

Freshmen dazzle academically Student Code set to undergo major change

Roughly 3,600 enroll at University

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The fresh faces entering UNC this fall might not even have to take a sip from the Old Well to bring home a 4.0 grade point average.

University officials say the estimated 3,600 freshmen who comprise the class of 2008 are the most academically prepared students ever to have entered the University.

"We're absolutely thrilled with the students who are choosing Carolina," said Jerry Lucido, director of undergraduate admissions. "Not only are these students bright, but they have the (qualities) the Carolina community looks for."

Projections for this fall's incoming freshmen show that the middle 50 percent of their SAT scores fall between 1220 and 1390. The average of those two scores, 1305, is about 20 points higher than last year's average of 1282. About 39 percent of freshmen ranked in the top 10 of their senior class.

Lucido said this year's class probably will be the most ethnically diverse in the history of the University.

That includes a population that is about 11 percent black and almost 8 percent Asian. The growing Latino population con-

stitutes 4 about percent. Together, Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and Alaska natives constitute 1.1 percent of the class.

Steve Farmer, senior associate director of admissions, and Lucido both suggested that the University's new financial aid program for students from low-income families is making the campus more socio-economically diverse.

The Carolina Covenant, introduced last fall by Chancellor James Moeser, ensures that students from families at or below 150 percent of the poverty line will graduate debt-free.

"The University's commitment to need-based aid is so strong that (it's) very rare (freshmen) say they can't go because they can't afford to," Farmer said.

Officials say they have not seen any evidence that campus-based tuition increases of \$300 for in-state students and \$1,500 for out-of-state students have affected students' enrollment decisions. But Lucido said the University will continue to monitor the issue.

Farmer said that while the University attracts bright minds, it strives to be more appealing to prospective students.

Officials are putting more of an emphasis on campus tours and visits and have begun utiliz-

2004 FRESHMAN STATS

University officials say the freshman class is the most academically prepared to have enrolled at UNC. Here is the estimated breakdown:

- Number Applied: 19,057
- Number Admitted: 6,730
- Number Expected to Enroll: 3,600
- Ranked 10th or Higher in Graduating Class: 38.9%
- Ranked 1st in Graduating Class: 5.7%
- Ranked in Top 10% of Graduating Class: 74.5%
- Ranked in Top 20% of Graduating Class: 92.7%
- SAT Scores, 25th-75th Percentile: 1220-1390
- Grade-Point Average of 4.0 or Higher: 80.5%
- Percentage from North Carolina: 82%
- Percentage from Out of State: 18%
- Percentage of African-Americans: 11.2%
- Percentage of Asian-Americans: 7.7%
- Percentage of Hispanics: 3.7%
- Percentage of Caucasians: 73.1%

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.UNC.EDU/NEWS/FACTSHEETS](http://www.unc.edu/news/factsheets)

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ing various Internet resources to keep in touch with interested students.

In addition, Lucido said, there is an increasing push for international programs, with about 30 percent of University students taking the opportunity to study abroad. Such programs attract more students to UNC.

That means the University is becoming more attractive to out-of-state students.

But although UNC debated whether to lower its cap on out-of-staters last year, the cap remains, and 18 percent of this fall's incoming freshmen are from outside North Carolina.

Lucido added that the University is looking to offer more merit-based aid so it can continue to compete with other universities that attract potential students with large scholarships.

"Students are so talented (that) they have other choices," he said.

Above all, Lucido said, UNC continues to strive to bring the brightest minds from every corner of the state and nation to the University.

"We're not resting on our laurels here at Carolina."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Liles leads 1st overhaul in a decade

BY BRIAN HUDSON
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Heated debates regarding elections laws and procedures have spurred a review of the Student Code nearly a decade after its last revision.

A independent student committee has been working in conjunction with student leaders throughout the summer to update the bylaws of UNC's student government.

"Every several years it's important to look over the Student Code, bring it up to date and see if there are any changes that can be made," said Student Body President Matt Calabria.

He said he expects the proposed changes to "substantively change the way student government operates."

Committee chairman Matt Liles, former speaker pro tempore and former student body president candidate, said that, as of last week, the committee had completed revisions of six of the eight sections of the Code.

Before the revisions are presented to Student Congress, a holistic review will occur and administrators will have the opportunity to make sure that the changes are coherent and that they honor UNC's tradition of student self-governance, Liles said.

Liles also has discussed the progress with Jon Sanders, former director of the School of

Government. As a student in the 1940s, Sanders drafted the original Code.

Liles said the revisions correct errors and vague passages of the Code.

"We definitely need to get the clerical errors, and we need to get the areas where University practice doesn't match it in the Code," he said.

For example, student body presidents have appointed chiefs of staff for as long as Liles can remember, but the position is not outlined in the Code, he said.

The Code also has been revised to make student governance more efficient without compromising democratic principles.

"It's just not fixing commas and wording, but we also want to make it consistent," Liles said.

Throughout the fall, members of Congress will discuss whether or not to adopt the proposed changes.

Liles said he hopes the committee will wrap up work by the end of the semester. The committee hopes to complete sections of the Code that pertain to elections as soon as possible so that students can plan campaigns, he said.

"We're trying to do things expeditiously, but we don't want to rush," he said.

Another group of students, which includes Speaker Charlie Anderson and Student Attorney General Carolina Chavez, is reviewing the Code's description of the solicitor general.

Anderson said he wants to limit the power of the position, transforming the solicitor general's role into that of an adviser.

He said that he was wary of allotting too much power to one person, and that he'd prefer asking the solicitor general to help interpret the Code rather than calling the Student Supreme Court into action when a conflict arises.

Liles is abstaining from reviewing the solicitor general's role, since Calabria had nominated him for the position during the summer. Congress will vote on Liles' appointment when it returns to session.

Calabria said he appointed Liles to the position because of his familiarity with the Code.

Liles said he was inspired to form the committee after his work with student government highlighted its inconsistencies.

"After three years in Congress, I had noticed a lot of deficiencies in the Code," he said.

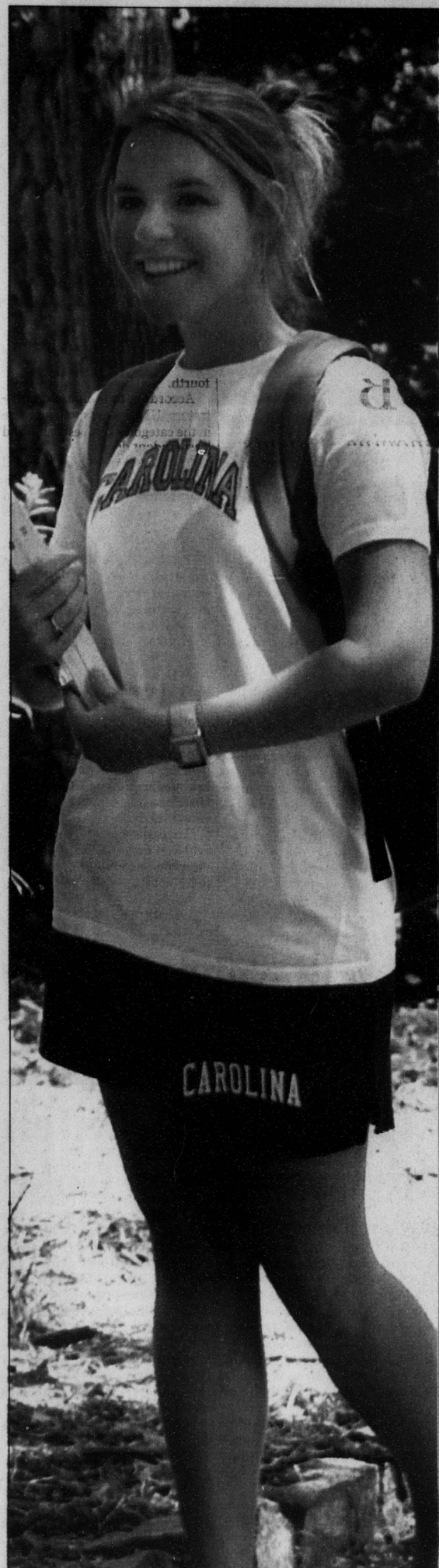
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