

2014 Symposium Leaders

MORNING SESSION LEADERS



INTRODUCTION: Heather Burkhardt is a Human Services Planner at the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services in Raleigh, NC. She coordinates the Division's Planning and Evaluation Team which is responsible for strategic and program planning, systems evaluation, policy analysis, state plan development, and monitoring. Prior to coming to the Division of Aging and Adult Services in 1998, Heather worked at two local agencies (Pitt County Council on Aging & Resources for Seniors in Wake County). Heather has a Masters in Social Work and a Certificate in Gerontology from East Carolina University.



KEYNOTE: Tim Carpenter is the founder and executive director of EngAGE, a southern California area nonprofit providing arts, lifelong learning and wellness programs to thousands of older people living in retirement communities. Creator of the revolutionary Senior Arts Colony, Tim has more than 20 years of experience in the field of aging and currently serves on the board of directors of the National Center for Creative Aging. Prior to his entry into the senior services arena, Tim worked as a journalist and advertising copywriter, holds a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from San Francisco State University and was a produced playwright. He is a credentialed writing teacher that has been teaching creative writing for stage and screen to seniors for more than 15 years. He was elected a 2008 Ashoka Fellow for being one of the top social entrepreneurs in the world. In 2011, Tim received a James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for his work transforming senior-housing communities into vibrant centers for learning, wellness and creativity. Tim is also working to pilot his award-winning arts colony model here in North Carolina.

FORUM ON THE FUTURE: Heather and Tim will be joined by the following leaders for this discussion.



John W. Fugo and his wife started Montgomery in 1986 in Syracuse NY. Montgomery is a national Commercial General Contracting firm specializing in Class A office buildings, retail, and mixed use buildings. Montgomery has built projects in 38 states and John is a licensed contractor in all the states. John has overseen projects at Montgomery ranging from the Center at Edgewater, a 125,000 square foot multi-use retail office development on the shore the Hudson River in Edgewater, NJ to the 275,000 square foot Southern Village Downtown Center in Chapel Hill, NC. John has negotiated leases with tenants in buildings he owns from Syracuse University's Medical and Research Center, UNC at Chapel Hill Medical Department, IPAS a worldwide health organization with headquarters in Chapel Hill to Google and numerous other national retail chains or office users.



Tom Phillion With over 30 years experience as a performer and arts administrator, Tom has earned the respect of arts industry executives, performers, and artists across the country for his innovative approach to the challenges facing the arts. Tom's career includes senior management positions with major orchestras in Hartford, Cleveland, Washington, DC, Seattle, and Oklahoma City. It was in these positions that his outside the box thinking and wide-ranging knowledge of music brought innovation and new private support to an industry steeped in tradition. Collaborations led to new funding opportunities and unusual projects with performers as diverse as Tony Bennett, 10,000 Maniacs, Debbie Harry, Ani DiFranco, and many others, including a popular PBS pledge week special "The American Seasons" with Grammy-winning fiddler Mark O'Connor. Tom continues that legacy at ArtsGreensboro, where he created 17DAYS, NC's largest collaborative arts festival, thanks to unprecedented contributed media support.



Mac Sims is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's Economic Development Program. Since October 1997, he has been the President of East Market Street Development Corporation (EMSDC), a community development corporation which serves as an advocate for economic and community development in East Greensboro. EMSDC conducts over thirty programs to address economic and community development in East Greensboro and Guilford County. Since EMSDC's inception in 1997, new investment has exceeded 250 million dollars and over 100 new jobs have been created. Additionally, EMSDC serves as a major trainer and consultant for minority entrepreneurs as well as the lead agent for City of Greensboro's East Market Corridor Development plan.

WORKSHOP LEADERS (in order of workshops listed in program)



Donna Anthony is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has been a hospice social worker for 14 years. In various roles at hospice she has used arts interventions to help facilitate storytelling including writing, poetry and visual journaling. She is a pastel and fabric artist and believes that all people are creative with a capacity for self-expression if offered the opportunity and encouragement to do so. Donna has studied mindfulness meditation and holds a Master's of Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill and attended Expressive Arts education programs at Salve Regina University.



Jerry O'Donnell has been a fiber person since the mid 1960's when he learned the craft of loom weaving in Western New York State during the mid-century Arts and Crafts Revival, under the tutelage of a master weaver. O'Donnell came to Greensboro, NC, in 2000, where he was invited to become a member of the Local Weavers' Guild. Since then he has retired from employment as a Registered Nurse, and has further explored the use of fiber in artmaking. In 2011, he met local Fabric Felt maker, Victoria Clegg. Under her inspiration, and hands on experience, O'Donnell is now exploring the manipulation of fiber felting materials. Using an admiration for the works of late artist, Mark Rothko, he is now exploring color balance without the constraint of linear construction demanded by loom weaving. His earlier work can be found in private collections in Buffalo, New York City, Hollywood, FL, Niagara Falls, Arlington, TX, Long Island, the Hamptons, Paris, and Manila.



Bobbie Sonner is a 2011 graduate of Guilford College with degrees in Community Justice and Sociology and with a minor in Ceramic Arts. In 2012, Bobbie co-created a film titled "Let's Lose Our House" and co-hosted the community event surrounding its premiere. She recently purchased a fixer-upper in Greensboro and can often be found wearing paint-covered overalls as she works on repairs. When not working on her house, Bobbie hand-builds pottery jugs, repairs furniture, and participates in local events. She is working on a Psychology degree now in hopes to pursue a career in Art Therapy.



Bryan Neth completed his BS in Biological Sciences at the Florida State University before beginning the MD/PhD program at Wake Forest School of Medicine in 2011. He is currently a doctoral student completing his first year of research in Alzheimer's disease and aging. During his first year of medical school, Bryan and a fellow medical student began an enrichment group for people with dementia that runs concurrently with a support group for their caregivers through the Memory Assessment Clinic Counseling Center at Wake Forest. Interacting with the people in the group, several group facilitators realized that group members enjoyed creative/arts-based activities more than the memory and other cognitive-based activities that seemed to be frustrating to group members. The support group has since been restructured to incorporate more arts-based activities.



Christina Hugenschmidt, MS, PhD is a researcher at Wake Forest School of Medicine as well as a licensed professional counselor in North Carolina. She partners with Bryan facilitating some of the enrichment groups. Her current research focus is the effects of exercise and diet on the brain in older adults. She is working with Bryan to find ways to scientifically represent the benefits of the enrichment group for participants in order to optimize the way the group is run, and to facilitate communication and funding support to bring this kind of group to more communities.



Al Lineberry Jr., of Hanes-Lineberry Funeral Home, is a leading member of the funeral service team, and has been an industry leader for years. Hanes-Lineberry is one of the largest providers of funeral services in the Greensboro area. Al, along with his father and brother, Scott, are the only recipients of the Certified Funeral Service Providers in Guilford County. Mr. Lineberry Jr. has been president of the International Order of Golden Rule Funeral Directors as well as many other state, local civic, and business organizations.



Shelby Kline received both her Masters and Undergraduate degrees from UNC Greensboro in Recreation Therapy. She has been working in long term care for the past 13 years. She currently serves as the Wellness and Program Coordinator for Spring Arbor of Greensboro, an assisted living community in North West Greensboro. Shelby enjoys working with seniors, and truly believes in the power of being active and engaged no matter what age or ability level.



Thomas Chang has been with Carolina SeniorCare since May of 2012 as the Center Administrator. Prior to joining Carolina SeniorCare, Thomas served as Interim Executive Director for several months with the PACE program in Burlington, NC before becoming the Fiscal and Administration Manager. For the past 20 years, Thomas worked in various healthcare organizations and social service agencies. Thomas holds a Master of Science in Business Administration from University of Phoenix, San Francisco, a Master of Social Work and a Bachelor of Social Work from San Francisco State University.



Lia Miller is a graduate of Savannah College of Art & Design, BFA 1990, where she also studied in England and Italy. After working in the field of video production for TV news and ad agencies, she switched careers seeking more fulfilling work and became a recreation assistant at a nursing home in 1997. She co-founded the Evergreens Renaissance Program in 2004, a program providing creative classes and continuing education for nursing home residents. In July 2007, she joined Shepherd's Center of Greensboro as executive director and worked simultaneously to launch the Creative Aging Network-NC (CAN-NC). In 2012, Miller began working full-time with CAN-NC and enjoys developing visual arts programs such as ARTmail for older adults. She provides training and consultations for healthcare staff and artists, and regularly provides educational presentations and workshops in the field of creative aging. She also serves on panels and facilitates sessions at conferences throughout the state. Miller is a Master TimeSlips Trainer and has received training in nationally recognized programs such as Memories in the Making, Alzheimer's Poetry Project and Meet Me at Moma.



Dr. Paul Baker currently serves as College Archivist at Bennett College and has served in faculty and administrative roles at several colleges and universities. He holds a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill in Art with a minor in African American Studies, MA from NCSU in History and a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from NC A&T SU. In addition, Dr. Baker has curated exhibitions at the NC Museum of History and the Stone Center at UNC.



Crystal Owens is a sculptor who enjoys working with mixed media. She has been a practicing artist since 1994 and her work has been exhibited and sold throughout the Triad. She has also been showcased in the November 2006 issue of *Go Triad*. Crystal earned an associate's degree in art from Guilford Technical Community College in 2006. As a senior at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Crystal is dual majoring for a bachelors' degree in psychology and fine art with a concentration in sculpture. Through group-based and individually-centered art programs, Crystal uses art as a psychosocial tool for emotional expression, social connection and personal growth. She has an ardent desire to help older people reach their goals and experience the benefits of creative self-expression. Crystal views using art to promote communication and insight in the lives of older people as an essential opportunity to positively connect and engage them with one another and the broader community. In addition, Crystal co-founded a community garden at Arbor Care Assisted Living in 2011 and volunteered to re-stock their community library with a diverse selection of books.



Ashley Hyers is a certified Alexander Technique teacher with Alexander Technique International (ATI). She graduated with a B.S. from Wofford College and an M.Ed. from UNC Greensboro. She teaches dance in the theatre departments at Greensboro College and Catwaba College and choreographs for the Greensboro College theatre department and various community theaters. She is also a teaching assistant for the Chesapeake Bay Alexander Studies (CBAS) teacher training program in Greensboro. She works with groups and individuals of all ages and abilities exploring how movement habits affect tension patterns, posture, self-awareness, and breathing.



Charlotte Hamlin, Ph.D. goes by the storytelling name of “Charlotte Webspinner” and serves as the president of NC Storyfest Inc. of Greensboro/Triad Story Exchange, a storytelling education and advocacy group. Charlotte has also served on the board of the North Carolina Storytelling Guild. After a lengthy career ranging from elementary teacher and college instructor to human relations trainer, and dean and vice provost in several higher education institutions, she “re-wired” herself following her retirement as Director of Continuing Education at Guilford College to create a new career as a storyteller and oral historian. She enjoys storytelling as it weaves together her love of drama and public speaking with learning and exploration of diverse cultures, people, places and times.