

Oct. 15, 2008

Top Story

Visioning forum to help chart UNC Charlotte's course

UNC Charlotte, much like the Queen City itself, has experienced a tremendous increase in growth and diversity. These changes, coupled with alterations in work, family structure, age, lifestyle, technology and other factors have contributed to a sharp decline in community engagement during the past quarter century, according to Harvard University researcher Robert Putnam, author of "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community."

To reverse that trend, UNC Charlotte is increasing its efforts to teach the importance of community engagement and, using the Crossroads Charlotte model, is creating a vision of what the University will look like in 2015.

With grant funding from the Foundation for the Carolinas, UNC Charlotte will hold visioning exercises on campus to depict plausible futures for the University.

"We're going to create our own scenarios, talk about the things that are happening in the University community and what kind of institution we want to be," said Susan Harden, UNC Charlotte Crossroads Charlotte coordinator. "This visioning process will help our campus talk about our diversity and changing demographics."

Developing University scenarios would be an outgrowth of the Crossroads Charlotte initiative that identified four likely scenarios for the city based upon Putnam's survey of 40 communities. His research revealed Charlotte-Mecklenburg has high levels of faith-based involvement and philanthropy but ranked 39th for levels of social and interracial trust.

The first visioning forum will be from 12:30 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, in the Barnhardt Student Activity Center training gymnasium. Students, faculty, staff and alumni are encouraged to participate in this event; participants do not have to remain the entire time. A second forum will be in February.

"As UNC Charlotte grows, we have to ask ourselves, 'What do we want to be?'" explained Harden. "By participating in the Crossroads campus forums, you can help chart the course for this campus as we visualize where we want to be in 10 years and how we're going to get there."

There is no cost to participate in the workshops, but attendees are encouraged to register via the [Web](#).

Around Campus

Agency fair to kick off annual SECC drive

UNC Charlotte will kick off its annual State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) Friday, Oct. 24, with an agency fair.

This event, open to the entire campus, will feature representatives from a number of nonprofit agencies that take part in the campaign. The fair will be from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Robinson Hall Lobby. UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip L. Dubois and David Dunn, vice chancellor for the Division of University Relations and Community Affairs and 2008 SECC campus chair, will make brief remarks around 1:30 p.m.

“UNC Charlotte faculty and staff have a strong record of giving back to the community, not only financially but through service and volunteer efforts,” said Dunn. “The agencies attending the fair along with the almost 900 other charities that participate in the SECC provide vital services. Our continued support will enable them to continue to fulfill their missions. So I encourage members of the campus community to come out to the agency fair to learn more about the organizations and how we can all help.”

The SECC is a charitable giving effort governed by state employees. There are more than 900 health, educational, environmental and social service organizations to which contributions can be directed, either through a one-time donation or through payroll deduction.

In addition to learning about the various organizations represented, participants who attend the agency fair kick off can enjoy a variety of light refreshments including Halloween cookies, candies and other treats.

Revision to Code of Student Responsibility approved

Chancellor Philip L. Dubois has approved an additional revision to the Code of Student Responsibility to add the following as prohibited conduct: commission of an act, or an attempt to commit an act, that: (i) is classified as a felony under North Carolina law; (ii) would be in violation of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina; or (iii) would be in violation of any federal law.

Making UNC Charlotte greener

UNC Charlotte will observe its annual Campus Sustainability Week with events scheduled for Monday, Oct. 20, and Wednesday, Oct. 22.

On Monday, the Office of Sustainability is sponsoring talks by Michael Nicklas and Helene Hilger at 2 and 3 p.m., respectively, in the Storrs Building Auditorium. Nicklas, president of Innovative Design, will talk about sustainable architecture; Hilger, from the Lee College of Engineering, will speak on sustainable engineering. Following the talks, members of the campus community can share their thoughts on the “Wall of Ideas.”

On Wednesday, the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling and Keep Charlotte Green will conduct their bi-annual campus cleanup. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to participate in this effort, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting at the Belk Tower. The Student Government Association and Earth Club are organizing student volunteers, and Chancellor Philip L. Dubois has authorized 90 minutes of release time for faculty and staff members who participate.

“Our grounds crew does an excellent job of keeping the campus clean, but with their many duties, it can be difficult to maintain some of the outlying areas, especially those bordering highways 29 and 49,” said Devin Hatley, UNC Charlotte environmental educator. “This is an opportunity for us all to get involved.” Last year’s sponsored cleanups resulted in the collection of more than two tons of trash and recyclables.

Students interested in participating should register with Hatley via e-mail at dlhatley@uncc.edu. Faculty and staff should contact their supervisor. Each

department/director has appointed a point person to collect the names of volunteers to forward to Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, recycling coordinator, via e-mail at kboutin@uncc.edu.

UNC Charlotte site for early voting

In anticipation of high voter turn out on Election Day, Nov. 4, the Office of Community Affairs is sponsoring early voting at UNC Charlotte. Voters from any precinct may register and vote during this period. Polls for early voting will be open from Oct. 16 to Nov. 1 (except for Oct. 18 and 19). Voting will be in Cone Center, Room 268, during the following times: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday–Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25; 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 26; and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1. Voting will not be held at UNC Charlotte on Election Day.

Table games, bowling tournament winners named

As part of Staff Recognition Week events, the University sponsored table games and bowling tournaments in September.

The table games tournament, held in Cone Center, consisted of three games: Bunco, Spades and UNO. For Bunco, Cris Hill, Chancellor's Office, had the most losses; Danielle Rodriguez, Cone Center, won most wins and traveling; and Debra Bunker, housing and residence life, recorded the most Buncos. The duo of Pearl Brown, College of Computing and Informatics, and Karen Worthy, fixed assets, triumphed in spades. Maryann O'Keefe, Cone Center, and Lula Hart, Atkins Library, each won a round of UNO.

More than 90 staff and faculty members participated in the annual bowling tournament held at AMF University Lanes. The team Bosco the Bull, comprised of Charlie Bowling and Charlie Donehue, housing and residence life, and Jeff Brindle and Chris McKinney, facilities management, won first place with a score of 2,292. Finishing in second place with a score of 2,272 was the team Incognito whose members were Keith Broome, Debra Bunker, Carla Hines and Zeke Roseboro, housing and residence life.

Top individual awards went to Steffan Moody, recreational facilities, who won high men's game (203) and series (552). Vonda Lee, ITS, won high women's game with a score of 193, and Debra Bunker's 506 was high series. Other awards were: best team name – The Great Frame Robbery whose members were Sandra Leeds, Lucy Mullens and Debbie Richard, financial services, and Alice Patterson, Budget Office; and best attire/theme – TRC 80s comprised of Zach Kendra, Andrew Pasch, Sarah Rossini and Shehan Welihindha, housing and residence life.

Kulwicki Memorial Scholarship awarded at Lowe's Motor Speedway

The Lee College of Engineering awarded its Alan Kulwicki Memorial Scholarship to Eric Thill of Winona, Minn. The presentation was made Friday, Oct. 10, at Lowe's Motor Speedway, prior to the running of the Dollar General 300 NASCAR Busch Series race.

Thill, the son of Dave and Kim Thill, graduated from Winona Senior High School in June 2008. He was the leader of the school's High Mileage Vehicle Team.

"It's a true honor to be associated with Alan Kulwicki," said Thill. "He put forth so much dedication to accomplish his goals. From high performance in the classroom, to dominating results on the racetrack, I feel Kulwicki shared the same passion for motorsports I do. I will do my best to demonstrate the same desire and dedication that Kulwicki presented."

The four-year Kulwicki Scholarship is the highest honor within UNC Charlotte's Motorsports Engineering program and is given in memory of the late NASCAR Winston Cup champion who died in a plane crash in 1993.

Virtual visions: UNC Charlotte researchers explore new realities

Though it's not yet found in every home, virtual reality (VR) technology has been serving a multitude of practical purposes for decades. UNC Charlotte faculty and students are exploring the enormous potential of VR to improve upon practices in fields ranging from medicine to police work.

In order to better understand the effect of VR on pain, particularly chronic pain, researchers in the Department of Psychology launched a study to compare the results of VR pain distraction with other types of distraction techniques. Among other things, the study demonstrated that virtual worlds can be helpful in taking one's mind off of the here and now.

Additionally, faculty and students from the College of Computing and Informatics create and study virtual humans, which were once the stuff of science fiction but are now a fairly common presence on the Internet.

Increasingly, virtual humans are being employed in sensitive situations. Researchers have developed a virtual police officer to help victims of or witnesses to crimes identify perpetrators in a police line-up. The virtual officer cannot ask leading questions, which improves the probability that the identification will be accurate.

Whatever its application, VR technology is more than a trend. To learn more about the evolution of this technology and the myriad ways in which UNC Charlotte faculty and students are utilizing and refining it, check out the latest issue of the UNC Charlotte magazine now on the [Web](#).

Nominees sought for 2009 Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence

The selection committee for the 2009 Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence is soliciting nominees. This award is one of the most important and prestigious presented by the University, as it honors outstanding teachers on campus and provides an example of UNC Charlotte's commitment to teaching excellence.

In its call for nomination, the committee is seeking to honor individuals respected as outstanding teachers and mentors. The strongest nominations include specific examples from students and colleagues alike. In order to be eligible for the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, a faculty member must be tenured, a member of the UNC Charlotte faculty for seven years and be teaching in the year that the award is given. Nominees can not be a former recipient or have been a finalist within the past two years.

As in the past, the Bank of America Award Committee will select five finalists from among the nominees. The award recipient will be selected from the finalists and will be honored along with them at an awards ceremony in September 2009.

For more information or to nominate a teacher, go to the Web site www.provost.uncc.edu/BOFAaward. Nominations are due by Friday, Dec. 5.

De Silva Mentor Award committee seeking nominees

The Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award committee is soliciting nominations for the 2009 award. This award was established in memory of Harshini de Silva, an associate professor of biology, who was noted for her deep dedication to the academic and professional development of graduate students. Each year, the Chancellor's

Office and the Graduate School present this award to a full-time member of the graduate faculty who possesses these qualities of outstanding graduate mentoring. The recipient is honored at a ceremony held on the UNC Charlotte campus in the early spring with an award of a crystal obelisk, a framed citation and a cash prize.

All regular members of the graduate faculty at UNC Charlotte are eligible to receive this recognition. Nominees should be distinguished, active scholars in their appropriate fields and should have proved records of continuing interest in the growth and success of their students. Evidence of an outstanding graduate mentor should include activities that demonstrate not only a clear dedication to providing graduate students with the skills and resources that they need to succeed as scholars but also a sincere and active interest in the well-being of their students. These efforts should be related to past students' professional appointments and accomplishments as scholars.

Although graduate students and past or present staff and faculty members of the University may recommend members of the graduate faculty for this award, nominations should come from chairs of academic departments or if the nominee is a department chair, the nomination should be made by the college dean.

Nomination materials should include the following:

- A letter of nomination clearly explaining the nominee's qualifications. What sets this individual apart from the ordinary in his or her devotion to graduate students and to graduate education? Also, evidence should be presented that the nominee's commitment to graduate student education goes significantly beyond that of the average, but dedicated, member of the graduate faculty.
- A copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae highlighting activities conducted with graduate students.
- Up to six letters of support from graduate students, faculty, alumni and others.
- A statement from the nominee discussing his or her perspective on the role of mentoring in graduate education.

Send nomination materials to: the Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award Selection Committee, the Graduate School, 210 Cato Hall, by 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3. Direct questions to Tom Reynolds, dean of the Graduate School, at ext. 7-7248 or via e-mail at tlreynol@uncc.edu.

Nominations sought for 2009 First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal

The selection committee for the 2009 First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal is soliciting nominations. This award recognizes outstanding scholarship, creativity and/or research among senior full-time faculty members. Each year, the University, with support from First Citizens Bank, presents this award in order to recognize and foster the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and creative endeavors.

Nominations must focus on the excellence and importance of sustained contributions in research and creative activities, including work done over a substantial period of time at UNC Charlotte. Relevant research and creative activities include: scientific discoveries, books, a series of related articles, novels, sculptures or paintings. The award, which consists of a cash prize, framed citation and medal, is presented annually during a ceremony and reception presided over by the University chancellor and other officers and officials of First Citizens Bank.

Any UNC Charlotte faculty member can submit a nomination, which should consist of the following:

- A letter of nomination clearly specifying the nominee’s scholarly or creative accomplishments at UNC Charlotte and their significance
- Three letters from professionals outside of UNC Charlotte who are qualified to evaluate the work of the nominee and provide an authoritative view
- A brief biography (two-three sentences) for each of the letter writers indicated above
- A current academic curriculum vitae for the nominee
- Supportive documentation (books, copies of articles, published reviews and citations, evidence of juried exhibits, etc.).

Nomination letters and all supporting documentation should be sent to the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal Committee, c/o the Graduate School, 210 Cato Hall, no later than 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3.

Direct questions to Tom Reynolds, dean of the Graduate School, at ext. 7-7248 or via e-mail at tlreynol@uncc.edu.

Faces

Name: Shannon Randall
 Title: Administrative Support Associate
 Department: American Studies
 Location: Fretwell Building, Room 235

Supporting four interdisciplinary programs doesn’t present any major challenges for Shannon Randall. In fact, she is ecstatic about her role at the University.

“I really love my job, especially when it gets busy,” said Randall. An administrative support associate, Randall reports to Paula Eckard, director of the American Studies and Graduate Liberal Studies programs, and she also provides support for the Women’s and Gender Studies and Gerontology programs.

In addition to the “basic secretarial duties,” Randall maintains each program’s budget, works with faculty members to schedule classes and enters that information into Banner. She also produces informational pieces about the programs. Her office’s location near the entrance to Fretwell has resulted in Randall becoming “the answer person.”

“Students stop in frequently with questions about different things, whether it’s about financial aid or directions to an office or department,” said Randall. “I don’t mind; I help them out as best I can.”

A native of Cincinnatus, a town in upstate New York, Randall moved to Concord about 14 years ago. She’s been employed at the University for seven years, her first five were with the Psychology Department. Undertaking her current position enabled Randall to take on additional responsibilities.

“I’ve completed ASPIRE (a professional development programs sponsored by human resources), so I felt prepared to undertake new challenges and learn more,” Randall stated. As an example, she noted her work with Dena Shenk to help with grants pre-certification and administration.

Randall also helps a number of the faculty members in the various programs with their research.

“Some of the articles I can look up online, but for a lot of items I have to go over to the library to get. I’ve become an expert at finding my way around Atkins,” she joked.

Although it’s relatively early in her career, Randall looks forward to being part of UNC Charlotte for years to come. “This is a great place to work. Not only do I get to help others, but I know my efforts are appreciated. I also think there’s a lot of opportunity for personal development and job growth.”

As a single parent, Randall said she really likes the flexibility afforded her with regard to work schedule because childcare issues are a real concern.

“I have three daughters, and taking care of them takes up most of my time outside of work,” said Randall. Her children, Taylor, Kaitlyn and Madison, ages 9, 7 and 5, respectively, are all soccer fans like their mother. They also are in the Girl Scouts.

An avid runner, Randall averages six to eight miles a day. She also enjoys reading and is obsessed with following the N.Y. Mets and Miami Dolphins.

(Image on the Web)

Upcoming Events

Greeks to hold Philanthropy Carnival

The Office of Greek Life is sponsoring its fourth annual Philanthropy Carnival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Belk Tower. Greek chapters will have a game or item for sale to raise funds to benefit their respective charities.

Doctoral dissertation defense scheduled

Frances Vergara, a doctoral student in information technology, will defend the dissertation “Optimal Purchasing Strategy for Bandwidth: A Buyer’s Perspective” at 9 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, in Friday Building, Room 364. Moutaz Khouja is the dissertation adviser.

MPA program open house at Uptown campus

The Master of Public Administration program will hold a wine and cheese open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, at the University’s Uptown campus (third floor of the Mint Museum Craft and Design Center).

Prospective students will learn about the program’s graduate certificate in nonprofit management and the MPA with concentrations in nonprofit management and arts administration.

Syracuse researcher to discuss ‘Subtle Side of Search’

Elizabeth Liddy, a humanities and technology scholar at Syracuse University, will discuss “The Subtle Side of Search” at 3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, in Woodward Hall, Room 106.

As director for the Center for Natural Language Processing, Liddy researches the language of search engines and the interplay of language and technology. The colleges of Computing and Informatics and Liberal Arts and Sciences along with the Center for Humanities, Technology and Science are cosponsoring this event.

Proposal development sponsoring brown bag talks and workshops

The Office of Proposal Development, in conjunction with the Office of Sponsored Programs, will hold a number of brown bag luncheon talks and workshops focused on grants management issues. Upcoming events include:

“Effort Reporting” at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the College of Health and Human Services, Room 145. In this brown bag talk, Karen Farley and Steve Selby from sponsored programs will review issues raised in the 2008 academic year and summer effort reports and respond to questions about the use of the Maximus Effort Reporting System.

“Proposal Writing Basics” from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22, and an identical session from 2 to 3:15 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 23, in CHHS, Rooms 159 and 161, respectively. This introductory workshop, led by Lesley Brown, director of proposal development, will cover how to develop project ideas and locate funding sources as well as how to write a competitive grant proposal.

“Designing Your Proposal Budget” at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, and 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30, in CHHS, Rooms 126 and 294, respectively. During this workshop, offered in two identical sessions, Lesley Brown will instruct participants on how to calculate project costs and will introduce budgeting terminology used by funding agencies, including allowable costs, cost sharing and the difference between direct and indirect costs.

“Grants Management” from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11, in CHHS, Room 145. Led by Deborah Fraser and Steve Selby, sponsored programs, this brown bag talk will focus on process issues that principal investigators or departmental administrators encounter in moving sponsored project transactions through Banner Finance.

Registration for any of these events, while not required, is requested and can be done via the [Web](#). For more information, contact Steve Selby at ext. 7-2451 or e-mail seselby@uncc.edu.

Common Reading Experience author to make extra speaking engagement

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Sonia Nazario will make an additional speaking engagement at UNC Charlotte on Wednesday, Oct. 22, one day after her talk to the Freshman Common Reading Program about her book “Enrique’s Journey.”

Her Oct. 22 appearance will follow a question-and-answer format that will involve Nazario being interviewed by Charlotte Observer reporter Peter St. Onge about investigative reporting among immigrant populations. The one-hour event is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. in the Student Activity Center Salons.

Nazario, a projects reporter for the Los Angeles Times, has spent more than two decades reporting and writing about social issues. “Enrique’s Journey,” based upon a series of newspaper articles written by Nazario, recounts the odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States.

The book has won more than a dozen awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing, the George Polk Award for International Reporting, the Grand Prize of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Guillermo Martinez-Marquez Award for Overall Excellence.

Nazario will deliver a public presentation at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21, in Cone Center, McKnight Hall. Seating will be limited.

Learn about trees of the Piedmont

The Botanical Gardens is sponsoring the two-part “Trees of the Piedmont: Identification Workshop” on back-to-back Saturdays, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. Nature lovers, amateur botanists and gardeners will learn the fundamentals of plant identification, tree biology and Piedmont habitats from expert Larry Mellichamp. The Oct. 25 session will be from 9 a.m. to noon at McMillan Greenhouse. The Nov. 1 session will be a day-long field trip to Reedy Creek Nature Preserve. The cost is \$30 (\$15 for the field trip only for those with ID experience). To register, contact Paula Gross at ext. 7-2555 or e-mail pmgross@uncc.edu.

COG official to discuss economic development

Laura Mundell, director of community and economic development for the Centralina Council of Governments, will discuss regional economic development at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 27, in Duke Centennial Hall, Room 345.

This lecture is part of the Engineering Management Seminar series sponsored by the Systems Engineering and Engineering Management Program and the Center for Lean Logistics and Engineered Systems in the Lee College of Engineering.

Discussion to focus on race and politics

Kerry Haynie and Federico Subervi, faculty members from Duke University and Texas State University-San Marcos, respectively, will lead discussions on race and politics on Monday, Oct. 27.

“Race and Politics: A University Discussion,” will be at 4 p.m. in Cone Center, Room 210. “Race, Gender and Politics: A Community Discussion” starts at 6 p.m. at the Afro-American Cultural Center, 401 North Meyers Street.

An associate professor of political science, Haynie also serves as co-director of Duke University’s Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Social Sciences. He is the author of “African American Legislators in the American States” and “The Encyclopedia of Minorities in American Politics.” A native of Kannapolis, he earned his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from UNC Chapel Hill.

Subervi, a professor in the Texas State University School of Journalism and Mass Communication, is the author of “The Mass Media and Latino Politics.” His research includes the assessment of images of blacks in Brazilian television advertisements and Puerto Rico’s media system.

The Africana Studies Department is sponsoring these events as part of its year-long 40th anniversary commemoration.

Political duo to debate red vs. blue

Politics takes center stage as two writers, Peter Beinart and Jonah Goldberg, debate “Red vs. Blue, Why the Election Matters to You.” This free, public event, presented by the Distinguished Speakers Forum, will be at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, in Cone Center, McKnight Hall. Robert Kravchuk, chair of the Political Science Department, will moderate.

A graduate of Yale University, Beinart is editor of the New Republic and a columnist for the Washington Post and contributor to Time magazine. Goldberg, a graduate of Goucher College, is a regular political commentator on CNN and author of the best-selling book “Liberal Fascism: The Secret History of the American Left, from Mussolini to the Politics of Meaning.”

For faculty members who wish to offer extra credit for attendance, the Center for Leadership Development will have a table available for sign-in sheets. For more information, contact Stephanie Schmidt at ext. 7-2703.

Health care consultant to talk leadership

Michael Wyrick, founder and manager of Health Response LLC, will discuss “Leadership at the Precipice” at 3:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, in the College of Health and Human Services, Room 159.

A retired U.S. Air Force major general, Wyrick served as the chief operating officer overseeing operations at more than 80 hospitals and clinics. His consulting firm specializes in health care strategy and metropolitan disaster preparedness.

The Charlotte Healthcare Student Executive Organization, Graduate Public Health Association and Public Health Association are cosponsoring this talk.

Majors Day Fair scheduled for Oct. 23

The University Career Center invites all academic departments to be represented at this year’s annual Majors Day Fair, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 23, in the Cone University Center, Lucas Room. Last year, 100 percent of the University’s undergraduate programs were represented at the fair, and the goal is to do the same for 2008.

During Majors Day, students have the opportunity to meet with departmental representatives to learn about majors, minors and double majors available. Departments can be represented by faculty, staff or designated graduate students/assistants. The Career Center will provide “What Can I Do with a Major in...?” cards to each department to share with students. Departments also can provide their own materials. To register, go to the Career Center [Web site](#) and click on the “Majors Day” link under featured events.

RuBiRu to return to campus

The second annual RuBiRu event, UNC Charlotte’s run-bike-run athletic event for the community, will be Saturday, Oct. 25, on the University campus. All proceeds will go to benefit local brain cancer research with event partner Brain Tumor Fund for the Carolinas (BTFC).

The inaugural RuBiRu event held last fall was considered by organizers to be a rousing success with more than 210 participants, and it raised more than \$70,000. All proceeds raised remain in the Charlotte region.

RuBiRu is part of an effort to create a multimillion dollar, nationally competitive brain cancer research program at UNC Charlotte that will partner with cancer physicians in the region’s major healthcare systems. Presented by Hearst Service Center and co-hosted by BTFC and UNC Charlotte, RuBiRu is a 20K event that consists of an 5K run, and 10K time trial bike ride around the perimeter loop of the campus, followed by a 5K cross country run on the University’s wooded trails. For children, there will be a RuBiRu Kid Zone sponsored by University YMCA. Family friendly activities and a fun walk also will take place on the Irwin Belk Track. Health screenings, food, beverages and entertainment will be provided. Individuals and teams of all ages are welcome.

To register or for more information, visit the [RuBiRu Web site](#).

Lipitor co-developer featured speaker at seventh annual Biotechnology Conference

Roger Newton, co-developer of the cholesterol-reducing drug Lipitor, will be the featured speaker at the seventh annual Charlotte Biotechnology Conference scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 28, in the Barnhardt Student Activity Center.

Newton, a world-class scientist, entrepreneur, educator and investor, will discuss the creation, selling and relaunching of Esperion Therapeutics Inc. From 1981 to 1998, Newton was with Warner-Lamber/Parke-Davis (now Pfizer) as a distinguished scientist and chair of the atherosclerosis drug team on which he co-discovered Lipitor.

In 1998, he founded Esperion Therapeutics, a company dedicated to researching treatments of cardiovascular diseases. It was bought by Pfizer in 2004 for \$1.3 billion, but this past May, Newton helped divest Esperion from Pfizer and relaunched it as an independent enterprise.

More than 25 speakers are expected to participate in this conference, sponsored by UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte Research Institute. More details are on the [Web](#).

HSRA to hold brown bag lunch talk

Allen Queen from the College of Education will speak at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30, in Cone Center, Room 113, as part of a brown bag lunch session hosted by the Health Services Research Academy.

In his talk on childhood obesity, Queen will present his research on new initiatives being used to address the topic.

Atkins Library to host ‘Publish, Don’t Perish’ panel discussion

The J. Murrey Atkins Library is sponsoring the panel discussion “Publish, Don’t Perish: Scholarly Publishing Issues for Universities” from 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Nov. 5. Presenters for this discussion, which will be in Atkins Library, Room 125, include Peggy Hoon, special assistant to the provost for copyright administration, N.C. State University; Pete Binfield, managing editor, Public Library of Science; and Stephen Mosier, vice chancellor for research and federal relations. This event is free, but registration is required. Click [here](#) for more information.

Human Resources

NCFlex annual enrollment period under way

The annual enrollment period for benefits through NCFlex continues through Monday, Nov. 3. NCFlex benefits include: dental, vision, group term life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, cancer insurance, flexible health spending and dependent care accounts, and, new for this year, critical illness insurance.

Employees do not need to re-enroll for these benefits unless making changes, with the exception of the two flexible spending accounts and the critical illness insurance program. Members of a flexible spending account will need to re-enroll whether electing to make a change or not.

The state has made changes to a number of the benefit programs. Information on these changes is available on the [Web](#).

To enroll or make changes to NCFlex benefits, click [here](#). Employees who have not enrolled through this site previously must register and create a user name and password. Returning users should use their existing user names and passwords.

NCFlex booklets were distributed to all departments via campus mail. These booklets contain information about each benefit and step-by-step enrollment instructions. All enrollments and changes are effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Flu shot clinic Oct. 22

UNC Charlotte, in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) and Maxim Health Systems, will hold a flu shot clinic from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22, in Cone Center, Lucas Room. Because vaccination is considered the best protection from the flu, employees and family members, age 9 and older, who are covered by BCBSNC can participate in this free clinic.

Children between the ages of 9 and 17 must have parents with them. Children under age 9 must receive shots from their primary care physician.

Employees and their family members who are not covered by the state health plan or BCBSNC can obtain a flu shot from Maxim Healthcare for \$30.

Pregnant women in their second and third trimester may receive the flu shot without a prescription. Pregnant women in their first trimester are required to have a written prescription from their personal physician.

Note participants will be required to bring their current BCBSNC ID card and a photo ID with them to the clinic. They also will have to sign a consent form prior to receiving a flu shot. Employees who do not have their BCBSNC card and a photo ID or who do not sign a consent form will not be able to receive the vaccination. New employees who do not have a health card, bring your subscriber ID number, which can be obtained from BCBS at 888-234-2416.

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.

Oct. 17 [Understanding Excel 2007](#). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: \$125.

Oct. 17 [Fundamentals of HR Management](#). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: \$125.

Oct. 17 [Effective Training Principles](#). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: \$125.

Oct. 21–Nov. 13 [GRE General Exam Prep](#). 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, UNC Charlotte Main Campus. Cost: \$425.

Oct. 21–22 **Cost Estimating and Cost Management**. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: \$500.

Oct. 22 **Access 2007 Essentials**. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: \$125.

Oct. 22 **The Trainer as Manager**. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: \$125.

Oct. 23 **Time and Stress Management**. 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. Cost: \$65.

Oct. 23–24 **Process Value Analysis**. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., UNC Charlotte Uptown. 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:

Two tickets to Celtic Thunder concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, in Cricket Arena. Mezzanine section 116, row I, seats 7 and 8. Original price \$57.50 each; make offer. Contact Bob at ext. 7-8165.

Treadmill in good condition. \$25 or best offer. Purchaser must pick up. E-mail swbruce@uncc.edu.

Pyranha i:4 model kayak (large, yellow). In excellent condition (a small amount of normal wear). Includes paddle, float tubes, cockpit cover. \$500. Contact James White at 704-619-2753.

Wanted:

Loving homes for six-month old male kittens. Current on all shots and just neutered. One long-hair dove grey tuxedo. One short-hair snowshoe (white with black/grey markings). Both are well-socialized housecats. Can hold until Christmas. E-mail Teresa at tlscheid@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.

Craig Depken, economics, was interviewed for the article “Dallas Cowboys stadium funding from variety of sources” published in the Fort Worth Star Telegram. The story also appeared in the Houston Chronicle.

Ted Arrington, political science, provided comments for the Fayetteville Observer story “[8th District Congressional race has familiar foes.](#)” He also was quoted in the WRAL.com story “Democrat looks to break GOP stronghold in 10th District.”

Robert Kravchuk, political science, was interviewed by WCNC for the story “[Will economy affect Meck Co. bonds on the ballot?](#)”

Tom Holt, criminal justice, was quoted in the article “Craigslist is hotbed of online prostitution” published by the Knoxville News.

Ken Paulus, Charlotte Research Institute, provided comments for the Salisbury Post article “[Charlotte Biotechnology Conference to feature N.C. Research Campus.](#)”

Peter Franz and Phil Jones, facilities management, were quoted in the Charlotte Business Journal article “Booming UNCC campus is bright spot for contractors.”

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