

# RFA News

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[uncrfa.web.unc.edu](http://uncrfa.web.unc.edu)

Newsletter of the Retired Faculty Association of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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## Join the RFA in honoring Leuchtenburg

Kenan Professor Emeritus William E. Leuchtenburg will receive the first Jonathan B. Howes lifetime achievement award, and UNC system Tom Ross will present it to him at the next meeting of the UNC-Chapel Hill Retired Faculty Association, on Friday, Nov. 20, in the Dogwood Room of the Friday Center.



Tom Ross

The awards program is the first of its kind for retired UNC-Chapel Hill faculty members intended to recognize and encourage public service by outstanding scholars and teachers.

History professor Leuchtenburg is perhaps best known for his research and writings on the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the influence of Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Leuchtenburg taught at Columbia University before coming to UNC-Chapel Hill in 1982.

But why was he chosen for the Howes award? Come to the meeting to hear Ross and learn more.

### RFA Quarterly Meeting

Friday, Nov. 20

(Registration, 11:30 a.m., lunch, noon; followed by program)

The Friday Center

Registration and membership forms are on [Page 4](#)

## Scholars program launched

RFA launched its partnership with our International Scholars Program on Sept. 17 at the Friday Center with special presentations by Dr. Niklaus Steiner, Director of the UNC-CH Center for Global Initiatives and Dr. Elizabeth Barnum, Director of the Center's International Scholars Program.



Steiner

More than 35 retired faculty participated in the presentations and discussions, including talks by visiting international scholars Dr. Dilshad Jaff (Iraq) and Dr. Christina Nadalutti (Italy).



Barnum

### IN THE NEWS

**NEW DEAN:** Dr. Kevin Guskiewicz, a neuroscientist and internationally recognized expert on sport-related concussions and a Senior Associate Dean in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's College of Arts and Sciences, will become the College's 22nd Dean. [Link to story.](#)



Guskiewicz



Spellings

**MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT:** Former Education Secretary Margaret Spellings will succeed Tom Ross. Will start March 1. [Link to story.](#)



Fennebresque

**FENNEBRESQUE RESIGNS.** Within days of his announcement of Spellings' appointment, the UNC Board chair announced his resignation and called for new leadership. [Link to story.](#)

**FACULTY REACT:** The UNC Faculty Assembly, chaired currently by Steve Leonard of UNC-Chapel Hill, has prepared an organized and cogent statement on the process that selected produced former Education Secretary Margaret Spellings.

[Read the statement and press release on Page 3.](#)

## From the President

# Spellings, Faculty and Transparency

We have a successor to President Tom Ross. She comes to the Office of the President of the University of North Carolina system with long experience in education policy and the politics of public education. Her savvy may be good for faculty, students and the constituents supporting the University, the alumni and alumnae, retired faculty and staff, and communities and organizations that profit from the University's operations throughout the state. We shall see.



**Don Stedman**

### Unfortunate process

The process by which she was identified was probably thorough, but when it got to the Board of Governors, it seemed unnecessarily secretive and disorganized. As a result it weakens a smooth start for the President-elect. And, at least in part, it may have led to the board chair's resignation less than four days later.

Both current and retired faculty are, to say the least, disappointed at the apparent lack of interest and trust in faculty for advice and involvement in the search process as well as the lack of opportunity to help review options. Transparency was missing through-

out the process. Everybody loses when that happens.

Faculty members do not question the right and responsibility of the Board of Governors and Trustees of institutions to search for and to find leaders at any level. But, because of the faculty members' experience in leading and being led, and because they "have skin in the game," it should be no surprise that they seem upset by not having been included.

### Faculty and the system

Faculty understand, more than most might think, how the system works. They understand that the decision was not about who gets to live in the big house on East Franklin Street in Chapel Hill. They understand that the new President, over her expected term of service, will likely be called upon to recommend a dozen or more new Chancellors at the constituent institution level of the UNC System. She will recommend (or not) new academic programs, new centers and institutes, new classrooms, tenure for faculty, salaries for faculty and administrators, or the discontinuation of any of these things.

It is the genius of the initial organization and governance of the UNC system in 1972 that makes it the most tightly coupled system in the nation. It has served us well in pursuit of excellence and in negotiations with the

state's legislature and federal agencies.

That is why leadership is crucial – administrations, boards and trustees – and that is why the heart of the organization, the faculty, are so interested in their prospective leaders. They can handle any decision, but they don't like being ignored. Not because they weren't invited to the party, but because they know that they can help and that new leaders, once employed, are in a stronger position when they don't come in as strangers.

All faculty, active and retired, need and want to help in any way possible to assist the incoming President by engaging and supporting her. But there is work to be done to repair the process that has led to this unnecessarily uncomfortable and disruptive situation.

### Friday Center upcoming events

**Nov. 11** — Christo Brand, prison guard to Nelson Mandela, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Open and free to the public.

**March 8, 2016** — The 4th Annual Retired Faculty Reception, honoring all retired faculty, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**April 16, 2016** — Celebrate the Friday Center's 25th Anniversary with storytellers and the Red Clay Ramblers. More information to come.

## RFA OFFICERS

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### Faculty Council Delegates

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### Liaison to AROHE

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## *Statement of the UNC Faculty Assembly on the UNC President Search Process*

The Leadership and Policy Statement of the University of North Carolina notes that the institution “operates under an arrangement of shared governance” that “honors the important traditional role of the faculty in the governance of the academy.” (<http://www.northcarolina.edu/content/leadership-and-policy> )

Regrettably, for the better part of a half decade, the UNC Board of Governors has repeatedly failed to follow its own stated principles of good governance.

The UNC Faculty Assembly has faithfully advised the Board on best practices regarding admissions, tuition, financial aid, leadership appointment processes, curricular design, research and freedom of inquiry, and processes of peer review, yet the Board has repeatedly refused to acknowledge – let alone discuss – points of counsel they have been offered. Instead, they have frequently promulgated ill-advised policies and practices that have proven detrimental to the best interests of public higher education in this state.

The recent mismanagement of the Executive office of the University, from the firing of Thomas Ross, to the hiring of the new President, is but the most egregious in a long train of problematic governance actions.

The failure of the Board to seek the advice and counsel of the staff and faculty is both shortsighted and troubling. No student attends our campuses, no funding agency or organization provides grants of research support, and no business, governmental entity, or civic organization has come to our institutions seeking public service expertise, because of the teaching, research and service achievements of the Board of Governors or the President of the University. Yet the Board continues to act without the advice and counsel of the constituencies whose expertise they need to

effectively govern the institution.

Over the years, the most effective and respected leaders of the University system and its respective campuses have argued that their success is contingent on the support of staff and faculty. We now appear to have entered an era when it is not support, but an ill-informed indifference, that defines how governing authorities in the University think of their relationship to those who carry out the core mission of public higher education. No institution of higher learning has ever achieved excellence and distinction without an active, engaged, and committed community of staff and faculty. It is then incumbent on the Board of Governors to now begin – as it always should have been – cultivating effective shared governance if the University is to continue on the path of excellence and achievement.

The faculty will not prejudice the commitment of new President to the well-being of the University. But she must understand that the secretive character of this search, and her own indifference to consulting with staff and faculty when she was an active candidate for the position, will make it difficult to win the confidence and trust of the University community.

As this leadership transition unfolds, foremost among those confidence building principles must be a steadfast and unyielding dedication to seeking the best advice and counsel possible, and a readiness to stand against the debasement of institutional governance that has brought the future of the University into doubt.

*22 October 2015*

*For the UNC system Faculty Assembly  
Stephen T. Leonard, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chair  
Gabriel Lugo, UNC-Wilmington, Chair-Elect*



### **Fall comes to campus**

**It's a beautiful time of year on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, and students can enjoy the fall color as they walk past the Wilson Undergraduate Library.**

UNC News Photo  
by Melanie Busbee

### RFA Membership Application 2015

Please sign me up as a member of the Retired Faculty Association of UNC-Chapel Hill or other institution:

- Regular Membership (\$25 annually)
- Lifetime Membership (\$150)
- Associate Membership (\$20 annually)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Position at UNC before retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**

The Retired Faculty Association of UNC-Chapel Hill  
 The William C. and Ida Friday Center  
 Campus Box 1020  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-1020

**UNC Retired Faculty Association Quarterly Meeting**  
**Registration at 11:30 a.m.; luncheon at noon; program follows.**  
**Friday, Nov. 20, 2015**



Print out this form, fill it out and mail with your check to:  
 Treasurer, UNC Retired Faculty Association  
 2119 Markham Drive  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2122

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of luncheon reservations @ \$16.00 (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Luncheon reservations must be received by Nov. 17.**

*If you think your check might not be delivered by then, please notify us at [uncrfa@gmail.com](mailto:uncrfa@gmail.com) or 919-942-2192.*

**A note on parking:** Permits are now required at the Friday Center. Electronic permits will be sent out to those who sign up for the meeting, and cars with handicapped permits don't need a Friday Center permit. Other visitors should park at the curb and get a pass from the front desk before parking in the lot.