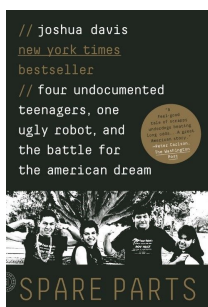


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Selection for Fall 2019 Common Reading Experience



Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream by Joshua Davis has been selected as UNC Charlotte's Common Reading Experience text for Fall 2019. As the subtitle suggests, this is a story about education, immigration, race, Americanness, a feel-good tale that is funny, honest, sad, and compellingly written. The selection committee is confident that this text will spark discussions of systemic inequalities and cultural diversity, a major goal of the UNC Charlotte Common Reading Experience. We are excited to see what instructors who adopt the text will be able to do for and with their students to increase their understanding of a complex world. We encourage wide-scale campus engagement with *Spare Parts*, and we hope that this text will be widely referenced by those who teach first-year students. Author Joshua Davis will visit campus in and speak to the public at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Blanton Named Graduate School Director of Business Affairs

Jonathan Blanton, current City Manager for the City of Hamlet, NC, will join the staff of the Graduate School at UNC Charlotte on May 20 as Director of Finance and Business Affairs. Blanton completed a dual degree program in 2016, receiving both his Master's degree in Public Administration from UNC Charlotte and his J.D. from the Charlotte School of Law. In his new role with the Graduate School, Blanton will be responsible for all business, financial and personnel activities in the Graduate School. Please visit [The Graduate School website](#) for more information.

Atkins Library Launches Institutional Repository

Niner Commons is UNC Charlotte's free and openly accessible institutional repository (IR) that captures and preserves our academic community's research and scholarship output. The work that makes up a repository include preprints, postprints, theses and dissertations, working papers, technical reports, datasets, multimedia, learning objects, and other scholarly materials. Institutional repositories are utilized at thousands of universities around the world to collective benefit. The Library is looking for the [first 49 faculty to volunteer](#) to pilot Niner Commons and submit just one publication to put into the IR. Participation is voluntary; complete this [quick form](#) by Friday, May 31. Your participation will enable the Library to create your personal digital profile within Niner Commons for you. This will allow you to showcase your collection of work to a global audience. The materials you put in here will be openly accessible with permanent links enabling more people around the world to use and cite your work. Questions and comments can be directed to ninercommons@uncc.edu.

IT Connect: Never Too Late to Learn

Register today for one or all of the IT Connect trainings offered at no cost to you! Whether you prefer to be taught in-person or online, ITS has got you covered on tools of success.

In-Person Trainings

- Beginner Google Sheets, Beginner Google Docs, Beginner Slides, Advanced Google Docs ([Register](#))

Web-Based Training

- Google Forms (NEW)
Take the brief training at skillport.uncc.edu, click Browse the Library > ITS Connection Training

Do you have an IT training suggestion? [Let us know!](#)

Dissertation Defenses

The dissertation defense is one of the ways a new scholar demonstrates readiness to join the academy and is an opportunity to share their research widely. [View All Dissertation Defense Announcements](#)

Upcoming Events

This Week:

- Apr 29** [2019 UNC Charlotte Science and Technology Expo](#)
- May 1** [10th Anniversary Study Abroad International Photo Exhibit and Opening Reception](#)
- May 1** [Global Gateways Application Deadline](#)
- May 2** [Botanical Drawing 1](#)
- May 3** [Participation in Local Energy Initiatives: The Role of Social Networks](#)
- May 5** [Mother's Day Gift-Making for Kids](#)

Next Week:

- May 8** [International Student Graduation Reception](#)
- May 9** [Plants and Palettes](#)

Upcoming: provost.uncc.edu/division-news/weekly-news-digest/upcoming-events

*The [OAA News Digest](#) is distributed each Monday to Academic Affairs faculty and staff.
Deadline for submission is 11:00 a.m. every Friday.*