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

Re: Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

Another semester has flown by. It certainly has been a whirlwind year. A year ago at this time, I was presiding over commencement exercises at the University of Wyoming. This past weekend, I shook the hands of about 2,300 new graduates of our undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral programs.

As I mentioned in my first newsletter, this is a regular letter to the employees and friends of UNC Charlotte about major campus activities and issues that might be of broad interest. I will issue this letter twice a year—once at the end of each fall semester and then again at the close of the spring term.

I apologize for the length of this newsletter, but there is a large amount of information to share. If you want additional detail on any specific item, please feel free to contact Donna Brady in my office (dcbrady@email.uncc.edu). I encourage interested employees or friends to look for information about current initiatives originating in my office in the Chancellor’s Outbox at http://www.administration.uncc.edu/chancellor/outbox.html.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

One never prefers to start a newsletter with bad news, but it’s required in this instance. I truly believe that the true measure of a high performing organization is not how well it functions when everything is running the way it is supposed to, but its ability to operate when something has gone wrong. This includes disasters that can result in injury to personnel, the loss of facilities and technical infrastructure, and interruption to the normal operations of the institution. Our recent power outage on April 13, coupled with an explosion that resulted in several serious injuries, is an example of what can happen when we least expect it.

Overall, I am very proud of our response to this incident. I’d like to commend our Facilities Management staff and University Police and Public Safety employees who moved quickly to react to the power outage and explosion. Their response was nothing less than courageous. Our Public Relations staff managed the challenging task of communicating with the media and the campus community under very difficult conditions. I am also very grateful to the medical teams who responded quickly and with great skill to attend to our injured workers.

We were very fortunate to have had an excellent emergency response plan in place and to have rehearsed it frequently. Indeed, just a few weeks prior to the explosion, we had completed
a simulation exercise based on the possibility of a tornado hitting the campus. Practice does matter.

Let me say also that we hope to learn from the experience of dealing with a serious emergency. For that reason, we have ordered both an independent professional review of the causes of the accident itself and are conducting an internal review and assessment of our disaster response. We expect both reports to be ready by the end of May.

We are also active participants in a process organized by the UNC system to help all of the campuses to be better prepared for emergencies. Before leaving office, President Molly Broad chartered a task force to find ways to strengthen the preparedness of our 16 UNC institutions. This task force is exploring ways to share resources (including people, equipment, facilities, and technology) among UNC system schools and will produce a report for President Bowles in late summer or early fall. Members of our own faculty and staff have participated in focus groups providing input to this effort. The task force report is expected to generate recommendations leading to better planning and coordination among UNC system schools, enabling us to help each other work through disasters. President Bowles has also made it clear that disaster preparedness is a top priority of his administration and has committed the General Administration to supporting the ability of each campus to be as prepared as possible.

Our most seriously injured employee, Ed Seamon of the Electrical Department, remains in the NC Jaycees Burn Unit in Chapel Hill in critical condition with a variety of serious injuries. Lisa and I have visited with Ed’s wife, Brenda, at Ed’s bedside, as have many other members of our staff. We will continue to assess the family’s needs and provide support to help them during this very difficult time. UNC Charlotte faculty and staff have also risen to the occasion by prompting a fund-raising initiative to assist the Seamon family with expenses. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send a check payable to the UNC Charlotte Seamon Assistance Fund to the Cashiers’ Office, UNC Charlotte, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

We are very fortunate to have outstanding, committed members of the Board of Trustees who have given of their time, expertise, and even their treasure to strengthen UNC Charlotte.

Perhaps no Board member has given as much of himself to our institution than Irwin “Ike” Belk who announced this spring that he planned to retire from the Board in March. As Ike said to me, “I’m 84 years old, and I’m ready to slow down!” Ike and Carol have been extremely valued friends to UNC Charlotte for many years, and his experienced counsel to the Board will be missed. Indeed, it could almost be said that Ike is the “father” of UNC Charlotte, having introduced the legislation in 1965 in the State Senate that approved the conversion of Charlotte College to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In addition, as a result of Ike’s generosity, our campus is marked by important facilities (such as our Olympic-quality track stadium and the Anne Belk Theatre) and a large number of beautiful sculptures, including the large eagle that has taken flight near Woodward Hall.

Although we will miss Ike’s many contributions, we feel equally fortunate to welcome Ike’s son, Carl Belk, to our Board. Carl was appointed by the UNC Board of Governors to
complete Ike’s unfulfilled term to 2007, and was sworn in by our Board of Trustees as its newest member on April 21. Carl has previously served on the UNC Charlotte Foundation Board and Board of Visitors, as well as on the boards of other institutions, including UNC Asheville, Warren Wilson College, and the Athletic Foundation of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Board also said farewell to student body president and ex-officio Board member Joe Franco. Although Joe graduated on May 13, he will continue his term of office until the end of the month. Joe has served this year very capably and with dedication, including talking me out of $315,000 to address safety-related issues on campus as identified by the students’ “Safe Walk” project.

Our new student body president is Ben Comstock. We know Ben well; he has been serving as student body vice president this past year. Ben will continue the long tradition of outstanding student leadership we have been fortunate to have at UNC Charlotte. Ben will be sworn in as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees at its next meeting on June 23.

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

One of the most enjoyable things that the Board of Trustees gets to do is to approve recommendations for significant university-wide recognitions, with the awarding of honorary degrees and the university’s Distinguished Service Award. This year presented the Board with a special opportunity to keep these awards “all in the family” by recognizing the very significant work of one of this community’s most dynamic duos—Smoky and Sara Bissell.

Smoky, of course, served for eight years as chairman of the Board of Trustees and as chairman of the Search Committee that brought Lisa and me back to Charlotte. Smoky will now continue his volunteer service for UNC Charlotte as chairman of the Foundation Board. Sara was responsible for the stunning interior design of the two residences that have supported two UNC Charlotte chancellors—Jim and Martha Woodward’s residence in Morrocroft near SouthPark Mall and the new residence on campus that Lisa and I currently enjoy.

Although Smoky and Sara prefer to stay out of the limelight, we were successful in persuading them to accept UNC Charlotte’s two highest recognitions--Smoky was presented the Honorary Doctorate of Public Service at the afternoon ceremony of Commencement on May 13, while Sara accepted UNC Charlotte’s Distinguished Service Award on May 17. Congratulations to this great couple; we’re proud to call them our friends.

POST-INSTALLATION ACTIVITIES

All of January was consumed by the preparations required for the Chancellor’s Installation ceremonies and activities on February 2-3. Lisa and I were humbled by the fantastic participation of the community at large; faculty, staff, and students; and even some old friends from Wyoming and around the country. It was a grand celebration and, I hope, an important moment in the life of this institution.

Shortly after the Installation, I published an extended set of the remarks that I delivered at the ceremony itself. If you have not received a hard copy of the Installation Address and wish to
receive one, please call my office (704-687-2201). Alternatively, you can print your own copy directly from the Web at: [http://www.administration.uncc.edu/chancellor/outbox.html](http://www.administration.uncc.edu/chancellor/outbox.html). For individuals with occasional bouts of insomnia, this is required bedside reading!

The Installation Address identified fifty-five specific action items that I outlined for our future attention. With the approval and endorsement of our Board of Trustees, nine items have been identified as the highest priorities for our immediate attention over the next year. These include:

- Revision of our Academic Plan statements of vision and mission
- Revision of strategies to accomplish University goals
- Construction of the Center City classroom facility
- Review of the long-range enrollment goal for UNC Charlotte
- Development of “dashboard indicators” of institutional progress
- Implementation of diversity-related planning and associated initiatives
- Development and implementation of a community relations plan
- Revision of the Campus Master Plan (for physical development and land use)
- Initiation of a complete re-examination of our budget assumptions and allocations

More information on each of these initiatives will be made available as they unfold. Because most of them will require the active participation of faculty and staff, it is anticipated that we will call upon the Faculty Council and the Staff Organization frequently for their help and advice. Planned actions, such as the construction of the Center City building and the development of an effective community relations plan, will depend upon the assistance and expertise of friends in the larger Charlotte community.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND UNIVERSITY BUDGET REQUEST**

As of this writing, the so-called “short session” of the General Assembly has opened, and legislators are busy working on the state budget. The University system budget, prepared under the careful guidance of President Bowles but involving all of the campus chancellors, requested an increase of more than $285M for recurring operations, $14M for nonrecurring items, and more than $415M for capital improvements.

The priorities recommended by the President and the Board of Governors will greatly benefit UNC Charlotte. They include full funding for enrollment increases (which, in UNC Charlotte’s case, amounts to more than $10.5M of the system’s request of $79M), financial aid for students to offset the costs of tuition and fee increases, and academic salary increases of 5%. The President also recommended, and the Board of Governors endorsed, the allocation of
$45.8M from the capital budget to support construction of the Center City classroom facility for UNC Charlotte. Among more than 30 projects listed for construction or planning, the Center City building was listed fourth in the priorities. Other parts of the budget request that also benefit UNC Charlotte include the President’s request for expanding support for K-12 education, nursing and health care, and information technology.

We were delighted this week to learn that Governor Easley had endorsed a good many of President Bowles’ priorities, including full funding for enrollment increases, student financial aid, and faculty salaries (for a 4% increase). The Governor also endorsed a 4% increase for all state employees and members of our classified staff (SPA). Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Governor chose UNC Charlotte’s Center City classroom facility as one of only three capital projects chosen for construction. Although the legislative process is a long one and we still need to secure support through both Houses of the General Assembly, we were grateful to see that the Governor recognizes the critical importance of our facility to the future of Charlotte and our institution.

The budget discussion now moves to the two Houses of the General Assembly. Vice Chancellor David Dunn will be present in Raleigh during a good part of the legislative session to monitor developments as they unfold.

With regard to our proposed Center City building, let me thank the local groups that stepped forward with important statements of support—the Executive Committee of the Charlotte Chamber, the Executive Committee of Center City Partners, and the leadership of the Charlotte Regional Partnership. My personal thanks go to Bob Morgan, Michael Smith, and Ronnie Bryant for making those endorsements possible. And, of course, we are deeply indebted to our City Manager, Pam Syfert, and the County Manager, Harry Jones, for dedicating their staff members to the task of making sure that we are ready to move ahead on detailed planning and construction if and when the funding is approved later this summer.

For those of you who may not know, our planned Center City building will be located at 9th and Brevard streets, just a couple of blocks from North Tryon Street and the site of a future stop of the light rail system. Our long-term hope, of course, is that light rail can serve to directly connect the main campus and the Center City building and, for that reason, we are having conversations with light rail planners at the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) about whether light rail might actually be brought onto the campus.

With the assistance of the architectural firm selected for the planning phase of this building project, Gantt-Huberman, we have programmed a building of 150,000 gross square feet to include all of our graduate programs in business, and a number of our other graduate, professional, and continuing education programs. The building will include faculty offices, multiple classrooms, a large auditorium, seminar rooms, a coffee shop, student lounges, and a library area. Notwithstanding the fact that local publications continue to reprint an outdated preliminary artist’s rendering of the exterior of the building, the building itself has not been designed; we hope to engage many stakeholders in the Center City area once we get to that phase since we want any building we construct to be viewed positively by the Charlotte community.
It is our hope that plans for a public park to be built just south of our building and extending all the way south to Imaginon, the children’s museum, can come to fruition. Discussion is also underway concerning the possibility of constructing a public/private parking deck beneath the park. UNC Charlotte stands ready to participate in all of those discussions so that our building can be constructed as quickly as possible. If all goes as expected with funding, planning, and design, we could be ready to open our doors for the spring semester of 2009. (And yes, I could have built this building a lot faster in Wyoming where we didn’t quite have as much red tape to wade through!)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Back on the home front...

Olen Smith, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs for more than twelve years and a UNC Charlotte employee for twenty-two years, retired at the end of April. Olen guided our business operations through a period of tremendous change, including dramatic growth in student enrollment, the addition of many significant new buildings, and transition of UNC Charlotte as a research and doctoral-granting institution. I congratulate Olen on a job well done and wish him and Nancy well as they spend more time with their family and friends.

Beth Hardin assumed her new duties on May 1 as Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, and David Dunn has quickly taken up the reins as Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Community Affairs. Beth has many things to worry about as she assumes her new responsibilities, but primary among them will be the construction of the Center City facility and leading the budget re-examination exercise noted above. David will be leading the completion of our community relations plan this summer and an expansion of our branding and marketing efforts, including some exciting new advertising placements in the Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

The search for the new Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs is well underway. My colleagues on the search committee include Dennis Bunker (Alumni Association), Beth Hardin (Business Affairs), Mike Hummer (Athletic Foundation), Deans Claude Lilly (Business) and Karen Schmaling (Health and Human Services), and Michael Marsicano (UNC Charlotte Foundation). The committee met for the first time on March 20 to iron out procedural issues and is now completing the applications review process. The committee expects to bring in a first round of candidates in early June for off-campus interviews. Top candidates will be invited back to campus for a more extensive visit in late June and early July. It is my hope that the new Vice Chancellor will be in place by fall.

PHYSICAL CHANGES

Although not technically a part of the campus’ infrastructure, UNC Charlotte has played a major role in the establishment of the Charlotte Metro Ring. Based on the same technology design currently used to support production and research network services in the Research Triangle, the new Charlotte Metro Ring will provide a high-speed network loop for the Charlotte metropolitan area. High-speed network access is critical for a region’s economic growth in today’s world. The Charlotte Ring is thus poised to provide great potential for the greater
Charlotte region with high-speed networking applications that hold potential benefit for high tech companies and underserved communities alike. On campus, the Charlotte Ring will be integrated into many research programs, especially those of the Center for Optics and Optoelectronic Communications. The Ring was initially endorsed by former Chancellor James H. Woodward; Dr. Michael Fiddy and Dr. Yasin Raja worked with Dr. Charles Price of Information Technology Services to develop the plan for it.

On campus, work continues to complete the new Applied Optics and Physics Building located near Highway 29. Although the building is not yet finished, we have been able to relocate the Charlotte Research Institute (CRI) into its new home there. This building, the second to open in that part of campus in the last year, is designed to house the Center for Optoelectronics and Optical Communications, the Department of Physics and Optical Science, and the Charlotte Research Institute. CRI supports research centers in precision metrology, optoelectronics, E-business technology, and bioinformatics, as well as new initiatives like biomedical engineering systems, nanotechnology, motor sports and automotive research, information security, and visual analytics.

The next building to be constructed near Highway 29 is a $35M multi-investigator bioinformatics facility. Funds for this facility were appropriated by the General Assembly in the 2005 legislative session. Work in this building should dovetail nicely with the evolving North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. Under the auspices of our recently established Bioinformatics Research Center (BRC), we propose to locate a Bioinformatics Core Facility (BICore) on-site at the NC Research Campus. BICore will be a research, educational, and service facility with a focus on the development of novel analytical methods for knowledge discovery in large biological datasets. Bioinformatics in now an integral component of biological research and is an indispensable element of modern biotechnology.

Although we often become focused on “bricks and mortar” as signs of our institutional progress, it is also important to remember that it is the work of our faculty, staff, and students that takes place within these buildings that really matters. This was brought to light in February when Jon Dudas, Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, visited UNC Charlotte as part of President Bush's initiative to increase America's competitiveness and innovation in technology. Dudas called UNC Charlotte a "model" in promoting that effort. UNC Charlotte was chosen as the site for the Undersecretary’s speech because, in his words, "UNC Charlotte has one of the most active and robust Technology Transfer offices in the country, which has aided in 25 startup companies in the past decade. In that same period, UNC Charlotte received 51 patents, and helped transfer 65 technologies to industry, as well as created 80 new jobs. UNC Charlotte’s commitment to innovation and collaboration with the private sector is exemplary."

Our technology transfer program was also visited as part of a National Science Foundation Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) program grant to identify and examine universities and colleges that exhibit exemplary innovation partnerships. The institutions identified will be highlighted in extensive case studies for an NSF report.

Our existing work in facilitating business-university research partnerships should be enhanced even more with the award by President Bowles of a special three-year grant to UNC Charlotte that we are calling “Open for Business.” Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor for
Research Steve Mosier and CRI Executive Director Bob Wilhelm, the goal of this project is to identify and adopt appropriate national best practices for enhancing university-private sector research interactions and technology transfer. Believing as we do that our work could become a model for the UNC system, if not the entire country, President Bowles has put significant funding behind this effort—more than $900,000 over the life of the three-year project.

Back on the subject of new construction on campus, two student support buildings also continue in development. The new Student Health Center, replacing the older Brocker Health Center, should be ready for occupancy by June 2007. Our planned new $50M Student Union, to be funded by student fees, awaits approval during the current session of the General Assembly. Assuming approval, construction could begin as early as March 2007 with occupancy by March 2009.

Finally, we continue work on the design of a new front entrance to the campus at University City Boulevard (Highway 49), about 750 feet south of the current entrance. This entrance will create a significant point of arrival for the university, including nine brick and cast stone columns placed along University City Boulevard. The new entrance will provide a safer entry to the campus by allowing more time for drivers to make directional decisions, while a pull-off area will allow visitors to view a campus map. Way-finding signage will be installed to direct visitors to events and parking. The old entrance will remain as a pedestrian-only entrance to the University. The designers are Site Solutions (providing the road layout, landscaping, and infrastructure) and ADW Architects (designing the brick columns and entry sign). We hope to begin the first phase of this project during summer 2006.

NEWS FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I write this newsletter having just completed our spring commencement exercises and the awarding of more than 2,300 degrees, including 455 master’s degrees and 15 doctorates. When combined with the winter semester totals, this year we awarded the largest number of degrees ever at UNC Charlotte—4,600. And our total doctoral degree production, which included 43 doctorates just this year, has now climbed to 220 since we awarded our first doctoral degree in 1997.

Our faculty has never been known for sitting on their laurels, however, so their work to expand educational offerings to serve Charlotte and North Carolina is ongoing. We continue to plan and implement new degree programs through campus and Board of Governors curriculum procedures.

Below is the status of programs currently in the planning process.

**Authorized to Establish**
- Ph.D. Business Administration
- Ph.D. Organizational Science
- Ph.D. Geography and Urban Regional Analysis
- B.A./B.S. Mathematics for Business

All of the new doctoral programs are accepting students for admission in the fall of 2006.
Submitted Notification of Intent to Plan
M.A. Latin American Studies
B.S. Public Health
B.S.R.T. Respiratory Therapy

Submitting Request for Authorization to Establish
M.B.A. Sports Marketing and Management
M.A. Ethics and Applied Philosophy
B.A. Art History
B.S. Construction Management
Ph. D. in Nanoscale Science

Name changes have been requested and approved for three degrees in order to better represent the curricula of the programs, as follows:
B.S. Health Fitness to B.S. Exercise Science
B.A. African American and African Studies to B.A. Africana Studies
M.S. Health Promotion to M.S.P.H. Public Health

Teacher Education

UNC President Erskine Bowles has pointed to the teacher shortage crisis in North Carolina as an area that demands energy and attention from the UNC campuses. I am proud to say that energy and attention is clearly present here at UNC Charlotte. Last year UNC Charlotte prepared 515 newly licensed teachers. That number is the second highest among the state's 47 schools and colleges of education. It’s important to note that almost half of the new teachers from UNC Charlotte came to the profession as second-career professionals and earned their teaching licenses at the graduate level through our "fast-track" Master of Arts in Teaching program. Both traditional undergraduate programs and our innovative graduate-level programs prepare great teachers for North Carolina's schools. The quality of UNC Charlotte's teacher education programs was underscored this past fall through rigorous and highly positive reviews from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Continuing reaccreditation until 2012 had been received from NCATE for our teacher education programs without even a single suggestion for improvement.

Centers and Institutes

As a university with a growing research agenda, UNC Charlotte has a large number of centers and institutes. It is impossible here to cover all that goes on within these important centers of research activity, but permit me to mention two new initiatives.

The Center for Real Estate was established by the Belk College of Business this year. The Center’s interdisciplinary research agenda focuses on real estate issues of concern to both the academic and real estate practitioner communities. Dr. Steven Ott, the John Crosland, Sr. Distinguished Professor of Real Estate and Development, is the Center Director. In addition, a Center Advisory Board of eight members has been formed to provide advisory input on Center projects and goals. In addition to funding received during the recent “It Takes A Gift” campaign, the Center has already received grants this fall totaling $60,000 for research projects
on adequate public facilities ordinances and impact fees, as well as $28,750 to study the topic of tax increment financing.

The new UNC Charlotte Visualization Center celebrated its opening with a May 1-2 symposium featuring world renowned researchers. Visualization and the related field of visual analytics are receiving much attention because of their unmatched ability to attack problems that require the management of large amounts of information. This symposium focused on what the future holds for interactive visualization and visual analytics in such areas as business intelligence, risk management, biomedical visual analysis, environmental analysis, critical infrastructure visual simulation, and homeland security. The Visualization Center is directed by Dr. Bill Ribarsky, Bank of America Distinguished Chair in Information Technology.

Faculty Recognitions

With nearly a thousand faculty members, we don’t have space here to list all of their incredible accomplishments. Suffice it to say that they continue to make us very proud to call them colleagues.

This spring, we awarded several important campus honors:

Bob Hocken, Director of the Center for Precision Metrology and the Norvin Kennedy Dickerson, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science, was selected as the 2006 Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award recipient. This award is in memory of Harshini de Silva, who was an associate professor of biology at UNC Charlotte and an exceptional teacher and researcher known for her professional development of graduate students.

Tanure Ojaide, Professor of Africana Studies, received the First Citizens Scholars Medal for his scholarship and research. He has published 25 books -- 16 in poetry, five in literary criticism, one in language, two in fiction, and one memoir. His work focuses mainly on socio-political conditions in Africa. Our colleagues at First Citizens Bank sponsored a wonderful community reception in Center City in Tanure’s honor.

Karen Cox, Assistant Professor of History and Director of Public History, was selected to represent the UNC system as the faculty-in-residence for the UNC in Washington (D.C) program. As the sole on-site professor, she will teach the Washington, D.C. Experience Seminar for students selected from UNC campuses to participate in this semester-long program.

Our faculty also continue to distinguish themselves with important external awards of support for their work:

David Test, of Special Education, received over $5 million from the U.S. Department of Education to help youth with disabilities and their families achieve desired post-school outcomes.

Teresa Dahlberg and Tiffany Barnes from Computer Science received $2 million to develop a cohesive system of regional partnerships that will focus on effective practices for recruiting and graduating women, under-represented minorities, and persons with disabilities in
computing-related disciplines. This is the largest National Science Foundation (NSF) grant received by UNC Charlotte faculty members to date.

Other faculty members have received grants to study the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Edd Hauser, Geography and Earth Sciences and the Center for Transportation Policy Studies, is working on a National Science Foundation (NSF) Collaborative Research Grant with Duke University to study how people made the decision to evacuate during the hurricane. Virginia Gil Rivas and Ryan Kilmer of Psychology received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study parent-child relationships and children’s adjustment after the hurricane.

Our goal of involving more students in research was furthered with the awarding of three NSF REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) Site Awards to Professors Paula Goolkasian and Nakia Gordon of Psychology; John Daniels and Rajaran Janardhanam of Civil Engineering; and Teresa Dahlberg of Computer Science.

Xintao Wu of Computer Science received a NSF CAREER Award, the most prestigious NSF award in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization.

As a result of a grant application submitted by Joan Lorden, Bob Wilhelm, and Mike Fiddy, the university was awarded $1.2 million from the Department of Commerce to complete the Applied Optics and Physics building.

**Student Recognitions**

UNC Charlotte students continue to make us proud. I’d like to mention just a few outstanding highlights from our student ranks.

Tiffany Epps, a doctoral student in Biology, was selected to participate in the 56th Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany.

Napoleon Paxton, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Software and Information Systems, was selected as a NASA Harriet G. Jenkins Fellow, a Fellowship Program that provides full-time graduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with financial support for their education in NASA-related disciplines. Twenty students were selected out of more than 1,000 applicants.

Paolo Batoni, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, was awarded the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 2005-2006 Charles LeGeyt Fortescue Scholarship, a prestigious $24,000 scholarship awarded annually by this national professional organization to an outstanding graduate student in electrical engineering.

After a 2005 team of students from the College of Information Technology demonstrated their cyber game skills when they finished first in the South in the 2005 International (cyber) “Capture the Flag” Competition, we were excited when a team of eight students in the College of Information Technology won first place in the first National Collegiate Cyber Defense
Competition that was held in San Antonio, Texas, April 21-23. The competition is an important part of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) effort to promote better protection of the nation’s information infrastructure.

The Department of Art was asked to submit art work from its five best students to the McColl Center for Visual Art's First Annual North Carolina Undergraduate Juried Exhibition, LAUNCHED, sponsored by TIAA-CREF. This is a special opportunity to highlight our talented art students while also providing them with professional development experience and an opportunity to exhibit their work in a major contemporary art venue in North Carolina. Their work will be on display beginning August 11.

I’d like to congratulate the students highlighted here as well as all of our other award winning students too numerous to mention and thank them for the honor they bring to our university.

FUNDRAISING AND FRIENDRAISING

As I mentioned in my Installation Address, it is important to our future development that we strengthen our alumni and fundraising capacity over the next few years. That includes the establishment of in-state and out-of-state alumni chapters. Our new membership in the Atlantic 10 Athletic Conference provides us with some exposure to new markets along the east coast, including cities such as Philadelphia, Washington, and New York where we have sizable numbers of alumni. And there are other cities, including Atlanta, that do not serve as homes to A-10 institutions but are simply too large to ignore. It is important to reach out to these alumni, make them feel a part of the exciting growth that our campus is experiencing, and educate them on how they can help advance the university’s mission in their respective communities.

On January 17, the Alumni Association and I hosted a reception for an enthusiastic group of Philadelphia area alumni prior to the men’s basketball game versus St. Joseph’s University. I had a great time in Philadelphia and the 49er victory made the trip complete. The 49ers nearly pulled out another amazing victory on the road against 6th ranked George Washington on March 4. That loss did not prevent the alumni of the Washington, D.C., area from having a tremendous time prior to the game. I look forward to making return trips to these areas next season. My future plans include visits to both New York and Atlanta to connect with alumni in those areas. Indeed, with the college deans also thinking about how they can strengthen their alumni operations out of state, we will be trying to figure out how we can work together to the benefit of UNC Charlotte.

Of course, we are not ignoring our in-state alumni either. In addition to a wonderful gathering held in Winston-Salem at the time of our basketball game against Wake Forest University, we have planned receptions in Raleigh and Wilmington. My colleague, Rosemary DePaolo, chancellor of UNC Wilmington, has graciously agreed to host the Wilmington event in her official residence.

We have made similar progress in working with the UNC Charlotte Foundation. The Foundation Board unanimously adopted a new set of by-laws which provide for a committee structure that will more fully engage our board members in the identification, cultivation,
solicitation, and stewardship of an expanded base of donors. A proposed set of new members, including a number of alumni of UNC Charlotte, are under recruitment by the Governance Committee, chaired by the most capable Michael Marsicano of the Foundation for the Carolinas. And perhaps the best news of all is that Smoky Bissell, former chairman of the Board of Trustees, has agreed to a three-year term as chairman of the Foundation Board. As I noted above, as chairman of the most successful $116-million “It Takes A Gift” Campaign,” Smoky knows how to “bring home the bacon!” And another former UNC Charlotte chairman of both our Board of Trustees and our Foundation Board, Russell Robinson, has agreed to chair the group (the UNC Charlotte Investment Fund—UNCCIF) that looks over the investment and management of our endowment assets.

Although the final numbers will not be known until June 30, I am very pleased with our fundraising in the first year following the end of the “It Takes A Gift” Campaign. Although there is always a concern about a dramatic fall-off in annual fundraising at the end of an intense campaign, it appears that we will exceed $14 million by the end of this fiscal year. That certainly gives us a solid base for the future fundraising program of this institution. As chancellor, I am honored by the pride that these gifts convey about our past and by the trust and confidence they inspire in UNC Charlotte’s future.

SPRING FEVER ON THE FIELD

No spring wrap-up is complete without noting the significance of the accomplishments by our student-athletes. Completing just our first year as members of the Atlantic 10 Conference, our spring athletes served notice that UNC Charlotte is a force that must be reckoned with, both athletically and academically.

The spring has been full of success for the 49er student-athletes. With baseball still competing, we have won Atlantic 10 Championships in men’s and women’s outdoor track and field, men’s golf, a regular season A-10 championship in softball, and posted runner-up finishes in the A-10 in men’s and women’s tennis. In addition, our men’s golf team earned its second straight NCAA Tournament bid, while several track and field athletes qualified for NCAA competition. Men’s tennis star Roy Sichel was named the A-10 Athlete of the Year, while men’s tennis’ Zvi Lantsberg and men’s golfer Ray Sheedy were named A-10 Student-Athletes of the Year in their respective sports. Last, but not least, women’s track standout Cassie Ficken was just named A-10 Student-Athlete of the Year in women’s track.

In the classroom, 127 student-athletes, or 51%, had a GPA of 3.0 or higher this past fall. Thirty-four 49ers were named to the Chancellor’s List for posting a 3.8 GPA or higher, with 22 student-athletes earning perfect 4.0 GPAs. Those numbers are all records for the 49ers program which, it should be noted, has graduated 89% of its student-athletes who have completed their athletic eligibility since 1993.

Athletics has obviously had much to boast about this season. My congratulations to Judy Rose, her coaches, staff, and student-athletes. Of course, the entire Athletics staff is still buzzing about the humming fastball that I delivered for the first pitch of the Charlotte 49ers baseball game against Carolina. (Don’t ask me to do that again.)
ON TO SUMMER

I wish I could say that things will slow down for the summer months, but they won’t. We have a large agenda to get accomplished before the beginning of the next academic semester. With that said, Lisa and I do hope to take a couple of weeks in July with our family, recharging our batteries and having a little fun. We hope you are able to do the same.

See you in the fall!

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

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