THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

FYI

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF CAROLINA

Carol Folt Starts New Era as 11th Chancellor

"It is deeply humbling to be the 11th chancellor of the first public university in America, with its history of excellence, its living profile of accomplishment and its immense promise."

—Chancellor Carol Folt

Carol L. Folt, former interim president of Dartmouth College and the Dartmouth Professor of Biological Sciences, took office July 1 as Carolina's 11th chancellor following her election by the UNC Board of Governors in April. She will be installed on University Day, October 12.

Folt, the first woman to lead Carolina, succeeded Holden Thorp, the new provost for Washington University in St. Louis. She is an internationally recognized environmental scientist and an award-winning teacher at Dartmouth, a member of the prestigious Ivy League.

An Akron, Ohio, native, Folt is a proud product of public higher education. Her parents were the first in their families to attend college. She worked her way through the University of California at Santa Barbara as a waitress, earning a bachelor's degree in aquatic biology in 1976. She received a master's degree in biology from UC Santa Barbara two years later and her doctorate in ecology in 1982 from the University of California at Davis. Her postdoctoral studies were at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station of Michigan State University.

Folt just completed a year as Dartmouth's interim president. Since joining the faculty in 1983, she rose steadily through the academic and administrative ranks. Praised as an inspiring teacher and innovative researcher, she was named associate director of Dartmouth's Toxic Metals Research Program in 1998, and two years later became associate director of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences. In 2001, she was appointed dean of graduate studies and associate dean of the faculty for interdisciplinary programs. She was promoted to dean of the faculty in 2004, tapped as acting provost in 2009, and named provost in 2010.

As interim president, Folt helped identify opportunities for greater collaboration across schools to enhance academic

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"Over the past three decades, Carol Folt has accumulated a wealth of academic and leadership experience at one of the top 10 universities in America. She has proven herself to be an engaged and effective leader who promotes openness and collaboration, strategic thinking and creative problem-solving, and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student success. … Carol Folt has the right mix of experience, expertise, skills and passion needed to be a truly great chancellor."

—UNC President Tom Ross

quality and competitiveness, oversaw growth in global partnerships, and augmented support for faculty, student and community entrepreneurship and technological innovation. She spearheaded a year-long celebration and focus on the arts, co-education and the future of higher education. As provost, she led the first strategic planning process, engaging hundreds of faculty, staff and students. Following the economic downturn, she co-led efforts to resolve a $100-million budget gap.

Folt's research has focused on the effects of dietary mercury and arsenic on human and ecosystem health, salmonid fisheries management and restoration, and global climate change. She and colleagues developed new technologies to assess mercury exposure and formed regional, national and international partnerships to help shape public policy for safer waters. Their recent study evaluating rice as a source of fetal arsenic exposure appeared in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. She and her team were awarded more than $50 million in competitive research grants for their work. Folt mentored more than 100 undergraduate and graduate students in her laboratory.

Folt was among the original faculty involved in Dartmouth's Women in Science Project — a first-of-its-kind program to address the under-representation of women in science, mathematics and engineering. She has held leadership posts in international scientific societies and was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Folt is married to David Peart, a fellow professor of biological sciences at Dartmouth. They have two adult children, Noah and Tessa.

Above, UNC President Tom Ross and Folt meet the media. At top left, Folt talks with search committee member Eric Montross at a campus welcome celebration. At bottom left, Folt greets two students who had meeting the chancellor on their UNC "bucket list."

At left, Folt stops to chat with graduating seniors posing for photos on a perfect spring day in Chapel Hill. At right, Folt and Search Committee Chair Wade Hargrove applaud during a campus celebration.

Carol Folt: *In Her Own Words*

On becoming chancellor …

It is the honor of a lifetime and a dream come true. I've known about Carolina for my entire career. It's one of the world's leading universities and it has an incredible reputation for the strength of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni. I love the Tar Heel spirit. I felt it the first day I walked this beautiful campus with Student Body President Will Leimenstoll and we passed the Old Well and Polk Place.

On learning about Carolina from Chancellor Search Committee members …

After answering a lot of questions, I said, "Tell me what's in your heart about this place." I learned their personal stories and about their love of learning, their deep respect for the faculty, and what it was like to sit in classrooms and to live on campus. They talked about how faculty inspire students and how staff take pride in standing shoulder to shoulder with students and faculty. Hearing that gave me a strong sense of an enduring institution ready to build on positive momentum.

On her family history …

I grew up in Akron, Ohio, as the middle of five kids in a loving, second-generation Albanian immigrant family. When my grandparents arrived at Ellis Island many years ago, I don't think that they would have ever imagined their granddaughter in the role I have today. But I do think they would have believed it was possible. That's why they came to America.

On the opportunities made possible by public higher education …

I worked my way through the University of California, Santa Barbara, as an undergraduate. What changed my life was being selected for an internship in a laboratory. I was in meetings with graduate students and faculty and they were talking about their work. They asked what experiment I wanted to conduct, and that turned on a light bulb for me. I didn't have to just learn about science. I could create new knowledge. I never looked back after that. It's the direct connection between talented faculty and bright students that is unlike any other in its ability to inspire and to change lives.

On her hopes for future UNC students …

We want students graduating from Carolina to be the leaders in creating new industries for the future. I believe with every fiber in my body that a college education really does prepare students – and our nation – for the future. We're going to make sure that our students don't simply learn what we know, but they learn how to create what will be.

On connecting with alumni …

One of my favorite parts of my job has always been working with alumni. We're lucky because so many alumni carry with them a wonderful feeling of gratitude. They want to make sure that students coming after them have the same opportunity to do what they did. We look to their support to help make that happen, and we're so grateful for what they bring back to the institution.

What They're Saying: A Sampling

"You can't have a conversation with Carol without getting excited. She just brings a level of enthusiasm that I think will be terrific for the University and for North Carolina."
—**Wade Hargrove**, Immediate Past Chair, Board of Trustees, and Chair, Chancellor Search Committee

"She has a great vision for the role of a public research university and she's got a gift of enormous personal warmth and an engaging style that we feel will resonate with faculty, students and staff and, most importantly, also with our external audiences who need to understand the power of Carolina."
—**Barbara Hyde**, Immediate Past Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, and Vice Chair, Chancellor Search Committee

"I think she invigorates our alumni base with the passion of Carolina. Fans of Carolina and alumni know what that passion is and why it exists. She's going to continue to spark more passion, and I think when people get to know her, and the more that they see her and watch the footprint that she creates for this University, they're going to be even greater believers in the place and the effect it can have not just statewide, but worldwide."
—**Eric Montross**, Member, Chancellor Search Committee, Immediate Past Chair, General Alumni Association Board of Directors, and a Tar Heel Sports Network Commentator

Your Generous Support Keeps Carolina Strong

During my career in higher education, I have developed a deep appreciation for the importance of private giving and sincere gratitude for the generous donors who provide it. Carolina is proudly public and while the State of North Carolina is our partner, private support is what makes possible a great university.

Fortunately, I have inherited a wonderful family of Carolina supporters. Thanks to you, our fund-raising numbers rank among the nation's most successful. I know your love for this place drives your generosity, and it is a love I'm quickly gaining, too. I look forward to working together to keep Carolina great and truly public.

Visit chancellor.unc.edu to view videos and read more about Dr. Folt.

As chancellor, I want to make a special appeal for gifts to our Chancellor's Unrestricted Fund. These gifts meet a critical need and allow us to seize an opportunity that emerges in our schools, departments or units across campus. Their impact stretches broadly, from making Carolina affordable for a deserving student to providing supplies for an art class. We use them when and where they are most needed.

You can make a gift to the Chancellor's Unrestricted Fund — or any area of your choice — at giving.unc.edu/gift.

Thanks for your support.

Carol L. Folt

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