

124th State of the Campus Address

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

10:30 a.m.

Aycock Auditorium

Opening Performance

UNCG Graduate Brass Quintet

Dr. Dana Dunn's Remarks

Welcome, I'm Dana Dunn, Provost and Acting Chancellor. In addition to all of you present, I also want to welcome those who are viewing this event via live stream. It's a privilege and a pleasure to share remarks with you on the occasion of the 124th State of the Campus Address.

We have just heard a remarkable demonstration of UNCG student excellence. Please join me in thanking the UNCG Graduate Brass Quintet.

We have many special guests and members of the UNCG community with us today. Our advocates who work tirelessly to support this university are one of the important indicators of the strong state of the campus. I'd like to ask that members of the groups I am about to recognize please stand and remain standing.

First, we have with us today members of the UNC Greensboro Board of Visitors, members of the Human Environmental Sciences Foundation, members of the Alumni Association Board, and members of the Weatherspoon Foundation Board. Please join me in acknowledging these university advocates for their dedicated service.

And our dedicated UNCG Board of Trustees members; chair Susan Safran and members Charles Blackmon, Francis Bullock, Mona Edwards, Brad Hayes, Betsy Oakley, Dean Priddy, Ward Russell, and David Sprinkle. And Brittany Hudson, President of our Student Government Association and her Cabinet members. Would you all please stand? Please join me in thanking these UNCG champions for all they do to make this university strong.

We are delighted to have several legislators or their representatives attending today, as well; State Representative Ralph Johnson, Greensboro City Council member Jamal Fox, and Federal Congressional Staff members Mike Fenley, Office of Senator Richard Burr, Nick Wilkinson, Office of Senator Thom Tillis, Kay Tembo, Office of Representative Alma Adams, and Katie Sessoms and Brad Langston, Office of Representative Mark Walker. Please stand to be recognized.

Finally, I'd like to ask our faculty, staff, and administrators to please stand. You are the heart and soul of this university. Thank you for the work you do, and in advance for all we will accomplish together in the coming year.

The past year was one of great change and also great accomplishment for UNC Greensboro. I'll highlight a small sample of those accomplishments for you now.

Perhaps the most fundamental indicator of the strong state of the campus - the best evidence that we are fulfilling our mission - is the number of students we attract, enroll, and ultimately graduate.

University enrollment is important for two key reasons: first, it signals how attractive we are to prospective students, and second, it is the primary determinant of our budget.

I am pleased to report that we anticipate continued substantial enrollment growth for the coming year. While we are still registering students, it would not surprise me if enrollment is up significantly for the fall semester.

This growth outpaces the percentage growth in North Carolina public high school graduates, reinforcing that UNCG is becoming an increasingly attractive choice among prospective freshmen.

This growth also generates funding resources for UNCG. And these new resources are sorely needed. We can once again begin to make critically important investments in the university—we can begin to hire new faculty, provide new technology, and even give very modest raises to our hardworking faculty and staff for the first time in many years.

Our enrollment growth is fueled, in part, by improved student retention. UNCG's focus over the last year on providing an integrated fabric of student support and advising is clearly paying off.

UNCG was ranked by *Time Magazine* as one of the Top 50 Universities in the country for graduation rates, accessibility, and affordability.

Our success in this arena means that student housing is full. We are in the position of having to refer students who want to live on campus to seek off campus options.

Fortunately, we received approval this past year to move forward with Spartan Village phase two, a new 330 bed residence hall with 30,000 square feet of retail space that will help accommodate growing student demand. This facility is expected to open in the fall of 2017.

Another exciting initiative designed to accommodate enrollment growth in our School of Nursing was formally launched this past year. We broke ground on the downtown Union Square campus, a joint venture with NCA and T, Guilford Tech and Cone health. This campus will house our high-demand doctorate in Nursing practice program and cutting edge healthcare training facilities. It's a great example of how we work with local partners to make positive things happen.

Rankings are always an important indicator of the strength of the university. They tell only part of the story, but they do raise the profile of the university and spread its reputation.

Just last week we learned that for the 17th year in a row UNCG made *Princeton Review's* prestigious list of Best Colleges.

Many of our academic units have received high rankings for their strong programs, excellent faculty and student and graduate success.

Let me share just a few: The School of Education Counseling and Educational development program is now ranked second in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. That's ahead of flagship universities nationwide. Imagine the impact of these graduates!

In Health and Human Sciences, The Human Development and Family Studies program was ranked number 7 in the nation and number 1 in the state of North Carolina.

The online Master's program in Nursing is ranked alongside Yale University and ahead of Duke University by *US News*.

In the Bryan School of Business, stellar rankings abound. *Bloomberg* ranks the part-time MBA as number 13 in the nation, number 4 among public universities, and number 1 among UNC campuses!

Other programs in the Bryan School with rankings in the top 15 include the Apparel Design program in the Consumer Apparel and Retail Studies, the Masters of Science in Information Technology, and the Economics Department.

Not all academic programs and disciplines have ranking systems, so it is important to turn to consider other appropriate indicators of our success.

For example, two alumni and one faculty member in the School of Music Theater and Dance were nominated for Grammy awards this past year.

National accreditation is another mark of excellence, particularly when it is granted for a full term with no recommendations for improvement.

Last year, the School of Education was fully reaccredited by NCATE. They were commended for their work with the area schools. The School of Education's recent award of a 7.2 million dollar, 5 year federally funded Teacher Quality Partnership Grant with area schools provides an example of why these commendations are so well deserved.

The Bryan School of Business and Economics, the Department of Music, the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology and the Weatherspoon Art Museum also received full reaccreditation last year.

And, by the way, the Weatherspoon Art Museum was cited in *Buzzfeed* magazine last year as "one of the 18 Hidden Gems Around the World that you need to visit".

Awards, grants and other forms of recognition given to our faculty, staff, and students are points of pride, enhancing UNCG's reputation.

When students like Kyle Nowlin, a Nanoscience doctoral student at JSNN win the National Nanotechnology Initiatives Image contest and have that work and the award it received viewed online by thousands in the field, you know the word about UNCG is spreading.

We would be here all day if I tried to itemize these accomplishments for you— suffice it to say that last year university faculty generated more than 30 million

dollars in research funding, and they published numerous books and more articles than I can count. Faculty and students performed their creative works locally, nationally and around the globe and garnered any number of awards and recognitions for this work.

I ask you to think for a moment of the impact this good work is having, not just on the lives of our students and graduates, but on our community broadly defined.

When biology faculty carry out funded research to study whether mercury from the Dan River coal ash spill will pose a long term threat to the ecosystem; when interior architecture faculty and students share their talents with non-profit organizations and low- income individuals for no fee through the Center for Community Engaged Design; when the art department takes the traditional Art Gallery into the community on the “Art Truck”; when the Nanobus takes its science demonstrations into the area schools, you know we are contributing to the quality of life in our community.

We learned earlier this week that UNCG’s students are now contributing more than 1 million hours of community service annually.

It’s no wonder that UNCG has been named to the Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for commitment to service learning and civic engagement and that we were once again awarded the Carnegie Community Foundation’s commendation for deep engagement.

It’s not only UNCG’s path breaking research and deep engagement with the community that make a difference; it’s also our direct economic impact on the region.

Last year, the first-ever statewide study documenting the impact of North Carolina higher education institutions showed that UNCG’s economic impact in the Triad is nearly 1 billion dollars!

Some of the most important value added by UNCG is not as easy to measure in dollars and is not conveyed through grant funding, awards or accolades.

The most important work is what we do in fulfillment of the essence of our mission as a public research university:

We educate students, preparing them for enriched lives as contributive citizens;

Our faculty and our staff, from the advisors to the student affairs professionals, from those in the business office, to the athletics and IT staff, to the groundskeepers – all have done great work this past year to keep your university strong and to move us forward to an exciting new year.

New opportunities abound, new challenges will no doubt surface. I look forward to working with you in the coming year—a period of growth, energy and extraordinary progress at UNCG!

This last spring, countless individuals on campus, led by our Board chair Susan Safran and committed search committee members, participated in one of the most important tasks of the year, selecting our new Chancellor. Following a comprehensive national search, the committee screened numerous applications and presented a strong slate of candidates. Dr. Frank Gilliam emerged as the final candidate. Many of you read his biographical information when his appointment was announced, but I want to highlight a few of his accomplishments.

Dr. Gilliam, a longtime UCLA professor of public policy and political science, has been Dean of the Luskin School of Public Affairs since 2008. As dean, Dr. Gilliam focused on establishing UCLA Luskin as a leader in finding solutions to society's most pressing problems – from juvenile justice to drug policy, from child welfare and health care reform to transportation and the environment.

Under his leadership, the Luskin School launched major administrative and educational initiatives ranging from an ambitious centennial fundraising campaign and strategic planning initiative to programs in global public affairs, leadership, digital governance, and inequality.

Dr. Gilliam earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Drake University and holds master's and doctoral degrees in the field from the University of Iowa. Early in his academic career, he taught at Grinnell College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison before joining the UCLA faculty in 1986. Twice nominated for UCLA's Luckman Distinguished Teaching Award, Dr. Gilliam also has taught at the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and was a Visiting Scholar at Brandeis University. In addition, he taught at Fisk University, Middle Tennessee State University, and with former Vice President Al Gore at Columbia University.

From the moment he was selected, Chancellor Gilliam began engaging with UNCG.

I have been honored and excited to get to know him and know that under his leadership we embark on an exciting new era.

It is my pleasure to introduce Chancellor-elect, Dr. Frank Gilliam...

Dr. Franklin Gilliam's Remarks

Thank you, Dr. Dunn, for your remarks and kind introduction. First of all, allow me to express how pleased and grateful I am to be joining the vibrant, talented, accomplished University of North Carolina at Greensboro family.

I want to thank Acting Chancellor Dana Dunn for all of the exceptional work that she has done during this period of transition -- not only keeping the university on track, but moving it forward.

We are grateful for her extra hard work and demonstrated leadership during her time at the helm. All of us in the university community are in her debt. Please join me in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

I also want to acknowledge former Chancellor Linda Brady and the other exceptional campus leaders, all the way back to Charles Duncan McIver, who have led this fine university. I am acutely aware that I am building on the accomplishments of those who came before me.

And, of course, I am pleased that our guests from the University of North Carolina system, our Board of Trustees, other university boards, and key community partners have joined us today. As a longtime member of a constituent campus of the University of California system, I can say that we are fortunate to be able to rely on the strength and stability of a strong, statewide system to better serve our students, alumni, community, and state.

And I certainly want to recognize my wife, Jacquie, who is attending today.

The core mission of the university is quite simple: to educate our students, to contribute high-quality research, and to engage our community. Now, to be sure, this is a boilerplate mission statement. Many universities around the country

seek to achieve similar goals. A deeper dive, however, reveals that we have several unique aims:

- We are a student-oriented campus, with a focus on encouraging life-long learning;
- We are a high-research institution, but we take seriously the idea that research must positively impact the lives of students and the community;
- We are, therefore, a leader in commerce, community health, and the arts in Greensboro and the Triad;
- We are an outward-looking campus as well - integrating intercultural and global perspectives into learning, discovery, and service.

In short, we are a university deeply committed to making Greensboro - and the Triad - a vibrant community.

Now let me brag a little on our university.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is a remarkable institution and, I believe, we are uniquely positioned to grow and thrive in the ever-changing landscape of higher education. For example, we deliver an outstanding educational experience to our students. Starting from a strong liberal arts foundation, our students are exposed to innovative classes, new modes of pedagogy, and rich experiential learning. Our students learn to think critically. To question. To weigh facts. To write. To speak. To make sound decisions which convert knowledge and experiential learning into action.

Engaging in a broad-based research agenda from bench science to applied research, our faculty and students (including undergraduates) take up the most pressing issues of our time. They challenge convention and contribute to a knowledge base that has both direct and indirect impacts on not only the people in the greater Greensboro community, but also people around the world.

As Dr. Dunn mentioned in her remarks, we have a long legacy of community engagement and commitment to social justice that speaks to the scale and rate of social change. We are rich in history and tradition. During our early days as a

women's college, a time when society placed limitations on its expectations and opportunities for women, our graduates made their mark in society, science and business. They went on to write great novels. They worked at NASA. They created highly successful businesses. We maintain a steadfast commitment to this legacy. Everyday our students, faculty, and staff are involved in community life and working to ensure opportunities for all.

We have a large, accomplished, and supportive alumni base. I have been treated to stories of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who have started transformative businesses, produced Tony Award-winning plays, and appeared in Oscar-winning films. Then there are those graduates who have pursued excellence in fields for which no star-studded gala exists. Our teachers. Our nurses. Our small business owners. Our social workers and counselors. And perhaps most significant, our alumni tend to stay in North Carolina, many returning to their home towns to improve the quality of life.

We remain affordable. Particularly if one considers the high-quality educational product we deliver. To be sure, we will do all that we can to reduce the debt burden for students and their families. Nonetheless, we are acutely aware of the nation-wide trend for increased higher educational costs.

And finally, we are diverse, not only in terms of who our students, faculty and staff are, but what they do and how they think. We do all of this in a beautiful, safe, and accessible campus located in an ideal setting in which to learn and live, which is Greensboro.

Still, any number of issues complicate achieving our goals. Among them:

At the contextual level, sea-change developments in areas such as globalization, the digital revolution, the American and world economy; and the quest for peace, and both collective and individual freedoms.

As with most higher education institutions, we face the mounting pressure of student debt and increased competition from for-profit and on-line providers. The upshot is that critics question the value of a traditional university degree (but see the recent *Forbes* article Silicon Valley companies that are increasingly hiring graduates from the liberal arts!).

Public universities around the country are grappling with declining state support for education. For example, 47 states spent less on public higher education per capita in 2014-2015 than they did at the start of the recession, adjusting for inflation. In North Carolina, that number was down more than 23% between 2008 and 2015 when adjusted for inflation.

Against this backdrop, we must stay vigilant in serving the public interest, and we must ensure that providing access to a quality higher education for all qualified students, irrespective of background or personal means is central to all of our efforts.

As Chancellor of UNCG, I will be an advocate for this university and a voice for public higher education in North Carolina.

The challenges are many, but I am confident that together, we are equal to the task.

Let me start with what I believe to be the most important component of any successful organization: *culture*. For me, culture refers to a clearly articulated and broadly shared set of values that define the very nature of an organization. These values serve to guide our collective decision-making. They are touchstones that let us know if we are heading in the right or wrong direction. They create an environment in which self-discipline, self-correction, and self-management can occur. Throughout my 33-year public university career I have relied on a set of fundamental values to build culture:

- Shared fate - collaboration
- Excellence - common standards
- Accountability - ownership
- Innovation - entrepreneurial spirit
- Transparency - clarity
- Inclusion - “it takes a village”
- Fun!

I will need your help. We will take this journey together. And we need to tackle these challenges as an informed, coordinated, and highly dedicated team. Halford

Luccock, a Methodist minister and longtime professor of homiletics at Yale Divinity School, said “you can’t render a great symphony by a whistling solo.”

Thank you for your warm welcome! My family and I look forward to becoming a part of the Greensboro community.

Now, I am honored to introduce Susan Safran, chair of the UNCG Board of Trustees. I got to know Susan really well during the search process and I admire her strong leadership as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. For those of you who may not know, Susan is alum, having earned her degree from the School of Nursing at UNCG. Please join me in welcoming Susan Safran to the podium for closing remarks...

Susan Safran to conclude program by congratulating and welcoming Dr. Gilliam and family to UNCG.