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## **The Daily Dispatch: “Trump nominates Henderson native for ambassadorship”**

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Rachael Riley

A former Henderson resident has been nominated by President Donald Trump to become an ambassador to Spain and Andorra, the White House announced last week.

Richard “Duke” Buchan III was one of 18 nominations to “key administration posts” referred to the Senate on Thursday.

Buchan is an alumnus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and founder and CEO of Florida-based private investment management firm Hunter Global Investors L.P.

In a May 2007 interview with Strategy Focus, an investment-related publication, Buchan spoke about growing up on a farm in Vance County.

“Family, integrity, and hard work were reinforced daily,” Buchan told the publication. “It wasn’t unusual for us in the summer to work from 6:30 in the morning until late in the summer evening.”

Former high school classmate and current Henderson resident John Wester remembers Buchan excelled in academics while at Vance Senior High in the early 1980s.

“Duke was the most likable person. He never met a stranger,” Wester said. “If he asked a question, he genuinely wanted to know the answer to understand, and he listened. His work ethic is exceeded by his intelligence.

“He still stays in touch with a lot of (local) people. He is not above Henderson and has not forgotten his roots.”

The White House announcement states Buchan and his family own and manage farms that grow more than 100 varieties of heirloom vegetables and raise horses.

“He is active in a number of educational and philanthropic causes,” the White House announcement states.

According to a UNC news release, Buchan graduated with a bachelor’s in economics and Spanish in 1985.

In 2011, his family established the Buchan Excellence Fund, which has supported research by students and professors, enabling travel to Spain and Spanish-speaking countries and a video exchange program between American and Spanish schoolchildren, the UNC news release states.

A 2012 Carolina Arts and Sciences Magazine article states Buchan was fascinated with places beyond the tobacco fields near his Vance County home, as he took in photos and words in his World Book Encyclopedia.

The article states after high school Spanish teachers encouraged him to spend a summer in Spain, Buchan was “hooked on seeing the world.”

He enrolled in UNC’s study abroad program to Seville, Spain.

“The study of the Spanish language, literature and cultures provided me a passport to a world outside the U.S. and instilled in me a global perspective,” Buchan told the publication. “My first job out of Carolina was in Miami in 1985, where I used Spanish on a daily basis.”

The White House news release and Buchan’s company website state that he attended study abroad programs at La Universidad de Valencia in Valencia, Spain, and La Universidad de Sevilla in Seville, Spain.

Buchan received his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1991. He has worked at several large financial and Wall Street firms, beginning a banking career in the 1990s at Merrill Lynch, where he worked in corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions in Latin America, Europe and the United States, according to his company’s website.

Buchan founded Hunter, which manages funds that invest in asset classes globally, along with a focus on public securities and real estate, in 2001.

Buchan and his wife, Hannah, have three children and live in Palm Beach, Florida, and New York City.