Priority order

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Bob Blouin held up two legal pads, their top pages neatly divided into three columns and filled with his tiny printed lettering.

“These are the University’s priorities,” he explained with a laugh. “Someone said, ‘You write so small!’ But I have a rule. My to-do list has to fit on one sheet of paper.”

The items on Blouin’s to-do list are embedded in The Blueprint for Next, the University’s strategic framework launched by Chancellor Carol L. Folt last year. The Blueprint will guide Carolina during the next 10 years.

“Bob’s demonstrated commitment to planning, execution and assessment, combined with his penchant for cross-cutting collaboration, is just what Carolina needs to create momentum behind the implementation of our strategic framework,” Folt said. “With his focus on helping students prepare for the future and igniting the passions of this new generation of leaders, we are seizing opportunities and investing in new ideas.”

Folt talked about the priorities she developed when she came to Carolina in 2013. “One of my key areas of concentration was to build a high-performing, collaborative cabinet committed to guiding the daily work of our University while we also created our path into the future,” Folt said recently. “Bob is an accomplished leader who shares this vision for Carolina.”

The same principle applies to the University as a whole. “The biggest frustrations with many universities are that they’re not efficient. It takes too long to do this or it’s too cumbersome to do that,” Blouin said. “In order for us to continue to be a world-class...”

See LEADERSHIP page 7

Chemistry at Carolina

Two centuries forever young

A key reason Bo Li wanted to join Carolina’s chemistry department four years ago was its sterling reputation for having the right chemistry between people.

She knew the strength of those departmental relationships, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with infectious disease researchers across campus, would be vital to advancing her work. And she was right.

Since joining the department, Li, an assistant professor of chemistry, has won recognition after recognition for her research understanding how bacterial small molecules may help defend the body against infectious diseases. Among her top awards are some of the most prestigious honors given to young scientists, including a New Innovator Award from the National Institutes of Health.

That formula for success has been replicated again and again in the 200-year history of the department, which was celebrated at an alumni bicentennial weekend April 20–21. And it has connected each generation of scientists to the next.

Today, young scholars like Li continue to work alongside foundational members of the department—people like the legendary Royce Murray, Kenan Professor of Chemistry, and renowned inorganic Chemist Royce Murray, who has been with the department for nearly six decades and for whom Murray Hall is named.

See CHEMISTRY page 10

Goal of Massey winner Ronald Mangum is ‘to treat people right.’

Lt. Col. Shane Doolan helps shape next generation of leaders.

Dan Reichart’s upbeat predictions fill 2018 Last Lecture.
2017 Harvey Award funds project to help relatives caring for abused or neglected children

A multi-disciplinary team led by experts from the School of Social Work is the winner of the 2017 C. Felix Harvey Award to Advance Institutional Priorities. The team includes Selena Childs, clinical assistant professor; Kanisha Brevard, research associate; and Mark Testa, Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professor.

The late C. Felix Harvey was chairman of Harvey Enterprises & Affiliates and founder of the Little Bank Inc., both in Kinston, North Carolina. A 1943 Carolina graduate, he joined his family in 2007 to endow the C. Felix Harvey Award to Advance Institutional Priorities with a $2 million commitment. Five generations of Harveys have earned Carolina degrees.

University makes mobile pay available for park and ride lots

University students and employees may now buy a daily park and ride permit using the Parkmobile website (parkmobile.io) or the mobile app, available at the App Store or Google Play.

The implementation of Parkmobile means employees and students will no longer need to go the Public Safety Building on Manning Drive to buy a daily permit in person.

The option to pay from a mobile device is open to all Commuter Alternative Program (CAP) members, University and hospital employees and students. Weekly permit purchases should still be made in person.

The University implemented Parkmobile first in 2017 for hourly and metered parking across campus. Parkmobile was also implemented by the Town of Chapel Hill at its meters.

It worked so well that officials decided to expand it, said Cheryl Stout, director of transportation and parking.

“We have received positive responses from the initial implementation of Parkmobile for hourly parking in the fall and are excited about the improved flexibility for our customers,” Stout said. “Not only will it enhance the user experience, but it will make daily permits more accessible and easier to use for the campus community.”

To learn more, visit the transportation and parking site move.unc.edu/transit/park-ride/park-ride-with-parkmobile.

Faculty Council pays tribute to faculty members who passed away over the past year

During its last meeting of the academic year on April 13, the Faculty Council observed a moment of silence in tribute to 34 faculty members who passed away during the past year.

Among them was Chancellor Emeritus Paul Hardin III.

To see the list of faculty members who died over the past academic year, go to facultygov.unc.edu/faculty-council/2017-2.
Ronald Mangum, developer of peer support specialist program, has few peers

Sometimes the best teacher is a bad example.

Ronald Mangum will never forget what he learned years ago from two doctors. The first never looked up from her dinner when telling him and his wife that one of their newborn twins was going to die. The second one shrugged his shoulders when Mangum told him that the emergency procedure about to be used on the surviving twin had previously caused him to stop breathing. “That’s just a chance you’ll have to take,” the doctor told him before walking away.

“It was horrendous,” Mangum recalled. “My goal is to never, ever, ever do that to anyone intentionally. That set me on a path to really be present with people and be attentive—even when I could not do anything but listen—because sometimes that’s all that is required.”

Eventually that path led him to the School of Social Work, where he worked 20 years as a clinical assistant professor before retiring this month. Mangum is one of six University employees selected this year by Chancellor Carol L. Folt for the prestigious C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award.

The late C. Knox Massey of Durham created the awards in 1980 to recognize “unusual, meritorious or superior contributions” by University employees. In 1984, he joined the families of his son, Knox Massey Jr., and daughter, Kay Massey Weatherspoon, to create the Massey-Weatherspoon fund. Income from the fund supports the Massey Awards and Carolina Seminars. The Massey Award winners will each receive a $10,000 stipend.

The honor left the normally talkative Mangum speechless. “I’ve never worked to receive recognition or reward,” Mangum said. “My motive is to treat people right and do my best.”

IN SEARCH OF JUSTICE

At first Mangum wanted to be a lawyer but grew disenchanted with the idea by the time he graduated from N.C. A&T State University. He did go back to school, though, for a master’s degree in counseling at N.C. Central University.

He spent many years as a substance abuse counselor, then tried counseling in the corporate world. When his corporate job relocated, he decided to stay put, close to his extended family in Durham. “That’s when I really started engaging in what one would call on-the-ground, true social work,” he said.

“On the ground” was right. Mangum traveled to 17 states in his new job with the federally funded National Youth Gang Center, providing information and training to prevent young people from joining gangs.

COMING TO CAROLINA

Mangum had on occasion also worked with Carolina’s Jordan Institute for Families on juvenile justice issues. His name came up in 1998 when there was an opening in the institute’s Family and Children’s Resource Program in the School of Social Work. All Mangum’s valuable on-the-ground experience proved to be a good match for the program, which brings the latest social work research from academia to practice.

“I wish I had known what I was training to social workers at the beginning of my career,” he said, “because the information we were giving social workers I knew would be valuable once they got into the field.”

Mangum added a personal touch to his lectures by linking his experience as a black man coming of age during segregation and the Civil Rights Movement to his counseling work. As he talked to the class, he stood in front of a screen displaying a series of photos from that era.

“On the ground” was right. Mangum traveled to 17 states in his new job with the federally funded National Youth Gang Center, providing information and training to prevent young people from joining gangs.

“Value lived experience

Perhaps it was this sharing of his own lived experience that made people in the school think of him again when the state established a certification for peer support specialists. When told about the opportunity to develop and lead the certification program at the school, he said he’d think about it. Then he Googled “peer support specialist” to find out what it meant.

When he found out that peer support specialists are people living in recovery with mental illness and/or substance use disorder who support others going through those experiences, Mangum instantly saw their value in social work.

“I don’t know what it’s like to live under a bridge. I don’t know what it’s like to be in a mental institution,” he said. “These men and women who are certified do, and they can show them that there is a different way.”

Mangum had no model to guide him, but he did have an advisory team of men and women with lived experience as well as the resources of the school’s Behavioral Health Springboard program and the state Division of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. The program the team developed has produced 3,007 certificate holders to date, 400 of them veterans or military personnel. Each peer support specialist completes 40 hours of approved training in peer support plus 20 hours of training related to mental health or substance use.

“More than 3,000 North Carolinians are engaged in meaningful volunteer or paid employment—rather than being ‘disabled’—due in part to the opportunities Ron has helped to create,” wrote one of Mangum’s nominators.

Mangum always said he’d retire when the program “leveled off,” but it just kept growing. It’s not likely that Mangum will “level off” in his community involvement either. On his second day of retirement, instead of leisure he chatted excitedly about volunteering at a transitional living center.

“You don’t lay down helping people. You don’t stop,” he said. “I don’t think I can turn it off.”

– Susan Hudson, University Gazette
Carolina Conversations: What does it mean to be a public university?

What does it mean to be a public university? The answer to that question, it seems, may depend not only on who you ask, but which public university you are asking about, said School of Government Dean Mike Smith.

Carolina, perhaps more than any other university in the country, has embraced its charge as a “public” through its commitment to making education accessible and affordable to the people of the state and producing the state’s leaders, Smith said.

Smith, along with Frayda Bluestein, David M. Lawrence Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government, led a discussion focused on the question about public universities on April 17 at the last of the Carolina Conversations of the academic year, on the topic “What does it mean to be a public university?”

In Mike’s words, ‘What difference does it make that you are at Carolina instead of Duke?’

“Besides basketball,” Smith added.

“Besides basketball,” Smith added.

As the country’s first public university, the obligations tied to what it means for Carolina to be a public university has continued to evolve—and expand—throughout the two centuries of its existence, Smith said.

“This University was chartered in 1789, which happens to be the same year the federal constitution was ratified,” Smith said. “I don’t think that was a coincidence. I think the idea behind creating a public university in North Carolina was really this basic, fundamental idea that educated citizens are crucial if you are going to have a full-fledged, meaningful democracy.”

Carolina’s deeply held commitment to educating the people of the state is not only embedded in its mission, but spelled out in state law, Smith said.

Legislation creating the University in 1789 stated “it is the indispensable duty of every Legislature to consult the happiness of a rising generation and endeavor to fit them for an honourable discharge of the social duties of life, by paying the strictest attention to their education.”

N.C. General Statute 116-1 further states that the University of North Carolina will be “dedicated to the service of North Carolina and its people.”

State statute also established that “the benefits of the University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense.”

Edward Kidder Graham expanded the notion of what it meant for Carolina to be a public university at his inauguration as University president in 1914 when he vowed to “make the campus co-extensive with the boundaries of the state,” Smith said.

What Graham was asking, Smith said, was for the University to identify the social ills of the state, then apply the scholarship it created to help solve them.

Service to the state has been the hallmark of the School of Government since its inception, Smith said. It began in 1931 as the Institute of Government in 1931, a training, consulting and research organization.

“This University has made an incredible commitment, and I am grateful, to the work we do in North Carolina,” Smith said. “That commitment tends to be broader and deeper than it is in other states, and the relationship that we have with public officials is absolutely unique.”

— Gary Moss, University Gazette

Carolina receives $10 million commitment from Pope Foundation

On April 23, the University announced a $10 million commitment from the John William Pope Foundation to support a combination of core areas where Carolina excels: cancer research, multidisciplinary and innovative thinking, excellence in sport and being of and serving the state’s citizens.

The gift supports For All Kind: the Campaign for Carolina, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the University’s history. Carolina launched the second largest fundraiser for a public university in the nation in October. With a goal of $4.25 billion by Dec. 31, 2022, the Campaign for Carolina is inspired by The Blueprint for Next, the University’s strategic framework built on two core strategies: “of the public, for the public,” and “innovation made fundamental.”

“I am so grateful for this wonderful gift from the Pope Foundation,” said Chancellor Carol L. Folt. “They are providing much needed support in critical areas from growing educational programs to fighting disease to supporting our student-athletes. Taken together, this gift will touch our students and faculty, promoting their success, leadership and impact in North Carolina and beyond.”

“The foundation supports the challenge to give back to Carolina’s ‘strategic triad’ of teaching, research and public service,” said Art Pope, Pope Foundation chairman and a Carolina alumnus. “When Chapel Hill and other state institutions of higher education succeed at their core missions, we all succeed. My family and I are honored to contribute to that success—to achieve the Lux et Libertas, the ‘Light and Liberty,’ that graces the University’s seal. We encourage other North Carolinians to do the same.”

The commitment announced on April 23 will provide:

- $5 million to the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center to establish the John William Pope “Tomorrow’s Best Hope” Endowed Fellowship Fund. The fund will generate nearly $250,000 each year for competitively awarded fellowships to recruit, educate and train future oncologists and cancer researchers to reduce cancer’s burden in the state and beyond. Lineberger is one of only 49 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States, and the only public comprehensive cancer center in North Carolina.
- $3.75 million to the Philosophy, Politics and Economics Program in the College of Arts & Sciences to support hiring two new faculty positions and two visiting assistant professorships. The gift will also fund a lecture series to bring prominent speakers to campus to discuss public issues from a philosophical, political and economic perspective. The funds will help the college’s efforts to elevate one of the most popular and fastest-growing academic minors to a major. The PPE Program develops students’ analytical skills to see issues from the perspective of all three of the core disciplines.
- $1 million to track-and-field scholarships in the Department of Athletics to create two in-state scholarships, one male and one female. It will be the program’s 16th scholarship in men’s track and field and 14th scholarship in women’s track and field. Carolina’s track-and-field program has won 37 ACC team championships and 30 NCAA event championships.
- $250,000 to the UNC Horizons Program to conduct a follow-up study with up to 125 women and their children enrolled in the program. The data from that study will help other states and countries model their programs helping women and children break the cycle of addiction and poverty. The funds will also eliminate a barrier to successful completion of the Horizons program by ensuring child care services for women undergoing treatment. UNC Horizons provides an outreach service to the state to treat pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders. In 2016-17, the program enrolled 266 women, with 77 percent employed by the time they graduated.

With this latest commitment, the Pope Foundation and family members have more than doubled their lifetime giving to Carolina. Past gifts include a $1.3 million gift in 2014 to fund cancer research and treatment and a $2 million gift in 2006 for Carolina athletics’ football program and other areas on campus.
WHAT’S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE IN YOUR JOB?
It starts at 0600 when cadets report for physical training. When I get to my office, I answer emails and review what will be taught that day. I teach all the 400-level courses that cadets take before they leave Carolina. But perhaps the most crucial part of my day is spent talking with the cadets who walk through my office door. All our instructors are here to serve as a coach, mentor or counselor to help them solve whatever issue they may be facing that particular day. We get involved with each student because we are invested in their success. The U.S. Army gives them a lot of money, and we expect to get a return on that investment. What that means for us is that we sometimes don’t leave our office until 2200.

HOW DOES YOUR WORK SUPPORT CAROLINA’S MISSION?
Part of Carolina’s mission is to produce the leaders of tomorrow—and that is what I do. Any student on this campus can take any one of our classes and learn something about leadership. We provide purpose, direction and motivation. If you can convince somebody to show up every single day at 6 a.m., you are on the right path.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?
I like playing a direct role shaping the next generation of students and being able to positively influence the lives of some of our finest young women and men who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK IN THIS POSITION?
More than 1,000 officers apply to an U.S. Army board to become professors of military science and only 16 percent are selected each year. I was one of them. The U.S. Army slated me to go to Georgia Tech, but I got a call from the officer selected for Carolina who asked me to switch with him. I said, “Gladly.”

WHAT’S THE BEST PART OF THE STORY YOU LEFT OUT?
I was born on a banana plantation in Jamaica that my family spent 350 years working on. I knew that if I stayed there the only thing I could do in life was chop bananas. That was what my future looked like because that is all my family knew. The only way I could break that trend was to come to the United States. I tell people it took me four tries to come to the United States, but I never gave up because I had a dream. I came here in 1992 and it took seven years for me to become a citizen. As soon as I did, I joined the U.S. Army to become an officer.

Editor’s note: On April 4, Doolan was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Carolina People is a regular 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.

Shane Doolan
COMMANDER OF THE UNC U.S. ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE
2 years working at Carolina

Carolina community members honored with Diversity Awards
The University Office of Diversity and Inclusion recognized students, faculty, staff, alumni and campus organizations with Diversity Awards on April 18. The awards recognize significant contributions of Carolina community members toward advancing an inclusive climate for excellence in teaching, research, public service and academic endeavor. The Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute Race, Ethnicity and Culture Committee and Seeding Postdoctoral Innovators in Research and Education also received awards for intergroup collaboration.
Carolina recognizes for source water protection

Carolina has been recognized for its innovative work to protect North Carolina’s drinking water and watersheds through the Battle Grove Restoration Project.

The Energy Services and Environment, Health and Safety departments received the 2018 Source Water Protection Award from the N.C. Source Water Collaborative last month.

The project replaced an underground drain pipe with an above-ground stream that runs through a bowl-like field next to McIver Residence Hall. Before the project, the field frequently flooded during heavy rains, causing erosion and sedimentation.

With the stream in place, water moves slowly across rocks and through sand and wetland plants that act as a filter to clean the water. This natural filtering of the water has improved the quality of downstream water sources such as Jordan Lake.

Water neutrality is one of the three goals that Chancellor Carol L. Folt set with the Three Zeros Environmental Initiative.

Carolina is already water neutral in that it uses less water than the amount of rain that falls on the campus each year. The Battle Grove project goes beyond that goal by improving the quality of water that flows off campus and enters water sources downstream.

But the benefits of the project don’t end there, said Sally Hoyt, Carolina’s stormwater utility manager.

“Not only did the Battle Grove site reduce nitrogen and phosphorus in downstream water, but it also increased the habitat for birds and aquatic species coupled with the addition of fruit trees as part of the Edible Campus initiative,” Hoyt said.

Students have directly benefitted as well, she added. “This area has become part of the living-learning laboratory at Carolina, allowing classes to tour and learn about our impact on the surrounding community.”

Brad Ives, associate vice chancellor for campus enterprises and chief sustainability officer, acknowledged the hard work of campus employees for making the project possible.

“The Energy Services, Stormwater Management and Facilities Services teams worked diligently to improve water quality not only on campus, but for our larger community,” Ives said. “Through their efforts, we can not only improve the quality of water exiting our campus, but also provide an experiential learning opportunity about the significant impact of surface water for students and faculty.”

Carolina selects ‘Popular’ for 2018 Summer Reading

Popular: Finding Happiness and Success in a World that Cares Too Much About the Wrong Kinds of Relationships is Carolina’s 2018 selection for the Summer Reading Program.

Written by Carolina Professor Mitch Prinstein, the book explores why popularity plays a key role in human development and, ultimately, how it still influences people as adults.

The book examines how popularity affects success, relationships and happiness—and why people don’t always want to be the most popular. Prinstein serves as the John Van Seters Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience and the director of clinical psychology.

“This book is directly relevant to incoming students and can spur tremendous conversation about the challenges of transitioning to college and adult life,” said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Winston Crisp. “We’re also thrilled to have work by one of Carolina’s own to mark a milestone for the reading program, the 20th anniversary.”

First-year and transfer students who enroll this fall are encouraged to read the book this summer and participate in small-group discussions during the Week of Welcome before fall 2018 semester classes begin.

The Carolina Summer Reading Program aims to stimulate critical thinking outside the classroom and give new students a shared experience. Students are encouraged to come to their own conclusions about the book and will participate in summer reading discussion groups that serve as an academic icebreaker.

“I am so excited that students will get a chance to learn which type of popularity will help them over the course of their lives, which type is toxic, and the ways that social media may be influencing them without even realizing it,” Prinstein said. “Anyone who ever went to high school will find something in this book that makes them feel much better about their adolescence.”

Prinstein will give a lecture about the book on Aug. 20 in Memorial Hall.

Popular: Finding Happiness and Success in a World that Cares Too Much About the Wrong Kinds of Relationships is available at the Bull’s Head Bookshop in UNC Student Stores. The paperback version, which includes a new chapter focusing on how adults can achieve the most useful type of popularity, will be available beginning June 19.

For more information, visit the Carolina Summer Reading website at summerreading.web.unc.edu.
Campus celebrates the planet with Earth Day Fair

Exhibitors lined the brick sidewalks of Polk Place on April 18 as the campus celebrated the Earth Day Fair. As students, faculty and staff strolled by, they could participate in several activities in support of the environment. The event is part of Chancellor Carol L. Folt’s Three Zeros Environmental Initiative, moving the campus toward water neutrality, zero waste and greenhouse gas neutrality.

Earth Day Fair activities included:
- “Upcycling” old T-shirts by Epsilon Eta, an environmental academic fraternity;
- Outreach and information by local and campus environmental groups;
- Farmers markets;
- The Plastic Fast Challenge by Carolina Performing Arts, which challenged people to survive a week without using disposable plastics or to fit all of their disposables inside a mason jar.
- There was also the Plastic Time Machine, a vending machine that allowed people to place a plastic bottle inside, enter a year anytime in the future and have it returned to them the way it would look then. (Spoiler alert: It’s exactly the same because it’s a plastic bottle.)

For more information on sustainability at Carolina, visit unc.edu/story/sustainability.

The Way We Work

Once the budget model is set, a similar approach will be utilized to approach the modernization and acceleration of university business and operations or the way we do work,” Blouin said. This initiative will evaluate how services are delivered for the key business and administrative activities of finance, human resources, IT, communications and research administration.

As with the budget model, the goal Folt set for the modernization of University business and operations is to achieve efficiency without sacrificing a bit of Carolina’s outstanding collaborative tradition or the aspirations expressed in The Blueprint for Next.

First-year students Lindsey Deaton and Gabby Flynn place their hand prints onto a banner while participating in the Earth Day Fair.
The newest exhibition at the Wilson Special Collections Library follows the 125-year history of Carolina’s student newspaper. **The Truth in Eight-Point Type: The Daily Tar Heel Celebrates 125 Years of Editorial Freedom** traces the paper’s history from its early focus on campus athletics to its current status as one of the nation’s leading collegiate newspapers. The exhibit will be on display through July 31 during Wilson Library’s regular business hours.

Join undergraduate students from English 295H as they celebrate the opening of their full-scale exhibition **Reconstructing Frankenstein’s Monster: Mary Shelley’s World in Print** at 5:30 p.m. in Wilson Library. The students conducted original research and created the exhibit under the direction of professor Jeanne Moskal, with help from the Wilson Special Collections Library.

Join the School of Media and Journalism for the **Junck Research Colloquium** with Natalie Stroud at noon in the Freedom Forum Conference Center in Carroll Hall. Stroud, an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies and director of the Center for Media Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, will deliver her keynote, “Engaging News in a Partisan Age.” Learn more and register at mj.unc.edu/junck-stroud.

PlayMakers Repertory Company presents **Where Did We Sit on the Bus?** at the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre. Fresh from an Off-Broadway run, Brian Quijada’s electric one-man show pulses with rhythm, music and spoken word, examining what it means to be Latino in America. For exact show times and to purchase tickets, visit playmakersrep.org/show/where-did-we-sit. Faculty and staff receive 10 percent off ticket prices.

Please join the department of art and art history at the **2018 Honors Symposium**, celebrating the achievements of the department’s outstanding students, at 3 p.m. in Hanes Art Center room 117. Each student will be giving a brief presentation of their Honors work in the past year. Refreshments will be served.

The Gazette welcomes your story ideas and calendar announcements. To make sure your information reaches us in time for the next issue, please submit it at least 10 days before our publication date. You can find our latest publication schedule online at gazette.unc.edu/about.

**The next Gazette will be published May 16.** To announce events occurring May 17–30, please submit your information no later than May 7. Email us at gazette@unc.edu or submit through the Got News? page on our website (gazette.unc.edu/got-news).
Author, activist and journalist Cory Doctorow will deliver the 2018 Frederick G. Kilgour Lecture at 10 a.m. in the CURRENT ArtSpace. Doctorow will argue that now is the time to permanently install freedom in the world’s new electronic nervous system. The lecture, hosted by the School of Information and Library Science, is free and open to the public. For more information, visit sils.unc.edu/news/2018/kilgour-doctorow.

Join the Ackland Art Museum for a series of thematic talks—one for each featured color in “Color Across Asia” gallery—by guest experts including historians, art dealers, collectors and curators. On April 29, Alan Kennedy will discuss purple. Tickets may be purchased at the Ackland Museum Store in the Ackland Art Museum. Purchase in person during posted museum hours or by phone at 919-962-0216.

Blurring the lines between art and play, the Italian theater ensemble Compagnia TPO creates wondrous immersive environments in which performers and audiences interact in Farfalle. Farfalle explores the life cycle of the butterfly. In this magical experience for children of all ages, performers and audience members move, play and paint in the air as they witness the slow metamorphosis of chrysalis to butterfly. For exact show times, visit carolinaperformingarts.org.

Come to the N.C. Botanical Garden education center at noon for Naturalist’s North Carolina: Learning to Love (and Loving to Learn) Our State. This talk by Mike Dunn, the garden’s natural science educator and an avid nature photographer, examines why we need to encourage learners of all ages to explore outside and why North Carolina and the garden are ideal spots for outdoor exploration. The event is free but preregistration is encouraged. Register at ncbg.unc.edu.

Take the family to the N.C. Botanical Garden for Discovering Magic in the Garden: Spring Family Festival, a family-friendly celebration of spring and the garden’s natural wonders with fun, hands-on activities and nature play, including frog songs, carnivorous plants, bird games and crafts, flower art, compost critters, fairy and gnome home building, Story Walk and more. Locopops available for purchase. The event takes place 1–4 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are $5. (No fee for children ages 2 and younger.) Register at ncbg.unc.edu.

Join UNC Campus Recreation for Spring Fling, a 2.7-mile fun run or 1.5-mile walk open to all University faculty and staff. This event promotes physical activity, health and well-being and provides employees with the opportunity to contribute to the Glenwood Elementary Family Assistance Program by making a canned food donation or to the Orange County Animal Shelter by giving pet supply donations. Free refreshments will be provided for participants after the event. For more information and to register, visit campusrec.unc.edu/special-event/spring-fling-run-and-walk.
CHEMISTRY MILESTONES

1818 – 2018

1818
Denison Olmsted becomes first professor of chemistry and mineralogy.

1852
Smith Hall, the first chemistry building, opens.

1875
Chemistry moves to Person Hall.

1880
Francis P. Venable becomes sixth professor of chemistry.

1900
Francis P. Venable becomes president of Carolina.

1909
Daisy Burrows Allen becomes first woman to graduate with a bachelor of science in chemistry.

1925
Venable Hall is dedicated.

1927
Lillie Fielding Poisson Cutlar becomes the first woman to earn a doctorate in chemistry.

1956
William F. Little joins the faculty, becoming the chair nine years later.

1965
Eddie Lee Hoover is the first African-American student to earn a bachelor of arts in chemistry.

1971
Kenan Laboratories opens.

1974
Slayton A. Evans Jr. becomes the department’s first African-American faculty member.

1976
Linda L. Spremulli becomes the first female faculty member.

1985
Morehead Laboratories opens.

2004
Ground is broken for the Carolina Physical Science Complex.

2008
Holden Thorp, who studied under Little in the 1980s, becomes Carolina’s chancellor.

2010
Murray and New Venable halls open.

2012
Valerie Sheares Ashby becomes first female and first African-American department chair.

2016
Chemistry professor Joseph DeSimone receives the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

CHEMISTRY from page 1

chemist Joe Templeton, Francis Preston Venable Professor of Chemistry.

Both served as former department chairs, and both have been around long enough to see firsthand that investing in rising stars has been the hallmark of the department since the William F. Little era.

Little was hired as a chemistry instructor in 1956 and nine years later, at age 35, became the department chair. Regarded as the heart, soul and energizing force of the chemistry department, Little created a congenial environment in which excellence was expected and success was widely celebrated.

When William “Bill” Little became chair in 1965, he already understood the importance of investing in bright young faculty.

Rather than hiring more senior faculty, as was common elsewhere to raise a department’s profile, he hired promising young scholars, invested significant resources in furthering their research and aided them in getting tenure, trusting that many would remain at Carolina and continue to contribute.

Little was also a driving force behind the creation of Research Triangle Park and Research Triangle Institute, but his first love was the chemistry department, then-Chancellor Holden Thorp said of Little when he died in 2009.

“He created a culture where the coins of the realm were wisdom and encouragement,” said Thorp, who studied under Little in the 1980s and became chemistry chair in 2005. “He was a giant.”
CAROLINA CHEMISTRY FOUNDER

Little followed in the footsteps of the first giant of chemistry at Carolina, Francis P. Venable, who joined the department in 1880, 62 years after Denison Olmstead was hired as the first chemistry professor.

Venable would go on to serve Carolina for the next 50 years, establishing himself as the founding father of Carolina chemistry as well as a pivotal leader of the University.

He was the first faculty member to hold an earned doctorate and in 1893 was named to the first endowed chair at the University to “teach both the science of chemistry and its experimental application to the useful arts.”

In 1900, Venable moved from the chemistry department in Person Hall to South Building, where he served as UNC’s president for 14 years.

Two of Venable’s students, John Motley Morehead and William Rand Kenan Jr., would go on to profoundly influence the trajectory of 20th-century American industry.

After completing chemistry courses in 1891, Morehead teamed with a Canadian inventor to seek an inexpensive way to produce pure aluminum. One experiment created a dark, glassy rock—calcium carbide. When calcium carbide was placed in water, it released acetylene gas, and when the colorless gas was mixed with air, it burned brightly, Venable and Kenan found.

It would take several more years, but the perseverance of Venable, Kenan and Morehead led to the world’s first commercial calcium carbide plant, which later became Union Carbide.

EMERGING PRESTIGE

In the second half of the 20th century, the chemistry department grew in rank, prestige and size.

When Murray arrived in 1960, the faculty numbered fewer than 15 and all worked from labs in the sprawling ranch-style Venable Hall. At the time, there were two National Academy of Sciences members in the department. Murray, an analytical chemist with research interests in electrochemistry, molecular design and sensors, brought that number to five by 1991. Today, the nearly 50 faculty members include seven NAS members.

As chair, Little understood that bringing in new faculty required expanding lab space well beyond Venable Hall, chemistry’s home since 1925, so he aggressively sought funding to build Kenan Labs, which opened in 1971.

“With improved lab space, you can do a better job recruiting the best and brightest faculty and students, so getting Kenan built was huge,” said Templet.

Three decades later, University administrators turned to Murray to help guide the design of what would become known as the Carolina Physical Science Complex. The state-of-the-art complex includes one building that bears Murray’s name thanks to a $5 million gift from one of his former students: Lowry Caudill, who did his senior research in Murray’s lab before graduating in 1979.

Maurice Brookhart, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, described the department as a booming research enterprise that remains strong in the core areas of organic, inorganic, physical and analytical chemistry while expanding in materials science, biological chemistry, catalysis and applied sciences.

“We’re not doing things much differently than other top-20 chemistry departments in terms of the way we’re structured and the way we teach—we’re just really good,” said Brookhart, an award-winning chemist in catalysis and an NAS member, who joined the faculty in 1969 and retired three years ago.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Chemistry’s future currently rests in the hands of department chair Jeffrey Johnson, the A. Ronald Gallant Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, who came to Carolina in 2001.

“This is a pivotal time for Carolina chemistry. Going forward, we want to capitalize on Carolina’s strengths in energy, materials science and the interface with biomedical fields,” said Johnson. “We also want to increase our touch in interdisciplinary, highly collaborative projects that benefit society.”

Perhaps no one person personifies that unending pursuit of excellence—and impact—more than Joseph DeSimone, an award-winning polymer scientist with nearly 200 patents to his name and multiple startups under his belt. DeSimone has been connected to Carolina for three decades.

DeSimone’s first doctoral student, Valerie Sheares Ashby, is just one example of Carolina chemistry alumni who have gone on to do great things. In 2012, she became the first female and first African-American chair of the department; three years later, she was named dean of Trinity College of Arts & Sciences at Duke University.

“The department has always been highly encouraging of faculty members’ entrepreneurial activities, recognizing that discoveries in the lab not only advance our discipline, but also have the potential to impact society,” said DeSimone, the Chancellor’s Eminent Professor of Chemistry.

His most recent work has been in advanced manufacturing, where DeSimone’s technology—known as continuous liquid interface production or CLIP—has reimagined 3-D printing. His Silicon Valley company, Carbon (co-founded with Carolina professor Ed Samulski and Alex Ermoshkin, formerly of DeSimone’s lab) uses CLIP technology to fabricate parts up to 1,000 times faster than other 3-D printers on the market. The materials produced have optimal properties for use in diverse industries—from athletic footwear to consumer electronics to medical devices.

An Adidas running shoe called Futurecraft 4D was manufactured using Carbon technology and went on sale in January. Still present—and central to the work that everyone in the department is doing—is the widespread spirit of cooperation that continually brings in talented young faculty and keeps them here, Johnson added.

“Since the beginning, people have always been the calling card of our department, and their collegiality and shared sense of purpose make Carolina chemistry unique.”

JEFFREY JOHNSON

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To read a longer version of this story and other related and historical content, please visit magazine.college.unc.edu/2018/03/chemistry-200.
At Carolina’s Last Lecture on April 19, professor Dan Reichart described the vast span of humankind’s history and place in time, then shared his concept of civilizational momentum and made bold predictions.

Reichart, the Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor of physics and astronomy, has been a popular and respected faculty member since 2002. He earned more respect in November 2017 when he tried to put out a fire at the University’s iconic Davie Poplar tree.

When a backpack placed at the tree’s base exploded, he sustained first- and second-degree burns on his face, ears, neck, arms, hands and fingers. Surgery and treatment required a five-day stay in the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Health Care. Reichart found the experience humbling because the University community’s caring response made him realize that he is part of a large family that cares deeply for its members.

The Last Lecture asks each lecturer, “If you knew this was the last lecture you will ever give, what would you say?” The concept has been at Carolina and other universities for many years, with favorite professors speaking. The UNC General Alumni Association sponsors the event.

Speaking on a chilly, windblown McCorkle Place lawn, Reichart gave seniors from the Class of 2018 much to think about. He outlined an enormous timeline of humankind’s place in history and space before he asked the audience to think of challenges we face and how we can work together to keep civilization moving forward.

Reichart estimates that he has 2,000 more class lectures ahead of him, “assuming I steer clear of any more explosive devices,” he said.

“Let’s call this a mid-career lecture for me,” Reichart said. “But for you, the senior class of 2018, this will be one of your last lectures, at least here at UNC.”

Astronomers think spatially on the grandest scale imaginable, he said. “Our sun is one of the few hundred billion stars that form our Milky Way galaxy. Our galaxy is one of at least a hundred billion that span our universe. That’s just the part of the universe we can see. The true number may be infinite,” Reichart said. Realizing that a billion trillion Earth-like worlds orbit sun-like stars in the universe is a humbling thought that can make one feel insignificant and not special at all, he said.

However, Reichart thinks we occupy a special, even critical, moment in time. After people started living in cities 5,000 years ago, the world developed at a measured pace until the scientific revolution began 400 years ago and more recent advancements in agriculture, health and medicine, child mortality rates, increased lifespans and communication. People in today’s world are fully connected by living closer together, by improvements in travel between distant places and by the speed of communication through email, video, social media, other real-time digital tools and the Internet, he said.

After developing at a breakneck pace, the world exists in a perpetual feedback loop in which humanity continues a development so dizzyingly fast that he calls “civilizational momentum,” he said.

Reichart admitted that where the momentum leads is anyone’s guess. “But since I’m giving the lecture, I’ll make the guess.” His predictions for the Class of 2018 include:

- In the next few decades, they will colonize worlds near Earth, beginning with the moon and Mars;
- They will seek solutions for political, economic and technical challenges of food production and energy supply, climate change and education; and
- As people increasingly interact with each other, they will solve problems of conflict through greater understanding, compassion and improvements to education.

In an upbeat voice, Reichart ended the lecture by predicting a time thousands of years from now when students’ descendants on surrounding stars will see today’s generation as legendary, as people who took control and came together at humanity’s most consequential moment.

“With your mind on the lessons of the past, with your heart and your hands on the challenges of the present and with your eyes agaze on the promise of the future, it’s time to go and make it count,” Reichart said.

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DAN REICHART

- Scott Jared, University Gazette