FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT?

The university has established minimum endowment levels for various types of endowed funds. Until a donor agreement has been fully executed, gift payments to establish a named fund will be held in an appropriate general endowment account. Once the agreement has been signed by all parties, the accumulated fund will be moved (at the appreciated value of its shares) to a newly created endowment fund.

WILL THE UNIVERSITY REINVEST THE PAYOUT TO HELP MY FUND GROW?

No; the payout is made annually to each named fund’s spendable account and the university uses those funds to support scholarships, professorships, programs, etc. specified in the donor agreement. Funds grow through market appreciation as described in this publication.

WHEN WILL MY ENDOWED FUND BEGIN MAKING DISTRIBUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MY GIFT’S PURPOSE?

The named endowment will receive its first payout during the first fall semester 12 months after the minimum endowment level has been fulfilled.

For example: You have pledged $25,000 to establish a named scholarship fund. You established the fund in January 2008 with a check for $10,000. In April 2008, you added a gift of $15,000, which brings the fund to the minimum level for named scholarships. The first student award will be made in the fall of 2009 (12 months from fulfilling the minimum is April 2009; first fall semester following fulfillment is fall 2009).

HOW IS THE PAYOUT ON MY NAMED FUND USED?

The income generated by endowments allows UNCW to offer scholarships to students, attract the best professors to teach, support programs and foster research. Each fund’s spendable account is awarded based on the criteria approved by the donor in the donor agreement. The approved percentage rate is calculated, distributed to the spendable income fund and dispersed (rounded to the nearest $50) to the appropriate recipient as outlined in the donor agreement. On occasion, an award is not distributed due to unforeseen circumstances (a recipient becomes ineligible due to withdrawal from the university or other circumstances which prevent the student from accepting the funds). In cases where the award cannot be redistributed to a deserving recipient, the funds are held in the spendable account until the next award cycle for distribution.

A letter from Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo

Let me begin by thanking you for your generous support of the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Endowed funds such as yours provide the margin of excellence UNCW needs to give our students the most powerful learning experience possible. The university is truly grateful for your outstanding support.

UNCW is rising to national prominence on the strength of our academic programs, research endeavors, athletic and artistic achievements, regional engagement commitments and global outreach initiatives. U.S. News & World Report recently ranked UNCW as one of the top 10 public master’s universities in the South, making this the 11th straight year the university has placed in the top 10. This year, U.S. News also ranked UNCW fifth on its first-ever list of “up-and-coming” master’s universities in the South, and Forbes placed UNCW in the top two among North Carolina’s public universities.

To continue soaring to greatness, UNCW must remain focused on building our endowment. Our investment portfolio performed well in fiscal year 2007-08 (see inside report). Our volunteer Endowment Board, comprised of veteran financial professionals, closely works with our fund managers to maximize the university’s investments and minimize our risks.

By making an endowed gift to UNCW, you have made a significant commitment to educating our students now and in the years to come. We appreciate your philanthropic vision, and we welcome the opportunity to work with you to make it a reality. Thank you again for giving to the students, faculty, staff and programs at UNCW.

All the best,

Rosemary DePaolo

Chancellor

Financial data provided by UNCW Division for Business Affairs
The UNCW Endowment

The University of North Carolina Wilmington solicits endowment gifts from alumni, parents, students and friends of the university to ensure that support for UNCW students, faculty and programs will thrive in perpetuity. The principal of these gifts cannot be spent, but the earnings as approved by the Board of Trustees must be spent according to the provisions outlined in donor agreements. When a donor makes a gift to the university's endowment, the university agrees to manage and maintain that gift.

Although the quality of students and faculty remains high, the endowment, comparable to those of peer institutions, is not competitive with the amount of money necessary to attract the best and brightest students. UNCW's endowment has grown significantly over the past five years and has consistently been higher than the S&P.