Applications are invited for grants to support informal programs of interdisciplinary inquiry involving both faculty and students during the 2015-2016 academic year. Depending on availability of funds, up to three awards will be made to groups of faculty and students who propose coherent plans for interdisciplinary inquiry in any area of knowledge. The aim of the grants is to implement the vision of the late Warren Ashby that the University should be a community of inquiry, with faculty and students engaged in the pursuit of understanding both in and out of the classroom.

Each dialogue group will consist of approximately 10-15 faculty and students, representing at least two academic departments, who agree to meet at least once a month for 2-3 hours. The meetings will provide the opportunity for informal but focused inquiry into some topic or issue of mutual interest. The group may agree to meet for a single semester or for the whole academic year. Possible formats for the dialogues might include, but are by no means limited to:

- discussion of a series of readings, performances, or works of art that are united by some theme;
- sustained examination of a single important book;
- an investigation of the social or political implications of a recent event;
- an analysis of the public policy consequences of a scientific discovery or project.

The application should indicate the topic or issue that will provide the focus for the inquiry and the activities that will be undertaken to enhance the participants' understanding of the topic. **Preference will be given to applications that involve faculty and undergraduate students in a focused, coherent program of inquiry.**
Each award will provide up to $2,000 in funds payable to one or more visiting speakers or performers. Visitors should be asked to give one public lecture or performance and to meet for discussion with the dialogue group during their stay on campus. A group may choose to bring one speaker of national stature, or two or three speakers of more local renown. Multiple speakers might be scheduled throughout the semester or the year, or might participate in a symposium covering one or two days. The dollar amount paid to each visitor should be sufficient to cover all expenses; additional amounts for travel and lodging cannot be provided. Some additional funding may be provided for other expenses of the group, including refreshments.

Applicants should complete the application form on the back of this memo and include a 2-3 page narrative description of the proposed dialogue. The deadline for application submission is May 1, 2015; announcement of awards will be made by the end of May. Funds will be made available in August 2015. Submit completed applications to Bob Hansen, College of Arts and Sciences, Room 100 Foust Building, Campus (334-3186).
Application for Ashby Dialogue Grant

Title of proposed inquiry: Europe and other Fortresses in a Borderless World

Funds requested for:

- Fall semester only;  
- Spring semester only;  
- Academic year

Faculty coordinator:

Names:  
Susanne Rinner, Associate Professor of German Studies  
Brooke Kreitinger, Visiting Assistant Professor of German

Department:  
Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Other faculty participants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corey Johnson, Associate Professor of Geography</td>
<td>Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cybelle McFadden, Associate Professor of French</td>
<td>LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheryl Oring, Assistant Professor of Art</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student participants. List names and majors, if known. If student participants have not yet been identified, explain how they will be selected and the mix of undergraduate and graduate students that is planned.

Undergraduates: Katia Keller (Public Health), Michaela Warlick (IGS, Human Rights), Jiyoung Park (Art)
Graduate Students: Sheena Rose (Fulbright Scholar, Art), Matt Balentine (Geography)

The participation of additional students will be solicited from courses offered by participating faculty in their respective courses at the beginning of the fall semester. This will provide for a diverse group of students from various disciplines and programs across campus.

Names and institutions of proposed visitors (specify payment amount for each):

Professor Randall Halle (University of Pittsburg) $1,000.00  ($500 flight, $200 hotel, $300 honorarium)
Professor Reece Jones (University of Hawaii) $1,000.00  ($500 flight, $200 hotel, $300 honorarium)

Attach a 2-3 page narrative description of the proposed inquiry and submit the completed application to Associate Dean Bob Hansen, Room 100 Foust Building, Campus. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2015.
In light of the recent migration catastrophe on the Mediterranean, we propose to examine refugee crises that occur around the globe today. Based on ideas reaching back to the 18th century, the nation-state continues to be the unit that dominates global political geography despite the claims of borderlessness associated with globalization. Other factors of identity, such as regionalism, ethnic and racial considerations, socio-economic standing, religion, and language, also shape questions of belonging which translate into concrete borders and boundaries that are erected, defended, and challenged. One of these challenges is the floods of migration that sweep across the Mediterranean, the Near and Middle East, Northern Africa, and the Mexican-American border, to name just a few of the current hotspots. Migrants from disadvantaged or war-torn regions in the world undertake perilous journeys that fail. In the best case, migrants end up in a nowhere land, shuffled between jurisdictions. In the worst case, migrants die on their journeys.

Daily reports in the media stress the urgency of the issue of global migrations that pose political, economic, and moral and ethical challenges. In a series of meetings we propose to study the issue from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in order to analyze concrete historical and political situations. We are partnering with colleagues in Geography and Art and have identified undergraduate and graduate students from several departments to join monthly meetings. In addition, we will invite guest speakers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to provide further food for thought. In order to engage in more depth with this multifaceted topic, participating students will produce policy papers in close mentorship with faculty and present their work at our final meeting of the year.

**September:**
Welcome and Introductions
Development of Working Bibliography

**October**
Case Study: Fortress Europe – Unity, Inclusion, and Exclusion
(in conjunction with Campus Weeks 2015: 25th Anniversary of German Unification)

While German unification in 1990 was certainly a reason to celebrate, in its aftermath Germany witnessed increasing outburst of racism, severely threatening the notion of unified Germany as having finally arrived as an equal partner among its western allies. As a political response, Germany changed Article 16 in its Basic Law to offer a much more restrictive approach to granting political asylum, most importantly by adding language that those seeking political asylum had to arrive in Germany directly and could not have passed through a safe other country prior to entering Germany. It is clear that given the size and political geography of Europe, the attempt by one country to change its laws governing political asylum will have a ripple effect though the whole continent and beyond. Dr. Susanne Rinner will lead a discussion on the issue of asylum with in the context of a more general discussion of human rights.

**November**
Case Study: Migration, Borders, and Identity
Guest Speaker: Professor Randall Halle to discuss his work on transnational interzones and imagined communities

Dr. Randall Halle is a Professor of German Film and Cultural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh where he is cross-appointed with Film Studies, European Studies, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. Dr. Halle’s most recent work investigates the European Union as a project distinct from other globalist projects, because it is not simply a macromodel of the nation-state in its efforts at cultural union. To this end, he has developed the innovative notion of the “interzone,” which he defines as a terrain that is not delimitated by borders or geographic proximity but is also an ideational space that accounts for a sense of being somewhere that unites two places. Dr. Halle employs this concept to investigate historical migration and border issues that have significantly shaped notions of collective identity and culture in European countries, particularly in relation to the German-Polish border regions as well as the relationship between Germany and Turkey. What is particularly valuable about Dr. Halle’s work for this dialogue is the way in which he takes account of everyday
lives lived between multiple places and cultures as well as the creation of interzones in film and other works of culture. Dr. Brooke Kreitinger will lead the discussion.


Development of Position Papers

January
Case Study: Artists explore the border!
Guest speaker: Professor Pedro Lasch to discuss his work on borders and migration
Professor Lasch, originally from Mexico, teaches art at Duke University and is a faculty member at Duke's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. A number of students in UNCG's Art Department are creating work that examines various aspects of borders and migration and would be active participants in the dialogue and research growing out of it. Sheena Rose, who is from Barbados, is exploring issues of migration in her work as an MFA student. Undergraduate Jiyoung Park, originally from South Korea, is exploring the Korean border through collage-based works that examine the ongoing divide between North and South. Professor Sheryl Oring will lead the discussion.

February
Place, Space, and Identity: Screening and discussion of La Pirogue (2012)
This screening and discussion of the Senegalese director Moussa Touré’s film, La Pirogue, which tells the story of a group of Senegalese men who undertake the treacherous crossing of the Atlantic to Spain in a rickety pirogue in the hope of finding better prospects, will be led by Cybelle McFadden, Associate Professor of French at UNCG. Dr. McFadden’s research focuses on French and Francophone film in relation to issues of transculturalism between France and its former colonies. She has published on Franco-Arab transculturalism and Algerian transcultural tension and national allegories.


Development of Position Papers

March
Case Study: Borders and Violence
Guest speaker Reece Jones is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. His first book titled Border Walls: Security and the War on Terror in the United States, India, and Israel investigates how leading democracies such as the U.S., India, and Israel have justified the building massive walls and fences on their borders two decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall and despite claims of a borderless world through globalization. Dr. Jones’ work further analyzes the consequences of these barriers on the lives of those living in these newly enclosed communities and the long-term implications on global society resulting from the hardening of these political borders. His recently completed second manuscript The Violence of Borders addresses how some of the most significant challenges of our times, such as climate change, global wealth inequality, and the growth of slums, are all connected to issues of borders. Dr. Corey Johnson will the discussion.


April
Conclusion: Presentation of positions papers and art work