Message from the Dean:
Dear Faculty and Staff,
Best wishes for a terrific end to the semester and a wonderful holiday break. I hope you get much rest and have happy times with loved ones. I look forward to a new year with you in 2016. - Ellen

Congratulations to:
Chance Lewis (MDKS) for winning the Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award. In the award notification, Dean Reynolds of The Graduate School at UNC Charlotte wrote: "This year the number and quality of nominations was particularly impressive but Dr. Lewis’ work with the educational and professional development of graduate students is truly remarkable."

Florence Martin (EDLD) for winning the Crystal Award from the Distance Learning Division of the Association for Educational Communication and Technology. The award is given to an innovative and outstanding multimedia-based distance education courses. The award was given for EIST 6150 Design and Development of Online Learning Systems.

Paul Fitchett (MDSK) who was named Associate Editor of Theory and Research in Social Studies Education.

The Instructional Systems Technology Program, consisting of Florence Martin and Patti Wilkins (EDLD) for gaining approval of the Online Learning and Teaching Certificate and M.Ed program. More information can be found here.

Vivian I. Correa (SPCD) who has been selected to serve as Co-Chair of one of the four working groups for the Read Charlotte initiative (http://www.readcharlotte.org/). She will facilitate the work of the "Ready for School" group to ensure students start school developmentally on track and ready to learn. Read Charlotte is a collaborative community wide movement to double the percentage of third grade students reading at grade level from 40% to 80% in 2025.

Erin Miller (REEL) was notified that her paper, Discourses of Whiteness and Blackness: An Ethnographic Study of Three Children Learning to be White (Miller, 2015) was chosen to be a part of the Key Research Collection in Critical Race Theory in Education, Taylor and Francis Online.

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.
Task Stream Reminder
All Task Stream evaluations must be completed by December 22, 2015. Thank you for your hard work and diligence in the data collection process for assessment and accreditation.

Faculty Searches
As you know the College of Education is actively searching for multiple faculty positions. Thank you to those of you have made time to attend research talks and meet and greet sessions!

Students Giving Back
Charlotte's IDEAL Holiday Give Back Project- On Thursday, December 3, Learning Community students had the exciting opportunity to partner with Nathaniel Alexander Elementary School. Our theme for the day was "Giving Back to My Country." We read stories about our troops being away for the holidays, made cards to send to them, had holiday snacks together, and even shared goodie bags! It was an awesome day of students sharing together! Pics are attached.

Teacher Recruitment News
Future 49ers Teach Day- Future 49ers Teach Day was a great success! 300+ students were in attendance, all who are either committed to or interested in becoming teachers. We had breakout sessions, campus tours, and a keynote address from alumni Justin Ashley. It was an exciting day to see so many future educators gathered in one place!

Upcoming Recruitment Events-
February 12- Admitted Students Day 
April 7- Spring Future 49ers Teach Day 
April 29- Admitted Students Day

In the News
An article published in the Review of Educational Research, coauthored by Roz Mickelson (Sociology Department), Rich Lambert (EDLD), and Martha Bothia, was cited in an amicus brief in support of affirmative action in higher education in the ongoing Fisher v U of Texas Supreme Court case. The case was focused in a public briefing last week in Washington, D.C.

In the Field
Drew Polly (REEL) served as an invited speaker facilitating professional development about effective mathematics teaching strategies and how to integrate mathematics into STEM curriculum for teachers in Memphis, TN. Polly also served as an invited speaker and a facilitator at Buncombe County’s Elementary Mathematics EdCamp in Asheville, NC.

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.
**NCDPI Licensure Process Goes Online**
Since August 1, 2015 new and existing professional educators have been able to apply for and update their North Carolina licenses online. This includes renewals for faculty, but assistance verifying renewal credits will still be offered by TEALR. Instructions and more information can be found at [http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/licensure/](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/licensure/).

**Mark Your Calendar**
First Day of Classes, January 11, 2016
Rubric Workshop, January 14, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in COED 110
COED Faculty meeting, January 15, 9:30, COED 010

**Publications**


Lina Soares is a former student in the **Literacy Strand of the Ph.D Program in Curriculum and Instruction**.

“True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.” — Nikos Kazantzakis

**Please send Connections content to** [drew.polly@uncc.edu](mailto:drew.polly@uncc.edu). Please include the word “connections” in the subject line. January content is due January 15, 2016.