

# Gifted program may expand SBP candidates share plans for future tuition

BY GREGG FOUND  
STAFF WRITER

After a drought of several years, local children in sixth through eighth grade soon could see the return of programs for highly gifted students.

The current program for gifted students — Tier I — is in place for fourth- and fifth-graders.

But the Tier I task force, a group mandated by Superintendent Neil Pedersen, will suggest at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education's Thursday meeting that the program be extended to middle schools.

"In the past, there were concerns that kids were self-contained all day, and that was the problem that led to the old program being phased out," said Denise Bowling, the city schools' executive director of curriculum and instruction. "It's much more difficult to isolate kids from their peers in middle school than in elementary school."

The task force also recommends changing the name from Tier I to LEAP, or Learning Environment for Advanced Program.

"We thought that the name

Tier I was not forward-looking enough, since we're including middle schools as part of the plan," said Carol Horne, a Smith Middle School gifted-education specialist.

It's still undecided whether LEAP would be available in all four district middle schools or if students would have to travel to participate.

"If there's only seven kids from a middle school who qualify for LEAP, it's not efficient to have a class for them," Bowling said.

The task force, which met six times last fall, solicited opinions from the public and studied other gifted programs before drafting its recommendations.

"We did study other models, but we didn't try to replicate," said Horne. "The LEAP program is specific to our district."

Bowling said that parents of current Tier I students were surveyed and that she personally asked many parents for input. "Parents in the past have been divided between sending their kids to different schools for Tier I or keeping them at their home schools," she said.

The task force also recommend-

ed using the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test — a national standardized exam — to determine placement into the program.

"When we studied the NNAT, we found that since it's a nonverbal test, it doesn't discriminate against non-English-speaking students and that it isn't unfair to minorities," said Ann Collins, a gifted-education specialist at Culbreth Middle School.

Bowling said students will need to score in the 99th percentile for automatic placement into the program, but students whose scores are close still will be considered.

"If there is a 9-year-old who is writing a book on their own and intending for it to be published, they would certainly be considered," said Collins. "No one test would rule a student out."

The task force plans to administer the NNAT to all third-grade students this spring and hopes that LEAP can be implemented for the 2005-06 school year. The final decision is up to the school board.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

BY HEATHER ANDREWS  
STAFF WRITER

Although all four student body president candidates have plans to prevent future tuition hikes, none were present Thursday when the Board of Trustees voted to raise out-of-state tuition by \$950 and in-state tuition by \$200.

Seke Ballard and Seth Dearmin said conflicting schedules kept them from attending. "I believe my academics are suffering," Ballard said, noting that campaigning takes a lot of his time.

Leigha Blackwell and Tom Jensen said they chose to spend Thursday morning campaigning. "We're keeping up with (tuition talks)," Blackwell said.

Jensen said campaigning provides an important opportunity to present his plans for tuition. "If I lose the election, it really doesn't matter what any of my ideas are," he said.

While Student Body President Matt Calabria acknowledged the candidates' busy schedules, he said he was surprised by their absence.

"Being a trustee is one of the most important, if not the most important, roles that the student body president has," he said.

Despite their absences, candidates said they understand that tuition is increasing annually, and they've outlined ways to ease the burden on students in their platforms.

Dearmin and Blackwell stressed that stabilization of tuition costs is key to fixing the problem.

"People come here expecting to pay a certain amount," Dearmin said. "The biggest piece of conversation needs to be tuition predictability."

Dearmin said he would work with the UNC-system Board of Governors and state legislators to achieve predictability.

Blackwell said she wants to implement a system modeled after successful ones at other schools, specifically the University of Illinois system, which provides fixed tuition rates for four years.

"(We'll) see what worked for them, what didn't and try to apply it," she said.

Taking a different approach, Jensen is proposing a "Quality Student Retention Fund" that would offer alumni the option of donating money to a fund connected to tuition, relieving stress on increases.

Jensen said he is confident that alumni will want to ensure that UNC-Chapel Hill students receive a quality education.

## Council downs development plan

BY TED STRONG  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Chapel Hill Town Council members offered a variety of criticism Monday to a plan for an addition to the Meadowmont development.

But the developer remains unfazed.

"That's the Chapel Hill process. We're not new to the process," said James Baker of the Lundy Group Inc. Baker spoke on behalf of the project's developer, Castalia Group LLC.

Criticism spanned almost every facet of the 76,000-square-foot, mixed-use project, proposed for a lot on Barbee Chapel Road near its intersection with N.C. 54.

Baker emphasized what he said is the plan's striking architecture and relatively discreet presence, but the council was not swayed.

"Let me just be blunt. There's nothing about the plan that I like," said council member Dorothy Verkerk, who went on to compare the proposal to a "19th-century insane asylum of brick."

Council member Mark Kleinschmidt said he also dislikes the proposed appearance of the building and the way it would be landscaped, with three tiers of parking and three rows of oaks and sycamores to screen it from the road.

"It looks like one of the mistakes in (Research Triangle Park)," Kleinschmidt said.

Some council members thought a building closer to the street might be more appropriate.

The development's original plan called for the location's architecture to accentuate the entrance to the development.

"I just wonder if the point of having striking architecture at the entrance of this development is lost if it becomes invisible," Kleinschmidt said.

"I don't understand why you want to hide it."

Council member Cam Hill shared similar sentiments.

"If you're going to have striking architecture, have striking architecture and sell it to us," he said.

Another issue was the view the building would present to anyone entering town on N.C. 54.

Joddy Peer, the project's architect, emphasized during his presentation that the building is screened from the road in that direction by rows of trees. But council members said they thought more needed to be done.

Several council members noted that when Meadowmont was first proposed, the view from N.C. 54 was a major concern for residents.

Council members also asked the developers to reduce the amount of parking lots the plan includes, possibly by increasing the amount of parking under the structure.

Baker said that he was glad he heard the council's concerns and that the developer would work to address as many as possible, though there are limits to what can be done.

"There's no physical way to respond to every comment."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

*"Being a trustee is one of the most important, if not the most important, roles that the student body president has."*

MATT CALABRIA, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

"We're not going to get the best students (with tuition hikes)," Jensen said. "We're going to get the most wealthy students, and we don't want that."

Using what he calls a "grassroots effort" to take on tuition, Ballard said he plans to send letters to the General Assembly from parents and guardians of UNC-CH students expressing their disapproval.

Ballard also plans to work with the Association of Student Governments to spawn organizations among all UNC-system schools that would lobby the General Assembly.

With faculty retention issues also looming, all four candidates said they will strive to find a balance.

Blackwell said the University can't afford to lose good teachers.

"Our faculty is obviously so important to the University," Blackwell said. "We need to make sure they are compensated for."

Dearmin said minor changes in tuition must be expected to secure top-flight faculty members.

"Saying there will be no tuition increases isn't feasible," he said. "It really is that balance between an affordable education and a quality education."

Assistant University Editor Jenny Ruby contributed to this article. Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ A Durham man was arrested at 11:50 p.m. Wednesday and charged with three counts of misdemeanor possession of stolen goods, Chapel Hill police reports state.

Reports state that he also was charged with one count of resisting arrest.

According to reports, Michael Earl Whitehurst, 26, ran from officers who were investigating a suspicious condition on Nunn Street.

Officers caught up with Whitehurst at the end of Sunset Drive, and a search revealed several items reported stolen from the UNC campus.

Stolen items included three credit cards, two wallets and a cell phone, all of which were taken from campus residents, said police spokeswoman Jane Cousins.

Whitehurst was taken to Orange County Jail to be held on a \$500 secured bond.

He is scheduled to appear March 7 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A Durham man was arrested at 2:30 a.m. Thursday and charged with four traffic-related misdemeanors.

The charges were for driving while intoxicated, failing to stop for police lights, speeding and driving without a license, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Jorge

Alvarez Ortiz, 30, was stopped while driving a 1986 Volkswagen on Fordham Boulevard near Sage Road.

An Intoxilyzer test measured his blood alcohol content at 0.12 percent, reports state.

Ortiz was taken to Orange County Jail to be held on a \$300 secured bond.

He will appear March 1 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Chapel Hill.

■ Two license plates were reported stolen Wednesday, including one from a UNC student, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, one of the license plates was stolen at 12:56 p.m. from a student living in Morrison Residence Hall.

The plate was taken while the resident's 1995 Ford Explorer was parked at 321 W. Cameron St., reports state.

The other license plate was reported stolen from a 1997 Ford Taurus while it was parked at a residence at 10002 Main St., reports state.

■ A break-in was reported at 2 p.m. Wednesday at 204 Cottage Lane, the home of a junior at UNC, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect forced the door open and took \$80 worth of property, including shirts, pants and an alcoholic beverage.

## CORRECTION

■ Due to a reporting error, the Jan. 26 article "Exiled locals may see new start" gives the wrong title for Natalie Ammarell. She is now chairwoman of strategic planning and development.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at [coletta@email.unc.edu](mailto:coletta@email.unc.edu).

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

**CEI**  
CAROLINA ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVE

Fostering an entrepreneurial climate at UNC

CEI Research Seminar Series Presents

**THOMAS D. BOSTON**

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS: THE EFFECT OF MIXED-INCOME REVITALIZATION ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS — A CASE STUDY OF ATLANTA

Dr. Boston discusses findings from this first-ever, large-scale empirical examination of the effects of mixed-income revitalization on the socio-economic status of public-housing-assisted families.

Using Atlanta as a case study, Dr. Boston finds strong evidence that the neighborhood environment contributes significantly to the socio-economic mobility of families. This supports the arguments of William Julius Wilson and others who maintain that de-concentrating poverty improves the life chances of the poor.

Dr. Boston is a professor of Economics at Georgia Institute of Technology and a national consultant on minority business and community development. He is past president of the National Economic Association, senior economist to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, member of the Black Enterprise Board of Economists and member of Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin's Council of Economic Advisors. *The Review of the Black Political Economy*.

The CEI Research Seminar Series is open to UNC faculty, staff, students and others interested in interdisciplinary research issues related to entrepreneurial scholarship. For more information on the CEI Research Seminar Series, contact Howard Aldrich, Kenan Professor/Chair of Sociology, (919) 962-5044, [howard\\_aldrich@unc.edu](mailto:howard_aldrich@unc.edu)

[www.unc.edu/cei](http://www.unc.edu/cei) [cei@unc.edu](mailto:cei@unc.edu)

### Eclectic Hip Hop Dance Class

6:30pm-8pm Open Class  
Every Friday

12pm-1:30pm Intermediate  
1:30pm-2pm Beginning  
Every Saturday

Come take a trial class:  
Energetic warm-up, instruction and dancing Hip Hop. Current music on the scene, great teacher/choreographer!

942.1088  
Bounds Dance Studio  
157 Rams Plaza Chapel Hill

### FRIDAY FRESH @ 3

Every Friday morning, Peter Giuliano, our roast master, has a batch of what he feels is the coffee of the week roasted for us.

This Friday, it's Columbia Huila from the Condor coop, a group of small farmers growing the heirloom Typica varietal in the traditional manner. In Columbia this is the harvest season - our Huila is a "fresh crop coffee". The result is a glimpse of what Colombian coffee was like years ago - sweet, mild and balanced, with a full body and honey-like aftertaste.

We'll have it ready for you by 3 PM Friday and available all day Saturday - so you have truly fresh coffee until next Friday.

**COLUMBIA HUILA**  
\$9/LB



IN THE WEST END COURTYARD ON FRANKLIN STREET. FREE PARKING. TELEPHONE: 968-8993

### The Daily Tar Heel

P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
Michelle Jarboe, Editor, 962-4086  
Advertising & Business, 962-1163  
News, Features, Sports, 962-0245

One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$.25 each.

© 2005 DTH Publishing Corp. All rights reserved

**Pita Pit Chapel Hill** PITAS SALADS VEGGIE OPTIONS  
Fresh Thinking, Healthy Eating OPEN LATE  
919.933.4456 115 E. Franklin St.

**WE'RE SIGNING LEASES AND FILLING UP FAST!**

ASK ABOUT OUR

**New \$ Saving Rate with Utilities Included**

**Easier Than Ever**

To Live Just Steps From Campus at...



(919) 929-8020

316 WEST ROSEMARY STREET, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27516