

Campus forges new guidelines

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
SENIOR WRITER

This summer, the University made a map to navigate its academic future for the next five years. At a May meeting of the UNC Board of Trustees, Provost Robert Shelton submitted a version of the University's academic plan for preliminary review. From March 2002 until April of this year, the Academic Planning Task Force considered the feedback of the UNC community in developing the plan's six major priorities. "The idea of the academic plan is to make sure we know what our core identity is and our core activities," said Darryl Gless, senior associate dean of the College of

Arts and Sciences. One of the plan's six priorities is to provide students with the strongest academic experience possible. The plan also calls for the integration of interdisciplinary research and education, increased diversity in the University community, the enhancement of the University's public engagement with the state of North Carolina and the expansion of UNC's global presence. Steve Allred, associate provost for academic initiatives, said developing six overriding themes to govern the University's academic needs was a major challenge for the task force. "We spent a lot of time talking about a wide range of issues, and sometimes they were

very small and sometimes they were huge." The final priority is the continued recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty members. The plan's recommendations for faculty retention include the development of spousal hiring and sabbatical programs as well as the increasing of base salaries, benefits and compensation packages. In response to trustee Paul Fulton's remark that the University's economic model might be "in the throes of a huge change," Shelton said the plan's academic priorities will be used to make "hard decisions" on how to allocate funds. Allred said the task force believed that the University will

continue to prosper and that the economy eventually will improve. "The task force was aware of the current fiscal restraints but didn't want to be so restricted by those that they didn't think long-term," he said. Shelton said the plan has the makings of success because it takes broad goals and turns them into substantive courses of action that can be reviewed and revised as new situations and conditions arise. He said, "In this case we have an academic plan that doesn't just stop with a bunch of ideals, but it has steps that we need to take." Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Carolina First hits \$1B mark

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
SENIOR WRITER

The Carolina First campaign reached a particularly notable milestone May 23, when Chancellor James Moeser told the campaign's steering committee that the drive had surpassed the \$1 billion mark. "This is a very significant watershed in our campaign," said Charles Shaffer, one of the committee's three co-chairmen. "To get to a billion, I think, will now provide us with a great springboard to raise another \$800 million." Together with state-supported funds and the \$500 million made available through the higher education bond referendum passed in November 2000, the money raised by Carolina First will serve to strengthen UNC's faculty, student body, research and campus. The campaign began July 1, 1999 and was announced officially on Oct. 11, 2002. UNC's \$1.8 billion goal is the second largest ever among public universities, behind only the \$2.4 billion goal of the University of California-Los Angeles. Matthew Kupec, vice chancellor for university advancement and director of the steering committee, said the campaign's success thus far can be attributed to the University's case for support in the form of a great faculty and student body. Alumni have a passion for UNC, he said, and corporations and foundations are seeking partnerships with the University. "You put that all together and you pass a billion dollars." Lowry Caudill, a member of the steering committee, said that Carolina First is a clear sign of UNC's commitment to being competitive in attracting and retaining

top-caliber professors and students and that it's also integral that UNC improve its facilities. He said the University's current infrastructure will not be able to support cutting-edge scientific research one or two decades from now. "You've got to have first-class facilities to do first-class research," he said. Caudill remarked that campaign workers have been able to use examples of how UNC has affected North Carolina's economy in positive ways to attract potential donors. Shaffer said the feat is all the more impressive because so much money has been raised while the nation has suffered a period of economic recession. "It's not so difficult to raise money in good economic times," he said. "But when you raise money in down economic times, it just doubles the pleasure of reaching that landmark, and it gives us all great confidence to reach \$1.8 billion." Kupec said the campaign has benefited from the work of many regional committees throughout the country and more than 1,000 volunteers overall. The steering committee is hopeful it will deal with "very sizable" gifts during the first and second year of the time that remains until the campaign's target date of June 30, 2007, Shaffer said, and the final two years of the campaign probably will see a wide range of alumni participating at all levels of donation. "We feel good at a billion, but we've got a lot of work to do." Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Tepper keeps busy during summer

BY ARMAN TOLENTINO
SENIOR WRITER

For Student Body President Matt Tepper, this summer was supposed to be an opportunity to settle in to his new position and prepare for the upcoming school year. But given the state's budgetary problems resulting in the loss of University programs such as the First Year Initiative as well as uproar over the Summer Reading Program for the second year in a row, Tepper had more to do than just organize his office. The loss of FYI prompted Tepper and his staff to create an

interim proposal, titled the First Year Residential Experience, which has upperclassman student leaders serving as mentors to first-year students. "It's going to be a really fun program to participate in," said Tepper, who is one of the mentors. He added that the new program is part of his platform goal of expanding and continuing to protect student housing. As for the debate over this year's summer reading selection, Tepper and a number of student leaders met with state legislators and held a press conference in Raleigh, voicing support of the book. "We've

really been doing a lot as far as making sure the public knows there are a lot of students in support of this program," Tepper said. In addition, Tepper and his staff proposed the creation of a committee that looks into employee issues on campus and how students can help with community service efforts. "We want to offer as many resources to our employees as possible," Tepper said. He also said Chancellor James Moeser is taking the proposal and expanding it to an even bigger initiative, forming a task force to make UNC a leader in its treat-

ment of employees. Tepper also has worked on platform goals. So far he has installed on-campus bicycle pumps at the Student Union, created a framework for his student wish list and made ties with students, faculty, administrators, state legislators and the University community. Tepper said he is looking forward to working with his Cabinet. "We have a lot of great people involved this year," he said. "It will be neat to see what happens." Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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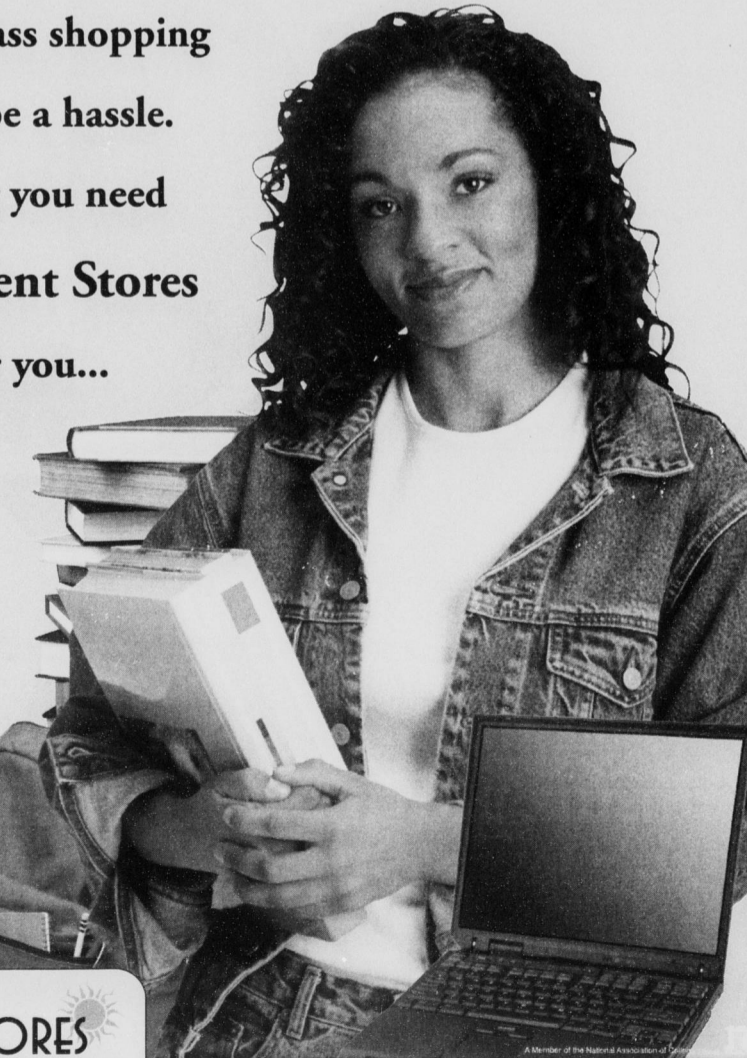


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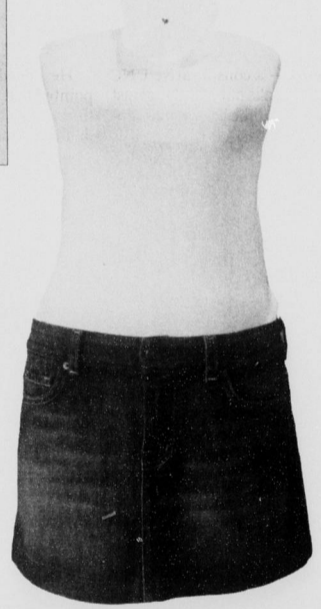
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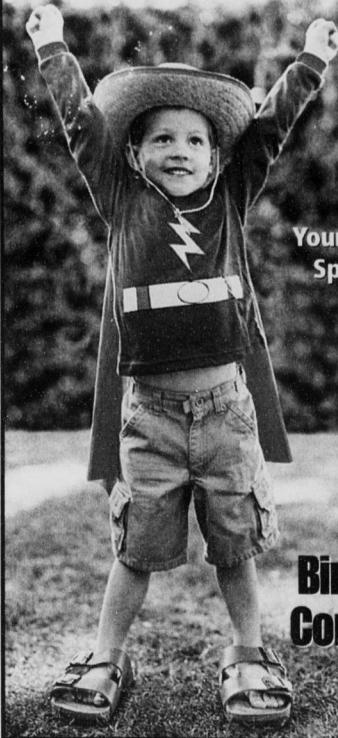
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