

Glaxo and UNC to share benefit of new labs

By TOM CAMP
Staff Writer

UNC's partnership with a British pharmaceutical company that will conduct research on-campus promises to save money and provide valuable experience for the University's science students, officials say.

In addition, the four-year agreement will save taxpayers more than \$1 million, said Thomas Meyer, chairman of the UNC chemistry department.

Under the deal, Glaxo, whose U.S. base is in Research Triangle Park, will pay \$1.2 million to renovate and equip the outdated laboratory rooms in Venable Hall. Glaxo will occupy the new facilities for the first four years.

The renovations, which involve five lab rooms and one office, should be completed in the spring, Meyer said. Three research labs, three faculty offices and two equipment rooms will replace the old rooms. The chemistry department and Glaxo employees designed the new lab space with both parties' needs in mind, Meyer said.

Construction for Glaxo is not interfering with regularly scheduled chemistry classes, as all chemistry labs have been held since August in Morehead, the building next to

Venable Hall.

The agreement meets the short-term needs of Glaxo and the long-term needs of UNC's chemistry department, Meyer said. Glaxo needs a temporary place to set up while their permanent research facility is being constructed in Research Triangle Park. The University needs to upgrade the labs' research conditions for future classes and experiments, he said.

"They can come in and create a first-class research lab that they will occupy for four years," Meyer said. "By the time they move out, we will need the space."

In addition to saving taxpayers' the money that would be spent on renovations, the arrangement will create a special learning environment for Glaxo and UNC students and faculty. "The scientific interaction between Glaxo and students and faculty here is probably the most exciting part of the deal," Meyer said. "The way science works best is by passing information."

"They can use what we find, and we will learn from what they find. We'll have a chance to talk with each other and exchange information," he said. "It will enrich both the academic experience and the industrial



Construction workers at the new joint Glaxo-UNC laboratory in Venable Hall DTH/Tony Deifel

experience."

Glaxo will have the benefits of an academic atmosphere — seminars and instrumentations, as well as first-

rate libraries, Meyer said. Also, students will get to know some of the people in charge of a large corporation.

UNC students will probably be hired by Glaxo in the future, Meyer said, because of the working relationships formed on campus.

A separate construction project in Venable Hall involves turning 4,000 square feet of outdated lab room space into three classrooms, a general conference room, three offices, a research lab and a laser lab. The project is funded by the College of Arts and Sciences and the N.C. Biotechnology Center. UNC's Physical Plant is doing the construction.

The two construction projects at Venable Hall are an important step in keeping up-to-date with developments in chemistry, Meyer said.

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Council hears plan to showcase town during Olympic Festival

By MICHELLE EFIRD
Staff Writer

Along with neighboring towns, Chapel Hill is gearing up for the arrival of the U.S. Olympic Festival in Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro and Chapel Hill this summer.

To that end, the town's Appearance Commission Monday submitted to the Town Council a lengthy wish list of projects and funds to improve the town's appeal before the festival starts.

From July 13 to July 26, 3,000 athletes will be in the Triangle, along with an expected 300,000 spectators.

The commission requested financial help from the Town Council to help carry out clean-up and beautification programs.

The commission asked the town

for money for permanent landscape improvements, up to \$50,000 of which would be spent in construction before the festival begins.

The group also asked that the council allow soliciting money and accepting private contributions for special projects.

Finally, the commission wants council approval for erecting festival signs throughout Chapel Hill, including one that would read "Welcome to Chapel Hill."

The signs would be color-coded from a scheme developed by Chapel Hill native Alexander Julian, said Cassandra Sloop, Appearance Commission chairwoman.

"These colors will be used in banners, directional and informa-

tional signs, flyers and brochures," Sloop said.

Sloop said the commission would also encourage local citizens to plant red, white and blue flowers in honor of the festival.

In other business, the council ended months of discussion by approving a preliminary plot for the Mill Race subdivision located on Hillsborough Street between North Street and Bolinwood Drive.

The development will provide 25 lots of single-family houses and sit on 13.48 acres.

The council also approved a preliminary plot request for the Windhover subdivision near Erwin and Weaver Dairy roads, which will cover 15 acres and provide 40 houses.

Student Congress considers vice president slot

By MARIA HAREN
Staff Writer

UNC's Student Congress will consider a referendum that would create a "vice president" on campus, among other bills in its first meeting of the year tonight at 7 in 224 Student Union.

The referendum will make it possible for vice presidential candidates to run separately from the president, said Jody Beasley, the

bill's co-author.

Under the current Student Constitution, the Student Congress speaker acts as vice president. Speaker Jaye Sitton said. The bill would give the president an assistant within the executive branch.

If approved, students will vote on the referendum in the general elections Feb. 3.

Another bill calls for a format

change of all bills to make them more readable. Sitton said.

Student Congress will also discuss a bill that would make copies of bills available earlier to committee members. Currently, a bill is typed after committee meetings, but it is usually not made available until a day or two before Student Congress meetings, Sitton said.

The suggested bill will allow rough drafts to be available directly after committee meetings.

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