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Study examines link between aggression and drinking

JOHN WHITE

STAFF WRITER

The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism recently awarded UNCW a \$600,000 federal grant to research the connection between alcohol consumption and sexual aggression.

Nora Noel, James Johnson and Lee Jackson, professors in the psychology department, will collaborate on a research project set to begin next fall that will cover an alcohol myopia explanation of sexual aggression. The project will study which male personality types, while under the influence of alcohol, would likely to behave more sexually aggressively toward females.

"It is thought of as a no-brainer, but the problem is that we don't know how alcohol is involved in regards to sexual aggression. We're trying to see how alcohol affects our processes," Noel said.

She also said that if alcohol's effect on the aggres-

sive behavior of some men

could be better understood, it could result in actions taken to reduce tendencies toward sexual assault or inappropriate behavior.

The study will be conducted over five years and will involve up to 700 heterosexual males. Those who participate will be asked to consume one of four doses of alcohol. After drinking the doses, participants will then take part in an exercise designed to determine how the dosages may have affected their attitudes toward sexual aggression.

After watching a video of a couple on a first date, Noes said participants will answer ques-

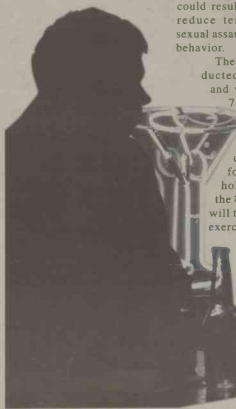


Photo: Freddie Saunders

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UNCW leads system in protected land

LORRIE CALIBERTÉ

CORRESPONDENT

UNCW now leads the UNC system in ownership of protected property as a result of a recent environmental initiative.

The land designation, made after the university's involvement in the Smart Growth commission, set an environmentally-conscious example for the community, administrators said.

University administrators set aside 27 percent of its 813 acres as areas that cannot be developed. Included in the 219 acres are the Wildflower Preserve, which is on campus, and Ey-Henwood, a large tract of

woods off campus.

Political science professor Lee Johnston was among the first individuals in the university to get involved with the Smart Growth commission, which studies statewide area growth and reports the results to the legislature.

"The idea is to protect the environment (and keep) the community from being turned into a strip mall," Johnston said.

Created in 1999 by the NC General Assembly, the Smart Growth commission was divided into four groups consisting of farmers, builders, elected officials, and environmentalists.

Johnston was specifically involved in designating land as protected space. He said the commission should create places like parks or areas where people could be "out in the trees."

"People should have a peaceful or placid area in an urban center," Johnston said.

The university is also applying the philosophy of Smart Growth to ensure the quality of life is enhanced as it expands, said Mark Lanier, special assistant to the chancellor.

"It doesn't make sense to just say no growth. What you have to do is grow in a way that doesn't destroy the environment," he said.

SGA elections begin Wednesday

HEATHER GRADY

NEWS EDITOR

Students are gearing up for their second year of online voting for Student Government Association elections, and turnout expectations are high.

The change to online voting raised student participation to about 1,000 votes, said Kris Clapper, election board committee chairman for SGA. A figure, he said, SGA is still hoping to improve on.

"(Voting) increased over 100 percent," Clapper said.

To be held online Wednesday, April 10 through Friday, April 12, the election process will be available to students through an access code delivered via the student's university email account. Once the student receives the e-mail containing the one-time use access code, the student can then click on a link provided in the e-mail. This will bring the voter to a ballot page, which is designed for the specific class of the student. This means that sophomores will be prevented from voting for senior class president and so forth. In past elections, some votes were taken from students at voting booths for candidates they were not eligible to vote for.

"(Voting will now take) about two minutes or less," Clapper said.

There are about 40 positions open to candidates, but students can decide how many to write in votes for, Clapper said.

"I definitely feel it is going to be a competitive election," said Neil Watson, off-campus representative and one of the candidates for student body president. "I think the main goal is to show students that the work we (at SGA) do is important, and it really does have an impact on their education."

Correction

The *Seahawk* mistakenly printed the state budget shortfall as predicted at \$1.2 million. The shortfall is actually \$1.2 billion. The *Seahawk* regrets this error.