

On August 26, 2014, the Global Research Institute (GRI) brought together many of UNC-Chapel Hill's leading researchers on food to help the Institute further develop and operationalize its theme for 2015–2016 and 2016–2017: “Feeding a Hungry World: Food Security in the 21st Century.” Approximately 45 faculty members from units all over campus attended the meeting. The results proved productive and inspiring. Excellent ideas for programs and activities were generated, and participants gained a better sense of the range and depth of talent at UNC — and throughout the Triangle more broadly — conducting research relating to food. At the conclusion of the hour-and-a-half meeting, those convened asked the GRI to continue bringing the group together to move plans forward, and to develop tools by which they could communicate as a group. A number of participants also volunteered to serve as a theme steering committee for the GRI and/or become involved in research clusters.

Before departing, the participants — unanimously by acclamation — expressed their strong support for the adoption of a food-related theme as the University’s next pan-university campus theme.

The group requested that the GRI communicate this support to the University officers and units charged with choosing the next theme.

Participants noted a number of reasons to support the adoption of a food-related campus theme including:

- The central importance of food quality and food security in today’s world;
- The seamless segue it provides from the current theme of “Water in Our World” given the interrelation of issues;
- The amount, quality, and variety of food-related research being conducted by faculty members in units across campus;
- The range and diversity of courses being taught at UNC on food-related subjects;
- The large number of students and student groups interested in issues relating to food;
- The proximity to other institutions, research, and business establishments with strong research capabilities and assets relating to food (the North Carolina Research Campus at Kannapolis, RTI International and the numerous agri-biotech firms in RTP, and the strong food-related research programs at NCSU, Duke, and NCA&T, and others);
- Community interest in and support of sustainable agriculture and the presence of a robust food culture in the Triangle area;
- The importance of examining food as it relates to culture and community;
- The many possibilities for exciting and diverse programming around food issues;
- And the potential for the food theme to generate external funding from private donors, corporations, foundations, and federal and state agencies.

The following members of the Carolina community offer their support for a campus-wide theme on food and food security:

Alice Ammerman

Professor, Department of Nutrition
Director, Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention,
Gillings School of Global Public Health

Barbara Anderson

Lecturer, Department of African, African American,
and Diaspora Studies
Associate Director, African Studies Center

Stephen Barber

Administrative Support Specialist, Office of the
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost,
Water in Our World Steering Committee

Chris Barker

Director, Office of Translational Technology,
School of Medicine

Jamie Bartram

Don and Jennifer Holzworth Distinguished Professor,
Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering
Director, The Water Institute

Peggy Bentley

Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor,
Department of Nutrition
Associate Dean, Office of Global Health,
Gillings School of Global Public Health

Maureen Berner

Professor of Public Administration and Government,
School of Government

John Buse

Professor
Chief, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Director, Diabetes Care Center
Executive Associate Dean, Clinical Research,
School of Medicine

Ashley Chaifetz

Doctoral candidate, Department of Public Policy

Amy Cooke

Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies,
Curriculum in Environment and Ecology

Greg Copenhaver

Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Lou Anne Crumpler

State Director, No Kid Hungry NC
Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Jeff Dangl

John N. Couch Professor, Department of Biology

Molly De Marco

Research Fellow and Project Director, Center
for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Jim Ferguson

Director, Carolina Global Food Program,
Global Research Institute
Lecturer, Department of History

Marcie Cohen Ferris

Associate Professor, Department of American Studies

Greg Gangi

Senior Lecturer, Curriculum in Environment and Ecology
Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director
for Education, Institute for the Environment

Dan Gitterman

Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair,
Department of Public Policy

Gary Glish

Professor, Department of Chemistry

Sarah Grant

Research Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Mamie Sackey Harris

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Public Health Leadership Program,
Gillings School of Global Public Health
Africa Programs Director, Institute for Global Health
and Infectious Diseases

Carol Hee

Clinical Associate Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship,
Kenan-Flagler Business School
Director, Center for Sustainable Enterprise
Faculty Co-Chair, UNC Sustainability Advisory Committee

Bernard L. Herman

Chair and George B. Tindall Professor,
Department of American Studies

Suzanne Hobbs*

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy
and Management, Department of Nutrition
Director, Doctoral Program in Health Leadership,
Health Policy and Management
Gillings School of Global Public Health

Dorothy Holland*

Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology
Co-Director, Collaborations for Integrating
Research and Action

Pam Jagger

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy

Alan Jones

Kenan Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology

Daniel Lebold

Director of Development for UNC Global

Christian Lentz

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

Paul Leslie

Professor, Department of Anthropology

Ann Matthyse

Professor, Department of Biology

Shu Wen Ng

Research Assistant Professor of Nutrition, Gillings School
of Global Public Health

Thupten Norbu

Associate Director, Carolina Asia Center

Louis A. Pérez Jr.

J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor, Department of History
Director, Institute for the Study of the Americas

Morgan Pitelka

Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies Director,
Carolina Asia Center

Barry M. Popkin

W. R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor,
Department of Nutrition
Director, The Nutrition Transition Research Program

Terry Ellen Rhodes*

Professor, Department of Music
Senior Associate Dean of Fine Arts and Humanities,
College of Arts and Sciences
Co-Chair, Water in Our World Steering Committee

Samantha Terhune

Associate Director, Carolina Global Food Program,
Global Research Institute

Anna Maria Siega-Riz*

Professor, Departments of Epidemiology
and Nutrition
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
Gillings School of Global Public Health

Niklaus Steiner

Director, Center for Global Initiatives

John Stephens

Gerhard E. Lenski Jr. Distinguished Professor,
Department of Political Science
Director, Center for European Studies

Shai Tamari*

Associate Director, Center for the Study of the Middle East
and Muslim Civilizations

Susan Wylar

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Nutrition,
Gillings School of Global Public Health

Cheng Yao

Associate Professor, Department of Geography

Katie Bowler Young

Director of Global Relations for UNC Global

Gang Yue*

Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies

Steve Zeisel

Kenan Distinguished Professor, Department of Nutrition
Director, UNC Nutrition Research Institute
Director, UNC Nutrition Obesity Research Center