Gopal encourages graduates to ‘be bold but also boring’

Be audacious in your pursuits, but not in a flashy, shallow way, Carolina’s Dr. Satish Gopal told graduates at the Winter Commencement ceremony at the Dean Smith Center on Dec. 17.

"Undergird your audacity with equal commitment to incrementality," Gopal said. "To be bold, but also boring, and to painstakingly do the daily reading and thinking and experimenting and measuring and reevaluating when absolutely no one is watching or paying attention, without which big, bold solutions to big, bold problems simply can’t be actualized."

The two-time Carolina graduate, who earned his undergraduate degree in 1997 and a master’s degree in public health in 2000, is now the director of the cancer program at UNC Project-Malawi. Gopal’s selection as speaker continued the tradition of having a Carolina faculty member deliver the December Commencement address.

The ceremony marked the December graduation of 491 undergraduates, 567 master’s degree students, 99 doctoral students and nine professional students. And, as Jim Delany of the General Alumni Association reminded those in attendance, the ceremony also marked the beginning of their membership in that exclusive club of 322,000-plus Carolina alumni.

Dean Smith collection debuts at Wilson Library

Dean Smith’s legendary coaching career that includes two national championships and 879 wins has been well documented.

A new addition to the University Libraries now paints a fuller portrait of the man off the court. Smith’s family recently donated 12,000 items from Smith’s early years and post-basketball life to the University. They are part of the Southern Historical Collection at the Wilson Special Collections Library.

The collection contains school projects and newspaper clippings from Smith’s childhood in Emporia, Kansas, and personal letters and speeches from his retirement.

“It tells us about Dean Smith as a person,” University Archivist Nicholas Graham said about the collection, which is open to the public. “This kind of fills out the details in his biography and shows more about him as a person and his service after he finished coaching.”

The items are among the more than 5,000 collections of primary documents, such as diaries, correspondence, photographs, maps and oral histories documenting Southern history that are housed in the Southern Historical Collection.

Bryan Giemza, director of the Southern Historical Collection, said the addition of Smith’s papers showcases the coach’s impact on the University, college basketball and the South.

“Here is one of the most important public figures ever associated with the University and, of course, his roots are in Kansas, so it’s really interesting to see how a persona develops and the way that southerners embraced him as part of the bigger story of Southern basketball," he said. “It brings more texture to the portrait of the life of one of the most esteemed leaders that the state and University has known in recent years.”

Karen McCall has seen UNC Health Care become “a small city.”

Meet Terry Sidberry, who will be at work this Christmas.

In 1992, Paul Hardin created the Employee Forum, now 25.
Happy holidays from Chancellor Folt

This year’s video holiday card from Chancellor Carol L. Folt features students creating an installation of hanging snowflakes created at BeAM, a network of makerspaces for students, staff and faculty. To see the video, go to unc.edu/spotlight/happy-holidays-from-chancellor-folt-2017.

More Gazette news online

In November and December, the Gazette is published only once a month, which sometimes means we have more news than we can fit into each print issue. The following November stories are available online at gazette.unc.edu:

Campus community urges removal of Confederate statue Silent Sam: Twenty-eight speakers had the chance to speak their minds before University leaders about whether the Confederate statue known as Silent Sam should stay or go. All but a few urged Chancellor Carol L. Folt and the University Board of Trustees to remove Silent Sam from “the front door” of the campus on McCorkle Place. To read more, visit gazette.unc.edu/2017/11/17/campus-community-urges-removal-of-confederate-statue-silent-sam.

Trustees chair Haywood D. Cochrane Jr. welcomes speakers at public forum on Silent Sam: To read Board of Trustees Chair Haywood D. Cochrane Jr. comments at the start of the public hearing on Nov. 15, visit gazette.unc.edu/2017/11/17/trustees-chair-haywood-drcochrane-jr-welcomes-speakers-at-public-forum-on-silent-sam.

Chancellor addresses the issue of Silent Sam with University trustee: To read Chancellor Folt comments to the University Board of Trustees on Nov. 16, visit gazette.unc.edu/2017/11/17/chancellor-addresses-the-issue-of-silent-sam-with-university-trustees.

Meeting robots, rewarding bravery: In a fast-paced presentation to the University Board of Trustees on Nov. 16, Assistant Professor of Interactive and Multimedia Journalism Steven King described how the UNC School of Media and Journalism is using technology, in partnership with The New York Times, The Washington Post and other major media outlets, to create a new generation of journalists. To read more, visit gazette.unc.edu/2017/11/17/meeting-robots-rewarding-bravery.

School of Education dean named to governor’s education commission

Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, dean of the School of Education, was named to the Governor’s Commission on Access to Sound, Basic Education by Gov. Roy Cooper. The commission, created by Cooper through executive order, will focus on how North Carolina meets its duties as outlined in rulings from court cases that require the state to provide a “sound and basic” education to all students.

“I look forward to serving on the governor’s commission,” Abd-El-Khalick said of his November appointment. “The most important factor in providing excellent educational opportunities is having highly effective teachers and administrators in our schools. I am confident the commission of accomplished individuals will help frame ideas that serve this goal.”

The commission includes 18 members appointed by the governor from the fields of education, business, government, law, health care, psychology and counseling, and public safety. Abd-El-Khalick serves as the higher education representative on the commission.

The commission takes its name from landmark rulings in the court cases Leandro v. North Carolina in 1996 and Hoke County Board of Education v. North Carolina in 2004. The Leandro ruling requires North Carolina to identify specific resources needed to ensure that all children, including those who are at-risk or from rural and underserved communities, have access to “a sound, basic education.”

The commission will work in conjunction with an independent consultant appointed by the parties to the Leandro case to help with the commission’s review and assessment, the governor’s office said.

For a complete list of the commission members, visit governor.nc.gov/news.

To learn more about the commission’s mission, read Executive Order No. 27 at governor.nc.gov/news/executive-orders.
McCall’s 29-year career mirrored the rise of UNC Health Care

Karen McCall went to work for UNC Hospitals in 1988 after her husband started working on his doctorate in economics at Carolina.

She was hired as budget officer for UNC Hospitals, a position about which she was uncertain, considering she knew so little about state accounting.

She had majored in economics, then earned a master’s in business administration before going to work as a management engineer in hospitals in Georgia and Alabama. In a hospital environment, McCall explained, management engineering is about solving operational problems and improving levels of quality, service and productivity.

That was the work she knew she could do, which is why she seized the chance to return to it when a management engineering position opened in 1990. Her first big assignment was to help open the UNC Ambulatory Care Center for outpatient care. It would also be her last in that position.

“I found out that patients were calling clerks to find out where they should go and which doctor they should see,” McCall said in an interview in her fourth-floor office in Bondurant Hall the day before she retired on Dec. 1, after nearly 30 years at UNC Hospitals.

“The basic point of it was we needed a system to help patients find the right place to come to UNC and suggested the idea of having nurses answer the phone when patients called in.”

TALKING HERSELF INTO A NEW JOB

The suggestion led to the creation of UNC HealthLink Nurse Advice Line; and for McCall, to an immediate job offer as the marketing director — another job she took with little knowledge of how to do it.

“I wasn’t raised in journalism or marketing, but I knew how to make systems work and the way they described the job initially was to help patients access care — and I knew how to do that,” McCall said.

“A STELLAR CAREER

McCall understood her department had to keep growing to keep pace with the burgeoning needs of the hospital — and so did she.

As marketing director, McCall led the creation of UNC Hospitals’ first marketing programs and was instrumental in the growth and development of the Carolina Consultation Center. Her teams incorporated patients into their marketing efforts and partnered with nursing to create the patient experience known today as “Carolina Care.”

She was promoted to vice president of public affairs and marketing in 2001 and led the teams that developed and executed marketing plans for the opening of the N.C. Women’s and Children’s hospitals, the N.C. Cancer Hospital and the Hillsborough campus.

Since 2013, McCall has served as chief communications and marketing officer, leading a communications and marketing organization that included UNC School of Medicine, UNC Hospitals, UNC Faculty Physicians, UNC Rex Healthcare, UNC Physicians Network, High Point Regional, Chatham Hospital, Caldwell Memorial, Pardee Hospital, Johnston Health and Nash Health Care.

“Perhaps the best example of that, she said, was what is remembered as “the SARS scare” that took place in summer of 2003 after an advisory was issued that an employee in the Giles Horney Building was suspected of having Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS.

There was real fear that Carolina could become the epicenter of a national epidemic, McCall said. Instead, it became the model of how to respond to and avert one.

McCall looks back on the incident as a shining example of cooperation between the University and the hospital system. And throughout the crisis, she said, they followed the principle she adhered to throughout her career, which was getting the right information to the right people at the right time.

As for why now is the right time to retire, McCall said she has followed the advice of friends who recommended she not wait too long to retire if she wanted to travel and do other things in her spare time.

She and her husband already know how they will be spending much of their time. “We bike,” McCall said. The couple have already completed bike tours along the Main River in Germany and in Natchez Trace Parkway that runs through Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee and Katy Trail State Park in Missouri.

McCall said she spent the last several weeks on the job thanking the 150 people who make up her team, from the people in the call center to interpreters to communication specialists.

“What has been so great about being in communications and marketing is that we get to play a small part in what happens and to amplify the great work that our researchers and physicians and staff do here every day,” McCall said. “It has been a privilege telling their story.”

– Gary Moss, University Gazette

In 1988, we were one hospital and now we are basically 12 hospitals and have the prospect of becoming the largest public health care system in the country.

KAREN McCALL

When she took the marketing position, she said, neither a marketing nor communications department existed. An Institutional Relations department oversaw that type of work that those departments would have handled.

“We built it from scratch,” McCall said of the burgeoning marketing organization she helped build, run and lead over the next 28 years.

“When I came here in 1988, we were one hospital and now we are basically 12 hospitals and have the prospect of becoming the largest public health care system in the country,” McCall said.

UNC Hospitals eventually turned into UNC Health Care, an elaborate network of hospitals, research, education entities, practices and employees that span the state. That growth took a major jump in 2000 when Rex Healthcare joined UNC Health Care, and continued this year with the prospect of partnering with Charlotte-based Carolinas Health Care.

AVERTING A CRISIS

Perhaps the best example of that, she said, was what is
University receives 10-year accreditation from regional agency

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirmed Carolina’s accreditation for the next 10 years at the board’s Dec. 5 meeting in Dallas.

SACSCOC, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the regional accrediting agency in the 11 U.S. Southern states, oversees institutions of higher education that award associate, bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degrees. All SACSCOC member institutions are required to undergo a full accreditation review every 10 years. Carolina is a founding member of SACSCOC.

Campuses must demonstrate compliance with core requirements and comprehensive standards to earn reaccreditation. SACSCOC requires two reports, a compliance review and a Quality Enhancement Plan that focuses on broad-based campus initiatives to improve student learning.

As part of the 2017 accreditation process, Carolina adopted its QEP with the theme “Creating Scientists: Learning by Connecting, Doing and Making.” Carolina administrators and faculty members who developed the QEP chose to focus it on undergraduate science for many reasons, including a 60 percent increase in intended or declared science majors since 2004. Women, minorities and first-generation science students remain underrepresented in the sciences at Carolina, and transfer students face particular obstacles in completing science coursework in time to graduate in four years.

“One very important aspect of reaccreditation is that it creates a structured process for universities to look closely at all aspects of the institution and into the areas that are vital to operations,” Chancellor Carol L. Folt said. “Reaccreditation is a massive undertaking by so many on our campus, and I am grateful for the leadership of former Provost Jim Dean, Assistant Provost for Institutional Research and Assessment Lynn Williford and the hundreds of faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to meet the rigorous requirements of this important external review.”

Folt also thanked Provost Robert “Bob” Blouin for his leadership with SACSCOC this fall, and College of Arts & Sciences Dean Kevin Guskiewicz and his leadership team for their work on the QEP.  

— Susan Hudson, University Gazette

School of Education selected for N.C. Teaching Fellows program

The School of Education is one of five schools selected to participate in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program.

“We are thrilled to have been selected for the Teaching Fellows program,” said Fouad Abd-El-Khalic, dean of the School of Education. “This selection is a result of the strength and effectiveness of our teacher-preparation programs.”

“The Teaching Fellows program will extend our ability to prepare highly qualified teachers in areas of high need, such as in special education and in science and mathematics,” he said.

The Teaching Fellows program offers a forgivable loan up to $8,250 per year to be used by students in teacher-preparation programs in exchange for a commitment to teach in special education or science, technology, engineering or mathematics in North Carolina schools.

Diana Lys, assistant dean of educator preparation and accreditation for the School of Education, led development of the school’s application. Contributing to Carolina’s application were the strengths of two programs: the UNC-BEST program and the ability to obtain dual licensure in special education in the Master of Arts in Teaching program.

UNC-BEST is a collaboration with the College of Arts & Sciences in which science and mathematics majors can also complete coursework for teaching licensure. The MAT program includes the option that allows students to become dually licensed in elementary or secondary education, plus special education.

“The North Carolina Teaching Fellows program will allow UNC-Chapel Hill to leverage the best of the UNC-BEST program with its math and science focus with the MAT program’s opportunity for all teacher candidates to be dually licensed in a content area and special education,” Lys said.

School of Education faculty member Eric Houck was in the first class of Teaching Fellows at Carolina in 1989–1992. He also contributed to the application.

Houck said: “It is critically important for the School of Education to have a role in preparing some of the best and brightest minds the state has for careers as educators. My Teaching Fellows cohort challenged, shaped and guided me in my career as an educator. My relationships with my Teaching Fellows classmates continue to this day, and Teaching Fellows alumni are a critical backbone to North Carolina’s educational policy and delivery infrastructure.

“It is fantastic to see the state of North Carolina stepping into its responsibilities to ensure every child has access to a well-prepared and well-trained classroom teacher, which is foundational to their attainment of a sound, basic education,” Houck said.

Martinnette Horner, another School of Education faculty member who was a Teaching Fellow as an undergraduate student at Carolina, also helped with the application.

“The Teaching Fellows program signals two things. First, it’s an acknowledgment that teaching is complex and so is the preparation of teachers,” Horner said. “Second, it demonstrates a commitment by our state to the work of making sure our children have high quality, well-prepared teachers.”

Teaching Fellows can have their loans forgiven if they teach in North Carolina for two years for each year they received a loan. The loans may be forgiven faster if they teach in low-performing schools. Otherwise, the loans must be repaid in 10 years.

Applications for the program are scheduled to be available in December, with the first recipients to be selected for the 2018–19 school year. Details available at ncteachingfellows.com.

— Michael Hobbs, School of Education

Fajack to step down as Carolina’s chief finance and business officer

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Matt Fajack has accepted a position as vice president for financial affairs at the University of Alabama and will leave the University in early February, Chancellor Carol L. Folt announced on Dec. 12.

“Matt has served as our chief finance and business officer since 2014 and has been an integral part of my senior leadership team,” Folt said. “Matt has helped us reimagine the way the University conducts business and has worked to streamline our operations, as we have become a more complex and layered University.”

During his tenure, the University launched the Three Zeros initiative—a bold goal to reduce its environmental footprint through net zero water usage, zero waste to landfills and net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Fajack also oversaw the transition of the Student Stores operation into modern retail space that is generating millions of dollars for student aid and worked with the campus master planning team to ensure the physical plans for campus are aligned with the priorities identified in the University’s strategic framework, the Blueprint for Next.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Robert “Bob” Blouin will soon lead a search for Fajack’s successor.
Schroeder to develop new initiatives in ‘flourishing ecosystem’ of public humanities

Robyn Schroeder first became interested in public humanities (although she wasn’t calling it that yet) as an undergraduate at Wesleyan University. Schroeder is bringing that passion for public humanities to the College of Arts & Sciences as the new initiative director for the Mellon-funded Humanities for the Public Good. She began the post Oct. 9.

Schroeder had always been fascinated with issues of public memory, and one of the things she did as an undergraduate was give campus tours, sharing the university’s history with students and their families. That led to a series of jobs after graduation, at museums big and small—the Glessner House Museum and later the Museum of Science and Industry, both in Chicago, as well as the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois.

She knew she wanted to attend graduate school and chose Brown University, receiving both a master of arts in public humanities and a doctorate in American studies there. She went on to serve as director of graduate studies and as a post-doctoral fellow at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage. She wore a variety of hats at Brown—running academic programs and helping students to find community practicums, fellowships and jobs beyond the academy.

One of the key things Schroeder (pronounced “SHRAY der”) learned through those experiences was that experts beyond the academy have a tremendous capacity for teaching local and larger histories. Carolina’s Humanities for the Public Good program uses multiple strategies to integrate public humanities into the curriculum and tap the potential of digital technology for humanities scholarship and teaching. It also reaches out to diverse communities to elevate awareness of existing humanities activities at Carolina as well as fosters new avenues of public engagement.

As director of new initiatives, Schroeder has already been meeting people, making connections and observing “how much more is possible because of the mission of this public institution in serving people beyond this campus—in reaching the state of North Carolina.”

One of the events Schroeder created at the John Nicholas Brown Center was a “Day of Public Humanities” with a fellow postdoc, Jim McGrath. They curated and organized activities and a discussion on how to raise the profile of the public humanities.

At Carolina, she hopes to conduct a baseline assessment of the publicly engaged activity already happening here.

“We have a flourishing ecosystem of public humanities work already, but part of my purview is to make connections among people who might not normally come into contact with one another,” she said. “My husband calls that ‘thickening the matrix.’”

At Brown, Schroeder was active in the Northeast Public Humanities Consortium, an organization that shares resources among universities doing publicly engaged work in support of art, culture, history, and education. “What I see in looking around at other universities doing public humanities work is an opportunity for Carolina to become a leading model,” she said. “I want to inspire people to think that the realm of the possible is bigger than they think it is.”

— Kim Spurr, College of Arts & Sciences

WHAT’S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE IN YOUR JOB?
We work 12-hour rotating shifts. I work 7 to 7. The shift begins with turnover from the previous crew. They tell us what the status of the equipment was for that particular day at turnover time and if they’ve done any changes. Then we check the equipment status ourselves. We have a job briefing from the shift supervisor for the day’s events. We resolve any issues that arise and maintain safe plant operations.

HOW DOES YOUR JOB SUPPORT CAROLINA’S MISSION?
We supply steam to all campus buildings including UNC Hospitals. The steam is used for heating hot water for dorms and supporting medical research in our buildings and the hospital.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?
I like the mechanical aspect, seeing how things operate: the burning of the fuel, then making steam and then making electricity. And working with the guys. You spend more time with these guys than you do your significant other. Twelve hours is a long time. It helps a lot when you like who you work with.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN ENERGY SERVICES?
Upon graduating from Cape Fear Community College, a fellow graduate suggested that, since a Cogentrix power plant was being built in the area, both of us should apply for it. We did, and once I became employed, I found it very interesting. There was a lot to learn.

WHAT’S ONE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB THAT OTHERS MIGHT NOT KNOW?
Working on Christmas is probably harder on the family than on the employee. I remember when my daughter was younger, I would wake her up before I went to work on Christmas Day, or, if I was working the night shift, I would wake her up as soon as I got home. The other departments are off, but for operations, nothing’s changed. There will be seven of us working on Christmas. It’s just another day, but fewer people and less traffic. Usually the day after, we’ll have Christmas dinner catered in. I’ll be working the next three Christmases.

Carolina People is a new feature in each issue of the Gazette that asks one of your fascinating colleagues five questions about the work they do for the University. Do you know someone with an interesting or unique job at Carolina? Please email your suggestions to gazette@unc.edu and put Carolina People in the subject line.

Nine years working at Carolina

Terry Sidberry
ASSISTANT CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR AT THE COGENERATION FACILITY AND STEAM PLANT

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Carolina research exceeds $1 billion annually for first time

Carolina has surpassed, for the first time, $1 billion in annual research expenditures, according to the nation’s annual Higher Education Research and Development survey. This news continues Carolina’s decade-long rise as one of the world’s top universities for sponsored research.

The latest survey covers fiscal year 2016 and was released Nov. 30. Carolina ranked 11th nationally among all research institutions in overall research and development expenditures, sixth nationally among public institutions, and sixth nationally in overall federal R&D.

“The sustained growth we have seen in our research enterprise since 2013 is a tribute to the excellence and dedication of the faculty, students and staff who are the heart of Carolina’s research and training programs,” said Chancellor Carol L. Folt.

“Thanks to their concerted and sustained work and their efforts to increase and strengthen outside partnerships, Carolina has become one of the nation’s most powerful economic engines, known for teams of researchers who take on the toughest, most complex challenges of our times. By building upon this foundation of excellence, nurturing the culture of collaboration and innovation that our researchers have created and investing in areas of opportunity and need, we can ensure research thrives here and amazing discoveries can move quickly to practical applications that benefit our state, nation and world.”

“This news further confirms what we all know—that UNC’s commitment to research continues to yield huge dividends for North Carolina,” said Vice Chancellor for Research Terry Magnuson. “Our researchers save and improve lives in our state by discovering new treatments and cures for diseases and by making groundbreaking advances in both basic and applied science every year.”

Research expenditures at Carolina have more than doubled over the past decade, underscoring the confidence public and private sponsors place in science at Carolina. Since becoming one of the top-10 institutions for federal research expenditures in fiscal year 2010, the University has retained its position as the largest beneficiary in North Carolina of federal investments in research.
Wayne Blair to leave ombuds office in early 2018

Wayne Blair, University ombuds and director of the University Ombuds Office, has accepted a position as ombuds person for the Asian Development Bank, an international development finance institution dedicated to reducing poverty and increasing the quality of life in Asia and the Pacific.

Chancellor Carol L. Folt, who announced Blair’s departure on Dec. 14, expressed great appreciation for Blair’s years of faithful service.

“Wayne has been ombuds since coming to Carolina in 2005 when he worked to establish the University Ombuds Office,” Folt said. “Since that time, he has built a nationally renowned program based on the principles of confidentiality, neutrality, informality and independence. During his 12-year tenure, Wayne has assisted thousands of students, faculty and staff and provided advice to senior leadership.”

Blair’s contributions extended beyond the campus. He developed and briefly led the ombuds program for the Town of Chapel Hill and has continued as a consultant to the program. He also took on leadership and teaching responsibilities for the International Ombuds Association, and ombuds from around the world have turned to Blair for counsel and best practices.

“I am excited for Wayne and his opportunity to pursue this global opportunity,” Folt said.

Blair will leave his position in early 2018. The Ombuds Office will continue to be staffed by Laurie Mesibov and Victoria Dowd, who have worked side by side with Blair since the office opened in 2005.

Folt said she would launch a national search next year for Blair’s successor.

Carolina wins Best Workplaces for Commuters Longevity Award

Transportation and Parking at Carolina received the Best Workplaces for Commuters Longevity Award from GoTriangle during its Golden Modes awards ceremony on Nov. 9.

The award recognizes Carolina for its 15-year collaboration with GoTriangle and its dedication to increasing commuter access and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The award was presented to Transportation Demand Manager Amanda Simmons and Associate Vice Chancellor of Campus Enterprises and Chief Sustainability Officer Brad Ives.

One of the goals of the University’s Three Zeros Environmental Initiative, which Carolina launched in 2016, is to reduce the net value of greenhouse gas emissions from campus to zero. Transportation and Parking’s commuter program is a key participant in this initiative by providing ride and bike share programs, point-to-point transportation, park and ride options and partnering with local transits,” Ives said.

“It’s great to see the Transportation and Parking department, under director Cheryl Stout’s leadership, receive recognition for the work they do to impact commuter behavior and create positive change for our community,” Ives said.

Two employees were also recognized for their individual excellence in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Katy Lang, a student assistant in city and regional planning, received the Golden Sneaker award for her commitment to walking and taking public transit. Lang has lived without a car since 2010 and walks or takes the bus to campus every day.

Peter Leousis, deputy director of the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, received honorable mention at the Golden Modes for his commitment to ride his bike 40 miles round-trip every day he is able. In addition to engaging in healthy and sustainable modes of transportation, Leousis is also actively involved in community outreach to advocate for cyclists in Orange County through the Orange County Bike Safety Task Force.

ULEAD program recognizes graduating class of 2017

Fifteen employees from Carolina, along with two employees each from N.C. Central University and UNC General Administration, comprised the ULEAD Class of 2017.

Sponsored by the Workforce Strategy, Equity and Engagement Division, the University Leadership Education and Development Program is a semester-long program that promotes effective leadership skills and techniques.

“In contrast with generic programs, ULEAD participants learn leadership skills unique to success in the special environment of public higher education,” said William Frey, professional development specialist and adviser of the ULEAD program.

“This includes skills such as communication, team work, negotiation for resources and innovative thinking. They also learn about their own strengths and how to collaborate under pressure with other leaders.”

The 2017 graduates were recognized at a Nov. 30 ceremony.

Applications for the 2018 ULEAD program will be available in March. For more information, please visit hr.unc.edu/training/ulead.
The Carolina community will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with a week of events, starting with a banquet and ending with a lecture by former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Jan. 14, University/Community Annual MLK Memorial Banquet, Friday Center
The evening begins with a 5 p.m. reception, followed by the banquet at 6 p.m. Tickets are $30.

Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service/5K, Campus Y
Same-day registration for the race begins at 5:30 a.m., with the race starting at 7 a.m. To register in advance, go to bit.do/mlk5k.

Jan. 16, MLK Unity Dinner, Great Hall
More than 20 different campus organizations will gather for a storytelling and community bridging discussion and dinner at 6 p.m.

Jan. 17, Warriors of Freedom Candlelight Vigil, Stone Center Amphitheater
People will gather at 5 p.m. to remember all the women who have lost their lives in the fight for equality with story sharing and songs, followed by a walk to the Unsung Founders monument.

Jan. 18, MLK Celebration Keynote Lecture/ Awards Ceremony, Memorial Hall
Former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch will speak at 7:30 p.m. The event is free, but requires tickets, available at the Carolina Performing Arts ticket office on Jan. 3.

For more details and updates, please visit diversity.unc.edu/2017/12/mlk-celebration-week-events-announced.

Kim Strom-Gottfried, director of ethics education and policy management at Carolina, will explore the question "Am I my brother’s keeper?" in the next Carolina Conversations discussion. The 90-minute program will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Student Union.

Upcoming topics include "Talking About UNC History" in February, "Navigating Unlawful Harassment and Uncomfortable Situations in the Workplace" in March and "What Does it Mean to be a Public University?" in April.

Formed right here in Chapel Hill, Steep Canyon Rangers effortlessly walk the line between festival favorite and sophisticated string orchestra, earning them the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album and drawing celebrated comedian/banjoist Steve Martin to them when he needed a backing band. Choose from 8 p.m. shows Friday or Saturday night at Memorial Hall. Tickets range from $25 to $79.

Bring the family for an intimate evening of storytelling as PlayMakers legend Ray Dooley embodies Scrooge, Marley, Tiny Tim and other characters in Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. Catch one of the final five performances at the Kenan Theatre at 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday or the 2 p.m. Saturday matinee. Come early, grab some hot chocolate and enjoy live holiday music in the lobby beginning 30 minutes before the show. Tickets start at $15.

PlayMakers is partnering once again with Toys for Tots, so bring a new, unwrapped gift or two to place in boxes in the lobby for children in need in the community.

Feb. 19. Last day to nominate candidates for University honorary degrees to be awarded at the 2019 May Commencement ceremony. The awards recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to humanity; contributed to knowledge in the world of scholarship; enriched lives through talent and creativity; and supported the University in a way that merits the highest recognition. Full information about this award, including criteria, eligibility, and the process for submitting a nomination, is available at facultygov.unc.edu/awards/honorary-degrees.
Carolina, USFQ reaffirm commitment to partnership in Galápagos

President Carlos Montúfar of the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador visited Carolina last month to join Chancellor Carol L. Folt in reaffirming their commitment to the Carolina-USFQ partnership and to the institutions’ collaborative activities in the Galápagos Islands.

At a ceremony on Nov. 8, Folt and Montúfar signed an agreement to commit continued support and funding for the Galápagos Science Center, operated jointly by the universities on San Cristóbal Island in Ecuador. In addition, the two chancellors executed a letter of intent with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and the Galápagos National Park to explore collaboration on a possible bio-specimen bank for biological material collected from the Galápagos Islands.

The USC, a 20,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, is the world’s only university research center in the Galápagos and provides a unique platform for Carolina faculty and students to conduct research and study within a cherished UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stephen J. Walsh, Lyle V. Jones Distinguished Professor of Geography at Carolina, and Carlos Mena, a professor in the College of Biological and Environmental Sciences at USFQ, direct the GSC and lead the joint Galápagos Initiative. During the visit, Montúfar was accompanied by Diego Quirroga, dean of research and external affairs; Carlos Mena, co-director of the Galápagos Science Center; Claudia Tobar, director of the Institute of Teaching and Learning; and Alexandra Velasco, director of the Office of International Programs.

The delegation met with many of the faculty and staff who have been involved in the collaboration, including members of the Galápagos Science Center advisory board. They also explored possibilities for research collaborations and student engagement with the departments of geology, biology, marine sciences and anthropology, as well as with the curriculum in environment and ecology, the study abroad office and the schools of nursing and education and the graduate school. In addition, a reception celebrating the partnership was held in the FedEx Global Education Center.

The Carolina-USFQ partnership began in 2006 with collaboration between Walsh and Mena. The universities dedicated the joint GSC in 2011. The range of Carolina faculty engaged in study in the Galápagos and with USFQ reflects the diverse research undertaken and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. Disciplines represented include anthropology, biology, computer science, dentistry, economics, education, environmental sciences and engineering, geography, geological sciences, journalism, marine sciences, nutrition, political science and sociology. Students from both universities attend study abroad programs at the center that encourage movement between the classroom, field and laboratory. The center also provides education and outreach to the community.

Carolina and USFQ also collaborate outside of the Galápagos in a number of areas, and faculty members are often adjunct professors at the partner institution and serve on graduate committees. In addition, there is a growing undergraduate student exchange between the home campuses.

For more information, visit the UNC Global website at global.unc.edu.

Steve Matson steps down after a decade

Steve Matson will step down after a decade of distinguished service as dean of the Graduate School to return to the Department of Biology after his successor is in place.

Matson joined the faculty in 1983 and became dean of the Graduate School on July 1, 2008. He is widely respected for his award-winning teaching, mentoring and research in the field of genetics and molecular biology.

During his tenure, Matson advanced the University’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, access and affordability, excellence in academics and student success across all dimensions of the student experience for Carolina’s 11,000 graduate and professional students, said Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Robert “Bob” Blouin.

Under his leadership, the Graduate School developed the Graduate School Professional Development program, a collection of workshops and courses focused on developing competencies in communication, academic development, leadership, professionalism and career development. It also launched the professional science master’s degrees, designed to meet the needs of today’s professionals who want to expand their technical and business knowledge and apply it to emerging professional fields within science and health.

In 2010, through a private gift, the Graduate School established a summer fellowship program for students in academic fields where summer support is limited. The Summer Research Fellowship Program frees students from teaching and other work responsibilities so they can progress in their research and move more quickly toward degree completion.

Early this semester, the Graduate School launched a graduate certificate in business fundamentals—communications, project management, leadership and financial accounting, reflecting student interest and the needs of the workplace.

“From the beginning of his tenure, he understood that graduate education was changing—from primarily preparing the next generation of academics to preparing the next generation of academics and business, nonprofit and civic leaders,” Blouin said.

Carolina ranks 17th among U.S. universities for study abroad

Carolina ranks 17th among all U.S. higher education institutions for the number of students earning credit for study abroad, according to the Institute of International Education’s (IIE) 2017 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange.

The Open Doors’ top 25 list is based on the total number of a higher education institution’s students who study abroad. Open Doors found that the overall number of U.S. students studying abroad increased by 3.8 percent to 325,339 over the previous year. At Carolina, 2,124 undergraduate, graduate and professional students studied abroad in 2015-16. Carolina’s ranking improved two places from the previous year.

“Our continued improvement in rankings such as this demonstrates the growing interest of UNC students in gaining experience abroad, as well as the University’s efforts in our Opening Access initiative to expand the types of global opportunities to appeal to a broad range of students,” said Ronald Strauss, executive vice provost and chief international officer.

“Our success in sending greater numbers of students abroad is furthered through the generosity of donors who support student scholarships,” Strauss said.

The University has a long tradition of high rates of participation in study abroad programs. In recent years, nearly a third of Carolina undergraduates have studied abroad before graduation, one of the highest rates for a public university in the United States. IIE reports that nationally only about 15 percent of students pursuing a bachelor’s degree study abroad before graduating.
A large portion of the Smith collection is comprised of newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, letters and other documents that Smith’s parents had saved through the years. These include Smith’s school report on Emporia from 1946, books about basketball, batches of news articles from throughout his coaching career and transcripts of speeches that Smith had sent home for his parents to read.

The collection showcases how Smith kept up with the basketball world even after he retired through personal letters with fans, coaches and former players. And the collection also includes memorabilia showcasing former Carolina player’s NBA careers, including the Michael Jordan Wheaties box.

The collection does not shed new light on Smith’s career, the items, Graham said, further solidify the coach’s reputation of a modest man.

“It shows the respect he had from other coaches and the relationships he had with people,” he said. “He really did seem to be as humble and thoughtful as his reputation.”

– Brandon Bieltz, University Communications

To read more about the collection, visit the UNC Libraries’ For the Record blog at blogs.lib.unc.edu. To see a video by Rob Holliday, go to unc.edu/spotlight/dean-smith-collection.

Three researchers named AAAS Fellows

Blossom Damania, Marcey Waters and Mark Zylka have been named fellows by the American Association of the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest general scientific society.

The three Carolina researchers are among 396 new fellows being recognized by their peers for their distinguished efforts to advance science and its applications.

Damania was honored for landmark discoveries and contributions to biomedical sciences in the fields of virology, cancer biology and immunology, involving both basic science and translational research. Damania is the Boshamer Distinguished Professor in the department of microbiology and immunology and serves as vice dean for research at the UNC School of Medicine. She co-founded the Global Oncology Program at Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and is also a Kavli fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, an American Academy of Microbiology fellow, an American Association for Cancer Research Gertrude Elion scholar, a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society scholar and a Burroughs Wellcome Fund investigator.

Waters was honored for fundamental studies of molecular recognition in water and its role in biomolecular recognition, with application to epigenetic regulation, which encompasses the factors that control gene expression. Waters is the Glen H. Elder Jr. Distinguished Professor of chemistry and vice chair for education, as well as the current president of the American Peptide Society. She was the principal investigator on a study, backed by a $1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation, of protein methylation, which is a mechanism of epigenetic regulation implicated in many diseases, including cancer.

Zylka is being honored for distinguished contributions to the field of neuroscience, particularly for the study of autism-related genes and risk factors using high-throughput approaches. Zylka is the W.R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of cell biology and physiology and director of the UNC Neuroscience Center. He won a Hettleman Prize for his work in autism and chronic pain and has also received a five-year, $3.8 million Pioneer Award from the National Institutes of Health to study the role that genetic and environmental factors play in autism.

Carolina now boasts 83 AAAS fellows in its faculty.

360 donate during Carolina Blood Drive

Red Cross phlebotomist Samantha Koomdyk assists long-time blood donor Tremayne Manson during the 19th annual Carolina Blood Drive, held Dec. 12 in Fetzer Hall. More than 360 donors gave 359 pints of lifesaving blood during this time of critical need.
Wonder and creativity, grit and determination, never giving up and believing in yourself will propel you forward throughout your lives.

CHANCELLOR CAROL L. FOLT

Like these remarkable individuals, Folt told the graduates, “wonder and creativity, grit and determination, never giving up and believing in yourself will propel you forward throughout your lives.”

During the ceremony, the sky was cloudy gray in Chapel Hill and deepest black in Lilongwe, Malawi, where it was 9 p.m. But a livestream presentation of the ceremony connected the Smith Center and UNC Project-Malawi under a virtual Carolina blue sky.

“Friends and colleagues at our UNC program in Malawi are watching this on the livestream as we speak—8,000 miles and seven time zones away—which is important simply as testament to the amazing interconnectedness and reach of the global UNC family,” said Gopal, who is also an oncologist and infectious disease physician.

After expressing his thanks to Folt for the opportunity to speak, Gopal made what he called “a slightly embarrassing disclosure.”

“I left UNC to attend medical school at Duke. I’m so sorry for that,” Gopal said, as the graduates, friends and family laughed. “But in my defense, and despite my rented Duke gown for today’s commencement, my college basketball allegiances have survived completely intact.”

Turning to more serious topics, Gopal spoke of his work treating and studying cancer in Malawi, where he and his family have lived since 2012. His work and that of his colleagues in the small country in southern Africa is relevant to the Tar Heel state, he said. “In Malawi, we have opportunities to exhaustively study cancers that occur rarely in North Carolina, to uncover fundamental biologic insights about why cancer occurs and to think about entirely new ways to diagnose and treat cancer that could benefit the entire world if successful,” Gopal said.

Graduation did not sever his ties to Carolina, Gopal said. “I feel completely humbled by how important my UNC institutional family has been,” he said, “providing an unconditionally supportive tether, which has given me confidence to wander all around the world doing random things.”

Watch a replay of the ceremony on unc.edu.

– Susan Hudson, University Gazette

With wintry weather threatening, the Faculty Council and General Faculty held their sole joint meeting of the semester on Dec. 8, getting updates on business models and the proposed 2019 general education curriculum.

“You’re a hearty group,” Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Robert “Bob” Blouin told the faculty members and guests who filled the Kerr Hall auditorium.

After 11 weeks as provost, Blouin said, he is taking a “fresh look” at two new ways of doing business at the University: the incentive-based budget model and Carolina Service.

“We’re going to take a little bit of a pause on both of those until we have time to explore all the possible unintended consequences,” he told faculty members. “We also want to get broader input from deans and chairs and faculty. That’s the reason for the delay.”

The incentive-based budget model could make it harder for different units to share the costs and benefits of joint projects, Blouin said.

“A personal worry of mine is that it will hurt the wonderful culture around collaboration at this University,” Blouin said. “That’s why we do so well. I’d hate to see us lose that.”

IDEAS IN ACTION

Sociology professor Andrew Perrin, chair of the General Education Curriculum Coordinating Committee, provided an update on Ideas in Action, a new general education curriculum proposed to replace the current Making Connections curriculum in the fall of 2019.

To address the needs of first-year students, especially the growing number of first-generation college students, the new curriculum gives the first year experience more structure, Perrin said. Changes include phasing in requirements for students to take at least one first-year seminar and one course focused on skill development that bridges high school and college, called Ideas, Information and Inquiry or Triple I.

First-year students in general “weren’t making connections,” Perrin said, and the curriculum “feels alienating, especially to those not familiar with the idea of college or the idea of university learning.”

The change receiving the most objections—from two history professors and one English professor who also serves as a student adviser—was the elimination of the pre-1750 history course requirement.

“There are vast worlds of experience that we are deleting by taking out that requirement,” said history professor Jay Smith.

Others expressed concern that the process for changing the curriculum is moving too quickly. “I’m not comfortable with the timeline,” said Nadia Yaqub of Asian studies. “I urge that this be slowed down so that we do no harm. Let’s be sure we have a really good curriculum.”

“If we have a great proposal that everyone is happy with, we’ll do it,” Perrin assured her, “but if we don’t, we’ll get it right, no matter what the timeline.”

Read more about the Ideas in Action curriculum at curriculum2019.web.unc.edu. Contact information for ideas and input is provided.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

In a follow-up to previous discussions on the state legislature’s requirement that the UNC Board of Governors create a freedom of speech policy for all campuses in the UNC system, council members voted on a resolution submitted by the Faculty Executive Committee. Modeled on a resolution by the system-wide Faculty Assembly, the resolution avoids specifics and instead asks the BOG to “make sure that nothing is added and stick to the law passed by the General Assembly,” said Faculty Assembly Vice Chair Tim Ives.

The resolution, which passed on a unanimous vote, reads in part that “we strongly urge the Board not to impose broader limitations on expression or expressive conduct than those defined by North Carolina law, and to give each UNC campus maximum discretion.”
In March 1992, Chancellor Paul Hardin created the Employee Forum. He envisioned a “robust marketplace of ideas” where University employees, for the first time, would have a safe place to speak their minds on matters of concern to them—and be heard. On Dec. 6, forum members past and present came together at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center to celebrate the forum’s 25th anniversary. Listed below are a few of the forum’s milestones.

**MILESTONES 1992–2017**

**1992**  
Kay Wijnberg Hovious works with the late Chancellor Paul Hardin to establish an official organization for staff employees and serves as the forum’s first chair.

**1993**  
James Peacock receives the forum’s first Three-Legged Stool Award, created to recognize individuals who promote cooperation and collaboration among faculty, staff and students.

**1997**  
Employee Forum delegates meet with employee representatives from Appalachian State, East Carolina, Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, N.C. Central, N.C. State, N.C. School of the Arts, N.C. A&T, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro and UNC-Pembroke to create a system-wide staff council.

**1999**  
The forum chair and vice chair present for the first time to the Board of Trustees to solicit support on longstanding employee concerns such as salaries, parking, and career development.

**2000**  
The Employee Forum publishes InTouch, the forum newsletter.

**2004**  
Forum chair Tommy Griffin successfully advocates for a sliding scale of parking fee increases to protect the lowest-paid employees. While higher-paid employees see increases of 10 or 20 percent, fee increases are limited to 5 percent for the 64 percent of employees who earn less than $50,000 a year.

**2005**  
The University acts on the Task Force for a Better Workplace’s top recommendation to establish an ombuds office, the first of its kind in the UNC system.

**2009**  
The forum adopts as its official poem Song of the University Worker by Jeffery Beam, a former vice chair of the forum.

**2010–11**  
- Forum Chair Jackie Overton (pictured above) holds discussions that allow housekeepers to voice their concerns to Chancellor Holden Thorp, who hires an outside consulting firm to investigate concerns. The report offers 45 recommendations put into effect in fall 2011.

**2014**  
The forum begins its official partnership with the Carolina Blood Drive and official stewardship of the Carolina Family Scholarship, which provides need-based college scholarships to children of employees.

**2016**  
Forum Chair Charles Streeter, working both in public and behind the scenes, influences a process that results in 48 full-time staff members keeping their jobs at their current salary after Barnes & Noble College begins managing UNC Student Stores in July.

**2017**  
In her closing remarks at the forum’s 25th anniversary celebration, forum Chair Shayna Hill (pictured above) looks forward: “I am really excited looking back, but more excited looking forward. The forum represents to me what we cannot do alone, but what we can do together. And together, we can do anything.”