

# Walker to lend Southern voice

BY TANNER SLAYDEN  
STAFF WRITER

Renowned author Alice Walker will speak at 7:30 p.m. today in Hill Hall Auditorium, coinciding with the release of her latest work, "Now is the Time to Open Your Heart."

Walker, the author of six novels, three short stories collections, six poetry books and several children's books, is the Frey Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

But this impressive title seems to underestimate her true influence on the world and the special place she has in the heart of Southern literature.

Walker, whose works have sold more than 10 million copies and have been transcribed into more than two dozen languages, has had an irrefutable impact on the literary. "She is one of the nation's greatest writers, and she is an astounding figure," said history Professor William Ferris, who is also director of UNC's Center for the Study of the American South. "Her voice is for everyone and is a true treasure."

Walker's immense popularity and acceptance has been recognized through her many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award for "The Color Purple," and the

**IF YOU GO**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 14  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Hill Hall Auditorium.  
**Info:** Center for the Study of the American South, 962-5665

numerous copies of her works found in classrooms.

"Teachers in almost every school teach her books and collections, and she has been the premier fiction writer since the 1970s," said Bland Simpson, director of the creative writing program at UNC.

But Walker holds special significance to Southern culture and literature, which makes her visit to UNC fitting.

"Being an important person to be aware of in the South, her works definitely speak from her deep roots, and she helps give this region a sense of place," Ferris said.

Whether she talks about her life or her latest release, students can expect to see a side of this American author that they don't get to see in the classroom.

Ferris gives one word to describe this admirable literary personality: "Thoughtful."

Contact the A&S Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# Grants boost service courses

6 professors awarded \$8K for classes

BY KELLI BORBET  
STAFF WRITER

Six University professors have each received \$8,000 grants to develop a number of new service-learning courses for undergraduate students.

The 2004 Ueltschi Service-Learning Course Development grants were awarded April 5. They are aimed at developing courses by incorporating community service into the normal academic setting.

Professors Gary Bishop, Altha Cravey, Patrick Davison, Deborah Fleming, Laurie Langbauer and Charlotte Peterson were this year's recipients. The grant is organized through the APPLES Service-Learning Program, and the money was provided by two UNC alumni.

"I'm really excited to be receiving the grant," said Cravey, who will

teach a mobile geography course that will research the migration of Latinos into the local community. "The money will be very helpful in allowing more time for me to work on aspects of the course."

Grant recipients received the money for various expenses such as course development, books, materials and stipends.

Leslie Kirk, assistant director of APPLES, said professors had to submit applications with their new courses. Each course was then evaluated by a committee based on the professor's dedication to service-learning, the strength of the proposed course and support from the department.

Professors designed courses that relate to their own fields of interest, but the main focus of each course must involve helping others.

Bishop will teach a computer science course, "Enabling Technology," beginning in the spring of 2005. Bishop said this course allows students to apply computer skills to help disabled people.

"This course will allow students to use their skills to help others," Bishop said. "I like the idea of engaging students and making the world a better place."

A course designed by Peterson also benefits the needs of people in the community and is the first service-learning course in dental hygiene on campus. The course also will be offered in the spring of 2005.

"Community outreach is very important," Peterson said. "We want students to gain the necessary skills to work with development disabled individuals. We also want students to become more involved in community service."

Langbauer's first-year seminar,

an English course titled "Ethics and Children's Literature," concentrates on helping local children. "This course helps students go out and try to make a world like the way they imagined it could be as children."

Each student in her class will be able to help children in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area with reading skills through organizations incorporated in the APPLES program.

Langbauer is very pleased with the grant, and she challenges all students at UNC to take a service-learning course because of the positive influence it has on their lives.

"Service-learning courses are a wonderful opportunity," she said. "Carolina has always been about service, and it is filled with the worlds most wonderful students, who really want to work and help others."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Seniors raise money for faculty

BY ALICE DOLSON  
STAFF WRITER

Senior class officials offered students attending the Senior Class Gift Celebration on Tuesday free ice cream and carabiner key chains to encourage them to donate \$20.04 to the class gift.

Money raised from Faculty FUNd Day, part of senior week, will go to the Class of 2004 Faculty Excellence Fund.

Chancellor James Moeser; Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Senior Class President George Leamon spoke about the importance of the gift.

"It will help us to support, attract and recruit the most out-

standing faculty on the market," Gray-Little said.

The fund will create an endowment to support the development of new courses, groundbreaking research and recruitment and retention of top faculty.

For the first time, both the Office of the Provost and the College of Arts and Sciences have agreed to match funds raised by the senior class. For every dollar the senior class raises, the these offices will contribute two additional dollars. "I want you to dedicate yourselves to making the Provost spend as much money as possible," Gray-Little said.

Although senior class officials are waiting to release the amount

of money raised, Leamon said, they already have surpassed the \$20,000 needed to establish an endowment.

The fund is considered part of the University's Carolina First campaign.

Like last year's gift, the fund is an investment in the future rather than a concrete object. "It will continue to have an impact when your children and your children's children are here," Moeser said.

The idea for the gift came from a suggestion by a senior who came to the senior class table in the Pit, Leamon said. The proposal garnered the approval of 51 percent of seniors who chose among three gift choices.

Gray-Little cited the endowment's importance in the faculty retention crisis. She said high numbers are leaving due to retirement

or better offers from other colleges. One-third of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty are expected to retire in the next decade.

Leamon characterized the endowment as more of a thank you to the faculty and a way to emphasize the important role they play at the University.

Rachel Willis, a professor in the curriculum in American studies, said faculty appreciate the students' concern about faculty retention. "Speaking for all faculty, it's touching that students thought of faculty in times of such economic need."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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