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Technology leaders leave University posts

■ The employees left the University for positions at a Florida research institute.

BY EVAN SAUDA
STAFF WRITER

William Graves resigned from his job as director of the University's only group researching information delivery, the Institute of Academic Technology early this month.

Days later, 12 of his co-workers followed him, leaving the institute with six members and an uncertain future.

The institute's new director, Lowell Roberts, said that, at the request of Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd, the emaciated institute would step back and decide in the coming months what role it should play.

The institute will then make the final decision on whether to replace its 13 lost members.

"What I've asked them to do is to think of ways to identify their highest priority needs," Floyd said.

"We want to make sure that the product that is developed is one that can be used at the University."

Floyd said he didn't have a time frame for when he expected a report from

Lowell on the path the institute should take, but he said the institute was still committed to its purpose.

He said projects, such as the LEARN N.C. project — which integrates the Internet with elementary and secondary schools — should not be abandoned.

Since his arrival two years ago,



Executive Vice Chancellor **ELSON FLOYD** asked the institute to identify its highest priority needs.

Chancellor Michael Hooker's has pushed to put the University on the cutting edge of technology, both in terms of research and accessibility.

John Oberlin, executive director for Academic Technology & Networks, said Graves' absence wouldn't affect research. "His successor is very well qualified," he said.

Lowell said the institute was founded by Graves in 1989 to have a "place where forward-thinking (ideas) about how information technology could be applied for instruction and learning could be developed."

Graves, who was first hired at the University in 1967, left to create the

Learning Technology Research Institute.

This independent organization will research ways to help universities use information technologies, such as the Internet, in teaching.

The research institute will work closely with COLLEGIS, a company that provides internet services and support to colleges across the nation.

"This is an opportunity for him to be on the ground level of COLLEGIS," Floyd said. "This is a great career opportunity for him."

Graves, a mathematics professor and professor in information and library sciences, took a leave of absence from those jobs to take his new position.

Private firm could run new school

■ A plan could improve education for students if passed by the school board.

BY JON OSTENDORFF
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Students at the new Southern Village Elementary School could head to class with a lunchbox in one hand and a laptop in the other if a proposal for a private firm to run the school passes the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education.

At a press conference Tuesday, Neil Pederson, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools superintendent, announced the school board was considering contracting The Edison Project to run the new school. The Edison Project is a private company that specializes in reforming public schools.

The new elementary school is scheduled to open in May 1999 and will be located in Southern Village development between Dogwood Acres and Culbreth Road off U.S. 15-501.

The Edison Project, started by media entrepreneur Christopher Whittle in 1991, has 25 partnership schools across the nation.

Rich O'Neil, The Edison Project vice president, said Edison's emphasis on progressive education has resulted in 10 to 12 percent increases in test scores for most of the schools that have contracted their services. "These are tremendous gains," he said. "Most schools districts would make headline news out of a 3 or 4 percent gain."

O'Neil said dividing schools into houses — kindergartners to second-graders and third- to fifth-graders with each house having 100 students and four teachers — was an important part of the Edison plan. "Small schools mean a better bond between student and teacher," he said.

O'Neil said the commitment to providing the best teaching staff available and more hours in the classroom would help to improve the education of Edison school students. Under the Edison plan, students are in school for seven to eight hours a day. This would be an increase from the five to six hours students currently attend in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

He said The Edison Project's emphasis on technology would arm students with the skills they need for employment in the next century. "It is our belief that students will require education at higher levels, whether they go to college or not," O'Neil said.

Edison's emphasis on technology includes a companywide intranet linking of all Edison schools and providing students with a personal computer if

SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE 4

A place to turn

BY ALISA GUMBS
STAFF WRITER

Each time Megan Hagler's beeper goes off, she knows one more victim is in need of help.

Hagler, a UNC senior, has worked as a companion for the Orange County Rape Crisis Center for a little over a year. One day a month she is on-call for 24 hours and must be prepared to offer sound advice or a strong shoulder to the victim of a sexual assault.

"Sexual violence is something that I'm really committed to working against," she said. "I'm working on a level where I can serve as a direct personal advocate for someone."

Her work ranges from simply talking on the phone with someone seeking advice to counseling a victim minutes after the assault. "The most difficult thing is encountering someone right after the incident," she said. "Everyone reacts so differently, so it is important to be stay open and listen to what (victims) are saying."

It is this type of service that has been the driving force behind the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, which has spent 23 years helping victims cope with their assaults.

This experience in the field coupled with current statistics has prompted the center to double their efforts to promote awareness of sex-

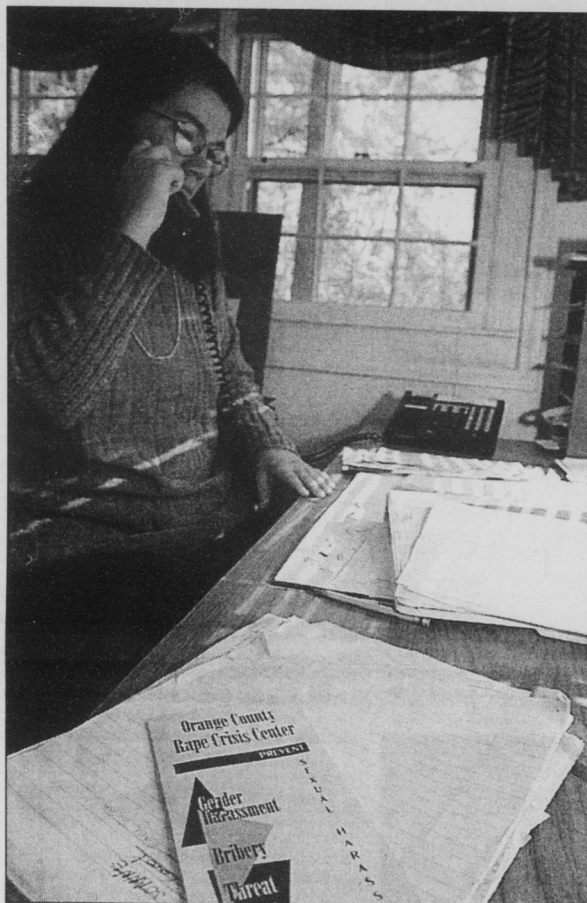
ual assault. "National statistics say — and our experience backs this up — that at least between 50 and 70 percent of all sexual violence takes place between people who know each other," said Amy Ellison, the center's companion services coordinator.

In addition to companion services, the center — with more than 130 volunteers — has support groups and community education programs to assist victims. "Everything we do is on a broad basis, and we tailor it to the individual case," said Rochelle Williams, coordinator of administrative services.

Ellison said date and acquaintance rape took many forms. "It could be an acquaintance, a friend, a prospective date," she said. "Or it could be that they were involved in a romantic relationship with the person but they didn't want to be sexually involved and their partner forced the issue anyway."

That's why it is so important to teach communication skills, said Nina Yamanis, coordinator of community education. "A lot of people assume things from body language, and we teach that it's better if it's more direct because then people don't have to assume," she said. "You can have that conversation before you put yourself in a situation where the heat is on," she said. "It's all about respecting the relationship so they don't read the signals wrong."

Williams said the center had programs geared to those who are just beginning to date. "We have programs for middle and high school students on dating and communica-



Karen O'Neal, coordinator of Support Group Services, is one of several who help run the Orange County Rape Crisis Center.

tion so that they don't end up in a date rape situation, or so that they can be a better friend if they know someone who has gone through it."

Younger students aren't the only ones who can benefit from these programs, Williams said. "We've done variations of that program at UNC

for different groups, dorm groups or different organizations that have asked us to come speak. Some people have that kind of information by the time they get to college but others don't," she said.

SEE CRISIS CENTER, PAGE 4

Rape's forgotten victims

BY KARA KIRK
STAFF WRITER

Acquaintance rape, already one of society's least understood and most underreported problems, becomes tougher to grasp when its effect on another kind of victim is considered.

Once a person is falsely accused of rape, the damage done to reputation and credibility can be irreversible, said Christopher Rapp, spokesman for the Center for the Study of Popular Culture.

"A good example is the University of Hawaii case involving Professor Ramdas Lamb," he said.

Lamb, who teaches religion at the university, was wrongly accused of rape by former student Michelle Gretzinger. The girl claimed she was violated on several different occasions by the professor.

Though Lamb was cleared of all charges, he must deal with the damage done to his reputation on a daily basis.

"Some students and teachers still look at him with suspicion," Rapp said.

National statistics show that Lamb is not alone in his suffering. One-half of all rape allegations turn out to be unsubstantiated, said Ralph Underwager, director of the Institute for Psychological Therapies.

"There is confusion about what constitutes rape, and any ambiguity now tends to be resolved by saying it's rape," he said.

Ken Pangborn, a trial consultant who specializes in sex crimes, agreed that about half of all rape accusations turn out to be fabricated, but he cautioned about the validity of that number.

He said no one knows for sure how big or small the percentages actually are.

"I have a sneaky suspicion false allegations happen more frequently than people think," he said.

"At the same time, the actual percentages of

SEE ACCUSED, PAGE 4

Change in ID numbers might cause confusion

■ In March, students will no longer be identified by social security numbers.

BY KERRY OSSI
STAFF WRITER

Planned changes to the system that holds all students' records could cause some confusion in the spring during registration for fall 1998 classes.

The system change will assign everyone affiliated with the University a new personal identification number, which students will need to register in March.

Bob Culp, Administrative Information Services director of Administrative Applications, said the change would cause some disruption no matter when it took place and would be worth the extra benefits the new PID numbers would provide.

After the conversion, the student information system will no longer access and identify individual records by social security numbers. By using new 9-digit PID numbers, Culp said, adminis-

"There's going to be a period of time before students can be notified of their new numbers."

BOB CULP

Administration Information Services
Director of Administrative Applications

trators hope to protect the privacy of social security numbers and avoid them being misused.

"There's going to be a period of time before students can be notified of their new numbers," he said.

"We're working with the registrar's office to get the information out to students."

Lacey Hawthorne, a student government representative on the PID Campus Coordinating Committee, said the University should make sure students know about the conversion so they would keep track of their new numbers

SEE PID, PAGE 4

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE



Luke Meisner and Kai Monast enjoy a game of chess with their coffee at the Coffee Mill Roastery, one of many restaurants that donated 10 percent of Tuesday's profits to charity.

DTH/LORRIE BRADLEY

INSIDE

Reading is fundamental

This week's Senior of the Week profile highlights Jennifer Stallings, who helps UNC employees learn to read with

Project Literacy. Page 2

Case closed

After an extensive investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ruled out criminal activity in the crash of TWA Flight 800. Page 5

Today's weather

Partly sunny;
mid 50s
Thursday: Mostly sunny;
upper 50s

A good heart is better than all the heads in the world.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton