

Student honored by scholarship

Fund to celebrate UNC student's life

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Harper Williams spent his entire life wanting to be a UNC student.

Although his life was cut tragically short in December, his friends and family are making sure that he'll always have a place at the University.

Together they are establishing a scholarship to memorialize Williams, who was a 19-year-old freshman when he was killed in a car accident in Wilmington during Winter Break.

Williams' father Bert said a few close family friends approached him with the idea shortly after his son's funeral.

"It's going to turn out to be a way to keep him alive, so to speak, well into the future," he said.

The scholarship will be need-based and Williams said it likely will also be based on character and leadership qualities which Harper possessed in abundance.

Although raising a \$25,000 endowment to jump-start the scholarship seemed like a daunting task at first, Williams said they've already surpassed their goal and are still collecting funding.

The effort gained support from Phi Gamma Delta, Harper's fraternity. His father, and brother Tram, are also members.

The group held a fund-raiser for the scholarship in March that raised more than \$3,000 for the cause.

"It's a way for all the other brothers to give back and remember him, and give somebody else who embodies the spirit Harper had a chance at Carolina," said Churchill Bunn, president of the fraternity.

Bunn said they plan to make the fund-raiser an annual event.

Wilson Jones, Williams' college roommate and fraternity brother, spearheaded an effort to sell bracelets for the cause.

The Carolina blue bracelets are



The family and friends of Harper Williams are setting up a scholarship in his memory.

inscribed with Williams' initials and "Be Somebody," the name of the Williams' family boat.

Although Jones said they sell for five dollars, many people have given more money with their purchase.

So far 800 of the original 1,000 bracelets have been sold.

"Hopefully, once we're all said and done we'll have upwards of \$6,000," he said, noting that he deposited \$3,700 in the scholarship fund a few days ago.

In addition to the scholarship, Bert Williams said his family has received an outpouring of well wishes since Harper's death.

"If I say (we received support from) all over the community, that really understates it," he said.

Those who were close to him say the overwhelming response is a result of the way Harper lived his life.

"I hope I can touch as many people in my life as he did in his 19 years," Williams said.

Harper was an Eagle scout and was active in his church community.

His classmates at New Hanover High School in Wilmington voted him "best all-around," and he received the school's character award.

"Harper would want something like this to happen," Jones said of the effort to create a scholarship.

"If it was any of us, he would be right there doing the same thing that we're doing right now because that's the kind of guy he was."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Officials ready school funding

Receive county capital investment plan

BY KATHY CHO
STAFF WRITER

The area's third high school and a \$4.3 million aquatics facility are among the projects lining up for county funding for the next decade.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners received the 10-year capital investment plans for the county and its two school systems Tuesday.

The capital investment plan is a planning tool for forecasting the county's long-range future capital needs. It is updated each June.

This year, the schools and county projected their needs according to the November decision to reduce the schools' share of county funds from 77 to 60 percent.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City

Schools has requested \$139.4 million from the county coffers.

The requested amount includes \$35,442,000 for building the system's third high school, which carries a total price tag of \$35.9 million.

Earlier in the meeting, the commissioners approved a capital project ordinance for the school, clearing the way for the city school board to set construction in motion.

The new school will be built off Smith Level Road in Carrboro, and is slated to open for the 2007 school year.

Other planned projects in need of funds include a new elementary school and the conversion of Lincoln Center into an educational facility.

The county schools are seeking slightly less funding: \$116.8 mil-

lion. The money will go toward the county's third middle school, which will open next year, and renovating existing facilities.

Orange County asked for \$211 million, a large part of which would go into parks and recreational facilities. These include the \$4.3 million Homestead Aquatics Center in Chapel Hill.

Some money likely would go towards protecting the environment, such as \$17.5 million requested by the Lands Legacy program, which buys land for conservation.

A brief discussion that followed at the meeting focused on the problem of disparity between area schools.

Commissioner Stephen Halkiotis said some county residents were unfairly criticizing the board for "funding super-high-tech high schools in Chapel Hill, while in the county some schools have bathrooms without doors on

their stalls."

Halkiotis said the critics' demands were unrealistic. "Life's not fair ... You can't take a 40-year-old building and make it the same as a new one."

Commissioner Alice Gordon agreed, but said the county should strive to make older and newer schools "equivalent at least in some dimensions." Improving science labs was one possibility, she said.

Commissioner Chairman Moses Carey Jr. pointed out that the subject of closing the gap had been discussed before. "We decided not to adopt it as a policy because of high cost," he said.

County commissioners will review the school capital investment plans in more detail at a work session today.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Orientation brings life to campus

BY REBECCA WILHELM
STAFF WRITER

For the past few weeks, the Pit has been practically deserted, the quad has been relatively empty and the lines at Lenoir Dining Hall have been almost nonexistent.

But with Monday's kickoff of the 2005 Carolina Testing and Orientation Program Sessions, there has been a surge of new life on campus.

C-TOPS is a two-day orientation program designed to acclimate incoming freshmen to the academic and social environment at UNC.

With the influx of people, numbers of student groups are set up in the Pit and Lenoir is busy again.

"When summer school started, campus was pretty dead," said Alison Monroe, a senior exercise and sports science major.

"You get used to there being so many people that it feels weird to

walk around with nobody here. Now there's a lot of people roaming around. It almost feels like a regular campus again."

Michele Stauffer, associate director for new student programs, said the atmosphere surrounding C-TOPS brings the campus back to life.

"Orientation brings a lot of positive energy to campus," she said.

"There seems to be a bit of a buzz, and it really helps liven up what is usually a quiet summer for most people."

During the next 12 weeks, approximately 3,800 freshmen will attend the 13 orientation sessions, with about 300 students per session.

To make students feel at home, Stauffer said, seven special interest sessions are provided to allow them to "tailor-make their own orientation experience."

"We try to give students the information they need to help them make a successful transition from high school," she said.

"We talk a lot about the Carolina family and try to make them feel like they're a part of it."

Session topics include "Public Service at Carolina," "Leadership and Student Organizations" and "Study Abroad" opportunities.

As they learn more about the University and begin to find their way around campus, many freshmen said they already feel comfortable at UNC.

Mary-Kathryn Rallings, a freshman from Southern Pines who plans to major in biology or chemistry, said the environment is welcoming.

"I knew right away when I first came to visit that this was where I wanted to go to school," Rallings said. "Everyone is so friendly and

"Now there's a lot of people roaming around. It almost feels like a regular campus again."

ALISON MONROE, UNC STUDENT

approachable."

Her mother, Kathy Rallings, said the University's academic reputation is equally appealing.

She said she enjoyed C-TOPS and found several of the informational sessions to be helpful, and she isn't alone in that opinion.

"It's going very well," Stauffer said. "All the parents and students seemed to be pleased."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Couple with 66 dogs charged with animal cruelty

Nearly all dogs were unhealthy

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
CITY EDITOR

A local couple is facing criminal charges for animal cruelty after 66 dogs were found in their Cedar Grove home late last month.

Orange County animal control officials sent out a release Tuesday stating that, with the support of District Attorney Jim Woodall, they would be filing criminal charges against Robbin and

Kenneth Wiseman.

The Wisemans each will face 47 counts of cruelty to animals and one count of operating a kennel without a license.

Woodall said he met with animal control staff Friday to review evidence, and after seeing photographs and information on the dogs, he agreed that they would be able to press these charges.

Woodall said animal cruelty is considered a class one misdemeanor.

Punishment for these charges depends on a person's past criminal record. Someone with a prior

record could face up to 120 days in jail, Woodall said.

Ron Holdway, interim animal control director for Orange County, said so far officials have not determined the reason the couple had so many dogs in their home.

"According to them, they had taken them as rescue dogs and for various other reasons," Holdway said.

He also said he did not have an explanation as to why the Wisemans allowed the dogs' conditions to deteriorate.

The dogs were bathed and treated at the Orange County Animal Shelter, said Joe Pulcinella, director of the shelter, adding that additional care for the animals was still needed.

According to the Tuesday release, veterinarian evaluations showed that 47 of the 66 dogs were severely malnourished and had numerous health problems.

He said all of the remaining dogs, save for one cocker spaniel, have been sent to various foster and rescue homes. Five had to be put down.

"These dogs needed long-term care, and it would be better for them to be in foster homes," he said.

He also said the sheer number of dogs alone would nearly fill the shelter, which has about 68 kennels.

Pulcinella said the dogs were in surprisingly good condition and after a period of rehabilitation, rescue shelters likely will try to find new homes for the dogs.

Holdway said the county has seen instances of animal cruelty in the past but could not remember any instances in which so many animals were involved.

The Wisemans are due to appear in court July 21.

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