DENTISTRY DEDICATES KOURY ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

The School of Dentistry has opened a new education and research facility while honoring a generous alumnus and longtime friend, Burlington businessman Maurice Koury. We dedicated the Koury Oral Health Sciences Building in April.

Dean Jane Weintraub believes the Koury building will help our dentistry school remain a leader in dental education and research for years to come. The new facility was made possible by the combined investment of the North Carolina General Assembly, the University and generous private donors, especially Koury, president of Carolina Hosiery Mills Inc. The new building provides improved technology for teaching and collaborative research, larger lecture rooms and meeting spaces and an expanded 105-seat patient simulation laboratory.

YOU CAN HELP KEEP CAROLINA STRONG

Although the state budget picture has stabilized following last year’s significant cuts — $100.7 million to our campus alone — we still face significant funding challenges as North Carolina and the nation continue to emerge from the global economic downturn. Private giving is more important than ever. Your generous support makes it possible for Carolina to help students, faculty and staff achieve success in classrooms, research laboratories and in communities. Please consider a gift to the Chancellor’s Unrestricted Fund, which supports our highest priorities, or to the school, department or program of your choice. We’ve enclosed a gift slip, or you can give online at giving.unc.edu/gift.

Thanks for helping us sustain excellence at Carolina.

Hark the Sound!

Sincerely,

Holden Thorp
June 2012

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

In May, we completed an exciting academic year highlighted by a beautiful Commencement ceremony in Kenan Stadium. Just before classes ended, we had the rare privilege of hosting a sitting U.S. president to speak on a subject close to our hearts in Chapel Hill: keeping college affordable for students. It was a historic and exciting day on campus.

This edition of FYI also includes news about “Water in Our World,” a two-year academic theme, new generous private gifts, the opening of a new building for the School of Dentistry, next year’s incoming first-year class, and other accomplishments by students and faculty that will make you proud of Carolina.

**NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT SHINES FOR ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY**

There could have been no better location for President Barack Obama to talk about college affordability than Carolina, the place that invented public higher education. When the President came in April to discuss student loans and the value of higher education, he helped keep national attention focused on one of the University’s biggest strengths.

He noted that the average U.S. graduating senior owes about $25,000. Only **35 percent of our 2011 graduates borrowed** to finance their education. Their average cumulative debt was $15,472. Measured in constant dollars — adjusted for inflation — the **average cumulative debt for 2011 UNC graduates was $2,525 less** than the total for those who graduated over a decade ago. We want to keep these numbers low; in fact, we’ve devoted the last 200 years to making sure we have this compelling story to tell.

*At the top, graduates show their moms some love during a Mother’s Day edition of Commencement in Kenan Stadium. Above, President Barack Obama tells a Carmichael Arena audience of about 8,000 why he believes investing in higher education is important to America’s future.*
Associate Professor Rachel Noble of the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences takes water samples at a beach near Morehead City. Her research areas of interest include shellfish harvesting, water quality, marine microbial ecology and coastal and estuarine water quality.

Above, spring beauty brings out the best of the historic Carolina campus, especially when the azaleas bloom around the Old Well.

Kiplinger’s, Princeton Review Call UNC America’s #1 Best Value

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine ranked the University the top academic value in U.S. public higher education. It was the 11th time UNC has topped Kiplinger’s list since the rankings began in 1998. For years, the February edition of the magazine said, “UNC-Chapel Hill has been a leader for academic excellence, low cost and generous financial aid — exactly the criteria by which we define value.” We also were first among public campuses in The Princeton Review’s 2012 “Best Value Colleges,” based on quality academics, cost of attendance and financial aid.

‘Water In Our World’ Focus Of Two-Year Academic Theme

Our faculty include some of the world’s leading water experts. In response to our new Academic Plan, they successfully proposed devoting the next two years to “Water in Our World,” a campus-wide theme that’s fitting for a university that aspires to help solve the world’s biggest problems. By focusing on water, we want to show how the scholarship we foster in a variety of disciplines across campus helps improve people’s lives.

We hope these efforts can help lead to new breakthroughs in water research and enhance work among departments touching not just the sciences, but also the arts and humanities. We envision new courses, events and programs, film screenings, lectures, speaker series, panel discussions and performing arts pieces.

Alumni, parents and friends are invited to share ideas and suggestions. Refer to http://waterinourworld.unc.edu/.

With 2 More Luce Scholars, UNC Leads Nation With 33 Winners

Seniors Amber Koonce and Cody Poplin have become our latest Luce Scholars and will spend a year living and learning in Asia. The scholarships, awarded by the Henry Luce Foundation, provide a year in East and Southeast Asia for recent graduates. The goal is to connect future American leaders with Asian colleagues in their fields. Our campus leads the nation in the number of Luce recipients with 33 winners since 1974.
$10 Million Commitment To Benefit Art Collection, Heart Disease Research

Dr. Hugh A. “Chip” McAllister Jr. of Houston has made a $10 million commitment that will bring a collection of nearly 50 works of art to the Ackland Art Museum and expand an endowment dedicated to heart disease research at the School of Medicine. Some of the best examples available of American art and contemporary sculpture will go to the Ackland to benefit our students and the community. Valued at $5.5 million, this is the single largest gift in the museum’s history. The rest of the gift will support the groundbreaking and life-saving cardiovascular research conducted by faculty in the School of Medicine through the expansion of an endowment supporting the UNC McAllister Heart Institute. Dr. McAllister is a 1966 School of Medicine alumnus.

Record Numbers — Nearly 30,000 — Apply For Class Of 2016

Last semester, we offered admission to 7,571 outstanding first-year applicants to become next fall’s Class of 2016. The candidates were chosen from a record 29,486 applicants — an increase of 24 percent over last year. By August, we expect to enroll 3,960 students — 3,247 from North Carolina and 713 from beyond our state. Half of the North Carolina applicants were offered admission, compared with 14 percent from out of state. We’re pleased with the increasing interest that excellent high school students are showing in the University. They are accomplished in the classroom and committed to helping others.

Desimone Elected Into National Academy Of Sciences

Dr. Joseph DeSimone, Chancellor’s Eminent Professor of Chemistry, was elected into the National Academy of Sciences. Professor DeSimone is one of our most accomplished scientists and entrepreneurs, and this is another great honor for him and our Department of Chemistry. Now we have 12 faculty in the national academy, a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to advancing science and technology and their use for the public good.

Hugh A. “Chip” McAllister Jr. donated this statue, “Next Generation II,” to the Ackland Art Museum in honor of his father. Installed at the entrance to UNC Hospitals, the piece was unveiled at an April celebration of McAllister’s commitment to the museum and the School of Medicine.

More than 83 percent of the newly admitted students who reported a class rank were in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Nearly 20 percent were ranked either first or second in their class.