

Genome Speaker Series Kicks Off Officials Investigating Electrocuting Death

Oliver Smithies, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at UNC, discussed his work with mouse genes.

By SCOTT BRITAIN
Staff Writer

The newly formed UNC Center for Genome Sciences launched its inaugural seminar series Tuesday afternoon with a squeak.

Oliver Smithies, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the UNC School of Medicine, shared his research work – the alteration of mouse genes to benefit humans – with a packed audience at the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building.

Smithies was the first speaker in a series of seminars titled Functional Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics, which will feature guest speakers from institutions such as Harvard, Yale and Stanford universities.

Genomics and proteomics are studies of genes and proteins, respectively, and bioinformatics is the science of handling and using collected biological data.

The UNC Center for Genome Sciences received official University recognition Aug. 10, but it has been operating in an unofficial capacity for most of this year. Last February, UNC committed to spend \$245 million during the next decade in the area of genome sciences, and this lecture series is one part of that commitment.

"We need to bring experts to UNC so they can contribute to ongoing campus dialogue in the area of genomics," said Jeffrey Dangi, co-chairman of the lecture series.

Dangi said now is an important time in the area of genomics because of the near completion of the Human Genome Project – the mapping of genes in the human DNA sequence – and the many new opportunities for research in the field.

Smithies' address, "Mouse Solutions to Pharmacological Problems," centered

on how scientists can study the effect of gene alteration on mice and how this possibly could benefit humans.

Smithies said the Human Genome Project has identified more than 30,000 genes in human DNA. With there being an average of 2,000 nucleotides in each gene, there is a lot of room for variation in each gene.

A large portion of Smithies' work has been investigating the genetic causes of hypertension. Smithies said he has a vested interest in this disease because he is one of millions of people who suffer from high blood pressure.

His work includes looking at mice genes that are similar to humans. He can then manipulate these genes to see how changing part of the DNA sequence will affect the disease and the mouse's health.

Smithies said his work has some limitations because mouse genes are not identical to human genes. He said he once hoped to alter part of the DNA from a mouse only to find that the particular sequence of DNA did not even exist in mice. But he has counteracted these setbacks by looking for other parts of human and mouse DNA that are similar and has made numerous discoveries by doing so.

"It really is a fascinating business to think about the variation in the human genome," Smithies said. "It's also exciting to ponder the different interactions that can occur between these variations and the different drugs that are on the market."

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"We need to bring experts to UNC so they can contribute to ongoing campus dialogue in the area of genomics."

JEFFREY DANGI
Lecture Series Co-chairman

Bill Aims to Ease Student Credit Woes

U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., introduced the bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

By JENNIFER SAMUELS
Assistant State & National Editor

College offers many students their first taste of financial freedom – but with that responsibility comes the risk of overstepping set limits and tumbling into debt.

As the school year begins and students become the target of many credit card solicitations, UNC officials are warning students to examine any credit card applications before signing.

According to a study conducted in June by the U.S. General Accounting Office, 20 percent of the nation's college students owe more than \$10,000 for credit card charges.

The study also found that about 33 percent of students had credit cards before entering college. An additional

46 percent applied for and received cards during their first year.

In an attempt to help students avoid being taken advantage of by credit card companies, Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., introduced a bill earlier this year designed to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The act was originally put in place to prevent credit card companies from taking advantage of full-time, traditional-aged college students.

Slaughter's legislation proposes that credit limits for college students not exceed 20 percent of the student's gross income or the total of \$500 multiplied by the number of years since the account was opened. The resolution is not yet scheduled for a vote.

Slaughter's press secretary Steve Adamske said the congresswoman proposed the bill because she is concerned about credit card debt in addition to the loan debt many students incur. "Slaughter has a huge interest in what's going on with today's college students," he said. "She believes credit card companies target college students because of vulnerability."

Adamske added that he expects the bill to be contested because it goes against the interest of banks and credit card companies. "We tried (to pass it) as part of a bankruptcy bill, but it didn't work. It's going to be a tough sell."

Credit card companies often target students because many have some income and are eager to develop a credit history.

Out of the six credit card companies GAO interviewed for its study, six solicited students through the Internet, five by direct mail and three by setting up tables on college campuses.

But the UNC Facilities Use Policy prohibits credit card companies from setting up tables on campus. UNC Associate University Council Mary Sechrist said it is the University's position to not allow any commercial solicitation on campus. "Sometimes people go places where

they're not supposed to be, but if we find out about it we don't allow it," she said.

Carol Badgett, a staff attorney with UNC Student Legal Services, said the best way to avoid credit problems is to pay attention to the fine print on credit applications.

"Sometimes your local bank or credit union offers a really good rate," she said. "(There is) a lot of glitz and glamour with many credit companies. You may be offered some very good benefits, (but they

are) short-lived."

"It would be a very good idea to shop around for credit cards," she added. "Many students get a number of credit cards and max out on each one. It's easy to sort of get into a bind on one and then get another."

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

"(Slaughter) has a huge interest in what's going on with today's college students."

STEVE ADAMSKE

Rep. Louise Slaughter's Press Secretary

By AMANDA WILSON
Staff Writer

For the first time in 60 years, a local electricity company is dealing with the aftermath of a recent worker fatality in Orange County.

Larry Oakley, a Piedmont Electric employee of 14 years, died Thursday in a work-related accident while repairing electrical lines in Dogwood Acres.

Oakley, a lineman for the company, lived in Hillsborough and is survived by his wife and twin sons.

Richard Mabbott, spokesman for Piedmont Electric, said the accident – the cause of which has yet to be determined – came as a surprise considering the company's history of taking precautions. "We've got an excellent safety record," he said.

Mabbott said Oakley's equipment had recently been tested and that workers had attended three informational meetings that day explaining the job's procedures. "We have an ongoing process of keeping employees informed as information becomes available," he said.

Piedmont Electric is part of a statewide chain of customer-owned and customer-governed co-op electricity providers that was organized in the 1930s.

This group of co-ops is guided by the N.C. Electric Cooperative.

Jane Pritchard, head of corporate communication for NCEC, said the corporation was nationally recognized for

its safety procedures.

In the past five years, there have only been three worker fatalities in the NCEC system, including Thursday's accident.

One death involved a line that fell, and the other was traffic related, Pritchard said. "No one is put out there before they are qualified."

The safety training department of NCEC organizes programs for all state co-ops, including a safety program that allows linemen to experience simulated situations they would encounter on the job. Pritchard said Piedmont Electric actively participates in this program.

Tommy Greer, statewide safety director for NCEC, said bi-weekly safety meetings are mandatory for a co-op like Piedmont and address 300 to 400 different safety topics during the course of a year.

Carrboro Fire Chief Rodney Murray said Thursday's incident posed no danger to residents but that they should be aware of electricity hazards.

But Mabbott said Piedmont Electric will discuss further safety measures that can be taken once the cause of Oakley's accident is determined. "You really can't talk about prevention until we get the results," he said. "We need to assure the public that the system is safe and we're going to strive to keep it safe and the safety of our employees is of our utmost concern."

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

Campus Calendar

Today

5:30 p.m. – Students United for a Responsible Global Environment will host speaker and UNC graduate John Cox in Union 212. Cox will give an eyewitness report of

For the Record

In the Aug. 28 front-page graphic called "Proceed with Caution," the box zooming in on Hinton James Residence Hall incorrectly points to Ehringhaus Residence Hall, and the box zooming in on Craige Residence Hall incorrectly points to Hinton James. They should have pointed to Hinton James and Craige, respectively. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

the G-8 Summit protests in Genoa, Italy, 6 p.m. – Choice USA, a pro-choice organization, will have an interest and group meeting in 106 Greenlaw Hall.

Items of Interest

The newest coed a cappella group on campus, UNC Only Midnight, will hold auditions today and Wednesday in Union 212. Auditions will be held for all voice parts. Anyone interested in singing a cappella should sign up for an audition time at the Union Desk. No experience is necessary.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Coca-Cola. CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports

WHAT SPORT DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?

Entries now open for **LABOR DAY HOOPS CHALLENGE** (3-on-3 basketball tournament). Games will be played on the Cobb/Joyner outdoor courts on Monday, September 3. *Last day to sign up is August 30th.

Upcoming Intramurals/Events

- Sign-up for Grail Softball, Team Tennis, and Flag Football now through September 4th.
- Sports Agent Meeting 7PM in 301 Woollen Gym.
- Want to work for Campus Recreation? Come to the Flag Football Officials Clinic tonight at 6PM in 304 Woollen Gym.

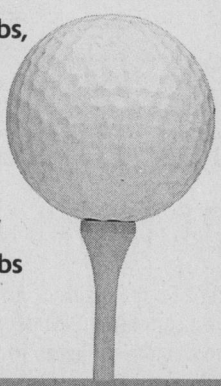
** All intramural entry forms available in Woollen Gym 203. Want to play, but don't have a team—fill out a FREE AGENT card. All skill levels welcome! For more information, call 843-PLAY.



Sport Clubs

Sport Clubs Membership Drive

Come meet representatives from over 50 sport clubs, such as Golf, Roller Hockey, Outing, and Field Hockey on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29th** in The Pit from 10AM-2PM (Rain Date: Sept. 5th).



For more information or if you have any questions, contact the UNC Sport Clubs Office at 962-1013.

Student Recreation Center

GET MOVIN'... COME TO THE STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

FREE Fitness Orientations

- Fitness Trainers are available by appointment for 20- 30 minute Fitness Orientations (individual or group instruction) to the Cybex equipment and various cardiovascular machines. This service is available FREE to students and facility use card holders.

Personal Fitness Training

- Do you feel you need more guidance with your exercise program?
- Would you like to establish a balanced fitness plan that you can adhere to?
- Is it difficult to motivate yourself to work harder each time?

Personal Fitness Training is designed to assist you with achieving your fitness/exercise goals!!



Carolina Adventures

at the OEC



Trips Trips Trips

- Sea Kayaking @ Kerr Lake 9/15 - 9/16 \$80/\$100
 - Day Hike @ Hanging Rock 9/22 \$20/\$30
 - Rock Climbing @ Pilot Mountain 10/6 \$30/\$40
 - Back Packing @ Black Mountains 10/18 - 10/21 \$120/\$160
 - Rock Climbing @ Linville Gorge 11/10 - 11/11 \$60/\$80
 - Sea Kayaking @ Bear Island 11/22 - 11/25 \$160/\$200
- Fee covers transportation, food, all equipment, and instruction. For more information call 962-4179 or go to www.unc.edu/depts/camprec/TRIPS.htm



OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER



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www.unc.edu/depts/camprec

