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RFA Newsletter
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Looking into the lives of the world's refugees

Our speaker, Niklaus Steiner, director of the UNC Center for Global Initiatives



Opening at the Friday Center on Sept. 25 is "Refugee," a [multimedia art exhibit](#) exploring the lives of refugees from a host of diverse populations dispersed and displaced throughout the world. Speaking to the Retired Faculty Association luncheon meeting the next day is Dr. Niklaus Steiner, who will call on his research and teaching interests to give us a better understanding of the exhibit and the world's refugee crisis. His talk is titled "Refugee Protection Today: Conflict and Potential." Steiner, a native of Switzerland, is the director of the UNC Center for Global Initiatives. He says he has been moving between cultures his whole life, so he is deeply committed to providing global opportunities to all Carolina students. The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the

Redbud Room of the Friday Center.

To make a lunch reservation, please e-mail Virginia Taylor at vrt@email.unc.edu. Lunch is \$17 per person and payable at the luncheon by cash or a check made out to the RFA. Please make your lunch reservation by Thursday, Sept. 21. Also joining us at the meeting will be Dr. Scott Phillips, director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants N.C. Field Office, to discuss ways members of the retired faculty can offer assistance to refugees and immigrants.

A note on parking: Permits are now required at the Friday Center. Electronic permits will be sent out to those who sign up for the meeting, and cars with handicapped permits don't need a Friday Center permit. Other visitors should park at the curb and get a pass from the front desk before parking in the lot.

It's time to renew your membership

Unless you are a lifetime member, you need to renew your membership in the Retired Faculty Association. Please plan to renew by the time of the Sept. 26 meeting. Go to [this link](#) to get the application. For questions about your membership status, please contact RFA Treasurer Jim Allen at jeallen@unc.edu.

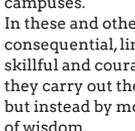
Speaking out on Silent Sam: Let us know your views

Since the Charlottesville events, many have debated what to do about Silent Sam at UNC.

At Friday's Faculty Council meeting, a resolution was adopted that proposes to "remove" Sam. If so, to where? If contextualized, how? Although the resolution to "remove" Sam may resolve the issue for the Faculty Council, others inside and outside the university may continue to ponder, and some may act.

(Silent Sam in its studio

of John A. Wilson, its sculptor.)



We invite your comments about what to do with Silent Sam. Please [take this one-question survey](#). In addition to yes/no responses, we are eager to hear your thoughts. You need not give your name. If we include your comment in any further discussion, we will ask your permission to do so, so please give email and telephone number if you give your name.

At a panel discussion of Silent Sam at the Chapel Hill Public Library, Professor Emeritus of Art History Jaraslov Folda made comments from the floor that cogently illuminate the history and meaning of the statue; these comments are printed at the [bottom of this newsletter](#), along with comments from RFA board member Donna Falvo, who offers a suggestion if Sam is to be moved to another place.

From the President

Dunkirk, the RAF and the RFA

The film "Dunkirk" depicts the rescue of nearly 400,000 trapped British and other Allied soldiers from France early in World War II. Citizen volunteers, most older than the troops on the beach, were critical to the mission. They manned small boats, mainly to ferry the troops to larger ships waiting offshore. Spitfires of the RAF were their heroic protectors.

How does Dunkirk relate to the mission of RFA? Not so dramatically as a rescue of trapped troops, certainly. But consider: Our university and other universities, as well as public education generally, do need rescue. The news focuses on such obvious challenges as cuts in the Law School budget by the legislature and threats to federal funding, whether in the humanities or sciences. A deeper problem is the erosion of faculty. Tenured and tenure-track professors are replaced with fixed-term faculty. UNC follows a national pattern in this regard; among the 17 campuses including Chapel Hill, fixed-term appointees reportedly represent nearly half of the faculty. As fixed-term, faculty members are on short-term contracts with few or no benefits and low pay, and, hence, diminished power. We retired faculty should pay attention because most of us worked when earning tenure was much more prevalent. RFA has joined efforts of the Faculty Council to improve this situation.

RFA has also supported the academic freedom of faculty in teaching and has set forth a resolution opposing guns on campus. Outside intervention to control what is taught and to set rules on how campuses are run saps the strengths that appropriately belong to the university community on all campuses.

In these and other ways, RFA resembles RAF: small-sized but sequential, limited in fuel and firepower but hopefully skillful and courageous in protecting the citizens and troops as they carry out their mission, in our case not by guns or money but instead by mobilizing experience and our remaining shreds of wisdom.

Extending the example, note the multitude of citizens and small boats (e.g. the Cajun navy) who went to the rescue in Houston. Rescue in emergency may not be the mission of RFA, but service is.

One RFA service is to speak out as wise elders. An example is Jonathan Koch's resolution to ban guns from campus. With support from RFA, this resolution was adopted by the Faculty Council and submitted to the administration and the legislature, where it at least added a voice whose volume is perhaps amplified by the recent events in Charlottesville.

In speaking out, we should be wary of blaming instead of analyzing. Indonesians tell a joke: "Four cars crash; whose fault is it? Answer: The Dutch." The Dutch were colonial authorities in Indonesia from 1596 to 1942; it then became an independent nation through negotiations led by UNC's Frank Porter Graham representing the United Nations.

In 1970, I lived and worked with Muhammadiyah, an Indonesian Muslim organization now reporting 30 million members. After participating in a training camp for branch leaders, I was asked to speak to branches and critique the organization. I did so, citing that joke with "Dutch" replaced by "Christians," whom Muhammadiyahans were scapegoating. Hopefully, as wise elders, we can analyze and speak out thoughtfully, and RFA does welcome proposals such as Jonathan's on gun control that we can nourish appropriately.

To help us make active contributions, Patricia Pukkila will lead a brainstorming session at our November meeting about projects we might undertake. We should all look forward to it.

—Jim Peacock

On academic freedom: A statement and a positive response

In May, the RFA executive committee, after discussing recent concerns about academic freedom on the UNC campus, approved a statement endorsing the freedom that faculty have to choose what they teach and how they teach it.

The memo was sent to Kevin Guskiewicz, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In response, Guskiewicz met with the executive committee in August for an informal discussion about academic freedom and other issues. Members of the board, as well as the dean, found the talks fruitful, and Dean Guskiewicz expressed an interest in a continuing dialogue and offered to meet with the whole association in the near future. Below is the statement sent to Guskiewicz. It was written by Sam Magill and Andy Dobelstein and endorsed by the Executive Committee.

We are committed to the proposition that the faculty have the primary responsibility for the curriculum, originating at the departmental level and progressing through the appropriate faculty review boards of the school or college.

This principle has been long affirmed by the academic community. In 1966 a "Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities" was adopted by the American Council on Education, The American Association of University Professors and the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities. The statement read in part, *"The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction. ... On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances and for reasons communicated to the faculty. It is desirable that the faculty should, following such communication, have opportunity for further consideration and further transmittal of the president or board."* (The entire statement is on the [AAUP website](#).)

News for members

Answering questions on the state health plan

With the October enrollment period looming, the RFA is hosting a seminar to provide state employee retirees with up-to-date information about our health care insurance options.

The seminar will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, in the Windflower Room at the Friday Center.

Presenters include Jeanne Chamberlin, SHIIP coordinator for Orange County for the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), and David Rubin, a member of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina State Health Plan and a professor emeritus of the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

To make sure we have enough seating available, please RSVP to Virginia Taylor at vrt@email.unc.edu and put health insurance seminar in the subject line.

Invite an international scholar to dinner

The ARLIS program (Academic Retirees as Liaisons to International Scholars) is offering an opportunity for retired faculty to connect with international scholars through hosting dinners in their homes. This idea came about after hearing that many of our international scholars have never been in an American home. This would be a one-time commitment, in early November. You can pick the evening and the number of scholars you would like to invite. Retired faculty may also pair up to host these dinners. Interested? Please email Virginia Taylor at vrt@email.unc.edu and put ARLIS dinner in the subject line.

One Card needed to use the Faculty Lounge

Don't forget your One Card if you plan to visit the Anne Queen Commons in the Campus Y building. You'll need it to get in. Recent complaints about noise and crowding in the Campus Y lobby have led the Office of Faculty Governance to install the card readers.

The inside doors from the Campus Y lobby to the Faculty Commons will remain closed during normal business hours, except during events. Only faculty and staff One Cards will unlock the doors (both inside and outside) on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you can't get into the room with your One Card, please contact the Office of Faculty Governance at (919) 962-7609 or lisa@unc.edu

Research participants needed for walking study

The Neuromuscular Research Laboratory at UNC-Chapel Hill is looking for men between 65 and 74 for a study examining how the quality of your muscles affects how the muscles change size when they contract and how this may influence how fast you walk.

Participants will receive \$60 on completion of the study, which requires two visits to the laboratory, and get free health and fitness results. For more information and to see if you qualify for the study, go to [this link](#). The document is on the RFA website under volunteer opportunities.

Opera 'Cold Mountain' at Memorial Hall

The opera "Cold Mountain" will be performed in Memorial Hall on campus at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28 and 2 p.m. Sept. 30. This will be a premiere for North Carolina Opera, which has created the production in partnership with Santa Fe and Philadelphia opera companies. The opera is composed by Jennifer Higdon and is based on the novel by North Carolinian Charles Frazier. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [this link](#).

Comments on Silent Sam:

From Jaraslov Folda

1. Although people are currently talking about taking down Confederate monuments, it is important to realize that not all these monuments are the same, and each one needs to be considered in regard to several factors, e.g. for what it commemorates, for the context in which it was placed, and for its inherent quality.

Our monument known as "Silent Sam" is a veterans monument. It is not honoring some prominent politician, some famous general, or some particular battle. It was commissioned by the UNC Alumni and the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor the students and alumni of UNC who answered the call of duty. It has particular importance for our University because UNC is unique among institutions of higher learning at the time in terms of commitment and participation: At least 40 percent of the student body chose to serve, a percentage higher than at any other school.

2. The bronze statue of "Silent Sam" is an admirable work of art of excellent quality. Although no one seems to pay any attention to the artistic merit of the statue or its artist, the fact is the UDC chose a very distinguished artist to create this brave statue. The sculptor, John A. Wilson, was a Canadian from Nova Scotia who had studied at the Museum School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. At the time he was chosen to do the statue of "Sam," he had done a series of outstanding monuments at various places. ... Then he did "Sam" at UNC. For his model he used a Boston man named Harold Langlois. And the result is this noble vision of a common soldier, an innocent, handsome idealized youth who carries a rifle, but as yet does not have any ammunition, ready to answer the call and, if necessary, to give his life for his state. He represents the best our University had to offer at that time, for which Wilson has given us an eloquent sculptural realization. ...

3. Much is made of the dedication ceremony for "Sam" in 1913, and the terrible racist and white-supremacist comments spoken by Julian Carr in his long bombastic speech on June 2. It is truly unfortunate that he besmirched the ceremony with such views, views which shockingly are still being voiced today and which seem to be at the root of this current controversy after what happened recently in Charlottesville. Much is also made of the fact that the statue of "Sam" was not put up until 1913, nearly 50 years after the Civil War ended.

The fact is however, that "Sam" was put up just at the time that the United States was finally starting to come together as a unified country – the Union—after years of bitter hatred between Southerners and Northerners following the end of the Civil War. As evidence for this we have the fact that for the first time since the end of the Civil War, soldiers from the South and from then came together and fought, shoulder to shoulder, in the Spanish-American war of 1898, under the American flag. Then, in an important speech in 1898, President McKinley reached out to southerners to join him in supporting the Peace Treaty of Paris; he also specifically promoted racial harmony and he promised federal support for the graves and cemeteries of southern soldiers. Symbolic of this policy, a major confederate burial section was approved in 1900 at Arlington National Cemetery, where eventually 325 identifiable confederate soldiers were buried with white headstones. Congress then approved a suitable monument for this section. Following this the United Daughters of the Confederacy, joined by the Arlington Confederate Memorial Association, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans came together to conceive (1906) and commission (1910) the monument, and to do the fundraising between 1907 and 1911. The foundation was laid in 1912, and President Woodrow Wilson spoke at the dedication of this monument on June 4, 1914. In sum, what was going on in Arlington with the leadership of the UDC and the ACMA, together with federal support and approval, was also going on elsewhere under UDC auspices. This included Chapel Hill at UNC where "Sam" was commissioned and dedicated in those same years. UNC had of course already built Memorial Hall in the 1880s to honor their war dead; but in 1913 UNC had this special opportunity to erect "Sam" as southerners achieved new recognition in the Union; "Sam," who symbolized the valor and service of the UNC students who answered the call.

From Donna Falvo:

Given the strong feelings on both sides, it seems to me a compromise on Silent Sam might be to move the statue to Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, which is an integral part of campus, visible, and not only a cemetery, but a historic site where many distinguished persons are buried and which also served as a burial site for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. A plaque explaining the history and significance of the Silent Sam could accompany the statue. And it could be a highlight of the guided tours of the cemetery (which I assume are still available; I took one of the tours years ago and found it to be quite informative.)