

Professors' research projects help students

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CORRESPONDENT

Full-time professors must do research outside the classroom. UNC Wilmington offers students the opportunity to work with professors on research projects designed to give hands-on learning experience in various fields of study.

Chemistry major Tomi Hill has worked in chemistry professor Joan D. Willey's marine and atmospheric chemistry research lab for two years. She has learned how to use the high-performance liquid chromatograph, which separates a sample's chemical components.

"Working in a lab has helped me understand the concepts in my classes because I get first-hand knowledge," Hill said. "It makes things easier to visualize."

J. Mark Galizio, professor of psychology, said he could not "imagine being an effective teacher at the university without active research and scholarship."

He and two other faculty members, Julian Keith, associate professor of psychology, and Ray Pitts, assistant professor of psychology, are studying the effects of various drugs on learning and memory using a rat model. They have a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for the study and are using several graduate and undergraduate students to assist them in their research.

Galizio is also working with Carol Pilgrim, another professor of psychology, on a

project that studies cognitive development in children ages 2 to 11 years old. They have several students working with them.

"Research involvement provides students with the best learning opportunities available," Galizio said.

"A fascination with learning, behavior and the brain in general, and problems of drug abuse in particular," said Galizio, are what interested him in his current studies.

D. Fritz Kapraun, professor of biology, was the first UNCW professor to receive recognition for both his teaching and research. When he first came to the university almost 20 years ago, he chose research projects that would enhance his teaching and help undergraduate students learn by involving them in his work.

Kapraun chose to study seaweed so that he could relate his findings to his botany and marine botany classes. He studied the genome of thousands of samples of brown seaweed to see if the genome size was related to how the seaweed developed. He called his research an "architectural portrait," relating it to his watercolor of a San Antonio landscape. His watercolor told a lot about the area; similar to his research on the genome, which is like a portrait of the seaweed.

Katherine Bruce, professor of psychology, specializes in animal behavior and human sexual behavior. She is currently working on two research projects involving four graduate students and three undergraduates.

They are studying "mate choice in fish

(Gambusia)-mosquitofish, local guppies and understanding aspects of risky sexual behavior," she said.

The March issue of *Psychological Record* published her paper on fish mate choice.

Bruce said a "long-standing interest in animal behavior, health education and human sexual behavior" was what prompted her research, which has also included studies of hormones and behavior in rodents and primates.

"It enhances teaching — to stay active in research projects," she said.

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Nurse Christi Mulinax is the team leader for Carolina Oncology Associates in Salisbury.

"If you think a little fundraising and fifteen hours of walking/running is too much, remember cancer patients live with cancer 24 hours a day, seven days a week," she said.

The first lap of the marathon is dedicated to cancer survivors. Those attending the event can purchase luminaries to line the track through the night. Each will display the name of a cancer survivor or cancer patient who passed away. A memorial ceremony will be held during the night.

Relay for Life began in May 1985 when Dr. Gordon Klatt of Tacoma, Wash. walked around a track for 24 hours and raised \$27,000 for the American Cancer Society. The next year, 220 supporters and fellow walkers accompanied Klatt. Since then, the overnight marathon has been held annually all over the country.

For more information or details on participation in Relay for Life, call the American Cancer Society in Wilmington at (910) 343-1711.

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the Division for Academic Affairs, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Leadership Center.

For more information, contact Dr. Kate Bruce, director of the Honors Scholars Program at 962-3374.

SEANC scholarships

The State Employees of North Carolina Inc. Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. Applicants must be enrolled or have applied to a recognized and accredited post-secondary school, college, trade school or other institution of higher learning. To obtain an application, call Gloria Crowell, at 962-2301. The application deadline is April 15.

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tend UNCW because of the basketball program and the reputation of the business school.

"I did research in my field, which is business, and I knew the Cameron School had a good reputation... even within the accredited schools," he said.

Although Green said he has never felt uncomfortable or unwelcome at UNCW, he said that could be because he is from Wilmington and has his family and old friends here to support him. "It could be different for other people," he said.

Junior Eric Smith, a black student, said he sometimes feels uncomfortable on campus, depending on the occasion. "Every day when I'm on campus, I see maybe five black people walking around here," he said. "I don't care, but I do notice."

Many of his friends decided to go away to school because they wanted to leave home, Green said. He also said the perception of local high school students has improved since he was in school, since his younger brother, who is still in high school, has lots of friends who are going to attend UNCW.

Schmidt agreed. "I think [students] think it's a good school, but some of our minority students want a historically black college and then there's a group of students who want to get out of Wilmington."

Green suggested that a way to encourage minority students to attend UNCW would be to offer more minority students from Wilmington scholarships.

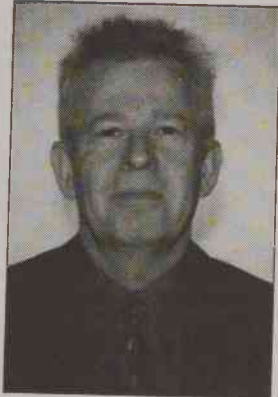
"Maybe there should be some program for students interested in coming here, especially need-based scholarships for students who might want to go to college but can't get away," he said.

Schmidt said one of the reasons minority students from Wilmington decide to attend UNCW is the good financial aid they can receive.

"It seems we've had students in the past who've gotten good financial aid packages, and that encourages them to go," Schmidt said.

According to a General Administration evaluation of minority enrollment for 2000, black enrollment at historically white universities is up 1.6 percent from the year before. White enrollment at historically black universities is down 6.9 percent, making the total number of white students enrolled at historically black students less than 15 percent, the GA's target enrollment.

"I would say the UNC system needs to increase its efforts," Nottingham said. "The university can only plan within (the system's) restraints, and it is doing an admirable job in a city that has its own problems with people who are different."



D. Fritz Kapraun



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