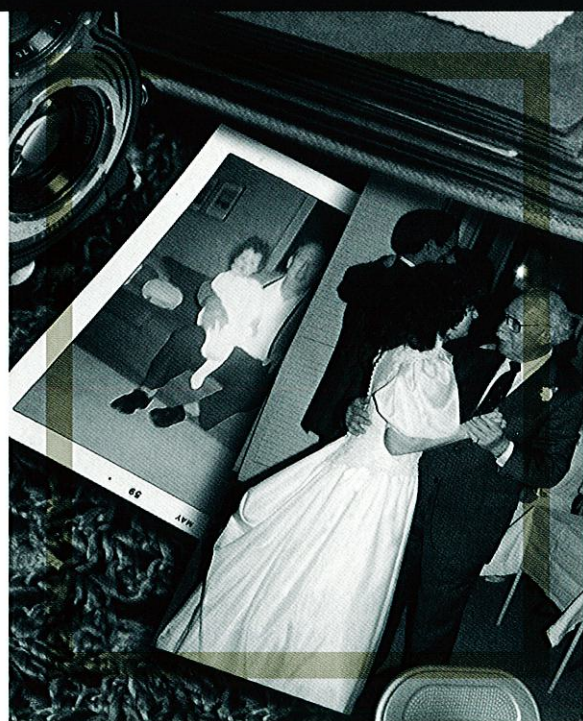
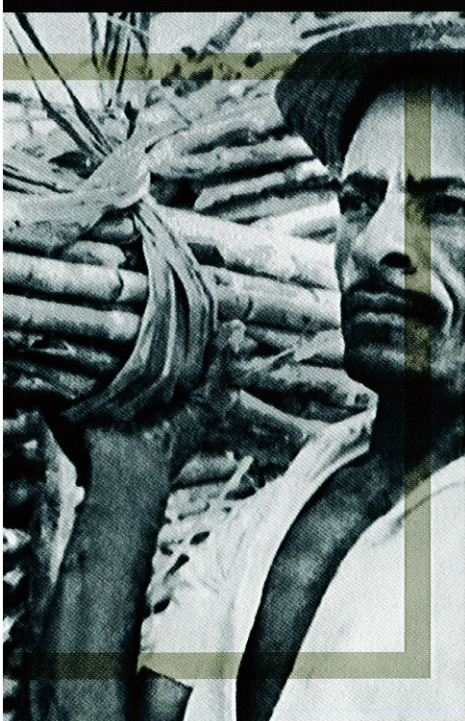


EXCHANGE

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS & SCIENCES

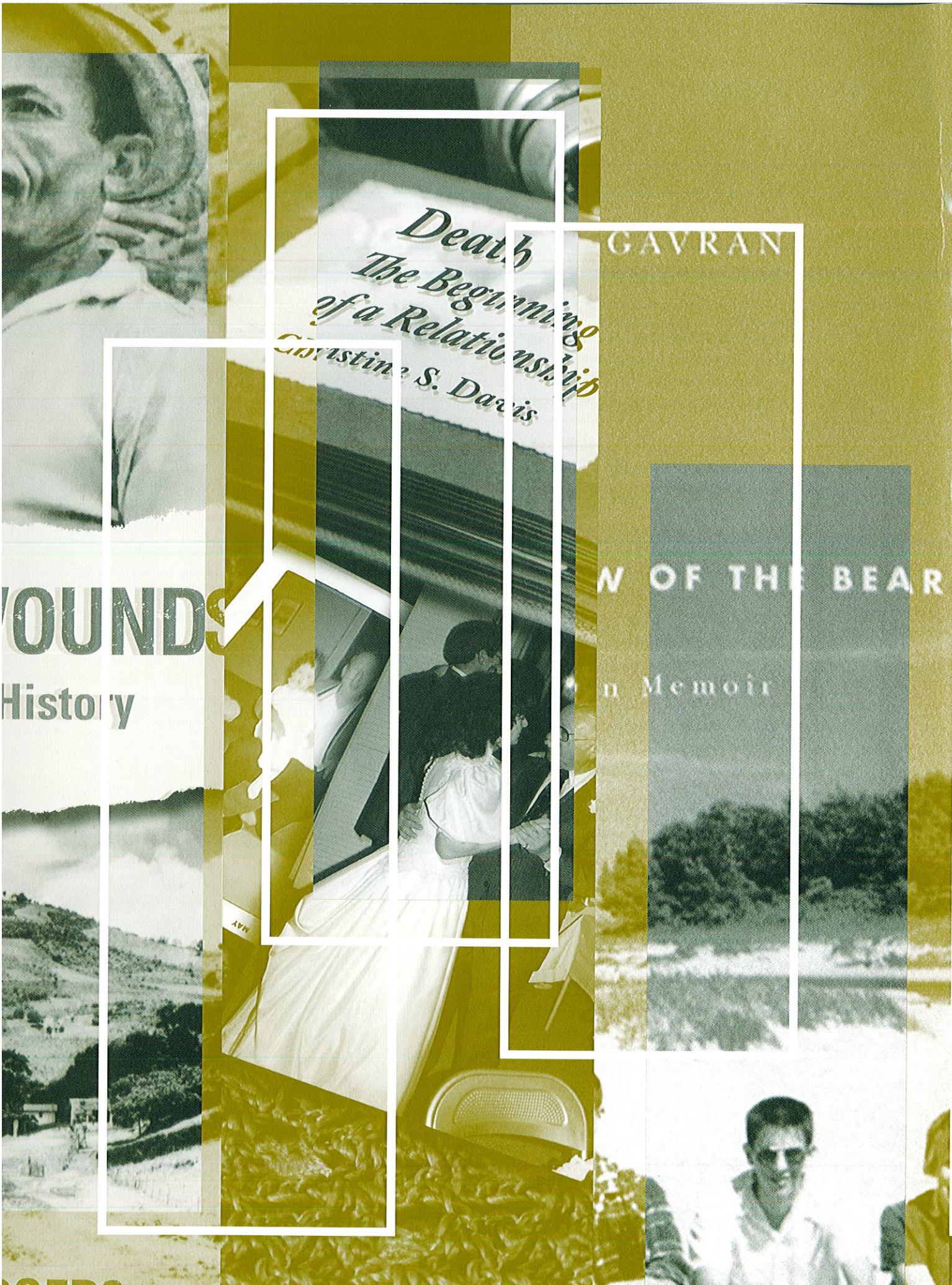


10 Telling Stories

New Books from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

INSIDE: Honoring a Public Servant 36 in 6 Charlotte's Green Mystery On the Half Shell
MGST Program Reaches Out Strong Partnerships Desperation and Hope Alumni 2.0





TELLING STORIES

NEW BOOKS FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

WORDS:
ALLISON REID

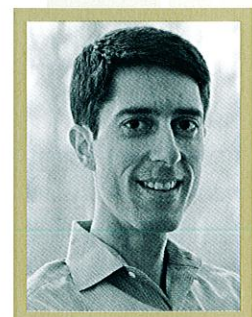
The inclination to tell a story, to record our history and to somehow illuminate our lives through sharing, is as ancient as civilization itself. In that great tradition, the faculty of UNC Charlotte's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences publish dozens of books annually, on subjects ranging from poetry to Pinochet. For this issue of *Exchange*, we are highlighting three books that stand out from the list, each telling its own important story. Celebrating the commonality of narrative, be it personal or global, these three very different books share the same goal: to make sense of the world around us.

The Deepest Wounds

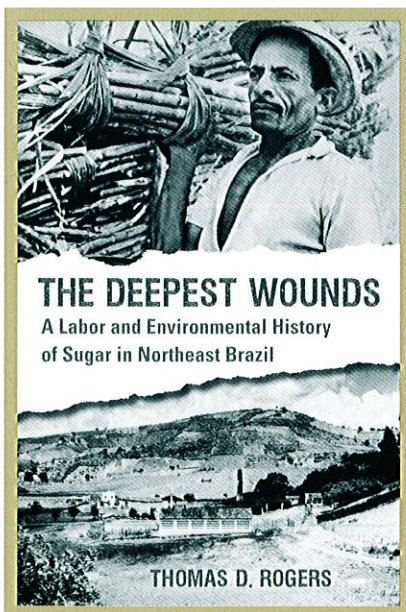
Africana studies assistant professor Tom Rogers grew up in West Virginia, in the heart of Appalachia, where he observed two phenomena, in particular, that have stayed with him in the years since. First, he discovered the deep connection between the population and the land and how society is both molded by and molds its landscape. Second, he experienced the long-term patterns of mistreatment by the logging and coal mining industries on both the environment and the labor force.

"A childhood in Appalachia helped foster a fascination with society's relationship to its surroundings and perhaps led to an intuitive understanding of the paired exploitation of labor and the environment," he writes in his new book, "The Deepest Wounds: A Labor and Environmental History of Sugar in Northeast Brazil (UNC Press, 2010)."

These seminal childhood influences, as subliminal as they may have been, affected the course of Rogers' life and career, which began with a job at a non-profit environmental organization. Rogers then went on to graduate studies in labor history and Africana studies



TOM ROGERS



and now specializes in 20th century Brazilian history. He became interested in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil's key northeastern sugar-growing state, no doubt because he discovered its unique history tied very much to the land and the labor movement there, and the exploitation of both.

In "The Deepest Wounds," Rogers traces the social and environmental changes over four centuries in Pernambuco, with a focus on the period from the end of slavery in 1888 to the late 20th century. His book examines the business of making sugarcane grow, and its deleterious effect on the environment and its farmers. He combines a study of workers with analysis of their landscape and describes the impact the legacy of the area's sugarcane industry has had on Brazil even today.

"This work and these lives, tied to the cultivation of sugarcane, shaped the landscape and drove history," Rogers writes. "This book tells their story, acknowledging how closely that story intertwines with the history of the fields themselves."

The story Rogers is telling — one of another country and another people at another time — is also his story. In many ways, he might say it is just another tale like that he heard in the mountains of West Virginia, retold.

In the Shadow of the Bear

Jim McGavran, an English professor who specializes in Wordsworth and the Romantics, made a career out of studying and teaching the tales that others have told. He teaches students how to read and interpret the classics, how to apply the lessons of years past to modern-day struggles. It was not until relatively late in his career that he realized he might have his own story to tell.

Like Rogers, McGavran's story is very much tied to the land. His recently published memoir, "In the Shadow of the Bear: A Michigan Memoir (Michigan State UP, 2010)," largely takes place at Little Glen Lake in northwestern Lower Michigan's Leelanau peninsula, his childhood family vacation spot for over a decade. The area holds a vast store of memories for McGavran, many of which were not unearthed until his return there, with his own family, some 40 years later.

(cont. on p. 14)

CLAS BOOKS ROUNDUP

Books published by faculty in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in 2010

AFRICANA STUDIES

Tanure Ojaide
Matters of the Moment

Thomas D. Rogers
The Deepest Wounds: A Labor and Environmental History of Sugar in Northeast Brazil

BOTANICAL GARDENS

Larry Mellichamp and Paula Gross
Bizarre Botanicals: How to Grow String-of-Hearts, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Panda Ginger, and Other Weird and Wonderful Plants

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY

Joseph B. Kuhns and Johannes Knutsson, eds.
Police Use of Force: A Global Perspective

Vivian B. Lord and Allen D. Cowan
Interviewing in Criminal Justice: Victims, Witnesses, Clients, and Suspects

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Christine S. Davis
Death: The Beginning of a Relationship

Christine S. Davis, Heather Powell Gallardo, and Kenneth A. Lachlan
Straight Talk about Communication Research Methods

Shawn D. Long
Communication, Relationships and Practices in Virtual Work

ENGLISH

Nino Amiridze, Boyd H. Davis, and Margaret Maclagan, eds.
Fillers, Pauses and Placeholders

Peter Blair
Farang

Michelle Comstock, Mary Ann Cain, and Lil Brannon
Composing Public Space: Teaching Writing in the Face of Private Interests

Kathy Merlock Jackson and Mark I. West, eds.
Disneyland and Culture: Essays on the Parks and Their Influence

Jim McGavran
In the Shadow of the Bear: A Michigan Memoir

Malin Pereira
Into a Light Both Brilliant and Unseen: Conversations with Contemporary Black Poets

Lara Vetter
Modernist Writings and Religio-scientific Discourse: H.D., Loy, and Toomer

GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES

William Graves and Heather A. Smith, eds.
Charlotte, NC: The Global Evolution of a New South City

HISTORY

Jerry Dávila
Hotel Trópico: Brazil and the Challenge of African Decolonization, 1950-1980

Mark Elliott and John David Smith, eds.
Undaunted Radical: The Selected Writings and Speeches of Albion W. Tourgée

Christine Haynes
Lost Illusions: The Politics of Publishing in Nineteenth-Century France

LANGUAGES AND CULTURE STUDIES

Carmen Carney and Carlos Coria-Sánchez
Entre Socios: Español para el mundo profesional

Carlos M. Coria-Sánchez
Ángeles Mastretta y el feminismo en México

Michael Scott Doyle, T. Bruce Fryer, and Ronald Cere
Éxito comercial: Prácticas administrativas y contextos culturales

Fumie Kato
Improving Student Motivation toward Japanese Learning

PHILOSOPHY

Gordon Hull
Hobbes and the Making of Modern Political Thought

Robin James
The Conjectural Body: Gender, Race, and the Philosophy of Music

PHYSICS

Sohail Anwar, M. Yasin Akhtar Raja, Salahuddin Qazi, and Mohammad Ilyas
Nanotechnology for Telecommunications

Robert K. Tyson
Principles of Adaptive Optics

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Silvia Borzutzky and Gregory B. Weeks, eds.
The Bachelet Government: Conflict and Consensus in Post-Pinochet Chile

Suzanne M. Leland and Kurt Thurmaier
City-County Consolidation: Promises Made, Promises Kept?

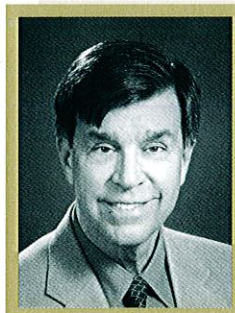
Elizabethann O'Sullivan, Gary R. Russell, and Jocelyn Devance Taliaferro
Practical Research Methods for Nonprofit and Public Administrators

SOCIOLOGY

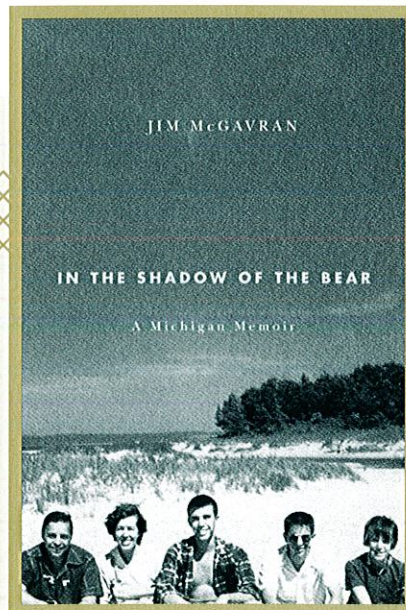
Rosemary L. Hopcroft
Sociology: A Biosocial Introduction

"I was delighted to see that, in many ways, the area was completely unchanged since my youth," McGavran says. "The flood of memories of my childhood and my parents that came back just upon experiencing this place again was so powerful, I knew I would have to write about it. This memoir was a way to recapture that time and place and to try to bring my parents back to life."

McGavran uses the place of his childhood vacations as a way of understanding his mother's powerful but sometimes restless force of love and ambition in the family, as well as his father's quieter, often self-sacrificing love. Chapters devoted to the return to



JIM MCGAVRAN



Leelanau, to each of his parents, and to his father's family, culminate in the narrative of his daughter's 2005 Leelanau wedding.

McGavran tells his story, filtered through his consciousness of longing and loss, lending the writing a particular poignancy.

Recalling a particularly moving scene in the book that represents the overriding sense of longing throughout, McGavran describes a memory, "or perhaps just a dream of something I wished had happened at the lake that summer, but either way, I remember it vividly — I'm out in the lake with my dad, and he swims over to me and hugs me."

Death is Where the Story Begins

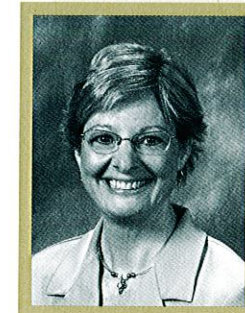
Like McGavran, Christine Davis, associate professor of communication studies, had a story to tell about her parents, who are also both deceased. Unlike McGavran, however, Davis' story was not an effort to try and bring them back to life. It was, in some ways, to honor their death.

Fifteen years ago, Davis' father died of prostate cancer. She says that during his illness, particularly in the final weeks and months, she longed for a book that would help her understand what she was going through. She vowed she would write one someday. One way to cope with the day-to-day stress and sorrow associated with caregiving, she discovered, was to write in a journal.

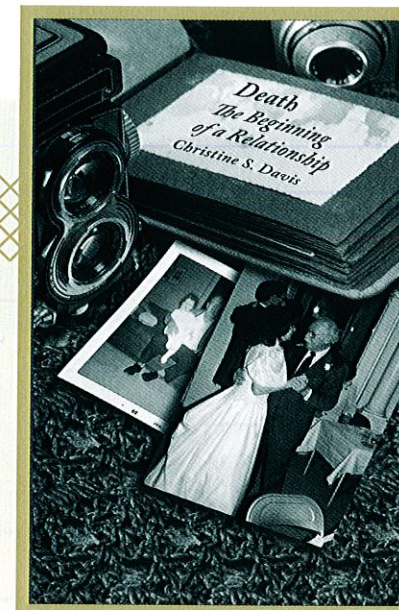
Davis was so profoundly affected by her father's death that she left her career and pursued her PhD in communications, with a focus on the communication of aging. As part of her studies, she received a grant to study hospice care workers and how they communicate with patients and each other.

Her new book, "Death: The Beginning of a Relationship (Hampton Press, 2010)," intertwines her personal story of her father's death, taken largely from the journal entries she wrote at the time, and the story of her ethnography of the hospice organization she shadowed in graduate school at the University of South Florida.

Written in narrative form, her book reads like fiction, as she crosses between the two stories of her dealing with her father's death and the fictionalized characters from



CHRISTINE DAVIS



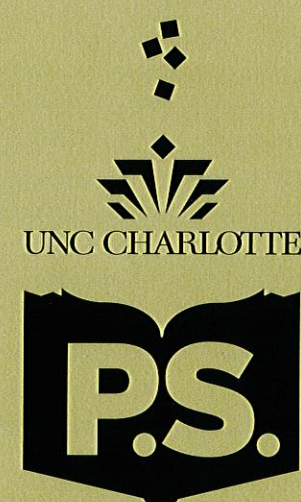
her hospice research. She says she hopes the book will help people, like her, who need a guide through end-of-life care and communications. She also hopes it will serve to support Hospice care staff and the important work they do.

"In our culture, when we see a person as being less than fully healthy, we also see them — and treat them — as being less than fully human," Davis writes.

"Hospice helps facilitate the process of treating patients as persons, through the way they think about, interact with and communicate with their patients. My goal in the book is to describe the places where hospice staff, patients and families interconnect beyond their practitioner-patient roles."

Personally Speaking

John Steinbeck once said, "We spend all of our life trying to be less lonesome. One of our ancient methods is to tell a story, begging the listener to say — and to feel — 'Yes, that is the way it is, or at least that is the way I feel it.'" The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recognizes that need we have to share our stories, and to help faculty share theirs with an even broader audience the College developed, in partnership with the UNC Charlotte J. Murrey Atkins Library, a new speaker series called "Personally Speaking." Four times a year, faculty authors will be celebrated with a presentation or reading from their book and a reception and book signing. &



Personally Speaking 2010-2011:

1 Sept. 7, 2010 Assistant professor of history Christine Haynes discussed the history of book publishing in France in her new book, "Lost Illusions."

2 Nov. 2, 2010 UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens director Larry Mellichamp and assistant director Paula Gross presented some of the crazy plants you can grow from their new book, "Bizarre Botanicals."

3 Feb. 1, 2011 Associate professor of English Tony Jackson shares his take on how the very act of writing, which we take for granted, determined the nature of the modern novel, in "The Technology of the Novel."

4 March 22, 2011 Associate professor of religious studies Sean McCloud discusses the connection between class and religion in his book, "Divine Hierarchies."

For more information about the Personally Speaking series, go to clas.uncc.edu.