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### Phi Kappa Phi Week and Celebrating Chapter's 40th Anniversary

The UNC Charlotte Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP) is entering its 40th year and is participating in Phi Kappa Phi Week February 1- 5 in honor of its ruby jubilee. Follow them on [Instagram](#) @unccharlottepkp to enter contests and win prizes. Sign up for one of two Zoom Webinar Panels on February 3 at 2 p.m. or February 4 at 10 a.m. with PKP Executive Committee members to learn more about Phi Kappa Phi, the benefits of membership, scholarships, and more. For more information, email [PhiKappaPhi@uncc.edu](mailto:PhiKappaPhi@uncc.edu).

[Click here](#) to attend the February 3 Board Panel at 2:00 p.m.

[Click here](#) to attend the February 4 Board Panel at 10:00 a.m.

### Ventureprise Launch NSF I-Corps Spring 2021 Applications Open

Join 300+ UNC Charlotte faculty and students that have already completed the Ventureprise Launch program. Apply to participate in the Spring 2021 Ventureprise Launch National Science Foundation I-Corps Virtual Cohort to receive up to \$5,000 for your research or business idea. The program provides UNC Charlotte faculty, staff and students with commercialization training and new NSF funding. Applications will close February 10. This virtual cohort with a tiered approach launches February 17. The goal of the program is to identify potential commercial uses for technology and research. The next stage is a six month \$50,000 NSF I-Corps Teams grant. Applications are currently open and are reviewed as they are submitted. More information and the application form can be found on the [NSF I-Corps webpage](#). For additional questions, contact [Devin Collins](#) or [Laura Smailes](#).

### Faculty Participants Sought for Research on Equity in Online Learning

Faculty members are invited to participate in a study exploring issues of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access within online teaching and learning. All UNC Charlotte faculty who have taught at least one 100% online course are eligible to participate. Participation includes a brief background questionnaire and, if you are selected, a one-on-one interview (approximately 60 minutes) with a member of the research team. Those who complete the interview will receive a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. [View information about the study and sign up to participate](#).

### WGRA Seed Funding RFP Opens Feb. 1; WGRA Summit Registration Now Open

The Women + Girls Research Alliance (W+GRA) plans to offer a round of Spring 2021 Seed Funding 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. Funding proposals will be accepted February 1-25 for UNC Charlotte-based projects that fall within the following criteria:

- Support an ongoing research project or a new research project

- Presentations, workshops, trainings or programs that address the health and well-being of women and girls and will inform the work of W+GRA.

[RFP and submission instructions](#)

Additionally, 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 on March 10 from 8 a.m. - 4 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.

### Save-the-Date: BRIDGES Information Session

The BRIDGES Academic Leadership Program offers UNC Charlotte women faculty and staff the opportunity to develop and strengthen their leadership skills, knowledge, and networking in order to be successful change agents in their communities. Attend the session on February 22 to learn about this unique leadership program and to hear from past BRIDGES participants. This reception will also give you an opportunity to meet and network with other university women. Additional information about the BRIDGES program can be found at [bridges.uncc.edu](http://bridges.uncc.edu).

- Monday, February 22, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, via Zoom (see details and link on [BRIDGES site](#))

### Personally Speaking Features Falling Felines and Fundamental Physics

Why do falling cats always land on their feet? The question has long intrigued humans. Discover in this Personally Speaking talk (February 23 at 7 p.m.) how the solution stumped brilliant minds and how it helped solve other seemingly impossible puzzles. Gregory Gbur is a cat parent and a physicist who specializes in the study of classical coherence theory in optical physics and a professor in the Department of Physics and Optical Science in UNC Charlotte's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. [Register here](#) by 5 p.m. Friday, February 19. Learn more about the series on the [College's website](#), and see the first two events of the season on the [College's YouTube channel](#).

### CONNECT Training and Early Alerts

CONNECT training sessions will be offered virtually for Spring 2021. Advisors and faculty can request a training using the Google form on the [Academic Advising Technology Training webpage](#). These virtual training sessions can include Early Alert training. Early Alerts are due for all 1XXX/2XXX level courses by 12 p.m. on Friday, February 19. Departments may also request to schedule their own training session to be held during a departmental meeting by contacting [Stephanie Westine](#), Advising Systems Administrator, or [LeeFredrick Bowen](#), Director for Academic Advising Systems.

### New Senior Fellow for Faculty Engagement Named

The Office of Urban Research and Community Engagement has named Professor Ryan Kilmer of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences as the first Senior Fellow for Faculty Engagement, for the spring and summer terms. Kilmer will provide guidance and leadership to the new Office's efforts to facilitate, enhance and promote engaged scholarship. Led by Associate Provost Byron White, the Office of Urban Research and Community Engagement serves as the hub of UNC Charlotte's engaged scholarship ecosystem, mobilizing, assessing and advancing efforts that connect the University's interdisciplinary, urban research resources to community assets in order to co-create a thriving, inclusive region.

### Atkins Book Club: *I am Not Dying With You Tonight*

For this semester's Atkins Book Club selection, the library will join the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (CML) for their March 2021 [Community Read](#) which focuses on creating a community dialogue around the themes of racism and social justice. The selection is a YA book titled *I am Not Dying With You Tonight* by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal. Told from two viewpoints, Atlanta high school seniors Lena and Campbell, one black, one white, must rely on each other to survive after a football rivalry escalates into a riot. Atkins Library has purchased an electronic version of *I am Not Dying With You Tonight* for unlimited users to access through its [catalog](#). While Atkins will host its own book discussion for the campus community in early April, it will highlight CML activities including a discussion with the book's authors on March 24.

### Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops

Upcoming CTL Workshop:

- Building Student Community and Engagement Using Online Tools, 2/4, 12:00-1:00 pm, [Register](#)

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Announcing a new CTL Workshop Series: The Humanizing Your Online Course series provides workshop sessions emphasizing immediately applicable strategies and techniques for engaging your students. In each session, you will walk away with strategies, tools, and tips that are effective and easy to implement right away in your courses!

- Being There for Your Students Using Canvas Tools, February 12, 3:00 - 4:00 PM ([Register](#))
- Effective Facilitation Strategies to Engage Online Learners, March 9, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ([Register](#))
- Strategies to Promote Learner Interaction in Online Courses, April 19, 1:00 - 2:00 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 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](http://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 3** [Phi Kappa Phi Board Panel](#)
- Feb 3** [Great Decisions: Struggles Over the Melting Arctic](#)
- Feb 4** [Phi Kappa Phi Board Panel](#)

### Next Week:

- Feb 9** [The Community-Owned and Managed Research \(COMR\) Model for Equity in Research](#)

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

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*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.*