Greetings
Shanda L. Wirt, Director

The Contracts and Grants Office in the William States Lee College of Engineering is excited to introduce you to our inaugural newsletter. With each new semester, we will spotlight Research Faculty members within the College of Engineering and share their recent research and scholarly activities. Additionally, we will provide research administration updates, scheduled events and training opportunities, and general goings-on within the world of research administration.

Under the outstanding leadership and support of Dean Johnson and Senior Associate Dean Smelser, the Contracts and Grants Office aims to deliver exceptional customer service that balances flexibility with compliance, while building bridges of partnerships between our internal and external customers. We recognize that the Faculty at UNC Charlotte are exceedingly busy with teaching, research, publications, and numerous community engagement
initiatives. As evidenced by the recent milestone in sponsored awards exceeding $50M in FY 17, research activities are clearly occupying a larger portion of the Faculty’s time than in previous years. The Contracts and Grants Office is here to help and strives to curtail the administrative burden where we can.

We are grateful for our work with you and wish you a healthy and prosperous 2019.

**Congratulations to the Following Individuals on Becoming Certified Research Administrators (CRA)!**

Lori Brown, *Contracts & Grants Manager*, EPIC  
Stacy Leotta, *Associate Director, Contracts & Grants Office*  
Wendy Meier, *Senior Research Administrator, Contracts & Grants Office*

The CRA designation means that they have met the requirements of the Research Administrators Certification Council’s (RACC) eligibility requirements and have demonstrated a level of knowledge necessary for a person to be a professional research or sponsored programs administrator.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT CRA EXAM**

Dr. Tony Schmitz, *Professor*, Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science/Assistant Director, EPIC

Winner of 2018 Bank of America Teaching Award

**LEARN MORE ABOUT DR. TONY SCHMITZ**

**Congratulations to Mechanical Engineering Students!**

Under the direction of Dr. Joshua Tarbutton, a team of Mechanical Engineering graduate students from The William States Lee College of Engineering precision engineering program won the Student Challenge competition at the American Society of Precision Engineering’s 33rd annual conference, held Nov. 4-9 in Las Vegas. The UNC Charlotte team members include Alexander Blum, Jacob Cole, Kumar Arumugam and John Borek.

**PI Portal is Now Available**

Research and Economic Development announced the new **PI Portal** for Sponsored Awards Fiscal Management, a more user
Research Administration Update

As of January 2019, the College of Engineering has received 61 awards totaling $8.7M YTD. This is a 26% increase in award dollars received from last year at this time.

Additionally, the College of Engineering has processed and submitted 140 proposals YTD. This is a 16% increase in number of proposals submitted from last year at this time.

Note that, for the last two years, the College of Engineering has led UNC Charlotte in research award dollars totaling $15M for FY 17 and $13.2M for FY 18.

GCA has added a new section of Post-Award "Grants and Contracts Administration Documents". It includes AOR, Internal and External Budget Revision, No Cost Extension, etc.

PI F&A Return

Last year Chancellor Dubois announced that starting in fall 2018, a portion of the Facilities and Administration Receipts (F&A) collected on extramural research funding during the previous fiscal year will be shared with faculty and staff members. A brand new process has been introduced by the Research and Economic Development Office in which individual faculty members will now receive up to 10% of the F&A receipts associated with their sponsored research grants and contracts.
Faculty Research Spotlights

USDOT Grant: Center for Advanced Multimodal Mobility Solutions and Education (CAMMSE) is a five-year $7.7M multi-campus Tier 1 University Transportation Center (UTC) funded by U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Lead PI is Dr. Wei Fan, Civil & Environmental Engineering. CAMMSE addresses the FAST Act research priority area of “Improving Mobility of People and Goods”. The vision of CAMMSE is a collaborative research, education and outreach partnership that will harness advanced (computing, smartphones and communication) technologies and ubiquitous data for creating sustainable, efficient and growth-enabling multimodal transportation systems (including highway, air, rail, freight, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian) using cutting edge analytical methods and models. Dr. Martin Kane, Dr. Dave Weggel, Dr. Miguel Pando, and Dr. Yu Wang are Co-PIs for this project.

NSF STEM Grant: Engineering Academic Pathways. The NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program supports the retention and graduation of high-achieving, low-income students with demonstrated financial need at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. This is a five-year $999,591 grant. Lead PI is Dr. Brett Tempest, Civil & Environmental Engineering. Throughout its five years, this project will fund sixty scholarships in four groups of fifteen students who are pursuing bachelor’s degrees in engineering fields. This program will focus on increasing applications from three Title I schools in Charlotte, NC by delivering programs that prepare students for college entry exams, and provide professional development to guidance counselors so that they can best advise and encourage students who may be interested in engineering majors. Dr. Stephanie Galloway, Dr. Sejal Foxx, Dr. Chance Lewis are Co-PIs for this project.

DOD DN Office of Naval Research (ONR) Grant: Military Veterans in Engineering PhD Program. This is a new three year $750,000 grant to help attract and support military veterans in earning graduate degrees in STEM disciplines, with particular emphasis on advanced degrees in mechanical engineering. Lead PI is Dr. Peter Tkacik, Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science. Dr. Jae Hoon Lim, Dr. Russell Keanini, and Dr. Navid Goudarzi are the Co-PIs for this project.

Welcome New Faculty to the College of Engineering

Jerry L. Dahlberg
Associate Professor of Practice/Senior
Design Committee Chair
Office of Student Development and Success

**Ashley D. Spry**
*Lecturer*
Engineering Technology and Construction Management
M.S., North Carolina State University

**Richard G. Price**
*Lecturer*
Engineering Technology and Construction Management
M.E.M., Duquesne University

**Kathryn L. Smith**
*Assistant Professor*
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**Chen Chen**
*Assistant Professor*
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Ph.D., The University of Texas at Dallas

**Jun Xu**
*Assistant Professor*
Mechanical Engineering
Ph.D., Columbia University in the City of New York

**Justin Biller**
*Lecturer*
Engineering Technology
M.S. in Fire Protection Engineering
California Polytechnic State University
Upcoming Events and Training

Research Administration Conferences

NCURA: Financial Research Administration (FRA), Las Vegas, NV
3/11-12/2019. Workshop day: 3/13/19

SRAI: Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
10/19-23/2019

GCA Training Series

GCA has developed a Grants Management Training Series. Emails will be distributed to the appropriate individuals regarding time and location of each session.

Tuesday, January 22nd
Tuesday, February 5th
Tuesday, February 19th
Tuesday, March 5th

Have News To Share?

Please send any news, awards, photos, etc. along to Joanne Zhang to be included in Contracts and Grants Office newsletter.

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