

Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone enjoyed the glorious snow! And especially the unexpected break. There really is nothing like a snow day, or three.

Last week I attended the **Emerging Issues Forum on Teachers and The Great Economic Debate**. Speakers included **Governor Hunt, Governor McCrory, and Tennessee Governor Haslam**. It also included Pasi Sahlberg, author of *Finish Lessons*, who told the story of how Finland became one of the world's leaders in educational achievement. Helen Ladd, an economist at Duke shared her wonderful research on public schools and spoke against privatization and the current NC education policies. Daniel Pink, author of *Drive* and other books spoke about motivation. There was a panel of former teachers who explained why they left the profession which made me wonder why they didn't include a panel of teachers doing great work. Diane Ravitch stirred the crowd the most, followed by Brian Hassel of Public Impact. He's the guy who developed the concept of opportunity culture, which is the basis for Project LIFT, as you learned at our last faculty meeting. The meetings included a lot of discussion about teacher compensation and standards as well as some models from other fields about how we in education should attract and keep talent.

The conference was good, although for people who keep up with the issues and trends in education, little was new. What was stunning was the lack of presence of educational researchers and those who prepare teachers. *Us*. We were not at the table. The disdain I heard in the rhetoric for teachers, schools, and those who prepare teachers was palpable. We have been on an uphill battle for some time now, and the hill just got steeper. Our time to think and work differently is before us more than ever before. We will need to work together on how to show what we do matters. Most importantly, we must *do* work that matters.

Ok, on to a happier note. We have just hired more great minds to help us do our work better. Our offers to the Instructional Systems Technology candidates were both accepted, as was our offer to the Elementary Education candidate. It is amazing, but we got *all* our first choices on searches so far (that is five new hires). I commend all search participants. You are showing off our university, college, and programs well.

Finally, since we missed a faculty meeting on February 14th, our March 14th meeting will be packed. We have three CMS school board members, Eric Davis, Mary McCray, and Tom Tate already scheduled to hold a 30-minute panel discussion during the meeting. I hope you will attend and prepare some excellent questions for them. We will also have some serious discussions about the faculty annual report and work load. And I hope we can still have Project Mosaic Jean Claude Thill for a brief visit. Because of the packed agenda, I have decided to **EXTEND THE FACULTY MEETING BY 30 MINUTES**. We will begin at 9:00am instead of 9:30am.

Thanks everyone!

Congratulations

Shaqwana Freeman-Green, doctoral advisee for **Dr. Chris O'Brien**, is the recipient of the Council for Exceptional Children's 2014 Division for Learning Disabilities Outstanding Doctoral Research Award. The award is a significant national recognition typically won by doctoral students at the top programs in special education.

First COED faculty complete national edTPA Scorer Training:

Dr. Tarra Ellis (MDSK) has been named an edTPA scoring supervisor for Secondary English-Language Arts. After completing scorer training for Secondary and Middle Grades ELA last fall, Tarra's subsequent scoring work on edTPA portfolios identified her for this new role. In addition to Tarra, **Dr. Spencer Salas** (MDSK) has also completed edTPA scorer training for World Languages. Both Tarra and Spencer are now eligible to score edTPA portfolios for SCALE. Congratulations to both!

Note: Any faculty member who wishes to apply for edTPA scorer training may find additional information at www.scoreedtpa.pearson.com. Faculty who are accepted are compensated for both training time and for scoring portfolios.



REMINDER: The deadline for nominations for the College of Education Awards has been extended **until Wednesday, February 26**. Nominees must submit supporting materials by March 7. Directions for submitting dossiers via Moodle will be provided to nominees on February 26. Unlike previous years, nominations and dossiers will not rollover for consideration. Please visit <http://education.uncc.edu/awards> to make your nominations.



College of Education

**GLOBAL
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*Perspectives Highlighting
COED's International Activities & Programs*

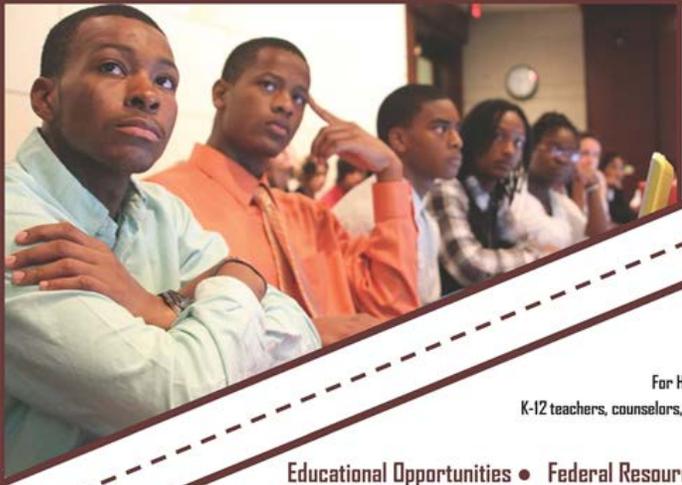
News & Highlights

An Early Childhood in Italy study abroad program (May 13, 2014 - June 8, 2014) will be led by **Dr. Pam Shue** of the COED Department of Special Education and Child Development, and **Dr. Kathryn Clark** of Meredith College. The program will examine childhood within the Italian culture and allow students to explore 1) Italian cultural values and beliefs, 2) the role of the family, and 3) selected theoretical frameworks supporting "specialized pedagogy". Students will visit early childhood programs that are examples of the Montessori and the Reggio Emilia approach. Observations will be conducted in the U.S. and in Italy, allowing comparisons between systems and practices. The program will be based in Sansepolcro, Italy, at Meredith College's Italian campus. In addition to coursework in Sansepolcro, the program will also include group excursions to Perugia, Reggio, Pistoia, Florence, and Anghiari. It will also include a travel break for independent exploration of Italy.

The mission of the College of Education at UNC Charlotte is to prepare highly effective and ethical professionals who have a positive impact on children, youth, families, community, and schools and who are successful in urban and other diverse settings. This mission is accomplished through teaching, research, and community engagement that lead to improved practice and by working in partnership with schools, communities, and university colleagues.

Upcoming Events:

The Urban Education Collaborative is co-hosting an event with the White House Initiative on HBCUs on February 26th. See details below. For additional information visit: <http://thecollaborative.uncc.edu/hbcus-2020-plotting-path-through-hbcus-african-american-males>



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FEBRUARY 26, 2014
9:00am EST
UNC-Charlotte Center City
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Downtown Charlotte, NC

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FOUNDATION

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FOUNDATIONS

The Urban Education Collaborative
UNC CHARLOTTE

"I'm reaching out to some of America's leading foundations and corporations on a new initiative to help more young men of color facing tough odds stay on track and reach their full potential," President Barack

New Publications

Passe, J., & **Good, A.** (2014). Social Studies in the Age of Accountability: The Two Are Not Mutually Exclusive. In Libresco, Alleman, Field, & Passe (Eds.), *Exemplary Elementary Social Studies. A volume in the series: Research in Curriculum and Instruction. Editor(s): O. L. Davis, University of Texas, Austin.*

The College of Education Connections is compiled and edited by Latricia Boone, Communications Director.

Send all news to lboone10@uncc.edu