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

Re: Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings once again. Although it is always my intention to release the spring newsletter in May as we conclude the academic year, this continues to be one of the busiest and most exciting times in the life of UNC Charlotte. Indeed, May featured the University’s 61st commencement, an event that is a great source of pride for the University community and our more than 3,300 spring graduates. Notably, the total awards for the academic year climbed to a record 6,163! Our two ceremonies on commencement Saturday also gave us an opportunity to bestow doctoral hoods upon 88 new recipients of doctoral degrees and a special honorary degree upon our third Chancellor, Chancellor Emeritus Jim Woodward. With that celebration now behind us, on to June!

With the long-awaited arrival of the summer months, I hope this newsletter finds you with much to celebrate in your own lives, and I hope that you can now settle in to read about the good news from UNC Charlotte. And, as always, if you would like more information on any specific item mentioned in this newsletter, please feel free to contact my assistant, Donna Brady (dcbrady@uncc.edu).

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

Leadership Changes and Additions

Every quality institution in higher education depends upon quality leadership on the Board of Trustees, in administrative posts, and in the faculty, staff, and student body. UNC Charlotte has been extremely fortunate in having strong leadership over the years and looks forward this year to the addition of some new faces and, in some cases, familiar faces placed in new roles.

As UNC Charlotte matures, our alumni are participating more fully in the life and leadership of the University. Six individuals with UNC Charlotte undergraduate or graduate degrees already serve on the Board of Trustees led by Board Chair Gene Johnson, the first UNC Charlotte alumnus to serve in that leadership role.

Gene, Joe Price, Bob Hull, Karen Popp, Mary Ann Rouse, and David Hauser will be joined on the Board on July 1 by alumnus Dhiaa Jamil, elected this spring by the UNC Board
of Governors to a full four-year term. Dhiaa has 30 years of experience in the energy industry and is currently a group executive, chief generation officer, and chief nuclear officer for Duke Energy. He has been a leader in the effort to establish the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), chairing the EPIC advisory board. 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 (detailed below), Dhiaa earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from UNC Charlotte in 1978. He replaces Norm Cohen, who has served two full terms and is ineligible for re-election.

Dhiaa and recently re-elected members Bob Hull, Joe Price, and Laura Schulte will be sworn in as Trustees at the September 22, 2011, board meeting. Newly elected Student Body President David Craven was sworn in at the April 28 meeting, replacing Megan Smith, who graduated in May. Student Body Presidents serve as ex-officio voting members of the Board for the duration of their term in office.

Two other new Trustees are still pending appointment from the Governor, replacing Dale Halton and Jeffrey Kane. Dale will have completed two full terms as of June 30, 2011, and therefore is not eligible for re-appointment. Jeff recently resigned due to his move to California, leaving an open seat on the Board. These anticipated appointments by the Governor will be for four-year terms.

Beyond the Trustees, several very talented individuals have recently assumed positions of leadership in the administrative ranks at UNC Charlotte. They bring years of experience and diverse perspectives to their important roles, and I invite you to get to know them.

In January, Dr. Steve Ott was appointed to lead the Belk College of Business as dean. Founding Director of the Center for Real Estate and interim Dean of the College during the 2007-08 academic year, Steve brings both his faculty credentials as the John Crosland, Sr. Distinguished Professor of Real Estate and Development, as well as his deep experience with the business community to this important post. Among many other things, Steve will be responsible for leading the transition of the College’s graduate programs to our new $50.4 million classroom building at Ninth and Brevard in the heart of Uptown. A member of the UNC Charlotte faculty since 1999, Steve received a master's degree in Real Estate and Finance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1988 and his Ph.D. in Finance and Economics from Madison in 1992.

In February, Jerry Coughter (pronounced “cow-ter”) was named executive director of UNC Charlotte Center City. Jerry comes to us from George Mason University, where he was campus executive officer of George Mason’s campus in Loudoun County, Virginia. Jerry also coordinated a public planning process in partnership with the local community college, school system, and business community that resulted in the largest-ever gift to the university, a 37-acre, $17.3 million property to become the permanent campus. He also served as assistant vice president for regional economic development and director of life science management at GMU. Jerry earned a bachelor’s degree in microbiology-molecular biology at Clemson University, a master’s in microbiology and immunology at Virginia Commonwealth University, and an MBA from Shenandoah University. He is a doctoral candidate in science and technology policy at George Mason University.
Effective August 1, Dr. Nancy Fey-Yensan will be the new dean of the College of Health and Human Services at UNC Charlotte. Nancy joins us from the University of Rhode Island, where she was associate dean of the College of Human Science and Services and professor of nutrition and food science. In her role as a nutrition researcher, Nancy has served as the panel manager for the USDA’s National Research Initiative on Human Nutrition and Obesity, and she currently serves in that same role for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. In Rhode Island, she co-directed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s Education Program, an initiative on food and nutrition that reaches thousands of families and older adults living in poverty. Nancy brings to her position a strong reputation for exceptional leadership and talent for building community partnerships.

With the appointment of Steve Ott as Dean of the Belk College, new department heads have been announced there as well.

The Department of Accounting will be led by Dr. Hughlene Burton, who joined UNC Charlotte in 1996 and most recently served as director of the Master of Accountancy program. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. A highly regarded expert in the area of taxation, Dr. Burton is the immediate past president of the American Taxation Association.

Leading the Department of Information Sciences and Operations Management will be Dr. Cem Saydam. With a Ph.D. from Clemson University and a member of the UNC Charlotte faculty since 1986, Cem’s research interests include ambulance location and redeployment strategies, applied linear and integer programming, and optimization techniques. He is serving as the conference chair for INFORMS 2011, a premier professional conference for operations management and research which will be held in Charlotte in November.

The new Chair of the Department of Economics will be Jennifer Troyer. With a Ph.D. from Florida State University, Jennifer has been a member of our faculty since 1999. Her primary research area is health economics, with a focus on long-term care issues. Dr. Troyer has received funding for her work from the U.S. Administration on Aging and the National Institutes of Health. She was the first recipient of the John J. Biggs Faculty Fellowship at UNC Charlotte.

Dr. Dolly King, the Rush S. Dickson Professor of Finance, will lead the Department of Finance. Dolly’s research expertise is in corporate finance and fixed income securities, and she has published in many top academic journals. Dolly is a fellow Badger (as is Steve Ott), with her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She joined our faculty in 2006.

A newcomer to UNC Charlotte, David Woehr, from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, will serve as the new Chair of the Department of Management in the Belk College. David earned a Ph.D. from Georgia Tech and has research interests in the areas of performance measurement, managerial assessment, and applied psychometrics. Dr. Woehr will teach in the MBA and Ph.D. in Organizational Science programs.
The Department of Marketing will be chaired by Dr. Sunil Erevelles. Sunil, who holds a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, joined the Belk College in 2002. His areas of expertise include marketing strategy, consumer behavior, brand management, and Internet marketing. Dr. Erevelles was the recipient of the Belk College’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will welcome two new departmental chairs.

Glenn D. Boreman, Department of Physics and Optical Science, received a B.S. from the Institute of Optics, University of Rochester, and a Ph.D. from the Optical Sciences Center, University of Arizona. Prof. Boreman had served as Trustee Chair Professor of Optics, Electrical Engineering, Material Science and Physics in the College of Optics and Photonics (CREOL) at the University of Central Florida since 1984. He is a Fellow of the Optical Society of America.

Martin Günter Klotz, Department of Biology, comes to UNC Charlotte from the University of Louisville, Kentucky, where he was a Professor of Biology and an Associate Faculty in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology in the School of Medicine. He earned his B.S. in physics from the University of Rostock, Mecklenburg, Germany, and his Ph.D. in Biology from the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena, Germany. At UNC Charlotte, he will continue to direct his "Evolutionary and Genomic Microbiology Laboratory" to study the molecular underpinnings of ammonia- and methane-oxidizing bacteria.

**State Budget Outlook**

It’s a good thing that we have recruited talented leaders, both recently and over the years, because challenging times remain ahead.

As of this writing, both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly have reached agreement upon the state budget for the 2011-2013 biennium. We now await action by Governor Perdue on the budget proposal; the Governor has options to sign, veto, or allow the budget to be enacted into law without her signature.

The budget on the Governor’s desk has some challenging aspects to it and yet some positive ones as well.

On the down side, like other UNC campuses, we face a significant cut in our state appropriation (about 12.3%). That reduction will result in the permanent elimination of a large number of faculty and staff positions. There will also be a significant reduction in need-based financial aid, and a lower amount of repair and renovation funding than is really necessary to address even a modest proportion of our needs. As with other UNC campuses, the Teaching Fellows Program (a loan-service program to encourage talented students to enter the profession of teaching) will be eliminated in 2012.

On the other hand, as we had hoped, the budget proposal awaiting action by the Governor includes funding for the operations of UNC Charlotte’s Center City Building and Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), funding for students already enrolled
and those expected in the next biennium, and authority to move forward on four non-appropriated projects at UNC Charlotte funded by receipts: two residence halls, a dining hall, a parking deck, and planning money for construction of a future residence hall and renovations of three others.

Notwithstanding the uncertainties and difficulties of the budget, we can be certain that student demand for higher education and for enrollment at UNC Charlotte continues to increase. Freshman and transfer applications for fall 2011 are up more than 12 percent over 2010. As best we can, we want to continue to remain accessible to students seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees, but budget cuts will clearly impact our ability to do so. We enrolled over 25,000 students last fall but, in light of the reductions we have expected we would face in FY 2012, we have had to scale back our rate of growth from previous years. 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, 725 qualified students were denied admission for the coming academic year. Once all the budget numbers are in, we’ll be in a better position to assess our future ability to support continuing enrollment growth.

As we navigate this fluid and uncertain period, my senior leadership team will communicate as consistently and transparently as possible to our University community and other key constituents. Additional information and special announcements are available on the website http://businessaffairs.uncc.edu/journal/.

Capital Construction and Planning for the Future

One of my greatest concerns with respect to the current budgetary environment is that the 2011-13 budget includes no funding for planning or constructing new facilities in the UNC system. In the case of UNC Charlotte, that means no funding has been provided for planning a much-needed new Science Building to replace the aging laboratory facilities found in the Burson Building. Since our experience has shown that the state construction process requires five years from the approval of funding to the end of construction, we cannot expect to see our Science Building needs addressed any sooner than Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and probably much later.

As a result, we will spend a good bit of time this year discussing facility options for the future, including what is possible with respect to the renovation of Burson and other aging academic facilities (including Kennedy, Colvard, and the Denny Complex). A broader issue is whether the constraints we face on the development of new facilities will affect our overall growth. Based upon estimates prepared several years ago, we believe that UNC Charlotte’s enrollment cannot exceed 29,500 with our current inventory of completed facilities (including those under construction at this moment). There may be some things we can do to modify this number by exercising greater efficiencies in the use of classroom space and in using technology for the delivery of a greater proportion of our curriculum, but it will not be possible to respond to the Charlotte region’s growing educational demand at the level of our long-term planning target (i.e., 35,000 students) without additional new facilities to house and support faculty, staff, and students.
With that said, we continue work on a variety of previously funded capital projects, including the Center City Building and the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), both of which are expected to open in the upcoming academic year.

**Center City Building:** The finishing touches are being added to the Center City Building at the corner of Ninth and Brevard streets. The building will be open for classes beginning in fall 2011 and will house 25 classrooms, the urban architecture studio, an art gallery, a bookstore, a café, and a 300-seat auditorium. An 18,000-square-foot outdoor plaza also is being constructed to compliment the future First Ward Park.

The College of Arts + Architecture Master of Urban Design program, the Design & Society Research Center, all of the Belk College of Business graduate programs, and our continuing education programs will be located in Center City. An opening exhibit, tentatively entitled “Projective Lens,” is being planned for the new Center City gallery through the College of Arts + Architecture to present an artistic perspective on the work of the entire University.

It is also anticipated that Center City will be a popular venue for some of the University’s premiere public programming. For instance, installments of the Belk College’s popular NEXT Speaker Series will be held in the new auditorium, as will next year’s TIAA-CREF Distinguished Lecture event.

**Energy Production & Infrastructure Center (EPIC):** Located adjacent to Grigg Hall and opposite the site of our football stadium, the EPIC building has taken shape. When it is completed in February, 2012, it will be among the largest buildings on campus at 196,000 square feet. The new home for the departments of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Electrical & Computer Engineering will also be a state-of-the-art teaching and research facility dedicated to educating the next generation of power engineers.

A close partnership with leaders in the energy industry has produced tangible programmatic support for the work of EPIC that greatly enhances the state’s investment in the construction and staffing of the facility. In February, I had the pleasure of joining Duke Energy CEO Jim Rogers and Mark Pringle, Director of Operations for Siemens Energy Charlotte, at the Charlotte Business Journal’s Energy Leadership Awards event to announce an overall commitment of $8.8 million in scholarship, faculty, and research support from the two partners.

**Other New Buildings:** As noted above, Center City and EPIC are the last campus facilities we expect will be constructed over the next several years using state appropriated funds or through state debt instruments. Fortunately, we do have some access to other fund sources that can address other dedicated needs. For instance, using reimbursements provided by the federal government and other research sponsors for costs incurred in the conduct of research, we are able to build important facilities that augment our instructional and research programs.

One such facility is Motorsports Building II. Construction on the 13,500-square-foot research and teaching facility is well under way and should be completed in the fall. The new building will include additional office space for faculty, computer labs, meeting rooms, and a
cutting-edge learning laboratory to complement our existing Alan Kulwicki Motorsports Laboratory.

Another facility to be built soon using a variety of non-state resources is the PORTAL Building. This 90,000-square-foot building will support a variety of industry research partnerships, technology transfer, and economic development initiatives and will bring functions housed in the existing University’s incubator in the University Research Park (the Ben Craig Center) on to campus. Construction documents are complete and have been submitted to the State Construction Office for approval. By the way, PORTAL is an acronym for “Partnership for Outreach, Research, and Accelerated Learning.” There will be no quiz.

The University is also able to construct needed facilities by issuing debt where we have an assured source of annual revenue. These include residence and dining halls, parking decks, student-service facilities, and the like. Thus, I can report positively on progress we are making on a variety of such projects.

**New Student Housing:** Construction is nearing completion on Phase IX student housing. Soon to be known as “Spruce Hall,” this 431-bed residence hall is in the final phase of construction and will open as scheduled for the upcoming fall semester in August. Plans are under development for the construction of Phase X (located adjacent to Spruce and Lynch halls) and Phase XI to be located in a new “South Village” housing development near the existing high rise residence halls. The South Village area will include a new dining hall, a parking deck (Deck J), a realigned High Rise Road that will complete the interior “campus loop” road, and a regional utility plant. The four high rise residence halls are also scheduled for significant renovation, including the addition of sprinkling systems and brick cladding on the exteriors. Over time, some of our existing inventory of older apartments, including those in Hunt Village and Phase III (i.e., Smurf Village) will be torn down.

**Campus Dining:** Although many people believe that construction of the Student Union addressed all of our dining needs, the reality is that the vast majority of the campus populations works and attends classes on the east and central portions of our campus. An excellent renovation of the old Bookstore adjacent to the Prospector is nearing completion. The entire space is dedicated to food service, dining, and an expanded mail service area.

**Parking Decks:** It is an unfortunate fact of life that campus growth has placed more demand upon us for additional parking and that additional parking cannot be constructed using state funds. As a result, the construction and maintenance of our parking facilities must be paid for by user permits purchased by faculty, staff, students, and campus visitors. (Contrary to a widespread belief, UNC Charlotte does not benefit from revenues generated from parking citations; by virtue of judicial interpretation of the state constitution, more than 80% of the revenues realized from the issuance of citations goes to support the public schools; we keep just about 20% to partially support the costs of enforcement).

With that said, we continue to make strides to alleviate parking problems. Parking Deck H, located on the north side of Cameron Boulevard, will be completed by August. Construction on Parking Deck I, which is located south of Grigg Hall, began this month. Taken together, they add more than 2400 additional spaces to our parking inventory.
Football and Related Facilities: Following a phenomenal groundbreaking event on April 28 attended by an estimated crowd of 3,000, construction on football-related facilities has begun this month. The stadium complex will include 15,000 seats, an artificial turf game field, field house, concessions, retail, public services, a hospitality suite and press box, and two natural grass practice fields. We expect to complete construction on both the field house complex and the stadium by August 2012, with competition beginning on August 31, 2013, in our first home game (against Campbell University).

Because of the need to replace recreational playing fields lost as a result of the new stadium and in response to rising student demand for intramural sports, we have spent considerable effort in building new recreation fields. Perhaps the most impressive among these is a new complex built along John Kirk Boulevard. Construction is now complete on this 24-acre site, which contains a multi-use, multi-field artificial turf complex with lights, a 1,600-square-foot restroom/storage facility, and parking. This high-quality complex may be among the best intramural facilities in the country.

New Tennis Facility: Finally, a generous private gift from Trustee Dale Halton has made possible construction of the Halton-Wagner Tennis Facility. This past spring, the 49ers men’s and women’s tennis teams played their home matches on 12 new state-of-the art courts completed in Phase I. Phase II includes the construction of the adjacent 12,477-square-foot building which will include offices, locker rooms, training rooms, and meeting space for the two programs, as well as 246 stadium seats overlooking the new courts. Like the Belk Track and Field Stadium, the Halton-Wagner facility will be a prominent building along Cameron Boulevard. It is scheduled for completion in time for the 2012 spring season of tennis competition.

Academic Excellence

Building new campus facilities, of course, is not an end in itself. We pay attention to having quality facilities to ensure that we have the most productive working and living environment possible so that our faculty, staff, and students can do their best work. And there is plenty of ongoing and new evidence that there are some amazing things going on at UNC Charlotte.

In a memorable ceremony held by the Board of Governors at their April meeting, Dr. Diane M. Browder, Lake and Edward J. Snyder Jr. Distinguished Professor of Special Education in the College of Education, was presented with the UNC Board of Governor’s 2011 O. Max Gardner Award. It is the highest faculty award presented by the Board of Governors and the first such honor for a UNC Charlotte faculty member since the award was created in 1949 to honor one faculty member from the system’s 17 campuses recognized as having “made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.” Diane is one of the nation’s leading experts on academic instruction and assessment methods for severely disabled children.

Notably, also this spring, the Board of Governors honored Dr. Jeffrey Price, associate professor of music, as one of this year’s recipients of the Board’s Award for Teaching Excellence. Nominated as a result of having been selected by the campus as the recipient of
the 2010 Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, Jeff was one of the 17-system honorees.

Another very significant faculty distinction has been achieved by Dr. Mary Nies, Carol Grotnes Belk Endowed Chair in Nursing, who has been selected for the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Through funding from the National Institute of Health and other foundations, Mary has focused on health promotion across the lifespan for vulnerable populations.

Another notable recognition for the expertise of our faculty was the appearance in March of Professor Scott Smith, Chair of Mechanical Engineering & Engineering Science, before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet. The purpose of the hearing was to showcase American innovation at all stages and focus on how intellectual property protections have fostered an environment that contributes strongly to job creation. Witnesses were invited to discuss and demonstrate some of their latest innovations. Scott holds a number of patents for his pioneering work in machine tool technology and was recognized in 2010 with an R&D 100 award, R&D Magazine’s tribute to the top 100 inventions of the year. In his testimony, Scott highlighted UNC Charlotte’s work in precision metrology, biomedical engineering, energy, and automotive research, focusing on the University’s history of working with industry and commercializing innovation. He discussed the value of patents in the academic-industry partnership and changes that could be made to improve the patent process. As a result of Scott’s testimony and his answers to questions from Members, Subcommittee staff have been conferring with University officials on the details of patent reform legislation.

Students have also been staking their claim to distinctions at the national level.

Among our most honored students is Darius Law, a 4.0 student who graduated this May with his degree in Management from the Belk College of Business. A multi-year All-American in track and field, Darius was named this year as one of three national finalists for the prestigious NCAA Walter Byers Post-Graduate Scholarship, becoming the first 49ers student-athlete to be named a finalist for the award. In addition, he received the University’s 2011 Nish Jamgotch, Jr., Humanitarian Student Award for his extensive public service. As President of the 49ers Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Darius and his fellow student-athletes raised money and donations for Samaritan’s Feet, an organization that provides shoes to those in need. More than 70 children received shoes because of Darius’ efforts. The Jamgotch Award carries a $10,000 cash prize which Darius intends to use to travel to South African townships for additional charitable work. Darius was honored last year as the 2010 Arthur Ashe, Jr., Male Sports Scholar Athlete of the Year, an award given to the top minority male student-athlete in the nation. Look for Darius on the sports pages this year as he makes his best effort to qualify for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team.

Casey Rimland is yet another 49er to achieve a major scholastic recognition. Casey, a University Honors student majoring in biology and psychology, recently received a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, the first one ever awarded to a UNC Charlotte student. Casey is a truly exceptional student who has conducted publishable scholarly research in three disciplines – biology, chemistry and psychology – as an undergraduate. A C.C. Cameron
Merit Scholarship recipient when she was admitted to UNC Charlotte in 2007, Casey was among only five North Carolinians to receive the scholarship this year.

I am happy also to note the accomplishment of four current graduate students and three undergraduate students who were awarded National Science Foundation fellowships in 2011. The Graduate Research Fellowship recipients include Phillip Davis, Andrew Hicks, Amy Ingram, and Amy Stonger. Undergraduate students Samantha Finkelstein, Jordana Hodges, and Brandon Kerr also received NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. The highly competitive NSF program provides three years of full tuition and stipend support for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in science and engineering research.

In a similar achievement, Sarah Haas, a doctoral student in the geography and urban regional analysis program, has been selected to receive the highly competitive, merit-based PEO Scholar award. PEO is a philanthropic organization committed to promoting educational opportunities for women. This dissertation fellowship is for one year and is typically $15,000.

Finally, just this week, we learned that our team of recently graduated senior Exercise Science Students – Matt Dantism, Jordan Walker, and Roberto Medina – won the 2011 American College of Sports Medicine National Student Quiz Bowl Competition in Denver, CO! UNC Charlotte’s team represented the Southeast Chapter of ACSM (SEACSM) in the national event as a result of their victory at the regional team competition at the SEACSM meeting back in February. Our team squared off against teams representing the other 11 regional chapters of ACSM. This is a significant achievement in that this is the first time that a Department of Kinesiology student team has ever won prestigious regional and national academic competitions.

Apart from their academic honors, our students continue to distinguish themselves in their dedication to community service. For instance, under the auspices of our Division of Student Affairs, students have participated in Alternative Spring Break (ASB), a unique service-learning experience during which students engage in direct service to a community while being immersed in the culture and customs of that community. This past March, 16 UNC Charlotte students and 4 staff chaperones from the Dean of Students Office traveled to Miami, Florida, to build homes for low income families in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Foregoing traditional spring break activities, students and staff volunteered their time in the Liberty City community each day working on various construction activities such as roofing, painting, drywall installation, laying vinyl floors, and sorting hurricane shutters at the Habitat Restore. In their spare time, volunteers enjoyed the beautiful Miami weather, sightseeing, and learning about Miami’s diverse culture. As a result of the overwhelming success of this year’s Alternative Spring Break trip, student participants are working to make ASB an on-going UNC Charlotte spring break tradition.

When talented faculty and students work together with such great results, the outcomes include increased national recognition for our academic programs. Personally, I’m not much of a fan of some of the popular magazine rating systems out there because they tend to rely on a host of indirect and sometimes clearly irrelevant indicators of program “quality.” With that said, word of the positive accomplishments of faculty and students can influence the
elements of these rating systems that relate to institutional reputation. And, regardless of the methodology, if someone thinks we’re doing a good job, I’ll take it! Thus, I am able to note here that, in the most recent edition (2012) of *U.S. News and World Report’s Best Graduate Schools*, more than a dozen UNC Charlotte graduate programs and colleges are now nationally ranked. Some highlights include:

- The College of Education was ranked as one of the “Best Graduate Schools in Education 2012” in *U.S. News and World Reports*. The graduate programs in counseling and special education are ranked in the top 20 in their disciplines in that same publication. The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index consistently identifies the special education faculty at UNC Charlotte in the top ten nationally in terms of scholarly productivity.

- The Belk College of Business part-time MBA program, which serves business professionals furthering their careers while maintaining employment, was ranked 59. This is the first time the part-time MBA has appeared on the list.

- UNC Charlotte’s School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services received two mentions – No. 22 for the nursing-anesthesia program, offered in conjunction with the Carolinas Medical Center, and No. 127 for Overall Nursing Schools. Other ranked programs included civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering; computer science; mathematics; social work; public affairs; nursing; healthcare management; and the biological sciences.

**Reaching into the Community**

One of UNC Charlotte’s historical commitments has been to extend the resources and talents of the University into the community we serve. That continues today and, in fact, our outreach efforts have been expanded in scope and significance.

For instance, with the establishment of the College of Arts + Architecture in 2008, the University has been better able to seize on new opportunities for collaborations and cultural exchange in disciplines including architecture, dance, theatre, music, art, and art history. In just under three years, under the leadership of Dean Ken Lamba, the College truly has become a conduit between the University and regional arts and cultural organizations. These partnerships have resulted in programs and exhibits that benefit not only our students but also the greater Charlotte community.

In April, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and in consultation with current dancers in the Martha Graham Company, Professors of Dance Kim Jones and Pamela Sofras produced a re-creation of the Martha Graham dance “Primitive Mysteries” (originally presented in 1931). The opening performance featured live flute music performed by Amy Blumenthal, a good friend of this institution and a member of the National Board of Directors of the Graham Company.

Similarly, we are honored to have been chosen as one of only two venues in the United States to host the “Violins of Hope” exhibit and performance. The exhibit features violins that were found almost totally destroyed in liberated concentration camps and empty
ghettos at the end of the Second World War. One by one, the violins have been brought back to life by the Master Luthier Amnon Weinstein and, after more than 60 years of silence, the violins will make their way around the world. Dr. David Russell, the Ann R. Belk Distinguished Professor of Music, has worked diligently to bring the violins to Charlotte in April 2012 for a unique performance. Look for more information about this unique event in the coming year.

Our collaborations also involve the more technical sides of the University. For instance, the College of Computing and Informatics is playing a key role in a public-private collaboration created to elevate Charlotte as a global model for environmental sustainability and measurable community results. The “Envision: Charlotte” initiative leverages technology, research, and industry-university partnerships to help achieve a significant reduction in energy consumption in the Center City. Our Center City facility will be one of the prominent partners in that effort.

Similarly, the College has partnered with the Bank of America on what is called the Applied Technology Program (ATP). The program is a career-oriented study and internship program that gives students hands-on experience working in the Bank under the supervision of Bank personnel. Students also complete a six-hour course using a curriculum jointly prepared and taught by Bank personnel and University faculty. The program is ready for expansion to include students from the Belk College of Business and, after only one year, has become a model for others to follow. Most of the students in the inaugural class of ATP have been offered permanent employment with the Bank.

University Advancement

Although we are heavily dependent upon state appropriations and revenue from tuition and fees to run the University on a day-to-day basis, private philanthropic support also enables us to keep elevating the quality of what we do. Earlier I noted the very significant multi-million dollar commitment of Duke Energy and Siemens for support of our EPIC initiative in the College of Engineering. But that doesn’t end the good news.

At the College of Education’s recent 40th anniversary gala, I was pleased to announce a $2,000,000 bequest made from the estate of Mr. Nicholas Goudes, Charlotte entrepreneur and philanthropist, to the Alma and Sharon Goudes Education Scholarship Fund. The bequest joins a previous $1,000,000 gift from Mr. Goudes to generate scholarships for UNC Charlotte students who are preparing for careers as teachers of mathematics or English. Since 1998, 76 students have been named Goudes Scholars at UNC Charlotte.

Two additional major gifts were announced at the 40th anniversary celebration. The Honorable Irwin Belk has made the lead gift to establish the $1,000,000 endowment which has created the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professorship in Urban Education. This new professorship will focus on the Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction and will provide leadership for the college’s commitment to successful teaching and learning in urban settings. The Cato Teaching Discovery Mural, established through a $300,000 gift from the Cato Corporation and its CEO, UNC Charlotte alumnus John Cato, will be an architectural mural in sculpted brick, to be installed next year outside the College of Education building. The mural will feature images of the power of teaching and will include elements of North Carolina’s
history and heritage, making it a destination of discovery for groups of school children and other visitors. Donors making gifts of $1,000 or more may identify an outstanding teacher whose name will be inscribed on the mural. Funds generated through the Cato Teaching Discovery Mural will establish an endowment to benefit the work of the college and its students.

**Intercollegiate Athletics**

As we march toward next fall, we have already had a very busy year in 2010-2011 on a variety of fronts related to our intercollegiate athletics program.

Of course, the initiation of football has captured a large majority of the media attention. Head Coach Brad Lambert, who was introduced in March, has hired the 49ers’ offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator, and a defensive positions coach.

Jeff Mullen will be the 49ers’ offensive coordinator. A 1990 graduate of Wittenburg University, Jeff previously was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at West Virginia University for three seasons (2008-2010). Jeff has 20 years of coaching experience that also includes stops at Wake Forest University, the University of Hawaii, and Ohio University.

Our defensive coordinator will be Bruce Tall, who has 25 years of college coaching experience. Most recently, Bruce served as the University of Michigan’s defensive line coach. Bruce also spent five bowl seasons as the safeties coach at West Virginia from 2003-2007. A 1982 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan, Bruce spent nine years as a coach at his alma mater, eventually becoming the school’s defensive coordinator. He also coached at Cornell, Northeastern, and Harvard.

James Adams, a 2006 graduate of Wake Forest who played there as a linebacker under Coach Lambert, was named as a defensive positions coach. James spent last season as an assistant defensive coach at Wofford College and coached for two years at Wake Forest University.

Although Coach Alan Major and our 49ers men’s basketball team had a disappointing season and have refocused on building a team for the future, the Charlotte 49ers women’s basketball team enjoyed its longest post-season run in school history and a record-setting season in 2010-11. The 49ers set a school record with 27 victories that carried them to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) Final Four. The team completed their season with a record of 27-10, regularly entertaining record-breaking crowds in Halton Arena.

To advance to the Final Four, Charlotte won a school-record four post-season tournament games, led by senior Shannon McCallum, who was named to the WNIT all-tournament team and scored over 20 points in consecutive WNIT victories over South Carolina, Florida, and Virginia. Shannon was named 2nd team all-Atlantic 10 and completed her career with over 1,500 career points. We wish her luck as she joins the WNBA’s Atlanta Dream this season.
Last month, following the unexpected departure of four-year coach Karen Aston to join the University of North Texas, we were thrilled to announce the hiring of Marquette’s assistant coach and former University of Iowa All-Big Ten standout, Cara Consuegra, as our new head women’s basketball coach. Cara has spent the past seven years as a member of the Marquette University coaching staff where she helped the Golden Eagles win 145 games and reach postseason play seven times. As a student-athlete at the University of Iowa, Cara enjoyed an impressive four-year playing career (1997-2001), followed by a year of professional basketball experience.

There are other great stories to report for Athletics, including the golf-team’s seventh straight trip to the NCAAs and the baseball team’s terrific season and participation in the NCAA tournament as well. We’ll have to save those for the fall edition of this newsletter.

So Long to a Friend

I always like to close this newsletter with a nice piece of news — this time the news is bittersweet. Professor of History Dan Morrill, UNC Charlotte’s longest-serving faculty member, has entered phased retirement. Dan was one of the original faculty members recruited by UNC Charlotte founder Miss Bonnie Cone and knew her quite well.

This summer, Dan will celebrate 48 years of teaching at UNC Charlotte. During his tenure, he has witnessed incredible changes to our campus and programs and within his profession. When he arrived at UNC Charlotte, there were fewer than 1,000 students and 100 professors; since then, the History Department has grown from 6 faculty to nearly 30.

Dan was trained in modern European history but, over the years, he has cultivated new passions. He is now filming, editing, and producing his own documentaries, including a recent one on the Mann Gulch fire of 1949, in which a young Charlotte man was killed while working as a smoke jumper. And Dan’s long-time leadership of Charlotte’s historic preservation efforts is the stuff of which legends are made.

Dan has fully participated in the life of the University, embracing and celebrating change and instilling a passion for history in thousands of students. When Dan was invited to speak at UNC Charlotte’s 60th anniversary celebration in 2006, he described the University’s founding as the seminal event in the history of Charlotte; of course, we know that we are here because of the tireless energy and persistence of Bonnie Cone and the dedication of our founding faculty. We will miss Dan and wish him well in retirement.

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

Go Niners!

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

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