



Grogan College Newsletter

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Table of Contents

Changes in Grogan

- * Grogan Gets a Facelift – p. 2
- * New Core Curriculum – p.3
- * Program for sophomores – p.3
- * PALS have become TIs and CAs – p.4

Grogan in the Community!

- * Edible Schoolyard Visit – p.5
- * Newcomer's School – p.5
- * Spartan Open Pantry Visit – p.6
- * Grogan Sponsors Blueberry Bushes –p.6

Broadening Horizons

- * Folk Festival Outing –p.7
- * Pumpkins and Politics – p.7

Grogan Traditions

- * Grogan Night of the Arts – p.8
- * Friday Night Flags – p.8

Grogan is Proud!

- * Faculty Invited to Prestigious Training Event –p.9
- * Student Recognitions – p.9

Grogan College has decided to start the newsletter again and we have some exciting new things going on! We hope you'll enjoy all of our news and also add some news of your own that we can share.

Grogan Move-in 2016-17



This past fall, 323 students moved into Grogan! Both RAs and CAs helped the new students move in and introduced them to life as Groganites!

Grogan gets a Facelift!



Grogan Hall was taken “off line” during 2014-15 to undergo a very significant renovation that is part of a multi-year effort to upgrade the traditional high rises. During the renovations, Grogan College moved into Reynolds Hall. We returned home in fall 2016. Changes to Grogan include expansion of the first floor classroom and the installation of new classroom furniture and teaching technology, enclosing the upper patio to form a spacious and sunny new parlor area with additional teaching technology, the conversion of the original parlor into a suite of new offices for Grogan College and Grogan’s Coordinator of Residence Life, the addition of 2 public restrooms on the first floor, and expansions to the CRL apartment to add a second bedroom and bathroom. This will allow future staff to potentially have a family. In addition, the heating and ventilation systems were overhauled and upgraded throughout the building. On the living floors, all of the rooms were renovated and outfitted with new doors, everything was re-carpeted and painted and new lighting was installed throughout the building. In the basement recreation area, additional public bathrooms were installed, a new open concept kitchen was created with all new appliances, cabinets, and a large island topped with quartz. Comfortable new seating and several television screens were also added to the recreation area, as well as new washers and dryers and a new wall of vending machines to support current Groganites with munchies as they do their laundry. You might also be interested to know that laundry is now “free” using your smart card.

Grogan's New Core Curriculum

It's not just the Grogan building that has undergone a renovation. The curriculum is also being deepened and expanded. Alumni will recall the one credit transitional course (UNS 105 and its successor, GRO 101) where you got together with your fellow learning community students and your faculty fellow to work on making the transition to college and to complete your "learning community" collaborative projects. Well, those one credit courses have been retired and replaced with a new slate of 3 credit Residential College (RCO) courses. Since fall 2016, new first year Groganites have enrolled in at least one of several RCO courses each semester that offer general education credits in different areas. All Grogan Core courses use a team and project based approach to learning. In addition, each RCO core course addresses several Grogan College learning goals associated with "developing the professional self". For example, students can choose to take Meg Horton's RCO 252 "Seminar in Life Sciences for Professionals", John Sopper's RCO 203 "Professional Ethics", Sarah Colonna's RCO 215 "Seminar in Global Social Problems", Caitlin Spencer's RCO 155 "Seminar in Critical Thinking", or Larry Lavender's RCO 206 "Seminar in Fine Arts". No matter which RCO core course a student takes, they will get some exposure to learning about what it means to be a professional. They will also work in teams on projects and cases related to real world problems. Also, students can now remain enrolled in Grogan College through the end of their sophomore year. In the spring, Grogan Sophomores take the new capstone course, RCO 390, in which they develop a professional portfolio, elevator speech and 5 year career plan, among other useful tools. In many ways, this new and expanded curriculum that is open to all students in Grogan College across all majors replaces the previous organization of Grogan into different learning communities that each had its own major focus, UNS 105 course and faculty fellow. Today, Grogan's entire faculty teaches courses that are open to all students across the different major areas, and everyone works on developing professionalism, regardless of their specific major. While students in Grogan College are still housed together by major, in the classroom, they mix with a wide variety of Groganites and learn from multiple faculty members.

Program for Sophomores Launched in 2016-17

Rising sophomores in the spring of 2016 had the option to remain in Grogan College as sophomores in 2016-17 as part of a new program for upper class Groganites. Twenty Five rising sophomores signed up. During the current academic year, some have served as "Community Ambassadors" or "Teaching Interns" (see the related article about CAs and Tis). For 2017-18 Grogan has set aside 40 beds for sophomores. Sign-ups are underway and to date, 35 of those beds have been claimed. These upper class Groganites will continue to take RCO courses in Grogan's core curriculum, further develop their professional competencies, serve as mentors for new first year arrivals and complete the RCO capstone in the spring of 2018.

"I really enjoyed my first year in Grogan; I found a family, home, and opportunities here. I'm absolutely ecstatic they chose to allow students to stay an extra year" – Tabitha Garrett, 2nd year in the building and CA

PALs have become CAs and TIs

Grogan has a couple of new student staff positions! Building on the very successful Peer Academic Leaders (PALs), Grogan now has Community Ambassadors, (CAs) a position created in fall 2016 as a way to provide students with opportunities to develop leadership and professional skills. CAs take on tasks such as leading committees to plan and implement the signature traditions of Grogan College (Friday Night Flags, Grogan Night of the Arts, the Valentines Masquerade Ball and, of course, Grogan @ a Glance). CAs also serve as role models and mentors, help recruit new Groganites at University events and plan and put on many hall programs. However, whereas PALs were assigned to a particular faculty fellow and a particular section of UNS 105 or GRO 101, CAs are not assigned to a course and have more of a building-wide presence. While this is not a paid position, CAs receive valuable experience in the job.

Another new student staff position is our Grogan Teaching Interns (TIs). Students in this position can be either First Year or Upper class students. However, they must have taken the RCO core course in which they serve as a Teaching Intern. The role of TIs is to help faculty teach the Core courses by helping to lead class discussions, offering study sessions, and at times, helping with grading. Some have even lectured. One becomes a TI by invitation from a member of the Grogan teaching faculty. TIs receive a stipend for each course they help teach.

Social Media Intern: A third student staff role in Grogan College is our new “Social Media Intern” responsible for maintaining and updating Grogan’s Facebook page, Twitter account and Instagram. The Social Media Intern attends Grogan programs and activities, tags along during field trips and other events and documents the life of Groganites on social media. In fall 2016, Groganite Deja Washington served as our social media intern before taking a role as an RA in Moore Strong Hall. The current social media intern is Dalton Melvin, a Music major and sophomore. Soon, rising sophomore and incoming CA Carlee Crawford will be our Social Media Intern for 2017-18. Interns earn work experience, as well as a modest stipend.



(Last PAL with current CA)



(Social Media Intern Dalton Melvin)

On being a TI “the joy and excitement students have after understanding a certain concept of the subject material is what I love most when being involved with enhancing their quality of education” – Chassity Trice



(2016-2017 CAs)

Grogan Visits the Edible Schoolyard

Grogan recently made a trip to the Edible Schoolyard at the Greensboro Children's Museum to learn about the importance of fresh foods in the diet. The Edible Schoolyard grows fresh fruit and vegetables and seeks to teach young children about nutrition, growing their own food and basic culinary skills. Teachers also use the garden to teach concepts such as adding, subtracting, measuring, weighing and observing. The garden offers summer camps, cooking classes and events for both kids and parents alike to promote healthy eating, as well as culinary literacy. Greensboro's Edible Schoolyard is part of a national organization launched by chef Alice Waters. It is the first of its kind at a museum. The tour by Groganites is part of our focus on sustainability and food insecurity— which is a prevalent issue in Greensboro, as well as nationally.



Students explore Newcomer's School



In line with Grogan's efforts to make our students aware of social issues, both locally and globally, a group of Groganites recently visited the Doris Henderson Newcomer's school, a school that accepts recently immigrated children and refugees and helps them to learn English, immerse themselves in American culture and integrate into society; while also teaching standard school subjects. Newcomer's School prepares students to transfer to a regular public school after completion of the program. With many Groganites holding interests and majors in the field of Education, this was a great experience that was both heartwarming and educational.

Spartan Open Pantry



At the beginning of the school year, a group of Groganites went to the Spartan Open Pantry to sort through expired cans in a volunteers work day. The Spartan Open Pantry feeds under-fed Spartans all over campus and has helped hundreds of Spartans. Throughout the year, several Groganites have returned to the pantry, and have become more engaged within the community through this program. Spartan Open Pantry has also partnered with the on-campus Food Recovery Network (FRN), which takes surplus food from dining services on campus and distributes it to food banks and other organizations that feed the hungry. Grogan has especially focused on sustainability and hunger within the community this year, looking at “food deserts” and beginning a conversation about what hunger looks like in the community and what we, as college students, can do about it.

Grogan’s Blueberries

Grogan sponsored the planting of over 30 blueberry bushes at the UNCG Soccer field. We also hosted several work days and Blueberry walks to look in on the progress. Blueberries typically take a few years to mature and begin fruiting. This means these blueberry walks will become a tradition for Groganites for years to come! Looking at past pictures, you can see how far the tradition of Spartans gardening goes back – to the days when UNCG was a Women’s College. Grogan is proud to uphold the tradition!



Grogan goes to the National Folk Festival!

The National greensboro north carolina 2015-17 FOLK FESTIVAL



The National Folk festival came to Greensboro for the 2nd year in a row, a three day event full of acts from all over the world and vendors with everything from food and drinks to folk crafts to handmade body soaps and beard oils. Grogan went with our very own Mr. John Sopper to the opening ceremonies and parade, taking plenty of pictures and enjoying the music and sunshine!

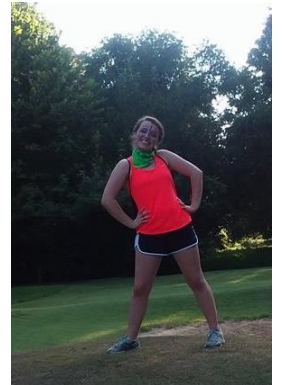
Grogan hosts 'Pumpkins & Politics'

Before the recent election, Grogan hosted a program to encourage being politically active and aware. Hall Council brought a representative from UNCG's Political Awareness Club to speak about the importance of being politically active and voting in U.S. elections, both national and local. Afterward, Groganites were encouraged to paint pumpkins, drink cider, and discuss politics in a mature and civil manner, listening to concerns from those with differing political views.



Grogan Tradition: Friday Night Flags

One of Grogan's traditions that has been around for years is still continuing on every other Friday night. This year there has been strong competition while the weather has allowed. Both the blue and red teams have been competing fiercely for the title of winner.



Grogan Tradition: Grogan Night of the Arts



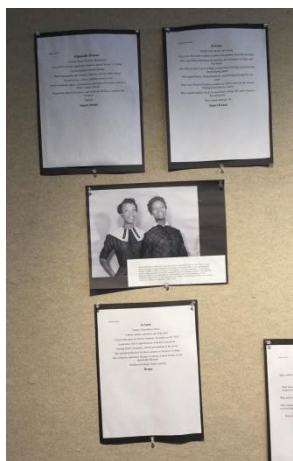
One of Grogan's most beloved traditions, this year's lineup included a large mixture of spoken word poems, dancing, singing, rap and instrumentals. With one of the biggest turnouts ever to a Grogan event, the Night of the Arts was a huge success and was recognized with an award from National Residence Hall Honorary.

Grogan Faculty Team Invited to Prestigious Summer Institute!

For a week late last June, 2016, Grogan's Program Chair, John Sopper, (Religious Studies), the Associate Program Chair, Dr. Sarah Colonna (Women's and Gender Studies), Meg Horton (Biology), and Grogan Coordinator of Residence Life, Maggie Gillespie participated in the Institute on Project-Based Learning offered by the Center for Project Based Learning at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts. At the Institute, campus teams work with Institute faculty to develop a plan to implement project-based learning at their home institutions. Project-Based learning is an approach that teaches course content and concepts by having students investigate a real-world issue/problem or case study and develop a solution. Typically, students work in teams to understand their problem or case study and develop their proposed solution, which is then presented. Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Team Based Learning (TBL) approaches are being integrated into all of the RCO core courses in Grogan College.

Congrats Grogan Faculty!!

Special Grogan Recognitions!



Several Grogan Students wrote poems for National Women's Month that were placed on display in UNCG's Office of Intercultural Engagement. We are so proud to have our students be engaged in campus activities, as well as things going on in the community! Several of the pieces will go on to be displayed in the library.

