

**PRESIDENT ROSS' REPORT**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

**September 14, 2012**

President Ross referred to the University's strategic planning and the UNC Health Care System's strategic outlook presentations from the previous day's policy discussions. The presentations brought into sharper focus the University's strategic planning for the future. President Ross recognized Mr. Kevin FitzGerald, who joined General Administration earlier this month as Chief of Staff. Mr. FitzGerald had most recently served as Chief of Staff to Dr. William Roper at the UNC Health Care System. Since 2007, Mr. FitzGerald had been an adjunct faculty member at the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill. He graduated from the College of Holy Cross in Massachusetts and received his master's degree in Public Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill.

President Ross commented on The Chancellors' Cup Golf Tournament sponsored by the UNC Staff Assembly benefiting the Janet B. Royster Memorial Staff Scholarship Fund that was held on June 15 at the Lonnie Pool Golf Course at North Carolina State University. The event was a huge success. Members of the Board, President Ross, and some of our Chancellors participated in the event. President Ross thanked Mr. Chuck Brink, Chair of the Staff Assembly, and his colleagues for making the event a success.

Recognizing some national college ratings that were recently published, President Ross announced that the *U.S. News & World Report* showcased five of our campuses in its ranking of the "Best Colleges 2013: Top National Universities." They included East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, and UNC Charlotte. Appalachian State University and UNC Wilmington were ranked among the top regional universities. In the section devoted to top-ranking Historically Black Colleges and Universities, North Carolina Central University and North Carolina A&T State University were featured. The *Fiske Guide to Colleges 2013* ranked UNC-Chapel Hill as one of the best buys among public institutions in the country. North Carolina State University, UNC Asheville, and UNC Wilmington, were also recommended in this publication. The *Princeton Review* designated eight of our universities – Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, North Carolina

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State University, UNC Asheville, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, UNC Pembroke and UNC Wilmington – as some of the best universities in the southeast.

In other campus achievements, President Ross announced that Mr. Eugene DuClos, an industrial design student at Appalachian State University, designed and built a bike rack/bench combo which earned him the “Best of Show Award” for the Design Emphasis Showcase at the International Woodworking Fair (IWF) in Atlanta. East Carolina University graduate, Scott Maxwell, was among a team of programmers and engineers to drive the Mars rover *Curiosity* – the rover that had begun exploring the Red Planet. At Elizabeth City State University (ECSU), five students and two faculty members recently completed a ten-week summer research program at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. Dr. Akbar Eslami, Professor in the Department of Technology at ECSU, was awarded a \$300,000 grant that will fund participation in the research program for three years. In addition, faculty from ECSU had received grants of more than \$2 million from four federal government agencies – the National Institute of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Science Foundation.

President Ross reported that Chancellor James Anderson from Fayetteville State University served as the guest speaker at the Chinese Inner Mongolia Normal University’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Chancellor Anderson delivered part of his remarks in Chinese. President Ross commented that the selection of Chancellor Anderson to give the address was a tribute to Chancellor Anderson’s leadership and the relationship that Fayetteville State University has built with Inner Mongolia Normal University. Fayetteville State University announced the establishment of the Dudley E. Flood Endowed Chair in Criminal Justice. President Ross commented that no one was more deserving of this professorship. The professorship would be funded by a \$500,000 donation from the C.D. Spangler Foundation. A nationwide search was underway to select the first professor to hold the Dudley E. Flood Endowed Chair. Last month, three students from Fayetteville State University served as panelists at the National Summit on Educational Excellence and Opportunity for African-American Males – an event cosponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council of the Great City Schools. The three students were Winfred Cox, a sophomore criminal justice

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major; Jared James, a sophomore accounting major; and Randolph Scott, a freshman. They were the only undergraduates in the nation selected to serve on the panel. North Carolina A&T State University had received a \$500,000 research award from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A portion of the funds would target colon cancer prevention.

In other campus news, the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced its new Nanosystems Engineering Research Center for Advanced Self-Powered Systems of Integrated Sensors and Technologies to be headquartered on NC State's Centennial Campus. The center, funded by an initial \$18.5 million grant from NSF, was a global research consortium that included partner institutions – Florida International University, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Virginia, as well as other affiliated universities. President Ross announced that North Carolina State University was the only university in the country leading two active NSF engineering research centers. NCSU was entering into a multi-year agreement with the Eastman Chemical Company to conduct joint cutting-edge research in chemistry, material sciences, and other scientific disciplines. The partnership would provide NCSU researchers and students exciting opportunities to address real world problems and reduce the time required to move innovative solutions from the lab to the marketplace.

The Renaissance Computing Institute based at UNC-Chapel Hill was tapped to work with water scientists across the country on a \$4.5 million collaborative project funded by the National Science Foundation. Ms. Gwen Ifill, journalist, newscaster, author, and host of the PBS program "Washington Week" taped one of her shows at the UNC Charlotte Belk Theatre. A panel of four political analysts discussed the Presidential National Conventions. Her program followed with a Town Hall Meeting. At UNC Wilmington, student Angela Hunt, a communications major and editor-in-chief of the *Seahawk* student newspaper won the prestigious 2012 Eric Breindel Collegiate Journalism Award. She was awarded \$10,000 and an internship at the *Wall Street Journal* for the piece she wrote about our military troops. The article was entitled *Sand, In Insanity*. Mrs. Hunt is married to a marine based at Camp Lejeune. At Winston-Salem State University, students Breanna Holmes and Iveon Sprangle won first place in the radio category of the 2012 Freedom of Speech PSA competition. The contest was sponsored by the NAB

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Education Foundation (NABEF) and the Broadcast Education Association (BEA), which challenged participants to develop a television or radio public service announcement illustrating what freedom of speech means to them and how it plays a part in their world. The public service announcement would be made available to radio stations across the country for potential on-air use. At the UNC School of the Arts, the Fighting Pickles mascot had been named the *cheesiest* college mascot in the nation by the Cheetos (Frito-Lay) Company.

In closing, President Ross reminded everyone of the upcoming Social Business Conference scheduled for September 27, 2012, on the campus of NCA&T State University. Teams from all of the UNC campuses would be represented. They will present business plans on how to solve social problems facing their communities by using a social business model. President Ross encouraged everyone to attend the event and see our students' remarkable passion and creative skills. Professor Muhammad Yunus, a world renowned banker and economist best known for his work in microcredit and the winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, would deliver the keynote. A panel of 28 judges would evaluate the competition.