125 Years of Graduate Student Success
In 2019, the Graduate School and NC State will celebrate 125 years of awarding graduate degrees. The first master’s degree was awarded in 1894 to Frank T. Meacham, a member of the university’s first undergraduate class in 1889, when NC State was called the North Carolina College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts. Meacham also was one of the first to earn a bachelor’s degree in 1893.

Top School for Veterans Ranking
NC State’s effort to help military veterans earn college degrees has been commended by a recent 2019 academic report. Published by U.S. News and World Report, NC State ranked 46 overall in a category called “Best Schools for Veterans.” This category included schools that participate in federal initiatives to support military veterans at college. Additionally, the report named NC State number 32 out of 132 schools in the “Top Public Universities in the U.S.” category. This ranking was determined by looking at factors such as student excellence, financial and faculty resources, and retention rates to determine their rankings.

Dual Enrollment Partnership to Prepare NC’s Teachers
Johnston County Public Schools, Johnston County Community College, and the NC State College of Education are establishing a dual enrollment program and piloting an Associate in Science (Teacher Education Concentration) degree to create a direct and affordable pathway for young aspiring teachers to earn a teaching degree. It will also supply Johnston County with highly qualified teachers. This program offers a unique solution to the nationwide shortage of teachers and will most likely serve as an example to many other districts, community colleges, and four-year institutions. The Associate in Science program will enroll its first students in the Fall of 2019.

Faculty Success
In late December 2018, four faculty members from the NC State College of Sciences were elected as fellows for the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. Illse C.F Ipsen, Louis A. Martin-Vega, Jennifer Kuzma, and C.T. Kelly were among the 416 scientists to be elected as fellows of the society. It is the world’s largest academic society of scientists and the fellows are only elected after extensive review of their contributions to the field.

Additionally, Sylvia Blankenship, professor emerita and former associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was recently elected to the National Academy of Inventors. Blankenship was honored for work that she conducted in the 1990’s with NC State Professor Edward Sisler. They created a compound known as 1- MCP, which makes flowers and fruits last longer. The compound was officially introduced in 2002 as SmartFresh and has greatly improved access to ripe fruit. She is NC State’s 10th faculty member to be presented with this prestigious award.
NC State’s Education Research Makes a Difference
Faculty and researchers from the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation and the Department of Computer Science at NC State were awarded a three-year, $1 million Nation Science Foundation grant to increase participation in computer science and computational thinking in K-12 schools. The project builds on the research-practice partnership (RPP) NC State researchers have cultivated at Reedy Creek Magnet Middle School in Wake County over the last two years. It also supports the adaptation of NC State’s RPP with faculty from UNC-Charlotte. UNC-Charlotte researchers will partner with the NC State team to design and implement their own RPP in a Charlotte-Mecklenburg magnet school. In doing so, researchers hope to identify which aspects of the RPP can and cannot be replicated, so that they can extend this method to other schools. The integration of computational thinking and computer science principles into K-12 education is vital to fostering key 21st century thinking skills for students entering the workforce.

Ocean Currents Research Initiative
A Goodnight Innovation Distinguished Professor, Ruoying He serves in NC State’s Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. He was recently awarded a grant from the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine for a total of $2.1 million. With this award, Professor He will research and study the ocean circulation in the Gulf of Mexico and the physical processes that control them. NC State will collaborate with several other academic institutions on this project, including Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Research Triangle Involvement
NC State and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are partnering in a new Research Triangle project to prevent mosquito based diseases. The Analytical Instrumentation Facility at NC State has a new method to measure the amount of insecticide present on mosquito nets. They are focusing on an insecticide called Permethrin. This research will help millions of mosquito-net users be able to know when their nets are no longer working and need to be replaced.

Student Success
Two NC State students, Jada Hester and Sara Darwish were named WomenNC Scholars for the 2018-2019 academic year. WomenNC is a local non-profit group that selected 10 students from across North Carolina to participate in the Juanita M. Bryant United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Leadership Training Program. During their participation in the selective program, Hester and Darwish will research issues facing women in North Carolina and present recommendations to government policymakers. They will also get to present their research to the United Nations Commission on Women in March 2019.

Athletics
NC State was 10th in the Director’s Cup from the final fall 2018-2019 standings. The NC State fall sports team that scored the most points was the Men’s Cross Country team, while the most improved score was for Men’s Soccer. At the NCAA Championship, the Women’s Cross Country team came in 13th and the Men’s team came in 11th, marking the first time since 2003 that the two Wolfpack Cross Country Teams have placed in the top 25.