

31st Annual

German-American Faculty Symposium

June 15-18, 2026

germanamericansymposium.charlotte.edu

The German-American faculty symposia grew out of an ongoing partnership between the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg which began in 1981 with a student and faculty exchange in the field of foreign languages. Over the years, the symposia have broadened to include other subject areas, particularly in the field of education. The first faculty symposium occurred in Ludwigsburg in May 1995. Since then, symposia have occurred each year alternating between Charlotte and Ludwigsburg.



The Cato College of Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is a national leader in educational equity, excellence, and engagement. Committed to preparing highly effective and ethical professionals who have a positive impact on children, youth, families, communities, and schools in urban and other diverse settings, the College's graduates are routinely successful in a variety of school and community environments. The College seeks to be an influential educational partner in our increasingly interconnected global society and is proud to host the 31st German-American Faculty Symposium!

Sunday, June 14

Guests Arrive
Check-in to Suites in Wallis Hall

Monday, June 15

8:00 - 8:45 ~ Breakfast (Wallis Hall 0126 Kitchen)

Morning	Unstructured time for teams to meet, to become acquainted with presentation space, and to have conversations about future collaborations. Rooms 110, 147, 205, and 259 in Mebane Hall are available for meetings.
12:00 - 1:00	Malcolm Butler, Jörg Keßler, Jennifer Armentrout, Dawson Hancock Opening Luncheon and Welcoming Remarks in room 112 of Cone University Center

1:15 pm - 4:45 pm ~ Paper Presentations ~ Snyder Lecture Hall (COED 065)

1:15 - 2:00	Adriana Medina, Anselm Böhmer, Christoph Knoblauch <i>University in search of communities: Reflecting on social-spatial learning and engagement from an educational perspective</i>
2:00 - 2:45	Kirsten Abel, Kate Gilbert, Anja Vocilka <i>Feedback redefined: Investigating the feedback loop and reflective practice among U.S. and German preservice teachers</i>

2:45 - 3:15 ~ Break (COED 007)

3:15 - 4:00	Rumbidzai Mushunje <i>Cross cultural perspectives on mental health and help-seeking</i>
4:00 - 4:45	Kristin Davin, Scott Kissau, Jue Wang, Benjamin Ade-Thurrow <i>What sustains foreign language teachers in the profession? A cross-national qualitative study of teacher retention</i>

*6:00 pm ~ Depart for Dinner at Flying Saucer Draught Emporium
Hosted by the Cato College of Education*

Tuesday, June 16

8:00 - 8:45 ~ Breakfast (Wallis Hall 0126 Kitchen)

9:00 am - 4:30 pm ~ Paper Presentations ~ Snyder Lecture Hall (COED 065)

9:00 - 9:45

Scott Kissau, Chuang Wang, Anni Lenz, Bianca Roters
Cultivating global scholars: Lessons from a virtual research symposium

9:45 - 10:30

Leslie Zenk, Susan Harris-Hümmert
Expanding the lens: Experiences of leadership transitions in higher education

10:30 - 11:00 ~ Break (COED 007)

11:00 - 11:45

Chris O'Brien, Rebecca Höhr
Promoting academic vocabulary development among adolescents at-risk for failure in school

11:45 - 12:30

Spencer Salas, Nicanora Wächter, Atraa Al-Hashimi
Exclusion and (be)longing in "post-racial" German schools: Why Atraa refused to teach

12:30 - 1:30 ~ Lunch (COED 110)

1:45 - 2:30

Rich Lambert
Assessing teacher stress in Germany and the U.S.A.

2:30 - 3:15

Adriana Medina, Erik Byker, Anselm Böhmer, Christoph Knoblauch
Geographies of childhood in teacher education: Reflecting on shared journeys and cultivating sustainable bonds

3:15 - 3:45 ~ Break (COED 007)

3:45 - 4:30

Anni Lenz, Brandon Watkins
Literacy in unlikely places

*6:15 pm ~ Depart for Dinner in Room 200 of the Student Union
Hosted by the Charlotte Global*

Wednesday, June 17

8:00 - 8:45 ~ Breakfast (Wallis Hall 0126 Kitchen)

9:00 am - 4:45 pm ~ Paper Presentations ~ Snyder Lecture Hall (COED 065)

9:00 - 9:45

Erik Byker, Benjamin Ade-Thurow, Mario Manzocco
AI debate bot hallucinations: Now with 50% less nonsense

9:45 - 10:30

Hedda Meadan, Virginia Walker, Markus Scholz, Annika Endres, Erika Kramer, Shura Baigalmaa
Caregiver perspectives on AAC: A cross-cultural scoping review

Break 10:30 - 11:00 (COED 007)

11:00 - 11:45

Adriana Medina, Tina Heafner, Minke Jacobi, Kerstin Merz-Atalik, Anselm Böhmer, Christoph Knoblauch
Global docs: Sowing the seeds of our German-American collaborations

11:45 - 12:30

Ayesha Sadaf, Daniel Maxwell, Heiko Holz, Can Küplüce
Relationships between pre-service teachers' perceived competencies, affective dispositions, and readiness to integrate artificial intelligence in classroom practice

12:30 - 1:30 ~ Lunch (COED 110)

1:45 - 2:30

Ian Binns
The periodic table of emotions: Fostering human-first classrooms

2:30 - 3:15

Erik Byker, Adriana Medina, Benjamin Ade-Thurow, Christoph Knoblauch, Anselm Böhmer, Anastasia Proctor
From Symposium to edited book: Global education collaborations panel discussion

3:15 - 3:45 ~ Break (COED 007)

3:45 - 4:30

Malcolm Butler
The evolution of literacy initiatives in Cato College, with scholarship, service, and engagement as anchors

4:30 - 4:45

Provost Jennifer Troyer, Malcolm Butler, Jörg Keßler, Dawson Hancock
Closing Remarks

*6:00 pm ~ Depart for Dinner in the Bistro of the Student Union
Hosted by Dean Malcolm Butler*

Thursday, June 18

Breakfast in Wallis Hall 0126 Kitchen~ 7:30 - 8:30

*9:00 am ~ Depart
for Excursion*

*Harvey B. Gantt Center
for African-American Arts and Culture*

and

Community Matters Café'

and

Discovery Place Science

and

7th Street Market

and

Kulture Noda Restaurant

Friday, June 19

Breakfast in Wallis Hall 0126 Kitchen~ 7:30 - 8:15

Guests Check-out in Wallis Hall Main Entrance Lounge ~ 8:45 - 9:45

Presentation Contributors

UNC Charlotte

Abel, Kirsten
Baigalmaa, Shura
Binns, Ian
Butler, Malcolm
Byker, Erik
Davin, Kristin
Gilbert, Kate
Hancock, Dawson
Heafner, Tina
Kissau, Scott
Kramer, Erika
Lambert, Rich
Maxwell, Daniel
Meadan, Hedda
Medina, Adriana
Mushunje, Rumbidzai
O'Brien, Chris
Proctor, Anastasia
Sadaf, Ayesha
Salas, Spencer
Walker, Virginia
Wang, Chuang
Wang, Jue
Watkins, Brandon
Zenk, Leslie

Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg

Ade-Thurrow, Benjamin
Al-Hashimi, Atraa
Böhmer, Anselm
Endres, Annika
Harris-Hümmert, Susan
Höhr, Rebecca
Holz, Heiko
Jakobi, Minke
Keßler, Jörg-Ulrich
Knoblauch, Christoph
Küplüce, Can
Lenz, Anni
Merz-Atalik, Kerstin
Manzocco, Mario
Roters Bianca
Scholz, Markus
Vocilka, Anja
Wächter, Nicaron

Special thanks to...

Joël Gallégo, Charlotte Global
Jennifer Armentrout, Charlotte Global
Judy Pugh, Cato College of Education
Maddison Ingram, Cato College of Education
Gary Ritter, Office of OneIT
Max Hall, Conference Reservations and Event Services
Sara Sibley, Housing and Residence Life