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## Resource Center to serve as liaison

Location chosen to house Women's Studies minor

WILL KLINGER

STAFF WRITER

University officials are working with professors and volunteers to develop the Women's Resource Center, a university-funded program for women. While the center is still in the pre-planning phase, a location at Westside hall has already been chosen to house the program.

Elizabeth Ervin, professor of English and Women's Studies, will direct the center. She said having a physical location for the Women's Studies minor will draw more attention to the program.

"In terms of academics ... we've had a successful women's studies minor for a



Photo by Tom Robinson

The Women's Resource Center will help coordinate programs and performances such as "The Vagina Monologues." This dramatic reading of Eve Ensler's one-woman show is performed annually to celebrate Women's History Month.

while now and the university is looking to expand the presence of it," she said. "Having an actual place for the minor will set the stage for this."

In addition to housing the women's studies minor, the center will serve as a liaison

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## Summer gas prices continue to rise

RYAN JESSUP

STAFF WRITER

A significant decrease in national gas prices is nowhere in sight.

According to a recent press release from the Energy Information Administration, "gasoline pump prices for spring and summer 2002 are expected to average \$1.46 per gallon, 8 cents lower than last year's average of \$1.54."

In Wilmington, gas prices currently range from \$1.25 per gallon at GOGAS to \$1.33 at Amoco and Exxon.

"The market is the market," said Randy Smith, Global Services Manager for Public Affairs for the Exxon Corporation. "Prices go up and prices go down."

Smith refrained from providing information on what Exxon was doing to help lower prices for the consumer.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, how high gas prices will



if gas prices continue to rise, it could cost motorists an arm and a leg.

get has several determinant factors. How expensive crude oil is in the marketplace, the expense of manufacturing and distributing the oil, and the taxes that are then added to the oil all affect the final price of gasoline for the customer.

"In 1995, 56 cents of the average \$1.20 that motorists paid for a gallon of gasoline came from taxes, and 64

cents came from the cost of crude oil and costs of transporting, refining, storing and marketing the fuel," according to API.

Wilmington resident Darrin Long said he would be very upset if gas prices got extremely high in the upcoming summer months.

Prices are not expected to get higher than last summer's costs, but conflicts in Middle Eastern countries could be a change hiking.

"It takes someone with a crystal ball to predict the exact future amount of gas prices, but I believe that prices in Wilmington will fall somewhere between \$1.30 and \$1.50 per gallon this summer," said William Hall, professor of economics in the Cameron School of Business.

## Research class studies health of local Indians

LORRIE LALIBERTE

CORRESPONDENT

An interdisciplinary research class began in the fall of 2001 with the help of a small grant from the World Health Organization.

UNCW was awarded one of 19 grants from the WHO as a result of a health research study set up by various academic departments. UNCW was the only institution in the United States to receive one of the grants.

About a year ago several university departments, including the departments of social work and nursing, collaborated on the wellness study specifically involving the Waccamaw-Stouan Indians in Bladen and Columbus counties. They wanted to look at the Indians' attitudes and ideas concerning several health issues, including such aspects as emotional and physical well-being.

After receiving the grant of almost \$7,000, a preliminary research class was set up with Bob Blundo, associate professor of social work, as the facilitator.

Most of the grant money was used to hire six Indians to work part time in coordinating and planning the meetings. A small amount also went to help with transportation for the class. Blundo said the students work on an equal footing with the community to talk about various issues.

The class was also able to learn about another culture by being immersed in it. "The research comes out of their conversations [between the community and the students]," Blundo said. They discussed what the Indians wanted to change about their community, what would help them and what they liked.

The class is now in its second session.

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