

# Students learn together through presentations

■ Some students say they prefer giving presentations to taking written exams.

BY SHARIF DURHAMS  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Working for weeks to perfect a final paper for your class is one thing. It's entirely different to have to read that paper to a room full of strangers. But students in history Professor Leon Fink's class and many other graduate students will step up to the microphone when they give research presentations which are open for the entire University to see. Fink said this atmosphere, which mim-

ics the way research is presented at history conferences, helps students focus on appealing to their audience when making their presentations. "I would hope the students find it quickens their own (academic) appetite and skills," Fink said. Chad Morgan, a first year graduate student, said the classes provided a similar, yet safer, environment as compared to the conferences. "This is a chance to check it out with our friends before we go in front of the hard-core people," Morgan said. Although his student Katherine Otis said the presentation would be nerve-racking, she said the presentations would develop her speaking skills. "I'm a pretty polished writer," she said. "As far as conveying simply what

I've learned to an audience, I have a hard time doing that." Condensing the research on which she spent a month into a 15-minute presentation would be the most difficult part, Otis said. Despite her nerves, Otis said she was excited about sharing her project, for which she traveled to Georgetown, S.C., to interview tugboat workers. "That was the highlight of the project for me," she said. "Personally, I like this



Professor LEON FINK said his students were probably nervous, but excited about their presentations.

better than exams." Steve Estes, a first-year doctoral student, said his presentation about songs of the civil-rights movement would leave a bigger impact on his audience than would reading a paper. "I have a feeling they'd learn more facts by reading the paper, but I think the impression would last longer through the presentation. Estes said he planned to play recorded protest music and actually play a live song. Fink said the projects kept students learning together at the end of the semester instead of focusing solely on their individual studies. "It builds a sense of community within the department and a sense of intellectual connection which otherwise might not be there."



The Triangle Gay Men's Chorus performs at the World AIDS Day Interfaith Worship Service. The ceremony was sponsored by an AIDS support group.

# E-mail used as gab line instead of information tool

BY KELLY O'BRIEN  
STAFF WRITER

While e-mail was originally brought onto college campuses for the academic opportunities it offered, most members of the University agree that students have come to use it primarily as a socializing mechanism. Students themselves said the main use was for interacting with friends. "It saves some money on phone bills," Elizabeth Nelson, a senior from Kannapolis, said as she communicated with friends via e-mail at the Undergraduate Library computer lab.

But Deb Aikat, a journalism professor who teaches classes in electronic information, said using e-mail for personal reasons was not necessarily negative. "Students do use it as a means to socialize, but that's part of the educational process," Aikat said. He said social use led to students using e-mail for other reasons and helped students communicate better when they graduate. And some students are already using e-mail for academic reasons. Many use e-mail to receive and turn in assignments, to ask instructors questions and to subscribe to class or group listserves. "The level of usage dedicated towards

classes and communication with professors is significantly on the rise," said John Oberlin, executive director for Academic Technology and Networks. Currently, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication is the only school or department to require students to keep an e-mail account, but others might institute the practice. Linwood Futrelle, director of client services for ATN, said the use of e-mail as an educational tool depended on the instructor, not the department or school. "It is scattered across a wide range of departments," he said. Donna Bauman, associate director of

the Kenan Flagler Business School BSBA program, said students in the school were strongly encouraged to keep an account and may be required to do so when the school changes buildings next year. And as e-mail usage continues to rise, ATN is working hard to keep up. "Eighty-five to 95 percent of the student body have accounts," said William Graves, ATN chief information officer. "E-mail usage is way up. Starting as soon as possible, we will automatically assign accounts to students." A system recently installed by ATN allows more users to log in, but there are still bugs in the system, Graves said. "It's working a lot better than the old system," Graves said. "It's still being fine-tuned and it will get better."

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out the message of acceptance and hope, and candles were lit for those people in the Care Partners program for people with AIDS who died during the past year. TRAIN, who sponsored the ceremony, provides AIDS education to church congregations throughout the Triangle and gives spiritual support to people with AIDS, their families, care teams and care givers. Stephen Elkins-Williams, rector at Chapel of the Cross, said the ceremony was conducted to provide support to those fighting AIDS in the area. "We see how AIDS can alienate people from their families and communities of faith," he said. "It is very important that we are here tonight not only to pray for people with AIDS but to offer our support."

### Campus Calendar

**Monday**  
4 p.m. — The International Center will conduct an International Festival Committee meeting at 4 p.m. on Monday in Union 220.

**Items of Interest**  
The UNC Young Republicans will present speaker Tom Joyner at 7 p.m. Tuesday in 209 Manning Hall.  
Project Literacy will be holding a book drive during exams and throughout the holidays. Please drop off any old or used books at the Campus Y to help spread literacy into the holiday season.

### For the Record

The Nov. 27 article "UNC, Housekeepers near end of legal battle" should have stated, "That increase, if approved by the state personnel commission, would give the housekeepers four months of back pay from a pay raise that was announced Sept. 17, but did not begin appearing on paychecks until last week. About 305 housekeepers will share \$105,000, the amount to be determined by the number of years of service to the University." The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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