

Local Superintendent Receives Award for Improving System

By CHRIS BLOW
Staff Writer

Randy Bridges, superintendent of the Orange County School System, was awarded state Superintendent of the Year last week in recognition of his leadership.

The award, given annually by the North Carolina School Boards Association, selects a superintendent out of 117 school districts based on his or her outstanding achievements.

Bridges was presented with the award in a ceremony during the NCSBA's 32nd Annual Conference for Board Member Development last week.

"This is definitely a message that they're happy with the direction we're headed in," Bridges said.

During the 2000-01 school year, the school system's proficiency levels in reading and math went up on every End-of-Grade test, Bridges said.

The systemwide achievement gap between white and minority students

also was narrowed by an average of 18 percentage points in the third to eighth grades.

Bridges said he achieved those accomplishments by maintaining a direct relationship with the teachers.

"We stick to our programs and work directly with the teachers to do what they need," he said.

Jean Swainey, principal of Hillsborough Elementary School, said Bridges has improved the way the system is dealing with poorly performing students.

"The old school model was to just have summer school to catch up the kids who are behind," she said. "He's gotten funding for us to help the kids during the school year."

"We're very pleased with the way our school has done."

Delores Simpson, chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Education, said Bridges has inspired the system's teachers to be the best.

"He's very charismatic," she said. "I

would call him an innovative person who encourages teachers to rise to the challenge."

Simpson also said she thinks Bridges deserves the award because of his dedication to student achievement.

"He is a person who is visible in the schools, and teachers have positive things to say about him," she said.

Bridges also serves as the chairman of the Orange County United Way campaign and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Partnership for Young Children Program.

Terry Rogers, principal of Cameron Park Elementary, said she is excited Bridges won the award.

"He is very inclusive in his decision-making and continually says that what we are doing should be for the children," she said.

"There is no one more deserving. I am delighted."

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

RATIO

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than being in close contact with students and being able to interact with them."

Shelton said the effect that a low student-to-faculty ratio would have on class size is dependent on the subject material of the course. He said some depart-

ments keep large classes to expand their upper-level course offerings.

"As a student, I never worried about sitting in an introductory physics class of 75 people," Shelton said. "But I really would have resented an introductory French class with 75 people."

Shelton said the benefits of a lower ratio make good use of funds that might come from increased tuition.

"We have to keep student concerns in mind when we think about raising tuition," he said. "If they do come to us with a recommendation for a tuition increase, we better have a clear way of demonstrating that students will benefit from it."

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

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CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports

Congratulations!

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Runners Up:
Robert Hundley & Gabriel Hernandez

TURKEY TROT WINNERS

Men's Division
Thure Caire
Eamonn Lanigan

Women's Division
Elyse Kopecky
Pamela Fitzpatrick

Sport Clubs Weekly... Sport Clubs

In the **Korean Karate Club**, ten students meet biweekly to practice a traditional style of Taekwondo. They focus on the fundamental elements of self defense as well as sparring and board breaking techniques. The club is currently training for two tournaments that occur early next semester in Columbia, SC and Charleston, SC. The club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the ballet room (Studio B) above the Women's Gym. For additional information contact Vicki Derevyanny at vickid@email.unc.edu.

Thank you to all **Sport Club** participants who donated platelets to the **UNC Hospitals Platelet Program**. Over one hundred volunteers assured a supply of the critical, short-lived blood component around Thanksgiving when donations usually fall short of need. Platelets are used in the treatment of cancer, leukemia, traumas, severe burns, and blood disorders. Thanks again.

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SEMINAR

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Student government officials said that although they hoped the seminar's discussions would be a factor in Moeser's initial decision, they are pleased students will have some input on the issue.

"I hope that the feedback will affect his initial decision, but my focus is more about what will actually go into the programs we will start there," said Student Body President Justin Young.

Moeser said students can offer important input on how to make Qatar a learning environment for UNC students through study abroad and international public service opportunities.

"In helping us design how the program will work, students can best be involved in the project," he said.

Student Body Vice President Rudy Kleysteuber said Moeser's idea to focus student input on programming is the most practical, given the high likelihood the program will go forward.

"We have to approach this from a realistic viewpoint," he said. "Realistically, from where we stand now, it looks like this will happen, so this is where students can realistically have the most impact."

Young said the seminar was formed to educate students about the Qatar situation and present a balanced view of the advantages and disadvantages of Qatari involvement.

"There definitely is a concern of bias, but we have discussed giving a well-balanced view of opinions," he said.

Although the two appointed facilitators - faculty members Holden Thorp and Bob Adler - are both advocates of a UNC-sponsored business school in Qatar, they hope to include the opposing arguments in the seminar. "We are trying to get (Professor) Dennis Rondinelli, who I think is the most articulate opponent, and other voices of dissent to participate in the seminar," Adler said. "The seminar would be useless if we didn't raise questions of concern about Qatar."

Rondinelli said he is not sure what role he would take in the seminar, but he is considering participating.

Adler said he and Thorp are almost finished preparing for the seminar and hope a variety of students will show interest.

Young and Kleysteuber are responsible for screening the student applicants and choosing 30 students to participate in the seminar.

Adler said he wants a diverse group of students to create a representative committee. He emphasized the need for student awareness to provide Moeser with quality input.

"I think students and faculty are in the same boat - Moeser is the decision-maker, but I believe he will pay extreme attention to informed input," Adler said.

"It is up to us to do our homework."

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ATTACK

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all Americans greater confidence when they fly."

In other news, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the Pentagon hopes Afghans motivated by the Taliban's collapse and millions in U.S. reward money will find Osama bin Laden's hide-out so U.S. troops won't have to hunt cave-to-cave for him.

Bush said gains by anti-Taliban forces gave him encouragement that the military was closing in on bin Laden. "The noose is beginning to narrow," Bush said.

The U.S. approach, at least for now, is to continue bombing suspected hide-outs while leaving the search on the ground to local people, Rumsfeld said. He suggested a \$25 million reward - plus extra bounty offered by the CIA - may prompt Afghans to "begin crawling through those tunnels and caves."

If the job eventually falls to the U.S. military, it will require different kinds of forces than the special operations troops now in Afghanistan, the defense secretary said. He did not elaborate, but other officials have said the task might fall to an infantry unit like the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Speaking at a Pentagon news conference on the 44th day of U.S. bombing, Rumsfeld also said the United States would not let Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar escape from Kandahar, his southern stronghold now under siege, even if opposition groups negotiated a deal for free passage.

Rumsfeld was asked about reports that Omar is trying to negotiate a hand-over of power in Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban militia that has harbored bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network. "If the thrust of that question is would we knowingly allow him to get out of Kandahar, the answer is 'No, we would not,'" he said.

And in Afghanistan, opposition groups and U.S. aircraft continued their siege of the Taliban's northern stronghold of Kunduz and international negotiators reportedly agreed to meet this weekend in Germany to discuss forming a new broad-based Afghan government.

More signs of normalcy took hold in the capital, Kabul, as television returned to the air and a movie theater reopened - both were shut down during the ousted Taliban's harsh five-year rule. But four foreign journalists are missing in Afghanistan and feared dead after gunmen ambushed their convoy.

Working on the critical issue of stabilizing the tribally fractured country, negotiators reported progress in persuading Afghanistan's major ethnic groups to work together on forming a government. No date or place for talks has been announced, but a Pakistani diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a meeting would begin Saturday, possibly in Berlin.

More U.S. commandos joined the hunt for Osama bin Laden and other terrorist suspects in southern Afghanistan, Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said.

DEPOSITORY

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said the destruction of public documents goes against the mission of both UNC and its libraries.

"This library - and the University - has prided itself on free public access of these documents to the people of North Carolina," he said.

Kessler said he fears destroying the document could lead to the destruction of less threatening or more important documents that should not be censored.

"When you have an event like (Sept. 11) it scares everyone to death," he said. "When you have a public that is scared, (censorship) sounds very good."

But Kessler said public access to federal documents has suffered for six to eight years prior to Sept. 11 because of a budget crisis. This has led conservatives in Congress to call for electronic publishing of federal documents, he said.

"I have spent my entire career fighting for free public access," Kessler said.

Kessler said the library has received requests to return or destroy documents in the past, but these generally were a result of the Government Printing Office accidentally sending the wrong documents to his office.

Chuck Stone, a UNC journalism professor who teaches a course in censorship, said questions regarding free speech become more difficult during times of war. "It is difficult to balance the equities between the right to know and the right to protect people," Stone said.

Stone also said that while he believes the government must continue to improve national security, the demand to destroy the water supply document could be declared unconstitutional in court.

Kessler said he expects the government to call for the destruction of more documents in the future, an idea he said he finds discouraging.

"Access to information published by the government is everybody's business," he said.

"No government is so good that it can be trusted to operate in the dark."

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Campus Calendar

Today

4 p.m. - Organizers behind "Ride With the Carolina Spirit," a student excursion to the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, will hold a press conference in Union 204.

Meet the people who are behind this trip. See how you can reserve a Peach Bowl ticket, hotel room and a ride to and from Atlanta.

Two percent of the proceeds are going toward a nonprofit organization here on campus.

7:30 p.m. - The Eating Disorders Support Group will meet at the University United Methodist Church.

The group meets the first and third of Tuesdays of every month.

Editor's Note

If you belong to a University campus organization and want to make a submission to Campus Calendar, visit <http://www.dailytarheel.com>.

Calendar submissions must be made before noon on the day before the event is supposed to run in The Daily Tar Heel.

go to dailytarheel.com

■ Pit Cam Shows Glimpse Of UNC Life ■
By Deb McCown and Addie Sluder

■ Online Admissions Gaining Popularity ■
By Metoka Welch

■ Young Democrats Forum Addresses Erosion Of Civil Liberties ■
By Tina Chang

The Daily Tar Heel

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