

Students work for UNC B-day

The nation's first public university will kick off its eight-month Bicentennial Observance Oct. 12, and UNC students have been working hard planning events for the celebration.

"It's an extraordinarily wonderful time to be attending the University," said Dick Richardson, faculty chairman of the Bicentennial Observance. "I think it is going to be a wonderful eight months."

The opening ceremonies for the celebration will include two days of intellectual and cultural programming, culminating with a convocation on University Day in Kenan Stadium.

President Bill Clinton is tentatively scheduled to speak at the convocation. "We're working on getting Clinton, and we hope he will come," said Kevin Moran, chairman of the Student Bicentennial Observance Planning Committee.

About 70 students have been working on planning events for the Bicentennial. The committee will need about 1,000 student volunteers to help out with events throughout the year, Moran said.

While the theme of the observance is "First in the Nation," the student planning committee has chosen to focus events around the idea of community.

"We wanted to do more than just have projects for the sake of having projects," Moran said. "And the idea of community involves everyone."

Events planned by the student committee include a campuswide service project, building a Bicentennial park in Chapel Hill, a student performing art series, an essay contest and a



time capsule. Many well-known figures are slated for the year-long lecture series. Li Lu, one of the leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration in China; Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel; Wilma Mankiller, chief of the Cherokee Nation; and Marion Wright Edelman, director of the Children's Defense Fund, are some of the speakers scheduled to visit the campus.

The celebration officially will end with a keynote address by an international figure at Commencement May 15.

Moran, a senior from Windsor, Conn., said he hoped the class of 1994 would leave with a positive feeling about the University. "There's just going to be so much happening - talk about remembering your senior year."

Moran said the celebration would be one of the biggest and most exciting events in UNC history.

"It's history in the making," he said. "I hope it makes everyone remember and re-remember how great Carolina is."

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