

# Taking the hardware out of teaching

By KAREN YOUNGBLOOD  
Staff Writer

A talk with Stephen Weiss occurs in bits and pieces. You have to wait for his phone to stop ringing and people to quit knocking on his door before getting his attention.

The associate chairman, director of graduate studies and professor in the department of computer science is a busy man. But his hard work pays off, since he's one of the most popular faculty members in the department.

"Teaching is a lot of fun," Weiss said. "That's the main thing. I like making a roomful of people laugh. I enjoy having some impact on some peoples' lives."

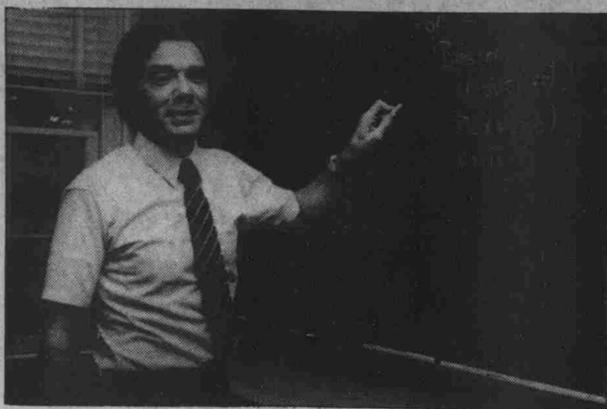
Sometimes being a busy man means you have little time for yourself, but Weiss doesn't seem to mind the intrusions.

"I'm Dr. Weiss, computer professor, an awful lot," he said. "That's part of the job. If you come here at night, a lot of the faculty are still around."

Weiss said computers were not his original interest when he went to college at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Friends who liked spelunking helped change his mind.

"As an undergraduate, I got involved in chemical engineering," he said. "I had a lot of friends interested in computer science. I remember having a conversation with a friend in a cave about computers. My junior-senior year I switched to mathematics."

Weiss graduated from Carnegie and



DTH/Janet Jarman

Dr. Weiss teaching in the computer science department

went on to Cornell University, where he found he liked teaching.

"I remember growing up knowing I didn't want to be a teacher," he said. "About a year into graduate studies, I was a teaching assistant and found I liked it. When it came time to look for a job, I looked for an academic job."

Teaching came naturally for Weiss, he said, because he learned special teaching devices.

"Some people ask me the secret to good teaching and the secret is I've had

so many bad teachers that I have a list of things not to do," he said. "That's not to say I had nothing but bad teachers. I had some good teachers, too."

Enjoying teaching means you like the students, too, Weiss said.

"I really care about the student and have a personal interest in the success," he said. "But I'm only willing to meet them halfway. If a student comes here with a question, and he hasn't done the reading, then he hasn't held up his end."

An autographed picture of Mr. Wizard, the TV scientist, hangs on Weiss' wall. Weiss proudly points to the picture, talking about the philosophies he picked up from the scientist.

"I always thought about him because he related in his show what everyone was familiar with — relating old stuff to new stuff," he said. "That's something I go after — to give students a new way of looking at things after they get out of the course."

When Weiss isn't answering phones and doors, teaching class or tapping on his computer, he finally goes home to his family of three.

"I have a family — two boys and a wife," he said. "I like to do things you do with small children, like build model trains and ride bikes."

Weiss said that he had no special expectations for his children, but that their interest in computers was essential to get along well in the future.

"The whole idea of 'Do I want him to be a doctor or a scientist?' isn't really important," he said. "I want him to be happy. I suppose if he wanted to be a beach bum . . ."

"I think computers are like cars. It's so much a fabric of our life that we have to get kids comfortable with computers because there's no choice; they have to deal with them. It won't be long before someone without basic computer skills — I don't mean programming — will be as disadvantaged as someone who can't drive."

## Computer

department) looking to put people in industry, not research."

Many computer science departments at other universities grew out of and are affiliated with the school's engineering school. A decision was made several years ago to establish engineering schools at N.C. State rather than at UNC. People within the computer science department said such a school might help the department.

"Computer science calls on electrical know-how, which cannot be sufficiently found in a few people," Nievergelt said.

"If you had an electrical engineering department next door, you could tap their resources. The fact that there is no electrical engineering department is a historical discussion, and I think today

it should be changed.

"It no longer makes sense to say an academic discipline is decided once. I think there should be some engineering disciplines represented. I don't think we should bring in smokestack engineering. In the meantime, we try to provide that know-how also, but it's not easy."

Duncan agreed. "My feeling is that it would be possible to distribute departments between here and State more sensibly."

Another problem the department has had to face is a lack of space. A new building is being constructed but will not be completed until January 1987, Nievergelt said. Various parts of the department reside in six different

buildings: New West, Smith, Evergreen, West House, Phillips and a building on Rosemary Street.

"We are quite cramped," Nievergelt said. "We can't give a desk to every assistant. Our laboratories are quite crowded, and worse, we are in different buildings which is difficult for communication."

Calingaert agreed. "We've kept all the faculty in this building (New West), so if I need to see a colleague, I just go down the hall," he said. "There are very few students in this building, and that hurts."

Weir said he liked the fact that the department was strewn about the campus.

"If we're spread out at least I get out

of the building every once in a while," said Weir.

The new building also will be able to house the sophisticated equipment that computer science departments use, Calingaert said.

"This building (New West) is older than the Civil War, and wiring is a pain in the neck," he said. "It is a hassle for us to bring a microcomputer into this building. The new building is going to be a great boon."

"Right now, they're pretty pressed with space," Cutrell said. "Everything's pretty cramped and access to the computer is pretty limited. I imagine that will be alleviated when the new building opens."

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# Entrepreneur stresses hands-on experience

By KELLI SLAUGHTER  
Staff Writer

Students who want to own their own business must first get practical experience, an entrepreneur said Tuesday in the first of a lecture series.

James Maynard, founder and chief executive officer of the Golden Corral Steak House Restaurant chain, said a person needed to prove he could run a business before obtaining financial support.

"I don't think there's anything to replace personal experience," he said.

Maynard graduated from East Carolina University with a business degree in 1965. He said his goal was to learn enough about finance to be able to finance his own business. He said he received insight from companies in which he worked and studied.

He said he learned foremost that there was no such thing as saving enough money to start a business; it's almost impossible. He said the fundamental financing scheme seemed to be obtaining assets — land, building and equipment.

After years of commitment and hard work, Maynard and a partner opened the first Golden Corral in 1973 in Fayetteville, N.C. There are now 450 of them across 37 states and three subsidiary companies all under the Investors Management Corporation based in Raleigh. Maynard is also the director of IMC.

The company's theme is to grow by acquisition, Maynard said. "We look for companies to buy and make them

grow."

When asked about his greatest marketing failure, Maynard said in one instance the company failed to do enough marketing research for the placement of a restaurant and it ended up closing. He stressed the importance of doing thorough research. The company operates on the principle that people running the businesses should own a substantial part of it and should share in the profits, he said.

Companies should employ people who think entrepreneurially, he said, adding that the employees should be self-directed and know what they want in business.

Maynard encouraged students to consider becoming entrepreneurs and stressed that now is the best time because of the high energy people in their early 20s possess.

Students hesitate because of fear of failure and the inability of having a role model, he said, adding that only 5 percent of all Americans owned their own business.

Students should have confidence, there is no reason not to succeed, he said. "All the job experiences are the things that kept coming back to make me a good decision maker." One must also be committed to the work and be able to sell that commitment, Maynard said, adding there must be ambition to create worth in a business.

Maynard's speech was part of the new William Rogers Entrepreneurship Lecture Series in the School of Business. The series is named for William Rogers,

a 1968 business graduate from UNC, who provided funds for the lecture series. The purpose of the lectures is to encourage UNC students to be entrepreneurs.

Maynard said he and Rogers agreed that there really is a reason to be a business owner as well as a business manager. People who own their own

## Divest

was a compromise measure and may not go far enough in addressing the issue. Wallace and Ray Wallington, one of her executive assistants, will speak at a meeting of the UNC Endowment Board Thursday.

"We're going in front of the trustees to ask that UNC divest totally," she said. "We will present comparable-worth portfolios and also express that, in our view, the strife in South Africa makes it a bad place to invest in for financial reasons as well as the obvious moral ones."

Wallace also said funds collected from student activities fees and controlled by the Campus Governing Council were invested in a fund which had no investments in South Africa. The fund pays a lower rate of return than it would if it were invested in a fund which could not make the same claim, she said.

J. Clint Newton Jr., chairman of

business have no cap on what they can earn, he said.

Maynard's IMC subsidiaries are Golden Corral Corporation, Oh! Brian's Corporation, Nicho's of North Carolina, Inc. and Church's fried chicken franchise in North Carolina.

The speech was held in Gerrard Hall Auditorium.

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## Agents may face disciplining

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — Two border patrol agents will likely be disciplined for not following guidelines after forcibly returning a Soviet seaman to his ship.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has submitted to the Justice Department a 100-page report charging the agents with acting hastily and violating agency regulations by returning Miroslav Medvid to his grain freighter without consulting supervisors after Medvid jumped into the Mississippi River.

INS Commissioner Alan Nelson said the agents should have retained Medvid at least overnight. Medvid was later questioned by State Department representatives. The State Department said Medvid stated repeatedly he wished to return to the Soviet Union. He was allowed to

## news in brief

reboard the ship, which left American waters last weekend.

### Explosion kills 4, injures 24

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A suicide bomber crashed into a car loaded with explosives at a monastery where Christian politicians were meeting near the U.S. Embassy Tuesday, killing four people and injuring 24.

The injured included the apparent targets of the attack, Christian politicians critical of a Syrian-mediated militia peace plan. They had gathered at the monastery. Among those injured were a former Lebanese president and his son. Their injuries were said not to be critical.

## Health career fair shows more job opportunities

By BRUCE WOOD  
Staff Writer

Students seeking jobs in the health sciences field had the opportunity to meet with recruiters from 49 hospitals and health organizations at the Health Science Careers Fair Tuesday.

"The purpose (of the fair) is just to introduce students to employers so they can make contacts when they start their jobs," said Marian Holmes, a placement counselor for health sciences and social work.

Some students said the fair increased their career options and gave them information they otherwise would not have known. Daphne Bell, senior nursing major from Charlotte, said she was interested in pediatrics but was unaware she could begin work immediately after graduation.

"You find out what everybody's offering," she said. "I wouldn't have known I could start in pediatrics."

"When you live in an area with a big medical center, you only see what is immediately available to you," said Brenda Jarvis, a nurse from Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va. "The fair lets them see what's out there."

Most of the recruiters said they were pleased with the outcome of the fair, but some said they had complaints. The

biggest complaints dealt with finding parking spaces and locating which building their booths were in. Booths were set up in Berryhill Hall, Brinkhouse-Bullitt and Carrington Hall.

Betty Swindler, a nurse from the Baptist Medical Center in Columbia, S.C., said hospitals liked to participate in health fairs such as the one Tuesday but added it was expensive to send recruiters.

"I really feel like it's not worth our time," she said. "I'm sorry to say that because I think you have one of the best nursing schools in the country."

"But I think you would get more people, and they would be satisfied, if you solved some basic problems like parking."

Recruiters also complained about the lack of a common area.

"It would benefit everyone if all were in one facility," said Theresa Bailey, a recruiter from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Housing the fair in three buildings was the best alternative because there isn't a single facility close enough to the health sciences students that could house a large number of recruiters, Holmes said.

"We have to make due with what we have," she said.

## Service organizations describe concerns at forum on Monday

By BETH OWNLEY  
Staff Writer

Representatives from area service organizations aired their group's future needs and guidelines at a Community Human Service Needs forum Monday night.

Beth Open, a volunteer mediator with the Dispute Settlement Center, told the Human Service Advisory Board that the center deals with cases ranging from separation and divorce to landlord/tenant problems. Open said a number of the center's cases relate to problems that separated and divorced couples have. The center helps the couple reach agreements on property settlements and visitation rights.

Open said that the landlord/tenant cases because of the rapid growth of apartments and condominiums. She said that some apartment managers live in the area and have little or no authority, while the owners live outside of Orange County.

Other problem areas that the Dispute Settlement Center deal with last year include employer/employee situations and consumer business transactions. The center helps employees who have been having trouble with a supervisor or who have been fired for unclear reasons. The center also helps consumers who have been overcharged for a purchase.

Jim Deloatch, who spoke for the Orange County Volunteers for Youth, said the program is designed to promote positive role models for youth who are in trouble with school and juvenile authorities. He added that volunteers are encouraged to spend at least four

weeks with a child. Deloatch emphasized the need for more volunteers "so we can serve more kids."

Deloatch also told the board that the community needs more structured and positive activities for youth. "There's not a lot of positive community outlets for children," he said. He recommended that activities such as the Teen Center be provided for children under 18. The volunteer program serves youths 10 to 15 years old.

Lauren Demming of the Orange County Literacy Council, told the board that there are more than 5,000 nonreaders in Orange County over the age of 18. "That's a low estimate," she said.

Demming said the Literacy Council would like to see Chapel Hill offer a special program for town employees such as the one offered by Durham. The Durham program includes a two-hour per week tutoring session in reading, and city employees agree to spend two hours of their own time reading. The council is funded by United Way, a Vista grant, and donations from area churches and other organizations.

Mike Showers, a local pediatrician, discussed area daycare centers. He told the board that by placing children in day-care centers, parents save money in terms of remedial services after the children are in public school. "There's good day-care and there's bad day-care," he said. Showers said day-care costs about \$200 per month in Orange County.

He also said that it cannot be left up to individual families to pay for their children's day-care. City, state and federal funds are needed, Showers said.

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