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Winter 2011



Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx on Charlotte and UNC Charlotte

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Niner Nation Family

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Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx on the connection between the city and UNC Charlotte

“You can’t be a global city without having global institutions.”

by Laura Rowland

Newly re-elected Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx is heading into his second term of office with big plans for the city. Those plans include strengthening the city’s relationship and connection with UNC Charlotte.

Mayor Foxx believes UNC Charlotte has a huge impact on Charlotte, and that impact will become greater over time. The University attracts over 25,000 students, in addition to over 900 faculty members, to the City of Charlotte on an annual basis and will

continue to be a huge catalyst for economic development. “You don’t have great cities that don’t have great universities. And we’re very happy to have UNC Charlotte in our backyard.”

Charlotte also has an equally important impact on the University. “The city creates an extraordinary backdrop for the University.” Charlotte attracts talented people, and those people create innovative businesses and unique places and that backdrop provides

an amazing context for our University.

Foxx also mentioned some very specific connections between the city and UNC Charlotte.

“I’m so pleased about the opening of the downtown facility [the Center City campus] and I’m also very excited about getting our

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The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Cover Story: Mayor Anthony Foxx on Charlotte and the University

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“

I think we will continue growing together and will see some really dynamic growth occur in ways that we haven't even thought of yet.

”

transit system connected into the campus of the University.” The transit connection will be a big catalyst in UNC Charlotte and the city of Charlotte’s growth and expansion together. “Essentially you bring 25,000 people closer to the Center City and you bring 731,000 people closer to the UNC Charlotte campus.” It will feel like UNC Charlotte is physically located in the downtown area because the access is going to be so much greater. “I don’t think people in our city realize how much of a catalytic development it will be to get that line going. It will be huge.

Not only will the light rail line be a stimulant for growth between Charlotte and UNC Charlotte: since its opening in August of this year, the Center City campus now serves as a crucial connection between the University and the Charlotte community. Foxx believes the new facility can serve as a stage for the University to attract key people. “Things like that can engage the community in broader issues and is another way of cementing the value of this University to our city.” There are many ways in which the city and University connect, but according to Mayor Foxx, the Center City Building and the transit system are two of the most important connections. They will continue to bridge the gap between Center City and UNC Charlotte.

UNC Charlotte plays a role in many Charlotte events and functions. The same will hold true for the upcoming Democratic National Convention (DNC), which Mayor Foxx was instrumental in landing. He believes the DNC will be a huge learning opportunity for students that otherwise may never been exposed to a political convention of that magnitude. The DNC will also be a beneficial boost for UNC Charlotte as a whole by putting it on a larger platform. “We’re trying to connect our university to activities around the convention... The University is going to be called on often over the next year or two to be a staging place for some of those activities.”



During the Convention, Foxx wants showcase the importance of UNC Charlotte, and the UNC system as a whole, in the state of North Carolina. “We believe not only in the strength of our flagship public university here in Charlotte, but in the strength of the UNC System as a whole.”

From an economic development perspective, Foxx says “We’ve got to do more to advocate for the University to obtain research dollars at the federal level.” He referred to a study by Paul Wetenthal of the Ben Craig Center regarding the vast differences between the amount of the funding landed by the Research Triangle and by Charlotte. “The Triangle area gets 1.8 billion research dollars on an annual basis, as we get 30 million. We’ve got to start addressing that differential and the biggest boldest way we can do that is by getting behind UNC Charlotte in helping to attract more of those dollars.”

Charlotte is becoming a global city and Foxx argues “you can’t be a global city without having global institutions.” UNC Charlotte is a diverse institution with over 90 countries represented at the University. It is in a position to build its reputation more broadly across North Carolina, the United States and across the globe. But at the local level, Mayor Foxx believes the City of Charlotte and UNC Charlotte will continue to evolve and grow together over the next ten years. Their joint expansion will continue to attract interest, people and businesses to the area. “I think we will continue growing together and will see some really dynamic growth occur in ways that we haven’t even thought of yet.”



A LEGACY

of strength

by Laura Rowland

Every now and then you encounter someone who truly puts your life in perspective and inspires you to accomplish every goal you've ever imagined. That's what happened to me when I met Cameron Rowe (top photo, center), his father, Mark (left), and his brother, Derrick (right). Oliver Reagan Rowe pictured bottom left.

Cameron Rowe, a junior at UNC Charlotte, had a seemingly normal two years when he entered as a freshman in the Fall of 2005. He enjoyed racing dirt bikes, lifting weights, spending time with his friends and meeting new people. What did separate Cameron from other UNC Charlotte students, however, was his rich family legacy and history rooted deep in this University's foundation.

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A legacy of strength *continued from page 4*

Cameron and Derrick are the great-grandsons of Oliver Rowe, one of the UNC Charlotte's founders and pioneers.

Oliver Rowe was born in Newport, Tennessee and raised in Charlotte. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning a degree in Electrical Engineering. He returned to Charlotte and began working for an engineering firm, R.H. Bouligny, Inc, of which he eventually became the President and changed the name to Rowe Corporation.

Rowe first became involved in Charlotte's educational system when he became an advocate for consolidating the city and county schools, making countless speeches to the PTA. He then made his mark on higher education by joining Bonnie Cone and a group of others to create a state university in Charlotte. He saw a tremendous need for an educational base in the rapidly growing region. He went before the city council, county commission, state legislators and university trustees to campaign for University status. Rowe was instrumental in soliciting the largest single gift made to the UNC Charlotte Foundation of \$1 million by the Celanese Corporation. That gift inspired others, and eventually Charlotte College attained University status and became a branch of the University of North Carolina system.

Bonnie Cone, the founder of our University, thought very highly of Oliver Rowe. "Without the leadership of Oliver Rowe, the city of Charlotte and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte would not have risen to the prominence which they have attained... I am personally indebted to Oliver Rowe for the support and encouragement he gave me. Without his support, the building of a

university of excellence would have been difficult indeed."

Because of the rich legacy that developed after Oliver Rowe's involvement with the University, his great-grandson Cameron decided to carry on the tradition and attend UNC Charlotte, along with a host of other relatives including his father and grandfather and many cousins. While his grandmother urged him and other relatives to attend, Cameron assured me that coming to UNC Charlotte was solely his decision.

In the summer of 2007, Cameron, Derrick and Mark went to a new local track to practice racing their dirt bikes. There was one part with three consecutive jumps; Cameron didn't make it over the last jump. He flew over the handlebars and was subsequently crushed by a group of riders who didn't see him. This accident left him in a wheel chair. Cameron had broken his C1, C2 and C4 vertebrae, dislocated a portion of his skull, suffered a brain stem injury, torn neck ligaments and muscles, and suffered a lacerated liver, a punctured lung and a broken arm. He was flown by helicopter to a nearby hospital where doctors gave him a 2% chance of surviving the first night. They predicted his only motor function would be blinking his eyes if he recovered. Cameron surpassed their predictions, and on Father's Day of that year, he moved his leg for the first time.

For the next 5 months, Cameron was hospitalized and

Mark and Derrick cannot help but take pride and be inspired by both Cameron and Oliver Rowe. Derrick smiles every time he walks into the Rowe building and sees his great grandfather's portrait.

When asked how her overall experience has been at UNC Charlotte, Patricia Morsch's response was

“**AMAZING!**”

Life as an International Graduate Student

As an international graduate student at UNC Charlotte, Patricia's experience certainly differs from that of the traditional undergraduate student. Being away from family and friends and not having a car can certainly make things difficult at times. But it hasn't stopped Patricia staking her claim and loving life as a Charlotte 49er!

Patricia was born and raised in Brazil and has been a student at Charlotte for a little over a year. Her father encouraged her to study abroad for her graduate degree, and following a discouraging experience in New Zealand, she decided to apply to 4 schools in U.S. After a very welcoming conversation with the Gerontology program director, Patricia chose to come to UNC Charlotte. She is pursuing her Master's Degree in Gerontology and currently works in the Dean of Student's Office as the graduate assistant for the S.A.F.E. Program, a peer mentoring program assisting students during their first year in college.

Patricia loves how large and diverse the University is. Her experience here has been drastically different from her collegiate experience in Brazil where there were no sporting events or very many student organizations; just classes. Her favorite experience at UNC Charlotte was learning about the Greek organizations and how she could become a part of that community. She also has loved how helpful her classmates, faculty and staff members have been.

Patricia feels her experience differs from other traditional



I belong to UNC Charlotte, and no one can ever take this experience from me.

graduate students because her plan is to return to Brazil. This affects her networking possibilities, as her ability to connect with potential employers is drastically different from her classmates. She participates in conferences for the personal experience while her classmates use those opportunities to network and look jobs. Because English is her second language, Patricia also has to spend more time reading, writing and checking her grammar than the other students with English as their native tongue. And while she is fluent in English, she has had difficulty understanding some culturally-based jokes and slang.

Regardless of the minor difficulties, Patricia loves UNC Charlotte. She has experienced a lot of personal growth and development by living away from her family and now relies on herself for everything. But Patricia doesn't want this relationship to be one-sided; she wants to give back and be a part of this University that has given so much to her. She is staking her claim by getting involved. Patricia

is the Vice President of the Gerontology Club, is a member of the Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society and other international organizations, and volunteers frequently. "I want to represent our community and always remain a part of this University." She also plans to study the Brazilian population in her thesis and help expose others to her culture and her background, as she has been exposed to ours. "I belong to UNC Charlotte, and no one can ever take this experience from me."

Legacy, Tradition, and Mentorship

An interview with Dr. Gregory Davis and Robyn Massey from the Black Alumni Chapter



As the oldest alumni chapter at UNC Charlotte, the Black Alumni Chapter is continuing to build a foundation to be an integral part of UNC Charlotte's history. Recently, we had a candid Q&A with Dr. Gregory Davis, the chapter president, and Robyn Massey, the chair of the Undergraduate Professional Development committee and past UNC Charlotte Alumni Association president, to discuss the chapter and their current development, their mentoring program--the Undergraduate Professional Development Program.

Q: How long has the Black Alumni Chapter been a part of UNC Charlotte's Alumni Association?

A: Dr. Davis: Unofficially it has been around since the 1970's, but as of 2009, we have been officially affiliated with the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association.

Q: What recent projects and/or developments is the Black Alumni Chapter working on?

A: In early November, we held a community event, "Commemorating the Links of Leadership...Honoring Models of Success in Entrepreneurship." We awarded local entrepreneurs for their contributions in the Charlotte community; several of them were UNC Charlotte graduates. The next big project will be Homecoming 2012.

Q: Why do you think it is important for the Black Alumni Chapter to give back to the UNC Charlotte?

A: Dr. Davis: It is important because it recognizes that UNC Charlotte does have black graduates and black graduates who give back.

Q: Why has the Black Alumni Chapter developed a mentoring program? Why do you think this mentoring program is necessary for both students and alumni?

A: Dr. Davis: The mentoring program will be twofold: the first is to assist and mentor students on how to write a resume and dress for success and other skill sets. This will be very similar to what is offered with the SAFE program and to what the Collegiate 100 Black Men and the Coalition of 100 Black Women chapters are doing. The second would be to mentor students as they transition from graduation to the real world.

Q: What legacy and tradition do you hope this mentoring program to produce?

A: Dr. Davis: I want successful students who graduate and produce active alumni who will give back to UNC Charlotte.

Q: Why was the Undergraduate Professional Development Program developed?

A: Robyn: It was a concern that I had that as alumni we were not really giving back to the undergraduates as much as we should be; and the vehicle for that thought process was the overall economy and how it is in terms of finding jobs, and thinking we could help with folks being better prepared to interview and position themselves for jobs.

Q: What are your current goals for the Undergraduate Professional Development Program?

Legacy, Tradition, and Mentorship

continued from previous page

A: Robyn: My primary goal, with the economy being as difficult as it is, is to help alumni impart some of the things that have made us successful – those of us who have gone into professional careers after graduation. So it is really more about reaching back and giving back.

Q: What are your future goals for the Undergraduate Professional Development Program?

A: Robyn: Our future goals are to engage more black alumni in the program as well as undergraduates such that it will be a program that is very well known throughout the University and gets a lot of legs behind it--as far as it translating into something that is going on with black alumni, but it is something that is happening in the general alumni community as a whole.

Q: What type of legacy do you want to create with the Undergraduate Professional Development program?

A: Robyn: We want students to know that there is a Black Alumni Chapter and to get tied to the Black

Alumni Chapter before they leave the University

By virtue of the Black Alumni Chapter doing this for the undergraduates, I would hope that when they become alumni they would do the same thing. So, it is setting the stage by example and hoping that, over time, they will emulate what they are doing with folks as they are going through their career.

Q: What traditions do you hope to develop through the Undergraduate Professional Development Program?

A: Robyn: One of the traditions I hope to develop is having a networking event – a networking event to get black alumni and the students together to better engage [in] dialogue around how we can help each other. What we are attempting to do here is something we think is needed, but as time progresses the program may need to fine-tune its [approach to] whatever the requirement at that the time [is]. So, what I am hoping, if we have a yearly networking event, it will allow open dialogue and would allow us to fine-tune the program and keep it relevant.

– Lauren A. Lowery & Jason Brown

A legacy of strength *continued from page 5*

endured rigorous rehabilitation at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. It was there he met with a mentor that was given a similar prognosis by his physicians – but that same man is now walking.

Cameron and his family took an aggressive stance on his rehabilitation and would even sneak back into the facility to do extra workouts. He eventually learned to speak, eat and drink on his own. Three years later, Cameron can now successfully walk the length of 6 football fields. His doctors told him to “take what we say with a grain of salt. We can only tell you what we know, but that doesn’t take into account the power of the human will.”

In the Fall of 2009, Cameron returned to UNC Charlotte. But he was not alone; his brother Derrick had also chosen to become a 49er.

Cameron is considered a perfectionist by family and friends when it comes to class work so he was very nervous about his return and his ability to do well. His brain injury didn’t affect his cognitive abilities but he is unable to write or type. After getting Dragon Speech Recognition software installed on his computer, Cameron was able to do very well in his first course back, an Honors Western Culture course, which was also writing-intensive. “The injury definitely was a set-back. But I will never let someone tell me that I couldn’t do something.” He was also very grateful for all the accommodations and assistance professors like Connie Rothwell and the Honors College made to ease his transition back to UNC Charlotte. “The University made it incredibly easy to come back, almost too easy; it was effortless.” Cameron was also able to assist younger brother Derrick with his transition to college and offer study tips and advice. For the first time, the two brothers were able to go the same school at the same time and even took a course together.

When Cameron returned to the University, he started right where he left off by catching up with old friends, meeting new ones and even participating in a leadership and development program called LeaderShape. He enjoyed his time there and learned a lot about himself and the other participants. “I never once felt like I was handicapped or treated differently. It was refreshing to be somewhere and have a completely normal experience like everyone else”

Cameron’s plans have changed some since the accident, but his major is still undecided. Cameron’s determination to fully recover from the accident and accomplish his goals is truly a testament of his willpower and perseverance. When he and Derrick graduate, they will add to the Rowe legacy that is embedded so deep into the bedrock of UNC Charlotte. While he has certainly had more than enough of his share of adversity, Cameron continues to push forward and unknowingly inspire onlookers like myself. “There are still tough times, but at the end of the day you have a choice to move forward or go back. For me, going back is not an option.”

Derrick echoes Cameron’s sentiments and uses his brother’s no-nonsense approach to his everyday life philosophy and always reminds his friends not to take anything for granted. Mark and Derrick cannot help but take pride and be inspired by both Cameron and their grandfather Oliver Rowe. Derrick smiles every time he walks into the Rowe building and sees his great grandfather’s portrait. “You see that picture right there. That’s my great grandfather.”

When I asked Mark how his grandfather would feel about the legacy he left behind, his reply was “Oliver Rowe would be very pleased, and very proud of Cameron.”



Education Abroad

Study abroad can prove educational, not only for UNC Charlotte students but also for their families as the families gain greater understanding of their students' capabilities.

“As much as study abroad is a lesson for the student in independence and self-reliance, study abroad is also an opportunity for parents to trust their children,” says Angela Wright, lead advisor in UNC Charlotte’s Office of Education Abroad.

UNC Charlotte senior Jessica Rosa says her mother initially expressed some concern about her plans to study in Japan in the 2009-2010 academic year, but now views it as a good experience.

“Since I’ve come back, she says I’m more confident,” Rosa says. “She has seen a change in my demeanor. She says it was a good change.”

Rosa stretched herself during her time abroad by making friends from other cultures and countries and by seeking leadership roles. “Study abroad is about getting out of your comfort zone,” Rosa says. “It’s a great way to look at your own personal strengths and weaknesses. It gave me the opportunity to discover myself.”

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Education Abroad continued from previous page

Parents may note that as their students grow in independence and self-awareness during their time abroad, they often come back with new perspectives on their career and academic paths. “They are able to gain more clarity in their studies and make decisions for themselves about their futures,” Wright says.

Education Abroad Deepens Learning

Studying abroad offers learning environments that deepen and extend traditional classroom experiences, says Dr. Lisa Walker, chair of the Sociology Department, who with Dr. Scott Fitzgerald directs the Community and Identity in a Changing City course in Manchester, United Kingdom.

“Study abroad allows students to experience situations outside what they have always known and to apply knowledge,” Walker says. “It allows students to gain an understanding and an appreciation for the “why” of what they’re studying. A study abroad experience also prepares students for living in a global society.”

As students learn about other cultures, they become more effective critics of their own cultures, says Dr. Paul Youngman, an associate professor in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies who has led seven university trips to Germany.

“It lights their fire in a way that you just can’t do in a classroom,” Youngman says. “The biggest benefit is this

level of curiosity you see when they experience another culture. In our program, we’re using Berlin as a big classroom. It’s an open, incredibly dynamic classroom.”

Students Choose From Three Types of Programs

Students can travel to many countries around the world through the three basic types of education abroad experiences offered: exchanges, affiliate programs and faculty-led group programs.

For the exchange programs, UNC Charlotte has agreements with institutions in other countries that include sending equivalent numbers of students between the universities. In affiliate programs, students directly enroll in a host institution or through an independent organization.

Faculty-led group programs provide international experiences of ten days to eight weeks as part of credit-bearing UNC Charlotte courses. Although program offerings vary each year, examples of the sessions include Architecture in Italy, Chinese Language in Xi’an, Public Relations in the United Kingdom, Social and Health Care Systems in the Netherlands and Excavating Tzuba.

The Process Begins With Planning

To start the process, interested students attend one of the six advising sessions the Office of Education Abroad offers each week. Each student completes an advising



“ It lights their fire in a way that you just can’t do in a classroom. ”

questionnaire and consults one-on-one with a study abroad advisor and an academic advisor to consider options and to plan how the time abroad will best fit into the student’s degree program. When thinking about the options, students should consider their personal academic needs, budgetary constraints, career goals and personal interests.

The next steps include applying for the desired program and developing a preliminary financial plan, including applications for scholarships, grants and financial aid.

Students should start their planning early, as they consider their budgets, schedules and applications to programs. Program and scholarship applications can be highly competitive, and students should submit their paperwork as soon as they can. Deadlines are available on the website of the Office of Education Abroad and also covered in the information sessions.

“The most important thing parents can do is to support their children before, during and after a study abroad experience, although parents should allow the students to do the work themselves,” Wright says. “Students’ preparation for study abroad is part of the learning process.”

<http://www.edabroad.uncc.edu>



Photographs provided by the Office of Education Abroad

Transition Program Celebrates 25 Years



Dr. Herman Thomas

Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Herman Thomas established the University Transition Opportunities Program (UTOP), and in August UTOP alumni and University leaders gathered to celebrate the program's success during a silver anniversary dinner. UTOP facilitates the underrepresented student's transition from high school to college.

Demond Martin, UTOP Class of 1993 and partner in the firm Adage

Capital, served as the keynote speaker for the dinner, which brought together nearly 200 UTOP alumni and supporters.

To the silver anniversary class of UTOP participants, Martin advised them to develop genuine friendships with those who would support their desire to succeed; to work hard; to have a plan in mind as the journey begins within; to differentiate themselves from their peers – prepare a backup plan; and to not be afraid to ask for help when they need it, not when it may be too late.

Chancellor Philip L. Dubois also spoke at the dinner. He outlined UTOP's history, and how the program has grown in scope and has helped the University better prepare its students.

"Last year, UNC Charlotte was highlighted by Education Trust, a national policy and advocacy organization, as one of only 11 universities nationwide to have closed the graduation gap between African-American and Latino students and their Caucasian counterparts. Their report credited the efforts of UNC Charlotte's administration

UNC Charlotte was highlighted by Education Trust as one of only 11 universities nationwide to have closed the graduation gap between African-American and Latino students and their Caucasian counterparts.

and the Office of Multicultural Academic Services as key elements in achieving this distinction," noted Dubois.

During the past decade, UTOP participants were retained at a rate of 12 percent greater than all other first-time students. UTOP students also had higher graduation rates after six years than underrepresented students or all first-time freshmen from the same cohort.

Sam Lopez, director of the Office of Multicultural Academic Services, recognized a number of alumni and others associated with the program at the celebration, including UTOP founder Herman Thomas; Chancellor Dubois; Chancellor Emeritus Jim Woodward; Greg Davis, retired faculty member and second UTOP director; Demond and Kia Martin; Kristen McManus, a UTOP coordinator; Robert Muhammad, former associate director in the UNC Charlotte Office of Financial Aid; Rev. Fred Gibson, pastor of Providence Baptist Church and an original financial supporter of UTOP (the church has contributed a monthly donation to the program since its inception); Julie Townsend, who taught ENG 1101 and 1109 (UTOP magazine class) every summer until retiring in 2009; and Jodi Turner, associate director in the Office of Multicultural Academic Services



Updates, awards and press released from UNC Charlotte colleges and departments

SIS Assistant Professor Receives Google Research Award



Dr. Mohamed Shehab recognized for his research in social networks

UNC Charlotte's College of Computing and Informatics today announced that Dr. Mohamed Shehab, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Software and Information Systems, has been selected to receive a Google Research Award.

Dr. Shehab received \$55,000 for his research proposal, "Third Party Application Policy Management in Social Networks". The project will investigate policy management mechanisms, to provide recommendations to aid users when deciding on privacy policies related to social network applications. The proposed policy recommendation mechanisms will be developed and integrated in current state of the art authorization architectures.

The Google Research Awards program is aimed at identifying and supporting world-class, full-time faculty, pursuing research in areas of mutual interest with Google.

Graduate School Admissions Begins Online Information Sessions

In order to reach the varied demographic of potential graduate students, UNC Charlotte's Graduate School recently began offering online information sessions for those wishing to study at the University. These online sessions were developed to meet the needs of the non-traditional student base who generally have very little time to devote to on-campus programs.

Graduate student populations differ from the undergraduate in that many students work full time and are seeking classes at night in order to further their career. Some have families and want to return to the scholarly ranks yet find it difficult to visit campus with children in tow. The feature of attending an online information session allows these future students to sit at the comfort of their own computer or mobile device and get hands on information without having to come to campus. A graduate counselor is at their disposal to help guide them down the path to higher education.

By broadcasting graduate study information sessions via the web, the prospective student doesn't have to be in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. Domestic and even international students can sign up to participate in a session,

which are held at different times during the day to cover all time zones worldwide.

"There is so much technology out there these days," says Dean Tom Reynolds, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School. "It's nice to take advantage of it to help our future students learn more about our graduate programs and the University in general."

Using Go to Webinar from Citrix Online and voice-over internet protocol (VOIP) technology, the graduate admissions counselor conducts the 30-minute presentations from campus. During the presentation, viewers are shown how to "click through" the various links on the Graduate School admissions web pages and/or graduate program pages, to locate current information. Everything is immediate and nothing is out of date. Viewers can even complete a Prospective Student Form on their own as they listen to the session, thus becoming part of the University's graduate admissions "mailing list". Participants are able to ask questions during the presentation by using a microphone or typing the question into the chat box. Those questions are shared with the other attendees. At the end of the online graduate information session, participants can move right into the application process and begin applying for graduate school immediately.

Piloted by the Belk College of Business graduate enrollment counselors, the Graduate School adapted the technology to serve all of the 19 doctoral, 61 masters and 59 certificate programs at UNC Charlotte. Always on the cutting edge, the Graduate School has recently developed a new web site, a mobile app for the iPhone, iPad and iPod platforms and, coming soon, a revised online graduate school application process.

The graduate student online information sessions will be run monthly in conjunction with on-campus information sessions. To sign up to attend an online graduate information session, please visit <http://graduateschool.uncc.edu> and follow the Admissions tab.

Recipient of Graduate Mentor Award



Harish P. Cherukuri, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science and the department's former director of graduate studies, is the recipient of the 2011 Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award. He was presented with the award at a reception on the evening of Oct. 18. This award was established in memory of Dr. Harshini de Silva, an

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associate professor of biology, who was noted for her deep dedication to the academic and professional development of graduate students.

According to the award citation, “Cherukuri focuses on the total development of students by supporting them in their professional and personal growth, encouraging them to reach beyond their everyday experiences and empowering them through a student-centered pedagogy. He fosters a learning environment that is considerate of students’ varying cultural and academic backgrounds, and his commitment to student learning and success extends well beyond the confines of the University.”

In the words of one graduate student, “Dr. Cherukuri has been and still is an inspiration to me both academically and personally, and has always supported and encouraged me in my endeavors. He is a very caring individual.”

During his academic and professional career, Cherukuri has chaired the doctoral and master’s committees of more than 20 graduate students and has, during his seven years as director of graduate studies, interacted directly with nearly every graduate student in the department.

A respected scholar, Cherukuri has authored or co-authored approximately 60 papers including those for peer-reviewed journals and refereed conference publications; a majority have been coauthored with students.

Cherukuri earned a Bachelor of Technology degree in Mechanical Engineering from J.N. Technological University, Hyderabad, India. He holds a Master of Science from Montana State University and Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He came to UNC Charlotte as a postdoctoral research associate in 1995, joining the faculty as a visiting assistant professor in 1997. He is a member of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and U.S. Association for Computational Mechanics.

The winner of a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship, Cherukuri recently spent a semester conducting research at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. In recognition of Cherukuri’s dedication, innovations in teaching and mentoring skills, he has received student-nominated teaching awards, including the Tau Beta Phi Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Maxheim Faculty Fellowship.

“With 19 doctoral programs, more to come in the future, and now 4,995 graduate students, quality mentoring by our faculty is essential as we cultivate in our students a commitment to excellent teaching, outstanding research, and a sense of personal and professional balance,” Chancellor Philip L. Dubois said at the award ceremony. “Harish Cherukuri, our honoree tonight, exemplifies these traits, and so it is fitting that he is being recognized tonight as the recipient of the Harshini de Silva Graduate Mentor Award.”

Harshini V. de Silva was an exceptional teacher, a brilliant scholar and researcher and a devoted servant of her profession and community until her untimely death in October 2000. The Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award is given annually to the faculty member whose

commitment to students, research and scholarly inquiry most closely exemplifies the spirit of de Silva. Cherukuri will be honored at a ceremony held on the UNC Charlotte campus in the early spring with an award of a crystal obelisk, a framed citation, and a cash prize.

Howard Godfrey gets Bank of America Award

Accounting Professor Howard Godfrey is the 2011 recipient of the highest teacher honor bestowed by UNC Charlotte, the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence. The announcement was made at a reception Friday, Sept. 16, at Bank of America’s Founder’s Hall. Godfrey and the other finalists were honored during an evening ceremony and gala attended by UNC Charlotte faculty members and their guests.



“Howard is a very effective teacher,” accounting department co-chairs Casper Wiggins and Jack Cathey wrote in a joint letter of recommendation to the selection committee. “He is totally dedicated to teaching and to doing whatever it takes to help his students learn. His classes are very rigorous and he has a passion for bringing unique real-world tax cases into the classroom.”

Godfrey was selected from an esteemed list of finalists for the award. The other nominees were: Yogendra Kaked, electrical and computer engineering; John Piel, education; Gregory Starrett, anthropology; and David Thaddeus, architecture.

For his part, Godfrey said he considers it a “great privilege to be part of the process of educating, training, advising and mentoring students who will assume leadership roles in the business world. My focus is on helping students succeed, whether I am engaged in course preparation, class lectures, testing, research, or advising and mentoring. When students succeed, we all succeed.”

Godfrey has been a member of the accounting faculty for 36 years, and his area of specialty is individual and corpo-

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How to Stake Your Claim to UNC Charlotte

by John Bland
Director of Public Relations

In less than 65 years, UNC Charlotte has grown from a college founded to serve veterans returning from World War II to a doctoral granting institution with 25,300 students and a full complement of academic and athletic programs.

As North Carolina's urban research university, UNC Charlotte has a distinct mission to fulfill in the Charlotte region, the state of North Carolina, and globally through research, community outreach, cultural and educational programs.

With a growing research enterprise, a strong tradition of community engagement and a new football program on the horizon, we decided that it was time to separate ourselves from the pack — to create awareness, energy, excitement and enthusiasm around the UNC Charlotte experience.

The “Stake Your Claim” branding campaign was developed to promote pride in ownership of UNC Charlotte, both on campus and in the Charlotte region.

The precursor to UNC Charlotte, Charlotte College, was established in 1949. The UNC Charlotte mascot, a 49er, was chosen in recognition of the importance of that historical year and because Charlotte boasts a rich gold mining history; in fact, North Carolina led the nation in gold production until 1848, when it was eclipsed by the

great rush to California. We owe the term Stake Your Claim to the miners of bygone days.

When miners came to the Charlotte region they would literally stake their claim with wooden stakes and handwritten notes proclaiming their right to a piece of land for mining. The Stake Your Claim campaign honors that pioneering spirit and engages our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community in the life of the University. Staking your claim means that you are embracing every opportunity to make the best of yourself, your university and your community while associated with UNC Charlotte. It applies to every student, staff member and professor at the University. Stake Your Claim is a challenge to work your hardest to be your best.

There are many ways to Stake Your Claim to UNC Charlotte, whether by attending on-campus events, making a contribution to scholarship funds or specific programs, sharing positive news about the University with your friends and family, or downloading the fight song as your mobile ring tone. Visit Ways to Stake Your Claim and our Downloads area for more ideas.

For more information on the spirit of Stake Your Claim, contact Public Relations Director John Bland at jobland@uncc.edu or Marketing Director Richard McDevitt at rkmcdevi@uncc.edu.



A bigger-than-life pickaxe model that was stationed in Uptown Charlotte's First Citizen's bank for half a year.

Charlotte 49ers Fall 2011 Highlights

It was an exciting season of Winter sports!

Jessica Lockerby



Giuseppe Gentile



Evan James

MEN'S SOCCER

Men's Soccer Shines in the National Spotlight

The 49ers men's soccer team has enjoyed time on the national stage throughout the 2011 season. The Niners have been ranked as high as eighth in the NSCAA Coaches Poll, and ninth in the RPI rankings. Charlotte posted a 13-3-2 record in the regular season, including a perfect 7-0-0 home mark at Transamerica Field. The 49ers fell to Xavier in overtime in the quarterfinal round of the Atlantic 10 Tournament, but still managed to secure an at-large bid into the NCAA Tournament.

Charlotte kicked off its season at home with an exhibition game vs. top-ranked North Carolina, a match that drew a record-setting crowd of 4,038 to Transamerica Field. The game was called due to lightning in the 70th minute with the Niners trailing, 2-1, but the match was nonetheless a precursor to the outstanding season Charlotte was about to have.

Highlighting the 49ers' regular season campaign was a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory over #10 Virginia on the road. Trailing 1-0 with just 25 seconds remaining in regulation, Charlotte sophomore Tyler Gibson put away a penalty kick to send the game into overtime. Then, just 42 seconds into the extra frame, senior Isaac Caughran scored the

game-winner off a rebound shot from Gibson that had ricocheted off the crossbar.

The Niners also garnered a notable win over 27th-ranked UNC Greensboro, double overtime victories over Massachusetts and Saint Louis, and an impressive 5-1 rout of conference foe St. Bonaventure, during which rookie forward Giuseppe Gentile notched his first career hat trick scoring 3 consecutive goals during the game.

Several 49ers earned both conference and national recognition, with a number of different players racking up multiple honors: A10 Player of the Week, National Player of the Week and National Team of the Week. Most recently, the Atlantic 10 announced its end-of-season honors, with seven different Niners garnering recognition. Gentile was named the Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Year and earned a spot on the All-Rookie Team. Evan James, Charles Rodriguez and Tyler Gibson were named First Team All-Conference, while Gentile and Smith were Second Team. Gibson and Aiden Kirkbride were also named to the A10 Academic All-Conference squad for their performance in the classroom.

The team made 49er history by going all the way to the finals in NCAA College Cup Championship semifinals and final in Hoover, Alabama. Charlotte ended a stellar season placing second in the nation after losing to UNC Chapel Hill in a 0-1 heartbreaker.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's Soccer Makes Fourth Straight Post-Season Appearance



Amanda Jones



Macky Wingo

The women's soccer squad had a bit of a rough year after losing a number of talented seniors from the previous season. This year's team, made up of six seniors, two juniors, six sophomores and 13 freshmen, was a young one. Playing a tough schedule that featured four nationally-ranked teams, including back-to-back-to-back games against #14 Tennessee, #16 Memphis and #22 South Carolina, the 49ers posted a 7-10-4 overall record with a 4-4-1 conference mark. Highlighting the season, though, was the squad's fourth straight trip to the post-season. Charlotte earned the six-seed in the Atlantic 10 Tournament, falling to Dayton in the Quarterfinals.

Looking on the bright side, the Niners have a wealth of young talent to build upon for next year including a number of talented freshmen. Rookie Amanda Jones was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Rookie squad for her efforts on offense. The

forward, from Mahwah, N.J., ranked third on the team in scoring with three goals and three assists, despite missing five games mid-season with an injury. Freshmen Sara Trexler and Jessica Ryan were also solid contributors in the forward position. Additionally, sophomore keeper Alex Kubrick, who posted five shutouts in 13 starts, will return in 2012.

Women's soccer also had a presence in the community, participating in the ninth annual Carolinas Walk Now for Autism Speaks at the Charlotte Motor Speedway in October. The entire 49ers team, along with a handful of parents and other family members, showed up for the event. Participants walked a minimum of 4.5 miles (equivalent to three laps around the track) to raise money to support research of the disorder. The event was especially mean-

ingful for the Niners squad as one of the players has a sibling affected with autism. In all, more than 9,000 people participated in the walk.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country Listed Among Top Teams in the Southeast

The Charlotte cross country team has enjoyed a respectable season, most notably on the women's side. Led by senior star Amanda Goetschius, 49ers women were ranked as high as ninth in the South East Region this fall. Charlotte competed in several high-profile meets, including the Roy Griak Invitational and NCAA Pre-Nationals, which featured both regionally and nationally-ranked competition.

Capping off the Niners' season at home was the 2011 Atlantic 10 Championship, which Charlotte hosted at Frank Liske Park in Concord, N.C. The meet was a huge success, with hundreds of spectators coming out to support the runners and enjoy the beautiful course. The 49er women, paced by a third place individual finish from Goetschius in a time of 17:29, finished third as a team, just eight points shy of runner-up Dayton and 23 points behind champion La Salle. The Charlotte men, led by junior Daweet Dagnachew, turned in a ninth place finish.

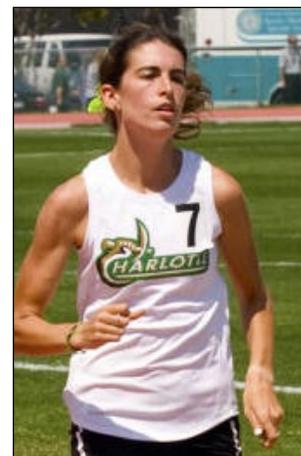
Women's cross country ended its season with a 10th place team finish at the 2011 NCAA East Regional, with the men coming in 21st. Goetschius ran to a 12th place individual finish, earning All-Region honors for the second time in her career. The Niners beat out several notable teams including Kentucky, Wake Forest and Richmond, ending their 2011 campaign in fine fashion.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball Raises Awareness with 'Dig Pink' Campaign

Charlotte volleyball finished with a flurry, winning seven of its last nine matches to finish at 13-14 for the 2011 season. The 49ers finished in a tie for the sixth and final Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament spot, losing out only on a tiebreaker with a 7-8 league record. Senior setter Sheri Davis accomplished the rare triple-double in the final match of the season, finishing with 45 assists, 11 kills and 15 digs. It was the first time since 2008, and only the second time in the seven-year membership in the A-10, that a 49er accomplished the feat.

Davis finished her career sixth all-time in program history with 2,816 assists, while senior defensive specialist Abbie Rees landed 25th all-time with 848 digs. Junior Bianca Rouse led the team offensively with 364 kills and



Amanda Goetschius

Fall Athletics *continued from page 17*

272 digs for the season. She will likely become the 17th player in team history to reach the 1,000-kill plateau early next season, as she stands at 976 kills for her career.

Outside of competition, the volleyball squad poured time and effort into one of the most well-known and loved community fundraising events on campus: the “Dig Pink” National Breast Cancer Awareness Rally. The event, which promotes breast health education while raising funds to help eliminate the disease, drew participation from a school record 1,810 individuals on October 14th. “Dig Pink” attendees not only cheered on the 49ers on the court but supported the cause by donating funds and made a statement by wearing pink to the match.



Faculty Staff Updates and Awards *continued from page 14*

ration taxation. He has taught and mentored thousands of students, who have succeeded in his courses and in their professions.

One graduate commented, “In Dr. Godfrey’s class, I not only learned the principles of taxation, but more importantly, the methodology for solving real-world problems that I would experience in the accounting profession.”

A consummate mentor to students, Godfrey uses his broad network of alumni and professionals to find internships and permanent positions. Twenty years ago, he inaugurated and has continued to coordinate the Department of Accounting annual student recruiter picnic, an event that brings together students and professional recruiters in an informal setting.

“During the recent period of recession, Howard has personally dedicated himself to assisting students to find jobs in a tough employment market,” wrote Wiggins and Cathey.

In 1994, he committed to prepare an undergraduate team for a national tax challenge. Competing against 64 teams, UNC Charlotte was recognized as the second best in the nation. His teams have continued to be successful, qualifying 12 times in the top 10 nationally.

In 2004, the first time a graduate team entered, it placed

in the top six in the nation. To prepare the team, he offers seven-hour classes on each Friday or Saturday for two or three months. Through Godfrey’s dedication, this tax challenge team experience has provided a special learning opportunity and has significantly advanced team members’ professional careers. Their success has brought visibility and recognition to UNC Charlotte, the Belk College of Business and the Department of Accounting.

New Minor introduced in Fall of 2011- Bioinformatics and Genomics Minor

Designed to introduce students to the collection, informatics analysis and interpretation of data derived from genomic and biological macromolecular investigations, this minor field of study will provide students with a foundation of understanding and the computing skill necessary to communicate in the increasingly data-centric life sciences. In addition to gaining first-hand experience with current technologies for high-throughput data generation, students will receive training in up-to-date methods for data handling and interpretation while developing an understanding of critical issues in bioinformatics research design, statistical data analysis, and the application of genomics domain knowledge.



CONNECT EVEN MORE WITH NATION FAMILY ON FACEBOOK!

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Niner-Nation-Family/265277879823>



From old and grizzled to buff with sizzle

An updated, beefed-up Norm the Niner mascot costume was unveiled during October's Basketball Madness event. Norm has trimmed his beard, gotten toned and has moveable eyebrows that allow expressions from mildly amused to seriously annoyed.

He's come a long way from the mascot of foam, felt, and faux fur made by students decades ago. Earliest versions of the 49er Miner had him smoking a corn cob pipe and carrying a six-shooter and T-square (in homage to the College of Architecture).

Our mascot wasn't named until 1990, when a student vote decided upon the name Norm. His outfits have evolved from flannel and corduroy to Dry Fit uniforms. Norm has kept up with the times while always embodying the Charlotte 49ers spirit.

