The year saw the completion of Phase I of the UNC Charlotte response to the UNC Tomorrow Commission Report. The response outlined how UNC Charlotte is meeting the UNC Tomorrow goal of responding more directly and proactively to the 21st century challenges facing North Carolina. It began with noting how the UNC Charlotte vision statement aligned with the goal of UNC Tomorrow and described campus efforts to fulfill the vision. As part of this initiative, college and unit plans were revisited and opportunities addressed for major new initiatives including a School of Public Health.

As this response was being completed by a campuswide Task Force, a parallel campuswide initiative was undertaken. UNC Charlotte was selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to apply for classification as a “Community Engagement” institution. The summer was spent in documenting our community engagement efforts for the September 1st application deadline. Thus far, only 76 institutions of higher education hold this Carnegie Foundation designation.

Initiatives in the area of diversity included the Council on University Community’s development of a diversity plan to be reviewed by the campus. To advance the diversity plan, a grant was obtained from the Foundation for the Carolinas to develop campus-based scenarios for a UNC Charlotte Crossroads initiative to begin with a campus Forum in the fall semester. Elements of Crossroads Charlotte were also incorporated into a growing number of Freshman Seminars.

The Committee on the Future of the Faculty, part of the NSF-funded ADVANCE program, identified potential changes in practices and policies to improve faculty work and enhance professional development. Proposals were submitted to the Faculty Council for changes to leave policies and promotion and tenure. A campuswide mentoring program for new faculty was begun, and a program for mid-career mentoring developed for 2008-09. A faculty leadership development program was initiated. Work was also begun on assessing the requirements for child care.

Faculty Council committees reviewed and discussed a broad range of topics including reinstating the faculty development aspect of Writing Across the Curriculum, a +/- grading system, the Summer Session salary cap, timelines for catalog submission, an ombudsman for faculty, proposed changes to the UNC system tenure regulations, and a diverse faculty. The General Education Committee worked with the new Dean of University College to clarify processes and responsibilities. Changes to the Academic Integrity Code were approved by the Faculty Council.
Administrative and Distinguished Professorship appointments included: James (Jay) Dominick, Associate Provost for Information and Technology Services and Chief Information Officer; Joseph Mazzola, Belk Distinguished Professor in Business Administration and Dean, The Belk College of Business; Akinwumi Ogundiran, Chair, Africana Studies; Lisa Rashotte, Chair, Department of Sociology; Mary Ann Nies, Carol Grotes Belk Endowed Chair in Nursing; Pinku Mukherjee, Irwin Belk Distinguished Scholar in Cancer Research; Weidong Tian, Distinguished Scholar in Risk Management and Insurance; Laura Talbot, Dean W. Colvard Distinguished Professor in Nursing; Zheng Zhou, Addison H. and Gertrude C. Reese Distinguished Scholar in International Business; Denis Arnold, Jule and Marguerite Surtman Distinguished Scholar in Business Ethics, and Christopher Knauer, Registrar.

The College of Architecture was involved in planning for the July 1 establishment of the College of Arts and Architecture, as approved by the Board of Governors. Permission was received to establish a Master of Urban Design program with a first cohort in Fall 2009. The Center for Integrated Building Design and the Design and Society Research Center were created. Two new endowed scholarships and four new annual scholarships were established.

Faculty provided many services to the architectural profession and to the community including Board Member, Latin American Coalition, and member, Arts and Science Council Public Art Commission (Jose Gamez); Director, Opera for All! – community outreach program focused on inner-city schools (Jeffrey Balmer); Architecture Registration Examination Structures Divisions Seminar presentations (David Thaddeus); Co-Chair, CATS Art-in-Transit Advisory Committee (David Walters); and Small Area Plan and Design Guidelines for Mt. Holly Downtown and Riverfront (Deborah Ryan with Ryan-Harris, LLC).


Students were very active. Deanna Moore was elected as Vice President/President Elect and Je’Nen Chastain was elected SouthQuad Director of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) National Board of Directors. Students founded a Freedom By Design Chapter to provide architectural services for differently-abled clients and successfully completed the first design/build project, and graduate students hosted a criticalMASS symposium for graduate students in the southeast region.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, Anthropology and Sociology became free-standing departments. A major initiative to establish college-based centers was implemented, with four such centers: The Shakespeare Center; The Center for the New South; The Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies; and The Center for Humanities and Technology. The interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Nanoscale Science began with a cohort of ten students, the M.A. program in Latin American Studies with six students, and four students entered the Graduate Certificate program in Women and Gender Studies. The first Justice concentration student successfully defended her dissertation proposal in the Public Policy Ph.D. program. Eleven Dance and Theatre students were offered admission to the professional training certificate program in conjunction with the North Carolina Dance Theatre. Planning for new degree programs
programs began in several units. Requests to establish a new M.A. program in Anthropology and plan a Ph.D. in Global Studies, a Ph.D. in Translation Studies: Spanish, and a B.A. in Japanese Language and Literature were submitted to General Administration.

New programming to enhance the educational experience for students included some units offering Freshman Seminar courses for the first time. Criminal Justice completed planning for a freshman learning community in Fall 2008. The Cognitive Sciences program conducted a web-based student satisfaction survey. The number of unit-sponsored, non-competitive student organizations increased as did activities.

International connections were strengthened across the College. The College developed a working draft of an internationalization plan that will be implemented in a series of steps throughout 2008-09. Several units planned study abroad opportunities for students, or hosted international students/faculty in exchange programs. The Center for Global Public Relations began operation.

Collegewide efforts to promote diversity continued. A task force developed a working draft of a diversity plan, which will continue to evolve during 2008-09. The Organizational Sciences program developed a Summer Institute that is designed to facilitate/strengthen a pipeline of qualified minority students, attract qualified diverse candidates, and support a program culture committed to diversity.

Students across the college had significant accomplishments: Judy Oakes (Biology) received the prestigious P.E.O. Scholar Award; Shondra Johnson (Chemistry) received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship award; Sue Denham (Anthropology) was appointed to the National Leadership Council of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Katie Crain (Chemistry) won the Student Leadership Award from the Carolina-Piedmont section of the American Chemical Society; Cathy Cook (Communication Studies) received the Jarrard Graduate Student paper award from the Carolinas Communication Association; Laura Mesec (Dance and Theatre) received the 2008 Nish Jamgotch Humanitarian Student Award; Jonathan Dillard (Dance and Theatre) received a variety of awards for Outstanding Lighting Design; Rhonda Thompson (Languages and Culture Studies) received the highly competitive DAAD (the German Counterpart of the Fulbright Commission) fellowship to study in Muenster, Germany; Davis Kuykendall (Philosophy) was accepted to the University of Colorado Summer Institute for graduate study in Philosophy; Mingzhen Tang (Physics) won the SPECTRA – Physics Research Excellence Award; and Jamaal Lopes-Hunt (Sociology) was named recipient of the 2008 Michael A. Pearson Scholarship.

The College had a very good year in external funding activity. As of May 31, faculty received 126 awards totaling $9,748,285. Although the number of awards was the same as last year, there was a 17 percent increase in the total funds, which accounted for 38 percent of the University’s total awards to date. Six departments exceeded the half million dollar level in external funding, and six departments more than doubled their external funding. The College was responsible for 40 percent of the University’s submissions, 262 proposals requesting $58,962,587.

Units across the College engaged in a wide variety of programming designed to connect the campus with external audiences. Several units sponsored or had major roles in organizing or
implementing professional meetings. The Center for the Study of the New South hosted its inaugural event at the Levine Museum of the New South in January with a keynote address by William Link. The Center for Humanities and Technology hosted Ira Flatow in a well-attended public presentation. Music hosted two important jazz festivals this year, the second annual TIAA-CREF All-Star Collegiate Jazz Ensemble in February and the annual UNC Charlotte High School Jazz Festival in March. Chemistry continued its successful K-12 outreach efforts. The Center for the Study of Shakespeare sponsored a public podcast lecture and discussion through the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County: “Shakespeare in Charlotte.” Languages and Culture Studies again brought advanced Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools students to campus for coursework in German and French. The Center for the Study of Shakespeare held four lectures on campus and promoted high and middle school outreach by sponsoring a lecture at East Mecklenburg High School and two performance workshops at James Martin Middle School.

A sampling of faculty honors includes: Bruce Arrigo (Criminal Justice) received the First Citizens Bank Scholars Award; Coral Wayland (Anthropology and Woman and Gender Studies) and Jordan Poler (Chemistry) were finalists for the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence; William Brandon (Political Science) was awarded the Harshini de Silva Graduate Mentoring Award; and Judy Aulette (Sociology) received the International Faculty Award. A number of faculty also received significant recognition from off-campus groups and organizations. Saul Brenner (Political Science) was honored with the Distinguished Career Award by the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association; Gary Rassel received the Pugliese Award from the South East Conference of Public Administration for outstanding contributions to the organization and for his public service; Christine Davis (Communication Studies) received the Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award from the Southern States Communication Association; Vivian Lord (Criminal Justice), as part of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department’s Cold Case Homicide Review Team, received the U.S. Attorney General’s Volunteer Award; Tom Rogers (Africana Studies) won the Sturgis Leavitt Prize from the Southeastern Conference on Latin American Studies for the best article/chapter in an edited volume; Tom Holt (Criminal Justice) won the J. Edgar Hoover Award, an award given by the national retired FBI agent association to a promising scholar who is contributing to law enforcement; Tsing-hua Her (Physics and Optical Science) won the DARPA Young Faculty Investigator Award; and Robert Smith (Africana Studies) had the project, “From Brooklyn to Biddleville,” exhibited at the Charlotte Museum of History. Fulbright Scholars fellowships were awarded to Carlos Coria-Sanchez (Languages and Culture Studies), Paul Youngman (Languages and Culture Studies), and Angela Herren (Art and Art History). Anabel Aliaga-Buchenau (Languages and Culture Studies) received a grant from DAAD. Jon Marks (Anthropology) was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Genomics Policy and Research Forum, University of Edinburgh, and Katherine Metzo (Anthropology) was a Visiting Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Halle. Cheryl Brown (Political Science) served as an American Council on Education Fellow at North Carolina State University. Eric Johnson (Physics and Optical Science) received a two-year appointment with the National Science Foundation (NSF). Three Physics and Optical Science faculty were awarded patents.
The Belk College of Business filled nine of its ten endowed professorships with the appointments of a new Dean and three Distinguished Scholars. Six additional tenure-track faculty members also joined the faculty. With 100 published and/or accepted refereed journal articles, the number of faculty publications in elite journals continued to increase. Of these articles, 18 were published jointly with students.

Examples of faculty awards include: Hwan Lin (Economics) received the Barclays American Summer Research Grant; Ellen Sewell, Ted Amato and Carol Swartz (Economics) received the Johnson Awards for Teaching Research and Development; Kelly Zellars (Management), Christie Amato (Marketing), Ram Kumar (Business Information Systems and Operations Management) and Dmitry Shapiro (Economics) received the Childress Klein Research Fellowships; Dolly King (Finance) received the Wachovia Fund Fellowship; Alice Tseng (Economics) received grants from the Mark and Susan Doughton Faculty Development Fund and the Jim and Hilda Hayes Faculty Development Fund; Peter Schwarz (Economics) received a grant from the O’Herron Faculty Development Fund; and Jennifer Troyer and Peter Schwarz (Economics) received Best Paper Awards. Daryl Kerr, Director for Undergraduate Student Affairs, received the Faculty Career Champion Award from the UNC Charlotte Career Center.

The College endowment exceeded $23 million for the first time. The College awarded $189,000 in student scholarships, almost all going to undergraduate Accounting, Business, and Economics students. Additionally, the College awarded over $145,000 in M.B.A. scholarships, and 24 students received $28,700 in international travel scholarships funded by the College’s Global Programs.

The first cohort of students in the M.B.A. in Sports Marketing and Management (M.B.A.S.) enrolled in the fall. Two global residency programs for students in the M.B.A. program were conducted. In March, 21 students traveled to the Czech Republic and Hungary to investigate Eastern European business strategies, and in May, 20 students traveled to China to investigate real estate issues.

The College successfully implemented a broad effort to standardize and centralize the collection of student learning outcomes data, using a database developed by Jennifer Hurlbert and Lisa Smith. An integrated financial tracking system, developed by Ms. Hurlbert and Nancy Garland as a supplement to Banner Finance, is being adopted by a number of other Colleges and units. The advising tracking and appointment database developed by Will Espin and Daryl Kerr has been adopted by the University Advising Center.

External grant funding for the College of Computing and Informatics continued to excel. The College was awarded the University’s first Graduate Assistantship in Areas of National Need (GAANN) grant for $640,000 (PI: Teresa Dahlberg). This Department of Education grant is supporting ten Ph.D. students. New NSF grants totaled more than $3.44 million.

The Students and Technology in Academia, Research, and Service (STARS) Alliance has now been awarded a total of $4,800,000 from NSF over five years. The 2007 STARS Celebration brought 203 participants to campus for a conference.
In addition to STARS, other initiatives were continued and new ones begun to increase student and faculty diversity. For spring 2008, 15.6 percent of Computer Science majors were female and 20 percent were African-American or Hispanic. The Department was recognized this year as only one of two top 100 Computer Science Departments in the country with more than one black tenure-track faculty member. With women constituting 22 percent of undergraduates and 26 percent of graduate students, and with 17 percent of undergraduates being African-American, the diversity of the Software and Information Systems student body was significantly above the national average. Both Bioinformatics faculty members recruited this year were female.

Student awards included: Eve Powell received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship; Michael Eagle was honorable mention for an NSF Graduate Fellowship and won the Best Student Poster award at the Tapia Conference; Vicky Fowler won a NC Space Grant Undergraduate Research Scholarship; Brent Daugherty was the student winner of the 2008 Five Ventures Business Plan Competition; Ph.D. students Fan Li and Lin Li won the Mobile Ad-hoc Networking Interoperability and Cooperation (MANIAC) Challenge sponsored by the NSF Networking Technology and Systems Program. A student team placed second in the Southeastern Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

The information security and privacy program was designated a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research by the National Security Agency. This is a new national initiative to promote and increase funding of information security research, and UNC Charlotte is among the first 23 universities receiving this distinction.

Computer Science redesigned its undergraduate degree programs including creating a new undergraduate teaching lab to provide more “hands-on” instruction for the introductory programming course. Eleven Computer Science-track Information Technology Ph.D. students graduated or passed their Dissertation Defense. The Bioinformatics program implemented a Professional Science Master’s program and submitted a request to plan a Ph.D. in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology.

The College of Education received a one-time appropriation from the NC General Assembly to support the College’s efforts to address North Carolina’s teacher shortage. Funds were used to launch the Pathway to Teaching strategic marketing initiative to recruit second career professionals into teaching and to develop online versions of the Master of Arts in Teaching in fields of highest need: special education and middle/secondary education, with particular emphasis on mathematics and science.

The Department of Counseling was honored with the 2008 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Department was also selected as “Program of the Year” by the International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors. Mu Tau Beta, the UNC Charlotte chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the international counseling honor society, was selected as the 2007 CSI Chapter of the Year.

The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, published in the November 16, 2007, Chronicle of Higher Education, identified the special education faculty at UNC Charlotte in the top ten nationally in terms of scholarly productivity. The M.Ed. in Instructional Systems Technology received “national recognition with no conditions” by the Association for Educational...
Communications and Technology – the only program in North Carolina to receive this recognition.

Dr. Hal Jaus, Department of Reading and Elementary Education, was honored as a finalist for the 2007 Bank of America Award for Excellence in Teaching. The following received College awards: Maria Yon (Reading and Elementary Education) received the Education Award for Excellence in Teaching; Bob Audette (Reading and Elementary Education) received the Teaching Fellows Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; Pam Lassiter (Counseling) received the Sister Mary Thomas Burke/ Dr. Stephanie L. Rauch Junior Faculty Fellowship Award; Bank of America Faculty Fellowships in Early Reading and Child Development were awarded to Chris O’Brien (Special Education and Child Development), Adriana Medina (Reading and Elementary Education), and the team of Stephen Hancock and Paola Pilonieta (Reading and Elementary Education); Michael Green (Reading and Elementary Education) received the College of Education Award for Sustained Service to Public Schools; and the first College Award for Excellence in Research was shared by Do-Hong Kim (Educational Leadership) and Deborah Ceglowski (Special Education and Child Development). Alumni honors include the selection of Debra Morris (M.A., M.S.A., Ed.D.) as the 2008 Wachovia North Carolina Principal of the Year and Carl Hamm (Ed.D. candidate) as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Teacher of the Year.

Internationalization efforts continued, with the establishment of competitive Faculty International Travel Grants and the first semester abroad program in elementary education in Ludwigsburg, Germany, led by Louise Baucom and Jack Piel. UNC Charlotte hosted the Ninth International Conference of Mathematics Education in a Global Community, with David Pugalee as Program Chair.

The College hosted the “Pursuing the Dream” conference on February 15, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. An Advisory Council was created to generate increased support and recognition for the College.

The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) had much accreditation activity. The Master of Health Administration degree program received initial accreditation for three years from the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. A positive report was received from the Council on Social Work Education after the site visit for accreditation reaffirmation in February 2008. The reaffirmation self-study for Athletic Training was submitted to the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education; the initial self-study for public health was submitted to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH); and the exercise science and clinical exercise physiology self-studies have been in development and review for submission to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

The initial cohorts of students were admitted in the fall to the new Bachelor of Science in Public Health and Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy degree programs. The Department of Public Health Sciences formed a School of Public Health Planning and Steering Committee, comprised of individuals from across the state, which met twice during the academic year. Study abroad opportunities in Mexico expanded.
The College continued to grow its enrollment, reaching 2,400 in spring 2008. In the six years since the establishment of the College, student enrollments have increased rapidly (up 75 percent), leading enrollment growth among the colleges at UNC Charlotte. CHHS continued to distinguish itself as a provider of on-line/distance education, receiving funding from General Administration to put the Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) and Nurse Administrator (MSN) programs on-line. The first dissertation defense from the Health Services Research Ph.D. program occurred on June 4. Extramural funding was approximately $1.5 million, a 50 percent increase over last year.

Faculty received recognition from national groups: Mitch Cordova (Kinesiology) was named one of the 18 inaugural Fellows of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association; Roy Fielding (Kinesiology) was inducted into the University of Northern Iowa Athletic Hall of Fame; Andrew Harver (Public Health Sciences) was named to the Board of Directors of the National Asthma Education Certification Board; Tricia Hubbard (Kinesiology) was awarded the National Athletic Trainers’ Association New Investigator Research Award; Cynthia King (Nursing) received the Oncology Nursing Society Quality-of-Life Award; Bruce Long (Social Work) was named to the National Board of Examiners of Optometry; Linda Moore (Nursing) was elected to the International Multiple Sclerosis Nurses Certification Board; James Studnicki (Public Health Sciences) was appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services expert panel on Public Health Systems and Services Research; James Studnicki and John Fisher (Public Health Sciences) authored a paper named the Public Health Systems Paper of the Year by AcademyHealth; and Peggy Wilmoth (Nursing) was selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

The College awarded $407,000 in scholarships and/or traineeship awards to students, and held approximately 170 affiliation agreements with agencies to support experiential student learning. Other examples of student and faculty engagement in the community include the Department of Kinesiology hosting the Jingle Bells Walk/Run for the Arthritis Foundation and blood drives for the American Red Cross.

The William States Lee College of Engineering experienced an enrollment growth of six percent from fall 2006 to fall 2007. With 159 students, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering had one of the largest graduate enrollments on campus. The B.S.C.M. in Construction Management doubled in enrollment. The College also saw an increase in the two-year retention rate of undergraduates from 35 percent in 2000 to nearly 55 percent.

The joint UNC Charlotte -Western Carolina University B.S. in Electrical Engineering program graduated its first three students. The B.S.S.E. in Systems Engineering was approved to start in fall 2008. The College collaborated with Central Piedmont Community College to develop 2+2 engineering programs in Electrical, Computer, and Mechanical Engineering. The Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) graduate program was ranked 69th in U.S. News and World Report’s “Top 100” CEE graduate programs.

In a survey of employers, 88 percent believed that their Lee College educated employees were either “frequently” or “always” an asset to their companies. AREVA selected the Lee College as one of its preferred recruiting sites for employees.
As a result of design and site development funding of $19 million from the Legislature, design of the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) was begun. EPIC, a capital project of $57.2 million, will address the severe shortage of trained engineers capable of servicing and replacing an aging fossil fuel and nuclear infrastructure as well as developing future infrastructures for wind, solar, and biofuels.

Three Mechanical Engineering faculty are NSF CAREER Awardees: Brigid Mullany and Terry Xu were selected this year and Scott Kelly joined the faculty as an award holder. Helene Hilger (Civil and Environmental Engineering) received the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence. Ron Smelser and Scott Smith were named American Society of Mechanical Engineers Fellows. Scott Smith was elected President of the North American Manufacturing Research Institute. Of the 15 U.S. CIRP Fellows named by the International Academy for Production Engineering two, Robert Hocken and Scott Smith, were from UNC Charlotte. Ed Morse (Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science) has been selected as Chair of the Carolina Section of the Society of American Engineers. Andrew Willis (Electrical and Computer Engineering) received the College's John H. Maxheim Faculty Fellowship. John Daniels (Civil and Environmental Engineering) is on leave as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow at NSF.

In grant funding, the College had $6.6 million in new awards, $5 million in research expenditures, and a 25 percent increase in proposal submissions. The College received two Major Research Instrumentation awards. A gift of AVEVA software valued at $1 million was received to support the College’s growing energy infrastructure program. The Director of the new Industrial Solutions Lab obtained 24 “real world” student projects and $116,000 in industry funding to support them. The North Carolina Motorsports and Automotive Research Center received $50,000 from Hendrick Motorsports for a CPCC/UNC Charlotte Formula SAE team and was the recipient of the Four-Year University Award from the North Carolina Motorsports Association.

Student recognition included: Two Civil and Environmental Engineering teams competed in the Prestressed Concrete Institute student design competition and finished 1st and 2nd in the southeast; one team finished 7th nationally. The student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers finished first in North Carolina and second in the southeast in their competition. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) student chapter placed first in the ASME Student Design Competition at the regional conference hosted by the University of Virginia. Rick Burrage, an Infrastructure and Environmental Systems Ph.D. program student, received a prestigious U.S. Department of Transportation Eisenhower Graduate Fellowship (3-year, ~$100,000). Justin Ritchie, Electrical and Computer Engineering, completed his service as student body president.

The Department of Engineering Technology administers three multi-year NSF-funded projects geared towards increasing representation and diversity in STEM fields, particularly engineering and engineering technology. The Department hosted more than two dozen high schools and 500 students in an outreach program. Additionally, with a $300,000 grant, ET offered high school teachers and counselors a program on how to teach engineering. The third project is providing $500,000 in scholarships for students with need and promise in engineering technology.
The Graduate School had a record number of graduate students enrolled in fall 2007 bringing the total headcount to 4,790, which represents 21 percent of the total student headcount and a 6.9 percent increase from a year ago. Graduate students of color (Asian, American Indian, Black, and Hispanic) comprised 806 students (18.6 percent of the graduate student population) in fall 2007, an increase of 32 students from fall 2006. Non-resident aliens were 15.9 percent (763 students) of the graduate student population, an increase of 183 students from last fall. As of May, 45 doctoral students graduated in 2007-08, bringing the total number to 313 since the first graduate in 1997. There were 1,040 master’s graduates and 170 certificates awarded in 2007-08.

During the year the Graduate School awarded $4.65 million in tuition assistance, fellowships, and health insurance grants to 660 students. This represents a 30 percent increase over last year in both dollars awarded and students assisted. In addition $1,556,209 in assistantship funding from the Graduate School supported 33 programs from all seven colleges. The total funding administered by the Graduate School rose to $13,906,128 compared to $12,011,836 in 2006-07.

To help develop graduate life programming and to establish community, the Graduate School created the Graduate Life Fellowship awards and six fellows were named for 2008-09. The Graduate School also established the Graduate Dean’s Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation award. Recipients of this award will represent the University in the national CGS/UMI Dissertation award competition.

For the third consecutive year, a UNC Charlotte doctoral student was selected to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureates meeting in Lindau, Germany. Optical Science and Engineering doctoral student and Graduate Assistance Support Program (GASP) Scholar, Kaia Buhl, was selected to attend the 58th meeting (dedicated to Physics). NSF Graduate Research Fellowships were awarded to two doctoral students and GASP Scholars, Sharonda Johnson (Nanoscale Science Ph.D. program) and Eve Powell (Information Technology Ph.D. program). Four additional students received honorable mention. GASP Scholar, Judy Oakes (Interdisciplinary Biology Ph.D. program), received the P.E.O. Scholar Award. Five students in the Information Technology Ph.D. program received support in the spring semester from a Department of Education GAANN pre-doctoral training grant awarded to the University (Teresa Dahlberg, PI).

Associate Dean Susan Sell was named to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Executive Committee and will serve as the UNC Charlotte liaison to develop an M.D./Ph.D. program between UNC Charlotte and the UNC Chapel Hill College of Medicine.

In its first year of existence, University College put into place the data and data collection procedures needed to provide information on the General Education curriculum and staffing. Crucial concerns were identified to be monitored, and mechanisms were developed to handle re-evaluation of transfer credit and special requests related to General Education.

While the University Advising Center was created in June 2007 to primarily advise students who do not have a declared academic major, 20 percent of those advised had a major but had questions concerning General Education or on changing majors. The staff began to develop intrusive advising tools for at-risk students, particularly those based on mid-term grades and probation.
In the area of First-Year Programs, a program to expand Freshman Seminars was developed that will link sections of selected freshman courses with sections of Freshman Seminar taught by graduate students in the department of the course instructor. This will make approximately 400 additional Freshman Seminar seats available in Fall 2008.

The **Office of Academic Services** brought together existing programs with complementary missions to promote student success, ensure access, and enhance the educational experience of all students. Much planning and sharing of information was accomplished and the resulting strategic plan aligned with the UNC Tomorrow initiative. Extensive collaboration also took place with the new Dean of University College.

The mission of the AIMS office was clarified, and the name changed to Multicultural Academic Services. Due to the retirement of Greg Davis, a national search was conducted for a new director. Student Success and Retention functions and staff were transitioned to appropriate units. Learning Communities and the Common Reading Experience remain collaborative initiatives between Student and Academic Affairs.

New initiatives included the launch of an Academic Advising central website, which received 23,713 hits its first year; a Disability Awareness Week and Awards Ceremony; an Academic Awards Ceremony for participants in AIMS programs; and a Career Assessment program, targeted to undeclared majors.

Inspired by their summer reading book, “Three Cups of Tea” and author Greg Mortenson, University Honors Program students raised $6,000 to build a school in Pakistan. University Honors Program student Nicholas O. McLean won the Phi Kappa Phi National Fellowship, and Career Peer Assistant Allison McDow was selected as a Commencement speaker. Two PRODUCE students won the Boeing Flight Competition Best Designer’s Award at the 2008 National Society of Black Engineers Conference.

The **Office of Classroom Support** continued to develop and implement a campuswide classroom technology standard. The resulting standard package has been installed in more than 350 rooms and includes a suite of tools that allows instructors to bring virtually any media or resource into their classrooms to complement various teaching and learning styles. This represents more than 90 percent of Registrar-controlled classrooms.

**Enrollment Management** created the Residency Determination Office to centralize the residency decisions and assistance and to streamline the application review process. Another new initiative involved working with Enrollment Technologies and Information and Technology Systems to lay the foundation for a “virtual” student services call center. A Call Center Director was hired, and current staff in five pilot offices trained on the new processes.

The Registrar’s Office implemented a new online transcript ordering process, which allows students to pay by credit card, and initiated several enhancements to the class scheduling process. Enrollment Technologies and the Registrar’s Office led the initiative that expanded degree audit programs to four colleges.
OASES (the Office of Adult Students and Evening Services) provided advising to 1,275 students throughout the year. Participation in the 49er Finish Program was expanded by contacting more than 2,500 former seniors. Degrees were completed by 156 of these students (spring 2007 through May 2008) and a full-time position was created to coordinate program activities.

More than $112 million in financial aid assistance was awarded and disbursed by the Office of Student Financial Aid, and the student loan default rate was maintained at a very low .9 percent. A new state grant program, the North Carolina Educational Lottery Scholarship program, was implemented, and the improved management of scholarship funds allowed for a 15 percent increase in the number awarded.

Undergraduate Admissions saw many increases from fall 2006 to 2007: the freshman class by 157 students (5.6 percent); the SAT average by 3.9 points (in a year where the average SAT across the nation dropped 7 points); the percentage of underrepresented students by 2.5 percent; the enrolled freshman GPA from 3.6 to 3.63; and the transfer class by 6.6 percent, exceeding transfer enrollment goals by nearly 200 students. New projects to enhance recruitment included: the first Honors Reception for high school seniors and juniors; a “visit packet” for office guests; a parent handbook for parents of admitted freshmen; an on-line Admissions Event Calendar viewable and searchable by prospective students; “Transfer Talks” at CPCC; and the collection of parent email addresses to support efforts of the Office of Parent and Family Programs.

**Information and Technology Services (ITS)** began the year with the departure of the CIO and many challenges. The Interim CIO Pat Barber and dedicated staff handled the transition and met the goals of the unit. Following a national search, Dr. Jay Dominick was selected to head the unit.

A search was also conducted for a Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching and e-Learning. A new director arrived in October and with the staff developed a new strategic plan. To reflect the focus of helping faculty use technology as a tool to improve their pedagogy, the Center was renamed the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). During this period, CTL overcame the numerous problems with Blackboard Vista to produce a stable technology environment for electronic course management.

ITS successfully facilitated the final module of Banner – University Advancement. The Advancement staff, ITS, and existing Banner data owners collaboratively implemented the software. Additionally, ITS made major progress in addressing the most severe pain points left from the original Banner implementation. Major improvements were made to 49er Express to deliver important new online services to students and faculty.

The year was particularly challenging for operational reliability. ITS improved the computing facility by reducing the most significant single points of failure in its infrastructure. Improvement of internal processes for managing change and for monitoring infrastructure resulted in improved communication to the campus and fewer service interruptions.

Major strides were made in Research Computing. The number of active researchers using the High Performance Computing cluster nearly doubled. Operating at 95 percent capacity, the cluster is one of the most highly utilized central resources on campus.
The **Institute for Social Capital (ISC)** completed its Pilot Community Database. With deposits from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office, and Communities in Schools, there are 61,615 individual cases in the database. The database was launched at the First Annual Research Symposium, and preliminary results from three projects using the database were presented.

The first presentations featuring the Institute were made at the American Psychological Association by Sharon Portwood, Director, and Suzanne Boyd, ISC Faculty Research Scientist. The Institute worked with community agencies and/or University faculty to obtain grant and contract funding. Examples include outcomes research for residential treatment settings for children and youth (Duke Foundation funding); outcome evaluation of the ACT Parents Raising Safe Kids Program (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding); and with CMS, a Youth Risk Behavior Survey and asthma education.

The **Charlotte Research Institute (CRI)** sponsored more than 30 events that focused on research efforts and brought several thousand people to the campus. Shared programs or projects built stronger relationships with the Charlotte Regional Partnership, the Charlotte Chamber, the North Carolina Research Campus, Business Innovation and Growth, CED, Innoventure, and the Defense Security Technology Accelerator.

The CRI worked with center directors on large scale proposals in precision metrology, motorsports, and translational research, and funded 12 postdoctoral fellows in the research centers while expanding the CRI postdoctoral fellow program to support key faculty recruitment. New seed research funding programs resulted in collaborations with new industrial and academic partners. Open for Business initiated pilot projects to optimize web presence and to create a database of faculty expertise. Marketing material and case development for brain cancer research was significantly increased.

Michael Feldman was recruited as an Entrepreneur in Residence. A CRI Associate Director, an Office Manager for the CRI office at the North Carolina Research Campus, and the Business Incubator Executive Director were hired.

A One Millionth Volume Event was sponsored by the **J. Murrey Atkins Library** as the culmination of a year-long celebration of its millionth volume. “Dead Bones Talk and Silent Stones Speak: an evening with Kathy Reichs and James Tabor” was held October 9. Electronic Database usage statistics for the calendar year 2007 were 945,872 downloads, up from 787,099 in 2006, an increase of 20 percent. These numbers reflect the strong trend toward more electronic collections. Atkins Express services became a permanent Library service. The Article Delivery service expanded to include graduate students.

The Architectural Resources Center was officially designated a Branch Library of Atkins and renamed the Charles C. Hight Architecture Library. Outreach successes include continued work with the Charlotte Cultural Heritage Partnership and continued partnership with the Levine Museum of the New South to document the history of the Charlotte region.
External funding for the Library increased. A $48,680 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services will be used to enhance the New South Voices oral history database. The Dalton Brand Foundation donated $35,000 for the purchase of rare books. The Atkins Library Special Collections Department received an NEH Preservation Grant to hire a preservation consultant to review and make recommendations on its WBTV tape collection of news film from 1966 to 1981.

In Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs, the Center for Applied Geographic Information Science (CAGIS) led the effort to bring the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI) to UNC Charlotte. RENCI @ UNC Charlotte is dedicated to interdisciplinary research that addresses regional trends in land use and development, the effects of urbanization on natural resources, traffic patterns, urban infrastructure, quality of life and disaster response. The RENCI program establishes UNC Charlotte as the leading center for GIScience in the UNC system. During the past year, measured in terms of external funds, CAGIS ranked as the top research center at UNC Charlotte.

Continuing Education offered 437 programs that enrolled 7,590 participants and generated 109,944 participant-instructional-hours. Distance Education (DE) supported the delivery of 22 Distance Education programs and four ad hoc course initiatives that qualified to receive state funding. DE’s courses generated 2,847 enrollments or 11,152 fundable student-credit-hours (an increase of 42 percent). DE courses served a total of 965 students in 62 of North Carolina’s counties. In 2007, Summer Programs offered 707 courses, serving 8,147 students and generated 45,442 student-credit-hours (a 5.7 percent increase). Thirty-five course sections were delivered 100 percent online. Overall enrollments at UNC Charlotte Uptown increased 25.9 percent from 1,894 to 2,385. The number of course sections grew by 10.6 percent from 85 to 94.

UNC Charlotte’s Crossroads Charlotte Initiative completed its first full year as a curriculum. Offered in eight sections of Freshman Seminar (ARSC 1000) in Fall 2007, the curriculum included an off-campus visit to the Levine Museum of the New South; two panel presentations by Crossroads Network partners; and the creation and presentation of a unique, dramatic portrayal of the Crossroads Scenarios, “Hip Hop at the Crossroads,” by James Vesce and his students in the UNC Charlotte Hip Hop Theatre Lab.

In the Spring semester, three course sections of ARSC 3480: Citizenship and Service Practicum continued the Crossroads curriculum with service learning projects at the Sunridge YWCA afterschool program and KIPP Charter School. As a result, UNC Charlotte Crossroads decided to adopt the Sunridge program for year-around service learning projects. UNC Charlotte Crossroads hired a full-time coordinator in January 2007 to write curriculum and coordinate programs.

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute increased external funding by 75 percent, eclipsing the Strategic Plan’s five-year target by 100 percent. The Urban Institute obtained $1,159,906 in external funding and the Center for Transportation Policy Studies (CTPS), a unit within the Urban Institute, was awarded $840,464. These were the third and fourth largest Centers in external funding. Combined, they produced 25 percent of the external funding awarded campus centers. CTPS secured a major grant from FEMA for disaster management planning for eight
western UNC campuses. This research will guide campuses in preventing and reducing the long-term risks to life and property from hazards.

The Urban Institute released the Charlotte Regional Indicators Project to widespread praise and strong community support. The Community Research and Services division received a multi-year contract to evaluate the effectiveness of Crossroads Charlotte, a complex project aimed at changing community attitudes and behaviors on race. The School Services division compiled the first Transportation Information Management System Service Indicators Report for the NC Department of Public Instruction. The report and underlying database have been hailed as the best of their kind nationally and have already been used to provide ad hoc data reports to state legislative committees.

The **Office of International Programs** continued to strengthen the campus’ international dimension. It hosted a record number of visitors and delegations from international organizations and universities and coordinated official international trips for UNC Charlotte administrators to China, South Africa, and Australia. Faculty members were supported through 62 travel grants; professional development trips abroad, which were co-sponsored with the College of Arts and Sciences; and the establishment of an Office of International Programs University Council.

The Office of Education Abroad advised a record number of students (11.8 percent increase from last year) and coordinated an unprecedented 23 short-term programs. The English Language Training Institute also established an Advisory Board and hired a Coordinator of the International Faculty Language Support Program, who had a record number of International Teaching Assistants (29) attend the communications course.

Intercultural Outreach Programs involved 53 members of the Charlotte area community, 32 businesses, one school, and 48 UNC Charlotte departments and offices. The World Affairs Council of Charlotte continued to provide collaborative programming for the campus specifically related to guest speakers.

**Research and Federal Relations** noted that the University received three Congressional appropriations totaling $3.08 million and negotiated and signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the Air Force Research Lab, the second CRADA to be negotiated for UNC Charlotte and the UNC System. Full accreditation from the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care was also received.

A record number of proposals were submitted, an increase of 20 percent over last year, and the Office of Research Services established a post-award services unit with additional staff to support faculty investigators. The Council on Research and Sponsored Programs was dissolved and replaced by the Grants Management Exchange for departmental administrators and the Research Administration Council for senior research administrators.

The Office of Technology Transfer implemented an on-line filing of provisional patent applications. The University became a signatory to the NIH Uniform BioMaterials Transfer Agreement and participated in NC State’s Accelerated Commercialization of Technology program, with four of the six featured technologies being from UNC Charlotte. UNC Charlotte
was featured in *Business Week* magazine for its record of forming new companies, as one of 12 institutions featured in the NSF *Partnerships for Innovation* report. Two new startup companies were formed, and $90,000 in commercialization income was received, a new record.

The Small Business and Technology Development Center worked with 478 clients, assisted clients in raising $7.9 million in funding, and founded the Inception Micro Angel Fund, investing in early stage technology related companies.