

# Williams, 19, freshman Eagle Scout

Loved for his faith and constant smile

BY KATHERINE EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

A crowd of more than 1,500 people convened at the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington on New Year's Eve to mourn the death of a UNC freshman.

Harper Williams died Dec. 29 in a car wreck in Wilmington. He was 19 years old.

Williams was known for his love of hunting and fishing, his giant bear hugs and an infectious positive attitude.

"Harper was just a fun guy," said Sam Heathcote, a sophomore who pledged the same fraternity with Williams last fall.

"He was such a social butterfly — definitely the life of the party."

His mother, Melanie Williams, said Harper Williams had a unique enthusiasm and a strong passion for life.

"He was the most unselfish person I've ever known. He would bring out anyone who might be on the fringes," she said.

"He always looked at the good — that's what made him so likeable."

Above all, those close to Harper Williams said they remember him as the truest of friends.

"Anytime someone came into contact with Harper, he took all the time in the world to find out who you were," said Mike Linden, a freshman who lived on the same hall as Williams in Granville Towers.

"He treated everybody like they were his best friend, whether he



Freshman Harper Williams died Dec. 29 in a car accident.

knew you for two years or a lifetime."

An outstanding student at New Hanover High School in Wilmington, Harper Williams was voted "best all around" by his classmates. He also served in the position of vice president of his senior class.

He received his school's character award for his ability to reach out to others.

He also received the Eagle Scout award, the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouts.

Williams' mother said that, more than his accomplishments, her son would want to be remembered for his character and devotion to his faith.

He was active in the Christian community as a participating member of his church's youth group and as a counselor at an Episcopal retreat.

"He was everybody's best friend and close to a very eclectic group of people," said his brother Tram Williams, a senior at UNC.

"He was always looking out for someone else. Parents and grandparents always felt safer when their kids were with Harper."

Harper Williams followed the footsteps of both his father and brother Tram when he pledged the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and Linden said Williams was looking forward to returning to UNC at the start of the spring semester.

He planned to pursue a career in business.

"He thought he was just in heaven (at UNC)," Melanie Williams said.

Williams is survived by his parents, Melanie and Bert Williams; an older sister, Ramsay; and two older brothers, Tram and Taylor.

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

# Energy project scores state grant

Morrison work to reap benefits

BY ERIN ZUREICK  
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to a \$137,455 grant from the state legislature students will be able to monitor their energy use when a renovated Morrison Residence Hall reopens in 2007.

The Energy Policy Council unanimously approved a Clean Technology Demonstration Grant recently for the Morrison Renovation project.

The residence hall will close at the end of the semester for renovations that will include the installation of a solar hot water system.

The project will include monitoring tools so that students can observe the effectiveness of the system.

"A student taking a shower won't notice a difference, but the educational tools and monitoring tools will allow students to keep track of energy consumption," said Robin Sinhababu, chairman of the Renewable Energy Special Projects committee.

As an incentive to cut energy consumption, residents in Morrison might compete to determine which floor can use the solar energy most effectively.

"The top three floors will be monitoring wings and competitions might be held to see who can cut their energy consumption the most," said Charlie Anderson, student congress speaker and former RESPC chairman.

The committee was created in April 2003 after UNC students approved a \$4 per semester increase in student fees to support a renewable energy campaign on campus.

The idea for the project originated in the summer of 2003 and has developed since then.

"It was important for the committee to make a proposal and since it's hard to get into a construction project at the right point in the timeline, we were very fortunate to find Morrison," said Liz Veazey, UNC alumna and former RESPC committee member.

The residence hall is also located in an ideal area of campus to harness solar energy.

"When the committee began looking for housing, Morrison was perfect. It has southern exposure, which is a requirement for solar energy, and is tall enough not to be effected by trees," Anderson said.

The solar hot water system also will be funded by \$184,000 from student fees and \$125,000 from housing and residential education.

Sinhababu said the grant was significant because it was the first of its kind that the committee had

"Competitions might be held (between floors) to see who can cut their energy consumption the most."

CHARLIE ANDERSON, STUDENT CONGRESS SPEAKER

seen to completion.

"This was a milestone for the RESPC and it shows that the state government has a lot of faith in what we will be able to accomplish," he said.

He also said the project will have important consequences for

the University in the future.

"The hot water system is cleaner than fossil fuels, and this project will pay for itself over a long period of time."

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

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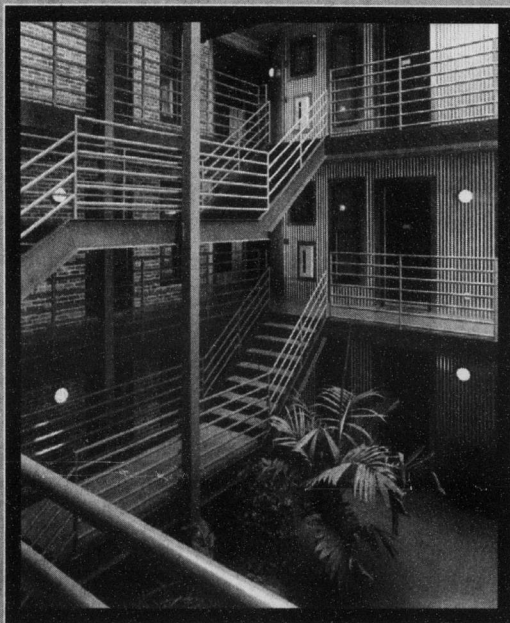
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