January 3, 2012

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

Re: Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from UNC Charlotte! As we welcome the New Year, I hope that you enjoyed the holiday season in the company of family and friends.

We have had much cause for celebration at UNC Charlotte in the last year. If you want additional detail on any specific item mentioned in this newsletter, please check the Chancellor’s Outbox or feel free to contact my assistant, Donna Brady (dcbrady@uncc.edu).

Looking Back at 2011

In many ways, 2011 was another historic year for this institution. For the 15th consecutive year, the University has set a record mark for total enrollment, which has now reached 25,300 students, including for the first time over 20,000 undergraduates. The 3,169 freshmen who joined us in the fall of 2011 posted higher average SAT scores and higher average GPAs than any class in the past five years.

Our enrollment grew by more than 300 students from the previous fall but, in light of the budget reductions we face in FY 2012, we have had to scale back our rate of growth. A consequence of necessary adjustments in our enrollment strategy in the face of rising demand is that far fewer qualified students are able to receive the education they desire; in fact, nearly 800 qualified students were denied admission for the 2011–12 academic year.

We admitted and welcomed our second class of Levine Scholars, who joined us through a highly selective admissions process that attracted nearly 1,200 nominees for 16 scholarships. In July, all of our new scholars returned from a transformative, 25-day Alaskan outdoor adventure; they likely found that getting acclimated to campus life was a piece of cake by comparison. Meanwhile, the first class of Levine Scholars is already making an impact in the community through their work with organizations including the Ronald McDonald House and Stop Hunger Now.

We recently received further proof that we are meeting a very important part of our mission as the state’s urban research University. Since Chancellor Emeritus Jim Woodward committed UNC Charlotte to this path and secured authority for the campus to offer doctoral degrees just over 15 years ago, we have made astounding progress. In fact, our nineteenth doctoral program, in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, was launched this year. More
than 800 students are currently pursuing doctoral degrees, and we are very close to topping 100 awarded doctorates per year. We conferred 70 doctorates at the December 2011 commencement—representing 18 of the 19 disciplines. This is a clear sign that the University is significantly impacting those fields and that, as a result, our reputation as a top-notch research institution is growing.

State Budget Update

While we are immensely proud of what the University has accomplished in the past year, we are also mindful that some considerable challenges lie ahead. In anticipation of what has turned out to be the most difficult fiscal environment I’ve witnessed in my tenure both as Provost and as Chancellor of UNC Charlotte, we’ve instituted budget reforms and are developing plans to shore up our network of regional support for the University.

The state budget for FY12 imposed a reduction of 16 percent of our state appropriation—the equivalent of approximately $33.5 million. Indeed, over the past four years, approximately $49.2 million of our state appropriation has been removed from our permanent budget. Impacts of the cuts on our students and administration are striking. Compared to fall 2005, classes of 19 or fewer students have declined 47 percent. In the same time period, we have seen an increase of 32 percent in classes larger than 50, and a 50 percent increase in classes of 100 or larger.

On the administrative side, we have experienced some equally stunning changes. The University Career Center that guides our students in seeking employment has seen a 41 percent increase in contacts with the same level of staffing (since FY 07). We have experienced a 95 percent increase in Financial Aid applications during this same time. We are processing 108 percent more applications per employee.

To partially offset the impact of the budget reductions on our academic programs, the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees unanimously approved a 6.5 percent increase in tuition and fees for fall 2012. The board also approved a $100 “infrastructure improvement fee” that each student will pay to address our critical facilities needs. The total proposed increase for undergraduate resident North Carolinians is $417, which would bring our total annual bill to $5,857. Our plan for tuition and fees now goes to the UNC Board of Governors for its consideration, with final action expected in the first quarter of the new year.

The decision to raise tuition has been difficult. Notably, student leaders and the Student Government Association have been involved in the discussion and are overwhelmingly supportive of the recommendations. The 6.5 percent tuition increase—the maximum permitted under the current Board of Governors’ tuition policy unless that policy is waived by the Board itself—will generate $6.7 million for UNC Charlotte. As required by the Board of Governors’ policy, we must allocate 25 percent of those dollars directly to student financial aid, so the net gain of $5 million will help offset a portion of the mandated budget reductions.

As you will read later in this newsletter, UNC Charlotte has a range of capital facilities in planning, design, or construction. However, all of those facilities are being funded with non-state revenue sources. Currently, as a result of the state budget crisis, no new state-funded classrooms or research buildings are in any stage of planning or design development for UNC Charlotte; I believe that statement is true for most if not all of the sixteen other UNC institutions.
State funding for repairs and renovations has also been either inadequate or non-existent for several years.

Upon my recommendation and with the support of the Student Body President (and Trustee) Dave Craven and the Student Advisory Committee on Tuition and Fees, our Trustees have endorsed the assessment of an infrastructure debt fee beginning in the fall of 2012 as part of our overall tuition-and-fee proposal that has been submitted to the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is expected to make its recommendations to the General Assembly in February 2012.

If passed by the BOG and legislature, we plan to use the funds for a number of projects to enhance our infrastructure and to address an estimated $79 million of deferred maintenance. The projects include the realignment of Phillips Road to improve traffic flow and safety, and a variety of upgrades to HVAC, electrical, and other building systems in the older core of campus. We have also heard from the students loud and clear that we need to improve WiFi and cellular connectivity across campus, create state-of-the-art collaborative space for students, and modernize Belk Gym which, still without air conditioning capacity, is a challenging exercise venue in the warmer months.

Building Support for the Future

Our state’s economy is likely to be slow to improve, with state budget shortfalls in the $100 million to $200 million range in the next fiscal year. Although we don’t anticipate any major changes to the UNC system’s budget in the coming fiscal year, we are making every effort to support our mission long term by putting into action a plan to galvanize legislative and community support for the University in the counties that comprise our region. Betty Doster, my Special Assistant for Constituent Relations, is leading this effort, and our goals are ambitious. We want to increase our reach and impact with elected officials at all levels of government. We want to recruit the best students possible nationally and across the state, but especially from our own region. We want to increase the engagement of our alumni and friends, expand partnerships with employers, and generally expand our stature as a thought leader and as a neutral forum to help the community address its most critical challenges.

The North Carolina counties in our region currently provide nearly 15,000 of our students and are home to more than 62,000 of our alumni and nearly 36,000 UNC Charlotte donors. When we fully engage those students, those alumni, and those donors in being part of this University’s future, we also expand this institution’s influence and reputation. Events are being scheduled in Gaston and Cleveland counties in 2012 that will provide opportunities for us to gather support for the University from all constituents in the region.

With the December retirement of Steve Mosier, who served very ably for 14 years as Vice Chancellor for Research and Federal Relations, Betty Doster has assumed responsibility for federal relations. She will work closely with Bob Wilhelm, our newly appointed Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, and the General Administration on federal issues including research funding, federal student aid, and the like, and will be the principal liaison to our delegation in Washington, D.C.
Kannapolis Research Campus Collaboration

UNC Charlotte’s commitment and presence on the North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC) in Kannapolis continues to grow. UNC Charlotte was the first academic partner of the public/private venture in 2006. The campus now has more than 250 full-time campus researchers and staff, including 24 UNC Charlotte faculty, students, and staff from both our Department of Bioinformatics and Genomics and the Charlotte Research Institute, with more growth expected over the coming year.

UNC Charlotte’s Bioinformatics Services Division on the NCRC campus is an ideal collaboration hub for academic and industry researchers helping to manage the avalanche of biological data produced by the latest genomic technologies. Collaborative partners include the seven other universities as well as General Mills, Monsanto, and Dole Foods. UNC Charlotte’s presence fosters collaboration and provides an ideal training opportunity for our students. UNC Charlotte alumna Lynne Scott Safrit, President of North American Commercial Operations at Castle & Cooke Inc., has been a driving force in the creation and growth of the campus.

UNC Charlotte Center City Open

Our new 142,000-square-foot facility in the heart of Charlotte opened in August, just in time for the start of the new academic year. UNC Charlotte Center City Executive Director Jerry Coughter and his staff worked diligently to prepare for the more than 750 students and 90 faculty who attended and taught classes in the facility this fall.

Belk College of Business graduate programs and the Center for Real Estate are now housed at UNC Charlotte Center City, allowing students greater access to admissions, advising, and professional development services. With the opening of the new facility, we have begun to host signature community programs, including the Babson Capital/UNC Charlotte Economic Forecast, in a location that is central to the business community and promotes stronger relationships with our community partners.

The majority of evening courses are offered by the Belk College of Business for their master’s programs in business administration, mathematical finance, accounting, and economics. Other colleges building a presence in Center City include the College of Education, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the College of Health and Human Services. The College of Arts + Architecture’s Master of Urban Design and the Office of Extended Academic Programs’ continuing education offerings are also based in Center City.

In early 2012, UNC Charlotte Center City will welcome its first gallery exhibit, commissioned by the College of Arts + Architecture. In the spring, a magnificent exhibit of Holocaust era violins, Violins of Hope, will make its North American debut in the Center City gallery.

New Chancellor’s Speaker Series

I can think of no better venue than UNC Charlotte Center City for the inaugural lecture of the newly created Chancellor’s Speaker Series. And I can think of no two people to better
entertain a full house than former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson and former UNC President Erskine Bowles. It has been my great fortune to work with both of them over the years.

On November 16, the University hosted Simpson, Bowles, and 400 guests for an enlightening and humorous discussion titled “Telling It Like It Is: An Evening with Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles.”

Earlier in the day, Al and Erskine met on campus for lunch at Crown Commons before speaking to a crowd of 300 students, faculty, and staff in the Student Union auditorium. Chris William of Carolina Business Review did an excellent job moderating both sessions. The discussion was aired on WTVI’s Carolina Business Review December 23 and 30 in two half-hour segments.

A special thank you is due UNC Charlotte alumnus Ellison Clary, who is Director for Charlotte Community Relations for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. The company sponsored the inaugural lecture and has made a multi-year commitment to support the Chancellor’s Speaker Series. Renowned presidential historian and author Michael Beschloss will join us in UNC Charlotte Center City for next year’s event.

UNC Charlotte Additions & Appointments

We have been fortunate to recruit a number of new faculty and staff members with considerable experience and expertise.

Chance W. Lewis joined UNC Charlotte as the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor and Endowed Chair of Urban Education. Chance teaches doctoral students in urban education as part of the University’s doctorate in Curriculum & Instruction. He is a prolific scholar and author, and distinguished educator. Prior to joining the University, he served as Houston Endowed Chair and associate professor of urban education at Texas A&M University and co-directed the Center for Urban School Partnerships. In 1997, he was named Teacher of the Year for the state of Louisiana.

In August, Johan H. Enslin began work as the director of Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) and as the Duke Energy Distinguished Chair in Power System Engineering. Johan was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa. He trained at the University of Johannesburg, going on to teach and work on renewable energy integration and transmission planning in Africa and Europe. He came to the United States in 2003 to help establish the U.S. system planning and smart-grid operation for the Dutch firm KEMA and has served in executive positions in renewable-energy divisions at Alpha Technologies, Quanta Technology, and Petra Solar. He holds more than 15 provisional and final patents.

Working in close alliance with area energy companies, Johan’s goal will be to establish EPIC and the Charlotte region as the nation’s energy engineering hub. EPIC will be headquartered in a new $76-million building to be completed on the Charlotte Research Institute campus early in the spring semester, 2012.

We anticipate the arrival of Daniel Janies in August 2012. Daniel will join the University as the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Bioinformatics and Genomics. Currently
on the faculty of The Ohio State University, he is a noted evolutionary biologist who has
developed bioinformatics techniques to study topics that range from the spread of infectious
diseases for the Department of Defense to the construction of the Tree of Life for the National
Science Foundation. He is the author of more than 50 publications on these topics and has a
strong interest in public science policy.

I’m also pleased to announce the appointment of Bob Wilhelm to Vice Chancellor for
Research and Economic Development. Bob joined my Cabinet in his new role in August. He
previously served the University as Associate Provost for Strategic Research Partnerships and
executive director of the Charlotte Research Institute. The new appointment will create synergy
between the economic development role that the University plays in our community and the
traditional research mission that includes grants and contracts administration, compliance, and
technology transfer.

We welcome all of these newcomers to the University and look forward to their
contributions to our community.

**Programs, Partnerships & External Support**

As UNC Charlotte evolves as an urban research institution, we are developing new,
innovative programs that serve the needs of our students and meet the changing needs of the
region.

More than 73 percent of new freshmen choose to live on campus at UNC Charlotte. It is
well-documented that students who live on campus have better grade point averages, have more
frequent contact and deeper relationships with faculty and staff, and are more likely to continue
in school. The quality of the connections between residence hall staff and residents lead to
positive outcomes for our students. With that in mind, our residence hall staff is specially trained
to share academic success strategies and to refer students to campus resources. UNC Charlotte
offers more than 1,200 programs each year to residential students, many of which are focused on
academic success and/or campus engagement.

The University has developed a series of experiences aimed at helping new students
thrive in the college environment:

**The Greenhouse:** Tailored to meet the unique needs and interests of first-year students,
UNC Charlotte has established “The Greenhouse” program in five residential areas (Sanford,
Moore, Lynch, Hawthorn and Phase 4A). The activities and services offered in these areas are
specifically designed to support and engage new students. Additionally, staff members in these
areas are trained to assist new students as they make the transition to UNC Charlotte.

**Learning Communities:** UNC Charlotte’s Learning Community program, a partnership
between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, is transforming the way students live, learn, and
succeed in their academic endeavors. Learning communities help students transition through
academic and social challenges by providing small, supportive living and learning environments.
Participants interact closely with UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, and peer mentors through areas of
common interest. They enroll in two or more of the same courses and, in many cases, live
together in the same residence hall.
Veteran Support: UNC Charlotte has been a leader in addressing the needs of another subset of the student populations—military veterans. The population of veterans on campus continues to increase, with 720 students taking advantage of the G.I. Bill as of fall 2011. Those numbers are sure to increase with the end of the war in Iraq. The Veteran Students Outreach Program was instituted in 2010 at UNC Charlotte to aid veterans in their transition to University life. That program has achieved success, and I’m pleased to note that a Veteran Student Center is being developed in the Cone Building with funding from Student Affairs and support from the North Carolina USO.

The University’s efforts are yielding recognition. For 2011, G.I. Jobs magazine ranked UNC Charlotte among the top 15 percent of schools doing the most to help veterans as students. Unfortunately for us, but fortunately for the UNC system, our success has led to the departure of our first Coordinator of Veterans Outreach, Logan Cason. Logan recently accepted a position with UNC General Administration as its new Director of Military Education. There, he will assist all 17 UNC institutions to establish veteran and military student services much like those we have built at UNC Charlotte. We are working to fill his position and look forward to a continued relationship with Logan as he begins this new phase in his career.

Likewise, we have developed special academic programs to address changes in workforce needs and technology. Our new Professional Science Master’s degree in Health Informatics — the first in the UNC system — was recently approved by the Board of Governors. The interdisciplinary program draws expertise from our College of Computing and Informatics, College of Health and Human Services, and Graduate School. Classes will begin in fall 2012.

In addition, we are now offering a number of graduate degree programs of study in online formats that enable us to meet higher education needs beyond our immediate geographic region. As an example, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has selected UNC Charlotte to offer the M.Ed. in Instructional Systems Technology to 50 teachers across the state who are technology leaders in their schools.

As the state’s urban research University, our reach into the community is broad and deep. We provide intellectual capital and physical resources to regional business and industry, facilitate economic development through a vast network of partnerships, and develop and support unique cultural opportunities in the region.

The University has partnered with TIAA-CREF to provide educational support to the four Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools that comprise Governor’s Village: John M. Morehead STEM Academy, Nathaniel Alexander Elementary, James Martin Middle, and Zebulon B. Vance High (all named after former North Carolina governors). The schools are in our backyard, just 3 miles up the road from the University. This proximity facilitates our faculty, staff, and students to serve as mentors and tutors for these young students. Thanks to faculty in our College of Education, special training has been offered to all tutors and mentors at TIAA-CREF and UNC Charlotte in our efforts to provide the most sustainable and impactful means of working with the schools.

The partnership kicked off this fall with UNC Charlotte volunteers assisting in a Governor’s Village beautification project. Additional events are planned for the remainder of the
school year, including a professional development conference for the 500 Governor’s Village teachers, a job shadow event for students in grades 8-12, Career Day activities for students in grades 3-7, and a Financial Literacy Employee Volunteer Program consisting of financial education sessions for teachers, faculty, and parents at the schools’ PTA meetings. UNC Charlotte will also provide ongoing opportunities for Governor’s Village students, their parents, and teachers to attend athletics, arts and cultural programming on campus. We are delighted to direct volunteer time and resources to this partnership in an effort to remove educational barriers and give students and teachers the tools they need to be successful.

Another noteworthy partnership is drawing to a close after nearly a year of extraordinary events and activities. The Levine Museum of the New South and the University established an educational partnership focused on the theme of “New Courage,” and inspired by the “Courage” exhibit at the museum that addressed the courage of civil rights leaders in desegregating the South’s public schools system. Building off that theme, the campus worked on a variety of multidisciplinary projects to answer what kinds of “new courage” are needed to meet the challenges of today?

The partnership has two components: community programs at the museum and curriculum projects on campus. Nineteen UNC Charlotte courses have adopted the theme of “New Courage” in their classrooms by engaging students in contemporary investigations of the need for courage grounded within specific course disciplines. In addition, UNC Charlotte Crossroads and the Levine Scholars Program conducted a special courage-themed debate. Consequently, 543 students have toured the “Courage” exhibit and participated in a professionally facilitated dialog that asks students to think critically about contemporary applications of courage.

On November 30, the University hosted a day of unique, interdisciplinary presentations, including visual arts, music, dance, posters, demonstrations, storytelling and debate, as part of the “New Courage” project. I was even tempted to participate in the Hip-Hop class, but decided against it as there were too many people in the room with video capability on their mobile phones. All of the events were open to the public, and the day culminated in a reception and panel discussion.

In order for that the project to live on, UNC Charlotte Crossroads coordinated three professional development workshops with the Levine Museum of the New South for teachers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS). UNC Charlotte Crossroads also is providing the evaluation of the New Courage Project in conjunction with the museum and CMS.

Partnership and collaboration are part and parcel to the mission of UNC Charlotte’s Ben Craig Center. The Center celebrated its 25th anniversary this year; that’s a quarter of a century of fostering innovation and entrepreneurial activity in our region. I joined Ben Craig Center Director Paul Wetenhall and other dignitaries to mark the milestone.

The Center came to life through the work of volunteer directors led by the late Ben Craig; it has since provided support for more than 123 resident companies. It has become one of the University’s key providers of support for startup ventures and for real world experiences for our talented, emerging entrepreneurs.
When the Partnership, Outreach, and Research for Accelerated Learning (PORTAL) building on the Charlotte Research Institute campus is completed in two years, the Ben Craig business incubation program will be housed there. PORTAL will allow considerable expansion space for university-industry research partnerships, including a 10,000-square-foot facility that will support classified research.

Capital Construction and Planning for the Future

Although the outlook is not bright for funding new academic buildings with state appropriations until the economy rebounds, we continue to grow our campus and our programs with previously authorized projects and new revenue-supported capital projects. Many of these projects are coming to fruition, as you can see from the examples below:

New Names for Student Housing: Spruce and Laurel halls are being renamed as the result of a generous gift from The Honorable Irwin “Ike” Belk in tribute to his daughters. As of January, Spruce Hall will be renamed Miltimore Hall for Irene Belk Miltimore and Laurel Hall will be named Wallis Hall for Marilyn Belk Wallis. A longtime supporter of and advocate for the University, Ike introduced the legislation that created UNC Charlotte as the fourth campus of the UNC system.

Ike has enjoyed careers in business and government, serving in both the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate, and as a long-time member of the UNC Board of Governors and the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees. In addition, he has provided service and leadership to local, state, national, and international organizations, including the American Cancer Society Foundation and the U.S. Olympic Committee. Through his foundation, Ike has extended support to educational institutions around the nation, providing funds to construct well more than two dozen track and field facilities, endowing academic scholarships and professorships, and beautifying campuses with unique works of art. Because of Ike, UNC Charlotte’s collection of sculpture is one of the defining characteristics of our campus. For more than four decades, Ike has championed UNC Charlotte’s academic and physical development; the University is grateful for his generosity and delighted to honor his daughters.

No New Residence Halls: Phase X, a 430-bed facility to be located near Spruce Hall on Parking Lot 22, is in the final design stages. Construction is expected to begin in early 2012, and occupancy is planned for the 2013 fall semester.

A dramatic transformation will soon begin for the area around the high-rise residence halls. Construction of Phase XI, near Scott Hall, begins in early 2012. Later in the year, construction will start on a new dining hall to be tucked in the woods between the two sets of high rises and connected to Scott and Holshouser by a pedestrian bridge. The design will take advantage of the natural setting and beautiful views provided by its location on the hill overlooking Davis Lake. A new 1,000-space parking deck and regional utility plant will sit on the current site of Lot 8. These projects are in the final phases of design, with construction scheduled to begin in the spring. In the future, this entire area will be known as “South Village” in accordance with our Campus Master Plan adopted in 2010.

Parking Decks: Now known as North Deck, Parking Deck H was completed in August and serves students and staff living and working near Spruce, Laurel, Lynch, Witherspoon, and
(future) Phase X residence halls. Parking Deck I, located south of Grigg Hall and west of EPIC, is currently under construction. This 1,300-space deck will open soon after the start of the 2012 fall semester and should become a very valuable asset with the beginning of football competition in fall of 2013.

**Energy Production & Infrastructure Center (EPIC):** The EPIC building, located near the football complex, is on track for March 2012 occupancy. It will soon be one of the largest buildings on campus at 196,000 square feet. As the new home for Civil and Environmental Engineering, as well as Electrical and Computer Engineering, EPIC will be a collaborative, state-of-the-art teaching and research facility. It was designed with an eye toward sustainability and will be LEED certified, incorporating chilled-beam cooling, rainwater harvesting, drought-tolerant landscaping, sun-shading on the windows, day lighting, local building materials, and low-emitting furnishings.

**Northeast Recreation Fields:** Intramural and club teams are now competing on the new fields located across John Kirk Boulevard from Greek Village, making this a very busy place weeknights. Construction on the 24-acre multi-use, multi-field site with a 1,600-square-foot restroom/storage facility and parking was completed in April. This is one of the best intramural facilities I’ve ever seen at any university campus. An additional large area of artificial turf fields has also been created on the hill behind the Wachovia Field House to replace the intramural fields lost as a result of construction of the football complex.

**PORTAL Building:** The design of the 90,000-square-foot Partnership, Outreach, and Research for Accelerated Learning (PORTAL) building was temporarily placed on hold during most of 2011 due to economic concerns. PORTAL is constructed without state funds, and the vast majority of operating costs will be sourced from non-state revenues, such as the federal reimbursements we receive for conducting federally funded research. After rigorous analysis, we made the decision to restart this project. A ground-breaking took place December 15 and construction will begin in earnest in early 2012. Sitting across from the Bioinformatics Building on the Charlotte Research Institute campus, this facility will support a myriad of research, technology transfer, and economic development initiatives, as well as functions currently housed in the Ben Craig Center. PORTAL will serve as a business and research incubator for our partners throughout the region.

**Motorsports Building II (now Motorsports Research):** Construction of the 13,500-square-foot facility was completed in October 2011. Located across the street from the Kulwicki Motorsports Laboratory, this new addition includes faculty offices, computer labs, meeting rooms, and an extensive shop area where students will feel as if they are working in an actual NASCAR shop.

**Football Complex:** Construction is moving fast. The stadium bowl earthwork is complete and construction of the field house is underway. The stadium complex will include 15,300 seats, an artificial-turf game field, field house, concessions, retail, public services, hospitality suite, press box, and two practice fields. Construction on the complex will be complete in August 2012.

**New Tennis Facility:** Our new, top-of-the-line intercollegiate tennis facility is already getting rave reviews. The first phase, completed in January 2011, delivered 12 state-of-the-art
courts that are now in use by our men’s and women’s tennis teams, as well as other students. The second phase, a building housing team locker and training rooms and providing seating for 246 spectators, public restrooms, vending, and coaches’ offices, is scheduled for completion in February. The facility has been made possible by a generous gift from former Trustee and all-around 49er fan, Dale Halton, and will be named the Halton-Wagner Tennis Complex. Fred Wagner is Dale’s husband and he, too, is an all around 49er fan.

Prospector Renovation: The old bookstore has been converted into a beautiful foodservice and dining area that includes a large Chick-fil-A, one of the most popular food venues on campus. Although we typically like to be known for the quality of our academic programs and the beauty of our campus, this renovation has made possible national recognition for UNC Charlotte as the site of the largest Chick-fil-A in size on any campus in America! The renovation also expanded the mail-service and reproduction/copy center areas, and replaced the “concrete bunker” look on the exterior with a brick façade and outdoor seating areas.

Heckenbleikner Lake: A “perfect storm” of regulatory review and design problems has delayed the repair of the dam and restoration of the lake for over a year. The project is now back on track, and preparation for construction of a dam is expected to start this Spring. The fish and turtles will be relocated downstream to Davis Lake prior to the start of the project. When completed, the lake will be somewhat smaller for safety reasons. Walkways and seating areas are planned to enhance the area. Completion is expected prior to the end of 2012.

Looking ahead, the University of North Carolina system budget contains no new capital construction funding for the next biennium. We are hopeful that some planning funds will be allotted in the next budget cycle so that our capital expansion can continue.

Development and Alumni Affairs

The University received two large gifts recently to benefit two colleges. Westinghouse Corporation has given more than $3.3 million in equipment and in-kind support for the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) building in the William States Lee College of Engineering, and the Belk Foundation has pledged $250,000 for the new Student Center for Professional Development in the Belk College of Business.

The Westinghouse gift consists of two large cranes and related equipment, as well as use of the company’s facilities by students and faculty to train engineering students for employment in the energy industry. Additional funds will be provided for the establishment of scholarships. The gift was announced at a recent press conference.

The Belk Foundation gift was the largest from the foundation in its grant cycle and represents significant funding for the establishment of the student center. The center has as its purpose the development of student “soft skills” to enhance their marketability. These skills include résumé writing, interviewing skills, effective collaboration and teamwork, among others. The center has also received a generous gift from alumnus Mark Doughton.

We continue to strengthen our efforts to engage alumni in the life of the University. By offering events and other programming, the Alumni Association makes it easy for our alumni to
connect, re-connect, and exchange ideas. It’s exciting to see so many of our alumni expressing 49er pride, and it’s my great pleasure to meet our alumni at these annual events.

The 125 alumni and friends of the University at the Triad-area alumni reception at Childress Vineyards in Lexington enjoyed an evening of networking and 49er updates presented by Betty Doster, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations, and coaches Alan Major, Cara Consuegra, and Brad Lambert.

Also in October, I joined 200 alumni on campus for what is becoming a favorite 49er tradition — the annual All Greek Reunion. The event was reminiscent of a tailgate party and took place right around the time of year we will be celebrating our 2013 Homecoming. Congratulations are due the Chi Phi organization for having the most registrants.

To round out development and alumni news, UNC Charlotte alumnus and Board of Trustees member Dhiaa Jamil, and alumnus and former student athlete Darius Law were honored for their philanthropic work by the Charlotte Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at a celebratory awards luncheon on November 9.

Dhiaa, who was named Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, has been a leader in the effort to establish the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), chairing the EPIC advisory board. Formerly a member of the UNC Charlotte Foundation Board and instrumental in securing major financial support from Duke Energy and Siemens Corporation for the support of EPIC, Dhiaa earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from UNC Charlotte in 1978.

Darius, who was named the UNC Charlotte Nish Jamgotch, Jr. Humanitarian Student Award recipient in 2011, was honored for Outstanding Student Philanthropy. An All-American track and field athlete, Darius graduated in May from the Belk College of Business with a 4.0 GPA, and was involved in community service programs such as Alexander Youth Network, Samaritan’s Feet, Epilepsy Walk volunteer, mentor for the Wake County Detention Center, Toys for Tots, and Relay for Life. He also received the 2010 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male Sports Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, given to the top minority male student-athlete in the nation.

**Intercollegiate Athletics**

A monumental fall sports season is now in the record books; most notably, our men’s soccer program competed in our first national championship game in any sport. We look forward to great things from our track and field, softball, baseball, and golf programs during the spring, but a look back at the fall is in order.

After an impressive season by any standard, the Charlotte 49ers men’s soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division I Men’s Soccer National Championship game on December 11 following impressive NCAA Tournament victories over Furman, Alabama-Birmingham, defending national champion Akron, Connecticut, and Creighton.

Although the 49ers launched nearly twice as many shots on goal as UNC Chapel Hill in the national championship game, they fell to the Tar Heels by the score of 1-0 in what can be best described as a nail-biter. They finished the year ranked 2nd in the NSCAA National Coaches poll.
A large contingent of students bid the team farewell when they left for the semi-final game and welcomed them home enthusiastically as they returned in the early morning hours the Sunday before the start of finals week. Six busloads of students made the journey to Alabama to support the team; if you read any of the coverage of the championship game or if you’ve watched the video on our YouTube site, you know that those students proved to be wonderful fans and representatives of UNC Charlotte.

Success at the national level typically garners national attention for our coaches. As we expected, our head men’s soccer coach, Jeremy Gunn, was courted by several major universities. In the end, notwithstanding our attempts to keep him, Jeremy decided to join the very prestigious set of intercollegiate athletic programs at Stanford University. Jeremy did an outstanding job for us, and we wish him the very best.

Athletic Director Judy Rose is in the process of identifying a new head coach for what is expected to be an outstanding team next year (with eight returning starting players). Look for an announcement soon.

On November 1, UNC Charlotte welcomed two community icons to campus for a press conference to announce the naming of the 49ers Football Field. Thanks to the generous donations of Hugh McColl and Jerry Richardson — and the additional support of others who wished to honor them — the 49ers football field will be known in perpetuity as McColl-Richardson Field.

Hugh’s and Jerry’s love of football is unmatched with the exception perhaps of their love of Charlotte. Hugh, a banking industry pioneer who built Bank of America into one of the nation’s largest and most important financial institutions, was instrumental in bringing the Carolina Panthers to Charlotte. Jerry is the owner of the Carolina Panthers NFL franchise, an inductee into the sports and businesses halls of fame in both North and South Carolina, and has built the Panthers’ organization from an expansion franchise to a Super Bowl contender.

The dedication event was a resounding success, and it is truly a testament to UNC Charlotte’s expansion as a major institution to have the architect of modern Charlotte and the architect of the Panthers NFL team join forces on behalf of the University.

Head football coach Brad Lambert and his staff have been busy assembling the 49ers first football recruiting class. Members of the class will begin to sign their National Letters of Intent, February 1, 2012. A reception to announce the members of the first class is planned for the next day. More information on that event will be forthcoming.

Our 15,300-seat stadium is on course for completion next August, just in time for the arrival of the first class of football players. Discussions about the naming rights of the stadium are on-going. You can track the construction progress on the football complex via http://oxblue.com/pro/open/rodgersbuilders/charlotte49ers.

In addition, the Charlotte 49ers Athletic Foundation successfully hosted its 8th Annual “Let Me Play” Luncheon on November 10, raising in excess of $100,000 for the women’s athletics program. The Luncheon attracted nearly 400 guests, including prominent female
corporate and community leaders. The luncheon was created to illustrate the importance athletics can play in the development of young women. It is one of three major fundraisers hosted by the Athletic Foundation each year. In the spring, we hope to see you at the 49er Club Golf Outing on April 23 and the Great Gold Rush Auction on June 2.

**UNC Charlotte: In the Community**

As UNC Charlotte has grown, we have fully embraced our role as a community partner. In fact, we give back to the community in many ways, whether through service initiatives or programming that entertains and engages the community. The initiative described below will give you a sense of how the University partners with community organizations for the benefit of the greater public.

This year, based on employee feedback, we consolidated the three annual faculty and staff fundraising campaigns into one campaign — the “Giving Green Campaign.” Instead of making contributions to each of the three annual community fundraising initiatives i.e., the State Employee Combined Campaign (SECC), the Arts & Science Council (ASC) campaign, and the UNC Charlotte campaign, employees were able to make one yearly contribution directed to one or more of the designated beneficiary organizations.

The inaugural campaign raised over $113,000 and included a new component as employees were also able to volunteer their time to community organizations through Giving Green Volunteer Week. Employees helped sort pantry items at the Second Harvest Food Bank and clothing at the Crisis Assistance Ministry and Mooresville Christian Mission. They also worked with Classroom Central and Habitat for Humanity in Cabarrus County. In addition, volunteers assisted with the American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes collecting 164 cards to send to service members overseas.

Even in these difficult times our employees continue to give not only their money but also their time and talents to local organizations, including UNC Charlotte. Their efforts reflect positively on the University but, more than that, their efforts make the Charlotte region a better place to live.

Thank you for allowing me to share the news from UNC Charlotte, and look for the next installment sometime in May. Go Niners!

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

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