

Division of Research

Propelling Charlotte's Premier Research University

DIVISION OF RESEARCH (DR) NEWS

Welcome to the April Edition of our Division of Research (DR) Newsletter for our UNC Charlotte faculty, staff and students. We would like to draw special attention to our Featured Story and Policy Update that highlight the importance of compliance and reporting, along with other exciting content to increase and streamline communication with you!

FEATURED STORY

A Recent Story Reminds Us That How Research Projects Are Concluded & Reported Are As Important As The Questions They Unpack:

We were surprised to learn that some Faculty Researchers at the University of California San Diego will have their federal grant funding paused. This occurred after a Principal Investigator did not submit “final technical reports for two awards,” according to Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation Corinne Peek-Asa who is quoted in the article. You can find the [full article here](#). While the circumstances are indeed unfortunate, they also serve as a reminder that every step of the research journey is crucial. Ideation and collaboration breathe life into inquiry; proposal development solidifies the steps and protocols; securing external funding and award management provide vital resources, partnership and accountability; research allows for information gathering and interpretation; dissemination allows findings to be shared and foster positive change; and reporting closes the loop by ensuring funders and UNC Charlotte have the documents needed to show the objectives were met. And as this graphic to the right shows, every step along the journey is underpinned by data considerations, compliance, and integrity. The biggest take-away: we appreciate all of our researchers, partners, funders, and our DR staff who help bring to life and manage needed research that creates positive societal change. Let's continue to work together as Charlotte's Premier Research University!



CHARLOTTE'S MILLION DOLLAR CIRCLE



We are so excited to highlight some of the amazing researchers here at UNC Charlotte with the establishment of Charlotte's Million Dollar Research Circle. In addition to finding ways to recognize the broad array of research contributions across our dynamic campus, we want to honor faculty researchers with a million dollars or more in an active external funding portfolio!! Division of Research Vice Chancellor John Daniels and Associate Vice Chancellor Deb Thomas joined Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber in honoring 65 faculty researchers for the inaugural Million Dollar Research Circle. Here's the [full UCOMM article](#).



POLICY UPDATES

Coming Soon - Increased Research Security Requirements: With the issuing of the National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM-33) in 2021 and the signing of the CHIPS and Science Act in 2022, the federal government has outlined a new framework of requirements related to research security and conflicts of interest.

These requirements are currently being implemented by federal funding agencies and will impact faculty, staff, and students applying for federal funding. While the exact ways that each federal agency will implement the requirements may vary a little, the common features will include:

- Updated and standardized agency disclosure forms to assess potential conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment
- Additional required certifications by project personnel on disclosure forms and in annual reports
- Requirement for formal risk mitigation plans, including management plans, at the federal agency's request
- Increased reporting on and scrutiny of foreign financial transactions and gifts to both individuals and the institution
- Use of digital persistent identifiers to bolster research security and integrity while reducing administrative burden
- Prohibition of participation in malign foreign government talent recruitment programs
- Research security training requirement for all covered personnel
- Creation of overarching research security programs at certain higher education institutions, including UNC Charlotte

Over the next several months, we will provide additional details on the rollout of these new requirements from relevant federal agencies.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

ArtXSci Request For Proposals: DR and the College of Arts + Architecture are excited to share that the Spring 2024 ArtXSci call for proposals is officially open. The ArtXSci program is designed to foster collaborations between faculty in the College of Arts + Architecture (CoAA) and scholars in STEM fields. Interdisciplinary teams can apply for one-time grants of up to \$30,000 for up to 22 months. Proposals are due May 31st. [Detailed Information Here.](#)

RESEARCH COMMERCIALIZATION & DEVELOPMENT



New Location: If you're looking for the Office of Research Commercialization & Development, it has moved back to the PORTAL building. You can find ORCD in its former Suite #228.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Attention Staff Who Help Faculty Manage Awards: The Office of Research Services (ORS) is hosting one more session in its Spring Workshop Series to help staff navigate award management duties. You still have time to catch the [Proposal Development Overview](#) training on April 24th. [Sign Up Here](#) by April 23rd.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENT



6th Annual Talking Policy in the Queen City
Panelists to Discuss Homelessness and Housing
Policy in the Carolinas
Host: UNC Charlotte's Public Policy Ph.D. Program
Event Includes a Student Poster Session

[Registration Link](#)



ANNOUNCING NEW FUNDING AWARDS FOR MARCH

Award PI	Department	College	Other Personnel
Jaewon Oh	Engineering Tech & Constr Mgmt	COEN	
John L Daniels	Civil and Environmental Engr	COEN	
Glenn David Boreman	Physics and Optical Science	COS	Daniel P Furr, Scott M Williams
Luke T Reinke	Reading & Elementary ED	COED	Michelle L Stephan
Li Yang	Computer Science	CCI	
Qiang Zhu	Mech Engineering & Engineering Sci	COEN	
Zhuo J Chen	School of Nursing	CHHS	Jeanette Marie Bennett
Rodward Hewlin	Engineering Tech & Constr Mgmt	COEN	

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

THE BUZZ AROUND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

In case you missed it, the Office of Undergraduate Research hosted its largest conference since 2017 at the Student Union. This hybrid in-person and virtual event showcased research by undergrads from 10 different majors including Engineering, Data Science, Arts & Architecture, and Education. With over 150 attendees on the



conference floor at any given time for the poster presentations, the researchers rarely had time to break from sharing their work. “That was the most encouraging part to me, because I’ve been in student sessions at other conferences where students are presenting to their neighbors because there’s nobody around. So to have that kind of buzz of activity at the Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) was awesome,” shared Dr. Lance Barton, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research.

When all was said and done, some 400 students showed up for the in-person portion on April 12th, while the online portion got over 900 presentation views. The URC also attracted UNC Charlotte faculty and some pretty cool off-campus visitors. “We had quite a few families who showed up, which I was very excited to see,” shared Dr. Barton. Those families, as he put it, don’t typically see their college students sharing their passion for research. “I talked to one grandmother and she was just so ecstatic to see her granddaughter present. She shared, ‘I don’t

understand most of what she says, but she is super excited. She’s super enthusiastic. There are lots of people coming by and she’s talking to all of them. I’m so proud,’” recalled Dr. Barton.

While the poster presentations had the most foot traffic, we caught up with some scholars sharing their research in surrounding rooms... students like Krishna Majithia, a senior in the Biology Honors Program who explained her research on bacterial meningitis. “I enjoyed being able to compile the work I have completed over the past few years in the research lab, and share these findings with students and faculty throughout the department,” said Majithia.



Krishna Majithia, URC Presenter

Dr. Barton hopes the support for the 2024 URC continues to speak life into Krishna’s work, and the work of all the researchers. “That’s the message I want to get across is that what you’re doing is valued and it is important.”

Here are a few fast facts about the 2024 URC:

- * 231 presentations
- * 305 presenters/student authors
- * 170 posters
- * 48 oral presentations
- * 10 creative arts displays
- * 2 panel sessions

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS CONTD.



CELEBRATING COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RESEARCHERS

In case you couldn't tell, it's conference, symposium, and expo season here at UNC Charlotte! This article celebrates the 5th Annual Cato College of Education Research Symposium – an event featuring 72 poster presentations. Dr. Scott P. Kissau, Professor and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education, enjoyed seeing research projects at different stages of development and students at varying points on their research journey. “I was happy with the level of participation from the students, and the faculty who came to support the students,” shared Dr. Kissau.

Student presenters had 20 minutes to share their work in one of three rounds. These were the most presentations they've seen yet at their annual event, thanks to the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students.

Unlike other research symposiums and conferences, the April 8th event at the Cone Center was not a peer-reviewed conference, but rather an event Dr. Kissau hopes will inspire more opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research.

“Many of the students who presented at the Symposium who were undergrads were honor students,” shared Dr. Kissau. “It's harder for us to incorporate research into our undergraduate programs. In that honors program, students have the opportunity to work with faculty members on research projects. We'd like to find more ways to infuse research.”

COMING UP in next month's DR Newsletter... a recap of the Graduate Research Symposium!



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

The Charlotte Business Journal featured UNC Charlotte's progress to R1 status, which we're on target to reach when the rankings come out next year. That designation means UNC Charlotte is awarding at least 70 doctorates and spending at least \$50 million on research yearly. The likely result, according to the article's author Jennifer Thomas, is UNC Charlotte attracting more federal and state research funding, new faculty and students, and we'll be positioned to attract more businesses to the area. Chancellor Sharon L. Gaber and Division of Research Vice Chancellor John Daniels are quoted in the [April 13th Article](#).

In an “NC Military Report” article, Dan Barkin sat down with DR Vice Chancellor John Daniels and discussed UNC Charlotte's history of supporting the military and our ongoing contributions to defense innovation. VC Daniels also highlighted work being done at the Center for Optoelectronics and Optical Communications, and the Center for Precision Metrology. Barkin caught up with the Vice Chancellor while on campus for a conference on AI research in N.C. You can find the [full article here](#).