UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

Welcome .................................................................................................................. Dr. Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

Greetings and Remarks ........................................................................................... Mr. Jim Kay
President of the Staff Council

Mr. Brady Nails
President of the Student Body

The Faculty Agenda for 2013-2014 ................................................................. Dr. Eddy Souffrant
President of the Faculty

Recognition of 25 Years of Service ............................................................... Chancellor Dubois

Recognition of Bonnie E. Cone
Early-Career Professor in Teaching .................................................. Dr. Joan F. Lorden
Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Recognition of Promotions to Full Professor ..................................... Provost Lorden

“Accelerating Change in an Age of Accountability” ...................... Provost Lorden

“Restoring the ‘Uni’ in University” .............................................................. Chancellor Dubois

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

Presiding .............................................................................................................. Dr. Souffrant

Question and Answer Session ................................................................. Chancellor Dubois
Provost Lorden
Dr. Souffrant
FACULTY MEMBERS AWARDED TENURE

Ryan S. Adams
Electrical & Computer Engineering
William States Lee College of Engineering

Christopher J. Beorkrem
Architecture
College of Arts + Architecture

Maren J. Coffman
Nursing
College of Health & Human Services

Lisa Driscoll
Educational Leadership
College of Education

Paula G. Eckard
English
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

John A. Emerling
Art & Art History
College of Arts + Architecture

Anthony M. Fernandes
Mathematics & Statistics
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Miranora “Mira” O. Frisch
Music
College of Arts + Architecture

Thomas A. Gentry
School of Architecture
College of Arts + Architecture

Jun-tao Guo
Bioinformatics & Genomics
College of Computing and Informatics

Aspen N. Hochhalter
Art & Art History
College of Arts + Architecture

Gordon D. Hull
Philosophy
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Min Jiang
Communication Studies
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Monica S. Johar
Business Information Systems & Operations Management
Belk College of Business

Emily G. Makas
Architecture
College of Arts + Architecture

Adriana L. Medina
Reading & Elementary Education
College of Education

Maciej A. Noras
Engineering Technology & Construction Management
William States Lee College of Engineering

Dennis E. Ogburn
Anthropology
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jamie Payton
Computer Science
College of Computing & Informatics

Teresa M. Petty
Middle, Secondary, & K-12 Education
College of Education

Paola Pilonieta
Reading & Elementary Education
College of Education

Elena A. Platonova
Public Health Sciences
College of Health and Human Services

Angela M. Rajagopalan
Art & Art History
College of Arts + Architecture
Lisa M. Rasmussen
Philosophy
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Spencer W. Salas
Middle, Secondary, & K-12 Education
College of Education

Peter L. Schmidt
Engineering Technology & Construction Management
William States Lee College of Engineering

Mohamed Shehab
Software & Information Systems
College of Computing and Informatics

Peter T. Tkacik
Mechanical Engineering & Engineering Science
William States Lee College of Engineering

Weichao “Chao” Wang
Software & Information Systems
College of Computing and Informatics

Kimberly A. Warren
Civil & Environmental Engineering
William States Lee College of Engineering

Erik A. Wikstrom
Kinesiology
College of Health and Human Services

Naiquan “Nigel” Zheng
Mechanical Engineering & Engineering Science
William States Lee College of Engineering

Aixi Zhou
Engineering Technology & Construction Management
William States Lee College of Engineering

Yildirim Aktas
Associate Professor
Physics & Optical Science
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Joyce M. Beggs
Associate Professor
Management
Belk College of Business

Anita N. Blowers
Associate Professor
Criminal Justice & Criminology
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Dale A. Brentrup
Professor
Architecture
College of Arts + Architecture

Wei Cai
Professor
Mathematics & Statistics
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Cynthia C. Combs
Bonnie Cone Professor of Teaching
Political Science & Public Administration
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Christopher Davis
Professor
English
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Daniel S. Dupre
Associate Professor History
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

FACULTY MEMBERS WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
NEW FACULTY & EPA STAFF MEMBERS

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

LEGAL AFFAIRS

Sarah O. Edwards
Assistant General Counsel
Office of Legal Affairs
J.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

DIVISION OF ATHLETICS

Raymond G. Brewer
Assistant Track & Field Coach
Athletics
B.S., Appalachian State University

James Duba
Director of Strength & Conditioning
Athletics
M.A., University of Connecticut

Skyler Farley
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach
Athletics
B.S., University of Kansas

Michael E. Garrett
Assistant Director of the Athletic Annual Fund
Athletics
M.S., University of Kentucky

Donald Smith
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach
Athletics
B.S., James Madison University

Jennifer M. Winningham
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Athletics
M.S., Louisiana Tech University

Alicia Woods
Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach
Athletics
M.P.A., Southern Illinois University Carbondale
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Carla Eastis
QEP Assessment Director
Academic Affairs
Ph.D., Yale University

COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

Rose B. Diaz
Director of Information Technology
College of Arts + Architecture
M.S., Hofstra University

Ming-Chun Lee
Assistant Professor
Architecture
Ph.D., University of Washington

William Roosenberg
Academic Advisor
Architecture
M.Arch., Georgia Institute of Technology

Jane E. Dalton
Assistant Professor
Art & Art History
Ph.D., EGS University

Jefferson Ellinger
Assistant Professor/Design Practice
Art & Art History
M.A., Columbia University

Thomas Schmidt
Assistant Professor/3D Studio
Art & Art History
M.F.A., Alfred University

Ann H. Dils
Professor & Chair
Dance
Ph.D., New York University

Daniel L. Knight
Lecturer
Dance
B.A., University of Iowa

Jonathan Govias
Assistant Professor/Director of Orchestras
Music
D.Mus., McGill University

Shawn T. Smith
Associate Professor/Director of Bands
Music
Ph.D., Arizona State University

Lewis “Dean” Adams
Associate Dean for Performing Arts Services & Associate Professor of Theatre
College of Arts + Architecture
M.F.A., Florida State University

Rachel B. Swenson Watkins
Lecturer/Stage Manager
Performing Arts Services
B.F.A., UNC School of the Arts

Carlos Cruz
Assistant Professor/Voice & Movement Theatre
M.F.A., Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre

BELK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Jessica R. Rollins
Academic Advisor
College of Business
M.S., Florida State University

Jennifer Parlier
Lecturer
Accounting
M.A.C.C., University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Karen Ford-Eickhoff  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Management  
Management  
Ph.D., University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Franz Kellermanns  
Reese Endowed Professor of  
International Business  
Management  
Ph.D., University of Connecticut

Sangkil Moon  
Associate Professor Cullen Endowed Scholar  
Marketing  
Ph.D., University of Iowa

Jennifer Stuart  
Assistant Professor  
Marketing  
Ph.D., Columbia University

Yong Ge  
Assistant Professor  
Computer Science  
Ph.D., Rutgers University

Erik Saule  
Assistant Professor  
Computer Science  
Ph.D., Grenoble INP. Laboratoire de l’Informatique de Grenoble, France

Wlodek Zadrozny  
Associate Professor  
Computer Science  
Ph.D., Polish Academy of Sciences

Shaoting Zhang  
Assistant Professor  
Computer Science  
Ph.D., Rutgers University

Khai Nhut Truong  
Associate Professor  
Software & Information Systems  
Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

Xinghua Shi  
Assistant Professor  
Bioinformatics & Genomics  
Ph.D., University of Maine

Lixia Yao  
Assistant Professor  
Software & Information Systems  
Ph.D., Columbia University

Khai Nhut Truong  
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Software & Information Systems  
Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

Ellen McIntyre  
Dean & Professor  
College of Education  
Ed.D., University of Cincinnati

College of Computing and Informatics

Joseph Matesich  
Executive Director of Technology Solutions  
College of Computing and Informatics  
M.S., University of Memphis

Jeremy Jay  
Data Solutions Research Associate  
Bioinformatics & Genomics  
Ph.D., University of Maine

Dewan Ahmed  
Teaching Assistant Professor  
Computer Science  
Ph.D., University of Ottawa

College of Education

Kia Jones  
Undergraduate Advisor  
College of Education  
M.A., North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

Ellen McIntyre  
Dean & Professor  
College of Education  
Ed.D., University of Cincinnati
Catharina Ringer
Project Coordinator
Center for STEM Education
M.Ed., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sejal B. Parikh
Assistant Professor
Counseling
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Erin T. Miller
Assistant Professor
Reading & Elementary Education
Ph.D., University of South Carolina

Cynthia Baughan
Assistant Professor
Special Education & Child Development
Ph.D., Clemson University

Amy Fitchett
New Teacher Support Coach
Special Education & Child Development
M.A.T., National Louis University

Carly Wike
Teacher Recruiter/Academic Advisor
Teacher Education Advising, Licensure & Recruitment
B.S., University of Louisana at Lafayette

**WILLIAM STATES LEE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

Olya S. Keen
Visiting Assistant Professor
Civil & Environmental Engineering
M.S.E.E., University of South Florida

Wei Fan
Associate Professor
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Gina Robinson
Director for Recruiting & Freshman Advising
Office of Student Development & Success
B.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Babak Parkhideh
Assistant Professor
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Ph.D., North Carolina State University

Madhav Manjrekar
Associate Professor
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin at Madison

Alain Miatudila
Lecturer
Engineering Technology & Construction Management
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Nicholas Tymvios
Assistant Professor
Engineering Technology & Construction Management
Ph.D., Oregon State University

Linda Vasil
Lecturer
Engineering Technology & Construction Management
M.C.E., North Carolina State University

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Bruce Richards
Instructional Technologist
College of Health and Human Services
M.S., Missouri State University
Andrea Swintal
Academic Advisor
College of Health and Human Services
M.S., Arkansas Tech University

Joseph S. Marino
Assistant Professor
Kinesiology
Ph.D., University of Toledo

Auburne Overton
Clinical Assistant Professor
Kinesiology
Ph.D., Iowa State University

Mark DeHaven
Colvard Distinguished Professor
Public Health Sciences
Ph.D., University of Florida

Louellen Michele Issel
Professor
Public Health Sciences
Ph.D., University of Washington

Willie M. Abel
Assistant Professor
Nursing
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Christine Elnitsky
Associate Professor
Nursing
Ph.D., Old Dominion University

Stephanie Woods
Carol Grotnes Belk Endowed Chair of Nursing & Professor
Nursing
Ph.D., Wayne State University

Sonyia Richardson
Lecturer
Social Work
M.S.W., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Crystal Barton
Director of Academic Technologies Research
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
B.S., University of Advancing Technology

Carl R. Harris, Jr.
Academic Advisor
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
M.A., Marshall University

Susan D. Levin
Academic Advisor
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
M.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Peter B. Szanton
Associate Director of Sponsored Research
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
M.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Tuan Cao
Lecturer
Biology
Ph.D., University of Arizona

Molly C. Redmond
Assistant Professor
Biology
Ph.D., University of California at Santa Barbara

Adam Reitzel
Assistant Professor
Biology
Ph.D., Boston University

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Academic Advisor
Communication Studies
M.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Rachel Plotnick  
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Communication Studies  
Ph.D., Northwestern University

Matthew D. Phillips  
Assistant Professor  
Criminal Justice & Criminology  
Ph.D., University at Albany, State University of New York

Shannon E. Reid  
Assistant Professor  
Criminal Justice & Criminology  
Ph.D., University of California, Irvine

John M. Stogner  
Assistant Professor  
Criminal Justice & Criminology  
Ph.D., University of Florida

Balaka Basu  
Assistant Professor  
English  
Ph.D., City University of New York

Juan Meneses-Naranjo  
Assistant Professor  
English  
Ph.D., Purdue University

Joan Mullin  
Interim Director  
First Year Writing Program  
Ph.D., Loyola University

Robert Boyer  
Assistant Professor  
Geography & Earth Sciences  
Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign

Xingjian Liu  
Lecturer  
Geography & Earth Sciences  
M.S., Texas State University

Sebastian P. Cobarrubias  
Assistant Professor  
Global, International & Area Studies  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Bethany Johnson  
Lecturer  
History  
M.A., The New School

Robert McEachnie  
Lecturer  
History  
M.A., Wheaton College

Aaron A. Shapiro  
Associate Professor  
History  
Ph.D., University of Chicago

Wei Gong  
Visiting Lecturer  
Languages & Culture Studies  
M.A., The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Franz Pritchard  
Assistant Professor  
Languages & Culture Studies  
Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

Shaun Stone  
Visiting Lecturer  
Languages & Culture Studies  
M.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Kai-Uwe Werbeck  
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Languages & Culture Studies  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sarah Birdsong  
Lecturer  
Mathematics & Statistics  
M.S., University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Duan Chen  
Assistant Professor  
Mathematics & Statistics  
Ph.D., Michigan State University

Cara Jokell  
Visiting Lecturer  
Mathematics & Statistics  
M.S., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Yang Li  
Assistant Professor  
Mathematics & Statistics  
Ph.D., University of Missouri at Columbia

Trevor Pearce  
Assistant Professor  
Philosophy  
Ph.D., University of Chicago

Mary L. Atkinson  
Assistant Professor  
Political Science & Public Administration  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jason Giersch  
Lecturer  
Political Science & Public Administration  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Zachary Mohr  
Assistant Professor  
Political Science & Public Administration  
Ph.D., University of Kansas

Jaclyn S. Piatak  
Assistant Professor  
Political Science & Public Administration  
Ph.D., American University

Laura Armstrong  
Assistant Professor  
Psychology  
Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

Enrica Ruggs  
Assistant Professor  
Psychology  
Ph.D., Rice University

Anna Athanasopoulou  
Lecturer  
Mathematics & Statistics  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Joseph Dippong  
Assistant Professor  
Sociology  
Ph.D., Kent State University

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

Michael Abel  
Academic Advisor  
University Advising Center  
M.Ed., University of South Carolina

Lee Fredrick Bowen  
Academic Advisor  
University Advising Center  
M.A., East Carolina University

**ACADEMIC SERVICES**

Khaleel Eksheir  
Assistive Technology Specialist  
Disability Services  
M.S., American University of Sharjah

Karen L. James  
Advisor  
Honors College  
J.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Megan Corkery  
Assistant Director  
University Career Center  
M.A., Appalachian State University
Shannon Keith
Assistant Director for Liberal Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences
University Career Center
M.A., North Carolina Central University

Jessica A. O’Rourke
Assistant Director for Career Exploration & Job Shadowing
University Career Center
M.Ed., Grand Valley State University

Rasheda R. Sykes
Assistant Director for Learning Strategies & Instruction
University Center for Academic Excellence
M.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Dawn S. Traynor
Associate Director for Learning Strategies & Instruction
University Center for Academic Excellence
M.Ed., University of South Carolina

**Enrollment Management**

Kimberly Rodgers
Academic Advisor
Office of Adult Students & Evening Services
M.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Jillian A. Stubbs
Academic Advisor
Office of Adult Students & Evening Services
M.Ed., University of Georgia

Patrice A. Brown
Assistant Director
Student Financial Aid
B.S., Shaw University

Shannon Harris
Assistant Director
Student Financial Aid
B.S.B.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Allison Scott
Assistant Director
Student Financial Aid
B.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Jeremi Watkins
Assistant Director
Student Financial Aid
B.S., Western Carolina University

Jacqueline D. Williams
Associate Director
Student Financial Aid
M.S., North Carolina Agriculture & Technical State University

Jessica Bennett
Assistant Director
Undergraduate Admissions
B.A., University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Shannon Sparks
Assistant Director
Undergraduate Admissions
B.S., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**Information and Technology Services**

Michael K. Thomas
Instructional Design Specialist
Center for Teaching & Learning
Ph.D., Indiana University - Bloomington
Michael S. Carlin  
Vice Chancellor for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer  
Information & Technology Services  
Ph.D., University of Maryland, Baltimore County

**J. MURRAY ATKINS LIBRARY**

Dawn Schmitz  
Visiting Professor & Digital Programs Archivist  
Library—Special Collections  
Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh

Melanie Sorrell  
Assistant Professor & Science Librarian  
Library—Information Commons  
M.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Della N. Spoor  
Assistant Professor and Business Librarian  
Library—Information Commons  
M.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Marcus Bess  
Assistant Professor and Instruction Librarian  
Library—Special Collections  
M.L.S., North Carolina Central University

Christopher C. Geissler  
Assistant Professor and Archivist for Collection Management  
Library—Special Collections  
M.L.I.S., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Joseph Nicholson  
Associate Professor and Metadata Librarian  
Library—Special Collections  
M.S.L.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**METROPOLITAN STUDIES & EXTENDED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

Steven Carter  
Senior Program Manager  
Extended Academic Programs  
M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary

Crystal Jones  
Senior Program Manager  
Extended Academic Programs  
M.Ed., American InterContinental University

Melita Mitchell  
Senior Program Manager  
Extended Academic Programs  
M.A., University of Michigan

Amy Hawn Nelson  
Director  
Institute for Social Capital  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

David C. Hill  
Research Analyst/Database Administrator  
Urban Institute  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Ashley N. Williams  
Data & Research Coordinator  
Urban Institute  
M.C.R.P., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Tina Lynn Abbott-McCloud  
Lecturer  
English Language Training Institute  
M.A.T., University of North Carolina at Charlotte
DIVISION OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Christopher A. Bates
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Special Projects
Office of Business Affairs
M.A., University of South Carolina

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

COUNSELING CENTER

Leigh Norwood
Social Worker/Case Manager
Counseling Center
M.S.W., University of North Carolina at Greensboro

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

Bonny Boutet
Assistant Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life
Dean of Students Office
B.A., Florida Gulf Coast University

Andrew Dies
Associate Dean & Director of Student Conduct & Outreach
Dean of Students Office
M.Ed., North Carolina State University

Sarah Jefferson
Assistant Director for Student Conduct & Outreach
Dean of Students Office
M.A., Bowling Green State University

Emily Jensen
Associate Director for New Student Services
Dean of Students Office
M.Ed., Iowa State University

Monica McGuire
Interim Assistant Director for New Student Services
Dean of Students Office
M.Ed., Western Carolina University

Carlos Mendez
Assistant Director for Latino Student Services
Dean of Students Office
M.Ed., University of Massachusetts Amherst

Nathan Roy
Assistant Director for Student Conduct & Outreach
Dean of Students Office
M.A.Ed., Marietta College

Sean Stanley
Interim Assistant Dean of Students
Dean of Students Office
D.B.A., Walden University

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

Seth C. Ellis, II
Residence Education Coordinator
Housing & Residence Life
M.S., Kansas State University

Melissa Gunter
Residence Education Coordinator
Housing & Residence Life
M.S.W., University of Alabama

Stefanie Kasven
Residence Education Coordinator
Housing & Residence Life
M.S., Nova Southeastern University

Ruben Mercado
Residence Education Coordinator
Housing & Residence Life
M.Ed., Texas State University

Clay Sanders
Residence Education Coordinator
Housing & Residence Life
M.S., Eastern Kentucky University
James Whitaker
Assistant Director for Staff & Student Programs
Housing & Residence Life
M.Ed., Kent State University

**MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER**

Joshua D. Burford
Assistant Director for Sexual & Gender Diversity
Multicultural Resource Center
M.A., University of Alabama

**RECREATIONAL SERVICES**

Maximilian Mello
Assistant Director for Sport Clubs
Recreational Services
M.S., University of Tennessee at Knoxville

James J. Walczyk
Director of Recreational Services
Recreational Services
M.S., Old Dominion University

**VENTURE**

David Sperry
Director of Venture and Lecturer Venture
M.S.Ed., Alfred University

**STUDENT HEALTH CENTER**

Susan Stahley
Substance Abuse Program Coordinator
Wellness Promotion Department
M.S.W., University of Hawaii at Manoa

**DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

John W. Cullum
Director of Planned Giving
University Development
B.A., University of South Carolina

Donna M. Mitchell
Interim Director of Development for Atkins Library
University Development
B.A., Hillsdale College

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**PROMOTIONS TO FULL PROFESSOR**

**MARIA PILAR BLITVICH**

**English**

Maria Pilar Blitvich joined the UNC Charlotte community in 2005, and is currently the director of Graduate Studies in English. Her research focuses broadly on identity construction, genre theory, traditional and new media, and impoliteness models. Her work is at the forefront of shaping a new subfield in linguistics, that of politeness and aggression in which she argues that impoliteness is not merely disruption, but a means of building community. In shaping this subfield, Pilar established a new scholarly journal on the language of aggression and conflict. Her work on new media contributes to the College’s interest in developing expertise in the area of digital scholarship. In addition to her strong publication record, Pilar provided assistance on previous drafts of the College’s Ph.D. in global studies program, and contributes to scholarly conversations on global engagement in the undergraduate curriculum at the national level.

**SHEN-EN CHEN**

**Civil and Environmental Engineering**

Shen-en Chen specializes
in geotechnical engineering with specific emphases on soil dynamics; carbon dioxide sequestration in oil, gas, and coal mines; structural testing; and on the monitoring and remote sensing of bridges. Since joining the UNC Charlotte community in 2005, Shen-en has helped bring over $5 million in research funding to campus. To complement his strong publication record, Shen-en has filed one patent, reported one invention, and developed five software products. In recognition of his important work, Shen-en was chosen to join a select delegation of preeminent scholars from around the world to visit the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) to support the ongoing efforts of the Indian government to improve the quality of technical education.

In addition to his noteworthy scholarly contributions to his field, Shen-en recently earned the Lee College of Engineering Graduate Award for Teaching Excellence.

**James Conrad**
Electrical and Computer Engineering

James “Jim” Conrad’s research expertise includes high-performance embedded computing systems and biotelemetry instrumentation. His research is widely published, and, since arriving at UNC Charlotte in 2003, he has been awarded two patents, filed two more, and has secured well over $1 million in funding for his work. His popular second generation Stiquito robot was designed for mass production.

Educational materials and educational pedagogy is the focus of much of Jim’s scholarly work, and he has a stellar teaching record to match his outstanding research record. He has been awarded both the College of Engineering Undergraduate Award in Teaching Excellence and the UNC Charlotte Lifetime Achievement for Advising Award. Jim is currently Undergraduate Coordinator in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and is Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. In recognition of his contributions to the field, Jim received the Outstanding Service Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

**Gloria Elliott**
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

Gloria Elliott conducts translational research that investigates the thermodynamics of biological systems to develop new materials and processes that can sustainably advance human health and welfare. She is the director of the inter-disciplinary BioStability Lab on campus, and led the effort to create the Materials Characterization Lab which serves as a resource and shared instrument facility for research programs on campus and across the surrounding region. Gloria is currently the Materials Innovation theme leader for the Infrastructure, Design, Environment and Sustainability (IDEAS) center. Within the department, Gloria helped establish the undergraduate Energy Engineering Concentration curriculum within the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

In addition to numerous publications, Gloria’s research has attracted $2.1 million in funding and has produced several patents. Her research relationships extend beyond campus boundaries as she collaborates with variety of regional and national institutions including Carolinas Medical Center, the Smithsonian National Zoo, and pharmaceutical companies.

**Cynthia Gibas**
Bioinformatics and Genomics

Cynthia Gibas studies the development of automated methods for microarray data analysis. Her research group examines analytical methods that consider the biophysical properties of molecules involved in the array experiment. Because microarrays are so commonly used,
Cynthia’s research has broad implications across many fields of molecular biology. Her additional research interests include devices for measuring hybridization in real time, visual analytics approaches to comparative genomics, and accurate molecular diagnostics. Through her work, Cynthia has generated an impressive number of publications, and has secured grants totaling almost $2,500,000.

Since coming to UNC Charlotte in 2005, Cynthia has taken an active leadership role in the development of the Bioinformatics and Genomics curriculum by designing the first undergraduate offerings and key courses for graduate programs. She took a leadership role in the creation of the Professional Science Masters in Bioinformatics, and currently serves as the program’s Faculty Director.

JAMES GRYMES
Music

James “Jay” Grymes is widely acknowledged as the premier American authority and leading international figure on the life and music of Hungarian composer Ernst von Dohnányi, a forgotten hero of the Holocaust resistance. His recent research project traces the stories of the Violins of Hope, eight instruments owned by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. These violins, damaged by a tragic past, have been recovered and restored by Israeli violinmaker, Amnon Weinstein.

Jay is known for incorporating his research into his lectures in exciting ways. His innovative lectures have been featured in news stories by regional and national print and broadcast media including the New York Times, ABC News, and CNN. For his efforts, Jay received the College of Arts + Architecture’s Excellence in Teaching Award.

In addition to his stellar research and teaching records, Jay is also the coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in Music and the interim chair of that department.

TINA HEAFNER
Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education

Tina Heafner is a strong advocate for social studies education. Her work focuses on addressing the marginalization of social studies in elementary school curricula, confronting gaps in social studies comprehension, and developing innovative intervention practices.

Tina has a record of strong service and leadership. As a pioneer in the design and delivery of online instruction, Tina helped move the Master of Arts in Teaching in Middle and Secondary Education to an online delivery platform. She was instrumental in developing a technological system enabling the College to supervise candidates for the teaching license throughout the state. Tina also coordinates the minor in secondary education and the College’s pilot Prospect for Success initiative.

For her outstanding work, she received both the College of Education’s Excellence in Research and Excellence in Teaching awards, and her work in technology-mediated learning earned her two awards sponsored by the National Technology Leadership Initiative.

ERIC HEBERLIG
Political Science and Public Administration

Since joining the UNC Charlotte community in 2002, Eric Heberlig has established himself as a leading congressional scholar and a public intellectual. His research has investigated political decision-making, campaign financing, and grassroots lobbying. In addition to his impressive publication record, Eric is a consistent presence on our local public radio station. You have most likely heard his voice on WFAE or encountered his viewpoints in other local, national, and international news outlets.

Last year, Eric co-directed UNC Charlotte’s
successful 49er Democracy Experience, a series of educational programs that engaged the UNC Charlotte community in the excitement of the Democratic National Convention and presidential politics during an election year. In addition to enhancing the public’s understanding of our nation’s democratic process, the 49er Democracy Experience brought national and international attention to the University.

Eric’s research and service activities directly relate to a teaching philosophy that emphasizes experiential learning pedagogies.

**Suzanne Leland**
**Political Science and Public Administration**

Suzanne Leland joined the UNC Charlotte faculty in 2001. Her research interests include city-county consolidation, implications of the proliferation of government policies, privatization and contracting, public-private partnerships, and the ability of policy makers to service their constituents in a cost-effective manner. Her research questions have such strong public policy implications that her work is accurately described as scholarship of engagement. Because of her expertise, she collaborated regularly with former Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx on the subject of city-county consolidation. In addition to her prolific publication record, Suzanne has contributed to the development and enhancement of both the Master’s program in Public Administration and Ph.D. program in Public Policy. She currently directs the Gerald G. Fox Master of Public Administration.

Suzanne is also an active member of the Women & Girls Research Alliance, a partnership between the community and the university to promote the lives of women and girls.

**Shawn Long**
**Communication Studies**

Shawn Long is Chair of Communication Studies, and is a scholar of organizational communication. He is widely published in the subfields of health communication, virtual work, and communication pedagogy, and his research has attracted almost $1.4 million in funding.

Since his arrival in 2002, Shawn has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to the campus community. He contributed substantially to the development and implementation of the Organizational Science interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. Shawn is the founding director of the program’s successful Summer Diversity Institute for which he earned the first Organizational Science Outstanding Service Award. Additionally, under Shawn’s leadership, Communication Studies is enhancing its undergraduate online course delivery, increasing its internationalization efforts, and engaging in a broader variety of experiential learning approaches. For these efforts, the department received the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Shawn’s demonstrated contributions and commitment to diversity and outreach earned him recognition by the Southern States Communication Association.

**Maryann Mraz**
**Reading and Elementary Education**

Since coming to UNC Charlotte in 2002, Maryann Mraz has become one of the leaders in the field of literacy research; her life’s work has produced research-based protocols and policies, effective literacy coaches, successful content area teachers, and competent young readers and writers. Her textbook, *Content Area Reading: Literacy and Learning Across the Curriculum*, is the leading textbook in the field.

In addition to numerous publications, Maryann’s research also informs her teaching. Her goals for her classes are to link research to practice and to use reflection to improve practice. As the doctoral coordinator of the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, she is responsible for the program’s
administration and curriculum development. Her desire to improve literacy practice extends to the larger Charlotte area as well where she has developed a professional development grant program for literacy coaches in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

**JOHN PIEL**  
**Reading and Elementary Education**

John “Jack” Piel’s research is situated at the intersection of mathematics education and human development. He co-developed and co-directs Math CAMMP (Comprehensively Applied Manipulative Mathematics Program), a developmental approach to the teaching of mathematics that blends teaching and service. Since its inception, over 2,000 elementary education majors and 12,000 elementary school students have been Math CAMMP participants.

Within the College, Jack designed and developed the Fast Track Initial Licensure program for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and has served as the graduate coordinator for nine years. In educating society’s teachers, Jack is recognized for his outstanding performance in the classroom. He is twice the recipient of the Teaching Fellows Undergraduate Teaching Award, and he is a two-time finalist for two additional prestigious teaching awards. As an international educator, Jack implemented the Teacher Education Study Abroad Collaboration project in which undergraduate and graduate elementary education students study in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

**ALAN RAOCH**  
**English**

Alan Rauch’s research interest can broadly be described as a cultural study of science and technology, and include codifications of knowledge, animal studies, material culture, Romantic, and Victorian literature and culture, and the history of the book. Alan’s publications and professional service activities highlight his role in developing the field of the cultural studies of science. In addition to his impressive publication record, he is the founding editor of *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology* and serves as president of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. Since joining the University community in 2002, Alan has received external grants from such respected institutions as the Noel Foundation, New York Public Library, the American Philosophical Association, the Huntington Library, Cambridge University, and the Ransom Center at the University of Texas. On campus, Alan has served as Director of the Master’s program in Liberal Studies.

**RONALD SASS**  
**Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Ronald Sass is a leading scholar in the field of reconfigurable computing for high performance systems, and is a key contributor to the University’s computer engineering program. Since joining UNC Charlotte in 2006, Ron received over $800,000 in research funding as Principle Investigator, including three grants in the form of subcontracts from the United States Navy and the Department of Defense. His work is widely published and he has developed five hardware and software research artifacts. His open source hardware file system, SATA, was downloaded over 500 times and is used by several prominent institutions including the University of Massachusetts, NASA, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. The U.S. Navy built a custom machine based on his research. Recently, Ron received the Field-Programmable Logic Community Service Award for his work on open source technology that can protect computer systems from faults caused by harsh environments.