



Celebrate the Blues and Support the University Libraries at UNCG at the Annual Friends Dinner March 28

You are invited to join us for the Friends of the UNCG Libraries annual dinner on March 28, when we will welcome Dr. William R. Ferris (above) and Mr. Logie Meachum (below) in a celebration of blues music to support the University Libraries at UNCG.

A folklorist, William Ferris, and a blues musician, Lorenzo "Logie" Meachum, headline the annual Friends of the UNCG Libraries dinner Wednesday, March 28, in UNCG's Elliott University Center.



The blues celebration kicks off at 6:30 p.m. with a reception, followed by a seated dinner. The program starts at 8:30 p.m.

Ferris teaches at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he specializes in Southern studies, African American music and folklore. His book, "Give My Poor Heart Ease: Voices of the Mississippi Blues" provides the focus for his presentation. Ferris, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, has conducted thousands of interviews with musicians – from blues legends like B.B. King to inmates working in the fields.

Meachum, a member of the Friends' board of directors, is a blues musician and storyteller from Greensboro. He is a founding member of the Piedmont Blues Preservation Society and a past recipient of the Keeping the Blues Alive Award for his efforts to perform and promote blues music. He is completing his PhD in English at UNCG.



Photo by Alex Forsyth

Tickets are available for the entire evening, or for the program only. Contact the UNCG Box Office at 336-334-4849 or visit <http://www.uncg.edu/euc/boxoffice>.

For corporate and table sponsorships for the dinner, call Barry Miller at 336-256-0112, Linda Burr at 336-256-0184, or Cindy Wyrick at 336-334-3248.

Ticket options include:

- * \$50 dinner and program for members
- * \$60 dinner and program for non-members
- * \$18 for the program only (members or non-members)
- * \$500 personal table sponsorships (includes a table for eight, recognition on program, signage, and from the podium)
- * \$1000 for business table sponsorships (includes a table for eight, recognition on program, signage, and

from the podium)

* \$70 individual sponsor (includes a seat at a preferred table with others in this category)



Parking is available in the Walker Avenue Parking Deck.

88.5 WFDD is an official media partner of the event.

Exhibit Opens "A Dickens of a Celebration" at UNCG

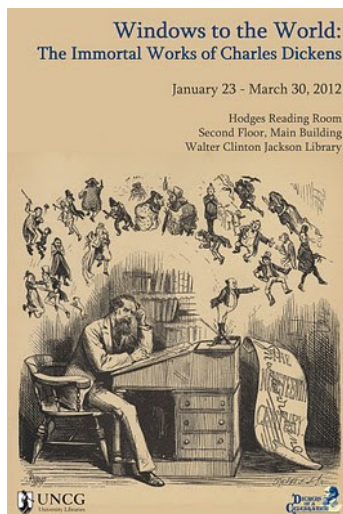
UNCG's celebration of the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens opens with

["Windows to the World: The Immortal Works of Charles Dickens"](#) now on

exhibit in the Hodges Reading Room on the second floor of Jackson Library through March 30. Exhibited are a number of items from the Special Collections in Jackson Library, as well as items from local collectors. Browse a catalog of the exhibit [here](#).

"A Dickens of a Celebration" will continue with a series of programs sponsored by the University Libraries, the English Department, the Freshman Seminar Program, the Atlantic World Research Network, the Friends of the UNCG Libraries, the Greensboro Public Library and others. For a schedule of events, including visits by novelist Matthew Pearl and scholars Eliot Engel and Eileen Gillooly, as well as a birthday party, a book discussion and films at the Greensboro Public Library, see <http://tinyurl.com/DickensUNCG> or <http://www.uncgfol.blogspot.com/2012/01/dickens-of-celebration.html>

Posted by [Barry Miller](#)



Journal of Learning Spaces Launched by UNCG Librarians

A team led by UNCG librarians has launched [The Journal of Learning Spaces](#) to provide a scholarly, multidisciplinary forum for research articles, case studies, book reviews, and position pieces that examine higher education learning spaces in the context of space design, use, and management, as well as assessment, evaluation, and pedagogical practices. The journal employs the library's [Open Journal System](#) (OJS) software, which hosts several other online journals for the University and its faculty.



The editorial team includes [Joe M. Williams](#), Head of Access Services, who is serving as editor-in-chief, as well as Associate Director Kathy Crowe, Assistant Director Mike Crumpton, and librarians Jenny Dale and Beth Filar Williams. Several other UNCG faculty members in related disciplines also serve on the editorial board.

The journal's first issue was published in December 2011. Two issues per year are planned, and there will be no subscription fee. Both html and pdf formats will be offered.

The following is an interview between Williams and Library Columns editor Barry Miller

How did the idea for The Journal of Learning Spaces start?

JW: I have been interested in learning spaces on both a professional and personal basis, and I also have been interested in working with an open access journal publication. These two interests came together, and were shared by several of my colleagues within the library and the University. Chancellor Brady has also put an emphasis on learning communities as a vital part of UNCG's future, which made us decide

to take advantage of UNCG long history in this field, going back to the founding of the Residential College in 1970, the oldest such learning community in North Carolina.

What's the purpose of the journal?

We want to be a forum for discussing learning spaces, both physical and virtual, from a multi-disciplinary perspective. We see articles on this subject being published in various disciplines, but too much of the discussion is within silos, whether they be libraries, instructional technology people, facilities people, teaching faculty, or others. We started our journal project with people in libraries, library and information studies, interior architecture, residence life, teaching and learning, and education, but we really want anyone with an interest in this topic to be aware of our journal.

Have you had any surprises?

I have been pleased with the amount of interest we have gotten among colleagues willing to serve on the editorial and advisory boards and to work on the journal as peer reviewers. I thought that would be the hardest part, but we have had a lot of people step forward to help. We began with a core group of people within UNCG, but have since expanded to include people from all over the U.S, at this point. UNCG is an ideal-sized university in which to do this kind of project. It is easy to get to know people in related areas, and the infrastructure is here to support our efforts. Prior to publishing our first issue, we had over 200 registered readers for the journal – I think that shows there is real interest in this topic nationally.

What are your biggest challenges in starting this new journal?

We found that getting submissions was a little slower than we expected. At first, we put out calls for papers in various disciplines and in different listserves. With our second issue, we will also target conference proceedings, and begin pointing individuals toward our journal.

What has been the role of the Open Journal System software in starting the journal?

It has been essential. Without this software, which makes it possible to produce a journal without a lot of technical knowledge, but still conduct peer review, communications with authors, reviewers, editors and advisors, we would not have undertaken the creation of the Journal of Learning Spaces. It allows the whole process to be automated, to a great extent.

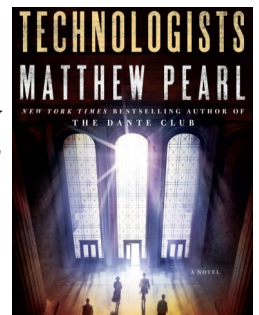
Posted by [Barry Miller](#)

Author Matthew Pearl visits UNCG on March 1

Matthew Pearl's first three novels, *The Dante Club*, *The Poe Shadow* and *The Last Dickens* have been translated into more than thirty languages and have more than one million copies in print combined. Because of his authorship of *The Last Dickens* about the publication of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Pearl's appearance is made in conjunction with UNCG's "A Dickens of a Celebration." The appearance is sponsored by the University Libraries and the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts at UNCG.



Critics have likened Pearl to E. L. Doctorow, and he has been described as "at the very forefront of contemporary novelists" (Caleb Carr), "sparkling with erudition" (Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*), and "the shining star of literary fiction" (Dan Brown). With his new novel *THE TECHNOLOGISTS*, Pearl expands his repertoire to bring the same suspense to nineteenth-century science that he did to three of literary history's greatest mysteries.



In nineteenth-century Boston, a war exists between

the past and present, tradition and technology. On an early April morning, a fiery cataclysm in the harbor throws commerce into chaos, as ships' instruments spin inexplicably out of control. Soon after, another mysterious catastrophe devastates the heart of the city. On a former marshy wasteland, the daring Massachusetts Institute of Technology is rising, its mission to harness science for the benefit of all and to open the doors of opportunity to everyone of merit.

The shocking disasters cast a pall over M.I.T. and provoke assaults from all sides—rival Harvard, labor unions, and a sensationalistic press. With their first graduation and the very survival of their groundbreaking college now in doubt, a band of the Institute's best and brightest students—including "charity scholar" Marcus Mansfield, a quiet Civil War veteran and one-time machinist; Robert Richards, the bluest of Beacon Hill bluebloods; class genius Edwin Hoyt; and Institute's lone, ostracized female student Ellen Swallow—secretly come together to save innocent lives and track down the truth, armed with ingenuity and their unique scientific training. Working against their small secret society, from within and without, are the arrayed forces of a stratified culture determined to resist change at all costs and a dark mastermind bent on the utter destruction of the city. *THE TECHNOLOGISTS* is a dazzling journey into a dangerous world where the word "technology" represents a bold and frightening new concept and where the America we know today begins to shimmer into being.

Pearl will appear and sign books at UNCG at 7 pm on Thursday, March 1 in the Virginia Dare Room in the Alumni House at UNCG. The event is free and open to the public. Posted by [Barry Miller](#)

Media Studies Students Students Produce Videos about University Libraries

Thanks to James Gould, an MFA candidate in Film & Video Production and his students in the Ad-

vanced Media Lab for creating this great [video](#) about the spaces available in Jackson Library!

"Saving the Hansen House" film to be screened March 2 in partnership with the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts at UNCG



[Saving the Hansen House](#) is the story of UNCG Professor and Associate Dean Bob Hansen who buys a dilapidated 18th-century farmhouse in Bethania, a small North Carolina town near Winston-Salem.

Originally he planned to restore it and then maybe sell it and

move on. But the house turns out to be something special, and the town is even more special. Before he knows it, he is putting down roots.

This one-hour documentary film chronicles the unique challenges and rewards of saving a 250-year-old house. Or, as the filmmakers Deni and Will McIntyre put it, a house that might save him.

The film will be screened at the Greensboro Historical Museum on Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. The [Friends of the UNCG Libraries](#) and the Center for [Creative Writing in the Arts](#) at UNCG to sponsor the screening in collaboration with the [Greensboro Historical Museum](#). Admission is free. Both Hansen and the McIntyres will be present for a post-screening discussion of the film.

For more information, contact Barry Miller at 336-256-0112 or barry_miller@uncg.edu