From Dean McIntyre:
Dear Colleagues, Our College has made a major commitment to professional development around issues of diversity. I hope you will join us in the many opportunities we have over the next four months to learn more about the issues that affect our work and our lives. Let's help ourselves and one another make the world a better place for those whose lives we touch.

Congratulations:
Belva Collins (SPCD), pictured left, has been awarded the NC Council of Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division Outstanding Career Award in Teacher Preparation.

A sole-authored paper by Tina Heafner (MDSK), pictured right, has been nominated for an AERA research award. The paper titled, “Online and Face-to-Face Teacher Preparation Programs Comparisons,” received the highest peer reviews and is under consideration for the 2018 TACTL Best Paper Award. Tina was also elected as the 2018-2019 President-Elect of the National Council for the Social Studies.

Kristen Beach (SPCD) earned an Outstanding Reviewer award for her editorial work with Teaching Exceptional Children.

Kelly Clark, a doctoral student in Special Education, received the Division of International Special Education and Services Distinguished Student/Service Award from the Council for Exceptional Children.

Reem Muharib, a doctoral student in Special Education, is the recipient of the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Exemplary Student Award sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission.

Megan Lefevers, graduate of the Masters of School Administration program and current assistant principal in Gaston County, won the National Milken Award for her impact on students.

Paul Gorski, Diversity Expert Coming to Campus
Paul Gorski is coming February 13 and 14 for a number of events (pictured right). All activities will be at the Harris Alumni Center. RSVP is required at https://sites.google.com/uncc.edu/diversitycommittee

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.
Math Boot Camp
The week after graduation, Luke Reinke (REEL, pictured right) facilitated math boot camp for elementary education majors. There were 40 students who attended to prepare for one of their required licensure tests.

COED Assessment Office Updates
NEW! 2018 SLO reporting process: for all program directors responsible for SLO (SACS) reporting in your programs, the COED Office of Assessment is piloting a new process with the Compliance Assist system. This information will be shared with program directors during the following sessions (see list below). The information sharing should take approximately 30 minutes. PLEASE NOTE: part of the process involves a data review/goal-setting session with program faculty before reports are submitted. This has been part of our process for several years at this point. Please plan accordingly to make sure you can accomplish this.

- To learn about the SLO process, program directors should plan to attend at least ONE of the following:
  - MDSK program directors only: MDSK program meeting, February 6, 12:30 p.m. MDSK Conference room
  - Open to all for SLO info: Undergraduate program directors meeting, Thursday February 15, 2:30 p.m., COED 110. The SLO reporting will be covered at the beginning of the meeting; anyone who is not an undergraduate program director may leave after that.
  - Open to all for SLO info: (I’ve scheduled an hour, (hopefully) shouldn’t be more than 30 min.). All meetings will occur in COED 127 (TEAL conf room).
    - Wednesday February 7 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
    - Wednesday February 7 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
    - Tuesday February 20 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (noon)
    - Tuesday February 20 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
  - Doctoral Council meeting, February 27, 10:30, COED 110. SLO information will be shared at the end of the meeting. Anyone not affected does not have to stay.
  - Graduate Program Directors meeting, February 28, 10:30, COED 110. SLO information will be shared at the end of the meeting. Anyone not affected does not have to stay.

Course Outline update: thanks to all who worked so diligently to get the first round of course outlines updated! Next deadlines:
- February 1: all CAEP program courses
- March 1: all remaining COED courses, in all programs
- Optional Course Outlines Help Session (open to all faculty): Wednesday, January 24, 12:30-1:30 in the TEAL Conference Room (COED 127). This is the make-up session rescheduled from January 18 due to inclement weather.
Dates to Remember:
- COED Faculty Meeting, James Ford- 9:30-10:30, Victoria Namkung, 11 a.m.-noon, COED 010
- COED Faculty Meeting, All College, February 16, 9:30 – 11 a.m., COED 010
- COED Faculty Meeting, Topic TBD, March 16, 9:30 – 11 a.m., COED 010
- COED Faculty Meeting, All College, April 20, 9:30 – 11 a.m., COED 010
- edTPA TPALs, February 6, 2018, 2:15-3:15 p.m. in COED 110
- edTPA TPALs, April 25, 2018, 2:15-3:15 p.m. in COED 110

Publications

Grants Awarded
- **Kristin Davin (MDSK)** received a Faculty Research Grant to investigate the conceptualization, implementation, and impact of the Seal of Biliteracy on students in a state that is well-known for its dedication to expanding equity and access to the award—Minnesota.

- **Kristen Beach (SPCD) and Tina Heafner (MDSK)** received a Faculty Research Grant for the project titled: "Evaluation of effects and moderators of a disciplinary literacy intervention in History for adolescent readers."

- **Bettie Ray Butler and Scott Kissau (MDSK)** received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) grant for their project, Culturally Responsive Classroom Management: Preparing Teacher Candidates for K-12 Urban Classrooms, which investigates the extent a new online course (EDUC 6000) enhances teacher candidate self-efficacy to manage their classroom and improves their classroom management performance.

- **Kristin Davin and Scott Kissau (MDSK)** received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) grant for their project, Advanced Oral Proficiency: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Preparing Spanish Teachers, which investigates the extent candidate completion of an online proficiency-based course affects their confidence and proficiency to communicate in Spanish.

- **Scott Kissau (MDSK)**, in collaboration with the Office of International Programs and the English Language Training Institute (ELTI), recently received a grant entitled, Building Leadership for Change through School Immersion, from the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to The United States. The grant brings a cohort of 25 Saudi English as a foreign language teachers to campus for a year, where they will take ELTI and MDSK coursework to hone their English skills and learn second language teaching strategies.

- **Mike Putman (REEL)** received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) grant to examine the impact of a partnership between the Department of Reading and Elementary Education and Kannapolis
City Schools (KCS) that features an embedded, multi-semester internship with enhanced clinical experiences.

Colleen Whittingham and Paola Pilioneta (REEL) received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning grant for their project entitled "Raising the Bar: High Leverage Practices in Early Literacy Coursework."

Snow Pictures

Above: Photos from UNC Charlotte facebook page.
Bottom left: Brad Smith (TEAL) and his daughters Grace and Ginny.
Bottom right: Drew Polly’s (REEL) children watching the snow.

“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?’”
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please send Connections content for the March, 2018 issue to drew.polly@uncc.edu by March 14 with Connections in the subject line.

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