

EUNOMIA

Goddess of good order

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Editor's Note

Commonly we associate the aftermath of an economic recession with stagnation and intellectual conservatism. Money is tight, after all, so it seems wise to maintain the status quo, take few risks, and wait for better days to start new projects. Not so at UNCG. If anything, our graduate work is more innovative and adventurous than ever.

This is certainly true in the development of the brand new graduate programs in Nanoscience. On the cutting edge of technology, the new Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, a collaboration of UNCG and North Carolina A&T State University, allows students access to state-of-the-art equipment in this exciting field. Likewise, the department of Social Work recently received permission to plan a new joint PhD program with A&T.

Last spring, MFA Studio Arts students showcased their work in the renowned Christina Ray Gallery in New York City, another first. MS Accounting students took part in a competitive internship program, facilitated not only by the faculty but current students and alumni. And our Conflict and Peace Studies students volunteered for a newly developed tenant-landlord dispute hotline and assisted the City of Greensboro in mediating between the two groups.

Moreover, our individual student projects are no less ambitious than efforts by the departments. Counseling PhD Carrie Wachter Morris, currently working at Purdue University, has been developing a video game to help Counseling students apply their suicide assessment and intervention skills. Cat Trovato, a graduate student in the department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation, leads the burgeoning Peer Companion program, which, for a semester, pairs UNCG students with young people who have physical and mental disabilities.

Nursing PhD students Wanda Thompson and Willie Mae Abel gained recognition from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Johnson & Johnson as Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars. Their work in the African-American community focuses on health issues specific to African-American women.

These leaders in the UNCG community continue to promote innovation through their hard work and dedication to their respective fields. Recession or not, we are studying in exciting times.

Julia Patt
Managing Editor

School of Nursing Takes Double Honors

The prestigious Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars program, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, is a nationally recognized program created to encourage under-represented groups in the field of Nursing to become teachers. Awardees are granted a scholarship and are included in a faculty mentoring program. In Fall 2008, Wanda

Thompson, a graduate of UNCG, was drawn to nursing from an early age. "We had a course in high school called Health Occupations. They'd take us to the hospital and show us the different things we could do. I really liked the nurses and spent a lot of time with them. And I decided that was something I wanted to do." In her junior and senior year of high school, she worked as a nurse's aide in a nursing home. She currently works part-time as a nurse practitioner for the Durham County Health Department, in addition to completing her studies at UNCG.

Abel, a graduate of UNC Charlotte, reflects on similar beginnings. She also began as a nurse's aide while in high school and has spent 29 years practicing nursing, and 17 of those years teaching in an associate degree nursing program. Her clinical specialty is critical care nursing, and in addition to teaching, she has also worked as a nursing supervisor and manager. Eventually, however, she discovered that her real passion was for teaching. "Nursing is wonderful because there are so many different avenues an individual can pursue," she says.

Since beginning her career, Thompson has also felt the call to teach, citing the need for a more diverse faculty in the field. "It's important that the faculty is representative of the community," Thompson says. "You need diversity. When I realized how bad the shortage of nurses and professors was, especially minority nurses and professors, I decided to pursue my PhD."

Both have had fruitful experiences at the UNCG program.

"I really like the program at UNCG," Thompson says. "The faculty is just awesome. They're very supportive. The program is more flexible. They understand the needs of working, adult students."

"There are great opportunities here to advance your nursing career. The faculty members are remarkable and so helpful in guiding students toward their educational goals. And the face-to-face interaction with faculty and peers has been invaluable," Abel notes.



The faculty members are remarkable and so helpful, guiding students toward their educational goals

Thompson of UNCG's Nursing PhD program was one of five scholars across the country awarded the coveted prize. Now, two years later, a second UNCG PhD candidate, Willie Mae Abel, has received the same honor. Both women are experienced nurses, as well as dedicated students and mothers.

Thompson, a graduate of North Carolina

Minority Nurse Faculty Scholar Willie Mae Abel takes a patient's blood pressure. Photo by Brian Peck.

In their dissertations, Thompson and Abel address problems particular to their communities. Thompson studied encouraging physical activity in African American adolescent girls and preventing risk behaviors such as overeating and lack of exercise. “Adolescence is when young people decide to exercise and to eat right. Young African American women have the lowest rate of physical activity,” she says. In order to combat this



Minority Nurse Faculty Scholar Wanda Thompson gives presentation. Photo by Darneshia Blackmon.

issue, Thompson believes young women should be made aware of the resources available to them, such as exercise videos online or the use of dance as exercise.

Abel wanted to use her nursing background to benefit African-Americans. “African-American women have the highest prevalence of hypertension in the world,” she says. Her dissertation, “Medication Adherence Issues in African American Women with Hypertension,” addresses this issue. She is also involved in a research study with Anita Sherer, a clinical nurse specialist from Moses Cone Health System and her PhD advisor, Dr. Patricia Crane, to determine predictors of readmission in heart failure patients, which she presented at the Southern Nursing Research Society conference in February 2011.

Receiving the scholarship was a thrilling moment for both women. “It was really an honor,” Thompson says.

Abel remembers calling Thompson, who encouraged her to apply last spring, and exclaiming, “You are not going to believe this. I got it! I got the Johnson & Johnson scholarship!”

NEW YORK PREMIERE

By: Anna Wheeler

Every year, the graduate students in the MFA in Studio Arts program at UNCG get to display their theses—a culmination of two years of creative effort—at UNCG’s Weatherspoon Art Museum. This year, in addition to the Weatherspoon show, students were invited to exhibit their work at the Christina Ray Gallery located in New York City’s riveting Soho, in an exhibit entitled *Tension: New Work by New Artists*.

The exhibition showcased work in an array of media including printmaking, video, drawing, photography, installation, and sculpture. Artists featured in the exhibition included Kristin Ashley, Eric Kniss, Heath Montgomery, Sam Peck, Christian Ryan, Melissa Sullivan, Matthew Thompson, and Liliya Zalevskaya.

The Christina Ray Gallery is an innovative gallery and creative catalyst in New York whose mission, grounded in the concept of psychogeography, is to discover and present the most important contemporary artwork exploring the relationship between people and places. Soho itself is recently re-emerging as an alternative art space for embracing cutting edge work and a new identity for culture and the arts.

“Our graduate students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and in that way represent a broad range of experience in contemporary work and art practice,” says Christopher Cassidy, the Director of Graduate Studies in Art. Of the students involved in this year’s thesis show, Cassidy says, “This work really speaks to our students’ visual intelligence. They’re committed to making work and having that work say something.”

Appropriately, this year’s collection made strong statements about dislocation and travel, speaking to the notion of being an outsider to New York and an itinerant artist. Cassidy says, “Our students



MFA Studio Art Students pose with their work at the Christina Ray Gallery in Soho. Photo by Rachel Esterday.

are not generally hooked in to the New York art scene, so they were able to assemble some really original, quirky responses to that larger social context.”

Among the works on display was Eric Kniss’s *Blue Column*, standing at the center of the gallery and made of unpacked but not unraveled ropes laid like bricks to reach the ceiling. The blue lines acted as the center of a curated wheel, with each piece surrounding it a distinct spoke.

“Eric’s sculpture was dealing with some very basic ideas about materials and simple physical forces,” says Cassidy. “Like the notion of how materials merge, resist gravity, change over time or under pressure.” But *Blue Column* could also be seen as an offbeat visual pun about supporting weight under compression.

“These objects are about making people aware of their existence,” says Cassidy. All of the work displayed was assembled on site, and students had to rethink their designs to work with the gallery space.

Cassidy says, “The students did a professional job. It looked like a New York show.” Among the exhibition’s audience were numerous other young artists native to New York. “It gave our students the opportunity to connect to a bigger network of artists, but also to imagine themselves within the New York art scene, to imagine if that’s a direction they’d like to go.”

The exhibition was made possible by support from the College of Arts and Sciences and a generous donation by UNCG alumna, journalist and author, Bonnie Angelo. Cassidy says that he and the Department of Art are actively engaged in organizing a similar experience for 2011’s graduating class and hopes a New York show will become an annual event in the MFA program.



Eric Kniss’s piece “Blue Column” was made of unpacked ropes. Photo by Rachel Esterday.

Ingenuity in the Community

Community and Therapeutic Recreation MS Develops Companion Program

If you had told Cat Trovato as an undergraduate student at SUNY Geneseo that some day she would be pursuing her Master of Science degree in Parks and Recreation Management with a concentration in Thera-



Parks and Recreation student Cat Trovato organizes the Peer Companion Program which promotes inclusive recreation.

I've come to really embrace the outdoors and enjoy the experience of it. And I want to share that with other people." Trovato's primary interest is inclusive recreation, which promotes recreational experiences for anyone interested, regardless of skill level or disability status.

Trovato is one of the coordinators behind the Peer Companion Program sponsored by the Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusive Networks (TRAIN) Grant, a federally funded grant directed by Dr. Stuart J. Schleien and coordinated by Kimberly Miller. The program facilitates semester-long interactions between UNCG undergraduate students and persons with physical or mental disabilities. Disabled peers include students of a post-secondary education program for adults with intellectual disabilities, and a local nonprofit community organization.

The Peer Companion Program allows students from both groups to have new experiences and develop friendships they might not otherwise have. For one semester, the students interact on a weekly basis. Some of the activities are structured, but most are casual, according to Trovato. "The majority of our groups just want to hang out and go to the movies or go to dinner or play video games."

The program was just getting off the ground when Trovato arrived at UNCG in Spring 2010. "We were still trying to figure everything out, and we only had one group going," she says. "Right now, we have 22 groups going. This past year has been crazy with it. It's really exciting."

Trovato is slow to take credit for the program's sudden success, despite the integral role she plays in matching students, as well as overseeing the program throughout the semester. "I don't see myself personally making all this magic happen. I just facilitate it."

Still, she notes, it's been quite an experience. "My eyes have been opened even wider to the potential that people can have in developing relationships with individuals who are different from who they are. The Peer Companion program is so much more than just providing recreational and friendship opportunities. It is a vehicle for social change and acceptance for people with and without disabilities. I am honored to be a part of it!"

And according to Trovato, her experiences at UNCG have been nothing short of wonderful. "I think UNCG's a great place to come if you know this is the area you want to explore. The faculty and staff here are so willing to help and guide you in your exploration of the field. There are a lot of opportunities here."

Even with her professed reservations about camping and hiking, Trovato isn't new to inclusion and recreation. She has worked for 12 years as a camp counselor for children with disabilities. After graduating, she intends to pursue her passion further by working in camp administration.

peutic Recreation, she probably wouldn't have believed you. "I was a Biology major and Sociology minor who thought, hiking? Ew. Camping? Ew," she says. "But recently

Assisting Local Government

MA Students in Conflict Studies Tackle Tenant-Landlord Disputes

In April 2010, UNCG's Conflict and Peace Studies program began an ongoing partnership with the City of Greensboro Human Relations Department to help resolve landlord and tenant disputes. In the first six months of the program graduate students handled 138 cases dealing with various issues. While some calls are requests for more information on rights and methods to resolve disputes, the majority of the calls deal with substantial issues, including repairs, billing, foreclosure, eviction, vermin, mold, air conditioning repairs, and water leaks. Although the initial impetus of the program was to provide a forum for disputes not covered by Fair Housing regulations, the program is emerging as a critical resource for resolving disputes before they involve the legal system and provides students working on their master's degree in Conflict Resolution an opportunity to practice their skills.

Dr. Cathie Witt, director of Conflict and Peace Studies, created the volunteer program with the assistance of a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. She notes that



Conflict and Peace Studies students mediate landlord-tenant disputes for the City of Greensboro. Photo by Joe Borawski.

Interactive Learning

Counseling PhD Graduate Develops Suicide Intervention Video Game

The idea started after a faculty delegation visited Finland, where educators were working to put together a career services video game. UNCG alumna Carrie Wachter Morris, who currently teaches at Purdue University, says that the idea of using serious video games intrigued her. "On the plane ride back, I kept thinking what a neat idea it was. And I thought, is this a medium I could potentially use for training purposes?"



Counseling PhD Carrie Wachter Morris teaches at Purdue University where she has developed a training module on suicide assessment.

Wachter Morris completed her PhD in Counseling at UNCG in 2006. Her dissertation, "Crisis in the Schools: Crisis Intervention Training, and School Counselor Burnout," provided a leaping off point for this new project: creating a training module on suicide assessment for counselors and counseling students.

"There are so many people who are uncomfortable with their ability to do suicide assessments.

My thought was, how could I harness this technology to create a training tool to help them be more comfortable?"

The game, which is currently being tested and evaluated, takes about 20 minutes to complete. Players learn they are starting as counseling interns at a high school and a note has been found indicating that a student intends to commit suicide at the end of the week. Five students are potentially at risk. Players have to go around the school and figure out who it is by talking to teachers and sitting in on classes. Concurrently there are a number of other required tasks that must be completed by the end of the week.

"It's not just figuring out who the student is, but figuring out who the student is while they're balancing everything else," Wachter Morris notes.

In order to successfully complete the game, players need to

identify the student and another student who is at risk.

"There's not animation, but the graphics are nicely done," Wachter Morris says. "It's all designed by undergraduates. I provided the content."

Ideally the game will not only allow counseling students to test their skills but also to gain confidence and ease with the language of suicide assessment and prevention. "I want them to know how to phrase questions, how to ask students what they need to ask. I want them to take away some of that language. I don't want them to be afraid of asking students if they've thought about suicide."

Once the game is tested and evaluated, Wachter Morris intends to circulate it not just at the university level, but also for professionals in the field who may want to brush up on their skills.

In addition to teaching and developing the suicide risk assessment game, Wachter Morris advocates for school counselors in the state of Indiana. The Indiana School Counselors Association recently recognized her as the 2010 Exemplary Counselor Educator for the state.

Wachter Morris attributes much of her success to the experiences she had at UNCG. "UNCG has a fabulous program. You get to interact with faculty who are top-notch. And you get a chance to practice your skills before you're out. I absolutely credit UNCG and the faculty I worked with for the things I'm able to do now."



Screenshot from UNCG grad Carrie Wachter Morris's suicide risk assessment video game.

the project, which fulfills practicum research hours for the students, is a community service endeavor and part of the department's ongoing community outreach efforts. "People's voices often aren't heard in these disputes, on both sides, and the city's resources are limited. Plus it gives our students an opportunity to learn the process of listening and practicing their skills."

The students take calls via a hotline in Greensboro's Human Relations Department. Dr. Sherrill Hayes, a Conflict Studies faculty member helping to evaluate the program, stated, "The data show that, to date, most of the cases have been resolved through simply opening the conversation between landlord and tenant and have not required face-to-face mediation. Although there have been few "mediations," there have been resolutions resulting in few cases going to court after contacting the program."

Rebecca Curtis says she enjoys the program because it allows her to empower others. "Through the reassurance of our graduate assistant, Joe, my fears were calmed. The first phone message I returned gave me such confidence and a feeling of clear purpose. I am here to connect and increase communication between tenants and landlords, to give both parties a voice." Curtis's first case was featured on Fox 8 News.

"I also think it's great that our CNR program has an opportunity to get involved in the community like this," she says. "It's a way for us to give back to Greensboro and gives us an outlet to apply the skills we're learning."

Kathryn Wilson, a student from Brooklyn, is likewise enthusiastic. "Every time I successfully resolve a case in the Landlord Tenant Dispute Program, I feel a sense of gratification."

The Master of Arts in Conflict and Peace Studies is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to develop their skills as mediators. It is offered both on campus and online. An online student, Wilson says she still feels connected to the faculty and her peers in the program. "The professors are supportive and extremely helpful," she says. "I am confident that I am gaining the necessary skills to become a competent mediator."

Ideally, the Landlord-Tenant dispute program will continue to develop and expand. "More city departments could benefit from similar assistance," Dr. Witt notes. "If we prevent disputes from going to court, it takes pressure off the system, and helps community people feel more connected to their local government."

New School Spotlight *Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering*

By: Spencer Kealamakia

Dr. James Ryan says that nanotechnology exists all around us, often in unexpected forms. "Nanotechnology, progressively making things smaller and with a higher performance, enables cell phones to have higher computing power than what sent men to the moon," says Ryan.

One might assume that nanoscience relates only to high technology and electronics. But, as Ryan goes on to explain, nanotechnology is in tires, batteries, paints, textiles, just to name a few. There are medical companies that use the technology to create material for surgical garments that are impregnated with silver, thus making them more antibacterial. There is a company in North Carolina that uses nanotechnology to make phase-change materials, which are good insulators and could be used in creating something as unassuming as the lining of a pizza delivery box carrier.

Ryan, Dean of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, a new collaborative program between North Carolina A&T State University and UNCG, believes that nanotechnology's broad application base is exactly why the JSNN is important. "Students can learn about these technologies to prepare themselves for a workforce that will have a large number of nanotechnology-oriented jobs." This is especially beneficial in North Carolina, which is among the top states that are home to nanotechnology companies.

The JSNN officially opened its doors at the beginning of the Fall 2010 term, and as Ryan puts it, they're "coming up the curve." The professors have begun classes for the 18 students of the program—17 PhDs and one MS—and several research proposal grants have already been

submitted. "We've been very busy teaching our first class of students and building our capabilities," says Ryan.

Included in the effort to "build their capabilities" is a new 56.3 million-dollar complex being constructed adjacent to the current building, which is located at the Gateway University Research Park. Ryan says he is excited about the new building for a number of reasons, one of which is the building's design. It was designed with the public in mind, tour-ready and field trip accessible, to promote the science of nanotechnology and science in general, and perhaps excite future generations about this promising field. Ryan expects the new complex to be ready for use by the Spring 2012 term.

Building capabilities is as much about human resources as it is about material ones and the inaugural class is an international group of students that brings diverse skills and disciplines to the table. They come from fields such as engineering, biology, physics, chemistry, math, information technology, and agriculture, a necessary mix, as Ryan sees it, to plunge head on into the emerging fields of nanobiotechnology and nanometrology. All but two students were educated in North Carolina, and five are UNCG alumni.

The future looks promising for nanoscience, as it does for the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering and its students.

"Making investments in a way that not only helps with education and research but assists in economic development is a very good thing," says Ryan. The school represents a vision and a commitment on the part of the state of North Carolina to remain competitive in emerging fields, the kind of forward-thinking approach that will provide relevant education for a 21st century workforce.



The new Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering allows Master's and PhD students to work on the cutting edge of technology. Photo by Jaqueline Oates.

Need Internships? No Problem!

MS in Accounting students come from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines. According to lecturer Amanda Cromartie, perhaps half of each incoming class received their bachelor's degree in Accounting. Others arrive with degrees in Business Management, Psychology, History, English, and Music. International students and members of the U.S. military are regular features, as are students of nontraditional ages.

All of the students have the opportunity to participate in the program's rigorous internship program, which places students at 12 local CPA firms, as well as government agencies. "It is an extremely organized year-round process, starting each fall," says Melissa Hershberger, who has coordinated the internships for the past five years. "But there are no guarantees."

Each year between 20 and 30 students participate in the internship program. Students prepare their resumes and participate in mock interviews. The Career Services Center assists the program in this capacity, allowing the students use of their interviewing rooms. UNCG students compete with those from Appalachian State, Elon, Wake Forest, UNC

Wilmington, NC State, and UNC Chapel Hill for the coveted positions, most of which are with Triad-area firms during the spring busy season. The internship carries three academic credits and requires 320 hours of work.

In addition to providing the students with valuable corporate experience, Ms. Hershberger says, it also facilitates the hiring process. After the internship application season has passed, the department works on full-time placement. About 80% of the students are hired in full-time jobs before they graduate and this year's class is projected to be even higher.

With the recession, of course, jobs are harder to come by but that hasn't deterred the MS Accounting students. "The minute the economy started to turn in 2008, no one wanted an internship," Ms. Hershberger notes. "They went after the full-time jobs, and they got them."





A Degree in Progress

Joint PhD in Social Work Receives Approval to Plan

In 1997, UNCG began a joint Master's of Social Work program with North Carolina A&T State University, continuing a partnership of nearly forty years at the undergraduate level. "We have this very long history of working together with the A&T faculty," department chair Dr. Elizabeth Lindsey notes. This partnership with A&T allows students from both universities to benefit from the expertise of two sets of faculty. In 2007, the two programs decided to expand this tradition of collaboration by requesting to plan a joint PhD.

Arguably, the program's development is long overdue in North Carolina.

"PhD programs in Social Work are still fairly rare," Dr. Lindsey says. "There's only one in the state of North Carolina – at UNC Chapel Hill. And the number of people who are graduated with PhDs in Social Work in the United States comes nowhere near filling the vacant faculty positions."

Social work is currently one of the country's fastest growing professions, with a 16% increase in jobs predicted by 2018. This in turn necessitates a greater need for social work faculty to train BSWs and MSWs to fill new jobs, particularly in the fields of geriatric and health care social work.

In recent years, a number of UNCG/A&T MSW students have gone on to receive their PhDs in Social Work including: Dr. Rose Sullivan; Dr. Janzlean Laughinghouse, Assistant Professor and Social Work Program Coordinator at Bennett College; and Dr. Brad van Eeden-Morefield, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Human Development and Family Studies at Central Michigan University.

Despite the evident need, the road to developing the program has not been easy. "We ran into a little bit of a snag because of the budget crisis," Dr. Lindsey says. "General Administration stopped reviewing proposals for new programs. In March 2010, we were

asked to present the proposal via teleconference to a disciplinary panel. We received permission to plan this past summer."

UNCG's Dr. Melissa Floyd and A&T University's Dr. Fasih Ahmed are co-chairing the joint planning committee.

Dr. Floyd predicts that the program's first few classes will be drawn from the surrounding region: western Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. "I think we'll see local professionals who have wanted to get the PhD but haven't been able to. But we expect the draw to be nationwide."

Social Work is currently one of the country's fastest growing professions, with a 16% increase in jobs predicted by 2018

A PhD in Social Work is necessary for teaching at the university level, doing research, and often for obtaining a high level administrative position in a social work agency. The degree also serves international students who don't have doctoral level Social Work programs in their native countries. The UNCG/A&T program aims to be slightly different from most existing programs in that they will focus on teaching as well as research. "We're working on creating the teacher-scholar and having an educational focus," Dr. Floyd notes. "And

that's different from the current doctoral programs in the region."

One cannot overlook the rich history between the two universities either. Dr. Lindsey notes that UNCG's relationship with the historically black A&T University makes the program unique in its own right, allowing students from both schools to experience diversity firsthand.

The challenges for the upcoming program, however, are not past. There is, of course, the issue of funding, daunting with the current budget cuts. "One of the things we've talked about is having agency sponsorships for our doctoral students," Dr. Floyd says. "They can be solving real world problems. Our program is really engaged in the community, and we hope to use that to our advantage."

Above: The joint Social Work programs with North Carolina A&T University have a long and distinguished history. Photo by Janet Kanode.



From the Dean

The accounts of UNCG graduate education in this issue of *Eunomia* highlight two themes: the extent to which our students are engaged in the community as a key aspect of their educations and the continuing growth of new opportunities for graduate study at the university. Our students do not need to wait until graduation to have an impact on the larger world; their graduate programs place them in settings where they can make a difference as part of their graduate work. Through clinical experiences, internships, grant-funded programs, and university-community partnerships, students can make real contributions while working under the supervision of their professors. The new

Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering and the planned PhD in Social Work are great examples of collaborative efforts by UNCG and North Carolina A&T State University to expand educational opportunities to meet the needs of North Carolina and the nation.

After nine years as Dean of The Graduate School at UNCG, I am retiring from that position this summer. It has been an exciting and challenging time and it was an honor to serve in that role. After a brief leave, I plan to return to teaching sociology. Dr. William Wiener, a former graduate dean at Western Michigan University and Marquette University, will become Dean of UNCG's Graduate School on August 1. I know he will continue to build on the rich tradition of graduate education at this university.

This newsletter is published by The Graduate School at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

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COVER: MFA Studio Art Student Eric Kniss poses with his art installation "Blue Column" in the Christina Ray Gallery in Soho .