



Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy speaks to Chapel Hill High School students in the Advancement Via Individual Determination program Friday morning.

DTH/KATE MELLNIK

## McCoy Chats With Local Students

The AVID program at local high schools provides students with academic support through test preparation and peer tutoring.

By JOSEPH PARDINGTON  
Staff Writer

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy touted higher education opportunities Friday to local high school students participating in a program designed to prepare them for college.

McCoy spoke to more than 100 students at East Chapel Hill and Chapel Hill high schools who participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination program, a national program geared toward preparing under-represented minorities to continue their education beyond high school.

Paul Youngman, an AVID teacher at ECHHS, asked McCoy what the University was doing to encourage minority students to apply to UNC.

McCoy responded by saying, "What we are trying to do is have as much of an outreach as we can, in making sure it's understood that we are accessible, that we are affordable."

McCoy also told students to become aware of the new academic requirement for admission to the University — two years of foreign language and four years of math.

The AVID program provides peer and academic support to help meet admissions standards. The program originated in California and was first implemented in Chapel Hill in 1996.

Its mission is for students who traditionally avoid Advanced Placement and honors classes in high school to follow a rigorous curriculum. AVID also encourages extracurricular participation, application and enrollment in four-year colleges and universities.

AVID provides academic support in many ways, including PSAT and SAT preparation and college planning and preparation.

McCoy, who also spoke to students at CHHS, referred to a study by Bell South that listed the two most important factors in managerial success. McCoy spent 35 years as an executive at BellSouth before becoming UNC-system vice president for finance and heading the UNC National Development Council.

"The most important thing was not where they attended college," he said. "The most important thing was grades, that they did well in school. The second most important thing

(was) leadership, the tendency to get involved in leadership."

McCoy said these were also the two most important factors in the UNC admissions process.

Terry Greenlund, AVID coordinator for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, discussed the success of the program.

"Among the 53 juniors and seniors at the high school (enrolled in the program), there are 35 AP and 58 honors courses," he said.

Joanne McClelland, AVID teacher for the 11th and 12th grades at CHHS, said peer support was crucial to the program's success at the school. "Students who never thought they would go to college are now going," she said. "The other thing I've seen is the increase in minority participation in AP and honors class. There's now some diversity. It's probably one of the most successful programs I've ever seen. It's a positive program. I hope it continues."

ECHHS senior and AVID student Rosa Mebrahtu gave credit to the ethnic mixture of the class. "Because our class is so diverse, you get everybody's opinion," she said. "It kind of opens up your mind."

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## Talented Actors Save Show Student's Documentary Debut Sparks Film Festival for CUAB

By CARL JACOBS  
Staff Writer

Despite Shakespeare's meandering plot line, strong acting saves Company Carolina's production of "Pericles."

"Pericles" is one of Shakespeare's lesser known plays for a reason.

The play is peppered with Shakespeare's typical tragic moments but, alas, everyone is happy in its sudden and unbelievable end. Even Shakespeare had his off days.

That said, Company Carolina undertook a huge project and came out with a production worth seeing nonetheless.

The first half of the play is carried, as it should be, by Pericles. Played by sophomore Jeremy Hurtz, the young prince is a wanderer in search of love. Plagued by bad luck, Pericles wins the

hand of a princess who was sexually involved with her own father.

Now disgusted, and hunted down by an angry king, Pericles is forced to run.

In his collegiate acting debut, Hurtz proves that he can hold the play together. His realistic emotion keeps the audience's attention when he is on stage.

The play reaches its low point when Pericles wins the hand of yet another princess during a poorly choreographed dance and mock fight scene.

But out of this marriage comes a fair daughter named Marina, played by 16-year-old Joanna Wilson. Wilson proves the star of the show with a wonderful stage presence that becomes apparent before she even says a word.

Her delicate but powerful acting and mature sense of theater make her perfect to play a character who makes men succumb to her noble wishes, and women stew with sometimes violent envy.

Ron Funderburke narrates in between the scenes as Gower, helping to describe the actions that pass both on

and off the stage. He actively paces around the stage, making a strong effort to involve specific individuals in the audience.

Direction Heidi Wells makes a successful effort to utilize a center stage with a surrounding audience. The simplistic design made it hard to depict the various mystical lands, but it also created a three-dimensional environment that vastly improved the play.

The characters are difficult to follow as the same actors play multiple roles, but the play was easy to understand even so.

All in all, the production is a success. Shakespeare may have hit a slight bump in his creativity with "Pericles," but Company Carolina makes a strong effort to keep it interesting.

Look for Wilson in years to come. She stakes an early claim to a successful acting career, if she wants it.

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By CARMEN WOODRUFF  
Staff Writer

Five students are crossing their fingers for success as they debut their independent films tonight in the Carolina Union Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Junior psychology major Mike Caston and senior biology major Mahera Omar combined his comedic skits and her documentary films to create an evening for everyone to enjoy.

Caston wrote and produced "Skittles" with the help of three others: his brother, Steve Caston, a freshman at East Carolina University, and friends Matt Vogenitz and Thorlindur Thorelorsen from his Maryland hometown.

Vogenitz and Thorelorsen traveled to Chapel Hill from Maryland several weekends to film "Skittles." It consists of 70 short skits comparable to those on "Saturday Night Live."

Omar's "A Lighter Shade of Crimson" concentrates on everyday life in a series of 5-10 minute segments. One includes New Yorkers speaking about their love for the Big Apple. It was previewed on STV earlier last week.

"You can take any topic and make it interesting," Omar said.

Since the eighth grade, Vogenitz and Caston have found camera work intriguing. Whether it was a school project or just a normal day, they always thought of something interesting to tape.

Vogenitz said "Skittles" provided an outlet for the four friends to be creative. "This is our attempt to be funny," Vogenitz said. "It's nice to be able to express yourself and show your ideas."

The "Skittles" crew also plans to preview a Kung Fu movie at tonight's film festival that they intend to release after Easter.

Initially, all five students were going

to arrange the film festival without the assistance of outside organizations.

When Omar began to pull things together in October, she found out that she could save hundreds of dollars if the Carolina Union Activities Board sponsored the event.

The board agreed to fund the auditorium rental, fliers, ads and all other advertisements.

Sophomore Bharath Parthasarathy was one of the student board members who approved this project.

He said he hoped this independent film presentation would spark larger film festivals in following years.

The show is free of charge. Both Caston and Omar recommend students arrive at least 20 minutes early. They anticipate a crowd of more than 1000.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# Who's head over Tar Heels for North Carolina grads?

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