

Annual Report
Speakers and Lectures Committee
NC State University
2022-2023

Introduction:

The NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee serves as a dynamic platform that brings diverse voices and ideas to the forefront of the NC State University community. Committed to fostering intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and meaningful dialogue, our committee curates a wide range of engaging speakers and thought-provoking lectures.

Our purpose is to enrich the educational experience of students, faculty, and staff by offering a diverse array of perspectives, expertise, and narratives. We believe that exposure to a variety of ideas and experiences is essential for personal growth, intellectual exploration, and the development of well-rounded individuals.

With a mission to ignite intellectual discourse and inspire positive change, the NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee seeks to address contemporary issues, spark conversations, and challenge conventional wisdom. We aim to create an inclusive environment where differing viewpoints are respected, fostering a culture of open-mindedness, critical analysis, and civil discourse.

Our vision is to empower the NC State community by providing opportunities to engage with influential speakers who are experts in their fields, renowned thought leaders, and individuals who have made significant contributions to society. Through these thought-provoking lectures and interactive sessions, we aspire to cultivate a community of lifelong learners who are inspired to make a difference in their own lives and the world around them.

The NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee is dedicated to creating a vibrant intellectual landscape on campus, encouraging dialogue, broadening horizons, and nurturing a deep appreciation for knowledge and diverse perspectives. We invite you to join us on this journey of exploration, enlightenment, and growth.

Roster for 2022/2023 Speakers and Lectures Committee

Seat Type	Term Ends	Occupied By	Affiliation	Contact Info
Chair		Not Occupied		
FSEN	June 2023	Edwards, Harriett	College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Agricultural & Human Sciences	Campus Box 7606 9195159548 haedward@ncsu.edu
FAC	June 2025	Kennell, Amanda	College of Humanities & Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Studies	Campus Box 7107 a.kennell@ncsu.edu
FAC	June 2025	Hunt, Jessica	College of Education TELS	Campus Box 7801 9192720137 jhunt5@ncsu.edu
FAC	June 2024	Bauer, William	College of Humanities & Social Sciences Philosophy and Religious Studi	Campus Box 8103 9195156330 wabauer@ncsu.edu
OIED FAC/STAFF	June 2025	Jackson, Melvin	Office for Inst. Equity & Diversity OIED Administration	Campus Box 7530 mjacks6@ncsu.edu
LIB FAC/STAFF	June 2024	Fontaine, Lara	Libraries DH Hill Library	Campus Box 7111 9195155449 laherzel@ncsu.edu
DASA FAC/STAFF	June 2024	Beckman, Gary	University College/DASA Music	Campus Box 7311 9195151637 gdbeckma@ncsu.edu
UAB STAFF/STU	June 2025	Mathis, Brian	Division of Academic & Student Affairs Leadership & Civic Engagement	Campus Box 7295 9195130215 bjmathis@ncsu.edu
GRAD		Not Occupied		
STU		Not Occupied		
XONV (Prov staff)	No End	Chapman, Diane	Office for Faculty Excellence Office of Faculty Development	Campus Box 7227 9195132044 ddchapma@ncsu.edu

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Seat Composition: Chair=1 DASA FAC/STAFF=1 FAC=3 FSEN=1 GRAD=1 LIB FAC/STAFF=1 OIED FAC/STAFF=1 STU=1 UAB STAFF/STU=1 XONV (Prov staff)=1

Annual Report

University Standing Committee: Speakers and Lectures

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2021-22

Date Report Submitted: May 25, 2023

Report Submitted by: Melvin (Jai) Jackson

Number of times committee met: Eight (8) meetings

2022-2023 Committee Activities:

The committee met eight times via Zoom with additional email communications among committee members in order to address opportunities for improvement and continued programmatic success. The meetings took place during the following dates:

- September 8, 2022 (11:00 am)
- September 8, 2022 (1:00 pm)
- October 6, 2022 (1:00 pm)
- November 10, 2022 (10:00 am)
- January 19, 2023 (10:00 am)
- February 23, 2022 (11:00 am)
- April 13, 2023 (11:00 am)
- May 10, 2023 (10:00 am) - Informal conversation with committee members
- May 26, 2023 (12:00 pm)

Dr. Aprille Joy Ericsson:

Over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year, the Speakers and Lectures committee worked to operationalize the phenomenal speaker selections from the previous year's committee. The first of these speakers was Dr. Aprille Ericsson-Jackson, Instrument Project Manager with NASA Goddard Flight Center. Dr. Ericsson is a highly accomplished and respected professional in her field. She is an aerospace engineer and the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in engineering from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Prepared by Melvin (Jai) Jackson, Assistant Vice Provost, Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity.

Her expertise lies in space exploration, satellite technology, and aerospace engineering. Inviting her as a speaker would provide students and faculty with the opportunity to learn from her vast knowledge and experience.

As the first African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in engineering from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Dr. Ericsson serves as an inspiration to aspiring scientists and engineers, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds. Her achievements and success story can motivate students at NC State University to pursue their dreams and overcome any challenges they may face in their academic or professional journeys. By inviting Dr. Ericsson as a speaker, NC State University demonstrates its commitment to diversity and inclusion. It highlights the contributions and achievements of individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM fields. Dr. Ericsson's visit served to inspire students from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in science and engineering, fostering a more inclusive academic environment.

NC State University is known for its strong emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Dr. Ericsson's expertise in aerospace engineering and her involvement with NASA aligned well with the interests and aspirations of the university's STEM-focused student body. Her talk provided valuable insights into the latest advancements in the field and potentially spark interest in aerospace engineering among the attendees. Hosting Dr. Ericsson as a speaker created networking opportunities for students and faculty. Interaction with an accomplished professional in the aerospace industry served to open doors to internships, research collaborations, and mentorship opportunities. Such connections have tremendous benefits for students' educational and career paths, enabling them to gain practical insights and guidance from someone with extensive experience in their field of interest.

Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah:

The second speaker selected was Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University. Expertise in ethics and philosophy. Dr. Appiah is a renowned philosopher, cultural theorist, and author with a deep understanding of ethics, moral philosophy, and cultural identity. Inviting him as a speaker provided students and faculty at NC State University with the opportunity to engage with his expertise and explore critical ethical questions relevant to their academic pursuits and personal lives.

Dr. Appiah's work encompasses a global perspective, examining the ethical dimensions of cultural diversity, globalization, and identity. In an increasingly interconnected world, his insights served to broaden students' understanding of complex ethical issues that arise in diverse societies. His expertise in cultural studies and the examination of cultural norms and values provided an enriching intellectual discourse at NC State University.

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Dr. Appiah's work transcends disciplinary boundaries, making it relevant to students and faculty from various fields of study. His insights were valuable to students pursuing majors in philosophy, sociology, cultural studies, political science, and other related disciplines. Moreover, his interdisciplinary approach encourages interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, fostering a more holistic and well-rounded education for students at NC State.

Recommendations for Revision of Charge and/or Membership Configuration:

The committee was comprised of students, faculty, and staff representing several campus stakeholders. While the committee saw active membership with several committee members, there were several individuals who did not attend, participate, or respond to multiple requests for their involvement. I would recommend a reaffirmation and a memorandum of agreement to all committee members of the expectations of their role, responsibilities, and participation on the committee.