NC State Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Individual Undergraduate Research Grant Proposal

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Class Year: Junior
Expected Graduation Date: 12/2017
Mentor Name: Kathy Hamilton Gore
Mentor College & Dept.: CNR/PRTM
Mentor Email: khgore@ncsu.edu
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Proposal Title: Hill Forest Cultural Heritage Project

Funding will be for the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Semesters!
IF YOU ARE GRADUATING IN DECEMBER 2016: Fall ONLY: ________

Grants are given half in the Fall and half in the Spring semester. If the entire amount is needed to order equipment etc. in the Fall for the beginning of the grant (justification needed):
Yes ________ No ________ X ________

Amount Requested: 1,000
Are Funds going to students X ________ or Faculty Mentor ________ or Split ________
If split – distribution amounts: Faculty ________ Student ________

Please submit your research proposal below. Please limit your proposal to 4 additional pages! Include the following:
1. Your research hypothesis, question, design goals, or research thesis
2. Your research or design plan, include any required approvals by University IRB for Human Research or IACUC for vertebrate research.
3. State the importance and implications in advancing disciplinary knowledge
4. State the connection between this project and your curricular interests

Save the completed document as a pdf or Word file with your name in the file name. Upload the proposal and the completed budget to http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad-research/research_awards/login.php. Your mentor should upload your recommendation at http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/applications/undergraduate_research_grant/mentor/login.cfm

Proposal (continue on additional pages):
Hill Forest Cultural Heritage Project Proposal by Tori A. Jones

1. **Research Question**: Can NC State University’s Hill Forest be developed into a cultural heritage destination site for local tourism? During the Summer of 2015, the Forest Manager of NC State University, College of Natural Resources, Department of Forest Environmental Resources (FER) Hill Demonstration Forest was approached by the Executive Director of the John Chavis Historical Society, Inc. (JCHS) to see if anything could be done to help the organization discover the grave site of her ancestor, John Chavis, which has long been believed to be located in the old family cemetery of what was the Mangum Plantation, located in Durham County, NC, before it became known as Hill Forest. In addition, the historical society wanted to know how public attention could be expanded in relation to Chavis, his life contributions and achievements, and his relationship with North Carolina Senator (pre-Civil War), Willie P. Mangum. The Forest Manager contacted staff in the CNR Community for Diversity for assistance in locating faculty in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (PRTM) who could partner with FER and CFD to explore opportunities to achieve the goals of JCHS. Kathy Hamilton Gore, Teaching Associate Professor in PRTM took the lead in the partnership and created the Hill Forest Cultural Heritage Project (HFCHP).

Connecting the goals of this new Partnership, focused on John Chavis, to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources John Chavis Memorial Park (and community center and carousel), Professor Hamilton Gore’s three PRT 152 (Introduction to PRTM) classes completed historical research group projects (between August 2015 and June 2016) on John Chavis, who was an 18th and 19th century (1763-1838) free college-educated African American soldier (American Revolutionary War), preacher and teacher in VA and NC, and believed to be the first African American in the United States to receive a college degree at Washington University (now Washington and Lee) in Lexington, VA. Students also speculated how to determine if John Chavis is really buried in Hill Forest and how to develop the area (Hill Forest) into a cultural heritage destination tourism site.

2. **Research Design**: Exploratory research using Content/Document Analysis to obtain historical and biographical information to create Story Map; investigate, identify and secure GPR resource; develop conceptual plans for the creation of cultural heritage tourism destination site. This undergraduate researcher, under the guidance of Kathy Hamilton Gore will build upon the work of 21 student groups over the last year, integrating (and fact-checking) and expanding the historical information (to include the Mangum family history and Hill Forest usage) to create a public Story Map Journal that will launch on Esri’s ARCGIS by January 2017 to increase exposure and interest of the broader national public in the unique character of John Chavis. This researcher will investigate and develop a plan for the use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to
determine where and how many bodies (marked and unmarked; slave and Mangum family) are buried in Hill Forest and will also build on the student groups’ visions for the development of a portion of Hill Forest as a cultural heritage tourism destination site. This last objective will be achieved through working with involved staff from the initial Partners (PRTM, FER, CFD, JCHS) as well as identifying and connecting with potential NC State University and community partners.

This researcher will have to review all 21 previous PRT 152 student class projects to integrate them into seamless and valid slides with appropriate graphic interpretations to create a Story Map Journal on the ARCGIS by January 2017. Fact-checking and expanding on the previous work will require this student researcher to visit several historic sites to view and record documents and artifacts connected to John Chavis: libraries at UNC-Chapel Hill, Washington and Lee University, and the NC State Archives; as well as, libraries and museums in Oxford, Raleigh, and Durham, NC and in Washington, D.C. In order to create and expand on conceptual plans of student groups and the Partners for the development of Hill Forest, this researcher will have to make several trips to the site in Northern Durham County and to Oxford to meet with members of the JCHS.

Preliminary Tasks and Timeline require this researcher to:

* meet with the HFCHP Partners in mid-August be introduced and go over plan for 2016-2017 academic year of project; provide monthly updates, electronically; meet on monthly basis from January through April 2017 until project complete

* maintain all information on designated flash drive and regularly complete back-up on PRTM computer; submit all data and product to Mentor

* provide weekly status reports to Faculty Mentor each Wednesday, beginning August 17

* visit old Mangum homestead and cemeteries and Camp Slocum at Hill Forest for initial pictures and videos (provided by PRTM and FER) by September 21 and return as often as necessary to complete conceptual project goals during Spring 2017

* review all 21 group projects and discard all slides that are deemed inaccurate or not usable by September 7

* begin building integrated Story Map Journal on ARCGIS by September 14

* attend opening of National Museum of African American Culture, September 23-25

* visit Washington and Lee University by October 28

* engage staff of John Chavis Memorial Park to determine what can be added to the Story Map
*complete visits to designated and other libraries in area to complete research by November 16

*test and publicly launch The Hill Forest Cultural Heritage Project on ARCGIS by January 11, 2017

*visit identified local, state and private museums after Story Map has launched during Spring 2017 to see how cultural heritage tourism is structured, marketed and promoted

*explore opportunities for connecting the John Chavis Memorial Park (undergoing major renovations in 2017) to the HFCHP during February or March

*integrate the Story Map launch with the JCHS major annual fundraiser in February 2017

*present final concept plan to HFCHP Partners by April 2017

*present undergraduate research at the NC State Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium in April 2017

3. Importance and implications in advancing disciplinary knowledge: **Creating the groundwork for the development of Hill Forest as a cultural heritage tourism destination site.** It is very important to promote a little-known part of the history of America, of North Carolina, and of African American heritage: the extraordinary life of John Chavis. Too many contributions of African American history have been lost or forgotten to current and future generations. The HFCHP seeks to correct this travesty for all who would care to know through the Story Maps and to one day visit a tourism site at Hill Forest where the story of John Chavis and the Mangum family will unfold. The John Chavis Memorial Park honored this man’s achievement and value to Raleigh and to North Carolina when the facility was built through the Works Progress Administration in 1937, just one year prior to his death, and well before the Civil War. Yet, even though there is a plaque in the facility that bears Chavis’ likeness and brief bio, many who regularly participate in recreation activities have no clue of how extraordinary this man was. The Hill Forest Manager has known for years that there was a story to be told on that land but did not know how to move the idea forward. The descendants of Chavis have wanted to tell the story of their ancestor, publishing a book about him and the desire to identify his grave site; even organizing their efforts through an historical society but still not being able to gain broader and sustained interest by others. The timing is right to promote the culture and history of Chavis, Mangum, ante-bellum life in NC, and the contributions of African Americans, freedmen and slaves. There are willing, able, and committed Partners ready to work towards the promotion of all of this, and more, through the development of Hill Forest as a cultural heritage tourism destination site.

4. **Connection between the project and curricular interests:** As a student majoring in PRTM, I was excited to discover the departments embrace and integration of diversity and
collaboration, as well as sharing my interest in the research, interpretation, and preservation of history. This project will allow me to conduct extensive research of local history, while collaborating with various departments, groups, and professions, gaining experience in the process of creating and developing a cultural heritage site from the ground-up. Upon graduating from the program the skills learned through this project will allow me to be better prepared in creating educational recreation and tourism opportunities and will support my goal of bringing people and the landscape together.

5. References:


Mangum Family Papers #483, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.


