projects are most often created by the questions that spring from discussion. As were the circumstances of a currently ongoing project which poses the question: *How has immigration historically affected physical and mental health?*

To answer this question, the Khayrallah Center collected the death certificates belonging to Lebanese-Americans who passed between the years of 1900 and 1949 to determine how changes in physical, mental and social circumstances impacted Lebanese immigrant health. Since its founding, the center has not only grown in terms of staffing, sizing and geography but also in the reach and impact these research projects have on the world.

“As we have grown, and done more projects, we have become known, globally, as the center for Lebanese diaspora. There is no center like this.” said Dr. Khater. This outreach not only benefits the center in terms of funding and archival donations, but also expands the possibilities of what the center can offer back to the community.

handwriting you can’t decipher, in a language you don’t know, rendering it completely inaccessible to you. But by uploading a photo to this database and running it through this model, that history and culture becomes unlocked.

“In essence, we open up their own stories to themselves.” Said Dr. Khater.

However, such translation abilities aren’t just beneficial from a personal perspective, but also an academic one. The ability to translate and document textbooks or newspapers previously available only in Arabic or other foreign languages allows easier access to research materials for students in history classes. This opens the field of cultural and historical studies to students and allows for more active engagement. The center also offers opportunities for undergraduate students to get involved in the center and work with the archival data during the academic year or participate in internships throughout the summer. Graduate students are also included in the research projects completed by the center, with two currently involved in data collection for the immigrant mental health project.

In the future, the center hopes to continue to expand their geographical reach to open more offices in other locations, such as Lebanon; an effort to grow their collaborative and chronological reach by learning how to “archive for the future” and capture present-day expressions of culture and history.

Khayrallah Lebanese Cultural Center

BY ANNA PETRIE

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY THE MOISE A. KHAYRALLAH CENTER FOR LEBANESE DIASPORA STUDIES

The origin of the Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies traces back to the early 2010s and a research project that sought to document over 130 years of Lebanese history in North Carolina.

This project was a huge success, going on to produce an hourlong PBS documentary titled “*Cedars in the Pines*,” that featured a collection of oral history and historical documents from three generations of migrations. Displayed on March 18, 2012 at the North Carolina Museum of History, the film highlighted not only the literal, geographic journey that

brought migrants to North Carolina, but also educated viewers on the historical circumstances that led to this movement, foundational practices and traditions of Lebanese culture and examples of discrimination that individuals were met with in North Carolina. The project was funded by Moise A. Khayrallah, a Lebanese immigrant who earned his Ph.D in Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill. Dr. Khayrallah went on to endow the university with the funds needed to establish the center; founded on the intention to highlight not only Lebanese culture and history, but also the beneficial impact the United States



A page from ARAMCO World Magazine Vol. 26 No. 2 “Arabs in America” published March-April 1975.

“You are leaving a place you know. A language you’re comfortable with. Your family – and sometimes friends – and coming to a place that, at best, tolerates you [and] at worst reviles you...So how does that affect you?” Dr. Khater said.

One such give-back is the upcoming release of an Artificial Intelligence model that is capable of digitizing and translating personal documents. Imagine finding a letter from an ancestor or a diary entry from a loved one who’s passed away. It’s written in

Come fly with THE CRANE COLLECTIVE

BY KAYLA STACKHOUSE
DESIGN BY CHLOE SCHMITZ

The CRANE Collective is a student-led organization here at NC State dedicated to uplifting the university's asian community. CRANE stands for Critical Asian Narratives and Engagement, and the CRANE Collective refers to itself as an umbrella organization. As an umbrella organization, the CRANE Collective works with other student-led clubs to coordinate big events, share resources and uplift one another.

You'll see the CRANE Collective work with the Asian Students Association (ASA) and the Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) to coordinate social events, fundraisers and large-scale showcases. You may be familiar with one of their most popular events, the Asian Artists Showcase. Since 2022, the Asian Artists Showcase has continued to highlight Asian artists in North Carolina and the rest of the US. Artists have presented their talent through multiple forms of artistic expression such as painting, crocheting, singing, dancing and poetry.

The theme for the first Asian Artists Showcase in 2022 was "Symbiosis." Symbiosis is the process in which different species relate to each other, and a similar concept can be applied to the CRANE collection's aim towards unity. The same can be said for the first Asian Artists Showcase, as artists, writers, singers, filmmakers and students alike gather to show off their talents, inspire one another and make lifelong connections.



For the second Asian Artists Showcase in 2023, the theme was "Patchworks." We see patchwork on blankets, quilts or jackets, and on most pieces of work, not all squares are the same. Patchwork has a different meaning across all cultures, and in this scenario, we relate patchwork to a group quilt. Group quilts are made by multiple people, sewing together their fabric squares with different colors, patterns, and inspirations to make one beautiful piece of art. Like a group quilt, the Asian Artists Showcase incorporates the skills of artists from different cultures and backgrounds to create one of NC State's most well-known art shows.

In 2024, the theme for the third Asian Artists Showcase was "Fluorescence." *Fluorescence refers to the ability to absorb and reflect light.* The Asian Artists Showcase dedicated this theme to all the artists who shine bright and create art that speaks to them through the darkness.

In 2025, the Asian Artist Showcase hosted its most recent artists' event, "Habitat." *We refer to habitat as the place where plants, animals and other organisms can live and call home.* For the 2025 showcase, we can define habitat as creating a safe space for the Asian artists' community, emphasizing and establishing a time for connection and bonding.

In 2026, this year's theme is "Orbit & Interconnectivity." *Orbit refers to being around, and interconnectivity refers to being connected.* For four years now, the Asian Artists Showcase has built a creative space where artists can surround one another and make friendships. *On March 9, join the CRANE Collective in this community-led event and celebrate the connections that have been made over the years. Network and connect with other artists, display your talents and have a great time.*



