

High School Business Program Plans Hands On Learning

By JASON OWENS
Assistant City Editor

Hashing out ideas about a specialized business program, local financial leaders met with school officials Thursday to have breakfast and discuss the future of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

East Chapel Hill High School hosted the meeting that mapped out the Academy of Finance, a program that will kick off in local schools during the 2000-01 school year.

Superintendent Neil Pedersen introduced the program, which will focus on providing students with hands-on experience and an enhanced business education.

"It actually engages them in more meaningful and applied programs," Pedersen said.

The program is a branch of the National Academy Foundation, which implements specialized programs in finance, technology and travel and tourism in various schools across the

country. Selected students will begin the program during their junior year when they will take two accounting courses, a banking and credit class and a world finance class.

Seniors in the program will focus on financial planning and Internet skills and will be allowed to take classes at a local college.

Tony Asplin, a program consultant, explained that students in the finance academy would have advantages that

other students might not experience without the new program.

"(The mission of the academy is) to create academic programs by partnering private industry and the public sector in order to provide quality, industry-specific education," Asplin said.

"Students will actually do a paid internship."

Pamela Bello, director of secondary education and work force development for the school system, said the program would recruit students with excellent

attendance and average to above-average achievement in school.

"We're hoping to jump-start their careers," Bello said. "The academy model is needed."

Community business leaders were invited to provide feedback as well as to offer help to the program by working directly with students.

Donna Cayonette of First Citizens Bank said the program was a good opportunity to help students interested in business.

"Getting in there and helping the young people better assess their lives will benefit everybody," Cayonette said. "I'm very much interested in speaking in the classroom."

Chris Lawrence of Harrington Bank was also excited about the program.

"It's awesome," he said. "It's really needed. I wish I could have had this program."

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

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THE Daily Crossword

By D.J. DeChristopher

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SILO AERIE OILY
HOLDS ONE STON GUE
GAPS DOUGHTY
GALENA SOFT TEE
OLE DUST FAIL
ROVE LIEU GRUPE
KEEPS ONE STEMPER
ISLET SPEW APER
HEAT EROS EVE
AWE SAWN SEEDD
CHALICE AIMS
HIDES ONE DISMAY
ORES MCKEE AONE
OLDS AHEAD YENS

ASU Explores Benefits Of Online Education

A new program allows freshmen at Appalachian State University to complete classwork over the Internet.

By TAENA KIM
Staff Writer

A pilot program at Appalachian State University is experimenting with computer-based classes to prepare students for the changing technology of the 21st century.

Project Experiment in Enhanced Learning is a one-year program ASU is sponsoring that connects students to a network, through which they can communicate with each other outside of class.

EXCEL was implemented this year as a pilot program for freshmen and came at the same time that UNC-Chapel Hill introduced its Carolina Computing Initiative, requiring freshmen to purchase a laptop computer.

The ASU program allows students to participate in chat rooms, edit papers and exchange information online.

"The idea was we wanted to see how we can move less complex material out of the classroom and save time for highly critical skills," said Steven Breiner, manager of EXCEL.

Sixty freshmen interested in EXCEL were required to purchase a computer compatible with the network and enroll in a specified class schedule, Breiner said.

"We targeted students who were not computer geeks," he said. "(EXCEL) wanted students to leave with higher computer skills."

EXCEL students enrolled in freshmen seminars to learn computer skills, Breiner said.

English composition, introduction to world civilization and biology classes

were also part of the schedule.

Professors who are participating in the pilot program have received a positive response from students.

"Students were glad to do things online," said ASU English Professor Emory Maiden. "As a writing course, (students) can do drafts online. It is very effective."

Students could also exchange drafts and edit online rather than setting up a meeting outside of class, he said.

"For the most part, I was surprised by how students were serious about the work," Maiden said. "I was encouraged by the interaction online."

EXCEL does not specify the types of technology professors use, giving them more freedom to determine how technology can fit into their particular course work, Breiner said.

Although no determination has been made about the future of the pilot program, Breiner said many positive results had come out of EXCEL. "Students' (grade point averages) shifted in a higher direction," he said. "Editing and writing has also improved."

But there are still some kinks to be worked out in the program.

Some professors have been hesitant to incorporate new technology into their teaching, Maiden said.

With the rate that technology is expanding, Maiden said learning to use it was inevitable. "People are going to have to learn how to work (online) effectively," he said.

Breiner said the new program at ASU was part of a larger trend toward increasing technology on college campuses. "The technology itself is infusing into all areas of the university," he said.

"We're trying to make sure expansion of technology is moving in the right direction."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

IN THE NEWS

Europe Tries to Isolate New Austrian Regime

VIENNA, Austria - Austria's president agreed Thursday to swear in a coalition government that includes a far-right party whose leader Joerg Haider has applauded aspects of the Nazi regime and who campaigned on an anti-immigrant platform.

Reaction was swift. Israel recalled its ambassador and banned Haider from visiting, even though the right-wing leader has repeatedly apologized for pro-Nazi remarks made years ago.

European Union nations started making good on threats to politically isolate Austria, something the United States has backed. The EU also warned it might suspend Austria's membership.

The prospect of Haider's Freedom Party in government prompted about 2,000 protesters to take to the streets of Vienna late Thursday for a second straight night.

A group of them pushed their way into the city's historic Burgtheater and stormed the stage, calling on the audience to join a protest rally Friday before fleeing the building.

Rebel College Students Occupy School Building

MEXICO CITY - They see themselves as a new generation of rebels.

They like "direct action" and collective decision-making. They oppose entrance exams, university fees and selective admissions. They sport ski masks and Cuban-style field caps.

These striking students would be just a group of 2,000 malcontents - if they didn't have the Mexican government backed into a corner.

The strikers control the sprawling main campus of the National Autonomous University, Latin America's largest university system. For nine months they have occupied the school, locking out 260,000 classmates.

Many are young anarchists. They identify with Mexico's student protesters of 1968, hundreds of whom were gunned down by soldiers in a massacre that continues to haunt the nation.

Largely because of memories of that massacre, the government has shied away from moving against the strikers. Unwilling to retake the campus by force, it has encouraged university authorities to capitulate to some of the strikers' demands.

But this week, the strikers might finally have stepped over the line: On Tuesday, they staged a bloody skirmish with anti-strike students, security guards and adults hired to chase strikers from a university-affiliated high school.

Researchers Pioneer New Insulin Treatment

WASHINGTON - A technique that allows insulin hormone to be stored in cells and then released as needed by a pill eventually might offer a treatment for diabetes that does not require daily injections, researchers say.

The experiments, thus far, have been performed only on mice, but researchers say a system using an implanted insulin gene might be ready for human testing within two years.

In a study to be published Friday in the journal Science, researchers at Ariad Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass., and at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York said the cell engineering technique was able to control diabetes in a group of mice and is now being tested on larger animals.

Tim Clackson, senior author of the study, said that the technique caused insulin, or some other protein, to clump inside a cell with another protein, forming a molecule that is too large to leave the cell. A drug, given as a pill, breaks up the clump, allowing the insulin to flow into the blood stream in a way that mimics the spurt of hormone normally secreted by the pancreas.

- Associated Press

Do you suffer from cold sores?

If so, then you may be just who we're looking for. We are conducting a paid (\$350) research study of an investigational medication for the treatment and possible prevention of cold-sore lesions. You must be 12 years of age or older (with parental consent, if appropriate), and in good general health to participate. You do not need to have a cold sore now to qualify.

If interested, please contact Susan or Heather at 919-029 University of North Carolina Hospitals

Summer 2000 at TAXCO, MEXICO
Universidad Nacional Autónoma De México

Students who wish to experience Mexican life, culture, and academics on a rural estate in a colonial city can study in **Taxco, Mexico** for a summer. This program is offered by UNC-CH through the Centro de Enseñanza para Extranjeros (CEPE) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

Eligibility: Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for the program, which is open to both UNC-CH and non-UNC students with a 2.5 GPA or better. There is no language prerequisite, but at least two semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent is recommended.

Summer 2000 students will be accompanied by Amy McNichols, a Ph.D. candidate in Latin-American literature from the UNC-CH Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. While on-site, Ms. McNichols will advise and tutor students, as well as serve as the Resident Coordinator in Taxco during the program.

A group flight will be available, and the orientation will take place in Mexico City prior to the beginning of courses in Taxco.

The dates: The summer 2000 program runs from June 16 to August 4, 2000.

The cost: Total billed cost \$1,451.

For further information about this program: Please contact the Study Abroad Office in 12 Caldwell Hall, or the program leader, Amy McNichols, in 114 Dey Hall, or our web site at <http://study-abroad.unc.edu>.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE February 15, 2000.

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

CAMPUS CHAOS
Book Signing

Dick Vitale
will be signing
copies of his book
Campus Chaos:
Why the Game I Love is
Breaking My Heart
at UNC Student Stores
Friday, February 4th
12pm - 2pm

IT'S AWESOME BAY-BEE