The Chancellor’s Report
November 2014

Homecoming
In addition to casting their votes, NC State students celebrated homecoming during the first week of November. Events ranging from free food for students wearing red to cleaning up Hillsborough Street to Banner Competitions helped build up Wolfpack Pride, which was demonstrated in Friday’s Massive Homecoming Parade. On Saturday staff, students, and alumni joined together to cheer on the football team as they took on Georgia Tech.

Khayrallah Center Gift
Dr. Moise A. Khayrallah and Vera Khayrallah have gifted NC State $8.1 million to establish the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies – the university’s first endowed center. It will be a unique center dedicated to the study of immigration – particularly the Lebanese dispersion throughout the United States – and to disseminating this knowledge to the scholarly community and the general public. The center is directed by Dr. Akram Khater, professor of history at NC State, and marks the largest gift in the history of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

JC Raulston Arboretum among Best in Nation
The JC Raulston Arboretum was listed as one of the Top 10 “Most Stunning University Gardens and Arboretums” by the website Best Masters Programs. The rankings were determined based on factors such as aesthetics and research potential, and the arboretum was noted specifically for being an evolving space where students can create and design. The interdisciplinary engagement of faculty and students in fields such as landscape horticulture, landscape architecture, and horticultural science among others helps make the arboretum stand out as a testing ground for new ideas and a forum for expanding knowledge.

Northeast Leadership Academy Receives Education Grant
NC State’s Northeast Leadership Academy, the number one educational leadership preparation program in the United States, received $2 million in funding from the Department of Education to offer training and leadership development for educators. These new leaders will serve as principals in 13 school districts within the NELA program’s partnership. The program is one of two this year to receive the University Council for Educational Administration’s Exemplary Educational Leadership Program Award.

Jagdish Narayan Wins North Carolina Award
Dr. Jay Narayan, professor of Materials Science and Engineering at NC State, has been named the winner of the 2014 North Carolina Award in Science for his contributions to the field of engineering. The North Carolina award is the highest civilian honor bestowed by the state, and is awarded in the four fields of science, literature, the fine arts, and public service.
Joseph DeSimone Elected to All National Academies
Dr. Joseph DeSimone, professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at NC State, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. This is one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine that a U.S. scientist can receive, and demonstrates the impact of his work. With this election, Dr. DeSimone is a member of all three U.S. National Academies, making him the first professor in North Carolina to receive that distinction.

Students Create Collar to Direct Elephants
NC State textile and engineering students have created a new way to ensure that elephants in South Africa are able to avoid villages where they might cause damage and become stressed. Building on a project started in a senior design course, a group of students produced a collar that uses built-in GPS to recognize when elephants come close to potentially problematic spaces and deter them with a slight buzzing noise (similar to that of bees, an insect elephants avoid). The project was piloted last spring, and will now be funded by the Army Research Office.

Justin LeBlanc back on Project Runway
Justin LeBlanc, NC State alum and professor in the College of Design, is returning to the reality TV Show Project Runway to compete as part of the All-Stars cast. Since reaching the final episode last season, LeBlanc has launched his own collections while returning to his passion for teaching studio courses and co-directing NC State’s Art2Wear show. He joins 14 other talented fan favorites as part of the more competitive All-Star Competition.

Athlete Graduation Rate Success
In the NCAA’s report on Graduation Success Rates, Wolfpack Athletes posted a rate of 81 percent, the second best score in school history after last year’s record 82 percent. NC State also scored a record-breaking Federal Graduation Rate of 71 percent. This shows tremendous progress, with each improving five of the last six years. It is a testament to the level of achievement NC State Student Athletes find both on and off the field.

NC State Joins It’s On Us Campaign
As part of an ongoing nationwide effort to address the issue of sexual assault, NC State has joined the White House’s “It’s on Us” campaign to help get students talking about the issue on college campuses. The campaign encourages students to take an active role in preventing sexual assault and helps spread awareness about the issue. The university created a public service announcement video as part of the campaign, featuring 106 students, faculty, and staff explaining why everyone needs to get involved.