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RFA Newsletter
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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He's the man behind Arts Everywhere — and he's also our next speaker



(Jon Gardiner/UNC-Chapel Hill)

Emil Kang, Rameses and Carol Folt together shortly after the announcement of the Arts Everywhere initiative.

Even Rameses can appreciate the need for arts on campus, and it's Emil Kang's job to make sure they are integrated into the campus culture. In 2016, he started the Arts Everywhere initiative. In 2017, Chancellor Carol L. Folt named Kang special assistant to the chancellor for the arts.

To hear from Kang about his role in the arts at UNC, please SIGN UP for the Feb. 14 meeting at the Friday Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We need your RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 7, so we will know how much food to order. Please sign up now while you are thinking about it! Simply [click here](#). (If the link fails, send a message to rfa@unc.edu with your name, and the name(s) of any guests you plan to bring.) Please plan to pay \$20 per person by cash or check at the door.

Kang is why UNC's a leader in bringing arts to campus

By Joy Kasson

I suspect many of my fellow members of the Retired Faculty Association will need no introduction to Emil Kang, executive director for the arts at UNC-Chapel Hill. Since its renovation, Memorial Hall has been a beacon for the arts on our campus and throughout the region, and we have Emil Kang to thank. When Emil arrived in Chapel Hill in 2004, he was charged with fulfilling Chancellor James Moeser's vision for a performing arts series that would place UNC in the top rank of university presenters, along with peers such as the University of Michigan and UC Berkeley. Now, 14 years later, Carolina Performing Arts is a national leader, attracting prestigious orchestras and soloists, jazz and modern dance, roots music and experimental arts. Who can forget seeing the Bolshoi Ballet, singer Tony Bennett, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Mitsuko Uchida and other stellar performers on our stage?

Furthermore, UNC has sponsored nationally significant arts events such as the Rite of Spring season and the Philip Glass celebration. Carolina Performing Arts has partnered with other institutions, including Carnegie Hall and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, to commission new works. And, significantly, it has received a series of grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to innovate new ways of bringing the performing arts program closer to the academic mission of the university across disciplines in ways that benefit undergraduates, graduate and professional students, and faculty members throughout the university.

Emil and his team have made it easier for faculty members in all fields to bring their students to performances, to invite artists into the classroom, and to use the arts to stimulate assignments, conversations and projects.

In 2016, Emil developed a universitywide initiative called Arts Everywhere. Its guiding principles assert that:

- The arts are for everyone.
- The arts create and share new meaning.
- Creative industries drive economic growth.
- Experiencing wonder sparks exploration.
- Every space can be a creative space.

With the support of Chancellor Carol Folt, Arts Everywhere has sponsored pop-up performances, maker space events, and interactive arts installations. The opening of a new venue, Current, at the intersection of town and campus on the site of the former University Square, has also offered new possibilities for making and experiencing the arts in Chapel Hill. Chancellor Folt named Emil executive director for the arts at UNC, with the aim of promoting cooperation and collaboration among arts departments and performance spaces throughout the university.

Of course, with a coming change in leadership at the chancellor's level, questions arise about the campus commitment to the arts in the future. There is no question at all, however, about the continued success in programming, academic engagement and commissioning of new pieces that streams forth from Emil Kang's office. His visit to the Retired Faculty Association will surely give us a chance to hear about his vision for the arts at UNC now and in the future. (To sign up for the meeting, [click here](#).)

For further insights into the life and work of our guest, see this article in *Walter* magazine:

<http://www.waltermagazine.com/people/emil-kang/>

The President's Letter

Changes on the campus

Currently (as of 1/20/19), the UNC System has an interim president (Bill Roper), Carolina will have an Interim Chancellor as of 02/01/19, and search committees will soon be in place to fill these most important roles. In addition, Chancellor Carol Folt authorized the removal of the Confederate monument pedestal, which occurred on the date she announced her resignation. Retired faculty, and the RFA, continue to be involved in these events and in ways forward for our campus:

1. The RFA Executive Committee wrote an [open letter of appreciation](#) to Chancellor Folt, which was published in *The News & Observer*.

2. The RFA Executive Committee is also requesting that the search committee for the new chancellor include at least one faculty member (current or retired) with previous experience on such search committees.

3. The RFA Breaking News email list has provided recipients with many opportunities to become involved. For example, the latest message included instructions to join Chancellor Folt and Provost Bob Bloutin by remote access to an upcoming Faculty Executive Committee meeting. If you would like to join this list (sent by bcc so that your inbox will not be filled with "Reply to All" messages), please send your request to be added to rfa@unc.edu.

4. RFA members have written well-reasoned and influential opinion pieces in local newspapers. See [this article](#) by Sherryl Kleinman and Jay Smith and [this one](#) by Steve Leonard.

5. Retired faculty representatives to Faculty Council (Andy Dobelstein and Patricia Pukkila) and other RFA members continue to contribute to discussions in Faculty Council, and ongoing committee work, such as community and diversity, and fixed-term faculty.

Changes in the RFA:

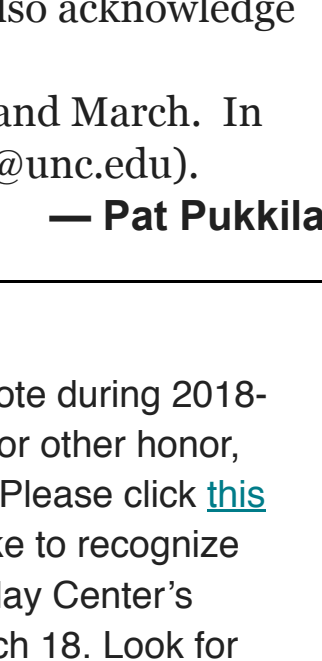
Last fall, we continued our emphasis on meaningful conversation among RFA members. First there was the energizing session with Shirley Ort and the chancellor on Sept. 20. Then, over 30 RFA members accepted the invitation issued to all members and attended the UNC vs. WCU football game, including tickets, parking, pre-game hospitality in the Chancellor's Box (see article below). In October, we grappled with the complex issue of "Belonging," led by Rumay Alexander, and benefitted from the open and honest conversation throughout the meeting.

We are looking forward to your participation in the spring, both from regular participants and those who might not have joined us at a meeting for a while. First, we will be joined by Emil Kang, UNC-CH executive director for the arts, at our Feb. 14 meeting ([sign up here](#)). Talk about change! The transformation in the arts scene on our campus, from a few engaging performances each year to regular appearances by the world's finest orchestras, dance companies and soloists, is a near-miracle, especially since one person — Emil — was largely responsible. We are certain to be inspired (see more on this meeting above).

Next, we are planning for the March 18, 2019, reception for all retired faculty from 5-7 p.m., hosted by the Friday Center. You will soon receive an invitation, but in the meantime, we need your help. In addition to the wine, delicious food, and casual conversation, we would like to use the occasion to honor your accomplishments in 2018-19. We know that many of you have published books or articles, exhibited your art, performed your music, accepted invitations to join boards, and received honors for your work in your profession or "encore career," and we would like to celebrate with you. Please follow [this link](#), Accomplishments 2018, and provide your name and a brief description of what you did that is noteworthy (certainly not limited to the examples above). We intend to compile a list to distribute at the reception (to make it easier for you to find a colleague to offer your congratulations), and also acknowledge you during the reception.

I look forward to seeing you in both February and March. In the meantime, I welcome your comments (rfa@unc.edu).

— Pat Pukkila



Time to toot your own horn

A lot of RFA members have done something of note during 2018-19, published a book or paper, earned an award or other honor, presented a recital or been part of an art exhibit. Please click [this link](#) and share with us what you've done. We'd like to recognize the accomplishments of members during the Friday Center's retired faculty reception, from 5 to 7 p.m. on March 18. Look for your invitation soon via Paperless Post from the Friday Center.

VIP treatment at a Tar Heels football game

Thirty-four RFA members and spouses took advantage of a special invitation and sat in the Chancellor's Box Nov. 17 in Kenan Stadium for the UNC-Western Carolina football game. They were rewarded with outstanding food, special seating along the 50-yard line

and VIP treatment from university officials. (And the Tar Heels won the game, 49-26.) The invitation came from the Office of University Development through its regional executive director of development for regional programs, Jim Miller.

—Jim Allen

Here's the slate of enrichment courses this spring at the Friday Center

Enrollment is now open the spring schedule of the Friday Center's enrichment courses, which begin March 20. The courses allow participants to discover "a new interest or re-engage in an old one, discuss compelling subjects with peers and scholars, gain new skills and try new things." Course fees range from \$15 to \$25. [Click here](#) to sign up or see course details. The complete course listing:

- March 20: Move It or Lose It: How to Stay Physically Active Throughout Your Lifespan
- March 20-21: Pathway to Retirement: Real-World Financial Education for Current Retirees & Those Contemplating Retirement
- March 21, 28, April 4: Creative Writing Workshop
- March 27, April 3, 10: Zentangle Expanded!
- March 28: The Moundbuilders and the Beginning of Archeology in the United States
- April 3, 17, 24: Write Your Life
- April 4, 11: Pathway to Retirement: Real-World Financial Education for Current Retirees & Those Contemplating Retirement
- April 10, 11, 17: Are U Smarter than Your Smartphone? Basic iPhone Training
- April 11, 18: Ethics, Smethics! Ethics in an Age of Lies and Deceit
- April 17: The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys
- April 17: Discover Ayurveda: Timeless Knowledge for Health, Vitality and Longevity
- April 18, 25: American Paris
- April 24: Movies in the Morning: Miss Potter
- April 25: Voices of Mississippi

