



Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

I want to take a moment to wish each of you a very happy holiday. I, like most of you, feel extremely thankful for the opportunity to do the work that we do – work that is meaningful, interesting, worthwhile, flexible, collaborative, and also quite fun. As frustrating and hard as it can sometimes be, it's always good to take a moment to reflect on how rewarding it is too. So during this season, when many are taking the time to give thanks, I feel compelled to express the gratitude I feel every day for the privilege to do such meaningful and impactful work.

I hope each of you have a chance to rest during this break and build up the needed energy to finish the semester strong. Please remember to take some time to attend to the emotional needs of your students. As you already know, the end of the semester is truly a difficult time for students and they often need some extra help. Even though they may not always let us know, let's try to be mindful and make sure we are doing our best to support them.

Thanks again for your hard work and dedication!

And now, news from the community:

Student News

Congratulations to Adult Special Education majors **Kathryn Adams Dyer** and **Brian Todd Murphy** who were selected for membership in the Pinnacle Honor Society. Created in 1989 to recognize adult students, Pinnacle strives to celebrate academically successful seniors and rising seniors who have displayed leadership and community engagement. Members of Pinnacle at UNC Charlotte must meet the following criteria:

1. Qualify as an adult student (24 years of age or older)
2. Earned 85+ credit hours, 15+ hours at UNC Charlotte
3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
4. Have been involved in at least three campus and/or community activities
5. Demonstrate leadership, persistence and future promise, and
6. Maintain the highest ethical standards

A Proud COED Moment!



Amy Palmer, Dee Ellington, Marian Castle, and Jan Hinson participated in the Party in Pink Zumbathon, a fundraiser for breast cancer research. The Zumbathon was held at the Halton Arena in October.

Featured Upcoming Events



**Thursday,
Dec 5**
**Reading Day
Holiday
Lunch/Meeting**
9:30 a.m. -1:30
p.m.

~Visit the [Office of Educational Outreach](#) for a full listing of upcoming events and professional development and K-12 Initiatives.

New Publications

Allen, A., Scott, L.M., Lewis, C.W. (2013). Racial microaggressions and African American and Hispanic students in urban schools: A call for culturally affirming education. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Teaching and Learning*, 3(2), 117-129.

Fitchett, P.G. & Heafner, T.L. (2013). Making critical connections between social studies teaching and student achievement using NAEP Data Explorer. *The Teacher Educator*, 48(4), 296-310.

Jolly, J. L. & **Matthews, M. S.** (2014). Parenting. In J. A. Plucker & C. M. Callahan (Eds.), *Critical issues and practices in gifted education: What the research says* (2nd Ed., pp. 481-492). Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

Kim, Y. H. & **Lim, J. H.** (2013). Gendered socialization with a pedagogical agent: Creating a social and affable mathematics learning environment for middle-grade females. *Journal of Educational Psychology*. 105(4), 1164-1174.

Matthews, M. S. (2014). Self-concept and the gifted. In J. A. Plucker & C. M. Callahan (Eds.), *Critical issues and practices in gifted education: What the research says* (2nd Ed., pp. 567-576). Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

Passe, J. & **Fitchett, P.G.** (Eds). (2013). *The status of social studies: Views from the field*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

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.

The College of Education Connections is compiled and edited by Latricia Boone, Communications Director. Send all news to lboone10@unc.edu