

AGENDA ITEM

This is not an agenda item.

Situation:

Overview of recent highlights and activities within the Division of Academic Affairs.

Background:

N/A

Assessment:

N/A

Action:

This item is for information only.

Supporting Documentation:

AA Divisional Highlights document



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TO: UNCW Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. James J. Winebrake, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
DATE: July 10, 2024
RE: Division of Academic Affairs Highlights

Trustees: The information below provides a sample of major highlights and activities occurring in the Division of Academic Affairs, across the academic colleges and primary functional areas, primarily since the April quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Office of the Provost

- Dr. Tracy Linderholm has joined UNCW as the newly appointed Dean for the Watson College of Education, effective June 24. [Read more.](#)
- Matthew Rish has joined UNCW as the newly appointed Associate Provost for Administration and Resource Management, effective June 24. [Read more.](#)
- Dr. Stuart Borrett, associate provost for research and innovation, has been selected to serve as a rotating Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the next academic year. During this time, he will be on full-time loan to NSF, and Dr. Justine Reel has been selected to serve as the interim associate provost.
- **Celebrating Faculty Excellence:** Recipients of several annual faculty awards were announced at the inaugural Faculty Awards Celebration on May 2. Previously presented at the fall faculty meeting, the new awards event is hosted by the Office of Faculty Affairs. Chancellor Volety, Provost Winebrake, the deans, and several other academic leaders joined in formally recognizing the honorees. [Read more.](#)

College of Health and Human Services (CHHS)

- **Physician Assistant Degree Approved:** The Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree program was approved by UNC System Board of Governors. CHHS is now developing a position announcement for the founding program director and will engage in the SACSCOC Substantive Change and ARC-PA accreditation process next.
- **Pathways for Community College Students:** The School of Social Work has signed articulation agreements with 23 community colleges across the state for graduates of Human Service Technology programs to complete their Bachelor of Social Work degrees online.
- **Malaria Prevention in Uganda:** Dr. Michelle Cathorall, associate professor of public health, and her students are implementing a program called Malaria Mastery: Empowering Communities through knowledge and prevention in four communities in Uganda. It is a three-lesson program on malaria knowledge, nets repair and use, and how to prevent

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mosquito bites when you are not sleeping under a net. The lessons were developed by three public health students last spring, and who are with Dr. Cathorall in Uganda.

- **Director Appointed for School of Nursing:** Patricia D. Suplee, PhD, RNC-OB, FAAN, has joined UNCW as the newly appointed Director of the School of Nursing and Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor of Nursing, effective June 26. [Read more.](#)
- **College Receives Major Nursing Grant:** Dr. Matt Gallek, associate professor of nursing, and his team received the UNC System Health Care Workforce Nursing Program Expansion Initiative Grant for \$2.4 million. The grant funds will be used to support students and programs.
- **DNP Receives Accreditation:** The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program has been granted a 10-year accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- **The Novant Health Vitals Accelerator (Vitals) Program:** CHHS will launch the new Vitals Program to equip students aspiring to pursue nursing at UNCW with comprehensive support, resources, tailored curriculum, and preparatory materials, and serving as a pathway for successful admission into the undergraduate nursing program. Additionally, the Vitals Program will support students during their final two years enrolled in the undergraduate nursing program, priming them for employment with Novant Health upon graduation. This program is in collaboration with Novant Health and includes their generous support of 2.5 million dollars over five years.

College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts (CHSSA)

- **NEH Summer Institute on 1898 Wilmington Coup:** Middle and high school teachers from 12 states are gathering at UNCW from July 8-19 for a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute focused on the 1898 Wilmington coup and massacre, the only successful coup d'état in the nation's history. Funded by a \$167,000 NEH grant, this is the first time since 1997 that UNCW has hosted an NEH summer institute. [Read more.](#)
- **COM/media Ranks in BEA's International Top 10:** The Department of Communication Studies' media production program (COM/media) is in the top 10 media production programs within the Film and Video Division of the Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts. [Read more.](#)
- **Cultural Touchstone Celebrates Milestone Anniversary:** Opera Wilmington, the university's resident opera company since 2017, is celebrating 10 years. The professional company originated from an opera workshop class taught by Dr. Nancy King, professor and chair of the Department of Music. In addition to its professional schedule of events and productions, the company also provides research and other opportunities for students and faculty in performance, costume and set design and music history. [Read more.](#)

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Cameron School of Business (CSB or Cameron)

- **United Nations Pool of Experts (PoE) Appointments:** Dr. Pete Schuhmann, professor of economics, has been named a PoE member of the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process), and as Coordinating Author for the third World Ocean Assessment (WOA III) chapter on tourism. [Read more.](#) Also joining this PoE is Dr. James J. Winebrake, provost and vice chancellor for the Division of Academic Affairs! Provost Winebrake will contribute to the chapter on shipping and the impacts of shipping on the world's oceans.
- **Bloomberg Ticker BLUEECO:** Four finance students and Miran Hossain, assistant professor of finance, in the Cameron School of Business built the Blue Economy Index over the months of last fall semester, with support from the UNCW Office of Innovation and Commercialization. Through partnership with the UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Alliance for The Blue Economy, and FactSet, the index was posted live on Bloomberg in February, under the ticker BLUEECO. This index tracks stocks whose businesses arise from our oceans and waterways that have a focus on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). [Read more from UNCW and WilmingtonBiz.](#)

College of Science and Engineering (CSE)

- **NCInnovation Grant:** Dr. Ying Wang, associate professor of chemistry, has been approved for grant funding from NCInnovation to continue his work in developing a groundbreaking vaccine platform that he hopes will result in a universal and longer-lasting flu vaccine. This funding is part of NCInnovation's larger mission to unlock the innovative potential of North Carolina's world class universities. Dr. Wang's work was also recognized with the top prize at the NCBiotech Pre-Venture challenge.
- **Students Receive Prestigious NSF and Hollings Awards:** Five students received prestigious fellowships and scholarships that will allow them to delve deeper into their research and potential careers. One is a recipient of a five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship, and four are among the 130 students selected to be two-year 2024 Ernest F. Hollings undergraduate scholars, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). [Read more.](#)

Watson College of Education (WCE or Watson College)

- **Professor Appointed to International Board:** Dr. Elizabeth Crawford, professor of elementary education, has been appointed to Childhood Educational International's Board of Directors. CE International is an international development organization that works to create innovative solutions to educational challenges. [Read more.](#)

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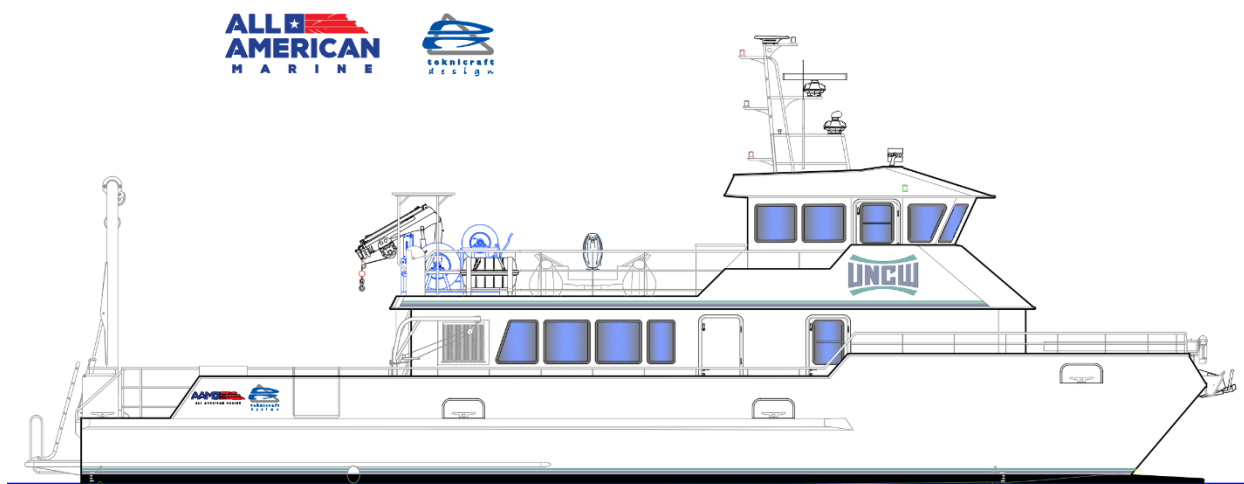
- **EOC Groups Introduce Teacher Recruitment Programs:** The Educators of Color (EOC) Network, a school-university partnership established in 2022, offers a Local Affinity Group Support Initiative for the development of programs with goals for teacher recruitment, retention and advocacy. Through support from this initiative, Wayne County Schools, Jones County Schools, and Carteret County Schools have introduced programs to recruit teachers within their respective communities. [Read more in the Watson Chronicle.](#)

Teaching, Learning, and Library Services (TLLS)

- **Library Renovation and Expansion Project Nears Completion:** The university's library will open the doors of the new Discovery Hall on August 16 in time for Seahawk move-in weekend, and later will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late September. A month of welcome events is planned throughout both buildings from the start of classes through September 25. More information is coming soon!

Center for Marine Science (CMS)

- **New Research Vessel Purchase Underway:** UNCW and CMS contracted All American Marine to build a state-of-the-art 73-foot research vessel. The catamaran-style vessel includes laboratories, berthing, and a sizable back deck (beam 27') and is scheduled for delivery in March 2026. The vessel will support a broad range of oceanographic research, including marine fisheries, offshore wind, acoustics, ecological monitoring, sensor and marine smart technology, and more!



- **New NIST Agreement in MARBIONC:** Through negotiations between the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and CMS, the building-use agreement for MARBIONC has been modified to focus on translational research. This change removes the requirement for

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commercial space rented by for-profit companies and allows support of earlier stage commercialization effort. The new agreement has allowed more creative use of the building including development of a 3D marker space lab, a mass spectroscopy center focused on PFAS and isotopes, and more.

- **Upcoming Anniversary Celebrations:** Next year, 2025, is a banner year for CMS with celebrations in the planning stages for anniversary events, including:
 - 25th Anniversary of CMS at the Myrtle Grove location
 - 15th Anniversary of the Shellfish Research Hatchery
 - 20th Anniversary of Community Partnership with St. James

Research and Innovation (R&I)

- **UNCW Launches Research Hubs:** Working across campus, Research and Innovation has launched a new Research Hubs program to accelerate the growth, impact, and competitiveness of university research in strategic areas. Congratulations to the selected teams listed below! These teams will serve as the nexus and support for interdisciplinary teams of researchers to initiate or advance multiple research projects.
 - **Bridging Gaps in Neurocare: UNCW's Strategic Blueprint for Brain Health Resilience (BHR).** Collaborators from CSE, CHHS, Military Affairs, as well as multiple industry partners.
 - **MCARTEC: Maritime Cybersecurity Applied Research, Technology & Education Center.** Collaborators from CSE, CSB, and CHSSA and supporting partnerships that include the NC State Ports Authority and the Defense Alliance of North Carolina.
- **High Performance Computer (HPC) to Elevate Research:** A cutting-edge Intel Xeon HPC is planned for installation this month at UNCW. This unit will help address university research needs. The HPC consists of 768 CPU cores, a 2Tb high-memory node, a 51 Tflop GPU node, and 2.9 Tb usable memory. The HPC is planned for use by CMS researchers this fall, followed by broader access to the university research community at a later date as the level of saturation is monitored.
- **Professor Receives Worldwide Coverage on Research:** A discovery made in Dr. Eman Ghoneim's research in Egypt has uncovered a now dormant branch of the Nile River. The team's findings, led by Dr. Ghoneim, professor, help explain the placement of a high density of pyramid fields near the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis, a now inhospitable area of the Saharan Desert. [Read more.](#) See additional coverage in [UNCW in the News](#), under May 2024.
- **Director Appointed for SPARC:** Tamara Hatch is the newly appointed Director for Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance (SPARC), effective June 24.
- **Director Appointed for Research Development Office:** Kirsten Wisneski is the newly appointed Director for the new Research Development Office. This unit is designed to

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foster strategic, catalytic, and capacity-building activities to advance the university's research competitiveness and impact.

Recent External Recognitions

- **Dr. Elizabeth Crawford (WCE)**, Member of Board of Directors | Childhood Education International's ([Learn more.](#))
- **Dr. Cynthia Demetriou (SEER)**, Fulbright International Education Administrator Award | Fulbright Program ([Learn more.](#))
- **Dr. Sheri Leavens (CHHS)**, Member of Executive Leadership Institute | University of North Carolina System ([Learn more.](#))
- **Dr. Jeanne Persuit (CHSSA)**, Elected President | Eastern Communication Association ([Learn more.](#))

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