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## Senior Associate Provost Jay Raja Plans Return to Faculty

Dr. Jay Raja, senior associate provost for Academic Affairs, plans to return to the faculty in a full professor role with the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science beginning in July 2022. Raja has served as senior associate provost for 13 years during a period of tremendous growth at the university. He has successfully led numerous projects to advance strategic goals around facility space allocation, budget and capital planning, accreditation and assessment, international programs, classroom support, faculty affairs, and faculty development. Among his contributions, Raja played a key role in the formation of the School of Professional Studies and the initiation of the Charlotte Research Scholars program at the campus level. [Full article](#).

## Lee Gray Takes Interim Role in Office of Academic Affairs

Dr. Lee Gray, who currently is senior associate dean in the College of Arts + Architecture (COAA), will serve as interim senior associate provost when Dr. Jay Raja returns to the faculty in July 2022. Gray will retain some duties in COAA through June 2022, while he begins his transition to the Office of Academic Affairs starting April 1. As interim senior associate provost, Gray will chair the Associate Deans Council and will provide continuity in the following areas of responsibility: academic space planning, academic budgeting, accreditation, institutional research, international programs, student success initiatives, reappointment, promotion, and tenure and tenured faculty performance review. [Full article](#).

## Welcome Cato College of Education Dean Malcolm Butler

Malcolm Butler has joined UNC Charlotte's Cato College of Education as dean. He arrives from the University of Central Florida where he was professor and director of the School of Teacher Education and coordinator of the Ph.D. program in Science Education in the College of Community Innovation and Education. Find more, including a revealing Q & A [here](#).

## American Psychiatry and Its Influence on Black "Spiritual Madness"

Judith Weisenfeld, the Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion at Princeton University, will deliver her lecture, "Spiritual Madness: American Psychiatry, Race and Black Religions," for this year's Loy. H. Witherspoon Lecture series. The event is presented by the Department of Religious Studies and will be virtual and free to the public.

- Thursday, February 3, 7:00 PM ([Register](#))

## Ventureprise Launches NSF I-Corps Spring 2022 Virtual Cohort: Applications Due This Week

Receive up to \$5,000 for your research or business idea. Join 350+ UNC Charlotte faculty and students that have already completed the Ventureprise Launch NSF I-Corps program. Apply to participate in the Spring 2022 Ventureprise Launch National Science Foundation I-Corps Virtual Cohort. The program provides UNC Charlotte faculty, staff and students with commercialization training and new NSF funding. The program is designed for participants to work at their own pace with

interview and funding goals. This virtual cohort has been designed with a tiered approach, launching with an Intro Workshop on February 8. 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, closing February 5. More information and the application form can be found on the [NSF I-Corps webpage](#). For additional questions, contact [Devin Collins](#) or [Laura Smailes](#). [Full application](#).

## Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops and Resources

### Teaching with Poll Everywhere

Encourage student engagement in online, blended, and face-to-face instruction through a variety of activity types that let you visualize student feedback in real time, like open-ended Q&As, multiple choice, and word clouds.

- Wednesday, February 2, 10:30 - 11:30 AM ([Register](#))

### Instructional Video Part 2: Creating Videos in Canvas

Learn how to use Kaltura CaptureSpace to add powerful media tools to Canvas, and combine the best features of video sharing, webcam recording, screen recording, and more. Creating and sharing multimedia learning content is easier than ever using these intuitive tools!

- Thursday, February 3, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ([Register](#))

### Getting Started with Active Teaching and Learning

Active learning requires students to be engaged in their learning rather than being passive listeners. To enhance learning, students must speak, write, think deeply, and collaborate with others about the content and concepts presented in class. This workshop provides an introduction to active teaching and active learning strategies that can be used during class. This workshop counts towards the [Essentials of Teaching and Learning Certificate](#).

- Friday, February 4, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ([Register](#))

### Using Groups to Foster Community and Engagement: Online and In Person

In this interactive workshop, we will discuss effective group work strategies and procedures for both online and face-to-face classes. This workshop will remind or introduce participants to a variety of technologies that are especially useful for group work and collaboration. Led by Tonya Wertz-Orbaugh (Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies), Cynthia Bush (Finance), and Farzana Ferdous (Biological Sciences).

- Monday, February 7, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ([Register](#))

[CTL YouTube Active Learning Playlist](#)

## Personally Speaking Event Examines the Erasure of Blackness

"There are no Blacks here. They disappeared." Black erasure continues to shape and mold anti-blackness. Argentinians offer an interesting example of anti-blackness because, in contrast with other Latin American countries that embrace a more mixed heritage, they take pride in their European roots. UNC Charlotte Department of History faculty member Erika Denise Edwards contends that Black women—concubines, wives, mothers, and daughters—are instrumental in understanding the construction of race in Argentina. She argues that these women strategically escaped the stigma of their blackness by recategorizing their racial identities as "white." Edwards delves into the intimate lives of Black women, tracing the origins of the popular mischaracterization of a "black disappearance" and demonstrating how these women shaped their own destinies. Read more about this and additional talks on the [Personally Speaking website](#).

- Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 PM [Join the Conversation](#)

## Picture a Scientist Virtual Panel Discussion

The ADVANCE Faculty Affairs and Diversity Office invites you to watch the award winning documentary "Picture a Scientist" in your own time, and then join via [Zoom](#) for a virtual Panel Discussion about the film.

- Friday, February 11, 12:00 - 1:30 PM ([Register](#))

[About the Film](#)

Women make up less than a quarter of STEM professionals in the United States, and numbers are even lower for women of color. Have you ever wondered why female scientists are still in the minority in the US? In the documentary, "Picture a Scientist," three prominent female scientists, Biologist, Nancy Hopkins, Chemist, Raychelle Burks and Geologist, Jane Willenbring chronicle their personal experiences in the sciences, describing how they faced and overcame brutal harassment (both explicit and implicit racial and gender bias), entrenched institutional discrimination and years of subtle slights. The film also spotlights how they, and a number of other bold and inspiring scientific luminaries, are using their experiences to change the culture of science and provide new perspectives on how to make science more diverse, equitable and open to all. [Download and Watch the Movie](#)

#### About the Panel

Joan Lorden, Facilitator, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Jennifer Troyer, Dean, Belk College of Business

Deborah Thomas, Professor and Chair, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences

Susan Trammell, Professor, Department of Physics and Optical Science

Valentina Cecchi, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

## Undergraduate Research Conference 2022

UNC Charlotte's Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) 2022 registration form is now open. Students can register their research projects until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4. [More details.](#)

The URC 2022 Organizing Committee seeks faculty, staff, and doctoral students to serve as judges for the URC 2022. Please complete the [URC 2022 Judges Recruitment Form](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4 to indicate your availability.

## Applications Open for Next Gambrell Faculty Fellows Cohort

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute is seeking the fourth cohort of faculty fellows to research issues related to economic mobility in the Charlotte region, with support from The Gambrell Foundation. This year, the Gambrell Faculty Fellows program will fund up to six projects with grants up to \$15,000 each. Previous cohorts of Gambrell Faculty Fellows include faculty from seven colleges and 15 different academic disciplines. Fellows are studying issues such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Black women, transit and access to jobs, the relationship between rental housing and educational opportunities, Latinx children's access to early education and the impact of the arts on economic mobility. [Information and application.](#)

## CONNECT Training and Early Alerts

CONNECT training sessions are offered virtually for Spring 2022. Advisors and faculty can request 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 12:00 p.m. Friday, February 4. 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.

## Faculty Council News

Please visit the Faculty Governance website for the latest news from the Faculty Council including:

- [Meeting Schedules](#)
- [Agendas/Minutes](#)
- [Latest News](#)

## 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](#) or visit the [Academic Affairs Division News webpage](#).

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**CHARLOTTE**  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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.