NC State’s First Churchill Scholar
Mia Alexa de los Reyes, a senior majoring in physics and mathematics, is one of 15 students nationwide to receive the prestigious and coveted scholarship. The scholarship covers all university and college fees, cost-of-living expenses, travel to and from the United Kingdom and other reimbursement of application fees. Mia will use the scholarship to pursue a one-year master’s degree in astronomy from the University of Cambridge beginning in fall 2016. Mia is a 2012 graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Math, and received NC State’s most prestigious merit scholarship – the Park Scholarship. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Pi Sigma academic honor societies. She previously won the Goldwater Scholarship and the Astronaut Scholarship.

Wolf Prize Goes to Dr. Trudy Mackay
Dr. Trudy Mackay, a William Neal Reynolds and University Distinguished Professor in the biological sciences department, was awarded the Wolf Prize for agriculture. Dr. Mackay was selected for her work on the genome of Drosophila melanogaster, the common fruit fly. The Wolf prize is widely known as one of the world’s most prestigious awards for academic achievement, and many recipients have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes for their efforts.

Susan Nutter Named ACRL Academic Research Librarian of the Year
Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan Nutter was named the 2016 Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. This award acknowledges a member of the library profession who has made significant national or international contributions to academic/research librarianship and library development. She played a large role in integrating innovative library services, promoting academic and research opportunities at NC State libraries and the planning, development and construction of Hunt Library.

First Recipient of the Mark L. Morris Jr. Investigator Award
Dr. Kate Meurs, the Associate Dean of research and graduate studies in the College of Veterinary Medicine, was named the first recipient of the Mark L. Morris Jr. Investigator Award. This award is given to an individual who embodies the late Mark L. Morris Jr.’s spirit and dedication to treating and curing animal diseases through science. Dr. Meurs was selected for her work on studying the genes related to cardiac disease in companion animals and will use the award to focus specifically on those causing canine mitral valve disease.

New Dean of Textiles Announced
Over the holiday break, David Hinks was named the new dean in the College of Textiles. He has been on the faculty at NC State for 17 years and served as the interim dean while we conducted a nationwide search.
New Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Scott Douglass, who comes to NC State from the University of Delaware, started his new position on January 11. He has worked in both university and state government settings. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in political science, both from the University of Delaware. He also completed additional graduate studies at Syracuse University.

New Dean Named in Poole College of Management
Annette Ranft is the new Stephen P. Zelnak, Jr. Dean of the Poole College of Management, effective July 1, 2016. She comes to NC State from the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee where she is the Reagan Professor of Business and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

New Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Development
Dr. Mladen Vouk, department head and distinguished professor of computer science, who also directs the Data Science Initiative, was recently named associate vice chancellor for research development. He has received numerous awards for this groundbreaking research in software engineering, scientific computing and analytics, information technology and education, and high-performance computing. Dr. Vouk is an IEEE Fellow and a recipient of the IEEE Distinguished Service and Gold Core Awards.

King’s First Dream Website Launches
Dr. Jason Miller launched kingsfirstdream.com on January 15. The website offers visitors a look at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s life and role in the Civil Rights Movement, primarily his November 1962 speech in Rocky Mount, North Carolina during which he made his first reference to the powerful “I have a dream” motif. The original tape recording of King’s address has been analyzed and refurbished, allowing listeners to hear minute details and better experience this profound moment in history. The site also provides a written transcript of this speech with footnotes providing historical context.

Tapingo App Launches on Campus
University Dining recently introduced a new mobile food ordering app that is sure to be popular. The free Tapingo app allows students to order food from non-self-serving restaurants on Central and Centennial Campus, as well as from most coffee shops. Users select and pay for their meals while avoiding wait time in lines. When their food is ready, users receive a text message notification. They simply have to walk up to the counter, show proof of the order from the app and walk away with their meal.

Flavor to Savor!
Howling Cow ice cream has launched a new flavor—lemon wafer. The new product features lemon ice cream with Vanilla Wafers embedded within. It was first sold at the State Fair in October and received many positive reviews. NC State’s Food Science Club sold nearly 1,400 three-gallon tubs of Howling Cow ice cream at the State Fair in 2015. In total, Howling Cow offers over a dozen ice cream flavors, including the Chancellor’s Choice, Wolf Tracks.