Third season on the gridiron features more historic firsts

49ERS FOOTBALL
Energized for another great year

By the time you read this, another academic year will be in full swing. UNC Charlotte will have welcomed an all-time high enrollment of approximately 28,000 students. We’ll have kicked off our first season of Football Bowl Subdivision gridiron action in Conference USA, and we’ll be tailgating in a new pavilion near Jerry Richardson Stadium.

Visitors to campus this fall will notice some impressive infrastructure enhancements, some of which are still under way as I write this letter. Among those are three campus landmarks that are named for UNC Charlotte alumni. Those facilities memorialize the investments our alumni have made in volunteer leadership and financial support.

In late August, the University announced the naming of the Hunter (’88) and Stephanie Edwards (’86) Promenade at Jerry Richardson Stadium. The promenade, which houses the University box, media box, broadcast booths and coaches’ boxes, honors a generous gift from two proud UNC Charlotte alumni.

Then, in September, we announced a gift from David (’77) and Nancy Hauser (’77). David serves on the University’s Board of Trustees. In recognition of their gift, UNC Charlotte has named the new Hauser Alumni Pavilion, which is located on Cameron Boulevard, near the foot of Craver Road. The pavilion will be the home of alumni football tailgates and will be a base of celebrations for alumni and others for years to come.

Across campus, adjacent to the Storrs Building, partially flanked by trees and shrubs, you can glimpse the new Vickie and Gene Johnson Marching Band Center nearing completion. That facility is named for alumni Vickie (’71, ’82) and Gene (’73) Johnson, who have been the driving forces behind the creation of the Pride of Niner Nation marching band. Gene is a former chair of the Board of Trustees and currently chairs the UNC Charlotte Foundation Board.

The promenade, pavilion and marching band center are the first campus buildings named for UNC Charlotte alumni.

The rising of these structures is tangible evidence that, as UNC Charlotte matures as North Carolina’s urban research university, our alumni have emerged as benefactors and leaders in the campus’s governance structure. That is a very positive development for the University’s future.

Other evidence of continued growth peppers the campus. A towering construction crane near the front entrance to campus marks the construction site of Levine Hall. That facility will be completed next year and will house Levine Scholars, honors students and related offices and study space. Nearby, Holshouser Hall, a high-rise residence facility, has been renovated from its original Soviet Bloc style to a much more attractive, bricked exterior and fully updated interior. The other three adjacent high rises are scheduled for similar upgrades. Another new addition in the South Village area of campus, Laurel Hall, opened this fall.

Entering the campus is becoming more convenient as a result of infrastructure improvements. You can now use a new left turn lane from southbound East W.T. Harris Boulevard onto Alumni Way, and you’ll enjoy the convenience of a long-awaited stoplight at the intersection of University City Boulevard and an improved Cameron Boulevard, at our South Entrance. Driving on campus, you’ll see that a major roadway transformation is happening near the Halton-Wagner Tennis Complex. And as you drive along the northern portions of Cameron or approach campus from North Tryon Street, you’ll see dramatic construction and site preparation for the CATS light rail extension.

So when you visit campus, please take a moment to marvel at the roadway and light rail construction under way. And also know that equally impressive transformations are happening through financial gifts from people like you. We are mindful and grateful for those gifts as we all stake our claim to a greater UNC Charlotte.

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor
On the Cover:
The leap to the top tier of college football is the latest milestone for a program that has been rather busy with many breakthrough moments the past three years. Now, the football program is eager to measure itself against a full FBS schedule while giving Niner Nation a reason to cheer on Saturdays.
The Great Outdoors - in This Edition!

There’s no intentional theme at work in this particular magazine. But it occurred to me that several articles relate in some way to The Great Outdoors. For those of us who work most of our weekdays seated indoors, perhaps outdoor action bespeaks something about vitality and freedom.

Witness the following: our cover story on our 49ers joining the Football Bowl Subdivision and hitting the gridiron — a great autumn tradition; our sprawling feature on the University’s Mount Zion excavation in Jerusalem — digging, dusting, hauling rocks and discovering ancient worlds under the Middle Eastern sun; our profile of a student who biked across the United States to raise money and awareness around affordable housing — talk about a road trip!

Then there are stories about research to reintroduce native grasses to grace our campus and the work of a graduate student bolstering “highways” for butterflies.

Finally, even our Giving Profile focuses on the new Hauser Alumni Pavilion. Sure, it’s got a roof, but the atmosphere is like a picnic on the grounds.

All this just goes to show that the good work of a great university isn’t confined to classrooms and indoors labs. Forty-niners are staking their claim the world over, indoors and out.

Regards,

John D. Bland, Editor
Senior Director, Public Relations & News Services
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“Hunter and Stephanie Edwards have joined others that have helped make this transition a reality,” Director of Athletics Judy Rose stated. “We are so proud that both are alumni. Their gift of $2 million is the largest from alumni to directly support the football team’s transition to FBS.”

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UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY HELPS HOSPITALS IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH

UNC Charlotte and a major health care data company have launched new technology that will help hospitals organize and analyze patient statistics.

Community Focus is an automated, cloud-based software program developed by UNC Charlotte and Premier Inc. as part of a partnership started last year. It will help health systems manage patient data at the community level and make it easier for hospitals to isolate groups to find ways to improve public health.

Jim Studnicki, chair of health services research in the College of Health and Human Services, is the project’s lead developer. He said Community Focus eclipses current systems that rely on static, county-level lists. The program increases hospitals’ ability to analyze data, set priorities and spend money intelligently.

The Affordable Care Act requires nonprofit health systems to assess the needs of their communities three times per year to justify their tax-exempt status. Community Focus cleans up and automates what had been a manual collection process, allowing providers to focus on applying the data.

Studnicki said the software is a result of a collaboration that capitalizes on the strengths of each partner. UNC Charlotte brings research capability and expertise in population health and medical care, while Premier brings a national network of providers and robust technological resources.

Mercy Health, Ohio’s largest health system, and two other health systems have signed on to be early users of Community Focus.

The program comes as UNC Charlotte continues its push to lead on “big data,” also known as data analytics. According to Studnicki, the University has “all the essential elements” to be a trailblazer, but success will mean sustained cooperation across academic disciplines.

CAMPUS RECOGNIZED FOR VALUING ITS TREES

With UNC Charlotte’s campus footprint continuing to grow, the University is taking steps to ensure one of its most valued natural resources is being sustained — trees.

Beyond serving as a source of shade, trees help clean the air and add an aesthetically pleasing element to campus. UNC Charlotte’s commitment to effectively manage its tree population has led to it being named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The University joins more than 240 campuses nationwide — including eight from North Carolina — that have earned the Tree Campus USA designation by meeting five standards developed to promote healthy trees and student involvement.

As a Tree Campus USA designee, the University continues to manage its campus trees and strives to engage its student population to use service-learning opportunities in the community as well as on campus through the Earth Club, the Charlotte Green Initiative and the annual campus cleanup. For several years, the Facilities Management Department’s grounds and recycling units have conducted tree plantings as part of the cleanups.

While some of these initiatives have a broader sustainability emphasis, the focus on trees directly supports the University’s sustainability mission, noted Peter Franz, campus landscape architect. A commitment to trees can significantly reduce the amount of energy a campus or community needs to generate, he said.

The University’s latest tree-focused effort is the “Tree Replacement Project,” Franz continued. While planting new trees is important as the campus grows, maintaining and replacing aging trees is vital. The replacement program seeks to move or replace damaged trees with fresh ones that will provide great streetscapes and longer bloom times to help keep the campus vibrant and beautiful.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

Health care executive Susan DeVore and real estate developer Fred Klein have joined UNC Charlotte’s leadership as new members of the Board of Trustees. Gov. Pat McCrory appointed each to a four-year term that began July 1.

“Our Board of Trustees has always provided strong leadership, and UNC Charlotte is fortunate to attract individuals who are active and connected to the University and the community,” said Chancellor Philip L. Dubois. “Susan and Fred are both accomplished leaders in their respective industries, and my leadership team is looking forward to working with them on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.”

DeVore graduated from UNC Charlotte with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and earned a master’s degree in management from McGill University. She was named Queens University of Charlotte’s 2014 Business Woman of the Year for her work at Premier Inc., a health care improvement company she has led since 2009. The award recognizes leaders who exhibit “competence, character and commitment to the community.”

DeVore also served on the Health Care Management Advisory Board in the College of Health and Human Services at the University.

Klein is senior managing partner at Childress Klein Properties, one of the largest real estate firms in the Southeast. He is a member of the UNC Charlotte Foundation Board and co-chaired the $4.4 million campaign for the Center for Real Estate in the Belk College of Business.

He is a member of the Charlotte Region Commercial Board of Realtors and a member of the North Carolina Railroad Board of Directors.

Klein graduated from Lehigh University and earned a master’s degree in business from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.
FIRE SAFETY RESEARCHER LEADS STUDY TO REDUCE WILDFIRES

In the Lee College of Engineering, a researcher in the Fire Safety Engineering Technology program is leading a new multi-institutional study designed to reduce and mitigate wildfires.

Sponsored by the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), the $420,000 “Fire Ember Production from Wildland and Structural Fuels” project brings together researchers from seven institutions. UNC Charlotte’s portion of the project is $219,000 for laboratory testing research.

“This is a major research project sponsored by the JFSP to understand fire-ember production and characteristics from various wildland and structural fuels (construction materials) under realistic wildfire conditions,” said Aixi Zhou, the principal investigator on the project and associate professor of fire safety engineering technology at UNC Charlotte.

“We are fortunate to have an excellent team to undertake this task with unique expertise and research capabilities from each project partner,” he added.

The project will investigate fire-ember production in a range of environmental conditions through small, intermediate and full-scale laboratory experiments.

The resulting data will enable researchers to relate the fuel’s basic thermal degradation, geometrical structure and combustion properties to its ember production characteristics and investigate the link between commonly used environmental indices and ember production.

STUDY SHOWS HIGH HEELS LEAD TO ANKLE WEAKENING

A new study showing the negative effects of prolonged high-heel use confirms expert consensus on the footwear, according to a UNC Charlotte expert.

The study, published in the International Journal of Clinical Practice (IJCP), found that wearing high heels can strengthen the ankle initially but leads to weakening and instability over time.

“Initially when wearing heels, the muscles that surround the ankles have to continuously contract to keep you upright and walking,” Turner explained. “Over time you need less muscle contraction as the lower-leg muscles adapt to the changes in footwear. Once that occurs, less muscle contraction occurs. “With prolonged use you get muscle shortening in the back of the leg and muscle lengthening in the front of the leg. These changes in muscle length then can change muscle strength,” she explained.

The IJCP report looked at ankle strength and balance in women training to be flight attendants, collecting data for each class year, freshman through senior, to consider the effects of high heels over time.

“Changes at the ankle cause the muscles higher in the leg and back to lose efficiency and strength,” she said. “It also changes the load the bones in and around the knee have to absorb — which can ultimately lead to injury.”

The way to minimize injury risk, Turner said, is through combining stretching with strength and balance training.

ODIE THE TITAN ATTRACTS CROWD TO GREENHOUSE

Never underestimate the ability of a bizarre plant to bring thousands of visitors to campus. Odie, the rare Titan Arum — known for its size and odious smell — attracted a following at McMillan Greenhouse during its recent blooming event in July.

One of two Titan Arums the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens purchased from California in 2008, Odie is named for...
Odoardo Beccari, who discovered the Titan Arum in 1878. Scientists quickly realized that the largest inflorescence (stem and small flowers on it) in the world had been discovered, and 137 years later, the Titan Arum still holds that record.

Being able to see a Titan Arum, native to the jungles of Sumatra, bloom in captivity is a rare event. However, in the week before Odie opened, a Titan Arum at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in nearby Gaston County completed its initial bloom.

“We know of only six Titans across the United States that have bloomed this summer,” said Paula Gross of the Botanical Gardens. “Having two of those blooming at the same time within 30 miles of each other is a rare and fortunate coincidence. Stowe’s Morphius provided us the opportunity to harvest fresh pollen and attempt pollination of Odie.”

Gross and gardens staff believe they were successful in their pollination attempt. If so, Odie will produce fruit that will ripen during the next four to five months. The fruit will yield seeds that can be germinated and cultivated into new Titan Arums, thereby increasing diversity of these threatened plants and allowing for dissemination of them to other public gardens and universities, which would be a first for the Carolinas and UNC Charlotte.

**NSF GRANT SPOTLIGHTS COMMERCIALIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY CONCEPTS**

In a nationally competitive solicitation, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has selected UNC Charlotte as an NSF I-Corps Site.

The selection is based on the University’s proposal for a Ventureprise Charlotte Launch program, comes with a $300,000 grant and designates UNC Charlotte as one of 36 universities that are part of the NSF National Innovation Network.

“UNC Charlotte is the first university in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia selected for NSF I-Corps designation, which validates our emphasis on the importance of customer engagement for emerging entrepreneurs,” said Paul Wetenhall, president of Ventureprise and principal investigator for the NSF I-Corps Sites grant.

The Ventureprise Charlotte Launch program is designed to inspire teams whose technology concepts are likely candidates for commercialization. Teams will assess business opportunities for research and inventions developed primarily by University students and faculty.

The NSF grant will provide annual funding of $100,000 over three years, enabling up to 30 teams annually to complete the launch program, which is operated by Ventureprise Inc., the UNC Charlotte-affiliated venture development organization.

Each team will have at least three members that include an entrepreneurial lead, an academic lead and a business mentor. The entrepreneurial lead typically will be a student, while the academic lead will be a faculty member with relevant expertise. Business mentors will be chosen based upon their entrepreneurial and commercialization experience.

Teams will participate in a 12-week program that will provide first-hand knowledge on entrepreneurship and explore the transition of ideas, devices, processes or other intellectual activities into the marketplace. The program will use Lean Launchpad concepts and emphasize customer discovery through direct contact with prospective customers. NSF funding will support team needs such as prototype development and customer travel.

At the end of the program, teams will

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**DESMOND COOPER BECOMES 49ERS’ FIRST NFL PLAYER**

Former Charlotte 49ers defensive back Desmond Cooper has signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars and become the first UNC Charlotte football player to sign an NFL contract.

Cooper was a two-year starter for the 49ers’ young football program. He joined the team as a transfer from Wake Forest in 2012, as Charlotte was preparing for its inaugural season in 2013. He started at safety for the 49ers in 2013 and 2014, and he was a game captain in both of the 49ers season openers.

“I owe my accomplishments to Niner Nation — the coaches, trainers, teammates, fans — everyone involved,” Cooper said. “Without you guys trusting me to lead the team in the right way and supporting us through it all — without Niner Nation who knows if I would be here today. The road doesn’t stop here, but I can say we are on the map.”

A 6-foot-2-inch, 215-pound safety, Cooper earned 21 starts and played in all 22 games during the last two years. He had three career interceptions and nine pass break-ups.
be expected to make a commercial viability decision. Successful completion enables teams to be eligible for additional NSF opportunities, including the $50,000 NSF I-Corps Team program.

**ACCOUNTING PROFESSOR WINS INAUGURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The Charlotte business community has honored L. Howard Godfrey for his leadership and legacy. The UNC Charlotte accounting professor received the inaugural Academic Leadership Award, presented at the Charlotte Business Journal CFO of the Year Awards on July 22.

Godfrey joined the Belk College of Business in 1975. He was the first business faculty member to hold a Ph.D. in accounting, which he received from the University of Alabama. He was also the first certified public accountant (CPA) in Charlotte with a doctoral degree.

Godfrey has received multiple awards during his career. In 1994, he won the Accounting Educator Award from the N.C. Association of CPAs. In 2011, he received the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, and in 2012, was presented the UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence.

Earlier this year, Godfrey received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association.

**STUDENT TENOR WINS NATIONAL SINGING CONTEST**

Music student Hunter Aldridge won first place in the Upper College Men’s Division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) National Student Auditions on July 7.

Aldridge is a tenor who studies with Brian Arreola, assistant professor of voice and director of the Music Department’s opera workshop program.

The competition occurred at UNC Greensboro during the NATS national conference, where more than 150 students competed in 12 categories. Aldridge triumphed through five rounds of judging against other male college voice majors his age.

Nationally significant voice teachers and pedagogues judged the final round. His award included a cash prize.

Tyrez Dabbs, also a student of Arreola’s, competed in the national audition after winning first place in the Lower College Men’s Division at the Mid-Atlantic NATS Conference. Although Dabbs did not progress beyond the semifinals in Greensboro, he did exceptionally well, having had just one year of voice lessons.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION LITERACY FACULTY RANKED AMONG NATION’S BEST**

The College of Education’s literacy professors are among the most prolific scholars in the country in their field, according to a recent study.

Published in the journal Reading Psychology, the article looked at the productivity of literacy faculty nationwide from 2006 to 2012. The rankings were based on the number of times professors appeared in nine prominent research journals, adjusted for the size of the literacy faculty at the particular college.

UNC Charlotte came in 21st in the country, besting the likes of the University of Tennessee and the University of South Carolina and ranking just behind Vanderbilt and the University of Florida.

**TOP 40 ACADEMY MEMBERS CREATE FACULTY GUIDEBOOK**

Teaching large-enrollment courses can be a challenge for faculty members. Through the efforts of the Top 40 Academy, coordinated by the Center for Teaching and Learning, instructors have a new resource to promote students’ achievement.

“Students’ Pathway to Success: A Faculty Guide” contains a wealth of information aimed at promoting engaging, challenging and interactive conditions on how to structure gateway courses to maximize learning outcomes for undergraduate students, said Garvey Pyke, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Thirty-four faculty members representing the University’s colleges comprised the Top 40 Academy; the group spent months conducting research on best practices, combined with their own personal knowledge and experience, to author the faculty guide. Seven multidisciplinary teams worked collaboratively to write the guide’s chapters.
EDUCATION STUDENTS CREATE SCRABBLE-RELATED WEB RESOURCES

Making learning fun is a goal for many educators, and resources developed by two College of Education students address that aim.

Elementary education major Katrina Buchanan and child and family development major Kierra Boyd built a set of online resources to supplement popular Scrabble Clubs at 12 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Communities in Schools (CIS) of Charlotte-Mecklenburg launched the program last year. “Scrabble in Schools” pairs students to play the board game for 40 minutes a week. CIS strives to engage students in an activity they enjoy while building important language and math skills.

This summer, Buchanan and Boyd put together a website with vocabulary tips and Scrabble strategies for students and evaluation tools for teachers. The site is meant to “provide an assessment with meaningful results for teachers and coordinators while still keeping the fun in it for the students,” Buchanan said.

Boyd echoed Buchanan’s thoughts, saying she was drawn to the program to “help young children learn and grow through something fun.”

The pair’s work was made possible through the Charlotte Community Scholars program, a new initiative that pays for students to spend the summer on community-based research projects.

The UNC Charlotte Center for Adolescent Literacies supported the students’ efforts. Bruce Taylor, the center’s director, said though College of Education students have many opportunities to be involved in schools, the community scholars program “takes that kind of involvement to a new level.

“It’s clear that these students have a passion for education and are already thinking about their work beyond graduation,” he said. “They understand the impact that teaching and programs that foster community support can have on students.”

The website devised by Buchanan and Boyd makes it easier for CIS site supervisors at individual schools to measure and standardize the program, which will help the organization improve Scrabble in Schools over time.

“Dr. Taylor, Kierra and Katrina’s work has really revamped the whole focus of the initiative,” said Frederico Rios, CIS director. “It answers so many of our implementation questions and helps us to make the most of our program by standardizing it and giving our staff the tools they need to be successful.”

HEADS UP! WHAT RESEARCH SAYS ABOUT SOCCER CONCUSSIONS

As soccer’s popularity grows nationwide, the safety of heading the ball is a topic of rising interest. A new study has provided some answers, but a UNC Charlotte expert warns that questions still remain.

Published in JAMA Pediatrics, the study evaluated the causes of concussions in a large sample of high school soccer players.

Researchers found that while attempting a header carries a risk of concussion, it is collisions with other players, not head-to-ball contact, that usually cause the damage. Heading is the most common soccer-specific activity responsible for concussions, at around 25 percent, but player-to-player contact within the context of heading is most responsible for concussions, occurring in about 70 percent of cases.

Bret Wood, clinical coordinator of the UNC Charlotte athletic training program, said this finding doesn’t surprise him.

The greatest concern is not that individual headers pose a high risk of injury, but that hundreds of contacts between a person’s head and a soccer ball over a multi-year career could be dangerous, many say.

Wood said the long-term consequences of “non-concussive head trauma” are not yet fully understood but stopped short of saying the sport has a serious issue.

Studies on the effects of repetitive head impacts from striking a soccer ball have been mixed, leading another recent publication to conclude, “studies that have directly assessed changes in cognition related to heading a soccer ball have failed to establish any relationship between heading and neurocognitive changes.”

UNC CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY HOME TO PLENSA SCULPTURE

Queen’s Table dedicated the sculpture “Ainsa III” by artist Jaume Plensa at UNC Charlotte Center City on Sept. 15.

Created in Barcelona, Spain, by the world-renowned artist, the sculpture was commissioned especially for the site by Queen’s Table, an anonymous group that previously has donated six different sculptures to Charlotte’s public spaces during the past 30 years.

Embodying Plensa’s idea of a universal language, “Ainsa III” is made of die-cut stainless steel letters from nine alphabets around the world, each letter was selected by the artist for its aesthetic beauty. The letters were hand-assembled to form the silhouette of a seated figure in continuous flow. The stone base of “Ainsa III” is from the town of Ainsa near the Spanish Pyrenees, a place the artist often visits.

Located on a newly renovated plaza of UNC Charlotte Center City, the sculpture site was chosen for its high visibility and adjacency...
to the forthcoming First Ward Park.

Additionally, the College of Arts + Architecture and UNC Charlotte Center City hosted a lecture by the acclaimed artist. Plensa discussed the trajectory of his career as a sculptor; his work can be seen around the world, including London, Paris, Chicago, Madrid, Dubai, Singapore, Jerusalem, Shanghai, Toronto and Miami.

Plensa has received numerous awards for his art, including the Velasquez Prize in 2014, bestowed by the King and Queen of Spain to recognize him as the most important contemporary artist in Spain, credited with expanding the traditional form of figural sculpture.

UNC CHARLOTTE RANKS HIGH IN PRODUCTION OF FORTUNE 500 CEOs

UNC Charlotte shares impressive company in a new listing from U.S. News and World Report. The story focuses on the educational background of CEOs from the top 100 companies on this year’s Fortune 500 list, which ranks companies by revenue.

Only a handful of colleges can claim multiple CEOs on the list, including UNC Charlotte with two. No institution had more than three.

Of the 12 institutions with multiple CEOs, the Ivy League schools of Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania make up half. UNC Charlotte has two alums leading top 100 companies: Joseph Swedish and Robert Niblock.

Swedish earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1972. He has been at the helm of Anthem Inc., the nation’s second-largest health insurer, since 2013. Anthem is ranked No. 38 on this year’s Fortune 500 list.

Niblock earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1984. He has led Lowe’s, one of the nation’s largest home-improvement companies, since 2005. Lowe’s came in at No. 50 on the list.

NEW DIRECTOR SEEKS TO BUILD PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH GARDENS

As the new director of the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens, Jeff Gillman sees his mission as engaging the public with the gardens and nature.

Gillman assumed his role Aug. 1, following in the footsteps of Larry Mellichamp, who retired at the end of 2014 after almost four decades with the gardens and UNC Charlotte.

Gillman and his family moved to Charlotte from Minnesota in 2013 to be closer to extended family. He most recently was an instructor in the Department of Horticulture Technology at Central Piedmont Community College. Prior to that, he was an associate professor in the Department of Horticulture Science at the University of Minnesota. His work focused on urban and consumer horticulture, particularly sharing research information with the public.


“This type of work got me more engaged with the public and led to a position as contributing editor to Fine Gardening magazine,” Gillman said. “It led to monthly newspaper columns for the Star Tribune newspaper in Minnesota and a lot of public engagement across the country. I’ve had the opportunity to speak in a variety of venues, including the two largest flower shows in the United States and at Epcot in Orlando.”

Gillman also has appeared on “The Martha Stewart Show” to discuss garden remedies and was on “Growing a Greener World” twice.

He is a founding member of “The Garden Professors”— a scholarly group with members throughout the United States who distribute sound, research-based information through its Facebook site and blog.

Gillman has taught public certificate programs, master gardener classes and programs on plant propagation and pruning and on organic pest control. He has written a training book for practitioners entitled “Pruning Young Elms,” had 22 papers in refereed journals and penned chapters in two books. He has a master’s degree in entomology and a doctorate in horticulture from the University of Georgia.

www.UNCC.edu
The 49ers’ upstart football program has been defined by a series of firsts.
2015 brings another big wave: home games under the lights, four recruiting classes, a marching band. And most important of all — Charlotte makes its debut in Conference USA as a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) member.

The first game. The first touchdown. The first win. All are in the rearview mirror; the 49ers are moving full speed ahead.

“We’ve had a lot of firsts in starting this program, but this is probably the biggest,” said head coach Brad Lambert. “Having to play 11 FBS games — our guys have worked extremely hard and are working extremely hard now. We’re excited to get started.”

This leap to the top tier of college football was set in motion years ago before the 49ers held even their first practice. Conference USA extended an invitation on May 4, 2012. The 49ers had hired head coach Brad Lambert and assembled the start of his staff. They also had neared completion of Jerry Richardson Stadium and signed the program’s first recruiting class.

They hadn’t played a single game, held a single practice or made a single tackle. Yet, they were on the fast track to big-time football — spending a required two years as an independent in the Football Championship Subdivision before stepping up to the largest stage in 2015.

VETERAN SLANT

The 49ers head into Conference USA play with a roster that includes 16 returning starters as well as a bevy of transfers who have given the first-year FBS program a decidedly veteran slant.

“That was our plan once the decision was made to move to Conference USA and the FBS,” Lambert said prior to the season. “Our plan was to put age on our team. We felt like to make the move, we would need the age to be competitive. It bodes well for us as we move into Conference USA. We haven’t played an FBS schedule yet, but we have guys who’ve played two years and who’ve got age on them. That was the goal.”
49ERS SPORT NEW COACHES ON DEFENSE

The 49ers have added Matt Wallerstedt as defensive coordinator and promoted Aaron Curry to defensive line coach for the 2015 season.

A former teammate of head coach Brad Lambert’s at Kansas State, Wallerstedt brings more than 20 years of coaching experience to the 49ers, including eight seasons as a defensive coordinator. An honorable mention All-American at Kansas State, Wallerstedt led the Wildcats in tackles in his final two seasons. His coaching career includes a six-year stint at Wyoming, as well as stops at Kansas State, Air Force, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Louisiana-Lafayette, where he was either defensive coordinator or a linebacker coach.

Curry, a former NFL star who played for Lambert at Wake Forest, was brought on the coaching staff as a graduate assistant on defense in March 2014 and served as a strength and conditioning intern during the inaugural season in 2013.

The 2008 Butkus Award Winner and the fourth pick in the 2009 NFL Draft, Curry played four seasons in the NFL with the Seattle Seahawks and Oakland Raiders. A two-star recruit out of Fayetteville’s E.E. Smith High School, he became a first-team All-America selection at Wake Forest and won the Butkus Award as the nation’s top linebacker. He was a member of Wake’s 2006 ACC title team and played in the 2006 Orange Bowl, 2007 Meineke Car Care Bowl and 2008 EagleBank Bowl.

In other coaching moves this season, the 49ers brought Mark Hogan on the staff as a graduate assistant on defense and Louis Swaba as a graduate assistant on offense. Hogan always will be remembered for scoring the 49ers’ first touchdown, when he returned an interception just 46 seconds into the inaugural game against Campbell two years ago.

The 16 returnees have started an average of 16 games during the first two seasons, with six players making at least 20 of the possible 22 starts.

The four returning starters on the offensive line — which include Danny Book and Jamal Covington, who have started every game over the first two years — boasts 74 starts. The defensive line, with every-game starter Larry Oganjobi, has 58 starts under its cumulative belt.

A pair of 1,000-yard performers, running back Kalif Phillips and receiver Austin Duke, lead the offensive attack, while safety Branden Dozier, the 2014 Defensive MVP, highlights the defensive playmakers.

Newcomers expected to make an impact include linebackers Desmond Floyd (Wake Forest), defensive back Anthony Covington (Appalachian State) and running back Garrison Duncan (Delaware State).

The result is a roster with an 11-man senior class with a presence in virtually every position, a hugely experienced junior class and two additional classes ready to step into the fray.

‘BIGGEST CHALLENGE’

“We’ve said from the start, the biggest challenge has been balancing the roster,” Lambert noted. “As you looked forward in 2012 and 2013 to 2015 and 2016 — how do we balance our roster so it’s somewhat spaced out? That’s been the biggest challenge — taking the right transfers, making decisions in ’13 and ’14 to redshirt guys when they all could have played. We had to make some tough decisions to help us in ’15 and ’16 and moving forward to balance the roster.”

The decisions are made. Charlotte now faces bigger, stronger and faster FBS opponents on a regular basis — including ones in Conference USA.

“We are going into uncharted waters,” Lambert said. “Who knows what’s going to happen — but I know our guys will be prepared. They’re a really, really good group

TELEVISION PACKAGE EXTENSIVE

Most UNC Charlotte football games this fall are available to audiences across the nation as part of an extensive television package.

Four games were selected for national broadcast by ESPNU, CBS Sports Network and FOX networks (two games). The American Sports Network (ASN), a Conference USA television partner that distributes games throughout the country, selected six games, three home and three away. All six home games are scheduled to be aired.

The 49ers host Temple, Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. in a nonconference game televised by CBS Sports Network.

Conference games against Marshall Oct. 31 and UTSA Nov. 14 will be televised on a to-be-determined FOX network, with games times yet to be set.

ASN produced the home opener against Presbyterian, Saturday, Sept. 12; it will carry the first conference home game against Florida Atlantic, Saturday, Sept. 26; and the homecoming game against Southern Miss on Saturday, Oct. 24. ASN also will broadcast road games at Old Dominion, Florida International and Rice.

2015 49ers Football TV Schedule

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<th>September</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 19</td>
<td>at Middle Tennessee*</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 26</td>
<td>FLORIDA ATLANTIC*</td>
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<th>October</th>
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<td>Fri. 2</td>
<td>TEMPLE CBSSN</td>
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<td>Sat. 10</td>
<td>(BYE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 17</td>
<td>at Old Dominion*</td>
<td>ASN 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 24</td>
<td>SOUTHERN MISS* (HC)</td>
<td>ASN noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 31</td>
<td>MARSHALL* FOX</td>
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<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 7</td>
<td>at Florida International*</td>
<td>ASN noon</td>
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<td>Sat. 14</td>
<td>UTSA* FOX</td>
<td>TBA (TBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 21</td>
<td>at Kentucky</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 28</td>
<td>at Rice* ASN</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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Continued from p. 11
of guys. They're close. We've got a good mixture of age. I'm just excited to get started.

“Once Jan. 1 hit, we were just like everybody else with full scholarships, and everything’s operating on a normal level,” he recalled. “For the last four years, everything has been not normal from a football standpoint — we’ve been operating in a different realm, so to speak. That's the thing I was looking forward to the most going into the season. We're in a league playing for a league championship. All those things you always want to do. Going out and proving ourselves and, hey, we belong in FBS football. This is a good challenge for our team, and we're looking forward to that opportunity.”

Tom Whitestone is associate athletic director for media relations.

GETTING TO KNOW CONFERENCE USA

Conference USA (C-USA) is one of 10 NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) leagues in the country. The league has two divisions.

The 49ers are competing in the East Division along with Florida International (FIU), Florida Atlantic, Marshall, Middle Tennessee, Old Dominion and Western Kentucky. The West Division consists of Louisiana Tech, North Texas, Rice, Southern Miss, UTEP and UTSA.

The 49ers’ eight-game conference schedule includes five East Division foes (FIU, Florida Atlantic, Marshall, Middle Tennessee and Old Dominion) and three West Division opponents (Rice, Southern Miss and UTSA).

Marshall won the 2014 C-USA Championship, 26-23, against Louisiana Tech and ended the season ranked No. 22 in the USA Today Coaches’ Poll and No. 23 in the Associated Press poll. Louisiana Tech, Rice, Western Kentucky, Marshall and UTEP all accepted bowl bids in 2014. C-USA went 4-1 in the five bowl games and owns a 15-6 record in bowl games during the last four years.

C-USA Quick Facts

• Eighty-eight teams have earned bowl bids.
• Teams are eligible for the College Football Playoffs.
• The league has 10 bowl affiliations through the 2019 season, with a minimum of five berths annually.
• The conference’s primary bowl tie-ins are: the Arizona Bowl, Boca Raton Bowl, Gildan New Mexico Bowl, Hawaii Bowl, Miami Beach Bowl, Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, St. Petersburg Bowl and Zaxby’s Heart of Dallas Bowl. There is also a secondary arrangement with the Independence Bowl.

Loving Spirit, Spectacular Impact

49ers mourn Offensive Line Coach Phil Ratliff

Charlotte 49ers offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator Phil Ratliff died in a Hickory, N.C., hospital on Aug. 9, approximately a week after suffering a “cardiac event.”

Ratliff was entering his fourth season with the 49ers. He joined the program in January 2012 as Charlotte welcomed its first recruiting class, which practiced through a redshirt season in preparation for the inaugural campaign in 2013.

Ratliff was on the sidelines for the 49ers in 2013 and 2014 and helped Charlotte prepare for the 2015 season as the 49ers make their debut in the Football Bowl Subdivision as a member of Conference USA.

He is remembered for his loving spirit, spectacular impact on others and positive outlook on life.

Ratliff and his wife, Jenni, have two children, Haley and Dylan.

“He was an infectious guy. Everybody he came in contact with — high school coaches, prospects, players — everybody loved the guy,” said 49ers head coach Brad Lambert, who was on the coaching staff at Marshall when Ratliff played for the Thundering Herd from 1989-92.

“He’s the kind of husband and father that you want in your program,” Lambert continued, “and he taught everyone around here how to love: to love big and to build relationships on a daily basis.”

Director of Athletics Judy Rose said, “Phil was one of those people that made everyone feel good even on a bad day. He’s a better man because of Coach Ratliff.”

“It’s massive,” Lambert said of Ratliff’s influence. “I’m just really glad to have been a part of his life. Our team knows how he went about it every day, and that’s what we’re going to try to do to honor him: come every day with the intensity he came with, the positivity he came with and the impact on other people’s lives that he came with. That’s what he left us, and that’s what we’ve got to push forward with. He taught us how to love people and love each other, and he was so positive every day.”

Donations may be made to the Phil Ratliff Memorial Fund to assist the family, with checks payable to the UNC Charlotte Athletic Foundation, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, N.C., 28223, or call 704-687-4950.
**SIX SIGNEES BOOST MEN’S BASKETBALL**

Head coach Mark Price and his staff signed six players after being hired last spring. Among the signees are two prep stars, a seven-footer from Sweden (Lukas Bergang) and two junior college standouts, including junior college All-American Anthony Vanhook.

Charlotte will compete in the early season in the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament in the Bahamas, where the team opens play against Syracuse. Davidson comes to Halton Arena in early December, while the 49ers will host Georgetown at Time Warner Cable Arena just before the Christmas break.

**WOMEN’S B-BALL INKS STAR FROM SPAIN**

In the most recent signee class for women’s basketball, head coach Cara Consuegra and her staff inked four players, including Laia Raventós, who led Spain to the FIBA U18 European Championship in August, less than a month after competing at the U19 World Championship.

Two players from North Carolina (Raleigh’s Grace Hunter and Albemarle’s Jaida Robinson) are also signees. Clemson transfer Nyilah Jamison-Myers joined the roster, too.

The 49ers’ 14-game home schedule includes a Nov. 23 contest with Miami (Florida) as well as the team’s first three Conference USA games in early January.

**MEN’S SOCCER FAVORED TO WIN LEAGUE**

Charlotte enters 2015 ranked as the Conference USA favorite and at No. 17 in the preseason National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll.

The 49ers feature the league’s preseason offensive player of the year Kyle Parker, along with fellow preseason all-conference choices Biko Bradnock-Brennan and Brandt Bronico. Both Bronico and Parker were selected to the prestigious Missouri Athletic Club’s Hermann Trophy watch list.

Charlotte opened its season at No. 2 Virginia. Games against Old Dominion, Clemson, South Carolina and Kentucky highlight the home slate.

**NEW COACH LEADS VOLLEYBALL**

New head coach Karen Weatherington has assembled a squad featuring five newcomers to go along with 10 returning letter winners. Returnees include setter Britney Leigh Held.

Among schedule highlights, the 49ers hosted the Charlotte Invitational Aug. 28-29 at Halton Arena. The annual Dig Pink match is slated for Oct. 16 against preseason Conference USA favorite Western Kentucky. In connection with Dig Pink, the 49ers will host activities throughout October to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research. Activities culminate with the Dig Pink match — complete with pink uniforms worn by the team. Last year the team raised more than $6,000 for the cause.

The 49ers will Dig Pink on Oct. 16.
Jerusalem, rich in culture, history and historical conflict, is the spiritual capital of the Western world. Since 2007, a large, complex archaeological excavation has been conducted there under the direction of UNC Charlotte, the only non-Israeli university currently authorized to be digging in the holy city. Like Jerusalem, it is an archaeological investigation perhaps unlike any other.

The site is located at the city’s Mount Zion, near the Zion Gate and under the Old City Wall. It is a project envisioned and directed by UNC Charlotte Visiting Professor of History Shimon Gibson, a widely respected archaeologist on the Middle East, and Professor of Religious Studies James Tabor, an authority on the area’s religious history.

The dig has about 80 volunteer participants who work two-week shifts for a month during the summer. Most years, 15 to 20 UNC Charlotte students participate through an education-abroad program, though the project has become so popular in recent years that it is now drawing participants from around the world, with a mixture of ages and backgrounds, from students to retirees.

Five days a week, the crew rises well...
before dawn, meeting at 5 a.m. to trudge through the narrow streets of the ancient city to the site. They pass through Zion Gate; its stones are still pockmarked by bullet holes from when the Arabs and Israelis battled for control of the city in the 1967 Six-Day War.

It’s a place that resonates with all kinds of history. Within a stone’s throw of the dig is the traditional tomb of David, hero of the Bible and the city’s great king, and the room where Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Last Supper before the passion and crucifixion. Also close are the ruins of Byzantine emperor Justinian’s great Nea Ekklesia church as well as a modern apartment rented by David Koresh before he went to Texas to tragically lead the Branch Davidian sect.

“In Jerusalem, you can still touch stones that Jesus certainly walked upon and some of the structures and wall he knew,” Tabor mused one morning on the walk this summer. “Of course, most of these are now buried several meters beneath the streets,” he noted, pointing to a section of the Roman-era city wall that had been excavated below the roadway.

With so much big history all around, it is easy to see why an opportunity to dig down into the ground and touch it — to uncover original stones and artifacts once built and touched by people involved in major historical
events — can be irresistible, and why so many volunteers gladly put up with the dust, the heat and the hard, hard work.

The diggers come down the hillside from Zion Gate every morning as the sun first starts peeking golden over the spires on the Mount of Olives and the excavation gates are unlocked. They walk with a kind of spring in their step that has nothing to do with the strong Turkish coffee they have been drinking. These folks include UNC Charlotte students and alumni, professional archaeologists and retirees, donors and successful business people, dig novices and archaeology veterans. Everyone is enthusiastic because the dig is an adventure they are sharing.

TANTALIZING HISTORICAL AREA

At the project’s start, no one really knew what the excavation would find. When Gibson and Tabor received a license to excavate from the Israeli Antiquities Authority in 2000, they began to get an inkling of the potential. But full-scale operations did not begin until 2007 because of political tensions and unrest in the city.

Information about the area was sketchy but tantalizing. The site was a vacant strip of land that a renowned Israeli historian and archaeologist named Magen Broshi had probed in the 1970s as part of a large series of digs to survey what might lie buried just beyond the city’s 16th-century Turkish walls. Broshi’s findings were unpublicized, but Gibson had observed the excavations as a child and remembered that some ruins of buildings had been partially uncovered.

Though the site’s contents were unknown, Gibson and Tabor suspected the site might contain something important. “It may look like a vacant out-of-the-way spot in our time, but Jerusalem and its walls have shifted around over the millennia,” noted Tabor. “Back in the time of Herod, this was at the center of things.”

Through the ages, many important buildings had been close by. The palace of the Jewish high priest Caïphas (or of Annas, his father-in-law) was reported to be there in the time of Jesus. Byzantine emperor Justinian’s huge cathedral, Nea Ekklesia, was on the hillside above in the sixth century, and a massive Ayyubid Tower, built by Saladin’s nephew, was there in the 13th century.

Further, the site was on a fairly steep slope immediately below the once destroyed and later rebuilt city wall, which meant that a lot of detritus was likely to have fallen (or been pushed) from above, burying abandoned buildings during periods of destruction or construction. Unlike most places in the old city, original structures

“Back in the time of Herod, this was at the center of things.”

Here is the 2015 Mount Zion excavation site as seen from Jerusalem’s city wall.
were first-century homes abruptly abandoned when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70 because of a Jewish revolt. “The ruined field of first-century houses in our area remained there intact up until the beginning of the Byzantine period (early fourth century),” Gibson said. “When the Byzantine inhabitants built there, they leveled things off a bit, but they used the same plan of the older houses, building their walls on top of the older walls.”

Sixth-century Byzantine emperor Justinian contributed another layer of preservation when he completed the construction of Nea Ekklesia up the hillside from the site. Construction involved excavation of enormous underground reservoirs, and workers dumped excavation fill downhill, burying the more recent Byzantine construction.

“The area got submerged,” Gibson said. “The early Byzantine reconstruction of these two-story, early Roman houses then got buried under rubble and soil fills. Then they established new buildings above it. That’s why we found an unusually well-preserved set of stratigraphic levels.”

The situation is even more complex than that because the area is a hillside. Some first-century structures appear to be at a higher level than some structures that are clearly Byzantine and built centuries later. “In many places, reverse stratigraphy is going on,” Gibson noted. “There is a hodgepodge of levels.” The site is a puzzle of historical levels, reflecting not only a complex history but complex topography and changes to the landscape.

**EXAMINING EACH SHOVELFUL**

Buried in it all is an amazing cultural story that must be sifted out and carefully analyzed, yard by yard. Doing this is an amazing amount of hot, dusty work. Volunteer staffers carefully excavate everything by hand, examining each shovelful for artifacts. They put rocks and soil in buckets to be carried out of the holes by hand to “ballots,” fabric bags that hold about a ton of material apiece.

“We measure our diggers by how many ballots they remove,” Tabor said. “It’s usually about 30 a day.” If anything significant is found, the digging slows and the ground is excavated centimeter by centimeter. Every 10 centimeters or so, digging stops, workers take pictures and samples for analysis and run metal detectors across the spot to locate small artifacts that might be hiding in the soil.

In a section excavated this summer by a team under the supervision of UNC Charlotte Levine Scholar alum Kevin Caldwell (known affectionately to his older crew as “Rat Boss”), the work was particularly slow and careful. The first layers of Caldwell’s area were mainly fill but soon the soil transitioned to discrete, undisturbed layers, which might have been missed if digging had not been extremely careful. A few more centimeters down, the diggers uncovered fish bones, clamshells and fish hooks. Lots of them.

The significant find may support theories other archaeologists have made about the area. A bit after Saladin liberated the city from the Crusaders in the 12th century, there may have been a gate in this section of the city wall, archaeologists think, and perhaps a fish market outside the gate — hence the bones, hooks and clamshells, all of which would have come with imported fish. The site also has yielded some large stones that may be remnants of this fabled gate.

In layers below the fish items, the excavators have found evidence of Crusaders — diverse artifacts, pig bones (a dead giveaway the inhabitants were not Muslim), a glass earring, distinctive medieval horseshoe nails from northern France and some other odd little bits of metal. Site field director Rafi Lewis identified several of metal pieces as tongues of belt buckles.

“These are classic conflict artifacts,” Lewis noted. “When people fight, they grapple with each other and pull on sword belts and the belt metal snaps off.” The tiny rusted pieces may be an archaeological record of a famous battle between the occupying Crusaders and the army of Saladin.

Going down by centimeters, the site is packed with physical evidence of Jerusalem’s robust history. “We have found material on this site from every historical period from the Herodian Roman through the Byzantine, from the Umayyads through the Crusaders, from the Ayyubids through the Ottomans,” Gibson noted. Though there are not plans to dig deeper, the team has even found older material from the late Iron Age.

Gibson and Tabor predict at least two more seasons of digging at Mount Zion. With significant discoveries in the area in addition to their own, they hope the location will some day be turned into an archaeological park, a place where the site’s unique features offer people a “walk through history.” Stay tuned!

James Hathaway is a research communications specialist and science writer at UNC Charlotte.
Stepping into the Spotlight

Charlotte's new police chief sees UNC Charlotte as big part of his success

By Paul Nowell
UNC Charlotte alumnus Kerr Putney had precious little time to celebrate when he was named police chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD).

Putney, who earned a bachelor’s degree in criminology in 1992 from the University, was promoted to chief in early July, less than a month before the start of the high-profile trial of one of his officers, Randall Kerrick.

Kerrick was charged in the 2013 shooting death of Jonathan Ferrell, 24, who authorities said was unarmed. He had wrecked his car after giving a friend a late-night ride home. His trial began amid a national debate on police use of force, particularly against African-Americans. In the Charlotte case, the police officer is white and the victim was black.

PREPARING FOR THE TRIAL

For Putney, it meant he was thrust into the position of preparing for the worst-case scenario, even though Charlotte has not seen violent demonstrations following recent cases in cities such as Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore.

It’s not as if he came into this challenge without any knowledge and experience. A 23-year veteran of the CMPD,

PUTNEY WORKED CLOSER WITH FORMER CHIEF RODNEY MONROE ON PREPARATIONS TO MANAGE PROTESTS AT THE 2012 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION. THERE WERE NO MAJOR INCIDENTS DURING THE CONVENTION.

“We are getting ready,” Putney said in an interview in mid-July shortly before the trial opened. “What a lot of people might not know is that I have an exceptional team around me, and we are fully prepared.”

He also credited the community for working along with police to quell any violence. “The caliber of the people of Charlotte and (of) my folks on the police force is incredible,” he said. “They have worked very hard to do great things.”

PROUD 49ER

Very much a proud 49er who regularly comes to campus to speak to criminology classes and to attend an occasional football game, Putney said he made a smart decision when he decided to attend UNC Charlotte. And it’s not as if he didn’t have other viable opportunities. He also was accepted at Wake Forest University.

“I picked up knowledge and skills I use to this day,” he said about his academic experience at UNC Charlotte. “I learned how to do research and (about) a number of cutting-edge police methods.”

One of his favorite professors was the late Charles Dean, a longtime criminology professor and director of the University’s Office of Justice Research. Dean conducted research and published on program evaluation, rape, spousal abuse, risk/recidivism models and other topics.

“I think I minored in Charles Dean,” Putney said. “I think I took every course he taught here.”

Since joining CMPD in 1992, Putney has held a variety of patrol, training and specialized assignments at various ranks within the organization. He was promoted to deputy chief in 2007.

Prior to his promotion to chief, he managed CMPD’s administrative services group. He also supervised the department’s bureaus for computer technology services, training and communications. In 2008, he earned his master’s degree in criminology from East Carolina University.

“One of the things I learned in class at UNC Charlotte is something that is very important for a police officer — how to size someone up,” he said. “It takes a well-rounded person to be an effective police officer.

“And you come to learn that this work is much bigger than yourself,” he added. “People come to you when they really need you, or else they would not be looking for a police officer. They would be going to someone else.”

“I think I minored in Charles Dean. I think I took every course he taught here.”

Paul Nowell is media relations manager at UNC Charlotte.
Niners Come
The UNC Charlotte “Pride of Niner Nation” Marching Band is ready for its inaugural season! The band made its debut on Aug. 22 at a special preview for family and donors and will perform pre-game and halftime shows at all Charlotte 49ers home football games this fall. The inaugural “Pride of Niner Nation” is made up of 144 students, representing every college at UNC Charlotte. While most of them are traditional undergraduate students – and 86 are freshmen – there are non-traditional students, as well, including a doctoral candidate in psychology and a combat veteran who plays sousaphone.

Marching Home
On the Road for Affordable Housing

Scholarship student is passionate about real estate – a biking adventure

By Kirsten Khire • Photos By Michael Maynard

This fall, Michael Maynard is a Master of Science in Real Estate student with a full scholarship at UNC Charlotte. This summer, he explored urban planning from coast to coast – on his bike.

Maynard participated in Bike and Build, a national group that organizes cross-country bicycle trips to benefit affordable housing groups.

Along with 28 others, Maynard biked 3,607 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 70 days from May to July, stopping every few days to frame, paint or roof homes for families across the country. He also raised $5,725 for affordable housing, 127 percent of his fundraising goal.

FROM SEA TO SEA

His journey began in his home state, starting in the Outer Banks. “Seeing the change in landscape from the coast working into the Piedmont was amazing. I never thought I would travel from Winston-Salem to Charlotte on a bike in one day. Traveling slowly on a bicycle really gave us a unique perspective of the changing landscapes and communities,” said Maynard, who grew up in Wilmington.

“The Appalachians were beautiful. We biked through the Rockies, and ended up on the Continental Divide on the 4th of July – with snow on the ground. We biked through Utah, Monument Valley and through the Grand Canyon. It was such a unique way to go slowly through the country, and I met so many generous people in the communities where we stopped,” he said.

Two weeks out of the 10-week trip were spent helping to build affordable housing for families – right alongside them. One of his first builds was in Charlotte. For Maynard, the experience relates to the
kind of volunteer work he wants to pursue while living in Charlotte.

BUILDING QUALITY OF LIFE

“I believe that the homes and communities we live in play a major role in shaping the quality of our lives. I would love to play a positive role in impacting whatever community I live in, and believe that both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations can have a positive impact. Helping to build affordable housing has been a very rewarding experience and is something I plan on staying involved in,” he said.

Maynard studied architecture and urban planning at the University of Virginia. “I became interested in urban planning from living in Wilmington, where there is a lot of untapped urban planning potential. I love North Carolina, and I had visited Charlotte. I searched for a program there, and after talking to the program director and students in the program, I was interested in applying.”

But Maynard wasn’t only accepted into the master’s program. He received a full Childress Klein Scholarship, worth more than $18,000.

The Childress-Klein Scholarship is one of three full-tuition scholarships offered by the Belk College of Business for students pursuing the Master of Science in Real Estate. Childress-Klein Properties of Charlotte endowed the scholarship, which is awarded to students with an exceptional dedication to community stewardship. The college also offers the Bissell Scholarships and the Crosland Scholarships for students in the real estate master’s program.

“Receiving this support was very flattering and made the program very appealing,” he said. He had compared other national programs. “I really liked the description of the program, and the ability to work during the day and attend school in the evenings. I wanted to be in Charlotte, which is a wonderful mid-size city that has a lot of development going on.”
At first glance, they seem without any affiliation: power lines and thimbleweed, wastewater-treatment plants and black-eyed Susans, inner-city neighborhoods and cabbage white butterflies.

But UNC Charlotte graduate student Angelique Hjarding can explain their connections. As the new director of pollinator and wildlife habitat programs at the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, she is part of the force to restore native plants and animals to the state.

Some of the locations for those planned habitats may surprise people — in yards and common areas of disadvantaged urban neighborhoods and in open spaces owned or leased by public utilities that are adjacent to those communities.

But they’re actually exactly where they’re most needed. These are places where many natural settings died off long ago, and because they’re in, or near, economically struggling neighborhoods, they’re often the most difficult to reinstate.

Hjarding puts the task in simple terms. “We’ve identified an absence where there used to be a presence. Now let’s bring them back in,” she said. “At the core, that is what I do.”

But that’s not all of it, not by a long shot. Hjarding’s work as a conservation biogeographer — her dream job, she calls it — stretches across disciplines and addresses not just conservation but geography and social justice as well. They’re all intertwined, much like the research interests that led Hjarding to UNC Charlotte, where she is a doctoral candidate in geography.

Social Butterfly

Hjarding’s spin on conservation aids struggling neighborhoods

By Lisa Thornton
USING NEW TOOLS

Hjarding earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology at other universities and planned to make a career of conservation. But while working on her master’s thesis, she learned that the tools of other disciplines helped her achieve conservation goals more effectively.

While tracking chameleons in East Africa for an organization that spotlights threatened species, she began utilizing advanced geographic information tools usually reserved for physical geographers. When working for the Carnivore Preservation Trust, now Carolina Tiger Rescue, Hjarding found the advantages of using human geographers’ interviewing methods as she met with Laotian villagers to help decrease the trade of tigers on the black market.

Seeing how facets of these disciplines complemented one another, she knew she had found a way to fuse her passions for biodiversity conservation and social sciences.

“My career-changing event was coming into the geography department,” said Hjarding, who credits her human geography professors with showing her how to conduct interviews, do community work and plan community-building efforts. “If it had not been for them, I would’ve had no knowledge on how to utilize social science methods or how to use a social-science/justice lens on conservation,” she said.

BUTTERFLY HIGHWAY PROJECT

Since then, Hjarding has put that knowledge to good use.

Last March, she launched the Butterfly Highway Project, an initiative that provides free butterfly gardens to interested residents in struggling inner-city neighborhoods. To date, more than 50 residents in five neighborhoods — University Park, Northwood Estates, Druid Hills, Graham Heights and Enderly Park — have signed on to track pollinators like butterflies in their yards.

The initiative’s goals have been two-fold: undertaking conservation efforts to reintroduce native plants and pollinators back into the community and promoting interaction and bonding among residents through sharing stories as citizen scientists and offering tips on garden maintenance. Many of the neighbors were strangers to one another before the project began.

The Butterfly Highway Project has become so successful the North Carolina Wildlife Federation has added it to its habitat conservation programs and has plans to take the initiative statewide.

It’s also sparked discussions with utility companies whose property is near these struggling communities, to create native meadows in right-of-ways and wildlife-friendly corridors along power lines.

It’s a win/win/win situation, Hjarding said. Residents are happy because they’re given a say and can offer input, like suggesting walking paths or wooded buffers between properties. Companies are pleased because native meadows require little maintenance and help enhance community relationships. And most of all, habitats are restored, bringing back the region’s native plants and animals.

The project is not a cure-all for disadvantaged neighborhoods; Hjarding said that’s unrealistic.

“It’s just one small piece in the whole wheel that makes communities evolve and grow and be sustainable,” she said. “But it’s all of those pieces coming together in different ways that make the rich fabric of a community.”

SPREADING THE WORD

In August, Hjarding traveled to France to teach social science methods to conservation biologists at the International Congress of Conservation Biology Conference.

“It’s a sign, she said, that others in the field are beginning to understand the value of enlisting citizens in the cause.

“Scientists are starting to realize that you must have both pieces,” she said. “If the community is not on board with the conservation effort, then it’s a failure before it even begins.”

The path that led to her career may have taken an unexpected turn along the way, but Hjarding is certainly glad it did.

“I'm a much stronger researcher in conservation science because I can look at the problem and solutions from different perspectives that the majority of my colleagues never get the opportunity to try out,” she said. “If I had to choose what I would want to do, it would be what I’m doing right now. I couldn’t have hoped for a better job than this.”

Lisa Thornton, owner of Follow My Lede, is a writer based in the greater Charlotte area.
What began as a biological sciences’ extra-credit assignment has bloomed into a newly planted area that has improved sustainability on campus and the larger community.

The project is slowing erosion of sediment into Toby Creek by converting a barren parking lot into a diverse natural habitat.

“We had been discussing in class how important habitat was to species diversity,” said Ian O’Shaughnessy, an undergraduate biology student who designed the project to “re-wild” Parking Lot 27. Re-wilding refers to returning an ecosystem to a previous state.

“I was walking on campus, and I noticed we had a lot of the same types of landscaping,” he recalled. “It was all manicured Bermuda grass and tall trees. I thought that increasing the number of plants and animals could help improve biodiversity.”

Adam Reitzel, an assistant professor in biological sciences, had challenged O’Shaughnessy and the other students in his fall conservation biology class to consider biodiversity on campus.

“I have a personal passion for giving students the opportunity to engage in science,” Reitzel said. “Students have many opportunities to explore science in hands-on ways, and sometimes they are just not aware
he presented his idea to university landscape architect Peter Franz, biological sciences faculty members and UNC Charlotte facilities management team members. The university team endorsed the project and suggested Lot 27 near Harris Alumni Center as an area that needed help.

“The whole parking lot was actually part of a sustainable design that intended for the sediment to go into a retention pond,” O’Shaughnessy said. “But it hadn’t worked out that way because the erosion happened too quickly. Maintenance had actually stopped maintaining the hill because it was futile. Every time it rained, all the mulch washed directly into the parking lot.”

The sediment and mulch then flowed into Toby Creek and the surrounding watershed. O’Shaughnessy researched hundreds of plants for their ability to hold the soil in place and attract insects and animals, consulting with Paula Gross at the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens and Scott Taylor, an expert on native plants.

“We wanted to make sure that all the plants were native to the area,” O’Shaughnessy said. “So a lot of time was spent researching the ranges of different plants. We wanted to make sure that they served their role to help trap the sediment. I did some research into that issue, as well as on increasing biodiversity and what would provide a food source for different things.”

O’Shaughnessy completed the planning phase within a few weeks, Reitzel said. “Most of that occurred over winter break,” he said. “Then it came down to, ‘How are we going to get the money to do the project? The idea’s here, we have a lot of interest.’ So that’s where Ian and I teamed up again in order to locate some funds.”

STUDENTS FUND PROJECT

The Charlotte Green Initiative, a UNC Charlotte student group that focuses on sustainability efforts, provided funding. O’Shaughnessy recruited volunteers from the University and the community to install erosion-control matting and plants during the spring semester.

In the months since, while some plants have died under the scorching summer sun, others have flowered and attracted insects, birds and animals. For the team that helped O’Shaughnessy bring his vision to life, the work is a testament to student creativity and initiative.

“He had the insight and drive to initiate his project, and the knowledge to implement it,” Franz said. “I was impressed with his dedication to environmental sustainability. Typically when students come to me about projects like this, I’m amazed at their commitment to it and knowledge they have about the subject. The benefit to the campus and community is to demonstrate the many components of sustainability. Since it is really a system-based concept, every demonstration project like Ian’s helps educate the community.”

O’Shaughnessy expects to graduate in December, and the Tri-Beta Honor Society will take over upkeep of the area.

“I hope that people will see that a very simple idea when implemented can turn into something amazing,” he said. “There is really no insignificant effort. You don’t have to do something huge to make a difference. As a scientist, you have the obligation to do the morally right thing. You should use what you have learned for the good of everyone.”

Skye Allan was a student intern this summer in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
Homegrown Architect
Jason Jones leads team to redesign his freshman dorm

By Meg Freeman Whalen

It has been 28 years since Jason Jones loaded belongings into his 1978 Volkswagen Scirocco and drove from Winston-Salem to UNC Charlotte to start college. Aided by family members, he and his girlfriend, Kelly Smith (they have since married and have two daughters), hauled their stuff into the high-rise freshman dormitories — she into Scott Hall, he up to the ninth floor of Holshouser Hall.

Jones was back in his old freshman stomping ground this summer, just weeks before a new class of students would be moving in. As director of the Charlotte office of Clark Nexsen, a regional architecture and engineering firm headquartered in Virginia Beach, Jones led the team that redesigned Holshouser Hall.

The building is the first of four high-rise residence halls to be renovated in South Village as part of a multi-year project that concludes in 2022. Scott Hall will be next.

HIGH-RISE REBOOT

“The buildings have run their life cycle,” said Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Phil Jones, who is not related to the architect. “And times have changed; expectations have changed.”

Nationally, universities are responding to students’ desire for more and better space in an effort to keep them living on campus longer. “Studies show that students who live on campus do better academically and graduate earlier,” the associate vice chancellor said. UNC Charlotte has built five new residence halls since 2011 and has plans to refurbish nine.

With Jason Jones as project director, Clark Nexsen designed two of the new residence halls — Belk and Miltimore, both in North Village, and “brought a great deal of experience” to the redesign of Holshouser, Jones said. “Jason, in particular, managed it very, very well. Everyone is pleased.”

“These buildings have seen a very hard life,” said the architect one afternoon in late July, as he walked among the old high-rises. “Freshmen — you can’t have a tougher clientele than that!” He knows from experience.

Jones came to UNC Charlotte in 1987 to study photography but soon discovered his love for architecture and changed majors; he earned a Bachelor of Architecture in 1994.

“I didn’t know fully what I was getting into,” he said. But he found satisfaction in the rigor of the curriculum. “I really liked the challenge. It was a competitive environment; you had to perform.

The pride of having quality work — there’s a reward in that that has great value.”

His year in Holshouser gave him a true insider’s approach to its redesign. While bedrooms remain the same size, bathrooms have been reworked to allow sharing among fewer students, providing more privacy and greater accessibility. Half of the building has been restructured to create two-bedroom suites in which four students share a living room and bathroom.

ENHANCING COMMON AREAS

But the biggest improvements are to the common areas — student lounges, study areas and laundry room.

“As a student, I never used the common spaces,” Jones said. The student lounges were in the core of the building, with no windows. “It was like being in a little cave.” The new design puts those areas along an outer wall, with rows of windows that let in abundant natural light. The lounge on the main level now connects to the lower ground-level lounge with a large and open staircase, and doors from the lower level lead out to a plaza and courtyard.

“In addition to being bright and colorful (the primary colors are cream, burnt orange and a soft gray-blue), the spaces encourage community activity: a big television, where “if there’s a game on, they can hang out and watch the game”; a large community kitchen, where “they can bring a bunch of pizzas in”; a pool table; a grand piano; and a video gaming room. The laundry room, lined with new washers and dryers, has been expanded so students can sit nearby and study or watch TV while they wait for their clothes to dry. “It’s like Suds & Duds, except you can’t drink!” he said.

Study rooms on upper floors also line an outer wall, with windows that let sunlight both into those rooms and into the hallways. Even the elevators are new — and go all the way to the top. Until now, the elevators only went up to the 10th floor, even though the building has 11 floors. Of course, when someone pulls the fire alarm at 3 a.m., as they often did in Jones’s day, students still have to walk down all those stairs. (This is one of his most vivid memories.)

The benefits are all about the students, Jones said. “I hope that these are better community spaces than when I was here. Just having them feel less tight and constricted — hopefully they’ll be used now.”

As he surveyed the newly bricked facade of the refurbished building, Jones acknowledged the pleasure of seeing another job well done. “The real reward for me is having an idea, going through the rigors of developing it and seeing it built. It’s so rewarding to me internally to see the finished product.”

Meg Freeman Whalen is director of communications for the College of Arts + Architecture.
When David Hauser ('77) attended the inaugural Charlotte 49ers football game in 2013, he looked around the crowd in awe of the nearly 17,000 spectators brought together by the pigskin flying up and down the field.

“It was an amazing day for those of us that have been involved in the University in a variety of ways for many years,” said Hauser, who has played an important role within a large crowd of people leading the charge to create opportunities for Niner Nation to come together on campus.
The UNC Charlotte alum and current Board of Trustees member hopes for the same effect with the new Hauser Alumni Pavilion that debuted in September. The 8,000-square-foot steel structure to be used for pregame tailgating during football season has enough space to accommodate 700 people.

Situated along the pedestrian path between the main campus and Jerry Richardson Football Stadium, the pavilion offers a catering station, restrooms and electricity to support outside entertainment. During the offseason, the facility is available for alumni, faculty, staff and students to rent for events.

**GENEROUS GIFT**

Hauser sees multiple benefits for the pavilion, which he and his wife, Nancy (’77), helped to provide through a generous gift to the University.

Some of those benefits are more obvious than others. Many students look forward to tailgating before football games and will take advantage of the venue. Also, the new facility will draw alumni back to reconnect with old classmates.

But the benefits that come from the connection of the two — alumni and current students — will generate even more positive outcomes from underneath the pavilion’s lights and ceiling fans, Hauser believes. He hopes the pavilion will facilitate communication between the two groups, allowing for networking and mentoring.

These are not always easy connections to make, even though both parties are often interested, he said.

“The challenge is figuring out a way to get engaged with young people, because somebody that is 50 is perfectly willing to talk to somebody that’s in college and 20 — and that mentoring and networking lead to greater success,” he said. “The University can be a great avenue to make those connections, which are terrific for the young people, but also are terrific for the people who have already had some success, too.”

He knows because he’s experienced it first hand.

Hauser came to Charlotte in 1973, shortly after graduating from Furman University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. He earned his master’s degree in business from the Belk College of Business at UNC Charlotte in 1977, which helped to launch him into high-level executive positions, including chairman and CEO of FairPoint Communications and chief financial officer of Duke Energy.

Although his career and family kept him busy, Hauser gave back to the University. When he taught a finance course at Belk College of Business, he frequently used his connections on Wall Street to bring in bankers and bond analysts to share experiences with his students.

**‘WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE’**

“That was a tie I had to the professional community that most people couldn’t bring in, and they thoroughly enjoyed talking to the students,” said Hauser. “It was a wonderful experience, and I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the students.”

Now retired, Hauser has continued to strengthen his ties to the University. For several years, he’s served on the Board of Trustees. He also helped bring football to campus. In 2009, Hauser served as one of the executive chairs on the 49ers Football Fundraising Capital Team.

“College football is something that people thoroughly enjoy over a Saturday afternoon, whether they’re watching in person somewhere or watching it on TV,” said Hauser. “It brings a lot of name recognition to the University, and I think that’s positive.”

He recommends others find their passion and give back, too. “If something is important to you, you should get involved,” he said. “Sitting on the sidelines and critiquing is not really very helpful. I encourage people to get involved — in the University and in whatever their other passions are in life.”

For Hauser, that’s in part, helping Niner Nation come together.

The Hauser Alumni Pavilion will have its official dedication Sept. 26; though, it will be warmed up before then with the start of the football season.

“I thought they did a great job,” he said of its conceptual design and architectural style, which blends well with the rest of the campus.

“I thought they did a great job,” he said of its conceptual design and architectural style, which blends well with the rest of the campus.

“We’re calling it an alumni pavilion,” said Hauser. “But I think it will be much more than that.”

Lisa Thornton, owner of Follow My Lede, is a writer based in the greater Charlotte area.
Many of Charlotte’s top business leaders are actively involved with graduate students at UNC Charlotte – as mentors, guest lecturers and program advisors. Take Smoky Bissell, for example, whose ventures transformed Charlotte into an economic powerhouse and who helped establish our graduate curriculum in real estate. If you're hoping to take big strides in your career, connecting with business royalty is a great first step.
Vestal “Pat” Taylor (’77, ’89) is president of the N.C. Press Association, the member organization for newspapers across the state, for a one-year term. He currently works as advertising director for The Pilot newspaper and Pinestraw magazine in Southern Pines. He also is the current vice chairman of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce.

Anne Monterosso (’80) recently earned a doctorate in educational leadership with a concentration in special education from Marshall University, where she also completed an educational specialist degree and a master’s degree in educational leadership. Additionally, she holds a master’s degree in special education from West Virginia University. Currently, she serves as a monitoring consultant with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. She earned a bachelor’s degree at UNC Charlotte.

Zeb Wells (’80) was appointed vice president of SKA Consulting Engineers Inc. His responsibilities include client contact, business development and contract engagements for the Asheville office and surrounding areas. Wells earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University.

Chuck Travis (’82) was inducted into the College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Election to the college is the AIA’s highest honor bestowed upon an architect in the United States. Travis joins only three other AIA members in the North Carolina, as well as 147 members nationwide, to earn this prestigious designation. He is a principal at Housing Studio in Charlotte and is mayor of Cornelius, N.C. Travis earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture from UNC Charlotte.

Carol Rhea (’83, ’86) is the new president of the American Planning Association (APA), an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in community development. She will be responsible for leading the 13-member APA Board of Directors in governing the association and setting strategic goals. She is a founding member and currently the managing partner of Orion Planning Group. She earned a bachelor’s degree in earth sciences and a master’s degree in geography from the University.

Tim Keane (’88) became the commissioner of planning and community development for the city of Atlanta in July. He had served as director of planning, preservation and sustainability for the city of Charleston, S.C., since 2009 and previously served as director of planning for the town of Davidson, N.C. In Atlanta, he oversees a department that handles transportation planning, housing programs and
building permits. He earned a bachelor's degree in geography and a master's degree in architecture from UNC Charlotte.

1990s

Kerr Putney ('92) is the new chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and the first internal promotion to the position. He joined the department in 1992 and held a variety of patrol, training and specialized assignments at various ranks within the organization, including deputy chief since 2007. Putney earned a bachelor's degree in criminology from UNC Charlotte and completed a master's degree in the same field from East Carolina University in 2008.

Tasha Kornegay ('96) was featured in More magazine, a publication that celebrates women of style and substance who influence others. The feature that included Kornegay focused on the paths of first-generation college students and their challenges. First Lady Michelle Obama served as a guest editor for the edition.

Kenneth Houck Jr. ('97) was promoted to investment retirement consultant after being certified as a chartered retirement professional counselor. Additionally, he has started the master's program for wealth and trust management at Gardner-Webb University.

2000s

Bryce Chaney ('00) and his wife welcomed their first child, Elijah. Chaney works at KIYATEC, a life-sciences company. He leads its business development efforts as it continues expanding 3D complex cell-culture technologies and in-vitro diagnostics for cancer research and development companies.

David Fonseca ('00) has joined Burke County Public Schools as assistant superintendent, leaving a similar position with Watauga County Schools. He began his career in education in 1992 and has teaching and administrative experience at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Fonseca earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Veracruz in Mexico, a master's degree in school administration from UNC Charlotte and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Appalachian State University. He completed post-doctoral studies at the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.

Sarah Batista ('03) is director of the women's empowerment film "She Flew the Coop." The documentary features four women who left something secure or stable to travel abroad and pursue a dream. Batista, one of the women featured, left her job as a reporter with WBTV in Charlotte to launch her own company, Stories that Inspire, which aims to produce documentaries that tell positive stories.

2010s

Matthew Dukes ('11) was named the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools'
In Memoriam  |  Jeff Shore

Jeff Shore died unexpectedly on Aug. 21. A well-known youth baseball coach in the Charlotte area, Shore played for the 49ers from 1985-88 and was named MVP in 1988 after leading the team in hits (66), batting average (.335), RBI (47) and home runs (5). He went on to play professionally in the Texas Rangers organization.

1988 Charlotte 49ers baseball MVP

Shore, 49, and his wife, Robyn have a daughter, Ashlyn. He is also survived by his brother, Chris and his wife, Cassandra, and his niece and nephew, Amanda and Ryan.

The Jeff Shore Memorial Fund gofundme account has been established. This fund, while supporting the family, also seeks to continue Jeff’s work. A portion of the funds will go to fund scholarships for young athletes in financial need and also to Levine’s Children Hospital.

WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

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For more information on planned giving or to learn more about The Bonnie E. Cone Society, contact John Cullum at 704-687-8003 or by email at john.cullum@uncc.uncc

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Not intended as legal, tax or investment advice - Please consult your CPA, Financial Planner or Attorney.
See ya, comrade!

Many is the time that the four original high-rise residence halls have been referred to with derision as Soviet Bloc style - or even recently, Brezhnev’s Revenge (as in Leonid, the 1970s era USSR leader - remember?). But, lo these many years after we won the Cold War, change is here! Holshouser Hall is the first of the white high-rise towers to undergo complete renovation, including new building systems and windows, redesigned living spaces and bathrooms, and improved lounges and study areas. The other three high rises will see similar renovations during the next few years. Eventually, all four high-rise residence halls will be clad in brick, thereby eliminating the last vestiges of Soviet architecture on our campus.
27,983 students fall 2015.

35% increase in enrollment in 10 years.

46% of total growth in the UNC system over the past 6 years is attributed to UNC Charlotte.

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6th class of prestigious Levine Scholars enrolled.

117,600 living alumni; 67,800 in the Charlotte region.

434 new research grant awards totaling over $47 million in 2015.

$2.1 billion Economic impact to the Charlotte region including payroll, operation, construction, and start-up companies in 2013.

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SOAR IS A POPULAR STUDENT ORIENTATION ACTIVITY PROVIDED BY THE NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILY SERVICES OFFICES. SOAR ALWAYS EARN PLENTY OF SMILES. STUDENTS PICTURED HERE FROM LEFT: FAHN DARKOR, UNDERGRADUATE INTERN FROM GREENSBORO; AND ORIENTATION COUNSELORS TONY HARRISON FROM JACKSONVILLE, FLA., AND KELECHI OKOROMA FROM CHARLOTTE.