

**National Science Foundation Fellowship Recipient
Abound at UNC Charlotte**

The Graduate School at UNC Charlotte continues its tradition of attracting strong graduate students with its outstanding opportunities for personal and professional growth. This year, the 2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships were presented to several undergraduate students from UNC Charlotte, two of whom plan to continue their academic endeavors as graduate students at the University. Additionally, UNC Charlotte will welcome two 2011 NSF recipients who did their undergraduate course work elsewhere, bringing the total number of NSF GRF funded graduate students who attend the university, to seven. This substantial increase is nearly triple that of previous years.

"As our University matures, our graduate programs are gaining greater visibility both nationally and internationally," says Tom Reynolds, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School. "It is this increased recognition that allows us to attract high quality students that qualify for such a prestigious recognition as the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Having these students attend UNC Charlotte then adds to our reputation for research and graduate education, which attracts even more outstanding students, and this cycle of success just continues. It's a great snowball effect."

This year's recipients from UNC Charlotte are Phillip Davis, (BS Mechanical Engineering), Amy Stonger, (BS Molecular Biology), Brandon Kerr (BS Computer Science), Jordana Hodges (BS Computer Science), and Samantha Finkelstein (BS Computer Science). Davis is a master's student in the Mechanical Engineering program, while Stonger, is a doctoral student in the Bioinformatics program. Joining them in the graduate student ranks from other universities, will be Andrew Hicks and Amy Ingram, both doctoral students in the Information Technology program.

Competition to receive the NSF fellowships is intensive. Over 12,000 applications were received with offers made to only 2,000 students. Each award consists of three years of funding, an annual stipend of \$30,000, and a cost-of-education allowance applicable to their graduate education. The NSF GRF student's areas of study are in a variety of programs including NanoScale Science, Optical Science and Engineering, Bioinformatics, Information Technology and Mechanical Engineering.

UNC Charlotte offers a stimulating, engaging learning environment headed by some of the most distinguished faculty in the world. With 19 doctoral and 61 master's programs, the University's reputation as a research intensive facility with outstanding mentoring devices, are the keys to developing strong academic bonds with these bright graduate candidates.