

**PHARMACY**

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ages in pharmacists than many other states in the nation, according to recent studies.

"Pharmacy students are in incredible demand," said Robert Blouin, dean of the pharmacy school. "There are a number of markets that are attracted to hiring pharmacists to serve in underserved areas."

Federal programs, companies and some hospitals offer loan repayment programs to graduate students who agree to work for them for a certain amount of time, said Tina Brock, director of student services at the pharmacy school.

"It is completely under the company's discretion on what the students use the money for," she said. "Every student has different circumstances."

In addition to these benefits and an average starting salary of about \$85,000 per year, pharmacy students have two student loan repayment programs. The programs were created by the Pharmacy Education Aid Act, which was passed by Congress in December, 2003.

One program repays \$35,000 for each year of education for a pharmacist working at a facility with a critical shortage.

The other offers the same payment per year for a pharmacist who serves as a faculty member at a pharmacy school.

"Some students come out of school with significant loan debt,

and the act gives them the opportunity to receive assistance in paying their loan debts as well as earning a nice salary," said Jill Nickols, of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' New Practitioners and Residents Forum.

Tuition for professional students at UNC's pharmacy school is \$5,930 for in-state students and \$22,315 for out-of-state students.

Blouin said that a large number of markets try to address students' tuition burdens.

Amica Bracy, a representative from Eckerd Drugs, said the financial perks companies offer new employees depend on the demand for pharmacists.

"The market drives financial incentives for all of our areas based on the need of that particular market," she said.

Katherine Sherill, a first-year graduate student in the pharmacy school, said her mother works in a hospital that offers pharmacists sign on incentives.

"I know (companies) are offering incentives to sway pharmacists to go one way or the other," she said.

Smith, whose parents are both pharmacists, said he first became interested because of the opportunities in the field and the impact he could have on people he saw.

"There are a lot more choices in the industry now than when my parents first started out."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Ballentine woos his party's base

BY KAVITA PILLAI  
STAFF WRITER

N.C. Senate Minority Leader Patrick Ballantine spoke to the Triangle West Republican Club on Saturday, less than a week after the official kickoff of his gubernatorial campaign.

Speaking to a record turnout for the club, Ballantine attempted to distinguish himself from the other GOP candidates hoping to defeat Democratic Gov. Mike Easley in the November election.

"You have to ask yourself 'Who can win?'" he said. "Who can defeat the incumbent Democrat? What sets me apart is experience."

Ballantine, R-New Hanover, said that Easley has not satisfied his constituents and that he was the only governor in the nation to raise taxes three years in a row.

"People are ready for bold and energetic new leadership," he said. "This governor is vulnerable."

Ballantine said improving education will be a priority in his campaign.

"If we don't want to be a third-rate state, we have to improve education," he said. "I would pay good teachers more, and I would get rid of bad teachers."

Ballantine criticized North Carolina's \$30 billion budget and

*"You have to ask yourself, ... Who can defeat the incumbent."*

**PATRICK BALLANTINE,**  
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR N.C. GOVERNOR

said he plans to cut wasteful government spending without cutting vital services. "We can't have a candidate who slashes and burns," he said.

Ballantine said he plans to bring jobs to North Carolina by improving the regulatory climate in the state.

"Yes, we're losing jobs to China ... but we're also losing jobs to South Carolina and Virginia," he said.

He also was openly unapologetic about voting for financial incentives to lure industries to North Carolina.

"The best incentive for businesses in North Carolina is to have lower taxes, a better regulatory system, better community colleges and better roads," he said. "We're going to create thousands of jobs."

Ballantine said the GOP candi-



DTH/GABI TRAPENBERG

Gubernatorial candidate Patrick Ballantine (right) speaks Saturday to Cecile Whitehurst after a speech to the Triangle West Republican Club.

date for governor needs to "reach out and build the party." He also stressed the need for inclusiveness.

"(Our party) is about equal opportunity for everyone," he said.

Ballantine's campaign began Jan. 12 with a fly-around, visiting Asheville, Charlotte, Raleigh, Greenville, Wilmington and Greensboro. He also released his

first television advertisement featuring his 4-year-old daughter and the slogan, "believe."

"My ad is saying, 'Believe in North Carolina. Believe that we can turn this state around,'" Ballantine said.

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**SIGNATURES**

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she said, "Oh sure, I've signed for five of these," said candidate Matt Liles.

While some candidates are confident about the signatures they have, others still are soliciting to guard against double counting.

Several candidates said they plan to continue to collect names until today's 5 p.m. deadline.

After the deadline, the Board of

Elections will check the petitions for students who signed more than once, and the results will be released later this week.

Despite the added challenges of this year's campaign, candidates said it has been beneficial.

"The competition for signatures made the process harder, but I liked it," Liles said. "I went out and met 800 different people."

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**ASG**

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meeting.

Any such increase would come on top of tuition increases proposed by individual campuses, assuming such proposals are approved by the board.

The student body presidents sit on the individual boards of trustees at the 16 UNC-system schools and have a role in deciding where money from campus-initiated increases would go.

They also will get a say in the systemwide increase during a teleconference Friday between student leaders and system officials attempting to reach a consensus on the issue.

Overall, Ducote said, he had wanted the council to reach a consensus Saturday so students could go into this Friday's meeting with a single student stance. "We need to walk into there with a unified message," he said. "We're going in there, and we're saying zero."

Some members recommended

that the BOG take the board-initiated tuition increase out of the total amount requested by individual universities. N.C. State University students, for example, would pay no more than the \$300-a-year increase originally proposed by the school.

UNC-Charlotte Student Body President Stefanos Arethas said he was staunchly opposed to the systemwide tuition increase because he won't see tangible benefits on his campus.

"We have made the raises on our campus to try to meet the individual needs," he said. "I support the (tuition increase initiated on) campus because I wanted to get some stuff on campus, but I'm not budging on this across-the-board stuff."

Many council members said they voted in favor of campus-initiated increases with hopes that the BOG would not increase tuition systemwide.

"You're already doing campus-initiated tuition increases," said Jeffrey Allen, Fayetteville State University student body president.

"You can't put an across-the-board

*"The Chapel Hill Board of Trustees is so far out in left field on this one. ... The only thing we can expect is for the BOG to (vote against it)."* JONATHAN DUCOTE, ASG PRESIDENT

tuition increase. You can't put an extra burden on students."

Council members also said they were concerned about UNC-Chapel Hill's talks about raising tuition substantially for out-of-state students, gasping when Rebekah Burford, UNC-CH student body vice president, spoke of the \$6,000 figure considered by the BOT earlier this month.

They also expressed concern about the proposal to raise nonresident tuition \$1,500 a year for three years. "The Chapel Hill Board of Trustees is so far out in left field on this one," Ducote said.

"The only thing we can expect is for the BOG to (vote against it)."

Not only do students across the system feel that the increase is unfair for UNC-CH students, council members also said they are worried that if the University's hike is approved by the BOG other schools might face similar increases in the future.

"This is all the beginning of the mountain," Ducote said. "And it will roll down the hill to all 16 campuses."

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**ANDREWS**

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ipating in the dean's council of chairs for Arts and Sciences and the provost's search committee for associate provosts, among other positions at the University.

Andrews emphasized the value of a liberal arts education and the impact it should have on future UNC students.

Richman stressed the students' role in the selection process, and he said their presence at the forums is vital to making a proper decision.

"I encourage students to come out and ask the hard questions and give us feedback," he said. "If they don't, we won't have their input."

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