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Chancellor Fretwell adjusting to UNCC life quickly

By Rick Monroe

After only a month at UNCC, Chancellor E.K. Fretwell has accumulated piles of unfiled papers and books on his desk, but he is getting settled in, and according to the new chancellor, "It feels good."

Feeling good about the University is one of Fretwell's most obvious characteristics. At times, the chancellor seemed at a loss for positive adjectives. "Energetic; exciting; a desire to get things done; a place that honors the traditions of the academic world, but is not rigid," were some of his optimistic terms when overviewing UNCC.

Fretwell feels the University's biggest problem is the lack of money. "There is never enough money for a good University to spend well," the chancellor said. He thinks the key to getting more financial support for the school is to "expand the University's good reputation, so we can get people to believe in us." He explained because UNCC was such a young university, the alumni support is not of the extent of other older North Carolina schools. Fretwell said it would be difficult to compete with these more established universities, but "We're going to compete with them, maybe not in basketball this year, but I'm ready to take them on," he said.

Not only is the chancellor ready and willing to compete with the larger schools for funds, but also for students. Because of his work with his high school newspaper and as a stringer for the Associated Press during college, Fretwell is very interested in a journalism program at UNCC. He feels this, plus a workshop sponsored by UNCC for editors of area high school newspapers would generate interest in UNCC among high school students.

However, one of Fretwell's main concerns is increasing the interest of the students already enrolled at UNCC in the workings of the University. "If I could push a magic button, I would have more participation." Fretwell realizes most large commuter universities have problems with student input, but, he said, UNCC is better than most.

In order to increase student input, Fretwell has set up open office hours, during which students may schedule 15 minute appointments with the chancellor. He announced his next open office hours for 10-11:30 a.m. on Feb. 21. Students wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should contact the chancellor's office for an appointment.

Aside from his immediate hope for more student involvement, Fretwell has developed some long-term hopes

for the students and the university. It is his hope for the students the "Students discover ways to blend a preparation for a career and a liberal education. That's what separates a university from a trade school."

His wish for the University is one of self-renewal. "A good university, even a young one, builds in the process of self-renewal," Fretwell said, "having the University look in the mirror and see how it is doing."



(Photo by Pam Freeze)

Fretwell is right at home in new office in Reese Administration Building.

Concern expressed over student "no shows"

By Nancy Davis

More than 3,000 tickets are allotted to UNCC students for all 49er home games. These tickets are free to every student who desires one just by showing an ID and athletic card. For one dollar, an additional guest ticket may be purchased. The student seats in the coliseum vary, but all are considered "ideal" compared to most of the public seating sections.

Even with these advantages, the UNCC Athletic Department is having a rough go at trying to fill these seats with students. According to Dave Taylor, assistant athletic director in charge of ticket sales, students are picking up the tickets, but are not using them. Hundreds of seats are left empty at every game; seats, Taylor said, can't be sold to the public, because supposedly a student has

picked up the ticket.

In a recent meeting with several persons representing different areas discussed ways to increase ticket pick-up without increasing no shows. Taylor is concerned with the fact the athletic department may have to cut the allotment of student tickets next year because of the problem. "To me, a no show is worse than no pick-up," said the UNCC alumnae. He also said besides reducing the number of tickets, they would have to reduce the number of good seats.

To increase student pick-up and interest in the 9-9 49er team, a new ticket pick-up point will open in the Residence Hall Cafeteria on Thursday, Feb. 8. The athletic office is hoping to make student pick-up more convenient for the dorm students. Presently, student tickets could only be picked up at the Candy Counter in the lobby of the Cone University Center.

Students will be able to get a ticket Monday-Friday in the entrance of the cafeteria from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. during lunch and from 4:30-6 p.m. during supper except on Fridays. Beginning Thursday, tickets for the New Orleans and Georgia State games will be available. Schedules and other information will be posted.

Activity cards can only be obtained at the Candy Counter. Regular pick-up times will stay the same. All ticket pick-ups end at 4 p.m. the day of the game.

Taylor is hopeful this new ticket center will help attendance at the games. The athletic department loses thousands of dollars every year from student seats. Taylor said he gets a lot of complaints from the public who paid to sit in a corner seat as to why he couldn't have bought one of those closer empty seats.

"I have to tell him I don't know," Taylor said. "I don't know why the students won't come to the games." But he also said it's getting harder to justify economically and the threat of cutting tickets for students is great.



(Photo by Pam Freeze)

The candy counter will be the only center for ticket pick-up until Thursday, when the dorm cafeteria will house another pick-up location.