



# DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

February 22, 2021

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### Spring 2021 First Half Term Final Grades

Final grades for the Spring 2021 first half term can be submitted through [My UNC Charlotte](#) starting on February 24. Grading will be available until March 19 at noon. Detailed final grading instructions can be found [here](#).

#### Grade Elections Information for spring first half courses:

Students will complete their courses and review their letter grades before deciding whether to request P/N grades to replace standard grades for any of their Spring 2021 courses. Students in first half term courses can make grade elections between March 20 and April 2.

### Community Talk to Discuss “The Faces of Poverty in North Carolina”

Join Gene R. Nichol, the Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in conversation on his book, *The Faces of Poverty in North Carolina: Stories From Our Invisible Citizens* during the Feb. 25 webinar. “As a Matter of Fact: Conversations with UNC Press Authors.” This series facilitates virtual conversations with a UNC Press author, a UNC Charlotte faculty member and a community leader about issues impacting our communities. Byron P. White, Associate Provost for Urban Research and Community Engagement at UNC Charlotte, and Brian Collier, will join this conversation. [Register now](#).

### True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality - Film Screen with a Dean: Virtual Panel Discussion

Join Catrine Tudor-Locke, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, for a spirited discussion on the Emmy Award winning film [True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality](#) featuring experts from UNC Charlotte and beyond. As the national dialogue on the justice system and systemic racism spills over into the new year, this interactive event offers an opportunity for our community to dive deeper into these issues. Attendees can access the documentary free [here](#) prior to the [virtual panel](#).

### W+GRA Summit Registration Open; W+GRA RFP Open Until Feb. 25

Registration is now open for the W+GRA 2021 Summit: Recovery and Discovery: Women and Girls in a Dual Pandemic. The virtual Summit will take place March 10 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Summit will include a Women in Leadership keynote panel, featuring Chancellor Sharon Gaber, Provost Joan Lorden, and Mecklenburg County Manager

Dena Diorio. Morning and afternoon panel sessions will focus on research and community practice experiences, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls. Registration is free but required. Summit information and registration available at [womensalliance.uncc.edu](http://womensalliance.uncc.edu).

W+GRA's Spring 2021 Seed Funding RFP is open through February 25th. W+GRA seeks to support new or ongoing research efforts of academic partners whose goals align with its programmatic priorities, namely the social and economic status of women and girls in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region. Priority will be given to proposals with community partnerships or community-engaged research activities. [RFP and submission instructions](#).

## Now Accepting Applications to Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is accepting applications to the Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund for projects to be implemented in the 2021-2022 academic year. The purpose of the Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund is to support initiatives promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in the intellectual life of the campus. Students, faculty, and staff are eligible to apply for awards up to \$5,000. Restrictions on state funds apply. The deadline for submission is March 19, 2021. To apply, please visit the [Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund webpage](#).

## Peter Wong Named 2020-21 Reynold's Leadership Award Recipient

[Peter Wong](#), Associate Professor of Architecture, was selected to receive the Thomas L. Reynolds Leadership Award for 2020-2021 for his contributions to student success above and beyond his teaching role. The Reynolds Leadership Award honors excellence in graduate program administration and is presented annually to a Graduate Program Director (GPD) or Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC). Please visit the [Graduate School](#) for more details.

## Lo Receives 2021 Harshini V. de Silva Mentor Award

[Ya-yu Lo](#), professor of Special Education and graduate program director for the M.Ed. and MAT programs in the Department of Special Education and Child Development, is the 2021 recipient of the Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award. She was honored at a special Zoom ceremony Thursday, Feb. 18. Read more at [Inside UNC Charlotte](#). More information on the Harshini V. de Silva Award is available from the [Graduate School](#).

## Graduate Teaching Assistant Award Nominations Accepted Through March 1

The Center for Graduate Life is accepting nominations for the 2020-2021 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA) Awards through March 1. This year, \$1,000 awards will be presented to a teaching assistant who has served as Instructor of Record for at least one semester, and to a TA who has performed the range of responsibilities in assistance to a faculty member. A ceremony is planned for April 23 to recognize this year's award winners. For more information and details on nomination, please visit the [Graduate Awards Gateway](#). Please direct questions to [Daniel.Jones@uncc.edu](mailto:Daniel.Jones@uncc.edu).

## Graduate Program Soars to Its Highest Ranking Ever

Rankings News: UNC Charlotte's [M.S. in Mathematical Finance](#) increased to its highest ranking ever—now the #12 financial engineering program in the nation by TFE Times. Over the past six years, the program has increased steadily in the rankings, rising eight slots since 2016.

## Summer Fellowship Program Available for Grad Students

A new Graduate School Summer Fellowship Program (GSSF) is available for students who need financial support to continue to focus on their research over the summer months. The GSSF Fellowship provides a \$6,000 stipend for qualifying students. More information and instructions for applying are available for [download](#) from the Graduate School.

## Undergraduate Research Conference

The Registration Deadline for the Undergraduate Research Conference is fast approaching, please encourage your students to visit the [URC website](#) for more information and to register.

## Research and Economic Development Announces Catalyst 2021

Research and Economic Development is pleased to announce details for the 2021 Catalyst Boot Camp. Catalyst is a professional development and mentoring program to help faculty members successfully apply for grants from state and federal agencies, foundations and nonprofits. The goal of the program is to enhance the research and creative capacity of the University and institutionalize systemic support for the advancement and success of early- and mid-career faculty by:

(1) providing comprehensive training in the preparation of competitive grant proposals, (2) establishing a peer mentoring program, and (3) creating a community of practice aimed at facilitating and promoting the engagement of diverse groups of faculty in disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and creative activity.

The Catalyst Boot Camp program features two tracks that will run concurrently: Catalyst for STEM+ Social Sciences and Catalyst for the Arts and Humanities. The deadline for applications to the 2021 Catalyst Boot Camp is Monday, March 15, 2021, by 5:00 p.m. Full details can be found on the [Catalyst Program Description 2021](#) webpage. For questions about the application process, please contact [Lesley Brown](#), Director, Center for Research Excellence.

## CTL Workshops: Facilitating Online Instruction

- Getting Started with Active Teaching Online\*, Tuesday, February 23, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, [Register](#)
- Viewpoint Diversity & Civil Discourse in the Classroom\*, Wednesday, February 24, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, [Register](#)
- Active Learning: Faculty Panel Discussion, Thursday, February 25, 12:30 - 1:30 PM, [Register](#)
- Engaging Students with Low-Stakes Quizzing in Canvas, Thursday, February 25, 2:30 - 3:30 PM, [Register](#)
- Humanizing Your Online Course: Instructor Social Presence, Friday, February 26, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, [Register](#)

\*This workshop counts towards the [Essentials of Teaching and Learning Certificate](#).

## Faculty Toolkit for Teaching During the Pandemic

Resources for faculty and staff teaching and advising during the 2020-21 academic year are available on the [Office of the Provost website](#). This includes the new grade election procedure for Spring 2021, related FAQs, suggested syllabus policies, how to handle student absences during COVID, a list of faculty mentors for remote instruction advice, resources from the Center of Teaching and Learning and other helpful resources.

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

## Upcoming Events

### This Week:

- Feb-May** [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens events](#)
- Feb-May** [Diversity events](#)
- Feb 22** [BRIDGES Info Session](#)
- Feb 23** [Personally Speaking with Gregory Gbur and Falling Felines and Fundamental Physics](#)
- Feb 24** [Talking Policy in the Queen City Symposium](#)
- Feb 25** [Community Talk: "The Faces of Poverty"](#)

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

*The [DAA News Digest](#) is distributed each Monday to Academic Affairs faculty and staff. To have items included in the digest, complete the [NEWS DIGEST REQUEST FORM](#). Deadline for submission is 11:00 a.m. every Friday.*