Innovative Students
As always, NC State prides itself on nourishing an innovative spirit in all of its students through extensive education and research opportunities. Multiple engineering students have been featured for their respective projects. Trey Camp, a sophomore in mechanical engineering, has built and tested an electric longboard for quicker movement across campuses. Camp is looking to improve upon his creation and has started his own company, DAR Boards, to help manufacture and sell his battery-powered skateboards.

A group of seniors majoring in chemical and biomolecular engineering have taken their class project to a new level. As co-founders of BloomUnique, Avi Aggerwal, Kalyani Joshi, Klaudia Kozek and Christianna Carter have begun working on more adaptations for their customizable necklace. The girl’s design allows women to make multiple necklaces from the same components, offering an affordable way to accessorize any outfit.

Natural Resources Class Honored by City
Dr. Gary Blank and the Natural Resources 100 Class will be awarded the Fred Fletcher Award for Outstanding Community Service in early May. The Fred Fletcher Awards for Outstanding Volunteerism in the City of Raleigh have been given by the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department since 1996 to honor citizens, non-profits, community programs and businesses for their efforts in improving their community. The 367 NC State students enrolled in the class have been involved with 16 different projects, racking up a total of 734 hours volunteered.

NCSU Librarian named “Mover & Shaker”
Jason Evans Groth was selected by Library Journal as a 2016 “Mover & Shaker” for his innovative methods of combining traditional scholarship and multimedia experiences. This award recognizes individuals who have developed creative, engaging ways to utilize the different aspects of libraries across the nation. Evans Groth is NC State’s ninth “Mover & Shaker” in eleven years.

Rodolphe Barrangou’s Accolades
Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou has recently been recognized by multiple organizations for his work with CRISPR, a revolutionary gene-editing technique with countless applications in the fields of biotechnology, food and agriculture production, and medicine. Dr. Barrangou has received the Warren Alpert Prize and the Canada Gairdner International Award for his research with CRISPR. Given the potential for the CRISPR system, Dr. Barrangou will undoubtedly continue to receive impressive distinctions. His research in DNA-based immune system in bacteria has some very far-reaching implications for human health.
Zhen Gu Receives Funding for Diabetics Research
Dr. Gu is an assistant professor in NC State’s joint biomedical program with UNC-Chapel Hill. In late February, Dr. Zhen Gu was named a 2016 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow for chemistry due to his extensive research on developing more effective and efficient treatment delivery methods for diabetics and cancer-patients. It was announced in early March that Dr. Gu will receive a part of $4.6 million to fund further research into his Glucose-Responsive Smart Insulin Patches. This grant money, provided by JDRF and Sanofi, will allow Dr. Gu to continue his potentially life-altering research projects and no doubt lead to further developments in diabetic treatment methods.

New Dean of College of Education
Dr. Mary Ann Danowitz was named the dean of NC State’s College of Education, effective April 1, 2016. Since joining us in 2012, Dr. Danowitz has greatly strengthened the department through her leadership initiatives, relationship development, and reorganization efforts. She has served as the interim dean since July of 2015.

Growing Research on Women of Color (GROW) Project
Under the White House-led initiative titled the Collaborative to Advance Equity through Research, NC State has launched the GROW Project, a five-year commitment to conduct research that focuses on women and girls of color. Dr. Blair Kelley, assistant dean for interdisciplinary studies and international programs in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, will lead the GROW Project.

Under Dr. Kelley’s guidance, NC State will recruit researchers from all disciplines to offer a wide range of perspectives on this under-researched topic in efforts to provide a thorough understanding of the problems facing women and girls of color. These researchers will have an opportunity to learn more about the project and see potential avenues for collaboration with other researchers during the Advancing Justice for Women and Girls of Color Conference at Wake Forest in late April.

Wolfpack Wrestling Record Season
The NC State Wrestling team has had one of its best seasons to date this year, with two of its members finishing the regular season undefeated. The team sent a program-tying eight wrestlers to New York for the NACC Championships, including senior Nick Gwiazdowski who has won the national title the past two years. Gwiazdowski finished as the 2016 Runner-up and a four-time All-American wrestler. Wolfpack Wrestling continued its climb in the rankings and finished 11th overall with three of its wrestlers named All-American.