Congratulations
Tina Heafner (MDSK) was elected the new Vice President of the National Council of the Social Studies (NCCS), which has approximately 20,000 members. Tina's term as VP begins July 1, 2017. She is line to be President from July 2019-2020 and will host the annual conference in Austin Texas Nov. 22-24, 2019. She will also be a member of the NCSS Board of Directors from 2017-2021. More details can be found here: 

Dawson Hancock (Associate Dean) and Bob Algozzine (EDLD) published the third edition of their book titled *Doing Case Study Research: A Practical Guide for Beginning Researchers* with Teachers’ College Press.

Mike Putman (REEL) and Tracy Rock (REEL) have published a book titled *Action Research: Using Strategic Inquiry to Improve Teaching and Learning* with SAGE.

Jessi Smith (REEL, pictured left) got engaged on New Years’ Eve. They are planning a wedding in late Spring, 2017.

Angela Urbina (pictured right), December graduate of the Elementary Education program, was named UNC Charlotte Student Teacher of the Year.

College Research Colloquia
Here is a list of faculty presenting during the Spring 2017 COED Research Colloquia. Please come and discuss research with your colleagues!

**Tuesday, February 28, 1:00 to 2:30 pm, in COED 110**
“Engagement Matters: Student Perception of the Importance of Engagement Strategies in the Online Learning Environment” – Florence Martin
“Dual Language Teachers’ Conceptualizations on Biliteracy and Academic Language: Transforming Teacher Preparation” – Joan Lachance

**Wednesday, April 19, 10:30 am to noon, in COED 110**
“Understanding the Nuances of Reading Teachers' Listening Orientations During Dialogic Discourse” – Cindy Gilson
“Design Research in Grades K-2: Responses to Reading and Opinion Writing through Strategy Instruction” – Zoi Philippakos

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Nominate an Outstanding Colleague for COED Awards
Nominations are now open for the UNC Charlotte College of Education Awards of Excellence for 2017. The nomination deadline is March 17, 2017. Please visit http://oeo.uncc.edu/awards to make nominations for the following awards: Excellence in Teaching, Research, Sustained Service to Public Schools, Diversity, Beginning Teacher of the Year Award, as well as Annual Staff Awards.

Elementary Education Students Study Abroad in Germany Last Fall
For five weeks in Fall, 2016, 17 elementary education pre-service teachers have been studying abroad in Ludwigsburg, Germany. They have been participants in a teaching cooperative between UNC Charlotte’s College of Education and Ludwigsburg’s Pädagogische Hochschule. The goal of the teaching cooperative is for American and German pre-service teachers to have experiences that will help them better serve the needs of their future culturally and linguistically diverse students. During this experience, our pre-service teachers have studied and traveled with German teacher education students as well as with other international students, they have visited various schools and learned about different educational systems, and they have traveled within Germany and throughout Europe.

Making a Difference
From Jessi Smith (REEL), “During the Holiday season, there are hundreds of families in the Charlotte area that cannot afford gifts for their children. Several faculty and staff members from the REEL Department helped to make Christmas great again for 2 families from Winding Springs Elementary School. The department held a “wrapping party” on Reading Day to wrap all the gifts and the gifts were delivered to the school by Karen Cross. Thank you to all who participated.”

UNC Charlotte Teacher Education Institute Information Sessions
Come learn about the 2017 Teacher Education Institute. On either Thursday, February 9th, 10am-11am in Room 110 or Wednesday, February 15th, 1:30pm - 2:30pm in Room 062.

Teacher to Teacher Conference (T2T)
- **April 3, 2017** at Center City Building, Charlotte
- This one day professional development conference is designed for P-12 educators to share their best classroom practices with one another.
- Bobbie Cavnar, North Carolina educator and the Burrough’s Wellcome Fund 2016 North Carolina Teacher of the Year will be the Spring 2017 Keynote Speaker.
- The cost is only $25 (includes lunch, parking, and registration fee. Teacher substitutes must be arranged with school administration.). Current cooperating teachers hosting a full-time (all day, every day) UNC Charlotte student teaching candidate for the Spring 2017 semester may attend **FREE OF CHARGE**
- P-12 educators are encouraged to submit proposals to present! And doctoral students! Come share your classroom/school successes with your colleagues!

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edTPA Southeastern Regional Conference
- April 6-7, 2017, Raleigh, NC, Hosted by NC State University
- Presentations for novices/advanced users
- Presentation proposals due by February 20- https://sites.google.com/ncsu.edu/ncedtpa/call-for-proposals

NCACTE Spring Forum – UNC Charlotte to host!
- March 24, 2017 at Center City Building, Charlotte
- Topics will include DPI updates, breakout sessions on advocacy at state level, NC SBE policies, and a panel on edTPA
- Cost $40 (tentative)

UNC Charlotte NC Principal Fellows Provide Professional Development for Pre-Service Teachers
From Misty Hathcock (OFE)- Who better to provide professional development to our pre-service teachers than master teachers pursuing their MSA degree? The Omicron Pi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society at UNC Charlotte has partnered with the NC Principal Fellows at UNC Charlotte to conduct professional development for pre-service teacher education majors through a series of workshops called Teacher Toolbox Tuesdays. Principal Fellows presented two sessions during the fall semester - Classroom Management and Nailing the Interview. These workshops were well attended and received the highest evaluations of any other workshops offered this fall. In the spring, Principal Fellows are conducting three workshops – Differentiation, Supporting EC Students in the Regular Ed Classroom, and Workshop Your Resume.

Volunteers Needed for Office of Educational Outreach Events
There are several events this spring sponsored by Dr. Victor Mack and the Office of Educational Outreach. Please visit http://oeo.uncc.edu for more details about these events including a conference for a Natural History event, a Mathematics and Science festival, and the MBK Leadership Summit for Males of Color and Educators.

Publications


**Grants Awarded (From January ORDM Digest)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PI</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>AWARD TITLE</th>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
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<td>Center on Secondary Education for students w/ Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
<td>UNC Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>Translating Evidence to Support Transitions...</td>
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<td>Vocabulary CHAOS</td>
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<td>Academy of Applied Sciences</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the Implementation of the K-3 Formative Assessments</td>
<td>NC DPI</td>
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*Information retrieved from the University’s Niner Online Research Management (NORM) System.*

*A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.*

-Brad Henry

Please send Connections content to drew.polly@uncc.edu. Please include the word “connections” in the subject line. March content is due by March 16.

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