



Recruitment down to a science

Few stories typify more direct successes in higher education than that of doctoral student Chia-Chi (pronounced “Zha-zhee”) Chuang. Meeting challenges such as how to create opportunity for tomorrow’s leaders, improve America’s global position and conduct meaningful, high-profile research that resonates across borders is what graduate education at UNCG is all about.

Chia-Chi comes from a rural area of Taiwan called Yilan county. With a father who drives trucks and a mother who manages the home, her family is by most standards, poor. She is the first to attend college. Now pursuing her doctorate in nutrition, Chia-Chi represents a segment of the population that is not growing fast enough in the US... women in science. With women representing a scant 25 percent of the science and engineering workforce, we need students like her who are driven to solve the pressing issues facing society. For Chia-Chi, it’s discovering what causes metabolic syndrome and related disorders like diabetes.

“My parents gave me the freedom to choose anything I wanted to do as long as I could find my way. UNCG has helped me do that,” says Chia-Chi, who completed her master’s degree in toxicology with a perfect 4.0 at the top-ranked university in Taiwan.

“Developing our intellectual talent pool is a vital initiative for UNCG and the public we serve. Graduate school, in particular, is where students and faculty come together to pursue discovery and solve complex problems facing society. In order to bring highly skilled scholars to our campus, competitive graduate scholarships are a must.” — Provost David H. Perrin

Students First Campaign Passes \$90 Million

The Students First Campaign is closing in on its \$100 million goal, with less than \$9 million to go.

January’s results showed the fund drive total at \$91,490,784. Cash gifts totaled \$48.9 million; pledges, \$7.9 million; and planned gifts, \$34.7 million. The campaign’s major imperatives are undergraduate and graduate scholarships, academic programs and professorships – and the totals can be seen, right, under “Success.”

“Our campaign has achieved amazing results and we are at a crucial point in our efforts,” said Dr. Patricia W. Stewart, vice chancellor for University Advancement. “So many dedicated people have helped to bring the Student First Campaign to this point.

“With Chancellor Sullivan’s retirement announcement, my hope is that we will reach and exceed the \$100 million goal before the end of June. There’s a lot of work to be done yet to make that happen, but our donors have supported the university and I know they want us to succeed.”

As of Jan. 31, campaign donors had created:

- 10 new professorships
- 151 new undergraduate scholarships
- 33 new graduate scholarships
- 137 student awards program endowments

More information is available at the campaign website: donate.uncg.edu.

Getting here from there

What brought Chia-Chi all the way across the globe to UNCG? A major factor was the Charles Hayes Graduate Fellowship. Established by the UNCG Excellence Foundation, the fellowship honors the late Chuck Hayes, a passionate supporter of the university. Through the \$10,000 annual award, Chia-Chi knows the university values her goal of becoming a nutrition scientist.

But it was faculty member and obesity researcher Dr. Michael McIntosh who initially captured Chia-Chi’s attention. As a part of her own research, she had read about his work in the Journal of Endocrinology and Nutrition. “It was his good research published in important journals that brought my attention to UNCG. I needed to know about his work because it is similar to mine. Actually, most of the research cited in my thesis was based on what he has discovered,” says Chia-Chi. Her paper was eventually published in one of the same highly visible, peer-reviewed journals.

Chia-Chi, who had considered the University of Massachusetts and University of Wisconsin-Madison was ultimately won over by UNCG. “It was very important that I have financial support as well as the opportunity to work with someone like Dr. McIntosh. The Hayes Fellowship and Dr. McIntosh’s response to my emails made UNCG my first choice.”

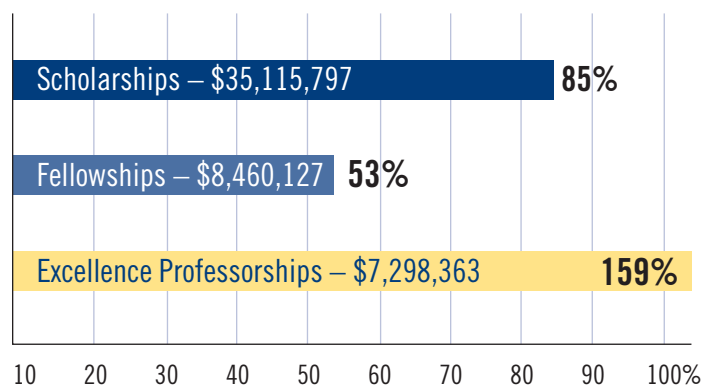
How to be like Mike

Mike McIntosh is the Lucy Spinks Kecker Excellence Professor of Nutrition. Provost David H. Perrin says Chia-Chi’s story clearly demonstrates why it is critical to recruit and reward professors who are leaders in their fields with distinguished professorships. “Mike is an outstanding professor conducting research that gains international recognition. He partners with his students and gives them important roles in the lab so that they can, in turn, develop their own meaningful discoveries. Attracting and retaining professors like Mike brings a whole host of positive outcomes.”

McIntosh, who describes Chia-Chi as “an extremely bright, enthusiastic and energetic graduate student,” says she has already made an important discovery since coming to UNCG. She’s found that grape powder prevents inflammatory gene expression caused by the saturated fatty acid palmitate in human fat cells. In effect, her data suggests there may indeed be validity behind the “French Paradox”—the observation that the French suffer relatively low incidence of coronary heart disease despite having a diet relatively rich in saturated fats.

It looks like we should have that glass of red wine with dinner after all. Cheers to Chia-Chi and UNCG!

Percent to Goal



Momentum for change

I typically consider myself a person who welcomes change. But ever since Chancellor Sullivan announced her impending retirement, my feet are dragging. I know many of you feel the same; you just don’t want to let her go.

Taking the helm of a university is both a great privilege and a great challenge. One’s leadership style and executive decisions can tip the scales of opportunity and progress in one direction or another. With Pat Sullivan at the helm, UNCG has undergone a resoundingly positive evolution. Her legacy has created what writer Malcolm Gladwell might consider a “tipping point” for UNCG — “the level at which the momentum for change becomes unstoppable.”

Pat’s leadership will undoubtedly endure, carrying us forward to successfully navigate the challenges and opportunities to come.

Members of the UNCG family have, time and again, identified a number of universal themes to define the chancellor’s contributions. Many of these sentiments were echoed at recent public forums held to support the search for our next chancellor. They said she’s “fostered an atmosphere of collegiality and put a sense of pride in our back pockets.” They are “grateful for the positive morale she’s instilled.” Countless times, she was praised for “having a strong ethical core” and “inviting us each to take part in building the UNCG of today and of tomorrow.”

Yet another commented, “She’s seen us through the transition and now we are poised.”

Take a look at some of the university’s most notable achievements in Pat’s time (right), and you’ll see that her tenure has been marked by both inspiration and meaningful change. Now that’s the impact of one.

While it is certainly true that UNCG’s increasing success is the result of many people, Pat has been the one to rally us all together. She’s demonstrated a keen ability to see the university from the perspective of individuals ... one student, one professor, one donor at a time. We’ve felt listened to, inspired and empowered to make our own impact through and for this wonderful university. And that’s the power of many.

Although we now cannot imagine UNCG without Pat Sullivan, she imagined this UNCG years ago. She has dedicated her life to making this a place where great people make great things happen. Her integrity, steady passion and tireless service have been a daily inspiration to me. I know many of you feel the same.

Best wishes,
Dr. Patricia W. Stewart
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

INSPIRE . CHANGE .

Patricia Sullivan has done it all as our chancellor

Opportunities for an exceptional undergraduate experience.
(Lloyd International Honors College, Communication Across the Curriculum, internships and research assistantships, new learning communities, the Freshman Seminars program, greater academic support services, and more study abroad destinations.)

Remarkable growth of graduate programs (currently 25 PhD programs) and **the university’s research enterprise**, which recently earned the Carnegie Foundation’s “high research activity” designation.

Unprecedented success in private fund-raising.

Collaborative partnerships with NC A&T to establish the Gateway University Research Park and the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering.

Cross-campus collaboration among faculty and staff who work together to advance the well-being of UNCG and of the public we serve.

Gift Highlights



Varner Scholarship

Jacqueline Varner was devoted to her job as an elementary school teacher and loved teaching little children.

A major scholarship endowment for elementary education students has been created at UNCG through an estate gift of more than \$1.8 million from the late Jack H. Varner, who died in 2006. The gift increases

the Jacqueline W. and Jack H. Varner Endowment Fund.

The fund was started in 1999 in memory of his late wife, Jacqueline Wallace Varner, who died in 1998. It will provide scholarships to students who want to become elementary teachers. Awards will be made primarily on academic achievement, and financial need can also be considered. Both enrolled students and incoming freshmen can receive the Varner Scholarships.

“From what I’ve heard about Jacqueline Varner, she was a great teacher and a person who inspired others,” said Dr. Dale Schunk, dean of the School of Education. “This scholarship fund is a fitting memorial to her. Here at UNCG, it will have a positive effect on the students who graduate to provide more and better teachers for the state of North Carolina.”

A 1958 graduate of Woman’s College (now UNCG), Jacqueline Varner spent her entire career teaching in Guilford County, first at Wiley Elementary School (1956-65) and at Alamance Elementary School (1966-85). A medical condition forced her to retire in 1985, but her devotion to teaching was recognized when she received the Principal’s Award for Excellence in Education that year. Jack Varner was a success story with Burlington Industries, starting out in the mailroom following his discharge from the U.S. Army and working his way up into management in the engineering department. He also was a past chief of the Alamance Volunteer Fire Department.

Cone Health System Endows Professorship

The Moses Cone Health System is endowing a distinguished professorship in nursing at UNCG with a \$333,000 gift. UNCG will apply to the state’s Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund for matching funds to bring the total endowment to \$500,000.

“This endowment will help us recruit a senior professor for the nursing school, which is tough because there’s a severe shortage of nursing faculty,” said Dr. Virginia Karb, associate dean of the nursing school. “It’s a real

challenge to recruit and keep faculty.”

The Cone Distinguished Professor will work with undergraduate nursing students in UNCG’s pre-licensure program. A 2006 survey found at least 637 open faculty positions nationally at schools offering BSN and graduate nursing degrees, a vacancy rate estimated at nearly 8 percent. In addition, the increasing average age of the nation’s nursing faculty means a large number of nursing professors are nearing retirement.

The new professorship will add to a lengthy relationship. Cone support helped create a nursing program at UNCG that led to the founding of the School of Nursing in 1967. Further collaborations have included the school’s first clinical partnership and its first joint research endeavor. The partnership continues with the Moses Cone Scholars program.

“The community is fortunate to have this strong partnership,” said Joan Wessman, Cone’s chief nursing officer.

Ring the BELL for Entrepreneurship

Donors are helping UNCG students gain real world exposure in the startup and operation of for-profit and not-for-profit businesses through a new program, Building Entrepreneurial Learning for Life.

Pat Roos Cross (BA ’68, MEd ’86) and Pete Cross, a Greensboro couple, have made a \$100,000 gift to establish an entrepreneurial learning fund. It will provide faculty support; stipends for students to design, create and develop their projects under faculty guidance, and support for entrepreneurial-related forums that involve students, faculty and the community.

The Bank of Oak Ridge has given \$20,000 to create a micro-loan fund for the class “Commercialize Your Passion: Becoming a Campus CEO.” Students are drawing on that seed money this semester.

BELL was started at UNCG to help North Carolina entrepreneurship expand. Its classes and programs are designed to shape a culture of creative confidence, competence and courage that weaves entrepreneurship into the fabric of the campus. The focus incorporates business, social, civic, cultural and academic pursuits.

“Innovative funds like these help students discover new ways of looking at their academic majors, at career preparation, and ultimately how they will fit into the working world,” said Dr. Rosemary Wander, associate provost for research and public/private sector partnerships. “While we know that not everyone is destined to be an entrepreneur, we do believe that exposing our students to entrepreneurial concepts is one of the best things we can do for them.”

Success!

Period ending
August 31, 2007

Student support, \$66.26 million

Goal includes \$57.3 million for undergraduate and graduate scholarships, \$3.8 million for international education, and \$1.15 million for the Communication Across the Curriculum program

Total to Date: \$49,374,729

Attracting and retaining excellent faculty, \$10.14 million

Goal includes \$4.6 million for Excellence Professorships, \$2.84 million for faculty development, \$1.7 million for Jackson Library, and \$1 million for guest artists and lectures

Total to Date: \$9,907,746

Building an exceptional learning environment, \$16.1 million

Goal includes \$7.4 million for academic program support, \$2.5 million for the Aycock Auditorium renovation, \$3.2 million for the Science Building equipment fund, \$1 million for the Chancellor’s New Venture Fund, \$1 million for the Weatherspoon Art Museum and \$1 million for the Alumni House renovation.

Total to Date: \$25,564,438

Research and service support, \$7.5 million

Goal includes \$2 million for the Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships; \$1 million each to support the Center for Women’s Health and Wellness, the Center for Business and Economic Research, the Center for Information Technology Management, and community service internships and service-learning programs; and \$500,000 each for the Center for Biotechnology, Genomics and Health Research, the Center for New North Carolinians, and School of Nursing service-learning initiatives.

Total to Date: \$3,621,728

Other Restricted Gifts

Total to Date: \$3,022,141

Grand Total: \$91,490,784