Matthew Barr, MFA  
Full Professor, UNC Greensboro

Matthew Barr has always had a deep interest in filmmaking: he made his first 16-mm film with a Bell & Howell wind-up camera when he was 13. He holds a BA from San Francisco State College and an MFA from UCLA in film production. He has worked as a still photographer, been a freelance screenwriter, worked on an organic farm, driven a rig cross country, and spent five seasons with a traveling carnival show.

As a screenwriter, he co-wrote the scripts for two movies produced in Hollywood, Deadly Blessing (1981) and The Forgotten (1989), as well as other scripts that were optioned but never saw the light of day. While teaching at the University of Miami in 1990, he moved into documentary production with Crimes of Hate, a film produced in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League as a training tool for police departments in recognizing and combating hate crimes.

Barr has made three feature-length documentary films that have won acclaim and are in the collections of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress as well as online at Folkstreams.net. Crimes of Hate and Wild Caught have both had extensive use as political advocacy films.

He has taught film production at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro since 1994. Together with his wife, Cornelia Wright Barr, he founded the Unheard Voices Project in 2006.

Barr is a Professor who teaches screenwriting, film production and studies courses on both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Paula Lee Haller  
Documentary Film Producer

Paula Lee Haller is an independent documentary film producer who specializes in films portraying people and their culture. She has produced and directed films in China, Japan, Mexico, the Soviet Union, India, and Korea.

Currently, Ms. Haller is developing film projects which she plans to produce in Wilmington, NC. She has taught graduate seminars on film history and lectured on Asian art at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW). With the International Documentary Association in Los Angeles (IDA) and WHQR (the local NPR station), she created DocuFest-Wilmington, now known as DocuTime. After six years at Screen Gems Studios, DocuTime is now held at UNCW with the Department of Film Studies as a co-presenter. In January 2012, DocuTime will be celebrating its tenth year.

Ms. Haller has gained recognition for films in the series CHILDREN OF...that she created in association with Disney Educational Productions. The films she produced and directed in the series, CHILDREN OF THE SOVIET UNION, CHILDREN OF MEXICO, and CHILDREN OF JAPAN, were awarded CINE Golden Eagles. Each film is distinctive in developing a point of view unique to the families and culture of the country they
represent. The films are in Disney worldwide distribution and at Disney World’s Epcot Center.

In 1983, having independently negotiated with the Chinese government for permission, Ms. Haller filmed a documentary in China which she sold to National Geographic. The film FOUR AMERICANS IN CHINA focuses on the lives of Americans—student, teacher, businessman, and journalist—who live and work in China. Their varied experiences offer a rare, insightful look into the more open Chinese society that emerged after the death of Mao Tsetung. This National Geographic Special aired in 1985 on PBS.

Her films INDIA SPEAKS and DISCOVERING THE ART OF KOREA were broadcast as PBS Specials in 1986 and 1980 respectively.

At the invitation of the China Film Association, Ms. Haller, who speaks Mandarin Chinese, led a delegation of independent filmmakers to China. Ms. Haller was a founding member of and served on the Board of Directors of the International Documentary Association, based in Los Angeles. In Los Angeles, she was on the Steering Committees of Women in Film International and American Women for International Understanding. In March, 1988, Ms. Haller was a delegate to the Soviet Union where she helped launch Kino Women International, a worldwide organization of women filmmakers.

Ms. Haller, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, holds a Master’s degree in the History of Chinese Art from the University of California, Berkeley, and was associated with the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. For several years, Ms. Haller served on the San Francisco Symphony Foundation board of directors.