



# UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

August 2020



UNC CHARLOTTE



UNC CHARLOTTE

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## FACULTY MEMBERS WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

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Hughlene Burton  
Associate Professor  
Accounting  
Belk College of Business

Harrison Campbell  
Professor  
Geography & Earth Sciences  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Mark Clemens  
Professor  
Biological Sciences  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Yuanan Diao  
Professor  
Mathematics and Statistics  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

James Franki  
Associate Professor  
Art & Art History  
College of Arts + Architecture

Laurie Garo  
Lecturer  
Geography & Earth Sciences  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Susan Johnson  
Professor  
Psychological Science  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Richard Lambert  
Professor  
Educational Leadership  
Cato College of Education

Joanne Maguire  
Professor  
Religious Studies  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Michael Murphy  
Lecturer  
Chemistry  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Daniel Rabinovich  
Professor  
Chemistry  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

John Reeves  
Professor  
Religious Studies  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

William Tolone  
Professor  
Software and Information Systems  
College of Computing and Informatics

Jian Zhang  
Associate Professor  
Biological Sciences  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

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## FACULTY MEMBERS AWARDED TENURE

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Mary Atkinson  
Political Science and Public Administration  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Balaka Basu  
English  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kristen Beach  
Special Education and Child Development  
Cato College of Education

Elise Berman  
Anthropology  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Thomas Burch  
Theatre  
College of Arts + Architecture

Anne Cash  
Reading and Elementary Education  
Cato College of Education

Elizabeth Delmelle  
Geography & Earth Sciences  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Cindy Gilson  
Special Education and Child Development  
Cato College of Education

Lisa Homann  
Art & Art History  
College of Arts + Architecture

Jeffrey Killman  
Languages and Culture Studies  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Xingjie Li  
Mathematics and Statistics  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Yang Li  
Mathematics and Statistics  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jessica Lindsey  
Music  
College of Arts + Architecture

Thomas Mayock  
Economics  
Belk College of Business

Allison McCulloch  
Mathematics and Statistics  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Kevin McGoff  
Mathematics and Statistics  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Alyssa McGonagle  
Psychological Science  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Zachary Mohr  
Political Science and Public Administration  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Xi Niu  
Software and Information Systems  
College of Computing and Informatics

Menelaos Poutous  
Physics and Optical Science  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Joshua Tarbutton  
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering  
Science  
The William States Lee College of  
Engineering

Virginia Walker  
Special Education and Child Development  
Cato College of Education

Jinpeng Wei  
Software and Information Systems  
College of Computing and Informatics

Kiplan Womack  
Finance  
Belk College of Business

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## PROMOTIONS TO FULL PROFESSOR

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### Ana-Isabel Aliaga-Buchenau Languages and Culture Studies



Dr. Aliaga-Buchenau's current research projects include the translation of B. Traven's last published novel, *Aslan Norval* from German to English and the translation of Ret Marut's

*Die Fackel des Fürsten* (The Torch of the Prince); both novels have never appeared in English translation. She teaches numerous courses in German (all levels) and in the German Translation Program. Dr. Aliaga-Buchenau has received \$1,017,150 in grants and fundraising from entities such as the German and Language Foundation and the German Embassy. She was the recipient of UNC Charlotte's International Education Award (2018), a Finalist for the Bank of America Teaching Award (2012), and the recipient of Bonnie E. Cone Early-Career Professorship in Teaching (2009-2012). Dr. Aliaga-Buchenau serves as the Associate Chair of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies (since 2014).

### Ahmed Arif Public Health Sciences



Dr. Arif's program of research uses occupational, environmental, and spatial epidemiology to study risk factors for asthma, Chronic

Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and occupational lung diseases, such as work-related asthma and pneumoconiosis. His current research, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, focuses on studying occupational risk factors of mental illnesses. His research on asthma and occupational asthma among healthcare workers, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Safety and

Health, has been recognized by peers as evidenced by frequent citation of his work. Dr. Arif teaches quantitatively and methodologically intense courses at undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels. These include epidemiology, epidemiology methods, evidence-based methods in public health, public health data analysis, and health survey design. Dr. Arif is the recipient of the 2019 College of Health and Human Services Faculty Excellence Award in Graduate Teaching. Since 2016, Dr. Arif has served as the coordinator of the Minor in Public Health, the largest minor on campus with an enrollment of more than 800 students. Nationally, Dr. Arif is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and currently serves on its policy committee.

### Brian Arreola Music



Dr. Arreola has been described as a "robust Italian tenor" by the *Washington Post*, and his singing was called "fiery" by the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. In 2013, he

created the role of Luis Rodrigo Griffith in Opera Theatre of St. Louis's world-premiere of Terence Blanchard's "opera-in-jazz" *Champion*, receiving accolades from Opera Today and Opera News. He has been featured with The Minnesota Opera, Opera Carolina, American Opera Theater, Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Ente Concerti (Sardinia, Italy), and others. Dr. Arreola performs regularly with Opera Carolina, including roles in *Nabucco* and *Madama Butterfly* in 2014 and *Cyrano* in 2017. The UNC Charlotte Opera Workshop/ Chamber Orchestra production of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica*, for which Dr. Arreola was stage director and conductor, won 3rd prize in the National Opera Association's 2013 Opera Production Competition.

## Christopher Cameron

### History



Dr. Cameron's research and teaching interests include early American history, the history of slavery and abolition, and African American religious and intellectual history. Dr.

Cameron is the author of *To Plead Our Own Cause: African Americans in Massachusetts and the Making of the Antislavery Movement* and *Black Freethinkers: A History of African American Secularism*, and he is the co-editor of *New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition*. His research has been supported by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

## Don Chen

### Engineering Technology and Construction Management



Dr. Chen has seven years of industrial experience as a structural engineer. His expertise covers performance improvement of pavements and

applications of Building Information Modeling in design and construction. As Principal Investigator, Dr. Chen has secured over \$1.7M in external funding, and published more than 25 journal and conference papers with six of them in prestigious American Society of Civil Engineers journals. Dr. Chen has served as journal editorial board member and Lead Proceedings Editor for international conferences. In 2016, two research projects led by Dr. Chen were selected by the Value of Research Task Force of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials as examples of state DOTs providing "Transportation Excellence through Research." Dr. Chen was the recipient of The Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award in The William States Lee College of Engineering in 2015.

## Heather Coffey

### Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education



Dr. Coffey focuses on the intersections of Critical Service-Learning, Teacher Preparation, and Urban Education. She has received the Bonnie E. Cone Early-Career

Professorship in Teaching (2018-2021) and the Cato College of Education Sustained Service to Public Schools Award (2018). Currently, Dr. Coffey serves as the Director of the UNC Charlotte Writing Project and the N.C. Teaching Fellows, and also serves as Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Scholarship for the Office of Undergraduate Research. Dr. Coffey has been awarded U.S. Department of Education SEED grants to support her work with English teachers. Most recently, Dr. Coffey's publication record includes articles in *Teaching and Teacher Education*, *Middle School Journal*, and she is guest editing an upcoming issue of *Teachers College Record*.

## Mark D'Amico

### Educational Leadership



Dr. D'Amico studies community colleges with a focus on student outcomes and workforce development. He has published more than 40 journal articles and

book chapters and received funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC), and the John M. Belk Endowment. Dr. Amico received the Barbara K. Townsend Emerging Scholar Award from CSCC and awards for teaching and research from the College of Education (2018 and 2014). He has served as President of CSCC, Associate Editor of *Community College Review*, and a contributor to community college-related efforts of *myFutureNC* and the American Council on Education. Since arriving at UNC Charlotte, Dr. D'Amico has helped build Higher Education offerings from one course in 2009 to thriving programs at the

master's and doctoral levels today. He has served on committees for 39 completed dissertations, chairing 15 of those committees.

### **Didier Dreau** **Biological Sciences**



Dr. Dréau is a member of the Honors Faculty and he is the recipient of the 2020 College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Excellence in Teaching: Integration of Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award. Dr. Dréau serves as the Director of Undergraduate Research, the Honors in Biology Program Director, and the area leader for the Applied Cancer Technology and Therapeutics in the Center for Biomedical Engineering and Science. In addition to his teaching of cancer biology and physiology, Dr. Dréau, a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, serves on multiple review panels for granting agencies and scientific publications. His research investigates the roles of angiogenesis, immune responses, and the tumor microenvironment in the promotion of metastasis, and seeks new approaches to prevention, early detection, monitoring, and treatment of cancers.

### **Scott Fitzgerald** **Sociology**



Dr. Fitzgerald is a political sociologist and stratification scholar; his research agenda brings together the study of religion, inequality, social movements, and the nation state. Dr. Fitzgerald was a finalist for the Bank of America Teaching Award in 2017; he received the Faculty International Education Award in 2016 and the Midwest Sociological Society's Distinguished Book Award in 2009. Dr. Fitzgerald is the author of four publications; in 2015, he was a featured author in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences *Personally Speaking* series. He has helped develop and establish three short-term study abroad programs

(Manchester, UK; the Netherlands; and El Salvador) and has led thirteen trips.

### **Sejal Foxx** **Counseling**



Dr. Foxx's research focuses on equity and access to postsecondary education, multicultural issues in counseling, and urban school counseling. She teaches courses in Counseling at the master's and doctoral level. She was co-editor with Dr. Chance Lewis for a special issue on urban school counseling in *Professional School Counseling*, a premier journal in the field. Her research examining the role of school counselors and social justice advocacy serves as a seminal piece for current studies in this area. She also co-authored a validated instrument to examine the college and career readiness self-efficacy of high school students. This instrument has been adopted by organizations like the Carolina Youth Coalition and cited by several publications and dissertations. Dr. Foxx has been the co-principal investigator on two grants totaling over \$2M from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education, Office of Special Education. She is the 2016-2017 recipient of the Office of Disability Services' Accessibility Excellence Award for Outstanding Faculty/Staff, and the 2015 Counselor Educator of the Year award from the North Carolina School Counselors Association.

### **James Frakes** **Art & Art History**



Dr. Frakes studies the architecture and visual culture of the Roman Empire, with an ongoing interest in how visual cultural systems operated in its ethnically and religiously complex provinces. His first book, *Framing Public Life* (2009), examines how architecture, in the form of urban colonnaded walkways, shaped

cultural transformation among the Roman Empire's Celtic peoples. His second book, *Beyond Boundaries* (2017), assembles essays by Getty colloquium scholars inquiring variously into the culture(s) of Rome's provinces. Dr. Frakes teaches ancient art, historiography, writing, and global art history surveys, and has been key to establishing and growing UNC Charlotte's art history program. He is committed to Honors opportunities for students, founding the first disciplinary honors program in the College of Arts + Architecture, and he helped build the college's larger four-year program. Dr. Frakes has coordinated or assisted in 15 study abroad programs (to Greece, Turkey, Italy, the UK, and Israel), taking more than 200 students abroad.

### **Miranora Frisch** **Music**



Dr. Frisch's cello students have performed both as soloists and as section players with professional orchestras such as the Charlotte and Salisbury Symphonies. Her former collegiate cellists are attending graduate school, performing cello, teaching music, or enjoying cello while pursuing careers outside of music. Dr. Frisch has performed cello as a chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe. In the Carolinas, she has served as guest principal cellist with the Charleston Symphony, as a section cellist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, and with the Madison Park String Quartet. Her chamber music recordings, funded by grants from UNC Charlotte, the New York Women Composers Inc., and the Charlotte Arts and Sciences Council, have been released internationally on the Albany Records label and reviewed favorably by *American Record Guide* and *Fanfare Magazine*. Dr. Frisch has presented or performed at the national conferences of the American String Teachers Association, College Music Society, Music Teachers National Association, and the Society of Composers

Inc. In addition to numerous committee assignments, she has served as president of the North Carolina chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), as a committee member and adjudicator for the national ASTA organization, and as the Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives for the College of Arts + Architecture.

### **José Gamez** **Architecture**



Dr. Gamez' research explores questions of culture in architecture and urbanism through action-based research and public scholarship. He teaches architecture and urban

design studios as well as interdisciplinary courses involving the College of Arts + Architecture, Geography and Latin American Studies. He has been published in numerous journals and has contributed essays to a plethora of publications and he is the co-editor of *Rio de Janeiro: Urban Expansion and Environment* and *Vertical Urbanism: Designing Compact Cities in China*. Dr. Gamez has received nearly \$1M in grants and awards including a \$50,000 grant from the Jeffrey Cook Charitable Trusts in support of research and design focused upon prototype housing for the Island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas (July 2020). Dr. Gamez currently serves as the Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs for the College of Arts + Architecture; he previously served as the Interim Director of the School of Architecture, the School's Associate Director, and as its Graduate Programs Director. He served as a Provost's Faculty Fellow and was the 2015 recipient of the Provost's Faculty Award for Community Engagement. He has also been a Research Fellow with both UNC Charlotte's Institute for Social Capital and Urban Institute.



## Xiuli He

### Business Information Systems & Operations Management



Dr. He's research is at the interface between supply chain management and other areas such as marketing, finance and economics. Her research papers

have been published in top and elite academic journals such as *Production and Operations Management*, *Decision Sciences Journal*, *Omega*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *International Journal of Production Research*, *Operations Research Letters*, and *Computers & Industrial Engineering*. Dr. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Business Statistics, Operations Management, Quality Management, Service Operations and Project Management, and Supply Chain Management. She also taught a Research Methods course for UNC Charlotte's Doctor of Business Administration program. Dr. He currently serves as the Belk College Faculty President and is the co-chair of the Belk College's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is the recipient of the Belk College's Outstanding Service Award in May 2019 and the Production and Operations Management Society's Outstanding Service Award in 2018 and 2019.

## Eric Heggstad

### Psychological Science



Dr. Heggstad's research focuses on how to measure individual characteristics, such as personality, and how those individual characteristics are related to success in one's job. He is currently focused on

understanding the concept and application of social skills. He has published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles and has been awarded over \$1M in grant and contract support from national agencies and

organizations. Dr. Heggstad has served on editorial boards for several top journals and is currently an Associate Editor at the *Journal of Business and Psychology*. He has served in several leadership roles for the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, where he has been named a fellow. He is currently serving as Chair of the Department of Psychological Science.

## Reuben Howden

### Kinesiology



Dr. Howden's research addresses cardiopulmonary health and disease using both human participants and health analytics models. His teaching focuses on

exercise physiology. Dr. Howden is the co-founder and served as director of the Laboratory of Systems Physiology for eight years. He is also the co-founder and associate director of the Health Analytics and Outcomes Research Academy. He currently serves as Research Faculty Fellow for the Crown and Albert merit scholars. Dr. Howden has published 37 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters, including an invited review on environmental genetics and pulmonary function in the prestigious *Comprehensive Physiology*. He has procured over \$1M from both federal and industry partners as a principal or co-principal investigator. For three consecutive years (2014-2016), Dr. Howden received recognition for positively influencing students in the classroom.

## Gordon Hull

### Philosophy



Dr. Hull's research is in moral and political philosophy, with an emphasis on contemporary European theory, technology, and law. He currently focuses

on intellectual property, most recently in *The Biopolitics of Intellectual Property* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), and on normative issues in privacy and data,

where he was a principal investigator on a recent \$1M National Science Foundation grant to build an open public policy research database. He has been director of the university's Center for Professional and Applied Ethics since Summer 2013. Dr. Hull also serves as core faculty in the Public Policy PhD program. He regularly teaches courses on the history of philosophy, political theorists such as Foucault, and on current issues such as big data and privacy.

### **Min Jiang**

#### **Communication Studies**



Dr. Jiang teaches courses in media technologies and global media. Her research focuses on Chinese Internet technologies, politics, and policies that shape the contours of the

Internet in China and beyond. She is an internationally recognized scholar on the Chinese Internet. Previously, she has been awarded the Eduard B. Vermeer Prize for the Best Article from *China Information*, a Social Science Research Council research grant, a speaker grant from the National Humanities Center, and a CyberBRICS Fellowship from FGV Law School of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She served on National Communication Association's General Assembly and is a long-term member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Internet Research Conference. Currently, she serves as Associate Editor at the academic journal *Communication and The Public*.

### **Sarah Laditka**

#### **Public Health Sciences**



Dr. Laditka, a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, is an internationally recognized expert on measuring public health and successful aging.

Researchers throughout the world use methods she developed to study life expectancy, life-course disability, and health disparities. Funded by the National Institute on Aging, the Health Resources

and Services Administration, and the CDC, Dr. Laditka has published more than 145 peer-reviewed studies. She has mentored 45 doctoral students, with students as first authors of 44 peer-reviewed publications. She has also mentored more than 600 Master of Health Administration (MHA) students, addressing challenges facing health care and public health providers in our region, promoting quality health care, and nurturing diversity in healthcare leadership.

### **Othelia Lee**

#### **Social Work**



Dr. Lee's personal experiences and professional work with people with disabilities and older adults foster her interest in exploring how people cope with difficult

life events and how they use personal and social resources to enhance their health and well-being. Some highlights of her scholarship achievements include a book and 53 refereed journal articles in the areas of mental health disparities, community engagement, mindfulness, and gerontology. Dr. Lee's primary research focuses on development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative community-based intervention on health behaviors among older adults. Her cross-cultural study participants have extended to recruit immigrants in the U.S. and elders in Asia.

### **Jae Hoon Lim**

#### **Educational Leadership**



Dr. Lim's research explores the dialogical process of identity construction among students of color and examines the impact of sociocultural factors

on their academic experiences. She has served as a co-PI for multiple federal grant projects including a \$1.6M grant from the National Science Foundation. Her research has been published in the

*Journal of Educational Psychology*, and *Race, Ethnicity, and Education*. She is a contributing author to several books published by Oxford University Press and University of California Press. She served as President for the Korean American Educational Researchers Association (KAERA) in 2013-2014 and as Chair of the KAERA Board of Directors in 2019-2020.

### **Valerie Mazzotti**

#### **Special Education and Child Development**



Dr. Mazzotti's research interests include self-determination, secondary transition evidence-based practices and predictors of post-school success, and interagency collaboration for students with high incidence disabilities. Currently, Dr. Mazzotti serves as co-PI on one U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), Office of Special Education Programs leadership preparation grant, two USDOE, Institute for Education Sciences (IES), National Center for Special Education Research grants, and one USDOE, IES, National Center for Education Evaluation contract. She works with the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition for which she co-leads the Knowledge Translation Team to identify secondary transition evidence-based practices and predictors of post-school success for students with disabilities. Dr. Mazzotti serves as co-editor for the peer-reviewed journal, *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*.

### **Robert Pennington**

#### **Special Education and Child Development**



Dr. Pennington is the Lake and Edward J. Snyder, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Special Education. He has 30 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities, their families, and teachers. He has generated

over 50 publications, \$5M in external funding, and hundreds of presentations related to working with persons with developmental disabilities. He values service to the field and contributes to his community through leadership roles in numerous advisory and editorial boards and direct consultation to schools. Dr. Pennington's interests involve applied behavior analysis, teaching students with severe disabilities to communicate, improving educational programming for students with disabilities, playing punk music, and vegan cooking.

### **Praveen Ramaprabhu**

#### **Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science**



Dr. Ramaprabhu is a leading authority in the study of hydrodynamic instabilities and turbulent mixing, and in the development and use of computational methods to investigate such problems. His research has led to the publication of numerous articles in high-impact journals and has been supported by external grants exceeding \$3M. Dr. Ramaprabhu currently serves as the Associate Editor of the *American Society of Mechanical Engineering's Journal of Fluids Engineering*, and is a senior member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is driven by a passion to educate the next generation of Mechanical Engineers, and brings that energy to the undergraduate and graduate classes he teaches, as well as in working with his research advisees.

### **Lisa Rasmussen**

#### **Philosophy**



Dr. Rasmussen studies ethical issues in research and clinical medicine, particularly the ethics of unregulated research such as citizen science and biohacking. She has been the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on over \$1.1M

in National Science Foundation grant funding. Dr. Rasmussen has served as the Graduate Program Director in Ethics and Applied Philosophy MA program, and as an Executive Board Member for the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. She currently serves as a Faculty Fellow in the Graduate School with a particular focus on fostering a campus-wide culture of research integrity. She is also an editor of the book series *Philosophy and Medicine*, comprising nearly 140 volumes.

### **Adam Reitzel** **Biological Sciences**



Dr. Reitzel and his group study the evolution and ecology of marine invertebrates around the world. Their research, which has been supported by the

National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and other domestic and international funding agencies, has focused on the diversity of venom proteins in sea anemones, the mechanisms of host-symbiont interactions, adaptation to climate change, and the components of the circadian clock. Dr. Reitzel has developed multiple courses in the Department of Biological Sciences as well as co-leading a seminar through the Charlotte Teachers Institute exploring the intersection of epigenetics and social justice. Dr. Reitzel has published more than 50 publications with his team at UNC Charlotte and also co-edited a book on the evolutionary ecology of marine invertebrate larvae.

### **Thomas Schmedake** **Chemistry**



Dr. Schmedake is an inorganic chemist specializing in silicon-based compounds and materials. His lab uses earth-abundant elements like silicon to

synthesize improved materials for catalysis, electrochromic windows, organic light emitting diodes, organic photovoltaic

devices, and other applications in the energy field. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Army Research Office, Research Corporation, and the American Chemical Society-Petroleum Research Fund. Dr. Schmedake was a significant contributor to the planning and establishment of the PhD program in Nanoscale Science. He has supervised the research of over 70 undergraduates in his lab and has been the principal investigator and director of NanoSURE (a Research Experience for Undergraduates site funded by the NSF and the Department of Defense) since 2011. In 2017, he was the recipient of the Provost's Faculty Award for Community Engagement.

### **Susan Trammell** **Physics and Optical Science**



Dr. Trammell's research expertise is in biomedical optics. She has developed a light-based method to preserve biologics at room temperature and has applied imaging

and spectroscopic techniques to cancer detection and surgical guidance. She has received funding from NASA, the Levine Cancer Institute and other industrial partners, and holds U.S. patents for technologies developed in the course of her research. Dr. Trammell served as Director of the Undergraduate Program in her department for ten years. She teaches physics courses ranging from Introductory Physics to Nuclear Physics. Dr. Trammell serves on the Executive Committee of the Charlotte Teachers Institute and is the co-founder of the Summer Research Experiences for Teachers program at UNC Charlotte.

## Weichao Wang

### Software and Information Systems



Dr. Wang is currently the Chair of the Department of Software and Information Systems in the College of Computing and Informatics. His research focuses on the network and cyber physical system security, and security education. As one of the UNC Systems Instructional Innovation Incubator (i3@UNC) Fellows of 2015, Dr. Wang has explored and led various efforts to improving student learning outcomes. He received the Graduate and Undergraduate Teaching Awards of the College of Computing and Informatics. He received the Best Paper Runner-up Award of the 2019 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Conference on Dependable and Secure Computing. He has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator for ten National Science Foundation grants.

## Janice Warren-Findlow

### Public Health Sciences



Dr. Warren-Findlow's research focuses on primary and secondary prevention of chronic disease among diverse and vulnerable populations. Her work examines how psychosocial factors such as race, disability, body image, adverse childhood experiences, self-efficacy and social support influence essential health behaviors. Her measurement tool, the H-SCALE (Hypertension Self-Care Activity Level Effects), has been used by over 130 researchers across the globe to assess behaviors related to hypertension self-management. Dr. Warren-Findlow has extensive leadership experience in curriculum development. She was instrumental in the design and implementation of the PhD in Public Health Sciences; she directed the Master's in Public Health Program between 2015 and 2020, and has chaired the CHHS College

Curriculum Committee for the last three years. Dr. Warren-Findlow currently serves as Interim Chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences.

## Beth Elise Whitaker

### Political Science and Public



### Administration

Dr. Whitaker's research focuses on migration politics and conflict dynamics, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Kenya in 2005-2006 and has also conducted field research in Tanzania and Botswana. With funding from the Minerva Research Initiative, she and colleagues worked with a team of undergraduates to build a dataset of rebel groups' illicit funding strategies. Her publications include a 2018 book and various articles in political science and African studies journals. Dr. Whitaker chaired the African politics section of the American Political Science Association and currently directs the Political Science Honors Program. She was a finalist for the Bank of America Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2010 and 2015.

## Greg Wiggan

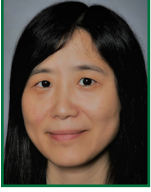
### Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education



Dr. Wiggan's research addresses school processes that promote high achievement among urban and minority students. He was recipient of the 2015 College of Education Award for Excellence in Teaching and the College's Diversity Award. He has developed eight courses for the doctoral program in Curriculum and Instruction – Urban Education, and has chaired many dissertation committees. Dr. Wiggan has published over 100 publications, inclusive of 28 education books, with notable titles such as *Global Issues in Education; Power, Privilege and Education*; and in press, *Teacher Education to Enhance Diversity in STEM; Sister Outsider in the Academy*, and *Education as Self-Healing Power*.

## Jing Zhou

### Business Information Systems & Operations Management



Dr. Zhou's research interests include operations-marketing interface, inventory and supply chain management, software development process and

information technology security. Dr. Zhou has published papers in leading journals such as *Production and Operations Management*, *Journal of Retailing*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *IIE Transactions*, and *International Journal of Production Economics*. She has also worked closely with practitioners to design and implement optimization tools for business decision making, and is a coauthor of a Franz Edelman Award winning project. The courses Dr. Zhou has taught include operations management, supply chain management, decision modeling and analysis via spreadsheets, and management of service operations. She is an Associate Editor for *Flexible Services and Manufacturing Journal*, and has reviewed papers for over 20 academic journals.

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## NEW FACULTY AND EHRA STAFF

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### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

#### BELK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Jay Davis  
Executive Director of External Relations  
B.A., University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill

Blake Horridge  
Director of Academic Planning and  
Accreditation  
M.Div., American Baptist Seminary  
of the West

#### Economics

Theresa Mannah-Blanks  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Amherst

#### Undergraduate Programs

Amanda McKnight  
Assistant Director of Academic and Career  
Coaching  
M.Ed., University of North Carolina at  
Greensboro

#### CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

#### Educational Leadership

Joanna Aguilar  
Mentor/Evaluator  
M.Ed., University of North Carolina at  
Greensboro

Jessica Burris  
Mentor/Evaluator  
B.A., University of Northern Iowa

Kyle Cox  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Cincinnati

#### Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education

Brittany Anderson  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Georgia

#### NC New Teacher Support Program

Kyla Crews  
Instructional Coach  
M.Ed., Salem College

Sean Lindsey  
Instructional Coach  
M.Ed., Queens University of Charlotte

Megan Romer  
Instructional Coach  
M.Ed., Winthrop University

Okema Simpson  
Instructional Coach  
M.A., Gardner-Webb University

Olubusola Stackhouse  
Instructional Coach  
MAEd, University of Kentucky

#### Special Education and Child Development

Leslie Bross  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Kansas

Sloan Storie  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Oregon

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

#### Architecture

Blaine Brownell  
Director, School of Architecture  
M.Arch., Rice University

David Costanza  
Assistant Professor  
M.Arch., Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology

### **Performing Arts Services**

Elizabeth Yoder  
Lecturer/Performing Arts Production  
Manager  
B.A., Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

### **COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS**

Bryan Dobbs  
Technology Architect Research Associate  
M.S., University of North Carolina at  
Charlotte

Mark Strejc  
Academic Advisor  
MBA, High Point University

### **Bioinformatics and Genomics**

Alexis Dornburg  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Yale University

Jun Wang  
Research Professor  
Ph.D., Wuhan University

Richard White  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of British Columbia

### **Computer Science**

Razvan Bunescu  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Amirmohammad Rooshenas  
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