

New Center joins Roosevelt Institution

Tar Heel senior leads student women's group

By Stephanie Waaser

The brand-new Center on Women's Affairs and Advocacy has joined the ranks of seven other Roosevelt Institution (RI) centers on the UNC campus. The Center's first meeting took place Sept. 4 in Murphey Hall with Director Jabeen Ahmad leading the way.

Ahmad, a senior Journalism and Anthropology major, first explained exactly what the Roosevelt Institution is: a non-partisan, progressive student think-tank with chapters at universities across the United States and even in the United Kingdom. The Institution's aim is to get student ideas into public discourse and policy.

Ahmad stated that the new center will benefit from the extensive resources available on the UNC campus. "Our opportunities really are endless," he said.

Among those opportunities include numerous chances to write. The Roosevelt Institution has an annual publication, the Roosevelt Review, in which the UNC chapter can submit a policy paper on a political issue.

Another annual publication, 25 Ideas for Change, publishes twenty-five separate ideas submitted by RI chapters for each of three political topics. The UNC Center on Women's Affairs and Advocacy will also write a column on the opinion page for the Daily Tar Heel and can submit pieces to local and national publications.

Additionally, members may collaborate on policy papers (with help from faculty), and will be able to attend policy-writing workshops. All publications can be submitted to public officials and posted on the Roosevelt Institution website.

Ahmad also noted a number of upcoming events for the Roosevelt Institution, including a conference themed around 2008 election issues that will take place in November and feature professors, policy makers and other government officials.

Meetings for the Center on Women's Affairs and Advocacy will be centered around discussions on issues of interest to members.

"If there's any topic that really interests you, go ahead and do some research," Ahmad said.

Meetings for the Center take place Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., and the current location is in Murphey Hall. Anyone with an interest in public policy and especially women's issues is encouraged to attend.

More information on the Center on Women's Affairs and Advocacy, as well as contact information, can be found at <http://www.studentorgs.unc.edu/ri> under the "Centers" tab.

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Visit <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wmst/NEWSLETTER/Events.html> for announcements about opportunities like the new Center for Women's Affairs and Advocacy, and a detailed calendar of upcoming Women's Studies-related events.
