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The following UNC Board of Trustees members served during fiscal year 2015.

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Dear Carolina Supporters,

From our founding as the nation’s first public university to the 10th anniversary of the Carolina Covenant, UNC-Chapel Hill has long set the standard—and led the way—for American higher education.

Now, we have another milestone of leadership to celebrate.

Because of your tremendous generosity, we received nearly $447 million in private commitments in fiscal year 2015. That marked our best fund-raising year ever. The total included our single biggest commitment in history, $100 million from Dr. Fred Eshelman to create the Eshelman Institute for Innovation in the pharmacy school that bears his name. But even without Dr. Eshelman’s historic pledge, the year would have been a record breaker. We also set a new standard for gifts—funds we can use immediately—with $304.7 million.

Equally impressive, we had almost 69,000 donors. The stellar dollar totals would not have happened without each of you. Every gift, of every size, makes a difference.

Because they all add up to have a tremendous impact. More endowed professorships will enable us to recruit and retain outstanding faculty. More new scholarship and fellowship funds will support and attract top undergraduate and graduate students. Our scientists will have better research tools. Our physicians will deliver better clinical care. Our athletics program will field better teams. The community will enjoy better cultural programming and benefit from better outreach initiatives.

We also will have more great stories to tell, more stories like those in this installment of the Carolina Development Annual Report. From donors who share their reasons for giving to students who show the impact of giving, you will see the power of philanthropy to advance visions and transform lives.

And as much as we celebrate this past year, we look even more to a stronger future that your support made possible. Thanks to you, the best is yet to come.

“Thanks to you, the best is yet to come.”

Carol L. Folt
FISCAL YEAR 2015: JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

- Carolina’s fund-raising efforts brought in $447 million in private commitments, marking the best year in history. Commitments include pledges as well as gifts.

- In gifts and grants, Carolina secured $304.7 million, also a record. This type of support is immediately available to the University.

- Commitments helped the University create seven endowed professorships, as well as 71 undergraduate scholarship funds and 30 graduate fellowship funds.

Highlights from the year—

- A $100 million commitment to the Eshelman School of Pharmacy from Fred Eshelman—the largest from an individual in the University’s history and the largest ever made to a pharmacy school in the United States—created a center within the school named the Eshelman Institute for Innovation. Through strategic collaborations inside and outside the University, the institute will help fuel innovation, create jobs and spur economic development in the state, while enabling the school to pursue new ways to enhance its position as a national and international leader. Eshelman is a 1972 graduate of the pharmacy school, founder and former CEO of Pharmaceutical Product Development and founding chairman of Furiex Pharmaceuticals. The school was named for him in 2008. (See story on page 30.)

- A $986,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will help the Southern Folklife Collection (SFC) at the University Libraries advance digitization of rare audio, video and motion picture films for preservation and access. The library will use the funds to build an authoritative data repository to support workflow; optimize processes to manage the collection and digitize recordings on a large scale; produce preservation-quality master files; and deliver research-quality access copies via online streaming. The grant, Extending the Reach of Southern Audiovisual Sources, also includes funding to help the SFC conduct research and share knowledge about the best methods for large-scale digitization of multimedia collections. (See story on page 32.)

- A partnership between UNC and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) will create a dedicated HIV Cure center and a jointly owned new company that will focus on discovering a cure for HIV/AIDS. This unique public-private partnership will redefine the traditional way of conducting research and create a new model to seek the breakthroughs needed to tackle an extraordinarily challenging global health issue. GSK, a research-based pharmaceutical and health-care company, will invest $4 million in the partnership each year during the five-year research
agreement. UNC will provide more than 19,000 square feet of laboratory space on its medical campus to house the HIV Cure center and Qura Therapeutics. The University will also fund the customization of the space, including equipment and infrastructure costs. GSK researchers will work on-campus with their Carolina partners once renovations are complete.

A $7.1 million pledge from Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU) to the School of Government will fund initiatives to support North Carolina local governments. Over the next 10 years, the school will receive: $2.84 million for its Development Finance Initiative to expand opportunities for economically distressed communities in North Carolina by increasing their access to and use of cutting-edge development finance instruments; $2.22 million to support the LGFCU Fellows program, which provides mid-level public executives with the skills needed to build the pool of local government talent prepared for leadership succession; and $2.04 million in undesignated funds to create an Innovation Fund to support new and existing projects that maximize the school's impact and support its mission of improving the lives of North Carolinians. (See story on page 28.)

A $5 million gift to the College of Arts and Sciences from an anonymous alumni couple will create a new $4 million academic leadership endowment and provide an additional $1 million—$200,000 a year over five years—in immediate funds as the endowment builds. The endowment will provide “say yes” funds to enable department chairs to support an array of faculty initiatives. In 2010, the donors committed $1 million for the same purpose. The college awarded grants to 28 department chairs who then disbursed funds to more than 200 faculty members, from the fine arts and humanities to the social and natural sciences. One of every four tenure or tenure-track faculty members in the college has received support from the first gift. Many more undergraduate and graduate students also benefited through enhanced classroom and experiential learning opportunities.

A $1 million gift from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center will create an endowment fund to support the North Carolina Science Festival. The fund will enable the Morehead Planetarium to make long-term, strategic investments in the festival. Since Morehead Planetarium founded the festival in 2010, it has grown dramatically, holding events in 95 counties and reaching more than 330,000 participants in 2014. While Morehead Planetarium organizes the festival, hundreds of partner organizations including universities, schools, libraries, parks, businesses and museums host a series of festival events across the state, spanning two weeks each April. These events are designed to celebrate the cultural, educational and financial impact that science, technology, engineering and mathematics have on North Carolina.

A gift from Dr. Harold E. and Holly Glass to the Graduate School has established a three-year term professorship for a faculty member and a corresponding fellowship for a graduate student the professor selects to mentor. Alan Nelson, a faculty member in the University’s philosophy department since 2006, is the inaugural Harold J. Glass USAF Faculty Mentor/Graduate Fellow Distinguished Term Professor. Nelson selected doctoral student Krasimira Filcheva to receive the professorship’s first graduate fellowship. The faculty member receives a stipend and research fund for three years. The graduate student receives a competitive annual stipend for three years, full tuition, fees and health insurance coverage. The Glasses named the professorship and fellowship in memory of Harold E. Glass’ father. A Carolina doctoral graduate in political science, Harold E. Glass is a research professor of health policy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.
Commitments by Purpose*

- academic affairs - $243.1 million (54%)
- programming - $126.7 million (28%)
- faculty support - $22 million (5%)
- student support - $42 million (9%)
- capital - $13.1 million (3%)

Commitments by Area*

- academic affairs - $114.1 million (26%)
- health affairs - $260.8 million (58%)
- athletics - $22.6 million (5%)
- other - $49.6 million (11%)

*Dollar amounts rounded to nearest $100,000
Commitment Totals, FY 2006 – FY 2015
Donors* of cash gifts; does not include Educational Foundation donors

- alumni: 39,493 (57%)
- students: 560 (1%)
- faculty/staff: 1,189 (2%)
- friends: 22,871 (33%)
- parents: 1,750 (3%)
- corporations: 1,606 (2%)
- foundations and trusts: 654 (1%)
- other organizations: 643 (1%)
Endowed Professorships

7 professorships created in FY 2015

501 professorships total (as of June 30, 2015)

Distribution of professorships created in FY 2015

- 3 College of Arts and Sciences
- 1 Gillings School of Global Public Health
- 1 Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 1 School of Dentistry
- 1 School of Medicine

Scholarships/Fellowships

71 scholarship funds created in FY 2015

1,656 scholarship funds total (as of June 30, 2015)

30 fellowship funds created in FY 2015

813 fellowship funds total (as of June 30, 2015)
Commitments: Current, Endowment and Capital*

- Current - $354.2 million (79%)
- Endowment - $80 million (18%)
- Capital - $12.8 million (3%)

Sources of Revenue*

- Sales and services (26.6%)
- Government grants and contracts (24.5%)
- Gifts, private grants and investment income (17%)
- State appropriations (16.2%)
- Tuition and fees (13.8%)
- Other (1.9%)

*Dollar amounts rounded to nearest $100,000

*Unaudited; percentages rounded to nearest 10th
When Tim Gunter ’85, ’88 (M.S.L.S.) began graduate study at Carolina in the fall of 1986, he was one of five students to enroll in a newly launched information science master’s track at the School of Library Science. It was the first time he placed his trust in what is today the School of Information and Library Science (SILS).

As a UNC history major just a few years earlier, Gunter had plans to attend law school. He joined a pre-law club and wrote a senior honors thesis on a legal topic—and realized he didn’t want to pursue law. He graduated, got a job and was exploring different graduate programs when a mail solicitation from the School of Library Science piqued his interest.

“They were starting this new program called information science,” Gunter said. “That sounded really intriguing to me.”

The program, which Gunter said was a “work-in-progress” at the time, required him to take classes that grounded him in information management skills while also providing him freedom to take computer science and business courses.

After internships in Research Triangle Park—at Burroughs Wellcome, now GlaxoSmithKline, and at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Library—Gunter began his career at Accenture, consulting for clients in the booming information technology field. Since then, the field has steadily grown and advanced, and the information management skills Gunter learned at SILS have proven invaluable to his professional success—from his post at Accenture to his own geo-spatial solutions company to work at North Highland to his current role as partner at KPMG, where he focuses on CIO advising and information management of energy utilities.

“Tim was a pioneer in that he saw the [master’s in information science] program early on as an opportunity to become a management consultant,” said Gary Marchionini, SILS dean.

As the need for able information professionals has grown over the last quarter century, particularly in IT, SILS has concurrently grown. The start-up track that captured Gunter’s interest is now the Master of Science in Information Science (M.S.I.S.) degree program and enrolls 67 students. An undergraduate bachelor of science in information science (B.S.I.S.) program, launched in 2003, now enrolls another 86.

When Gunter’s daughter, Heather, enrolled at Carolina in the B.S.I.S. program, he again placed his trust in the school.

“I was able to see and kind of experience what it’s like to go through the program today, 25 years later through her eyes,” Gunter said.

Heather Gunter graduated Phi Beta Kappa in May 2015 and works in Chicago, Ill., at PwC—a global business solutions firm.

“The school still serves the same mission—figuring out ways to make it easier and more effective for people to get the information they need. To me that is a major contribution to society.”

—Tim Gunter
In 2015, Tim Gunter again placed his trust in SILS, this time with his wife, Belinda. A multi-year, major commitment from the Gunters—which was partially matched by KPMG—will help fund a digital media lab, providing opportunities for students to interact with the latest technologies affecting the information professions. It will also help to realize a new online professional science master’s degree program in digital curation—the first of its kind in the U.S.—that will enable working professionals to earn a degree no matter their location or life situation.

The digital media lab and professional master’s degree program are just part of a larger vision to sustain SILS as a leading research-intensive information school and to push it to become an idea and action engine for information management in the 21st century.

“Gifts like Tim and Belinda’s really help us to move forward, to move into more innovative areas,” Marchionini said. “Tim stands as the model of someone who really understands the roles that information plays in all sorts of leadership activities. He has vision and trust in the school.”

And to Gunter, who said his gift served as a way to repay the school for a career’s worth of valuable lessons, that trust is as well-placed as it was when he first enrolled.

“The school still serves the same mission—figuring out ways to make it easier and more effective for people to get the information they need,” he said. “To me that is a major contribution to society.”
UNC offers more than 325 study abroad opportunities in 70 countries, and nearly one third of UNC undergraduates study outside of the U.S. before they graduate. But, for various reasons, many more students don’t see themselves going abroad, don’t feel like it’s possible or have any idea how to go about it.

But thanks to a generous and innovative gift from alumna Maribel Carrion ’77, ’86 (M.B.A.), Global Take Off: Puerto Rico aims to change that. Intended for first-year students who are generally underrepresented in traditional study abroad programs, Global Take Off: Puerto Rico is an interactive, four-day, faculty-led trip to Puerto Rico over fall break and includes pre-departure orientation sessions as well as post-return reflection sessions designed to give students an introduction into global travel and cross-cultural learning.

The hope is to encourage students to take that first critical step in a lifelong journey of global engagement. Chosen from 252 applicants, the inaugural class had 12 students, 10 from UNC and two from Fayetteville State University whose Honors Program is collaborating with UNC in this effort.

For Carrion, it was a journey home that she could share. “It was so exciting to help launch this effort and introduce my home, my culture and my history to these students,” Carrion said. “Travel opens your eyes and your mind to so many opportunities, ideas and perspectives that you just can’t get in any other way, and I can’t wait to see this effort’s impact.”

Maribel Carrion

TAKING STUDENTS TO PUERTO RICO

By Hope Baptiste

“Travel opens your eyes and your mind to so many opportunities, ideas and perspectives that you just can’t get in any other way, and I can’t wait to see [this effort’s] impact.”

—Maribel Carrion
them from considering it. Institutional barriers are also contributing factors, such as delayed progress to graduation. *Global Take Off: Puerto Rico* seeks to break down these barriers.

“We were totally blown away to see 252 applications for 12 spots in the first year of this program, so clearly there is a huge need and interest in a shorter, more manageable introduction to global citizenship among our students,” Carrion said. “I hope others can see how important these experiences are in preparing our students to make a difference in the world and will join me in supporting these efforts. It takes so little to make a huge impact, and something like this is very doable.”

*Global Take Off: Puerto Rico* is offered by the Center for Global Initiatives, in collaboration with the Institute for the Study of the Americas and the Sonja H. Stone Center for Black Culture and History as well as the Fayetteville State University Honors Program. In addition to Carrion’s private gift, this trip was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education National Resource Center program.

The University will follow these students to see how their early global travel experience influenced the trajectory of their collegiate career. Did any pursue a more in-depth, for-credit study abroad experience? Change their major or add a major or minor with a global focus? Pursue alternative graduate, service or research work?

Carrion said the possibilities are endless; and this is a good place to start.

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*Imani Burwell didn’t go home to Kittrell, N.C., for fall break this year. Thanks to the gift from Maribel Carrion, she travelled to Puerto Rico to learn about the African influence on the island’s culture.*

“I’ve always wanted to travel the whole world. I always say that one day, I want to go to at least every continent,” Burwell said.

Burwell, a junior transfer student from Franklin County Early College High School, said she learned about the culture of her grandfather, a Puerto Rican native, and subsequently learned about her identity.

Burwell explained that sometimes her friends don’t believe she was part of a Puerto Rican lineage because she doesn’t fit the stereotype—light skin and dark hair. She identifies as African American. When she arrived in Puerto Rico she was surprised to see the racial diversity: white, black, indigenous.

“There are people in Puerto Rico who look like me; I shouldn’t have to prove it based off of my grandfather,” she said.

She and the other 10 students participating in *Global Take Off: Puerto Rico* traveled to several cities and attended classes at the University of Puerto Rico, where they learned about the history, racism and culture of the country. They interacted with Puerto Rican students, many of whom were first-generation students like them. They also met UNC alumni who live on the island and made her think about global opportunities after graduation.

“They encouraged me to expand my horizons when I leave college, to not just stick with North Carolina, to go to new places and try new things,” she said.
When asked about his favorite memory as a journalism student at Carolina, Roy H. Park Jr. ’61 recalled a 1960 interview with Rose Kennedy, who was in Chapel Hill campaigning for her son, then-President hopeful John F. Kennedy.

Park pulled some strings with friends at the Carolina Inn to slip a handwritten note with interview questions into the Kennedy matriarch’s key box at the front desk. “With that personal touch, she took my phone call, and we had about a half-hour interview,” Park said. “It was a scoop that ran in the Durham Morning Herald . . . that no one else on campus got.”

Media has changed since then. Scoops come through text messages, emails and are buried within big data; news breaks in 140 characters or less on Twitter. And as media practices have evolved, so has Park’s alma mater. In 2015, the journalism school unveiled a new name—the UNC School of Media and Journalism—to more accurately reflect the cutting-edge instruction and modern work that its students and faculty produce.

Park has witnessed the evolution with pride and—for nearly 20 years—he and his family have been a driving force behind it. Through the Triad Foundation, the Park family has invested nearly $40 million in Carolina, most of that supporting the School of Media and Journalism. Park serves as president and chairman for the foundation’s Board of Directors; his daughter Elizabeth Park Fowler ’84 and son Roy H. “Trip” Park III ’89 serve as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

The foundation honors Park’s late father, Roy Hampton Park, a self-made billionaire whose media empire of newspapers, outdoor advertising, television and radio stations reached 25 percent of Americans at the time of his death in 1993. “The man pulled himself up off a farm in Surry County, put himself through school and...was in the top 160 people in the Forbes 400 when he died,” Park said. “We’re guided by his hard work and his sense of community responsibility.”

Through philanthropy, the Triad Foundation has put the senior Park’s work ethic and commitment to service and excellence into practice, helping to further elevate one of the nation’s premier journalism schools. In 1996, a $1 million gift created the Park Library. The 5,000 square-foot space on the second floor of Carroll Hall houses more than 10,000 volumes and the latest technology, and serves as a hub for undergraduate, graduate and faculty research. The school perennially produces some of the field’s most influential research. With funding from the Parks in 1999, the school established the Roy H. Park Distinguished Lecture Series to enrich the student experience by bringing influential media professionals to campus. The series has featured Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan, Fox News president Roger Ailes, Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer and former Hulu CEO Jason Kilar ’93, among others. Roy Park and his wife, Tetlow; their children, Elizabeth and Trip; and three of their grandchildren have attended several of those lectures.

“The man pulled himself up off a farm in Surry County, put himself through school and...was in the top 160 people in the Forbes 400 when he died. We’re guided by his hard work and his sense of community responsibility.”

—Roy H. Park Jr., about his father
But the family’s most enduring gift came in 1997 with $5.5 million to launch the Roy H. Park Fellowships. The fellowships, which marked their first graduating class 15 years ago, provide full tuition, health insurance and stipends to incoming doctoral and master’s students. It changed the landscape of graduate-level education in the journalism and mass communication fields, helping Carolina to recruit the best and brightest graduate students from across the country.

The Park Fellowships remain one of the most prestigious and sought-after fellowships for graduate students in mass communication. To date, the program has benefited more than 400 graduates.

It’s easy to see the good work that Park Fellows do professionally. Nikole Hannah-Jones ’03 (M.A.), an investigative reporter who covers civil rights and racial injustice for *The New York Times Magazine*, received Journalist of the Year honors in 2015 from the National Association of Black Journalists. Three of the last four winners of the Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award, which recognizes the year’s best dissertation in the mass communication field, were doctoral Park Fellows—Dean Smith ’11 (Ph.D.), Brendan Watson ’12 (Ph.D.) and Scott Parrott ’13 (Ph.D.). These are just a few of many accolades Park Fellows have earned.

It’s difficult to measure the Triad Foundation’s full impact on the journalism school. Top graduate students help to attract the best faculty members who, in turn, benefit all students. Since 2010, the school has won three national championships in the Hearst Journalism Awards competition—the Pulitzers of collegiate journalism—including in 2015. UNC is the only school to have finished in the top five overall every year since 2004.

“We at the school take the Park family and the Triad Foundation’s generosity as a charge to be leaders in every aspect of our field, not just in graduate mass communication education,” said Susan King, dean of the School of Media and Journalism. “I believe we succeed in that, and their support plays a big role in that success.”

While journalism has changed since Roy Park attended Carolina, the Park family’s longstanding generosity is making it possible for current Park Fellows—and all UNC journalism students—to have their own “Rose Kennedy” moments at the School of Media and Journalism.
Hope Alfaro very nearly left college. After growing up in Valdese, N.C., earning her way to Carolina and working all the way to her junior year, she hit a roadblock that felt immovable.

“You think you’re a good student in high school—you are a good student in high school—but college is completely different,” she recalled. Alfaro was struggling through the toughest classes she’d ever encountered, wondering whether she made a mistake by coming to Carolina. Her family felt far away, and the road forward looked too steep to climb.

“I took a semester off, and I really wasn’t planning to return.”

It was an email that brought her back. Or rather, a lot of emails. The late Fred Clark, academic coordinator for the Carolina Covenant during its first decade, was relentless.

“He kept emailing me, kept sending me information about all the Carolina Covenant events, kept telling me I had to come back,” Alfaro said. “I finally came in to meet with him just so he’d stop emailing me.”

Alfaro had come to Carolina in the fall of 2004, joining the first class of the newly launched Carolina Covenant, a financial aid and support program for low-income students. The core of the Covenant is a no-loans financial aid offer—a series of grants, scholarships and work-study funding that gives students a chance to graduate without debt.

But as Alfaro found out, the Covenant—which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2014-15—is about more than money. Through academic advisors like Clark, along with designated aid counselors, faculty and staff mentors, and a whole series of events and workshops, the program creates a very personal web of support for scholars.

“Fred finally sat me down in his office and said, ‘Look, you’re going to graduate,’” Alfaro remembered. “He laid out a path, made me look at it, and I did it. By my last semester, I was on the dean’s list.”

Alfaro’s path through college and the years beyond required patience and resilience. But as a member of the vanguard of Carolina’s most celebrated access program, the last decade has brought her remarkable results.

She has an engaging, highly rewarding job as a market researcher for the Chapel Hill-based Futures Company. She also has a family, a home of her own and the resources to help her mother go back to school for an accounting degree.

“It’s not just about my life,” Alfaro said. “When my daughter is ready for college, she probably won’t need financial aid. The Covenant has made a difference across generations.”

—Hope Alfaro

First class

BY ERIC JOHNSON

Hope Alfaro very nearly left college.

After growing up in Valdese, N.C., earning her way to Carolina and working all the way to her junior year, she hit a roadblock that felt immovable.

“You think you’re a good student in high school—you are a good student in high school—but college is completely different,” she recalled. Alfaro was struggling through the toughest classes she’d ever encountered, wondering whether she made a mistake by coming to Carolina. Her family felt far away, and the road forward looked too steep to climb.

“I took a semester off, and I really wasn’t planning to return.”
Hill Hall undergoes $15 million renovation

By Geneva Collins

Hill Hall, the historic heart of the music department in the College of Arts and Sciences at Carolina, closed in June 2015 to begin an expected 18-month, $15 million renovation.

Work will center on improvements to Hill Hall’s rotunda and 450-seat auditorium in the century-old building, which served as the University’s first library. The performance space will be renamed the James and Susan Moeser Auditorium in honor of the former chancellor and his wife, who are organists and teachers at Carolina.

The renovation uses no state-appropriated funding. A $5 million gift from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust kick-started the project. The Office of the Provost provided an additional $5 million. The college has already raised nearly $3 million of the remaining $5 million in a fund-raising campaign.

The extensive upgrades for the auditorium include adding a climate control system, state-of-the-art acoustical treatments, a professional-grade stage, and equipment and piano lift. Currently, the auditorium has no air conditioning, rendering the space essentially unusable four to five months of the year.

The dated two-story rotunda will be transformed into an expanded, light-filled space suitable for receptions, intimate performances and as a central gathering space for the department. An enhanced backstage area with updated dressing rooms and storage, improved lighting and modernized administrative and teaching spaces adjacent to the rotunda will complete the renovations.

“We will be returning here to celebrate the reopening during the 2016-17 academic year with a state-of-the-art teaching and performance space befitting the world-class music program that we have at Carolina,” said Karen Gil, dean of the college, at a May 2015 ceremony to mark the beginning of the renovation.

Louise Toppin, chair of the music department, said the renovation will also provide recording facilities capable of capturing student, faculty and guest artists’ performances, and opportunities to partner with Carolina Performing Arts on innovative recital performances.

The cornerstone for the original building, funded with a $55,000 grant by Andrew Carnegie, was laid in 1907. It served as the University’s first consolidated library and in 1918-19, it was the headquarters of Carolina Playmakers when Thomas Wolfe was a member. The music department moved to the building in 1930, and it was renamed Hill Hall for John Sprunt Hill, a UNC alumnus, and his family. Hill funded the construction of the auditorium and the purchase of a pipe organ, now gone, for the space.

Over the decades, Hill Hall has hosted such luminaries as Joan Baez, Alan Bergman, David Gergen, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Yo-Yo Ma, Jessye Norman and Fredrica von Stade.

To support the Hill Hall renovation campaign, go to hillhall.unc.edu.
Shivani Chudasama discovered her passion for social work in a high school biology class in Charlotte, N.C., about five years ago. Then employed with Teach for America, Chudasama quickly realized she could better serve young people from outside of the classroom than from within.

Chudasama, a final-year M.S.W. student at UNC’s School of Social Work, said she learned the most from her conversations with her students. “I think I really just started to get to know them as human beings and not just as a student who needed this score so they could pass the class and move on.”

That learning process also opened her eyes, she said, to the personal challenges that some children face and how family complications at home can often impede academic success. Her students taught her the importance of empathy and understanding, she said.

“For example, when a student doesn’t have their homework and then you find out that they were kicked out of their house,” she explained. “Well of course, biology class is the least of their worries. I loved teaching, but being able to support students through those kinds of challenges just felt a lot more natural to me.”

A 2010 graduate from UNC with a double major in studio art and philosophy, Chudasama said she knew she would likely pursue a different path. Her parents, who emigrated from India in their 20s, prepared their three daughters in caring for others from the moment they were old enough to volunteer. Chudasama, who is interested in psychotherapy, plans to pursue direct practice work with adolescents and young adults after graduation.
Even her parents’ own chosen professions—her mother is a public school teacher and her father is a doctor—further illustrated to their children the value of giving back, Chudasama added.

“We were always caring for others because we knew this is just what we were supposed to do,” she said.

Chudasama’s commitment to such ethics is why she was among the first students in the School of Social Work to be awarded a scholarship from the newly created Dean E. Smith Opening Doors Fund. The fund honors the life and legacy of the late UNC men’s basketball coach. The scholarship financially supports outstanding undergraduates from lower-income families and enables professionals in education and social work to pursue advanced degrees.

Scholarship recipients, known as Dean E. Smith Scholars, must demonstrate Coach Smith’s qualities of leadership, service and excellence.

“I loved that they named it Opening Doors because that’s exactly what it’s done for me,” Chudasama said. “It’s opening up the opportunity this semester to really focus on my studies and not stress about finances.

“It’s also humbling to think about how in many ways, the way I grew up and the way that my family supported all of us is very similar to what Dean Smith did for his basketball team and the community at large. He created this inclusive environment and ultimately, that’s the kind of social justice work that I want to pursue or at least help to spread a few more seeds for growth.”

Carolina, in consultation with the family of Dean E. Smith, has launched a fund-raising campaign for student assistance to honor the life and legacy of the legendary men’s basketball coach. The campaign is raising donations for the Dean E. Smith Opening Doors Fund, which makes college a reality for outstanding undergraduates from lower-income families and enables professionals in education and social work to pursue advanced degrees.

The University is matching all gifts dollar for dollar with discretionary non-state funds, further leveraging the impact of donor contributions. The matching dollars support Dean E. Smith Scholars at the undergraduate level because of this population’s broad presence on campus.

People can make an online gift to the fund at giving.unc.edu/opening-doors. For more information, contact the UNC Office of University Development at openingdoors@unc.edu or (919) 962-4385.
Malaika Underwood ’03, ’05 (M.A.) is a world-class athlete—having played in a record seven international competitions for the USA Baseball Women’s National Team. Most recently, she played first base for the team that won gold at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada—it was the inaugural appearance for women’s baseball in a multi-sport international event.

At Carolina, she was the epitome of a great student-athlete, posting MVP performances as an opposite hitter for UNC’s volleyball team and graduating Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in international studies in 2003. Her commitment and dedication earned her a spot on the Verizon Academic All-District 3 University Division Volleyball Team her senior season. She finished her collegiate career as a team captain and a recipient of two NCAA postgraduate scholarships.

She went on to earn a master’s degree in exercise and sports science and is now vice president of licensing for The Brandr Group, a boutique branding and licensing agency in Atlanta, Ga.

But baseball was her first love, and she stayed involved by coaching Little League during her time in Chapel Hill. When, in 2006, she discovered that USA Baseball had established a Women’s National Team, Underwood re-committed herself to the sport and earned a place on the team; 2015 is her ninth season. Dubbed the “face of women’s baseball” by USA Baseball Women’s National Team manager Jonathan Pollard, Underwood is a veteran leader and pseudo-coach who leads by example, plays the game the right way and mentors younger players. “I am still so passionate about it and always will be.”

That’s not all that Underwood is passionate about. She’s also a fantastic ambassador for her alma mater, and makes it a priority to support areas of campus that have made a difference in her life, particularly the volleyball program, the Global Education Fund, the Chancellor’s Unrestricted Fund and

“Carolina is an incredible place to go to college, but it isn’t good enough for things to just stay the same. To be the best at anything, you have to keep improving, keep building, keep growing and keep going forward.”

—Malaika Underwood
the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I came from San Diego [Calif.] to play volleyball for UNC and, though I knew it was the right place for me, there were challenges, too,” Underwood said. “Being so far away meant I had to create a new ‘home away from home’ in Chapel Hill, adapt to new surroundings, people, responsibilities, academics…it was a big adjustment.”

Underwood said she found a second home and family in Chapel Hill among her teammates and classmates as well as many of the nearly 800 student-athletes she shared space with for four years.

“The phrase ‘Carolina family’ is spot on when I think about my time as a Tar Heel, and I feel fortunate to be able give back in some small way,” she said. “I know I wouldn’t be where I am if not for the opportunities I had at Carolina. I believe it’s important to give back and help provide similar opportunities for future students.”

Underwood gives via monthly bank drafts, which enables her to make a larger gift than she would otherwise find manageable, makes budgeting easier and builds a tradition of philanthropy she plans to continue for many years to come.

“Carolina is an incredible place to go to college, but it isn’t good enough for things to just stay the same,” she said. “To be the best at anything, you have to keep improving, keep building, keep growing and keep going forward. I give to Carolina because I want it to be the best place to learn for generations to come, and being part of that evolution means the world to me.”

A planned gift from Frank Moretz, B.A. ’71, M.D. ’75 and Resident ’78 will have an enduring impact at Carolina, spanning both academic and health affairs as well as reaching beyond the Chapel Hill campus.

The $3 million bequest will be distributed evenly among the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Anesthesiology in the School of Medicine and the School of Medicine’s Asheville campus.

Moretz, a three-degree Tar Heel and recently retired anesthesiologist who practiced in the Asheville area, said this gift is his way of thanking the University for setting him up for the success he has achieved.

“UNC gave me great opportunities and was great preparation for a very successful career,” Moretz said. “I wanted to show my appreciation.”

In the College of Arts and Sciences, Moretz’s gift will establish the Frank Hannon Moretz, MD, Excellence Fund in the Department of Psychology. The fund will be used to support departmental priorities, including recruitment and retention of top faculty, graduate student research and
the development of innovative courses for undergraduates. Moretz earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology. “Psychology has so many applications across many fields, and I thought that the faculty and department were incredible,” Moretz said.

The School of Medicine’s Department of Anesthesiology will benefit from the creation of the Frank H. Moretz Anesthesiology Resident Education and Travel Endowment. The fund will be used to cover anesthesiology resident and faculty professional and leadership development, enrichment and advocacy. Examples of potential uses include covering the costs of national conference attendance, training and educational travel.

“UNC gave me great opportunities and was great preparation for a very successful career. I wanted to show my appreciation.”

—Frank Moretz

Moretz, who grew up in Hickory, N.C., and practiced for more than 30 years in Asheville, was thrilled in 2009 when his alma mater partnered with Mission Health and Mountain Area Health Center to open a satellite campus in Asheville to train the next generation of physicians. Third-year medical students in the program perform clerkships that allow them to provide comprehensive care to patients over time and form close relationships with their physician mentors. Moretz said similar experiences he had in medical school were formative elements of his training.

“As a medical student and resident, I spent time in Charlotte, Raleigh and Wilmington and found that incredibly helpful because it allows you to work one-on-one as an apprentice to a private-practice physician. It’s just a great way to learn,” he said.

Smart Insulin
Patch Could
Replace Painful
Injections for
Diabetes

BY MARLA BROADFOOT

Painful insulin injections could become a thing of the past for the millions of Americans who suffer from diabetes, thanks to the creation of a “smart insulin patch,” a new invention from researchers at UNC and N.C. State that detects increases in blood sugar levels and reactively secretes insulin into the bloodstream.

The patch—a thin square no bigger than a penny—is covered with more than one hundred tiny needles, each about the size of an eyelash. These “microneedles” contain microscopic storage units for insulin and glucose-sensing enzymes that rapidly release the insulin when blood sugar levels get too high.

The research study behind the project was funded by a pilot grant from the North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS Institute) and a “Pathway to Stop Diabetes” Research Award from the American Diabetes Association.

“We have designed a patch for diabetes that works fast, is easy to use and is made from nontoxic, biocompatible materials,” said co-project leader Zhen Gu, a professor in the joint UNC/N.C. State Department of Biomedical Engineering. Gu also
Zhen Gu, who co-led the research study that developed the smart insulin patch, has been named one of MIT Technology Review’s “Innovators Under 35” for his work on developing novel drug-delivery systems for treating cancer and diabetes.

The annual list recognizes exceptionally talented young innovators from around the world in a variety of fields. Previous winners include Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Page and Sergey Brin.
Sometimes it just takes a little help to get going in the right direction. And that’s what Carolina’s Opportunity Fund is all about. The fund creates opportunities for deserving students to get a Carolina education through two signature programs: the Carolina College Advising Corps (the Corps) and the Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program (C-STEP).

The Corps helps low-income, first-generation and under-represented students from North Carolina attend college by placing recent UNC graduates as college advisers in selected public high schools throughout the state. Advisers assist students with college admission, financial aid and scholarship applications. Without the Corps’ support, these students enroll in college at a lower rate—often because of difficulty navigating systems and lack of awareness about opportunities.

C-STEP identifies talented, low-income students while they are still in high school or early in their community college careers. These students are guaranteed eventual admission to UNC if they earn an appropriate associate degree and complete the program. C-STEP students are offered mentorship and guidance while pursuing their degrees.

Carolina couples Gay ’85 and Dan ’80 Shackelford and Lee ’79 and Sandra ’11 (parent) Niegelsky champion both programs and support them generously through the Carolina Opportunity Fund. Both couples point to the need to prepare and empower students to pursue their passions, and celebrate the incredible impact these programs are having on their respective student populations.

The Shackelfords believe strongly that education can change the trajectory of one’s life. After hearing Stephen Farmer, UNC’s vice provost for enrollment and undergraduate admissions, speak about these programs, they wanted to become involved and make a difference. The couple considers their gift to the Carolina Opportunity Fund as a significant investment that enables promising students to have the same opportunities they had at Carolina. But first, they noted, students had to get over that main hurdle: cost.

“The rising costs of getting an education are sobering, and C-STEP helps bend the cost curve in a positive way,” Dan said. “It goes even further to assist non-traditional students, bolster communities and better equip our young people to adapt to change throughout their careers.”

Though they now live in Baltimore, Md., the Shackelfords are products of North Carolina public schools (Dan in Durham and Gay in Wilmington) and identify closely with the students in the C-STEP program. Giving back this way helps the pair stay connected to their alma mater and their roots.

“Our Carolina experiences shaped both of us significantly and we are thrilled to play a small part in helping others accomplish amazing things,” Gay said. “The Opportunity Fund gives us as alumni a way to
invest in the University and in our home—or adopted home—communities simultaneously. It’s so inspiring to see the transformation.”

The Niegelskys echo that sentiment and aimed to have an impact in the Reidsville, N.C., area where Lee Niegelsky grew up. They created the Niegelsky Carolina Opportunity Fund and have helped lead the charge to place Corps advisers in each of the four high schools in Rockingham County. Lee helped spearhead the Reidsville Area Foundation in an effort to improve education, healthcare and quality of life in the area.

“We’ve seen the economic engine of the area shift significantly from manufacturing, and we know that education is the gateway to economic growth and diversity,” Lee said. “It’s about breaking down barriers, real and perceived, so that future generations can realize their full potential and create a vibrant community of talented individuals to move the economy and the community forward.”

Lee credits the Corps advisers in Rockingham County for fostering a college-going mentality among the students they serve that reaches much deeper into the community. “When you can encourage and inspire our young people to look for better opportunities, it doesn’t stop there,” he said. “It creates a ripple effect that touches whole families, friends and neighbors across generations and improves the outlook of the entire community.”

Ultimately, both couples want to ensure the tradition of excellence at Carolina that they enjoyed. “We [all] came here in various stages of preparedness, and were challenged not just academically but socially, philosophically, emotionally and psychologically,” Dan Shackelford said. Gay added: “It’s a special place where you can stretch the boundaries of what you know about the world and find common ground as well.”

It’s where opportunity meets potential and creates something incredible. ■
The population of Shallotte, N.C., has grown by more than 150 percent in the last decade, but most people consider it little more than a “convenience stop” on their way to the beach. Thanks to a visionary local government, creative UNC graduate students, an innovative School of Government program and generous funding from Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU), this once-sleepy fishing village is creating a new town center that will occupy 20 acres along the beautiful and winding Shallotte River that will include shopping, dining, entertainment, business and residential space.

The School of Government received a $7.1 million gift from LGFCU that will boost economic development throughout the state through the Development Finance Initiative (DFI) as well as build North Carolina local government leadership capacity with the LGFCU Fellows program. Previous funding from LGFCU enabled the school to initiate these programs. The gift of $7.1 million will ensure that North Carolina local governments will continue to benefit in the future.

DFI provides economically distressed communities with specialized finance and development expertise for development projects. During a UNC graduate course
in community revitalization, students helped Shallotte officials think through their vision to create a town center. DFI helped the town find the most effective and efficient way to finance this transformative project and has helped to recruit qualified private development partners to implement the project in concert with the town government and residents.

“This is a once-in-a-multi-generational opportunity to fundamentally change the character of a town,” said Shallotte Mayor Walt Eccard. “It allows us to honor our history and prepare for the future. The Riverfront Project will bring jobs to the area and will make it easier to see Shallotte as a destination rather than a pass-through to the beach.”

DFI employs UNC graduates as project managers to work with communities across the state. And the project managers serve as coaches for current UNC graduate students. DFI is working with local governments on both large-scale projects such as the one in Shallotte and the redevelopment of an aging public parking facility in downtown Wilmington as well as on smaller projects in low-resource communities, including Spindale, East Spencer and Halifax.

Many local communities in North Carolina need help with economic development but equally pressing are growing leadership needs as local government managers are retiring in record numbers and local challenges—including population growth, aging infrastructure and the economic aftermath of the Great Recession—are increasing.

The School of Government’s LGFCU Fellows Program addresses that reality by providing intensive training to local officials on a leadership track. Each year since its inception in 2011, at least 50 local officials have graduated from the multi-week course and returned to their jurisdictions with improved management skills, stronger professional networks and increased confidence to assume leadership roles.

Loryn Clark, executive director of housing and community for the Town of Chapel Hill, was interim assistant planning director when she attended the fellows program in 2013. “It renewed my commitment to public service and being a steward of public funds and public trust,” she said. “Being selected from a pool of qualified applicants felt as though we were selected to make a difference in our community. I took that very seriously; I think we all did.”

“This is a once-in-a-multi-generational opportunity to fundamentally change the character of a town.”

—Walt Eccard

Because of the gift from LGFCU, public officials from even the smallest North Carolina jurisdictions are able to access leadership training, which is offered tuition free. With secure funding, the fellows program will continue building strategic leadership capacity around the state.

The LGFCU gift demonstrates a commitment to succession planning and the long-term economic success of the state.
ESHELMAN INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION MAKES INAUGURAL AWARDS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

BY DAVID ETCHISON

On Dec. 3, 2014, Carolina announced a $100 million commitment from Fred Eshelman to the Eshelman School of Pharmacy.

The commitment is the largest from an individual in UNC history and the largest ever to a U.S. pharmacy school. It created the Eshelman Institute for Innovation to pursue high-risk, high-reward ideas that advance innovation in pharmacy education, research and health care.

Two times per year, the institute will seek proposal submissions from the Eshelman School of Pharmacy’s faculty, staff and students for big ideas and innovations that have measurable impact and lead to transformative change in:

- Basic and applied research in the pharmaceutical sciences
- Health-care quality, practice and policy
- Health-sciences education and educational research
- Business processes and practices

For the inaugural cycle, 24 of 53 submitted proposals were funded, with a total of nearly $9.4 million awarded. They were:

**TIER 1: UP TO A TOTAL OF $50,000**

- Delesha Carpenter, Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy, *Non-invasive Technology to Continuously Monitor and Improve Patient Medication Adherence*
- Alexander Golbraikh, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, *Large-Scale Polypharmacology Modeling Using Deep Learning*
- Shawn Hingtgen, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, *Cytotoxic Stem Cell Therapy for Pediatric Brain Cancer*
- Weigang Huang, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, *Profiling Cellular Phosphoinositide Metabolism for Disease Diagnosis*
- Robert Hughes, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, *Optogenetics, Cytoskeletal Dysregulation, and Disease*
- Alexander Kabanov, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, *Carolina Nanoformulation Workshop*
- Alexander Kabanov, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics/Center for Nanotechnology in Drug Delivery, *RECOPE: Reverse Conceptual Product Engineering*
- Dmitri Kireev, Center for Integrative Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery, *Molecular Simulations of Ultra-Large Biological Systems*
- Samuel Lai, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, *Shoebox-Sized Plasmapheresis Machine for Cheap & Rapid Generation of Convalescent Serum in Africa*
- Rihe Liu, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, *Decipher a Highly Specific Biomarker for Targeted Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer*
- Craig Lee, Division of Pharmacotherapy and Experimental Therapeutics, *Solving the Mystery of Highly Variable Drug Disposition in Pregnant Women: Are Unique Hepatic Drug Metabolizing Enzymes Activated During Pregnancy?*
- Xin Ming, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, *P-Glycoprotein Targeted Antibody Conjugates for Combating Chemoresistant Tumors*
- Bill Zamboni, Division of Pharmacotherapy and Experimental Therapeutics, *Enhancing Tumor Delivery of Nanoparticle Anticancer Agents Using Microbeam Radiation Therapy*
TIER 2: UP TO A TOTAL OF $200,000

- Emily Hull-Ryde, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry/Center for Integrative Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery, *Controlling the Mucus That Kills Pulmonary Patients*
- Samuel Lai, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, Carolina E(I) Lab: *A Multidisciplinary, Entrepreneurial, Experience in Transforming Bold Ideas Into Successful Ventures*
- Jacqui McLaughlin, Division of Practice Advancement and Clinical Education, *Transforming Data into Knowledge: Fostering Institutional Effectiveness through Real-Time Analytics*

TIER 3: UP TO A TOTAL OF $750,000

- Shawn Hingtgen, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, *Transdifferentiation: A Novel Approach to Personalized Cancer Therapy*
- Leaf Huang, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, *Priming the Liver to Resist Cancer Metastasis*
- Samuel Lai, Division of Molecular Pharmaceutics, *Engineered Antibodies With Carefully Tuned Mucin-Affinity for Enhanced Mucosal Protection*
- David Lawrence, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, *Light-Triggered Launching of Anti-Glioblastoma Therapeutics From Cellular Silos*
- Jian Liu, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, *Developing Carbohydrate-Based Medicines*
- Mary McClurg, Division of Practice Advancement and Clinical Education, *Innovations in Practice Transformation: Advancing Medication Optimization in Primary Care*

TIER 4: UP TO A TOTAL OF $2 MILLION

- Alexander Tropsha, Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, *Center for Innovation in Pharmacy Simulation (CIPS)*
- Tim Willson, Structural Genomics Consortium – UNC, *The SCG-UNC: A Center for Open and Collaborative Target Discovery*
Scholars, musicians and even filmmakers such as Martin Scorsese have found inspiration in the Southern Folklife Collection (SFC) and its quarter-million sound and video recordings and millions of feet of motion picture film.

Now, a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will ensure that those materials will be available for decades to come.

The foundation granted $986,000 to help the SFC, part of the Wilson Special Collections Library, advance digitization of rare audio, video and motion picture films for preservation and access.

“We’ve become very good at digitizing smaller portions of the collection, but these methods do not scale up,” said Steve Weiss, director of the SFC. “Thanks to the Mellon Foundation, we will be able to solve problems of preservation and access for thousands of valuable items in volume, and deliver them online.”

The library is using the grant to build an authoritative data repository to support workflow; optimize processes in order to manage the collection and digitize recordings on a large scale; produce preservation-quality master files; and deliver research-quality access copies via online streaming.

Among the materials that the SFC will digitize are thousands of hours of field recordings from the collections of folklorists Guy Carawan, William Ferris, Archie Green and Mike Seeger, among many others.

The grant also includes funding that will enable the SFC to conduct research and share knowledge about the best methods for large-scale digitization of multimedia collections. A Southern Folklife Audiovisual Research Fellowship will engage visiting scholars with the work of the collection.

The grant builds upon a prior planning grant from the Mellon Foundation that developed recommendations for preserving the SFC’s fragile multimedia components before they begin to deteriorate.

Since leading institutions of higher education and culture set and extend the standards for achievement in the humanities and the arts, the task of nurturing them is vital to our shared global future.

—From the “Rationale” for The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The foundation supports the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human welfare and the well-being of diverse and democratic societies. From its “Rationale” statement:

*In tandem with the sciences and social sciences, the humanities and arts deepen our understanding of the human condition and experience. Their values are essential to viable societies and to productive relations among them. Since leading institutions of higher education and culture set and extend the standards for achievement in the humanities and the arts, the task of nurturing them is vital to our shared global future.*

Based in New York City, the foundation was formed in 1969 through the consolidation of two existing foundations—the Avalon Foundation and the Old Dominion Foundation. The Avalon Foundation had been established in 1940 by Ailsa Mellon Bruce, daughter of Andrew W. Mellon. The Old Dominion Foundation had been established in 1941 by Paul Mellon, son of Andrew W. Mellon. When the two foundations were consolidated, the foundation adopted the name “The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation” to honor their father.

At the end of 1969, the assets of the foundation totaled $273 million. By the end of 2013, the total endowment was approximately $1.6 billion; annual grant-making came to approximately $235 million.

When Charlotte, N.C., native Zach Howell and Durham, N.C.-born Garrett Hall met as UNC undergraduates, they became fast friends. Their bond has matured and strengthened over time, as have they. Now that they make their life together in New York City—Hall is a private equity investor and Howell is a major gifts fund-raising officer at Columbia University—they make it a priority to get back, and give back, to North Carolina and UNC.

“[Coming back to Carolina] is a great opportunity to remind ourselves that we set out to change the world, and that supporting education is a significant way to do that.”

—Zach Howell

Their support of the Carolina Covenant, Kenan-Flagler Business School and the College of Arts and Sciences addresses key areas they are passionate about while also upholding their personal commitment to Carolina’s pledge to admit the most qualified students and meet their financial need.

“I was a student who was both excited to be accepted to UNC and anxious about how to pay for it,” Howell said. “Had it not been for student support, I may not have had the
Earning three degrees at Carolina helped set Lisa Gillespie on the road to success. She gives back to Carolina to ensure others can have success, too.

Gillespie received bachelor’s degrees in biology (1988) and public health (1989), and then her M.D. in 1994. Now the chief medical officer of Rockdale Medical Center in Conyers, Ga. (in the greater Atlanta area), she supports many areas on campus: the Medical Foundation, the Morehead-Cain Foundation, the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center and the North Carolina Botanical Garden, among others.

“My giving is a direct result of how strongly I feel about the University,” she said.

She views service “as a UNC philosophy” and gives plenty of her time, also. While in medical school, Gillespie volunteered at a student-run clinic that served patients in rural areas. Many years later, she is still doing that. She is the founding medical director of a free clinic in Conyers established for patients who can’t afford other medical care, and she still volunteers there.

“For me, it’s really about community—giving of your time, skills and resources, making something you love bigger
“Hoke County only has one high school, and the biggest employer then was a turkey processing plant. My family wanted me to have more options than that.”

—Lisa Gillespie

and better,” she said. “Carolina provided me an opportunity that I would not have had otherwise. I might have had different opportunities, but I’m very thankful for the ones I’ve had.”

Gillespie is an only child, reared by her grandparents in rural Raeford, N.C. “I was always more mature, because I knew that my family was looking at me to get out of the small town, to make a future for myself and be independent,” she said. “Hoke County only has one high school, and the biggest employer then was a turkey processing plant. My family wanted me to have more options than that.”

So she left home as a high school junior to attend the North Carolina School of Science and Math in Durham. Then she earned a Morehead-Cain Scholarship to attend Carolina.

“I would have come to Carolina anyway, but getting the Morehead-Cain allowed me to graduate debt free, and also offered numerous opportunities that I could have only imagined,” she said.

Gillespie also received scholarships to help offset her medical school costs. “When I left medical school my debt burden was low, and that in turn gave me the freedom to make decisions that were not based on debt,” she said. That’s why she supports scholarships and student aid at Carolina. “I think programs like the Carolina Covenant are so important, because they give students from disadvantaged backgrounds a chance,” she said. “It’s also important for Carolina to attract all kinds of students.”

Gillespie is a primary care physician, and she has worked in the same hospital since 1997, except for an 18-month stint elsewhere. For the last three years, she has been its chief medical officer. “That’s what happens when you put the work in,” she said. “Steady, consistent advancement comes from steady, consistent work.”

She considers her experience at Carolina as “foundational” and still envisions blue skies, brick paths and big trees. “I want the school to be there forever, and I want it to be the Carolina that I remember and even better than the Carolina I remember.”
Although a native of Wilmington, N.C., Alexis Shiro comes from a family of Tar Heels. Her mother obtained an undergraduate degree at Carolina and her father completed his residency at UNC Hospitals. The couple met on Franklin Street, where their son Zack (UNC ’15) lived two decades later.

“Carolina has always been like a family thing,” Shiro said.

Shiro, a business administration and political science double major, has given to the University since her first year in college. She donated to the Chancellor’s Unrestricted Fund at first and then gave to UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School as a sophomore. She now makes an annual donation to the business school because that is where she uses most of the University’s resources. She also makes occasional donations to the political science and statistics departments.

In fall 2014, Shiro became a member of the Heelraisers Student Giving Council, a student organization dedicated to educating students regarding the importance of giving back to the University. The council raises awareness through several events each semester so that students understand the importance of donating to the University by their senior year.

As a member of the Heelraisers Council, she is deeply aware of the impact donations have on Carolina.

“I think it’s important to understand, even a dollar helps,” she said.

Shiro was one of the 1,391 students who donated in the 2014-2015 academic year—but most college students are not inclined to donate to the University.

“It definitely can be difficult [to get student donations] because people have this attitude, ‘Well, I’m in college now. I don’t have a lot of money.’ Which is understandable,” she said.

“But we really like to explain to them that the University is built off so much more than tuition and so, really, that’s not enough to keep the University functioning.”

Instead of asking them to give, she informs students that tuition accounts for a relatively small percentage of Carolina’s annual revenue, trailing the amount from private gifts, grants and investment income.

“When you give to the University, you don’t have to give a lot of money. It’s more the thought that counts to us,” she said.

Shiro knows firsthand how private gifts affect students. She is a recipient of the Carl and Janice Brown Upperclass Academic Scholarship, a merit-based scholarship from Kenan-Flagler. It must be renewed every semester, and Shiro has received it since spring of her sophomore year.

After graduation, she plans to work in consulting or investment banking.