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For immediate use

Oct. 31, 2007

First class of eight Faculty Engaged Scholars selected at UNC

Eight faculty members at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill were recently selected as the first class of Faculty Engaged Scholars at the university. In this two-year program, the scholars will learn how to connect their faculty work with the needs of a community, and they will apply their skills to make a difference.

The first class of Faculty Engaged Scholars was selected through a campus-wide competitive process. They are:

- * Gary Bishop, professor of computer science, College of Arts and Sciences;
- * Mimi Chapman, associate professor, School of Social Work;
- * Giselle Corbie-Smith, associate professor of social medicine, medicine and epidemiology; Schools of Medicine and Public Health;
- * Dorothy Holland, professor of anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences;
- * Jock Lauterer, lecturer, School of Journalism and Mass Communication;
- * Mai Nguyen, assistant professor of city and regional planning, College of Arts and Sciences;
- * Paul Smokowski, associate professor, School of Social Work; and
- * Michael Waltman, associate professor of communication studies, College of Arts and Sciences.

Each scholar will receive a financial stipend of up to \$7,500 per year for each of the two years. Their projects include Lauterer's Bucket Brigade, journalism students who are creating content for the Spring Hope Enterprise while its editor-publisher recovers from double hip replacement surgery; Nguyen's research to revitalize a predominantly low-income African-American neighborhood in North East Central Durham; and Smokowski's traveling exhibit on acculturation and adjustment in Latino immigrant families to be displayed within communities and online.

"As the nation's first state university, Carolina has a strong tradition of serving the people of North Carolina and the nation," said Michael R. Smith, appointed Carolina's first vice chancellor for public service and engagement in 2006. Smith is also dean of the UNC School of Government. "The Faculty Engaged Scholars program will support faculty members who want to join their many colleagues who already are collaborating with communities to apply their scholarly work to the state's challenges."

The Faculty Engaged Scholars Program is a new initiative of Carolina

Center for Public Service and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Service and Engagement to advance faculty involvement in the scholarship of engagement. Ronald Strauss will serve as faculty director and Lucille Webb as community director.

"These eight individuals exemplify how Carolina faculty members are using their scholarship to help solve practical problems of our state and beyond. This program aims to recognize and reward these faculty, create and sustain a community of engaged scholars from diverse perspectives, and to continue to build Carolina as an institution committed to strong university-community relationships," said Lynn Blanchard, director of the Carolina Center for Public Service.

The Carolina Center for Public Service supports faculty, students, and staff in meeting the needs of North Carolina and beyond by promoting scholarship, service and engagement that are responsive to the concerns of the state and contribute to the common good.

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