May 12, 2015

To: Faculty, Staff, and Friends of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

From: Philip L. Dubois, Chancellor

Re: Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

The close of the academic year offers another occasion to update you on our University’s accomplishments during the past semester and to look ahead to a few exciting opportunities on the horizon.

Over this past weekend we celebrated three commencement ceremonies and welcomed more than 3,700 graduates into the ranks of UNC Charlotte alumni. One highlight of the weekend was conferring an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree upon Mr. Jerry Richardson in recognition of his transformational impact on UNC Charlotte and our entire region through his generosity and commitment to the communities where our faculty, staff, and alumni live and work.

Mr. Richardson has made it clear that, as the founder and owner of the Carolina Panthers and as a veteran of the NFL and college football, he knows that athletics brings communities together. His support has helped create a complete campus experience for our students and a new tradition that will bring our alumni and extended community together at Jerry Richardson Stadium for generations to come.

As many of the items in this newsletter attest, our campus continues along a remarkable trajectory of growth. We are part of an institutional story that inspires those of us who work here, along with the tens of thousands of alumni who live in North Carolina, around the country, and throughout the world. I am grateful for the roles that each of you play in sharing the news about UNC Charlotte far and wide.

If you would like more information on any item covered in this newsletter, please contact my executive assistant, Shari Dunn. You can also check the Chancellor’s Outbox on the Administration website for additional information.
UNIVERSITY MARKS 50 YEARS AS UNC INSTITUTION

We recently celebrated a noteworthy milestone in the life of our University. Fifty years ago, on March 2, 1965, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a bill, championed by Senator Irwin “Ike” Belk, that made Charlotte College the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, a constituent campus of the consolidated state university system. In recognition of this significant anniversary, on March 2, guests of honor Ike Belk and Dr. Loy Witherspoon joined University alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff in celebrating the promise of that day 50 years ago as we rang the same “Old Bell” that heralded the new University in 1965.

Ike Belk has remained a loyal friend to UNC Charlotte. Were it not for his dedication to the vision of a complete university, UNC Charlotte likely would not exist today. Similarly, Loy Witherspoon, who was recruited to the faculty by founder Bonnie Cone in 1964, helped lay the foundation of regional service upon which we continue to build. Over the course of the five decades since, Loy has come to symbolize integrity and leadership from within our University. We owe a great debt to both of these men.

You can see some of the highlights of the commemoration of the 50th year in the UNC system on YouTube.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS VISITS UNC CHARLOTTE

Just prior to the 50th Anniversary celebration, UNC Charlotte hosted the UNC System Board of Governors for its three-day February meeting. The Board, which convenes regularly in Chapel Hill, meets from time to time on UNC campuses. This was the first time since 1972 that the full Board had come to UNC Charlotte.

Despite five inches of snowfall, our time with the Board and much of the UNC General Administration staff included an opportunity to lead Board members on a tour of our campus, to introduce them to some of our students and faculty members, and to have them experience our facilities firsthand. While our guests saw many of our newer buildings, we were also able to highlight some of our greatest needs, the most important among those being a modern science building. The needs of our students in the STEM fields have long surpassed the capacity of the outdated Burson building.

Another key message for the Board of Governors was that UNC Charlotte is actively engaged with our regional community, and our longstanding relationships with Charlotte’s key business sectors create exciting opportunities for our students every day. We also emphasized to the Board that UNC Charlotte’s continuing and dramatic enrollment growth (46% of the UNC system enrollment growth over the past six years) has significant implications reflected in our requests for operational and capital construction funding.

A video that we presented to the Board, which is also available on the University’s YouTube channel, helped to convey some of the many ways in which UNC Charlotte is integral to the regional community.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As this newsletter goes to press, we are expecting the release of the proposed budget by the General Assembly. Our three funding priorities include: $18 million for enrollment funding to keep up with the high student demand, planning funding for the new science building, and continued investments in game changing research including our big data program. Salary increases for faculty and staff are also a priority of the UNC Board of Governors.

As the session moves forward, please contact Betty Doster, my Special Assistant for Constituent Relations, if you have any questions.

Gov. McCrory Includes Science Building in Bond Package

Nothing helps spur a solution better than seeing a problem firsthand. Shortly after the Board of Governors learned of the severe problems with our outdated science facility, Gov. Pat McCrory followed suit during a visit to UNC Charlotte.

After a roundtable discussion on the importance of state investment in university research, facilities, and transportation infrastructure, the Governor made the short walk from the Student Union up Craver Road for a tour of Burson.

In the 30 years since Burson was built, UNC Charlotte's enrollment has grown 142 percent. Today, more than half of the University's students with declared majors are majoring in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. A modern science building is the critical component needed to support the continued growth and improvement of our campus.

The Governor recently introduced a statewide bond package that includes a $60 million funding proposal to build a new science building at UNC Charlotte. The General Assembly must approve the bond package in order to place it on the ballot this fall or next. The General Assembly is considering alternative approaches to fund new construction. In either case, we are hopeful that our science facility needs will be addressed sooner rather than later.

Other Elected Officials Visit Campus

We recently welcomed to campus two members of North Carolina's congressional delegation who, in separate visits, engaged UNC Charlotte expertise to inform their committee work back on Capitol Hill.

Congressman Richard Hudson ('96) returned to his alma mater to meet with members of the EPIC Advisory Board. They discussed energy issues and his role in the U.S. House of Representatives’ Energy and Commerce Committee. Hudson also had the opportunity to gather board members’ input and feedback on issues and challenges in the energy sector.
Sen. Richard Burr also visited UNC Charlotte to talk with members of our faculty and staff about the University’s nationally recognized cyber security programs. Burr serves as chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which provides oversight of the nation’s intelligence community.

The University, through the College of Computing and Informatics, is among the first in the state and country to receive the distinction of being named a National Center of Excellence in Information Assurance Education/Cyber Defense and a National Center of Excellence in Information Assurance Research.

In addition to hosting elected officials who are able to visit campus, we appreciate the continuing hospitality of Lt. Governor and Alumnus Dan Forest ('93, '94) who will sponsor again this year a UNC Charlotte Legislative and Alumni Reception on the evening of May 20 at Hawkins-Hartness House in Raleigh.

**FACILITIES UPDATE**

Several construction and renovation projects across campus have been completed recently and others will continue over the coming weeks and months.

Improvements to **Colvard 2000** have enabled the relocation of a set of student support and enrichment units into one area. The offices of Multicultural Academic Services, the University Center for Academic Excellence, the University Advising Center, and University College recently moved into the updated facility, which is being referred to as Academic Success and Advising.

Students, faculty, and staff members have begun to enjoy the outdoors once again in the newly renovated and reopened **Cone University Center Plaza**. New pavers, planters, and furniture are among the improvements.

**Belk Gym** is expected to reopen in the fall after renovations that will allow Recreational Services and the Kinesiology Department to grow adequately within the 130,000-square-foot facility. Improvements will also include updated locker rooms and new spaces for strength and training programs and for group fitness activities.

The new **South Village Dining Hall** has been quite popular with the campus community since it opened in January.

Progress also continues on the transformation of our student housing facilities in this area of campus. The formal groundbreaking takes place this week for **Levine Hall**, our new 400-bed residence hall in South Village, near the corner of Broadrick Boulevard and Alumni Way. Levine Hall, which will also house the administrative offices of the Honors College and the Levine Scholars program, will be named in honor of Sandra and Leon Levine, longtime friends of UNC Charlotte and the principal benefactors behind The Levine Scholars Program, our most prestigious merit-based scholarship award.
Holshouser Residence Hall, one of the four original high rise buildings constructed on campus, is undergoing a significant internal and external renovation. Generations of alumni who once called Holshouser home will likely be most interested to know that the interior wall layout has changed to accommodate new suite-style living arrangements for 400 students. Completion is expected this summer, as is construction of nearby Laurel Hall, in time for its freshman residents this coming fall.

The future of transportation on campus continues to take shape, with both a major transformation and also a set of roadway details that will likely be much appreciated. First, the new light rail Blue Line Extension construction continues up North Tryon Street toward campus, while earthwork and bridge foundation work continues on campus, most visibly on the north side across from Miltimore and Wallis Halls and near the North Deck parking facility. This is the area that will be the site of the final station on the extended line, bringing the train onto campus in mid-2017.

Meanwhile, this summer will bring the correction of a longtime quirk of driving on campus—the steep hill along Phillips Road. Anyone owning a car with a manual transmission will rejoice with this news. This project will realign a section of the existing Phillips Road to lead to a new four-way intersection at the current Cameron/Craver intersection. The new road will curve between Hayes Baseball Stadium and the Halton Wagner Tennis Complex via a bridge constructed over Toby Creek.

Motorists who use the South Entrance to campus, at the intersection of Cameron Boulevard and University City Boulevard (N.C. Hwy 49), have noticed work underway to widen the roadway, add bicycle lanes and a pedestrian sidewalk, and create an outbound turn lane. This North Carolina Department of Transportation project is also leading to the welcome addition of a four-way stoplight at the intersection, scheduled for completion by the end of summer. Along the same timeline, a left turn lane will be established for traffic to enter campus from southbound W.T. Harris Boulevard onto Alumni Way.

Two other additions to campus are underway because of the direct support of great friends of UNC Charlotte.

The Vickie and Gene Johnson Band Center is planned for completion this summer, in time to serve the first Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band. A gift from alumni Vickie (’73) and Gene (’71) Johnson made possible the new 6,700 square foot facility that will house the band’s musical instruments, uniforms, and offices. The band center will be located between Storrs and Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts, within walking distance of the field next to University City Boulevard where the marching band will practice.

Many of the other university marching bands we know today have been built up over decades. The Johnsons’ support has helped put the Pride of Niner Nation on a fast track, and we welcome the band as the beginning of another great Niner tradition. Many of the students recruited to UNC Charlotte to play in the marching band will also help to enhance our Department of Music through an influx of additional talented music performance and music education majors.
Gene and Vickie have deep roots in the life of the University. Gene’s past roles on campus have included tenure as the president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, chair of the Football Fundraising Capital Campaign, eight years on the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees (including three years as chair), and current service as the Chair of the Board of the Directors of the UNC Charlotte Foundation. Gene is a retired CPA, business owner, and co-founder of MJD Communications, which later became FairPoint Communications.

This fall’s debut of the marching band will be accompanied by the opening of the Hauser Alumni Pavilion. Construction is underway along the pedestrian path from the main campus to Jerry Richardson Stadium, in the game-day tailgating area that has hosted the Alumni Association’s large tent during the first two seasons of 49er Football.

The 8,000-square-foot steel pavilion with adjacent restrooms will also be available to faculty and staff by reservation throughout the year. It is made possible by a gift from David (MBA ’77) and Nancy Hauser. David is the former group executive and chief financial officer at Duke Energy Corporation and retired chairman and CEO of FairPoint Communications. David currently serves on the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees. He and Nancy have been active supporters of the University and we thank them for helping to create a venue for events and memories for the coming generations of Niners.

RECOGNITIONS FOR UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

Spring is a great season for lots of reasons, including great weather and our year-ending commencement ceremonies. It is also the time of year when a number of annual recognitions are bestowed, both on and off campus.

Cancer Researcher Receives Highest Honor

One of our scientists whose work was highlighted during the Board of Governors’ visit to UNC Charlotte was recently honored with the UNC system’s highest faculty award for research and scholarly achievement.

Distinguished cancer researcher Dr. Pinku Mukherjee received the O. Max Gardner Award in April. The award, established by a provision in the will of Governor O. Max Gardner, recognizes UNC system faculty members who have “made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.” It is the only award for which all faculty members on the 17 UNC campuses are eligible. The honor, given annually since 1949, carries a $20,000 cash prize.

As the Irwin Belk Endowed Professor of Cancer Research at UNC Charlotte, Dr. Mukherjee is transforming the ways in which cancer is diagnosed and treated. She has designed innovative approaches to permit early diagnosis of breast and pancreatic cancers through blood tests and is developing targeted therapy and imaging for pancreatic, ovarian, and colon cancers.
**Education Professor Recognized for Teaching Excellence**

Tracy Rock, associate professor of reading and elementary education, was named a recipient of the 2015 UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award. This annual honor recognizes one professor at each of North Carolina’s public institutions. The 17 recipients were nominated by individual campus committees and selected by the Board of Governors’ Committee on Personnel and Tenure. Dr. Rock received a commemorative bronze medallion and a $12,500 cash prize. The honor was formally presented during the spring commencement. Dr. Rock became the campus nominee for the Board of Governors’ award by virtue of having been named the recipient of UNC Charlotte’s top teaching honor, the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, in a ceremony conducted last fall.

**Gerontology Expert Receives de Silva Award**

Dena Shenk, professor of anthropology and graduate coordinator of the Gerontology Program, is the 2015 recipient of the Harshini V. de Silva Award. This honor is presented annually to a faculty member who best exemplifies de Silva’s commitment to graduate students. Dr. Shenk’s colleagues regard her as an exceptional graduate mentor who has had an influential impact on the Gerontology Program. One nominating colleague stated, “Dr. Shenk has participated in mentoring virtually every successful master’s and graduate certificate student in gerontology over the past 20 years.” Another wrote, “I don’t think there is an agency, business, assisted living residence or geriatric practice throughout the region that doesn’t have as part of its leadership at least one graduate mentored by Dr. Shenk.” Earlier this year, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) awarded Dr. Shenk its Mildred Seltzer Distinguished Service Recognition.

**First Citizens Award Goes to Visual Analytics Expert**

Bill Ribarsky, the Bank of America Endowed Chair in Information Technology, is the 2015 recipient of the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal, UNC Charlotte’s most prestigious faculty award in recognition of excellence in research.

Breakthroughs in visual analytics of the type Dr. Ribarsky researches are crucial in propelling the widespread utilization of “big data” in the marketplace. Dr. Ribarsky’s research also has greatly influenced the field of visualization and visual analytics. He has been lauded by peers for advancing the way in which individuals visualize data and approach real-world problems.

Dr. Ribarsky is the founding director of the Charlotte Visualization Center. From 2008 to 2014, he served as chair of the University’s Computer Science Department. He is also principal investigator for the Department of Homeland Security SouthEast Regional Visualization and Analytics Center. Dr. Ribarsky has published more than 170 scholarly papers, book chapters, and books. He has received competitive research grants and contracts from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, the U.S. Department of
Transportation, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Institute of Justice, and several institutions and companies.

**Three More Join Ranks of NSF Graduate Research Fellows**

Three UNC Charlotte students have received prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships (NSF GRF) for 2015. These recent additions increase the total number of NSF GRF students from UNC Charlotte to 20.

**Jonathan Knighten** is completing a B.A. in Computer Science and a B.A. in Mathematics and plans to pursue his doctoral degree at Cornell University. His research advisor at UNC Charlotte was Dr. Jamie Payton in the Department of Computer Science.

**Kathryn Smith** completed her B.S. in Electrical Engineering at UNC Charlotte in 2013 and is completing her master’s degree this semester. She has been accepted to the UNC Charlotte doctoral program in Electrical Engineering and will be the University’s first NSF GRF fellow in the Electrical Engineering Ph.D. program. Her advisor is Ryan Adams in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

**Jennifer Kassel** is completing her B.S. in Physics and has had several offers from schools across the country. Dr. Michael Walter, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, is her advisor.

**University General Counsel Receives Top State Honor**

Vice Chancellor and General Counsel **David Broome** recently received the Ann L. Majestic Distinguished Service Award from the Education Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.

The award recognizes outstanding leadership by an attorney in the field of education law. Formerly the Distinguished Service Award, it was renamed in memory of Ann L. Majestic, an attorney who dedicated her career to improving the field of education.

Dave has served the state of North Carolina as a higher education attorney for nearly 40 years. He served as an attorney at UNC-Chapel Hill, with the North Carolina Department of Justice, and at North Carolina State University. Since arriving at UNC Charlotte in 2004, he has provided expert advice during a time of rapid growth.

Several of Dave’s key initiatives and accomplishments include the University’s enterprise compliance program and the hiring of UNC Charlotte’s first director of University Compliance. He also has been instrumental in establishing the University’s new Title IX office.
DATA SCIENCE INITIATIVE (BIG DATA) MOMENTUM CONTINUES

Another delightful announcement for spring came in the form of a $2.1 million grant from the UNC General Administration to support our Big Data initiative—research in data science and business analytics. The funding, distributed across three years starting in 2014, is part of a continuing $3 million appropriation from the General Assembly to support areas of “game-changing research” identified in the Board of Governors’ strategic plan for the University system.

Mirsad Hadzikadic, director of the University’s Complex Systems Institute and professor of software and information systems in the College of Computing and Informatics, is the project’s lead investigator. In conjunction with North Carolina State University and UNC-Chapel Hill’s Renaissance Computing Institute, Dr. Hadzikadic and fellow investigators will develop strategic research hubs of excellence that will position North Carolina as the national leader in fundamental and applied research in data science.

UNC Charlotte’s project will involve setting up a sustainable cloud-based infrastructure to enable Big Data collaborations, partnerships, and research initiatives that will bring together investigators from academia and industry, initially focusing on the problem of risk mitigation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Each year brings a variety of ways in which the University engages with our regional community and often well beyond. Among many highlights in 2015 are:

The College of Arts + Architecture recently debuted its state-of-the-art Mobile Arts & Community Experience (MAX) in a public celebration on Levine Avenue for the Arts. MAX is a hybrid performance venue/community gathering space that can accommodate everything from circus arts to a neighborhood association meeting. The college received a three-year, $350,000 grant from the Knight Foundation to support MAX’s design and construction. Boxman Studios, a Charlotte-based company specializing in transforming shipping containers, partnered in creating MAX. The University plans to use MAX to enliven neighborhoods, parks, festivals, and other community events with arts and activities that reflect Charlotte’s growing diversity. In addition to its use for touring productions, MAX will spend extended periods in neighborhood settings.

KEEPING WATCH on WATER: City of Creeks is a program in its second of three years. Led by the College of Arts + Architecture and the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, the project integrates art exhibition, scholarly and journalistic writing, filmmaking, community engagement, and educational curricula to examine the role that creeks played in the development of Charlotte and the work that needs to be done to protect and preserve them.

Our students are involved in a wide array of community service projects, including record participation in a major American Red Cross blood drive and raising nearly $40,000 for the American Cancer Society through a “Relay for Life” event. Our Levine Scholars led the
way in organizing the second annual Dance Marathon to raise more than $49,049 for the Levine Children’s Hospital.

Similarly, a student volunteer venture to help veterans near Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune recently earned the Outstanding Community Partner Award from the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project. Volunteers from the University College/College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Learning Community assisted with a number of projects in Jacksonville, NC, including painting and pressure washing the Disabled American Veterans building. Hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9960, the group also visited various veteran memorials and interacted with veterans throughout their visit.

PARTNERSHIP WITH METLIFE AIDS TO ENCOURAGE FUTURE LEADERS

Although MetLife is still a relatively new neighbor in Charlotte, its relationship with UNC Charlotte continues to grow. The MetLife Foundation and the University recently announced a partnership to establish the Women in Business Leadership Program in the University’s Belk College of Business.

A $100,000 gift from MetLife will help undergraduate women prepare for the world of work by improving the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to confidently enter into leadership roles. The Program will include exclusive workshops, networking events, and speaker opportunities to let students learn from successful women leaders in the Charlotte region and to underscore important topics for working women. A women’s student organization also will be created to give students an opportunity to apply learned skills and practice leadership among their peers. Students who participate in the program will have the opportunity to connect with mentors from business and industry and will be encouraged to complete internships to propel their careers in business.

INAUGURAL “NINER NATION GIVES” DAY PROVES SUCCESSFUL

As a relatively young university, UNC Charlotte continues to pursue innovative ways to engage our alumni and friends in giving back. Building our base of financial supporters helps ensure that future generations of 49ers will have access to UNC Charlotte, particularly through scholarships.

This April 9 (4-9 Day) brought the first-ever “Niner Nation Gives,” a one-day campaign organized by the Division of University Advancement. The day of giving was promoted largely through social media and on the Web.

The 24-hour blitz yielded 706 gifts, including those from almost 200 first-time student donors. Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends from around the world participated in the event, making Niner Nation Gives a broad community-building experience.

You can see a bit of the on-campus experience from the day in this video on the University’s YouTube channel.
ATHLETICS UPDATE

Spring Football Under the Lights

This year’s annual Green and White spring football game was notable for a number of reasons. First, our crowd ranked among the largest in attendance for spring games across the nation. Second, the April 20 game was the first night game in Jerry Richardson Stadium, thanks to the recent installation of lights. (This fall’s regular season schedule includes at least one night game.) Third, this spring tune-up was part of the 49ers’ preparation for their first season in Conference USA.

And, perhaps most important of all, at the conclusion of the spring game, the 49ers football team remained undefeated in 2015!

Coach Mark Price Takes the Helm of Men’s Hoops

With just a few weeks under his belt as the new 49ers men’s basketball coach, Mark Price has frequently observed, with some relief, that he did not have to travel far—from Time Warner Cable Arena to Halton Arena—to accept his new role.

Price comes to campus from the Charlotte Hornets, where he served as an assistant coach. He’s best known, of course, for an outstanding career in the NBA, preceded by success in the college ranks as an All-American student-athlete at Georgia Tech. Mark was a four-time NBA all-star point guard with the Cleveland Cavaliers and was known as an innovator in the way he approached both shooting and assists.

Title IX Update

Although I prefer to use this newsletter to crow about all of the great things going on within our institution, it is also the case that higher education is a demanding and challenging enterprise. Almost no issue in higher education has garnered more public and legislative attention over the past year than those related to Title IX compliance with respect to all aspects of sexual discrimination and sexual violence. Although guidance from the U.S. Office of Civil Rights continues to evolve, UNC Charlotte is fortunate to have launched a major initiative last summer with the opening of our Title IX Office led by attorney Dawn Floyd, supported by a large number of offices, programs, and individuals from across the campus.

The Center for Wellness Promotion has sponsored a number of prevention and awareness events to promote and continue the discussions with students on these important topics. The Center teamed with the Title IX Office to present a four-part series called “Know Your Title IX” to further educate students about sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking awareness and prevention. The Interpersonal Violence Prevention Committee sponsored this year’s “Take Back the Night” event to raise awareness of sexual assault and relationship violence.

Over this coming summer, the Title IX Office will also launch an online educational
Think About It is an interactive and engaging program that will inform our students about University policies and procedures around sexual and relationship violence, tips on safely intervening as a bystander, how to recognize the signs of relationship violence, the importance of ensuring that sexual relationships are consensual, and the location of available resources and services on campus.

The Title IX Office has also been working on a campus climate survey to administer to students in 2015 to get a fuller picture of how effective our prevention and awareness efforts over the past year have been and how we can improve our programs, procedures and services to victims and the accused.

We have also instituted prevention and awareness programming for new employees as well as other staff and faculty on these important issues. They have learned how to direct students in need to the correct resources and how to address similar situations in their own lives.

**Student-Produced Title IX PSA Video Wins National Contest**

With a heightened awareness of Title IX issues across the higher education landscape, we are thrilled to see our own students taking on leadership roles in addressing these issues.

The NCAA has partnered with the White House in promoting the national “It’s On Us” campaign, which is designed to prevent campus sexual assault. This campaign has as its mission to help students (1) recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault; (2) identify situations in which sexual assault may occur; (3) intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given; and (4) create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

As a part of its commitment to the “It’s On Us” campaign, the NCAA Division I National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee sponsored a contest calling for student-produced PSA videos promoting the campaign theme. Under the leadership of our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, UNC Charlotte submitted an entry which was named the national winner. Osvaldo Hernandez and Daniel Freeman, both 49er track and field student-athletes, were the driving forces behind the project. Ozzie filmed the video, while Dan wrote the script.

Nearly 60 videos were submitted in the competition, and the winning video was shown during the men’s basketball Final Four game in Indianapolis last month.

**INAUGURAL NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION SCHEDULED THIS FALL**

Although we hope to use the upcoming summer months to catch our collective breath, summer will remain very busy as we prepare for our next class of entering freshmen and transfer students in the fall.
To celebrate and welcome our new students and to provide an understanding about what it means to be a 49er, the University will stage the inaugural Day of Convocation on the first day of the Fall 2015 term, Monday, August 24, 2015.

A commencement ceremony marks the completion of a course of study. The Convocation will celebrate our students’ entry into the community of higher education. The New Student Convocation has been in development since 2011 when discussions began in our Student Success Working Group. The Convocation will include an alumni presentation on the traditions of the institution, the introduction of the Noble Niner Honor Code, a faculty keynote address, and the inaugural performance of our Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band. This event will acquaint students with UNC Charlotte’s academic expectations, communicate the institutional mission and values, and build camaraderie within our increasingly diverse student body.

Please note, the traditional Faculty & Staff “University Convocation” ceremony will still take place the week before classes start, and will provide a less formal state-of-the-university update geared toward those particular groups. This year’s Faculty & Staff Convocation will be held on Thursday, August 20 at 9:30 a.m. in McKnight Hall.

A JOB WELL DONE AND A BREAK WELL DESERVED

Our university is successful in large part because of the exemplary faculty and staff who have chosen to invest their professional lives here. As we head into summer, I hope we all will take some time to enjoy family and friends, and to recharge our batteries for the exciting academic year that awaits us in just a few months.

Cordially,

Phil

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

If in the future you wish to receive this newsletter electronically instead of the current paper format, or if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please email the Chancellor’s Office at Chanoff@uncc.edu or call 704-687-5700.