

Week Aims to Educate About South Asia

BY SHELLEY WALDEN
Staff Writer

This week is the first South Asian Awareness Week, giving the UNC community the opportunity to enjoy political discussion, an Oscar-nominated movie, mehndi and gulaab jamun.

The purpose of this Sangam-sponsored event, which will kick off Tuesday with a dinner and discussion, is to educate the community about South Asian issues.

"We're making a conscious effort to reach out to the community," said Asha Rangaraj, Sangam president. "In my eyes, it would be successful if we got a really diverse group of people at each event."

The first event will be a dinner catered by the Tandoor Indian Restaurant, complete with mattar paneer, gulaab jamun and other Indian delicacies.

The dinner, which will begin 6:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Carmichael Ballroom, will cost \$5, but if attendees bring five canned foods for the Beat Hunger, Beat State! food drive, they can

eat for free.

At 7 p.m. there will be a discussion about the India-Pakistan conflict, also in the Carmichael Ballroom.

At 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Hinton James Residence Hall recreation room, there will be an outreach program.

This event, co-sponsored by the Residence Hall Association, will mimic the Sangam outreach program, in which South Asian students visit area schools to teach them about their culture.

The program will have booths with information about sports, dance, language and art and will give students the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities, like creating Rangoli rice paintings.

At 6 p.m. Thursday in 104 Gardner Hall, the Oscar-nominated movie "Laagan" will be shown in Hindi with English subtitles.

On Friday night, there will be a Sangam mixer at a location that has yet to be announced.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship scholarships, which are awarded to students

who want to pursue projects that benefit South Asians.

The last event will be Namaste, a cultural fair named after a word that signifies "hello" and "goodbye."

This free event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday in Polk Place.

The cultural fair will include dancing, henna, palm-reading, music videos, yoga, food, a dress-up photo booth and more.

Although Sangam previously has sponsored other cultural events, this is the first time it has organized a South Asian Awareness Week.

"There were a lot of awareness weeks on campus but no South Asian Awareness Week," Rangaraj said. "I'm really enthusiastic about this. We've never done something of this scale before."

Justin Doshi, vice president of Sangam, said South Asian Awareness Week is an opportunity to expand on the cultural aspects highlighted in the annual Sangam Nite show.

But Sangam Nite focuses more on the performance and dance culture, whereas the awareness week will focus on

South Asian Week

• **Today:** Indian Food Dinner at 6:15 p.m. in the Carmichael Ballroom; forum on Indo-Pak relations at 7 p.m. in the Carmichael Ballroom

• **Wednesday:** Outreach to RHA at 9 p.m. in the Old Hinton James Rec Room

• **Thursday:** "Lagaan" playing at 6 p.m. in 104 Gardner Hall

• **Friday:** Mixer from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. (location TBA); proceeds go to the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship

• **Saturday:** Namaste, a cultural fair showcasing South Asia, from noon to 5 p.m. at Hanes Art Center

SOURCE: WWW.BIBLIO.ORG/SANGAM DTH/PRISCILLA TSAI

other cultural aspects.

"Part of our job is to organize stuff for our members; the other part is to share our culture and introduce it to people who aren't that aware," Doshi said.

"This is an opportunity for us to fuse the two and our South Asian and American sides."

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

UNC Hospitals to Undergo \$25.6 Million Renovation

BY SARAH DERREBERRY
Staff Writer

UNC Hospitals announced last week plans for a \$25.6 million renovation of more than 62,000 square feet of existing hospital space.

The project is scheduled for completion in 2007.

The first renovations will occur in space vacated last year when the N.C. Women's and Children's hospitals opened.

The Vascular Interventional Radiology Unit project, the first step in the renovations, will provide a location for the Endovascular Center and its support system, which provide vein care primarily for patients vulnerable to heart disease or diabetes.

Completion of that project, which constitutes 8,757 square feet of hospital space, is forecast for 2005 according to a hospital press release.

The project will cost about \$2.6 million, with an additional \$5 million budgeted for new equipment.

The second area of the hospital scheduled to be reconfigured comprises 53,349 square feet of existing inpatient intensive, intermediate and extended surgery care units.

During this phase, 10 acute care beds will be converted to intensive care units, and eight acute care beds will become intermediate care units.

Upgrades will cost about \$13 million and also will include about \$5 million in new equipment.

There will be no change in the num-

ber of total beds in this phase of the renovations, but hospital officials believe the work will result in increased flexibility for staff and doctors.

The Women's and Children's hospitals vacated the 62,000 square feet when they opened in September 2001.

Funding for the projects will come from the general hospital operations fund, said Karen McCall, University vice president of public affairs and marketing.

The initiation of projects depends on the approval of a certificate of need submitted by UNC Hospitals to the state.

Through certificates of need, McCall said, "The state tries to make sure that any expansion conforms to its hospital plan, because it is costly to have too many hospital beds in one area."

The certificate of need approval process lasts 90 days. UNC Hospitals has not received notice of approval at this time.

But McCall is confident the project will be approved because the renovations do not change drastically the number of beds at the hospital.

"Nobody's feeling that this is a very controversial certificate of need proposal," she said.

Upon approval, the project will upgrade the UNC Health Care community, which consists of the School of Medicine, community practices and home health and hospice services.

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

State to Receive Funds for Terrorism Defense

BY STEPHANIE CHIULLI
Staff Writer

North Carolina agencies are slated to receive more than \$2.5 million to help better equip the state to respond to potential terrorist attacks.

The funds are allocated to help the N.C. Department of Agriculture, the N.C. State Highway Patrol and the Wake County Department of Public Safety integrate their communication networks and ensure protection for N.C. residents.

"The need for it is obvious," said Bridget Lowell, spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., who lobbied heavily for the funds. "They need more assistance, more support and more funding."

Officials at the agencies receiving the grants said the money will be put to good use to increase security in North Carolina.

The \$200,000 in legislative funds will help support development of a "multi-hazard threat database," a large information bank used for security purposes, said Tom McGinn, director of emergency

programs at the agriculture department.

An updated and expanded database will facilitate cooperation among multiple state agencies, such as the Division of Public Health, the Division of Emergency Management, animal health agencies and law enforcement. It will allow these agencies to approach common threats with a united front.

"We can get a better picture analytically and geographically of what we're up against," McGinn said. "You can't manage what you can't measure."

The Department of Agriculture has taken an active role in strengthening parts of North Carolina that might be vulnerable to terrorist attacks, he said. "We have to determine where we're soft and harden those targets."

The N.C. State Highway Patrol also is receiving \$1.5 million to integrate communications further.

The highway patrol will use the money to expand its 800 radio program, said Sgt. Everett Clendenin, patrol spokesman.

The program is designed to increase the use of 800-megahertz radios in law

enforcement vehicles, which Clendenin said improves patrol communications.

While money will be used to increase the productivity of individual agencies, it also will enable better interagency communication.

"In any type of situation where multiple agencies have to work together, it would be a great service," Clendenin said.

Currently, communication is directed through hubs, making direct communication among multiple agencies difficult.

Extra money would allow direct agency communication, Clendenin said. The Wake County Department of Public Safety will receive \$1 million for its COPS Law Enforcement Technology Program, which will increase wireless infrastructure and vehicle location technologies in the department, said Martin Chriscoe, director of Wake County Emergency Management.

He said installing a wireless infrastructure would benefit multiple public agencies, such as the Emergency Medical Service.


"Once the infrastructure is put in place, it

can be used by any public agency," Chriscoe said. "Multiple agencies can respond to a common incident."

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

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For details and application form, please visit <http://www.aging.unc.edu/certificate/beautyofaging.pdf>

Writing for the Screen and Stage

A New Inter-Disciplinary Minor Begins Fall 2003

Drawing faculty from communication studies, creative writing and dramatic art, this exciting new minor will emphasize the craft of writing for film and stage, and will require five courses beginning this fall.

Students interested in the WRITING FOR THE SCREEN AND STAGE minor must be of junior standing, have a 2.4 GPA and have taken English 23W (which can be waived). Students must submit a recommendation previous instructor (English 23W or other) and an appropriate writing sample (a short story; screenplay - short or feature length; play - one act or longer; or the first two chapters of a novel).

Submissions must include the student's name, email address, telephone number and PID, and should be emailed to Professor David Sontag (sontag@email.unc.edu) or delivered to the Communication Studies office in 115 Bingham. Students who are invited to participate in the minor will be notified by March 19th.

Submissions are due by 5:00 pm March 4

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