November 2008

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

The biggest thrill of my professional career came on October 12th when I was installed as your chancellor. It was a beautiful fall day on Polk Place, with a Carolina blue sky overhead and almost 3,000 faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends seated on the quad. It also was University Day, when we celebrate the University’s founding. But I resisted the urge to talk about our past. Instead, we focused on Carolina’s future.

You can find my speech on the chancellor’s office Web site, www.unc.edu/chan. But I’ll also give you my abridged version. It goes like this: Throughout our history, our leaders have held true to a concept so bold, so audacious and so challenging—to aspire to global academic eminence while focusing our teaching and our service on North Carolina’s students and people. We’re the university of both—and: Both academic prominence and a commitment to our state.

This message has been well received, and I hope it gives you a clear sense of where I intend to help lead Carolina. I also hope that you’ll be engaged with your University. This newsletter is one way that we’ll keep you informed. I’ve also started a blog (holden.unc.edu) to chronicle what’s going on at Carolina. If there are topics you’d like to see addressed in future issues of FYI, our FYI online newsletter (sent to those for whom we have e-mail addresses), or my blog, please e-mail me at holden_thorp@unc.edu. I really want to hear from our alumni, parents and friends about how you think we’re doing.

N.C. TOUR STOPS AT HIGH SCHOOLS, UNC CAMPUSES

Although I grew up in Fayetteville and have lived in North Carolina for most of my life, I still have a lot to learn about our state. I started a state tour before the installation to demonstrate my commitment to the University’s mission of serving and engaging with North Carolina. I visited most of the other UNC campuses, attended several alumni gatherings and met with high school students who are starting to think about college. The tour included Fayetteville with stops at Fayetteville State University.
and my alma mater, Terry Sanford High School, as well as Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington, Morehead City and Elizabeth City. I plan to visit other communities in North Carolina, as well as cities across the country where we have a strong alumni base.

**Helping North Carolina seniors aspire to college**

One highlight from the state tour was meeting Pharen Bowman, a member of our Carolina Advising Corps and a graduate of our Carolina Covenant, which enables qualified low-income students to graduate debt-free. Pharen brings the message to students at two Charlotte high schools that going to college, including at UNC, is a realistic goal. She helps seniors navigate the complex college admissions process. Pharen is one of 19 advisers working in 38 North Carolina high schools through the expansion of the Carolina Advising Corps, based in our undergraduate admissions office. The goal is to encourage low-income, first-generation and under-represented students to attend college.

**‘Good Morning America’ comes to Polk Place**

I hope that some of you were among the 4 million viewers watching ABC-TV’s “Good Morning America” program that was broadcast live from Polk Place on September 20th. This stop was the only one in North Carolina for “50 Days in 50 States,” part of ABC’s election coverage. In pre-taped segments, show anchors talked with our students about current events and their dreams after graduation. During the live portion, our Pep Band, cheerleaders and Ramses showed plenty of school spirit. My scant seconds of fame provided the perfect opportunity to state the obvious: we have the world’s best students.

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**Class of 2012: By the Numbers**

We’re often asked: what’s the secret to getting into Carolina? There isn’t one. Our admissions staff reviews each candidate carefully—as individuals. They read each application at least twice and more than half three or more times. For more information, see http://www.admissions.unc.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11% increase in Asian/Asian-American enrollment. Underrepresented enrollments are flat but strong—10th among the top 30 universities.</th>
<th>1301 SAT average</th>
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<tr>
<td>18% first-generation college student</td>
<td>3,864 enrolled</td>
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<tr>
<td>79% in the top 10% of high school class</td>
<td>21,507 applied (third straight record for applications—a 5-year increase of 20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13% valedictorian/salutatorian</td>
<td>43% among the top 10 students in their class</td>
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Faculty research funding sets new record

Our faculty are more than holding their own in a tough environment for research funding. The University’s research grants and contracts in fiscal 2008 exceeded $678 million—up from $610 million last year. Awards from the National Institutes of Health topped $356 million, rising 13-plus percent. That’s significant since NIH awards have been stagnant. Although no official comparisons are available, this performance clearly ranks among the best for a public university. More important are the research results, which advance basic science, help find cures for diseases and bring new discoveries to the marketplace.

New public health school names honors Gillings, reflects global focus

In September, we officially named the School of Public Health the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health in recognition of a $50 million gift from Dennis and Joan Gillings. Their pledge, the largest single gift ever to the University, was made in 2007. Dean Barbara Rimer and her faculty are focusing on ways to anticipate and accelerate solutions to the public health needs of this century. The Gillings understand the potential that we have to solve the great problems of our time. Their investment in the University will produce great results for North Carolina and the world.

Rimer, Pisano elected to Institute of Medicine

Dean Rimer joined another distinguished faculty member, Etta Pisano, in earning election to the Institute of Medicine, one of the highest honors for researchers in health and medicine. Rimer and Pisano, vice dean for academic affairs in the School of Medicine, were among the 65 new members selected to join the institute, part of the National Academy of Sciences. Members serve on institute committees that conduct a broad range of studies on health policy issues. Now 19 institute members have Carolina faculty ties.

Tar Heels’ overall graduation rates top national average

Carolina exceeded the national average in all but one of 22 sports and equaled it in the other in the NCAA’s latest graduation success rate report. Our overall graduation rate was 88 percent for students who enrolled in 2001. That was nine points above the national average. We posted an 85 percent rate—seven points over the national average—for the incoming classes between 1998 and 2001. Athletics Director Dick Baddour and I are pleased with these results and proud of our student-athletes. Our sights are on even better results in future reports.

Polymer expert Joseph DeSimone holds a drum of his PRINT(r) molds, which can manufacture highly customizable and controllable nanobiomaterials for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. DeSimone is among the Carolina faculty researchers who are successful in bringing new discoveries to the commercial marketplace.
Making Carolina the best place to teach, learn and discover

Strengthening Carolina is the goal of a broad discussion under way among the University community. Board of Trustees Chair Roger Perry and I asked Student Body President and Trustee J.J. Raynor and Trustee John Ellison to develop recommendations about ways to make Carolina an even stronger institution than it is today. They’ve been working hard to seek input and find consensus on those big ideas. They convened a campus forum in October, have met with many groups and individuals and will report back to us next spring. To learn more, see http://bestcarolina.unc.edu, which includes an online form to submit your thoughts.

State cuts appropriations by 4% in wake of global financial crisis

At this writing, the State Budget Office has cut appropriations in our fiscal 2008-09 budget twice by a total of four percent. These cuts, which affect all state agencies, involve one-time (instead of annual) funding. Given the global financial crisis and uncertainty surrounding the state’s revenues, it’s difficult to predict the final impact on our campus budget. We’re closely examining everything we do to make good choices about our response to the cuts and to position the University for the eventual economic recovery. We’re grateful for the strong support of our legislators in recent budgets and understand the challenges they’ll face during this downturn. State support as a total percentage of our budget has held fairly steady over the past several years—most recently 24 percent before the cuts.

Your support helps strengthen academic excellence at Carolina

We can use your help as we look ahead to 2009. Your generosity to an area of the University that means the most to you can have a significant impact on the academic experience at Carolina. It will help the University compete for the very best students and faculty. It will perpetuate the Carolina tradition that is a source of pride for our alumni and friends. Please consider making a gift using the enclosed gift form or visit http://giving.unc.edu. Thanks for your support!

With best holiday wishes,

Holden Thorp