UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION
AND GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

Thursday, August 15, 2019
Cone University Center
McKnight Hall
Welcome ................................................................. Dr. Philip L. Dubois
                      Chancellor

Greetings and Remarks .................................................. Ms. Celeste Corpening
                      Chair of the Staff Council
                      Mr. Chandler Crean
                      President of the Student Body

The Faculty Council Agenda for 2019-2020 .......................... Dr. Joel Avrin
                      President of the Faculty

Recognition of 25 Years of Faculty Service ......................... Chancellor Dubois

Recognition of Newly Tenured Faculty .............................. Chancellor Dubois

Recognition of Promotions to Full Professor ....................... Dr. Joan F. Lorden
                      Provost and Vice Chancellor
                      for Academic Affairs

A Community of Care .................................................. Provost Lorden

We Are All Niners: Recovery,
Remembrance, and Resurgence ................................. Chancellor Dubois

General Faculty Meeting .............................................. Presiding
                      Dr. Joel Avrin

Question and Answer Session ........................................ Chancellor Dubois
                      Provost Lorden
                      Faculty President Avrin
                      Board of Trustees Chair Michael Wilson
FACULTY MEMBERS WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

James Bowen
Associate Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
The William States Lee College of Engineering

Victor Cifarelli
Professor
Mathematics and Statistics
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Claudia Flowers
Professor
Educational Leadership
Cato College of Education

Dawson Hancock
Professor
Educational Leadership
Cato College of Education

Mohamed-Ali Hasan
Associate Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering
The William States Lee College of Engineering

Martin Kane
Associate Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
The William States Lee College of Engineering

Jordan Poler
Associate Professor
Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Adalira Saenz-Ludlow
Professor
Mathematics and Statistics
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Thomas Weldon
Associate Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering
The William States Lee College of Engineering

Willie Abel
Nursing
College of Health and Human Services

Kirill Afonin
Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Aidan Browne
Engineering Technology and Construction Management
The William States Lee College of Engineering

Carlos Cruz Casas
Theatre
College of Arts + Architecture

Bryn Chancellor
English
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Zitian Chen
Management
Belk College of Business

Duan Chen
Mathematics and Statistics
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jane Dalton
Art and Art History
College of Arts + Architecture
Kristin Davin
Middle, Secondary and K-12 Education
Cato College of Education

Joseph Dippong
Sociology
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Olya Keen
Civil and Environmental Engineering
The William States Lee College of Engineering

Joan Lachance
Middle, Secondary and K-12 Education
Cato College of Education

Ming-Chun Lee
Architecture
College of Arts + Architecture

Marc Manack
Architecture
College of Arts + Architecture

Joseph Marino
Kinesiology
College of Health and Human Services

Phillip McReynolds
Philosophy
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Juan Meneses-Naranjo
English
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Erin Miller
Reading and Elementary Education
Cato College of Education

Matthew Phillips
Criminal Justice and Criminology
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Jaclyn Piatak
Political Science and Public Administration
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Shannon Reid
Criminal Justice and Criminology
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Monica Rodriguez-Castro
Languages and Culture Studies
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Erik Saule
Computer Science
College of Computing and Informatics

Thomas Schmidt
Art and Art History
College of Arts + Architecture

Xinghua Shi
Bioinformatics and Genomics
College of Computing and Informatics

Laura Stanley
Management
Belk College of Business

Kai-Uwe Werbeck
Languages and Culture Studies
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Shaoting Zhang
Computer Science
College of Computing and Informatics

Haitao Zhang
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science
The William States Lee College of Engineering
PROMOTIONS TO FULL PROFESSOR

Gloria Campbell-Whatley
Special Education and Child Development
Dr. Campbell-Whatley teaches courses on special education, with expertise in diversity and inclusion. Over her sixteen years at UNC Charlotte, she has been the Graduate Advisor for the Department of Special Education and Child Development and served on the International Council for Exceptional Children Board. Dr. Campbell-Whatley has designed modules, published research, and implemented trainings on infusing diversity and inclusion into curriculum for UNC Charlotte faculty, the UNC system, K-12 teachers, and other audiences across the globe. Over her career, Dr. Campbell-Whatley has published four books and numerous chapters and articles. Recently, she received the Cato College of Education Diversity Award and a UNC General Administration Fellowship.

Shazhong Deng
Mathematics and Statistics
Dr. Deng has established research programs in computational mathematics, computational physics, and computational molecular biology. He was co-Principal Investigator of two major NIH grants with more than $1.9 million funding, and he has achieved international stature as a publishing scholar in his area of specialty. At UNC Charlotte, Dr. Deng has taught seven undergraduate courses and three graduate courses in various subjects. In addition, Dr. Deng has served as the Director of the Master’s and Ph.D. graduate programs in mathematics and statistics since Spring 2013, and has led the programs to many notable accomplishments including the successful redesign of the Ph.D. program and the consistently strong performance in graduate productivity and job placement.

Xiuxia Du
Bioinformatics and Genomics
Dr. Du's research focuses on developing computational algorithms and software tools for metabolomics and proteomics research and applications. She teaches upper level bioinformatics and computer science courses, most specifically a course in Machine Learning. Dr. Du has numerous publications in journals such as Analytical Chemistry, Journal of Molecular Biology, Journal of Proteome Research, and Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal. She has received funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Paula Eckard
English
Dr. Eckard specializes in 20th century American and southern literature. Her courses include “Modern American Literature,” “Literature of the American South,” and “Contemporary Southern Women Writers.” She is the author of two books, Thomas Wolfe and Lost Children in Southern Literature (University of Tennessee Press, 2016) and Maternal Body and Voice in Toni Morrison, Bobbie Ann Mason, and Lee Smith (University of Missouri Press, 2002), and articles on southern, African American, and Appalachian literature. Her current research applies theories of narrative medicine to the literary works of writer Thomas Wolfe. Other research examines southern childhood and issues of race, class, and gender in contemporary
fiction. A past president of the Thomas Wolfe Society, she is the editor of The Thomas Wolfe Review and directs the American Studies program at UNC Charlotte.

**Ahmed El-Ghannam**

**Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science**

Dr. El-Ghannam is the Director of the Orthopedic Tissue Engineering and Biomaterials Lab. His laboratory is dedicated to the design of novel bioactive nano-composites for applications in orthopedic and maxillofacial surgeries, tissue engineering, and targeted drug delivery in soft and hard tissues, with research focused on developing multifunctional drug delivery systems to treat various diseases including osteoarthritis, osteomyelitis and breast cancer, and improving the performance of artificial joints and load bearing implants through surface modifications and coating with bioactive ceramic. Dr. El-Ghannam has publications in numerous journals and refereed conference proceedings. He is the holder of three US patents.

**Paul Fitchett**

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

Dr. Fitchett’s research interests include the intersections of education policy, teacher working conditions, and student learning outcomes with an emphasis on the social studies. He has received recognition from colleagues including the sustained service award and the excellence in research award, which he has won three times over the last twelve years. Dr. Fitchett was awarded a grant to examine how curricular revisions shape the professional dispositions of teacher candidates. His co-investigated study, examining the longitudinal effects of early career teachers’ risk for stress on their occupational mobility, was recently funded by the Spencer Foundation. Dr. Fitchett currently serves as Assistant Dean for Teaching and Innovation in the College of Education.

**Concepcion Godev**

**Languages and Culture Studies**

Dr. Godev’s research focuses on the scholarship of teaching and on exploring the intersections between the field of linguistics and translation studies. She edited Translation, Globalization and Translocation: The Classroom and Beyond and designed the course Linguistics for Translators. In collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Godev has contributed to the effort of redesigning large courses and expanding the offering of online courses. She oversaw the redesign of first-year Spanish, which pioneered large course redesign at UNC Charlotte. As Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Godev worked with the Office of Distance Education so that the Graduate Certificate in Translating could be offered fully online.

**Yufeng Han**

**Finance**

Dr. Han’s primary research focuses on the stock markets, aiming at understanding and forecasting the behavior of stock returns. He has published many articles in elite journals such as Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Financial Economics and Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis. Dr. Han is the recipient of several awards including the Excellence in Research Award and the Petri Research Award at the University of Colorado Denver, and most recently, the Best Paper Award at the World Finance Conference.
Christine Haynes
History

Dr. Haynes is a historian of modern Europe, specializing in France during the long nineteenth century (1789-1914). She has written about the history of such diverse topics as literary property rights, war indemnities, and roller coasters. Her most recent book is Our Friends the Enemies: The Occupation of France After Napoleon (Harvard University Press, 2018). While researching this book, she was a Fulbright Scholar in Strasbourg, France, in 2013-2014. On campus, she teaches a variety of courses on the history of Europe from the seventeenth century to the present, especially the French Revolution. Dr. Haynes has been particularly committed to graduate education, serving as Director of Graduate Studies in History, on Graduate Council, and on the recent Task Force on Graduate Student Funding.

Jiancheng Jiang
Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Jiang’s research is varied, with Bayesian statistics, financial econometrics, interval estimation and hypothesis testing, and quality control as just a few of his areas of focus. He has 58 publications in refereed journals, many of which are in top statistical journals. He is the associate editor of Statistica Sinica and Artificial Intelligence. He serves as the statistics program coordinator and has received multiple grants from the National Science Foundation.

Scott Kelly
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

Dr. Kelly’s research concerns the application of ideas from differential geometry and dynamical systems theory to problems in mechanics, robotics, and nonlinear control. He’s published more than sixty juried papers, delivered more than eighty conference presentations, and given more than fifty invited talks in these areas. Dr. Kelly’s work is supported by the National Science Foundation and he’s received both an NSF CAREER award and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He’s taught more than fifteen different courses and won awards for both graduate and undergraduate teaching. Dr. Kelly also served as president of the Southeastern Atlantic section of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Shanti Kulkarni
Social Work

Dr. Kulkarni’s research explores the impact of trauma, violence, and abuse upon vulnerable populations and seeks to influence practice, service delivery, and social policy in ways that best promote survivor and community healing. She engages in mixed method interdisciplinary, community-based participatory research. Dr. Kulkarni has served as principal investigator on awards totaling over $2.2 million in funding for research, evaluation, and training. As one of the national co-leads for the Social Work Grand Challenge to Stop Violence initiative, she is working to build infrastructure to bridge social work research with educators, practitioners, and policy-makers, particularly efforts to strengthen gender-based violence research knowledge and methods within the social work curriculum. Locally, Dr. Kulkarni is leading a Health Resources and Services Administration workforce training grant to improve behavioral health access through integrated primary care.
Kirk Melnikoff
English

Dr. Melnikoff teaches courses on Shakespeare, British Renaissance culture, and Book History. Over his seventeen years at UNC Charlotte, he has been Associate Chair of the English Department and Director of the department’s Honors Program which he helped launch in 2013. He is also currently President of the Marlowe Society of America and serves on the editorial boards of Shakespeare Bulletin, Marlowe Studies, and The Hare. Dr. Melnikoff has written numerous articles and chapters on the culture of Early Modern England, has edited four essay collections, and published one monograph. He is presently editing three different early modern plays and is working on a digital wills project for the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas as well as a new book on bookselling in the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods.

Elizabeth (Liz) R. Miller
English

Dr. Miller is an applied linguist whose research has focused on second language learning theories and processes as well as on language teaching concerns. More particularly, she has examined the role of power relations, language ideologies, identity construction and agency in the learning of English among adult immigrants in the U.S. as well as the interrelationship of identity, agency and emotion in language teacher practice. In addition to numerous journal articles and chapters, she has published a monograph, co-edited two volumes, and co-edited two special issues in journals published in 2017 and 2018. She recently completed a Fulbright Research Fellowship at the University of Cologne, Germany.

Jordan Poler
Chemistry

Dr. Poler’s research group pursues fundamental studies of molecular and nanoscale systems to understand structure–function relationships and processes. Their long-term interests are toward novel mechanisms for electrical energy storage in supercapacitors and sustainable water purification materials and processes. Dr. Poler’s teaching goal is to increase scientific literacy through his student-centered methodology in the classroom. He has developed a summer intensive chemistry orientation for entering freshmen STEM students. Dr. Poler has been recognized as a finalist of the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence. Funding from the NSF has accelerated his work on water purification and led to several patents and a start company.

Diana Rowan
Social Work

Dr. Rowan’s research addresses HIV prevention and linkage to care for marginalized communities, including young Black sexual minority men and transwomen, in the southeastern US, and in countries of southeastern Africa. She served as Principal Investigator on a five-year, $1.1 million study funded by the CDC’s Minority AIDS Research Initiative. Dr. Rowan is the recipient of the UNC Charlotte International Faculty of the year award in 2012 and the CHHS awards for Promoting Diversity and for Graduate Teaching in 2014. She developed and led the University’s first faculty-led study abroad to an African country - Malawi. Over eight years, she has led over 80 students to rural Malawi to learn about social development. Dr. Rowan authored two textbooks, including one on HIV Social work.
Allison Stedman  
Languages and Culture Studies  
Dr. Stedman is a literary historian specializing in French cultural history, with a goal to help students learn to read texts on multiple levels, analyzing not only their content but also their form and style. Her classes are designed to encourage students to look beyond what a text communicates overtly in the plot, focusing instead on how ideas are embedded and repeated as narrative patterns that are generally unconsciously produced by the author. Dr. Stedman has published several articles, book chapters, and book reviews, as well as having three books in print and one book in progress, entitled The Mind-Body Connection in Early-Modern France, 1580-1735: Metaphysics, Mysticism, Miracles, Medicine.

Jennifer Whitaker  
Music  
Effectiveness in music teaching and learning dominates Dr. Whitaker’s research, which most recently includes using immersive virtual reality environments for music conducting skill development. Her peer reviewed publications appear in numerous journals and her research presentations span every NC Music Educators Association Conference since 2009, National Association for Music Education Conference since 2006, International Society for Music Education Research Commission Seminar since 2012 and World Congress since 2010, and Clifford K. Madsen International Symposium for Research in Music Behavior since 2013. Her service activities include editorial board member for IJME: Research, Higher Education Chair-Elect for NCMEA, and CoAA Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives.

Shan Yan  
Biological Sciences  
Dr. Yan’s lab is focused on the molecular mechanisms of genome integrity and cancer etiology. He has published research findings in top-profile journals including Nature Structural Molecular Biology, Nucleic Acids Research, Cancer Research, and Cellular Molecular Life Sciences, often with his postdoctoral fellows and students. He has been awarded the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award twice. His lab has been continuously supported by external funding since 2012 (total cost of $2.4M). Dr. Yan serves on several national/international grant review panels including the NIH and NSF and as mentor to several junior faculty members. Since 2017, he has initiated and led the Charlotte Biology and Biotechnology (CBB) Exchange Group, co-sponsored by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

Wlodek Zadrozny  
Computer Science  
Dr. Zadrozny’s research focuses on natural language understanding and its applications. His recent work spans from applications of concept embeddings and topological data analysis to text analysis of medical guideline and intelligent information retrieval. As a scientist at IBM Research, he led and contributed to a wide range of project, including textual resources in the Watson project, the Jeopardy! playing machine. For his work, he received the 2013 AAAI Feigenbaum Prize (together with the Watson team). Dr. Zadrozny has published over seventy refereed papers and he is an author of over fifty patents. He is also a recipient of the A. von Humboldt Fellowship and M. Waclawek Prize.
Kexin Zhao  
**Business Information Systems and Operations Management**

Dr. Zhao's research interests include electronic commerce, online communities, and diffusion of IT innovations. Her research aims to improve the way IT facilitates business operations and managerial decisions at individual, institutional, and societal levels. Her publications have appeared in premium journals such as Decision Sciences and Information Systems Research, among others. Dr. Zhao motivates her students to explore the evolving discipline of information systems. She developed a new undergraduate course, Enterprise Systems, and a new graduate course, Advanced Business Analytics, in the past few years. She has advised more than ten Ph.D. students on their dissertation theses and research projects.

Arthur (Artie) Zillante  
**Economics**

Dr. Zillante uses economic experiments to understand how changes in mechanisms and institutional arrangements affect economic and social outcomes. His primary work focuses on auctions, land aggregation, and campaign finance. He currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Economics, and previously served as Interim Senior Associate Dean of the Belk College of Business. In 2014, Zillante won the Belk College Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award. Since 2012, he has acted as a session organizer for the Economic Science Association allied sessions at the Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings. He has organized almost 100 sessions in that time.
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Aimee Hawkins
Director of Communications
M.S., Syracuse University

Donia Schauble
Director, Academic Research Space
B.A., UNC Charlotte

BELK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Jeffrey Jones
Associate Director of Client Solutions
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Accounting

Brian Burnett
Assistant Professor
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Aloke Ghosh
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David Reppenhagen
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Business Information Systems &
Operations Management

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Linda Zhou
Professor
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Economics

Musab Kurnaz
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Krista Saral
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Finance

Emma Best
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M.B.A., Wake Forest University

Cynthia Bush
Lecturer
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Management

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Vicki Randle
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Ph.D., Jackson State University

Scott Tonidandel
Professor
Ph.D., Rice University

Marketing

Ming Chen
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Calgary
Xia Liu  
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Ph.D., University of Virginia

Brian Whelan  
Lecturer  
M.S., West Virginia University

**Undergraduate Programs**

Meagan Glasco  
Director of Professional Development  
M.S., Argosy University

Zachary Lord  
Assistant Director, Professional  
Development and Honors Programs  
M.Ed., University of South Carolina

Sarena Taylor  
Assistant Director of Professional  
Development  
M.Ed., UNC Greensboro

Miles Winston  
Assistant Director of Academic and  
Career Coaching  
M.P.A., UNC Pembroke

**CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Pamela Broome  
Principal, Niner University Elementary  
M.S.A., Gardner-Webb University

LaTonya Gaines-Montgomery  
Clinical Assistant Professor and Site  
Coordinator  
Ed.D., Gardner-Webb University

Patricia McRhoods  
New Teacher Support Coach  
M.Ed., UNC Charlotte

Amy Rogen  
Lecturer and Site Coordinator  
M.Ed., Vanderbilt University

**Counseling**

Taryne Mingo  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Georgia

John Nance  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., UNC Charlotte

Bryan Stare  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of North Texas

**Educational Leadership**

Starr Batts  
Mentor/Evaluator  
B.A., Barber-Scotia College

Jamie Brown  
Mentor/Evaluator  
M.Ed., Pennsylvania State University

Amy Farrington  
Mentor/Evaluator  
M.S., North Carolina Central University

Mariel Gardner  
Mentor/Evaluator  
M.Ed., Bolivian Catholic University

Walter Hart  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
D.Ed., UNC Charlotte

Samantha Hines  
Mentor/Evaluator  
M.A.T., Montreat College

Tara Kidroske  
Mentor/Evaluator  
M.Ed., UNC Greensboro

Stella Kim  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Michigan

Jamie Kudlats  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Jillian La Serna
Assistant Professor
Ed.D., UNC-Chapel Hill

Alan Mabe
Visiting Teaching Professor
Ph.D., Syracuse University

Xiaoxia Newton
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Tammy Potts
Mentor/Evaluator
M.Ed., University of Dayton

Mistie Reising-Cogbill
Mentor/Evaluator
M.A.Ed., East Carolina University

Niki Sashington
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M.A.T., Wingate University

Crystal Thomas
Mentor/Evaluator
B.A., St. Andrews University

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

William Newell
Clinical Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of South Florida

**Reading and Elementary Education**

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Sandra Rogelberg
Research Assistant Professor
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Erin Washburn
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**Special Education and Child Development**

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Samantha Gesel
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Jessica Godfrey-Hurrell
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Valerie Mazzotti
Associate Professor
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Ann Mickelson
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of California Los Angeles

Robert Pennington
Lake and Edward J. Snyder, Jr., Distinguished Professor in Special Education
Ph.D., University of Kentucky

Elizabeth Reyes
Research Associate
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Virginia Walker
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**COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE**

Brook Muller
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Jonathan Pellitteri
3D Fabrication Lab Manager
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**Architecture**

Lidia Klein
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Ph.D., University of Warsaw
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Chengde Wu  
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**Art & Art History**

Jessica Burke  
Associate Professor  
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Cynthia Frank  
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Anna Kenar  
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**Dance**

Marissa Nesbit  
Assistant Professor  
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**Music**

Audrey Babcock  
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Sequinn DuBose  
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Kelsey Klotz  
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Jeremy Marks  
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Eric Millard  
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**Theatre**

Laura Waringer  
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**COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS**

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Colleen Karnas-Haines  
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Matthew Parker  
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Dong Dai
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Liyue Fan
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**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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Ph.D., University of Miami

Robert Cramer  
Irwin Belk Distinguished Scholar in Health Research  
Ph.D., University of Alabama

Alicia Dahl  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of South Carolina

Chelsea Demarest  
Lecturer  
M.P.H., East Carolina University

Jose Diaz Vasquez  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Laura Gunn  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., Duke University

Lorenzo Hopper  
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M.P.H., East Carolina University

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Ph.D., University of South Carolina

Lauren Wallace  
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Ph.D., Arizona State University

Corrine Wilsey  
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M.Ed., Widener University

Meagan Zarwell  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Louisiana State University

**Social Work**

Dante Bryant  
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Ph.D., Cranbrook Academy of Art

Tianca Crocker  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin
Kevin Edwards  
Lecturer  
M.S.W., Florida International University

Frances Ferrante  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
M.S.W., New York University

Yuqi Guo  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Kentucky

Travis Hales  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University at Buffalo

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

**Africana Studies**

Honore Missihoun  
Lecturer  
Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill

**Anthropology**

Erin Eldridge  
Lecturer  
Ph.D., University of Tennessee

Sharon Watson  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of South Florida

**Biological Sciences**

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Ph.D., The Ohio State University

Samantha Furr-Rogers  
Lecturer  
Ph.D., UNC Charlotte

Maria Paola Lopez-Duarte  
Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Florida Institute of Technology

Shankari Somayaji  
Lecturer  
Ph.D., UNC Charlotte

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