Dear Colleagues:

As we close out another academic year, I want to take a few moments to update you on some of the issues, challenges, and accomplishments of the past semester and look ahead with you to some of the exciting things coming down the pike.

We have just celebrated commencement with three ceremonies for the first time ever, and were pleased with how well the Friday service was received. During the three ceremonies we awarded more than 3,600 degrees, and a grand time was had by all.

One particularly noteworthy highlight of this year’s Spring Commencement is that the first class of Levine Scholars walked across the Halton Arena stage. It hardly seems like four years have passed since we welcomed them to campus. The pioneer group and the annual cohorts that have followed have set many standards for excellence in academic performance and service, both here in the Charlotte region and around the world. The prestigious Levine Scholarship has quickly become one of the most highly sought-after awards of its kind. The Fall 2014 incoming class of 16 Levine Scholars has just been selected from 2,174 nominations and 848 applications. The Levine Scholarship provides full-ride scholarships and four annual summer experiences to each recipient. It was established through the generosity of Leon and Sandra Levine and the Leon Levine Foundation. Several video features on the program and its students’ experiences are available on the Web. In this video at http://youtu.be/SH2_h-2L2vk, Levine Scholars Faculty Director Diana Zablotsky and Levine Scholar Evan Danchenka discuss the program in depth.

Commencement was also a rewarding experience as we honored alumnus Gene Johnson with an honorary doctorate in public service. Gene’s many contributions to the betterment of the University include his service on the Board of Trustees, including three years as the first alumnus to serve as Chairman. Gene currently serves as Chair of the Foundation of UNC Charlotte as we enter our next major fundraising campaign.

With the semester and commencement behind us, I hope you’ll take a few moments to peruse the following pages. There’s a lot of information here – some you’ll find interesting, and some that might be of help to you if you struggle with insomnia; but I want to keep you all in the loop on these various issues so that we all can celebrate our victories together and share a ‘big picture’ mentality as we go about our daily work. If you would like more information on any
items mentioned in this newsletter, please contact my executive assistant, Shari Dunn (shari.dunn@uncc.edu). You can also check the Chancellor’s Outbox on the website for additional information: http://administration.uncc.edu/chancellor/chancellors-outbox.

**Legislative Update**

As you are reading this newsletter, the North Carolina General Assembly has convened for the short session to consider budget adjustments and other related issues. Knowing how much revenue will be available to fund state government for the 2014-15 fiscal year has been especially challenging this year due to implementation of the tax reform package passed last year and additional expenses related to Medicaid.

Our number one legislative priority for this session is a salary increase for staff and faculty. Employees have only received one pay raise of 1.2 percent in the last five years and more than 700 of our employees earn less than $35,000. We are very supportive of plans to increase K-12 teacher pay, but salary increases for all state employees must be addressed as well.

While securing funding for new programs will be a challenge, we are seeking support for the industry-led Data Science and Business Analytics (DSBA) initiative to meet the talent demand, professional training, and research needs in the retail, healthcare, finance, technology, and energy sectors. State funding is critical to leverage the private sector investments led by Belk, Inc. and other industry leaders including Bank of America, Lowe’s, IBM, and Carolinas Healthcare.

The latest milestone in the development of the University’s Big Data initiative is the authorization from the UNC Board of Governors to begin the Master’s of Science in Data Science and Business Analytics. More precisely, this is a professional science master’s program, or PSM. The degree is focused on developing graduates with the technical skills, understanding of business processes, and hands-on experience to add value to real-world challenges. You can read more about UNC Charlotte and Big Data at http://dsba.uncc.edu/academic-programs/dsba-graduate-programs/DSBA-PSM.

We anticipate that the Governor and the Legislature will propose some funding for critically needed repairs and renovations. Our campus has amassed a backlog of more than $140 million in projects to maintain and update our facilities and infrastructure. For more than three years, our top capital project has been $12.6 million in planning funds for a new science building. The critical need for this facility is driven by increased enrollment, demand for the sciences, and an outdated laboratory building that can no longer be renovated on a cost-effective basis.

For many years, UNC Charlotte has been very fortunate to have strong support among legislators from Mecklenburg County and this region. The number of 49ers in the legislature is growing and we are seeing the benefits of their leadership as they have advocated for our campus and programs.
In April, Rep. Jason Saine ’95, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Technology, brought that committee to campus as a part of its field hearings. This marked the first visit to our campus for nearly all the legislators and public who attended the meeting, which was held at PORTAL. They were extremely impressed by our campus and the Big Data presentation given by Steve Ott, dean of the Belk College of Business. Rep. Dean Arp ’99 helped bring attention to the leadership role our University has played in energy.

Earlier that same week, Johan Enslin, Director of the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) and the Duke Energy Distinguished Chair, provided the Joint Energy Policy Commission with a well-received update detailing the wide-ranging success of EPIC, most notably attracting nationally recognized faculty members and private support that now exceeds $20 million. Enslin was invited by Rep. Mike Hager ’87 to address the Commission, which is co-chaired by fellow UNC Charlotte alum, Sen. Bob Rucho ’94.

Rep. Tricia Cotham ’01 and College of Education Dean Ellen McIntyre served on the Educator Effectiveness and Compensation Task Force. Both Rep. Cotham and Dean McIntyre are noted leaders in education policy.

We were pleased that Gov. Pat McCrory chose PORTAL as the venue for the Business Roundtable on Entrepreneurship that he hosted recently. Paul Wetenhall, President of Ventureprise, and Bob Wilhelm, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, facilitated a vibrant discussion with the Governor, John Lassiter, Chairman of the NC Economic Development Board, and 25 attendees including researchers, investors, small business owners and entrepreneurs, some of whom started their businesses here at UNC Charlotte.

**Academic Affairs Update**

- **Information Technology**

  No modern university exists without a heavy dependence on information technology (IT) infrastructure and services for teaching, research, and administration. At UNC Charlotte the growth of IT services and needs has paralleled the growth of the University. To understand how we can optimize our IT financial resources and staffing, I authorized the IT Master Plan project last year to assess and benchmark our IT services along with our campus-wide IT needs, to analyze gaps and overlaps in services, and to make recommendations for a five-year strategic technology plan.

  Over the past eight months, a steering committee led by Provost Joan Lorden and Vice Chancellor Beth Hardin has worked with our consultants from the firm BerryDunn to develop a thoughtful and comprehensive plan. An assessment phase was completed in spring 2013 and the strategic planning phase wrapped up in 2014. The plan initiatives are designed to strengthen service delivery, support resources with sustainable planning, improve security, establish technical standards, and build community. More than 300 faculty and staff members participated in interviews and a series of ten topical work sessions to inform the plan, which is now open for comments from the campus community. The plan can be found at [http://itmasterplan.uncc.edu](http://itmasterplan.uncc.edu).
• Colvard Distinguished Professor Appointed

Mark DeHaven has been named the Dean W. Colvard Endowed Distinguished Professor in the College of Health and Human Services.

This professorship, supported by Dalton-Brand Foundation Inc., is key to our vision of becoming a central research and public service force in addressing health disparities across the region.

Dr. DeHaven comes from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, where he was professor and founding director of the Texas Prevention Institute. He has supervised and directed dozens of projects, including global community health initiatives, in a number of countries. These projects, related to chronic disease reduction efforts, have been conducted in Mexico, Peru, China and South Sudan. DeHaven is a recipient of the University of North Texas Health Science Center’s President’s Award for Research, the Dallas Academy of Medicine Philanthropy Award, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Professional of The Year Award and the President’s Award from the North American Primary Care Research Group.

• New Ph.D. Program

It has been 20 years since UNC Charlotte admitted its first doctoral students, and this year brings two more milestones in our continued advancement as a doctoral research university. Our newest Ph.D. program, in Public Health Sciences, is ready to admit its first cohort of students this fall. Meanwhile, the University’s Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program enjoyed its first year with full accreditation from the American Psychological Association.

• Research Update

Our February opening of PORTAL signaled a new day for Charlotte as a place for research and innovation applied directly to job creation and economic stimulation. PORTAL stands for Partnership, Outreach, and Research to Accelerate Learning, and as that name suggests, our students will share directly in the benefits of having this $35 million center for creating research-driven businesses on our campus. In fact, there is space especially designated for student start-ups inside PORTAL, alongside 24 other budding corporations that will take advantage of UNC Charlotte researchers and students via our business incubator, Ventureprise.

Take a look at this coverage of PORTAL’s opening in the Charlotte Business Journal: www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/print-edition/2014/03/07/unc-charlotte-open-for-business.html?page=all

• Science Festival and Expo Showcase Expertise

UNC Charlotte once again played a major role in the statewide North Carolina Science Festival in late March and early April. A series of science and technology lectures featured several of our own, and the Charlotte region’s researchers. A first-ever science and technology film series combined science-themed movies ranging from Contagion to The Invisible Man with
UNC Charlotte researchers leading post-film discussions. And thousands of visitors came to campus for the UNC Charlotte Science and Technology Expo, which caps off the Festival each year.

**Facilities Update**

Numerous campus facility renovations and enhancements are underway or in the planning stages.

Students with prior military service will benefit from the University's new Veterans Center, set to open this fall in Barnard Hall. This new and improved center will house the Veteran Student Services Office, currently located in the Cone Center, and a veterans lounge. The Veteran Student Services Office assists all veterans including members of the National Guard and Reserves, as well as their dependents. The Veterans Center also advances UNC Charlotte's historical and present-day commitment to our veterans.

Beginning this month, the Belk Gym will undergo a major renovation that will take about a year to complete. This is a collaborative effort between Recreational Services and the Kinesiology Department to improve the facility’s classroom and lab spaces. The $17 million project will allow both of these departments to grow adequately within the new 130,000 square foot facility. This renovation will also provide updated locker rooms, new space for strength and training programs, and new space for group fitness activities. In addition, Belk Gym will also undergo a makeover to include air conditioning and a central welcome desk to greet visitors.

Constructed originally in 1973, Holshouser Hall is the first high-rise to be renovated in the South Village (formerly known as the High Rises). This $16 million project will add brick to the exterior of the building and enhance entrances to the building. The hall will also receive new energy-efficient windows and a new patio on the courtyard side of the building. The residential floors will be redesigned to create a mixture of 240 traditional double beds and 160 suite beds. Students will also have suite bathrooms instead of the current hall bathrooms.

The South Village will also enjoy a new 55,000-square-foot facility to include indoor and outdoor dining spaces, à la carte and late-night take-out food venues, a convenience store, a kitchen, and food-service offices. Also included is a pedestrian bridge connecting the facility to residence halls. The anticipated completion date for the dining facility is July 10, 2014. To be known as South Village Crossing, the new facility replaces the venerable RDH (Resident Dining Hall) constructed originally in 1970. We are already looking at options for re-purposing RDH to serve other University space needs.

To accommodate our growing enrollment, Residence Hall Phases XII, XIII and XIV are also in the works and will provide 420, 406, and 419 beds respectively. With a combination of apartment- and suite-style rooms, these units will provide needed space and excellent accommodations.

Phase XII, which will be occupied by upperclassmen, is being constructed at the southwest corner of Cameron Boulevard and Martin Village Road in the East Village section of
campus. Each floor will include a lounge, meeting space, study rooms, laundry rooms, and wireless Internet access in common areas. Construction of a mini regional utility plant with chillers and boilers to serve this building and the Phase XV housing planned for East Village is included in this project, which is expected to be completed by July 1, 2014.

Additional residence hall renovation projects are underway in Sanford, Elm, Maple, Pine, and Oak Halls.

Other campus improvements include a renovation of Colvard 2000 (second floor), which will be occupied by the University Center for Academic Excellence, University College, Multicultural Academic Services, University Advising Center, and the Building Educational Strength and Talents (BEST) office. Existing spaces will be repurposed to support student advising and tutoring spaces. The project also includes exterior upgrades, including a new storefront and the addition of windows.

In addition to new and improved facilities, we are also making roadway improvements that will enhance the flow of traffic and make the campus more pedestrian friendly:

- Phillips Road, which currently serves our athletic zone, will be relocated between Hayes Baseball Stadium and the Halton-Wagner Tennis Facility to create a four-way intersection at Cameron Boulevard and Craver Road;

- The intersection of Cameron Boulevard and Mary Alexander Road will be upgraded to improve peak-time traffic flow;

- Work will begin soon on a new four-way intersection at the University’s South Entrance at University City Blvd. and Cameron Blvd., as well as a southbound entrance on Harris Blvd. and Alumni Way. Combined, these improvements should reduce traffic and enhance pedestrian safety on University City Blvd. We appreciate the help of Ned Curran, who serves as Board Chair of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and Ron Kimble, Charlotte’s Deputy City Manager, to identify funding that could supplement University funds to make the project possible.

In 2017, travel around campus will also include the long-awaited option of Light Rail. Construction signs and work crews have begun to mark the route of the coming extension of light rail in Charlotte—a project that will bring the Lynx train onto our main campus. While I have written much about this project and its tremendous potential to better connect our University community with greater Charlotte, the increasingly visible construction progress is exciting.

CATS has produced an excellent video that illustrates the routes and several details of the project, with descriptions of route stops that include two on our main campus, the first near our Charlotte Research Institute and the second just north of the Student Union. I encourage you to take a look here:  www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPYhh1IX7OQ
Athletics Update

The Charlotte 49ers athletics program continues to excel both athletically and academically. Our university landed 194 student athletes on the 2013-14 Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll, including 43 student athletes who were also awarded the C-USA Academic Medal. Student-athletes named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0; the Commissioner’s Academic Medal is awarded to those with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or better. In all, 52 percent of UNC Charlotte’s student athletes carry a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and we ranked #2 in the league for the number of Academic Medal winners.

An excellent athletics program starts with excellent leadership. I am proud to share that our Director of Athletics, Judy Rose, was named one of five finalists for the Sports Business Journal's Athletic Director of the Year Award. She is joined in the Athletic Director of the Year category by Missouri’s Mike Alden, Arizona’s Greg Byrne, Duke’s Kevin White, and Washington’s Scott Woodward. Nominees and winners will be recognized at an awards celebration in New York City on May 21.

One of the most respected collegiate Directors of Athletics in the country, Judy took the Charlotte 49ers program to its greatest heights in 2013. The memorable year included the unveiling of the 49ers first NCAA Division I football team, the opening of a spectacular 15,314-seat, on-campus football stadium, and the successful move to Conference USA, which lands us on the fastest possible track to compete in an FBS Conference.

The year saw record increases in fundraising, standing-room only capacity crowds for the inaugural football game, huge jumps in social media followers, brand awareness and marketing revenue, and the creation of a local TV partnership in the nation’s 25th-ranked market. Named a “Game-Changer” by the Sports Business Journal, a Lifetime Achievement Award Winner by the Charlotte Business Journal, and invited as a guest on the CBS This Morning national morning show (Jan. 10, 2014 appearance), the former NACDA President and the first woman appointed to the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament Selection Committee continued to break new ground for the 49ers.

Judy has helped create and nurture a first-class program, and both she and the program have a consistent reputation for producing athletic and academic excellence while prioritizing a culture of giving back to the community. It is gratifying to see Judy’s efforts being recognized more and more on a national stage.

An important factor in the publicity of our fine athletics program is the relationship we enjoy with our media partners. Through our media rights holder, IMG College, we have completed an extensive partnership with WFNZ, Sports Talk 610 AM, that will land the 49ers radio broadcasts on the market’s largest sports station. All Charlotte 49ers football and men’s basketball games will be broadcast on WFNZ 610 AM, unless the games are in direct conflict with Charlotte Hornets basketball. Sister station 1660 AM will carry any such conflicts as well as the 49ers Coaches shows. In addition, the stations will be broadcasting a number of baseball and women’s basketball games. Both WFNZ and WBCN were ranked in Arbitron’s top 20 AM and
FM stations in the Charlotte market this past fall, and the two joined WBT-AM as the only AM stations in the top 20.

In addition to the live game broadcasts, the three-year deal includes transmission of pre-game shows throughout the season as well as the 49ers Coaches Show. IMG College, which operates the nation’s largest independent sports radio network, will also produce a daily “49ers Minute” to air on WFNZ during the morning drive.

As we gear up for **Year Two of 49ers Football**, Charlotte is preparing for an 11-game schedule, which includes four schools that were ranked or receiving votes in the final 2013 FCS national polls and eight teams that appeared on the inaugural 2013 schedule. The 49ers will compete, once again, as an FCS Independent before joining Conference USA in 2015. The 2014 football schedule can be found at: [https://inside.uncc.edu/news/item/charlotte-49ers-announce-2014-football-schedule](https://inside.uncc.edu/news/item/charlotte-49ers-announce-2014-football-schedule).

The Charlotte 49ers Athletic Foundation will host the **31st Annual Great Gold Rush Auction** on May 31 at Halton Arena inside the Barnhardt Student Activity Center. The gala event regularly attracts nearly 600 attendees to bid on over 1400 items valued at approximately $400,000, with proceeds going to the 49ers athletic scholarship fund. The goal for the 2014 Great Gold Rush Auction is to raise $225,000, which translates to about 22 scholarships. The silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by the live auction program at approximately 8:30 p.m. A food extravaganza will be available throughout the evening. Those wishing to attend should contact the Athletic Foundation to register.

**University Recognitions**

We strive for excellence every day…and while we don’t do it for public recognition, I have to admit that having those efforts noticed and rewarded publically is really nice from time to time. I was particularly proud this past December when UNC Charlotte was selected as the first nonprofit recipient of the **Belk Innovation in Diversity Award**, presented by the Charlotte Chamber and Belk Inc. The University was acknowledged at the Chamber’s annual meeting in December.

The Belk Innovation in Diversity Award recognizes “outstanding leadership and practice by driving business and community results through innovative diversity and inclusion in the workplace, economy and beyond.”

In naming UNC Charlotte as the nonprofit winner of the award, the Charlotte Chamber cited the creation of the University’s Diversity Plan in 2008, which has improved the recruitment and retention of a diverse student population and workforce. Other cited initiatives included the development of the Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund, which provides grants to create a broader understanding of diversity and inclusion; institutional support for diverse partnerships with businesses and the community that resulted in the Good Faith Award from the state Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses; and the enlistment of diverse board and advisory groups across the campus that mirror the community’s population.
UNC Charlotte was also honored this winter with multiple awards from the North Carolina Campus Compact. This organization started in 2002 as one of 34 state affiliates in the national Campus Compact organization, which has more than 1,200 member campuses.

Jim Cook received the North Carolina Campus Compact Robert Sigmon Service-Learning Award. The Sigmon Award recognizes one faculty member from across the state for significant contributions to service learning, a pedagogical strategy that links community service to classroom study and reflection. The award’s namesake is a North Carolina native who pioneered the approach in the 1970s.

During his 30-plus years at UNC Charlotte, Jim has created and evaluated projects and partnerships that meet our region’s most pressing human needs. In addition, he secured millions of dollars in grant funding to support these projects for which he trained students to be system-wide agents of change and skilled practitioners.

A founder of Mecklenburg County’s Homeless Services Network, Jim Cook also led the evaluation of the MeckCARES partnership among local child services agencies and the HUD-funded effort that created the Community Development Academy, which increased UNC Charlotte’s support for low-income neighborhoods. Scores of University students worked as volunteers, interns and researchers to support these and other community-based projects.

For his extensive engagement with the community, Jim was previously honored within the University of North Carolina system with the 2009 Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Public Service.

On the heels of Jim’s award, I was also honored to accept the North Carolina Campus Compact’s Leo Lambert Engaged Leader Award on behalf of the University. This award is given annually to one North Carolina college or university leader who is committed to creating and sustaining efforts that impact his or her community and campus. The recipient is nominated and selected by fellow N.C. Campus Compact chancellors and presidents from the 38 public and private North Carolina member institutions. While the plaque has my name on it, there’s no doubt in my mind that it belongs to the university, because I certainly didn’t earn it all by myself! The award represents the ongoing efforts and accomplishments of our University community and is something of which we can all be proud. Our commitment to make UNC Charlotte a driver of economic and professional workforce development was cited, along with University-industry partnerships that led to the creation of the UNC Charlotte Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) and the University’s numerous community development activities, which include a partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Governor’s Village and the creation of a unique work-study program for military veterans.

Our Office of Business Affairs has received notification of a very prestigious award just this week. Our Learning and Development Team has been selected to receive the national Excellence in Human Resource Practices Award from CUPA-HR (College and University Professional Association for Human Resources). This award will be presented at the annual CUPA-HR conference in September.
As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your efforts. Our university is strong and vibrant in large part because of the exemplary faculty and staff who have chosen to invest their professional lives here. I hope we all will be able to take some time this summer to catch our breath, enjoy time with family and friends, and recharge our batteries for another exciting academic year.

Cordially,

Phil

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

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