As I look back on my past eight years as chancellor of the University of North Carolina Wilmington, I am so extremely proud of what this campus has accomplished due to the passionate commitment to excellence shared by our students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and friends. Together, we transformed this university into a truly outstanding place for teaching, research and regional engagement. At the forefront of this transformation has been our strategic focus on providing our students with the most powerful learning possible, and there is no doubt that they, and the state of North Carolina, will reap the benefit for years to come from the great work we have done as a community.

But there’s more work yet to be done, and I now encourage you to get to know Gary L. Miller (p. 2), to give him your friendship and support as he strives to take UNCW to new heights. With his leadership, I am confident that UNCW is soaring toward an exciting future.

I also encourage you to participate in The Campaign for UNCW: Soaring to Greatness, a fundraising initiative we publicly launched during Homecoming Weekend in February. The campaign will benefit a number of programs, including scholarships, academics, athletics, research, faculty development and outreach. It is only the second fundraising campaign in UNCW’s history, and we’ve already made remarkable progress, thanks to the generous support from alumni and friends like you (p. 9). As of the end of May, we have received more than $59 million toward our goal of $65 million. With your help, I know UNCW will exceed its goal well before the campaign ends in December 2012, which is the year the university also will be celebrating its 65th anniversary.

Thank you for granting me the privilege to serve as chancellor of this wonderful university. I am so very proud of the stellar Seahawk family and all that we accomplished together.

Once a Seahawk, always a Seahawk,

Rosemary DePaolo
Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo
On the cover:
The UNC Wilmington Board of Trustees announced the naming of DePaolo Hall in honor of Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo, who retires June 30 after eight years of service to the university.

UNCW/Jamie Moncrief
As we say goodbye to an incredible leader in Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo, it would be easy to sink into a bit of sadness, but the University of North Carolina Wilmington seems to be buzzing with as much excitement as ever.

Part of this is attributable to Chancellor DePaolo for what she has built and the way she has developed a unique UNCW, nationally known for student interaction with faculty paired with resources and research usually reserved for the largest institutions.

The other part of this excitement is the anticipation of Chancellor-elect Gary Miller, arriving with a passion for higher education rivaled only by our previous leader. Miller’s excitement and personable approach to engaging students, faculty, staff and the community stem from a true gratitude for his very own undergraduate experience and an implied obligation to create that same experience for all those who join him at UNCW for their higher education experience.

While Miller anticipates a lengthy discourse and collaboration before he addresses major strategic goals, a few things are undeniable when you hear him speak. He is supremely confident in the people who have made UNCW great and will continue to do so under his leadership. He is incredibly optimistic about the opportunities UNCW has to build from its strong foundation, despite concerns that all of American higher education will be facing budget constraints in the coming years.

What attributes does the ideal chancellor possess? Which ones are your strengths?

This is a transformational time in American higher education, and I think that leaders who have broad hands-on experience as university faculty and administrators and those who are engaged in the national discussion about the future of higher education really have the best chance of succeeding. I think these are particular strengths of mine. I think that what I need to do is bring my strengths from my work in higher education to the particular culture and traditions and aspirations of UNCW… and try to figure out how to leverage them there to move the university forward with the help of everybody else.
What in your career, whether purely academic or simply life experience, made you the best person to be UNCW chancellor?

There are many professional, personal experiences that prepared me for this position, but the thing I really come back to more often than anything else is the way in which my own undergraduate experience at William and Mary changed my life. I was exposed, really for the first time in my life, to the whole range of ideas: political ideas, religious thoughts, cultural nuances, different kinds of people, intellectuals who were passionate about their particular fields. I realized that here is where I could find out what I was all about and what I could do, what I could contribute, who I should learn from, and it was, quite frankly, the most transformational experience in my life. What is important to me is building environments where students can experience that same kind of transformation as they go through their higher education experience at UNCW.

How would you describe your leadership style?

What I want to do, what I strive to be is a leader who can articulate a compelling vision, and one who empowers people to work together to achieve that vision. To me, that means leading with integrity, having a deep commitment to openness and transparency and embracing creativity and constructive change.

What do you believe makes UNCW a “unique” institution?

This is an institution that is clearly and unmistakably committed to what I express as this “magic” among high quality faculty and staff and students. When you think about a relatively large institution with a national research profile that is able to fully embrace the importance of the student faculty/staff interaction, that is a really unique characteristic for a public institution. It’s very, very exciting. In fact, when you start thinking about peers for UNCW, you have to find universities that are like this, and for a university this size, there aren’t many.

You are coming in at an incredible time of flux… budget concerns, construction projects, new look to our athletics department, new master plans, a vice chancellor leaving to work for the Department of Education – how difficult will it be to move your vision forward when there are so many things “up in the air”?

These are all opportunities! The budget crisis and the doubt about the current economic condition expose difficult challenges, but they pose real opportunities as well. Actually, I think the senior leadership team at UNCW is remarkably stable. There are some changes, but the planning process is incredibly solid, and there is a fundamental commitment to the student learning experience. So I actually don’t see this as a transition where things are up in the air on campus. I see it as a transition where we have an unusually large suite of challenges and opportunities before us, and it seems to me like we have the right people there with the right outlook to get moving on those.

In your acceptance speech you talked a lot about a conversation that needs to be started with all of your different constituents. Why are these conversations important?

One of the characteristics of American higher education is that we believe in discourse, in engaging with each other in ideas to generate creativity and solutions. We are faced with unprecedented challenges and, frankly, routine technical solutions probably will not resolve these challenges. Somewhere in our conversations, we will reveal to ourselves what the future is, and we will know what to do with it. This is a time where we have to rely on our strengths. Our strengths are this discourse, testing ideas, understanding the forces that change institutions in moving the university toward the future. So, the conversation I’m talking about is a university community conversation about what we are going to be, and it is one that is probably more important now than it has ever been.

In your acceptance speech you talked about UNCW having “soul.” In what ways does UNCW have “soul?”

I think that some institutions have a spirit, a deep philosophical sense of themselves that you can sense very quickly. A lot of institutions don’t have it. It was clear to both Georgia and me when we got here the first night, talking to administrators, faculty and staff that this is an institution that has a deep feeling, a deep spirit about itself, that comes out in the way people talk with each other, the way they treat each other, the way they talk about the institution, the way they talk about Wilmington. That is really important to me. That is one of the reasons I love this opportunity because spirit means energy, it means creativity, it means commitment, and this institution has it. You can feel it when you are on campus. I can’t put my finger on it, but I’m pretty sure it has to do with all the people at UNCW and their commitment to the place.
Chopping, cooking, plating to victory

by Emily Jones '08, '10M
Taking a page from the hit TV show Iron Chef, 33 chefs from the Carolinas faced off at UNCW in March during the regional ARAMARK Culinary Excellence (ACE) chef competition.

UNCW chefs Eric Huff and Ryan Andress chopped, cooked and plated their way to victory with first-place wins alongside Paul Calice of UNC Chapel Hill. The three advance to the national competition July 11 in Tampa, Fla., where they will compete as a team.

Huff created a mouthwatering Chicken Charleston entree inspired by his journey as a chef which started in that South Carolina city. That dish earned him a first-place victory for the second year in a row.

Andress, a rookie to the national competition, said, “It feels surreal to win the ACE competition in my second year competing. The national competition is going to be a true test of my skills and of how well we work as a team.”

UNCW’s Jordan Rogers was among the second-place chefs.

The two-day regional event was an iron chef, mystery-basket style competition. Each chef had three hours to prepare two dishes featuring seven ingredients which were not revealed until the cooking began. The finished products were judged by a panel of professionals in the food industry. One judge focused on skill while in the kitchen and three focused on taste and presentation of the prepared dishes.

“We weren’t looking for an extravagant dish. We were mainly looking for a simple dish that tasted good, utilized all the secret ingredients in an innovative way and could be produced for a large event,” said judge and chef Karl Wolak.

After tasting 60 dishes, judge Rita Gordon, UNCW’s director of auxiliary services, was amazed at the different styles and flavors of cooking she had sampled.

“I was impressed by how well the chefs executed the dishes and the creativity that went into all the chefs’ menus,” said Gordon. “I can now say I have had fish for dessert, and it was delicious.”

The fish dessert Gordon tasted was prepared by Meredith College chef Greg Jones, a native of Guatemala. Other innovative dishes included a peanut butter and jelly dessert made with hazelnuts and dried cherries, and crispy brownie fritters with salted caramel sauce, star-fruit and strawberry gastrique and a citrus-scented whipped cream.

The team advancing to the national competition is focused on the top prize. They have been studying the local cuisine of Florida and plan to practice together as much as possible.

“The winning team last year executed their vision, which showed creative artistry and impactful flavor,” said Huff. “This I believe will be the same recipe for our victory this year.”
CAPITALIZING ON SUCCESS

by William C. Hawks ’10, ’11M

“Scholarships, scholarships and scholarships!”
They are the top priority for UNCW athletics, according to Jimmy Bass.

The athletics director believes UNCW can become the destination of choice for top student-athletes “if our coaching staffs have scholarship resources to recruit anywhere. We must increase our scholarship allotments for historically underfunded sports like baseball, soccer, volleyball and softball,” he said.

Despite having the smallest budget in the Colonial Athletic Association, this academic year UNCW has won the most conference championships (four) among its peers in the CAA.

New faces are key in the construction of Bass’s vision for UNCW athletics to be nationally known and a source of campus and community pride. “We seek national relevance with competitive success, equity and diversity and student-athlete well-being.”

In order to spark fundraising efforts and community involvement, Bass has made several personnel moves. Veteran fundraising professional Patrick Ransdell is now senior associate athletic director and executive director of the Seahawk Club. Adam Keen is the assistant director of the Seahawk Club.

“These new personnel assignments will make UNCW athletics’ external operations more effective and responsive to our many constituents, while serving to improve our customer service functions for Seahawk Club members, corporate partners, students and faculty/staff.”

Winning the support of the Seahawk nation and increasing participation in the Seahawk Club will be crucial to Bass’s success. He takes that relationship building aspect seriously. “We want Seahawk Club donors, season ticket buyers and other supporters of this athletic program to expect a return on their investment, realized by excellence in the classroom, high graduation rates and competitive success,” said Bass.

He believes the revitalization of athletics fundraising is of utmost importance for increasing UNCW athletics’ positive impact on the community, an effort that at its core depends on fan base involvement and obtaining scholarship funds to attract the very best student athletes.

Tomko caps stellar career

Senior point guard Chad Tomko wrapped up basketball season by being named Second Team All-CAA.

UNCW’s 28th All-CAA selection, Tomko posted impressive numbers his senior season, averaging 17.6 points, 5.9 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. He was third in the league in scoring, fourth in assists, third in steals, second in three-point field goals made and third in minutes played.

In four years, Tomko appeared in 125 games, tying all-time great Brett Blizzard’s career record, and stands third in points scored with 1,702 points. He led the Seahawks in scoring in 20 games, in rebounding 11 contests and in assists 26 times in 2010-11.

Tomko also was named Second-Team All-District by the National Association of Basketball Coaches and First-Team All-State by the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association.

After capturing its 10th consecutive CAA men’s swimming and diving championship, UNCW ended its season ranked 11th in the final CollegeSwimming.com mid-major poll. They are only the fourth team in the history of the CAA to win 10 straight titles, joining an elite group that includes ODU women’s basketball (17), William & Mary men’s cross country (10) and William & Mary women’s tennis (15).
Things were certainly hopping, so to speak, for the Seahawks on Easter Sunday when UNCW racked up Colonial Athletic Association championships in men’s golf, women’s golf and men’s tennis.

In men’s golf, the Seahawks and third-year coach Matt Clark led wire-to-wire to capture UNCW’s third CAA men’s golf crown on Course No. 8 at the Pinehurst Golf Resort. The Seahawks fashioned a 10-stroke victory over second place VCU and ended up with a score of 294-293-295=882 in the 54-hole event. They advanced to their second straight NCAA Tournament appearance and fifth overall.

Individually, senior Josh Brock dominated the field, leading all three rounds and finishing with a 2-under-par 72-71-71=214 total. He became UNCW’s first conference champion since Brian Joyce brought home honors in 2005.

Not to be outdone, the women’s golf team played magnificently as well at the nearby No. 6 Course. Coach Cindy Ho’s club turned in a tournament-low 299 in the final round to erase a three-stroke deficit and claim its third CAA crown in five seasons.

The triumph was the team’s sixth conference title in history, three in the Big South Conference and three in the CAA, and cemented UNCW’s sixth appearance in the NCAA tournament. The Seahawks shot a 312-306-299=917 for a five-shot victory over two-time defending champion Georgia State.

Several hours later, in Norfolk, Va., the men’s tennis team pulled off an upset of 12-time champion VCU for the program’s second CAA championship in three years. The third-seeded Seahawks trailed, 3-2, before nailing down another title with three-set wins at No. 3 and No. 5 singles.

Chris Cooprider won a tie-breaker in the second set and came all the way back for a 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1 triumph against Antoine Baroz at No. 3 singles. Kosta Blank then clinched the championship by outlasting Filip Svensson, 5-7, 6-2, 6-3, at the No. 5 slot.

Dave Allen - men’s swimming and diving - Following 10 consecutive conference championships, Allen was named Coach of the Year for the sixth year in a row. Allen, who coaches both the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams, has been CAA Coach of the Year a total of 11 times.

Cindy Ho - women’s golf - This is Ho’s fourth time receiving Coach of the Year honors. In her nine years at UNCW, she has guided the women’s golf team to six conference championships and led the team to four top 10 finishes in 2010-11.

Jenny Garrity - women’s tennis - Garrity, who has piloted the Seahawks to nine straight winning seasons, picked up her first CAA Coach of the Year honor and the third conference title of her career.

Matt Clark - men’s golf - Clark was awarded Coach of the Year for the first time since coming to UNCW three years ago. He led men’s golf to its first CAA crown since 2005.

Cynthia Cooper-Dyke - women’s basketball – With a 24-9 school record for victories, the women’s basketball team made its first post-season appearance in the Women’s National Invitational Tournament. Cooper-Dyke received Coach of the Year for her first season at UNCW.
Immersed in sustainability

by Hannah Akers Colon ’11

While his fellow students were settling into the fall semester on the UNCW campus, junior Nate Oxenfeld was beginning his adventure in Sólheimar, Iceland, immersing himself in the sustainable lifestyle of this 80-year-old community which has no need for imported fuel or food.

“It’s a very small, only about 100 people, self-sustaining eco-village,” said Oxenfeld.

Oxenfeld participated in the program designed by the Center for Ecological Living and Learning (CELL), a nonprofit educational organization aiming to inspire students “to bring creative, systemic solutions and environmental stewardship to their individual lives and leadership positions.”

Located an hour’s drive from the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik, Sólheimar was founded in 1930 as a safe haven for mentally and physically disabled Icelanders. While the 617-acre village has received international attention as an innovator, residents practice sustainability by using geothermal and hydrothermal energy to provide heat and power.

Already practicing sustainability, Oxenfeld said he sought out a program in Iceland because of the nation’s natural beauty and its simple lifestyle. “I’ve been pretty interested in that country for some time,” he said.

During his stay, Oxenfeld studied topics related to global warming, sustainable practices and Icelandic language and culture. He participated in residents’ workshops: candlemaking, weaving, organic soapmaking, art, ceramics and woodworking.

Between workshops and classes, he studied the Icelandic language and history. He took a two-day reforestation trip to Hekla to plant more than 3,000 birch trees, using “a cool little tool with a tube that just shoots the tiny tree into the ground.” And, he traveled around the country capturing exquisite images to add to his extensive portfolio.

“I wanted to do more than touristy stuff. I wanted to immerse myself a little more. We took trips every week,” he said, noting the best was a four-day backpacking trip to an uninhabited region.

“The difference between Iceland and America is the sun and the trees.” When he returned to Wilmington in November, Oxenfeld said he had to hug a tree, a long-leaf pine. “It was so nice to sit in the sun in a T-shirt and look up at the trees.”

Oxenfeld said his trip has given him a “greater urge to be more self-sufficient and a greater sense of what I want to do in life.”

Even though he is just 21, he said he understands the importance of culture and traveling.

“It is crucial to get out of America in order to get a true perspective of America,” he said. He believes people should put themselves in uncomfortable situations to learn more about who they are and to confront different language barriers.

With his newly earned Bachelor of Arts in anthropology in hand, Oxenfeld plans to continue his travels, to study and photograph people within their environments.

See Nate Oxenfeld’s photos at www.flickr.com/photos/nateoxenfeld, and read his blog, The Eco-Villager, at ecovillager.blogspot.com.
The Campaign for UNCW
Soaring to Greatness
About the Campaign for **UNCW**:  
**Soaring to Greatness**

**What kind of campaign is it?**
Because it supports all aspects of the university’s growth, it is a comprehensive campaign; it is NOT a capital campaign or a comprehensive capital campaign.

**Who will benefit from the campaign?**
The campaign supports the university, its programs and its students, faculty and staff.

**Which parts of the university’s mission does the campaign support?**
The campaign is raising funds for student excellence, academic excellence, faculty excellence, regional and global engagement, the annual fund and athletics.

**What area is gaining the most campaign support so far?**
Scholarships are the university’s number one priority. Support to help students with scholarships is resonating with donors, we believe, due to an understanding of economic distress being experienced by students and their families during this period.

**When did the campaign begin?**
The quiet phase began on July 1, 2005; the public launch took place Feb. 18, 2011.

**How much have we raised so far?**
At launch time, gifts to the campaign totaled more than $57.7 million, or 89 percent of the goal. It is common practice in higher education campaigns to raise about 70 percent of the goal prior to the public campaign launch. As of May 31, gifts totaled $59,251,998 million, or 91 percent of the goal.

**When will the campaign end?**
The campaign is currently scheduled to end Dec. 31, 2012.

**Is the UNCW campaign schedule consistent with other universities?**
Yes. UNCW has followed a conventional university campaign timetable. The average length of a campaign is seven to eight years at universities nationwide. These campaigns consist of a quiet phase and a public phase. Depending on economic conditions, the actual duration of each phase can fluctuate. The current economy led UNCW to lengthen the quiet phase by one year.

**Who are the lead volunteers of the campaign?**
Robert S. “Bob” Warwick, former member of the UNCW Board of Trustees and the UNC Board of Governors, and John A. “Sandy” McNeill, current member and past chair of the UNCW Board of Trustees, are co-chairs of the Campaign Cabinet under the auspices of Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo and the UNCW Board of Trustees. Distinguished community leaders serve as members of the Campaign Cabinet as well as the academic and athletic campaign committees.

**How has UNCW done so well with its campaign during this period of economic downturn?**
The university is very fortunate to have extremely loyal and generous donors who have stepped up during this time to support its priority needs. In addition, UNCW delayed the public launch of the campaign due to anxiety about the economic environment and concern about pressure on donors. Fiscal years 2009 and 2010 were more challenging years for fundraising, but during this fiscal year, 2011, there has been an upturn in giving to the university.

**Where can I learn more about The Campaign for UNCW?**
Please visit [www.uncw.edu/campaign](http://www.uncw.edu/campaign) for frequent updates on our progress.

**What is the best way to make a gift to support the campaign?**
Go to [www.uncw.edu/giveonline](http://www.uncw.edu/giveonline) for the quickest, easiest way to donate. Your contribution to any scholarship, program or area on campus will be counted as part of the campaign, as long as you give before Dec. 31, 2012.
Deborah and John “Sandy” McNeill Jr. and Cynthia and Ronald McNeill made the largest outright gift in UNCW’s history. The largest percentage supports academic programs in the School of Nursing plus a distinguished professorship in nursing and academic programs in the Cameron School of Business. The School of Nursing Building is named McNeill Hall in their honor.

Herbert ’53 and Sylvia Fisher ’50 and family gave more than $3 million over the last five years, including funds to support programs in the student center and student union that now bear their name. The Fishers most recently provided funds for the Fisher Memorial Garden, a place of reflection where individuals can remember and honor students, faculty and staff who passed away during their time on campus.

The Osher Foundation contributed more than $2 million in the last three years to endow the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and scholarships for nontraditional reentry students.

BB&T donated $1.25 million to establish the Moral Foundations of Capitalism program within the Cameron School of Business. Included in this gift was support for a speaker’s series, outreach and a student-managed investment fund.

David and Diane Swain created the Swain Center for Business and Economic Services in 2009 with a gift of $1 million. The Swain Center serves as the business and outreach arm of the Cameron School of Business.

The Betty and Dan Cameron family endowed a $1.25 million distinguished professorship in nonprofit innovation in 2008 with a gift of more than $600,000 matched by state funds and a gift from the C.D. Spangler Foundation. This professorship housed in the Department of Public and International Affairs will develop and lead efforts to improve the effectiveness of the local and regional nonprofit sector and increase philanthropy to this sector of the community.

**Progress toward Campaign Goals**

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*Other is a total of properties gifted which will be sold to benefit programs in the five other areas. 7.1.2005 – 5.31.2011
When Sarah Fann ‘10 returned home in April from the land down under, she had acquired not only a new, profound knowledge of marine conservation, but was more confident and open-minded than ever.

The first in her family to graduate from high school, the Tuckaseegee, N.C., native was awarded several scholarships including the Henry Alexander Martindale Scholarship, the Shisko Scholarship for Marine Biology, the Carl Nelson Jr. Scholarship for Statistics and the prestigious NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Award which made it possible for her to attend UNCW.

She said scholarships have been an integral and invaluable part of her education, and she would not be the scholar she is today without them. They supported her dream of conducting meaningful scientific research.

“Graduating debt free has been incredibly empowering,” Fann said. “It has given me the freedom to capitalize on my degree in marine biology and statistics without being bogged down with financial worries.”

In May 2010, Fann graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in marine biology and statistics with university honors and Department of Biology and Marine Biology honors. She spent most of the past year in Australia after earning a Fulbright Fellowship.

Fann lived in Townsville and conducted her research at James Cook University. She analyzed a long-term ecological dataset of fish diversity and abundance on eight coral reefs. She focused on the ecological impacts of marine protected areas (MPA) on fish communities.

“This year abroad has piqued my interests in the implementation and design of MPA – especially in regards to fisheries management,” Fann explained.

Being debt-free gave her more academic freedom as a visiting scholar at JCU. She travelled throughout the country, meeting new people and learning about the culture. Fann said she had a “truly amazing year.” She swam with sea turtles, dodged venomous snakes and made many life-long friends during her stay.

Fann’s long-term goal is to be a university professor and conduct ecological research that will allow her to share her knowledge with new students.

“I look forward to sharing what I’ve have learned from Australia about these unique and complicated tools for marine conservation,” she said.

**Details About Sarah Fann’s Scholarships**

**Outside of School**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship 2008–10; $8,000 annually

**UNC Wilmington Scholarships**

University Merit Scholarship 2006–10; $1,500 annually

John and Belle Shisko Scholarship for Marine Biology 2008–10; $3,500 annually

Carl Nelson Jr. Scholarship for Statistics 2009; $1,200 annually
**The Changing of the Guard:**

**A Conversation with a Departing Chancellor**

Shortly after Rosemary DePaolo was installed as chancellor of UNCW in spring 2004, after nearly a year on the job, we talked about her ambitions for the university and the role she saw herself playing in its next phase of its evolution. She had come to UNCW after six years as president of Georgia College & State University, where she engineered its transformation from a regional college to the state’s public liberal arts university. It was clear that she brought to the position of chancellor an accurate sense of the challenges we faced—as well as the intellectual and visionary tools to tackle them.

“Last week was so important, because I looked out and saw people beaming with pride about this great celebration of this university,” she said then of the installation ceremony, her official welcome to UNCW. “There was just something shiny and golden about the whole thing. That’s inspiring to me.” And indeed, she has never lost that sense of being inspired, and so has been able to inspire others to exceed their expectations.

So it was with a sense of having come full circle that I sat down with Rosemary again in her office and talked about the past—and the future.

**Gerard:** Well, Rosemary, it feels like we were doing this about fifteen minutes ago, when you first arrived on campus. Has the time passed as quickly for you?

**DePaolo:** It has gone fast.

**Gerard:** When we first talked, you said that when people asked you what your vision of the university was, this was something we would all have to talk about, so we could decide who we were and what our vision would be.

**DePaolo:** When people kept asking, “What is your vision?” I was very clear that it wasn’t going to be my vision. I wanted it to be the university’s vision. We looked at all of the data. We figured out what was important, and then we worked on it—it was as simple as that. There wasn’t anything magical about what we did. It was just hard work and focus—and saying “No” to things that we felt were not in our mission.

**Gerard:** Is the vision formed? Does UNCW know what we are?

**DePaolo:** That’s the key question. Eight years ago, people asked, “Are we going to continue to be a teaching institution, or are we going to become a research institution?” As a university, we decided that we were going to do both, and that we were going to become one of a select few of what I call teaching-research universities. We combine scholarship into the fabric of how we teach.

**Gerard:** Most universities were busy jamming their classrooms with bodies, and I remember early on you said very strongly that we need to create an even more intensive experience for students by limiting the numbers of students in classes, by having a much more tutorial relationship between faculty and students. So you would say that is part of the identity that we have crystallized as part of that vision.
**DePaolo:** I do think that. And the Quality Enhancement Plan that the university has adopted for the SACS accreditation was the best demonstration of that. I remember when we first started that, the whole idea of active and applied learning, there was a whole discussion of whether that was something we could or should embrace. And now it is a centerpiece of the university.

**Gerard:** It feels like real innovation in universities is not coming from the big players, the legacy schools that have been around for a couple of hundred years with lots of money and huge administrations, but rather from those universities that have to define themselves—because they’re new or they’re not well-known or they don’t have the resource base. So in what ways would you say UNCW is now doing things that other universities will look at to learn how to do?

**DePaolo:** I think that’s definitely happening. Next year will be the first time in our history that we have 11,000 applicants for the freshman class. Obviously people know what’s going on and want what’s going on here. There were so many firsts this year in terms of all the kudos—being in the top five in U.S. News and World Report, making number 17 on the Forbes list, being among the 50 best values in The Princeton Review. And if you read what The Princeton Review says about us, it’s as if we wrote it! It’s about how students are going to work intensively with real professors, they’re going to do real research, they’re going to do applied learning and have an internship or something experiential, all in this great environment.

**Gerard:** What particular things do you take satisfaction in?

**DePaolo:** We’ve changed the campus culture, and I think one thing particularly did that: expanding the housing on campus. I remember eight years ago everyone lamenting the fact that students left on weekends. And after we as a campus decided that we needed to double the number of beds on campus, we did it in three years. If you’re on this campus night or day, you see the difference. During the day, including Friday afternoons, the campus is full; students are all over the place. It’s exhilarating to walk down chancellor’s walk—there are the bikes, the skateboards, students walking. If you’re here at night, the grounds are full, till midnight and beyond. The intramural fields are packed. The Fisher complex is filled with students having meetings. There’s a vibrancy that is palpable. And it’s attracting a different kind of student as well.

**Gerard:** And how would you describe that difference?

**DePaolo:** They’re students who want that high-level, complete university experience, and they know that learning happens, not just in the classroom but beyond it. They come in wanting to become leaders—not just wanting a major, not just wanting a diploma, but thinking beyond that about what their lives are going be like afterwards. It’s the quality of their work and how sophisticated it often is by the time they graduate—no doubt a result of great teachers and mentors—but also the result of their willingness to do real work.
Gerard: I remember when I first started teaching here, the library was quiet, there was no coffee, and when you walked by, a few heads would peek up over the carrels. And now the library is just bedlam—and it's great.

DePaolo: It is great. One of my happiest moments was about six years ago when students came to me and said, “We want the library open 24 hours a day.” I love to go through the library, especially at finals when it’s packed. So the campus has changed, and I’m thrilled about that. The quality has gone up. Right now, it’s clear that it’s Chapel Hill, State and UNCW that are leading the system. And going back to that previous interview, I still believe what I said then, that we serve a very specific niche and provide the highest quality educational experience for students who would not thrive on huge campuses like Chapel Hill and State and who need that intensive interaction with faculty that we’re famous for and do so brilliantly.

At the campaign gala, President Ross took me by surprise when he said publicly that it was clear to him that this campaign was not about making UNCW a great regional university, it was about making us a great national university. And I was thrilled that he saw that.

Gerard: What have been your frustrations as chancellor—what things have you not completed?

DePaolo: There are still things to complete, but we’ve taken it to this level, and I’m handing over a jewel. I certainly wouldn’t have chosen this economic time to be chancellor, because one of the things I saw great potential for was fundraising. We’ve done extremely well, given the budget situation and given the economic situation in the country, but there’s no doubt about it: if it had been better times, we would have succeeded even further.

Gerard: Exactly when you need money the most, everybody is saying, “Hey, wait a second, I’ve got to wait until my investments get back up.”

DePaolo: Right. But state funding also has been an obvious frustration. Some years ago, we had success in persuading the Board of Governors and the General Assembly that we were underfunded, and we got $7 million dollars. That’s long gone in the budget cuts that followed, and the basic principle hasn’t been addressed that we are underfunded. That’s unfair not just to the university, but also to our students and their families. Look at all we have achieved without money. Imagine what we could achieve with money. We use money so wisely, so efficiently here. If we had the appropriate funding, the sky truly would be the limit.

Gerard: What have you learned that would be of use for someone to know about the job?

DePaolo: It was a bigger ship than I had been used to, and that’s always a bit more difficult to negotiate, particularly since it’s important in tough budget times really to make sure that we are a community. That’s the only thing that’s going to get us through. I have been so impressed with the collegial spirit with which people have approached this budget situation. It’s been tremendously hard for people the last few years. We’ve lost $31 million dollars of our budget in the last three years. And we’ve lost 90 positions. People have taken on more. They’re doing their jobs with less. And they have done that with a sense of trying to help each other.

Gerard: There’s a sense that we’ve hit bottom, and now we’re going to start clawing our way out of the recession.

DePaolo: Unless something drastic happens, I think the next chancellor will preside over a much better budgetary time and will be able to play hero, and I’m grateful for that.

Gerard: And that is part of the legacy here—we’re facing a very different job description than the one you were facing.

DePaolo: Yes. We’ve got a budget problem that’s terrible, and we’re dealing with that. But everything else in the university is in great shape. There are worse problems to have than no money. There are universities that have money but have such other insurmountable problems of people or morale or governance or whatever. Those problems are much harder. A consultant familiar with other campuses came here and said, “Explain to me how you all did this. You haven’t had raises for three years, you’re underfunded. Why is morale at UNCW so much better than I see at other campuses?”

Gerard: We have all the metrics and statistics to show what’s changed, but what might people not notice, that doesn’t show up in the U.S. News & World Report?

DePaolo: Eight years ago, when I looked around and said, “This is what we can become,” I got a fair amount of push-back from the community, saying “No, we really want you to still be a local university that accepts local students.” I don’t hear that anymore. I think people in the community are extremely proud of the reputation we have established. We probably get more applications from the local region than we used to, because a lot of the bright kids in the past were leaving, and now they’re asking, “Why leave?” So that’s been a win for everyone.

Gerard: This is a huge chapter in your life that’s closing—what are you feeling right now?

DePaolo: I’m feeling great! I’ve loved this. I’m savoring every moment, every “this is the last time I’m doing this.” And Fred and I are looking forward to the next phase of life. You can’t get any better than that. We both want something immediately that is extremely different from what we’ve been doing. We actually have a place up in the woods in Canada. And we’re going up there for the next semester and leading a very different life. Hopefully, by the end of it, we’ll be fluent in French.

Gerard: You’ll still maintain a relationship with UNCW?

DePaolo: UNCW will be in my heart always, but I feel strongly that I’ve had my turn—let the next person have his. It’s easy in these jobs to have the role become your identity. I’ve tried very hard not to allow that to happen. I’ve tried not to make it about me—it’s about the university. And that’s how it should be. So I don’t think I’m going to have a problem stepping away from this and having a new identity. I’m looking forward to that. That’s exciting. You know, I’ve always wanted to have as many lives as possible in this one life that you’re given.

Gerard: Any parting words?

DePaolo: It’s going to be fun to watch.
A timeline of Achievement

Rosemary DePaolo becomes the university’s sixth leader in July 2003 and is installed as chancellor in April 2004.

Julia and Hugh Morton receive honorary Doctor of Humanities degrees. She is recognized for her years of service to higher education in North Carolina. He is recognized for his work as an internationally known photographer, environmentalist and tourism advocate.

Literary journal Ecotone is launched by the Department of Creative Writing.

A new master of social work (MSW) degree is approved.

2003-04

Student population: 10,000+; average freshman SAT: 1097

Bachelor’s degree in clinical research begins with financial support from PPD.

Campus community develops strategic plan.

2004-05

UNCW receives federal funding to work with South Carolina State University to document the story of Camp Lejeune’s Montford Point Marines, the nation’s first African-American Marines.

Major construction projects include expansion/renovation of Hoggard Hall, University Union, Burney Center, Kenan House and Westside Hall and construction of the Computer Information Systems Building, Cultural Arts Building and new student housing. The Education Building, home to the Watson School of Education and the N.C. Teachers Legacy Hall, opens.

New master of social work (MSW) degree is approved.

Campus community develops strategic plan.
UNCW students, faculty and staff volunteer with recovery efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

The Department of Music receives its first $1 million professorship – the Thomas S. Kenan III Distinguished Professor of Jazz.

The National Institutes of Health awards UNCW a five-year, $7.53 million grant to study the effects of red tide brevotoxins and their potential as a therapeutic agent.

The Osher Foundation gives $1 million to UNCW to endow the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The men’s track, men’s swimming and diving and women’s golf teams win CAA championships.

UNCW awards first Ph.D. in marine biology.

UNCW develops first iPhone app.

The Fisher Student Center, named for alumni and donors Herbert and Sylvia Fisher, opens. The couple establishes a $2 million endowed fund to maintain the center and enhance its programs.

The N.C. General Assembly includes $7 million in the state budget to bring per-student funding at UNCW closer to the state average.

Number of alumni: 40,000+ worldwide

Men’s and women’s swimming and diving, men’s basketball and baseball teams win CAA championships.

UNCW forms Quality Enhancement for Nonprofit Organizations (QENO) to partner with citizen groups and community organizations to focus on helping nonprofits.

The university approves a campus master plan.

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Businessman and philanthropist Fred Eshelman provides $1 million gift to support athletics.

Donors provide $13.8 million in gifts and pledges, setting a record for university support in a single year.

Honorary degrees are awarded to Bernard and Barbro Osher for their support of the OLLI program and Irwin “Ike” Belk for his contributions to UNCW, including creation of a $1 million distinguished professorship in nursing.

Researchers at the Center for Marine Science earn a second patent for their work with compounds derived from red tide.


UNCW forms a partnership with the Wilmington Housing Authority to offer several educational programs in the Hillcrest housing development.

UNCW launches Facebook, YouTube and Twitter sites.

Donors provide $13.8 million in gifts and pledges, setting a record for university support in a single year.

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**2007-08**

UNCW creates the Seahawks Support Opportunity Access and Responsibility (SOAR) program to provide financial support to qualified students.

Chancellor DePaolo establishes the Sustainability Committee to promote and encourage ‘green’ activities across campus.

University Union and Burney Center reopen after extensive renovations. Herb Fisher gives $1 million to support the programs in the renamed Fisher University Union.

Men’s swimming and diving team, track and field team and the women’s golf team win CAA championships.

UNCW and New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick school systems receive $1.18 million National Science Foundation grant to work with grade 7-12 educators who teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**2008-09**

Men’s swimming and diving team earns CAA championship.

The Cameron Family establishes a $1.25 million Cameron Family Distinguished Professorship of Innovation in the Nonprofit Sector.

Copper seahawk sculpture with 20-foot wingspan, commissioned by Charlotte philanthropist Irwin “Ike” Belk, is installed at front of campus.
2009-10

The university launches the UNCW Distinguished Merit scholarship program with a lead gift from Jean and Eric Rosenberg.

The Center for Marine Science receives a $15 million matching grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the construction of a Marine Biotechnology in North Carolina (MARBlONC) building.

Philosophy, religion and history faculty receive a $1.6 million grant to work with area teachers to improve historical literacy among the region’s high school graduates.

UNCW is part of a consortium that receives a $1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior for a proposed marine research and education center in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

With the opening of the Seahawk Crossing, nearly 40 percent of the student body can live on campus.

David and Diane Swain provide $1 million gift to support the Swain Center for Business and Economic Services in the Cameron School of Business.

Intellect, an academic journal, opened its first U.S. editorial office at UNCW.

Alumni association celebrates Wise Alumni House centennial.

The men’s and women’s soccer teams and men’s swimming and diving team win CAA championships.

“This is a short list of UNCW’s accomplishments over the past eight years. Want to suggest others? Post your ideas on the UNCW Facebook site.”
The university launches *The Campaign for UNCW: Soaring to Greatness*. 

2010-11

School of Nursing Building opens and is named McNeill Hall in recognition of the family that gave the university the largest outright gift in its history.

The women’s basketball team made its first post-season appearance in the WNIT.

High tech Learning Commons opens in Randall Library.

UNCW endowment has nearly tripled since 2003 to $66 million.

Student population: 13,000+, average freshman SAT, 1170

First Ed.D. in educational leadership is awarded to 15 area educators.

Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo announces her retirement.

Student body diversity reaches 13.5 percent compared to 8.9 percent in 2003; minority 6-year graduation rate increased more than 5 percent.


Men’s and women’s golf and men’s tennis win first CAA titles. Men’s swimming and diving team wins 10th title.


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For Jarrod Tanny, Jewish culture means a lot more than the Holocaust, the Talmud or the Arab-Israeli conflict – important as those issues are.

Tanny, who is the Charles and Hannah Block Distinguished Professor of Jewish History at UNCW, likes to consider other questions, too. For example, why are Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David so funny? And why are so many of America’s great comedians Jewish?

“Jewish humor is a great example,” Tanny said, “of how Jews integrate into the host society but still maintain their own identity. It’s been shaped by popular culture, but it’s shaped that culture in turn.”

And why is it so funny? For Tanny, it’s a complex problem. Part of it involves the nuances of Yiddish, the language most Russian Jewish immigrants spoke when they first reached Ellis Island. Part of it involves the Talmud, the hallowed commentaries on Jewish law and tradition, which promoted a tradition of argument, irony and debate.

Part of it is the role of the outsider, imposed on Jews by centuries of exile. And part of it is an existential response to a history of persecution. As Tanny put it, “Hey, God made us the chosen people. What have we been chosen for?”

Tanny was chosen for his demonstrated teaching abilities, said Paul A. Townend, chairman of UNCW’s history department.

“We’ve been hunting for a couple of years for the right person for the job,” Townend said. “His way of thinking about history and the place of the Jewish people in it is wonderfully broad.”

After graduating from Montreal’s McGill University, Tanny went on to earn a master’s in Russian and East European studies from the University of Toronto and, in 2008, a Ph.D. in history from the University of California at Berkeley.

His dissertation was on the Jewish community in the 19th century Russian city of Odessa. As Tanny describes it, “Odessa was a frontier boom town – like a combination of San Francisco in the Gold Rush, New Orleans as a city of sin and New York as a land of opportunity.”

Russian laws were less restrictive there, he said, and tens of thousands of Jews flocked there in search of their fortunes.

Tanny’s first book, based on that dissertation, is to be published this year by Indiana University Press. Its title: City of Rogues and Schnorrers.

What’s a schnorrer?

Tanny smiled. “A schnorrer is a Jewish mooch. But he’s more than just a mooch because he projects a sense of entitlement. He uses guilt to push his benefactors into giving him charity.

“Kramer in ‘Seinfeld’ is an archetypal mooch,” Tanny added. “He believes he’s entitled to everything in Jerry’s refrigerator.”

An assistant professor at UNCW, he is the first faculty member to hold the newly established Block professorship, named for local businessman Charles Block and his wife, Hannah Block, the first woman to serve as Wilmington’s mayor pro tem.

This article was reprinted with permission from the StarNews.

**Donors**

The Block family of New Hanover County and the Rhine family of Pender County

Former state senator Frank Block and his wife Wendy, their family and friends provided funds to name the professorship for Frank’s parents. The state matched $167,000 as part of its Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund established by the N.C. General Assembly.

Don and Rebecca Rhine established the Rhine Family Endowment for Jewish History. These funds will enhance the Block professor’s work by providing support for public lectures, presentations at area schools and special events related to the history of Jewish civilization.
The gift, announced Feb. 18 at a news conference about The Campaign for UNCW, is an endowment from the McNeill family, brothers John A. “Sandy” McNeill Jr. and Ronald B. “Ronnie” McNeill and their wives, Deborah S. McNeill and Cynthia J. “Cyndi” McNeill, respectively. The largest percentage of the gift will support academic programs within the School of Nursing.

In addition, Sandy and Deborah McNeill established a distinguished professorship in nursing, while Ronnie and Cyndi designated a portion of their gift to support academic programs in the Cameron School of Business.

“We believe in UNCW and its mission,” said Sandy McNeill. “It is a great part of eastern North Carolina, and it certainly has helped fulfill the educational mission for college-level studies in this state and beyond. It is a fantastic institution.”

In recognition of this significant gift and their history of support for UNCW, the university’s Board of Trustees voted to rename the Nursing Building as McNeill Hall in honor of the family.

“We could not be more excited and grateful about this gift from the McNeills,” said Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo. “Their ongoing support for this institution, and their commitment of both time and resources, is truly extraordinary. I am thrilled by the lasting effect this transformative gift will have on the quality of our nursing programs, and I could not be more pleased that McNeill Hall has been named in their honor.”
### The Campaign by the Numbers

**JULY 1, 2005 - DECEMBER 31, 2012**

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### Scholarship Tally

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### A Diverse and Generous Base of Supporters

- **Parents** $2,966,075
- **Foundations** $8,847,306
- **Friends** $10,768,212
- **Corporations** $10,785,799
- **Faculty/Staff** $784,005
- **Alumni** $11,686,745
- **Other** $2,978,575

Numbers provided are through 5/31/11. Numbers do not include pledges.
Recognition of Brittany Blackwell’s athletic achievements at UNCW date back to 2008 when, as a freshman, she was named Rookie of the Year for the women’s basketball team. During her tenure she has become UNCW’s all-time leader for free throws made and attempted, steals and games started.

Along with her athletic achievements, Blackwell is also a leader among her peers and an attentive student in the Cameron School of Business.

She knows her achievements, both on and off the basketball court, would not have been possible without financial support from the Fred Eshelman Endowment Scholarship and other athletic scholarships that fully funded her tuition the past four years.

Simply put, “without scholarships people wouldn’t be able to come to college. Growing up I always knew I needed them, and they had a huge impact on my decision to come to UNCW, otherwise I could not have afforded tuition,” Blackwell said.

“I do feel that she is very much aware of the significance of having had a scholarship opportunity to pursue her academic dreams and athletic dreams,” said Richard Morrison, UNCW international business professor who escorted Brittany on the court during senior night.

The balance athletes have to perfect between academics and their sport is challenging and sometimes overlooked by the rest of the university public. However, Blackwell’s success is evident in both arenas. As one of four women’s basketball team members averaging more than 10 points a game, she has also maintained a 3.0 GPA during college. She notes that being an athlete has been a great benefit to her academics, saying it taught her time management and self-discipline.

“She is very focused and disciplined in her personal life in terms of making sure basketball doesn’t get in the way of making good grades and having a good academic record. At the same time, if you watch her on the basketball court, when it’s time to play, it’s time to play,” Morrison said.

Blackwell’s time at UNCW did not end with graduation in May, as she will begin the Cameron School of Business Master of Science in Accountancy program in the fall. She would like to work in the financial department of a sports organization and says she would love to give back to UNCW someday financially or by donating her time.

“I want to be remembered as someone who helped to change the basketball program at UNCW and someone who worked hard,” Blackwell says.
Distinguished Alumnus of the Year
Malcolm D. Coley ’86, ’89M

Malcolm holds a Bachelor of Science in accountancy and Master of Business Administration. He is a certified public accountant and partner in the Assurance and Advisory Business Services Group of Ernst & Young in Atlanta, Ga. He is responsible for the company’s diversity initiative across the Southeastern United States, serves as the treasurer of 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. and is a founding member of the Research Triangle Park chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants. Coley holds a position on the UNCW Cameron School of Business (CSB) Executive Advisory Board and is a featured speaker in CSB classes.

Young Alumnus of the Year
Shaun J. Olsen ’02

Shaun holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration in information systems. Upon graduation, he started Olsen Enterprises and established BBXComputers. He later created AcoustiCreations, Inc. and Opterex, Inc., Cape Fear businesses focused on network administration, systems integration and product management. In 2009, he won both a Coastal Entrepreneur Award and a UNCW Entrepreneurship Award in the category of technology. Shaun continues to give back to UNCW as an active member of the UNCW Entrepreneurship Center and a member of the Cameron Executive Network, through which he mentors UNCW business students.

Distinguished Citizen of the Year
Charles Edward Alexander III

Ed is the vice chair for UNCW Foundation Board of Directors and serves on the Endowment Board and Cameron School of Business Committee. In the community, he served on the Board of Directors for Cameron Art Museum and the N.C. Museum of Art Grand Opening Committee. Alexander retired as senior vice president of Morgan Stanley in Raleigh.
1960s

John “Carl” Dempsey ’65 passed away Jan. 21, 2011. He joined the UNCW faculty in 1967 as a mathematics instructor. He later served as associate dean of student affairs, director of institutional research, assistant to the vice chancellor of business affairs and associate vice chancellor of business affairs, retiring in 1998 as director of major construction.

Frank Bua ’68 was inducted into the Salesian High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

1970s

Ray Buchanan ’72, founder of the Raleigh-based international aid group Stop Hunger Now, was named 2010 Tarheel of the Year. Each year, hundreds of UNCW students, faculty and staff partner with the community volunteers to package more than 100,000 meals for the organization’s Million Meal Week.

C.W. Casey ’74 acted in television commercials and was Santa Claus on the radio for 10 years. He is now the owner and a counselor at Insights and Recovery, a DWI assessment and treatment center.

Earl Monroe Vaughn Jr. ’76, a scholastic sports editor at The Fayetteville Observer, was a first-place winner in the annual North Carolina Press Association competition. He worked for his reporting of a grade-changing scandal that cost Terry Sanford High School a berth in the 2010 state football playoffs.

Lisa Anne Townsend Parbour ’79 passed away Dec. 2, 2010. She was valedictorian of her graduating class and went on to receive a law degree at the University of Virginia in 1992. She retired from Greensboro Kurfth law firm in 1998.

Pryor Gibson ’79, a North Carolina state representative, was named Civ. Lib. Perumbra’s senior advisor for governmental affairs.

Keith Edward Hedrick ’79 was promoted to internal audit supervisor at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority.

1980s

Howell Graham ’85 was the first cystic fibrosis patient to undergo a double-lung transplant at UNC Hospitals, 20 years ago. At age 48, he is thought to be the longest-surviving patient of the procedure.

Denise Wicker Owen ’87 published a children’s book titled Turtle Gilding. She is a travel writer and consultant for North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia for book signings.

Samantha Watson Robertson ’88 is the president and chief executive officer of the clinical research company SRW & Associates, Inc. She was recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in business management. She is a writer for the Carolina Super Lawyer and a Rising Star by Law & Politics Magazine for 2009-10.

1990s

Tammy Baggett ’91 was named Durham County Library director. Prior to her promotion, she was the assistant library director for New Hanover County Public Library.

Newell Clark ’93 is principal owner of Standell Properties, co-chairman of Davidson Vision and president of Uptown Lexington.

Cici Chalus ’95 is the director of La Salle County Court Appointed Special Advocates. She administers the nonprofit program which provides advocacy and mentoring to youths at risk for neglect and abuse. She also holds certificates in proposal writing, is a master gardener and a master naturalist, and serves on the Ottawa Tree Board.

David Bollinger ’96, a faculty member at UNCW since 1998, was promoted to senior lecturer in 2007.

Angela Gospodarek ’96 received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She teaches seventh and eighth grade science classes at the river Valley School.

Kimberly Boyce ’97, ’03M and Samuel Younie were married Jan. 9, 2010. She is the director of planned giving for the American Cancer Society South Atlantic Division. They reside in Wilmington.

Charles Blanton ’02, founder of the Clinical Research Company, was named one of the Clinical Research Company.

2000s

Jackson ’88 and Christina Peck Norvell ’89 announce the birth of their daughter, Virginia Grey; on Nov. 28, 2010.

Jill Raspet ’99, an attorney from Wilmington, was elected a partner at Smith Moore Leatherwood. A regular columnist on estate planning issues in Livin’ Out Loud, a Wilmington-based magazine, she was named a North Carolina Super Lawyer and a Rising Star by Law & Politics Magazine for 2009-10.

Nathan Powell ’00 was promoted to the head of global financial sector research and head of international research at the Center for Financial Research and Analysis in London, England.

Larry Baldwin ’01 is the executive chef at David Burke Fromageer, in Rumson, N.J.

Susan Hayes Lane ’01 and her husband Michael announce the birth of a son, Bennett Yates, on Nov. 1, 2010.

Kalen N. Olson ’01 completed her fellowship in clinical chemistry and toxicology and is the clinical laboratory director for Health Partners Medical Group in Raleigh.

Tamara Ward ’01M had her book Storm Surge, A Jane Winters Mystery published by Peak City Publishing LLC. She is a freelance journalist in Raleigh and has won awards from the North Carolina Press Association.

Brian Willis ’01M was named vice president of information and technology at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

Amanda Wynn ’01 received a Ph.D. in information systems from Nova Southeastern University. She is the director of institutional research at Pfeiffer University and an adjunct professor in the School of Undergraduate Studies at Regent University.

Charles Blanton ’02 received a juris doctorate and a certificate in alternative dispute resolution from North Carolina Central University’s School of Law, in December 2010. Charles and his wife, Melissa, also announce the birth of their daughter, Bernadette, on Dec. 10, 2010.

Stephanie Cain ’02 is the Communities in Schools director of community resources in Jacksonville. She also serves on the board for the Association of Fundraising Professionals First Coast Chapter as well as the Executive Council for the Wild Things Young Professionals at the Jacksonville Zoo. As the CIS director of community resources, she is responsible for grant writing and volunteer management.

Sam Mintz ’02 earned his Certified Financial Planner designation from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. He is a financial advisor and vice president at Scott & Stringfellow.
Nora Camille Morgan ’02 and Terry Madden were married on Nov. 6, 2010. Camille is an assistant director in the UNCW Office of Admissions.

Painter Susanna Fantas ’02 displays her work at Hampton House Art & Framing in Winston-Salem. Her new series of oil paintings, titled Contemplations, shines a light on frequently overlooked objects found in nature.

Rebecca Raynor Thomas ’02 and her husband, Bryan, announce the birth of their daughter, Bailey Grace, on May 5, 2010. Rebecca is a speech language pathologist.

Amanda L. Barbee ’03 and Andrew R. Maddox ’03 were married Aug. 7, 2010. Amanda is pursuing an elementary education license at East Carolina University and is a secretary at Grace Baptist Church. The couple lives in Wilson.

Travis W. Brown ’04 was awarded a doctoral degree in aquaculture at Auburn University. Travis is a research biologist/engineer in Mississippi with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Michelle Cox ’04M is the assistant town manager of Leland.

Caitrin Martin ’04 served in the Peace Corps in Senegal from 2007 to 2011 and is the 2011 Peacemaker, commemorating poster cover girl. She is an agriculture scientific specialist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth R. Carter ’05 presented on EasyTEPM, a software program used to monitor special education students in Tennessee school districts, at the Tennessee Statewide History Education Conference in February 2011.

Grace A. Mebane ’05 and Alver G. Hanrick IV were married Oct. 9, 2010. The couple lives in Rocky Mount.


Bentley ’05 and Christopher Rose ’05 announce the birth of their second daughter, Kaylee Elizabeth, on Jan. 4, 2011. Bentley teaches middle school math at Ligon Middle in Raleigh, and Christopher is employed by Progress Energy. They reside in Garner.

Margaret Spoo ’05 and Jonathan Chipka were married Sept. 29, 2010. Margaret holds degrees from Ohio State University and Texas A&M-University-Corpus Christi and employed as a biological research scientist at Pfizer.

Jason D. Walsh ’05 and Jessica A. Brooks were married Aug. 7, 2010. Jason is a technology support specialist at NC State University. The couple lives in Raleigh.

Kristin L. Brinson ’06 and Eric J. Lippert ’06 were married Sept. 5, 2010. Kristin is employed at the Wilson County Sheriff’s Office. The couple lives in Wilson.

Christy Consorto ’06 was promoted to account manager at The Select Group, a full-service technical recruiting firm in Raleigh.

Matt Mumpower ’06 manages the production of all marketing tools, advertising and promotions for Johnson Properties Realtors and Auctioneers in Angier.

Peggy Sloan ’06M is the director of the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Brian D. Smith ’06 and Stephanie A. Davis were married Oct. 8, 2010. Brian is a fourth grade teacher in Raleigh.

Travis Vaughn ’06, ’08M is a financial recruiter at Vaco Raleigh, LLC. Prior to that, she was a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Wilmington, launched a networking group, the Wilmington Professional Group, and organized the Raleigh Professional Group.

Elizabeth N. Barnes ’07 and Adam B. Thomas were married Sept. 25, 2010. Elizabeth is employed at the Wilson County Department of Social Services.

Brenna Bagwell Cooge ’07, ’08M and her husband announce the birth of their son Gabriel in October 2010. Brenna is a senior associate with Grant Thornton in their BAS line, providing internal audit services to clients in Southern California.

Lana Cuthrell ’07 is a sales coordinator at the Hillsborough Ginn and Mayfair Town Center.

Matthew Letrich ’07M was selected as a Dean John A. Knapp Marine Policy Fellow in Washington, D.C. This fellowship places students in legislative and executive branch offices to help solve marine policy issues of national consequence. His fellowship is with the NGOA Ocean Service Estuaries Reserve Division where he will work with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System to develop ecosystem-based management approaches.

Jay Varner ’07M is the author of Nothing Left to Bury, a memoir about growing up in a family bound together by fire, obsession, guilt, secrets and lies, with a grandfather who was a serial arsonist and a father who was the fire chief of McVeytown, Pa. He is the assistant director of Charleston High School and a speech language pathologist.

Kathryn Durkin ’08M is a literacy coach at Ogden Elementary and Wrightsville Beach School. She provides small group instruction, individual instruction and assessments and after-school tutoring.

Danielle N. Moosa ’08 and Robert T. Annenarcho ’06 were married Aug. 21, 2010. Danielle works at Old North State Wealth Management, a firm that earned his juris doctorate in 2010 at Charlotte School of Law, is in private practice in Wilmington.

Chris Pollock ’08 received a Master of Science degree in technology systems from East Carolina University, He is a system administrator at UNC Charlotte.

Care Abe ’09 is a dancer for the Charlotte Bobcats NBA dance team, Lady Cats.

Adam K. Barefoot ’09 received his commission as a naval officer and completed Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I.

Cristen Goulet ’09 founded the Rock Lock, an anti-theft device used to secure and lock a guitar into place.

Dustin C. Durley ’09 and Regina L. Everitt were married March 19, 2011. They reside in Savannah, Ga. Dustin is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at Savannah College of Art and Design.

Duncan M. Hill ’09 was awarded an Honorable Mention in Digital Photo Magazine’s Art Print Photographic Competition. His photograph was published in the magazine’s December edition.

Jennie Hodges ’09 is a trainer for the Pinecrest High School football team in Southern Pines.

Harrison J. Sasser ’09 is a partner with the men’s clothing store, The Gentlemen’s Corner.

Sharon Stoner ’09 and David Pilkington ’09 were married Sept. 25, 2010. Sharon is a registered nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at New Hanover Hospital, and David works as an assistant golf professional at Pine Valley Country Club. The couple resides in Wilmington.

2010s

Erica Brindley ’10M joined the Foundation Software Inc. Marketing Department as a marketing writer. She is responsible for writing press releases, contributing articles to construction magazine and finding ways to expand Foundation Software through social media. She also has penned a memoir titled Leaving Winnebago.

Pamela Baldwin ’10 Ed.D. was named principal of Hoggard High School, effective April 1, 2011.

Friends

Saul Bachner, a member of the UNCW education faculty from 1977 to 2001, passed away Feb. 24, 2011. He received the UNCW Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award in 1987 and the Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award in 1990. He was preceptor in the development of African American and sports literature programs in the Cape Fear area.

Andrew R. Clark, a member of the UNCW Department of History faculty for more than 20 years, passed away Jan. 27, 2011. He was twice nominated for the Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award, published two books and was a Peace Corps veteran.

Stanley Colbert died Sept. 21, 2010, in Toronto, Canada. He taught at UNCW and played a role in launching the creative writing department, the film studies program and the UNCW Publishing Lab. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in fine arts in 1999 by UNCW.
Coming to UNCW from a small eastern North Carolina town and a high school graduating class of just 55, Brian Rowsom has seen success as a professional athlete and coach, living, playing and coaching around the world.

“When I was a child I never thought about traveling the world like I am doing now, but I am grateful that basketball led me to this,” he said.

At 6’10” Rowsom was a commanding figure on the court during his days at UNCW where he played from 1984 to 1987, scoring double figures in 93 of 115 games. As a three-time All-CAA selection, he ranks among the top 15 in CAA history in career points (1,974) and rebounds (1,015). Rowsom held the title of UNCW’s all-time leading scorer and rebounder for 17 seasons and still holds the rebounding title with 1,015 boards. In all, he made 18 school records and shares five others.

Rowsom was recruited by the Indiana Pacers in 1987 and then played as part of the first team of the Charlotte Hornets. Before retiring in 1999, he played in 78 games for the Hornets, then embarked on an international career that took him to teams in Israel, England and Japan.

Basketball transcends the distinctions of culture and language

The season before Rowsom came to Qatar, the Al-Alhi team had not made it to the playoffs, but he turned that around and led them to an unprecedented third place finish the following season.

His team plays in the Qatar Basketball Federation League with seven other Qatari teams. If they win their league championship they would then go on to play teams from other Middle Eastern countries such as Kuwait, Syria, Dubai and Egypt.

“Qatar is a beautiful country and has a similar skyline to Miami’s downtown area. It is very quiet and peaceful here. Americans who have never been here might think it is dangerous since it’s in the Middle East but that could not be further from the truth,” Rowsom said. He enjoys a peaceful life in Qatar, using Skype to keep in touch with friends and family back home.

Rowsom thinks there is much to be gained from living in another country, and he urges students and alumni to go abroad. “You will love it and find you want more of it as well. There is no substitute for living abroad and experiencing first hand different people and cultures.”

When he returns to the United States this summer, he will host basketball camps for prospective professional players through his company, Rowsom Sports. He recruits NBA and overseas coaches to scout and sign players up, helping hundreds of players’ dreams become a reality. Through his own experience as a player, his knowledge of and passion for the game, Rowsom has been able to participate in the development of many young and talented basketball players.

Basketball transcends the distinctions of culture and language

Rowsom’s story is just one example of how an athletics scholarship can have a huge impact on a student-athlete’s life, creating a platform for success in college and professional careers. “It made me appreciate what I was given when I heard other students tell me how much they had to pay. That drove me even more to want to succeed!”

His advice to current student-athletes: “Work hard and dream big.”
Last year, Jason Nista '08, Rocco Quaranto '08 and Wells Struble '07 dove into uncharted waters, abandoning their safe office cubicles for a frosty venture.

“Everyone said we were crazy to walk away from corporate America,” Nista said. With the current state of the economy, any good-paying job that includes benefits and a retirement plan would be ideal for a college graduate to secure. But with a well-researched plan in hand, these three young men decided it would be worthwhile for them to take the risk.

The Fuzzy Peach, established in July 2010, sent the Wilmington dessert market into a frenzy when Nista, Quaranto and Struble introduced Froyo: frozen yogurt. The shop offers a variety of flavors and a well-stocked self-serve bar of toppings ranging from Skittles®, sprinkles and marshmallows to fresh fruit.

“When we all got a real job in the corporate world,” Quaranto said, “we immediately sought a way to get out. Because we were all separated, we texted and emailed ideas to each other all the time, and we would research the ideas with merit.”

It wasn’t until a trip to San Diego that Quaranto ate frozen yogurt for the first time. After seeing a gap in the Wilmington market for frozen yogurt and doing months of research, the three decided this was the idea that was going to make them successful.

“It was hard to find someone in our situation,” Nista said. “We didn’t have anyone to really bounce ideas off of.” So, he traveled to California to gain experience with frozen yogurt and returned to Wilmington a few weeks later with enough background to layout a plan of action.

While doing extensive research for their business plan and having it edited by anyone who would look at it, the three started to raise capital, reaching into their own pockets and asking family and friends, eventually generating enough to open a store.

While Quaranto handled the marketing for the early stages of development and Nista was doing general operations at the startup, Struble was still working his corporate America job. He handles all the finances for the company and was able to maintain his day job and crunch numbers for The Fuzzy Peach at night.

“This was a strategically planned decision,” Struble said. “If The Fuzzy Peach failed, at least one of us would have money to help the others out. Secondly, it was proof of income. If all three of us had left our jobs then no bank would ever consider lending us money if we needed it. Fortunately, we didn’t need any money at startup.”

Currently, they have two yogurt bars: the Racine Drive location opened in July 2010 and the newest one opened in Porters Neck in February. By summer, they will have locations in Monkey Junction and downtown Wilmington.

All agree that without their experience at UNCW, none of this would have been possible. Nista said, “This whole thing was born at UNCW. We have to give a shout out to the entrepreneurship and business development program.”

“UNCW gives you an understanding and vocabulary of business,” Struble said. “I was able to seamlessly merge into an established finance team just weeks after graduating. From my perspective, the Cameron School is one in which you could get as much out of it as you wanted to, so the more you put into your classes and involvement, the more you got out of the program.”

“We will have opened four stores in our first year in Wilmington,” Quaranto said. “There are 100 ‘Wilmingtons’ in the country. We will go there.”

www.thefuzzypeachnc.com
June
15 Wilmington College Alumni Chapter Luncheon
29 Summer Session II Begins

July
4 Independence Day • University Offices Closed
8 Triangle Alumni Chapter • Durham Bulls Picnic
14 Cape Fear Alumni Chapter • Alumni After Work
20 Wilmington College Alumni Chapter Luncheon • Jackson’s Big Oak BBQ

August
17 Wilmington College Alumni Chapter Luncheon • Jackson’s Big Oak BBQ
20 Freshman Move-In
22 Freshman Convocation • Trask Coliseum
24 Classes Begin

September
5 Labor Day • University Offices Closed
8 Cape Fear Alumni Chapter • Alumni After Work
14 Anna Deavere Smith • Leadership Lecture Series
21 Wilmington College Alumni Chapter Luncheon • Jackson’s Big Oak BBQ
23-25 Family & Alumni Weekend

October
3 The Good Lovelies • Arts in Action
10-11 Fall Break
17 Morgan Spurlock • Leadership Lecture Series
19 Wilmington College Alumni Chapter Luncheon • Jackson’s Big Oak BBQ
29 David Dorfman Dance • Arts in Action

November
3 Dobe Gnahore • Arts in Action
16 Wilmington College Alumni Chapter Luncheon • Jackson’s Big Oak BBQ
24-25 Thanksgiving Break • University Offices Closed
29 Carolina Chocolate Drops • Arts in Action

December
7 Last Day of Classes
9-15 Final Exams
17 Commencement
21 Wilmington College Alumni Chapter Luncheon • Jackson’s Big Oak BBQ

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