



## Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday I had the pleasure of finally visiting Sugar Creek Charter School. I observed one of our graduates - a first year teacher - conduct a read aloud lesson with his fourth graders. It was outstanding! I was extremely pleased to see what he knew about good readers and what he was able to get his students to do, and I was utterly impressed by the school. In every classroom I visited, I saw all children highly engaged in learning in a warm but demanding atmosphere. I saw proof, once again, that such an environment can be created in schools serving children of poverty. Importantly, Sugar Creek is one of the Charter Schools that provides free and reduced lunch and transportation for all students. I would like to say thank you to **Jennifer Hathaway** for the tour and the work you do there. And thank you to all of you who work so hard in that school, in other schools, and in our community.

This week I met with two school board members, Eric Davis and Tom Tate. The conversation centered on how CMS and UNCC can work even more closely together to serve the community. I would like to invite them to come to one of our meetings and talk about the role of the school board. Additionally, I think it would be great for them to hear our views on priorities for teaching and learning.

Also, this week, **Dawson, Mike Putman**, and I, met with Tom Reynolds and Josh Hertel from the Graduate School to discuss enrollment planning for our graduate programs. The message from that meeting was very clear: We must get creative immediately in order to save programs and invent new ones. One exciting faculty-developed idea presented to aid in recruiting for our programs is a **COED Day**. More details will be coming soon but please go ahead and **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** now for **Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>** for this wonderful event. We know it is also AERA week, but the event must be held that day because it will include spring football. Thanks to Mike and all those who helped to develop this idea.

Finally, **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for a couple of end-of-semester celebrations: **Reading Day** is a day-long eating fest and will be **Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>**. Details will follow. I am sad that I will not be able to attend this delightful tradition. I have been attending the annual meetings of the Literacy Research Association that week since 1987 and have never missed a meeting, and will go again this year. Next year, I am planning to re-evaluate my attendance, as I really do not like being gone that week.

That said, I do want to make sure I get an opportunity to celebrate with you. I am inviting each of you to my house for a **Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>** open house, from 4-8pm. Details on this party will follow as well.

And now, news from the community:

**Ms. Alisa Wickliff**, Assistant Director for the Center for STEM Education, served as the Conference Chairperson for the 2013 National Science Teachers Association Area Conference on Science Education. The conference, which was held November 7-9 in Charlotte, brought thousands of teachers together to explore science education – from the latest in science content and teaching strategy to research to enhance and expand professional growth.

On November 7, **Dr. Bruce VanSledright** and **Dr. Paul Fitchett** took part in an invited panel discussion at Central Piedmont Community College's Charlotte History Education Day. The discussion focused on engaging approaches toward teaching history and factors influencing history teachers' instructional decision-making.

## New Publications

**Dunaway, D. M., Bird, J. J., Wang, C., & Hancock, D.** (2013). Superintendents' perceptions of the school improvement planning process in the southeastern USA. *Educational Management Administration & Leadership*, 1-14. doi: 10.1177/17411432135021  
<https://connect2.uncc.edu/.DanaInfo=ema.sagepub.com+>

**Petty, T., Wang, C. & Harbaugh, A. P.** (2013), Relationships between student, teacher, and school characteristics and mathematics achievement. *School Science and Mathematics*, 113(7): 333–344. DOI: 10.1111/ssm.12034

**Wiggin, G., & Walrond, J.** (2013). *Following the northern star: Caribbean identities and education in North American schools*. New York: Nova Publishers.

*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.*

# Featured Upcoming Events

## Educator Walk of Fame

Presented by the office of Teacher, Education, Advising, Licensure and Recruitment (TEAL-R)



Thankful for an educator (teacher, counselor, administrator) who made a world of difference in your life?

Come meet us in front of the Student Activity Center to honor an educator and thank them for the impact they've had on your life.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Make a world of difference in their world.

Teaching is more than a career, it's a chance to change the world we live in and to impact the lives of children for generations to come.

~ Visit the **Office of Educational Outreach** for a full listing of upcoming events and professional development and K-12 Initiatives. ~