Wolfpack Welcome Week Features Street Festival and Record-Setting Blood Drive
NC State capped off Wolfpack Welcome Week this year with Packapalooza, an all-day festival on Hillsborough Street. Green, Arts, Wolfpack, Sports, International and Public Safety Zones showcased NC State’s impact on campus and the world. Throughout the day, students, faculty and community members had opportunities to learn about NC State’s traditions and see the phase two unveiling of the Coaches’ Corner. All of campus was involved, with many departments and organizations leading activities throughout the day. The event also featured bands and student performances. Students, faculty and staff gave back to the community earlier in the week, donating nearly 1,250 pints of blood to the American Red Cross and setting a new university record. The blood drive was one component of Service NC State, an annual event hosted by the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service. The second component, a meal packaging event with Stop Hunger Now, will take place on November 17.

NC State’s Freshmen Class Sets University Records
NC State’s 4,316 new freshmen come from an impressive pool of applicants. More than 20,000 young people sought admission as freshmen, the most in university history. The average SAT score for this year’s enrollees is 1219, which represents a 28 point increase over last fall and is the first time a group of Wolfpack freshmen has averaged better than a 1200. Their averaged weighted high school grade-point average was 4.37, and 78 percent were in the top 20 percent of their graduating high school class, with 51 percent ranking in the top 10 percent. Most held significant leadership roles in high school, and many have volunteered or participated in service to their school and community. The 2012 freshmen come from 99 North Carolina counties, 41 states and 20 foreign countries.

National Institute of Health Grants NC State Program $3.6 Million
An NC State program aiming to increase diversity in the biomedical and behavioral sciences is getting a big boost to provide further support for under-represented students seeking to enter the Ph.D. workforce. After investing $2.1 million in NC State’s Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity (IMSD) program over the past four years, the National Institute of Health recently agreed to invest another $3.6 million in the program over the next five years. IMSD supports under-represented students with professional development opportunities, paid research positions in labs, faculty and graduate student mentors and travel money to attend academic conferences.

Campus Research Community Launches Cutting-Edge Companies
NC State’s Fast 15, an initiative to help researchers take cutting-edge research to the marketplace, is gaining momentum, as evidenced by the success of ImagineOptix, a company developing revolutionary projection technology for phones and other uses. The company is commercializing technology developed by Dr. Michael Escuti in the College of Engineering, who earned White House honors last year. NC State established the Fast 15, a group of startup companies launched by the campus research community in 2011, to help achieve an ambitious goal: doubling the number of startup companies initiated by the campus research community. The goal is to create stronger, more viable early-stage companies, poised for future success.
Engineering Professor Awarded NASA Research Grant
Chih-Hao Chang, an assistant professor from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, is one of 10 faculty members to receive an Early Career Faculty Award from NASA. Chang will receive $200,000 per year for up to three years to conduct research in areas aligned with NASA’s space technology roadmaps and any priorities identified by the National Research Council. This may include extending and sustaining human activities beyond low Earth orbit, exploring the evolution of the solar system and expanding how we understand Earth and the universe. Michael Gazark, the director of NASA’s space technology program, described this year’s Early Career Faculty Award winners as an “outstanding group of early career faculty researchers, representing some of the most talented new faculty from the best institutions of higher learning in America.”

NC State Students Take Best Picture Award in Hollywood
After winning the NC State Campus MovieFest, three NC State students traveled to the Campus MovieFest in Hollywood, California this June, where they won Best Picture and Best Director for their short film “The Strong One.” The film features an original poem penned by the film’s writer Tim Reavis, an NC State grad and English major. The cinematography and score were done by Josh Bielick, a recent graduate from the Poole College of Management, and the award-winning director was Nicholas Sailer, a senior in industrial design. The Hollywood Campus MovieFest is the world’s largest student film festival. “The Strong One” was also featured in France at the renowned Cannes Film Festival.

Wolfpack Surge in Director’s Cup Standings
In the 2012 Director’s Cup rankings the Wolfpack stand at 37th, our highest mark in six years and a jump of 52 spots in just two years. The Director’s Cup is a comprehensive measurement of success across all varsity sports recognized in collegiate athletics. The two-year jump is the largest by an ACC school in the history of the Directors’ Cup. For 2011-12, thirteen Wolfpack teams earned Directors’ Cup points and six finished in the Top-25 of the Cup standings: baseball (9th), men’s basketball (9th), men’s cross country (10th), gymnastics (13th), women’s golf (13th) and women’s cross country (23rd). NC State is one of only four BCS schools to win a bowl game, finish in the top 20 in men’s basketball and advance to a Super Regional in baseball in 2011-2012.

NC State Athletes and Coaches Shine at 2012 London Olympics
The Wolfpack was well-represented at the Summer Olympic Games in London. Swimmer Cullen Jones, a 2006 graduate from NC State’s English department, won a gold and two silver medals as part of the United States men’s swimming team in London. Two current NC State athletics officials were also in London for the Olympics. Assistant Athletic Director for Strength and Conditioning Bob Alejo was the strength and conditioning coach for Americans Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers, the defending gold medalists in men’s beach volleyball. Jamill Kelly, an assistant coach for the NC State wrestling team, was part of the support staff for the U.S. national wrestling team in London, Kelly’s fourth Olympics. In 2004, he competed and won a silver medal. Finally, former NC State basketball player Nate McMillian was an assistant coach with the gold medal-winning U.S. men’s basketball team. McMillan, a Raleigh native, helped lead the Wolfpack men’s basketball team to the Elite Eight in 1985 and 1986.