

# Addressing the Issues

By Darrell Johnson

Chancellor James Moeser delivered his first State of the University address to the UNC Chapel Hill community on Sept. 5 focusing primarily on the future of the University.

While Moeser's community-wide address was the first of its kind in recent years, the Chancellor began the annual tradition of giving 'state of the university addresses' while at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Much of Moeser's speech centered on financial issues at the University. While he did not openly discuss the retroactive tuition increases facing students, Moeser promised to increase fundraising efforts substantially at the University. Moeser said these fundraising efforts, as well as tuition increases over the next several years, would be used primarily to increase enrollment

and expand faculty research efforts.

Moeser also declared that faculty salaries at the University, a major issue for the past few years on campus, are "unacceptable." He praised the research efforts of the faculty and extensively described several of the companies formed from these efforts.

"Our research is making its way directly to the North Carolina economy at an accelerated pace through the creation of tax-paying, for-profit spin-off companies that are solving local, state, and national problems and creating new jobs," he said. "Last year alone, technology developed in Carolina research programs spawned a dozen new companies."

But despite mentioning several progresses made for faculty at the University, Moeser did not mention the lack of library resources for undergraduates caused by campus construction. Davis Library has private faculty studies on almost every floor but a large portion of network connections still remain unavailable for undergraduate use.

Nonetheless, Moeser did mention some other issues presently concerning students.

The chancellor said that although UNC-CH was one of the first universities to open to African-Americans, there are still "toxins of racism" present on this campus.

He mentioned the groundbreaking of the BCC last spring and spoke highly of Carolina's placement on statistics in the Black Enterprise magazine. But Moeser pledged to continue to further improve diversity on campus.

"Diversity is a vital component of our vision to become first among America's public universities, and we must all recommit ourselves to this important challenge every day," Moeser said.

Still, Moeser left some questions unanswered. While gearing much of his speech towards the University's future, Moeser did not extensively discuss its present state.

At times, it seemed that the expansions the chancellor promised for faculty would overshadow concerns of students including low tuition costs and adequate academic resources.

Moeser made a lot of promises during his address, let's hope he makes sure they are fulfilled.

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Black Engineers**



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## Fall Region II Conference

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