As I reflect on the semester that has just drawn to a close, one word comes to mind: Whew!

Life on campus has been hopping, with lots of great things happening, some growing pains, some hard goodbyes and some new faces, and more than our fair share of interruptions from Mother Nature.

On December 14-15 we celebrated the graduation of our newest crop of Forty-Niner alumni. This was our first time having three ceremonies as part of our December commencement. And wouldn’t you know we’d have a very unusual snow and ice event right during the middle of final exams! Lots of people pulled together to make the best of a difficult situation, and we were able to get all of the final exams squeezed in before the first commencement service, which actually had to be pushed back a few hours in order to accommodate the rescheduled exams. I appreciate the hard work and can-do attitude of the faculty and staff who made it all work, and the flexibility and understanding of our students and their families, many of whom were inconvenienced by the unavoidable schedule changes.

So yes, it was challenging, but we pulled it off and managed to give a proper 49er sendoff to more than 3,700 new graduates.

The following pages will share a number of highlights from the Fall 2018 semester and will also give a preview of some exciting projects on the horizon. If you would like more information on any item covered here, please contact my senior executive assistant, Shari Dunn (shari.dunn@uncc.edu), or check the Chancellor's Outbox at http://chancellor.uncc.edu/office-chancellor/public-communications.
Election Results

In January, we will see significant changes to the make-up of the North Carolina General Assembly. I want to take this opportunity to thank Rep. Bill Brawley ’78 (BS – Accounting) for his strong advocacy on behalf of UNC Charlotte and the UNC system. Bill was a champion for the $90 million science building, the new University Recreation Center, and all things UNC Charlotte.

We welcome three new 49er alumni to the State Senate:
- Vicki Sawyer ’97, R-Iredell (BA – Special Education)
- Ted Alexander ’82, R-Cleveland (BA – Political Science)
- Mujtaba Mohammad ’08, D-Mecklenburg (BA – History)

A more detailed recap of the elections can be found at: (https://advancement.uncc.edu/newsletter-stories/legislative-update-6)

Legislative Session

January also marks the beginning of the 2019 legislative session. We expect the UNC Board of Governors to take final action on the legislative agenda at their January board meeting. Topping the list of priorities for UNC Charlotte is a $44 million renovation of the Cameron and Burson buildings to make way for new chemistry research labs in Cameron and converting Burson for space for engineering and computing & informatics, two of the fastest growing programs at UNC Charlotte.

We will continue to push for management flexibilities to streamline campus repairs and renovations including increasing carryforward and authority to approve projects. Stay tuned for more information as the session begins next month.

Business Affairs

Employee Engagement Survey Results

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, representatives from ModernThink, the company that administered the 2018 UNC System’s Employee Engagement Survey, were on campus to lead a discussion about the feedback the University received. The results were presented to Cabinet in the morning, and an open town hall for all of campus was held later in the day.

This was the first in a series of engagement surveys to be conducted by the UNC System over the next five years, and UNC Charlotte had the highest response rate among all institutions.
Overall, the University met or exceeded the System average in nearly all categories. There is, however, always opportunity for improvement. University and divisional leaders are currently reviewing the provided data, and I expect to share information on next steps with the campus sometime in early 2019.

**Hurricane Preparedness**

Mother Nature threw some surprises our way with Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Florence, in particular, was a long process that included many days of meetings, preparations, and communication, with our Emergency Operations Center on a 24/7 cycle during the worst of the storm. While we received approximately 6 inches of rainfall on campus, resulting in some flooding at Toby Creek and a few downed trees and roof leaks, it was nothing compared to what our sister institutions to the east experienced. UNC Charlotte was fortunate to be able to provide assistance by housing guests from UNC Wilmington and UNC Pembroke and sending facilities management support to UNC Wilmington during their recovery.

**Family Assistance Center Exercise**

In late October, the University conducted a full-scale exercise of its Family Assistance Center (FAC) plan. Led by the Office of Emergency Management, the exercise brought together more than 65 employees, administrators, and volunteer actors to test the University’s ability to quickly and efficiently stand up an FAC on campus. An FAC is a location where families can receive information and support services in the event of a severe emergency affecting members of the campus community. UNC Charlotte was the first in the UNC System to conduct such an exercise, and we were pleased to have System representatives join us as observers during the activities.

Deploying an FAC is something we hope to never have to do, but it is good to know that we are well equipped to provide this important service in the event that it is ever needed.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Meal Sharing Program Addresses Student Food Insecurity**

UNC Charlotte students facing food insecurity can now apply for meal assistance through the University’s Swipe Out Hunger meal sharing program, which launched July 2018. Students can donate up to two swipes from their meal plan per semester to the program. Swipes can be donated outside of Crown Commons and SoVi Dining Hall.

Swipe Out Hunger operates nationally in 23 states and on dozens of campuses, including UNC Charlotte. Students who need to utilize the program can complete an assessment with Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS) in the Dean of Students Office. If eligible, students will receive meal swipes or declining balance swipes on their 49er ID card.
The effort is spearheaded by Leadership and Community Engagement and the University Sustainability Coordinator, in partnership with Chartwells Dining Service, Business Services, and Student Assistance and Support Services.

**Emergency Housing Supports Students Facing Crisis or Displacement**

The Short-Term Emergency Housing Program (SEHP) is a collaboration between the Office of Student Assistance and Support Services and Housing and Residence Life. SEHP assists students who have been displaced from their homes or apartments, or have experienced a crisis that has caused a significant change in a students’ housing status. The program offers eligible students temporary on-campus housing at a reduced nightly rate for up to 60 days.

SEHP can help in situations such as house/apartment fire or flooding, sleeping in a car or any place that is not a residence, having to move out of one’s current residence with no place to live, or temporarily staying with family or friends. Students must be enrolled in a degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate program at UNC Charlotte to be eligible for assistance.

**Third Annual Chancellor’s Fishing Derby**

I was excited to catch the first (but my only) fish on Nov. 10 at the Third Annual Chancellor’s Fishing Derby hosted by University Recreation, the Bass Fishing Club, campus partners, and sponsors. The family-friendly catch-and-release outing for faculty and staff brought out 82 participants to Hechenbleikner Lake on campus.

Winners were announced for the two sessions as follows:

- Youngest participant: Tyler Alajajian / Oliver Trianna
- Most fish caught: Raheem Elshayeb (11 fish) / Virgil Torrence (12 fish)
- Casting competition: Julian Mendoza (81 ft.) / Paul Dilgard (103 ft.)
- Largest bass caught: Houston Delinger (7.5 oz) / Donna Wilson (2.0 oz)

In short, the kids did much better than I did!

**Corporal Robert Qutub USMC Veterans Lounge Opens**

The Corporal Robert Qutub USMC Veterans Lounge opened Monday, Nov. 12 in Barnard 108. The newly renovated space provides separate study and lounge areas for the more than 900 students using GI Bill benefits each semester while attending UNC Charlotte. The space includes a flexible study room, a 70” monitor and Sony PlayStation4, as well as a refrigerator, microwave, and coffee machines. The lounge provides a safe, transitional space for the veteran student population, conveniently located across the hall from the Veterans Services Office.

The Lounge is named in recognition of Mr. Robert Qutub (Class of ’88) and his generous support of the UNC Charlotte veteran student population. Prior to attending UNC Charlotte, Bob served
in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Corporal for three years. Later, he worked for Bank of America and PricewaterhouseCoopers, retiring from MSCI Inc. He has served as Chief Financial Officer for RenaissanceRe since August of 2016.

Student Affairs Staff Updates, Awards, and Recognitions

- **Sujit Chemburkar** started at UNC Charlotte on Nov. 5 as the new associate vice chancellor for student affairs. Chemburkar joins Niner Nation from the University of South Florida where he was the assistant dean of students and director of the Marshall Center. He possesses experience in facilities management (including student unions on three campuses), demonstration response teams, conference and reservations, and student activity fee management. He has also worked with athletics on the fan experience and USF pride.

- Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life **Michelle Guobadia** was recognized by the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA) as a 2018 individual award recipient for outstanding contributions by members and colleagues.

  Michelle has served on the Board of Directors and the AFA Foundation Board. Outside of her full-time campus-based efforts, she has worked with more than 100 communities in the past two years to enable them to dissect the culture of hazing that plagues many student groups. Additionally, she was nominated and selected to participate in Leaders Under 40 (LU40), one of Community Building Initiative's signature leadership programs.

- Assistant Director for Leadership and Community Engagement **Sean Langley** was selected for the 2018-19 class of Leadership Charlotte, a transformative, ten-month leadership experience for Charlotte residents. The mission of Leadership Charlotte is to develop and enhance volunteer community leadership by providing a diverse group of emerging and existing leaders with the opportunity to increase their community knowledge, civic network, and service to the community.

- **Nadia Campbell**, Assistant Director for Leadership and Community Engagement, recently completed a Professional Internship Experience project in conjunction with the University Career Center. Project objectives included skill and talent development for her Gallup-Strengths Certification and expansion of her professional network. The project’s intended outcomes were gaining practical knowledge of a different functional area, as well as the creation and production of a collaborative project between the University Career Center and the Center for Leadership Development.
ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Exponential Update

The largest private fundraising campaign in the University’s history, *Exponential: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte*, has raised $164.5 million toward its $200 million goal. So far, nearly 11,500 individual alumni have demonstrated their support of UNC Charlotte with gifts to the campaign.

In what has become an annual tradition, many alumni give through #NinerNationGives, the 49-hour drive for Niners around the world to demonstrate their support for UNC Charlotte. Coinciding with the anniversary of the University’s founding, the social media campaign has grown each year since its inception in 2015. The 2018 effort was no exception, raising $265,244 from a total of 1,949 gifts from donors in 39 states and Washington, D.C. #NinerNationGives also attracted 850 first-time donors this year.

To learn more about the transformative impact of *Exponential: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte* and how you may participate, contact Beth Crigler, our new Associate Vice Chancellor for University Development.

Coming Home

Homecoming Weekend 2018 gave 49er alumni an opportunity to reconnect with all things UNC Charlotte! The weekend kicked off with the Niner Nation Homecoming Block Party, featuring live entertainment, food trucks, and a performance by the Dance Team. On Saturday, alumni took a trip down memory lane in Moore Hall before its scheduled demolition in Spring 2019 to make way for a new five-story, 600-plus bed residence hall. An Oktoberfest-themed menu, live band, local breweries, and a visit by the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band and cheerleaders made the Alumni Association’s tailgate one to remember.

Two alumni award programs also took place during Homecoming Weekend. The 8th Annual Excellence in Leadership Awards, sponsored by the UNC Charlotte Black Alumni Chapter, highlighted six alumni for their contributions to the fields of entrepreneurship, financial services, healthcare, philanthropy, public service and STEM; and the inaugural 10 Under Ten Awards, presented by the UNC Charlotte Young Alumni Chapter, showcased the amazing things young alumni are doing in their professions and communities.

Turner School of Accountancy Surpasses Fundraising Goal

The Turner School of Accountancy has surpassed its fundraising goal, raising more than $5.2 million in gifts and commitments from more than 285 donors. In 2016, the late emeritus faculty member Thomas C. Turner donated $2.5 million to UNC Charlotte to provide scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing accounting degrees. The goal was to successfully match his gift. Since Tom’s gift, another $2.7-plus million has been raised from hundreds of individuals and many firms.
William F. Kennedy Graduate School Conference Room Dedication

Faculty and University leaders memorialized Dr. William F. Kennedy, a former professor in the Belk College of Business, by naming the William F. Kennedy Conference Room in his honor. Kennedy, who passed away in 2015, had made a lasting contribution to graduate education with the establishment of scholarships for UNC Charlotte graduate students as part of a $1 million estate gift. “Dr. Kennedy had a tremendous and lasting impact on the students and colleagues he touched,” said Tom Reynolds, UNC Charlotte Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School. “We are honored to have this memorial as a lasting reminder of his contributions.” The newly dedicated William F. Kennedy Conference Room is located in the Graduate School on the second floor of Cato Hall.

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY UPDATE

Annual Legal Symposium Examines Current Issues

Over 140 faculty, staff, and students attended the 2018 Division of Institutional Integrity Legal Symposium held on Oct. 16. Members of the Office of Legal Affairs, Title IX Office, Internal Audit Department, and the Office of Ethics and Compliance presented on current legal issues ranging from free speech to interacting with students within a trauma-informed care model. The symposium also featured campus partners from Police and Public Safety, Student Affairs, Disability Services, and Human Resources, as well as John Johnson, Special Agent with the United States Department of Commerce, in a conversation about export control compliance.

The Legal Symposium has been held annually in the Fall semester since 2013 and is open to all members of the UNC Charlotte community.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Area 49

The J. Murrey Atkins Library is proud to announce the opening of a state-of-the-art learning and technology space designed to encourage cross-disciplinary exploration and collaboration. Area 49 includes a Makerspace with 3D printers, laser cutters and sewing machines; an audio and video recording studio; gaming, visualization, and multimedia labs; and a T3 Classroom (Teaching + Technology Theater), which is a flexible classroom and experimental teaching space for instructions, demonstrations and workshops. In addition, Area 49 also provides students and
researchers support and access to specialized equipment, such as cameras, audio recorders, projectors, and circuitry kits.

**New Degree Programs**

- **Civil Engineering Ph.D.**
  
  We were pleased to learn this fall that the Board of Governors had approved our 24th doctoral program, a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. The new degree will provide doctoral-level education for students seeking civil engineering careers in practice, research and teaching/ academia. All of the disciplines within the William States Lee College of Engineering now offer doctoral degree programs.

- **M.S. in Management**
  
  The first cohort of 28 M.S. in Management graduate students began their 10½-month journey to their advanced degrees in July 2018. These students bring varied disciplines and bachelor’s degrees, from engineering to communications. The only undergraduate degree not represented is business, as this program is intentionally designed to provide business skills to non-business majors. The students come from a varied list of geographic locations and undergraduate universities, from Ottawa to India to UNC Charlotte.

- **DBA Program Welcomes Second Cohort of Scholars**
  
  UNC Charlotte’s Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) program currently has 41 scholars enrolled in the program. The first of its kind in the Carolinas, the DBA is a three-year program consisting of 18 three-credit-hour courses taught over one weekend per month at UNC Charlotte Center City, located in the heart of Uptown Charlotte.

  In addition to the inaugural cohort of 16 doctoral candidates, each with a master’s degree and more than five years of business experience, the most recent cohort of 25 DBA scholars began their journey this summer, working toward their doctoral degree. The new cohort consists of scholars from a wide range of industries and career levels.

**Urban Institute Launches YourVoiceCLT**

Members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community have a new way to share their opinions on a variety of issues with the launch of **YourVoiceCLT**. Charlotte’s Community Survey Panel was founded by the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute along with the Ph.D. in Public Policy Program, the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and the Policy Opinion, Learning and Sentiment Lab. The Lab is a research laboratory that conducts experimental research to understand factors that influence public opinion on a range of issues.

Leaders of the effort are Diane Gavarkavich, director of research services with the Urban Institute and executive director of YourVoiceCLT, and Cherie Maestas, Rauch Professor of
Political Science and director of the Public Policy Program and academic director of YourVoiceCLT.

This new initiative will enable city and county citizens to share their thoughts about topics related to their quality of life and/or respond to issues in the news. This high-quality, online survey research platform and regular opportunities for interaction are designed to allow civic organizations, community stakeholders, academics, and policy-makers to learn vital information about perceptions of key issues in the Charlotte area.

Faculty Appointments

We have continued to be extremely successful in the recruitment of outstanding faculty members and administrators.

- **Dongsong Zhang** has joined the Belk College Department of Business Information Systems & Operations Management (BISOM) as the Belk Endowed Chair in Business Analytics. His current research interests include social computing, health IT, mobile HCI, business intelligence, and online communities. Before joining UNC Charlotte, he was a tenured Full Professor in the Department of Information Systems at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He received his Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from the Eller School of Management at the University of Arizona.

- **Robert Pennington**, Ph.D., BCBA-D was recently named the Lake and Edward J Snyder, Jr. Distinguished Scholar in Special Education. He has over 25 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities, their families and teachers. His primary research interests are in the application of behavior analytic principles and procedures to the development of written communication repertoires and the improvement of educational programming for students with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. Robert is passionate about both serving his community and the dissemination of research-based practice.

- The College of Arts + Architecture welcomed **Lydia C. Thompson** as the new chair of the Department of Art & Art History. A ceramic artist, Thompson has exhibited work in galleries, art centers, and museums. Professor Thompson received a Fulbright Hayes grant to conduct research on traditional architecture in Nigeria and a VCUarts Institutional Grant for research at the International Ceramic Research Center Artist-in-Residency in Denmark.
NSF Grant to Increase Minority Presence in STEM Disciplines

UNC Charlotte has been awarded a major collaborative research grant by the National Science Foundation’s Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program. The award, “AGEP North Carolina Alliance: An Institutional Transformation Model to Increase Minority STEM Doctoral Student and Faculty Success” is a five-year grant that provides $2.2 million to three institutions, with $663,163 to UNC Charlotte. Its goal is to increase the number of historically underrepresented minority faculty in specific STEM disciplines and STEM education research fields by advancing knowledge about pathways to career success.

Yvette Huet, professor of kinesiology and director of the Advance Faculty Affairs and Diversity Office, is UNC Charlotte’s principal investigator on the grant. She and her team are collaborating with researchers and officials from North Carolina A&T State University and North Carolina State University to develop, implement, and study a model to create institutional, department-level and faculty change and promote Ph.D. completion and progression to faculty careers among historically underrepresented doctoral students in STEM disciplines. Lisa Merriweather, associate professor of adult education, is the co-principal investigator and social science researcher facilitating the research on all three campuses.

Patent Issues and Research Awards Increase

Our faculty continue to increase research efforts here on campus. In FY2018, the Office of Technology Transfer received 28 patents, surpassing our previous record of 17 patents in FY2013. And research awards for FY19 first quarter (July-September) are up 52% compared to the same time last year.

Niner Research Reception Recognizes Faculty and Staff

The Office of Research and Economic Development hosted its annual Niner Research Reception on Oct. 18 in the SAC Salons. An impressive 303 faculty and staff were recognized for their outstanding research achievements in 11 categories. The recognition and networking event drew 166 attendees.

Collaboration with US Military on National Security and Technology Research

UNC Charlotte and U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) have formalized an agreement to work together on a series of national security and technology research projects to maintain America’s edge against worldwide threats and adversaries. Together, UNC Charlotte and USSOCOM will explore ideas and pathways for the U.S. military’s future technology, policies, and strategy. This initiative’s recently signed Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, sponsored by USSOCOM’s Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. is founded on innovative and practical solutions to our nation’s most complex problems. It reflects both institutions’ commitment to high academic standards and American security. In the coming
months, this effort will combine academic, public and private-sector experts for events such as a cyber hack-a-thon to test security assumptions; a drone challenge to explore emerging technology; and a study on military operations within “smart cities” of the future.

**Soybean Research Aims to Alleviate Hunger**

Keeping her native land of Bangladesh close to her heart, Farida Yasmin has come to UNC Charlotte to conduct research as a doctoral student in Bao-Hua Song’s lab in the Department of Biological Sciences. Her research focuses on the soybean, which, as a critical global resource, provides more than half of the world’s vegetable oils and proteins. Specifically, Yasmin is seeking ways to improve the plant’s resistance to devastating pests. Her ultimate goal is to help alleviate hunger and poverty in her home country and worldwide, and to inspire women and girls to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields.

Funding from the Schlumberger Foundation, through its prestigious Faculty for the Future Fellows program, provides up to $50,000 per year to support Yasmin’s research.

**Industry-University Partnership Expansion**

UNC Charlotte continues to expand its industry partnerships. German precision measurement company GOM has housed its US headquarters in the UNC Charlotte PORTAL building since 2016. GOM Americas’ expanded footprint now includes the creation of a robotics demonstration room that houses the new GOM CT industrial computed tomography unit, the only such precision equipment of its kind currently located in North America.

Diversey, a global industrial hygiene and cleaning technology company, has increased its R&D partnership space at UNC Charlotte. Diversey researchers from its Wisconsin facility have relocated to labs in Grigg Hall and joined existing colleagues housed in both Grigg and PORTAL on the UNC Charlotte campus. This is the third partnership space expansion for Diversey (formerly a division of Sealed Air) since 2015.

**FACILITIES UPDATES**

Anyone driving through campus recently knows that our construction boom continues unabated.

**Science Building**

Work has begun on the new $90M Science Building, made possible by passage of the Connect NC Bond Referendum in 2016. The existing steam plant, the old Facilities Operations and Parking Services (FOPS) building, and the Receiving and Stores warehouse have been demolished, with
the offices relocated to a new FOPS Complex behind the light rail UNC Charlotte Main Station. The construction phase of the Science Building is scheduled to begin in Spring 2019, with completion in Spring 2021.

The new facility will integrate undergraduate instructional laboratories, research laboratories, an interactive classroom, student support space, faculty offices, graduate student workspace, and collaboration space in a center for learning and research for chemistry, biology, and physics. The project also includes a regional utility plant and a data center to serve the Science Building and other campus facilities.

**University Recreation Center**

Construction continues on the University Recreation Center, expected to open Fall 2019. Students and the University community were invited to a beam-signing ceremony on Aug. 20. The beam, which is 19 feet long and weighs approximately 340 pounds, will be visible in the indoor track area of the new building when it is complete.

Meanwhile, major structural steel and concrete work are completed. On the exterior, roofing, concrete, and brick work continue. Window framing installation is in progress with the goal of having the entire facility in dry-in condition by January. On the interior, wall framing continues as well as prep work and installation of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems for the facility. Preparations for furniture, fitness equipment, administrative needs, and more are underway. Excavation work related to the indoor pool will begin soon.

**Undergraduate Admissions Center**

The new Undergraduate Admissions Center, located in the South Village area of campus, continues to take shape. The two-story, 18,000-square-foot building will welcome prospective students and their families to campus. Additionally, the Center will house the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and will serve as the starting point for campus tours. Construction will be complete in the Spring of 2019. This much needed facility was made possible through an estate gift by the late Lucius G. Gage, Jr., after whom the building will be named.

**Belk Plaza Dedication**

Belk Plaza was rededicated to the Belk family and company on Friday, Nov. 16. The Plaza, a central gathering location in the historic core of campus, was rededicated after Belk Tower was removed in late 2015. An open-concept lawn and water feature are now the focal point of the area, intended for student activity.
The waterfall wall also includes a time capsule that we put together a couple of years ago, with a scheduled opening in September 2046 when we celebrate the University’s centennial anniversary. I don’t know about you, but I plan to be there (although I will be 96 years old by then).

**Hotel Conference Center**

Significant progress continues in the planning for the Marriott Hotel-Conference Center. The 4.4-acre site center, owned by the Foundation, is located at the J.W. Clay-UNC Charlotte light rail stop on North Tryon St.

On Aug. 27, the Charlotte City Council voted unanimously to invest $8 million toward the completion of the conference center. This investment demonstrates city leaders’ confidence in the expected positive impact this project will have on the University City area and reflects the strong partnership between the city and the University. In addition to the city’s approval, several key design and financing milestones have been achieved as the project moves toward a 2019 groundbreaking, with an anticipated opening sometime during the fall of 2020.

The planned facility will provide an important amenity to campus and will enable the University to attract large research symposia and academic conferences to Charlotte.

**KUDOS**

**ASME Honors Dr. Scott Smith with Manufacturing Award**

Scott Smith, professor and chair of Mechanical Engineering, has received the 2018 William T. Ennor Manufacturing Technology Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This award is presented to an individual or team of individuals for developing or contributing significantly to an innovative manufacturing technology, the implementation of which has resulted in substantial economic and/or societal benefits. Scott is the second UNC Charlotte faculty member to be honored with this award. Dr. Robert Hocken, professor emeritus, was the 2001 recipient.

**Fulbright Awards**

Sixteen students have applied for Fulbright awards this year. This is the largest number of applications in a single year that UNC Charlotte has put forward for this prestigious award. UNC Charlotte has had six Fulbright scholars since 2009. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide.
Professor’s Presidential Pursuits

Although unsuccessful in his bid for the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mirsad Hadžikadić was able to make his case for changing mindsets in his native land. This was one of his chief reasons for taking a leave of absence from his life as a professor at UNC Charlotte to run for public office with little to no money, staff, or name recognition.

Opting to run as an independent, moderate candidate rather than accepting a nomination from an existing political party, Mirsad finished fourth behind well-established, well-funded candidates of various national parties. In Sarajevo he finished a strong third, out-polling one of the heavily favored candidates from a national party.

The founding executive director of the Data Science Initiative and professor of software and information systems at UNC Charlotte, Hadžikadić and his candidacy were the focus of a months-long community series presented in a partnership between the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the College of Computing and Informatics, and the Office of International Programs. The focus was to help people consider the importance of democracy, voting, and engagement.

Professor Receives Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence Award

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Senior Associate Dean Shawn Long has received the Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence Award from the University of Kentucky Lyman T. Johnson African-American alumni group. The awards honor one African-American alumni member and one African-American student from each University of Kentucky college whose faith, hard work, and determination have positively affected the lives of people on the university campus, the city, state or nation.
MACC Alumni Honored with Prestigious CPA Exam Award

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) reports that 95,858 individuals sat for the CPA Examination in 2017. Of that number, 58 individuals met the criteria to receive the Elijah Watt Sells Award. The Belk College of Business is proud to congratulate Master of Accountancy (MACC) alumni, Katie Warlick and Wesley Sweigart, for receiving this prestigious award.

Graduates of the MACC program at UNC Charlotte are top performers on the CPA exam with a 91% CPA pass rate—well above the national average of 54.4%—and MACC alumni report a 95% employment rate after graduation. For more information, please visit macc.uncc.edu.

Professor Inducted into Prestigious Fellows Program

Akin Ogundiran, professor and chair of the Africana Studies Department, was inducted this summer as a Visiting Fellow of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge. This honor recognizes his preeminent status as a researcher and scholar of emergent societies and social complexity in Yorubaland, Atlantic Africa and the African Diaspora during the past 700 years.

Ogundiran’s induction followed being named a Yip Fellow in 2017. The Yip Fellowship, which provided room and board, enabled him to conduct research on the archaeology of state formation and global commodity trade in West Africa with emphasis on the Oyo Empire, 1570-1830. He also gave a public lecture on this research, “Colonist Strategies in the Making of the Oyo Empire (West Africa), 1590-1790,” sponsored by Cambridge’s Center of African Studies.

Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence

Lee College of Engineering’s Tony Schmitz invests significant time in his students with a goal to “train decision makers.” For his efforts, he was named the 2018 recipient of the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, one of UNC Charlotte’s most prestigious accolades. During his seven years at UNC Charlotte, Schmitz has taught 10 different courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
SAAC Cares

The Charlotte 49ers student-athletes donated over 5,000 hours of community service last year to area charities and organizations. The community efforts are led, in particular, by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and its “SAAC Cares” initiative.

SAAC Cares has established promising relationships with community partners such as the Urban Ministry, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Project 658, the Tim Tebow Foundation, the YMCA Miracle League, the Levine Children’s Hospital, and the Community Blood Center of the Carolinas. This holiday season, the SAAC Cares Holiday Drive collected donations at various home athletic events, and connected with Samaritans Feet, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Special Olympics Victory Dance. Volunteers also delivered meals with Friendship Trays and served food and drinks at the Urban Ministry.

Judy Rose Honored at “Let Me Play” Luncheon

The 49ers Annual “Let Me Play” Luncheon was held in October. It was the 15th such luncheon, but this one was different in one very significant way. Organizers announced the event will henceforth be named in honor of former 49ers athletics director Judy Rose. The announcement caught Judy by surprise, but was a perfect way to honor her longtime devotion to the program. The “Let Me Play” Luncheon was a brainchild of Judy’s and, in addition to raising money, it helps unite 49ers student-athletes with positive role models and influential leaders in the Charlotte community. Designed to raise money for women’s athletics, the luncheon also impresses on those community leaders the impact that competing in collegiate athletics can have on the development of young women.

Batter, Batter Swing!

This winter, the 49ers baseball team will be undeterred by snow, sleet, rain or ice. They’ll be getting in plenty of swings, thanks to the recently completed indoor hitting facility that sits just outside the first base line in right field. The project was completed in September and head coach Loren Hibbs’ 49ers began making use of it immediately.

A similar hitting facility for the softball team is also under construction just outside the right field fence of the softball field. Until their facility is completed, the softball players are taking advantage of the baseball program’s new structure.

Athletics Facilities Master Planning

Director of Athletics Mike Hill has been deliberate about positioning the 49ers for success now and in the future. Among his many initial projects is the development of a five-year facilities master plan to assure that the 49ers are strategic about facility growth and enhancement. To that end, the 49ers have hired global design, engineering, and planning firm HOK and Jenkins
Peer Architects to develop the master plan. In November, the firms began preliminary discussions with coaches, staff, and student-athletes to gain insight into the facility needs and long-term goals of the athletic program.

**New Football Coach**

We ended the fall semester with the hiring of Will Healy as the second-ever head coach of the 49ers football team. Will is truly one of the country’s rising stars in the FBS coaching ranks and we look forward to introducing him and his family to the greater Charlotte community. Will is already hard at work assembling his staff and evaluating potential players for the team.

**WRAP-UP**

As you can see, it’s been a very busy and productive few months. There will be plenty to do in the New Year, but I hope you’ll enjoy some well-deserved down time over the holidays. Enjoy time with loved ones and I’ll look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Cordially,

Phil

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor