Dear Colleagues:

Well, the 2016-17 academic year is a wrap, and I would call it a rousing success. Now that the dust is settling, it feels like a good time to check in with you all once again with a recap of the last several months and a look ahead at what’s coming down the pike.

Forgive the length of this update – there’s just so much to share. I hope you’ll take a few minutes to scan the following pages, where I trust you’ll find something that interests you, or that you’ll learn something you didn’t know about our favorite University.

As always, if you would like more information on any item covered in these pages, please contact my senior executive assistant, Shari Dunn, or check the Chancellor’s Outbox.

AS SEEN ON CAMPUS  
(in case you missed it…)

Graduation

The Old Bell rang and confetti fell as we celebrated 4,300 new 2017 graduates from our seven academic colleges and the Graduate School during three commencement ceremonies held on May 12 and 13.

Greetings from the graduating class were given by graduates Yevgeniy Nikitin, Nakia L. Wortherly-Foye, and Elizabeth "Holli" Crawford Patillo. These outstanding students were selected through a competitive process based on high academic achievement and excellent character as demonstrated through their through leadership, service, and school spirit. Congratulations to Yevgeniy, Nakia and Holli, and all of our 2017 graduates. I know that they will make Niner Nation proud!
Governor Roy Cooper Visits Campus

NC Governor Roy Cooper’s recent visit to UNC Charlotte provided a hands-on opportunity for the state’s chief executive to experience the power of Big Data.

Cooper visited UNC Charlotte’s Visualization Center, where he participated in live demonstrations that utilized large data sets; one was a geospatial immersive demo focused on emergency management, and the other analyzed social media trends and patterns to better understand the past and present. These data sets can then be applied to help the retail, banking, energy, and health care industries, to name a few.

The Governor also met with students, faculty, and some of the University’s key industry partners including representatives from Bank of America, Carolinas Healthcare System, Peak 10, and the Business Innovation Growth Council.

Governor Cooper also participated in the University’s Day of Service. He helped UNC Charlotte students from the Student Philanthropy Council, along with faculty and staff, make sandwiches that were donated to Urban Ministry, Men’s Shelter of Charlotte, McCrorey YMCA, and United Way of Cabarrus County. Food Lion donated the items to prepare the sandwiches.

Housing Affordability: Context, Intersection, and Innovation symposium

For the second year, Dr. Tamara Johnson and her colleagues in UNC Charlotte Campus Compact organized a community symposium about a significant social issue in the Charlotte area. Campus Compact is a national organization designed to encourage and facilitate university-community partnerships. The symposium, Housing Affordability: Context, Intersection, and Innovation, convened researchers, community organizers, residents, faculty and staff from local universities, local government officials, and community-based organizations to address housing affordability in the city. Maurice Jones, CEO of the Local Initiative Support Corporation, delivered the keynote address. This event was a sequel to last year’s Hunger in Charlotte symposium, also held at UNC Charlotte Center City. Program and presentation materials are available here.

Great Gold Rush Auction

The Charlotte 49ers Athletic Foundation hosted the 34th Annual Great Gold Rush Auction on Saturday, June 3, at Halton Arena. The Great Gold Rush Auction is the Athletic Foundation's largest one-day fundraiser. Proceeds from the donation of merchandise, services, and monies from individual and corporate entities go directly to the 49ers' athletic scholarship fund.

Other major fundraisers hosted by the Athletic Foundation throughout the year include the Let Me Play Luncheon in the fall and the annual Golf Outing in the spring.
Bank of America Event

The University celebrated Bank of America’s generous $1.5 million gift to the Exponential Campaign with an exciting event in our Center City facility. The event featured a discussion between noted author, forensic anthropologist, and professor Kathy Reichs and Bank of America Chief Operations and Technology Officer Cathy Bessant.

Bank of America’s gift will establish an endowed fund supporting the Data Science Initiative and creates an Endowed Chair in Security Analytics, which positions UNC Charlotte at the center of the data analytics revolution. The endowed chair position will also strengthen the leadership and impact of UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte region within the North Carolina Data Science initiative.

A portion of the gift will also sponsor the UNC Charlotte Civic Series presented by Bank of America, which includes three marquee lectures: The Chancellor’s Speaker Series, the Barnhardt Seminar on Ethics, and the TIAA Lecture.

In honor of the gift, the atrium in the UNC Charlotte Center City facility now bears the Bank of America name.

GETTING TO AND AROUND CAMPUS

Light Rail

You may have heard the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) announced in late February that the LYNX Blue Line Extension, which will bring light rail service to campus, would not be completed as expected in August 2017. This isn’t uncommon with a project of this size. CATS is federally required to have the extension completed by March 2018, but we have been assured the organization is committed to identifying time-saving activities that may allow the project to open earlier. We should have a better idea of a final opening date later in the summer.

Meanwhile, the University’s 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 preparing campus for the arrival of rail service.

We are pleased that an all-access pass providing unlimited rides on the CATS light rail and local bus routes has been approved for our students. Don’t worry…students will not be charged for the pass until the light rail opens. You can always follow our progress on this project on our new light rail website or view this video that shows you an aerial view of the 11 new stations along the track.

Bus System

To make sure light rail riders can get around campus once they arrive, this fall will bring a new bus shuttle system. NinerTransit will feature larger buses and more of them. Wait times at
stops are expected to be eight minutes or less, with broader service to such locations as the Foundation Building and the UNC Charlotte Main light rail station when it opens. Service hours also will be extended from 6 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., seven days a week — except holidays when the University is closed. Getting around campus will be a lot easier, all while remaining fare-free. You can monitor pats.uncc.edu for more information on the new system in the weeks ahead.

**Bike Share Program**

In partnership with Gotcha Bike, UNC Charlotte will also launch its first eco-friendly **bike share program** this summer (Charlotte Wheels), deploying 100 smart bikes across 10 locations on campus.

Each bike features a lightweight aluminum frame, waterproof seat, puncture-resistant tires, flashing safety lights, a book rack, and both hand and coaster brakes. Thanks to GPS technology, users can locate and access the bikes through an app on their smartphone or computer. The app even keeps track of individual calorie use and carbon dioxide emission reductions.

**FACILITIES**

Since 2005, UNC Charlotte has invested more than $1.1-billion (with a “B”!) in new construction and renovation of facilities and infrastructure, including projects currently under construction or which will start this year. With this level of activity, there’s always a lot to talk about in terms of construction updates.

UNC Charlotte’s newest residence hall, **Levine Hall**, was dedicated during a campus ceremony on April 13. Located near the main entrance to campus, Levine Hall houses more than 400 students in the Levine Scholars Program and the Honors College, as well as the administrative offices for both programs. Levine Hall is named for **Sandra and Leon Levine**, two of the Charlotte region’s most generous philanthropists and two of UNC Charlotte’s biggest supporters. Through their foundation, the Levines have committed more than $18 million to the Levine Scholars Program which began in 2009.

Alumni have been generous to UNC Charlotte in many ways, including campaign gifts to boost facilities and programs. Did you know a college, four buildings, and a promenade on campus have been named in honor of 49er alumni? They include:

- Hunter (’88) and Stephanie (’86) Edwards Promenade (within Richardson Stadium)
- Hauser Alumni Pavilion [David (’77) and Nancy (’77) Hauser]
- Vickie (’71) and Gene (’73) Johnson Band Center
- Dhiaa Jamil (’78) Niner Student Pantry
- Karen A. Popp (’80) and Demond T. Martin (’97) Student Union
- Cato College of Education [John Cato (’73)]

A new $63.5 million **Health and Wellness Center** is scheduled to begin construction this summer on what is now Parking Lot 19. This 140,000-square-foot facility will include aerobic and
weight training rooms, group fitness areas, multipurpose courts, a recreational pool, and space for the administration of intramural and recreational programs.

Expect **outdoor wireless coverage** to increase significantly thanks to additional wireless access points being installed throughout campus. Students will be able to finish research papers and study for exams in lots of our outdoor spaces. **Halton Arena**, too, will soon offer fast, reliable wireless service to its thousands of visitors each year. Expect the wireless installations to be completed this fall.

Work on the **Charlotte Research Institute entrance** at Institute Circle and North Tryon will provide an enhanced “sense of arrival” to the University, similar to the main entrance at University City Boulevard. Construction will begin in late summer. The scope of work includes a UNC Charlotte sign, brick columns, and enhancements to pedestrian access.

A major renovation of the second high-rise residence hall in South Village, **Scott Hall**, is underway. Renovations of the final two high rises, Moore and Sanford, are planned for 2019 and 2020, respectively.

The long-awaited revitalization of **Belk Plaza** will start in September and take about six months to complete. The project includes a “Great Lawn” and a unique water feature.

Work will also start this summer on a new **Facilities Operations and Parking and Transportation Services complex** located near North Deck. The complex includes a new warehouse for Receiving and Stores. It is necessary to move these functions from their current location at Mary Alexander and Craver Roads to make room for the new Science Building.

Three important projects will be completed this summer. First, the repurposing of the old **Residence Dining Hall** (RDH) into administrative offices for Housing and Residence Life and the catering kitchen will finish in July. Secondly, the new **Student Counseling Center**, located adjacent to the Student Heath Center, will be completed in August. That move paves the way for an expansion of the University Career Center in the Atkins Building. Finally, renovation of the Burson Building will conclude in August with a fresh look to the old 1980-style chemistry and physics classrooms and much-improved air conditioning.

Phase 1 of the **Academic Complex** renovation concludes with the Denny Building, which is expected to be finished in December. Phase 2, Macy and Barnard, will begin late this summer. Employees in these buildings will move temporarily to the Cedar and Hickory buildings. This project is revitalizing some of our oldest classroom buildings to serve the campus for the next 30 years.

The 49ers have announced plans to construct **indoor training/hitting facilities** for baseball and softball. The two upgrades will cost approximately $1.2 million. Fundraising for the projects is going well with approximately 75% of the monies raised. The baseball facility will be down the right field foul line inside Robert & Mariam Hayes Stadium. The softball facility will sit across the culvert that runs outside the facility on the right field side.
In addition, the 49ers have begun construction on the expansion of the **Stubblefield Golf Center** at Rocky River Golf Course to make room for the 49ers Women's Golf Team, which makes its debut this fall. The expansion is expected to be complete in September.

No construction report would be complete without an update on UNC Charlotte’s largest project ever – the $101 million **Science Building**. This state-of-the-art interdisciplinary facility, to be located at the corner of Mary Alexander and Craver Roads, will be home to instruction and research in chemistry, physics, and biology. Design is underway and expected to take approximately one and a half years, with construction starting in late 2018 and occupancy slated for late 2020.

Visit the [Five-year Capital Construction Plan](#) website for schedule updates on these and other projects.

The [interactive campus map](#) is an excellent resource for navigating campus. Real-time updates will show restrictions caused by construction.

---

### NEW FACES / TRADING SPACES

**New Trustees Coming on Board**

One of the strongest keys to success for a university chancellor is having the advice and support of a great Board of Trustees. I am grateful to work with a group of talented and committed professionals and am pleased that three sitting trustees – Theresa Drew, Mary Ann Rouse, and Michael Wilson – have recently been reappointed.

Joining the Board as a new member is Brett Keeter (’99). Brett, who serves as the district director for Congressman Patrick McHenry, is an avid supporter of the university. An active alumnus, he was a member of the UNC Charlotte Alumni Board from 2005 to 2015, serving as president from 2012 to 2013. He has also served on the UNC Charlotte Foundation. Brett’s perspective as an alum and his political background makes him a great addition to the Board.

We await the appointment of two additional new Trustees, one by the Senate and one by the House.

**Leadership Change in Student Affairs**

Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs **Dr. Art Jackson** will be retiring this year, bringing his successful ten-year tenure as vice chancellor to a close and transitioning to a position as an adjunct professor in the Cato College of Education. We thank Art for his leadership in Student Affairs and for being part of the team that has shepherded the ongoing growth of UNC Charlotte, particularly in the construction and renovation of our residence hall and dining facilities.

To ensure the continuation of this momentum, we have selected **Dr. Kevin Bailey** from the University of West Florida as UNC Charlotte’s vice chancellor for student affairs. He will take
the helm on July 24. Bailey, who was selected following a national search, is a highly regarded educator who began his 27-year career in student affairs at UNC Charlotte. He has held administrative and teaching positions at Tulane University, Millersville University, Bowling Green State University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has served on multiple committees and has received numerous awards and recognitions for his contributions to those institutions.

On the national level, Bailey has held leadership posts in the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA), ACPA-College Student Educators International and the Association for Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA). He is chair for the 100th anniversary NASPA conference being held in Philadelphia next year. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration from Bowling Green State University and he also holds a Master of Arts in Student Affairs in Higher Education and a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. And just so you greet him properly, Kevin Bailey goes by “Bailey.”

**Sallie Sistare Tapped to Lead Alumni Relations**

After a comprehensive, nationwide search, I am very pleased to announce that Sallie Hutton Sistare will join UNC Charlotte as our next Executive Director of Alumni Relations.

Sallie comes to us with broad experience in alumni relations work. She began her career in alumni relations as the Coordinator of Alumni Reunions with the UNC Chapel Hill Alumni Association and moved from there to her alma mater, Elon University, where she eventually took on the leadership role of Director of Alumni Engagement. Sallie is currently the Executive Director of Alumni Affairs for the Medical University of South Carolina.

Over the past few years the Alumni Association's football tailgates, pre-commencement ring ceremonies, and Alumniner Weekends have become valued UNC Charlotte traditions. Sallie joins us at a time when the Alumni Association has never been stronger and we are looking forward to her leadership.

**Distinguished Professors**

Three new Distinguished Professors will be joining the University for the 2017-2018 academic year:

- Dr. Michael Mazzola, the Duke Energy Distinguished Chair in Power Engineering Systems, has been hired to serve as the Director of the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC).
- Dr. Gene Lai is the new James J. Harris Endowed Chair in Risk Management and Insurance in the Department of Finance in the Belk College of Business.
- Dr. Ruth Groenhout joins us as the Distinguished Professor of Healthcare Ethics in the Department of Philosophy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Buttimer to assume role of Co-Director of Childress Klein Center for Real Estate

Starting July 1, Richard Buttimer will transition from serving as Senior Associate Dean to become the Co-Director of the Childress Klein Center for Real Estate. Dr. Buttimer will also hold the position of John Crosland, Sr. Distinguished Professor of Real Estate. In his new roles, he will work with Alyson Craig, Co-Director of the Center, to build upon the programming of the Childress Klein Center for Real Estate. Over the past six-plus years, Dr. Buttimer has served as Senior Associate Dean and Associate Dean for Faculty and Research for the Belk College of Business. He joined the Belk College of Business in 2002.

The goal of the Childress Klein Center for Real Estate is to educate and develop real estate professionals, advance real estate research, and lead the community in conversations that educate and inspire innovation. The Center administers the M.S. in Real Estate program, the MBA concentration and the Graduate Certificate programs in real estate finance and development, and manages programming and outreach to the Real Estate Alumni Association and Real Estate Advisory Board. It has been ranked among the 20 most active research institutions in real estate for the past decade.

Division of Institutional Integrity Established

With an eye to strengthening the management of the university’s risk profile, I have created a new Division of Institutional Integrity, which will encompass Legal Affairs, Ethics and Compliance, Internal Audit, Title IX, and a new function of Enterprise Risk Management. I have charged General Counsel Jesh Humphrey with leading the new division as Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel.

This divisional structure is unique within the UNC system and at the front edge of a wave in higher education which recognizes that these important institutional functions need to be closely coupled to anticipate, avoid, and mitigate the many risks that present themselves in higher education today.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Data Science Initiative Update

UNC Charlotte is continuing to stake our claim as a national leader in data analytics. The Data Science Initiative (DSI), which has deep-seated support from prominent corporations and other institutions in retail, health care, energy, and financial services, convened the Analytics Frontiers Conference on March 30 to address the latest updates in the high-powered use of technology to analyze massive amounts of data generated by consumers and organizations. This conference was the next step in the University’s strategy to help Charlotte become a national hub for data analytics, an achievement that would have a major impact on the economy and higher education in this region. The three-day conference hosted 1,000 attendees and featured outstanding keynote speakers from industry and academia.
The Data Science Initiative Industry Executive Advisory Board recently held its Spring 2017 Meeting. Highlights discussed at the meeting included UNC Charlotte’s investment of $3.4 million in DSI staffing and infrastructure; the enrollment growth in the Health Informatics and Data Science and Business Analytics graduate programs; briefings on the success and importance of the University’s “big data” initiatives; and a recap of the $8.4 million in research awards received in this area.

Confucius Institute

UNC Charlotte has announced its plans to open a Confucius Institute within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences this summer. The university and college recently hosted a community celebration of the Institute, featuring dance and musical performances by Chinese students from our partner, Shanxi University, a comprehensive university of arts and sciences founded in 1902 to serve historically significant Shanxi Province.

“We see a growing demand for Chinese language instruction and cultural activities to better understand China, improve bilateral relations and better prepare students for future opportunities and challenges,” said College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean Nancy Gutierrez. “We anticipate the Confucius Institute will work with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and other schools in the region to help students be better equipped to succeed in an increasingly globalized world.” Learn more at https://confucius.uncc.edu/.

UNC Charlotte – CMS Early College Programs

A new partnership between the Cato College of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will help address teacher shortages while providing local high school students with a robust educational experience. Beginning this fall, the Charlotte Teachers Early College (CTEC) will enroll high school freshmen interested in working in education in a comprehensive five-year program on the UNC Charlotte campus. The only program of its kind in North Carolina and one of the first in the country, the early college will immerse students in intentional field-based learning activities.

CTEC joins the Charlotte Engineering Early College (CEEC) which was established three years ago. CEEC students have started taking UNC Charlotte classes in mathematics and other fields. The goal of both early colleges is to help students earn as many college credits as they are prepared to earn before moving formally into a college or university. Since the State of North Carolina pays each student’s tuition for college-level courses, this is an excellent way for students and their families to minimize the cost of earning a college degree.

Just this past academic year, 75 CEEC 11th grade students completed 1,185 credit hours in University coursework, with an overall GPA of 3.2! And, among other accomplishments, CEEC’s Deanna Cureton was named CMS Teacher of the Year.
Center for Advanced Multimodal Mobility Solutions and Education

Representatives from the USDOT visited UNC Charlotte on March 29 in connection with Dr. Wei Fan's (Civil and Environmental Engineering) Tier 1 University Transportation Centers Program award for $7.7 million over five years to lead a Center for Advanced Multimodal Mobility Solutions and Education (CAMMSE). UNC Charlotte will lead this multi-institution center that includes Texas Southern University, University of Connecticut, University of Texas at Austin, and Washington State University.

Dr. Fan's Co-Principal Investigators on campus are Dr. Marty Kane (CEE), Dr. Miguel Pando (CEE), Dr. Dave Weggel (CEE), and Dr. Yu Wang (Computer Science).

Ventureprise Encourages Entrepreneurship

UNC Charlotte’s PORTAL building was the site for a casting call for the Emmy-winning ABC show Shark Tank. In its continuing quest for the best entrepreneurs with the best businesses and products that America has to offer, the reality show’s casting team came to Niner Nation on April 28 to evaluate the best pitches from UNC Charlotte alumni, students, staff, and faculty. Several Niners took the opportunity to try and impress The Sharks – tough, self-made, multi-millionaire and billionaire tycoons – and they represented the University very well.

Earlier in April, the Charlotte Venture Challenge, now in its 16th year, returned to the UNC Charlotte campus in a new format on April 6. This year’s program featured emerging technologies from UNC Charlotte researchers and Charlotte area innovation-driven entrepreneurs. The 10 campus teams completed our National Science Foundation I-Corps Site Ventureprise Launch customer discovery program and each received $3,000 in funding. Community participants completed our new Ventureprise Launch initiative supported by the NC IDEA Foundation. The 16 presenting teams conducted a combined 564 customer interviews and received connections, mentoring, and direct feedback from the 100 participants in the event at PORTAL.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

This academic year has been a good one, both in recruiting high-achieving students through merit scholarship programs and in increasing the numbers of students applying for and winning nationally competitive scholarships.

Due to the generosity of alumni Demond and Kia Martin, the Martin Scholars Program was established this year as one of the University’s leading merit scholarship programs. The scholarship supports high-achieving students with the highest level of financial need. The scholarship is available to continuing students as well as incoming freshmen and transfer students. Three current students joined the program this year as the first Martin Scholars: Chelsea Moore, an English major from Chocowinity; Nephdarlie Saint-Cyr, an English major from Charlotte; and Bekim Sejdiu, an architecture major from Charlotte. Recruitment is currently underway for incoming freshmen and transfer students.
The Levine Scholars Program recruited its largest class ever, bringing 23 students to fill the Levine Scholars Class of 2021. These scholars will join the other scholarship recipients from the Honors College as residents in the newly dedicated Levine Hall.

Outstanding freshmen will also be joining the two existing merit scholarships managed by the Honors College. Samuel Bultman from Cary and Courtney Pratt from Columbia, S.C. received the Albert Engineering Leadership Scholarship. The Crown Scholars Program will be welcoming Adonis Abdullah from Mooresville, Connor Derrick from Charlotte, Kerrington Maner from Charlotte, Tanvi Patil from Apex, Melina Richardson from Pineville, and David Wicklin from Cary.

The Honors College supports students in all programs to apply for competitive scholarships. Work by Karen James, associate director, helped our students earn the largest number of these scholarships received to date. After only having one Barry Goldwater Scholars recipient in our past, we had two this year. Mary (Tess) Overton is a Crown Scholar and University Honors Program student from Raleigh, majoring in biology and chemistry. Nemah-Allah Saleh is a Biology Honors student majoring in biology with minors in biotechnology and chemistry. The Goldwater scholarship is the premier undergraduate award for STEM majors. This year, 240 Goldwater Scholars were selected based on academic merit, from a field of 1,286 students nationwide.

UNC Charlotte students were our first recipients of two other major scholarships. Eileen Jakeway, a Levine Scholar and English Honors student, won the prestigious Ertegun Scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in the humanities at Oxford. Luke Lowry, a Crown Scholar and University Honors Program student, was one of ten students – and the first ever from UNC Charlotte – selected to attend the Fulbright Summer Institute in Scotland this summer where he will study Technology, Innovation, and Creativity at both the University of Strathclyde and the Glasgow School of Art.

Adriano de Bernardi Schneider, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Bioinformatics and Genomics, has been selected to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University this fall in Boston, Massachusetts. He is part of a team that developed a larvicide dispenser that will help combat Aedes aegypti mosquitoes in South America to reduce the spread of the Zika and other viruses, as well as Yellow and Dengue fevers. The dispenser, a portable plastic device, is deployed under water to release a steady concentration of larvicide to control the breeding habitat of the mosquito. The project has received multiple awards, including “Most Implementable Solution” by the GE Foundation.

Each year, 13,000 undergraduates and graduate students apply for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. After intensive review, the NSF awards fellowships to 2,000 of those 13,000 students pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. UNC Charlotte has had over 17 NSF Graduate Research Fellows on campus since 2008, six of whom are current graduate students. The award provides $138,000 over three years for each student's stipend, tuition and fees, plus opportunities for prestigious federal internships and international research collaborations. Our newest NSF
Graduate Research Fellow is Remi Ketchum, a PhD student in biology, working in the lab of Dr. Adam Reitzel, along with current NSF Fellow Tyler Carrier.

The impact of UNC Charlotte’s commitment to civic engagement is evident in the work of Erica Cherian, a junior at UNC Charlotte who is devoted to addressing issues of healthcare access and utilization by Charlotte's most vulnerable citizens. Erica has been named a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact.

Newman Civic Fellows are student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions to challenges that face their communities. They were nominated by their college/university presidents. Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides learning opportunities focused on the skills fellows need to serve as effective agents of change in addressing public problems and building equitable communities.

Cherian, a biology and Spanish double major who also is a Levine Scholar, has focused her scholarship, research, and volunteerism on the disparities in healthcare. She has volunteered with free clinics in the Charlotte region, particularly those working with the Hispanic population.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Point of Pride

Recent declarations by two prominent higher education organizations place UNC Charlotte in rare company. In 2015, the Carnegie Foundation reaffirmed UNC Charlotte's 2008 designation as a "Community Engaged institution" for the University's deep involvement in addressing the region's cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health, and social needs. Earlier this year, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) designated UNC Charlotte as an "Innovation and Economic Prosperity University" for the University's work in support of regional economic development, community engagement, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Both designations required the submission of a comprehensive portfolio and evaluative assessment by the sponsoring organizations. Among the 198 public doctoral-granting research universities in the U.S., only 39 institutions hold both designations. UNC Charlotte is one of those. Within North Carolina, we are joined by NC State and ECU.

UNC Charlotte Represented at Charlotte Business Journal’s Women in Business Awards

UNC Charlotte trustee Cathy Bessant, along with Beth Fischer, executive director of University development, and three 49er alumni were among the individuals honored at this year’s Charlotte Business Journal (CBJ) Women in Business Awards program on March 16 at the Hilton Charlotte Center City. This annual award honors outstanding businesswomen from the region who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Cathy Bessant, Bank of America’s chief operations and technology officer, received the CBJ Lifetime Achievement Award. Beth Fischer was one of 25 women included in the Women in Business Class of 2017, along with 49er alumni Nancy Brown ’87 (managing partner with
CliftonLarsonAllen, Kelly McPhilliamy ’89 (managing director with Wells Fargo Securities), and Amy Shanes ’98 (Deloitte Tax).

**Architecture Team Places Second In New York Build Competition**

A design entry by UNC Charlotte School of Architecture students Naz Modaresahmadi and Robby Stubbs and faculty members Peter Wong and Chris Jarrett (School of Architecture director) won second prize in the New York Affordable Housing Challenge, an international architecture competition sponsored by New York Build 2017. More than 90 teams submitted proposals.

The competition posed the question: “How do we use the limited resources, both in terms of plots of land and the availability of finance, to create homes and communities that can continue to be diverse and open to all?”

Participants designed a pilot-phase concept for affordable housing in New York City. See full descriptions and renderings here.

Modaresahmadi is a Master of Architecture student and Stubbs is a Bachelor of Architecture student. Both expect to graduate this year.

**Art Professor Produces Award-Winning Animated Film**

An animated film by Associate Professor of Digital Media Heather Freeman has been screened in 35 national and international film festivals and two gallery exhibitions, with more screenings scheduled for 2017. *Artemis*, a stop-motion animated short, received a nomination for Best Animation at the Kerry (Ireland) International Film Festival, 3rd Place for Best Animation at the Artlightenment Art and Film Festival in Nashville, and the Best Animation award at the UK Screen One International Film Festival (United Kingdom).

*Artemis* was funded by grants from the North Carolina Arts Council, the Arts & Science Council, and the Blumenthal Foundation.

Freeman has taught at UNC Charlotte since 2006. She is co-director of the Colleges of Arts + Architecture's Digital Arts Center (d-Arts) and author of *The Moving Image Workshop: Introducing animation, motion graphics and visual effects in 45 practical projects* (Fairchild Press).

**Harshini de Silva Graduate Mentor Award**

The 2017 Harshini de Silva Graduate Mentor Award Recipient is Dr. Heather Smith, from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. Dr. Smith is a co-founder of the Mecklenburg Area Partnership for Primary Care Research which focuses on developing a better understanding of the primary care needs of disadvantaged communities. One of her mentees described her mentoring approach as “just the right amount of direction—providing framework for research, while at the same time allowing students to make their own unique contribution to our discipline.”
Dr. Smith not only provides research to support the network but also includes graduate students in the studies to cultivate and hone their professional skills while supporting community engagement projects.

First Citizens Award

The 2017 First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal Award recipient is Dr. Bob Algozzine. A professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Dr. Algozzine has more than 30 years of experience in educational research and evaluation with more than 400 professional publications. He is widely known for his work on effective assessment and teaching practices in the areas of behavioral disorders and critical issues in special education.

Distinguished Service Award

Just this past week, we held the annual Distinguished Service Award luncheon. I am pleased to share that the recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award is Dianne English, executive director of the Community Building Initiative. The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1987 to honor those who have provided outstanding leadership and exemplary service to the Charlotte community and to the advancement of UNC Charlotte. Dianne personifies the DSA award as she is a true servant leader who has made it her life’s work to make Charlotte a more inclusive and equitable community. She has worked tirelessly for all members of the Charlotte community, courageously advocating for all aspects of diversity, including race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. She is a pillar of our community and we are so very pleased to honor Dianne and her work with this award.

49ers in the NFL

As I’m sure you’ve heard by now, the 49ers football program celebrated another first in April when defensive lineman Larry Ogunjobi became our first player to be taken in the NFL Draft. A member of the 49ers first recruiting class, Larry, who graduated in December with a degree in Computer Science, was selected by the Cleveland Browns with the first pick of the third round.

In addition, three other 49ers signed with NFL teams as undrafted free agents: Austin Duke (Panthers), Kalif Phillips (Packers), and Brandon Banks (Redskins).
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Around this time of year, I typically try to provide an update on North Carolina’s legislative activities, particularly as they impact UNC Charlotte and the other institutions in the UNC system. However, this year’s legislative budget session has been especially eventful, with all sorts of interesting plot twists, and things are changing so quickly these days, I’m not even going to attempt to recap it.

Suffice it to say the Senate and House budgets have been put forth, they differ from each other significantly, they include items that could have a significant impact on us, and we will just have to wait and see how it all plays out. We’ll share updates as they become available, so stay tuned.

HOMECOMING 2017

The University will host Homecoming 2017 activities around the 49ers' football game vs. Conference USA foe University of Alabama at Birmingham on Saturday, October 21. The Homecoming game highlights a 2017 schedule that includes four C-USA home games, the first of which will be held October 7 vs. Marshall. Our football program will open up its fifth season September 1 at Eastern Michigan with the first home game slated for September 16 vs. North Carolina A&T. This is our third year at the FBS level as a member of Conference USA.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

On Saturday, October 14, come out to enjoy the 42nd annual UNC Charlotte International Festival. I-Fest is a day-long cultural explosion celebrating the incredible and ever-growing diversity of our University and our region. With booths arranged in colorful marketplace style, the celebration represents cultures of more than 50 nations. Music, dance, games, and wonderful food make for an unforgettable family-friendly experience. It’s a day you won’t want to miss!

Enough? Hope you have a great summer!

Phil