### \*\* Winter Storm 2000 \* •

# **Professors Forced Cancellations Buck UNC Tradition** To Tweak Syllabi

Some UNC professors say they have already scheduled additional class sessions to make up missed lectures.

By GEOFF WESSEL

The loss of three class days might have been a cause for student celebration, but many University professors say snow days are a mixed blessing.

Officials closed the University on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after more than 16 inches of snow and

ice blanketed the campus.

The University has no official policy for making up classes lost to snow can-cellations, Provost Dick Richardson

Professors at the University do have the option of scheduling meetings for their classes to go over missed material,

But philosophy Professor William Lycan said some classes would be difficult to reschedule.

'My undergraduate class has a hun-

dred-plus people in it," Lycan said.
"I do hate losing

that one class because it was a rather important one, so I'll probaa day of my syllabus."

Forced to stay

trated by the lost time

home during the storm, professors like Alan Neebe, an ule," he said. associate dean in the Kenan-Flagler Business School, spent their time off adjusting their semester syllabi.

"We'll probably have to reschedule some of our classes," Neebe said. "It's inconvenient, but the faculty will

work around the schedule.' Economics Professor Boone Turchi said he agreed with the University's decision to cancel classes but was frus-

"I don't want to lose a full week of class," Turchi said.

He said he would make two additional lectures available to students out-side of the scheduled class time, as well as several review sessions over the next

make myself avail-able for students who have ques-tions," he said.

to catch up. I'll do my part, hopefully (students will) do theirs too.

Assistant music Professor Scott Warner said he spent his time off trying to utilize the Internet to allow his students

Provost Dick Richardson said the University had no official policy in place for mis

to stay updated with his course plans.
"I'm trying to get a Web site up to communicate with (my students), Warner said.

"It's possible I can do something on the Web for them, but I'm not sure."

For his music students, Warner plans to schedule extra rehearsals to prepare for upcoming concerts.

Political science Professor Jim Stimson said he would be doubling up the homework assignments for his graduate students next week to catch up with his syllabus. In his lecture

"Now we have to catch classes, however, up. I'll do my part, Stimson said he hopefully (students will) would resume class where he left do theirs too." off in Monday's

> "There's no way to make it up." Despite the problems associated with the closings, some professors said they

agreed with the decision to cancel class

"I was out in the roads a little bit

"I think if (officials) hadn't (closed the

Assistant University Editor Kim Minugh contributed to this story. The University Editor can be reached

(Wednesday), and it was a mess," said

Thomas Oatley, an assistant political sci-

University) I probably wouldn't have been able to get to class at 9 a.m. today."

lecture.
"With 200 or more students, there are no spare spots (in the sched-

Former UNC-system leader

Bill Friday says the school's

three consecutive snow

By JERMAINE CALDWELL

than University officials.

their hands to hold classes.

days are 'unprecedented.'

With UNC's track record of hesitat-

ing to cancel classes, students might find that their high school days had adminis-

trators more willing to cancel school

night's 16 inches of snow, students

received three seemingly unprecedent-

ed days off due to adverse weather.

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy and

his team of advisers had the decision in

And McCoy and company have had their hands full since Monday night, with deciding the fate of the following

three days' classes.
University Senior Counsel Susan

Ehringhaus said McCoy consulted with

advisers, colleagues such as Director of

Public Safety Derek Poarch, Associate

Vice Chancellor for Facility Services

Bruce Runberg and others, before mak-

ing his final decision.

Historically, the cancellation of class-

es is surrounded with legends and

One legend says the University has

not closed since the Civil War. The leg-

end is only partly true, because it actu-

ally refers to the closing of the University over an extended period of

But with the arrival of Monday

But the University's actual reputation concerning the cancellation of classes has been to remain open if at all possi-

Snow fell for 36 hours straight in January 1996 when students were returning from Winter Break, causing neighboring Duke and N.C. State universities to postpone their resumption

UNC classes were deemed optional, but the University officially remained

Both Hurricane Fran in September 1996 and Hurricane Floyd in September each led to one day of class being can-

But outside of the two hurricanes cancellations have been few and far

Even today, while N.C. Central University continues to be closed due to snow and ice, University officials decided to resume classes and operations at

With UNC's famous hesitation to call off classes comes the question of the reasoning behind wanting to keep students' noses to the grindstone.

"I think there is always a reluctance to close unless safety conditions require (it)," Ehringhaus said. "And this time, the safety conditions were quite clear."

Former UNC-system President Bill Friday has a unique look on the history of cancellations. "This is an unprecedented event to have the University closed for three consecutive days," Friday said.

"I've not in 50 years seen this hap-

Mark Your Calendars
The following meetings, deadlines and events have been postponed and rescheduled because The following meetings, deadlines and events of the past week's record-breaking winter wea

- The CAA basketball ticket distribution has been moved to Feb. 5. Bracelets will be
- The Bobby McFerrin concert scheduled for Jan. 26 has been postponed. Time and date TBA.
- The UNC Student Jazz Combos concert has been canceled. The groups will give another free concert in the Union Cabaret on March 23.
- The filing date for student organization budget requests is 5 p.m. Saturday.
- The Student Supreme Court trial regrading the U.S. Student Association referendum has been postponed. Time and date TBA.
- The Congress Finance weekend will still be held Feb. 4-6.
- The deadline for freshmen or sophomores interested in applying to be in the Honors Program has been extended to 5 p.m. Jan. 28. Applications are available in 225 Graham
- In the wake of North Carolina's severe blood shortage, students are asked to donate their blood today at Morrison Residence Hall from noon to 4:30 p.m.
- Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools are closed today it is an optional workday for teachers.
- Chatham County Schools are closed today
- Chapel Hill Transit is operating on a modified schedule as conditions allow. The T, F, D and J routes are running on modified fixed routes.
- Commercial refuse collection is suspended until further notice. However, residential refuse will still be picked up curbside today and Saturday, as conditions allow.
- Area grocery stores are operating on modified schedules.

pen, but neither have I seen a 20-inch unnatural conditions," Friday said. snow like this."

Friday said he believed the importance of holding classes went along with the University's obligation to educate and having classes was what students were paying for.

"(Classes should continue) unless you have to reckon with uncommon and

"The tradition has always been, we teach school."

And with the record-breaking snowfall, the University has had to break its long tradition

> The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

# **Storm-Stranded Flood Local Shelter**

By Robert Albright Staff Write

While many residents huddled in their houses following this week's record-breaking snowstorm, the freezing conditions forced an unfortunate few to seek cover at local shelters.

Area organizations such as the Inter-Faith Council, the Orange County American Red Cross and local churches welcomed Chapel Hill's homeless and those stranded without power dur-

ing Tuesday's winter storm.
Raney Norwood, senior manager of the IFC shelter at 100 W. Rosemary St., said the shelter had nearly reached capacity after accommodating more than 70 people.

"We always accept people in this type of weather," he said. "Some people have had to sleep on the floor, but we aren't going to turn anyone away

Because the shelter only had 32 beds for men and 18 beds for women, Norwood said the shelter offered sleeping pads for some so they could sleep on

Johnnie Walsh, an employee at the shelter, said the need for shelter space always increased during damaging and cold weather. "We'll make space even if we don't have a lot of room," he said. e are not turning anyone away

Despite the large number of shelter inhabitants, Norwood said the IFC was prepared for the influx of homeless and stranded people looking for cover away

from the harsh winter conditions.

"The shelter is pretty well stocked with food and water," he said. "Regardless of the weather, we will continue to give people three meals a day."

Josh Diem, director of IFC's local

ising program Project Homestart, said many people came to the shelter because of its central location. "There's always a big number of people seeking shelter during bad weather," he said. Along with the IFC shelter, other

organizations also set up accommoda tions for the homeless and the stranded.

Diane Ellis, director of emergency services for the Orange County American Red Cross, said shelters were set up at First Baptist Church in Hillsborough and at the Red Cross office on Estes Church Road.

While the IFC struggled to accommodate people at a nearly full shelter,

Ellis said only seven people stayed at the Red Cross' shelter on Estes Church Road on Tuesday, and no one used the shelter in Hillsborough.

Diem said the low turnout at the Red Cross shelters was because of their distance from downtown Chapel Hill, making them more inconvenient for

many to get to.

Both Red Cross shelters opened early
Tuesday morning and closed Tuesday afternoon. Ellis said the only people who used Red Cross shelter were those stuck on Interstate 40 and those with

She said, "Even though the people (that came to our shelter) have left, the Red Cross is still available if anyone needs help.

> The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.



Economics Professor

#### **GO AWAY!** And spend the summer in Paris!



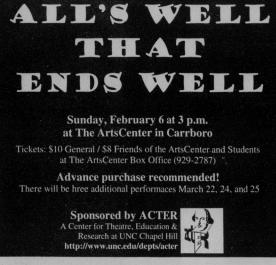
The UNC-CH Study Abroad Office, Resident Director Dr. Ed Costello, and UNC-CH graduate student in French Jennifer Latham invite students to GO AWAY and spend the summer of 2000 studying in the City of Lights. Applications are due by February 15, 2000. Classes include an intensive French course taught at the Sorbonne, and a History of Paris course which incorporates excursions con-cerning French culture and civilization. Requirements are successful completion of two semesters of college-level French.

Students will visit the major sites of Paris, plus the châteaux of Fontainebleau and Vaux-le-Vicomte, plus Chambord and Chenonceau in the Loire Valley. Students will also have the opportunity to attend the ballet La Sylphide at the Opéra Gamier, and Don Cincomit the Opéra Basillo. Giovanni at the Opéra Bastille - NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED -

The program is open to sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students in good standing at all accredited US institutions of higher For further information, contact the UNC-CH Study Abroad Office at (919) 962-7001, send an email to abroad@unc.edu, or our website at http://www.unc.edu/depts/abroad

Fall and Spring semester options are also available

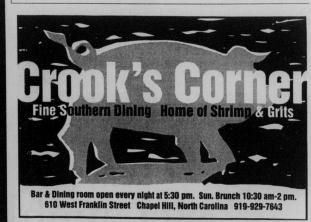
lication deadline for Summer 2000 is Feb. 15, 2000



Actors from the London Stage in William Shakespeare's



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Summer Sessions



Connecting ideas and action

## **Get Engaged**

THE CENTURY INSTITUTE Summer Program

> June 25th to July 15th at Williams College in the Berkshires

This three-week fellowship is intended for undergraduates with an interest in civic engagement and public policy. Students, scholars, and prominent policy practitioners together will explore the challenges America faces in building a just and prosperous society.

The Institute will cover all the expenses including transportation, and students will receive a \$1,000 stipend.

> For more information or to apply, visit: www.centuryinstitute.org or contact Ann Stinson via e-mail at cisp@tcf.org or by phone at (212) 452-7705

The Sagner Family Foundation