



## The University and Towns IN BRIEF

### Meyer Honored For Public Opinion Studies

Public opinion researchers gave their highest award to Professor Philip Meyer, who holds the Knight Chair at the UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The American Association for Public Opinion Research gave its award for Exceptionally Distinguished Achievement to Meyer on May 20 in Portland, Ore.

Meyer became a media pollster and organized polling activities with several Knight-Ridder news organizations. Part of his work included the pioneering of studies in Detroit after the urban disturbances of 1967, which were part of the coverage that earned a Pulitzer Prize for a Detroit Free Press reporting team.

Meyer joined the University's faculty in 1981.

### Purifying Pen Makes Dirty Water Drinkable

UNC researchers have confirmed that a disinfecting "pen" is effective.

The device, developed by Los Alamos Technical Associates and MIOX Corp., of Albuquerque, has been found to electrochemically generate oxidants from a salt solution that helps purify water.

Researchers at the University, funded by MIOX, evaluated the effectiveness of the battery-powered tool and found that the amount of parasites, bacteria or viruses located in water was reduced 99.9 percent in a matter of minutes.

The device will make it possible for people to quickly purify drinking water, especially in remote or isolated areas or in situations where drinking water has been contaminated.

### Retired Naval Cmdr. Hosts Book Discussion

Retired Naval Cmdr. Thomas Buell will discuss his 1997 book, "The Warrior Generals: Combat Leadership in the Civil War," at Carolina Meadows on June 28.

Buell is a writer-in-residence and guest lecturer in history at UNC. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, the Naval Postgraduate School and the Naval War College.

For more information, call Sandy Roberts at 962-1993.

### Duke, UNC Awarded Int'l Studies Grants

The U.S. Department of Education awarded UNC and Duke University five grants each for international centers and programs.

Three of the grant recipients are run jointly by the two universities and focus on the areas of Western European studies, Slavic, Eurasian and East European studies and Latin American studies.

A fourth grant will go toward the Center for South Asian Studies, a consortium involving North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University, Duke and UNC-CH.

The fifth grant will go to the UNC Center for International Studies.

The three-year grants will be used to fund international programs, conferences, speakers, film series and new courses.

### REI Seeks Volunteers for National Trails Day

Recreational Equipment, Inc. is seeking volunteers on June 3, National Trails Day, for their 2000 Service Project of Trail Work at Umstead Park.

Volunteers are needed to help with the trail projects designed for volunteers by the park staff.

National Trails Day, organized by the American Hiking Society, celebrates trails and the volunteers who maintain them.

REI is a national retailer of outdoor gear and clothing.

The first Saturday of every June, more than 3,000 trail organizations, agencies and businesses across the country host a variety of events.

Work is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Interested persons can sign up for the project by calling REI in Cary at 233-8444.

### Habitat for Humanity Seeks Volunteers

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County is currently seeking people to work with the organization as AmeriCorps or VISTA volunteers.

For further information, contact Executive Director, Susan Levy at the Orange County office of Habitat for Humanity at 732-6767.

# UNC Faculty Take Road Trip Around State

Faculty hop on buses to tour the state and learn about the different regions many UNC students call home.

By JENNIFER BROWN  
Staff Writer

The day after watching thousands of wet graduates cross Kenan Stadium, 30 members of the University's faculty and administration began a journey through North Carolina's past, present and future by participating in the third annual Tar Heel Bus Tour from May 22 through May 26.

Spanning five days, the tour provided new faculty members with the chance to learn about regions of North Carolina that 82 percent of the University's students call home.

Travelling more than 1,000 miles, this year's bus tour visited everything from flood-ravaged areas at the east coast to the foothills of Morganton.

Phillip Boyle, one of this year's participants and an associate professor at the Institute of Government, said, "Because we are a public institution, we need to be connected in all that we do to the people of N.C. This is the way to help that large percent."

Boyle said that while he came to the

University for the professional draw, the tour provided him with an opportunity to forge ties with his new home state.

JoAnn Pitz, director of benefits for human resources, said she enjoyed a stop in Marshall, N.C. to a rural mountain health clinic.

"I ran a health clinic in Illinois and I saw some of the same problems they were dealing with now that I did 15 years ago," Pitz said.

One of the objectives of the tour is to provide new members of the faculty and administration with a better understanding of the state's unique history, said the Tar Heel Bus Tour web site.

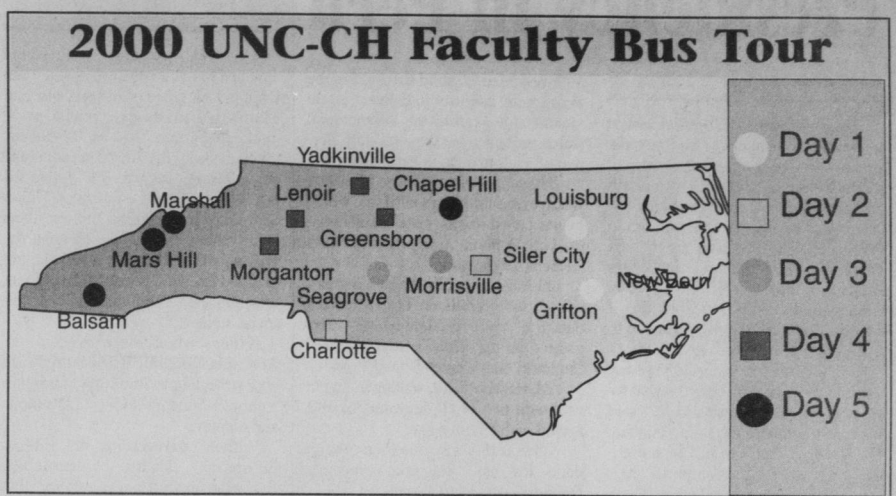
Boyle said the tour showed him the state's changing economy. Boyle relocated to N.C. from Colorado.

"There is traditional labor and work force on one hand and on the other side there is a high-tech change within the state," he said.

Another objective of the tour is to encourage public service and research to address state problems. Organizers also hope the tour provides participants with a link to the state's many different people, said the tour's web site.

Participants also said the close quarters provided encouragement to interact with faculty members that they may not otherwise work with at the University.

Stephen Shaban, an associate professor of surgery, said he found the inter-



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action between faculty enjoyable.

"You are isolated in your day to day teaching within your department," Shaban said. "By being on the bus tour, you are exposed to other departments. It opens your horizons for the on-campus community."

Sponsored by the chancellor's office and the Carolina Center for Public Service, this year's bus tour was planned

by reviewing past participant's feedback, said the tour's web site.

Each year, a group of 30 participants representing the diversity of the University's faculty is selected to join the tour. In order to be eligible, candidates must have joined the University within the last three years.

Since the first tour in 1997, the program has graduated nearly 100 partici-

pants. Linda Douglas, director of community relations and one of this year's participants said this year's group asked many questions.

"It wasn't what they asked, but how, with such a great spirit," Douglas said.

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu)

## FOR THOSE ABOUT TO TOAST...



DTH/EMILY SCHNUR

The "Sledge", trumpet player for New York City ska band The Toasters, gets his groove on at a high-energy show at the Cat's Cradle on Tuesday night. The crowd of mostly under-21s danced away the school night to the infectious punk-reggae beats. The group takes its name from a Jamaican style of rap called "toasting."

## Educators Flock to See Bond Signing

By COURTNEY MABEUS  
University Editor

Hundreds of higher education advocates from across the state gathered at the Capitol last Thursday to support and celebrate the future of state public education as Governor Jim Hunt signed the controversial bond referendum.

Calling the signage a great day in the future of the state, Hunt told onlookers of the importance of their commitment to its passage, adding that his signature was not the beginning of the end.

"The end will come in November and carry the bond," Hunt said.

Last Thursday marked the beginning of a campaign to urge voters to support the \$3.1 billion bond referendum, aptly titled the Michael J. Hooker Higher Education Facilities Financing Act after a late UNC-CH chancellor.

If voters approve the referendum in the November's election, much needed renovations would go to help ensure the future successes of UNC campuses and community colleges statewide.

"When we say our facilities are in crisis, I mean our students are in crisis," Hunt said. "If there has ever been a bipartisan issue in the state, this is it."

During the spring, several legislators participated in a tour of state campus facilities, many of which they found in dire condition.

The tour helped provide the momentum needed to spur the unanimous approval of the bond issue, the largest in state history, through the General Assembly two weeks ago.

Senate minority leader, Patrick Ballentine, R-Wilmington, recalled a sight from the tour.

"We literally saw research laboratory bookshelves held together with pizza boxes," Ballentine said. "No more."

Still, despite the bond's overwhelming approval, legislators and other supporters said it was time for the real work to begin in earnest.

Speaker of the House, Jim Black, D-Matthews, called for personal campaigning at the grass roots level.

"Look around. For every person that you see, there are 10 people that need to be convinced," Black said.

Hunt signed the bond amongst cheers as Bruce Springsteen's "Glory Days" played over the sound system.

"I've never signed a bill that I have more enthusiasm about than I have signed today," Hunt said.

Several members of the UNC-CH community, including the Board of Trustees, also came out in support.

Observing the crowd, Student Body Present Brad Matthews called the ceremony a good start.

"I think it stands a very good chance," he said. "And I think this is a very good representation of why."

Board of Trustees chairwoman Anne Cates said she'd talk to everyone in the state to ensure the bond's passage.

"We certainly want it," she said. "We feel like it will mean a lot to students on this campus."

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## 2 Injured in Plane Crash During Storms

By MICHAEL ABEL  
Staff Writer

Two members of the Chapel Hill Flying Club were injured when their plane crashed into trees in the University's physical plant parking lot near Horace Williams Airport, during the severe and strong winds that struck Chapel Hill last Thursday morning.

Richard Binkley of Chapel Hill, the pilot and instructor of The Piper Cherokee Warrior, said the make of the plane he was flying suffered burns to his face and the side of his body. Binkley's student and passenger, William Ladd, a 51-year-old from Durham, suffered broken bones and deep lacerations. Both men were taken to UNC Hospitals for treatment.

At press time, Binkley, one of the 285 members of the Chapel Hill Flying Club, had been discharged from the hospital.

Ladd remains at UNC Hospitals in good condition, said an official.

This is the fourth accident that has occurred near Horace Williams Airport since February 1998 and rekindles an ongoing debate about the location of the airport, which the University has owned and operated since 1940.

Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said the airport has been a major source of contention between the University and town for twenty years.

"At various times the Town Council

wanted the airport to close," Waldorf said. "In my personal opinion, it would be a safer community without an airport in the middle of town."

No current efforts are under way to move the airport, she said.

The crash took place when the single-engine, four-passenger plane was on approach for landing on return from a trip to Raleigh.

Reports said strong winds forced the plane onto its side and into the trees on the corner of the intersection of Airport Road and Estes Drive, about one mile from the University campus. The plane crashed into a storage area in the physical plant parking lot.

University administrators said the flight conformed with policies and operation guidelines concurrent with the airport.

John P. Evans, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration at UNC-CH, said he believed last week's storms to be the cause.

"We're expecting that when the investigation report is filed that the FAA will say that weather was a factor," Evans said Tuesday.

The strong thunderstorms responsible for the crash left 10,000-12,000 customers without power for 24 to 36 hours according to Orange County Emergency Management.

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## Union Renovations Delayed

Instead of the original June 1 start date, officials have pushed back the start of renovations until June 15.

By CRAIG LEDFORD  
Staff Writer

This week "it" was supposed to begin. After eight years of planning and several delays, Phase I renovations on the Student Union have been pushed back from a June 1 start date to June 15, officials said.

Karen Geer, capitol improvements financial co-ordinator, said the delay developed out of a legal technicality.

"We have not received the state signed contracts," Geer said. "We cannot let them break ground until we get (the contracts) back signed."

Geer said it was not unusual for contracts to be delayed and expected their return at any time.

Jon Curtis, assistant director for student activities, said though delays are common in projects of this size, he is confident about the June 15 start date.

"We're really excited that we actually have a concrete start date," Curtis said.

During Phase I, slated to last until next May, construction fences will go up along the corner of Raleigh and South Roads, enclosing the union parking lot, Curtis said.

Curtis added that the fences will also serve to protect a grove of trees that lies next to the union.

Students and administrators can also expect the relocation of the bus stop on the union side of South Road to an area behind the Undergraduate Library.

Also accompanying Phase I will be the closure of the stairwell between the union and Student Stores. All entrances to the union, with the exception to those facing South Road, will remain open as well as all other areas of the union.

The stairwell is scheduled to re-open after the first six weeks of construction, said the Carolina Union web site.

Despite the promise of better facilities, some students still complain that the closures will create hassles.

Star Sanders, a junior psychology major who will witness this summer's renovations, said the closures will make her daily life more difficult.

"The union (parking lot) was a quick place to go if you needed to return books or do something really quickly," Sanders said. "Now we're going to have to park somewhere further away."

Rodrick West, a senior Spanish and economics major, said the closures come at a bad time.

"With the stairwell being closed, I will have to take a long route to the student stores and library."

West said the closure of the union lot would take away from what he called "already limited" parking.

The three phase renovations, which will total \$3 million, are scheduled for completion by 2002 and will add more than thirty-seven thousand square feet of lounge, office and meeting room space, said Curtis.

The revamped union will eventually be home to a twenty-four hour computer lab and copy center, internet connections for laptop computers, 53 additional student organization offices and enhanced handicapped access.

Curtis said he hoped that the improved union building will provide students and faculty with a more comfortable atmosphere.

"(The renovations) are important to students. It's hopefully going to meet the needs of the student population here."

JON CURTIS

Assistant Director for Student Activities

Phase II of the improvements is scheduled for commencement in the summer of 2001, and will focus primarily on the second floor and lower levels of the union.

Phase III will begin in the spring of 2002 with a focus on the main floor and lobby area.

Construction during both the final phases is expected to last six months, said the union web site.

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