



## BOARD *of* TRUSTEES

### Educational Planning and Programs Committee

April 24, 2025

#### **Committee Members:**

Frances "Perry" Chappell, Committee Chair

Traci L. Butler

Earl F. "Hugh" Caison II

Jeffrey D. Clark

Malcomb D. Coley, Sr.

H. Carlton Fisher

Stephen E. Griffin

Robert S. Rippy

Dr. Yousry Sayed

Kevin H. Sills

Dr. Jimmy T. Tate

The Honorable Aldona Z. Woś

Skyler A. Stein

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### **AGENDA**

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | <b>Call to Order</b>                              | <b>Trustee Perry Chappell</b>               |
| (2) | <b>Statement from State Government Ethics Act</b> | <b>Trustee Perry Chappell</b>               |
| (3) | <b>Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2025</b>  | <b>Trustee Perry Chappell</b>               |
| (4) | <b>Update Report from Faculty Senate</b>          | <b>Dr. Colleen Reilly, President</b>        |
| (5) | <b>Academic Affairs Report</b>                    | <b>Provost James J. Winebrake</b>           |
|     | <b>a. Waivers for Programs Over 120 Credits</b>   | <b>Provost James J. Winebrake</b>           |
|     | <b>b. Vacancy in Distinguished Professorship</b>  | <b>Provost James J. Winebrake</b>           |
| (6) | <b>Student Affairs Report</b>                     | <b>Vice Chancellor Christine Reed Davis</b> |
| (7) | <b>Old Business</b>                               | <b>Trustee Perry Chappell</b>               |
| (8) | <b>New Business</b>                               | <b>Trustee Perry Chappell</b>               |
| (9) | <b>Adjournment</b>                                | <b>Trustee Perry Chappell</b>               |

## **AGENDA ITEM**

Approval of February EPPC Meeting Minutes, by EPPC Chair Perry Chappell

**Situation:**

Approval of the minutes from the February 6, 2025 EPPC committee meeting

**Background:**

N/A

**Assessment:**

N/A

**Action:**

This item requires a vote by the committee.

**Supporting Documentation:**

Draft Educational Planning and Programs Committee Minutes from the February 6, 2025 meeting.

DRAFT

Educational Planning and Programs Committee

Board of Trustees—The University of North Carolina Wilmington

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:30 pm Burney C

MINUTES

Chair Chappell called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. in person.

The following members in attendance: Ms. Traci Butler, Mr. Earl Caison, Ms. Perry Chappell, Mr. Jeff Clark, Mr. Carlton Fisher, Dr. Yousry Sayed, Mr. Kevin Sills, Mr. Skyler Stein, Dr. Jimmy Tate and Dr. Aldona Wos were present. Dr. Aswani Voley, Chancellor; Vice Chancellors Mr. Eddie Stuart, University Advancement; Mr. Miles Lackey, Business Affairs and Vice Chancellor Dr. Chrisine Reed Davis, Student Affairs, represented the university. Deans attending were: Dr. Stephanie Caulder, College of Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts, Dr. Tracy Linderholm, Watson College of Education, Dr. Jack Watson, College of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Ronald Vetter, College of Science and Engineering. Also attending were other university administrative personnel.

The meeting moved into the Business portion of the meeting. Chair Chappell read the Conflict of Interest Policy to all and asked if anyone had a conflict of interest. No such conflicts from the Board members were noted for the open session.

Chair Chappell asked Ms. Sharon Lindgren to call the Roll and it was determined that a quorum was present.

A motion was made to approve the October 24, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion for approval was duly carried on behalf of the committee.

Chair Chappell introduced Dr. Winebrake, Provost and Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs.

Provost Winebrake introduced Dr. Colleen Reilly who presented the Faculty Senate report. She provided updates on the activities of the Faculty Senate since October 2024 and highlights of priorities this semester which included: Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Committee drafting a motion to add Foundations of American Democracy component to University Studies and changes to PTR and Teaching Effectiveness policies approved by the Faculty Senate in December to be added to the Faculty Handbook upon full approval. Also, an Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Review has been charged and will provide recommendations for review by Senate Steering and the full Faculty Senate by mid-April.

Provost Winebrake presented the Academic Affairs report. He provided updates on divisional highlights and activities, including Q2 status for sponsored programs, and examples of key community engagements and partnerships.

He presented an informational item on the Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion policy. In addition, he presented Post-Tenure Review Policy Updates (action item) which required a vote and was approved.

Dr. Winebrake then introduced Dr. Christine Reed Davis, Vice Chancellor Student Affairs. She provided highlights on recent student activities including: SGA Teal Out, Campus Recreation events, Disc Golf Course, December Commencement, Spring Orientation and Homecoming with Student Affairs among other events. She then introduced Dr. Jamie Russell and Gene Felice, Co-chairs of the Community Engagement Advisory Board. Their presentation was titled: "Building Bridges: Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Collaborations in Community Engagement". They highlighted how both divisions contribute to bridging gaps among students, faculty, staff, administration, and Wilmington community members through programs, services, and initiatives designed to

enhance community engagement.

Chair Chappell thanked everyone for their presentations and information.

At 3:40 pm Chair Chappell asked if there was any old, unfinished or new business to address. Hearing none, a motion was made to adjourn the session.

Chair Chappell

Date Approved



## **AGENDA ITEM**

Faculty Senate Update Report by Dr. Colleen Reilly, Faculty Senate President

**Situation:**

Update on the activities of the Faculty Senate since the February BOT meeting and highlights of priorities this semester.

**Background:**

N/A

**Assessment:**

N/A

**Action:**

This item is for information only.

**Supporting Documentation:**

Faculty Senate PowerPoint Presentation, to be included in EPPC PowerPoint

## **AGENDA ITEM**

Academic Affairs Report, provided by Dr. James J. Winebrake, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

### **Situation:**

Provost Winebrake will provide an update on recent divisional highlights and activity.

### **Background:**

The Division of Academic Affairs is the central division for implementing the academic mission of the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Through effective academic policies, practices and programs, the division provides leadership for excellence in teaching, scholarship and creative work as well as service to local, regional and global communities. The division is comprised of five academic colleges, seven functional areas, the Center for Marine Science and the Office of the Provost. Through this formalized structure and frequent shared governance, faculty and staff throughout the division provide the stellar academic experience known at UNCW.

### **Assessment:**

Information will be provided to the committee on recent updates in academic affairs.

### **Action:**

This item is for information only

### **Supporting Documentation:**

Academic Affairs PowerPoint presentation, to be included in the EPPC PowerPoint

This document is intended for print purposes. If you need this in another format, please contact the Office of the Provost at 910-962-4032 or [provost@uncw.edu](mailto:provost@uncw.edu).





# Educational Planning and Programs Committee (EPPC)

UNCW Board of Trustees

# Overview

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Update Report from Faculty Senate

*Colleen Reilly, Ph.D., Professor and Faculty Senate President*

- Academic Affairs Report

*James J. Winebrake, Ph.D., Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

- Student Affairs Report

*Christine Reed Davis, Ed.D., Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs*

- Discussion / Q&A





# Faculty Senate Update Report

Dr. Colleen Reilly

*President of Faculty Senate*

# Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Colleen Reilly  
Professor of English  
Faculty Senate President





# Current work of the Faculty Senate

**Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Committee** addressing UNC Policy on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success (Foundations of American Democracy) [400.1.5]

- Faculty Senate voted to add a FAD component to University Studies
- Courses will be added to the component during the 2025-2026 AY

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Review**

- Presented the proposed Academic Program Review Process for UNCW at the March meeting
- Faculty Senate **voted to endorse this process on April 15, 2025**



# Current work of the Faculty Senate

## Academic Standards Committee

- Approved the proposed policy for awarding posthumous degrees to graduate students
- Approved revisions to the policy for awarding posthumous degrees to undergraduate students
- Approved a policy for awarding Degrees in Memoriam

## Evaluation Committee

- Presented the proposed survey questions for teaching effectiveness instrument on **April 15**
- Will submit a motion to approve the survey questions and the changes to the Faculty Handbook to comply with System Office policies and the change from IDEA to Blue by Explorance on **May 13**

# Upcoming work of the Faculty Senate

## **Academic Standards Committee**

- Approved and sent forward revisions to the Credit for Prior Learning policy to conform to changes to UNC System Policies
  - Policy on Awarding Undergraduate Credit on the Basis of Advanced Course Examination Scores [700.10.1]
  - Regulation on Awarding Undergraduate Credit for Prior Learning [700.10.1[R]]

## **Faculty from the School of Nursing**

- Proposed a process for awarding posthumous promotion



# Academic Affairs Update

Dr. James J. Winebrake

*Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

# Academic Affairs Update

## Overview

- Highlights and Activities
- Waivers for Programs Over 120 Credits
- Vacancy in Distinguished Professorship



# Highlights and Activities *in the Division of Academic Affairs*



*The AA Divisional Highlights document is available online, in the supporting materials for this meeting.*



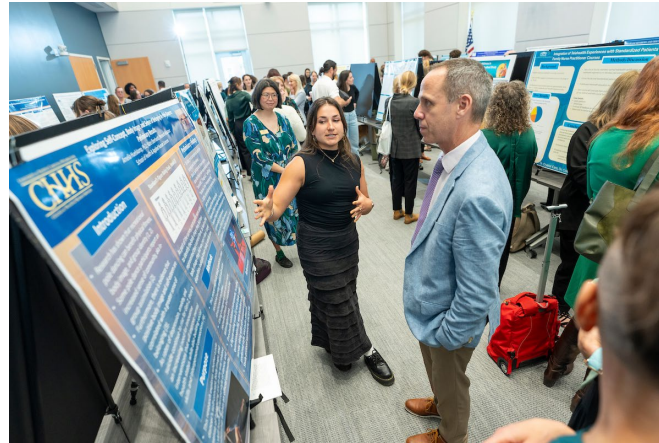


# Highlights and Activities



## Annual Business Week

*The 43rd annual CSB Business Week was held in March with nearly 2,000 UNCW students in attendance. The two-day event had more than 200 speakers, with keynote addresses from Steve Smits (Live Oak Bank) and alum Derek Bomar '08 (Deutsche Bank).*



## Annual Health and Human Services Week

*Starting with CHHS Research and Innovation Day, this year featured 34 sessions on a wide range of topics. Nearly 750 attendees learned from experts, participated in hands-on activities, and networked with local professionals, and UNCW students, staff, faculty, and alumni.*



## New Applied Learning Classroom Unveiled

*This new space in CHSSA is an innovative hub bearing state-of-the-art communications technology. It will be used for various classrooms and for Pier601 Creative, an applied learning integrated marketing communication course that is now in its 10th year.*



# Highlights and Activities



## **\$1.5M for Coastal Research**

*TEAL-SHIPS Transect Expedition will utilize this grant in a groundbreaking project to study coastal land-to-sea habits. Led by Dr. Bradley Tolar, the team includes UNCW collaborators from three CSE departments and members from three other UNC institutions.*



## **Regional STEM Competitions with CESTEM**

*This spring, WCE's CESTEM hosted three regional STEM competitions: the Southeast Regional Science & Engineering Fair; the Wilmington Regional NC Science Olympiad Tournament, and the Wilmington Regional SeaPerch Competition.*



## **OFFICE of INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION**

## **Record Number of Invention Disclosures**

*To date, OIC has received 15 invention disclosures – more than any previous fiscal year on record! Contributing to this growth is increased R2 activity, multiple strategic initiatives (e.g. Research Hubs), and a new Express License Agreement.*



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# External Recognitions

- **Dr. Joseph Covi (CSE)** named to the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) 2025 class of Senior Members. [Learn more.](#)
- **Dr. Brian Davis (CSE)** received the 2025 Fainting Robin Foundation Distinguished Scholar Award. [Learn more.](#)
- **Rachylle Hart (CMS)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)
- **Megan Hinson (GPIE)** received the Professional Newcomer Award, one of NCAIE's Excellence in International Education awards. [Learn more.](#)
- **Jenna Noe (CHHS)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)
- **Megan Kauzlaric (Office of the Provost)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)
- **Leneice Rice (CHHS)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)
- **Dr. Lindsey Schroeder (CHHS)** received the 2025 Athletic Trainer Service Award for the North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association (NCATA). [Learn more.](#)





# Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching

## Dr. Zachary Long

*Associate Professor*

Department of Biology and Marine Biology  
College of Science and Engineering

[READ MORE](#)



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# More Awards are Coming...

- Faculty Awards Celebration
- Research Achievement Awards
- Staff Awards for Excellence



BOARD of TRUSTEES





# Celebrating Our Seahawks!

## Seahawk Preview Day | April 12



## Commencement | May 9-10



# Update: Policy Work with the UNC System

Policy on Academic  
Program Planning  
(400.1)

Policy on Fostering  
Undergraduate Student  
Success (400.1.5)

Regulation to Foster  
Undergraduate Transfer  
Student Success  
(400.1.5.3[R])

Regulation on Teaching  
Effectiveness in the  
University of North  
Carolina  
(400.3.1.1[R])

Regulation on  
Performance Review of  
Tenured Faculty (Post-  
Tenure Review)  
(400.3.3.1[R])

Policy on Monitoring  
Faculty Teaching  
Workloads  
(400.3.4)

Regulation on Awarding  
Undergraduate Credit for  
Prior Learning  
(700.10.1[R])

*UNC Policy Manual and Code:*  
[northcarolina.edu/apps/policy/index.php](http://northcarolina.edu/apps/policy/index.php)





# Waivers for Programs Over 120 Credits

Dr. James J. Winebrake

*Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*





# Background: Waiver Requirement

- UNC Policy 400.1.5 requires Board of Trustees approval for any undergraduate degree that requires more than 120 credit hours.
- Waivers are allowed for "compelling" reasons that include accreditation standards; licensure requirements; and other state, federal, or professional regulations.



# Update: Waivers Requested in 2018

- In 2018, UNCW requested and received a total of three (3) waivers. The identified programs were:
  - Coastal Engineering
  - Elementary Education
  - Pre-licensure Nursing
- Each of these programs have made curricular adjustments resulting in the elimination of the need for a waiver. These programs are now in compliance with the 120 credit hour requirement.



# Action Item: Waiver Request

- We have one program that is currently over 120 credit hours and needs a waiver from the Board of Trustees:
  - Intelligent Systems Engineering
- This program was approved by the Board of Governors in 2021 with 129 credit hours; we have reduced the required credit hours to 121 starting fall 2025.

**Action Item:** The university requests BOT approval for a waiver under policy 400.1.5 for the Intelligent System Engineering program, which will have a total number of required credits hours of **121** starting fall 2025.





# Informational Item: Vacancy in Distinguished Professorship

Dr. James J. Winebrake

*Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*



# McNeill Distinguished Professorship in the School of Nursing

- **Current Appointee:** Distinguished Professor Barbara J. Lutz
- **Reason for Vacancy:** Entering phased retirement

## NEXT STEPS:

- The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) and the School of Nursing will move forward with a search process to identify and select the next appointee.
- Once the search is completed, an action item will be submitted to the BOT for appointment.





# Discussion / Q&A

Educational Planning and Programs Committee (EPPC)  
UNCW Board of Trustees



**AGENDA ITEM**

Report on Waivers for Programs Over 120 Credits, provided by Dr. James J. Winebrake, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Situation:**

Per the “Report on Waivers for Exceeding 120-Credit Hour Limits” UNC System Office memorandum dated Feb. 17, 2025, UNCW is providing an update to the Board on waivers for programs exceeding the 120-credit hour limit.

**Background:**

Provost Winebrake will present an update to the Board on three programs that received waivers in 2018 to exceed the 120-credit hour limit, which have since received curricular adjustments resulting in the elimination of the need for a waiver. Additionally, Provost Winebrake will present a recently added program that is over 120-credit hours and thus needs to be considered for a waiver.

**Assessment:**

N/A

**Action:**

The (1) waiver request requires a vote by the Board of Trustees and is recommended for approval.

**Supporting Documentation:**

UNC System Office memorandum on “Report on Waivers for Exceeding 120-Credit Hour Limits” Academic Affairs PowerPoint Presentation, to be included in EPPC PowerPoint.

To: Chairs, Boards of Trustees

CC: Peter Hans, President, UNC System  
Chancellors  
Wade Maki, Chair, Faculty Assembly  
Campus Board Professionals

From: Wendy Murphy, Chair, Board of Governors  
Terry Hutchens, Chair, Committee on Educational Planning

Re: Report on Waivers for Exceeding 120-Credit Hour Limits

Date: February 17, 2025

We ask that your board of trustees review *at your next regularly-scheduled board meeting* and report to us promptly on the continued need, if any, for waivers granted by your board of trustees for the award of undergraduate degrees requiring more than 120 semester credit hours. Exhibit A reflects available statistics on existing waivers.

We also ask you to identify any undergraduate degree programs that require more than 120 semester credit hours *without* having obtained the necessary waiver from your board.

Membership of boards of trustees has changed since 2018. Therefore, we write briefly on the context for our request. In 2018, the Board of Governors amended [Section 400.1.5](#) of the UNC Policy Manual to cap at 120 the number of semester credit hours required to award undergraduate degrees. Waivers by boards of trustees are allowed for compelling reasons. Compelling reasons include: programmatic accreditation standards; licensure requirements; and other state, federal, or professional regulations. See [Section 400.1.5\[R\]](#) of the UNC Policy Manual.

At the time the 120-credit hour cap was imposed, campus approaches varied—some programs required as many as 134 semester credit hours for an undergraduate degree. Others required less. The 2018 policy change imposed system-wide structure where none had existed.

Since 2018, the Board of Governors, the System Office, and campus administrations have redoubled efforts to lower the whole cost of education. Consistent with the UNC Strategic Plan, few stones have been left unturned on ways to drive down the costs of a college degree. That effort, among many, has resulted in

the UNC System keeping in-state, undergraduate tuition flat for eight successive years.

Sound policymaking requires a reassessment of the need for these waivers. Once a waiver has been granted, there appears to be no formal mechanism to revisit periodically the continued need for that waiver. We do not presume that your reassessment will prompt discontinuance of any waivers. However, the 2018 policy was passed over seven years ago, and the drive to continually improve our operations counsels a degree-by-degree reassessment of the need for these waivers.

Separately, if programs exist where a needed waiver has not been obtained, we need to know that, too. Therefore, we ask you to look into these matters and report back to us.

Please lead your boards in undertaking the reassessment we have requested *at your next regularly-scheduled meeting*. You will need to work with your chancellors and chief academic officers. Please assess whether compelling reasons for current waivers still exist and whether there are other programs for which a waiver is needed. Promptly following your meeting, please make a written report to us detailing why your board has concluded that each existing waiver does or does not remain necessary and identifying non-compliant programs for which a waiver is needed.

Thank you for your work to continually improve the University of North Carolina. It takes a “whole of System” effort to maintain the University’s status as the best public university system in the United States. If in the course of this work, you have other ideas on ways the System can improve to further that goal, please let us know.

## EXHIBIT A

### **UNC System 120 Credit Hour Exempted Programs**

<b>Count and Percent of Exempt Programs</b>			
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Count of Programs</b>	<b>Count of Exemptions</b>	<b>% Exempt</b>
Appalachian State University	78	2	2.6%
Elizabeth City State University	27	0	0.0%
East Carolina University	80	2	2.5%
Fayetteville State University	36	2	5.6%
NC Agricultural and Technical State University	59	3	5.1%
North Carolina Central University	35	5	14.3%
NC State University	91	19	20.9%
UNC Asheville	32	0	0.0%
UNC-Chapel Hill	72	10	13.9%
UNC Charlotte	71	1	1.4%
UNC Greensboro	66	2	3.0%
UNC Pembroke	37	0	0.0%
UNC Wilmington	57	3	5.3%
UNC School of the Arts	5	1	20.0%
Western Carolina University	66	10	15.2%
Winston-Salem State University	34	1	2.9%
<b>UNC System</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>7.2%</b>

**AGENDA ITEM**

Vacancy in the McNeill Distinguished Professorship in the School of Nursing, provided by Dr. James J. Winebrake, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**Situation:**

The current appointee in the McNeill Distinguished Professorship in the School of Nursing will enter phased retirement effective June 30, 2025, leaving this position vacant. Per UNC regulation 600.2.3[R], the chancellor shall inform the Board of Trustees of any vacancies in distinguished professorships.

**Background:**

UNC Regulation 600.2.3[R] (VII.D) requires that the chancellor consult with the institutional Board of Trustees when a vacancy occurs in an endowed professorship established with the Endowment Fund. Distinguished Professor Barbara J. Lutz, the current appointee in the McNeill Distinguished Professorship in the School of Nursing, will enter phased retirement effective June 30, 2025, leaving this position vacant. No material changes are anticipated in the endowed professorship plan previously approved by the System Office.

**Assessment:**

N/A

**Action:**

This item is for information only

**Supporting Documentation:**

UNC Regulation 600.2.3[R]



### **Regulation on the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund**

I. Purpose. The following regulation is designed to provide System-wide consistency and clarity regarding implementation of the UNC Policy Manual 600.2.3, *Policy on the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund*.

II. Goals. Among the goals of the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund (DPETF) is to stimulate private support and commitment to strengthening the faculties and promoting excellence throughout all constituent institutions of the UNC System. The General Assembly's goal in creating the DPETF was to encourage each constituent institution to "solicit and receive gifts from private sources to provide matching funds to the trust fund challenge grants."<sup>i</sup>

III. Definitions. The following operational definitions apply to this regulation:

A. "Focused Growth Institutions." Refers to Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina Central University, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Western Carolina University, and Winston-Salem State University.

B. "Private Gift" or "Private Contribution." A donation from a private individual(s) or entity(ies) (including any foundation or business entity). Federal grant funds do not meet the definition of a "private gift" or "private contribution." Private contributions to institutional Endowment Funds must be given or pledged specifically for the purposes of the trust fund, and only contributions received after July 1, 1985 may be credited to the special endowment fund of the institution.

C. "Special Needs Institutions." Refers to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

D. "STEM subject area" has that meaning found at N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-41.13A(3). UNC System Office will publish and maintain a list of approved STEM degree programs based upon STEM two-digit Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes.

IV. Procedures for Institutional Plans for Establishment of Professorships

A. Plan for Establishment of a Distinguished Professorship. When the private gift is placed in the institutional Distinguished Professors Endowment Fund, the chancellor shall prepare a succinct plan for the establishment of the endowed professorship contemplated. This plan must be submitted to the president for review and approval. The plan accompanies a request for state matching funds to be transferred from the Board of Governors Trust Fund or escrowed to support the proposed professorship. No transfer or escrow of a state challenge grant shall be made in the absence of an approved plan.

B. Plan Description. Plans for the establishment of endowed professorships submitted by chancellors to the president must describe:

1. The name of the professorship;
2. The anticipated/estimated amount available annually from the endowment and the planned uses of those available funds;
3. The academic department or other unit to which it is anticipated that the new professorship will be assigned, with a certification of an approved STEM degree program/area;
4. The academic rank of the professorship (i.e., full professor, associate professor, or assistant professor<sup>ii</sup>);
5. Whether the professorship will be in perpetuity (i.e., for the duration of the full-time service of the distinguished professor as a faculty member) or time-limited<sup>iii</sup>;
6. If the appointment is time-limited, the duration of the appointment (the standard recommended appointment length is five years);
7. Whether the professorship will be filled by an external or internal appointment or by either. Institutions are encouraged to consider plans for external appointments who will constitute distinguished additions to the faculty;
8. The expected benefits to the institution; and
9. Steps to ensure compliance with all selection procedures included in subsection VII of this regulation.

C. Material Changes to an Established Distinguished Professorship. Before material changes can be made to the professorship (to include those in the queue, with an approved plan but not yet funded), an amended plan for the establishment of the professorship must be submitted with the changes reflected.

1. Material changes to plans for professorships must be approved by the original private donor whose gift created the endowment fund or a representative of the donor before submitting an amended plan for approval. Documentation of donor approval to change is a required component of the plan change submission.
2. Material changes include changes to:
  - a. The academic department or other unit to which the professorship is assigned;
  - b. The academic rank of the professorship (i.e., full professor, associate professor, or assistant professor<sup>iv</sup>);

c. Whether the professorship will be in perpetuity (i.e., for the duration of the full-time service of the distinguished professor as a faculty member), or time-limited;

d. If the appointment is time-limited, the duration of the appointment; and

e. Whether the professorship will be filled by an external or internal appointment or by either.

3. Material changes do not include selecting a new holder of the professorship when filling a vacant position.

4. Non-STEM Distinguished Professorships established prior to legislative changes in fiscal year 2024 may retain their original academic/degree program areas. Those plans may be changed, to include changing the academic area to another non-STEM field or a STEM program. However, if an institution receives additional donor support for an established professorship and requests additional state matching funds to move it up to a higher endowment level, the academic focus must be in a STEM subject area.

#### V. Procedures Queuing Transfer of State Fund Requests

A. Insufficient State Funds. In the event that sufficient state funds are not available in the Board of Governors Trust Fund to meet the pending requests for matching dollars, requests shall be placed in a queue to await the availability of state funds. Only requests with approved plans and for which the full requisite private gift has been received shall be placed in the queue.

B. Additional State Appropriations. Once additional state appropriations are made, and the funds are available in the trust fund, the allocation shall be used to fund as many of the professorships in the queue as possible.

C. Escrow. So long as requests for transfer of funds to match full private gifts exceed the total available dollars, no state funds shall be placed in escrow.

D. Priority for State Matching Funds. The date when the professorship was placed in the queue shall be the principal factor used to determine the order of transferring state matching funds from the Trust Fund to the institution. However, an effort shall be made to provide state matching funds each year for at least one distinguished professorship at each institution with an approved, fully-funded (by donor) plan in the queue. The UNC System Office will accept and consider special requests from an institution to alter the order of funding for their own professorship plans in the queue.

#### VI. Procedures for the Use of Funds

A. Income Earned from Funds. By law, the principal from neither the state funds nor the private gift can be spent, only the income earned from the endowment can be used.

B. Use of Income Earned from Funds. Income from the endowment cannot be used for any purpose other than the support of the endowed professorship.

1. Approved uses include, for example: a salary supplement for the holder, travel research expenses associated with their professional responsibilities, stipends for teaching, research assistants for the distinguished professor, and special equipment or items needed to support the teaching and research of the distinguished professor.

2. No funds shall be drawn from the specific endowment for use when the position is vacant, with the exception of specific recruitment incentives to secure a replacement distinguished professor. Allowable uses for the funds during recruitment/hiring phase are: a sign-on bonus, moving expenses, and lab/research start-up funds (to include equipment purchase, lab renovations, etc.).

C. Income Use. It is a violation of the law to spend the income from the Distinguished Professors Endowment Fund for purposes unrelated to the particular professorship. The amount and purpose of the expenditures each year shall be determined through consultation between the professorship holder, the appropriate department chairperson, and the dean.

D. Establishment of Professorship before Matching State Funds. Constituent institutions may use a portion, or all the income paid out of a Distinguished Professor Endowment Fund to establish an endowed professorship prior to the receipt of the state matching funds if all the following conditions are met:

1. The required amount of funds from private sources has been collected in full pursuant to Section 600.2.3 IV., of the UNC Policy Manual;

2. The plan for the professorship has been approved by the president and the professorship is in the funding queue;

3. The donor(s), or a representative of the donor(s), has provided written permission allowing the interest earned on the endowment to be used to support the purposes of the gift prior to the receipt of the state matching funds.

## VII. Procedures for the Selection of Distinguished Professorship Holders

A. Selection of Professor for the Distinguished Professorship. The selection of each professor to hold a distinguished professorship shall be made in the following way:

1. The selection and appointment procedures followed shall be fully consistent with the institution's tenure policies and regulations and other applicable personnel policies;

2. At 15 constituent universities, the Distinguished Professor shall be appointed at the rank of full professor, the Distinguished Scholar at the rank of associate professor, and the Distinguished Fellow at the rank of assistant professor, and the appointment shall be subject to approval by the Board of Governors at those institutions not designated as special responsibility constituent institutions with management flexibility to appoint and

fix compensation.<sup>v</sup> At the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, other appropriate rank may be conferred, and all faculty endowed under the DPETF program at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics shall be “Distinguished Faculty.”

3. The academic discipline to which the person is appointed shall be one of major importance to the educational program of the institution; and

4. The person appointed shall have a record of outstanding accomplishment in that discipline or field as a teacher and scholar or practitioner.

B. Intention of Distinguished Professorships. The distinguished professorships are intended for full-time faculty members, not for persons whose primary duties are administrative.

1. If a Distinguished Professor subsequently is appointed to a senior administrative position, the holder of a professorship under this program may retain the professorship under the original terms of appointment to the endowed professorship.

a. Senior administrative positions are those at the dean, or equivalent level, and above. Distinguished professors assigned to administrative positions shall retain the right to use distinguished professor funding, for teaching and research purposes, while in the administrative positions.

b. New Distinguished Professor positions cannot be created and assigned to administrative positions at the level of dean/equivalent or above, and a faculty member sitting in a senior administrative position cannot be given a Distinguished Professorship title and retain the senior administrative position.

2. Department chair and program director positions, as well as associate or assistant deans, are not considered senior administrative positions. However, the ability to establish or to retain the Distinguished Professorship and title depends upon the expected duties. The institution must certify to the UNC System Office that the administrative duties will not be more than 50 percent of the time and effort. In order to hold the Distinguished Professorship and retain the title, the normal faculty member duties of teaching and research must account for more than 50 percent of the time/effort.

a. Any new plan for establishing a Distinguished Professorship in these administrative positions must certify in the plan that the duties will be at least 50 percent faculty duties of teaching, research/creative activity, and non-administrative service.

b. If an established Distinguished Professor is being elevated to these administrative positions, the institution must notify the UNC System Office and obtain approval. The institution shall certify that teaching, research/creative activity, and non-administrative service constitute at least 50 percent of the faculty member's duties and shall provide the faculty member's workload plan developed in accordance with UNC Policy Manual 400.3.4, *Policy on Faculty Workload*, and 400.3.4[R], *Regulation on Faculty Workload*, demonstrating the same.

C. Exceptional Circumstances. Distinguished professorships may not be established with the intent to allow for more than one faculty member at a time. In exceptional circumstances, an established distinguished professorship position may be held by more than one faculty member simultaneously only with specific permission from the UNC System Office prior to any actions. The institution must request permission and demonstrate (1) why the professorship needs to support more than one faculty member and (2) how the income from the endowment will be used for allowable expenses of all faculty members who hold the professorship, in accordance with the professorship's approved plan. The request must specify a limited timeframe for the dual assignment of the professorship. More than two faculty members in a single Distinguished Professor position is not allowed.

D. Vacancy in an Endowed Professorship. When a vacancy occurs in an endowed professorship established with the Endowment Fund, the institution shall notify the UNC System Office and begin preparation for filling the position as soon as possible.

1. The chancellor shall consult with the institutional board of trustees. If material changes are to be made to the professorship, the chancellor shall thereafter recommend to the president any amendments to the approved plan. Upon approval of the amended plan by the president, or under continuation of a plan without amendment, selection and appointment of the new distinguished professor, including distinguished scholar and distinguished fellow, shall then proceed in accordance with this regulation.

2. Processes and associated activities to fill the professorship must begin within 60 days of the vacancy, and the institution should make every effort to fill the vacancy by the end of the semester following the semester in which the vacancy occurred. The institution shall notify the UNC System Office if, and the reasons why, the position will not be filled within this timeline.

3. Per UNC Policy 600.3.4, Section III.B.1., institutions with delegated management flexibility may "appoint and fix compensation for faculty awarded the designation of Distinguished Professor." Institutions without delegated management flexibility should conform to required human resources processes to obtain approval for conferring tenure and appointing Distinguished Professors.

4. The institution shall notify the UNC System Office's DPETF administrator when the position has been filled, once the new distinguished professor has started working at the institution.

E. Additional Requirements. Some professorships must meet additional requirements for the selection of the distinguished professor. Those professorships are identified below. All professorships other than those listed below need only meet the requirements in subsections VII.A., and VII.B., of this regulation.

1. Any endowed professorships established using nonrecurring funding appropriated under the 1993-95 Current Operations Appropriations Act<sup>vi</sup> shall "recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching as the primary criterion for selection."

2. For distinguished professors selected to fill the professorship funded through the C.D. Spangler Foundation Challenge Grant, they must be appointed only at the full professor (Distinguished Professor) or associate professor (Distinguished Scholar) ranks and levels, with a preference for full professor.

VIII. Reporting Requirements. Reports regarding the number and current status of the Distinguished Professorships at each institution shall be reported to the president annually by July 1. Reports to the president shall include the level of each professorship, the name of the professorship, whether the professorship is vacant or filled, and the professorship's college/school and (if applicable) department and academic specialty/area. For filled professorships, the name of the professor shall be included. For vacant professorships, the date the position was vacated shall be included.

IX. Other Matters

A. Effective Date. The requirements of this regulation shall be effective on the date of adoption of this regulation by the president.

B. Relation to Federal and State Laws. The foregoing regulation as adopted by the president is meant to supplement, and does not purport to supplant or modify, those statutory enactments, regulations, and policies which may govern or relate to the subject matter of this regulation.

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<sup>i</sup>S.L. 1985-757, Sec. 202; G.S. 116-41.13-41.19).

<sup>ii</sup> All Distinguished Professorships at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics shall be "Distinguished Faculty."

<sup>iii</sup> The duration of Distinguished Faculty at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics is determined by the length of their contract.

<sup>iv</sup> Not applicable to Distinguished Professorships at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, due to all being Distinguished Faculty.

<sup>v</sup>See Sections 600.3.2 and 600.3.4 of the UNC Policy Manual.

<sup>vi</sup>S.L. 1993-321.



**AGENDA ITEM**

Student Affairs Report

Presented by Dr. Christine Reed Davis, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

**Situation:**

Highlight significant events, accomplishments, and progress made on ongoing projects, as well as outline any new strategic efforts undertaken to enhance student life, support services, and strategic priorities. The goal is to keep the Board informed of the division's contributions to the university's overall mission and to foster continued alignment with institutional pillars and priorities.

**Background:**

Since the February 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, the Division of Student Affairs has continued to focus on enhancing the student experience through various initiatives, programming, and strategic projects. These efforts are directly aligned with the university's strategic plan, specifically Priority 2: To enhance student services/success.

**Assessment:**

N/A

**Action:**

This item is informational only.

**Supporting Documentation:**

N/A



# Student Affairs Report

Dr. Christine Reed Davis, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

# Agenda

- Homecoming Highlights
- Spring Programs
- Looking Forward
  - Spring 2025 Commencement
  - Orientation
  - Updates for Fall 2025
- Student Spotlights



# Homecoming Highlights





# Spring Programs: Career Center



## Spring Career & Internship Fair

*February 26*

**736 Seahawks attended**

**87 employers**



## Education Networking & Job Fair

*March 10*

**124 Seahawks attended**

**59 employers**



## Spring Film Symposium

*April 3*

**200+ attendees**

**7 alumni/industry speakers**



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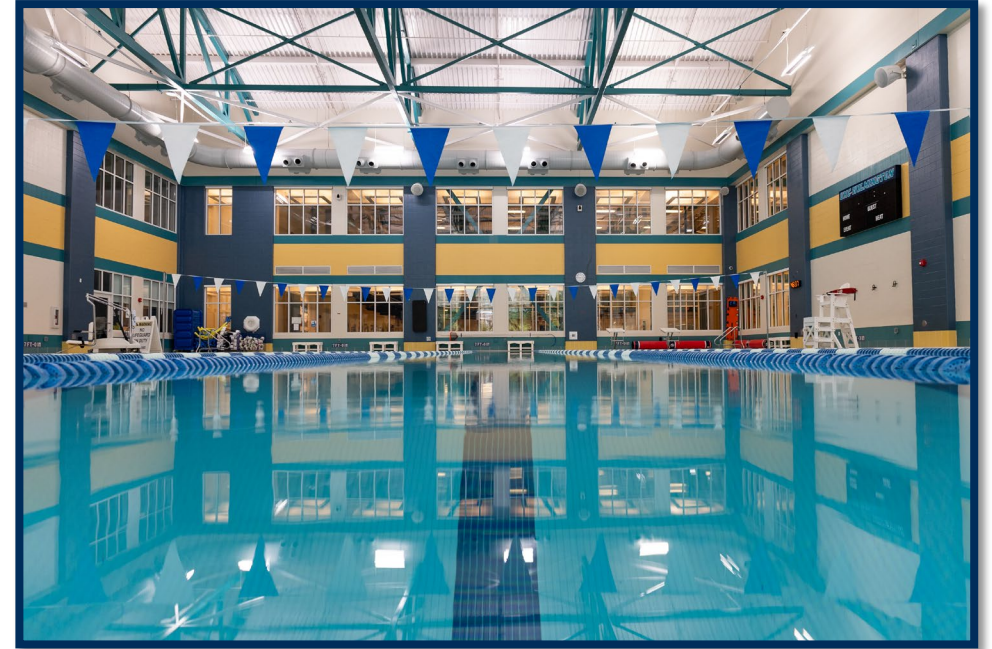


# Spring Programs: CAA & NCAA Watch Parties





# Spring Programs: Learn-to-Swim Program





# Spring Programs: ACE Big Show



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# Spring Programs: Leadership Lecture



UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

## CAMPUS LIFE'S LEADERSHIP LECTURE

### CAMILLE VASQUEZ

NBC NEWS LEGAL ANALYST & RENOWNED ATTORNEY  
FEATURED IN THE #1 NETFLIX SERIES, DEPP V. HEARD

**APRIL 2, 2025 7 P.M. KENAN AUDITORIUM**

FREE FOR UNCW STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND GENERAL  
PUBLIC. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT UNCW KENAN BOX OFFICE.



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# Spring Programs: Dr. Ivy R. Taylor

UNCW DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS PRESENTS


## PUBLIC SERVICE WITH A PURPOSE

SENIOR ADVISOR  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SYSTEM, AND  
DIRECTOR OF  
LOCAL RELATIONS  
AT UNC-CHAPEL HILL

CAROLINA BEACH ROOM,  
FISHER STUDENT CENTER

FEBRUARY 21, 2025  
9:30 A.M.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
PROVIDED. RSVP TODAY.



A CONVERSATION  
WITH DR. IVY R. TAYLOR



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# Spring Programs: Boardwalk at the Dub





# Spring Programs: Awards & More



April 4

The Sammys



April 9

RA Showcase



April 10

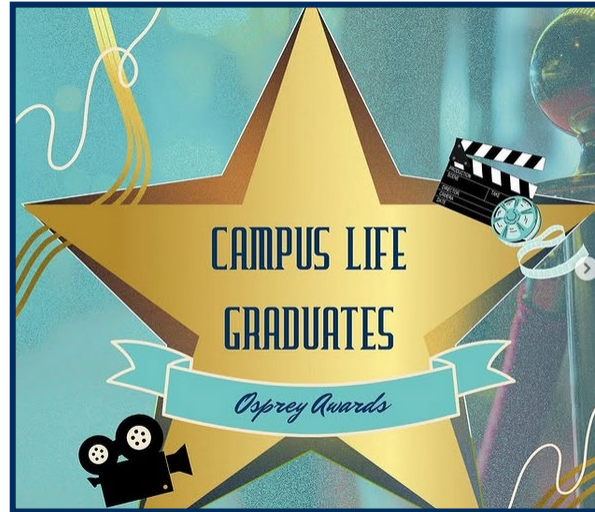
SOLAR Awards

# Spring Programs: Awards & More



**April 15**

**Cornerstone Awards**



**April 28**

**Osprey Awards**



**May 6**

**Faculty & Staff Recognition  
Reception**



# Fisher Memorial Garden Annual Brick Dedication Ceremony



*Gone, but not forgotten  
by your Seahawk Family*

**Deloris Boykins Hansley**

(Oct. 27, 1962 - Sept. 11, 2024)

**Brian Harmon**

(Aug. 7, 1976 - Feb. 28, 2024)

**Roy Kaneshiro**

(Dec. 25, 1951 - Jan. 24, 2024)

**Ellen Marie Vogler**

(Feb. 23, 1980 - Jul. 22, 2024)

**Sylvia Watson Fisher**

(Feb. 14, 1931 - Jun. 11, 2024)



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# Looking Forward: Spring 2025 Commencement



**Graduate School**  
*May 9; 1:30 PM*



**College of Health & Human  
Services**  
*May 9; 6 PM*



**Cameron School of  
Business**  
*May 10; 9 AM*



**College of Science &  
Engineering**  
*May 10; 1 PM*



**College of Humanities, Social Sciences, & the  
Arts  
Watson College of Education**  
*May 10; 5 PM*



# Looking Forward: Fall 2025 Orientation



## Transfer

- Thursday, May 15
- Wednesday, May 28
- Monday, June 30
- Thursday, August 14

*Currently **459** registered students!\**

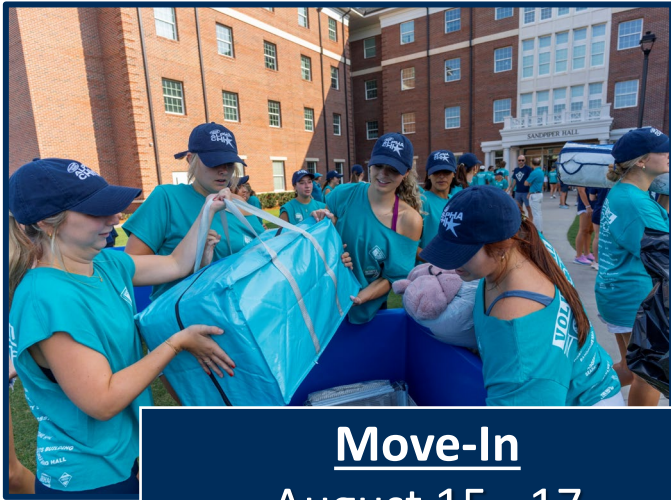
## First-Year

- Every Monday & Wednesday from June 2 – June 25!
- Sunday, August 17

*Currently **2,001** registered students!\**



# Looking Forward: Updates for Fall 2025



**Move-In**  
August 15 - 17



**HawkFest (NEW!)**  
August 18



**Convocation**  
August 19



# Congratulations UNCW SGA!



# Student Spotlight: Hachem Chaib



**Business Administration and Management;  
Finance concentration**

*KEDGE Business School in Marseille, France*

**“Campus Life has not just been a workplace but a real family, and it’s transformed my entire experience at this university. Every person who works here has played a role in making this journey unforgettable. Each one of you has been more than just a colleague; you’ve been a friend. Just think about it—by being as close and united as we are, we’ve changed the lives and university experiences of so many people.”**

**“Know that you’ll always have a pro staff behind you, listening and doing everything they can to support you. Whether it’s Curtis, Danny, or Zach, they will always be there for you, just like they were for me. They’re not just our bosses; they’re like big brothers, always here for us.”**

**“I can’t thank you enough for this experience. I’ll always be part of the family.”**



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# Student Spotlight: Jordan McLeod



**Bachelor of Public Health; Pre-clinical concentration;  
Biology Minor**

*SGA, Kappa Alpha Psi, Excellence Project mentor,  
Helping Hand Project, Black Men's Association, National  
Pan-Hellenic Council, and many more!*

"When I think about my time at UNCW and who and what inspired me the most during my journey here, the answer is easily the Upperman African American Cultural Center. The **Upperman Center is a very special place for myself and many other students.**"

"To us, it is not just a physical center, but it is a **home away from home where community can be cultivated and culture can be shared.** What Upperman stands for, and the people that make it what it is, inspired and **continues to inspire me every single day.**"



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# Student Spotlight: Kristine M. Hanor “Kris”



## **Bachelor of Social Work**

*Delta Alpha Pi, Phi Alpha, and Student  
Social Work Organization*

“Returning to school in my 50s was nerve-racking. Early in the fall semester of my junior year, I expressed my fears to Dr. Megan Bolden, who taught Issues in Diversity for General Practice. She assured **me that my opinion was valued and that my experiences benefited my classmates.** She helped me see my value and started me on a path that has **led to some of the best adventures of my life.**”

“**I made friends, gained confidence, found my voice, and discovered my passion** for social justice and the value of service, especially to vulnerable populations.”

“**Coming to UNCW was life-changing,** and I am excited to start my next chapter here as an advanced standing Master of Social Work Student.”



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# Student Spotlight: Hissah Alzahrani



**Doctor of Educational Leadership;  
Curriculum & Instruction concentration**

*Chancellor's Student Advisory Council member since  
2022*



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“Being part of the Chancellor's Student Advisory Council (CSAC) has been **one of the most impactful experiences of my time** at UNCW. It has given me the opportunity to **connect with university leadership, share student perspectives, and contribute to meaningful conversations that support and strengthen our campus community.**”

“If I could go back and talk to myself when I was just starting school, I'd say: **‘Get more involved in the campus community—it's the best way to grow and make connections.’**”

“When I think about UNCW, the first thing that comes to mind is **how welcoming the faculty and staff were, and how open and inviting the campus feels—there's always someone ready to help.**”



# Discussion / Q&A

Educational Planning and Programs Committee (EPPC)  
UNCW Board of Trustees



## **AGENDA ITEM**

This is not an agenda item – Academic Affairs Divisional Highlights

### **Situation:**

Overview on 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:** April 16, 2025  
**RE:** Division of Academic Affairs Highlights

Trustees: Below is an overview of notable highlights and activities within the Division of Academic Affairs, primarily since the February quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees.

### **Cameron School of Business (CSB or Cameron)**

- **MCARTEC Briefed Subcommittee of the National Security Council:** Faculty members Ulku Clark and Jeff Greer [were invited to join](#) the Maritime Domain Awareness Executive Steering Committee of the National Security Council to present information on a Maritime Cyber Resilience Roadmap. This opportunity allowed Clark and Greer to invite key national security stakeholders to become research partners and engage with work underway at one of UNCW's strategic research hubs: Maritime Cybersecurity Applied Research, Technology & Education Center (MCARTEC). [Learn more about MCARTEC.](#)
- **Annual Business Week:** A cornerstone of Cameron's commitment to student success and community engagement, the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Business Week was held in March with nearly 2,000 UNCW students in attendance. The two-day event had more than 200 speakers, including many returning alumni and keynote addresses from Steve Smits (Head of Commercial Banking at Live Oak Bank) and alum Derek Bomar '08 (Managing Director and Asset Manager, head of Asset Management Investment Banking at Deutsche Bank). [Learn more about Business Week 2025.](#)

### **College of Health and Human Services (CHHS)**

- **Research and Innovation Day:** The CHHS Research and Innovation Day in March was held as the kickoff for the college's annual Health and Human Services Week. This year, the keynote Distinguished Researcher lecture was delivered by Dr. Alex McDaniel (School of Health and Applied Human Sciences), who presented on ways interdisciplinary collaboration enhances research outcomes, fosters creativity, and drives innovative discoveries through shared knowledge and technology. His talk was followed by a poster showcase, where 50 posters highlighted the scholarly activity of CHHS students, staff, and faculty.
- **Annual Health and Human Services Week:** The annual Health and Human Services Week featured 34 opportunities to engage in dynamic lectures, wellness activities, and interactive discussions. Events covered a wide range of topics, including health and wellness, exploring the role of AI and technology in healthcare, community-engaged

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scholarship, design thinking, professional networking, and more. Community partnerships with numerous regional organizations (including Novant Health, Trauma Resource Institute, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare, Pender County Health Department, Coastal Horizons, New Hanover and Pender County Chief District Court Judge, Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC, Liberty Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, NC Alliance of Public Health Agencies, Onslow Memorial Hospital, AARP of NC, City of Wilmington Parks and Recreation, and many more) enhanced the impact of these events. Nearly 750 attendees learned from experts, participated in hands-on activities, and networked with local health and human services professionals and UNCW students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

- **Spring Break Mega-Simulation:** The third annual Interprofessional Collaboration Mega-Simulations event was hosted at the Problem Based Learning Lab in Veterans Hall. This spring-break travel-themed event, titled "See How Far Teamwork Can Take You," brought together student participants from UNCW, Cape Fear Community College, and UNC Chapel Hill, representing 13 health and human service majors. The event engaged 47 in-person and 26 online participants, along with 32 student volunteers, eight guests, and 16 faculty and community partner facilitators. Students traveled with their interdisciplinary teams to four learning labs, each staged to depict emergency situations or clinic settings in different areas around the world. They practiced teamwork and communication skills while learning about health literacy and emergency response, including opioid overdose and bleeding emergencies.
- **Student Poster Placed First in National Meeting:** Social Work senior Amaria Rankins' research poster was awarded first place at the Social Work Baccalaureate Program Directors' Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her poster, "Community with Care: An Impactful & Engaging Service Project", showcased her locally based service work initiatives and highlighted two key projects: "The Clean Up @ Creekwood South" and "Reading with Maides Park". The Community with Care initiative was created to strengthen connections between UNCW students and under-resourced areas in Wilmington. The goal was to facilitate student engagement through service opportunities aimed at supporting local communities.
- **MOUs Signed for Public Health Partnership in Uganda:** Dr. Michelle Cathorall (School of Health and Applied Human Sciences) has developed a partnership with a Uganda university and two local NGOs working on malaria prevention. CHHS has formalized this partnership with two memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and will continue taking public health students each year to gain international applied learning experience on a short-term faculty led study abroad to Uganda.
- **Interdisciplinary Project Focused on End-of-Life Care:** The Gerontology program continues to collaborate with the Respiratory Therapy program and the Department of Psychology in an interdisciplinary project focused on end-of-life care and advance care planning. Supported by a UNCW Seahawks Advancing Interdisciplinary Learning grant and led by

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faculty, the project includes both undergraduate and graduate students working together to learn about issues that everyone will face, both personally and professionally. In the first year of the project, students from each academic program collaborated to develop discussion guides for caregiver peer mentoring pairs to support their navigation of difficult conversations and decisions around legal and financial matters as well as personal preferences and concerns toward the end of life. Now in the second year, students are developing scenes for an online module teaching end-of-life care and planning. The module will be developed throughout the next year and then shared with others for use.

- **Recreation Therapy Applied Learning with Military Veterans:** Over Spring Break, faculty and students in the Recreation Therapy program took a road trip to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida to assist with the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Adapted Sports Camp and Warrior Games Trials. Students engaged in a wide range of applied learning opportunities through their work with trial participants who are military veterans with disabilities. Students learned about adaptive equipment available to athletes by participating in sports such as Wheelchair Basketball, Track, Wheelchair Rugby, and Archery, in addition to learning from coaches, many of whom are former Paralympic athletes themselves.

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

- **New Applied Learning Classroom Unveiled:** The Department of Communication Studies celebrated the launch of a new Applied Learning Classroom. The space, courtesy of a donation from Mimi and the late Tom Cunningham, is an innovative hub bearing state-of-the-art communications technology. It will be used for various classrooms and for Pier601 Creative, an applied learning course that is now in its 10th year. [Read more.](#)
- **Film Studies Alum Wins \$1M Super Bowl Ad Contest:** Film Studies alum Dylan Bradshaw '19 won a Doritos ad contest alongside his project partner, taking his creative commercial to screens far and wide for the NFL Super Bowl. Bradshaw will be returning to campus soon to speak to students about his experiences. [Watch them online at NBC's TODAY show.](#)

#### College of Science and Engineering (CSE)

- **UNCW Awarded \$1.5M for Coastal Research:** A received \$1.5 million grant will help lead the TEAL-SHIPS Transect Expedition, a groundbreaking project to study coastal land-to-sea habitats. Over the next three years, this funding will support an interdisciplinary research initiative, spearheaded by principal investigator Dr. Bradley Tolar (Biology and Marine Biology, that focuses on coastal marine sciences. Other UNCW collaborators include co-PIs Dr. Christian Briseño-Avena (Biology and Marine Biology), Dr. Winifred Johnson (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Dr. Matthew McLean (Biology and Marine Biology), and Dr. Sutara Suanda (Physics and Physical Oceanography). [Read more.](#)

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- **High-Tech Job Opportunities on the Horizon for Students:** CSE, Protocase, and its subsidiary, 45Drives, announced a strategic partnership to provide students with enhanced research opportunities and hands-on training in advanced manufacturing and open-source data storage. This collaboration will open potential employment pathways for students in high-tech industries as well as strengthen workforce development in the region. [Read more.](#)

#### **Watson College of Education (WCE or Watson College)**

- **Collaboration with University of Ghana on Applications of AI:** Dr. Michele Parker (Educational Leadership) is collaborating with a team of Computer Science faculty members at the University of Ghana on the effective use of AI in higher education. Recently, Dr. Parker shared information about their work at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) conference in March, in a presentation titled "Leveraging AI for Faculty Excellence: Tools and Best Practice." [Read more.](#)
- **Inaugural Faculty Fellow for Research:** Dr. Yan Liu (Educational Leadership) has been selected to serve as WCE's inaugural Faculty Fellow for Research, a position created to support faculty, promote research collaboration, and enhance scholarly activities throughout the college. Dr. Liu is an associate professor and also the coordinator of WCE's Master of School Administration and School Administration Add-on Licensure programs. [Read more.](#)
- **Regional STEM Competitions with CESTEM:** The Center for Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (CESTEM) hosted three regional STEM competitions on campus again this spring: the [Southeast Regional Science & Engineering Fair](#), which gives third-to 12th-grade students from 11 counties the opportunity to showcase STEM-related work; the [Wilmington Regional NC Science Olympiad Tournament](#), which promotes middle and high school student engagement in biology, earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, engineering and technology; and the [Wilmington Regional SeaPerch Competition](#), an innovative underwater robotics program for middle and high school students.

#### **Global Partnership and International Education (GPiE)**

- **Education Abroad Advisor Receives Statewide Recognition:** Megan Hinson, an education abroad advisor, received the Professional Newcomer Award for the state of North Carolina at the 25th Annual NC Association of International Education Conference. As part of the annual conference, Excellence in International Education Awards are given to individuals and institutions that have demonstrated outstanding commitment and impact to the field of international education. [Learn more.](#)



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### Graduate, Continuing, and Lifelong Education (GCLE)

- **Online Degree Programs Nationally Ranked in U.S. News & World Report:** UNCW is ranked #68 in the Healthcare Management category, tied with four other institutions. This is the first year UNCW has been ranked in this category. The university is tied for #121 with seven other institutions in the Public Affairs category, up three spots from last year. UNCW is ranked #209 in Education. [Read more.](#)

### Teaching, Learning, and Library Services (TLLS)

- **2025 Battle of the Books Academic Competition:** The UNCW Library hosted 350 fourth and fifth-graders, teachers, and school media specialists for the 2025 New Hanover County Elementary Battle of the Books academic competition. Twenty-three local public elementary schools battled for the title, with Bradley Creek Elementary winning for the second year in a row. The competition is sponsored by the NHCPs Media Specialists.

### Undergraduate Education and Faculty Affairs (UEFA)

- **Long Receives BOG Teaching Excellence Award:** Dr. Zachary Long (Biology and Marine Biology) was announced the UNCW recipient for the 2025 UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award winners represent all 16 of North Carolina's public universities and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Recipients are nominated by special committees at each institution and selected by the Board of Governors Committee at the Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs committee meeting. Dr. Long will be celebrated at UNCW's second annual Faculty Awards Celebration, and then presented the medallion during the university's May commencement ceremonies. [Read more.](#)

### Research and Innovation (R&I)

- **Ocean Innovation Conference Earns United Nations Recognition:** For the second year in a row, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship's Ocean Innovation Conference received the United Nations Ocean Decade stamp of approval and was subsequently advertised across the world. CIE has received correspondence about the programming from as far as New Zealand! As a result of this recognition, the conference's programming is now also offered virtually. Mark your calendars – the 2025 conference will be held on September 30 at the UNCW Burney Center, and also online.
- **Alum Named NCInnovation Hub Director for Southeastern NC:** NCInnovation is a nonprofit organization that provides grant funding and other support to UNC System researchers working on discoveries that have practical application and commercial promise. In February, Scott Davis '17, '18M was named the hub director for Wilmington

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and the southeastern North Carolina region, a recent expansion of the NCI headquarters locations. As part of an MOU between NCI and UNCW, Davis resides in UNCW's Office of Innovation and Commercialization (OIC). [Read more.](#)

- **Export University Workshop:** The Small Business and Technology Development Center recently held a workshop at CIE, where participants learned the fundamentals of running a successful export business. Topics and speakers reflected the most current global trends, challenges, and opportunities. [Learn more.](#)
- **Director Certified as Registered Technology Transfer Professional:** Justin Streuli, OIC director, received international certification as a Registered Technology Transfer Professional by the Alliance of Technology Transfer Professionals. The RTTP designation is the highest accolade offered to tech transfer practitioners and is the only international standard for the profession. [Read more.](#)
- **Record Number of Invention Disclosures:** As of March 14, and with a quarter to go, OIC has received 15 invention disclosures – this is more than any previous fiscal year on record. Researchers submit invention disclosures when they make a novel discovery that could have societal impact. This growth is a direct reflection on the university's increased R2 activity, multiple year-over-year increases in research expenditures, and numerous strategic initiatives (such as the Research Hubs and other efforts by OIC) over the past four years to push UNCW's culture towards innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **New Express License Agreement:** OIC recently implemented the UNCW Express License Agreement, allowing UNCW-affiliated startup companies a standard expedited model to license university-owned technology. This growing trend in university licensing creates a streamlined process that encourages "home grown" startup formation, creates transparency and fairness, fosters a collaborative spirit with the university and its inventors, decreases COI, saves time and money for all parties, and can serve as a recruiting tool for new faculty.
- **Recent Research Stories:**
  - [Involving Caregivers in Brain Tumor Clinical Research](#)
  - [Associate Professor Joseph Covi Among National Class of Emerging Inventors](#)
  - [UNCW's Rising Impact on Coral Research](#)
  - [Love Data Week Explores Open Access and Collaborative Research Trends](#)

## Recent External Recognitions

- **Dr. Joseph Covi (CSE)** named to the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) 2025 class of Senior Members. [Learn more.](#)
- **Dr. Brian Davis (CSE)** received the 2025 Fainting Robin Foundation Distinguished Scholar Award. [Learn more.](#)
- **Rachylle Hart (CMS)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)





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- **Megan Hinson (GPIE)** received the Professional Newcomer Award, one of NCAIE's Excellence in International Education awards. [Learn more.](#)
- **Dr. Zachary Long (CSE)** named UNCW's 2025 recipient for the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. [Learn more.](#)
- **Jenna Noe (CHHS)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)
- **Megan Kauzlaric (Office of the Provost)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)
- **Leneice Rice (CHHS)** named to WILMA Leadership Institute, Class of 2025. [Learn more.](#)
- **Dr. Lindsey Schroeder (CHHS)** received the 2025 Athletic Trainer Service Award for the North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association (NCATA). [Learn more.](#)

[END]