

April 8, 2009

## Top Story

### **Urban Institute sponsoring regional forums to address ‘Green, Great and Global’**

To build upon the dialogue stimulated by the Charlotte area’s 2008 Citistates Report, UNC Charlotte’s Urban Institute will host a series of regional forums April 21-23. Nationally acclaimed authors Neal Peirce and Curtis Johnson will present findings of their report “Green, Great and Global.”

Peirce, a syndicated columnist, and colleagues Alex Marshall and Curtis Johnson give “outsider” views on the future prospects of U.S. urban regions.

During late 2008, the Charlotte Observer and other regional newspapers featured the Citistates Report, which takes an in-depth look at the Charlotte region and some of the challenges and opportunities faced around key issues related to leadership, growth and sustainability. The Urban Institute forums will bring together leaders, decision-makers, advocates and citizens from around the region to gather a comprehensive response to the report. Each forum will feature Peirce and Johnson along with a distinguished panel of local leaders discussing the significance of the report and the relevance of its recommendations to the region’s local communities.

“The 2008 Citistates Report was a rare opportunity for our region to step back and take a collective look at where we have been and where we might be going. The report had the advantage of being an outsider’s perspective, helping us look beyond the status quo to see ourselves as others might see us,” said Jeff Michael, director of the Urban Institute. “However, for the report’s findings to have any relevance in helping the Charlotte region shape a new vision in the 21st century, it’s important that we now hear from the region’s citizens to learn what resonated most for them about the information gathered. Given the current economic uncertainties facing the Charlotte region and the dismantling of so much of our conventional wisdom about what makes this region competitive economically, this is a very timely discussion.”

The panel discussions and open forums will address the growth issues facing the region and offer diverse perspectives on the Charlotte region’s expanding opportunities and challenges as well as recommendations on how the region should respond in order to position itself for success globally. The forums, funded through a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, are free and open to the public. The first forum will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, at Gaston Citizen’s Resource Center, 1303 Dallas Cherryville Highway in Dallas. The next forum is 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, at the Rock Hill City Hall-Council Chambers, 155 Johnston Street, Rock Hill, S.C. The final forum will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 23, at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, 4751 N.C. Highway 49 North in Concord.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, visit [www.ui.uncc.edu](http://www.ui.uncc.edu). Click [here](#) to read “Green, Great and Global.”

## **Around Campus**

### **Atkins Library hosts Japanese delegation**

The J. Murrey Atkins Library recently hosted a delegation from Japan's University of Tsukuba. The team visited to study the library's Information Commons unit, a "one-stop-shopping" space for information in a high-tech environment. Patrons receive expert staff assistance in three main areas: information search and retrieval, processing and interpretation of information through the Research/Reference Desk for both areas and packaging and presentation of information via the Technology Support Desk.

"Our staff feels very honored that librarians from the University of Tsukuba picked Atkins Library as one of the three Information Commons to visit during their trip to the United States," remarked Mike Olson, associate university librarian for Information Commons.

During a day-long visit, the delegation toured the library and campus and held meetings with Information Commons members to gain greater understanding of the concept, implementation and strategies. Shoko Tokoro, Atkins cataloging librarian, served as the interpreter.

### **Department of Criminal Justice name change formalized**

The Department of Criminal Justice recently received approval to become the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology.

According to associate professor Lyn Exum, the change is more reflective of the faculty's training and areas of interest. Department members hold doctorates in criminal justice, criminal justice and criminology and the administration of justice as well as psychology and sociology. He said faculty research extends beyond the criminal justice system to address the causes and prevention of criminal behavior. Exum noted that criminal justice and criminology are becoming more interdisciplinary, and it is important for the department to be recognized for dealing with matters beyond the traditional focus of police/courts/corrections.

The change also should generate interest from community service agencies within the greater Charlotte region, said Exum. "Our department is interested in and trained to assist a number of organizations on matters related to criminal justice issues. For example, school systems are developing policies related to bullying and drug and alcohol use. Victim assistance is a concern for community and mental health agencies. By expanding our department name, we can maintain our strong working relationship with area police, courts and correctional agencies, while at the same time, we can be a resource for other human service agencies."

### **Campus cleanup set for April 14**

The Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling is coordinating its annual spring campus-wide cleanup from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, in conjunction with the University's 17<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day Festival (Wednesday, April 22).

The Student Government Association and Earth Club are organizing student volunteers, and Chancellor Philip L. Dubois has authorized 90 minutes of release time for all staff members who choose to help. Participation is voluntary and must be approved by supervisors based upon the office/department/unit needs.

Volunteers will meet at the Belk Tower on the day of the cleanup. Participants will sign in to receive an assigned area and "litter clean up" supplies.

Department/unit directors should designate one person to collect the names and participation times of volunteers for submission to Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, recycling coordinator, at [kboutin@uncc.edu](mailto:kboutin@uncc.edu).

### **Gold Room photomurals focus on University history**

The Gold Room is serving more than a tasty lunch buffet. UNC Charlotte history is now on the menu.

The Department of Auxiliary Services and J. Murrey Atkins Library collaborated on the production of more than 20 photomurals that offer a glimpse of how the University has grown during the past 60 years. The murals are now on display in the Prospector.

“Each photomural has an overarching theme,” said Lou Ann Lamb, director of marketing for business services, who created the final product. “Images selected illustrate specific aspects of life at UNC Charlotte.”

One photomural is devoted to Charlotte College, a second to University founder Bonnie Cone and others to academic and residence life from the 1960s through the tenure of Chancellor James Woodward.

“The library’s assistance was wonderful and deeply appreciated,” said Lamb. “When I contacted Madeline (Perez) about the project, she seemed to know exactly what I was looking for. The hard part was narrowing down which photos to use. I tried to spotlight significant events, such as I-Fest, and people who made outstanding contributions to the university, like Loy Witherspoon and former students Cedric Maxwell and Karen Popp.”

According to Lamb, Ray Galleno, director of auxiliary services, and Andrew Lipson, resident district manager for Chartwells, initiated the project. Library archivist Madeline Perez provided the photographs and students Yesim Bozoklu and Michael Kerr spent weeks scanning them.

### **Sixteen finalists vying at Five Ventures Business Plan Competition**

More than 250 people are expected to view presentations by the 16 finalists in this year’s Five Ventures Business Plan Competition. Scheduled for Thursday, April 9, in Barnhardt Student Activity Center, the Five Ventures competition provides \$100,000 in high-quality professional services to the winner.

Entrepreneurs compete in five sectors: biotechnology (pharmaceutical and devices), information technology, retail/services and student/nonprofit. Among the finalists are Alaeras, a Cary-based entrant that is developing the first dry powder nasal vaccine using device innovation; Microscopy Research Innovations Inc., a Knoxville, Tenn., startup that has created a guidance system for physicians to track a needle’s location inside a patient’s body; and CLT Blog, a Charlotte competitor in the student/nonprofit section that has designed a Web-based environment to manage a new generation of citizen journalists.

The conference/competition kicks off at 8:30 a.m. with opening remarks followed by keynote speaker Joshua Boger, founder and CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Faculty, staff and students can register to attend for free. For more information, visit the [Five Ventures Web site](#).

### **Case honored for international education leadership**

Judy Case recently received the Martha Fitch Trigonis Individual Award presented by the North Carolina Association of International Educators.

The honor, bestowed during the association's annual conference, recognizes excellence in service and leadership in international education. A veteran UNC Charlotte employee, Case is director of administration in the Office of International Programs.

"Judy's 35-year career in international education has involved most aspects of our field and offered her a unique perspective on the development of international education in North Carolina and the United States," said Joël Gallegos, assistant provost for international programs.

During Case's tenure, she coordinated the first Southeast Student Conference on Careers in International Business in 1987. She also co-directs the annual UNC Charlotte International Festival, the longest-running and largest on-campus event, and conducts numerous cross-cultural training workshops on-campus, in the Charlotte community and at national and international conferences.

Martha Fitch Trigonis was a UNC Charlotte alumna and a personal friend of Case's. She later became a colleague in international education at UNC Greensboro and a national leader in the field. Trigonis died in 2003.

### **Trustee delivers keynote address at business ethics conference**

Many of the poor business decisions that led to the nation's current economic crisis were not necessarily due to a complete lapse in business ethics, but human nature, said former Federal Reserve Bank executive and current UNC Charlotte trustee Jeff Kane at a recent conference held on campus.

"If you were an AIG executive, would you look at the current situation and say, 'This was all my fault?'" said Kane, who retired in February as senior vice president and officer in charge of the Charlotte branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. "Of course not. At the time, they were talking about building value for the firm, not intentionally diverging from the moral standard."

Kane was the opening keynote speaker at a conference on business ethics and the credit crisis, sponsored by the Belk College of Business.

### **PR Office updating media guide**

In 2007, the University's Public Relations Office compiled and produced "UNC Charlotte Experts: A Guide for the Media." The publication was distributed to print, radio and TV outlets across the metropolitan Carolinas.

In its effort to update the guide, the PR Office has sent faculty an e-mail with a link to a Web-based survey/questionnaire. To be included in this next edition of the experts guide, faculty members should provide the requested information. Faculty members who are currently in the guide are requested to resubmit information. The deadline to respond is Friday, April 17.

"The media guide is a valuable resource for promoting the University," said John Bland, PR director. "Every day, our office fields calls from reporters, editors and columnists who seek expert commentary and authoritative perspective on a variety of subjects. Our faculty members not only possess a wealth of information, but they are engaged in innovative research. Journalists value the respected, authoritative sources that the University offers, which helps enhance the academic reputation of the institution and professional reputation of the source."

For more information, contact Phillip Brown, internal communications manager, at ext. 7-5829 or e-mail [pbrown59@uncc.edu](mailto:pbrown59@uncc.edu).

### **Recreational Services to offer summer youth programs**

Beginning this summer, the Recreational Services Department will offer a summer youth program for children age 6 to 12. According to the department, the program is dedicated to providing children the opportunity to develop athletic, artistic, interpersonal and group interaction skills.

“Camp activities are designed to help each camper become more independent, enhance self-confidence and develop both mind and body in a fun and safe learning environment,” said Spencer Fresk, camp coordinator.” A variety of activities such as art, crafts, sports, team building, outdoor activities and swimming will broaden participants’ experiences and enhance lifelong wellness.”

The summer youth program will consist of seven weekly sessions beginning June 15 and ending Aug. 7 (There will be no camp offered June 27–July 3). Camp hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with morning and afternoon extended times available. Each weekly session will involve activities designed around a different theme. Registration will continue until all sessions are filled.

More information is on the [Web](#) or e-mail Fresk at [sfresk@uncc.edu](mailto:sfresk@uncc.edu) or call ext. 7-2365.

### **CRES accepting reservations for 2009-10**

The University’s Conference, Reservations and Event Services Office (CRES) will accept reservation requests from all UNC Charlotte departments for the 2009-10 academic year during the week of April 20-24.

To make advance reservations, departments must schedule an appointment with CRES, located in the Administrative Office of the Cone University Center (behind the Candy Shoppe). CRES will begin setting appointments at 8 a.m., Monday, April 20, on a first-come, first-served basis. The first appointment will begin at 8:30 a.m. that day and will last approximately one hour depending upon the scheduling time each department requires. Appointment scheduling is accepted in person only in the CRES Office; departments/offices should send a representative to sign up for an available time slot. The same representative does not have to attend the reservation session.

During appointments, CRES will take requests for any special events, conferences or workshops that will occur between Aug. 15, 2009, and May 15, 2010. Come prepared with back up dates, if possible, in case first choices are not available. As a reminder, requests for the Barnhardt Student Activities Center (SAC) between Nov. 1 and March 15 cannot be confirmed until the athletic schedule is finalized. In addition, requests between March 16 and April 5 cannot be confirmed until post-season tournament play is determined.

Direct questions to ext. 7-2652 or e-mail Lucian Wilhelm at [lwilhelm@uncc.edu](mailto:lwilhelm@uncc.edu).

### **SEANC accepting scholarship applications**

The State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) District 13 is accepting applications for the association’s scholarship program, which awards nearly \$100,000 a year in district- and state-level scholarships to qualified SEANC members and their dependents.

Applications are available on the [SEANC Web site](#) (click the link SEANC scholarship foundation). For more information, e-mail District 13 member Angela Eddie at [angela.eddie@cpcc.edu](mailto:angela.eddie@cpcc.edu) or call 704-330-6908 or contact Renee Vaughan in the SEANC office at (919) 833-6436 or (800) 222-2758 or e-mail [rvaughan@seanc.org](mailto:rvaughan@seanc.org). Mail completed applications to Eddie in care of 6358 Mallard View Lane, Charlotte, NC

28269 or to her attention at Central Piedmont Community College, PO Box 35009, Charlotte, N.C. 28235-5009. The application deadline is 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 15.

## Faces

Name: Wanda Kee  
Title: Purchasing Agent  
Department: Materials Management  
Location: Auxiliary Services Building, Room

If you want to buy something on campus, then Wanda Kee is one of the people to see.

As a purchasing agent, Kee said she and her colleagues oversee all expenditures on campus. "Everything bought on campus with state money comes through our office."

At UNC Charlotte, each purchasing agent is assigned a territory, which comprises various academic or administrative departments and offices. In addition, he or she may be the main contact for an entire category. In Kee's case, she handles all purchases of promotional items, like T-shirts, Frisbees or coffee mugs, and the printing of materials, such as magazines, brochures and newsletters.

But half of her time is spent writing and negotiating purchase contracts for professional and personal services. Such contracts specify terms and conditions between the University and the vendor, which requires an understanding of state and tort law, said Kee. Two major contracts Kee authored were to secure single vendors for event rentals and shredding. To write the shredding contract, she researched how the process was handled by other agencies in North Carolina and other states, too.

"Purchasing agents operate as an officer of the state, so it is my job to protect the University," Kee stated. "Not only do we have to follow University policies and procedures, but state laws and regulations which can take time to complete. Our goal isn't to prevent a department or office from using their funds, but we don't want anyone to get in trouble for a wrong purchase or a bad contract. We're here to help, but first and foremost, we have to look out for the best interests of the University."

A Cabarrus County native, Kee can trace her family ancestry in the area to the 1700s. She is in her second stint in materials management. From 1982 to 1992, Kee worked at the University -- seven years in purchasing and three years in athletics. She returned to the University in October 2003 as a temporary purchasing agent. After about six months, Kee accepted a permanent position in the College of Engineering, and a few months later, she returned to materials management as a full-time purchasing agent.

"I love it here. I've seen so many changes since I stepped on campus as a student in the 1970s," Kee remarked. A mother of three, she is nearing completion of her bachelor's degree in English with a minor in psychology.

Beyond the University, Kee said she prefers the great outdoors. Favorite pastimes are kayaking or canoeing, long walks or tending to vegetable, flower and herb gardens. Although she grew up in Harrisburg, Kee now lives in Concord with her two youngest children - Joshua, a 17-year-old high school junior, and eighth-grader Rachel, 15. Her

oldest daughter Shannon resides in Charlotte; she is married and works for a local engineering firm.

## Upcoming Events

### **Gerontology Program to host career event**

The Gerontology Program will celebrate Careers in Aging Week with a panel discussion on the topic from 4 to 6 p.m., Monday, April 13, in the Cone University Center, Room 208. As part of this event, Sigma Phi Omega, the gerontology national honor society, will hold its annual induction of new members.

### **Third segment of alumni career series set for Monday**

In response to the current economic environment, the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association is sponsoring the Alumni Career Management Series to provide alums assistance with career transition. The third installment in the six-segment series, “Dealing with Ambiguity: Knowing What to Do,” is at 6 p.m., Monday, April 13, at the Harris Alumni Center.

UNC Charlotte alumna and professional career coach Debbie Creed ('78) is the featured speaker for this program. According to event organizers, during job transitions individuals have to make decisions and take action with limited information. How to handle risk and uncertainty can be a challenge. As part of her presentation, Creed will offer strategies participants can use to manage ambiguity.

Alumni can register to attend this and future segments online at [www.unccharlottealumni.org](http://www.unccharlottealumni.org) or call ext. 7-7799. The fourth installment in this series is “Utilizing Your Career Center for Your Job Search and Transition.” It will be Thursday, April 30.

### **Center City Building groundbreaking April 14**

Chancellor Philip L. Dubois will preside at a special groundbreaking ceremony for the University’s Center City Building at 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, at the corner of Ninth and Brevard Streets.

Upon its completion in 2011, the \$50.4 million Center City Building will house graduate-level offerings from a number of the University’s colleges, including the Belk College of Business’ Master of Business Administration and the new MBA with a concentration in sports marketing and management and the College of Arts + Architecture’s new master’s in urban design.

### **‘Community Conversation’ addresses Charlotte’s justice system**

As part of the year-long speaker series “Community Conversations: Changing Times...Changing Minds,” participants will deal with “Space for Justice: Race and Class in Our Justice System. This discussion will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, at the Levine Museum of the New South. “Community Conversations” complements the Levine Museum exhibit “Changing Places: From Black and White to Technicolor.” UNC Charlotte is education sponsor for the exhibit.

Panelists for the presentation are Bruce Arrigo and Jennifer Hartman from the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department and James Ferguson, founding partner of

the firm Ferguson, Stein, Chambers, Gresham and Sumter. The conversation is free and open to the public.

### **Panel discussion to focus on sustainability**

The Geography and Earth Sciences Department in conjunction with the North Carolina chapter of the American Planning Association is co-hosting the panel discussion “Planning for Sustainability: Views from UNC Charlotte Alumni” at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, in McEniry Building, Room 125. Panelists will present their ideas followed by an open question-and-answer period.

### **Theatre Department to perform ‘The Winter’s Tale’**

The Department of Theatre in the College of Arts + Architecture will present William Shakespeare’s “The Winter’s Tale” April 15-19. Performances of the play will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday in Robinson Hall’s Belk Theater.

“The Winter’s Tale” is the story of Leontes, King of Sicilia, whose paranoid and unjustified jealousies cause him to lose his wife, son and infant daughter. It opens as an intense drama, then shifts into festive, comedic mode before it concludes with one of Shakespeare’s most memorable scenes. The play, which dates from near the end of his work, is considered one of Shakespeare’s most mature studies of love, loss and redemption.

The Department of Theatre will bring Shakespeare to the stage in the innovative and interdisciplinary fashion that audiences at Robinson Hall have come to expect. The production will feature live music on stage, video projection within the performance and contemporary scenery and costume design by Bob Croghan, associate professor of design. Croghan, a celebrated designer for theatre in the Charlotte community and beyond, will retire from the faculty at the end of the academic year

Tickets for all performances are available at the Robinson Hall Box Office. General admission is \$14 for the public, \$12 for University faculty and staff and \$6 for senior citizens and UNC Charlotte students. Call the Box Office at 704-687-1TIX (1849) or visit [www.performances.uncc.edu](http://www.performances.uncc.edu).

### **Music Department’s Jazz Ensemble to perform with special guest Terrell Stafford**

Trumpeter Terrell Stafford is the featured guest performer for the Jazz Ensemble concert scheduled for 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, in Robinson Hall’s Belk Theatre.

Hailed as “one of the great players of our time, a fabulous trumpet player” by piano legend McCoy Tyner, Stafford has performed with groups such as Benny Golson’s Sextet, McCoy Tyner’s Sextet, Kenny Barron Sextet, Frank Wess Quintet, Jimmy Heath Big Band and Jon Faddis Orchestra. Currently, he is a member of the Grammy-nominated Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, established by Thad Jones and Mel Lewis.

Stafford’s guest appearance and work with students in the Jazz Ensemble is possible through the support of a College of Arts + Architecture grant to bring distinguished guest speakers and artists to the University. The ensemble will work with Stafford in rehearsal, and, during the concert, the group will perform several of his original compositions for big band.

Tickets are \$6 for the general public and UNC Charlotte faculty and staff and \$4 for senior citizens and UNC Charlotte students. For additional event and venue information, call the Box Office at 704-687-1TIX (1849) or visit [www.performances.uncc.edu](http://www.performances.uncc.edu).

### **Facilities management to sponsor Access 2009**

The Facilities Management Office will host “Access 2009: Gateway to Government Procurement Opportunities” from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 25, in the Cone University Center.

According to Dorothy Vick, HUB coordinator, this half-day networking conference is for small minority- and women-owned businesses. The conference will focus on providing information on how to conduct business with local and state government entities. Representatives from the N.C. Division of Purchase and Contracts, N.C. Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) and the N.C. Department of Transportation will be on hand to assist business owners to register with e-Procurement and Vendor Link NC as well as to complete online HUB and DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) certifications.

Vick noted this is the fifth year that local agencies, including the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte Area Transit System, U.S. Small Business Administration, Small Business and Technology Development Center and others, have participated in this community-wide event to demonstrate their commitment and interest in the economic development of small minority- and women-owned businesses.

“Whether constructing a new building, purchasing supplies, printing items or catering a conference, government agencies rely on small businesses to compete. Too many business owners are not sure where to begin in order to do business with local and state governments,” said Vick.

### **Botanical Gardens to hold annual Spring Plant Sale**

The Botanical Gardens will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale April 17-18. According to Paula Gross, assistant director of the Botanical Gardens, plant lovers can expect to find a wide selection of wildflowers, trees, shrubs, perennials, carnivorous plants, orchids and indoor plants at the gardens’ largest sale of the year. Sale hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Cash and checks accepted.

“This is our major fund-raising event and all proceeds support McMillan Greenhouse and gardens operations,” said Gross. “More than two-thirds of our operating funds come directly from donations and plant sale proceeds. Whenever someone buys a plant, the profit goes into a fund we use to buy pots, soil, fertilizer, seeds, new plants and tree care.”

The Botanical Gardens and McMillan Greenhouse are more than a living classroom for our students, Gross explained. “We maintain a very diverse collection of plants – from the more than 900 species native to North Carolina to a tropical orchid collection to a desert succulent collection. The greenhouse and gardens are a community resource, and they provide a source of enjoyment, relaxation, information and exploration about the world of plants.”

For more information about the Spring Plant Sale, call ext. 7-2870.

### **University to host Charlotte-Mecklenburg Women’s Summit**

UNC Charlotte is the host site for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Women’s Summit “A Woman at the Table: A Better Feast for All.” Part of the summit’s “Economic Impact Series: Women and Politics,” this event will focus on what happens when women are part of the decision and policy-making effort. It is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, at Cone University Center.

Victoria Budson, founding executive director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, is the featured speaker. Provost Joan Lorden will deliver a welcome and introduction, and Nancy Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, will moderate the panel discussion "Policy and You."

Registration to attend is \$20 on or before April 20, \$30 afterward. More information about the summit and registration, which closes April 23, is on the [Web](#).

## Human Resources

### **Human resources performance appraisals due April 24**

All employees who are Subject to the Personnel Act must be evaluated by their supervisors for the performance cycle March 1, 2008, to Feb. 28, 2009.

Appraisals are a tool for documenting performance as well as an opportunity for supervisors to communicate with employees about work style, work ethic and overall performance; they are required annually by North Carolina state law.

Friday, April 24, is the deadline to return all appraisal forms to HR. Information on the performance appraisal process is available on the [Web](#). Direct any questions to the compensation team: Amy Braun at ext. 7-4270, Hal Walter at ext. 7-4660, Gloria Dixon at ext. 7-2010 or Teresa Newman at ext. 7-2895.

### **College Foundation representative to visit campus**

Timeka Ruffin, regional representative with College Foundation Inc., will visit campus this month to meet one-on-one with employees to discuss issues related to saving for a child's college education. She will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, April 16; Monday, April 20; and Wednesday, April 22. Meetings on Thursday and Monday will be in Cone University Center, Room 207, and Wednesday will be in Room 265. During each visit, Ruffin will present "How to Begin Planning Now for College" from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

To schedule an appointment, contact Ruffin at 888-234-6400 or 704-281-3437.

### **Retirement planning conference scheduled for McKnight Auditorium**

UNC Charlotte will host a representative from the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) on Wednesday, April 22, for the annual retirement planning conference. The event, which starts at 9:30 a.m., will be in the Cone University Center, McKnight Auditorium.

A TSERS retirement counselor will provide information regarding the benefits offered by the state's pension plan; a representative with Prudential Retirement also will be on hand to discuss the N.C. 401(K) and N.C. Deferred Compensation (457) plans.

The conference will serve as an orientation for new members and give pre-retirement planning information for members closer to retirement and educational information for personnel officers and others who handle retirement matters. Employees are encouraged to attend the conference, and supervisors should allow employees who wish to attend time away from work for this purpose when there is adequate coverage in the department.

### **Shared leave requested**

Renee Barfield, multicultural academic services; Clara Crawford, facilities management, housekeeping; and Barbara (Bobbe) Jackson and John Threatt, Atkins Library; need shared leave donations.

To contribute leave, faculty and staff should refer to the requirements and participant forms in [Personnel Information Memorandum \(PIM\) 29](#) or in the literature racks outside of the Benefits Office, King Building, Room 225. For more information, contact Joy Finney, benefits counselor, at ext. 7-2892.

### **Low-cost, free e-filing and tax preparation assistance**

Low-cost and free e-filing options are available to state employees who meet certain requirements. According to the Department of Revenue, more than 60 percent of state employees may qualify. Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or [www.dornc.com](http://www.dornc.com) and click on the link for e-filing to learn more.

In addition, the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) is offering qualified members free tax preparation assistance through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA-trained SECU employees will be available through April 15 to help members. Households with 2008 incomes less than \$42,000 may qualify, and the SECU will file returns electronically. Service is for SECU members and through appointment only. Visit [www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org) for more details.

### **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.

April 14–23 [Leadership Skills for the Project Manager](#). 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, UNC Charlotte Ben Craig Center. Cost: \$500.

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:

Cochrane solid oak dining table with laminate top. Includes six chairs and two leaves. Excellent condition. Asking \$450. Photos available. E-mail Karen at [kbhibyan@uncc.edu](mailto:kbhibyan@uncc.edu).

1986 Nissan 300ZX with more than \$1,000 in extra parts and accessories. \$3,500 or best offer. 172,000 miles. Paint is four years old, factory silver with the factory pin striping. Three window unit air conditioners, all run on 110-volt standard outlet. LG 15,000 BTU with remote control, LG 10,000 BTU with remote control and a 5,000 BTU unit. All bought new last year and used for one summer. \$700 or best offer. Bin of miscellaneous residential and commercial locks. Almost 200 pounds, consisting of mostly padlocks, all have keys. Lock cylinders, knob sets, padlocks and a variety of hardware. Most still in original packaging. Looking to sell as a complete lot. \$400 or best offer. Pictures available upon request for all items. Call 704-305-6270 or e-mail [amlavoie@uncc.edu](mailto:amlavoie@uncc.edu).

### For rent:

Three bedroom, one-and-a-half bath home in Harrisburg. Located at 115 Oakley Drive. Detached garage not included. Living room, kitchen, den, deck with fenced back yard. Utility room has washer/dryer connections. Electric baseboard heat, 28,000 BTU wall unit air conditioner. City water and sewer. No pets. \$800 per month, \$800 deposit. Six-month lease required. Call 704-807-6238 for rental application.

### Needed:

Microwave oven in good working order (suitable for placement on countertop). E-mail Paula Testerman at [pmtester@uncc.edu](mailto:pmtester@uncc.edu).

## 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.*

Tina McEntire, admissions, was interviewed for the WSOC-TV segment “[Economy Driving More Students Toward Local Colleges.](#)”

Tony Plath, finance and business law, provided comments for the Charlotte Business Journal article “[A bandage for battered construction industry.](#)” He also was interviewed for the WCNC-TV segment “Banks hiring thousands of mortgage employees.”

John Connaughton, economics, was quoted in the Charlotte Observer story “[N.C. jobless rate surges](#).” In addition, he was interviewed by News14Carolina for the piece “Economic expert says recession is now over.”

Vivian Lord, criminal justice and criminology, provided comments for the WCNC segment “[39 dead in mass shootings in less than a month](#).”

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