President’s Report
May 14, 2016

Activities since February 6, 2016:

- Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting, February 6, 2016
- Executive Committee Meeting, February 6, 2015
- University Development Coalition (UDC) reception, February 11, 2016
- Weatherspoon Art Museum Board meeting, February 17, 2016
- Board of Trustees Committee Meetings, February 18, 2016
- Board of Trustees Meeting, February 19, 2016
- Excellence Foundation meeting February 25, 2016
- Men’s basketball games on several dates
- Class of 1968 reunion planning meeting February 29, 2016
- Kickoff event for NYC trip, March 1, 2016
- Meeting with Chancellor Gilliam, March 2, 2016
- Weatherspoon Membership Committee meeting, March 3, 2016
- Executive Committee meeting, March 8, 2016
- Weatherspoon Visioning Workshop, March 11, 2016
- Performing Arts weekend, March 18-21
- Chancellor’s Reception for New York City Area Alumni, March 21
- Meet the Chancellor Reception, Pinehurst, March 29, 2016
- Meet the Chancellor Reception, Atlanta, April 6, 2016
- Executive Committee, April 12, 2016
- Reunion, April 14-15, 2016
- Meet the Chancellor Reception, Washington, D.C., April 19, 2016
- Ring Ceremony, April 22, 2016
- Chancellor’s reception for Margaret Spellings, President of UNC System, April 25, 2016
- Weatherspoon Board Membership Committee, April 26, 2016
- Beyond Academics Graduation Ceremony, May 3, 2016
- Board of Trustees Committee Meetings, May 4, 2016
- Board of Trustees Meeting, May 5, 2016
- Red Carpet Reception, May 5, 2016
- Commencement, May 6, 2016
- University Honors, May 12, 2016
- Past Presidents Meeting, May 13, 2016
- UNCG Alumni Association Board Meeting, May 14, 2016
- Weatherspoon Art Museum Board Meeting, May 18, 2016
- Excellence Foundation Board Meeting, May 19, 2016
University Development Coalition (UDC) Reception

The University Development Coalition (UDC) is NC State’s PAC. This organization is very active in promoting the needs of higher education to the North Carolina legislature and to the residents of North Carolina. This group invited some UNCG alumni and administration to attend a reception for the representatives and senators representing Guilford County. Senator Phil Berger addressed the group, followed by remarks from Chancellor Woodson of NC State and Chancellor Gilliam. The reception was held to thank the Guilford County delegation for their support of the ConnectNC bond referendum that passed on March 15.

Board of Trustees Meetings, February 18-19

The Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled committee meetings and full board meeting February 18 and 19. The major decision that was made was to remove the Aycock name from Aycock Auditorium. An email was sent the same day to all alumni with email addresses on file. A subsequent letter was mailed to graduates of the Woman’s College. The email and letter explained the process that was followed to come up with the recommendation. The information was/is also available on the UNCG website. The discussion held by the Aycock Naming subcommittee members was powerful and eloquent. Each committee member presented a statement explaining their vote.

The board voted to name the auditorium UNCG Auditorium in the interim, until such time as a decision on a permanent name is made. The selection of the permanent name is expected in spring 2017.

One of the other main topics discussed at the board meeting was the 125th anniversary celebration. Chancellor Gilliam started the discussion by asking several open-ended questions which generated a lot of good ideas. Several board members recommended hiring an outside consultant to assist with the planning process. The board and Chancellor Gilliam were amenable to the idea and the plan was made to research consultants who are experts in planning and executing similar events.

Excellence Foundation Meeting, February 25

Chancellor Gilliam made some remarks concerning the Aycock renaming decision and the process that led up to the decision. On January 28, 2015, Chancellor Linda Brady established the Aycock Ad-Hoc Committee and charged the committee with exploring the historical connection between Charles B. Aycock and UNCG, and with monitoring the progress of other campuses considering renaming., researching the process followed by institutions that have faced similar controversies, providing opportunities for engaging the campus community on the issue, and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding options. The following link contains an overview of the process and a response from Chancellor Gilliam.

http://aycock.wp.uncg.edu/update/

Professor Omar Ali, interim Dean of Lloyd Honors College, and who was named North Carolina Professor of the Year, gave a very interesting presentation on improvisation as a tool for succeeding in the workplace. Dr. Ali shared links to articles related to his presentation.

https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2015/06/15/essay-advice-learning-improv-prepare-job-interviews-phds
Meeting with Chancellor Gilliam, March 2

This meeting was rescheduled from February. These quarterly meetings were originally scheduled to coincide with Alumni Association Board meetings.

In this meeting, we discussed Homecoming and the 125th anniversary. Chancellor Gilliam expressed his hope that Homecoming 2016 would have the same format as 2015, but be ‘bigger and better.’

Chancellor Gilliam also highlighted his priorities:
- Promoting the ConnectNC bond referendum;
- Engaging African-American alumni;
- Upgrading the sound system in the Virginia Dare Room.

Weatherspoon Visioning Workshop

The Weatherspoon invited alumni and people from the campus and community to participate in a visioning workshop to discuss ideas of making the Weatherspoon more inviting and accessible.

New York City Performing Arts weekend

This wonderful weekend included professional performances and events focused on UNCG alumni who work in the performing arts in New York, as well as the Showcase Performance rehearsal by students in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

Highlights that focused on UNCG students and alumni:
- UNCG Performing Arts Roundtable included UNCG alumni who are working in the music, theatre and dance fields in New York. They talked about their experiences as performers and behind-the-scenes workers.
- Chancellor’s reception for alumni and other Showcase attendees at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre preceded the Showcase Performance.
- Showcase Performance rehearsal was a key event for this weekend at which we enjoyed a private performance of some of our top graduating students the night before their professional audition for industry casting agents and directors.

The weekend included a performance of Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible,” which featured Ashlei Sharpe Chestnut, a 2015 UNCG graduate of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and a performer in the 2015 Showcase. Ms. Chestnut also participated in the Performing Arts Roundtable discussion.
Meet the Chancellor Reception, Pinehurst

The reception was well-attended by alumni from the Sandhills area. Chancellor Gilliam addressed the group about his vision for UNCG. There were 70-75 attendees.

Meet the Chancellor Reception, Atlanta

About 100 alumni and friends attended the Chancellor’s reception in Atlanta. The Chancellor was warmly received as he addressed the group about his vision and some specific goals for the university.

Reunion 2016

The class of 1966 celebrated their 50th reunion. More than 100 members of the class returned to campus for this milestone celebration.

On Friday, April 15, the class of 1966 held their class meeting, followed by lunch in the Alumni House. There were several presentations in the afternoon. The class of 1966 and classes celebrating mini-reunions gathered in different locations for their class dinners.

On Saturday, April 16, the members of the Vanguard Society gathered for a reception in the lobby of EUC Auditorium. The class of 1966 held a memorial service to remember deceased classmates. The members of the class of 1966 were inducted into the Vanguard after walking into Cone Ballroom through the daisy chain that was assembled by students. The brunch was enjoyed by the class of 1966 and the other classes celebrating their mini-reunions, as well as members of the Vanguard Society. Brunch was followed by musical numbers performed by students in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Meet the Chancellor Reception, Washington, D.C.

More than 80 people registered to attend the Chancellor’s reception at the City Club in Washington, D.C., on April 19. This was another successful event to introduce Chancellor Gilliam to alumni.

At all of these receptions, Chancellor Gilliam focused on opportunity and excellence at UNCG, stressing the areas that UNCG already excels in. He also presented achievements and upcoming plans: new mixed-use student housing (Spartan Village 2) on Gate City Boulevard that will include a Bestway market, restaurants and other retail; the new wellness center, to be named the Leonard J. Kaplan Wellness Center, in appreciation for a very generous gift from the Kaplan family; the replacement of the McIver building following the successful state bond referendum; successful academic programs that have excellent national standing—school counseling, nursing, music and theatre, Bryan School graduate programs in business, to name a few.
Ring Ceremony

The ring ceremony takes place twice a year, in fall and spring.

During the spring ceremony held in April, Provost Dunn addressed the group in EUC Auditorium, followed by a reading of the history of the rings. The students were introduced by William Parrish, then walked across the stage, received their rings, and shook hands with Provost Dunn while a photographer took their pictures.

Beyond Academics/Integrative Community Studies Commencement

The Integrative Community Studies program is a collaboration between UNCG and non-profit Beyond Academics, and is a 4-year program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This program allows students to demonstrate their capabilities for living on their own, attaining employment, and meaningful involvement in their community. This year, fourteen students graduated from the program and were welcomed to the UNCG Alumni Association.

Board of Trustees Meetings, May 4-5

The Advancement committee of the Board of Trustees discussed a proposal presented by Provost Dana Dunn to move the Fine Arts department, currently in the College of Arts and Sciences, to the current School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and to rename the school the College of Visual and Performing Arts. A majority voted to rename the school. The decision to rename will be discussed by the Board of Governors at their next meeting, and a final decision will then be made.

At the meeting of the full Board of Trustees meeting, Susan Safran thanked the board for their support during the two years that she has served as chair. Current board member Brad Hayes was recommended by the nominating committee to assume the position of chair of the Board of Trustees beginning July 1. There will be a vote for new officers and board members on July 1.

Presentations included reports from faculty senate, staff senate, and student government association.

Red Carpet Reception

The Red Carpet Reception, which honors graduating seniors and their families, was hosted by the GOLD Council. The weather was unexpected, as it was about 50 and raining most of the day. But the rain didn’t dampen the spirits of those in attendance. This event has grown bigger every year since it was started in 2014.

Commencement

Commencement was held on Friday, May 6. The Greensboro Coliseum was full of happy students, families and friends. The keynote speaker was Denise Roth, former Greensboro city manager and current administrator of the federal General Services Administration. Degrees were awarded to 2,466 students, undergraduate and graduate.
University Honors

The University Honors reception was still a future event when this report had to “go to press.”

Mr. Thomas Ross, former president of the UNC system, will receive the Charles Duncan McIver Award, which recognizes individuals who have rendered distinguished public service to the state or nation. Prior to his selection as president of the UNC system, he was executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and a North Carolina Superior Court judge for 17 years. He is currently on the faculty of the UNC Chapel Hill School of Government, and serves as the first Terry Sanford Distinguished Fellow in Public Policy at the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy. He is a former chair of the UNCG Board of Trustees. He has received many previous honors.

Mrs. Shirley T. Frye will receive the Adelaide F. Holderness/H. Michael Weaver Award, which honors North Carolinians who have rendered distinguished public service to their community or state. Mrs. Frye has had a remarkable record promoting education, building communities and making Greensboro a better place. She served as NC A&T’s Vice Chancellor for Development, as vice president of community relations for WFMY-TV, as chair of the Bryan foundation, as chair of Guilford Technical Community College’s Board of Trustees, and on various boards. Mrs. Frye has received many previous honors.

Upcoming events on President’s calendar

Weatherspoon Art Museum board meeting, May 18
Excellence Foundation meeting, May 19
Executive Committee, June 14
Weatherspoon Summer Solstice Celebration, June 24
Neo-Black Society reception for Chancellor Gilliam, June 25

Thank you, UNCG Alumni Association Board of Directors

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president this past year. It has been an honor to represent this board and the alumni association at all of these events. I have had the opportunity to meet so many alumni in all kinds of settings, as well as faculty and staff. It has been a pleasure, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.

I am also grateful to all of you for your commitment to this board and our alumni association.

Report Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Napier
May 9, 2016