

Jan. 7, 2009

Top Story

University earns prestigious national recognition for community engagement

UNC Charlotte has earned a prestigious community engagement elective classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The designation recognizes institutions that have internalized and sustained their commitment to collaborate with communities through teaching, research and outreach.

“From the beginning, this University has had a rich history of community involvement,” said Owen Furueth, associate provost for metropolitan studies and extended academic programs. “We now work with private corporations to expand the reach of our engagement while also deepening our existing relationships.”

UNC Charlotte joins Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, North Carolina Central University, UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington, UNC Pembroke and Western Carolina University among the 119 institutions honored with the classification.

With the announcement, the proportion of North Carolina’s public universities deemed by the Carnegie Foundation to be “community engaged” far exceeds that of peer state systems across the country, including California, Texas and Wisconsin.

This national recognition is a natural outgrowth of the University’s UNC Tomorrow initiative, through which all UNC campuses are seeking to increase their outreach and responsiveness to their surrounding communities and the state as a whole.

“The fact that over half of North Carolina’s public universities have been nationally recognized for their commitment to working with communities sends a strong message for the future of our state,” said Leslie Boney, UNC associate vice president for economic development research, policy and planning.

Around Campus

ITS help center expands hours

Starting Monday, Jan. 5, the Office of Information Technology Services expanded operating hours for the Faculty/Staff Help Center. Employees can now call ext. 7-3100 for technical assistance from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Student surveys show greater satisfaction with advising process

Changes implemented following 2004’s “academic advising summit” are resulting in greater numbers of satisfied students.

According to recent surveys by the Office of Institutional Research, 75 percent of sophomores and 67 percent of seniors rated their overall academic advising experience as either excellent or good.

“These figures represent a huge turnaround from previous surveys, and there are a number of people from across campus that deserve the credit,” said Provost Joan Lorden.

The advising summit, which brought together faculty, staff and students to discuss the advising process, resulted in an academic advising redesign team led by Cynthia Wolf Johnson, associate provost for academic services. The team, which includes representatives from each college, studied training and assigning of advisors and the availability of information about advising. One of its major results was a one-stop advising [Web site](#) that enables students to look up the name of their advisors. In the future, the team is studying standardizing information across each college.

“Faculty, staff and students have been actively engaged in how the University provides accurate information for students and in the effective use of advising as an integral part of the educational process,” Lorden noted. “The sophomores surveyed are the beneficiaries of the redesign team’s efforts, and the good news is their work seems to be paying off.”

In addition to surveying sophomores and seniors about their overall advising services experience, students were asked about access to advisors and degree information. Approximately 80 percent of sophomores rated access as excellent or good. In 2006, sophomores indicated a 68 percent rating. With regard to accurate information about degree requirements, 73 percent of this year’s sophomores rated as excellent or good the accuracy of degree information provided versus 65 percent in 2006. For seniors, the increases were more modest with 72 percent of 2008 seniors rating access as excellent or good versus 70 percent in 2006. Seniors’ perception of the accuracy of advisors’ information increased to 64 percent from 62 percent.

BOT holds down tuition, proposes student fee increase

Trustees at UNC Charlotte have approved a plan that calls for no tuition increase for resident undergraduate students for the 2009-10 academic year.

Under the proposal, which requires the approval of the UNC Board of Governors, overall student fees will increase by a net of 3.3 percent, or \$143 annually. Tuition will remain at the current level of \$2,516.

Chancellor Philip L. Dubois said one of his top priorities is to limit increases in tuition and fees during the economic downturn without compromising academic quality. “While additional tuition revenue would be helpful as we deal with the impact of budget reductions, current economic conditions require that we focus on solutions that avoid additional financial hardship to our students.”

Scheduled to open in August, the 196,000-square-foot Student Union will feature a 210-seat movie theater, game room, various dining options, the campus bookstore, retail shops and ample space for student activity and student organization programs along with study and meeting space. This facility will replace Cone University Center, completed in 1962 and expanded in the 1970s to meet the needs of around 8,000 students. When the new Student Union opens, enrollment at UNC Charlotte is expected to be approximately 24,000 students, and University leaders anticipate growing to 35,000 students by 2020.

UNC Charlotte and China to collaborate on criminal justice research

UNC Charlotte has established China's first International Institute for Justice Studies in conjunction with the country's Southwest University of Political Science and Law (SWUPL).

Paul Friday, professor of criminal justice, will head this initiative – the only U.S.-China effort that focuses specifically on social and criminal justice research and exchange. Friday, an internationally recognized scholar in criminal justice, recently completed two major projects in China – a long-term study of delinquency as well as research on the processing of drug-trafficking cases. The China Society for Research in Juvenile Delinquency honored Friday for his work.

According to Friday, this joint initiative will sponsor a series of international professional and academic exchanges aimed at assisting China on its legal reforms and broadening American perspectives on crime prevention and rehabilitation.

“This is a one-of-a-kind initiative that will have a long-term beneficial effect on education at both institutions and on professionals in the communities served by the universities,” said Friday.

The first goal is to establish meaningful exchanges via short conferences/workshops. Friday stated international and criminal law experts will travel to SWUPL to address topics related to the rule of law, social justice, victimology and domestic violence. In the long term, scholars will engage in comparative research, and practitioners will learn new and alternative approaches to crime control.

Located in Chongqing, China, SWUPL is considered the most prestigious criminal law school in China. More than 70 percent of all judges and prosecutors in China completed study at SWUPL, and the institution is one of three to accept students from the entire country. Chongqing is the largest and most populous of the People's Republic of China's four provincial-level municipalities and the only one in the less densely populated western region of China.

Following the formal signing of a memorandum of understanding with SWUPL, the institute was established under Chinese law with Friday named as the institute's board chair. Friday's appointment marks the first time an American was named chair of a Chinese institute.

Other members of the institute's executive committee are: Chuanjiang Mei, vice-dean of SWUPL's School of Law; Kaicheng Huang, director of the Sociology Research Center at SWUPL; Jiahong Liu, director of the Center for Drug Research at SWUPL; and Vivian Lord, chair of UNC Charlotte's Department of Criminal Justice.

Friday said UNC Charlotte will establish a parallel institute on its campus, ultimately joining the two institutes in the future. In the interim, faculty and practitioners in both countries will develop projects geared toward preventing crime and promoting justice.

University to host delegation of Korean students

UNC Charlotte's Intercultural Outreach Program will host 30 students from Kyungpook National University (KNU) in Daegu, Korea, from Jan. 11 to Feb. 7. During their four-week stay, the students will participate in the “KNU Winter English Institute.”

The visiting students hold a variety of majors including electrical engineering and computer science, business administration and computer engineering.

According to program coordinator Maureen White, the English Institute is designed to enhance students' self-confidence in English communication, to provide

students insight into American culture and to give students the opportunity to expand their life experiences.

As part of the institute, there will be two projects and oral presentations. One project, designed for elementary students, will highlight the cultural significance of the Lunar New Year. Participating students will deliver this cultural presentation at Carolina International School during a day of language and cultural exchange activities.

Mohamed-Ali Hasan, electrical and computer engineering; Greet Provoost, Graduate School; and Rebecca Vincent, international programs; will serve as guest lecturers for the institute. Susan Lambert, international programs, is the institute director.

Dutch designer to serve as visiting guest artist

Internationally known designer Harmen Liemburg will serve as artist in residence in the College of Arts + Architecture during an eight-day visit this month.

Based in Amsterdam, Liemburg studied graphic design at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie following his initial education as a social geographer specializing in cartography. Liemburg's work has been described as positioned between graphic and environmental design, illustration, fine art, research and journalism. Using a site-specific approach, he produces prints, installations, and in some cases, building skins that serve as "portraits of place." These layered, detailed works combine images and text in strategic color separations. For a 2007 installation that explored the intersections of Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Dutch cultures, connected through trade and commerce since the 19th century, Liemburg spent six weeks in Nagasaki, Japan. His work is part of the permanent collections of museums in Amsterdam, Paris and Zurich.

During his Jan. 19-26 visit, Liemburg will direct and participate in a collaborative student workshop with both the School of Architecture and the Department of Art and Art History. Fifteen students, divided into teams of three, will work with Liemburg to create five suites of prints that address a different aspect of Charlotte's history.

"From Harmen's perspective as an artist interested in cultural history and relevance of place and from our perspective as professors and students of art and architecture interested in an 'authentic' sense of place, the city of Charlotte provides us the opportunity to delve into its archives and photographs and record its current state and see what lies in between," said Nora Wendl, visiting professor in the College of Arts + Architecture. "As a city of the New South, Charlotte seems to have lost its history, but this workshop will seek to make relevant and elaborate on the history that does exist here."

Liemburg also will deliver a public lecture about his work and open the exhibition "Ultralight" at Rowe Arts Building. The lecture is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, in Rowe Arts Building, Room 130. The opening reception for "Ultralight" follows the lecture at 7 p.m. The exhibit includes selected examples from the last decade of Liemburg's body of work. This archival display illustrates the final pieces as well as the processes by which they were created.

Recycling at work

From July to October, the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling collected roughly 1.6 million pounds of recyclable materials and garbage. When these items leave campus, they go to material recycling facilities (MRF) for processing. Click [here](#) for a video that provides an illustration of a single stream recycling system.

The University's bottles, tin cans and other items from the "bottle bins" are delivered to Mecklenburg County's MRF. Although the county doesn't use a single

stream system, it does use some of the same techniques depicted in the video, according to Kelly Freshcorn, office manager for waste reduction and recycling. She said the office separates aluminum cans, office paper, cardboard and metal prior to shipping it to off-campus recycling vendors. The breakdown of University's recyclables for the above-mentioned time frame was 131,822 pounds of cardboard, 37,210 pounds of bottles and cans, 57,138 pounds of scrap metal, 75,260 pounds of yard waste and 1.3 million pounds of garbage.

Trustees honored by Leadership Charlotte

Two members of the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees were honored recently by Leadership Charlotte. Ruth Shaw, chair of the board, received the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Jeffrey Kane was named Newcomer of the Year.

According to its Web site, Leadership Charlotte is a community leadership development organization that operates a 10-month program in which participants meet with community leaders, are exposed to major issues impacting the region and address community needs in a hands-on manner.

Change in financial requirements to use mail service permits

Effective Jan. 2, there is a charge for University departments or external vendors to use UNC Charlotte Permit No. 949 or 3026. The accounting charge is invoiced as follows:

- Standard/bulk mail or pre-sort mail processed through the UNC Charlotte Mail Services Center will be charged \$5 per mailing.
- University departments that use an outside vendor for bulk mail services and authorize the use of UNC Charlotte Permit No. 949, the vendor will be charged \$20 per mailing and the department will be charged \$5 per mailing.
- All University business reply envelopes will be processed at 5 cents per piece in addition to the cost of postage.

Departmental accounting charges will be invoiced with the monthly mail billing. External vendors will be sent an invoice for each mailing using permit 949.

These charges are necessary to offset the costs to mail services for the use of its permit and to defray the cost of administering mail processed with UNC Charlotte permits. Direct questions to Horace Lytch, director of mail services, at ext. 7-3037 or e-mail hlytch@uncc.edu.

Mileage reimbursement to decrease Jan. 1

Effective Jan. 1, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) decreased the business standard mileage rate from 58.5 cents per mile to 55.5 cents per mile for business travel. The rates section of the forms used for mileage reimbursement will be updated to reflect this decrease. The North Carolina motor fleet rate remains at 33 cents per mile. Employees who have any specific questions regarding the new IRS mileage rate should e-mail the Travel Office at travel@uncc.edu.

Installation of signal to impact traffic

Construction to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Cameron Boulevard and University Road (near Cone Deck) continues. During this time, one lane of traffic will be open at all times. Flagmen will be on site to direct traffic. The campus community may experience some traffic congestion and slowdown in this area. To alleviate congestion, motorists should seek alternate routes during this construction, expected to be

completed by March 6. Direct questions or concerns to Essa Dossary, design services project coordinator, at ext. 7-2838.

Faces

Name: Gina Smith

Title: Business Analyst

Department: Systems Development, Business Affairs

Location: Reese Building, Room 011

Gina Smith focuses on progress. As a business analyst, Smith works on a variety of technology-related projects, and her goal is to move them forward toward a successful completion.

“Mostly we work with Banner software and third party vendors to create and install enhancements that support the functional users,” said Smith. “Anyone in business affairs who needs help with some aspect of Banner comes to our department. We’re the go-between for the end user and ITS.”

While she works with computers and software, Smith is quick to point out that her skill set is not in the area of troubleshooting hardware problems or desktop support. She works collaboratively with University colleagues, in the division as well as in the Office of Information Technology Services, and with third party vendors, too.

For Smith, the process begins with the functional user. For example, accounts receivable noticed a certain fee assessment did not produce the intended result. Smith analyzed the process of data input and how Banner reported the data to resolve the issue.

“One of the most important aspects of my job is listening,” stated Smith. “You have to listen to the user and understand what his or her need is.”

A long-time employee with almost 25 years of service, Smith is a UNC Charlotte alumna, too. After completing a bachelor’s in business administration in 1984, she began work in the Cashier’s Office. She has held positions in various business affairs areas during her tenure before joining the Systems Development Office in 1994. Her hands-on experience working throughout the division is an asset to understanding problems the end user may encounter with the system.

Smith relishes her duties and finds it extremely rewarding once a project is finalized. “Sometimes it takes a long time to get a project completed, so it’s a really good feeling to accomplish it.”

One major project that took years to fruition was Banner. Smith was very involved in the implementation of the system’s modules. While she is relieved that the switch to Banner was successful, Smith recalled that one of her major concerns revolved around ensuring the University could continue to do business during the changeover from the “Plus” systems.

When she’s not analyzing how computers record/report data, Smith takes advantage of being outdoors, especially at the beach. She and husband T.L. have a second home in Southport, where they spend time relaxing on the sand or boating. She also enjoys reading, knitting and spending time with family and friends.

This past fall, Smith received one of the Staff Employee of the Year Awards. Prior to his retirement, T.L. Smith won the award when he worked for the Cone

University Center. Smith speculated the couple might be the only University duo to achieve that distinction.

Upcoming Events

UNC Greensboro to host system-wide sustainability conference

UNC Focus Forward, a day-long conference to discuss and develop strategies for the UNC system sustainability policy and its related objectives to UNC Tomorrow, will be held Friday, April 3, at UNC Greensboro. An evening reception precedes the event Thursday, April 2.

According to the conference [Web site](#), the following topics will be discussed: master planning, design and construction, operations and maintenance, climate change mitigation and renewable energy, dining services, transportation, recycling and waste management, purchasing, integration of sustainability in academics, social justice and sustainable communities.

For more details, e-mail Jenny Paige at jspaige@uncg.edu.

Spring orientation and welcome reception for new graduate students

The Graduate School will hold a spring orientation and welcome reception for new graduate students from 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the Barnhardt Student Activity Center Salons.

Jim Lucas to speak at annual Martin Luther King commemoration

International speaker, actor and activist Jim Lucas will be the featured performer at the University's annual Martin Luther King commemoration scheduled for 3 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, in the Cone University Center, McKnight Hall.

Lucas has received critical acclaim across the nation for his dramatic recitations and interpretive readings depicting the life and times of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. His resemblance to and interpretation of King has been called remarkable, awe-inspiring, uncanny and soulful. He has performed at more than 100 colleges and universities as well as throughout Germany, Japan and South Korea. Lucas' film and television credits include appearances in "Head of State," "National Treasure," "National Treasure: Book of Secrets," "The West Wing" and "The Wire."

Human Resources

WeSave program offers employee discounts

University employees, can save an average of 10 to 20 percent at thousands of local, statewide, national and online merchants through WeSave, a discount savings program developed exclusively for public employees. Participants have access to more than 3,000 merchants that offer discounts on products and services; these discounts typically range from 5 to 15 percent.

WeSave membership cards are available in the UNC Charlotte Benefits Office, King Building. More information about the WeSave program is on the [Web](#) or contact Eric Lanier, benefits director, at ext. 7-2208 or e-mail eelanier@uncc.edu.

Important HR links

- [HR benefits and important news](#)
- [Personnel announcements](#) (Also visit the Human Resources Office in King Building, Room 222, to view the Employment Opportunities board.)

Training

The [Continuing Education](#) Office offers numerous training opportunities. Discounts of approximately 50 percent are available for faculty and staff. Note that the registration fee listed is the discounted fee for qualifying UNC Charlotte faculty and staff. Some upcoming courses are listed below.

Jan. 8 [Free GMAT Strategy Workshop](#). 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Main Campus. Cost: Free.

Jan. 12 [Free Meeting and Event Planning Certificate Program Information Session](#). 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Ben Craig Center. Cost: Free.

Jan. 13–22 [Principles of Project Management](#). 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, UNC Charlotte Ben Craig Center. Cost: \$500.

Jan. 13 [Free Project Management Certificate Program Information Session](#). Noon to 1:15 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: Free.

Jan. 13 [Free Paralegal Certificate Program Information Session](#). Noon to 1 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: Free.

Jan. 14 [Free Business Analysis Certificate Program Information Session](#). Noon to 1:15 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: Free.

General information is on the continuing education [home page](#); click [here](#) for details about discounts and registration or call ext. 7-8900.

Swap ‘n’ Shop

For sale:

GE stove/oven. Electric. Black and white. Asking \$150. Matching white oven hood, \$85. Both items are in very good condition; approximately eight years old. The holder for the

back, right stove burner is loose and needs new screws to reattach. E-mail Suzanne at bosz7@aol.com or call 704-573-1343.

For rent:

Fantastic uptown condo in a great location at Ninth and Graham streets, 15 minutes from campus. Two bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths. \$1,050 per month. Easy access to I-277/I-85. Each bedroom has a full bath. End unit away from street. Very quiet. Lots of trees around. Living/dining room with gas fireplace. Hardwood floors. Track lighting throughout. Convenient to clubs, restaurants, Panther's stadium, museums, Harris-Teeter. Adjacent to Fourth Ward Historic District and park. Washer and dryer included. Two covered parking spaces with security. Call 704-701-4320.

Of Note

UNC Charlotte is continually engaged in the community and its news coverage. From time to time "Of Note" is used to highlight some of that involvement.

Tony Plath, finance, was a guest on WFAE's "Charlotte Talks," where he discussed the auto bailout. He also provided comments for the AP article "[Fed reduces benchmark rate to as low as zero](#)" and was interviewed by WCNC for the videos "[Startup businesses can succeed despite economy](#)," "[High level executives could face layoffs at Bank of America](#)" and "[GMAC decision could lead other companies here](#)."

Dan Morrill, history, appeared on WFAE's "Charlotte Talks," where he talked about the history of the Queen City.

John Cannaughton, economics, was a guest on WFAE's "Charlotte Talks," where he discussed his quarterly economic forecast.

Stephanie Southworth, sociology, served as a guest on WFAE's "Charlotte Talks. The show focused on diversity and integration in North Carolina schools, the subject of Southworth's doctoral dissertation from the University's public policy program.

Charles Bodkin, marketing, was interviewed for the WCNC-TV story "[Stores crowded, but are there good deals?](#)"

Chancellor Philip Dubois, was quoted in the Winston-Salem Journal story "[United Way wants pension to be lesson](#)" and the Charlotte Observer article "Board didn't OK new leave."

Denise Dwight Smith, Career Center, appeared on WFAE's "Charlotte Talks" and WJZY-TV's "Charlotte Now" to discuss how to find jobs in the current market.

Steve Patterson, EPIC, provided comments for the Myrtle Beach Sun article “[Renewable energy's future takes root in N.C. companies.](#)”

Jan Warren-Findlow, public health services, was quoted in the Charlotte Observer story “Ideas abound at meeting on how to fix health care.”

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