NC State Ranked
NC State received some new rankings in comparison to national and world universities. National Taiwan University’s “Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities” listed NC State in the Top 25 schools worldwide for Agriculture-Focused Publications. The Academic Ranking of World Universities also featured NC State in the Top 200 universities worldwide this year, highlighting our Engineering Program as #27 in the world. Finally, PayScale’s College Salary Report listed NC State in the Top 20 US Schools for the earning power of its physical science majors, making it the highest ranked NC School on the list.

Raleigh Named Best City in which to Live
Business Week named Raleigh the best large city in which to live, in part because of NC State. The ranking was made based upon educational and business opportunities, park acreage, crime rates, and the amount of available restaurants, museums, and other attractions. NC State contributed to several of these components and was specifically mentioned as one of the reasons behind Raleigh’s high rating.

LexisNexis Moves to Centennial Campus
NC State recently welcomed LexisNexis to Centennial Campus. The company is moving its Business of Law Software Solutions Division from Cary to the former Red Hat building, after searching the entire Triangle and concluding that Centennial Campus is the best fit. They will have access to researchers and students, and it will be a win-win partnership, because they, like NC State, are committed to innovation.

Mann+Hummel Innovation Center Joins Centennial
Also new to Centennial Campus is the Mann+Hummel NC Innovation Center in the Partners I building. Mann+Hummel is a world leader in filtration manufacturing, and this partnership will allow the company to work closely with the Nonwovens Institute on new filtration technology. The new partnership will also allow Mann+Hummel to work side-by-side with university researchers in developing the latest technology, while NC State benefits from having an industry partner committed to creating and maintaining a culture of innovation on campus.

NC State Receives “Citizen Science” Grant
NC State University is taking the lead on a five-year, $7.3 million “citizen science” initiative founded by the National Science Foundation. The goal of the program, being led by biology professor Rob Dunn, is to give science teachers and students the opportunity to engage in meaningful scientific research while improving the educational success of both teachers and students. The project will also include the Kenan Fellows Program, the Friday Institute, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and school districts across the state.
NC State Professor Receives Grant for Studying Wearable Robots
Greg Sawicki, assistant professor of biomedical engineering and director of the Human Physiology of Wearable Robotics lab in Biomedical Engineering, has received a five-year $750,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to compare different robotic ankle devices to assist people with stroke-related mobility impairments. Sawicki will collaborate with Dr. Steven Collins, a mechanical engineering professor at Carnegie Melon University. The grant is part of the National Robotics Initiative, which is meant to develop robots that work beside, or cooperatively, with people.

NC State Wins Funding to Expand Rural School Leadership Program
NC State also received a $4.7 million grant to expand its Northeast Leadership Academy, which offers specialized instruction in school administration, a weeklong summer institute, and expert executive coaches for principles in rural school systems. The program aims to help equip academic leaders to take on challenges they might face in these hard-to-staff systems. This grant will allow the program to enroll two new cohorts of 15 educators in a two-year curriculum, through which they will complete an internship, earn a master’s degree in school administration, and then work in one of the rural northeastern school districts after completing the program.

Alumnus and Assistant Professor Justin LeBlanc Finalist on Project Runway
Justin LeBlanc, an NC State alumnus and assistant professor in the College of Design, took the national stage in Lifetime’s Project Runway TV competition, where he was one of the last three designers in the competition. For his final collection, LeBlanc represented NC State’s innovative spirit using 3D-printing to create a new type of accessory and using pipet tips to create an unconventional “Test-Tube” dress.

Student Innovators Compete
In a true display of NC State’s innovative spirit, students are tackling real-world issues and receiving recognition for their work. Alexander Richter, a graduate student in Chemical Engineering, has been selected as a finalist in the 2013 Collegiate Inventors Competition. His project focuses on the creation of Silver Nanoparticles without metal, which allow for the creation of antimicrobial nanoparticles that are biodegradable.

Jenkins MBA student Eric Flood is also representing NC State’s creative thinking as a finalist in the Fast Company Innovation by Design Competition. Flood’s project, called Capitl, is a tablet and smartphone based application that allows users to aggregate highly credible objective political articles that can be annotated and fact-checked using the application itself. The application tracks user preference, becoming aware of how one’s political leanings form and change over time. Ultimately, Capitl allows the user to make sure they get the most accurate, fair version of political news.

NC State Shack-A-Thon Breaks Record Again
The annual Shack-A-Thon event, which has been a school tradition since 1991, was again held in the Brickyard this September. The event is hosted by NC State’s collegiate chapter of Habitat for Humanity and involves organizations and departments from all over campus working together in friendly competition to raise money for Habitat. Together these organizations raised $33,005 for the cause – the largest amount to date.