

Annual Report
Speakers and Lectures Committee
NC State University
2023-2024

Introduction:

The NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee is a vibrant hub for diverse voices and ideas within the NC State University community, dedicated to fostering intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and enriching dialogue. Our committee is committed to meticulously curating a diverse selection of engaging speakers and thought-provoking lectures.

Our primary aim is to enhance the educational experience for students, faculty, and staff by providing a broad spectrum of perspectives, expertise, and narratives. Exposure to various ideas and experiences is crucial for personal development, intellectual exploration, and cultivating well-rounded individuals.

With a mission to stimulate intellectual discourse and catalyze positive change, the NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee endeavors to tackle contemporary issues, ignite conversations, and challenge conventional wisdom. We aim to foster an inclusive environment where diverse viewpoints are acknowledged and respected, nurturing a culture of open-mindedness, critical analysis, and civil discourse.

Our vision is to empower the NC State community by offering opportunities to engage with influential speakers who are experts in their respective fields, renowned thought leaders, and individuals who have significantly contributed to society. Through these captivating lectures and interactive sessions, we aspire to cultivate a community of lifelong learners motivated to effect positive change in their lives and the broader world.

The NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee is steadfast in its dedication to creating a vibrant intellectual landscape on campus, encouraging dialogue, broadening horizons, and fostering a profound appreciation for knowledge and diverse perspectives. We invite you to join us on this transformative journey of exploration, enlightenment, and growth.

Roster for 2023/2024 Speakers and Lectures Committee

Seat Type	Term Ends	Occupied By	Affiliation	Contact Info
Chair	June 2024	Jackson, Melvin "Jai"	Office for Inst. Equity & Divers OIED Administration	Campus Box 7530 9195159243 mjacks6@ncsu.edu
FSEN	June 2024	Edwards, Harriett	College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Agricultural & Human Sciences	Campus Box 7606 9195159548 haedward@ncsu.edu
FAC	June 2026	Belcher, Scott	College of Sciences Biological Sciences	Campus Box 7617 9195131214 smbelch2@ncsu.edu
FAC	June 2025	Manfra, Meghan	College of Education TELS	Campus Box 7801 9195132590 mmanfra@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 "Jai"	Office for Inst. Equity & Divers OIED Administration	Campus Box 7530 9195159243 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 Performing Arts and Technology	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		

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Annual Report:

University Standing Committee:	<u>Speakers and Lectures</u>
Academic Year Covered by Report:	<u>2023-24</u>
Date Report Submitted:	<u>May 6, 2024</u>
Report Submitted by:	<u>Melvin (Jai) Jackson</u>
Number of times committee met:	<u>Nine (9) meetings</u>

2023-2024 Committee Activities:

The committee met nine (9) times via Zoom with additional email communications among committee members to address opportunities for improvement and continued programmatic success.

Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, the NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee embarked on a comprehensive initiative to expand its reach and enhance the diversity of voices heard within the university community. Developing robust relationships with representative agencies across the international speaker circuit was central to our efforts. By forging these connections, we aimed to broaden our pool of potential speakers and ensure a rich tapestry of perspectives for our audiences.

In tandem with our outreach efforts, the committee devoted significant time and resources to meticulous planning for the upcoming 2024-25 academic year. Recognizing the importance of long-term strategic vision, we engaged in extensive discussions, research, and coordination to identify emerging themes, pressing issues, and areas of intellectual interest. This thorough planning process allowed us to lay the groundwork for an exciting lineup of speakers and lectures that promise to captivate and inspire the NC State community.

Moreover, the past year saw concerted efforts to strengthen existing relationships and forge new partnerships with colleagues, offices, and organizations within and beyond the university. By collaborating closely with various stakeholders, including academic departments, student groups, and external institutions, we sought to leverage collective expertise and resources to bolster our speakers and lecture opportunities. These collaborative endeavors expanded the scope of our programming and fostered a spirit of camaraderie and shared commitment to intellectual engagement and enrichment.

Looking Forward:

Looking ahead to the 2024-25 academic year, the NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee is thrilled to announce exciting partnerships with key campus entities, reflecting our commitment to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and engagement. Collaborating closely with the Office for Student Leadership and Engagement, we aim to integrate our speaker events seamlessly into leadership development programs and student organization initiatives. By aligning our efforts, we seek to empower student leaders with valuable insights, diverse perspectives, and thought-provoking discourse that will enrich their leadership journey and impact within the NC State community and beyond.

Furthermore, our collaboration with the Campus Writing and Speaking Program underscores our shared dedication to promoting effective communication and critical thinking skills among students. Through joint workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions, we endeavor to equip students with the tools and confidence to articulate their ideas, engage in meaningful dialogue, and contribute thoughtfully to academic and societal conversations. By integrating speaking engagements into writing-intensive courses and public speaking curricula, we aim to create a synergistic learning experience that transcends disciplinary boundaries and cultivates well-rounded communicators and scholars.

In addition, the NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee is excited to partner with the University Activities Board (UAB) to amplify the impact and reach of our programming across

campus. Leveraging UAB's expertise in event planning and promotion, we aim to enhance the visibility and accessibility of our speaker events, attracting diverse audiences and fostering a vibrant culture of intellectual engagement and curiosity. Through collaborative marketing campaigns, social media initiatives, and campus-wide outreach efforts, we aspire to create buzz and excitement surrounding our upcoming speaker series, ensuring maximum participation and engagement from the NC State community.

Moreover, our partnership with the Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity (OIED) reflects our shared commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within the university. By collaborating on speaker selection, event planning, and outreach strategies, we aim to ensure that our programming reflects the rich tapestry of identities, experiences, and perspectives within the NC State community. Through intentional efforts to amplify underrepresented voices, address pressing social justice issues, and promote dialogue across differences, we strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where all members of the NC State community feel valued, heard, and empowered to engage in meaningful discourse and action.

Lastly, the NC State Speakers and Lectures Committee is eager to collaborate with the constituent academies of NC State University to enrich the academic experience and foster interdisciplinary collaboration among students, faculty, and staff. By partnering with academic departments, research centers, and interdisciplinary programs, we aim to curate speaker events that resonate with diverse disciplinary interests and scholarly pursuits. Through cross-disciplinary panels, collaborative workshops, and themed lecture series, we seek to facilitate connections, spark interdisciplinary dialogue, and inspire innovative thinking and collaboration across the university community. By leveraging our constituent academies' collective expertise and resources, we aspire to create a vibrant intellectual ecosystem where ideas flourish, boundaries are transcended, and transformative learning experiences abound.