Accomplishments and Challenges

We recently held our annual CALS faculty meeting. Preparing for this meeting, gave me an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments over the past 15 months since I was named Dean of the College. I also reflected on the opportunities and challenges that we face in the future. I’d like to re-cap several highlights of the past 15 months and comment on the future but first, I want to thank each of you for your support and hard work that has made this a productive time for the college. Early last year, I was hosted by our CALS Alumni and Friends Society and Cooperative Extension at a series of meetings across the state. I told our supporters that we have a great College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. It is GREAT because of your efforts that have produced nationally recognized academic, extension, research and advancement programs.

Administrative Changes during first 15 months

We have had several administrative changes resulting from promotions and retirements. Dr. Sylvia Blankenship was appointed as Associate Dean for Administration in February 2005 and Dr. Steve Leath was appointed as Associate Dean for Research in July 2005. Both served in these positions on an interim basis while I served as interim Dean. Dee Shore was appointed head of Communication Services; Dr. Ed Kick, Head of Sociology and Anthropology; Dr. Marshall Stewart, Head of 4-H Youth Development; Dr. Sam Pardue, Head of Poultry Science; and Dr. Donn Ward, Head of Food Science. Dr. Gerry Luginbuhl, Microbiology; Dr. Michael Wagger, Soil Science; and Dr. George Barthalmus, Zoology, have all assumed interim head positions. During the last 15 months, Dr. Joe Zublena filled in as interim Director of Cooperative Extension while Dr. Jon Ort was on medical leave. I’m appreciative of all this group has and is doing for the College.

Cooperative Extension’s Change Management and Marketing Initiative

Cooperative Extension has been working on a new strategic marketing plan. The planning process was initiated in 2003 and has involved Carolina PR/Marketing and numerous members of CES at both NC A&T State and NC State. The plan establishes a unified Extension identity, formalizes and strengthens operations and marketing, emphasizes strategic relevance and importance and aligns performance expectations to reflect strategic priorities.
Faculty Appointments on Campus

We welcomed several new faculty to campus during the last 15 months. These include the following:

Alexandria Graves, Soil Science; Lingjuan Wang, BAE; Edgar Oviedo, Poultry Science; Heike Sederoff, Botany; Anthony LeBude, Horticultural Science; Deyu Xie, Botany; Frank Scholle, Microbiology; Xiaoyong Zheng, DARE; Ivan Kandilov, DARE; Paola Veronese, Plant Pathology; Robert Dunn, Zoology; Derek Aday, Zoology; Andrew Benhke, Family and Consumer Sciences; Robert Richardson, Crop Science; Roger von Haefen, Agricultural and Resource Economics; David Buchwalter, Environmental and Molecular Toxicology; Asimina Mila, Plant Pathology; Chris Reberg-Horton, Crop Science; Michelle Schroder, Crop Science; Sara Spayd, Horticultural Science; and Alejandro Amezquita, Food Science.

County Field Faculty

Extension has employed 41 new field faculty during the last 15 months. These employees are doing an outstanding job of representing our college and university all across the state. We welcome all these new employees to the college and NC State!

Facilities

During the last year, we began making progress on providing newly renovated facilities that a world-class program needs during the last year.

- Renovation of Schaub Hall, the home of the Food Science Department, was completed using proceeds from the 2000 Bond Program.

- David Clark Labs, the departmental home of Zoology, was completed using funds from the 2000 Bond Program. The old building was completely renovated and a new laboratory addition was constructed.

- Bond program renovations are now planned or underway for Polk Hall and South Gardner Hall. Some renovations, although not as comprehensive as originally planned, are also underway for Williams Hall.

- The College continues to develop some of the best support facilities in the country at the Lake Wheeler Road University Field Laboratory.
  - A new turf field lab was established with renovated offices and a new support building.
  - A classroom shared by waste and structured pest program was completed.
  - Plans are underway to renovate the dairy building, build a new milking parlor and complete the feed mill.
Several counties also provided new facilities for our field faculty including Union County, Duplin County, Madison County, Harnett County and Johnston County. Dare County is also in newly renovated space.

**Budget and Expenditures**

Operating support continues to be an issue, however; the college continues to do well because of nonappropriated support from industry, commodity groups, foundations and individuals. Our college spent over $231 million from all sources during the last fiscal year. The funding is shown in the following chart.

![Total College Funding Pie Chart](chart.png)

**Academic Programs**

Our academic program continues to attract outstanding students. We met our enrollment targets for both undergraduates and graduates. Our enrollment figures for the past five years are as follows:
The one and two-year retention rates and our four and five-year graduation rates continue to improve. We graduated 3,749 undergraduates and 352 agricultural institute students last year. Community College Week ranked the Agricultural Institute as the best program of its type in the country. The new Food Science Bioprocessing curriculum was also ranked as one of the ten most innovative programs in the country by the monthly publication “Dean & Provost” (August 2005).

The Career Services Office had a record Career Day with more than 100 employers on campus. They also provided leadership for our outstanding Ambassador student group, which added significantly to many of our college events.
**College Advancement**

Our advancement staff organized several outstanding events that support the mission of the college. These events included the 4-H Gala, Gala in the Garden, a Fourth of July Celebration, CALS Donor Gala, CALS tailgate, CALS Alumni Awards Event, Celebrate NC Wines and CALS Retired Faculty and Staff Luncheon.

Our advancement staff, under Keith Oakley’s leadership, has also helped the college to raise more than $186,000,000 of the $275,000 million goal in NC State’s Capital Campaign.

Thanks to all our volunteers including campaign co-chairs Larry Sykes, Joe and Ginger Taylor, Ruby McSwain and Bill Culpepper.

The College has also established the following new foundations:

- NC Family and Consumer Sciences Foundation
- NC Landscapes of Opportunity Foundation
- NC Agricultural and Life Sciences Research Foundation
- NC Foundation for Value Added Agriculture and Applied Biotechnology

**Grants and Contracts**

Our faculty continues to develop competitive proposals. Last year we had 878 proposals funded totaling $58,715,155. The last five years funding is shown in the table below. This funding demonstrates the value of our programs to those who provided financial support.

![College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Summary](image-url)
Salary Increases

In addition to the two percent legislative increase for state employees, the college received a $3.7 million appropriation from the legislature to address serious salary inequities that resulted from many issues including no increases for agricultural program faculty from tuition increases, special increases for academic program faculty only and no increases on federal appropriations used for salaries.

The $3.7 million did not allow us to achieve our equity goals but it was extremely important to the college’s future. Equity for field faculty was based on the average of our peers in the southeast. Equity for on-campus faculty was computed to achieve equity for research and extension faculty compared to academic appointments in the college.

$1.8 million was allocated for increases for field faculty while $1.9 was allocated for increases for on-campus agricultural program faculty. Twenty percent of the allocations were used to cover fringe benefits.

The percentage increase was much higher for field faculty. On-campus faculty had a three percent pool to address inequities. The three percent was based on research and extension allocations and did not include any funds for academic faculty. Thus, the total average increase was less than three percent.

Salaries of NC State faculty and our college faculty continue to be lower than our peers; however, I was pleased that we could start to address our lack of salary competitiveness.

William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professors

Twelve College of Agriculture and Life Sciences faculty members were named William Neal Reynolds Professors effective July 1, 2005. The new Reynolds professors are: Drs. Charles
Apperson, Entomology; Rebecca Boston, Botany; Marie Davidian, Statistics; Ralph Dean, Plant Pathology; Gregory Gibson, Genetics; Barry Goodwin, Agricultural and Resource Economics; Linda Hanley-Bowdoin, Molecular and Structural Biochemistry; Jack Odle, Animal Science; Gary Payne, Plant Pathology; Michael Purugganan, Genetics; Craig Sullivan, Zoology and Zhao-Bang Zeng, Statistics.

**Challenges**

Our operating budget continues to be an issue that we must address. We will begin reducing the number of positions that are refilled with the salary and fringe benefit dollars being reallocated to salary increases, career banding and operating support.

We will need to continue to generate private support and develop new partnerships so we can maintain excellent programs and serve our students and clientele well.

We must also develop both a short-range and a long-range space plan for our programs. Our plan must help address space quality issues that constraint our programs from being their best.

Finally we must develop a new strategic plan for the College and implement Extension’s new plan so we can utilize our current resources and capture new resources that address the state’s needs and maintain a program of excellence expected at a GREAT land-grant research university.

**Opportunities**

I’m excited about the numerous opportunities we have. The University System has decided that economic development is one of the systems priorities. This is good for us because we have always been involved in this area. We will continue to support our value-added and alternative enterprises initiative that is having an impact in rural areas as agriculture continues to change. The greater presence of Dole Foods in the state and the development of the North Carolina Research Campus at Kannapolis will provide opportunities in basic and applied research and opportunities for our producers.

Our Center for Environmental Farming Systems is developing new partnerships that will improve our ability to support new opportunities for community-based food systems and organic food production. The expanding grape and wine industry including nutraceuticals will provide us an opportunity to support additional development of these industries.

The college can benefit greatly from the new bioprocessing programs, from distance education and collaboration with the community college system.

Thank you for all you’re doing and I encourage you to continue to work to support our college’s mission in education, extension and research. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me via phone, email, letter or personal visit.

Johnny C. Wynne
Dean and Executive Director for Agricultural Programs