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LETTER FROM

THE CHAIR

Accolades to faculty, staff, and students! Over the past year you have met the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by making adjustments, rising to unexpected needs with resilience, and drawing on ingenuity. You are the beacons that guided us through the restrictions and uncertainties of a difficult time. Together we forged ahead into unfamiliar territory and in doing so discovered a few possibilities we will choose to continue as we move into the future.

Still in my first year at UNC Charlotte, I would like to thank everyone for extending a warm welcome for me into the department. In addition to serving as chair, I look forward to teaching and mentoring as well as to reinforcing an environment conducive to collegiality and research.

The UNC Charlotte Mathematics and Statistics Department has notable points of distinction. Among these distinctions are: our faculty bring in more than $1 million dollars per year in external funding, and our faculty’s productive research record culminates in more than 70 refereed journal articles annually. In addition, our actuarial program is strong and our Master of Mathematical Finance in collaboration with the Belk College of Business is ranked 12th in the nation by The Financial Engineer. We are proceeding well toward implementing our ambitious department initiatives. These include providing stronger support for undergraduate student success, adding opportunities for international study experiences, and increasing graduate student recruitment, faculty recruitment, and faculty recognitions and rewards. We are currently working on developing our department strategic plan for 2021-2026.

As we recruit new students and faculty, we are committed to further diversity, equity, and inclusion. We can be proud of UNC Charlotte’s No. 1 ranking among universities in this state and No. 4 ranking in the nation in African Americans graduating with bachelor’s degrees in mathematics. We look forward to enriching our diversity with the support of our faculty, students, and staff. As a priority aspiration, our department is integral and working to achieve the status of a top-tier research university. Already a research-intensive department, our near-term efforts to attain this goal focus on increasing faculty and staff, stepping up the pace of undergraduate recruitment, increasing the size of the graduate program with the university and externally funded graduate assistants, and adding a postdoctoral program.

Following our year of COVID-altered operations we will be integrating lessons learned and evaluating new strategies toward continually raising the standards of teaching excellence and achieving our goals. I invite everyone to engage in these endeavors by offering ideas and making suggestions directly to me or a faculty or staff member. Together we will shape a new normal that meets the needs of new times.

Taufiquar Khan
The Mathematics & Statistics Department had a challenging year, but did just fine. As always, I would like to thank our faculty (full-time, part-time, and graduate assistants) as well as our great team of staff for all their work and contributions. As we had to transform our course instructions to an online format, everyone pitched in and came up with excellent ideas on how to best educate our students. We were even able to administer a successful common final exam, again due to the hard work and good ideas of our faculty (both full-time and part-time). The team efforts that our wonderful faculty provide on such occasions is what make this department an exciting place to work.

We also had quite a challenge this summer staffing our mathematics and statistics courses. This was due to a very unusual set of circumstances, some COVID related, that came about and resulted in a serious shortage of faculty. But fortunately, we were able to hire a few excellent part-time instructors to help us out.

I will strive to continue our tradition of good work, and I am indeed very fortunate to have an excellent staff and many wonderful faculty members.

With the return to face-to-face classes, many students are finding their mathematical skills a bit rusty. The Mathematics Learning Center (MLC) on the third floor of the Fretwell building is a popular place for students to go to find knowledgeable graduate students who can partner with them as they work through their fall math and statistics classes. Available to all students of math or statistics regardless of academic standing, the MLC is open Monday through Thursday from 11 am to 7 pm, and on Fridays from 11 am to 3 pm. No appointment is necessary. The MLC also provides an online tutoring option via Zoom. With 29 graduate tutors, the MLC had already helped over 100 students by the second week of operation, with more students coming by daily. To find out more, visit math.charlotte.edu, and click the banner at the top to visit the MLC tutoring page.
MESSAGES FROM DEPARTMENT ADMIN

KIM HARRIS
UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATOR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

It is so good to be back on campus for classes. I am delighted to see so many masked faces that I recognize! In spite of the anxiety and stress that the new semester brings with it, I am hopeful that students are just as happy to be here as I am, and that they have big smiles behind those masks!

Who would have believed that when we left campus in March of 2020 we would not return until August of 2021? The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has seen many changes during that period. We have a new chair, new faculty members, new staff, and many new students. Faculty and students have experienced online teaching, learning, and testing. Many students have graduated while many more new freshmen and transfer students have joined us.

With about 300 majors in mathematics and mathematics for business and almost 600 minors in math, actuarial math, and statistics, our undergraduate program continues to flourish. Results from annual student assessments, changes in professional career requirements, and changes in mathematics keep us on our toes as we continually revise, improve, and expand our curriculum.

Under the leadership of Dr. Adriana Ocejo Monge, the Mathematics Honors Program is thriving and growing. Dr. Monge is a member of the University Honors Council, and she revised the admissions criteria of the department’s program to make it much more inclusive. Dr. Kevin McGoff received a grant from the National Science Foundation to engage students in undergraduate research in mathematics. Several students from our department as well as other universities were selected to participate in the summer project. Dr. Anthony Fernandes received a grant from the National Science Foundation to encourage undergraduates to go into careers in pre-college mathematics teaching. The project has been extremely successful and has helped us grow the secondary mathematics education program. Grayson Dill received his second Bachelor of Arts degree from UNC Charlotte in 2011 in Political Science and Mathematics. At the same time, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. Grayson is a wonderful example of an alumnus who “gives back” and “pays it forward.” Grayson is a Senior Vice-President at Bank of America. He is currently serving a two-year term as our Mathematician in Residence. Grayson teaches a seminar for undergraduate and graduate students that deals with mathematical applications in the banking industry.

I am particularly excited about a Study Abroad program that we are planning for the first Summer term of 2022. I will travel with ten students to France where we will stay for 24 days in Clermont-Ferrand, the birthplace of Blaise Pascal. Students will study the contributions of Pascal, Descartes, and Fermat to the development of mathematics. They will also take a course in French culture and society from a professor at Clermont Auvergne University. We will spend our last four days in Paris seeing the sights and visiting museums. Oh là là!

All of the faculty members in our department are committed to providing a strong undergraduate education to all UNC Charlotte students. We look forwarding to continuing our teaching mission and creating new goals for ourselves and our students!
Greetings, prospective graduate students and alumni!

As the graduate coordinator, it’s my honor to share with you some information and news of the mathematics and statistics graduate programs at UNC Charlotte in the department’s first ever newsletter. We offer a Ph.D. degree in applied mathematics and a master’s degree in several specializations including general mathematics, applied mathematics, mathematics education, applied statistics, and actuarial statistics. We aim to provide students with world-class training in classical and modern mathematics and statistics. Graduate study in our graduate program may combine advanced coursework with an intensive research experience, in particular, doctoral students work closely with faculty with active research programs in diverse fields including topology, dynamical systems, mathematical physics, probability, statistics and biostatistics, just to name a few.

Established in 1993 as one of the first three doctoral programs at UNC Charlotte, our mathematics graduate program is presently ranked 108th in the nation while the statistics is ranked 97th, based on the most recent ranking by U.S. News & World Report. Our graduate program’s enrollment has been quite steady. We currently have approximately 50 Ph.D. and 20 master’s students in our program, about 40% of them are female. While the overwhelming majority of the master’s students are domestic, about 54% of the current doctoral students are international. In the coming years, we will strive to recruit and retain more graduate students from underrepresented groups.

The program reached a symbolic milestone on January 25, 2019 when our 100th Ph.D. graduate, Dan Han, now a tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Louisville, successfully defended her dissertation. Our doctoral program graduated about eight students per year in recent years, and as of Summer 2021, the program has a total of 120 alumni; we also awarded about 10 master’s degrees per year in recent years. A good indication of the quality of the program is our strong record of good job placement: we are sending more graduates into the regional and national financial industry such as Wells Fargo and Bank of America, we are increasing the number of graduates joining major research universities such as the University of Louisville, the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and Mississippi State University, and we are also graduating students capable of working as applied mathematicians and research scientists in places like the National Security Agency and the Sandia National Laboratories.

Now looking back over the past two years in particular, I am tremendously proud of all that our students have accomplished even through the pandemic. Thuy Le completed her dissertation topic proposal defense in her second year in the program, and she has already published more than three papers in top journals. Several other students including Ali Mahzarnia, Dawn Ray, Yunfei Xia, and Van Pham also published. Xi Ning interned with AbbVie, a leading biopharmaceutical company, in Summer 2021, and Miranda Cornille interned with the U.S. Army ERDC-CRREL through a NSF master’s GI program in Summer 2020. Ali Mahzarnia and Masoumeh Sheikhi Kiasari each received a Graduate School Summer Fellowship, which they used to focus their summer time on dissertation research, while Ali Mahzarnia, Robert Bland, Jacob Page, and Sergei Miles were each awarded a Graduate School Teaching Fellowship.

Finally, to prospective students, I encourage you to explore our website for more information about detailed admission and degree requirements as well as the application process etc. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at shaodeng@uncc.edu.
MESSAGES FROM

DEPARTMENT ADMIN

VICTOR CIFARELLI
MATH EDUCATION PROGRAM
COORDINATOR & PROFESSOR
OF MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

The Mathematics Education program is the hub for mathematics education at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. The program faculty consists of six tenure-track faculty members and three permanent lecturers.

Our undergraduate program serves students seeking licensure to teach mathematics at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Specifically, we offer the full range of content and methods courses that prepare students for teaching careers in K-12.

Students in our graduate program can pursue the Master of Science in Mathematics with a Concentration in Mathematics Education. This degree program is designed primarily for secondary school mathematics teachers interested in professional growth in mathematics teaching. Emphasis in this program is given to developing depth and breadth in mathematics teaching and learning, appropriate to the role of the secondary school teacher.

The Mathematics Education program also supports students pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in urban mathematics education. The program focuses on “urban characteristics” that are important in understanding the teaching and learning of mathematics that spans urban, suburban, and rural contexts.

Students in the program will have opportunities to deepen their understanding of critical issues in mathematics and mathematics education, develop as critical researchers, and be prepared to work with future and practicing teachers in various settings. Graduates of the Urban Mathematics Education program are prepared to go on to hold faculty positions in both mathematics departments and colleges of education, to hold mathematics specific leadership positions at the school, district, and state level, and teach mathematics at community colleges, among a variety of other professional opportunities.

For more information on our programs please contact Vic Cifarelli at vvcifare@uncc.edu.

A NOTE FROM FRONT OFFICE STAFF:

Our excellent front office staff is composed of Quincey Hinson (pictured left), Sarah Hornbeck (pictured middle), and Amelia Voorhees (pictured right).

Quincey, a familiar face around the department, is here to assist with travel forms, grants, and much more! Sarah mainly assists Dr. Khan with administrative tasks, but you may also see her working on other projects around the office. She is always willing to help! Amelia, a recent UNC Charlotte alum, has joined our office as a web developer and the coordinator of the advising team. Go to Amelia for assistance with the website or the advising calendar. Stop by the front office for any questions or concerns. If we do not have the answer, we will find it for you! We wish you the best of luck this 2021-2022 school year!
MESSAGES FROM DEPARTMENT ADMIN

JIANCHENG JIANG
STATISTICS PROGRAM
COORDINATOR &
PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS

The statistics group consists of eight tenure-track faculty members. Most of the statistics faculty are also affiliated with the School of Data Science (SDS) and have been working to create new courses for SDS and the College of Computing and Informatics. In addition to assisting the DSBA program offered by SDS, the statistics faculty have also participated in curriculum development and the proposal for a new PhD program in Data Science. The statistics faculty are also working on a proposal for a new PhD degree in Statistics. The faculty in the statistics program have achieved national recognition with publications and external funding. The current statistics programs at our department are strong both at the master’s and the doctoral levels. The enrollment numbers have been quite steady in recent years: 20-22 doctoral students and 8-10 master’s students in a typical fall semester. We have been able to attract and retain Ph.D. students of improved quality, and from this, we have been able to increase the participation of Ph.D. students in research seminars and pre-graduation activities such as summer internships at local banks. The most direct measure of the success of our stat graduate program is the excellent track record of our graduates’ job placement. We are sending more students into good high-paying jobs into the regional and national industrial workforce, and we have increased the number of graduates obtaining high-quality academic job placement. For example, during the most recent 5 years (2016 to 2020), we had graduated 17 Ph.D. students for an average of 3.4 graduates per year and 26 MS students for an average of 5.2 graduates per year. 4 of the 17 Ph.D. graduates have been placed in academia including: Mississippi State University (tenure-track, 2019), University of North Florida (tenure-track, 2019), Shandong University, China (tenure-track, 2018), and Texas A&M University (post-doc, 2016). On the other hand, 12 of the 17 Ph.D. graduates have found good industry jobs (starting salaries in the range $100,000 - $130,000; duties include model development, risk management, statistical analysis, etc), including: Wells Fargo, NC (7), Bank of America, NC (1), Brighthouse Financial, NC (1), Lowe’s Company, NC (1), Intermountain Healthcare, UT (1), and People’s Bank of China (1). The remaining 1 of the 17 Ph.D. graduates is self-employed as a real estate agent.

Strangely enough as one gets older you’re expected to know more about the future. Statistics is an art and a science to make prediction for the future. In the 21st century, there are many opportunities and challenges at the big data era. With large data sets and complex questions, the future of our statistics program is prosperous.

A NOTE FROM STUDENT WORKERS:

After a long last year and summer, we are excited to be back in the office and see everyone in person. Over the summer, we expanded our front desk student workers by two! You may have seen these two new faces, but we would like to introduce Natalie and Chris formally; please stop by and say hi to our newbies. While we have some new faces, we also have some familiar faces that you may recognize; Maddison and Rebecca are happily returning for their fourth semester. If you are a faculty member or a graduate assistant in our department and have any papers you would like to be copied or scanned, our work request box is back in full operation. The work request box is the teal box located in the copy room next to the front office.

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

- Charlotte, NC is the 16th largest U.S. city
- Charlotte is home to large organizations in finance, retail, energy, bioinformatics, biotech, R&D, and government labs
- UNC Charlotte is North Carolina’s urban research university and the third-largest university in the UNC System

DEPARTMENT RANKINGS AND STUDENT PROFILE

- UNC Charlotte mathematics is ranked 108 and statistics is ranked 97 by the US News & World Report graduate school ranking
- Math and Business math majors total 366; minors in actuarial math or math or statistics total 900; Ph.D. students number 50; master’s students number 20.

FACULTY

- Department faculty members is around 60, of which 40 are tenured or on tenure track
- Student/Faculty ratio: 6.5

DIVERSITY AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 54% of 50 Ph.D. math students are international
- 40% of 50 Ph.D. math students are female
- We are ranked #1 in the UNC System for graduating African American students in math and #4 in the nation in the same category, we also graduate a similarly large number of Hispanic/LatinX math students
- Scholarships and fellowships for undergraduates and graduate students

RESEARCH

- Competitive research facilities and opportunities to engage in research are available to undergraduate and graduate students
DEPARTMENT

DISTINCTIONS

DEPARTMENT AND FACULTY
- Fellow of the American Mathematical Society
- Fellow of the American Statistical Association
- 2 faculty members have received National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER awards

RESEARCH
- Faculty are highly productive with their research
- Among 58 applied math Ph.D. granting departments (40 R-1 and 18 R-2 universities - Carnegie Classification’), we rank 38 in terms of number of publications per faculty, 46 in terms of the number of grant dollars per faculty
- Faculty bring in $25,000 per member in external funding ($1.2 million department-wide)

PUBLISHING AND HONORS
- 1 faculty member recognized by the Stanford University study as among the top 2% of the world’s most cited researchers
- Faculty publishes 72 peer-reviewed research papers annually plus conference papers and book chapters

INITIATIVES
- Initiatives are being implemented to improve student success, offer international study opportunity, provide graduate student training, and recruit top faculty

MASTER’S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- New master’s degree in actuarial statistics has been added
- Master of Math of Mathematical Finance is now ranked 12 nationally by Financial Engineering
Dr. Stanislav Molchanov  
**Professor of Mathematics**

Dr. Molchanov is a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society. He is the academic advisor for the International Laboratory at the National Research University at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. He is an author of four monographs and more than 350 papers in the leading mathematical journals and a world renowned expert in mathematical physics, random processes and their applications, quantum graphs, homogenization, localization, intermittency, fractals, population dynamics, and more. Prof. Molchanov is a member of the editorial boards of the journals Random Operators and Stochastic Equations, Journal of Spectral Theory, and Mathematical and Theoretical Physics. In the last five years alone, he has been supported by two grants from the NSF, one grant from the Russian Science Foundation and a research grant from Bielefeld University (Germany). He has supervised 17 Ph.D. students at UNC Charlotte. Over the span of his career, Dr. Molchanov has supervised more than 50 Ph.D. students as well as supervised 3 post Ph.D. scholars towards the Doctor of Sciences degree in Russia.

Ph.D. and Dr. Sc. (Advanced Ph.D.) degree, Moscow State University  
Fellow of the American Mathematical Society

---

Dr. Mikhail Klibanov  
**Professor of Mathematics**

Dr. Klibanov has recently been recognized by the Stanford University Study as among the top 2% of the world’s most cited researchers. He was also awarded the Golden Medal for “Distinguished Impact in Mathematics” from Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, Russia in 2017. He is an author of more than 175 papers in the leading mathematical journals and a world renowned expert in inverse problems for partial differential equations, ill-posed problems, mathematical physics including microwaves and nanoscience and more. He has made original and groundbreaking contributions in the area of coefficient inverse problems by introducing Carleman estimates for proofs of uniqueness theorems and constructions of globally convergent numerical methods for these problems. Dr. Klibanov’s research has been supported by the US Army Research Office for his work on applied inverse problems and has continuously received funding every three years since 2005 with a total of over $3.3 million. Dr. Klibanov supervised seven postdocs and five Ph.D. students.

Recognized by the Stanford University Study as Among the Top 2% of the World’s Most Cited Researchers
Dr. Yanqing Sun is an elected Fellow of American Statistical Association and elected Member of International Statistical Institute. Dr. Sun received her Ph.D. degree from Florida State University. She has worked in a broad area of biostatistics including survival and recurrent event data analysis, competing risks data analysis and longitudinal data analysis. Dr. Sun has developed statistical methods for problems arising from the HIV vaccine efficacy trials. She has published over 70 professional articles. Dr. Sun is a member of the editorial boards of Journal of American Statistical Association, Statistics in Biosciences and International Journal of Biostatistics. Dr. Sun has been funded by NSF and NIH with over $2 million in research support since 2003. She was appointed three times to serve on the Statistics Panel of the NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences. She has supervised 14 Ph.D. students.

**M.S. and Ph.D. in Statistics, Florida State University**
**Fellow of the American Statistical Association**

Dr. Kevin McGoff worked at Duke University as a Visiting Assistant Professor from 2011 to 2015. In Fall 2015, he joined the faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UNC Charlotte. His research interests include ergodic theory and dynamical systems, probability theory, statistical inference for dynamical systems, and systems biology.

**Ph.D. in Mathematics, The University of Maryland, College Park**
**Winner of Prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Award**
Elizabeth Bumgardner has worked to integrate her knowledge of mathematics with her love for helping students of different backgrounds to succeed in the courses she teaches. She leads the efforts of the Statistics Re-Design Team at UNC Charlotte to develop department-wide resources for students and instructors with the goal of improving DFW rates and reducing the equity gap in introductory level statistics courses. The Statistics Re-Design Team has worked to create a sequence of two statistics courses whose content is applicable to social science students’ interests, majors, and career goals. This course sequence provides a project-based approach to introductory statistics with an emphasis on statistical literacy and using real-world data.

Dr. Xingjie Li is an Associate Professor. Dr. Li’s research interests include multiscale methods for crystalline solids, multitemporal and renormalization algorithms for the macroscopic density dynamics, numerical methods for stochastic differential equations, positive-preserving discontinuous Galerkin schemes and energy-conserved splitting methods for computational electromagnetics.

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Dr. Elizabeth Bumgardner  ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

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Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction for Urban Mathematics, UNC Charlotte
M.S. in Mathematics, UNC Charlotte
Associate Chair of the UNC System Math Pathways Task Force and a member of the UNC Charlotte Math Pathways Implementation Team.
**ALUMNI**

**PROFILES**

**MR. JERRI SHEPHARD  UNC CHARLOTTE ALUM, 2014**

Gerwood (Jerri) is the Co-Founder and Co-owner of the award-winning lifestyle brand, 704 Shop. The brand strives to connect their supporters to each other and to the region. He is also a VP at Bank of America, where he is a Finance Analyst supporting fraud in the CFO group. With a non-traditional path to these industries, Gerwood has a unique perspective on accomplishing goals. He looks forward to continuing his support of the university by serving on the Charlotte Alumni Board to help our university become a better place for future students.

**DR. DAN HAN  ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE**

Dr. Dan Han received her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics in 2019 from UNC Charlotte under the guidance of Professor Molchanov. She joined as a tenure track Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Louisville in 2019. Her research interests include probability theory & stochastic, statistics and their applications to problems in population dynamics, data sciences, social network science, public health, finance, numerical analysis, big data, machine learning, and FinTech.

**MR. GRAYSON DILL  MATHEMATICIAN IN RESIDENCE**

Mr. Grayson Dill is our Mathematician in Residence¹ and teaches a seminar course for our undergraduate and graduate students. Grayson is an SVP and Client Quantitative Analytics Manager at Bank of America, where he leads analytics strategy for the Consumer and Small Business financial crimes compliance program. He is also currently serving a two-year term on UNC Charlotte’s Mathematics and Statistics faculty as Mathematician in Residence. Outside of banking, Grayson is an outdoors enthusiast with special interests in endurance sports, mountaineering, and wilderness medicine. He is a member of the American Alpine Club and New York Road Runners, is a Wilderness EMT, and is a member of the Wilderness Medicine faculty at the National Outdoors Leadership School. Grayson has a bachelor’s in History from UNC-Chapel Hill. Post-baccalaureate study brought him to UNC Charlotte, where he obtained bachelor’s degrees in political science, mathematics and economics. He also has an master’s degree in Applied Economics from The Johns Hopkins University.

¹The Mathematician in Residence (MIR) program in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics hosts a leading practitioner from the local industry with a background in mathematics eager to engage with students and faculty to provide insights to applications of mathematics in business, industry and government (BIG).
UNC Charlotte’s Master of Science in Mathematical Finance program has once again been named among the top-ranked programs in the nation, ranking No. 12 in the TFE Times’ 2021 Master of Financial Engineering program rankings.

Over the past six years, the M.S. in Math Finance program has increased steadily in the rankings, rising eight slots since 2016, according to TFE Times. As a STEM-designated program of the Departments of Finance and Economics in the Belk College of Business and the Mathematics and Statistics Department in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the program excels in readying students for careers in an emerging field.

“The Master of Science in Mathematical Finance is intelligently designed to prepare students for finance careers that increasingly demand more math and data skills, particularly in financial institutions, investment banks, and commodities firms,” said Taufiquar Khan, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

“These careers require proficiency in the application of highly sophisticated mathematical models to identify, measure, and manage risk,” Khan said. “The expertise of mathematics faculty, as well as that of faculty in economics and finance, offers an interdisciplinary collaboration that has delivered strong results for our students and for employers.”

Over the last three years, 95% of M.S. in Math Finance alumni are employed within three months of graduation, according to First Destination Survey data. The growth of the program’s success is a testament to exceptional faculty, combined with a customizable interdisciplinary approach, said Yufeng Han, M.S. in Math Finance program director.

CLAS faculty teaching in the M.S. in Math Finance program are Jaya Bishwal, an expert in stochastic analysis and computational finance; Aziz Issaka, an authority in mathematical finance and stochastic calculus; and Adriana Ocejo Monge, an expert in mathematical finance and actuarial science.

The TFE Times rankings are the most comprehensive for graduate financial engineering, financial mathematics, quantitative finance, computational finance and mathematical finance programs in the country. The rankings are calculated based on several components, including average test scores, starting salaries, undergraduate GPA, acceptance rates and graduate employment rates.
**TUTORING SERVICES**

The Math Learning Center is open for online and in-person tutoring. You can schedule an online appointment through our website here. We recommend scheduling at least one day in advance. In-person tutoring will be available in Fretwell room 330, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional tutoring, the University Center for Academic Excellence (UCAE) also offers one-on-one tutoring by appointment and drop-in tutoring. You can find more information about their tutoring services here.

**UNC CHARLOTTE RESEARCHERS RECOGNIZED AMONG WORLD’S TOP 2%**

A recent Stanford University study recognizes the top 2% of the world’s most cited researchers. In all, 41 researchers affiliated with UNC Charlotte made the list.

The report, first published in the PLOS Biology Journal, evaluated and ranked approximately seven million scientists across disciplines throughout the span of their work years through 2019.

Based on a series of metrics, including the career-long citation impact of their published research, the database is among the most comprehensive global faculty-evaluation resources ever produced.

“‘The influential work of the researchers cited in Stanford University’s report reflects UNC Charlotte’s long history of exemplary and discipline-leading research,” said Joan Lorden, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. “Their inclusion among the world’s top researchers is well-deserved; the University takes pride in the contributions they are making to their fields.”

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE**

As some may have noticed, we have made some recent changes to our website. We want to encourage everyone to explore the new website, as some things have been changed to respond to users’ needs. You can take a look at our new website at math.charlotte.edu.
WAFAA SHABAN  
DIRECTOR OF ACTUARIAL PROGRAM & TEACHING PROFESSOR

The highlight of last year’s Actuarial Science Club (ASC) activities was creating a crowdfunding project to endow the Women in Math and Statistics Scholarship. We are delighted to share that the scholarship not only reached, but surpassed the campaign goal of $25,000. So far, $25,959 were raised! A big thank you to the ASC members, students, faculty, alumni, and friends.

ACTUARIAL AND MATH FOR BUSINESS PROGRAMS:

We now offer several new learning opportunities including an master’s in Math with a Concentration in Actuarial Statistics (starting fall 2020) and actuarial summer courses (summer 2021). We offered a sequence of two courses that prepare students for one of the actuarial exams. They were well attended and we foresee a big demand for these courses next summer. We limited our extracurricular activities to virtual events last year. In fall 2020, employers such as Centene, Lincoln Financial Group, and Cigna held online information sessions for our students. We had a virtual overview presentation on the actuarial profession by the Society of Actuaries and a virtual session by an actuary to discuss strategies to prepare for the actuarial exams. We found our virtual sessions to be as well attended as our in-person sessions, indicating great continued interest by our students. We continued with virtual information sessions in spring 2021 by employers such as Oliver Wyman, Brighthouse Financial, and The Standard insurance.

ANNUAL ALUMNI LUNCHEON:

We held our annual alumni luncheon via Zoom in spring 2021. Close to 50 alumni attended from all over the country and even the world (we had guests from Bermuda and the Bahamas!) Our alumni were very excited to gather and catch up. It was hard to keep track of all the positive feedback we received this year, but here are a few comments.

“I am so grateful to all the alumni and students for continuing this tradition and I’m excited to hopefully see everyone in-person next year!”

“This has been my first luncheon and it exceeded my expectations! I loved connecting with many of you and look forward to the next one”

“Thank you for always bringing us together.”
This fall, we are so excited to be back on campus with face-to-face instructions. The Actuarial program kicked off the semester with an in-person, socially distanced Actuarial Science Day and Career Fair in the Student Union which was sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Society of Actuaries (SOA). In the morning, we had guest speakers and presentations on our program and the actuarial profession.

This was followed by lunch, and the career fair in the afternoon. Over 60 students attended, five employers, and three organizations - an amazing turnout to kick off the year! Other employers unable to attend requested virtual sessions and the Students Resume book. A big thank you to Dr. Gary Crosby and the ASC officers (Russell Mejia-president, Aida Ndour, Christian Greco, John Cernava, Kaylee Sexton, Laura Dotter, Megan McWhirter, Nicholas Briere, Sarah Onativia, and Seham Ashgar) for their efforts to organize a successful event.

Finally, we are happy to share the creation of an Actuarial & Math for Business Alumni Association. This association’s goal is to connect alumni, create networking activities for current students beyond our annual luncheon, and create a mentorship program. As always, we are thankful for all the support and help we are receiving from our alumni. Please continue to stay in touch!
The Department of Mathematics and Statistics is among the largest departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and we are incredibly proud of our continued growth. With 366 math and math for business majors, 900 minors in actuarial math or math or statistics, 50 Ph.D. students, 20 master’s students, and around 10,000 students a semester taking mathematics and statistics courses, Mathematics and Statistics is an integral piece of the college.

At the undergraduate level, we offer degrees in Math, Statistics, Math for Business, Actuarial Science and Math Education. At the graduate level, we offer a PhD in Applied Mathematics and Master’s degrees in General Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Mathematics Education, Actuarial Statistics and Applied Statistics.

The department has designated the following initiatives as current funding priorities:

- Undergraduate Student Scholarships
- Graduate Student Scholarships
- Global Engagement of Students
- Departmental Initiatives
- Staff Development and Recognition

Your gift will enable the department to increase student scholarships, develop and maintain strong programs, improve the students’ college experience, strengthen the relationship with alumni and attract high-potential students at the undergraduate, Master’s and PhD levels.

The generosity of our alumni and the companies hiring our graduates is critical to provide an outstanding education for our students and create programs to build expertise in new areas.

All gifts, regardless of the amount, are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Tanner Greaves, Development Suite, 704-687-6333, tanner.greaves@uncc.edu.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE ONLINE