



DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

May 11, 2020

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Supporting Our Diverse Community During COVID-19

A message from the Provost . . .

Dear colleagues,

As we continue to navigate the complexities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, I ask that you join me in reaffirming in word and deed our institution's commitment to ensuring that our university community is inclusive and inviting to all. I am proud of our diverse community that represents a breadth of races and ethnicities, gender identities, sexualities, faith traditions, nationalities, and other social groups and backgrounds.

As provost, I affirm my commitment to an environment that is respectful of differences and seeks to benefit from the great diversity of our campus community. As such, I remind our faculty, staff and students of the resources available through the [Bias Assessment and Resource Team](#). I invite you to view this [message from Dean of Students Christine Reed Davis](#) about ways that we can support each other during this uncertain time.

Thank you!
Provost Joan Lorden

Archived Messages to Faculty Provide Direction During Pandemic

Faculty, advisors and academic staff are encouraged to reference the archive of [messages from the Provost](#) as they continue to support and accommodate students who are completing the spring semester during challenging circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gambrell Faculty Fellows Request for Proposals

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute is looking for a new cohort of Gambrell Faculty Fellows. Now in its second year, the Gambrell Faculty Fellowship Program is a grants program for UNC Charlotte faculty funded by The Gambrell Foundation. The Fellowship Program funds short-term research projects (up to 18 months) examining issues related to economic mobility in the Charlotte region. This year, the program is particularly interested in the intersection of economic mobility and the impact of the novel coronavirus. Up to five fellowships will be awarded this year. Proposed projects can have a maximum budget of \$15,000. The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 15, 2020. The grant period will begin August 15, 2020. Information and application forms are available on the [Urban Institute website](#).

11th Season of Personally Speaking Offers Drones, Cats & Visits to the Southern Hemisphere

Combat drones, African global vs. domestic interests, as well as sprightly cats and a prize-winning history of Black peasants of Amazonia, make for an eclectic line-up for the 2020-2021 season of Personally Speaking, Dean Gutierrez has announced.

Personally Speaking provides the opportunity to hear our CLAS scholar/researchers talk about books they have written and how they came to write them. The events are presented without charge by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in partnership with J. Murrey Atkins Library and The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City.

NOTE: Due to the uncertainty of circumstances regarding COVID-19, both of the fall events will be virtual presentations. Details for accessing them will be announced via email and on our [website](#) late this summer. We expect to announce dates and other details for the final two presentations via email and our [website](#) late in the fall.

2020-2021 Lineup:

- September 29, 2020: *Drones and Support for the Use of Force* by James Igoe Walsh (University of Michigan Press 2018) -- a virtual presentation.
- October 27, 2020: *Africa's International Relations: Balancing Domestic and Global Interests* by Beth Elise Whitaker (Lynne Rienner Publishers 2018) -- a virtual presentation.
- January 2021: *Falling Felines and Fundamental Physics* by Gregory J. Gbur (Yale University Press 2019) -- details to be confirmed this fall.
- March 2021 (to be confirmed): *The People of the River: Nature and Identity in Black Amazonia, 1835-1945* by Oscar de la Torre (UNC Press 2018) -- details to be confirmed this fall.

Please watch for details so you can join us for all four presentations of Personally Speaking.

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:

- May** [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens events](#)
- May** [Diversity Events on campus](#)

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.