

## DECEMBER 2017 CHANCELLOR'S NEWSLETTER

Another semester is in the books, another crop of Niner alumni have crossed the stage, and we prepare to toss our 2017 calendars and turn to a clean page with the arrival of 2018. The cycle of endings and beginnings seems to come faster and faster every year.

It has become my custom to take a little time during the lull of the holiday break to reflect on the year just ending and to calibrate myself for the new year and all that it will bring. In the following pages, I will share some updates on milestones and highlights of the last several months, and we'll also look ahead to what's coming in 2018.

As always, if you would like more information on any item covered in these pages, please contact my senior executive assistant, Shari Dunn (shari.dunn@uncc.edu), or check the [Chancellor's Outbox](http://chancellor.uncc.edu/office-chancellor/public-communications) at <http://chancellor.uncc.edu/office-chancellor/public-communications>.

### Fall Events

- It has been an extremely eventful fall semester, culminating this past week with our **December Commencement**. On December 16, we celebrated with nearly 3,700 of our newest alumni in two ceremonies. Firing that confetti cannon at the end of the ceremony is one of my absolute favorite jobs as Chancellor. Not only is it fun, but it provides such a vivid representation of the unbridled joy and pride of our graduates and their families.

We continue to be a major producer of talent for Charlotte and North Carolina. So here's a **fun fact**: UNC Charlotte students earned 7,839 degrees last year, and more than 64,000 degrees have been awarded during my 12½-year tenure as Chancellor.

- In November, I had the thrilling experience of joining with student leaders, elected officials, and CATS leadership to take a "[test ride](#)" on the **Light Rail** from Center City to our main campus. I can't tell you how exciting it was to see 12+ years of hard work come to fruition. It was totally worth the wait!



As of now, the expected opening will be in late March. Stay tuned for details about celebratory "grand opening" events tied to Light Rail's official arrival on campus. Click [here](#) for more information about Light Rail.

- Also last month several of us from UNC Charlotte joined **Jim Woodward**, my predecessor and the University's third chancellor, as Jim was honored with the [North Carolina Award](#), the highest civilian honor bestowed by the State of North Carolina. Governor Roy Cooper presented the award for Chancellor Woodward's "enormous contributions to educational and cultural institutions in Charlotte and throughout

North Carolina.” Jim Woodward is truly the epitome of a servant leader, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

- As the fall leaves were turning color, UNC Charlotte named the **Center for Counseling and Psychological Services** for Alumna Christine F. Price ('82) during a ceremony on Oct. 30. The ceremony recognized Christine and her family's service to UNC Charlotte and their financial support of *EXPONENTIAL: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte*. Her husband, Joe Price ('83), is chair of the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees.



[The Christine F. Price Center for Counseling and Psychological Services](#) supports the holistic well-being and academic success of UNC Charlotte students. The new building allows the fully accredited Center to meet the needs of our growing student body by providing them a more spacious, welcoming environment where staff can deliver individual and group services.

- The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual **International Festival** brought thousands of people to campus on October 14 to sample cultural traditions and fabulous foods from more than 50 countries and cultures from around the world. Founded in 1975, UNC Charlotte's longest running cultural event celebrates the University's and the region's growing diversity.



- **New members of the UNC Board of Governors**, along with UNC system President Margaret Spellings, saw the University's robust opportunities firsthand on Friday, Sept. 22, during a campus visit as a part of their system-wide orientation tour. Their time at

UNC Charlotte included a bus tour of campus, a demonstration in the Duke Energy Smart Grid Laboratory, and a luncheon featuring remarks from a group of talented students.

For the first time in several decades, an alumnus of UNC Charlotte, former **Sen. Bob Rucho** ('94), was elected by the N.C. General Assembly to serve on the UNC Board of Governors. A retired dentist from Matthews, Bob served eight terms in the N.C. Senate where he was a champion of the UNC Charlotte \$90 million science building. He also served on the Board of Advisors for the Belk College of Business.

Also elected to the Board of Governors is former **Rep. Rob Bryan** from Mecklenburg County. During his time in the N.C. General Assembly, Rob served as co-chair of the Appropriations on Education Committee and was a leader on educational issues. He has consistently been a champion for UNC Charlotte and for higher education. We are pleased that Rob will serve as the UNC Board of Governors liaison to UNC Charlotte. A BOG member is assigned to each of the 17 campuses of the UNC system to assist in Board of Trustees appointment selections, focus on the campus priorities and activities, and work with the chancellors, trustees, and administration. Our former liaison, Philip Byers, has promised to stay in touch to continue his good work on our behalf, which included approval of our new University Recreation Center, now under construction.

- Our travel back in time over the fall semester takes us to September 15-16 for **Family Weekend**. The weekend included many signature events that saw record registration and attendance for the program, with an overall registration of approximately 1,550 participants, a 17 percent growth from 2016 to 2017. Our "49er 411" educational and information sessions attracted almost 200 participants on Saturday morning, while the Chancellor's Brunch served over 500 family members.



- Dean of Students Christine Reed Davis hosted the inaugural **Dean's Tailgate** just outside of the Robert and Mariam Hayes Baseball Stadium prior to the football game. This free event provided students, alumni, and families the opportunity to join in the spirit of being a member of the 49er family through an alcohol-free tailgate experience. In partnership with the Center for Wellness Promotion, Housing and Residence Life, and Athletics, the Dean's Tailgate welcomed in excess of 650 attendees to enjoy on-site grilled food, mocktails, a live band, funnel cakes and snow cones, and personalized "How to be a Niner" signs. Over 30 giveaways were provided including 49er athletic/practice team swag, tickets to signature University events, tailgate food packages, and lunch opportunities with campus notables,



including our new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Kevin Bailey, and 49er Football Coach Brad Lambert. Happy tailgaters then made their way to Jerry Richardson Stadium where over 1,100 family members attended the standing-room-only football game as the 49ers took on the NC A&T University Aggies. NSFS is encouraged to see more and more family members excited and engaged with the 49er community and looks forward to our spring event, Spring Family Reunion, on Saturday, February 17, 2018!

- Late August saw the arrival of the youngest students on our campus—high school students attending **our two “Early Colleges”**: The Charlotte Engineering Early College (CEEC, opened in fall 2014) and the Charlotte Teacher Early College (CTEC, opened this fall).

Both schools enroll students in grades 9 through 12 in Charlotte-Mecklenburg magnet schools, selected by lottery from among students who wish to pursue an alternative path to their high school diploma. After completing the CMS curriculum for grades 9 and 10 in classrooms on campus dedicated to these programs, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students judged to be academically prepared for college work are able to enroll in regular UNC Charlotte courses taught by UNC Charlotte faculty and sharing classrooms with UNC Charlotte students. The state of North Carolina pays the tuition and fees for students enrolled in this college coursework and, for students who wish to complete a 13<sup>th</sup> grade, it is possible for them to accumulate up to 60 hours of transferable college credit. Notably, the first class of CEEC juniors enrolled in college courses last year accumulated an average of 16 credit hours with an average GPA of 3.2. That was a remarkable achievement given that the students are chosen by lottery and reflect the socio-economic characteristics of the CMS district with large proportions of low income, minority, and first-generation students.

This fall, UNC Charlotte welcomed to campus the fourth class of 65 new students to CEEC and the inaugural class of 49 students to the Charlotte Teacher Early College (CTEC), a new five-year program for Charlotte-Mecklenburg students interested in a career in education. The only program of its kind in North Carolina and one of the first in the country, CTEC is an experiment to see whether it is possible to stem the 30% decrease in teacher education programs in North Carolina in recent years. Of course, because it is impossible for many 9<sup>th</sup> graders to know what their ultimate career choice might be, CTEC will immerse students in intentional field-based learning activities to expose students close up to the joys (and challenges) of teaching. Hopefully, a large proportion of CTEC students will subsequently enroll in a teacher preparation program at UNC Charlotte or another four-year institution. If a student chooses not to enter teaching, they still will have earned their associate’s degree or amassed a large number of transferable college credit.

A major goal of mine is to create a single building on campus that can house both Early Colleges. At the moment, I am in the process of trying to obtain pledges from private donors that will total \$10 million in the hopes that I can convince President Spellings, the

Board of Governors, and ultimately the General Assembly to provide a \$10 million match. Design and construction of such a facility, which will be located between the EPIC and Grigg Buildings, will take about two years after funding is approved.

### **Support Services for Students**

This fall also marked the initiation or continuation of some important services to assist students achieve their goal of completing a college degree.

- **DegreeWorks** is a degree audit tool that allows students and their advisors to view progress toward a degree, based on students' declared curriculum. While DegreeWorks has been available to graduate students for a year, it has now been rolled out to undergraduate students who were admitted in Fall 2014 or later.

The next phase in the DegreeWorks project is to implement the Student Educational Planner, which enables students and advisors to lay out a recommended sequence of classes that fulfill remaining program requirements so that students know exactly what's ahead, in order to minimize excess credits and graduate on time. The University will begin working on the implementation of the Student Educational Planner in Spring 2018.

- The **University Transfer Center (UTC)**, a new unit of the Office of Undergraduate Education, is now open under the direction of Mr. Howard Simms. The University Transfer Center (UTC) team provides primary advising to all University College transfer students and secondary advising for all other transfer students, working in close partnership with the advising team in the University Advising Center. The UTC has developed a new transfer student learning community. In conjunction with the Dean of Students Office, the UTC is also developing tools to allow transfer students to check degree progress and develop realistic plans prior to the summer orientation program. The UTC advocates for transfer students and transfer-friendly processes and collaborates with our community college partners.
- **Niner Central**, a brand new office to streamline student services, continued to develop over the fall semester with renovations in the Cone University Center (where the candy counter used to be). This office was created as part of my "One University" initiative to break down administrative barriers for students. For questions and services about financial aid, student records, and student billing, students will no longer have to bounce between three different offices - they will go to one location for their answers. Cross-trained Niner Central staff will not only help students easily and efficiently navigate many student services through walk-in, email, and phone calls, but will also offer the convenience of transacting administrative tasks online 24/7 through a redesigned my.uncc.edu student website. Providing the answers students are looking for in one campus location minimizes the referrals to other administrative offices on campus and more effectively supports student success.



- In 2016, UNC Charlotte created a “micro-grant” program called, **The Gold Rush Grant**, aimed at helping students with financial need who were **close** to graduation to cross the finish line and achieve their dream of earning an undergraduate degree. The Gold Rush Grant program awards a one-time grant of \$1,500 to selected students who are within two semesters of graduating and have demonstrated financial need during their senior year. In addition to meeting certain eligibility requirements, students must agree to complete two future-building activities that help them prepare for their future career, such as meeting with a career advisor to review their resume, prepare for a mock interview, or complete an online financial literacy module

Thus far, the Gold Rush Grant Program has shown great success in helping students cross that all important finish line! As of October 2017, 69% of the 166 students awarded the grant had graduated compared to only 62% of the students in the control group. The control group was comprised of students who met all the eligibility requirements for the Gold Rush Grant, but did not receive the grant because we did not have sufficient funding to support every student. As of this fall, a total of 242 students have been awarded the micro-grant. With additional funding, we can help even more seniors in need earn a degree.

- One of our most important and long-standing programs to support student success is **Student Advising for Freshman Excellence (SAFE)**, a peer mentoring and academic enrichment program created in 1987 to aid students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds in their transition from high school to college. Housed within the Dean of Students’ Office of Peer Mentoring and Engagement, SAFE minimizes academic, social, and economic challenges by providing information about UNC Charlotte support services by way of its “SAFE Voyage,” a one-week pre-orientation experience. SAFE then pairs students with upperclassmen peer mentors of similar academic focus or majors for the duration of their first academic year at UNC Charlotte. Over the course of the past four years, the program has seen unprecedented growth. During the summer of 2017, the SAFE Program’s support staff recruited 257 students from the incoming class of 2021 (8% of all first-time, first-year students) who collectively represent all seven colleges to take part in SAFE’s unique mentoring experience. Previous first-year cohorts of the SAFE program have been known to consistently outperform their non-program-participant peers within the classroom as well as in the area of attempted credit hour completion. Since the fall of 2015, each SAFE cohort has consistently earned over a 3.0 grade point average during each semester of their first year.
- Undergraduate research opportunities enable students to get valuable experience in the discovery of new knowledge. UNC Charlotte has been steadily increasing the avenues we offer students to engage in research. The Charlotte Research Scholars, the Charlotte Community Scholars, and several Research Opportunities for Undergraduates grants have allowed students to work closely with faculty in a variety of areas ranging from nanoscale science to economic history. Students present their work in symposia on campus and at professional meetings, getting broad exposure to research in all areas. To better support

this work, a **new Office of Undergraduate Research** has been established within the Office of Undergraduate Education under Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of University College Dr. John Smail.

- Student safety is always a top priority of ours and an area where we often get questions from students and their parents. Although the campus is a very safe place, we have spent the past 18 months studying how we can strengthen our communication with students, employees, and families in emergencies. Based on the feedback received during this process, we have implemented some new communication tools that should help us be more effective in sharing important information with the campus community. In addition to the [NinerAlerts](#) system that we have used for some time to notify the community when there is an imminent threat to campus safety or operations (e.g., inclement weather), we have now implemented [NinerNotice](#), a website for information on unusual events that do not require an immediate action in response but which members of the campus community may want to know about. Faculty, staff, and students will automatically receive an email message when a new NinerNotice is issued. Family and friends who wish to subscribe to NinerNotices may do so by [completing this form](#). Also new this year is the online availability of the [police log](#), which provides a comprehensive list of all incidents to which University police officers respond. If you are interested in receiving the logs in your inbox, you may [join the distribution list](#). Comments on how these services can be improved can be shared with Chris Gonyar, director of emergency management, at [cgonyar@uncc.edu](mailto:cgonyar@uncc.edu) or Christy Jackson, director of communications for business affairs, at [cjack113@uncc.edu](mailto:cjack113@uncc.edu).

### **Spotlight on Faculty and Staff Accomplishments**

Fall semester is often the time for celebrating the accomplishments of our faculty and staff, both individually and within specific organizations.

- The individual recognitions were headlined by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence**, presented in a downtown dinner event on September 8 to [Michèle Bissière](#) in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies. Other award finalists—all outstanding in their own right--were Scott Fitzgerald (Sociology), Amy Good (Reading and Elementary Education), Kirk Melnikoff (English), and Coral Wayland (Anthropology).
- The 2017 Provost's Awards were presented this fall to a variety of departments for teaching, advising, and community engagement:
  - The Award for Excellence in Teaching went to the **Department of English** in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
  - The Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising went to the **College of Arts + Architecture advising team**.

- The Faculty Award for Community Engagement was presented to Dr. **Thomas Schmedake**, associate professor in the Chemistry Department
- For more information, go to <http://inside.uncc.edu/news-features/2017-09-20/provost-honors-teaching-excellence-academic-advising-community-engagement>

Beyond these campus-based awards, our faculty and staff continue to make an impression with regional, state, national, and even international audiences.

- Professor **Janni Sorensen** of the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences received the [Excellence and Innovation Award](#) in the Civic Learning and Community Engagement category from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) for the [Charlotte Action Research Project](#) (CHARP) that she founded to forge partnerships between the University and marginalized communities in Charlotte. Although I sat on the AASCU Board of Directors at the time of the award, I had no role in her selection. However, I was pleased to be with her when she accepted the award in San Diego.



- Assistant Professor of Theatre **Carlos Cruz** recently received a 2017 Works in Progress Residency Award from the Princess Grace Foundation. The award will fund a residency next March at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City. In 2014, Cruz received the McColl Award from the Arts & Science Council (ASC), a grant given by the ASC once every three years for the creation of a new work of art, in his case an original cirque-style troupe.



- Provost **Joan Lorden** was recognized locally by The Charlotte Hornets Foundation as their Education Hero at their [“My Hero Gala”](#) on October 14. The gala raises money for their grants program and the Novant Community Cruiser. Joan continues to bring distinction to this institution for her great leadership over the past 14 years.
- We recently learned that Chancellor’s Professor **Steven Rogelberg**, director of the Organizational Science doctoral program at UNC Charlotte, was recently named the inaugural recipient of the [Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology Humanitarian Award](#). Steven has also been elected as the recipient of a Humboldt Research Award in recognition of lifetime achievements in research; think of this as the [German version of the Nobel Prize](#). Stephen continues to make UNC Charlotte look very, very good.



- In terms of delivering upon our mission to serve as North Carolina's urban research university, **externally-funded research awards** totaled \$50.9M in FY16-17, a milestone for the University. This represents an 80 percent increase over the last five years.
- Fifty-two faculty members were recognized for receiving their **first research grant awards**, and two were recognized for establishing **start-up companies** in FY16-17 at the "Niner Research Reception" on September 11. Niner Research is an annual event hosted by Research and Economic Development to honor our faculty grant recipients and others engaged in research on campus. Representative Scott Stone was the keynote speaker at the event.



### **New Academic Programs and Instructional Activity**

Our fall enrollment of 29,317 moved us into third position within the UNC system in total enrollment (behind NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill) and second (to NC State) in the number of undergraduates. It is only to be expected that we will gradually grow our inventory of academic programs to serve our undergraduate and graduate students.

- A new **Master of Science in Management** has been approved by the UNC Board of Governors to provide recent graduates of non-business programs in a broad array of fields with basic business acumen to complement their undergraduate degrees. The only program of its kind in the UNC system, it will be offered within the Belk College of Business on a full-time basis and can be completed in 10.5 months. Learn more at <http://management.uncc.edu/>.
- A **Master of Science in Architecture** degree within the School of Architecture has also been approved by the UNC Board of Governors. The program will enhance advanced, collaborative research in two primary fields: Digital Technologies + Materials Systems and Design Science + Building Systems. These STEM-based emphases focus on professional and industry needs for future building design professionals.
- A **Master of Science in Athletic Training** degree has been approved and will be offered within the Department of Kinesiology. This is a two-year 59 credit hour program which will prepare students to sit for the National Athletic Training Board of Certification Examination. Athletic Trainers are highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, and therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. For more information, see <https://kinesiology.uncc.edu/academic-degrees-and-programs/graduate-degrees/master-science-athletic-training>.

- The Department of Public Health Sciences has launched a new undergraduate **Bachelor of Science in Health Systems Management (HSMT)**. This program is designed to prepare entry-level generalists who will contribute to planning, directing, or coordinating medical and health services in hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations, non-profit agencies, or similar organizations. Approximately 200 students are already enrolled in HSMT courses for the program's first semester this fall. For more information about this program, visit <http://publichealth.uncc.edu/node/145>.
- Of course, not all of the instructional activity at the University involves courses for degree credit. **UNC Charlotte Continuing Education** offers a range of courses, programs, and certificates that benefit the greater Charlotte region. For instance, Continuing Education has launched a new noncredit professional development certificate, "Craft Beer Business Essentials," in response to this industry's boom in the region and state. Registration is open for classes starting in Spring 2018.
- Similarly, the rapid growth of jobs requiring technology-related skills like coding and data analytics has created a large skills gap in the workforce. We are responding to this gap with "boot camps" that equip participants with the skills to succeed in the workforce. The first **Coding Boot Camp**—which can be completed in three months with full-time study and in six months for part-time students—has seen over 100 participants graduate. The Data Analytics Boot Camp will start in February, preparing participants to enter the workforce in data science, analytics, and visualization. UNC Charlotte Continuing Education's wide range of offerings in these and other areas can be explored at <https://continuinged.uncc.edu/>.

### **We Continue to Build**

No fall update would be complete without mentioning the continuation of the program of work that has lead UNC Charlotte to invest over \$1.2 billion in new construction and renovation since 2005.

In addition to the Price Center for Counseling and Psychological Services completed and dedicated in October, we are marching forward on a number of construction projects:

- Work is underway on the new **University Recreation Center** (previously known as the Health and Wellness Center but renamed URec as a result of a student poll) adjacent to the Student Union on Craver Road. This 144,000 square foot facility will provide a wide range of opportunities for student exercise and recreation, including individual and group work-outs. The \$63.5 million project, which was funded by debt service fee reserves that have been accumulated as a result of our rapid enrollment growth, was made possible without any increase in student debt fees. We expect that building to be open in fall, 2019.

Because we are building URec on the site of a former parking lot, it has been necessary to expand the neighboring Student Union Deck. When completed next spring, the project will add 570 spaces, a net gain of 206 spaces in that busy area. The deck will remain open during construction with limited exceptions, but traffic patterns may change as the project proceeds.

- To make room for the new Science Building that will be located at the top of Craver Road across the street from the Greenhouse, it is necessary to move a large number of service operations to another location. Work on the future site of the new **Facilities Operations and Parking & Transportation Services Complex** is taking place north of Lot 25, across Poplar Lane from North Deck. This project also includes a new warehouse for Receiving and Stores.
- As I have mentioned in these pages before, our enrollment growth has necessitated the relocation of our Undergraduate Admissions Office to make it more easily accessible to prospective students and their parents. Construction has begun on a new 18,000-square-foot **Admissions and Visitors Center**. Located in South Village, the new facility will welcome prospective students to campus, house undergraduate admissions offices, and serve as a starting point for campus orientations and tours. This facility was made possible by a private donor in an estate gift. More later on that donor when we open and dedicate the building in his name.
- A number of major renovation projects have been underway at several of our older buildings. The **Elm and Pine residential halls** have been getting modernization of the interiors and mechanical, plumbing, and information technology improvements. Our long-standing Science Building, **Burson**, has been receiving modifications to the heating and air conditioning systems, roof systems, and lighting. The renovation of the original **Residence Dining Hall** (RDH, built in 1970) will provide newly refitted space and equipment to support our large catering operation, while the remainder of the space will house the administrative offices of Housing and Residence Life.
- Prior to winter break, occupants of the Denny building will return to their newly renovated work environment to complete **Phase One of the Academic Complex Transformation**. Phase Two, which includes the Macy and Barnard buildings, began in early fall and occupants relocated to swing space in Hickory and Cedar.
- The highly anticipated revitalization of **Belk Plaza** will begin in late January. The project includes a water feature, a great lawn, outdoor seating areas, and performance areas.
- Some recent very good news was that we recently received **affirmed credit ratings** from the two largest rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, with a rating of 'A+' with a stable outlook, and Moody's Investors Service, 'Aa3' with a stable outlook. Both agencies affirmed their ratings based on the very strong enterprise profile of the University,

including growing demand seen in our enrollment, consistently positive financial operations, strong operating and capital support from the Aaa-rated State of North Carolina, and a capable management team.

For additional updates on these and other projects in the Capital Construction Five-year Plan, visit [capitalconstructionplan.uncc.edu](http://capitalconstructionplan.uncc.edu).

### **Fundraising and Friendraising**

- **[Exponential: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte](#)** is the largest campaign in the University's history, with a goal of \$200 million. To date, *Exponential* has raised \$142.6 million to support, promote, and motivate student and faculty success.

This past year alone, 33 endowed scholarships and 10 non-endowed scholarships were created through *Exponential*. With the recent addition of the new Price Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, we now have a college, six buildings, and a promenade on campus named after alumni, including the Hunter and Stephanie Edwards Promenade, Hauser Alumni Pavilion, Johnson Band Center, Dhiaa Jamil Niner Student Pantry, Karen A. Popp and Demond T. Martin Student Union, Cato College of Education, and the Price Center.

- This year's **Founders Celebration**, held in September, let 49ers showcase their spirit and support for the University in a variety of ways. One of the most visual ways was [#NinerNationGives](#), the 49-hour drive for Niners everywhere to demonstrate their support for UNC Charlotte on the occasion of our 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary as an institution. This was the social media campaign's most successful year yet, raising \$223,264 with a total of 1,410 total gifts from 35 states and Washington, D.C. Several hundred alumni also came together at regional events in Atlanta, Charleston, Dallas, New York City, Washington, D.C., and [right here on campus](#) to support and show their enthusiasm for #NinerNationGives.



Other Founders Celebration events included [Reunion Zero](#) for our most recent graduates and [Alumni Tailgate Village](#) (which had a stellar turnout). Students, faculty and staff celebrated [Founders Fest](#) across campus with cupcakes and selfies with Norm and Chancellor Dubois. Members of the [1946 Society](#), who have made gifts to UNC Charlotte for 10 or more consecutive years also gathered at a special reception at the Harris Alumni Center.

An exclusive [Founders Celebration video](#) debuted at the [49ers vs. Georgia State football game](#) to great acclaim, and Student Body President Tracey Allsbrook rang the historic University bell eight times, one time for each college and once for the Graduate School.

### **Student-Athletes Continue to Excel**

It is not news that our football team struggled in the fall season and that men's basketball is off to a bumpy start in the pre-conference schedule.

I certainly don't want to minimize the importance of establishing winning traditions in these two very important sports. However, I also like to remind followers of 49er athletics that there is much to be proud of in terms of the accomplishments of our student-athletes on and off the field, most especially that, since 1993, 93% of the student-athletes who have completed their athletic eligibility have completed their college degrees. And our students continue to make significant contributions to the betterment of life in Charlotte, with hundreds of hours every semester in volunteer community service supporting a variety of causes, including Crisis Assistance Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and Levine Children's Hospital. We have also operated a 17-sport athletic program at the highest levels of integrity without even the slightest hint of an athletic rules infraction or compromise of our academic standards. These results don't just happen; they are the result of the great support provided our student-athletes by a talented group of athletic administrators, coaches, training staff, and academic support.

This semester was no exception to the general rule that many of our student-athletes accomplish great things either while enrolled as 49ers or later in their lives.

- Former track star **Briauna Jones** was named to the 2017-18 USA Bobsled national team in October and will compete with five other members for up to three spots on the 2018 Olympic team. She hopes to become UNC Charlotte's first student-athlete to represent the United States in Olympic competition.
- We are equally proud of senior soccer star **Martha Thomas**, who became our school's all-time leading scorer this fall. The defending Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year was highlighted in the Oct. 2 *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces in the Crowd" segment.
- In addition, senior **Haley Pace** of the 49ers softball team was chosen to represent Conference USA at the 2017-18 NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., Nov. 16-19. Pace is Vice President of the 49ers Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), has volunteered with the YMCA Miracle League, at area hospitals and with campus initiatives such as Let's SAAC Hunger. A first-team all-Conference USA shortstop and two-time National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) all-Region choice, Pace owns a 4.0 GPA in accounting and was a 2017 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-American.



On the administrative side, our athletic department recently announced its **partnership with Nike**. In becoming one of the elite programs that has a department-wide relationship with the global leader in athletic apparel, the 49ers will have access to cutting-edge gear on an annual basis while the entire department will be unified with one of the world's most recognizable brands.

We will be the host institution for the **2018 NCAA Div. I Men's Basketball First and Second Rounds** at Spectrum Center, on March 16 and 18. Tickets went on sale to the general public in early November. The 49ers have helped bring March Madness to Charlotte several times since 1990, including the 1994 NCAA Final Four, the 1991, 1993 and 2008 NCAA Regionals, and recent NCAA first and second rounds in 2011 and 2015. For ticket information log on to [Charlotte49ers.com](http://Charlotte49ers.com).

### **Important New Initiatives**

We have more new initiatives cooking than could be listed in this space, but let me close with a mention of just a few.

- First, working with Betty Doster, my special assistant for constituent relations, we have decided to be more intentional about ensuring that important audiences understand the benefits of higher education, the growth of the University, and UNC Charlotte's role in delivering talent to the workforce and stimulating economic development. We continue to welcome key policy makers to campus and accept invitations for public presentations. Just this semester, I have had the opportunity to serve as keynote speaker to a variety of regional and state organizations, including the Charlotte Regional Partnership, the Charlotte Chamber, the North Carolina Economic Development Partnership, and the community and employer partners of the Charlotte Research Institute.
- In March 2016, Campus Compact called on more than 450 university chancellors and presidents to publicly sign an "Action Statement" in observation of the 30th anniversary of its founding. The Action Statement committed each institution to develop a defined strategy to advance civic engagement, known as the **Civic Action Plan**. In December 2016, I signed the action statement and confirmed the University's participation. Four individuals with community-focused roles and responsibilities led a working group of 25 faculty, staff, and students to develop UNC Charlotte's Civic Action Plan.

The Civic Action Plan development team focused on answering Campus Compact's call to action, furthering the commitment of UNC Charlotte and the UNC System's community engagement efforts and incorporating the recommendations of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force. The team developed the following mission as a guide: The Civic Action Plan is a sustainable and long-term approach to fully activate the University's mission to address the unique needs of the Charlotte region. The two overarching goals of the Civic Action Plan are to Increase the visibility of the

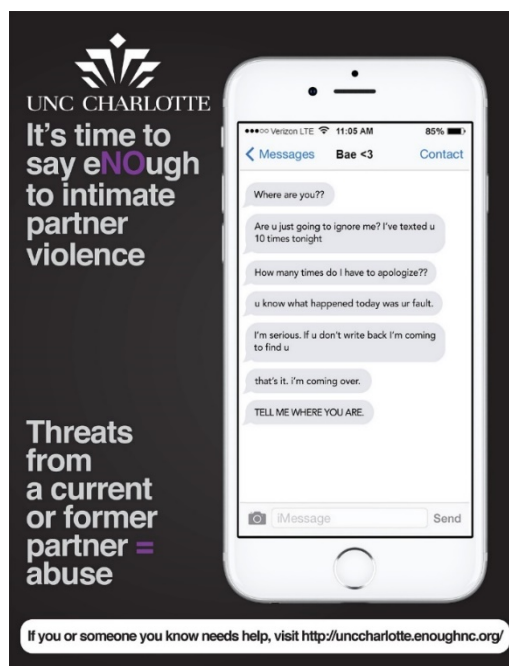
University as a civic leader enhancing quality of life through mutually beneficial partnerships, and to build a culture of civic responsibility through experiential learning, community-based research, and volunteerism.

The Civic Action Plan provides a strategy to improve social outcomes by organizing University resources, community-based research efforts, and community collaborations to effectively address regional need through collective impact. By effecting a Civic Action Plan that has as its core collective impact, UNC Charlotte will assume a role as a civic leader. While fulfilling its mission to educate its students (many of whom will continue to live and work in Charlotte) and to push the boundaries of knowledge through research, the University also serves as a neutral partner able to convene community discussions, shape a community based research agenda, and evaluate programs designed to improve opportunity. The Civic Action Plan recognizes that the University does not exist in isolation from the community it serves and that a shared agenda with shared measurements can undergird mutually reinforcing action that strengthens the University's ability to carry out its mission and build a stronger community.

- Our community engagement extends to a large set of issues related to improving the quality of life in our region. Partnering with **The Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage**, we will be developing an online campaign to prevent intimate partner violence among UNC Charlotte students through awareness and education and to promote resources for students who have experienced intimate partner violence.

Intimate partner violence is prevalent among college students in the U.S., with nearly half of dating college women having reported experiencing violent and abusive dating behavior. These experiences have negative consequences on physical health, mental well-being, and academic outcomes among students.

Staff and faculty from UNC Charlotte's Center for Wellness Promotion, School of Social Work, and Title IX Office have been working with the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (a project funding partner and content experts) and Capital Broadcasting Company (the project media partner) to develop campaign messages and advertisements. Novel strategies have been used to disseminate campaign materials and reach the target audience online. Users who click on online campaign ads are routed to a [website](#) which includes information about intimate partner violence and campus and community resources.



This project launched at the beginning of the fall 2017 semester and is patterned after the [Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage's](#) "eNOugh" campaign.

- Dr. Chance W. Lewis has been named the first **Diversity Faculty Fellow** by Provost Joan Lorden. As the Provost's Diversity Faculty Fellow, Lewis will chair the newly created **Council on University Community Working Group** (CCWG) which is designed to accelerate the work of the Campus Plan for Diversity, Access, and Inclusion, with emphasis on those parts that pertain directly to the Division of Academic Affairs. Under Dr. Lewis' direction, the CCWG will work to increase the visibility, coordination, and impact of the Campus Plan and ongoing initiatives throughout the Division, as well as coordinate with other divisions across the University as it advises the provost on how resources, policies and practices can be used to advance institutional goals related to diversity. The group will also stay current on national issues affecting diversity and inclusion in higher education, and it will provide a forum for campus faculty and staff who are directly engaged in diversity and inclusion to share best practices.

Under Dr. Lewis' leadership, the CUCWG will convene for its first meeting in January 2018. The working group will be comprised of one faculty member and one staff member from each of the colleges and Atkins Library, two students, the director of the Faculty Affairs and Diversity Office, and two staff members from the Division of Student Affairs.

Additional information, as well as the names of the faculty and staff members who have been selected to serve on the CUCWG, can be found at <https://inside.uncc.edu/news-features/2017-12-12/education-professor-named-diversity-faculty-fellow>

### **Closing Thoughts**

Well, that is about enough for today. Whatever your holiday tradition might be, I hope you'll enjoy time in the company of family and friends. Happy 2018 and, of course, Go Niners!

Cordially,



Philip L. Dubois  
Chancellor