



DR. SHARON L. GABER CHANCELLOR

Sharon Gaber became chancellor of UNC Charlotte in 2020. With rising student success, growing partnerships and research enterprise, Charlotte has reached new heights under her leadership. Since 2020, Charlotte is one of the top 10 fastest-rising universities in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report, which also ranked the University among the most innovative schools in the nation. The University is projected to receive the nation's highest research designation, Carnegie R1, in early 2025. An academic with a background in city and regional planning, Gaber is the author of several articles on regional and urban planning, public policy, and the social dynamics that affect community decision-making. She is also the co-author of a book on planning research methods. Prior to her arrival at Charlotte, Gaber served as the president of the University of Toledo, as provost at the University of Arkansas, as interim provost at Auburn University and as an administrator and faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A native of Southern California, Gaber earned an A.B. in Economics and Urban Studies from Occidental College, an M.P.L. in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California, and a Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning from Cornell University.



ELIJAH SMITH '25 BELK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Elijah Smith is a UNC Charlotte student pursuing a bachelor's degree in finance from the Belk College of Business. Smith, an aspiring entrepreneur, aims to pursue a career in commercial real estate. The Charlotte native is a graduate of Harding High School, where he successfully completed the Road to Hire program and was awarded a Pathways Promise Scholarship through the program. At UNC Charlotte, Smith has pursued his interests as the vice president of engagement for the Commercial Real Estate Society. Outside of the University, he is part of the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) mentorship program, is a volunteer with the Young Black Leadership Alliance (YBLA), worked as a summer Intern with Greystar, is an Etkin Scholar through the Urban Land Institute (ULI), and is a Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Real Estate success participant. His experience includes seven years of involvement in residential real estate, working as a research associate, conducting property analysis, and taking on renovation efforts. Smith is part of a legacy of real estate professionals, and he hopes to one day take over his family's company, Felder Properties, LLC.



DR. JOHN DANIELS VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH

John Daniels serves as vice chancellor for the Division of Research and is a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet. A Charlotte faculty member since 2001, Daniels served as chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from 2012-22. He also served as program director in the Directorate for Engineering at the National Science Foundation, where he was responsible for research within geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering, engineering education, engineering research centers and a variety of cross-disciplinary programs. Daniels' many accomplishments include election as a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2018, in part for advancing the concept of engineered water repellency to increase the resilience and sustainability of geotechnical systems in civil infrastructure. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and both a master's and a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Daniels serves on the board of the Sullenberger Aviation Museum and is a member of the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology and Innovation.



DR. GEORGE BANKS

DEPARTMENT CHAIR, PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT

George Banks serves as chair and professor in the Department of Management at UNC Charlotte's Belk College of Business. He is also an affiliate faculty member of the Organizational Science Ph.D. program, the School of Data Science and the Industrial/Organizational Psychology master's program. Banks has received several awards for his research, including the 2017 Sage Publications/CARMA Early Career Award from the Research Methods Division of the Academy of Management, and the 2016 Best Paper award from The Leadership Quarterly/Center for Creative Leadership. Banks holds a Ph.D. in Management from Virginia Commonwealth University, a M.A. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of New Haven, and a B.A. in Psychology and Government from the College of William & Mary.



DR. DANIEL JANIES

CAROL GROTNES BELK DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

OF BIOINFORMATICS AND GENOMICS

Co-director for Computational Intelligence to Predict Health and Environmental Risks (CIPHER) Daniel Janies joined UNC Charlotte as the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Bioinformatics and Genomics in 2012. Janies worked as a postdoctoral fellow (1996-99) and as a principal investigator (2000-02) at the American Museum of Natural History where he led a team that, using off-the-shelf components, built one of the world's largest computing clusters in 2001. Janies originated the field of mapping pathogen genetic data in concert with geography and host animals. Janies was a tenured faculty member in the College of Medicine at the Ohio State University where he served as a national principal investigator in the Tree of Life program of the NSF. Janies' recent awards include a Department of Defense-sponsored work to understand the spread of pathogens. Janies is an elected director of the board of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. Janies has advised the Obama Administration and the Pentagon, and testified to both houses of Congress. In 2022, Janies was named co-director for Computational Intelligence to Predict Health and Environmental Risks (CIPHER). Janies received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Florida.



DR. STEPHANIE SCHUCKERS

BANK OF AMERICA DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

OF COMPUTING & INFORMATICS

Dr. Stephanie Schuckers serves as the director of the Center for Identification Technology Research (CITeR), a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center. Schuckers' research focuses on processing and interpreting signals arising from the human body. Her work is funded from various sources, including the NSF, Department of Homeland Security and private industry. She is an entrepreneur, has testified before the U.S. Congress, and has more than 50 journal publications and more than 100 other academic publications. She was named an IEEE Fellow in 2023; serves on the board of directors for the Biometrics Institute; is associate editor-in-chief for IEEE Transactions on Biometrics, Behavior, and Identity Science; and is president-elect for the IEEE Biometrics Council. She received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan.