



DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

March 30, 2020

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Candidates for Dean of the Belk College of Business

The search committee for the Dean of the Belk College of Business is pleased to announce four candidates for the position, and the campus community is invited to attend the candidate public presentations. For details, including candidate CVs, please visit <https://provost.uncc.edu/jobs/dean-cob>.

Following each candidate interview, we encourage you to provide feedback via the [candidate evaluation form](#); the evaluation form will be available until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15.

International Career Panel

The International Career Panel provides an opportunity to network and hear several early-career professionals discuss the international elements of their careers in law, business, government, not-for-profit and education. Also included is a short pre-panel workshop on "Working Internationally" and what job seekers should be doing now. For more information, visit the [event webpage](#). Please share this information with your students.

- Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 - 7:00 PM, via WebEx ([Register](#))

J. Murrey Atkins Library News

Get Atkins Online

[Help, Services, and Resources](#)

Access the Chronicle of Higher Education premium

[video tutorial](#) and [fact sheet](#)

Contribute Your Stories of the COVID-19 Outbreak

Atkins Library Special Collections & University Archives is launching a [campus-wide project](#) to encourage UNC Charlotte students, staff, and faculty to document their personal experiences during the coronavirus outbreak and contribute them to the University Archives.

Census 2020

We want to ensure that all of the UNC Charlotte community is counted accurately. Please share this information with your students and colleagues.

[Complete the U.S. Census](#)

College students are historically undercounted in the U.S. Census. Please encourage your students living off-campus to complete the survey in April at their off-campus address (even if they are living at home as a result of COVID-19 social distancing measures). For more information, visit the [49er Democracy Experience's Census 2020 webpage](#).

Program Director, Gerontology

Senior-level appointment begins July 1, 2020.

The Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Health and Human Services of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte seek a senior faculty member to serve as the Program Director for the Gerontology Program. The appointment is a nine-month appointment, with an administrative stipend upon appointment. Candidates must hold a PhD in a discipline housed in one of the two Colleges and have a record of research, teaching and service that would merit the rank of senior faculty. A tenured faculty member or non-tenure track faculty member beyond their initial reappointment would constitute a senior faculty member.

Desired qualifications also include: scholarship focused on gerontology; the capacity to foster and mentor scholarship in other faculty; and sufficient administrative experience in leadership and strategic planning to be able to manage a vibrant Gerontology Program, including the ability to develop a clear vision for sustained growth in scholarly and academic programs and a commitment to high-quality undergraduate and graduate education. The ability to foster relationships with relevant community organizations expected. Currently holding affiliate faculty status with the Gerontology Program is preferred.

The Gerontology Program provides multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary educational opportunities in the field of aging with a dual focus on both professional and liberal arts education. We work with faculty and students throughout the university and the larger community to foster education in gerontology and meet the needs of older adults and those who work with and care for them. The program offers an undergraduate minor and a graduate certificate in Gerontology. The selected candidate will lead a strong program with a committed affiliate faculty and an enthusiastic student body that is committed to both academic excellence and programmatic vibrancy.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, CV and the names and contact information of three references to: Dean Nancy A. Gutierrez, c/o Ms. Shadonna Desgraves, Office of the Dean, 430 Fretwell, or email to sdesgrav@uncc.edu. For full consideration, applications must be received by April 6, 2020.

The Role of Graduate Assistants: A Message from Dean Tom Reynolds

As we work through the adjustments to a remote operation as a way to slow the spread of COVID-19, I want to address the role of graduate assistants and provide the following guidance to ensure we are focused on doing what is right, both for our students and for the University.

The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff must always be central in developing changes to any operational plan – even if temporary. Keep in mind our graduate assistants and teaching assistants, even though they are in paid positions, are primarily students. I encourage everyone to pay particular attention to graduate assistants who are in a high-risk category, either with their health or as care providers to others. Please consider this in your plans to fulfill their assistantships for the duration of the semester.

Existing contracts for graduate assistants should not be shortened or reduced in hours, except under the most extreme circumstances. If a program wishes to shorten or reduce a contract (hours and/or compensation) for any reason, they should first contact [Dr. Julie Goodliffe](#) in the Graduate School to discuss. As a reminder, graduate assistants are eligible for paid Administrative Leave as long as they remain on their current contract. Thus, it is critical to keep the students' contract in place to ensure no disruption in pay. The Graduate School monitors any change or cancellation of a graduate assistantship.

We have received guidance locally and from the UNC System Office to be flexible to the greatest extent possible with our graduate assistants. If you have work they can do remotely, it is recommended that it be planned and assigned, even if it is outside of their normal duties. Teaching assistants may continue to assist faculty in a remote capacity, and you are encouraged to work with the Center for Teaching and Learning to learn more. As directed by the Office of Research and Economic Development, research employees, including graduate research assistants and technicians, should follow the guidance provided for all University employees. All research staff should coordinate with their supervisors to discuss tasks that can be completed remotely or safely on campus through social distancing protocols.

Our cooperation as an institution, community, and as individuals will help keep the spread of Coronavirus to a minimum. If we do what we can now, the return to normal campus activities will come that much sooner. Thank you all for your willingness to adapt while supporting the needs of our students.

In Memoriam: Dr. Frederik N. Smith (1940-2020)

Dr. Frederik N. Smith, a retired professor and former chair of the Department of English at UNC Charlotte, died on March 20, 2020. He is survived by his wife Jane, daughter Kirsten and her spouse, and a young grandson.

Dr. Smith was born in Baltimore in 1940. He earned his undergraduate degree from Baltimore's Loyola College (now Loyola University Maryland) and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia. From 1967 to 1976, he taught in the English Department at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, after which he became the chair of the English Department at the University of Akron. Dr. Smith came to UNC Charlotte as chair of the English Department in 1984 and served in this capacity until 1990. From 1995 to 1999, he directed the department's graduate program. During his years at UNC Charlotte, he taught courses on such topics eighteenth-century literature, Irish literature, and stylistics. Dr. Smith retired in 2000, but he continued to participate English Department functions and parties for the rest of his life.

In addition to teaching and performing administrative duties, Dr. Smith published numerous works over the course of his career. His first monograph, *Language and Reality in Swift's "A Tale of a Tub,"* was published by the Ohio State University Press in 1979. He edited a scholarly collection titled *The Genres of Gulliver's Travels*, which the University of Delaware Press published in 1990, and his second monograph, *Beckett's Eighteenth Century*, came out in 2002 from Palgrave Macmillan. Although Dr. Smith focused his scholarship on Jonathan Swift and Samuel Beckett, he published articles and book chapters on many other topics. The most unusual for an English professor was probably his essay "Reading Superman" in the collection *Superman at Fifty: The Persistence of a Legend* (1987).

Dr. Smith enjoyed drawing cartoons and caricatures, especially during long meetings. His post-retirement gift to his colleagues, an amusing cartoon titled "If English Ruled..." still hangs in the department's lobby. It is one of the many ways Dr. Smith's legacy lives on in the department he so capably led. He will be missed.

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:

- Mar-May** [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens events](#)
- Mar-May** [Diversity Events on campus](#)
- Apr 3** [Education Career Fair \(Virtual\)](#)
- Apr 4** [A Wildflower Wonderland! \(Virtual\)](#)

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.*