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### 2020 MLK Celebration: “Honoring the Legacy of Dr. King . . . Or Are We?”



Join the University community to celebrate the life, work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the annual MLK Celebration. Keynote speaker Randal Pinkett will speak on the topic of "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?". The speech title is taken directly from Dr. King's last book before his assassination. It will bring attention to where we are as a society now and offer insight specifically from Dr. King for where we need to go as a society.

- Tuesday, January 21, 3:30 PM, McKnight Hall, Cone University Center

### NEW Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

A new department has been approved for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences - the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies (WRDS). Dr. Joan Mullin, previous Executive Director of the University Writing Program, will serve as the Department Chair through the 2019-2020 academic year. To learn more, check out the [WRDS website](#).

### Entering Last Date of Attendance

Keep in mind that beginning this spring semester, all instructors are required to enter the last date of attendance/participation for all students with failing (F) or unsatisfactory (U) grades. The last date of attendance is required to comply with federal student financial aid reporting requirements. Visit [the Last Date of Attendance website](#) to learn more about participation options that count as attendance, what date to record for various attendance/participation situations, step-by-step instructions, and FAQs. Drop-in information sessions (no RSVP necessary) will be offered on Tuesday, January 14, 3:00-4:00 p.m, COED 102, and Tuesday, January 28, 2:00-5:00 p.m, Center City 906.

### 49er Rebound - Spring 2020 Updates

The 49er Rebound program assists first semester students on academic probation in returning to good academic standing during their second semester. The program is a collaboration between the University Center for Academic Excellence, undergraduate colleges, secondary advising centers, and Housing and Residence Life. Program participants are given several options to accommodate their individual needs, preferences, and scheduling constraints. For Spring 2020, these options include an academic success course (UCOL 1300), a structured discussion group (49er Focus), and a peer mentoring program (Students Obtaining Success).

Students who entered UNC Charlotte in the Summer or Fall of 2019 and are now on academic probation received a letter from their associate dean over break requiring them to attend a workshop in January to enroll in the program. If you have any questions about the program, contact your college or department representative or visit the [49er Rebound website](#). Please refer any students on academic probation who may be eligible to participate in 49er Rebound to your college or department representative.

### UNC Charlotte Great Decisions Lecture Series



Dr. Deborah Thomas, Chair and Professor in the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences at UNC Charlotte, will discuss her research and address Ronald Bee's article *Climate Change and the Global Order* proposing that, "Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to come up with a plan, the U.S. remains the notable holdout. What is the rest of the world doing to combat climate change? What impact will the effects of climate change have on global geopolitics?"

- Wednesday, January 22, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, UNC Charlotte Center City, Room 204 ([Register](#))



Dr. Margaret Commins, Associate Professor in the Political Science and Sociology Department at Queens University, will discuss her research and Michael Shifter's and Bruno Binetti's article *U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle* on how "combating illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which hold the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the U.S. With funds from the U.S. cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration?"

- Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, UNC Charlotte Center City, Room 204 ([Register](#))

### CONNECT Training and Early Alerts

Numerous CONNECT training sessions are scheduled for Spring 2020. These training sessions will include Early Alert Training. Early Alerts are due for all 1XXX/2XXX courses by noon on Friday, January 31. Information on fall training for advisors and faculty for CONNECT, including the link for registration, can be found on the [Academic Advising Technology Training webpage](#). 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.

### Women in Data Science Conference: Call for Presenters

UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science (formerly known as the Data Science Initiative) is hosting the third annual Women in Data Science Conference along with Lowe's on March 24, 2020. The Charlotte Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference is a one-day event that aims to inspire, educate, and engage current and future data scientists in the Carolinas, regardless of gender, and to support women in the field by providing training, networking, and mentoring opportunities. WiDS Conference planners are currently searching for female thought leaders in academia to share their expert knowledge in data science or technology as speakers for the 2020 WiDS conference. Broad topic areas can include 'Developing Your Personal Brand', 'Applied Research: NLP and Social Media', 'Machine Learning and AI in the Cloud', or 'Applied Research: Data Visualization'. Submissions for speaker proposals are due January 31, 2020. Proposals must include the following items: a topic title, topic abstract, and short bio. Proposal submissions must be sent to [analyticsfrontiers@uncc.edu](mailto:analyticsfrontiers@uncc.edu). Email subject lines must read **WiDS Conference Speaker Proposal**. For more information, visit the [WiDS speaker webpage](#).

### Speaker Series: Understanding Disparities in an Urbanizing World



UNC Charlotte will welcome Naeema Muhammad, the Organizing Co-Director of the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN) as the first [Understanding Disparities in an Urbanizing World speaker](#). During her career, Muhammad has been an advocate for communities impacted by industrial hog farming operations. She serves on the Environmental Justice & Equity Advisory Board for the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). NCEJN promotes health and environmental equality for all people of North Carolina through community action. This event is co-sponsored by the UNC Charlotte Departments of Public Health Sciences and Geography & Earth Sciences and the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. Muhammad's presentation will take place from 3:00-4:30 p.m. followed by a reception from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

- Thursday, January 30, 3:00 - 5:30 PM, Popp Martin Student Union Theater

### 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](http://www.twitter.com/UNCC_Academics)) or visit the [Academic Affairs Division News webpage](#).

## Upcoming Events

### This Week:

- Jan-May** [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens events calendar](#)
- Jan-May** [Diversity Events on campus](#)
- Jan 6-7** [New International Student Orientation](#)

### Next Week:

- Jan 14** ['Last Date of Attendance' Open Swim Session](#)
- Jan 16** [International Coffee Hour](#)
- Jan 17** [New International Student Welcome Party](#)

**Upcoming:** [provost.uncc.edu/division-news/weekly-news-digest/upcoming-events](http://provost.uncc.edu/division-news/weekly-news-digest/upcoming-events)

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*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](mailto:academicaffairs@uncc.edu).*