May 2016

To: Faculty, Staff, and Friends of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

From: Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor

Re: Chancellor’s Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

The end of the academic year is always a great occasion for celebration. Our three spring commencements on May 13-14 saw more than 4,300 students earn undergraduate and graduate degrees, further adding to the ranks of UNC Charlotte alumni. We also celebrated the amazing career achievements of two honorary degree recipients: Emily Zimmern, recently retired president of the Museum of the New South, and Fannie Flono, former columnist and editorial writer with the Charlotte Observer. And finally, we celebrate the opportunity to take on a new set of challenges over the summer months, but also to work in a little time for rest and reflection.

As the items in this newsletter will attest, we have had another remarkable academic year with continuing enrollment growth, a variety of building and road projects completed or initiated, and dozens of accomplishments by and accolades for our hard-working faculty, staff, and students. We look forward to the arrival of the fall football season, the first opportunity for the 49ers to be "bowl eligible" in the post season. (No pressure, Brad!)

If you would like more information on any item covered in these pages, please contact my senior executive assistant at shari.dunn@uncc.edu or check out the Chancellor's Outbox at http://chancellor.uncc.edu/office-chancellor/public-communications.

New UNC President Tours Campus

Margaret Spellings, the new president of the University of North Carolina system, visited UNC Charlotte on March 14 and 15 as a part of a statewide “Listening Tour” during her first 100 days in office.

In addition to touring our facilities and meeting with students, faculty, and staff, President Spellings also used the opportunity to make a final push for the Connect NC bond vote which took place on the second day of her Charlotte visit.
On Monday, the president’s schedule included a visit to the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis, lunch with the chancellor’s executive team, a campus tour – with stops at EPIC and the Data Visualization Center in Woodward Hall, a reception with the Charlotte 49ers, a press conference at Harris Alumni Center, and a reception with trustees and community leaders at UNC Charlotte Center City. Her Tuesday schedule included an interview on WFAE radio’s Charlotte Talks show and meetings with Staff Council, the Faculty Council Executive Committee, and a lunch conversation with students.

Connect NC Bond Passes

Unless you spent the spring semester stranded on a deserted island, you are certainly aware of the Connect NC bond that was passed by North Carolina voters in March. This $2 billion bond includes $90 million for a much needed new science building here at UNC Charlotte. This was a big win for the University, and for the ever-increasing number of students coming to UNC Charlotte to study in the STEM fields.

I would like to express my gratitude to Governor Pat McCrory and the NC General Assembly for putting this bond issue on the ballot, and to Rep. Dean Arp ’99 for his leadership in developing the comprehensive bond package, guiding it through the legislative process, and advocating for voter approval. And a big thanks goes to Betty Doster, my special assistant for constituent relations, who spearheaded a campus-wide effort to educate our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and business and community partners about the importance of the bond to the future of NC public higher education.

Legislative Session, UNC System Priorities

The NC General Assembly convened for the short session on April 25, focusing primarily on budgetary issues.

In preparation for the legislative session, I met with Sen. Bob Rucho, Majority Leader Mike Hager, and Representatives Craig Horn, Rob Bryan, and Dean Arp to discuss UNC Charlotte and the UNC system’s legislative priorities, which include the following:

1. Eliminate the $1 million cap on the use of state funds to support private fundraising (adopted by the General Assembly last year).
2. Extend the authority granted last year to carry forward 5% of our state appropriations from one fiscal year to the next.
3. Salary increases for all University employees.
4. Increases to the faculty recruitment and retention fund.
5. Legislative approval for the student-financed health and wellness center.

We look forward to a successful legislative session and will keep you updated on the progress of the issues impacting UNC Charlotte. Please contact Betty Doster at betty.doster@uncc.edu for questions or additional information on these issues.

And speaking of legislative matters...
UNC Charlotte continues to capture the attention of many local and regional leaders who are recognizing what a gem this institution really is.

**Charlotte Mayor Pro Tem Vi Lyles** and **City Councilman Greg Phipps** were recently on campus to review needed city and state road improvements adjacent to campus. We have scheduled campus visits with **Mayor Jennifer Roberts** and with **Councilman James Mitchell** to give each of them an opportunity to learn more about the campus’s role in economic development.

We also hosted **Congresswoman Alma Adams** (NC-12) for a visit of our PORTAL facility during Small Business Week earlier this month. As a member of the U.S. House Small Business Committee and ranking member for the Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, **Congresswoman Adams’** visit is especially significant.

**World Affairs Council – 2016 World Citizen Award**

On April 20, I had the privilege of accepting the 2016 World Citizen Award, which is presented annually by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte to citizens and organizations who have enhanced the Charlotte community’s standing in the world.

In past years, this special recognition has gone to the likes of Sandra and Leon Levine, Erskine and Crandall Bowles, Smoky and Margaret Bissell, Irwin Belk, Hugh McColl, and Jerry Richardson. As I mentioned in my acceptance speech, I’m not certain how in the world I ended up in the same list as those fine folks, but I am certainly grateful to be in such good company!

While the award has my name on it, the larger significance of the award is that it represents the high regard in which this institution is held by the larger community. More specifically, it is a positive commentary on the work of the tremendous team we have at UNC Charlotte that enables us to be active on a global scale through educational partnerships around the world. I’m especially grateful to Joël Gallegos and the Office of International Programs for their tireless efforts in this regard. Additionally, we do a great job of providing study abroad opportunities for our students and of enrolling international students who wish to study here in the US. In fact, UNC Charlotte hosts the second highest number of international students among all 17 UNC institutions.

I am honored, humbled, and sincerely grateful for this wonderful recognition. It is truly a highlight of my career.

**Completion of Institutional Plan**

In an organization as massive and complex as UNC Charlotte, success doesn’t happen by accident or wishful thinking. It requires extensive thoughtful and strategic planning.

Author and time management guru Alan Lakein once said, “Failing to plan is planning to fail.” With this in mind, we are completing our evaluation of progress on the University’s 2011-2016 Institutional Plan and finalizing our plan for the next five years.
We began developing the 2016-2021 Institutional Plan by working with the Urban Institute, the Institutional Effectiveness Oversight Committee, the Chancellor’s Cabinet, and University faculty and staff to establish planning assumptions—statements of the current and expected environment for the next five years. These assumptions are the foundation upon which the University’s goals and objectives are based, and include the conditions and needs of the institution, the demographics for the state and Charlotte region, the fiscal expectations for the state, and the political environment and expectations of higher education.

In the meantime, Academic Affairs completed their work on their next five-year Academic Plan. That plan was evaluated and formed the basis for much of the University’s 2016-2021 Institutional Plan, while also consulting with the divisions of Business Affairs, Student Affairs, University Advancement, and Athletics to complete a list of priorities. The draft plan was shared with the campus in February in order to gain valuable feedback from faculty and staff. The final plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees during their summer retreat for their review and approval.

**Academic Affairs**

There’s no shortage of good news coming out of the Academic Affairs area lately. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- **Levine Scholars Program Update**
  - 2016-17 promises to be an especially big year for one particular group of incoming freshmen. Thanks to the continued generosity of Sandra and Leon Levine, the Levine Scholars program has been expanded to accommodate a class of 20 students beginning this year. This represents a 33% increase over previous years. Selected from a pool of 2,700 nominees and 1,100 applicants, the Levine Scholars Class of 2020 is made up of 20 top students from North Carolina and around the country. The group reflects a nice balance in terms of gender and ethnic diversity, and 25% are first-generation college students. The group has an average ACT score of 31 and an average weighted GPA of 4.66.

- **Honors College signs on Crown Scholars**
  - UNC Charlotte’s Crown Scholars Program begins its second year with eight Crown Scholars: Anne Wade (Psychology), Lauren Ducoste (Pre-Biology), Joshua Sun (Computer Science), Marc Moore (Pre-Architecture), Kyle Tucker (Mechanical Engineering), Samantha Lee (International Studies), Thomas Lawe (Mechanical Engineering), and Kayla Blackburn (Engineering).

  During its inaugural year in 2015-16, the Crown Scholars Program established a strong set of core values: Scholarship, Intellectual and Cultural Breadth, Curiosity about Research, Authentic Community Engagement, and a Commitment to Reflection and Growth.
Three Grants Related to Increasing Student Success

- The **iPASS Grant** is a Gates Foundation funded project to develop Integrated Planning and Advising tools to foster student success. The project will integrate risk information from a variety of systems, including the newly implemented Starfish early alert system, and use that to inform and employer students and advisors.

- UNC Charlotte received an **Advisor Institute Grant** from UNC General Administration. This grant is designed to strengthen the training and preparation of all faculty and staff academic advisors.

- The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) awarded grants to nine public urban research universities, one of which is UNC Charlotte, a total of $450,000 ($50,000 apiece) to launch or expand pilot “micro-grant” programs meant to retain low-income college students who are nearing graduation but are at risk of dropping out. The grants are funded by Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation and Lumina Foundation.

Faculty Members Receive Recognitions and Awards

- For innovative teaching methods that extend well beyond a traditional classroom setting, **Joanne Maguire Robinson**, UNC Charlotte Religious Studies chair and professor, has received the 2016 American Academy of Religion Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is but one of the honors Robinson has received for her effective teaching. Robinson in 2012 received the Bank of America Award of Teaching Excellence, the highest teaching honor given by UNC Charlotte, and also received a 2013 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence.

- **Dr. Raphael (Ray) Tsu**, professor of Engineering, has been honored by the Arts and Science Council for lifetime achievement in the sciences with the 2016 ASC Honors award in the area of Science. Dr. Tsu has worked in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UNC Charlotte since 1988. The ASC Honors award recognizes “exceptionally creative, innovative, and inquisitive individuals whose lifetime achievements in the visual, design or performing arts, history, literature or science have distinguished them and have enriched the lives of the citizens of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.”

- **Dr. Murray Webster**, professor of sociology, was the recipient of the 2015 Cooley Mead Award. Since 1978, the award has been given by the American Sociological Association to an individual who has made lifetime contributions to distinguished scholarship in sociological social psychology. Dr. Webster was cited for his “impeccable research record,” and for being an unsung hero in developing the talents of young scholars interested in group processes and structural social psychology. In the nearly 40 year history of the award, Webster is only the second faculty member in the UNC system to be so honored.
The Office of Education Abroad is sending record numbers of students abroad this year. 675 students representing all seven colleges will study all over the globe, utilizing more scholarship money than ever before. Education Abroad at UNC Charlotte continues to grow in number and reach across our campus. During this past spring break, 182 students dispersed around the world on 15 faculty-led programs to locations such as Malawi, Cuba, Japan, and Ecuador. This summer, approximately 325 will participate on 20 faculty-led programs, including programs to South Africa, Korea, Italy, and Brazil, while nearly 160 students are preparing for fall semester or academic year study abroad programs.

The 2016 Women + Girls Research Alliance Summit was held on Thursday and Friday, April 14-15, 2016. Students were instrumental in Thursday’s portion of the Summit - from initial brainstorming to execution and participation. The overall theme and structure of the day was developed by a team of graduate and undergraduate students working in conjunction with W+GRA Executive Director Heather Brown. In addition, six students (graduate and undergraduate) presented their research on everything from homelessness to mental health to breastfeeding and WIC policy during Thursday’s sessions. Papers from two of those students will be published by W+GRA later this spring.

The Hunger in Charlotte? event brought UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students together with faculty from other area universities, as well as representatives from healthcare institutions, local schools, non-governmental organizations, and agencies to address food insecurity in the Charlotte region.

UNC Charlotte students from Anthropology, Sociology, Architecture, Africana Studies, and the Niner Student Pantry presented posters. Their research generated much interest from the approximately 80 event attendees.

Medical Education Task Force

- Last year, a group of concerned Charlotte citizens comprised of healthcare and business leaders formed the Charlotte Medical Education Expansion Commission. This group retained Tripp Umbach, a consulting firm from Pittsburgh, to conduct a study on the feasibility of either adding a medical school in the Charlotte area or expanding upon the current medical education program between the UNC School of Medicine and Carolinas HealthCare System, and including UNC Charlotte in that expansion.

After the presentation of the report to the Commission, I was asked to lead a task force to continue to study this issue. The group has met three times and has established goals for the study, reviewed the existing medical education program for 3rd and 4th year medical students conducted jointly in Charlotte by the UNC School of Medicine and Carolinas HealthCare System, and has entered into an agreement with the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research to analyze data pertaining to the current and anticipated gaps in the number and distribution of physicians in North Carolina and the greater Charlotte region. Stay tuned for more information as our discussions continue.
Alumni Craig and Darla Albert have generously committed to expanding the Albert Engineering Leadership Scholars Program which was first established in 2014. The award is designed to invest in superior students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of academic achievement, leadership, and community engagement. Recipients receive a full, four-year scholarship along with acceptance into the Engineering Leadership Academy and the University Honors Program. Thanks to this most recent commitment, one in-state and one out-of-state student will be named Albert Scholars each year, and the program will continue through the 2019-2020 academic year.

Craig Albert earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from The Wiliam States Lee College of Engineering in 1985. He is currently the president of Bechtel Nuclear, Security, and Environmental, Inc., and a director on the Bechtel Group Board. Darla Albert is a 1983 graduate of the Belk College of Business. They currently reside in Potomac, Maryland. It is important to the Alberts that they lead by example and encourage other alumni to provide opportunities to better UNC Charlotte and its students.

Ted and Ann Rast recently stated their intention to start an endowment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a generous $1 million planned gift. The Ann and Ted Rast Fund for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be used to provide programs to enrich the experience of first-generation undergraduate students from North Carolina, majoring in disciplines within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who demonstrate strong academic performance in their first and second years at the University.

The Rasts have given generously of their time, talent, and treasure to UNC Charlotte for many years. Ted is currently chair of the Foundation Board’s Development Committee and has served on the University’s Board of Visitors. He has practiced law in Charlotte with Moore & Van Allen since 1979. Ted and Ann have been loyal supporters of the J. Murrey Atkins Library, the Friends of Mount Zion Fund, and the Chancellor’s Fund. Their son, Jonathan, graduated from UNC Charlotte in 2003 with a BS in Electrical Engineering.

Forty-Niner alumni continue to represent UNC Charlotte in some pretty spectacular ways:

- UNC Charlotte alumnus **Bobbie Cavnar** of Gaston County is the 2016-17 North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Cavnar, an English teacher at South Point High School in Belmont, NC, completed his master’s degree in English at UNC Charlotte in 2011. He has been teaching for 17 years.

- **Chris Tyler**, a graduate of the Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science Ph.D. program, was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 list earlier this year. For his doctoral thesis, Chris created a database of the ideal conditions for milling based on the type of material. Chris currently works at Boeing in St. Louis as a specialist in hard-to-machine materials.
Athletics

- I am thrilled to announce that UNC Charlotte has a women’s golf team and a coach! Holly Clark was hired in November to start the women’s golf program from scratch, with the intention of debuting her team in 2017. Holly has start-up experience, coming to us from Vanderbilt where she spent six years and served as Associate Head Coach. Before that, she led the Carson Newman Eagles to the 2009 South Atlantic Conference title in her first year and to an NCAA Regional berth in season two. In addition to recruiting and scheduling, Holly is also helping with the expansion of the Stubblefield Golf Center, which the women will share with the men’s team.

- The 49ers athletic department was ranked among the nation’s top 50 NCAA Division I institutions, and tied for third in North Carolina with a 92% Graduation Success Rate in the latest GSR Report. The 49ers have had a 92% GSR for each of the last two reports and have boasted at least an 89% rate over each of the last five. In the latest report, the 49ers were tied with Wake Forest behind Duke and Davidson among Division I schools within the state of North Carolina.

- 210 student-athletes were named to the 2016 Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll for maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or better, while both our men’s cross country and men’s tennis programs received an NCAA Public Recognition Award for finishing in the top 10 percent of all teams in their sport in Academic Progress Rate.

- The 49ers football program continues to push the envelope as an FBS Institution. We will compete for bowl eligibility for the first time in 2016, and we have landed several Power 5 conference foes on upcoming schedules. We have at least one such opponent on each schedule through 2025, including home games with Duke (2021), Maryland (2022) and North Carolina (2025). The 2016 season opens at Louisville on Sept. 1.

- Congratulations to senior men’s tennis standout Jordi Massalle-Ferrer who broke a 14-year old record to become the program’s all-time winningest singles player. Massalle-Ferrer, a multiple first team all-conference choice and three-time all-Academic team selection, completed his career with 96 singles wins, toppling the old record of 84 set by Ola Jonsson in 2002. Massalle-Ferrer also broke Jonsson’s record for career doubles wins with 90.

- We would like to congratulate our softball and baseball programs. Our softball program picked up a top 20 win over #16 Kentucky and received votes in the national polls for the first time in school history. Likewise, baseball won a pair of top 20 games at FAU and played three Uptown Games at BB&T Ballpark.

- On Saturday, June 4, the Athletic Foundation will host the 33rd Annual Great Gold Rush Auction at Halton Arena. The gala is the Athletic Foundation’s largest single-day fundraiser and promises to be another extraordinary evening.
Charlotte Research Institute Home to New Business Partner Tenants

The Charlotte Research Institute (CRI) on the UNC Charlotte campus offers a nationally competitive research and development environment for our faculty and students and also for corporate partners. GOM Americas and Redecam USA are CRI’s newest business partner tenants, having moved into the PORTAL building in March.

GOM Americas, a German company, makes optical machines for measuring products in manufacturing with the goal of bringing those products to market more quickly and keeping manufacturing local. Using 3D optical metrology, GOM equipment is used to help reduce wind resistance, improve quality control and the inspection process in casting and molding operations and even speed up the U.S. Mint’s coin production. Plans call for the GOM office in PORTAL to have six employees by the end of 2016 working with about 70 GOM representatives located around the United States. The office handles sales and applications in the Americas and eventually will be home base for operations.

Redecam USA offers a complete portfolio of air filtration and flue gas treatment solutions to a variety of industries. The company’s move to Charlotte will allow them a better base for expansion across North America, access to a growing talent pool of engineers and technical personnel, a new partnership with UNC Charlotte’s EPIC Center to foster innovation for pollution controls, and access to state-of-the-art facilities for flow analysis and mechanical design.

Ventureprise Updates

- Four teams of UNC Charlotte students participated in the UNC Social Entrepreneurship Conference on February 16 at NC A&T. Two UNC Charlotte teams were included among ten statewide finalists. Our INTech Foundation team was selected as the second runner-up in the Graduate Student category and received $1,000.

- The 15th annual Charlotte Venture Challenge business innovation competition attracted 92 entrants from throughout the Southeast. The competition includes emerging commercial companies and promising student ventures from the Carolinas and adjacent states. From the modest inaugural program that featured five competitors, the Challenge has served over 900 “alumni” including multiple highly successful outcomes. From the 27 finalists in the 2016 Challenge, judges selected 19 commercial finalists and 8 student finalists to compete at the NC Research Campus on April 19. In the student category, UNC Charlotte had 2 winners: Reel Scary, a movie rating application developed by a graduate student, was awarded $1,000 as a runner-up in the Student Category; and Tailor Made Financial received $500 as the J. Chris Murphy Undergrad Award winner for their personal financial management application. Tailor Made Financial also represented UNC Charlotte in February at the statewide UNC Social Entrepreneurship Conference.

- The Incubation and Innovation Center for early stage companies operated by Ventureprise in the new PORTAL building reached full capacity with 24 companies in April. The building continues to attract strong interest from corporate partners, the community, and emerging entrepreneurs.
The first ever Charlotte Entrepreneur Growth Report was created through the efforts of UNC Charlotte’s Ventureprise and Urban Institute organizations in partnership with other community resources. The findings were officially presented to Charlotte’s City Council on March 28 and have been broadly shared with organizations interested in entrepreneurship and economic development.

Other University News

Personnel Changes

The success of UNC Charlotte is due to its greatest resource – its hardworking and dedicated people. This year, we will have to weather the loss of a number of key members of the Niner Nation family, and while we are sad to see them leave, we can celebrate together in their accomplishments and in the important role they have played to make UNC Charlotte great.

General Counsel and Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Dave Broome is retiring on June 30. Dave joined us in January 2005 and has been a trusted colleague and friend. Dave has served the state of North Carolina as a higher education attorney for 40 years. Dave is not just an exceptional lawyer, but is a mentor to the attorneys who have the opportunity to work with him, a key member of my leadership team, and a treasured community advocate and volunteer. We wish him the best as he now turns his time and attention to enjoying the sandy shores of Holden Beach, spending time with his wife, Karen, his two daughters and sons-in-law, and his four grandchildren.

Tom York has been the Director of Internal Audit at UNC Charlotte since 2006. Before joining us, Tom served for 27 years in the Army in various units in the U.S. and Germany as a scout platoon leader, tank company commander, and logistics staff officer. Tom also served as Inspector General in 1995-96 in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tom retired from the Army in 2003 as Inspector General for the US Military Academy at West Point. Tom has developed an extraordinary team which understands that the true role of auditing is to help people to do the right things in the right way. Tom has helped us find opportunities to improve policies and processes through audits, but most importantly, he has helped people make this University a great place to work. We expect that Tom will be busy during his retirement with his continued commitment to running races, snow skiing, and traveling. Upon his retirement in September, Tom plans to redeploy himself to the beaches of Maryland.

Another person who is retiring at way too young an age is Dr. Cindy Wolf-Johnson. Cindy has served as Associate Provost for Academic Services at UNC Charlotte since arriving here in 2006. Prior to joining us, Cindy served for 23 years at UNC Chapel Hill (but we haven’t held that against her). While at UNC Charlotte, Cindy has served many important roles, including chairing the Chancellor’s Accessibility Advisory Committee which developed and monitors the University’s accessibility transition plan, has served on the Campus Behavioral Intervention Team, the Student Success Working Group, and many others. I can count on one hand the number of times I’ve walked across campus and NOT
seen Cindy Wolf Johnson out and about on the work of the University. Her wisdom and congeniality when working on difficult issues will be missed.

- Dr. Owen Furuseth will be retiring from UNC Charlotte on June 30 after 38 years at UNC Charlotte. Owen is Associate Provost for Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs, and if you think that is a long job title, you should see the list of the things Owen does and supervises. Owen’s work with the Urban Institute has been the foundation for the invaluable tie between UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte region. Owen continues to be engaged and conduct research focused on the changing demographics in the new South and the important role of immigrants. Most recently, Owen has been working with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force to help improve the economic mobility for individuals in the Charlotte region.

- Although she isn’t retiring, Dr. Michele Howard recently announced that she is joining the University of Georgia as associate vice president for student affairs. After serving for approximately 15 years as Dean of Students at UNC Charlotte, Michele became the first director of early college programs for UNC Charlotte where she led the joint endeavor between the university and CMS to develop the Charlotte Engineering Early College, a five-year high school program on our CRI campus. Michele has been a cornerstone in student affairs and student leadership while at UNC Charlotte. The relationships she has formed with faculty, staff, and most importantly, with thousands of students over the years, has made this large university feel like a family. She will be sorely missed.

- Finally, I must announce that I’m losing the person who has served as my right hand for the last 4½ years. Chief of Staff Krista Newkirk is leaving UNC Charlotte to become the tenth president of Converse College, a liberal arts college in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Krista joined UNC Charlotte in 2003 as an attorney in our Office of Legal Affairs. Krista is UNC Charlotte’s first chief of staff, and has done a great job of establishing what that role should be and how it should serve the University. In addition to managing the Chancellor’s office and overseeing several special projects of campus-wide significance, she led the team which organized the first meeting of the Board of Governors on our campus in 43 years. Notwithstanding an untimely snowstorm and some noisy protestors, the meeting was a resounding success. Most recently, Krista led the efforts to research and evaluate the development of a new division within the University, which will be called the Division of Institutional Integrity. I intended to appoint her to lead that new division, but opportunity knocked. We wish her the best of luck as she embarks on this new and exciting endeavor.

Division of Institutional Integrity

The creation of the Division of Institutional Integrity will proceed, but first we must find a new Chief of Staff. A national search is underway.

The Division of Institutional Integrity will move forward in 2017 when we will conduct a search for the new vice chancellor to lead that division. The following offices will be located within that division: Legal Affairs, Internal Audit, Compliance, Title IX, and a new office of Enterprise Risk Management. By combining these compliance and risk management functions within one office,
we believe that we will create a unique environment where these functions can operate like shingles on a roof – each with their own function, but overlapping slightly to ensure that the university stays on the straight and narrow path with respect to complying with the extensive regulations and administrative oversight applicable to our operations.

The very important function of Title IX has also seen changes this year first with the search for a new Coordinator, and then with the development of an additional investigator position and a case manager position to help coordinate resources and accommodations for students who are involved in the Title IX administrative process. We take very seriously the University’s obligation to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn and thrive on campus. The problem of sexual assaults on university campuses is a national issue and one that we must address both with enforcement when there is an assault or violation of policy, but also with education for our students so they know what is appropriate behavior, how to respond as a bystander to help a fellow student, and what constitutes consent.

**Progress on Major Construction**

No campus update would be complete without a status report on the unending list of construction projects:

- The design process has begun for construction of a new **Admissions and Visitors Center**. We expect this portion of the project to be completed next summer, with construction beginning in fall of 2017. The 20,000 square-foot facility will be located in South Village in the vicinity of the existing tennis courts.

- Construction of a new **Student Counseling Center** is scheduled to start fall 2016, with an estimated completion date of fall 2017. The new 11,000 square-foot facility will be located adjacent to the Student Health Center with access from Poplar Terrace Drive. With new counseling offices and group rooms, the counseling staff will be able to provide services in a welcoming environment. The space that Counseling currently occupies in the Atkins Building will be renovated to expand the University Career Center.

- **Levine Hall**, a five-story residence hall, is located near the campus main entrance on University City Boulevard. The 160,000 square-foot facility will house 435 students. Offices for the University's Honors and Levine Scholars programs will be housed in two floors south of the archway. Program participants will have the opportunity to live in the residence hall. Completion of construction is scheduled for November 2016.

- The much anticipated conceptual plan for the transformation of **Belk Plaza** was revealed April 11 during the last of three public forums presented by the University. The forums, which began in February, were a part of an open process to solicit input from the campus community, alumni, and others on how to best utilize the plaza’s space. LandDesign, a Charlotte-based urban design and landscape architecture firm, created the concept for the improved aesthetic and design. In describing the functional hybrid of the redesigned space, Adam Martin, a LandDesign associate and UNC Charlotte alumnus, said “We created a palate that would accommodate just about anything. The functional
flexibility of space reflects classic design and introduces contemporary expression.”

Visit belkplaza.uncc.edu to view the conceptual plan presentation. Final design decisions are pending. I expect that we’ll initiate construction sometime next year.

**Light Rail is Heading Down the Tracks**

The **Light Rail Coordinating Committee** co-chaired by Beth Hardin, vice chancellor for business affairs, and Betty Doster, special assistant to the chancellor for constituent relations, continues its work to implement a successful launch to light rail in August of 2017. If you have been anywhere near North Tryon Street recently, you have seen the evidence of the Blue Line Extension. In the last several months a number of major milestones have been achieved and we have the traffic snarls to prove it.

Through a cost-sharing partnership with the City of Charlotte, the State of North Carolina, Carolinas HealthCare, and UNC Charlotte, a pedestrian bridge will now extend over the southbound lanes of Tryon Street at the J.W. Clay/UNC Charlotte transit stop. This bridge should improve pedestrian access to the light rail platform from the University side of the station. Just a few hundred yards north on Tryon Street beyond the Bioinformatics Building, you will see the “big dig,” a 350 foot tunnel that goes below Tryon Street and emerges onto campus near the terminus stop at the UNC Charlotte Main Station across from Wallis Hall. (Go to [http://inside.uncc.edu/news-features/2016-03-22/light-rail-burrows-underground-emerges-campus](http://inside.uncc.edu/news-features/2016-03-22/light-rail-burrows-underground-emerges-campus) to view an article that includes a pretty cool video about the construction of this underpass.)

A website will be launched shortly that will provide you with updates on the light rail project and most importantly, any road closures or construction updates.

**A Parting Word**

Finally, as I close this spring update, let me note that we are already looking forward to fall, and especially September 23. That’s the date marking the 70th anniversary of the first class of students enrolled at the Charlotte Center of the University of North Carolina, an institution that became Charlotte College in 1949 and then UNC Charlotte in 1965. It will truly be a day of celebration.

Have a great summer, and take some time to relax and enjoy time with loved ones. Thanks for being an important part of the Niner Nation family.

Phil