Message from the Chief International Officer

Dear Friends and Fellow Carolina Supporters,

Greetings! It is a pleasure to update you on the exciting global directions and news at Carolina.

This academic year is off to a thrilling start—I’m sure you’ve heard that UNC’s Aziz Sancar, the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics in the School of Medicine, has been awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Sancar’s incredibly important work mapping the cellular mechanisms that underlie DNA repair will be recognized on a global stage. We are especially proud because Sancar has been part of UNC for over 30 years, and his work was done on campus. He is now UNC’s second Nobel Laureate, along with Oliver Smithies, who earned the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2007.

Internationally recognized work by great thinkers such as Sancar and Smithies are only the tip of the iceberg of regular achievements on campus. In August, Chancellor Folt had the honor of introducing world-renowned physicist Stephen Hawking at a public lecture in Stockholm, Sweden. Hawking was participating in a conference initiated by UNC Associate Professor Laura Mersini-Houghton that brought together some of the best minds in theoretical physics. It was a thrill to see them at work, and I will never forget going with Hawking and Mersini-Houghton to meet the King of Sweden!

In early October, we learned that UNC is 27th among the world’s top 750 research universities in the 2015 U.S. News and World Report Best Global Universities ranking. This external measure is just one gauge of how we’re increasingly fulfilling our intention to be a leading global public research university—and this report is filled with accomplishments in other areas as well.

Our board members have been instrumental in helping Carolina shape and articulate our global identity. As we discussed last April, Chancellor Folt is making globalization a central pillar of the University’s key priorities and next development campaign. Thus, we have realigned the UNC Global Development office with the Office of the Provost and Office of University Development. UNC Global continues to benefit from strong roots in the College of Arts and Sciences, and we’re grateful for how the College supports international activity across campus.

The transition of UNC Global Development became effective July 1, marking a new stage in our pan-university goals. To this end, the focus of our next meeting will be developing our plan to refine the scope and participation of the Global Advisory Board as we enter the University’s capital campaign.

Thank you for your continuing leadership and support, and I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Best wishes,

Ronald Strauss
Executive Vice Provost
Chief International Officer
White House Recognizes Scholars’ Latino Initiative

The Scholars’ Latino Initiative (SLI) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been named a “Bright Spot in Hispanic Education” by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. SLI was selected for its college access work supporting Latino students in high schools across North Carolina.

Global Metrics Update

27th among world research universities and 22nd among U.S. universities according to the U.S. News and World Report Best Global Universities ranking 2016.

UNC ranks 39th among global universities and 29th among U.S. universities, according to the 2015 Academic Rankings of World Universities produced by the Center for World Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. In the same rankings:

- 13th for clinical medicine and pharmacy
- 21st for social sciences
- 22nd in life and agriculture sciences
- 33rd for economics/business
- 39th for computer science
- 51-75th for chemistry
- 51-75th for mathematics

63rd worldwide and 29th among U.S. universities according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2015-2016.

9th among leading private and public research universities for federal research and development expenditures in all fields ($606.35 million in 2012).

16th among public research institutions for the number of faculty members inducted into National Academies (updated 2014).

15th in Peace Corps enrollment in large schools category.

1,676 international students and 235 non-degree/exchange students from more than 100 countries (2014) and 1,411 international scholars from more than 70 countries (2013-2014).

30% of undergraduate students study abroad in more than 70 nations – from Fall 2013 through Summer 2014, 1,354 undergraduates studied abroad.

10th among public universities in Fulbright Student Awards, with 19 new awards this year.

Strategies for Globalizing Carolina

1. Recruit and retain a global faculty and student body
2. Strengthen our research capacity
3. Build strong, enduring partnerships
4. Build our on-campus capacity to support globalization
Thirty-two of the world’s leading physicists gathered at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm in late August for the Hawking Radiation Conference to tackle a central challenge in theoretical physics—the information loss paradox.

Stephen Hawking, emeritus Lucasian Professor and Dennis Stanton Avery and Sally Tsui Wong-Avery Director of Research in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge, participated in the conference and delivered a public lecture. Chancellor Carol L. Folt provided opening remarks.

A highlight of the conference was Hawking’s announcement of a possible new solution to the paradox.

Einstein’s theory of gravity predicts the loss of physical information in the formation of black holes, however, a fundamental law of quantum theory states that no information about the physical state of anything can disappear from the universe.

Hawking speculated that information lost in a black hole doesn’t disappear entirely but is instead stored on the edges of the black hole in a place called the event horizon. A symmetry of space-time outside the black hole, known as a “supertranslation,” passes that information from the horizon to a far-away observer like a traveling ripple.

The field of theoretical physics has changed significantly since Hawking and his contemporaries helped define it four decades ago. Laura Mersini-Houghton, the conference organizer and associate professor of theoretical physics in the College of Arts and Sciences, wanted to bring them together for a lengthy, in-person discussion to ignite new ideas and to ensure work in the field is passed on to the next generation of physicists.

“It was very important that when that group of people passes the torch to the next generation, the story of Hawking Radiation and black holes and information loss is absolutely clear,” Mersini-Houghton said.

The conference and lecture were co-sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill; the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics (Nordita), co-hosted by KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University; the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge; and The Julian Schwinger Foundation.

Global Partnership Awards Support International Activity

The Global Partnership Awards help UNC faculty, staff, and students develop partnerships with international institutions, with preference given to proposals that include designated UNC strategic or emerging partners. Support is made possible through the Chancellor’s Global Education Fund, the only pan-university fund supporting international activity. Each year, $20,000 is available for awards between $500 and $3,000, generally for travel support. Because of the awards, faculty, staff, and students from schools across campus have deepened relations with a range of institutions, from the National University of Singapore to the Tidziwe Center at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Malawi.

Anna Jalowska, a doctoral student in marine sciences, was supported by a Global Partnership Award to conduct research and participate in an Amazon workshop while extending collaborations with Universidade Federal do Pará in Brazil.

David Steeb (right), director of global engagement for the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, visited Moldova to strengthen collaborations with The State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu.”
Carolina Scientist Aziz Sancar Awarded Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Aziz Sancar, a biochemist who has mapped part of the DNA repair system in cancer cells, has been honored this year with the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm announced Oct. 7.

Sancar, the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor Biochemistry and Biophysics at the UNC School of Medicine, has been a professor at UNC since 1982. He earned the award for his work on mapping the cellular mechanisms that underlie DNA repair, a constant process necessitated by forces outside the body such as ultraviolet radiation. Sancar mapped nucleotide excision repair, which is vital to UV damage to DNA. When this repair system is defective, people exposed to sunlight develop skin cancer.

Sancar's work dates back to 1974, when he was a graduate student at the University of Texas at Dallas. The most recent work was accomplished earlier this year when his team created a DNA repair map of the entire human genome.

Sancar shares this award with two others: Tomas Lindahl of the Francis Crick Institute and Clare Hall Laboratory in Great Britain, and Paul Modrich of Duke University School of Medicine and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

UNC Launches New Theme, ‘Food for All: Local and Global Perspectives’

UNC-Chapel Hill is examining food and food studies as its 2015-2017 university-wide academic theme. “Food for All: Local and Global Perspectives,” which builds on Carolina’s 2012-2015 “Water in Our World” theme, will challenge all areas of the University to examine wide-ranging topics from food cultures and nutrition to food security, agricultural economics, resource management, sustainable development, climate change, and international trade.

UNC-Chapel Hill’s Global Research Institute proposed the theme, which coincides with its own individual exploration of the topic as the third in its continuing series established in 2009. With each new theme the institute recruits a group of expert fellows to campus, providing faculty, students, and staff the opportunity to creatively engage with some of the world’s leading scholars on the topic.

“We chose this theme, in part, because of the important role that food has played in our local community and region,” said Peter Coclanis, director of the Global Research Institute. “Food is very much at the heart of cultures worldwide.”

The campus theme steering committee is led by co-chairs Alice Ammerman and Marcie Cohen Ferris. Ammerman is a professor in the Department of Nutrition in the Gillings School of Global Public Health and director of the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Ferris, a professor in the Department of American Studies and coordinator for the department’s Southern Studies Program, has taught and conducted research on both food in American culture and the foodways and material culture of the American South.
Inbound and Outbound Visits

VISITING DELEGATIONS

Fall 2015 (Scheduled):

▶ KING’S COLLEGE LONDON (ENGLAND)
  - Anthony Currie, sports and wellbeing manager, participated in a staff development program in areas of athletics, recreation, student wellness, and health services.

▶ NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
  - Felicia Lum Jia Yan, assistant manager in the Office of Student Affairs, participated in a staff development program in areas of student organizations, student activities, and community engagement/service learning programs.

▶ UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN (GERMANY)
  - President Bernd Engler led a delegation of ten faculty and staff members to explore research collaborations in geosciences, oncology, drug discovery, biology, and the humanities as part of Tübingen’s World Research Tour.

From left to right: UNC International Liaison Officer Melissa McMurray and Tübingen delegation members Nici Sauer, Gerd Jürgens, Frauke Berndt, Christian Zwiener. Photo by Celia Carnes.

▶ UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (ENGLAND)
  - Nicola Brewer, vice provost international, and Jonathan Wolff, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, met with UNC’s global and area studies centers and the Global Research Institute to learn about UNC’s approach to area studies as UCL establishes an Institute for Advanced Study and associated area centers.

▶ PEACE CORPS
  - Carrie Hessler-Radelet, director of the Peace Corps, is visiting North Carolina to meet with congressman, businesses, organizations, and universities to promote the Peace Corps and meet with Peace Corps alumni.

Spring and Summer 2015:

▶ KING’S COLLEGE LONDON (ENGLAND)
  - Chris Payne, head of King’s USA Office, discussed the development of a strategy for the UNC-King’s partnership and also held information sessions for students about exchange programs at King’s and about graduate study in the United Kingdom.
  - Oliver Trumble, senior strategy officer (Americas) in King’s Global Engagement, visited to become better oriented with UNC and meet with faculty engaged with the King’s partnership.
  - Orkideh Behrouzan and faculty from the Department of Social Science, Health, and Medicine participated in a workshop with graduate students and explored collaborations with UNC Department of Social Medicine.

▶ NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
  - Aileen Bong, deputy director of NUS’ International Relations Office, visited to discuss the UNC-NUS partnership.

▶ MONASH UNIVERSITY (AUSTRALIA) AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (ENGLAND)
  - Bill Charman, dean of Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Duncan Craig, director of the UCL School of Pharmacy, brought faculty delegations to explore research collaborations with the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and to formally announce the PharmAlliance.

▶ CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA IN ATLANTA
  - Canadian Consul General Louise Blais, accompanied by Political and Economic Relations Officer Ash Miller, spoke to an undergraduate international relations course.
NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE COMMEMORATION

A series of events took place to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Namibian independence. Participants included Lana Gray, counselor at the Embassy of Namibia; Gwen Lister, journalist and founder of The Namibian newspaper; and UNC alumni active in Namibia solidarity work, such as Cassandra Butts ’87, the U.S. ambassador-designate to the Bahamas.

AMBASSADOR VISITS

Anne Anderson, ambassador of Ireland to the U.S., participated in the Ambassadors Forum.

OTHER DELEGATIONS

UNC Global organized visits or supported UNC units hosting visitors from James Cook University (Australia), Monash University (Australia), University of New South Wales (Australia), Fundación Educacional Oportunidad de Chile, École des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique (France), the British Consulate General in Atlanta, Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeswara University (India), Jamia Millia Islamia (India), International Christian University (Japan), Jönköping University (Sweden), Mid Sweden University, St. Augustine University (Tanzania), and Mahidol University International College (Thailand).

U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

UNC Global also hosted four groups sponsored by U.S. government programs: from Kyrgyzstan on science and technology, with emphasis on increasing the participation of women; from Azerbaijan on curriculum design and evaluation; from Japan on teaching in innovation and entrepreneurship; and from Malaysia on relation legal issues in labor and employment.

OUTBOUND DELEGATIONS

Fall 2015 (scheduled):

Singapore, Aug.: Associate Dean Bob Miles, Study Abroad Office; Director of Undergraduate Studies Jonathan Weiler, Curriculum in Global Studies
Partner visit: National University of Singapore

Sweden (Stockholm), Aug.: Chancellor Folt; Vice Chancellor for Development David Rouch; Chief International Officer and Executive Vice Provost Ron Strauss; Senior Associate Dean Kevin Guskiewicz, College of Arts and Sciences; Director of Global Relations Katie Bowler-Young; staff from Global Relations and Communications and Public Affairs
Hawking Radiation Conference and partner visit to Karolinska Institutet

England (Oxford), Aug.: Dean Bob Blouin and faculty, Eshelman School of Pharmacy
Partner visit: University of Oxford (and consortium members University of Toronto and the State University of Campinas)

EAIE Conference (Glasgow, Scotland), Sept.:
International Liaison Officer Melissa McMurray, Global Relations; Emily Marlton, Study Abroad Office
Partner visits: University of Glasgow, Glasgow School of Art, University of Aberdeen

Brazíl (Bauru), Sept.: Chief International Officer and Executive Vice Provost Ron Strauss
Partner visit: Universidade de São Paulo–Bauru

Germany (Dusseldorf) and England (London):
Dean Bob Blouin and Associate Dean Dhiren Thakker, Eshelman School of Pharmacy
Partner visits: Monash University and University College London

China (Wuhan), Oct.: Dean Gary Marchionini and faculty, School of Information and Library Science
Partner visit: Wuhan University

England (London), Nov.: Associate Dean Bob Miles, Study Abroad Office; Director of Global Relations Katie Bowler-Young; Interim Dean Donna Havens and Associate Dean for Academics Gwen Sherwood, School of Nursing; Martha Carlough, School of Medicine; Chair Mike Emch, Department of Geography
Partner visit: King’s College London

France (Grenoble), Dec.: Associate Dean Bob Miles, Study Abroad Office
Partner visit: University of Grenoble

Spring/Summer 2015:

Chile (Santiago), Jan.: Senior Associate Dean Jonathan Hartlyn, College of Arts and Sciences
Partner visit: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Australia (Melbourne), Jan.: Dean Bob Blouin and Associate Dean Dhiren Thakker, Eshelman School of Pharmacy
Partner visits: Monash University and University College London

South Korea (Seoul/Ulsan), Jan.–Feb.: Associate Dean Bob Miles and Asia Programs Director Lindsay Heiser, Study Abroad Office
Partner visits: Korea University, Seoul National University, Yonsei University, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology
When Krista McGuire ’16 decided to study abroad at the University of Wollongong in Australia, what she didn’t expect to encounter was a lack of knowledge regarding African-Americans and stereotypes or phrases that carry negative connotations in the United States. “As an African-American student in Australia, I had this odd experience of being a ‘super minority.’ Not only was I American, but I was African-American,” McGuire says. “More than once people informed me I was the first African-American they had ever met.”

After several interactions with her Australian classmates in which race played a key factor – students assumed McGuire could rap, twerk, braid hair, run fast – what hit home the hardest for McGuire was the casual use of the n-word around the dorm, leading her to express long pent-up feelings of hurt and frustration in a blog post that eventually circulated throughout the dorm and to some of her professors and college administrators.

McGuire’s words launched an important discussion among her classmates about the differences between Australian and American education and perspectives. “Basically, what I didn’t realize was that Aussies aren’t taught extensive American history. I asked [a fellow dorm resident] if he knew about the Civil Rights Movement. He didn’t,” McGuire says. “It was then that I realized the only real exposure to African-Americans that most Aussies had was through the media, through music and television.”

Once those channels of communication and understanding were opened, McGuire says she was no longer upset by her classmates’ comments. “I understood that there was no harm intended,” she says.

McGuire’s study abroad experience illustrates the importance of diversity in all forms – racial, ethnic, socio-economic, gender – in the realm of international education.

The Center for Global Initiatives is spearheading an effort to open access to international education opportunities for students from underrepresented backgrounds.
GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awarded $2.3M to the Two Blades Foundation (2Blades), a charitable organization that supports the development of durable disease resistance in crop plants and their deployment in agriculture. Four research teams will investigate plant immunity in the U.S. and Europe, including one led by UNC biologist Jeff Dangl.

- With support from private gifts, the College of Arts and Sciences provided $811,330 in scholarships, fellowships, and program support to 182 students pursuing semester and summer programs in Spring, Summer, and Fall 2015 and students pursuing yearlong programs for the 2015-16 academic year.

- UNC and global research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare company GSK announced a novel partnership to accelerate the search for an HIV cure. The public-private partnership will redefine the way of conducting research and create a new model to seek breakthroughs.

- UNC orthopedist Tim Taft served as medical director of the Special Olympics USA Team this summer, overseeing a medical staff charged with ensuring 344 Special Olympians could perform at their peak throughout the nine-day event in 25 sports against athletes from 177 countries.

- Excavations directed by College of Arts and Sciences' Professor Jodi Magness during summer 2015 revealed stunning new mosaics that decorated the floor of the Late Roman (fifth-century) synagogue in the ancient Jewish village of Huqoq. The Huqoq excavations, in Israel's Lower Galilee, are co-directed by Shua Kislevitz of the Israel Antiquities Authority. Work has continued each summer since 2012, when the mosaics were first discovered at the site.

- UNC HIV/AIDS researcher Myron Cohen announced groundbreaking research at the International AIDS Society Conference in Vancouver in July, demonstrating that potent drug cocktails can disable HIV to the point that the deadly virus can’t be transmitted to other people through sexual activity.

- The Water Institute at UNC developed the WaSH Performance Index, an evaluation tool that provides world leaders with comparative information about water and sanitation across countries. The index revealed that El Salvador, Niger, and Pakistan are performing better in improving water and sanitation than industrial giants like Russia and Brazil.

- Nine former and current UNC-Chapel Hill women's soccer players competed in the 2015 FIFA World Cup in Canada, representing the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, and England. Six UNC players brought home a world title for the U.S.: Lori Chalupny, Whitney Engen, Ashlyn Harris, Meghan Klingenberg, Tobin Heath, and Heather O'Reilly.

- UNC alumna Helene Cooper was on The New York Times team awarded the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for the newspaper's coverage of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

- Barry Popkin, W. R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Nutrition, was presented the Chinese government’s inaugural award for significant foreign contributions to nutrition, honoring Popkin’s long-term research and policy work on nutrition and non-communicable disease in China.

- Andy Reynolds, associate professor of political science, received international attention for his research with the LGBT Representation and Rights Research Initiative that anticipated and explained the 2015 election of 32 out lesbian, gay, and bisexual MPs (4.9% of the House of Commons) in the United Kingdom, leading to the highest proportion of LGBT representatives of any national government worldwide.

UNC Global hosted its second naturalization ceremony in conjunction with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Thirty-eight immigrants representing 24 countries of origin participated in the ceremony in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium in May 2015.