New Partnerships
NC State University and North Carolina Central University are partnering to identify drug development research leads faster. The partnership brings together the distinct but complementary assets of NC State’s Comparative Medicine Institute (CMI) and NC Central’s Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE). While BRITE already has the state-of-the-art technology and a number of skilled researchers, NC State will provide experts in chemistry and biology who help drive the system to reach its full potential. The partnership is expected to not only produce results in identifying new drug targets, providing expertise for in-vivo proof-of-concept studies, and collaboration on new funding opportunities, but will also open doors for student training at both institutions.

Research Project Headquarters Moving to NC State
The Interregional Research Project No.4 (IR-4), a federally funded research program that helps specialty crop growers receive the pest control agents they need to grow their crops, announced its plans to move from its center of operations at New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station/Rutgers University to NC State. With the multitude of talented faculty members at NC State researching all aspects of specialty crop production, the number of pest management companies in North Carolina, and the importance of specialty crops in our state, the IR-4 Project Management Committee voted unanimously to move its headquarters to our university.

NC State Hosts AHEAD Virtual Conference
NC State recently hosted a virtual conference with presentations from the annual Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) “Equity and Excellence: Access in Higher Education” conference. The presentations reinforced to NC State faculty and staff the importance of creating an accessible campus environment so that students with disabilities can achieve their academic goals and succeed beyond higher education.

Student Success
Four NC State students were recently selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study or intern abroad during the fall of 2019. The Congressionally funded Gilman Program provides scholarships to outstanding undergraduate students who might not otherwise be able to study abroad due to financial constraints. Since the program’s establishment in 2001, over 1,300 U.S. institutions have had more than 28,000 Gilman scholars who represent the rich diversity of the United States to 145 countries around the globe. The four recipients are: Cheyana Bassham, a junior in the College of Natural Resources; KC Chaleunvong, a freshman in the College of Sciences; Zach Helon, a junior in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; and Toinette Powers, a junior in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. They will conduct their semesters abroad in Tanzania, Poland, Estonia and Spain, respectively.
Faculty Success
Three NC State researchers were named recipients of the 2019 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on outstanding scientists and engineers who are beginning their independent research careers and who show exceptional promise for leadership in science and technology. Lorena Bociu, an associate professor of mathematics, conducts research on the biomechanics and hemodynamics in the lamina cribrosa, a structure in the eye, to better understand the cause and progression of glaucoma with the ultimate goal of finding new ways to prevent or treat the disease. Hsiao-Ying Shadown Huang, an associate professor of materials science and engineering, investigates the mechanics of biological materials and energy materials, with her research on the effects of strain on heart valve tissue being the first of its kind. Her work has implications for increased understanding of tissue processes, including tumor growth and the formation of thrombi – clots that remain in the blood vessel. James LeBeau was the third recipient. This was his last award as an NC State researcher, since he recently accepted a faculty position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Erin Krupa, assistant professor of mathematics education at NC State, was awarded a five-year $2.1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant in July for her research project, “Validity Evidence for Measurement in Mathematics Education.” She aims to create a repository of validity evidence for quantitative measures in mathematics education, which will improve what is known in the field of mathematics education in relation to student and teacher outcomes, thereby improving the quality of instruction students receive. Krupa received another NSF grant in June, measuring $450,000, for her project “Using Animated Contrasting Cases to Improve Procedural and Conceptual Knowledge in Geometry,” which aims to help students better understand the theory behind the mathematics concepts they are learning.

Wolfpack Investor Network Success
The Wolfpack Investor Network (WIN) has reached $10 million in investments into 18 university-affiliated companies since its launch in December of 2016. The companies span industries such as food science, medical devices, advanced materials, and therapeutics, and all carry strong ties to NC State. WIN is a vital piece of the entrepreneurial ecosystem at NC State, providing university-affiliated investment opportunities and a vast network of alumni, parents, and friends of the university for its investor members.

Athletics
The College Swimming Coaches Association of America named 28 men and women on the Wolfpack Swimming and Diving team Individual Scholar All-Americans. Additionally, both the men’s and women’s squads were recognized as Scholar All-America Teams for the 2019 spring semester by achieving a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. This honor is a testament to their hard work in the classroom and in competition.