



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

FYI

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL FRIENDS OF CAROLINA FROM HOLDEN THORP

May 2010

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

Spring in Chapel Hill is so special. We have the privilege of enjoying a breathtakingly beautiful campus and, at the same time, seeing the exhilaration of young people inspired to do great things. Our biggest contribution to North Carolina is sending bright, capable young people to communities across the state – and beyond – to become the **next generation of leaders**.

We just graduated another class of talented students during a gorgeous **Commencement** weekend. Inspired by our faculty, they are anxious to help start tackling the biggest problems of our time. In his remarks, author **John Grisham** compared writing to life and stressed the importance of each person finding his or her own voice. His message, impeccably delivered, was warmly received.

We recently dedicated the **Eve Carson Garden** behind the Campus Y to all students who pass away before they graduate. We also launched the **Innovation Circle** to strengthen our culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Led by **Lowry Caudill**, the Circle includes alumni and friends who are accomplished innovators. They are identifying new ways our teaching, research and service can help solve society's biggest problems.

This edition of FYI is full of more reasons why great things are happening. From earning national acclaim for public service to fighting heart disease in Eastern North Carolina, our community is serving others admirably. We continue to make progress despite the economy and your generous private support helps make these accomplishments possible.



Above, author John Grisham during his Commencement remarks in Kenan Stadium. To watch Grisham's speech, see the University's YouTube Channel, www.youtube.com/user/UNCChapelHill. Right, Carolina seniors turn their tassels.



A Carolina student enjoys spring sunshine between classes.

HIRING JUNIOR FACULTY FOCUS OF KENAN GIFT

The **William R. Kenan Charitable Trust**, led by Executive Director **Dick Krasno**, is making a \$5 million expendable gift and another donor is adding \$500,000 so we can offer competitive three-year packages to 18 **junior faculty members**. We're using 14 of those positions in the College of Arts and Sciences, two in business and one each in nursing and

education. The impact is immediate because we can use the funds now. We want these new faculty to make their careers here. Students at every level will benefit for years to come. This is creative philanthropy when we need it most.

UNDERGRADUATES TAKE MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Five undergraduates were chosen for Truman, Goldwater and Udall scholarships – among the most prestigious honors a student can win.

Christopher Sopher of Annandale, Va., and a Morehead-Cain Scholar won the Truman Scholarship for graduate studies toward a public service-related degree, bringing our total number of winners to 32.

Len Evans of Fresno, Calif., **Daven Quinn** of Concord, N.C., and a Carolina Scholars recipient, and **Sendhilnathan “Hari” Ramalingam** of Cary, N.C., won

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, given to nurture careers in math, the natural sciences or engineering. We've had 39 winners.

Michael Mian of Concord, N.C., and a Morehead-Cain Scholar won the Morris K. Udall Scholarship for academic excellence and commitment to the environment. Overall, 14 recipients have come from UNC.

RESEARCHERS TARGET HEART OF U.S. STROKE BELT

A \$10 million federal grant will help researchers at UNC and East Carolina collaborate with health-care practitioners and community leaders in **Lenoir County, N.C.**, to tackle **heart disease**, the county's leading cause of death. The project, led by UNC Professor **Alice Ammerman**, aims to better understand the causes of cardiovascular health disparities and test innovative solutions.

2 Rhodes winners extend successful decade

We've produced 45 Rhodes Scholars since the U.S. program began 106 years ago. Since 2000, we've had more winners than any other state-supported university, and the ninth most overall. Only Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Princeton have produced more winners during that span.

Two graduating seniors and **Morehead-Cain Scholars** are our latest winners. **Elizabeth “Libby” Longino** of Dallas, Texas, interned with a microcredit program in Vietnam

and helped start a group combating child prostitution in Cambodia. She double-majored in English and public policy analysis. **Henry Spelman** of Swarthmore, Pa., worked in refugee camps in Tanzania and tutored underprivileged high school students. He majored in classical languages with a minor in creative writing. We're thrilled they are both headed for Oxford.



Libby Longino



Henry Spelman

ENGINEER DEVELOPS NEW WAY TO ZAP BRAIN TUMORS

Professor **Otto Zhou**'s tiny carbon nanotubes offer new hope to patients diagnosed with brain tumors by shrinking the X-ray machine itself. Zhou has been awarded nearly \$2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding from the National Cancer Institute to apply carbon nanotube X-ray technology invented on campus to a promising experimental radiation therapy. This is a great example of innovation at Carolina. To learn more, see one.unc.edu.

MOVING BEYOND COAL IN A DECADE

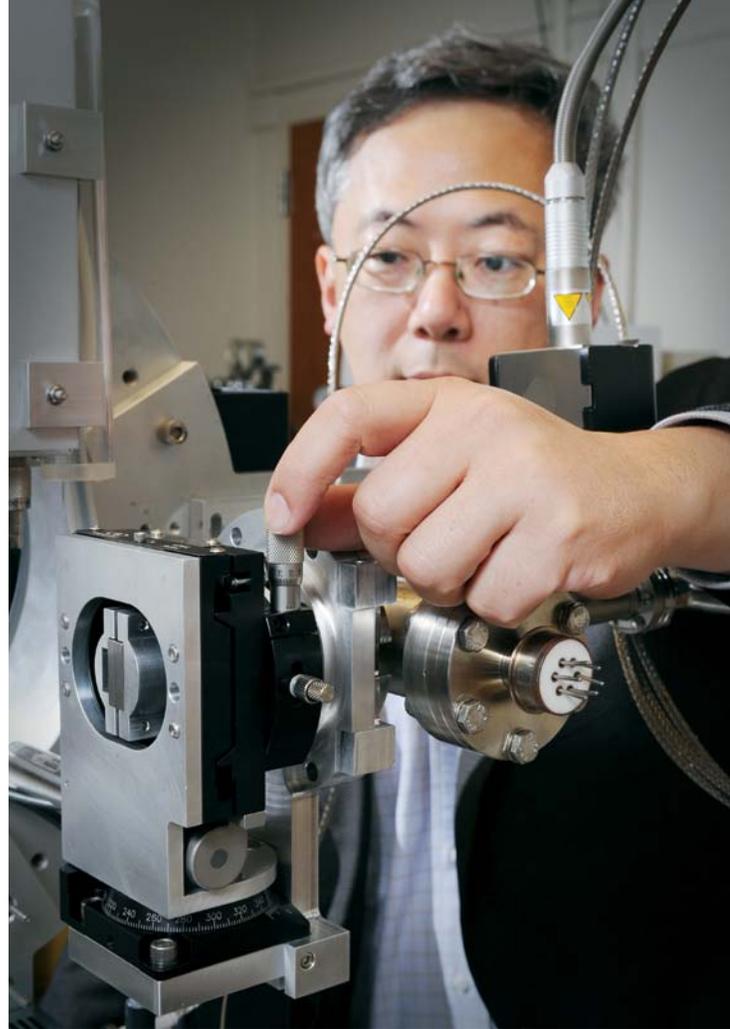
We're phasing out coal use by May 1, 2020. We agreed with the students leading a **Beyond Coal campaign** and the **Sierra Club** that we should get away from coal, but it took some big thinking to come up with a way that makes financial sense. Everyone came together on a proposal developed by our **Energy Task Force**, chaired by alumnus **Tim Toben**, who leads the UNC Institute for the Environment Board of Visitors. Our cogeneration plant has a usable life of 30 to 40 years. Building another plant that burns a different fuel doesn't make sense. Instead, we're going to burn biomass, which produces 8 percent of the greenhouse gases of coal.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED ON SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Carolina was one of six **Presidential Awardees in President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**, the highest recognition for service learning and civic engagement. Students contributed more than 1 million hours of service working with over 150 community partners. They packaged meals for people as far away as Kenya, held the dance marathon to benefit the children's hospital and went on alternative spring breaks.

MARCHIONINI LEADS INFORMATION, LIBRARY SCIENCE

Gary Marchionini started April 1 as dean of the **School of Information and Library Science**. He is the ideal person to lead our school into a new decade when information and technology have never been more important. He is president of the American Society of Information Science and Technology and has been on our faculty since 1998.



Professor Otto Zhou is applying carbon nanotube X-ray technology invented on campus to a promising experimental microbeam radiation therapy now housed in massive synchrotrons – facilities larger than Kenan Stadium. Zhou and Sha Chang, associate professor of radiation oncology, hope to be the first to deliver the same radiation dose with a desktop-size device.



UNC alumni rank 6th for becoming Peace Corps volunteers

We have moved up to sixth on the Peace Corps' top 25 list of large schools producing volunteers. Seventy-eight alumni are Peace Corps volunteers. Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams visited campus last spring and spoke to our students about opportunities to serve. Since the corps' inception, 1,092 Carolina alumni have signed up to help promote world peace and friendship in host countries around the world.

Peace Corps Volunteer Mia Chabot, a 2008 master's of public health graduate from the Gillings School of Public Health, working in the field.



A DIFFERENT SUMMER SCHOOL – MAYMESTER

The **Maymester** is a permanent part of Summer School after a trial run. Students earn a regular three-hour course credit for classes running over three weeks. We're offering 24 courses for 400 students. Students report the focus on a single theme in a compressed time challenges them to become more deeply engaged in the course. We hope to keep growing the program.

WE'RE #1 AGAIN, THANKS TO MANY

Carolina remains 1st on **Kiplinger's Personal Finance** magazine's list of schools that "deliver strong academics at affordable prices." We're called "an academic superstar that competes with the Ivies." The story says we have "one big advantage over many other public schools: strong state support for financial aid." With an overall 17 percent increase in applications for need-based aid last fall, we really needed that critical help from the General Assembly.

STATE FACES TOUGH BUDGET CHOICES FOR FISCAL 2010-11

At this writing, the **General Assembly** just convened in its short session to deal with the next fiscal year budget. In good times and bad, North Carolina has made higher education a priority. So far, we have protected the classroom and instructional units. But a significant new round of reductions could have implications for academic quality. We understand that resources are limited, and the needs of North Carolina are great. In this economy, tough choices have to be made.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS SUSTAIN EXCELLENCE AT CAROLINA

Private gifts and investment income provide critical revenue that creates Carolina's margin for excellence and makes possible the achievements highlighted in FYI. **Please consider making a gift** to the Chancellor's Unrestricted Fund, which supports our highest priorities, or to the school, program or department of your choice. A gift slip is enclosed, or you may give online at giving.unc.edu/gift.

Sincerely,

Holden Thorp

Above, spring beauty accentuates McCorkle Place. Below, faculty member Lawrence Naumoff takes his English 130 class outside on Polk Place to enjoy the fresh air.