

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Safe Ride program extends late-night shuttle services

The Safe Ride program, a student-led initiative that transports students to and from well-populated areas late at night, is expanding its services to coincide with the start of the school year.

The program, which already runs two routes, has added a third: the G route, which will stop at locations including Finley Forest, the Harris Teeter at Meadowmont and Glen Lennox.

The program's other routes are:
 ■ The T route, which serves Airport Road up to the Timberlyne shopping center as well as Hillsborough Street; and
 ■ The J route, which covers the Merritt Mill Road and Smith Level Road areas up to the Rock Creek apartment complex, in addition to the N.C. 54 Bypass and downtown Carrboro.

The buses offer service Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 10:45 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

Committee seeking names for award nomination

The University Committee on Teaching Awards is asking students, faculty, staff and alumni to nominate outstanding faculty for campuswide awards.

Among the most notable awards are the Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Distinguished Teaching Awards for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction and Awards to Faculty for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Winners will be recognized at a basketball game in early 2005 and receive framed citations and checks at the annual awards banquet in April.

The deadline for nominations is Oct. 1.

More information and nomination forms are available on the Internet at <http://www.unc.edu/teachawards>.

Grounds Department asks students to stay off quad

Much of Polk Place was fenced off this summer as contractors installed a new steam line and hot water-heating lines. Three tractor trailer loads of sod were installed by the Grounds Department late last week.

The new soil is very soft in places, and the sod has yet to take root.

Officials request that students stay off the cordoned-off sections of Polk Place.

CITY BRIEFS

MLK committee applications due to town at month's end

The town of Chapel Hill is accepting applications until Aug. 31 for its special committee to consider renaming Airport Road.

Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy proposed a resolution June 14 to establish the committee to examine a proposal to rename Airport Road in honor of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. after a series of heated public forums.

The committee is slated to contain 20 members, including Foy and two Chapel Hill Town Council members; four members of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; four Airport Road residents or business owners; two people familiar with the history of the community and United States events; and a diverse group of seven at-large citizens.

Emily Dickens, a worker in the mayor's office, told The Daily Tar Heel that as of press time, the town has received only 10 applications.

Dickens said anyone interested in serving on the committee can access the application on the town's Web site at <http://www.townofchapelhill.org> or by visiting the town clerk's office.

The committee nominations will be received at the council's Sept. 7 meeting, and committee appointments will be made Sept. 13, Dickens said.

CALENDAR

Tuesday

9 p.m. — The Interfraternity Council kicks off its fall recruitment period Tuesday with the Rush Information Session. Attendance at the session, held at 100 Hamilton Hall, is encouraged for all men who are considering joining a fraternity.

All IFC fraternities will be represented at this meeting and will distribute calendars detailing upcoming rush events.

Wednesday and Thursday will feature Open House sessions at each fraternity house from 6 to 9 p.m.

Rushes are required to visit at least 50 percent of the IFC fraternities during this time.

From staff and wire reports.

UNC's research receipts see jump

Grant funds increase by 7.5 percent

BY EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

University researchers are discovering the root of premature infant deliveries, cures for cystic fibrosis and how to safeguard the nation against potential bioterrorism attacks.

And each piece of knowledge generated in labs and libraries throughout campus comes with a price tag, one that has created the building blocks of the research mission of the University.

Sponsored research funding at UNC increased 7.5 percent this year to \$577.6 million, according to numbers recently finalized by the Office of Sponsored Research. The figures

represent a jump of \$40.2 million.

"Every year, we have had significant increases," said Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development. "It is because of the quality of the faculty that we have here at Carolina who do outstanding research."

The totals reflect increases in the amount of research grants awarded to faculty from the federal government, state agencies and private sources.

Federally funded research constituted the largest gains in University funding. The amount jumped 8.3 percent this year, increasing to \$429.8 million.

The School of Medicine, the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Public Health attracted the most funding to the University.

Research grants at the School of Medicine, which generated \$303.5 million last year, helped to support the school's three-tiered mission of educating students, providing health care and conducting scholarly investigations.

"Research has to float on its own ship," said Robert Golden, vice dean of the School of Medicine. "Our research mission could not survive without this funding."

Across the road at the School of Public Health, officials are experiencing the same budget crunch.

At the school, which generated \$56.5 million in research grants

this year, funding also supports crucial programs. State funding covers the costs of just 25 percent of the school's budget, and research grants help fill in the holes.

As the University sustains budget cuts year after year, research receipts become all the more crucial.

"The state has been cutting back funding over the last five years, and the only reason we can offer the same quality of courses and have the same or more number of students that we have is because the research programs are generating enough support," said Steve Zeisel, associate dean for research at the School of Public Health.

Although the level of funding through research grants has continued to rise, officials expressed

concern that tight budgets nationwide will hinder development.

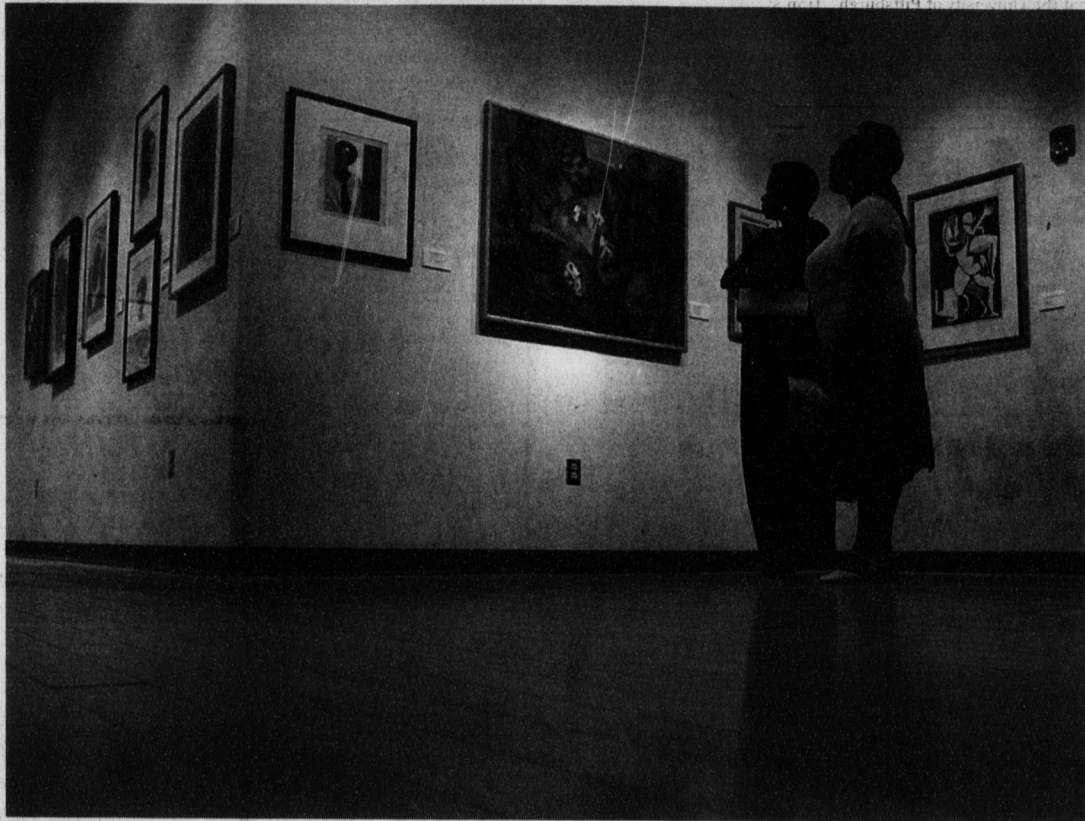
Golden said that finding grants only will become more difficult as government agencies cut grants out of their budgets.

"The pie isn't going to be growing as quickly, and so what we are going to have to do is successfully compete for a larger share of the pie," he said.

Zeisel also underscored the importance of continued funding.

"That money really supports a great deal of what makes this University great," Zeisel said. "Without it, it would be very hard to function."

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Mara Mathews and Adrienne Witherspoon look at works from The Hewitt Collection of African-American Art at the grand opening of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History's Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum, which occurred early Sunday evening.

Gallery opens in Stone Center

Center features familial African art

BY PHILIP MCFEE
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Hanging among the 55 pieces on display in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is John Biggers' charcoal piece "Family #1."

The piece depicts a warm group embrace in which the figures are made into a single form by soft lines and blurred borders. Its significance is much like that of the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum: a space that houses a dynamic collection of works unified by a single theme.

"The reason why we selected this exhibit is that it shows the diversity of African artists," said Paul Baker, the Stone Center's museum and program coordinator, about the Hewitt Collection, the gallery's inaugural, family-themed exhibit.

"(It's) not one media, one genre

... one of the good things in the collection is it's based on friendships."

In addition to works by the North Carolina-bred Biggers, the collection, assembled by Vivian Hewitt and her late husband John Hewitt during the course of more than 50 years, features pieces by 20 prominent contemporary artists including Jonathan Green and Henry O. Tanner.

Although they span styles from realism to cubism, the works come together to give the collection a distinct continuity.

"All (of the) paintings hung in our house. Most of our things are related to family," said Vivian Hewitt, 81, while touring the gallery before its opening ceremony.

She noted that the familial theme is at the center of the exhibit, not a bold social statement. Hewitt added that although the 55-piece collection represents

her "best" finds, she still is connected to her art. "If you walked into my living room, you'd never know anything was missing."

During the opening ceremony, she reflected on her lifelong exposure to artists and unique works.

"Every one of the paintings in the collection has a story behind it ... we lived with them every blessed day of our lives and loved them," she said. "It's very important, I believe, that this collection be here at this time ... in the University setting, where the students can see it."

At the ceremony, attended by community members, center officials, art professors and many of Hewitt's personal acquaintances, Stone Center Director Joseph Jordan recognized the aid that helped the building's vision become a reality.

"We really have been fortunate to attract the kind of support that many institutions dream about," he said. "Folks know there's a promise

here, and that promise can be fulfilled if people invest in it."

Kenneth Reece, Bank of America's market president for the Triangle region, also celebrated the richness of the building and the traveling exhibit, which the bank has owned since 1998.

"This private collection represents more than 50 years of ... dedication, spirit (and) great vision," he said. "African-American art ... is a vibrant and vital part of our community and our society."

In her jovial address, Hewitt reminded those present of the undefined boundaries the works represent. "The artists are American artists who just happen to be black."

Hewitt emphasized the personal ways in which the diverse collection can affect the gallery's visitors. "Art sustains and soothes and gives you comfort in troubled times."

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

Despite cuts, UNC system spared worst by legislature

BY EMMA BURGIN
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

After several years of severe hits in the money belt, the state legislature showed UNC-system schools the light at the end of the tunnel with a budget cut that allows campuses to start rebuilding.

The N.C. General Assembly passed a budget July 18 that cut the UNC system's budget by 1.47 percent, or \$22.6 million.

Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, said the system is thankful for what seem like lenient cuts after several years of harsh slashes.

"The governor and the House and the Senate all had deeper budget cuts (of 1.7 percent)," he said. "But when they had the opportunity to restore some of the reductions, they took advantage of it."

Now, some universities can start to rebuild from money provided by their campus-initiated tuition increases, as well as enrollment growth funds.

The budget allocates \$64 million to the system to fully fund enrollment growth because its 16 campuses gained about 7,500 students this year.

Last year, enrollment growth

was funded with money from a systemwide tuition increase.

This year, since the legislature funded enrollment growth, an across-the-board tuition hike was not passed.

Instead, only campus-based tuition increases approved by the system's Board of Governors took effect this year.

UNC-Chapel Hill implemented a \$366.50 increase in tuition and fees for in-state students and a \$1,616.50 increase for out-of-state students.

Mark Lanier, assistant to the UNC-Wilmington chancellor, said the university requested an incremental tuition increase of \$360 for all students during a five-year period.

But after Gov. Mike Easley stumped for a freeze to tuition hikes, the increase was reduced to \$225 for in-state students.

"Our plan (for that money) is to restore faculty positions that were lost so we can offer more class sections, reduce class size and restore the student-to-faculty ratio we once had," Lanier said.

UNC-W has lost 19 faculty positions.

SEE SYSTEM BUDGET, PAGE 7

Reductions scramble UNC budgets

Even small cuts have palpable effect

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

For the fourth straight year, the University has been forced to take a hard look at what it, and its students, can do without.

Squeezing money out of the University's budget has become routine during the past three years thanks to budget cuts from the N.C. General Assembly. And, as students return to classes today, the issue is still at the forefront of administrators' minds.

The state legislature included budget cuts of 1.5 percent for all 16 UNC-system campuses in the budget it passed in July. The cut wasn't as large as in previous years, but course offerings have been reduced and faculty positions have been eliminated.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, the cut translates into \$5.56 million of lost money — sending various professional schools and offices scrambling to make things work.

"We're down to the quick," said Richard Cole, dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. "We had to scrutinize every line item in our budget."

Said Linda Cronenwett, dean

of the School of Nursing: "We're at the breaking point. There's no flexibility left. We get squeezed on every side."

The nursing school was forced to cut a full-time and a part-time faculty position because of the reductions. That might seem minimal, Cronenwett said, but when the school is both losing tenure-track positions and increasing enrollment, the result is crippling.

"There's a nurse shortage in North Carolina," Cronenwett said. "We're being asked to take more students, not less."

She added that the school is having to depend more heavily on outside funding, such as two significant grants the school recently received, to maintain programs.

The grants will provide the school with \$1,350,000 during the next three years, but the requirements the school must fulfill to keep them mean more work for an already strained staff, Cronenwett said.

And the nursing school is not alone in its budget woes.

Cole said the journalism school, like most other departments, had to increase some class sizes and reduce the number of course offerings.

The school also has had to take hits to its keystone course, "News Writing," or JOMC 053. Students in all five tracks of the school are required to take the course, and the budget cuts have meant that fewer sections are offered. "Students have to shop around more," Cole said.

But University officials say there is some good news for students.

Shirley Ort, director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, said that though the office took a 5 percent cut, none of the money will be taken from student aid packages. Rather, the office's travel and publication budgets have been cut.

"It means a little belt-tightening, but it won't affect our ability to serve students," Ort said.

Despite the cuts, more money was allotted for faculty salary increases, which in turn increases faculty retention.

Provost Robert Shelton said that UNC's campus-based tuition increase also provided the University with \$11.8 million for faculty salaries. Enrollment growth provided additional money for the increases.

"The legislature and the governor did a really good job for us this year."

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Voting becomes a moral decision

Stem-cell research a focus of debate

BY KAVITA PILLAI
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Morality as a political issue has never been more prevalent than in the current climate of the presidential election.

Following the recent death of former President

Ronald Reagan from Alzheimer's Disease, the debate over stem-cell research has reached an all-time high.

Closely tied to that discussion is the ever-present abortion rights controversy.

"My opinion is that the stem-cell debate is a way of raising the abortion issue in a less obvious and less strident form," said Lloyd Steffen, chairman of the Religion Studies Department at Lehigh University. "It's a way of sublimating the abortion issue."

And while the split between the parties on both the stem-cell and abortion issues seems clear cut, it is actually much more nuanced.

President Bush's policy on stem cells allows research on embryonic cell lines existing before Aug. 9, 2001, a stance that is not clearly anti-stem cells.

But the policy is nevertheless a major obstacle to researchers, experts say.

"I think it's pretty safe to say that research on human embryonic stem cells is not proceeding at the pace it could be with the current guidelines," said Laura Grabel, a professor of biology at Wesleyan University.

"Who's doing the research and the quality of research is definitely being influenced by the political climate."

She added that anyone wishing to do research on new stem-cell lines would have to find private funding for that portion of his research.

SEE STEM CELL, PAGE 7

THE CAPITOL DIVIDE
A ten-part series on major issues that could divide the electorate.
Today: Abortion/ Stem cell research