December 4, 2009

To: Employees and Friends of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Re: Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

I’m pleased to report that we’re off to a great start to the 2009-2010 academic year. Once again, we welcomed a record number of students—24,701 (1,400 more than the fall of 2008). There have also been many causes for celebration on campus, including the grand opening of the new Student Union and the announcement of the Levine Scholars Program. These are watershed moments in UNC Charlotte’s history and it gives me great pleasure to bring you good news about them, as well as other significant achievements of our faculty, staff, and students. And, as always, if you want additional detail on any specific item mentioned in this newsletter, please feel free to contact my assistant, Donna Brady (dcbrady@uncc.edu).

You may also find the Chancellor’s Outbox as another useful information source: http://administration.uncc.edu/chancellor/outbox.html.

New University Trustees

We’ve started the academic year with three outstanding new appointments to the campus Board of Trustees:

Mark Erwin was appointed to a full four-year term by Governor Perdue. Mark is president of Erwin Capital Inc., a family-owned investment company based in Charlotte. The company develops and owns numerous properties, including shopping centers, office buildings, business parks, and mixed-used developments in the Carolinas and Virginia. From 1999 to 2001, he served as the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of the Seychelles, and the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros. Mark has served UNC Charlotte in several capacities, including membership on the UNC Charlotte Foundation Board and the Athletic Foundation Board.

Also appointed to a full term by Governor Perdue, David Hauser joined Fairpoint Communications in July as its chief executive officer and chairman after retiring as group executive and chief financial officer for Duke Energy. During his 35-year career with Duke, David’s tenure included promotion in 1993 to vice president of procurement services and materials, and in 2003 to the post of chief financial officer. David has been actively engaged
with UNC Charlotte over the years, including service on the Belk College of Business Advisory Council and the Athletic Foundation Board. He earned his MBA from the Belk College in 1978.

Laura Schulte, President of Community Banking for Wells Fargo Eastern Region, was elected by the Board of Governors to fill the unexpired term of Ranjana Clark who resigned earlier this year when she left Wachovia to take a senior position with Western Union. Laura’s 26-year career with Wells Fargo has included a variety of management positions, including internal auditor, regional finance manager, and chief financial officer for Norwest Banking operations in Nebraska (Norwest merged with Wells Fargo in 1998). Laura has served previously as a trustee of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Revised Mission Statement

As part of the system-wide academic planning exercise known as “UNC Tomorrow” led by President Erskine Bowles and approved by the UNC Board of Governors, campuses were invited to revise their existing mission statements so that those documents would better reflect their institutional goals and aspirations and, where possible, to set forth their unique contributions to the university system.

UNC Charlotte availed itself of this opportunity and, on November 20, the Board of Governors approved a revised campus mission statement which reads, in part:

UNC Charlotte is North Carolina’s urban research university. It leverages its location in the state’s largest city to offer internationally competitive programs of research and creative activity, exemplary undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, and a focused set of community engagement initiatives. UNC Charlotte maintains a particular commitment to addressing the cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health, and social needs of the greater Charlotte region.

This statement clearly establishes UNC Charlotte as the one institution in the system that is dedicated to urban research issues and the application of its intellectual capital to address important issues confronting our region. The complete statement (which can be found at: http://www.provost.uncc.edu/GoalsPlanning/vision_mission.htm#Mission_Statement) details fundamental institutional values and general actions we intend to take to deliver upon this mission.

In addition to continuing to offer outstanding baccalaureate and master’s programs, there can be no doubt that UNC Charlotte has fully embraced our mission as a doctoral research university. Our first doctoral graduate walked across the commencement stage in the spring of 1997. This past year, doctoral degrees were awarded to 68 students, our highest number to date. Our 18 doctoral programs enrolled 772 students this fall, also a record. We look forward to growing our existing programs and adding new ones over time. Three doctoral programs await consideration by the Board of Governors, and several more are in various stages of planning.
New Senior Administrators

Although budget restrictions and hiring freezes slowed down our hiring of new people this year, many new outstanding faculty and staff members have joined our institution. It is impossible, of course, to mention them individually in this space, but we’ve had two noteworthy administrative hires since my last newsletter.

Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Services, and Director, School of Nursing: We are pleased to welcome Dr. Defloris (Dee) Baldwin to us from Georgia State University where she had served as an Associate Director of the Graduate Programs in Nursing. An expert in health promotion and women’s wellness, Dr. Baldwin is the principal investigator for several studies on the promotion of breast health for older African-American women. She serves on a National Cancer Institute Study section that reviews applications for federally funded cancer-related research. She earned her Ph.D. at Georgia State University, M.N. at Emory University, M.A. in Guidance and Counseling at Hampton Institute, B.S.N. at Hampton Institute, and A.S. in Nursing at Norfolk State College.

Director, School of Architecture: Christopher Jarrett has been named Director of the School of Architecture in the College of Arts + Architecture. Since 2002, he was Associate Director of the Architecture Program at Georgia Tech where he had significant international teaching and program directorship experience. His research and teaching traverses a wide range of environmental design issues. Chris earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon and a Master of Science in Architecture from Columbia University.

Economic Health Update

Since my last newsletter in the spring, the North Carolina economy has continued to struggle, resulting in lagging state revenues to support the University and other state agencies. As a consequence, UNC Charlotte was forced to reduce its permanent budget by about $12.7 million for the 2009-2010 academic year, including $6.7 million in reductions specified by the General Assembly and another $6 million in cuts where we had some management flexibility. At the end of the day, 80.44 employee positions were eliminated, including about 60 staff and 20 faculty positions. Fortunately, because we had anticipated the reductions and held allocated positions open, we had only 15 layoffs of individuals in filled positions; all 15 position eliminations came from the ranks of the staff. Overall, 72% of our cuts were taken in administrative areas.

In addition to the budget reductions and lay-offs, one of the more unfortunate aspects of the budget was in the area of funding for capital projects; no new planning or construction funds were allocated to UNC Charlotte (and most other UNC campuses). A much-needed new Science Building thus remains on the far back burner. Moreover, funds for each of the previously approved capital projects, including the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), were reduced because the General Assembly appeared to believe that construction inflation costs going forward will not be as high as they were when those projects were first authorized. This action eliminated about $4.7 million from the EPIC construction budget, causing us to go back to
the drawing board to eliminate that amount from the architectural design (which was already completed). We’re hopeful that recent declines in the costs of building materials and robust competition in the construction market will allow us to get some of those lost elements back when the bids on EPIC are opened later this fall.

On the upside, with active advocacy on our behalf by President Erskine Bowles, our own Vice Chancellor David Dunn, and the EPIC Advisory Board, the General Assembly did provide $2 million in ongoing funding for EPIC to support the initial hiring of faculty and staff for that facility. We hope to secure the final installment of $3 million of requested funding in the 2010 legislative session. In the meantime, the College of Engineering has established its hiring priorities and will launch several recruitments for faculty and technical staff later this fall.

Capital Construction and Planning for the Future

As I noted above, although we did not receive any planning funds for our new Science Building, we continue to have a lot of campus activity related to new building projects.

Master Plan: The university’s future growth over the next 10 to 15 years will be guided by the new Campus Master Plan. Developed over the past eighteen months with the help of external consultants from the firm of Ayers Saint Gross, the Master Plan provides a blueprint for the placement of future academic and student support facilities, recommendations pertaining to the development of critical campus infrastructure, suggestions for improving traffic management and parking, and ideas for preservation and protection of our environmental resources. Materials relating to the Plan may be found at: (http://masterplan.uncc.edu/). The master planning exercise has confirmed that UNC Charlotte’s land holdings will permit a campus as large as 40,000 students. The Board of Trustees will vote on final acceptance of the Master Plan at its next meeting on December 11.

Student Union: On August 8, 2009, we held a formal ribbon-cutting for the spectacular new Student Union. This 196,000-square-foot facility has instantly become a major center of campus activity, including a new Barnes and Noble Bookstore, various dining venues (including a sit-down restaurant, The Bistro), an art gallery, student meeting spaces and offices, and a 200-seat movie theatre. The Union has been so popular that traffic patterns (both on foot and for automobiles) have been significantly altered by its opening. As a result, we’ve allocated funding to install a traffic light in front of the building, employ temporary crossing guards, and to commission a traffic study to see whether it is advisable to close Craver Road to all but shuttle and service traffic.

Memorial Hall: During the past year, the Brocker Building, which housed the former Student Health Center, has been transformed. Now called Memorial Hall, the building has become the headquarters for the Army and Air Force ROTC programs after a yearlong complete renovation. A wall inside the entrance way to the building has been reserved for a memorial that will commemorate UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, or students who have lost their lives in service to our country.
Bioinformatics Building: The $35 million, 94,000-square-foot Bioinformatics Building on the Charlotte Research Institute (CRI) Campus opened in late summer. The Bioinformatics Building provides improved laboratory space for basic and applied research in modern molecular biology and houses the Department of Bioinformatics and Genomics. It is our first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building on campus, earning the silver level of certification.

Center City Classroom: Work continues on the construction of the Center City Building at Ninth and Brevard in Center City Charlotte, with completion of this eleven-story structure expected in August, 2011. After it opens, the Center City facility will be the home of our graduate programs in business, our master’s in urban architecture, selected other graduate and professional programs, and continuing education courses and certificate programs.

PORTAL: UNC Charlotte has engaged the design team of Pease Associates, NBBJ, United Engineering Group, Bulla Smith Design Engineering, and Facilities Technology Services, Inc. to design the PORTAL Building on the CRI campus. PORTAL, representing “Partnership, Outreach, & Research for Accelerated Learning,” will sit at the Tryon Street entrance of the CRI Campus and fill the final site on the entrance quad. Offering new opportunities for research, business development, entrepreneurial activity, and university partnerships, PORTAL will house the Ben Craig Center Business Incubator and provide flexible surge space for large research projects. Additional partner space will be provided so that R&D companies can locate scientific and engineering teams on the CRI campus. The UNC Charlotte Technology Transfer Office and some CRI staff will be located in the building to offer easy access for business partners. The building will also contain a sensitive compartmented information facility (SCIF) to support classified research by university employees and partner companies. Schematic design is nearing completion and detailed design will continue through the first half of 2010. The building is expected to open in 2012.

Charlotte Research Institute Laboratory Space: This past month CRI hosted a grand opening to celebrate the opening of 14,000 square feet of remodeled laboratory space in Grigg Hall. The $2.8 million lab space project was jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration and the campus. The lab will provide an environment where regional companies can collaborate with UNC Charlotte researchers to grow businesses and create new jobs.

In addition to those important capital projects, we are attempting to resolve issues on campus that have arisen as a result of our increasing enrollment, particularly those relating to traffic management and parking. As noted above, we will be installing a new traffic signal in front of the Student Union. A second traffic light will be installed at the corner of Cameron Boulevard and Phillips Road to facilitate the safe movement of traffic from the Charlotte Research Institute campus and up the very steep hill that leads to the main campus. To deal with a shortage of parking that occurs in the middle of the instructional day, we’re looking to create additional parking spaces, including construction of a new parking lot on the site of the future Science Building at the corner of Cameron Boulevard and Craver Road. We also are working closely with the college deans to do a better job of spreading the schedule of available classes
across the entire day, thereby alleviating the parking crunch we see occurring between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Environmental Sustainability Efforts on Campus

Over the past several years, we have launched a number of initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability, including increasing our fleet of alternative fuel vehicles, adding bike racks and bike lanes, making car pooling more attractive, and maintaining a robust recycling operation that collects over 40 items; roughly one-third of all waste on campus is diverted to a recycling facility or special construction and demolition landfills.

In keeping with these efforts and a new UNC system-wide policy relating to sustainability, I recently signed the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). By signing the ACUPCC pledge, UNC Charlotte joins 15 other North Carolina colleges and universities and more than 650 institutions of higher education across the nation that have begun to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and take other initiatives relating to sustainability. A recently-appointed UNC Charlotte Sustainability Committee will meet several times each year to review the progress of the implementation of the ACUPCC commitment and will help ensure that the resources and expertise of the institution are brought to bear as needed.

Several other noteworthy projects in this area are also under way. Most recently, UNC Charlotte, together with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities, Central Piedmont Community College, and the Centralina Council of Governments, was awarded a Green Business Fund Grant presented by Governor Beverly Perdue. The $85,000 grant, along with a $99,850 grant from the Biofuels Center of North Carolina, will aid in the study and development of a highly integrated biodiesel production facility for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities. Researchers aim to develop technology to convert brown grease removed from restaurant grease traps and black grease collected in sewer lines into biodiesel.

The biodiesel research will be conducted through the new Infrastructure, Design, Environment and Sustainability (IDEAS) Center. The William States Lee College of Engineering established the Center to find new and innovative ways to lighten the impact of buildings, infrastructure, and other human activities on the environment. The Center’s efforts will be guided by an interdisciplinary team of faculty/researchers led by Dr. Helene Hilger. I look forward to reporting on this exciting new initiative in future newsletters.

Our students have not been left behind in working on sustainability issues either. Last year the Student Government Association proposed a $1 “green fee” to support the Charlotte Green Initiative (CGI), a student-led initiative that aims to create campus-wide awareness, education, and consciousness of environmental sustainability among students, faculty, staff, and visitors of UNC Charlotte. For the 2008-2009 funding cycle, CGI allocated $43,000 to two projects: 1) a solar photovoltaic demonstration module; and 2) Greenscreen Technology. More information on CGI and the student projects is available in the CGI Annual Report, a copy of which is available in my office.
New Academic Initiatives and Opportunities

In the months since my last newsletter, we’ve launched many exciting new academic initiatives. The nature of these programs and partnerships are markers of UNC Charlotte’s regional and national importance, and signify our maturation as an urban research university.

The Levine Scholars Program, funded through a $9.3 million gift from the Leon Levine Foundation and made possible by the personal generosity of Leon and Sandra Levine, is designed to attract exceptional student-leaders from North Carolina and throughout the United States. The overall goal of the initiative is to develop compassionate, ethical leadership for our region. Fifteen exceptional students will be selected each year, building to a full complement of 60 scholars. The program will welcome the first class of scholars next fall. A scholarship initiative of this magnitude will not only allow UNC Charlotte to compete effectively for top students, but it will strengthen the university’s ties to the community through the public service components built into the program. As of today, more than 1,000 students have been nominated to be considered for selection into the inaugural class. More about the program can be found at: http://levinescholars.uncc.edu/levine/faqs.html.

To honor the legacy of the late NASCAR racing champion Alan Kulwicki, the Kulwicki family recently committed a gift of nearly $1.9 million to support engineering education at UNC Charlotte. The largest individual gift ever received by the William States Lee College of Engineering’s Department of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Sciences will be used for student scholarships and to help with construction of a new motorsports engineering facility on the UNC Charlotte campus. In recognition of the Kulwicki family’s generosity, the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees has approved naming the university’s existing motorsports research laboratory in honor of Kulwicki, who died in a plane crash several months after he won the 1992 NASCAR Winston Cup championship.

The Charlotte Teachers Institute (CTI), a partnership among UNC Charlotte, Davidson College, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), launched its first four seminars for more than 50 CMS teachers this fall. CTI is designed to strengthen teaching in Charlotte’s public schools by offering CMS teachers effective professional development opportunities through content-rich seminars led by faculty from UNC Charlotte and Davidson College. In October, CTI officially joined the Yale National Initiative.

The university is one of 17 institutions nationwide to receive an ULTRA-EX grant from the National Science Foundation. The funds will support multi-disciplinary research in understanding the intersection of environmental, social, and physical dynamics in urban areas. Researchers from the department of Geography and Earth Sciences, the Charlotte Visualization Center, and the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI) will be involved in the two-year exploratory project, which will study the unusual persistence of undeveloped areas within Charlotte’s urban boundaries. Dr. Ross Meentemeyer, Geography and Earth Sciences, is the grant’s Principal Investigator.
All of our academic colleges are thriving, but let me make special note here of the work of the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI). Not only did the College achieve a record year of external research funding in 2008-09 ($9.4 million), but this year could be even better as $5 million has been received in the first three months of 2009-10. CCI’s Charlotte Visualization Center, led by Professor Bill Ribarsky, has been awarded key partnerships in two Department of Homeland Security Centers of Excellence: the Command, Control, and Interoperability Center and the Natural Disasters, Critical Infrastructure, and Emergency Response Center. CCI’s Diversity in Information Technology Institute (DITI) has strengthened its nation-leading position in diversity through new awards from the National Science Foundation. Through its STARS Alliance, DITI leads a national network of 20 colleges and universities and more than 80 regional partners. Total funding for DITI, led by Professor Teresa Dahlberg, now stands at over $7 million.

This fall, the College of Computing and Informatics and the College of Health and Human Services began offering an interdisciplinary Health Information Technology Graduate Certificate program to meet the needs of the healthcare industry as it moves toward the increasing use of electronic medical records and other applications. The program is intended for those with a bachelor’s degree in a related field (such as health sciences or computing) and basic computer programming and data base management skills. A professional science master’s degree is in the planning stages, with the input of an advisory board comprised of prominent health care and health care information experts in the community. For more information, see http://hit.uncc.edu/.

Also in the College of Health and Human Services, a labor-intensive effort led by Professor Andrew Harver and his colleagues in the Department of Public Health Sciences was rewarded with success when The Council on Education for Public Health awarded initial five-year accreditation to both the master of science in public health and the bachelor of science in public health degree programs. This was an important step as we progress toward the eventual establishment of a School of Public Health in the years ahead.

As part of a long-standing effort, we continue to support and expand programs that are designed to enhance student retention and graduation rates. A recent review of our Learning Community Program confirmed that student members of learning communities have higher retention rates, better academic outcomes, increased levels of engagement on campus, and a higher degree of student satisfaction with the university. There are currently 17 campus learning communities (16 for new freshmen; 1 for new transfers) with 830 participating students, representing approximately 25 percent of the entering freshman class.

We are also very pleased with our 49er Finish Program which, since its inception in 2005, has helped 300 students who had previously dropped out of the University in good academic standing to return to school and complete their degrees. This effort has been greatly assisted by $50,000 in scholarship funds awarded to adult, re-entry students (provided by the Bernard Osher Foundation). The Office of Adult Students and Evening Services (OASES) has been renewed for an additional $50,000 for 2009-2010 to continue the scholarship program.
UNC Charlotte produces the second-largest number of new teachers in North Carolina among all public and private institutions. The College of Education is continuing its excellent work in teacher education by offering options for prospective new teachers to earn their degrees through distance learning. In partnership with Stanly Community College, a new “2+2” baccalaureate completion program will be launched in January, 2010 in Child and Family Development (Birth-Kindergarten teacher licensure), and the Elementary Education program will be continued. In a 2+2 baccalaureate completion program, faculty from UNC Charlotte deliver the junior and senior level coursework in the major to the community college site so that students in that region have the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree from UNC Charlotte in a setting close to home.

Finally, the campus continues to serve regularly as a site for important conferences and meetings that bring businesses and researchers together in areas that are critical to the North Carolina economy. North Carolina Lt. Gov. Walter H. Dalton and Scientific Founder and Chairman of the Advisory Board of Tengion, Inc., Dr. Anthony Atala, were the featured keynote speakers at the Eighth Annual Charlotte Biotechnology Conference. The Conference was produced by the Charlotte Research Institute with the support of 37 additional sponsors and organizations. More than 400 attendees participated in the one-day event.

Faculty: Outstanding Achievement

I am continually impressed, but not surprised, by the depth and breadth of UNC Charlotte faculty expertise and their involvement in campus life and in the community. Our faculty continue to garner national and international recognitions. They do so even as they teach our students, conduct research, and compete for ever-elusive grant funding. Below is just a sampling of some recent UNC Charlotte faculty achievements:

Professor Jim Cook of the Department of Psychology is the 2009 recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Public Service. Created in 2007, this prestigious honor recognizes and rewards “sustained, distinguished, and superb achievement in university public service and outreach and contributions to improve the quality of life of the citizens of North Carolina.” Only one award is given to a faculty member of the UNC system. Throughout his 29 years as a faculty member, Jim has developed a sustained, outstanding record of distinguished community service to assist people who are economically and socially disadvantaged and those with disabilities. Integrating his teaching and research roles, he is a leader in developing community-university partnerships and in involving his students in significant service.

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Tiffany Barnes and Assistant Professor of Bioinformatics and Genomics Jun-tao Guo received prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER awards, the NSF’s most prestigious award in support of junior faculty. Five College of Computing and Informatics faculty have now received NSF or Department of Energy CAREER awards. Similarly, Assistant Professor of Nursing Maren J. Coffman was one of only 15 junior nursing faculty nationwide to receive a three-year, $350,000 Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar award. Obviously, we are recruiting top faculty to this institution.

Professor of Anthropology Jon Marks has won the 2009 J.I. Staley Prize from the School for Advanced Research on the Human Experience. The award recognizes innovative works that go beyond traditional frontiers and dominant schools of thought in anthropology and add new dimensions to our understanding of the human species. It honors books that cross subdisciplinary boundaries within anthropology and reach out in new and expanded interdisciplinary directions. The prize was awarded for his book, *What Does It Mean to be 98% Chimpanzee?*, published by the University of California Press.

Professor David Walters of the School of Architecture, with colleagues from The Lawrence Group, received an Outstanding Planning Award by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association for The Mountain Landscapes Initiative, a community-funded planning and design effort to create environmentally responsible design and development practices across 7 counties and 16 municipalities in western North Carolina.

**Alumni Affairs**

The fall is always a hectic time for our university, and this year is no different. The Alumni Association has been especially busy with two of their most notable events — the Triad Chapter event at Childress Vineyards and the TIAA-CREF Alumni Golf Classic — held within days of each other. This year’s Triad Chapter event welcomed over 200 people. Seventy-six people braved a day-long downpour of rain to participate in the 11th annual TIAA-CREF Alumni Golf Classic at Pine Island Country Club. All proceeds from the tournament support the Dr. Greg Davis need-based scholarship fund. (By the way, my team played awesome—but we failed to impress the judges and finished out of the money.)

For several years, the Alumni Association has worked diligently to establish alumni chapters throughout the country. These chapters are designed to maintain the relationship between our alumni and UNC Charlotte and provide a way for alumni to network with each other. In addition to the Triad Chapter, the Alumni Association has officially chartered the Young Alumni and Black Alumni Chapters. The Raleigh/Durham area is the next chapter in the development and an official charter will be signed within the next year. While areas such as Atlanta, New York City, and Washington, D.C. do not currently have chartered chapters, the Alumni Association strives to hold regional events in these key cities.

**49er Athletics**

It’s been another great summer/fall for UNC Charlotte athletics. These are some of the mid-year highlights.

**Facilities:** Construction of a short-game practice facility at Rocky River Golf Club is nearing completion thanks to a major gift from Balfour Beatty Construction. The facility, which includes a driving range, practice green, and bunkers, now boasts a 2,559-square-foot building.
that houses a locker room, coaches’ offices, and indoor swing carrels. We’ve also begun renovation of the softball stadium seating at the 49ers softball diamond in the DL Phillips Sports Complex, and thanks to a major gift from Trustee Dale F. Halton, we will break ground on a tennis facility in 2010.

**Let Me Play:** More than 350 corporate and community leaders came together at the Charlotte Convention Center for the 49ers 6th Annual “Let Me Play” Luncheon in November. The event is designed to illustrate the importance athletics can play in the development of young women. The luncheon seeks to mobilize female community leaders in support of women’s athletics. Noted golf professional Dana Rader served as the event’s keynote speaker while current 49ers women’s basketball player Aysha Jones discussed her life as a student-athlete. The event, sponsored by OrthoCarolina, Goodrich, Presbyterian Hospital, Wachovia Wells Fargo, The Edmund Center, Carolina Panthers, and Charlotte Bobcats, surpassed its goal of raising $75,000.

**Are You Ready for Some Basketball?** The NCAA has announced that the Charlotte 49ers will host the first and second rounds of the 2011 Division I Men’s Basketball Championship. The event will take place at Time Warner Cable Arena in uptown Charlotte. The dates for the first and second rounds are currently slated for March 18 and 20, 2011. With 80 NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament games hosted, the city of Charlotte ranks third in tournament history behind Kansas City (116) and Salt Lake City (83). The 49ers also hosted the 1996 NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Final Four. This is a testament not only to the desirability of Charlotte as a venue but recognition of the great event organization and management provided by Athletic Director Judy Rose and her talented staff. Ticket information for the first and second rounds of the 2011 Division I Men’s Basketball Championship will be released in March 2010.

**Football Update:** The architectural team of Jenkins-Peer/DLR Group has been selected to prepare conceptual designs for the football fieldhouse, practice fields, and football stadium. The complex will be located between the Mariam and Robert Hayes Baseball Stadium and the Charlotte Research Institute on the large intramural fields currently located there. Part of our planning includes relocation of the intramural fields that will be lost due to this new construction.

Meanwhile, the Board of Trustees will meet on December 11 to decide whether to move forward with the original timetable for the establishment of football (beginning play in the fall of 2013) or to delay the program for some period of time until the economy improves. Sales of Forty-Niner Seat Licenses (FSL’s) continue in an effort to raise some of the necessary start-up monies. Individuals interested in purchasing FSL’s who have not yet done so are strongly encouraged to visit [http://www.charlotte49erfootball.com/](http://www.charlotte49erfootball.com/) or call 704/687-4949. Board of Trustee Vice Chair Gene Johnson continues to lead the capital campaign component of the fundraising efforts. Notably, the Board of Trustees has committed to contributing $1.6 million in personal gifts to the 49ers football program. In recognition of this commitment by 100% of the members of our Board, the Student-Athlete Academic Center within the football fieldhouse will be named in their honor.
UNC Charlotte in the Community

UNC Charlotte’s “Stake Your Claim” branding campaign is hitting full throttle with advertising and the placement of giant pickaxes around town (the likes of which have created quite a buzz). The Division of University Relations and Community Affairs spearheaded the branding effort, but it would not be half as successful as it has been without the buy-in and support of the campus community and the greater Charlotte community.

The next phase of the campaign will include short documentary videos shot by students with the help of our broadcast communications department, in tandem with a re-design of the university’s website. A Web Advisory Committee has been appointed to oversee the process. The homepage and associated landing pages will be the first to change, and the remaining pages will gradually be shifted to a new, clean and dynamic design.

Another initiative of note that is tied to our branding campaign is the new 4.NINER K run and walk event to help raise funds for need-based student scholarships. Lisa and I joined more than 600 people to brave inclement weather to participate in the inaugural event in October, raising upwards of $27,000 in scholarship monies. We look forward to an even bigger event next year.

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As the cold weather descends on Charlotte, I find it helpful to visualize the university’s lovely Botanical Gardens in spring time. I look forward to exploring a new addition, the Asian Garden, and invite you to do the same. Indeed, if you haven’t yet made it onto campus this academic year for a lecture, performance, exhibition, sporting event, or the 4.NINER K, I’d like to close this newsletter with an invitation — please come out to campus this spring and take advantage of all UNC Charlotte has to offer.

This holiday season we have many reasons to celebrate at UNC Charlotte, and it gives me great joy to share them with you. Look for the next installment of the newsletter sometime in May.

Go Niners!

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please call 704-687-5729.