



May 25, 2009

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

Re: Update on Current Issues and Activities

Dear Colleagues:

Amidst some of the most challenging economic times in our university's history, UNC Charlotte has found much to celebrate this spring as yet another outstanding academic year has drawn to a close on our campus.

This month, UNC Charlotte awarded diplomas to approximately 2,850 graduates at all levels of study, bringing the total awards for the academic year to a record 5,000! As our graduates embark upon the next phases of their education or work lives, we take this opportunity to reflect on the previous year and prepare for the 2009-10 academic year.

I hope this newsletter finds you with much to celebrate in your own lives and I hope that you can now settle in for a good read on what is happening at UNC Charlotte. And, as always, if you want additional detail on any specific item mentioned in this newsletter, please feel free to contact my assistant, Donna Brady (dbrady@uncc.edu).

You may also find the Chancellor's Outbox as another useful information source: <http://www.administration.uncc.edu/chancellor/outbox.html>.

Economic Health Update: Planning for the Future

In my last newsletter, I outlined how weakening state revenue trends might impact UNC Charlotte. Since December, the economic landscape has continued to change dramatically and many uncertainties remain; however, we continue to take a proactive approach to planning for reductions to our General Fund appropriation.

Throughout the fall and winter, we were dealing largely with gradually escalating mandates from the State that we return a portion of our current-year budget to help address anticipated shortfalls in state revenues. However, on April 9, Governor Perdue announced a series of even more significant measures to deal with the State's cash flow problems, including a freeze on most hiring and spending except for personnel, utilities, student financial aid, and debt service. Outstanding purchase orders for goods and services were immediately cancelled and all travel requiring state appropriations was terminated. Subsequently, at the end of April, the Governor issued an Executive Order reducing the pay of all state employees by 0.5% of their annualized salary to be deducted over the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30. Permanent employees will be credited with ten hours of leave.

Like other state agencies, the University has found these measures painful to implement but, in full understanding of the plight confronting the Governor with respect to state revenues, has pledged our full cooperation in implementing them with as much of a smile as we can muster. No one likes the current situation but, to quote John Fox of the Carolina Panthers, “it is what it is.”

Meanwhile, we are monitoring with interest the unfolding discussions in Raleigh concerning the state budget for the next fiscal year beginning July 1. Although the budget proposal issued by Governor Perdue involved an expected net reduction to the University of approximately -5.5% and the Senate budget came in even more favorable to the University’s cause (-1.2%), both proposals were developed back in March and April, respectively, when the shortfall in state revenues was estimated to be approximately \$3.25B. Since then, state budget staff has estimated the shortfall at closer to \$4.6B. For that reason, including the use of different budgeting assumptions by the House and Senate, it is expected that the House version of the budget that will be developed over the remaining weeks of the month of May could see much more draconian cuts proposed for the University and the rest of state government.

Of course, at that point, the “heavy lifting” in the state budget-making process really begins as the House and Senate go about the hard work of reaching a final agreement on a spending bill that the Governor is willing to sign. It is hoped that this process can be resolved early in June so that we have as much time as possible to react to whatever budget is given and to make the necessary final adjustments in our planning for the 2009-10 academic year.

Accompanying our financial planning has been an active effort to communicate the budget situation and its impact on us to our campus community. UNC Charlotte faculty and staff turned out in large numbers at a first-ever campuswide Budget Convocation held on April 24. A video of that meeting may be viewed at: <http://businessaffairs.uncc.edu/journal/entry/unc-charlotte-budget-convocation/>. In addition, all members of the campus community are being kept informed about ongoing budgetary issues via a comprehensive website under the direction of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs: <http://businessaffairs.uncc.edu/vicechancellor-for-businessaffairs/budget-news/>.

One important footnote to the budget discussions will be the future of our EPIC program. The Senate version of the budget includes \$5 million in funding over a two-year period for the operation of our Energy Production and Infrastructure. The funds would cover program expenses, including 25 faculty members and additional support staff. We are working with lawmakers to ensure that this appropriation remains in the final version of the state budget. To put the importance of this project into perspective, we currently have 2,900 students enrolled in engineering programs at UNC Charlotte. Approximately 500 of these students graduate each year. EPIC will allow us to grow that program to 3,500 students and 650 degrees annually, a significant support for the burgeoning energy production sector in the Charlotte region.

Our People Make Us Great: New Senior Administrators and Faculty

Prior to the imposition of the hiring freeze, we were fortunate to be able to hire some excellent new faculty and staff members. It is impossible to mention them individually in this space, but several recent hires into key administrative and distinguished faculty positions are particularly noteworthy:

- Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics: We are pleased to welcome Dr. Yi Deng. He is currently Dean of the School of Computing and Information Sciences, Florida International University, a comprehensive Carnegie Research University in the High Research Activity category. Deng earned his doctorate and master's degrees in computer science at the University of Pittsburgh and his bachelor of engineering in computer science and technology degree at the University of Science and Technology of China.
- University Librarian: Stanley Wilder will join UNC Charlotte as University Librarian. Currently he is the Associate Dean, River Campus Libraries at the University of Rochester. Previously he held administrative positions in the Louisiana State University Libraries. He is completing an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded project (\$3M budget) to produce an open source search system unifying retrieval of print and electronic scholarship. Wilder earned his master of library information science degree from Columbia University and a master of business administration degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Risk Management, Safety, and Security: Due to our growth in size and complexity, UNC Charlotte has decided to undertake an enterprise-wide approach to risk management. This involves the consolidation of the Police and Public Safety Department, Office of Safety and Environmental Health, Business Continuity, and Office of Risk Management and Insurance into the new Business Affairs department of Risk Management, Safety, and Security. Leadership for the new department is to be provided by the Associate Vice Chancellor for Risk Management, Safety, and Security who will report directly to the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs. Mr. Henry (Hank) James, Jr., began his service to the campus last week. Mr. James is highly credentialed and recognized nationally in this field, serving many years in comparable roles at Dartmouth, Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, and Southern Methodist University.
- Anne Reynolds Belk Distinguished Professor of Music: David Russell has been named to the post. Previously, he was a member of the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music and served as concertmaster for the Cleveland Pops Orchestra since 1994. Russell performs and offers master classes worldwide, including an ongoing partnership with the People's Republic of China and performances of "Violins from the Ashes," featuring restored violins once played by victims of the Holocaust.
- Howard C. and Sara H. Bissell Distinguished Professor in Engineering: Dr. Yong Zhang joined the University in April. He has a faculty appointment in the Department

of Electrical and Computer Engineering and his research interests will be an excellent fit with the Center for Optoelectronics and Optical Communications. Zhang earned his doctorate in physics from Dartmouth College and his master's and bachelor's degrees from Xiamen University, China.

Other New Hires: Dr. Jan Hinson, Chair, Department of Reading and Elementary Education; Dr. Ian Ferguson, Chair, Department of Electrical and Computing Engineering; Dr. Christopher Jarrett, Director, School of Architecture; and Heather Shaughnessy, Director of Development, College of Health and Human Services. Chair appointments include Dr. Jurgen Buchenau, Department of History; Pamela Sofras, Department of Dance; and James Vesce, Department of Theatre.

Continuing Growth in Graduate Education and Research

This past academic year continues UNC Charlotte's continuing transformation as a research university. Of course, many people point to all of our new buildings and many of the physical changes that have occurred here over the past decade as the most dramatic evidence of the growth of UNC Charlotte as a research institution. Equally impressive, however, are some of the numbers relating to our enrollment of graduate students and the growth of our research mission. Of the 4,971 graduate students currently enrolled, 713 are doctoral students. This is a substantial increase when compared to our 1998 figure of 119 students pursuing doctoral degrees. And this year, doctoral degrees will be awarded to 68 students, our highest number ever. By comparison, there were 10 doctoral degrees awarded in the 1997-98 academic year. Similarly, the number and breadth of our doctoral programs have tripled during the past decade; 18 are currently offered, four more await consideration by the Board of Governors, and several others are in various stages of planning.

The research activity of our faculty has followed a similar path. Externally funded research contracts and grants of \$15 million in 1998 reached \$35 million this past year. Tuition funding also has expanded, with the University now providing tuition to more than 400 full-time doctoral students supported on assistantships or qualifying fellowships. A significant number of these assistantships are supported by faculty research grants. The many ongoing federally funded research projects at the University allow our students and faculty to successfully compete for prestigious fellowships and training grants and to network at important global events such as the Lindau Nobel Laureates meeting.

Academic Programs: New Collaborations, Accreditation and Grant Funding

Numerous academic programs have received accreditation and/or grant support this semester.

- An exciting collaborative project involving UNC Charlotte, Duke University and Western Carolina University was funded by the Health Resources and Service Administration. The consortium will deliver an online master of science in nursing program to North Carolina's nurses. UNC Charlotte will receive \$375,000 in funding for a three-year period.

- The Charlotte Teachers Institute (CTI), a partnership between the UNC Charlotte College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Davidson College and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to foster personal and professional growth in teachers, has developed seminars for summer 2009. CTI is the fifth institute created as part of the Yale National Initiative.
- UNC Charlotte is among a national collaborative of higher education institutions taking a leadership role to strengthen the preparation of prospective science and mathematics teachers. As a member of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative, UNC Charlotte was selected from among 107 colleges and universities to join the 27-member Leadership Collaborative.
- The bachelor of science in exercise science and the master of science in clinical exercise physiology programs have received initial accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.
- Our bachelor of science degree in athletic training was granted a 10-year continuing accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.
- A Sloan Foundation grant to the UNC System is being used to plan a professional science master's degree in health information technology, a collaborative effort between the College of Computing and Informatics and the College of Health and Human Services.
- In conjunction with the Office of Development, the Office of Adult Students and Evening Services obtained a Bernard Osher Foundation Grant of \$50,000 to provide scholarship support to adult learners. UNC Charlotte is one of only two North Carolina universities to receive this grant.

Finally, with respect to our academic programs, I should mention that professionals seeking on-line graduate education now have three new options: a master of science in engineering management, a master of education in instructional systems technology, and the post-master's certificate in school counseling. And I'm happy to report our bachelor of science in respiratory therapy program, which received funding from UNC General Administration to migrate to an on-line offering last summer, has enjoyed strong enrollment.

National Spotlight Focused on UNC Charlotte Scholars

As our facilities, programs, and enrollment grow, our students and faculty increasingly garner national and international recognition. As they demonstrate excellence in their fields, they propel the University into the spotlight. Below are a sampling of the numerous accolades recently bestowed upon our faculty and students:

- Dr. Peggy Wilmoth, professor of nursing, was one of 10 health professionals selected as Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows for 2009-10.
- Six faculty members have received support to lecture and conduct research abroad as 2008-09 Fulbright Scholar Grantees: from Languages and Culture Studies, Carlos Coria-Sanchez at the University of Xalapa, Mexico, and Martha LaFollette Miller at Chico Buarque Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil; from Art History, Angela Marie Herren at Ibero-American University, Mexico City, Mexico; from Middle, Secondary and K-12 Education, Rosemary Traore at University of Bamako, Mali; and from Political Science, William Brandon at Oman Medical College, Sohar, Oman.
- Public history graduate students Kristin Foster and Hannah Howard won the Student Award from the National Council on Public History for their project “History at Light Speed: Discovering Charlotte’s Northeast Corridor.” The project was completed in collaboration with the Charlotte Area Transit System to inform its station designs.
- Each year, the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) selects approximately 80 female doctoral students from the United States and Canada to receive the PEO Scholar Award. Four UNC Charlotte students — Lindsay Baran (Business Administration-Finance), Heather Britt (Educational Leadership), Kaia Buhl (Optical Science and Engineering) and Caroline Ziemkiewicz (Information Technology) — received recognition as part of this merit-based competition. Baran was selected as a recipient of the \$15,000 PEO Scholar Award; she is the second UNC Charlotte doctoral student to receive this prestigious award.

Diversity Initiatives Foster Inclusive Universities, Communities

The Chancellor’s \$100,000 Diversity Challenge Fund, a project that is near and dear to me, has enabled creative exploration of issues that affect our University and surrounding community. This year, funds were appropriated to projects including guest lectures, workshops for faculty, cultural performances, diversity climate research, and student-led community outreach to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. All of these initiatives advance University goals for achieving a diverse and inclusive learning environment.

Already a trailblazing program, the organizational science doctoral program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is launching a new partnership between the University and industry that is aimed at increasing diversity in the field of organizational science. A first-of-its-kind Summer Institute will support 10 rising college juniors and seniors (mostly African Americans and Latinos) from around the United States for an intensive one-week program at UNC Charlotte.

In addition, undergraduate research focused on underrepresented students remains a focus of the Biology and Chemistry departments. In cooperation with Johnson C. Smith University, the departments are participating in the research area of SEEDS (Strategies in Ecological Education Development and Sustainability), as well as mentoring McNair

Scholars. Drs. Banita Brown and Sherine Obare will bring students to campus this summer to participate in Nano SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences), a recently funded National Science Foundation initiative to advance research in nanoscale science. Roughly 100 students per year engage in undergraduate research in biology and chemistry courses. Our young researchers-in-training have the opportunity to showcase their accomplishments at UNC Charlotte's annual spring Undergraduate Conference on Research and Creative Activity.

Exporting Expertise and Enhancing Education in a Difficult Economy

As the global economic crisis has unfolded, UNC Charlotte has responded to community needs by sharing our resources in innovative ways.

For instance, we continue to promote a range of activities to stimulate new business creation in the region.

For those contemplating embarking on a new business enterprise, the Office of Technology Transfer has created business start-up and financing training programs that are available to faculty, staff, students and individuals in the community. To learn more, call (704) 687-4144 or send e-mail to techtransfer@uncc.edu. The Ben Craig Center Business Incubator has also instituted an affiliates program to equip business owners to effectively operate and grow a new business. Call (704) 548-9113 for details.

Each semester, UNC Charlotte hosts Five Ventures®, the region's most dynamic early-stage business development competition. Produced by the Charlotte Research Institute, this free competition offers training, seminars, matchmaking, one-on-one coaching, and cash to entrepreneurs interested in starting a high-growth business. Institutional partners join with more than 100 volunteers from the business community to provide expertise to budding entrepreneurs.

The Alumni Association, the Belk College of Business, and the University Career Center planned two successful, free programs for alumni in career transition, bringing together campus and community experts to provide guidance and support in areas including networking, financial planning and wellness. Nearly 200 alumni participated. As a follow-up to that successful initiative, the Alumni Association and Alumni Affairs developed seminars as part of a new Alumni Career Management Series. The first set of these seminars, which are notable in that each has not only been for our alumni, but each has also been led by a UNC Charlotte alumnus, concluded on May 21, 2009.

Capital Construction and Planning for the Future

No newsletter from me would be complete without an update on our many ongoing capital construction projects. Hang on—we have a bunch:

Center City Building: April 14, 2009, will be remembered as a significant milestone in the life of our University. You are probably thinking it was significant because I got to use a large construction machine to knock down a small building in Uptown Charlotte. True, but

the real reason is that we officially started construction on UNC Charlotte's Center City Classroom Building at Ninth and Brevard Streets. This iconic, 12-story building will help us better serve the people of this region and the growing Center City population. The building will have 25 classrooms, an 18,000-square-foot outdoor plaza, a 300-seat auditorium, and some very dramatic views of the Center City skyline. It will house graduate courses in business, engineering, health and human services, liberal arts and sciences, and arts and architecture, as well as many continuing education offerings. We intend to have this building open for classes beginning with Fall Semester 2011. We believe this building, coupled with a planned four-acre county park adjacent to our site, will serve as a catalyst for redevelopment of the entire First Ward of the city.

Student Union: Our new Student Union is about to enliven our campus and significantly alter the student-life experience in so many positive ways! With construction 95 percent complete at this writing, we expect to start moving into the building in June and to have the "living room" of the University open for business at the start of the Fall Semester. With a beautiful atrium, new bookstore, 600-seat ballroom, meeting rooms, movie theater, brand name restaurants, coffee shop, and other amenities, the new Union will be a wonderful addition to the campus and the envy of most every public and private university in the region if not the country. Look for news of a grand opening in the fall.

New Student Housing: Design is nearing completion on Phase IX student housing. This 431-bed residence hall will be constructed adjacent to Laurel and Lynch Halls on the corner of Cameron Boulevard. We anticipate breaking ground late this summer with occupancy in Fall Semester 2011. The exterior of this residence hall will trend toward transitional architecture with more glass incorporated into the design than in recently constructed residence halls. Students will enjoy the mixture of suites and apartment style units along with common kitchens, laundry rooms, and meeting areas. A wood bridge will connect all of the residence halls to the Student Union.

Student Parking Deck: Design is also well underway on the next parking deck to serve students who will live in the new residence hall as well as Laurel, Lynch, and Witherspoon Halls. The intent is to open this deck with 1,000 parking spaces on the north side of Cameron Boulevard at the same time we occupy the new residence hall.

Transit Update: We continue working with the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) as they complete the 15 percent design for the Northeast Corridor of Light Rail (what we hope will eventually be called "the Green Line"). The current economic conditions have led some to question whether the engineering design could continue, but the good news is that the 2009 Federal Omnibus Budget Bill and funding from the state will allow the engineering to be completed by September, 2010. Following that, the project will be subjected to review and a funding decision by the Federal Transportation Administration. Let's hope all goes well and this important project keeps moving forward toward a 2015 opening.

Bioinformatics Building: Closer to home, the \$35 million Bioinformatics Building on the Charlotte Research Institute (CRI) Campus will be completed in July with occupancy planned for late summer. The Bioinformatics Building will provide improved laboratory

space for basic and applied research in modern molecular biology. This will be our first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building on campus.

Energy Production & Infrastructure Center: The fourth building to enter the construction phase on the CRI side of campus will be the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC). EPIC will house the departments of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Electrical Engineering in a collaborative, state-of-the-art teaching and research facility. Design is on schedule for the 196,000-square-foot facility, with groundbreaking targeted for late this summer. The General Assembly appropriated an additional \$57 million for construction of this building in the 2008 legislative session in addition to the \$19 million in site development funding that was appropriated in the previous session. With luck and some help from our friends in Raleigh, this funding will not be affected by the economic downturn. Current plans project completion of the building in 2011.

New Recreation Fields: Design is proceeding according to schedule on new recreation fields to be sited across John Kirk Boulevard from the Greek Village. This 24-acre site will be developed into a multi-use, multi-field complex including lights, a 1,600 square-foot restroom/storage facility, and parking. Plans call for the recreation fields to be ready for use in 2010.

PORTAL Building: Design has started on the fifth major building to be located at the CRI. The 90,000-square-foot Partnership, Outreach, and Research for Accelerated Learning (PORTAL) Building will support a myriad of research, technology transfer, and economic development initiatives and will move functions housed in the existing Ben Craig Center onto campus. PORTAL will be an industry incubator with private partnerships throughout the region. The project is currently on schedule to open in 2012.

Motorsports Building: Designer selection is underway for a second motorsports building to be located across the road from the existing motorsports building that sits adjacent to Duke Centennial Hall. Motorsports II will add 5,500 square feet of laboratory, classroom, and office space.

Football Facilities: Selection is also in progress for a design team to provide advance planning on our football facilities. The first phase of the planning will include a Sports Complex, which incorporates a 39,000-square-foot pre-engineered building to house coaches' offices, meeting rooms, a weight room, a training room, and a locker room. A practice field and a replacement recreation field are also part of this project. I have more to say about football later on.

Campus Master Plan: The Campus Master Plan continues on schedule. The data gathering and observation phases of the project are complete. In the next phase, we will develop a draft plan that will be made available for review by the campus community. Final review and approval by the Board of Trustees is scheduled for September.

ITS Move to MCNC: Infrastructure Technology Services has moved the University's data center to the new MCNC facility near Raleigh. The new UNC Charlotte data center is a

state-of-the-art, multi-functional facility capable of supporting the University's current and projected computing requirements. This crucial infrastructure project will improve the performance, manageability, and security of our data processing and computing.

Development and Alumni Affairs

Bonnie Cone Heritage Society: Spring is a time marked by tremendous energy and activity on campus. This year is no different. Lisa and I are always thrilled to meet friends of the University and alumni. In fact, we recently had the pleasure of hosting a luncheon for 45 members of the Bonnie Cone Heritage Society, followed by a performance of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale." Cone Society members leave an indelible mark upon the University by providing for UNC Charlotte in their estate plans.

New Foundation Board Members: The UNC Charlotte Foundation, whose work is critical to the University's mission, elected four new members at its April meeting: Eric Newman, '74, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Bojangles Corporation; Ted Alexander, '82, Mayor of the City of Shelby; John (Rob) Robison, IV, '78, Owner of Jefferson Street Marketing; and Karen Alexander, '97, President of KKA Architects. This brings the total number of alumni on the Foundation Board to 19! Board members currently are engaged in a strategic planning process.

Alumnus Honored: Multiple events and programs were offered at the beautiful Harris Alumni Center at Johnson Glen this semester. As part of its 40th Anniversary celebration, Africana Studies welcomed Dr. Benjamin Chavis, '71, to the Alumni Center for a reception in his honor. A central figure in the Civil Rights Movement, Chavis' many accomplishments include serving as executive director of The Million Man March in 1995. He was instrumental in spearheading the foundation of Black Studies and the Black Student Union at UNC Charlotte and received the University's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994. Chavis shared his admiration for UNC Charlotte with attendees and spoke about his work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Online Community: The Niner Connection, the new online community for UNC Charlotte's 80,000-plus alumni, will provide invaluable networking opportunities and offer everything from blogs to RSS feeds, which allow you to easily stay informed by retrieving the latest content from the sites you are interested in. The RSS feeds will enable you to visit one site — Niner Connection — for all of your information needs. Look for Niner Connection and the new Web site for Alumni Affairs in late spring/early summer 2009.

Athletics: Football Update

Since the Board of Trustees approved my recommendation in November that UNC Charlotte launch an intercollegiate football program beginning in the fall of 2013, a number of developments have taken place relating to those future plans.

First and foremost on our minds, of course, has been whether we need to adjust the timetable for football in light of the very poor economic conditions we now find ourselves in.

That includes a reconsideration of the original \$45 million fundraising goal for facilities as well as the timing of any private fundraising campaign we might launch to secure the dollars necessary to build such facilities.

Working closely with my staff, I have discussed with the Board of Trustees a plan that would allow us to initiate our football program in the fall of 2013 as scheduled, but to do so by adjusting our fundraising goal from \$45 million to approximately \$20 million. This can be accomplished principally by scaling back the football operations facility to a pre-engineered structure and by scratching the proposed new full-scale football stadium in favor of making modifications and adding temporary bleachers to the existing Belk Track and Field Stadium. The Board of Trustees will have a further discussion of what we have been calling “Plan B” at their meeting scheduled for May 29.

In February, the 49ers Football fundraising Dream Team was unveiled and includes honorary chairs Mac Everett and Johnny Harris, chairman Gene Johnson ('73), executive chairs David Hauser ('77), Bob Hull ('85, '88), and Joe Price ('83), and two popular former Carolina Panthers, Mike Minter and Mike Rucker, as ambassadors. We have not started active private fundraising but will continue to monitor economic conditions to determine the right time to begin the football campaign.

In the meantime, our current efforts remain focused on the sale of Forty Niner seat-licenses (FSLs), a critical component of our overall fundraising strategy to support football. For more information on how to purchase your FSL, please visit <http://www.charlotte49erfootball.com/>.

Athletes Achieve Academic Excellence

While we take great pride in the on-the-field accomplishments of our student athletes, some of the most impressive statistics and achievements have nothing to do with their athletic pursuits. For instance, for the third consecutive year, the Athletic Department's cumulative grade point (GPA) average reached the 3.0 mark – and the 25th semester that student-athletes have posted a higher GPA than that of the overall student body.

Senior track and field standout Lamarra Currie exemplifies the tradition of academic excellence among UNC Charlotte student-athletes. While she frequently sets records on the track, perhaps her most significant “first” was when she became the only UNC Charlotte student-athlete and one of only a handful of students nationwide to receive the NCAA Ethnic Minority Enhancement Postgraduate Scholarship for Careers in Athletics. Currie boasts a 4.0 GPA in psychology and will receive \$6,000 for one year of full-time graduate study at an NCAA member institution.

49er Sports Highlights

Women's Basketball: This was an exceptional year for the women's basketball program. Our 49ers won the Atlantic 10 Championship Tournament and earned their second-

ever bid to the NCAA Tournament. Second-year head coach Karen Aston led the 49ers to a 23-9 record and a second-place finish in the Atlantic 10.

Track and Field: The 49ers men's and women's track teams swept Atlantic 10 titles as the University hosted the 2009 A-10 Outdoor Track and Field Championships, May 2-3 at the Irwin Belk Track and Field Center. Our women's team won its eighth straight A-10 Championship, which accounts for all four indoor and all four outdoor titles since the 49ers joined the league four years ago. The men's team also claimed the outdoor title to complete the 49ers sweep of 2009 league championships. The 49ers won all four track and field titles in 2009 with the men and women both claiming indoor and outdoor championship titles.

Golf: Make it four straight Atlantic 10 titles for the 49ers golf team and a school-record five straight trips to the NCAA Tournament. With junior all-American Corey Nagy grabbing individual medals and honors and senior Stefan Wiedergruen finishing as the individual runner-up, Charlotte won the A-10 title by 11 strokes and earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Community Relations

UNC Charlotte's Department of Community Affairs, in partnership with the Levine Museum of the New South, has developed an exciting dialogue series to examine in-depth the issues surrounding the influx of newcomers to the Charlotte region. The series allows the University to bring our intellectual capital to the community in a meaningful way and has been extremely well received, with hundreds of individuals attending. The monthly conversations are led by faculty members and community leaders on topics relevant to Charlotte's tremendous diversity and shifting demographics. The community dialogues are free and open to the public. For more information, go to <http://video.uncc.edu/>; to register, send e-mail to communityaffairs@uncc.edu or call 704-687-8502.

While I delight in nothing more than bringing you positive news from UNC Charlotte, I'd better bring this newsletter to a close. Look for the next installment sometime in December. In the meantime, enjoy the summer months and get ready for an exciting fall semester at UNC Charlotte.

Go Niners!

Cordially,



Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please call 704-687-5729.