

# CAMPUS NEWS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR FACULTY AND STAFF OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE



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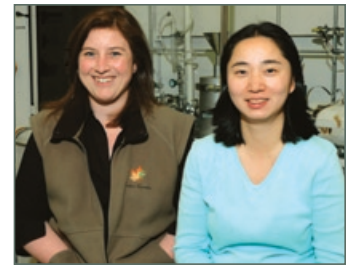
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## Engineering faculty members receive NSF CAREER Awards

Lee College of Engineering faculty members Brigid Mullany and Terry Xu have each won \$400,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Awards. These honors help advance the careers of junior faculty members in their areas of research and educational expertise.



*Brigid Mullany and Terry Xu receive NSF CAREER Awards.*

Mullany has been with the University's Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science Department since 2004. Her doctorate is from Ireland's University College Dublin. Mullany's research focus is the improvement of precision polishing techniques. Highly precise polishing, to the point of sub-nanometer smoothness, is vital to advancing technologies in optical, lithography and laser systems.

"Currently, the majority of the process control and monitoring lies with the highly skilled technicians who run the polishing machines," Mullany said. "I'm working to supplement their expertise by better characterizing the pitch used in making the polishing tools. Pitch is derived from pine tree resin and is similar in nature to road tar."

Xu also has been a member of the Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science Department since 2004. Her doctorate is from Northwestern University. The research objective of Xu's CAREER Award is the study of a new class of boron-based one-dimensional nanostructures for thermoelectric power generation applications.

"Discoveries resulting from this work will ultimately lead to the creation of new class of boron-based thermoelectric nanostructures, which will play an important role in meeting the future energy challenge," she said.