



ABIDE Committee
Carroll Hall, CB 3365,
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PROFILE

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FROM NEWSROOM TO THE CLASSROOM



Lois Boynton's journey from a history major at Lenoir-Rhyne University to a key figure at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is nothing short of a fascinating exploration of journalism, technology, and a commitment to diversity. Originally from Huntington, NY, Boynton found her way to a 5-days-a-week community newspaper in Newton, NC, where she started her career.

After three years with the Observer News Enterprise, Boynton left the paper to start working for a tech company now known as Corning Cable System to assist with its public relations. Although Boynton was not well-versed in tech, she learned everything she could about fiber optics from her engineering team. "Engineers rely on a different brain strength than writers," said Boynton. "So part of my job was to help them bring voice to the latest innovations."

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Having found a passion for teaching, Boynton shifted gears. She received her Ph.D. at UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media and has been a full-time Tar Heel faculty since 2001. However, this journey is not merely about personal advancements but about contributing to a more inclusive environment.

Her involvement with the Diversity Committee (now known as ABIDE) led to the creation of a comprehensive DEI action plan. Boynton worked with DEI expert Dr. Greta Oliver to draft a vision statement for the school to implement.

Now serving on the Information Sharing Committee of ABIDE, Boynton helps promote essential resources to the school's faculty, students and staff. Two years ago, Boynton started Inclusive Insights as a way to share timely articles and resources. It is e-distributed twice a month. She also compiles and updates a list of diverse media outlets, which has proven to be a helpful collection of information sources for student essay papers, as well as for faculty research and classroom activities.



Her experiences are integral, allowing her to explore outside of the world she's always known. There is a quote by writer Anais Nin: "We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are." Boynton believed that some of her perspective was limited due to her experience as part of the dominant white culture. "To see otherwise requires effort on my part," said Boynton. "That is something I work on every day." Boynton hopes to continue expanding and disrupting social norms in her classroom.

Outside of Carroll Hall, Boynton continues her work in public relations by providing pro bono assistance to clients and events that have included Meals on Wheels of Durham and the Orange County Health Department, weaving her professional skills into the fabric of community service. Although having steered far from her history major roots, Boynton enjoys reading historical fiction in her free time. "My home is also run by two rescue cats, Luna and Juno, who keep me quite busy and always entertained," said Boynton. In the comfort of her home, she finds a delightful blend of academia and the everyday joys of life.

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