



DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

August 31, 2020

In This Issue

- New Student Convocation (Virtual)
- Atkins Library News
- Gradescope Pilot Program
- Participate in CTI's 2021 Seminar Leaders
- CAPS Workshop re: Supporting Students Amidst Multiple Pandemics
- Outdoor Tents Available for Teaching Space
- School of Data Science Fall Webinar Series
- 2020-2021 Active Learning Academy Sign Up
- Teach an Honors Course in AY 2021-2022
- Additional Gambrell Faculty Fellows Announced
- Globally Networked Learning
- CONNECT Training and Early Alerts
- Extreme Makeover: PDF Edition
- Resources for Planning for Fall 2020 Reopening
- Dissertation Defenses
- Latest AA News
- Upcoming Events

Virtual New Student Convocation

This year, [New Student Convocation](#) will be held in a virtual format on Sunday, September 6, at 4:49 p.m. New students, faculty, and staff are invited to watch this video live at livestream.uncc.edu or youtube.com/unccharlottevideo. We look forward to continuing our tradition of welcoming and introducing our new undergraduate students to the UNC Charlotte community through this video which will incorporate student and faculty voices, academic messages, and university traditions! College programming follows the event on Sunday and throughout the first week.

J. Murrey Atkins Library News

Atkins Library Reopens Today

Beginning August 31 until September 6, Atkins' hours will be Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Access to the building will be limited to UNC Charlotte students, faculty, and staff with a 49er ID Card. Tower elevators and floors will be closed to patrons. Fall hours will be updated on September 7. See the Library's [Reopening Guide](#) for information on safety guidelines and procedures.

New Laptop Lending Policy

In response to changing circumstances related to COVID-19 and the new laptop requirement for incoming students, the library's laptop lending program has changed and improved for student convenience. While laptops are available to all current UNC Charlotte students, they are primarily intended for continuing/returning students who are not subject to the laptop requirement. In anticipation of the volume of online courses and remote learning in Fall 2020, the library has extended the default loan period for all laptops from 24 hours to seven (7) days. Students may also request a longer loan period upon check-out or at any point while the laptop is checked out, enabling them to keep the laptop for use as long as to the end of the semester. While these longer loan periods are an option, students are encouraged to return the laptop when they are finished so that our limited supply will be available for as many students as possible. If students need a laptop for a shorter-term loan (for a single class, a few hours, or a couple of days), they are encouraged to borrow a laptop from the vending machine in the CHHS building. Additional information about borrowing laptops can be found on the [Library webpage](#).

Gradescope Pilot Program

UNC Charlotte will participate in a pilot program of the online assessment tool, [Gradescope](#), during the fall semester. Gradescope is available for all instructors to use for any course. [Sign up for an online workshop](#) and learn how instructors use Gradescope. The workshops will offer guidance on how to deliver assessments remotely and outline various assessment options to meet your immediate needs, including:

- Fully online assignments, no paper required
- Existing paper-based assignments

- Combining online and paper-based approaches

You will learn how to:

- Grade your existing exams and homework on Gradescope
- Make rubric changes as you grade - changes apply to previously graded work to maintain consistency
- Write each comment only once - apply previously used comments with a click
- Create better rubrics to increase student learning
- Use 'assignment analytics' to gain insight into student learning

Four available workshops:

- Tuesday, September 1, 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
- Wednesday, September 2, 1:00 - 2:15 PM
- Wednesday, September 16, 2:30 - 3:45 PM
- Thursday, September 17, 1:00 - 2:15 PM

Instructors are welcome to invite their TAs and grading staff to attend a workshop. A recording of the session will be shared with all registrants so feel free to register even if you can't make it to the live session. For questions, contact [Bernadette Williams Looper](#).

Be Part of CTI's Class of 2021 Seminar Leaders



Are you interested in sharing your research with a broader audience? Do you care about public education? Do you see K-12 teachers as allies in your work? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then consider submitting a seminar proposal idea for the Charlotte Teachers Institute (CTI) lineup of 2021 seminars. CTI is an educational partnership among UNC Charlotte, Johnson C. Smith University, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) to strengthen teaching and learning through collaboration, creativity, leadership, and content knowledge. CMS teachers in grades PK-12 apply to participate in professor-led seminars based on research and teaching interests with the goal of creating original curricula for CMS students. To date, CTI Fellows have written more than 950 original curriculum units, all available on CTI's website.

Check out [CTI's website](#) for more information, including the commitment to [racial equity](#) and [testimonials](#) from teachers, professors, and funders. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your ideas. Please submit your ideas by Friday, September 11. CTI Director Scott Gartlan will be in touch following submission to discuss next steps. Feel free to contact Dr. Gartlan at scott.gartlan@uncc.edu.

Additional Offering of CAPS Workshop re: Supporting Students Amidst Multiple Pandemics

Thanks to all faculty/staff who have attended the first two offerings of the CAPS workshop *Supporting Students Amidst Multiple Pandemics* (see the course description below). Given the feedback CAPS has received regarding the helpfulness of offering this workshop again after the start of the fall semester (particularly for employees classified as temporary), they have added an additional date for the workshop. Please reach out to Ericalennon@uncc.edu with any questions. Please note that this workshop is also available to graduate students who are employed as a TA and/or as a GA who supervises other students. Interested graduate students should fill out [this form](#) to register.

- Friday, September 11, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ([Registration for faculty/staff](#))

Supporting Students Amidst Multiple Pandemics: The Fall 2020 semester poses unprecedented challenges for our students who will continue to function amid the global pandemic and ongoing unrest and fight for anti-racism. This 60-minute virtual workshop shares practical ways faculty and staff can support student mental health, with special emphasis on those with historically marginalized identities (e.g., Black, LGBTQ+, international). Learn ways to address racism in the classroom, promote inclusion and belonging, and respond to student mental health concerns as they arise.

Outdoor Tents Available for Alternative Teaching Space

Two tents have been installed to provide alternative teaching space through the end of November. The tents are located on the Belk Plaza on the Kennedy side, and the Barnhardt Student Activity Center's east plaza. The tents will remain in place through the end of November.

The tents do not have sides, lights, or power. Each tent can accommodate up to 30 students in chairs only; no tables are provided. All requests to use the tents will be processed through the Conference, Reservations & Event Services Office (CRES) and should be submitted through their Reservation Request [form](#). CRES does not provide setup support.

- Requests for academic courses may be submitted no more than three (3) weeks in advance for use Monday through Friday until 6:00 p.m. Requests for non-course related use during those times may be submitted no more than two (2) weeks in advance.
- Request for use Monday-Friday after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends may be scheduled at any time through the end of November.

School of Data Science Fall Webinar Series

The School of Data Science is excited to announce a free webinar series in place of the annual Analytics Frontiers and WiDS Charlotte conferences. The series will begin on September 18 and will continue throughout the fall. Each webinar will consist of a presentation featuring a keynote speaker from the original 2020 conference schedule. Tentative topics and dates are listed below; registration for the first two webinars is available [here](#).

- Friday, September 18, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Racial Injustice and Inequality In Applications of Data Science featuring Analytics Frontiers keynote speaker, Dr. Ruha Benjamin, Associate Professor at Princeton University
- Friday, October 16, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Data Science in the Fight for Civil Liberties Featuring WiDS keynote Lucia Tian, Chief Analytics Officer at the ACLU
- Friday, November 20, 12:00 - 1:30 PM
Data Analytics In the Intelligence Community Panel Discussion, featuring Analytics Frontiers keynote speaker, Lieutenant General Robert P. Ashley, Director of the DIA, and Dr. Barbara Stevens, former Head of Data Science for the CIA

2020-2021 Active Learning Academy Sign-Up

The [Active Learning Academy](#) (ALA) is a learning community open to all instructors and instructional staff who are interested in using active learning techniques, learning from peers, and promoting the adoption of active learning across our campus. Our topics this year will include using active learning methodology in online and hybrid courses. All ALA programs and activities will be conducted online this year. Sign up to be part of this year's cohort via the [registration link](#).

Call for Proposals to Teach Honors Course During 2021-2022 Academic Year



The Honors College invites interested faculty to submit a proposal to teach an honors course during the 2021-2022 academic year. Honors College courses offer UNC Charlotte faculty the opportunity to teach compelling, intellectually rich general education small sections and upper-division topics seminars for engaged, high-achieving students who are members of any of the 30 honors programs on campus and/or merit scholars.

We are accepting proposals for Honors LBST sections (first and second year honors students) as well as HONR 3700 seminars (open to junior and senior honors students). While the expectations and pedagogy for these courses may differ in the Honors College, you are welcome to revise an existing course from your department teaching or propose an entirely new one.

This year, the Honors College will offer up to six course planning grants of \$500 for classes that meet one or more of three pedagogical needs: Interdisciplinary inquiry; Critical place-based pedagogy; Consortium-building in disciplinary honors.

If you would like to apply to teach a course, you can do so [here](#). All course proposals will be considered for the planning grants and the submission deadline is October 5. Please email [Chris Cameron](#), Honors College Faculty Fellow, if you would like more information or have any questions.

Second Cohort of Gambrell Faculty Fellows Announced

A second cohort of nine Gambrell Faculty Fellows has been selected; read about the Fellows and their projects [here](#). Fellowships include \$15,000 in competitive research project funding and regular engagement opportunities with Charlotte stakeholders. The purpose of the Gambrell Faculty Fellowship is to build a cadre of faculty researchers and a body of work to inform and impact the Charlotte area, particularly around issues of economic mobility. This year's projects include the participatory development of an affordable homeownership toolkit, informal learning in virtual environments in K-12 computer science magnet programs, mapping food system assets and finding ways to create a more resilient and equitable way to feed our community, assessing the impact of arts on economic mobility, and increasing Latinx family access to early childhood education. The work of the new cohort and last year's inaugural cohort of Gambrell Faculty Fellows will be featured in and leading up to the Schul Forum in November 2021. An RFP for a third cohort of faculty fellows will be available in May 2021.

Globally Networked Learning



The Office of International Programs is pleased to announce [Globally Networked Learning \(GNL\)](#) at UNC Charlotte, a new initiative to support meaningful international engagement and global learning for our students. Now, more than ever, the Office of International Programs would like to highlight the possibility of virtual exchange for conducting classes, research and other activities conducive to online platforms in collaboration with [UNC Charlotte's global partners](#) around the world. For more information, please visit the [GNL website](#).

CONNECT Training and Early Alerts

CONNECT training sessions will be offered virtually for Fall 2020. Advisors and faculty can request a training using the Google form on the [Academic Advising Technology Training webpage](#). These virtual training sessions can include Early Alert training. Early Alerts are due for all 1XXX/2XXX level courses by 12:00 p.m. on **Friday, October 2**. Departments may also request to schedule their own training session to be held during a departmental meeting by contacting Stephanie Westine, Advising Systems Administrator, or LeeFredrick Bowen, Director for Academic Advising Systems.

Extreme Makeover: PDF Edition

You are invited to participate in NC State's second annual [Extreme Makeover: PDF Edition](#) (formerly The Great PDF Purge) that will be held Monday, September to Friday, October 16. NC State is inviting other institutions of higher education to participate this year. Sponsored by NC State's IT Accessibility Office, this event aims to make campus websites accessible by eliminating inaccessible portable document format (PDF) files, which can be a barrier to individuals with disabilities. During the four-week event, participants will look at alternative ways to address inaccessible PDFs, such as converting them to web forms or pages or remediating them. To participate, complete the [registration form](#) by Sept. 14.

Resources for Planning for Fall 2020 Reopening

Resources for planning for the Fall 2020 reopening are available on the [Office of the Provost website](#). This includes new information about faculty training and classroom technology upgrades as well as FAQs related to course delivery. Decisions will be based on these guiding principles: to preserve the college experience, to protect the health of our students and faculty, to ensure a successful learning environment, and to minimize the reduction in overall student credit hours. Faculty members and department chairs should coordinate course delivery and instruction plans with their associate dean.

Dissertation Defenses

The dissertation defense is one of the ways a new scholar demonstrates readiness to join the academy and is an opportunity to share their research widely. [View All Dissertation Defense Announcements](#)

Latest AA News

For up-to-the-minute news from Academic Affairs (faculty awards, research, recognition, initiatives), follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/UNCC_Academics) or visit the [Academic Affairs Division News webpage](#).

Upcoming Events

This Week:

Aug-Dec [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens events](#)

Aug-Dec [Diversity events](#)

Upcoming: provost.uncc.edu/division-news/weekly-news-digest/upcoming-events

*The [DAA News Digest](#) is distributed each Monday to Academic Affairs faculty and staff.
Deadline for submission is 11:00 a.m. every Friday.
Send submissions to academicaffairs@uncc.edu.*