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Happy Holidays from Academic Affairs



I send my sincere 'thank you' to each of you as we near the close of 2020. Although this calendar year has been extremely difficult, we continue to persevere. I recognize that each of us has experienced this pandemic in a unique way, and I truly appreciate your dedication and resilience. I hope all of you are safe and healthy and have the opportunity to enjoy the things you love during this holiday season. My very best wishes to you and your families for the New Year!

Registration Open for *Designing Effective Online Courses* Workshop

The UNC System Office has opened registration for the next iteration of the [Designing Effective Online Courses](#) workshop, which will begin on Monday, January 4, 2021. Two- and four-week pacing is available for the workshop, in which you will learn how to move your class online quickly and effectively, build digital assets you can use immediately in your course, and master tools, technologies, and techniques for online teaching.

In Memoriam: Dr. Jeffrey Meyer

Dr. Jeffrey Meyer, professor emeritus in the [Department of Religious Studies](#), died at his Davidson home on December 17 at the age of 82. He retired from UNC Charlotte in 2008 after teaching in the department for 35 years, with a focus on Asian religions. He also served as chair of the Department of Religious Studies from 1992 to 1998. A celebration of Meyer's life will be held at a later time. The family has indicated that memorials may be given to the [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens](#) or Charlotte Friends Meeting. [His obituary](#) includes more details; a story about Dr. Meyer is posted on [Exchange online](#).

W+GRA Hosts *Girls, Technology, and Social Determinants of Health* Discussion

The Women + Girls Research Alliance (W+GRA) invites you to attend a January 12 Zoom panel discussion on Girls, Technology, and Social Determinants of Health. The panelists will discuss access to technology as part of the social determinants of health according to the 2020 Healthy People Report and its specific impact on women and girls. The moderator will be Sonja Gantt, Executive Director of the CMS Foundation. Panelists will be Dr. Kami J. Anderson of Bilingual Brown Babies, Dr. Frank D. Barnes of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and Dr. Cortney S. Harris of Junior Achievement of the Carolinas. [Event details and registration information](#).

RED Announces Spring 2021 Ignite Planning Grants Program

Research and Economic Development (RED) is soliciting applications for the [Spring 2021 Ignite Planning Grants](#) program. Ignite Planning Grants promote new collaborative research efforts and facilitate the development of interdisciplinary teams focused on preparing competitive, large-scale collaborative proposals for significant external funding. Ignite planning grants are intended to enhance existing areas of excellence, accelerate the development of emerging research strengths, and foster interactions between UNC Charlotte faculty and potential collaborators at other institutions. The program aims to lower and eliminate barriers to building collaborative teams and coordinating, planning, and preparing large, interdisciplinary multi-investigator research proposals by providing funds to (1) convene conferences and meetings, (2) coordinate workshops, (3) support travel costs for potential collaborators from other institutions, (4) hire grant-writing consultants and content specialists, and (5) conduct other proposal-development and team-development activities. Proposals must be submitted electronically as an email attachment to ignite-planning@uncc.edu by 5:00 pm EDT on February 15, 2021. Questions regarding this program announcement should be directed to [Lesley Brown](#), Director of the Center for Research Excellence.

2021 Undergraduate Research Conference

Save the date for the virtual 2021 UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference (URC), scheduled for Thursday, April 15, and Friday, April 16, 2021. URC 2021 registration will open on Monday, January 25, 2021, and close at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021. The conference will use the ForagerOne platform. Students will record short 2-3 minute videos for poster presentations and 10-12 minute videos for oral presentations. Students are required to submit an abstract as part of the registration. For more information, visit [OUR website](#).

J. Murrey Atkins Library News and Events

Winter Break and Semester Start Information

Atkins Library building will be closed from December 24 until January 19. Chat and other virtual services will be available beginning January 4 while the library building is closed. [Review full details of hours and services on the library's website](#).

Interlibrary Loan Outage on January 7

Atkins Library's Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system will be unavailable during a system upgrade on January 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Users will not be able to make interlibrary loan requests or access their previous interlibrary loan requests during the upgrade. The upgrade should be finished before the end of the day. Following the upgrade, the Library will begin editing and testing new web pages with more intuitive functionality. The upgraded system will include new tools to help ILL staff automate certain tasks.

Licensing and Funding for Open Access

Atkins Library is hosting a webinar on January 15 at 12:00 pm with the Center for Teaching and Learning about using and creating openly licensed resources in publishing and teaching, including finding and sharing Creative Commons-licensed materials. The webinar will cover topics such as interpreting and negotiating author agreements to make publications as open as possible and using grants to fund the costs associated with open access publishing. [Register](#).

Center for Teaching and Learning Resources and Workshops

Make Organizing Next Semester Easy with the Canvas Spring 2021 Template

The Canvas Spring 2021 Template was created to provide a quick and easy way for instructors to organize their content in Canvas according to best-practices of online course design.

Learn how to import the template into your Spring 2021 course shell(s) using the resources below:

- [How do I Import and Use the Spring 2021 Canvas Quick Start Template? \(FAQ\)](#)
- [Spring 2021 Canvas Template Demo \(Video\)](#)

Get Your Course in Shape with Effective Online Teaching Bootcamp

This is an ideal workshop for those new to online teaching, using Canvas, or developing new course materials. This two day workshop includes working breakout sessions facilitated by instructional designers so you leave with your main course elements built. Day 1 consists of reviewing and building Canvas course structures and resources. Day 2 consists of leveraging best teaching practices and humanizing your course. Two sessions are being offered to meet your schedule:

- Tuesday & Wednesday, January 5-6, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM ([Register](#))
- Monday & Tuesday, January 11-12, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM ([Register](#))

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 grading exception policy, 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) or visit the [Academic Affairs Division News webpage](#).

Upcoming Events

This Week:

- Dec-Jan** [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens events](#)
- Dec-Jan** [Diversity events](#)

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.*