

How Chathamites Talk!

Project to be Conducted in Chatham

by NCSU's Language and Life Program

You might be familiar with NCSU's Language and Life Program since its director, Dr. Walt Wolfram, presented a fascinating program for CCHA on Talkin' Tarheel in October 2018. He'll be introducing our upcoming program on Talking Black in America on February 17, as well. After that program, Dr. Wolfram and his graduate students will briefly describe their next project—to be carried out in Chatham County!

The research team will be looking for Chatham County natives to talk to them about subjects that interest the person being interviewed. They'll record the interviews and conduct their linguistic analyses to look at the question of how language is changing in Chatham as it becomes less rural and more urban. We look forward to learning what they find out about that!

But that's not all! The NCSU research team will share the interviews with CCHA. We'll be interested in the interviews as oral histories—what those doing that talking are saying as well as how they are saying it. Oral histories are a great resource for saving local history, so having these stories preserved will be a very good thing for future generations of Chathamites.

The Chatham County Historical Association will be helping the Language and Life research team publicize the project and recruit folks willing to be interviewed. If you are a native of Chatham and might be willing to participate in this project, stay tuned! We'll be announcing more details on our website and on the Chatham Historical Museum Facebook page.

We are so pleased that the Language and Life Project chose Chatham for this study!