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UNCW searches for new dean

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STAFF WRITER

The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Jo Ann Seiple, is retiring this semester and a search committee has selected five potential candidates to take her place.

Those candidates are currently holding open forums to answer questions and discuss issues of higher education.

According to Seiple's Web site, "The dean is the chief academic officer with the final decision-making authority for the college in areas of budget administration, curricular and program approval, faculty and staff actions, academic facilities planning and use and fundraising initiatives."

Each candidate is discussing topics selected by the search committee to be the key issues in higher education. Those issues are: who benefits from higher education, access versus excellence and accountability. Each candidate makes a short presentation about these points followed by a question and answer session.

The candidates are as follows:

Karen B. Schmaling received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Washington and currently works as the interim dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Kichoon Yang has a Ph.D. in mathematics from Washington University and is the dean and a

professor in the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.

Raymond Lee Burt is the current assistant vice chancellor of



Dan Hacker/the Seahawk

Dean Jo Ann Seiple is resigning. Selection of the next dean is currently in progress.

academic affairs here at UNCW. His doctorate is in German literature from the University of California in Los Angeles.

Evelyn M. Jacobson earned her Ph.D. in German as well, and is currently employed as the associate vice chancellor of academic affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Donald Joe Benson is the senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the

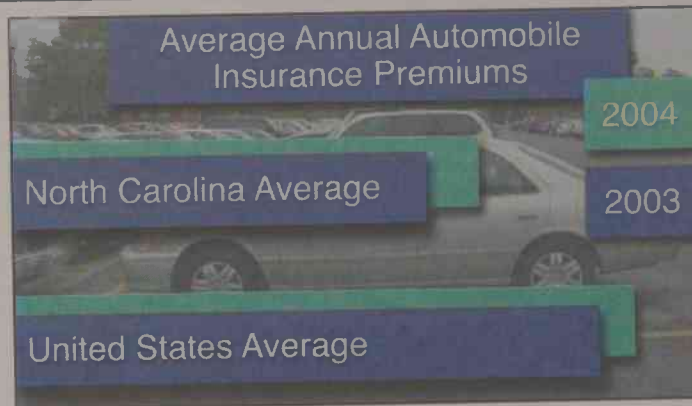
University of Alabama and has a Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati. His background is geology. His is the last forum.

The questions fielded by candidates at the open forums related to the three issues they addressed in their presentations. At Schaling's forum, Paula Kamenish asked, "Do you have specific ideas for developing faculty?"

Dan Noland expressed concern that the educational benefit of being an "engaged citizen" is not adequately promoted, particularly not in North Carolina.

Attendees of the forums were able to e-mail their comments regarding the forums to the search committee to aid in the decision.

According to Barbara Waxman, the position was advertised in major academic journals and received and screened about 100 applications with cover letters and resumes. This group was narrowed down to 11 candidates, who were interviewed via telephone. Five were selected to interview on campus for two full days, which include the open forums. "From this group, with input from other participants in the interview process, we will select three, with our rationales for the selections, which we will forward to the provost in March. He will make the selection in consultation with the Chancellor. The provost will make the announcement sometime in March."



Auto insurance raised

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Auto insurance premiums may be on the rise for North Carolina drivers.

Insurers want to raise North Carolina rates by an average of 12.3 percent later this year, which would add approximately \$74 to the average annual state premium. Insurers said they need to raise auto premiums to cover higher car repair and medical costs. The rate increase request comes less than one year after insurers agreed to a 15 percent drop in premiums because the number of claims fell.

The Department of Insurance usually cuts the industry request, sometimes ordering rate reductions. The department ordered a 17.8 percent premium decrease in 2002 after the industry sought a 5.9 percent increase.

Average car premiums are expected to reach \$898 nationally with an estimated 6 percent hike in 2004, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

The average North Carolina premium is \$600, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Insurers are asking to raise the maximum rates they can charge customers, though most policyholders receive discounts for having clean driving records, multiple policies with the same company and good credit. The average discount is 13 percent.

Younger drivers will most likely feel the greatest strain on their wallets if insurance rates do increase. Because of their lack of driving experience, young drivers are usually charged a higher rate than their older counterparts.

Jackie Loy, 20, is a student at UNCW. Her rates have recently been lowered because of a clean driving record. "I'm finally paying less which is a relief. My parents started paying half of it for me because I wasn't getting a lot of hours at work. An increase would definitely not be a good thing," Loy said.

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