Philip L. Dubois marks 10 years as UNC Charlotte's fourth chancellor.
Spring commencement ceremonies on May 8 and May 9 marked the close of another exciting academic year at UNC Charlotte. It is a time to reflect on some accomplishments and then to look ahead to our promising future.

On March 2, members of our campus community were joined in the Student Union by alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff, and guests as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of UNC Charlotte becoming a campus of the UNC system.

Just prior to that celebration, UNC Charlotte hosted the UNC System Board of Governors for its three-day February meeting. Despite some snow, the board and much of the UNC General Administration staff toured campus, met some of our students and faculty, and experienced our facilities firsthand. A community reception at UNC Charlotte Center City opened the meeting, attracting hundreds of Charlotte community leaders and University faithful. It was a great show of support.

Another “first” for UNC Charlotte this spring was our first-ever 24-hour online fundraising effort, “Niner Nation Gives.” Many of you were among the 706 donors who gave $132,456 on April 9 which, for those of you paying attention, is 4-9. Hundreds of 49er staff, faculty and students participated in “Niner Nation Gives” events on campus and virtually through our social media sites. Thank you.

On May 12, we held groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of Sandra and Leon Levine Hall, a new residence for students who are participants in the Levine Scholars Program and other University honors programs. Located near the traffic circle at the front entrance to campus, it will be an instant landmark when it opens in 2016.

At commencement, we welcomed 3,750 graduates into the ranks of UNC Charlotte alumni. A UNC Charlotte education is of greater value and in greater demand than ever. Graduates and guests at the Saturday morning ceremonies had the opportunity to help us recognize Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson with an honorary doctorate in public service. Mr. Richardson’s engagement with the University is visible through the generosity that made our football facility, Jerry Richardson Stadium, a reality.

Spring is a great season for campus visitors, and we have hosted several important visitors over the last month, including Gov. Pat McCrory, U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, and U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson (’96). The governor convened a roundtable discussion with campus officials and business leaders to discuss needed state investments in research, facilities and infrastructure, including a new science building, which is the single most important project in allowing this campus to grow. The governor and the General Assembly are considering proposals to fund new construction, and we are hopeful that our science facility needs will be addressed sooner rather than later. Sen. Richard Burr also visited UNC Charlotte to talk with members of our faculty, staff and students about the University’s nationally recognized cyber security programs. Burr serves as chairman of the U.S. Senate’s Select Committee on Intelligence, which provides oversight of the nation’s intelligence community. Hudson met with members of the Energy Production & Infrastructure Center Advisory Board to discuss energy issues and his work on the U.S. House of Representatives’ Energy and Commerce Committee.

Space here does not permit me to go on, but know that you can always read more in my May newsletter posted at chancellor.uncc.edu.

July 15 will be a special anniversary of sorts for my wife, Lisa, and me. It was on that date in 2005 that I formally began my tenure as UNC Charlotte’s fourth chancellor. In reminiscing for a few moments, so many milestones from the past decade come to mind: establishing the Levine Scholars Program; creating and implementing the “Stake Your Claim” brand, which has gained great traction; launching 49ers football and building Jerry Richardson Stadium; bringing light rail onto campus; seeing UNC Charlotte Center City rise from the ground and now being adorned with a wonderful urban park in First Ward; and having the opportunity to direct more than $1 billion of new construction and renovation on campus, including a beautiful student union, the EPIC and PORTAL buildings, several residence halls, and the South Village Crossing dining facility. Along the way, we’ve been supported by so many talented and dedicated faculty members and staff, all the alumni who bleed green, and the many donors who have given green and given their time. In a word: wow!

At the pace UNC Charlotte keeps, the years fly by fast. We intend to keep up that pace, and I welcome your companionship throughout that journey onward and upward.

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor
On the Cover:

On July 15, Philip L. Dubois will mark the completion of his 10th year as UNC Charlotte’s fourth chancellor. Throughout his tenure, the University has experienced a variety of milestones along with exponential growth becoming North Carolina’s urban research university.

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10 years on a growing campus: OMG!

Our cover story focusing on the 10th anniversary of Philip L. Dubois as the fourth chancellor of UNC Charlotte gives me pause to remember how things have changed during my own tenure. The chancellor began his appointment in July 2005. I arrived at the University in November 2005, having never before worked professionally on a University campus. And when I had been an undergraduate and later as a graduate student, the campuses where I studied changed – visually – very little during my years there.

But, goodness, how our campus has changed in these nearly 10 years! I haven’t checked the variation in the total square footage of facilities during this period, but to my eye almost half of our campus – maybe more – did not exist when I arrived.

A few days before I officially started work here, I attended the dedication of Woodward Hall – at that time our largest building. Here’s what did not exist at that time (traveling is a weird corkscrew from Uptown Charlotte):

- UNC Charlotte Center City
- Charlotte Engineering Early College and nearby parking deck
- Energy Production & Infrastructure Center
- PORTAL and Bioinformatics buildings
- Grigg Hall and Duke Centennial Hall
- Kulwicki Motorsports Lab Annex
- Jerry Richardson Stadium and Judi Rose Fieldhouse
- Robert & Mariam Hayes baseball complex
- Halton-Wagner Tennis Center
- Bell, C. F. Lynch, Wallis and Miltimore Halls
- the Facilities Management and Police building
- the Student Health Center
- Greek Village
- Recreation fields and utility buildings
- (the new) Hunt and Laurel Halls
- Harris Alumni Center at Harris Glen
- College of Education building
- College of Health and Human Services building and adjacent plaza
- Student Union – the new geographic center of UNC Charlotte

Wow! I’ve likely forgotten one or two other structures, but you get the point – we’ve grown, bigtime!

The pace of new construction isn’t the ultimate gauge of the quality of a University, but at UNC Charlotte this growth is symbolic of an incredible dynamism that lives at North Carolina’s urban research university. It is the Stake Your Claim spirit. It lives in all UNC Charlotte students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. That spirit is alive in these pages.

Regards,

John D. Bland, Editor
Senior Director for Public Relations & News Services
Blazing Trails
Cancer researcher wins UNC Board of Governors' highest faculty honor

The UNC Board of Governors has honored cancer researcher Pinku Mukherjee with the board’s highest faculty accolade, the O. Max Gardner Award. Established by a provision in the will of Gov. O. Max Gardner, the award recognizes UNC system faculty members who have “made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.” It is the only award for which all faculty members on the 17 UNC campuses are eligible. Given annually since 1949, the honor carries a $20,000 cash prize.

As the Irwin Belk Endowed Professor of Cancer Research at UNC Charlotte, Mukherjee is transforming the ways in which cancer is diagnosed and treated. She has designed innovative approaches to more accurately detect breast cancer early and is developing targeted therapy and imaging for pancreatic, ovarian and colon cancers.

To date, Mukherjee has published more than 65 peer-reviewed journal articles that have been cited or referenced more than 11,000 times. Her groundbreaking cancer research has produced one U.S. patent and has resulted in grants totaling more than $3.5 million as principal investigator and more than $500,000 as co-investigator.

Mukherjee also is an astute entrepreneur. Using an innovative approach to cancer research as a basis, she and her team founded the biotechnology company OncoTab Inc. in 2011 (previously CanDiag Inc.). A UNC Charlotte spinoff, OncoTab develops and commercializes products that span the lifecycle of cancer, from initial diagnosis through treatment and recurrence monitoring.

The company has an exclusive license to a patented technology platform that has successfully demonstrated diagnostic, imaging and therapeutic capabilities with breast, prostate and pancreatic cancers. OncoTab already has won several awards, including one from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center and the grand prize at the Charlotte Venture Challenge.

Prior to joining UNC Charlotte in 2008, Mukherjee was with the Mayo Clinic. She earned her bachelor’s degree in microbiology from Bombay University, India, and her master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of London.

SHARON DECKER NAMED TO TRUSTEE BOARD

Former North Carolina Secretary of Commerce Sharon Allred Decker will soon join UNC Charlotte’s leadership as a new member of the Board of Trustees.

The UNC Board of Governors appointed Decker to a four-year term beginning July 1. The board also reappointed trustees Joe Price, Dhiaa Jamil and Laura Schulte to their second, four-year terms.

A longtime executive of Duke Power Company, now Duke Energy, Decker became the youngest and first female vice president in Duke Power’s history. After leaving Duke Power, she founded the Lynnwood Foundation, which was created to restore the Duke Mansion in Charlotte as a conference center, and began the William States Lee Leadership Institute.

In 2013, Decker was appointed Secretary of Commerce by Gov. Pat McCrory. Serving for two years, she led the creation of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, a public-private entity charged with marketing North Carolina globally.

Currently, Decker is president of Nuray Media, a company that protects and preserves vintage film and video content by providing preservation services to clients, restoring classic motion picture films and television collections for the public and creating educational content to advance the knowledge of film history.

Pinku Mukherjee
Sharon Decker
MAX TAKES THE ARTS INTO THE COMMUNITY

The College of Arts + Architecture debuted its Mobile Arts & Community Experience (MAX), a state-of-the-art mobile facility, in a free, public celebration on Levine Avenue for the Arts in early April.

Through community-centric programming and its mobile infrastructure, MAX seeks to enliven neighborhoods, parks, festivals and other community events with arts and activities that reflect Charlotte’s growing diversity.

RESEARCH CONNECTS DIET, CHILDHOOD DISEASE

A new study by UNC Charlotte scholars is shedding light on the connection between diet and a common childhood disease, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).

Using national health data, the researchers determined children who ate certain types of food or faced food insecurity may be more likely to contract the virus.

Ahmed Arif, an associate professor in the College of Health and Human Services, co-authored the new study, which considered EBV infection among U.S. children ages 6 to 15, using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).

EBV is a common virus that often causes no symptoms on its own. It is better known as a cause of infectious mononucleosis and having a connection to some cancers.

The NHANES data revealed that adolescents who consumed beans, red meat and 100 percent fruit juice daily might see increased odds of EBV as compared with adolescents who consumed the same products on a monthly basis.

The study also suggested that adolescents who were not fed a balanced meal and had to rely on low-cost food had significantly increased odds of EBV, though this finding was weakened once adjusted for possible response biases. Researchers have previously found a connection between low socioeconomic status and heightened rates of EBV infection. The study noted that diet plays an important role in the strength of a person’s immune response.

Arif said the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute recommends limiting red meat consumption to no more than two servings per week.

He noted the nature of any link between fruit juice consumption and EBV infection also isn’t immediately known. He said because this study is the first of its kind, the results need to be confirmed before any definitive conclusions can be drawn. However, “suffice it to say that programs promoting healthy eating and food security to enhance the immune system for the prevention of various viral infections should be encouraged,” he said.

NEW GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS SUPPORT VETERANS

The Graduate School has added two graduate assistantships to attract military veterans to enroll in its master’s and doctoral degree programs.

Beginning with the fall 2015 semester, the Graduate School is offering the two assistantships that are exclusively for veteran students. Each two-year assistantship is valued at $36,000 to $45,000 and includes full tuition, health insurance and an assistantship stipend.

Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Tom Reynolds, a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, hopes this incentive will lead to additional programs of support for veteran graduate students. Pointing out that UNC Charlotte began in 1946 as the Charlotte Center to serve the higher education needs of returning World War II veterans, Reynolds said, “This is our heritage and a big part of who we are.”

The new assistantships are open to military veterans from any branch of service with an honorable discharge who are admitted to any UNC Charlotte master’s or
doctoral degree program. UNC Charlotte offers nearly 100 graduate-degree programs, including 21 doctoral ones.

The assistantships may involve either teaching responsibilities or assisting faculty with research projects. The award obligates the recipient to perform these duties up to 20 hours per week, and recipients may not be otherwise employed on or off campus. Recipients also must enroll in at least six credit hours (typically two classes) each term. For more information about the assistantships, go to graduateschool.uncc.edu.

VISUALIZATION RESEARCHER WINS FIRST CITIZENS SCHOLARS MEDAL

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

Ribarsky's research has greatly influenced the field of visualization and visual analytics. His peers laud him for advancing the way in which individuals visualize data and approach real-world problems.

Breakthroughs in visual analytics of the type Ribarsky researches are crucial in propelling the widespread use of “big data”—data science and business analytics—in the marketplace.

He is the founding director of the Charlotte Visualization Center. From 2008 to 2014, he served as chair of the Computer Science Department.

Ribarsky is also principal investigator for the Department of Homeland Security’s SouthEast Regional Visualization and Analytics Center.

ENGINEER LANDS $500K FOR WIND ENERGY RESEARCH

Chris Vermillion, an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science within the William States Lee College of Engineering, has won a $500,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) award.

The award from NSF’s Faculty Early Career Development Program, called “CAREER,” is the foundation’s most-prestigious award in support of junior faculty members. It will further Vermillion’s research in creating low-cost methodologies that optimize the physical system and controller for high-altitude wind energy systems.

CAREER grants go to faculty members who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research and excellent education.

Vermillion has been with the Lee College of Engineering since 2014. His research of the flight dynamics and control of tethered airborne wind-energy systems employs a unique rapid prototyping framework that makes possible small-scale flight experiments that can be run at much lower cost than full-scale prototypes. The framework features 1/100-scale prototypes of airborne wind-energy lifting bodies.

$2.1 MILLION BIG DATA GRANT TARGETS COLLABORATION

UNC Charlotte has received a $2.1 million grant from the UNC General Administration to support research in data science and business analytics, commonly referred to as “Big Data.”

The funding, to be distributed across three years, is part of a continuing $3 million

LEVINE SCHOLAR NAMED NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW

Junior Sarah Whitmire has been named a Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow. The national honor recognizes individuals who are investing in their communities through service, research and advocacy.

As a Levine Scholar, Whitmire is working on a community-based research project with UNC Charlotte faculty members, practitioners in the Carolinas HealthCare System and a group of women experiencing homelessness.

“I’ve always felt a strong drive to use my skills to improve the lives of those with the fewest resources,” said Whitmire, who is majoring in biology with a minor in music and public health sciences.

Whitmire, from Wilmington, N.C., is one of 201 Newman Fellows from 36 states and the District of Columbia.
GRADUATE MENTOR DENA SHENK RECEIVES DE SILVA AWARD

Dena Shenk, professor of anthropology and graduate coordinator of the Gerontology Program, is the 2015 recipient of the Harshini V. de Silva Award. The honor is presented annually to a faculty member who best exemplifies de Silva’s commitment to graduate students.

Colleagues regard Shenk as an exceptional graduate mentor who has had an influential impact on the Gerontology Program. She is known to engage grad students in scholarly research and to provide them opportunities to co-author publications and present at conferences.

“Heartfelt congratulations! Dena’s mentorship and guidance have played a vital role in my development as a scholar, and her unwavering support for me has been a key component of my academic success,” one student wrote. “She has always gone above and beyond to ensure that I have the resources and opportunities to pursue my research goals.”

Shenk earned a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts in 1979. She joined UNC Charlotte in 1991 as director of the Gerontology Program. Her areas of interest include aging in cultural and environmental context, women and aging, direct care workers, people with dementia, elder abuse and mistreatment, and using narrative approaches and photography.

appropisition from the General Assembly in 2014 to support areas of “game-changing research” identified in the Board of Governors’ strategic plan for the University system.

UNC General Administration awarded six, three-year grants totaling nearly $9 million to faculty research in areas of strategic importance to the state. Each of the funded projects involves faculty partners from two or more UNC campuses.

In conjunction with N.C. State University and UNC Chapel Hill’s Renaissance Computing Institute, UNC Charlotte will develop strategic research hubs designed to position North Carolina as the national leader in fundamental and applied research in data science.

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

In an emphasis on data sciences and business analytics (DSBA), UNC Charlotte has established an industry-university-state partnership, offering interdisciplinary academic programs to develop a new generation of data scientists, business analysts and managers. DSBA has received significant private support from Charlotte-area businesses, including a $5 million investment in 2013 from Belk Inc.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS HONOR TRACY ROCK WITH TEACHING AWARD

Tracy Rock from the Department of Reading and Elementary Education in the College of Education is a recipient of the 2015 UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award.

This annual honor recognizes one professor at each of North Carolina’s public institutions. The 17 recipients were nominated by campus committees and selected by the Board of Governors’ Committee on Personnel and Tenure. Each award winner receives a commemorative bronze medallion and a $12,500 cash prize.

“Tracy brings a passion for teaching to every class. Ultimately, she wants to ensure the candidates she teaches are prepared to enter the classroom and to have an impact on the children they work with,” said Mike Putman, chair of the Reading and Elementary Education Department. “In her instruction, she seeks to balance fundamental theoretical knowledge with practical knowledge that will be useful in the classroom, which I think resonates with her students.”

Putman said Rock was the first person he met at UNC Charlotte, and she immediately struck him as “someone who was enthusiastic, gracious, humble and very supportive. I think these traits carry over into her teaching and help make her the educator she is,” he added.

Outside the classroom, Rock has been instrumental in restructuring her department’s...
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CAMPUS CHEF BRINGS HOME SILVER IN CULINARY CHALLENGE

Jennifer Leamons, executive catering chef for UNC Charlotte, earned a silver medal in a recent culinary challenge at the Southern Regional Conference of the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS).

She was selected to compete based upon an original recipe submission that featured a main protein selected by NACUFS’s executive leadership. This year, the protein was buffalo flank steak. Thirteen chefs presented recipes from the Southern region, and among those, six were chosen to compete. Leamons was the only representative from the UNC system and the only woman.

Challenge participants worked under pressure of a time limit to display their best culinary techniques as they prepared qualifying recipes in front of three American Culinary Federation-approved judges, including two master chefs. Competitors had 60 minutes to prepare two classic cuts of the meat, along with sides and sauces to create a balanced plate.

PORTAL DESIGN A PEOPLE’S CHOICE WINNER

The PORTAL building won the People’s Choice Award in the 2015 AIA Charlotte competition. A section of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Charlotte announced its design winners recently during a gala at the Foundation for the Carolinas.

UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 50TH YEAR IN UNC SYSTEM

Marking a historic anniversary for the University by ringing the campus bell, Chancellor Philip L. Dubois was joined by key supporters and members of the campus community on March 2, to celebrate UNC Charlotte’s 50th year as part of the UNC system.

On March 2, 1965, the General Assembly passed a bill designating Charlotte College as the University of North Carolina at Charlotte effective July 1, 1965. According to the Charlotte Collegian, news of the bill’s passage was greeted on campus with “bell ringing, cheers, shouts and tears of happiness.”

“Fifty years ago, on this exact day, March 2, our forebears achieved their vision after years of perseverance and determination,” Dubois said at the event, which was held in the rotunda of the Student Union.

The chancellor praised founder Bonnie Cone for her vision and dedication and recognized two other important figures to the University, Ike Belk and Dr. Loy Witherspoon.

Belk, a state senator in 1965, championed the necessary legislation to establish Charlotte College as UNC Charlotte. “As former Chancellor Woodward says about the University’s success, ‘If you could point to a single person inside, it would be Bonnie Cone. If you looked outside, it was Ike Belk,’” Dubois said.

Likewise, Loy Witherspoon was integral to the University’s fabric. “In the earliest years, the difficult yet exciting growth years, Loy became the University’s grounding force and moral compass,” Dubois said. “As Miss Bonnie would say of Loy, UNC Charlotte is ‘a better place simply because he has been here.’

The University will celebrate its 70th anniversary as an institution next year.

$2 MILLION LAUNCHES SIEMENS MANUFACTURING LAB

With the support of local industry that will benefit from its research capabilities, UNC Charlotte dedicated its new Siemens Energy Large Manufacturing Solutions Laboratory.

The lab was made possible with $2 million from Siemens Energy and Hexagon Metrology. Housed in the University’s Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC), the new lab will conduct research on precision dimensional measurement of large-scale energy components. Siemens provided funding for lab construction, and Hexagon provided a Leitz PMM-F 30-20-16 coordinate measuring machine as the first major component of the lab.

The new lab builds on the expertise of UNC Charlotte’s Center for Precision Metrology, which is one of the foremost programs in the world in precision measurement and manufacturing.

Celebrating the University's 50th anniversary are (left to right): Trustee Michael Wilson ('94), Student Government Association President Steven Serio, alumnus Morris Spearman ('66), professor emeritus Loy Witherspoon, philanthropist Irwin "Ike" Belk, former UNC Charlotte employee Mildred English and Chancellor Dubois.

Jennifer Leamons with her award-winning plate.
The People’s Choice Awards involved an online vote open to AIA Charlotte members, allied members and the public. LaBella Associates served as the architect for the PORTAL building. PORTAL stands for Partnership, Outreach and Research to Accelerate Learning. The 96,000-square-foot facility, which opened in early 2014, is an example of the University’s commitment to foster partnerships with private industry. The facility is designed to stimulate business growth and job creation along with promoting research and innovation.

ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Office of Adult Students and Evening Services (OASES) celebrated its 20th anniversary in March.

Janet Daniel, founding director of the office, noted that the creation of OASES resulted from the vision of Philip L. Dubois when he was the University’s provost in the 1990s. Today he is chancellor.

“UNC Charlotte, as the Charlotte Center, can trace its existence to serving adult students who were returning home following World War II,” said Daniel. “Dr. Dubois recognized the need for the University to again focus on these adult learners through a dedicated office.

Nontraditional students often face challenges beyond those of regular college-aged students, and we provide an array of services to assist them.”

Today, OASES advises roughly 1,500 new, transfer or re-entry adult students with more than 400 of them receiving services in the evening. Throughout the years, the office has implemented initiatives for nontraditional students.

In 2005, OASES began planning a new offering — the 49er Finish Program. The goal was to increase retention and graduation rates of returning adult students.

The first semester of its existence in 2006, the program encouraged 47 former UNC Charlotte students to return to complete their degrees. As of December 2014, 642 had participated in the program. In 2012, the initiative received the Malcolm Knowles Award from the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education.

SOCIAL WORK PROGRESSES FROM ‘DEPARTMENT’ TO ‘SCHOOL’

The College of Health and Human Services recently marked the growth of the Department of Social Work into the School of Social Work.

“This elevates our mission from one that focuses only on teaching into a school with graduate programs with the capacity to emphasize teaching and research,” said Nancy Fey-Yensan, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

“To be designated as a School of Social Work will enhance our ability to recruit research-oriented faculty, to acquire funding, to enroll top-quality and diverse undergraduate and graduate students and continue to secure vital field placements and instructors,” she noted.

According to U.S. News and World Report rankings, UNC Charlotte’s national ranking in social work was 82nd in 2008 and 66th in 2012, which was the second-highest ranked program in North Carolina after UNC Chapel Hill.

According to the magazine, of the top 103 social work programs, 77 percent are schools of social work, while only 9 percent are departments of social work. Of the 65 programs ranked above UNC Charlotte, 98 percent are either schools or colleges of social work, while only 2 percent are departments.

BURR VISITS CAMPUS TO LEARN ABOUT CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr recently visited UNC Charlotte to talk with campus officials about the University’s nationally recognized cybersecurity programs. Burr chairs the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which provides oversight of the nation’s intelligence community.

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

CCI researchers and faculty are preparing graduates for the frontline of cybersecurity in government. Since 2002, the University has trained more than 150 students through the Scholarship for Service Program, a federal initiative to increase cybersecurity expertise in mission-critical areas.

UNC Charlotte is developing the PORTAL Innovation Ecosystem as a research accelerator that will enable cross-functional partnerships among government, academic and industry entities and an Internet Neighborhood Watch Program.
News briefs

UNC CHARLOTTE to increase information sharing on cybersecurity while protecting civil liberties and individual privacy.

BROOME HONORED BY N.C. BAR ASSOCIATION

David Broome, UNC Charlotte vice chancellor and general counsel, has received the Ann L. Majestic Distinguished Service Award, given by the N.C. Bar Association’s Education Law Section.

The award recognizes outstanding leadership by an attorney in the field of education who has a record of professional, community and personal achievement in the representation of educational institutions, including public and private schools, colleges or universities as well as an involvement with parents, teachers, faculty or administrators.

Broome has served the state of North Carolina as a higher education law attorney for nearly 40 years. After earning a Juris Doctor from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law, Broome became the lead attorney in the UNC-Chapel Hill Business Affairs Division. After a stint with the N.C. Department of Justice, he returned to UNC-Chapel Hill for eight years before becoming senior associate general counsel at North Carolina State University. He was instrumental in the establishment and staffing of the University’s Title IX Office, which opened in fall 2014.

Through Literacy PALS (Partners Achieving Literacy Success), a volunteer tutoring program that equips UNC Charlotte students, faculty and staff to work with grades K-12 students, Broome reads and tutors students regularly at Nathaniel Alexander Elementary School in Charlotte.

LEVINE HALL TO HOUSE SCHOLARS BEGINNING IN 2016

UNC Charlotte broke ground May 12 on a new residence hall dedicated to housing students of the Levine Scholars Program and the Honors College. The new facility will be known as Levine Hall, in honor of Sandra and Leon Levine. Through their foundation, the Levines have committed more than $18 million to the Levine Scholars Program, which began in 2009. Levine Hall is scheduled to open in the summer of 2016.

“The naming of this residence hall is one way we acknowledge the value of the investment that the Levines are making in this University and our students,” said Chancellor Philip L. Dubois.

In addition to housing more than 400 students, Levine Hall will house the administrative offices for the Levine Scholars Program and the University’s Honors College, and will include student work-study areas, faculty work stations and private one-on-one spaces, adjacent seminar spaces that can be combined for large functions, and a hotel space for visiting faculty or lecturers.

Leon Levine said, “Although the new building will bear our names, it will really be about the students – the scholars. It is these community-minded, ethical scholars who will continue to be a driving force for positive change in our region.”

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By Mary Newsom

You’ve heard of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). "KEEPING WATCH on WATER: City of Creeks," which launched March 27, uses SHTEAM — adding history and art — to create an even richer, broader understanding of the topic of Mecklenburg County’s urban streams.

The program is year two of the three-year KEEPING WATCH initiative, a partnership among the College of Arts + Architecture, the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and Lambla artWORKS. The current project fuses historic and scientific research with an art gallery exhibit through June 17 and community events in March, April and May. It focuses on the role creeks have played in Charlotte.

Mecklenburg County holds 3,000 miles of creeks, and all but two of the creeks originate in the county. Those 3,000 miles, laid end to end, would stretch from Miami to Vancouver, Canada. But they’re easily overlooked: About one-third of the creeks have water year round, the rest only during wet times of year. Many are buried in pipes and culverts. Others are small headwaters creeks, spring-fed backyard trickles or run through ravines on steep hillsides.

Each is part of a larger network connecting neighborhood to neighborhood, and creek to river and then to the sea. The creeks are connectors but also barriers. That’s the story the project tells through art, community events and a series of articles online at keepingwatch.org.

Historic research was essential. With a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the project hired Tenille Todd, a master’s degree student in history, to find old documents and photos and to compile oral histories. She interviewed and filmed almost two dozen people. Memories she collected include:

• How residents in the west Charlotte neighborhood of Reid Park were baptized in a tributary of Irwin Creek.
• How youngsters from the low-income African American neighborhood of Grier Heights shared a well-known swimming hole on Briar Creek with the sons of some of the city’s wealthiest families.
How a reporter investigating creek pollution in 1969 for the now-closed Charlotte News found formaldehyde and other chemicals pouring into a local creek.

Many of the oral histories are embedded in the multimedia package at keepingwatch.org, through articles written by Mary Newsom, Amber Veverka and Mae Israel. The histories will also be archived in Atkins Library’s Special Collections.

The project also includes an interactive online map, inviting readers to add their photos and recollections. Artist Lauren Rosenthal worked closely with the institute’s web developer, Wes Lawing, to create the online map and to integrate computers into her monumental, cut-paper wall map of Mecklenburg’s waterways, on display until June 17 at the Projective Eye Gallery at UNC Charlotte Center City.

In addition, Garrett Nelson, a geography and earth sciences master’s degree student, used geographic information systems technology to create topographical maps, one of them animated, to illustrate the way many Charlotte streets, especially uptown, follow ridges between the low-lying creeks. During fall 2014, undergraduate intern Danielle Haggerson collected and analyzed Mecklenburg County water-quality data and sewer-spill data from Charlotte Water, using data-visualization software.

As part of its public education mission, the project explores the science around today’s pollution, which comes predominantly from stormwater runoff, sedimentation and bacteria from feces. It explains how stream restoration efforts under way in Mecklenburg are led by stormwater engineers trying to undo the engineering mistakes of decades past.

Besides Rosenthal, four other artists took part. Stacy Levy created “Watershed Pantry” for the gallery and “Passage of Rain,” an on-site installation in the Revolution Park neighborhood. For the pantry presentation, students at local middle and high schools, including the STEM Early College High School at UNC Charlotte, collected samples from local creeks, part of the gallery display.

Photographer Nancy Pierce spent months wading and paddling the creeks. Her photos can be seen at the gallery and throughout the online articles.

Marek Ranis of the College of Arts + Architecture, with Tina Katsanos, a lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies, produced “Stewardship,” a video exploring the role of faith in views of the environment, also on display at the gallery.

Filmmaker Ben Premeaux of the smARTlab created “Almost worthless if it’s polluted,” which can be viewed online and at UNC Charlotte Center City.

KEEPING WATCH has a wide range of partners and funders. Partners are Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, City of Charlotte, Charlotte Ballet, Charlotte Museum of History, Clean Air Carolina, Discovery Place, Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Integrated Network for Social Sustainability, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Mecklenburg County Solid Waste Department, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, North Carolina Science Festival, Slow Food Charlotte, STEM Early College High School, Sustain Charlotte, UNC Charlotte Center for STEM Education and UNC Charlotte Office of Sustainability.

Sponsors are the Arts & Science Council, Blumenthal Foundation, Foundation for the Carolinas, Olga and Jay Faison, the Graduate School at UNC Charlotte, the John L. and James S. Knight Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, North Carolina Arts Council and WFAE-FM.

Mary Newsom is associate director for urban and regional affairs at the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, where she oversees the institute’s online communications, including PlanCharlotte.org.
By Meg Whalen

To the adult eye, it might be a giant pumpkin or the crown of the “Queen City,” or — its original design inspiration — an apple. To the kindergartners at Chantilly Montessori School, the new structure on the playground suggests limitless possibility.

“We love it!” said blond-headed Ruby. “We can pretend it’s like a school or a house,” added her friend, Vanessa. “It’s an igloo!” a boy called out.

“My friends call it the drum station,” countered another. “They drum on the seats.” “It’s so rewarding to see the little kids using it,” said fourth-year architecture student Ashley Girth, watching the children play on a bright April afternoon. A parade of feet stomps along the sturdy wooden and concrete benches that encircle the structure’s interior. Black patent leather shoes, Batman sneakers, floral fabric flats and pink Disney princess boots suddenly leap off and run across the playground to a wooden deck platform with seats, railings and planting boxes.

Students proudly pose with the “ribs” for the apple design they created and installed for a school’s playground in Charlotte.
Both the play structure and the “outdoor classroom” in the Chantilly Montessori playground were designed and built by UNC Charlotte students and faculty. They are the most recent projects completed by Freedom By Design, a program of the University’s chapter of the American Institute of Architects Students (AIAS). Girth is the program’s current president.

**RADICAL IMPACT**

As the AIAS community service program, Freedom By Design encourages architecture students to use their skills to “radically impact the lives of people in their communities,” said the AIAS website. The UNC Charlotte School of Architecture started a Freedom By Design program in 2007 under the mentorship of architecture faculty John Nelson, Greg Snyder and David Thaddeus.

The first projects, said Nelson, were about “designing something that restores freedom to movement.” The students replaced stairs with ramps, widened doorways, rebuilt porches — projects that helped older people regain mobility within their homes. Nelson said the projects are not only about community engagement but an educational opportunity.

“Most architecture students don’t have construction experience. If we are going to design buildings, we need to know how to put them together.” While architecture faculty consistently provide guidance and resources, the program is “student initiated and student led: We tell them we are not going to do it for you,” Nelson said.

The relationship with Chantilly Montessori began more three years ago with the design and construction of the outdoor learning space.

“It’s been amazing to work with the students at UNC Charlotte because of their enthusiasm and their willingness to embrace the thoughts, concerns and ideas that we had at Chantilly,” said Heather Simpson, a teacher at the school who oversaw the first project. “The design of the outdoor learning space kept morphing and morphing as we (teachers) gave input.”

The space is used not only for playtime but for science lessons, especially environmental science activities. “It’s been used by at least 11 classrooms,” Simpson said.

**NATURE’S DESIGN**

After completing the outdoor classroom in spring 2013, UNC Charlotte continued its relationship with the school by beginning the design of the playhouse. After two planning meetings, the Freedom By Design students chose a concept based on an apple — not only for its metaphorical association with education but because of the inherent structural stability of nature’s design. At one planning meeting, students grabbed apples and carving tools and began to “interrogate” the form.

“We wanted to explore new construction methods to achieve the apple form and create opportunities that allowed us to expand our architecture and design/build experiences,” said Girth. Months later, people passing through Storrs architecture building could see huge wooden arcs lying on the floor and propped against walls — glued, laminated timber “ribs,” bent to form the apple-shaped structure.

On Jan. 17, Girth, Nelson, architecture professor Greg Snyder and more than 20 students who included Snyder’s Design Build 1 seminar class gathered at Chantilly to assemble the main structure of the playhouse. As a team, they worked together to put each rib up one by one. As the first rib went up, Girth couldn’t watch.

“I was so afraid it wouldn’t come together. But once they were all up, I was like — wow! That’s what we designed. It was pretty neat.”

The final touches were completed in March. In keeping with the Freedom By Design mission, the project was done at no cost to the school. Funding came from the School of Architecture and the Charlotte chapter of the American Institute of Architects, with in-kind donations from Lowe’s, Home Depot and Faulk Brothers.

“As a leader through the design and construction phases of the project, I can’t believe how many great people I have gotten to work with and how much I have been encouraged to continue doing projects like this in the future,” Girth mused, viewing the children gallop in and out of the apple/igloo/crown/drum station/fort/playhouse.

“There were definitely some difficult moments, but finally seeing it finished — every bit of work has been worth it.”

Meg Freeman Whalen is director of communications and external relations for the College of Arts + Architecture.
A Defining Decade

Chancellor Philip L. Dubois discusses highlights of his first 10 years

Edited by Paul Nowell

On July 15, Philip L. Dubois will mark the completion of his 10th year as UNC Charlotte’s fourth chancellor. His ties to UNC Charlotte actually date back to 1991, when Dubois was recruited from the University of California, Davis, to become the institution’s chief academic officer. He spent the next five and a half years as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, before leaving in 1997 to become president of the University of Wyoming.

On March 18, 2005, Dubois was named UNC Charlotte’s fourth chancellor, and he assumed the position on July 15 of that year.

Dubois recently talked with a reporter about some milestones of his tenure.

SURGING ENROLLMENT GROWTH

“There are some amazing statistics in our enrollment growth. For example, UNC Charlotte accounts for 46 percent of the
growth in the entire UNC system during the last six years. Our undergraduate applications have gone up 75 percent in 10 years. Students from throughout the region and across the state have us on their radar. The proportion of our new freshmen students from outside the region has doubled over the last 10 years. It’s another indication of what happens when people have a chance to visit the campus and see all that we have going on at UNC Charlotte. They can feel the energy and see that it’s a very attractive place. We still feel comfortable with our long-range projections that enrollment will eventually be 35,000 students, if not larger. The answer to the question of how soon we will hit that mark depends upon our ability to assemble the human resources and physical facilities necessary to support an institution of that size and scope. I think that’s called politics.”

GROWTH OF ALUMNI BASE

“The growth of our alumni base over the past 10 years has been remarkable. The Alumni Association reports more than 115,000 living UNC Charlotte alumni and nearly 65,000 in the Charlotte area. I think this is one of the great areas of future potential for UNC Charlotte. We are turning out 5,000 new alums each year, and they are having good experiences here and have every reason to want to remain connected with the campus. We are making tremendous strides in advancement and alumni affairs in terms of organizing those students and cultivating alumni.

We have alums participating on most of our advisory boards. They now make up a majority of the University’s Board of Trustees. There was a period when we could claim that the sitting CFOs at Lowe’s, Duke Energy, Bank of America and Nucor were all graduates of UNC Charlotte, and the CEO of Lowe’s as well. I see a lot of future potential with respect to our alums as they advance to positions of importance and influence in the community, and they are already helping us. Our alumni can have a powerful impact on decision-making in their companies, and we now have significant numbers of our alumni within major companies in the region. As a result, we’ve been able to schedule major alumni events at Wells Fargo, Duke Energy, Lowe’s, and MetLife, and we are preparing for one at Bank of America.”
IMPROVED RECOGNITION IN CHARLOTTE REGION

“We have dedicated a lot of resources to outreach and engagement, and this is beginning to gain traction. We consistently receive a lot of positive media coverage in this market, and we’ve been successful with marketing campaigns and our use of social media and other content we develop. Charlotte Chamber of Commerce President Bob Morgan has said UNC Charlotte is the second most important economic driver in the region, second only to the airport. This is a significant statement on the value of the University to the region’s prosperity. When we changed the University’s mission statement, we made a big point of including engagement with the local community as a key element.

Some discrete things augmented our reputation for being engaged with the Charlotte region, such as being a part of the business community. EPIC is one example. Data science is another. We have been intentional about the way in which we have engaged with companies relocating to Charlotte, such as TIAA-CREF and, more recently, Areva, MetLife, and Electrolux. Whenever we hear about companies thinking about coming to Charlotte, we are at the table with the Chamber (of Commerce) and the Charlotte Regional Partnership talking about the assets we offer for those companies to come here. And once they have decided to relocate, we become a lead player in welcoming them to Charlotte. We work cooperatively with them to fill their need for workforce development by coordinating our educational programs and certifications, and when possible, faculty and student research with these companies.

As a result, these companies are providing internship opportunities for our students and full-time permanent employment opportunities for our graduates.

And then there are the partnerships with nonprofits, including the Levine Museum of the New South and the McColl Center for Visual Arts, among others. Some other things, including construction of the UNC Charlotte Center City, the creation of First Ward Park, and our involvement with light rail have solidified our position as a major community asset. Collectively, these things have made us better appreciated generally.”

IMPACT OF LEVINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

“The Levine Scholars Program shows that if you put enough money and support behind an effort to recruit the best students, you will get the best students. One of the reasons for our upcoming major fundraising campaign is focused on student aid so we can attract the best students. To convince great students to enroll at UNC Charlotte, you need to be able to offer good financial aid packages. I have heard that the Levine Scholars Program has become popular with high school guidance counselors. Once they refer a Levine Scholar to campus, they refer others, and we have benefited from bringing in some of the most remarkable young students into the program. I could not be more pleased.”

EXPANSION OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

“The driving factor of graduate program growth, as it was during Jim Woodward’s time, was the specific needs related to the Charlotte region, principally those related to the preparation and professional development of the workforce. If you inspect the list of the programs we’ve initiated at the master’s level, you will see things like energy and electromechanical systems, health informatics, and data science. At the Ph.D. level, our new programs have included things like bioinformatics, public health sciences, health services research, and organizational science.

All of those new programs were largely driven by workforce needs associated with major institutions, so that’s not a surprise.”

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

“Expanding and deepening diversity and inclusion have been priorities of my administration. Among other things, we created the Council on University Community and funded a $150,000 Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Grant Program designed to encourage diversity and inclusion in campus events and activities that will engage faculty, students, staff, and the larger community. We also funded a staff position, which supports the work of the council and administers the grant program. If you expect things to happen, you have to hire people to make it happen. When we saw a need and wanted to pursue a goal, we pushed resources to accomplish that.

To me, for the students, diversity is all about the quality and relevance of their education. It’s all about preparing students to live in a world in which they will have to work and be active and constructive citizens. If they don’t understand that diversity, and that includes exposure to international cultures, we are not doing our job.

For faculty and staff, it’s a matter of fairness. It has to do with giving every (job) applicant an opportunity to be actively considered for employment, professional development, and advancement at UNC Charlotte. This, of course, helps student recruitment as well. When minority students come on to our
During Dubois’s tenure, demand for a UNC Charlotte education has grown steadily, as has the academic quality of incoming UNC Charlotte students. The chancellor is pictured here with Robert Valderrama (’14), recipient of the Chancellor’s Citation for Leadership & Service.

During Dubois’s tenure, demand for a UNC Charlotte education has grown steadily, as has the academic quality of incoming UNC Charlotte students. The chancellor is pictured here with Robert Valderrama (’14), recipient of the Chancellor’s Citation for Leadership & Service.

I don’t know if this is appreciated by a lot of people, but we have done a very good job on making sure the minority community outside the University is fairly treated with respect to benefiting from spending by the University on the construction of new buildings, the purchase of materials, and the purchase of services. We have won awards for HUB (Historically Underutilized Business) related activity. This started because I insisted that we hire a HUB coordinator. All of this was brought together around the Council on University Community, which was conceived originally when I was provost. Now, Provost Joan Lorden chairs the group and every member of my Cabinet participates.”

STAYING THE COURSE DURING THE GREAT RECESSION

“In the wake of substantial budget cuts and reversions, we did not have the severe layoffs that a lot of campuses had. I think most faculty and staff around here know that and they understood that our overall strategy was to protect core academic activities and essential parts of our infrastructure, such as things related to information technology and public safety.

Our mantra for managing the University has always been to ‘hope for the best but plan for the worst.’ And we really did plan for the worst, and then the worst happened. We really got lucky because, during the recession, the legislature continued to fund enrollment increases, and we were one of the growing campuses. I think we did a better than average job of communicating with our people, so there wasn’t panic in the streets even in the worst years.

I thought we emerged from it about as well as we could have and, in terms of our physical facilities, much better than prior to the recession. One of the things people don’t understand about the physical structure of the University is that many of the buildings around here have nothing to do with state appropriations. A few projects, including Bioinformatics, EPIC, and UNC Charlotte Center City, were built using state-appropriated funds or the proceeds from the 2000 North Carolina Higher Education bond program. But the rest of our projects have been constructed using self-sustaining revenues. Projects such as the football stadium, the Student Union, and the Student Health Center come to mind. User fees are used to build things like parking decks, residence halls, and the new South Village dining complex. PORTAL (our industry partnership facility) is an example of one new change in policy on campus where we used federal indirect cost receipts for the first time to support the debt service payments on that building. As risky as it was, we knew that we could be doing more to support entrepreneurship, innovation, and tech transfer. When all of the construction and renovation dollars are added up, we’ve improved our facilities by well more than $1 billion over the last dozen years or so.”

BENEFITS OF 49ERS FOOTBALL

“When I’m in pretty good shape, I normally weigh about 162 pounds. Well, I got down to 147 pounds a few years ago, and it was all because of football. It was a very stressful time, and I spent a lot of time coming to a decision. After I retire and look back, I think it will be one of the two or

Charlotte 49ers football is one of the paramount highlights of the Dubois era, so far. Here, the chancellor congratulates wide receiver Austin Duke during the 2015 Green-White spring scrimmage.
This year marks a decade since Philip L. Dubois became chancellor of UNC Charlotte. It also calls to attention 10 years of service from his wife, Lisa, who has worked tirelessly as an ambassador for the University, furthering its reputation as an outstanding institution of higher learning.

A powerhouse partnership since their courtship began as students at the University of Wisconsin, the couple credit much of their success to their simpatico nature toward solving issues and achieving goals together. “We really view ourselves as a team. He relies on me for advice, especially when it comes to decorating, catering, and executing large-scale events,” said Lisa Lewis Dubois. “We want everything to be first class and top-notch.”

Much of her efforts to accomplish that goal has centered around Bissell House, the chancellor’s residence on campus, where the Duboises have welcomed thousands of guests through the front door for hundreds of luncheons and receptions throughout the years.

Dubois has had many roles in her life. As an appellate attorney, she wrote the briefs she then argued in front of appellate courts. As a mother, she nurtured and raised her three children into thoughtful, civic-minded adults. She’s never thought of her roles as a hostess and a University representative as any less important.

“I consider it my obligation to make this home as warm and loving and welcoming for all the various constituencies that come here: our students, community members, political friends, faculty, alumni, and friends that we’re trying to cultivate,” she said. “Entertaining is vital to that cultivation, and we do a majority of it here.”

‘FIRST FAMILY’ ON CAMPUS

Ten years ago Bissell House, itself, was new to the University. Completed in 2004 to
serve as the University’s first-ever chancellor’s residence on campus, it began the tradition to house the “First Family” at UNC Charlotte.

Although fully furnished and decorated, Dubois spent the first few months adding personal touches to the residence. Fine art collected by her family hangs in nearly every room.

“That’s the admiral,” she said, pointing above a fireplace at the portrait of a regal military figure. “My grandfather was an admiral in the Navy. My grandparents purchased this picture of the admiral while he was stationed in Italy.”

With masterful skill, the residence balances the formality necessary for hosting dignitaries and other guests with the domesticity that naturally comes from day-to-day living in those same quarters.

An empty cereal bowl left from the chancellor’s breakfast waits in the sink to be loaded into the dishwasher. In the same room, fine china is stowed away, ready for use at the next formal function. In the den, a pet turtle swims throughout a large aquarium, while in the next room formal furniture is staged for entertaining VIPs.

THE GUEST LIST

In any given month, the list of guests range from women military veterans to new professors joining the University ranks, from national politicians to international celebrities. The chancellor and Mrs. Dubois greet each guest to every event at the front door. “One of the best parts of the job is meeting people,” she said. “We’ve met so many fascinating people, and you have to like people to be in this job. But we do.” Notable guests have included Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman, feminist Gloria Steinem, former CNN anchor Soledad O’Brien, former White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers, and former U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe. Bissell House has also been the site of major welcoming receptions for senior executives relocating major companies to Charlotte including, most recently, MetLife.

Dubois came by the art of entertaining honestly, learning to cook and plan the perfect social occasion from the matriarchs of her family.

“My grandmother and my mother were both phenomenal entertainers,” she said. “My dad was president of a bank, so they were entertaining all the time. My grandmother was married to a four-star admiral, so they were entertaining all the time. We kind of grew up in a household of entertaining.”

It’s a skill she intends to pass on to the University’s up-and-coming ambassadors. Each semester, Dubois teaches etiquette classes to student groups on campus.

During the spring semester, the freshmen class of Levine Scholars sat at a well-dressed dining table inside Bissell House — their laps draped with freshly starched linen napkins and rows of flatware set before them like miniature receiving lines.

Along with the elegant five-course meal, which began with sweet potato and white bean soup and ended with warm chocolate soufflé, Dubois gave the students a pop quiz on etiquette. “How do you shake hands properly? What flatware do you use? It’s so vitally important for our students to know how to comport themselves,” said Dubois.

“Perception is everything.”

Her charitable works throughout the Charlotte community have shaped how others perceive Dubois. She’s served on the board of directors of several important causes, including Communities in Schools, a dropout-prevention organization that provides support for at-risk youth in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Dubois also served on the board of directors for the Arts & Science Council and was appointed recently by Charlotte Mayor Dan Clodfelter to the Public Art Commission.

One of her greatest achievements, Dubois noted, was her role as chair of the 2008 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Women’s Summit, now called the Women + Girls Research Alliance. The alliance is “something that I was a part of starting,” said Dubois. “I’m proud of that, and proud of the solid women friends that I have made as a result.”

MEASURING SUCCESS

Dubois is also pleased with the success the University has experienced during her husband’s leadership. UNC Charlotte has achieved tremendous growth in the last decade: the addition of an uptown presence with UNC Charlotte Center City, the launch of the Charlotte 49ers football program, the addition of Jerry Richardson Stadium, the completion of the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center and much more. In that time, student enrollment has grown 28 percent, to more than 27,000 students.

For the University’s fourth chancellor and his wife, that’s a source of great pride, a reason to celebrate, and most importantly, assurance that the traditions of entertaining guests at Bissell House and building the region and University through community leadership will continue.

Lisa Thornton, owner of Follow My Lede, is a writer based in the greater Charlotte area.
During the first decade Philip L. Dubois’s tenure as chancellor, highlights have been innumerable. Here are just a sampling of some of the more recognizable milestones during those years.

**Milestones of the Dubois era**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'05</td>
<td>July 2005 – Phil Dubois begins work as the fourth chancellor of UNC Charlotte</td>
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<tr>
<td>'05</td>
<td>February 2006 – Chancellor Dubois officially installed</td>
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<tr>
<td>'06</td>
<td>December 2006 – Diversity Challenge Fund created</td>
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<tr>
<td>'08</td>
<td>November 2008 – Charlotte 49ers intercollegiate football team approved by Board of Trustees</td>
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</table>
the Dubois era

August 2009 - “Stake Your Claim” brand launched publicly
Student Union opens

August 2010 - Levine Scholars Program enrolls first cohort

November 2011 - Chancellor Speaker Series debuts, featuring Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson

August 2011 - UNC Charlotte Center City opens for classes

May 2012 - 100,000th living alumni graduates

April 2012 - Violins of Hope debuts

September 2013 - Charlotte 49ers football kick offs with inaugural win on McColl-Richardson Field at Jerry Richardson Stadium

October 2014 - Marching Band announced; later named Pride of Niner Nation

February 2014 - Partnership, Outreach and Research to Accelerate Learning (PORTAL) facility dedicated

November 2012 - Energy Production & Infrastructure Center (EPIC) dedicated

October 2013 - Solar Decathlon competes for national prize

December 2013 - University reaccredited by the Southern Associations of Colleges and Schools

August 2014 - Charlotte Engineering Early College welcomes its first class of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools high school students

December 2011 - Charlotte 49ers men’s soccer team reaches NCAA finals vs UNC Chapel Hill

February 2015 - UNC system Board of Governors meets on UNC Charlotte campus.
Understanding population and educational demographics over time helps UNC Charlotte and other universities anticipate future needs and shape educational opportunities for upcoming generations of graduate students. Demographic analysis informs academic program planning to respond to business, industry and education needs, as well as to develop services to support a rapidly changing talent pool of diverse learners.

Twenty years ago, the average age of UNC Charlotte graduate students was 31.7; today, the average age is 30.7. So while age has been relatively constant, it’s about the only demographic that has been.

So what has changed? Quite a lot. According to data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the total percentage of minority students — African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islanders and Native Americans — in K-12 public schools is larger than the percentage of white students.

DISPARITY IN COLLEGE ENROLLEES

Nevertheless, a disparity in college enrollment by race continues to impact the total number of post-baccalaureate students, given that less than 50 percent of African-American and Hispanic high school graduates pursue a college education, according to a University Business magazine article on student demographics. UNC Charlotte enrolls the largest share of Hispanic students (graduate and undergraduate) in the UNC system, a tribute to the efforts made to both recruit this population and support them after enrollment.

Diversity is also reflected in the faces of students who enroll in graduate programs from foreign countries. In fall 2014, 23 percent of UNC Charlotte’s more than 5,000 graduate students were international, compared to less than 10 percent 10 years ago. Across the United States in 2013-14, first-time international student enrollment grew 8 percent, with double-digit increases from India, according to the...
Council of Graduate Schools’ recent admission survey.

Financially, roughly 69 percent of new college graduates with baccalaureate degrees fund their education with student loans, and loan debt is more than twice that of college graduates 20 years ago, based on demographic analysis of student borrowers by Pew Research Center.

**STUDENT DEBT MORE THAN DOUBLES**

Students from high-income and upper-middle-income families have been taking on more debt than graduates from low-income families, notes the analysis. The typical amount of debt for undergraduate education increased from $12,434 for 1992-93 graduates to $26,885 for the class of 2011-12.

Increasingly, graduate students are matriculating with a great amount of student debt, and many are required to study part-time as they work full time to manage their debt. Loan limits, student funding, employer-tuition contributions and the economy are forcing individuals to make decisions about the return on investment of a graduate education.

As K-12 education changes in the United States, economic conditions influence the ability to pursue advanced study, English is increasingly the second language for many students, students assume more debt to finance undergraduate education, and business, industry and education require advanced skills — graduate education is, and will keep, evolving.

UNC Charlotte graduate students and programs reflect the diversity of the changing demographic landscape. The Graduate School faculty will continue to be proactive in anticipating trends that affect advanced education and to promote its value in the region, state, nation and world.

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Johnna Watson is associate dean of the Graduate School.

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**Ethnic Minority Enrollments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term and Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
<td>1,121</td>
<td>22.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2012</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>21.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2011</td>
<td>954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>18.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>18.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2008</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>17.4</td>
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**International Student Enrollments**

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<tr>
<th>Term and Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
<td>1,167</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2012</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2011</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>14.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2008</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>15.5</td>
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In Chancellor Dubois’s February 2006 installation address, he highlighted UNC Charlotte’s commitment to diversity. “The goal of creating an inclusive campus community (reflects) this campus’s long-held understanding that diversity isn’t just the right thing to do — it is an educational and business necessity,” he said.

Under the auspices of the UNC Charlotte Plan for Campus Diversity, Access, and Inclusion, the University defines diversity as the acknowledgement of the many facets of human difference. Diversity encompasses a variety of characteristics and experiences that include ethnicity, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability and religion. As such, the Graduate School actively strives to increase diversity at the graduate level through its recruitment and enrollment practices.

Graduate Admissions focuses on recruiting, admitting and enrolling a diverse class using both traditional methods and social media. To recruit the fall 2014 class, the staff had more than 36,000 personalized interactions with prospective students via face-to-face appointments, information sessions, appointments, telephone and email. Additionally, admissions counselors participated in 64 information sessions, either online or on campus, that included programs targeted to underrepresented students.

Associate Dean Johnna Watson traveled to China and Bosnia with faculty from the College of Computing and Informatics in spring 2014 to recruit top international students to the Graduate School.

The University is also a destination institution for foreign Fulbright students, as well as for students in the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program.
Local governments in China use microblogs not as battering rams to force reform but rather in more subtle ways to enhance political legitimacy, test interactions with public audiences and reduce resistance, research by UNC Charlotte’s Min Jiang shows.

Jiang, an associate professor in communication studies, earlier this spring received from the journal China Information an award for Best Article of 2014 for the paper titled “Official Microblogging and Social Management by Local Governments in China.” Her co-author is Jesper Schlaeger of Sichuan University in China.

The study is the latest in Jiang’s work on Chinese social media, search engines and other Internet technologies. Her research blends new-media studies, political communication, international communication, legal studies and information science.

“I’m interested in how these technologies are changing China and how China is responding, particularly in shaping these technologies,” said Jiang, who is also a research affiliate at the Center for Global Communication Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

**TECHNOLOGY DEMOCRATIZES?**

From fax machines to emails and from websites to search engines and microblogs, “the Chinese Communist Party seems to have weathered and withstood waves of information and technology transformations,” Jiang said. “We need to better understand such processes so we are not trapped in the perilous belief that technology democratizes.”

Her latest research found that Chinese local governments are gradually changing from service providers to service predictors. They are growing enhanced capabilities to deliver individualized services and institute state surveillance, through use of Internet Service Providers, the study found.

In the wake of the Arab Spring in 2011, the deputy director of the Central Propaganda Department encouraged local propaganda units to “occupy weibo,” which means to use Twitter-like microblogging platforms, such as Sina Weibo, as communication tools. Local governments responded with over 176,000 official accounts, according to the Chinese Academy of Governance E-government Research Center.

Jiang argues that this move toward official microblogging extends the effort to manage social tensions and conflicts. Government weibo accounts become embedded in people’s day-to-day lives by providing information and engaging citizens. They act as “beta institutions,” with semi-institutionalized practices intended for temporary use or experimentation, open to local interpretations and innovations.

“Before social media, Chinese government was primarily doing government outreach via websites, but by ‘occupying weibo,’ government organs are increasingly present online to offer guidance and advice,” Jiang said. “Many government entities such as the police have their own accounts to interact with local residents. Microblogging platforms such as Sina Weibo allow certain opportunities for debate and exchange of information. There is sometimes even sharp criticism of the government and officials, although within permitted boundaries.”

Jiang also has studied how Chinese microbloggers used Sina Weibo and other social media sites to talk about the 2012 Democratic National Convention in
Charlotte. That study, co-authored by UNC Charlotte communication studies professor Richard Leeman and University of Hong Kong professor King-Wa Fu, considered how Chinese microbloggers engage in discussion of foreign politics and respond to U.S. elections.

SEARCH ENGINES NOT APOLITICAL

Meanwhile, when considering search engines in China or elsewhere, researchers shouldn’t view them as neutral tools that fetch answers to people’s questions, Jiang noted.

“Search engines have politics and economics,” she explained. “They are shaped by various political and economic factors that produce many biases. For instance, certain results may have been censored or demoted in ranking. I am interested in dissecting what politics and values search engines embody so that we can create technological designs and policies in ways more congruent with our social values and ideals.”

Former graduate research assistant Huijing Yang, who now teaches at Waddell Language Academy in Charlotte, also worked with Jiang, gathering and analyzing data on search engines and websites.

“Through research, you can tell which search engine is more liberal or more conservative,” Yang said. “This is important because through research, people can obtain more information about how a search engine works.”

Another graduate research assistant who worked with Jiang, Kristen Okamoto, completed her master’s degree in communication studies in 2013 and is pursuing her doctoral degree at Ohio University’s School of Communication. She co-authored with Jiang a paper that was published in the Oxford University-based journal, Policy & Internet.

“We often take for granted that myriad information is available at our fingertips,” Okamoto said. “Our goal in this project was to encourage people to think more critically about how they access this information, especially within the context of a government-sponsored search engine.”

Okamoto said working with Jiang helped her hone her research skills. “I was able to see the research process, from design to publication, unfold before me,” she said. “The research experience I gained from working with Dr. Jiang equipped me with the capacity to engage interesting research questions with theoretical and methodological rigor.”

Jiang is applying that level of research rigor to her current work, which includes a book project, “China vs. Information: Between Macro-control and Micro-power.” It explores how Chinese governments and citizens are using the Internet to reshape the underlying mechanisms of transparency, accountability and representation.

Michael Eccles is a senior Africana studies major, minoring in communication studies. He is a communications intern in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
Mark Price brings his coaching, teaching prowess to UNC Charlotte

By Tom Whitestone

Beneath the shadow of a basketball hoop in the 49ers’ Charles Hayward Memorial practice gym, former collegiate and NBA star Mark Price was introduced as the 49ers men’s basketball coach on March 26.

Fitting it seemed. Price grew up in basketball gyms. He lists his father first among those coaches who had the greatest influence on him. He lists as well Bobby Cremins, Lenny Wilkins, Stan Van Gundy and Steve Clifford. But his father, a lifelong coach, comes first.

That’s the life Mark Price grew up with and it’s the life Price has known — from his many years as a player to his last eight as an NBA assistant coach.

He may have made his name in those spacious arenas, but he made his game in those practice gyms.

At 5 feet 11 inches tall, he wasn’t a prototypical basketball player. He had to outwork, outthink and outprepare his opponents. Some credit him with the slip screen — the move by the point guard to cut around a screen and then slip inside and by the oncoming defender. He was known for his shooting ability — which still ranks among the best in NBA history, both from the foul line and the 3-point mark. And he was described as a floor general — a coach on the floor, as it were, who was entrusted to make the right decisions at the right time.

All of which was honed and sharpened in the practice gym. When his playing days had past, he took up the role of mentor, helping to coach others and working with them on a regular basis in the practice gym.

The Charlotte Hornets’ Michael Kidd-Gilchrist’s improved shooting touch has been credited to Price, who served as the team’s shooting coach for the last two years. Hornets point guard Kemba Walker credits Price with his better court awareness and decision-making. Bobby Cremins, who coached Price at Georgia Tech, believes Price has all the tools to be an excellent collegiate coach.

Cremins has seen what type of competitor Price is. When Price arrived at Georgia Tech, the Yellow Jackets were an afterthought in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). When he left, they had won an ACC title and were preseason league favorites. In the NBA, in Cleveland, he helped take a team from sub-.500 play to seven NBA playoff appearances in eight years. Five of his first seven years as an NBA assistant included trips to the NBA playoffs.

Historically, he has helped build programs, either through his play or his counsel.

In 1994 he helped the USA win gold at the FIBA World Championships as a member of Dream Team II. He played alongside Reggie Miller, Alonzo Mourning, Shaquille O’Neal and Dominique Wilkins. He averaged 9.6 points and 3.6 assists. He hit 42 percent of his 3-pointers (19-of-45) and in the gold-medal game scored 12 points with five rebounds, five assists and no turnovers.

Now he brings his game to the 49ers. His goal is the same as it was with each of his other teams — to improve the team and elevate the program. He wants to instill his work ethic and competitive fire into the 49ers so that these players have a chance to leave a similar mark on their teams. He wants to surround himself with players and coaches who are determined to get better. He wants to surround himself with individuals determined to excel.

And he wants to get to work as coach and teacher. It all starts in the practice gym. His home away from home.
SAAC VIDEO WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The NCAA chose the video produced by the Charlotte Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) as the national winner in the “It’s On Us” campaign.

The NCAA Division I National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee sponsored the contest as a way to educate students and others on sexual assault.

The NCAA received nearly 60 videos from schools throughout the country, with 44 submissions considered for the competition. Of the six finalists, the 49ers’ SAAC video was chosen as the winner. The NCAA has also partnered with the White House in this campaign.

Osvaldo Hernandez and Daniel Freeman, both track and field athletes, were the driving forces behind the SAAC project. Hernandez produced the video, while Freeman wrote the script.

“It’s not something that affects just athletics; it affects our community and campus as a whole,” Freeman said. “We tried to represent that in our video by including our student body president, Greek life and a variety of other students on campus. No one is above this issue.”

“It’s On Us” is a national campaign to recognize that non-consensual sex is sexual assault. It includes identifying situations in which sexual assault may occur, how to intervene in situations where consent has not or cannot be given and how to create an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

“When we began filming the ‘It’s On Us’ video, the mood changed and the students realized the importance of having their voices heard on this serious matter,” Hernandez said. “This helped create the raw emotion of the subject of sexual assault.”

The SAAC video was shown April 4 in Indianapolis at the NCAA Division I men’s basketball national semifinal game between Michigan State and Duke.

Other athletes involved included Matt Horkey (baseball), Sarah Adams (volleyball), Jamal Covington (football), David Mayer (men’s soccer), Morgan Richards (women’s track and field), Blake Brewer (football), Josh Cook (men’s tennis), Tyler Baker (women’s tennis), K’Vonte Scott (men’s track and field), Lisa Grosselius (women’s tennis) and Anthony Campbell (men’s track and field).

Student Government Association President Steven Serio and other students were featured in the video as well.

UNC Charlotte employees assisting with the project included Sarah Hebberd (assistant director of compliance), Curtis Canty (compliance coordinator), Rachel Ramey (assistant academics director and life skills coordinator) and Chris Everett (assistant ticket manager), all of whom serve as SAAC advisors.

“We are extremely proud of our student-athletes and the video that they have created for the ‘It’s On Us’ campaign,” Hebberd said. “They took the topic very seriously and wanted to produce a video that would help bring more awareness to the issue of sexual assault.”

In addition to having the video shown to more than 100,000 fans at the Final Four, the University is receiving $5,000 to be used for sexual-assault prevention efforts on campus.

READY FOR FBS, NIGHT FOOTBALL

As Charlotte football makes its leap to Conference USA and the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), lights have been added to Jerry Richardson Stadium. The lights will allow more flexibility in scheduling.

2015 49ERS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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<th>September</th>
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<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 4</td>
<td>at Georgia Dome, Atlanta</td>
<td>Sat. 12</td>
<td>PRESBYTERIAN</td>
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<td>Sat. 12</td>
<td>at Middle Tennessee* Murfreesboro, Tenn.</td>
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<td>Sat. 19</td>
<td>at Florida Atlantic*</td>
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<td>Sat. 26</td>
<td>FLORIDA ATLANTIC*</td>
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<td>Fri. 2</td>
<td>TEMPLE</td>
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<td>Sat. 10</td>
<td>(BYE) Norfolk, Va.</td>
<td>Sat. 17</td>
<td>at Old Dominion*</td>
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<td>Sat. 24</td>
<td>SOUTHERN MISS*</td>
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<td>Sat. 31</td>
<td>MARSHALL*</td>
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<td>Sat. 7</td>
<td>at Florida International University* Miami</td>
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<td>Sat. 14</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, SAN ANTONIO*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 21</td>
<td>at Kentucky Lexington, Ky.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 28</td>
<td>at Rice* Houston</td>
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Ticket packages are available at charlotte49ers.com or by calling 704-687-4949. Home games, listed in bold caps, are played on campus at Jerry Richardson Stadium.

The schedule is subject to change, and the “*” indicates Conference USA games. Games times will be available when the conference releases its television package for the season.
Window to the Future

University team creates material that could revolutionize energy efficiency in buildings

By Meg Whalen and Lynn Roberson

Suppose we could enjoy the windows in our homes and other buildings while experiencing two highly attractive environmental benefits — less heat produced by sunlight pouring through the glass and the capturing of that energy to power the structure.

This compelling idea has moved closer to reality through the work of a UNC Charlotte team of students, led by faculty from architecture and nanoscale science. They have developed a solar-responsive design material that transforms one of the most popular features in most structures — windows — into environmentally responsive surfaces, with potential to revolutionize the use of glass in buildings.

“We believe the nanotechnology we are developing could totally change the way buildings integrate light- and heat-responsive solar materials that channel excess solar energy away and convert it into useful electrical power,” said Michael Walter, assistant professor with the nanoscale science doctoral program and the Department of Chemistry.

The students competed for $75,000 in the People, Prosperity and Planet Student Design Competition for Sustainability held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Alexandria, Va. April 10-13. UNC Charlotte won honorable mention among the 40 entries, only five of which received second-round grants.

To develop the project, UNC Charlotte had received $15,000 in EPA funding and awards from the University’s Energy Production and Infrastructure Center, the Department of Chemistry and the School of Architecture.

“THE MOST OBVIOUS IMPACT THIS WORK CAN HAVE, IF IMPLEMENTED, IS TO DRIVE DOWN OUR CO2 EMISSIONS AND FOSSIL-FUEL USAGE.”

MEET THE TEAM

The team competing for the prize comprised Dan Cohen and Keming Ren, doctoral degree students in nanoscale science; Maryam Ahmadi Oloonabadi and Amir Hosseinzadeh Zarrabi, master’s degree students in architecture; Jennifer Kassel, a bachelor’s degree student in physics; and Victoria Pike, a bachelor’s degree student in architecture. Mona Azarbayjani, assistant professor in the School of Architecture, joins Walter in guiding the work.

The design draws inspiration from sunlight-responsive mechanisms found in nature and from applied principles in chemistry and materials science. The unique material reacts to the intensity of sunlight striking the window. Excess solar energy converts to electricity instead of heating the interior of a building. This material can be incorporated as an ultra-thin layer on a glass surface in a building’s exterior, such as skylights, facades, windows, or on curtain walls, or in vehicles.

Micro-sized, wire-shaped solar cells are embedded in the thin film of clear, heat-responsive plastic material. The plastic absorbs the heat the sunlight produces and reacts by expanding, which causes the nearly invisible wires to bend, and in turn, slightly tint the window. This allows the solar cells to absorb more visible light, increasing the efficiency of the window as a solar panel, which can help meet the building’s energy needs. Once the window cools, the plastic and the wires return to their original positions.
“The most obvious impact this work can have, if implemented, is to drive down our CO2 emissions and fossil-fuel usage,” Kassel said. “In the science world, it will open up new avenues of research characterizing such a system and finding ways to optimize it. More subtly, I think it has amazing potential to push the borders of novel approaches to more efficient generation of energy.”

The team works as a strong unit, Azarbayjani said. “This project fosters the collaboration among students from different disciplines, including nanoscale science, chemistry, physics and architecture,” she said. “This problem-based and active learning model reinforced and advanced the kinds of nontraditional education known to deepen learning and build professional development skills.”

GAINING NEW PERSPECTIVES

Team members gained new perspectives and insights from each other, students said. “Working with the other disciplines is very vital for architecture, as it is an interdisciplinary complex,” Ahmadi Oloonabadi said. “It kind of made us think about a major problem of our buildings with a tiny lens. It is always great not to look at the problems from the same angle over and over.”

This is not the first time an interdisciplinary team of UNC Charlotte students has conducted research and design in solar energy and sustainability practices for a national competition. Led by Azarbayjani, more than 40 students competed in the 2013 Solar Decathlon, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

“One of the core objectives of the Solar Decathlon was to turn ideas into research,” Azarbayjani recalled. “Throughout the competition, we wanted to embrace all aspects of sustainability and the built environment. That’s where the idea of a responsive building envelope was born. This idea then served as a vehicle for our exploration in the P3 competition.”

Bringing together researchers from architecture and physical sciences made sense, Walter said. “In chemistry and nanoscience, we are always trying to push the limits of what our materials can do, and yet at the same time we need to understand the ‘why’ of our efforts,” he noted. “The rapid growth of solar energy materials in the last 10 to 15 years meant that pieces of the solution to this design challenge existed. By bringing together architecture faculty and students with nanoscience faculty and students, we have begun to work out how to put those pieces together.”

Meg Freeman Whalen and Lynn Roberson are directors of communications for the College of Arts + Architecture and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, respectively.
Alumni Awards

Extolling Excellence
Alumni Association Honors Eight for Service, Achievements

By Paul Nowell

In March, the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association honored eight individuals for embodying the core principles of the University and for distinguishing themselves through outstanding service to UNC Charlotte, their chosen field and humanity.

“All of our awardees have achieved so much, both personally and professionally, in their lives, and we are proud to have them as a part of our 49er family,” said UNC Charlotte Alumni Association President Deborah Pittman.

“The nominee pool for this year’s awards was outstanding,” she added. “Choosing the honorees for each category was not an easy task. As graduates and members of the UNC Charlotte 49er family, we are proud to have eight superior honorees this year, each of who support our University as volunteers, advocates and donors.”

THE HONOREES ARE RECOGNIZED IN FIVE CATEGORIES:

Distinguished Faculty Award

HOWARD GODFREY, PH.D.

If you ask University accounting alumni whom they remember well or which faculty members they’ve kept in touch with after graduation, Howard Godfrey would invariably be near the top of the list. With a genuine interest in students, loyalty to UNC Charlotte and a passion for the accounting profession, he is a Belk College institution.

Godfrey joined the University faculty in 1975. He was the first business faculty member to hold a Ph.D. in accounting (from the University of Alabama) and the first CPA in Charlotte with a doctoral degree. Godfrey has fond memories of faculty members from that era, particularly department chair and fellow awardee Tom Turner.

Teaching primarily federal taxation, Godfrey is a CPA in North Carolina and a member of the American Accounting Association, the American Taxation Association and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

In 2011, he received the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, and in 2012, he received the UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence.

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

FABIAN ELLIOTT (’12)

During his UNC Charlotte tenure, Fabian Elliott could be found just about anywhere on campus; he participated in so many activities.

He founded the United Black Professionals, a collegiate affiliate of the National Black MBA Association. A student organization, United Black Professionals prepares students for future career endeavors.
A Belk College of Business Dean’s Fellow, Elliott was crowned homecoming king. He also received the honor of being the University’s 100,000th graduate when he earned his bachelor’s degree in marketing in 2012.

Before graduating, Elliott interned with Google’s sales team in 2011. His responsibilities included researching seven retail clients that made up a $61.8 million annual revenue account and performing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. He also examined marketing mixes to identify potential business opportunities.

Honorary Alumnus Award

THOMAS TURNER

Thomas “Tom” Turner — credited with almost single-handedly building the UNC Charlotte Accounting Department into a premier program — is known as much for giving people a good-natured hard time as he is for teaching.

After many years in the private sector as a CPA, Turner arrived at UNC Charlotte in 1966 — just one year after the institution became part of the UNC system. He was known as a tough teacher and insisted that a strong accounting program had to begin with strong teachers.

Turner also served on the professional ethics committee of the N.C. Association of Certified Public Accountants. He taught more than 2,000 accounting students in his day and had at least 19 graduates earn medals for outstanding performance on the CPA examination. That means those students ranked either first, second or third in the state.

Humanitarian Award

LYNN DOBSON (’70, ’75)

During her career, Lynn Dobson has been involved in cancer care, hospice, youth ministry, therapeutic child-care programs, mission work and camps for special-needs children.

Dobson earned her nursing degree at UNC Charlotte in 1970 and her Master of Education degree in 1975. She served as a clinical instructor in pediatric nursing at UNC Charlotte from 1973 to 1991.

During this time, she was one of three faculty members who started the nursing clinic at the Salvation Army for Women and Children. In 1992, she was recognized for her work nationally as a recipient of the Jefferson Award, America’s highest public service honor that recognizes unsung heroes who volunteer to make life better for others.

Dobson’s experience as a three-time cancer survivor inspired her humanitarian efforts. One of her major accomplishments in Charlotte was the development and direction of Camp Care, a summer camp for children with cancer.

Alumni Hall of Fame Award (four recipients)

ROBERT BRAME JR., PH.D., (’88, ’91)

Robert “Bobby” Brame graduated cum laude from UNC Charlotte in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice in 1991. He completed his Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice in 1997 at the University of Maryland.

Upon graduation, he was awarded a prestigious postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Consortium on Violence Research at the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University. After completing the fellowship, he was invited to become a member of the consortium, a considerable honor given that membership includes fewer than 90 scholars and is both international and multidisciplinary.

In addition, he was invited to be an associate for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice.

A full professor at UNC Charlotte from 2007 to 2013, Brame is a distinguished professor in the University of South Carolina’s Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, where he has helped to establish the department’s Ph.D. program.

S. MARK DOUGHTON (’80)

Doughton graduated with a degree in business administration in 1980 from the Belk College of Business. He began his career in 1985 with Inmar Inc., a logistics and promotion services company based in Winston-Salem, N.C. He helped to build the startup company into a national
operation of more than 1,500 employees and 31 warehouses.
Currently, Doughton works as a career development consultant. He has provided generous financial support for many campus efforts, including the Center for Professional Development and the Mark and Susan Doughton Faculty Development Fund, as well as to the unrestricted Chancellor’s Fund.

He is the president of the UNC Charlotte Athletic Foundation Board and serves with the United Way of Forsyth County and on the Wake Forest Baptist Health-Comprehensive Cancer Center Regional Board.
Additionally, he is president of the Stephen Doughton Jr. Foundation for Leukemia Research, named in honor of his son. In May 2006, Stephen was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia. He was treated at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and is currently in remission. The Doughton family decided to start the family foundation and have raised more than $100,000 for leukemia research and patient assistance.

JOHNNY GRAHAM, PH.D., ('75, '83)

Graham is part of the lore of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at UNC Charlotte. He arrived at the University after serving in the Vietnam War and was among the first students in what was then a new civil engineering program.

After completing his degree in 1975, Graham worked for several years as an engineer before returning to the University to work on his Master of Science in Engineering. He went on to study at N.C. State, graduating with a Ph.D. in 1990.

Graham served as a visiting assistant professor at UNC Charlotte beginning in 1982 and was promoted to associate professor in 1992. With his arrival on campus as a faculty member, he brought with him a belief that motivating and encouraging students was as fundamental as the content of the lesson plan.

This culture still exists today. During his tenure, Graham taught 146 different sections and more than 5,500 students. Many of those students have gone on to distinguished careers of their own, often attributing their success to his mentoring and inspiration.

KYLE WHITE ('13)

UNC Charlotte founder Bonnie Cone would have proudly called Kyle White one of her “Bonnie’s Boys” for choosing to attend UNC Charlotte after his service in the military. After completing a degree in finance at the University, he began his career in Charlotte with the Royal Bank of Canada.

In 2014, White received a distinction that stands out from nearly all other men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces: he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama for heroic actions in Afghanistan in 2007.

White administered life-saving medical aid to comrades and radioed situational reports after his team of 14 soldiers was ambushed. At the time, he became just the seventh living recipient of the nation’s highest military honor from the war in Afghanistan.

In the future, White’s goal is to help men and women in uniform who return to the United States to recognize the opportunities the current GI Bill provides them, with hopes that they too will pursue a degree in higher education.

194 MAKE LEAGUE HONOR ROLL

Charlotte had 194 student-athletes named to the Conference USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll during the 2014-15 academic year.

Student-athletes on the honor roll maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. In addition, 48 of the University’s student-athletes were recognized with a Conference USA Academic Medal for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or better.

Charlotte was second to Rice in the number of student-athletes named to the honor roll and second to Western Kentucky for the number of academic medals earned. The 49ers have posted a cumulative department GPA of 3.0 or better in 17 consecutive semesters.

SUMMER = SPORTS CAMPS

The 49ers offer a variety of summer sports camps that feature instruction from members of the University’s coaching staffs, other sports professionals and current and former players. To see camp options, visit charlotte49ers.com.
RICHARDSON RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

During the Saturday morning ceremony, UNC Charlotte presented Jerry Richardson with an honorary Doctorate of Public Service. Richardson is the owner of the NFL’s Carolina Panthers, and he has been an ardent backer of the citizens of Charlotte, the region and the Carolinas. He’s been a strong supporter of UNC Charlotte, too. He teamed up with banking pioneer Hugh McColl to provide funding for the University’s football surface, McColl-Richardson Field. He also provided a substantial gift that helped make Charlotte 49ers football a reality. UNC Charlotte’s football stadium is named in his honor and an endowed football scholarship is named for his late son, Jon Richardson.

HOMELESS STUDY CONTINUES TO YIELD RESULTS

A nationally recognized program to house Charlotte’s chronically homeless continues to help people and save money as it enters its fourth year, according to a UNC Charlotte report.

The new study led by Lori Thomas, professor of social work in the College of Health and Human Services, found that Moore Place, an 85-unit apartment complex that provides housing for individuals who have extensive histories of homelessness and at least one disabling condition, effectively ends homelessness for the vast majority of its tenants.

The impact on tenants’ relationship with the health care system is equally significant. During the two years since moving in, Moore Place tenants visited emergency rooms 648 fewer times (81 percent reduction) and were in the hospital 292 fewer days (62 percent reduction) than the two years prior. This led to a $2.4 million decrease in total billing, a drop of nearly 70 percent.

NATIVE TERRANCE GARDEN TO OPEN FORMALLY

UNC Charlotte’s Botanical Gardens is set to open the Mellichamp Native Terrace Garden.

The garden, considered the first of its kind in the Southeastern United States, showcases diverse and beautiful flora in a home landscaping style. It will serve as a practical example of how gardeners can use a wide variety of plants native to the Southeast in traditional, contemporary or natural landscapes. The garden also will serve as a testing ground for new selections of native plants as well as a source of inspiration and education.

ANNE COOPER MOORE NAMED DEAN OF ATKINS LIBRARY

Anne Cooper Moore has been named dean of the J. Murrey Atkins Library. Moore joins UNC Charlotte from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) where she has served as dean of library affairs since 2012. She has 27 years of experience as a leader in academic libraries.

At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Moore has been responsible for the vision and leadership of the Morris Library (a member of the Association of Research Libraries), the SIU Press, the Special Collections Research Center and the Center for Dewey Studies. She has been engaged in curricular reform and co-curricular assessment and was responsible for the planning and implementation of large-scale renovations to create an academic support center and incorporate collaborative spaces in the library.

The Melichamp Garden honors the legacy of Larry Mellichamp, who retired this spring after more than 35 years of service to UNC Charlotte. He was known for sharing his knowledge and passion for plants with students and the Charlotte community in his role as director of the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens.

Melichamp Native Terrace Garden
three big decisions I made here that really mattered. The others were UNC Charlotte Center City and light rail. And so far, so good. There is some uncertainty about the football environment within the NCAA and what is going to happen as far as litigation. Another issue is the possibility of compensation for student-athletes and how that will play out, and we have to take those issues as they come. We certainly want to continue to build our athletics program generally, but there are economic limits to what you can do. Over time, one would hope to have had more support from fans, alumni, and others in the form of putting money into the programs. We wish we did not have to be relying so heavily on the students, but it takes time to build a stable and broadly based revenue stream.

As far as starting a football program, I think we did it in the right way. We got the Board of Trustees on board early by telling them our idea was to do a comprehensive study. Then we got the right people, led by Mac Everett, to conduct the study. After receiving the committee report, I spent from March to September on the football question and that’s when I lost all the weight. I can say we did our homework. We knew exactly how much it was going to cost and where the money was going to be coming from, so there were no surprises. Deficits were absolutely off the table. We are not allowed in North Carolina to subsidize athletics with state appropriations or tuition, but we can use student fees and other money raised from ticket buyers, donors, and sponsors.

Then we got lucky. As the dominos started to topple with the moving around of schools in the various athletic conferences across the country, Conference USA found itself with several vacancies, as institutions moved to the Big East and the American Conference. So we were invited into Conference USA and, frankly, on a net basis it might cost less to be playing FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) than to be in an FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) conference because of the television revenues. Conference USA also shares in some of the revenue from the national championship in football. So, financially, we probably came out ahead, and there is no comparison to what FBS-level TV contracts can bring in terms of national and regional exposure compared to FCS.

The invitation to join Conference USA was the result of complete serendipity and the only difficult part of the decision was how to get to Dallas as quickly as possible to sign the contract (to formally join the conference). The tricky part is that we built the stadium for FCS play and now we have FBS attendance requirements. If I had to cite one disappointing aspect of this whole thing, it has been student attendance at the games. And we are going to have to figure that one out, because we may have to invest in additional seating in order to sell more tickets to the public. I’m hoping that light rail might help bring more members of the general public to the games. We also are making adjustments to the pricing structure so when dad, mom and their two kids come out, the two kids don’t have to have full-price tickets.”

**IMPACT OF LIGHT RAIL**

“This issue goes back to the very first week I was in office. I went to see (then) Mayor Pat McCrory, and he was very direct with me about making sure that I gave personal attention to the question of whether or not light rail could come onto the University campus.

Knowing what I knew about some other universities, you could see there was great potential. I went to see Ron Tober, who was head of CATS (Charlotte Area Transit System), along with Peter Franz, who was our lead staff contact. We worked through lots of different scenarios about light rail – should it come up University City Boulevard or should it come up North Tryon? If it came up North Tryon, where would it turn onto the campus? One day I was driving across campus in a golf cart during one of the tours I give to visitors. I noticed the pedestrian portal that runs through Walls and Lynch halls to the Student Union and I thought, “How cool would this be?” So, that’s how we came up with the final design of the route onto campus.

I think light rail is going to be tremendously important in both directions. It will bring people onto campus who otherwise might not think about coming up here. And I think the market for athletics and cultural and artistic activities is going to be better than ever. It also will be good on the educational side; students will have a much easier time getting into Center City for internships, for instance.

We ended up donating a large amount of land to CATS for the easements they required. So we made a significant financial contribution of approximately $6 million in land and construction to help make the project happen. They (CATS) have been great partners, although there is a lot more work to do. For example, we have to figure out how to make it possible for faculty, staff and students to have a pass that they can use rather than having to be ticketed for each and every trip. And we have to work with CATS to ensure extended operating hours on some weekdays and weekends to accommodate the lifestyle of the students.”

**RESIDING ON CAMPUS**

“I have the shortest commute in town. Seriously, I think Bissell House has drawn more people to campus and opened their eyes to the dynamic changes that have occurred here. And I will give my wife Lisa a lot of credit. I think no one in Charlotte would challenge my claim that the best parties in Charlotte are at Bissell House. She does a spectacular job, along with the folks from Chartwells. I think the important thing is that when we welcome people to Bissell House, we want them to feel like they are entering a home and not some sort of marketplace. It’s not just another convention hall, and we try to make them feel welcome. It has served its purpose splendidly, and it’s a great place to welcome people to campus.”

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Paul Nowell is media relations manager in the Office of Public Relations.
1970s

Gene McLaurin (’78) was named Richmond County Citizen of the Year for 2014. Support for his nomination included his longtime business and community leadership, his dedication to community service and his support of Discovery Place Kids. Elected in 1997, he served as mayor of Rockingham for 15 years and represented N.C. Senate District 25 from 2012 through 2014.

Jill S. Tietjen (’79) was appointed to the newly instituted position of chief executive officer of the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, N.Y. Tietjen has a long affiliation with the hall, having attended every induction ceremony since 1994 and served on its Board of Directors since 2009, most recently as president. An electrical engineer by profession, she spent her career in the electric utility industry and earned a master’s in business administration from UNC Charlotte.

1980s

Susan DeVore (’80) was named Queens University of Charlotte’s 2014 BusinessWoman of the Year for her work at Premier Inc., a health care services and improvement company she has led since 2009. She is the 30th recipient of the award, which recognizes leaders who exhibit “competence, character and commitment to the community.”

Guy Smith (’80) retired as Concord police chief after 33 years, effective March 1. He began his career with the Concord (N.C.) Police Department as a patrol officer in 1982 and held numerous positions after that. He was promoted to chief in 2011. Smith earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from UNC Charlotte.

Dave Wedding (’80) has been re-elected chairman of the Grant Thornton Partnership Board. Wedding is managing partner of the company’s mid-South market and serves as office managing partner of the Carolinas practice. He has served as chairman since 2012.

Richard Nielsen (’86) published a nonfiction book, “UFOs Over Reston,” which is a humorous account of a practical joke that got out of hand. The book includes a chapter about UNC Charlotte called, “Pockets of Excellence.”

Kimberly Biggs (’88) is the new president of global sales and strategy for Village Candle Inc., a manufacturer of scented candles and home decor products. Biggs is responsible for Village Candle’s global sales strategy and leads the company’s distributors, agents and sales teams.
1990s

Thomas Ghareeb ('95) was promoted to vice president and controller of Hearst Magazines. During 25 years in the Hearst Magazines finance department, he rose from staff accountant to assistant controller of budget and finance. He received a master’s in business administration from the University.

Reggie Gaither ('97) was recently named the new market president and commercial relationship manager at CommunityOne Bank in Gastonia. Previously, he worked as a relationship manager for Wells Fargo in Charlotte and Gastonia. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from UNC Charlotte.

2000s

Angel Oliver ('03) has earned an LL.M. taxation degree from Boston University. Working at McGrath & Spielberger, she will be using her increased knowledge to assist clients with tax-related issues.

Andrew Stark ('08) recently accepted the position of sports editor of the Huntersville Herald. An avid sports fan, Stark enjoys combining his love of sports with his passions for writing, meeting interesting people and telling their stories.

Amanda Wright ('09) joined Hatcher Law Group in Charlotte as a family law attorney. She assists clients in a variety of cases, including divorce, domestic violence, child custody and child support.

Amy Jolly ('10) was recently promoted to assistant director of alumni affairs at UNC Charlotte. In her new role, Jolly will continue to expand the Alumni Perks Program and work with regional alumni networks.

Celia Karp ('14) will attend the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins this fall as part of a four-year doctoral program. She accepted an assistantship in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health. She is currently in Ecuador on a Fulbright Scholarship working on her project “Communication, Culture and Health: Investigating Maternal Mortality in Ecuador.” Karp is a member of the first class of Levine Scholars.●
ALUMS MAKE BUSINESS JOURNAL’S 40 UNDER 40

The Charlotte Business Journal named four UNC Charlotte alums to its annual 40 Under 40 list, which recognizes young professionals who are rising business and civic leaders. The 2015 class features the following 49ers:

Laura Clark, executive director of Renaissance West Community Initiative, received a master’s degree in clinical and community psychology at the University in 2002.

Ben Collins, senior vice president at Crescent Communities, earned an M.B.A. in real estate in 2007.

Ryan Doherty, associate principal at ai Design Group, earned a bachelor’s in architecture in 2005.

Julie Harris, managing director and chief financial officer of global commercial banking at Bank of America, received a bachelor’s in finance in 2000.

In Memoriam

Derrick Griffith, Ph.D.

Derrick Griffith, a UNC Charlotte alum who was an outstanding student leader in the early 1990s, was one of seven people killed in a train derailment in Philadelphia in May.

Griffith, 42, most recently was dean of student affairs and enrollment management at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, N.Y. He joined the college in 2011 and had just earned a doctorate of philosophy in urban education from the City University of New York Graduate Center.

“Derrick Griffith was an outstanding student leader in the early 1990s, when I served as provost,” said UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip L. Dubois. “He was very active on campus and was committed to helping people. He had a lasting positive impact on people, and it was clear that he had a very bright future ahead of him.

“His passing is a great loss for the UNC Charlotte family,” Dubois said.

Griffith was student body president in 1991-92 and 1992-93 and he also served as student body vice president in 1990-91. He graduated in 1993 with a bachelor’s degree in history.

A former social studies teacher, Griffith founded the City University of New York Preparatory Transitional High School. He also was executive director of Groundwork Inc., an organization formed to support young people living in high poverty urban communities. ●
By Lisa Thornton

Sometimes the connection between donor and beneficiary can’t be traced back by way of a traditional route.

Such is the case with Delbridge Narron, whose ties to UNC Charlotte began not as a young student attending classes here but as a benefactor already years deep into a successful career in business and law.

Narron, senior vice president and general counsel at Springs Global U.S. Inc., headquartered in Fort Mill, S.C., chose to forge his bond with the University beginning in 2003 through gifts of his time, intellect and financial endowments. “I wanted to be able to make a difference,” said Narron, who grew up in the Charlotte region and still lives there today.

The Delbridge E. Narron Scholarship for Merit helps defray educational expenses to a rising junior or senior enrolled in full-time study within the University Honors Program and/or a departmental honors program. Recipients of the scholarship must demonstrate open minds to diverse cultures, genders and sexual orientations through community involvement.

In addition to educational expenses, recipients of the scholarship also receive the Delbridge E. Narron Travel Fund, which covers expenses to study abroad for one semester. In cases in which scholarship recipients do not wish to travel, they may forfeit their travel funds, allowing other honors students to take advantage of them.

A MINDFUL AWAKENING

Narron grew up understanding the value and, at times, difficulty of receiving an education.

His parents, both public school educators, were first-generation college graduates. His own educational background includes degrees from three institutions of higher learning: a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Wake Forest University, a master’s in divinity in theology from Union Theological Seminary and a law degree.

Forging a Bond

Delbridge Narron never attended the University but is a major supporter.
Giving Delbridge + Giving Ad

What is your legacy?

Dr. Loy H. Witherspoon joined the faculty of Charlotte College in 1964 and plunged himself into everything from academic leadership to campus activities. Today, a scholarship, lecture series and residence hall carry his name. If one asked Dr. Witherspoon why he gives to UNC Charlotte, he would swiftly smile and say “how can I ask others to give without giving myself?” Dr. Witherspoon has made a planned gift, you can too.

Please contact John Cullum at 704-687-8003 or john.cullum@uncc.edu for more information.

Not intended as legal, tax or investment advice - please consult your CPA, Financial Planner or Attorney.

“What is your legacy?”

MY GRANDPARENTS WERE SHARECROPPERS, BUT I REMEMBER GOING WITH MY PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER EVERY CHRISTMAS TO TAKE THINGS TO PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHO NEEDED HELP.”

from New York University School of Law.

A scholarship to Wake Forest eased his financial burden as a young undergraduate and afforded him the opportunity to study abroad for one semester in Venice — an experience that he said opened his mind to diverse cultures and perspectives. “It changed my life,” said Narron. “I got to do things and saw things that were quite beyond my means at the time.”

Those experiences played a part in his desire to help others at UNC Charlotte to do the same.

TIME TO GIVE BACK

Narron’s family placed a strong emphasis on giving back to the community. They lived by example, lending assistance to neighbors during lean times.

“My grandparents were sharecroppers,” he said. “But I remember going with my paternal grandmother every Christmas to take things to people in the neighborhood who needed help.”

His parents taught him as a child to give 10 percent of his small allowance toward charity — a lesson he has continued into adulthood. “When I have the opportunity, I encourage other people to do it,” said Narron. “I tell people, if you can afford to buy a new car, you can afford to endow a scholarship. You can even do it on a payment plan.”

In addition to his namesake scholarship and travel allowance award, Narron has decided to designate UNC Charlotte as a beneficiary in his will.

But it’s not just financial gifts Narron has shared. He’s given his time and expertise. Once a week for the last two spring semesters, he’s taught an honors seminar on the constitutional right of privacy. “It’s been very interesting. They’re a great group of young adults and very vibrant,” he said. “I really have cherished my relationship with the Honors College, and I enjoy spending time with the young adults.”

Recently Narron accepted the position as inaugural chairperson of the newly formed advisory board for the Honors College.

Although he didn’t attend the University as a student himself, he relishes the connection he’s made through its contemporary students. “I didn’t have any personal, direct relationship with the University,” he said. “But I’m really pleased to have been able to do something at UNC Charlotte. It’s been well worth it for me.”

Lisa Thornton, owner of Follow My Lede, is a writer based in the greater Charlotte area.

WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

Dr. Loy H. Witherspoon joined the faculty of Charlotte College in 1964 and plunged himself into everything from academic leadership to campus activities. Today, a scholarship, lecture series and residence hall carry his name. If one asked Dr. Witherspoon why he gives to UNC Charlotte, he would swiftly smile and say “how can I ask others to give without giving myself?” Dr. Witherspoon has made a planned gift, you can too.

Please contact John Cullum at 704-687-8003 or john.cullum@uncc.edu for more information.

Plannedgiving.uncc.edu

Not intended as legal, tax or investment advice - please consult your CPA, Financial Planner or Attorney.
The Old Bell Tolls

To mark UNC Charlotte’s official entry into the UNC system, Gov. Dan Moore visited campus on July 1, 1965, to ring the “Old Bell” used for historic and significant occasions. The bell, now used primarily at commencement, was rung in 1993 to celebrate the University’s authorization to award doctoral degrees; in 2000 to observe the University’s official reclassification as a doctoral research institution; in 2010 to celebrate UNC Charlotte clearing the final hurdle to field a football team; and to celebrate the University’s 50th anniversary as part of the UNC system in March 2015.
Remarkable Journey to Google
Young alumnus is making a difference on a global stage
By Fabian Elliott ('12)

As an incoming freshman at UNC Charlotte, there was no way that I could have predicted the path I was setting course on. I had no idea what the world had nor the potential I had to make a difference in it. My journey, starting at UNC Charlotte until now, has certainly been a remarkable one.

From spending my freshman year summer working as a custodian to a short four years later graduating as our institution’s 100,000th alum and serving as commencement speaker. The magic just seemed to continue as I went on to join the world’s arguably most innovative company, Google, directly after graduation.

My love for marketing led me to pursue an internship with Google’s Bold program, which turned into a full-time job. Working with the tech giant’s digital advertising business introduced me to a new world of technology that I had never known before. I realized that I had always been so obsessed with the concept of being a “businessman” that I had completely overlooked the power and influence of technology in the world.

My discovery of technology also presented a new formidable societal issue in the form of the digital divide, which is the gulf between those who have ready access to computers and the Internet, and those who do not. This divide is especially prominent in underserved communities, such as the predominantly black community where I was raised in Fayetteville, N.C.

However, this particular challenge was more motivating than discouraging to me. It spoke to my passion for meeting needs in my community, and my unique position to address them.

Reflecting on my earliest civic engagement, I recall recognizing an issue with the black students at UNC Charlotte who were struggling to prepare for their future careers. To remedy this, I founded the United Black Professionals, a student organization that helps students maximize on-campus and off-campus resources.

To tackle the digital divide, I went back to what I knew best. In the same way that I brought together a group of people on campus to make a difference, I gathered several like-minded colleagues to transform our black employee group at Google, the Black Googler Network (BGN).

Detecting the potential to impact the digital divide by strategically leveraging this group, I led a grassroots initiative to revamp our mission statement, rebrand our logo, expand globally and to design a new organizational structure.

Once the foundation of BGN was redeveloped and just two years removed from UNC Charlotte’s campus, I was appointed the global co-chair. This was incredible as I was now responsible for a 600-person organization, which was comprised of my fellow employees across all 70 of our global offices. This was an additional responsibility on top of my actual job as an advertising technology consultant.

Even with all the engagement, I still managed to remain plugged into the UNC Charlotte family by serving on the Belk College of Business Alumni Council and as Board of Advisors Chair for the United Black Professionals.

My latest adventures at Google and in my community soon converged with my University relationships, leading to my recognition as UNC Charlotte’s 2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus. The honor was unexpected but is deeply cherished. It made me reflect on how fortunate I am to be a 49er and how you never really know who is watching.

My latest adventure is an extension of the civic work I have accomplished at UNC Charlotte and Google, except now I am doing it in the city of Chicago. I am launching an initiative in June to transform Chicago into the “Black Tech Mecca” by cultivating a thriving black tech ecosystem in the city.

My hope is that a blueprint of this model can eventually be implemented in cities and communities around the world to help close the digital divide. It is amazing to think that the confidence and skills acquired to impact my community originated from my experience as a UNC Charlotte student just trying to make a difference.

To this day, I am thankful for the experience and thankful to be a 49er.

Elliott works for Google advertising in Chicago, leading some of the biggest companies as they implement the newest forms of online promotion. Elliott graduated from the Belk College in 2012 with a major in marketing. He was honored with the UNC Charlotte Outstanding Young Alumnus Award in 2015.
UNC CHARLOTTE’S ANN ELISE PENNINGTON POINTS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE AS SHE CELEBRATES GRADUATION AT COMMENCEMENT IN MAY.