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

The 2017-18 academic year has been an eventful one. As we close the books on another semester, I wanted to provide my customary update on the status of Niner Nation.

Spring is definitely in the air...along with the lingering aroma of the rare and very beautiful “Rotney the Magnificent.” Rotney is one of two Titan Arums in the University’s botanical garden, and it bloomed just last week. Native to Sumatra, Indonesia, the Titan Arum, also known as the “corpse flower,” is the largest flowering plant in the world, standing nearly 10 feet tall. Titan Arums bloom for one day every 3-5 years, so it’s a pretty spectacular (but stinky) event.

Last weekend we celebrated the Class of 2018 as nearly 4,600 brand new graduates walked across the stage and into a bright future as UNC Charlotte alumni. We also observed our first Doctoral Hooding Ceremony honoring the 76 students who have earned their degrees in one of 17 academic disciplines of Doctor of Education, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and Doctor of Philosophy.

The Commencement Week activities were enhanced by the addition of Light Rail. After so many years of waiting, it was such a thrill to see crowds of smiling folks getting off the train and making their way to Halton Arena. I’ll talk more about the Light Rail launch in the following pages, along with some of the many other highlights from the past semester. As always, 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.
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The NC General Assembly convenes on May 16 for their “short session” to make adjustments to the two-year budget passed in 2017.

Included in UNC Charlotte’s priorities is funding for a permanent facility for our two highly successful early colleges, the Charlotte Engineering Early College and the Charlotte Teacher Early College, the first of its kind in North Carolina and one of only a handful in the nation. We are seeking a $10 million appropriation for the new building that will be located between EPIC and Grigg Hall, in the midst of our campus and easily accessible to light rail.

Recognizing the importance of public/private partnerships and limited state revenues, the University has committed to raise $10 million privately to match a state investment of $10 million. During recent visits to the early colleges, key legislators have noted the programs are excellent pipelines for STEM and education talent and provide an affordable and accessible way to earn nearly two years of college credit.

We are also seeking additional management flexibility for more efficient use of state funds by increasing the authority to carry forward state appropriations from the current 2.5% to 5% to address critically needed repairs and renovations to campus facilities. And recognizing the importance of the great people who make up our University community, we will seek $3 million for the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund and funding for regular annual salary increases for University employees.

What can you do? Advocate for these priorities with members of the NC General Assembly. For more information, please contact betty.doster@uncc.edu as soon as possible. Legislators say this will be a very short session and we have a lot to accomplish!

**NINERS ON THE MOVE**

Light Rail Launches...Finally!

I’m a numbers kind of guy, so here are a few numbers for you to consider:

- 1,702 – that’s the number of days of construction on the Light Rail Blue Line Extension.
- 2 – that’s the number of county-wide referendums held on the issue.
- 1.1 million – that’s the annual budget for the Light Rail Blue Line Extension.
- 9.3 – that’s the number of miles by Light Rail from our main campus to Center City.
- 1,200 – that’s how many faculty, staff, students, and community members came out to cheer as the first train departed from UNC Charlotte…the only green stop on the Blue Line.
During the February 26 ceremonial ribbon cutting, with more than 400 dignitaries present, I noted that of the three most significant decisions I’ve faced as Chancellor – including building the Center City campus and launching football – implementing light rail is the most transformational project for the future of UNC Charlotte. With just slightly over a 22-minute ride to our Center City campus, and then on to uptown and points beyond, students, faculty, and staff are enjoying the ease of traveling on the 103 trains arriving on campus each day. For a nominal $25 fee per semester, students receive an all-access pass that gives them unlimited travel on CATS light rail, buses, trolleys, the airport Sprinter, and Special Transportation Services vehicles. Faculty and staff can purchase the same pass for $75 per year.

We knew light rail would be a popular and safe mode of transportation as students traveled uptown for entertainment, and would provide an affordable alternative to the high cost of parking for internships and work opportunities. However, we have learned of many innovative ways light rail is being incorporated into daily campus life. For example, Dr. Tamara Johnson, who leads the Bonner Leadership Program, has placed most of the students into non-profit community organizations along light rail. The Charlotte 49ers baseball team boarded light rail to travel to their baseball game versus the Carolina Tar Heels at BB&T Stadium. And I have enjoyed taking light rail to my meetings and events in Uptown, avoiding the ten most harrowing miles of interstates and saving the University money on parking tabs.

In addition to thanking our public colleagues for the political courage, leadership, and vision to launch light rail, I want to make a special note of thanks to our university team that managed the project on campus. Led by Beth Hardin, vice chancellor for business affairs, and Betty Doster, my special assistant for constituent relations, the Light Rail Coordinating Committee met for nearly three years to ensure the successful launch and integration of light rail.

We have been pleased by the great positive coverage we’ve received, with more than four million light rail media impressions, and our University Communications team put together a great video that I think you’ll really enjoy.

We hope you will ride the train when visiting campus. Be sure to check out https://lightrail.uncc.edu/ for all you need to know about buying your ticket and getting around campus when you arrive.
New Niner Transit Buses Arrive

Twelve new green and white buses, built specifically for Niner Transit use, rolled onto campus March 12. By glad coincidence, the fleet arrived just in time for UNC Charlotte’s connection to light rail service.

Each bus is 40 ft. long and ADA accessible. The fleet is owned and operated by Academy, the largest privately owned transportation company in the country, and managed in close relationship with Parking and Transportation Services. Niner Transit is fare-free and tailored to meet the University’s needs, with service seven days per week until 2 a.m. More information is available at pats.uncc.edu/ninertransit.

Charlotte Wheels Reduces Carbon, Burns Calories

Charlotte Wheels, the University's bike share program, has made a positive impact on the environment and campus health since its August 2017 launch. As of April 16, faculty, staff, and students have taken 18,677 trips, totaling 14,346 miles. This green transportation method has reduced 12,651 pounds of carbon and burned 573,862 calories for its users.

During the week of April 23, Gotcha Bikes, the company that provides the bicycles for Charlotte Wheels, partnered with the Chancellor's Health and Wellness Committee to sponsor a "Bike and Burn" challenge, offering incentives to employees to pedal their way across campus.

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED SERVICES

While we’re working to make it easier to navigate campus through enhanced transit options, we’re also making it easier to navigate the business of being a student.

Niner Central

Niner Central Student Services Center, which opened in March, is changing the way we serve our students. As part of the “One University” initiative, a cross-divisional group of departments led by Enrollment Management undertook the task of developing a new streamlined method for students to conduct business with the University.

Located in the Cone University Center, Niner Central provides a single location for students to contact for services related to registration, financial aid, billing, academic records, transcripts, and more. Niner Central student services representatives, led by director Kimberly Laney, go beyond answering questions and focus on solving students’ problems. This way, our students can focus on their educational journeys and pursue opportunities for personal and professional success rather than bouncing between multiple administrative offices. Niner Central is a great way to demonstrate to our students that we value their time and their investment in UNC Charlotte.
**Schedule Wizard Launch**

In an effort to ease the class registration planning process for students, Schedule Wizard was launched on March 5. This new software tool helps students plan their class schedule around their personal activities. Once students plug in their desired courses and block out break times, the software generates several optimized class schedules that work around their activities. Advisors can use Schedule Wizard to help students fine-tune their schedule and ensure that the courses they take meet their degree requirements.

**COMINGS AND GOINGS**

2018 is shaping up to be a year of major transition at UNC Charlotte, with a staggering number of retirements and departures in key positions around campus.

**Robert (Bob) Wilhelm** has accepted the position of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Congratulations to Bob on this new opportunity! **Richard (Rick) Tankersley**, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, assumed the position of Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development on May 16.

College of Health and Human Services Dean **Nancy (Nan) Fey-Yensan** will be leaving UNC Charlotte in May to assume the role of Provost at Keene State College in New Hampshire. This is a great move for Nan and we wish her and husband Chip all the best. While a search is held for the next CHHS Dean, **Jennifer Troyer**, Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Economics in the Belk College of Business, will serve as the Interim Dean.

At the end of 2018, **Kenneth (Ken) Lambla** will step down from his position as Dean of the College of Arts + Architecture. Ken will return to a position as Professor of Architecture for the College. While the search for Ken’s replacement is underway, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, **Lee Gray**, will serve as Interim Dean for the College. Dr. Gray is Professor of Architectural History in the School of Architecture.

**Robert Pennington**, currently Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of Louisville, will join UNC Charlotte’s Cato College of Education faculty in the fall as the Lake and Edward J. Snyder Distinguished Professorship in Special Education. Dr. Pennington is a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst, Doctoral Level. He earned his B.S. and M.Ed. at the University of Louisville and his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky. From 1998 until July 2017, Dr. Diane Browder held the position of Snyder Distinguished Professor in Special Education.

**Julia Jordan-Zachery** will join the Department of Africana Studies as Chair in the fall. Dr. Jordan-Zachery currently serves as the Director of the Black Studies Program and Professor at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. She received a B.A. in Economics from Brooklyn College and a M.A. in Economics and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut.

**Lydia Thompson**, Director and Professor at the School of Art at Texas Tech University, will join UNC Charlotte in the fall to serve as Department Chair of Art & Art History. She comes to UNC Charlotte’s College of Arts + Architecture after five years at Texas Tech; she spent four years before that as Head of the Department of Art at Mississippi State University. Dr. Thompson has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Ohio State University and an MFA from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University.
2018 has been a year of significant change for Charlotte 49er Athletics, as Judy Rose announced her retirement and the baton was passed to Mike Hill. Judy’s 43-year tenure with UNC Charlotte can be summed up in one word – outstanding. Her tireless energy, dedication, and leadership resulted in a program that is nationally regarded for its integrity and quality, and well positioned for its next wave of success.

We are so very excited that Mike has joined our team. He is exactly the leader we need to build on the great things that exist in our athletic programs and be able to weave in his own brand of leadership, expertise, creativity, and passion to set and achieve a new gold standard to catapult the Charlotte 49ers to success.

When we set out to hire our new AD, the word had already spread that Charlotte was a great job for prospective ADs. We quickly assembled a strong pool of interested candidates. However, one candidate’s name kept rising to the top: Mike Hill. After meeting Mike, it was easy for all of us to see why he was so highly regarded...and it was obvious that he was meant to be our next Director of Athletics.

Mike was on the job for barely a week before he secured his first important hire – Basketball Coach Ron Sanchez, who was Assistant Coach for nine years at nationally ranked University of Virginia. At the press conference introducing Coach Sanchez, Mike spoke about Ron’s integrity, expertise, leadership, and cultural fit with UNC Charlotte. One of the first things that Coach Sanchez had done after accepting the job was to meet with the basketball staff and team. The fact that the entire basketball team showed up at the press conference, without being asked to, speaks volumes about the type of coach Ron is and the success that he will certainly have in rebuilding the men’s basketball program to its former glory.

Exciting things will be happening with Charlotte 49er athletics. We hope to see you at the stadium, in the arena, and in the stands supporting our student athletes. Go Niners!
New Student Government Association Officers

We’re also experiencing a leadership transition in our Student Government Association (SGA). I look forward to working with our new Student Body President and Vice President.

The newly elected 2018-19 Student Body President, Niayai Lavien, is currently a junior Political Science major. She has been involved with SGA for the past two years, chairing the Student Body Constitutional Review Committee while serving as a Senator and then as Speaker of the Senate this past year. She is also a SAFE Counselor, member of College Democrats, and is active in several programs through the Center for Leadership Development.

Our new Student Body Vice President, Chandler Crean, is currently a sophomore Business Administration major. He was the SGA Chief of Staff this past year and previously served as a Freshman Senator and on the Freshman Class Council. Chandler is also President of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, and is involved with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions as a Niner Guide and Visit Experience intern.

NINERS GOING GLOBAL

UNC Charlotte Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band to Perform in Normandy, France

In early June, the UNC Charlotte Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band will represent the United States at three events commemorating World War II D-Day, including a student performance at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach in Normandy.

A group of UNC Charlotte officials and community representatives will join our band, along with UNC Charlotte historian Dr. Heather Perry, on this exciting journey to France.
A Unique Holy Land Experience: Jerusalem, Galilee and Jordan

In March, UNC Charlotte professors Dr. James Tabor (Department of Religious Studies) and Dr. Shimon Gibson (Department of History) led a group of University friends on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure through Israel and Jordan.

Lisa and I were honored to be a part of this tour which focused on the history of early Christianity, and which included a visit to UNC Charlotte’s Mount Zion excavation in Jerusalem. We were treated to lectures on the archaeology of the region, with a particular focus on the life and times of Lawrence of Arabia, and we enjoyed daily visits to important historical sites including Caesarea Maritima, Sepphoris, Petra, and Wadi Rum located in the Jordanian desert.

Ventureprise in Jamaica

Ventureprise has participated for several years in programs sponsored by the U.S. State Department that expose entrepreneurs from many countries to U.S. entrepreneurial practices. Devin Collins, Associate Director for Ventureprise, has hosted interns and visitors from 37 countries to date, and has traveled to Zambia and Zimbabwe on exchange programs. He was in Jamaica for a week in early March where he led multiple workshops, customer discovery competitions, and roundtable discussions at the U.S. embassy.

The Gleaner, a Jamaican newspaper, ran a story about Devin’s work which can be found at: http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/art-leisure/20180401/life-innovation-driven-economy.

Devin’s visit provided meaningful information for Jamaican entrepreneurs and economic developers, and this coverage yielded broader visibility for UNC Charlotte.

EXPONENTIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Exponential: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte, the largest campaign in the University’s history, has surpassed the $150 million mark.

Our students are appreciative of the many opportunities provided by donations made by our alumni. During the “Green with Gratitude” event, more than 700 letters were handwritten by our students to thank alumni donors for giving back to UNC Charlotte. Through the generosity of our alumni, eight locations across campus have been named for our generous donors to further demonstrate the role philanthropy plays in the lives of our students.
In one recent example, alumna and faculty member, Misty Cowan Hathcock ‘85, ‘91, ‘92, ‘96, ‘04, along with her mother, Linda Humble ‘77, ‘78, established the first legacy scholarship at UNC Charlotte, the Hathcock-Humble Legacy Scholarship in Education. The scholarship provides support to legacy undergraduate and graduate students in the Cato College of Education.

Professor Emerita Dr. Ann Newman, RN, ‘78 is also leaving her legacy to the University. During her 30-year tenure at the University, Newman taught courses on psychiatric-metal health nursing and health policy, and developed the University’s online graduate program in nursing education. The Dr. Ann Mabe Newman, RN, Dreaming the Dream Fund benefits the School of Nursing. Dr. Newman’s estate gift was announced during the School of Nursing’s 50th Anniversary celebration that took place during Alumniner Weekend in April.

In January, the UNC Charlotte Foundation Board approved a $1M match for the University’s Gold Rush Grant Completion Program. Started in 2016, the program is designed to award micro-grants to help students cross the finish line to graduation. Since the program’s inception, 334 grants totaling $501K have been awarded to eligible seniors; however, there are many more students with unmet need. The expansion of the program will enable us meet these needs, making the dream of a college degree a reality for many more students. Thanks to the match, a Gold Rush Grant endowment fund may be set up for $12,500, payable over five years. For additional information, contact Ged Doughton at gdoughton@uncc.edu.

**FACILITIES UPDATES**

**Ongoing Projects**

As always, construction cones abound around campus as several major building and renovation projects continue:

- The Union Deck expansion is expected to be completed in July, providing 570 additional parking spaces.
- The Belk Plaza upgrade is scheduled for completion this August.
- A new Facilities Operations and Parking Services Complex (including Receiving and Stores warehouse) will also be completed in August.
- This October we will start construction on the Science Building, which will include demolition of the old Steam Plant and Facilities Operations/Parking building. The construction project will take two years.
- Construction of an Admissions and Visitors Center is underway and scheduled to wrap up in March 2019.
- And we’re all beyond excited for the Summer 2019 completion of the University Recreation Center.

**Moore Hall Demolition**

Moore Hall will house its final residents in Fall 2018 before being demolished in Spring 2019 to make way for a new five-story 600-650 bed residence hall. We will host an Open House during Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, October 13, to give alumni a chance to reconnect with their former residence hall, receive a tour, and view the rendering of the new residence hall.

Construction of the new residence hall on that site will begin in June 2019.
Hotel and Conference Center

The UNC Charlotte Foundation’s plan to build a full-service hotel and conference center on campus continues to move forward with the news in April that the Marriott Corporation has awarded the Foundation a Marriott franchise.

The conceptual rendering provided by our architectural firm, Cooper Carry, shows a 226-room hotel with a 15,000 sq. ft. conference center, a full-service restaurant, and a 140-space parking deck.

A pedestrian plaza between the parking deck and the conference center will allow for direct access to the campus from the light rail station. A campus transit bus stop at the hotel will provide easy access to the whole campus for hotel guests, conference attendees, and light rail riders. The current plans call for construction to begin in early 2019 with an anticipated opening date of late summer 2020.

KUDOS

Members of our faculty, staff, and student body continue to rake in the accolades and make UNC Charlotte look really good! Below are just a few of the impressive awards that have been received in recent months.

2018 Employee of the Year Awards

Here on campus, we had 26 nominations for 2018 Employee of the Year awards. Following are the winners in each of the five categories:

- Devotion to Duty: **Buffie Stephens, University Communications**
- Human Relations: **Dawn Tench, Office of Academic Affairs**
- Innovation: **Lisa Meckley, Office of Enrollment Communications**
- Community & Public Service: **Jordan Harris, Community Relations**
- Safety & Heroism: **Virginia Fuentes, Parking and Transportation Services**

First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal & Harshini de Silva Graduate Mentor Award

Each year at this time, we pause to recognize leaders in two of the areas that make UNC Charlotte great: research and mentorship. The First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal is our highest faculty award for excellence in research, and the Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award recognizes dedication to the academic and professional development of graduate students.
This year’s **First Citizens Medal** went to **Pinku Mukherjee**, Irwin Belk Endowed Professor for Cancer Research, on April 11. Pinku, who also chairs the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, has designed innovative approaches to detect breast cancer early, and is developing targeted therapy and imaging for pancreatic, ovarian, and colon cancers.

**Chuang Wang**, professor of educational research and director of the Doctorate in Educational Research, Measurement and Evaluation, received the **2018 Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award** on March 29. Chuang has served on or chaired more than 60 doctoral dissertation and 11 master’s thesis committees, and his students and colleagues consistently refer to his patience, his generosity with his time and expertise, and his ability to encourage students to push themselves beyond their comfort zones.

**Facilities Management’s Phil Jones receives Frank B. Turner Award**

On March 29, Phil Jones, associate vice chancellor for facilities, received the prestigious Frank B. Turner Award at the 37th annual State Construction Conference. The honor recognizes a state employee who has made an outstanding professional contribution to the built environment. It is presented by AIA North Carolina, the North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Consulting Engineers Council of North Carolina and the Professional Engineers Council of North Carolina.

Since joining UNC Charlotte in 2000, Phil Jones and his team of more than 450 employees have worked hard to build a “campus of distinction.” He led a multi-divisional team in developing the University’s first 10-year capital construction plan, which included two five-year phases. He also has overseen more than $1.2 billion in capital construction and renovation projects.

Phil has announced he will retire in August. We are all grateful for his visionary support and leadership over the past 17 ½ years.

**Tamara Johnson – 2018 Civic Engagement Professional of the Year – Emerging Leader Award**

Tamara Johnson is the 2018 **Civic Engagement Professional of the Year – Emerging Leader Award** recipient, as presented by North Carolina Campus Compact.

This award recognizes a higher education administrator in the state who works to realize a campus-wide vision of service, supports the engagement of faculty and students, and forms innovative campus-community
partnerships. The “emerging leader” distinction is for an honoree who has been at the campus for five years or less.

Tamara is the coordinator of the University’s Campus Compact Working Group, which seeks to expand community-based learning, and she co-leads our Civic Action Plan Committee. This group aims to create a set of strategic initiatives that align teaching, research, and service around an urgent community need: improving economic mobility.

Working with colleagues in the Dean of Students Office, Tamara co-founded and co-leads UNC Charlotte’s Bonner Leaders program, which welcomed its first cohort in Fall 2016. A four-year campus-community collaboration that uses federal work-study funds to subsidize public service, the program places students with local nonprofit partners.

Joyce Dalsheim Selected for Prestigious Fellowship

Joyce Dalsheim, a cultural anthropologist in the Department of Global Studies, has been selected as a 2018 Luce/ACLS Fellow in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs. She will use her ethnographic research in Israel and Palestine to engage in a critical examination of the relationship between sovereignty and liberation, focusing on questions of religion and religious freedom.

Made possible by the Henry Luce Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies, the prestigious Luce/ACLS Fellowships help scholars pursuing research on global religions to connect their scholarship to journalism and media audiences. In addition to providing fellows with a year’s leave to pursue their research and outreach efforts, the program also offers media training opportunities and hosts a spring symposium that brings journalists into dialogue with scholars to discuss key issues in international affairs. Joyce will be in residence at Northwestern University for the 2018-2019 academic year where she will work with colleagues at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies.

Joyce joined the UNC Charlotte faculty in 2010. She has published numerous articles and chapters, along with her books, Unsettling Gaza: Secular Liberalism, Radical Religion, and the Israeli Settlement Project, and Producing Spoilers: Peacemaking and the Production of Enmity in a Secular Age. She has also been the recipient of other prestigious fellowships, including the Rockefeller Fellowship with the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and the Lady Davis Fellowship at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Grohol, Clegg Named 2018 NSF Graduate Research Fellows

Each year, the National Science Foundation selects 2,000 Graduate Research Fellows (GRFs) from a national pool of 12,000 applicants. Two new Graduate Research Fellows are UNC Charlotte students who will benefit from the prestige, along with a $34,000 stipend plus $12,000 educational allowance for each of three years.

Corbin Grohol is a Charlotte native and graduate of UNC Charlotte with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (Summa Cum Laude). He will complete his Master’s in Science in Mechanical Engineering here later this year, and will continue PhD studies in the area of metal additive manufacturing. Corbin participated in the
Graduate School’s summer NSF Mini-Fellowship program in 2017, aimed at improving an applicant’s chances of success. In the summer-long program, Corbin worked with Dr. Rick Tankersley, Dr. Banita Brown, Dr. Yvette Huet and Dr. Julie Goodliffe on his successful NSF GRF application.

Devin Clegg was on the defensive line of UNC Charlotte’s inaugural football team – and had an unfulfilled love of biology. He found his way into a biology laboratory through the 49ers football team Faculty Coach program, in which Dr. Richard Chi (Department of Biological Sciences) participated and offered to mentor students in his laboratory. Devin has been working with Dr. Chi ever since, and after he graduated in 2016 with a BS in Exercise Science, Devin applied his new protein chemistry skills in Dr. Adam Reitzel’s lab, focusing on the evolution of coastal invertebrates. Combining the expertise of both laboratories, Devin will begin the MS in Biology program with both professors in the Fall, pursuing his goal of becoming a molecular evolutionary biologist.

Fulbright Scholar

Elizabeth Miller, an associate professor in the Department of English, has been awarded a four-month Fulbright Research Fellowship for Spring 2019. Her research will be conducted at the University of Cologne (Köln) in Germany and will focus on the role of emotional labor and rewards in teacher practice and professionalization among novice German language teachers. The University of Cologne hosts one of the largest teacher training programs in Germany and has recently mandated that all pre-service teachers receive training in teaching German as a Second Language, given the rapidly increasing numbers of refugee students in German schools.

MBA Program Ranked in Tier 1...Again

For the third year in a row, The Belk College of Business’ MBA program was named a “Tier 1” program for North American universities in the newly released 2018 CEO Magazine Global MBA Rankings. The program has also been ranked the No. 20 part-time MBA in the nation by Bloomberg Businessweek and in the top 25% of the nation’s best part-time MBA programs by U.S. News & World Report.

“We are proud to be recognized again as a ‘Tier 1’ MBA program by CEO Magazine. The continued successes of our Belk College students, alumni, faculty, and staff directly contribute to this distinction. They are the foundation behind the strong reputation of our Belk College’s MBA program,” said Dr. Dolly King, associate dean for research and graduate programs. Dr. King adds, “Our MBA program continues to evolve, contribute to the Charlotte business community, and adapt to the needs of working professionals. It offers a top-quality experience, a strong return on investment, and a high level of flexibility.”

The launch of a hybrid MBA format in the fall of 2016 has afforded students the additional flexibility of learning online and collaborating face-to-face at UNC Charlotte’s Center City campus. With concentrations in such thriving industries as energy, commercial banking, real estate finance, and business analytics, students can design an individualized program that realizes their professional goals.

Several additional programs within the Belk College of Business boast impressive rankings. Visit https://belkcollege.uncc.edu/facts-and-rankings for more details.
Dance Students Perform at 92nd Street Y

On Saturday, April 14, UNC Charlotte dance students performed at New York City’s 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center. The Center, where dancers such as Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, and Merce Cunningham have performed, is a venue of tremendous importance for dance both currently and historically. UNC Charlotte was invited as one of two universities, along with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, to participate in the College is Not a Dry Run festival.

Students performed works by associate professor of dance Gretchen Alterowitz, senior dance major Anna Edwards, and 92Y Artist in Residence Netta Yerushalmy. Yerushalmy was in residence in the dance department at UNC Charlotte in January. UNC Charlotte students were led by Alterowitz and Assistant Professor Rachel Barker, who served as rehearsal director for Yerushalmy’s work. While in New York, students took professional classes and attended performances.

Charlotte Dance Marathon Raises More than $100,000

In only five short years, the Charlotte Dance Marathon has raised over a quarter million dollars for the Levine Children’s Hospital ($286,238.67 to be exact)! What began as a legacy project launched by the Levine Scholars Program in Fall 2013 has grown into the largest philanthropic student organization at UNC Charlotte. Fundraising is a year-long effort during which students raise money “For the Kids,” and it culminates in a 12-hour dance marathon attended by over 500 students to celebrate their success. Families who have received treatment at the hospital also attend the marathon to dance, play games, cheer each other on, and increase awareness of the need and the care.

Planning efforts are already underway for the next Dance Marathon in Spring 2019. Students across campus will pledge their support, plan events, meet the families, and schedule 12 hours of activities, dance moves, and entertainment with the goal of beating this year’s total donation.

WRAP-UP

This is just a sample of the hundreds of highlights that could be shared. I hope you’ve found something in these pages that has piqued your interest and reinforced your sense of pride in what is going on here at UNC Charlotte.

I wish for you a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer.

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor