

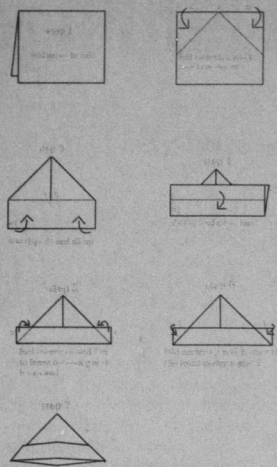
anti-boredom

The college experience encourages us to examine our lives, root out our boredom, and recommend helpful tips to our friends about how they too, can avoid this silent menace.

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THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Housing Director Seeks Niche

Christopher Payne has to deal with housing shortages and inevitable chaos in his first few weeks on the job.

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Assistant University Editor

When Christopher Payne stepped into the position of new housing director on Aug. 1, he tried to find his place amid the chaos of room assignments and renovation cleanup.

"I just came on board and said, 'Where do you want me, how can I help or how can I get out of the way?'" Payne said. "Right now we're just trying to get everyone moved in."

Payne, who was formerly director of housing operations at the University of Denver, was selected after two rounds of candidate searches that began in September.

The previous housing director, Wayne Kuncel, left the position in July 1999 after 16 years at the post. Student Services Associate Vice Chancellor Dean Bresciani served as interim housing director last year and helped select Payne.

Bresciani said Payne, who has more than 11 years of student affairs experience at several universities, can contribute a breadth of experience and a caring attitude toward students.

"He's very sincere," Bresciani said. "He's the kind of guy that will be out there helping people put their bunkbeds together."

During his first two weeks on campus, Payne has already had to help arrange temporary housing for about 80 students.

Those students will be living in lounges in Craige and Ehringhaus residence halls and in units in Odum Village, which is usually reserved for student family housing.

Payne has also used his first weeks to tour all the residence halls and get a feel for what the University needs.

But he said he hasn't been able to get a clear picture of the housing situation without talking to individual students.

"When students feel their residence hall needs some work, I hope they bring me over and show me," Payne said. "I hope to be out of my office and talking to students."

Bresciani said Payne has a daunting task ahead of him because the University is entering a period of heavy construction and renovation as part of the Master Plan. But Payne said he will throw himself into the job.

"I've just scratched the surface," he said. "Right now my focus is what we need to do to prepare for opening, but then I can start talking about what my vision is."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Alumna Tapped to Lead Campus Y

By MARK THOMAS
Assistant University Editor

A UNC alumna will return to her roots this semester to lead the organization she was once an active member of.

Virginia Carson, a 1971 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UNC, will assume the post of Campus Y director on Sept. 5.

The Campus Y serves as an umbrella organization to numerous student groups, including the Big Buddy program, Project Literacy and GLOBE, a human rights organization.

Carson's goals for the Campus Y include creating strong community ties and an increased interaction between UNC alumni and students.

Carson comes to UNC from Washington, D.C., where she worked as chief executive officer of Capital Kids' Radio.

She said her previous position involved community outreach efforts similar to those demanded by her new post.

"My personal goal is to connect students to the greater University community," Carson said.

She said she believes that student contact with alumni through various Campus Y functions is vital to achieving this goal.

"I think alumni have a lot to say about career choices and students broadening their horizons," Carson said.

The renovation of the Campus Y building is among Carson's top priorities, she said, although money must be raised first.

Carson said it will be at least two years before the renovations can be completed.

"We will be trying to rehabilitate the (building) to be a functional meeting place where people can get together," Carson said.

"Having a place where students can gather and just talk is extremely important."

Cynthia Wolf Johnson, associate vice chancellor of student affairs, along with an eight-person selection committee, began the director search in May and by

mid-July had narrowed the field from 50 candidates to four.

Created by students in 1860, the Campus Y has grown into one of the University's largest student organizations.

The group has more than 700 members going into the fall semester.

"The general focus of the Campus Y is outreach to the community around us and to our own campus on issues of social importance," Carson said.

Although Carson is somewhat tentative coming into her new position, she said she is excited about the opportunity.

"The University has changed a lot. It is much bigger than when I was here," she said. "I'm trying to get reacquainted."

"The general focus of the Campus Y is outreach to the community around us and to our own campus ..."

VIRGINIA CARSON
Campus Y Director

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