

April 15, 2009

Top Story

Groundbreaking held for Center City Building

UNC system President Erskine Bowles joined UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees Chair Ruth Shaw and Chancellor Philip L. Dubois at a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday for the University's new 12-story Center City Building at the corner of Ninth and Brevard Streets.

"UNC Charlotte is North Carolina's urban university, and for this region to succeed, Charlotte must educate and train, through graduate, undergraduate and professional programs, the leaders of tomorrow," said Bowles. "The new Center City Building will enable UNC Charlotte to offer that vital graduate and professional education right in the heart of this great city."

The Center City Building will be located in a 22-acre mixed-use "urban village" being developed by Levine Properties, which is collaborating with the University, the city and the county in the public-private venture. Eventually, the urban village is expected to include parking garages and up to 2 million square feet of offices, apartments, condos, shops and restaurants.

Dubois described Tuesday's groundbreaking as a defining moment for the University and the culmination of work that began with former Chancellor Jim Woodward.

"After many years of planning and persistence, we are about to break ground on what I truly believe will be the most important facility in UNC Charlotte's history," he said. "In its entirety, the Center City Building project will be a catalyst for redevelopment in the historic First Ward. A four-acre park and urban village development are planned for areas adjacent to our stunning new academic building. Imagine students arriving by light rail and relaxing in First Ward Park before heading off to class in the Center City Building."

Upon completion in 2011, the \$50.4 million Center City Building will offer several of the University's graduate-level programs, including the Belk College of Business MBA and the new MBA in sports marketing and management. The University's School of Architecture's new Master of Urban Design also will be based there. Graduate-level classes in the colleges of Engineering, Health and Human Services, Liberal Arts & Sciences will be held in the downtown campus building. Additionally, the College of Arts + Architecture will house its Design + Society Research Center and a public arts gallery in the building.

Board chair Shaw noted the Center City Building will play a major role in Charlotte's economic growth in the coming decades. "In the long-term, the Center City Building will figure prominently in the transformation of Charlotte's economy. The project also will produce a significant short-term economic impact. Over the next 22 months, the project will employ 1,500 individuals, including construction workers, suppliers and manufacturers."

The CCB groundbreaking was the subject of widespread media coverage including the [Charlotte Observer](#), the [Charlotte Business Journal](#), [News14Carolina](#), WBTV and WCNC.

Around Campus

State Budget Office mandates new restrictions

The North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management recently enacted new fiscal restrictions for the remainder of the fiscal year. Acting under the governor's direction, the office has implemented several measures including the prohibition of purchase orders for goods and services using General Fund appropriations and termination of all travel. Vacant permanent or temporary positions cannot be filled, and agencies are not allowed to make any salary adjustments, except under certain conditions.

Currently, the Business Affairs Division and the Budget Council are working to develop a clearer understanding of these new restrictions and to identify processes to put them into effect. Information about Budget Council meetings is available on the [Web](#).

UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip L. Dubois will provide faculty and staff members with the latest information about the economic and financial issues affecting the University during the upcoming "budget convocation" scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Friday, April 24, in Cone University Center, McKnight Hall.

Campus Safety and Security Committee delivers updated report

As part of its continuing assessment efforts, the University's Campus Safety and Security Committee recently provided the chancellor with an update to its 2008 report. "This addendum fills in some of the gaps that the committee initially believed required more time, research and discussion," said David Spano, committee chair and associate vice chancellor for health programs and services and director of the Counseling Center. "We will continue to review the plan on an ongoing basis and identify changes in perceptions of security and experiences of crime on and near campus."

Earlier this week, the committee e-mailed the campus community a link to a Web-based survey designed to assess perceptions of crime/safety on and around the University. According to Spano, this year's results will be compared to the 2008 survey.

"I definitely encourage everyone to participate in this survey," Spano stated. "Last year's response rate was quite good, which indicated a great deal of energy related to the subject. Research indicated that the majority of faculty, staff and students believe the campus is safe; we are looking forward to seeing if there are any changes in those perceptions."

Two of the major recommendations in the addendum were to create a master campus address file that would better identify streets and buildings for first responders and to conduct a large-scale mock "active shooter" exercise.

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, in conjunction with facilities management, would employ two graduate students to "geocode" campus features for identification. The mock exercise would take place in summer 2010. Spano said the committee concluded this event would benefit the University by providing a method to assess the training and response levels of the affected departments and their coordination with the external agencies that would assist in an actual event. The chancellor is reviewing recommendations; many of them do not require additional expenditure. Implementation of those that do is dependent upon additional funding.

COUC institutes new campus diversity plan

The Council on University Community (COUC) has instituted the UNC Charlotte Plan for Campus Diversity, Access and Inclusion.

The plan, which can be viewed on the [Web](#), affirms diversity as an institutional value and commitment and that it is essential to the mission of the University, said Kerrie Stewart, COUC special assistant.

“Diversity is integral to educational excellence and to prepare students to become local and global citizens in a pluralistic society,” Stewart explained. “Diversity requires shared responsibility at all levels of the University. The plan provides a framework for departments and units to develop policies and practices that support a diverse learning and work environment.”

According to Stewart, COUC plans to use the Crossroads scenarios to advance the diversity plan. The council is designing a curriculum that uses the scenarios and the plan. Small discussion groups comprised of faculty, staff and students would engage in facilitated dialogues about the significance of diversity.

Stewart also noted that the Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund will continue at its current funding level of \$100,000, which underscores the institution’s commitment and priority to diversity efforts.

Engineering students to present senior projects at design expo

Seniors of the William States Lee College of Engineering will present their year-long projects at the college’s annual Senior Design Exposition Wednesday, April 29. All campus faculty, staff and students are invited to attend.

More than 50 student projects will be displayed. Examples include a powered rollout garbage bin mechanism, home water disinfection system that uses ultraviolet light emitting diodes, Sternal surgery closure simulator and an instrumented solar power system for grid attachment.

The event will take place throughout the University Cone Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Following the exposition, Danny Kent, lead robotics expert from Defense Technologies, will deliver the keynote address, and there will be an awards session in McKnight Hall.

The expo provides great opportunities to observe how our students and local companies work together to solve a variety of design problems, said Bill Heybruck, director of the college’s Industrial Solutions Lab. He added one of this year’s success stories is a light-rail system for transporting materials at a nuclear power plant. The project is being implemented by sponsor AREVA. He estimated the company saved more than \$100,000 in engineering expenses by working with the student team.

For more information, contact Heybruck at ext. 7-2934 or e-mail wfheybru@uncc.edu or visit the [expo Web site](#).

Theatre professor receives USITT research fellowship

Bruce Auerbach, a professor in the Theatre Department, has received a fellowship from the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) to support research on his project related to the history of light: philosophy, science and aesthetics. According to the USITT, its fellowships are awarded for excellence in scholarship or creative activities in the areas of performing arts design and technology. Fellowships are awarded based upon a competitive process.

Volunteers needed for May commencement

Volunteers are needed to assist with various duties for the University's two spring commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 9, in the Barnhardt Student Activity Center. The Office of Events and Special Projects cannot successfully hold these memorable ceremonies for the graduates without the help of the many University volunteers.

The morning ceremony for the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will be at 10 a.m. The afternoon ceremony for the colleges of Arts + Architecture, Business, Computing and Informatics, Engineering and Health and Human Services will be at 3 p.m.

Volunteers may work either ceremony or both. Possible duties include ushering, checking in dignitaries, lining up students for the processional, helping with robes, etc. A continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be available for all volunteers. To volunteer, e-mail Gail Pankas, events and special projects, at gpankas@uncc.edu or call ext. 7-5839.

Student media takes five awards at conference

Students from the University Times Marketing Department garnered five awards at the College Newspapers Business and Advertising Manager's conference recently held in Charlotte.

The awards were first place for Best Newspaper Promotion Ad in Color, Best Newspaper Promotion Ad in Black and White and Best Sales Incentive Program. The department won second prize for Best Display Ad in Color and placed third for Best Training Program.

The University Times, produced by the Office of Student Media, is a twice-weekly campus newspaper distributed to more than 60 on- and off-campus locations. Student media, which are completely student-operated, foster education and growth for students interested in journalism and advertising. College Newspapers Business and Advertising Manager (CNBAM) is a professional organization for students and advisors working with business and advertising departments at collegiate newspapers across the nation. CNBAM has approximately 150 member schools.

Inaugural Graduate Life Fellows complete first year; applications accepted for next class

During this academic year, five students participated as the first Graduate Life Fellows (GLF). In this role, they engaged in outreach efforts to promote peer mentoring and created events to build graduate community at the University.

This year's fellows were Aniket, a doctoral student in mechanical engineering; Matt Campbell, a doctoral student in information technology; Angela Cooke, a doctoral student in public policy; April Jones, a master's student in social work; and Osarieme Omokaro, a master's student in information technology. They spent much of the academic year promoting their new role and creating new programs, said Katherine Hall-Hertel, assistant dean of the Graduate School.

The fellows organized and participated in a number of efforts, including an event for World AIDS Day, an international cuisine potluck and a workshop on presenting at conferences.

Doctoral student Aniket coordinated Grad Students for a Day for Providence High School students. University faculty members Ahmed El-Ghannam and Stuart Smith, mechanical engineering; Robert Hudgins, Optics Center; and Nigel Zheng; talked about their programs and research and spoke one-on-one with the high schoolers. They also

heard from GLF Jones and UNC Charlotte graduate students Ashley Lakner, a doctoral student in biology, and Amie Sparnell, a master's student in engineering.

Fellow Matt Campbell co-hosted two events at the Second Harvest Food Bank. Hall-Hertel noted that Campbell's commitment to service was shared by many student and staff volunteers from the UNC Charlotte community who helped sort and distribute food for local citizens in need.

"The Graduate Life Fellows were happy to support this important cause and to connect graduate students to the Charlotte community at the same time," said Hall-Hertel.

The GLFs final event was the recent Eggstravaganza. Graduate students and their families searched for hidden candied eggs, raced through an egg roll and tossed slippery eggs for prizes. Hall-Hertel stated the event was a great opportunity to bring together students from different disciplines and offered their families the opportunity to visit and enjoy the campus.

The Graduate School currently is accepting applications for the next class of Graduate Life Fellows. The school is seeking creative, self-motivated graduate students interested in discovering flexible ways to give back to the graduate community. GLFs receive a \$2,000 stipend per semester. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 17. For more information about the GLF Program, e-mail Hall-Hertel at khall-hertel@uncc.edu.

Driving Clean and Green Tour to visit UNC Charlotte

The Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Program at the N.C. Solar Center in Raleigh is leading a clean transportation technology drive across the state. This vehicle tour, which started in Raleigh, includes a stop in Charlotte. The tour will be on campus from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16, at Parking Lot 14.

According to tour organizers, there is growing public interest in improving air quality and reducing dependence on oil, and this tour will highlight many of the current and future clean vehicle options, including a Roush Propane Ford F150 truck, a Smith Electric vehicle, a 2009 plug-in hybrid Toyota Prius and more than 20 other vehicles ranging from small neighborhood electric vehicles to a large hybrid bucket truck. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about clean vehicle technologies and get first-hand experience with a diversity of vehicle and fuel types. Drivers for this event include John Fessler, director of capital projects.

Five Ventures names competition winners

After Thursday's presentations at the Five Ventures Business Plan Competition, entrants and runner-ups were named in five sectors.

In biotechnology (pharmaceutical), Countervail Corporation of Charlotte won for its proposal for a repurposed Alzheimer's drug to protect against exposure to nerve gas and pesticides. The runner-up was Inhibikase Therapeutics (Smyrna, Ga.) for a new class of drug that is simultaneously effective against bacterial and viral infections in humans.

Winner of the biotechnology – devices sector was HepatoSys Inc., a Charlotte-based venture to develop products related to the preservation and restoration of organs for transplantation. Microscopy Research Innovations Inc. was the runner-up. The Knoxville, Tenn., startup has created a guidance system for physicians that track a needle's location inside a patient's body.

The information technology/software-as-a-service (SaaS) sector winner was Balaya from Savannah, Ga. It provides a set of a social media tools for businesses to use internally as an enterprise solution or externally as a consumer-facing engagement tool. The runner-up, also from Savannah, was BestMedical Inc.; it combines existing leading-

edge and proprietary technologies to create a Web-based solution for users to answer virtually any question about medical conditions and the related ongoing life challenges.

In the retail/services section, Knoxville, Tenn.-based TrakLok Corporation won. This product and service company deploys a solution to secure and globally track intermodal shipping containers. Charlotte's T1 Visions Inc. finished second for its cutting-edge technology solutions that provide a unique multimedia experience to restaurant patrons.

Entogenetics of Raleigh won the student/nonprofit sector for its discovery of how to transfer the spider's silk production gene into the common silk worm, creating the means for large scale, inexpensive spider silk production. The runner-up was Student Relief for Higher Learning of America Inc. The Charlotte-based venture provides a solution for college students to lease text books, which can reduce course materials costs up to 60 percent during their career.

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.

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.

Faces

Name: Kevin Parsons

Title: Academic Advisor, Transfer Specialist

Department: University Advising Center

Location: Colvard Building, Room 2038

Every semester is an opportunity for Kevin Parsons to help incoming transfer students acclimate to a different institution.

“Transfer students have spent time at other institutions, but, for some, there is a challenge to adapting to the University,” said Parsons. “Some of these students (transfers) are in majors, but I let them know that I am available as an extra advising resource.”

Parsons joined the University almost six years ago, but he has been in his current role since January 2008. His position as transfer specialist resulted from an initiative of the Provost’s Office to enhance retention efforts for this specialized segment of students.

“As advisors, we’re all capable of working with any student, but my primary load is transfers,” explained Parsons. “I contact every transfer student to let them know that I’m available to meet with them to clarify any questions or concerns regarding transfer credit hours and how they satisfy the University’s general education requirements.”

Prior to graduation, all students must fulfill the requirements for the General Education Program, which is designed to provide students with the broad liberal arts education. Parsons and his colleagues ensure undergraduates have completed all of these requirements in advance of their anticipated graduation date. Primarily, their advisees are freshmen and sophomores who have not declared a major. Advisors help these students discover and prepare for a major that best fits their interests, strengths and abilities. They also work with students transitioning between majors.

“Our primary goal is to guide and support students to achieve their academic goals,” Parsons declared.

In order to accomplish this goal, Parsons said it is an imperative that he and his colleagues stay informed of changes in University policies and procedures and alterations to departmental curricula. While he is aware of the basics of each major, the challenge is to provide students information in a timely manner.

Prior to the creation of the University Advising Center, Parsons worked for the advising center in the College of Arts and Sciences (now College of Liberal Arts & Sciences). Before joining the University, he spent about 18 months as an academic advisor for Central Piedmont Community College.

Working with predominantly transfer students is a rewarding experience. “Because they’ve spent time at other institutions, they’re more directed toward achieving their goals. Also, many are non-traditional aged students who have a lot to offer through their life experience. I learn a lot from them just through our conversations.”

A native of southwest Virginia, Parsons' family moved to Columbus, Ohio, when he was 10 years old. He completed a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's in college student personnel from Ohio University.

Away from the job, Parsons can be found engaged in outdoor pursuits – fishing, kayaking or bike riding around the Lake Norman area. He and his wife Jennifer, a second-grade teacher in Cornelius, recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary. The couple plans to welcome their first child in October.

Upcoming Events

Undergraduate conference set for April 17

The 16th annual UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Activity is Friday, April 17. The conference will showcase projects and creative work of undergraduate students from across campus. Helene Hilger, associate professor of civil engineering, will deliver the keynote address “Footprints and the Way Forward” at 2 p.m. in the College of Education, Room 065. Prior to the keynote address, there will be student seminar and poster presentations. A poster session and refreshments will follow the address. More information is available on the [Web](#) or e-mail bdonovan@uncc.edu. Jeffrey West, a UNC Charlotte alumnus and area dentist, provided support for this event.

Maternal health researcher to speak at HSRA awards program

Kathryn Andersen Clark, a consultant for Ipas, will be the featured speaker for the annual meeting and awards presentation of the UNC Charlotte Health Services Research Academy (HSRA). Her talk, “International Maternal Mortality and the Role of Unsafe Abortion,” will be at 4 p.m., Monday, April 20, in the College of Health and Human Services, Room 285.

An adjunct professor in the Department of Maternal and Child Health at UNC Chapel Hill, Clark will discuss her work on improving women's health status through access to safe and comprehensive abortion services, prevention of unintended pregnancy, and prevention of violence against women. She focuses on programs in Ghana, Nepal, India and Pakistan.

As part of the program, the HSRA will announce the recipients of its Junior Investigator Award, the Master of Arts Paper Award, and the Ph.D Paper Award. For more information, e-mail Jackie Diememann at jadienem@uncc.edu or go to the [HSRA Web site](#).

University to hold annual Earth Day Festival April 22

UNC Charlotte will hold its 17th annual Earth Day Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, at the Belk Tower.

More than 30 exhibitors are expected to attend this event including Charlotte Energy Solutions, Charlotte Area Transit System, Charlotte Green Initiative, the University's Venture Program and Furman Williams, who created Furmanville. Visitors will be able to calculate their ecological footprint, and Chartwells executive chef Roger Lademann will hold a cooking demonstration.

Established by Gaylord Nelson in 1970, Earth Day is designed to promote environmental awareness around the globe. In the event of rain, the festival will be in the

Colvard Building Atrium. For more information, contact Devin Hatley, waste reduction and recycling, at ext. 7-4283 or e-mail dlhatley@uncc.edu.

International conference to focus on ‘Journey to Mexico’

UNC Charlotte, in collaboration with Universidad Iberoamericana, will host the conference “Journey to Mexico: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Travel to Mexico as Reflected in Art and Architecture of the 16th-21st Centuries.” Conference sessions will be held Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, in the Rowe Arts Building.

According to Angela Herren, conference organizer and assistant professor of art and art history, this event will bring together an international group of scholars from multiple disciplines to explore physical, mental and spiritual migration to, from and within Mexico as recorded in Mexican art and architecture of the 16th to 21st centuries.

“In different centuries and in different locations, ‘Mexican’ and ‘Mexico’ takes on varied meanings,” said Herren. “The name of the present-day country derives from the ‘Mexica’ people who once ruled Central Mexico. Conference participants will examine the ‘Journey to Mexico’ in a fluid way that explores early recorded migration histories as well as later ideological journeys.”

The Duke-UNC Mellow Endowment’s William Wilson Brown Jr. Conference Fund, Universidad Iberoamericana and the UNC Charlotte College of Arts + Architecture, Department of Art and Art History, Latin American Studies Program and Office of Education Abroad provided support for this conference.

University to host Turkish Fest

A Turkish Night and Children’s Fest will be held from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday, April 25, in the Cone University Center, Lucas Ballroom. This event will feature traditional Turkish food, folk dance, music and international children’s performances and activities. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted with proceeds going to [Bridge to Turkiye Fund](#) to help less fortunate kids to support their education. The Charlotte Turkish community and Turkic Society and Children are co-organizers of this event, with support from the UNC Charlotte Student Government Association. More information is on the [Web](#) or e-mail Ertunga Ozelkan at ertunga_ozelkan@yahoo.com or Okan Pala at pala.okan@gmail.com.

Dissertation defense scheduled

Janet Arthurs, a doctoral student in educational leadership, will defend “A Study of Leadership Factors, Retention Strategies and Retention Rates in Associate Degree Nursing Programs” at 1 p.m., Monday, April 27, in the College of Education, Room 259. Claudia Flowers is chair of the dissertation committee.

Hip-Hop Theatre class to hold block party

The Hip-Hop Theatre class will present a block party from 1 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, at the outdoor pavilion behind Robinson Hall. The party will feature live performances by class members. For more information on this event, sponsored by the College of Arts + Architecture, e-mail createdonthate@hotmail.com.

‘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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Retirement planning conference scheduled for McKnight Hall

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 Hall.

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

Elizabeth Cowles, parking and transportation services; Andrea Strong Norrington, Office of the Registrar; and Patricia Ann White, housing and residence life; 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.

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.

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 17 [Perspectives in Employment Law](#). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Ben Craig Center. Cost: \$125.

April 22 [Free Strategy Workshop - GMAT Exam Prep](#). 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Main Campus. 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:

2005 Yellow Mini Cooper convertible. 20,000 miles. Automatic transmission, A/C, sports seats, grey upholstery, yellow interior surfaces. Excellent condition, always garaged. Fun car. Available May 1. Photos available on request. E-mail jadienem@uncc.edu.

Ivory-laced, long sleeve wedding dress. Straight design, detachable train (approximately six feet long). High collar, designer neckline. Approximate size: 22. \$150 or best offer. Call 704-780-8974.

Whirlpool Whispure 350 Air Purifier with HEPA filter (AP35030S). Just in time for allergy season. (Became model 450 at \$769, now model 510 at \$999). Provides large room purification - 450 square feet. \$125. E-mail Maria at mgyon@uncc.edu.

For rent:

Elegant two bedroom, two bath condo in Hyde Park. Three- to five-minute drive to UNC Charlotte (one mile). 1,250 square feet. Separate den can be used as office or third bedroom for overnight guests. This top-floor corner unit has vaulted ceilings and private deck with great view. In excellent condition. Built in 2003 and has only had one owner. Large second bedroom; split floor plan is great for roommates desiring privacy. Spacious master suite has 12-foot ceilings and huge walk-in closet. Fireplace in living room. Locked security door entry leads to interior hallway and stairs. Reserved parking spot right in front of main door (plenty of additional parking as well). This stand-alone building contains only 11 other units. Quiet building with good neighbors - ideal for graduate students or professionals. Comes with all appliances, including washer/dryer. Kitchen with 42-inch cherry wood cabinets. Pool, clubhouse and workout facility. Not furnished. Quick access to I-85; 20 minutes to Center City. 10-minute walk to new Wild Wing Café, Giacomo's Italian Restaurant, K&W and others. \$995 per month includes water and trash removal. Lease can start in May or June. Earlier move-in date may be possible. Lease-to-own option available. E-mail UniversityCondo@earthlink.net if interested or would like to view photos.

Brick townhouse, 347 West 7th Street. 2,200 square feet. Two bedrooms plus loft, two-and-a-half baths, two-car private garage. Large master bedroom with walk-in closet, vaulted ceilings with ceiling fan and views of the skyline. Master bath with double sinks, separate shower and jacuzzi style tub. Loft overlooking master bedroom can be used as home office or media room. Open kitchen with GE duel fuel gas stove and electric oven. Stainless steel hanging pot rack. Second bedroom with two closets and full bath. Washer/dryer on same floor as bedrooms. Patio balcony overlooking Fourth Ward Park. Large great room with gas fireplace. Across the street from Harris Teeter grocery store, just four blocks from Trade and Tryon streets. Available for lease June 1. \$2,000 per month. Phone 704-724-9661 or e-mail ajf@carolina.rr.com.

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 and business law, provided comments for the Charlotte Observer article “[BofA’s Lewis faces big challenges](#).” He also was interviewed by WCNC for the segment “Charlotte banks will bounce back, finance experts say.”

Deborah Strumsky, geography and earth sciences, was quoted in the Charlotte Observer article “[Recovery won’t be simple](#).”

Harrison Campbell, geography and earth sciences, was interviewed for the Charlotte Observer story “[Same skills can fit growing industries](#).”

Paula Gross, Botanical Gardens, provided comments for the News14Carolina segment “[Making Ends Meet: Gardening on a Budget](#).”

Larry Mellichamp, Botanical Gardens, was interviewed by News14Carolina for the story “[Cold snap puts spring plants at risk](#).”

Tony Plath, finance and business law, and Denise Dwight Smith, University Career Center, were quoted in the Charlotte Observer article “[Seniors can’t bank on jobs](#).”

Chancellor Philip L. Dubois was quoted in a variety of media outlets in connection with the groundbreaking for the Center City Building, including the [Charlotte Observer](#), the [Charlotte Business Journal](#), [News14Carolina](#), WBTB and WCNC. He also served as a guest on WBT-AM to discuss the project.

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