

GAA planning to recruit more members

Numbers already up 1,000 this year

BY EMILY STEEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A variety of events, including a talk by UNC football coach John Bunting, are all a part of the General Alumni Association's new push to increase its visibility on campus.

About 3,500 students already are registered members of the GAA, a number up about 1,000 from last year, said Ben Eisner, a

representative from the GAA's Student Membership Advisory Board.

He attributed the record number of members to an increased amount of publicity, especially at orientation sessions during the summer.

The group hopes to add to its membership total by hosting a variety of performing events in the Pit throughout the week and a

cookout in Polk Place on Wednesday night.

"We are trying to get people more aware of what we are and what we do," Eisner said.

UNC's oldest a cappella group, Tar Heel Voices, will kick off the schedule of events at 12:15 p.m. in the Pit on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the GAA will sponsor a cookout in Polk Place where many GAA board members and UNC faculty will serve food to students.

Eisner noted the cookout is one

of the first opportunities this year for students to interact with faculty outside of the classroom.

"It will be a real lighthearted way to break down the lines, relax and be friendly," he said.

After performances by the dance troupe Opeyo! at 11:45 a.m. and the a cappella group UNC Clefhangers at 12:15 p.m., Bunting is scheduled to present a short speech at 12:30 p.m. in the Pit on Thursday.

Basketball coach Roy Williams might speak Friday. Williams is currently in Puerto Rico helping

coach the U.S. National Team at the Tournament of the Americas, so the board is waiting to see if he can fit the event into his schedule, Eisner said.

Also on Friday, the Kamikazi Dance Team is set to dance at noon and 12:15 p.m. cONcEpt (of colors), a multicultural modeling organization, will also perform.

Student members can pick up their membership packets at events throughout the week.

In the packets, students will find a Carolina blue T-shirt, a Nalgene

water bottle, a GAA decal and a discount card that students can use for pizza, yogurt, subs, office supplies and UNC apparel.

The events are scheduled for both members and non-members, Eisner said.

Students can join the association this year at a rate of \$15. For \$50, students can become a member of the GAA for their undergraduate career at the University.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ECONOMY

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had a positive effect on people's pocket books, said E.R. Gregory, a spokeswoman for the federal Economics and Statistics Administration.

The cuts were possible because the federal government is not obligated to balance its budget every year, Moore said.

Cutting taxes and increasing spending has produced a downside — large federal deficits as opposed to the surpluses of the early 1990s. But Moore said that from an economic perspective, it's appropriate for legislators to create such deficits to spur growth during a recession.

The recent downturn practically was ensured when a stock market bubble — caused by many new firms going public and investing hundreds of millions of dollars — developed in the late 1990s.

In the short run, Moore said, this widespread investment bolstered growth. But the bubble soon burst, hurting demand and leading to layoffs and company closures.

The recession that followed was a strange one, Moore said. Consumer spending didn't slow as dramatically as it typically does, and the downturn in the housing sector wasn't as pronounced.

The major problem was a large reduction in capital spending, Gregory said.

Investment by businesses was low, resulting in weakened job and

stock markets.

However, things now are looking up, and a stronger economic outlook might prove to be a good sign for the Bush administration.

The economy has proven to be the most important determinant of a presidential election, said Darrell West, a professor of public policy and political science at Brown University.

But it probably won't hurt President Bush as much as it hurt his father in 1992, when he lost to then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

"(George H. W. Bush) appeared to be out of touch and not understanding the amount of suffering that was going on, so the son has not made that mistake," West said.

He also said U.S. spending in Iraq, now at about \$4 billion a month, isn't as economically damaging as it seems at first. "A lot of the money being spent in Iraq actually is going to American companies."

But the U.S. government isn't doing nearly as much as it could be to prepare workers to compete in a global economy, said Jerrold Schneider, professor of political science and international relations at the University of Delaware.

"What's happening is we're losing sight of the big, underlying things for a relatively minor upswing," he said.

"We're not living up to our potential in terms of economic output."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

SHALOM Y'ALL

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the new Center for Jewish Studies.

Jonathan Hess, the center's director, is excited to offer the filmmaking experience.

"There's a long history of Jews in the South," Hess said.

"Apart from the Southern dimension and the Jewish dimension, there's a lot more to learn about diversity in general."

In the film itself, a diverse cast of people receives attention — from

everyday blue-collar workers to UNC alumnus and former Student Body President Eli Evans to celebrities such as Kinky Friedman, a quirky author from Texas.

Marcie Cohen Ferris, a professor of Jewish studies who teaches a class that shares the film's name, spoke about the rich mix of people featured in the film as well as the individual impact of the "Shalom Y'all" experience.

"It's the first (film) of its kind that really does that personal jour-

ney through the South," Ferris said. "(It's) a really good piece of contemporary filmmaking."

Ferris also helped to create the book of photography and writings from Algonquin Books that also shares the film's title.

Bain, who said the film unfolded for him throughout its creation, said he is pleased with its reception.

"There's been a huge feeling that people were really getting it — Jewish audiences and non-Jewish audiences," he said.

"Shalom Y'all" has played at more than 35 festivals from Toronto to Sydney and received airtime on the Sundance Channel.

The screening is just one part of a wide-reaching Southern Judaism lecture series on campus.

Speaking on the Center for Jewish Studies' effect on campus, Hess said, "We have something really exciting to add to the mix of how people view the South."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

MARKET

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started slow and it's ending fast," she said.

For Cook and Hitt, who don't use fungicide on their crops, the wet weather has made plants more susceptible to diseases such as early blight, which causes tomato plants to rot from the root up. Hitt said he has lost 15 percent to 20 percent of his tomato plants and 75 percent of his red bell peppers to disease.

A healthy tomato crop is particularly important to the success and sustainability of the farmers' market, Dawson said. "Tomatoes are the number one item that draws people to market," he said.

"There is a big difference between good homegrown tomatoes and the ones you get at the grocery store."

Dawson and Hitt worry that customers mistakenly will assume that once tomatoes taper off, the

growing season is over.

"There is still so much more to come," Hitt said. Fall vegetables are available until late December.

Attendance has suffered due to rain on each of the first nine Saturdays the market has been open.

But even those customers who avoided the market have been affected by the adverse weather.

Weaver Street Market, a retail natural foods store in Carrboro, boasts its own selection of locally grown produce.

James Watts, store manager at Weaver Street, said he has been forced to source some produce beyond his preferred local range during the last two seasons.

He added that available produce has a significantly shorter shelf life this year. The propensity for produce to ripen and spoil more quickly combined with decreased availability has not helped prices, Watts said.

"Supply hasn't been plentiful, so

prices have stayed up."

Peach grower Joshua Stilwell, who runs Coats' Produce in Clayton, said that he has reaped an abundant crop due to the rain but that he is hard-pressed to sell his harvest fast enough.

"By Saturday morning we have a lot of fruit that spoils," Stilwell said.

Nevertheless, he doesn't disappoint customers. Like many farmers, he cuts his losses and adjusts each season to changing conditions.

Despite drought, flooded fields and early blight, the farmers' market still seems to thrive. The customer base continues to grow, and many regulars develop a sense of loyalty that complements their appreciation for fresh produce.

"I am pretty die-hard," said Susan Wolf, a Carrboro resident, at the market on Saturday. "When it rained, I still came."

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