

Chapel Hill more than a school

Jennie Carman

Reporter

Bored with life at Elon? Want to get away for a while? Ever thought of taking a quick 30-minute drive down the highway to Chapel Hill? Yeah, I know you're saying, "Why should I leave one university to visit another?"

Well, Chapel Hill has a lot more to offer than just the university; it has a life all its own.

In 1997, Sports Illustrated rated Chapel Hill the best college town in America. No matter what your interest, Chapel Hill has something that will entertain you.

For those academic types, there are planetariums and museums, such as the Ackland Art Museum and Blue Heaven, a museum concentrating on the history of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sports.

There are a number of historic sites in the Chapel Hill area as well; the Alexander Dickson House and the Old Orange County Courthouse are strong links to the past. In addition to modern movie theaters and playhouses, you could take a trip to the Forest Theater,

an outdoor theater that runs historic plays during certain times of the year.

Those interested in local history might also enjoy one of the numerous guided tours of the area. There are walking tours of Franklin Street, as well as a historic bus tour of Chapel Hill. Visitors interested in history might also enjoy nearby Hillsborough, home to a large number of antique and craft shops.

For those outdoorsy, earthy types there are a number of outdoor gardens.

Try either the Montrose Gardens or the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Other treats for nature lovers are the local farmers' markets; the Carrboro farmers' market will be opening in the next few weeks.

According to many Elon students, the center of Chapel Hill is well-known Franklin Street. It is adjacent to the UNC campus and contains many independent and chain shops, as well as trendy restaurants, bars and clubs.

Officially dubbed "Chapel Hill Downtown," Franklin Street is the place to be in Chapel Hill.

During the day, Franklin Street is a great place to find that new hot skirt or the per-

fect present for your significant other. Once night falls, Franklin Street turns into a mass of bodies, chic outfits and excitement.

For Carolina students the chosen activity is to simply, "walk the street," which means that whenever you visit Chapel Hill, Franklin Street is a guaranteed fun night.

If you're a more relaxed person, pull up a stool at one of the many bars, such as The Cave.

If loud music and dancing is more your style try Good Fellows, Twenty-Three Steps or He's Not Here. And don't forget The Cat's Cradle; this popular venue draws some of the best bands in the area, such as Weekend Excursion.

Don't have any friends at Chapel Hill to stay with? Don't stress; many chain hotels such as Best Western, Holiday Inn and Sheraton have establishments in the area.

Or for a romantic weekend, try one of the local bed and breakfasts, such as The Olive Branch Inn.

For more information about Chapel Hill, log online and visit the Orange County Visitors Bureau Web site at www.chocvb.org.

Housing Selection

March 11 - April 5

Phase One

Stay Where You Are (or room with a friend who's staying). If you're a rising sophomore, junior or senior, this is an opportunity to ensure your space in campus housing.

DEADLINE - March 13

Phase Two

Shop Around. In this phase apply for single rooms, flats, suites or apartments. Decide who you want to live with and apply together!

DEADLINE - March 20

Phase Three

In Area Selection. Love your residential area, but want a different room?

Come to Phase Three on April 4!

Phase Four

Open Room Selection is one final opportunity to sign-up for double rooms that are still open.

Come to Phase Four on April 5!

For detailed information about all the housing phases, please visit:
www.elon.edu/residencelife/selection2002

Directions to Chapel Hill

1. Take I-40 East/ I-85 North for 17.28 miles
 2. Take I-40 East toward Raleigh for 11.10 miles
 3. Take exit 270 toward Chapel Hill/ Durham
 4. Turn right onto Durham Chapel Hill Blvd.
 5. Take the ramp toward UNC-Chapel Hill
 6. Turn right onto Raleigh Road
 7. Turn right onto South Colombia Street
 8. Take a left onto West Franklin Street
- Estimated travel time: 1.25 hours