

# Mourners pay final respects to Rehnquist

## Roberts serves as pallbearer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Teary-eyed Supreme Court justices and a long line of other Americans paid their last respects to William H. Rehnquist on Tuesday at the court where he served for 33 years. Among the pallbearers was his former clerk, John Roberts, the man chosen to succeed the nation's 16th chief justice.

Roberts and seven other pallbearers bore the flag-draped casket up some 40 steps of the high court to the Great Hall, where marble busts of all the former chief justices line the wall.

Several of the justices wept as they stood around Rehnquist's casket, including Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Rehnquist died Saturday at the age of 80.

President Bush initially named Roberts to replace O'Connor, who announced in July that she would step down. Bush said Monday he would nominate Roberts to be chief justice instead.

Official Washington reflected the loss of a Supreme Court justice with flags at half-staff. Roberts' confirmation hearings, which had been scheduled to begin Tuesday in the Senate, were delayed until next Monday.

On Wednesday, funeral services will be at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, open to friends and family. Bush will be a speaker.

In the Great Hall on Tuesday, Rehnquist's casket was placed on the Lincoln Catafalque, the structure on which President Lincoln's coffin rested in the Rotunda of the Capitol a century and a half earlier.

The doors to the court chamber were open at the east end of the hall.

Lining the court steps to greet the casket were somber-faced jus-

tices, former clerks and court staff. Roberts and the other pallbearers, many former clerks, took the casket from the hearse and began the slow climb up the steps.

Absent were Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and David Souter.

The Rev. George Evans Jr., the Rehnquist family pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Virginia, read from psalms and led the Lord's Prayer.

There were audible sobs from the family.

Rehnquist's personal employees were the first to make a circle around the coffin. A stream of other court workers followed.

Two sprays of flowers and a large portrait of the chief justice were on display.

After the brief ceremony, a long line of people formed outside the court and people began walking inside past the coffin of the chief justice.

Among the first was Sarah Chusid, 24, an intern at Mobilizing America's Youth, a private organization that seeks to increase the involvement of young people across the political spectrum.

Although she considers herself a liberal, Chusid said she respected the influential role that Rehnquist played on the court for more than three decades. "This is a pivotal time in the court's history; I had to come down and bear witness to this event," she said.

Public viewing was to take place until 10 p.m. Tuesday and from 10 a.m. until noon Wednesday.

Rehnquist, whose brand of conservatism pushed the court to the right, was involved in two extraordinary interventions in the executive branch — the impeachment trial of President Clinton and the settlement of the 2000 election in Bush's favor.

He oversaw a court that dealt with the separation of church and state, the rights of states, affirmative action, abortion and gay rights.

He died after a long battle with thyroid cancer.

# A classroom with a view

BY ERIN ZUREICK  
STAFF WRITER

UNC will be at the forefront of astronomy research on Jan. 1 when six new University-controlled telescopes become operational.

The telescopes, located on the Cerro Tololo ridge in Chile, are robotic and collect data on gamma ray bursts — some lasting seconds, others lasting hours.

But, unlike before, these space spectacles will be easily available for high school students.

Morehead Planetarium and the astronomy department are developing a curriculum for high-school science classes that will satisfy new statewide graduation requirements.

Wayne Christiansen, a professor of astronomy who helped setup of the telescopes last fall, said the project is part of a continuing effort to involve high school students.

"We would like to allow high school students in their classrooms to do real astronomical observing," he said. "Not necessarily gamma ray burst ... but for high school students, other projects can be done possibly under the tutelage of UNC undergraduates."

Through the same observation request protocol undergraduates use, the high school students will be given a chance that others will not get until college.

"For the high school students it's more to gain exposure and experience with astronomy," he said.

For the more advanced astronomy student, the telescopes will open up an opportunity for discovery.

"(The) research side is quite exciting," said Dan Reichart, professor of astronomy. "These telescopes will be finding some of the most distant explosions in the universe."

Once completed, N. C. students at all levels will have access to the



COURTESY OF DAN REICHAERT

The Southern Observatory for Astrophysical Research in Chile is home to a new telescope that is more than 13 feet wide. Both UNC students and N.C. high school students will be able to use the device for in-depth research.

cutting-edge technology.

After students submit a request through UNC's database, Skynet, they will can observe the results through graphical depictions.

Reichart said the telescopes will be a great learning tool.

"(Students can) learn how to observe without being under a great deal of pressure," he said. "These telescopes ... will be available for students to learn how to use them and to have the time and freedom to make mistakes."

Graduate student Melissa Nysewander is taking the lead in building the telescopes, but she said her primary interest in the project is the resulting research.

"I'm more concerned with the output that comes from it," she said. "(This is) something nobody else is doing."

Eleven other universities, including Appalachian State University, Elon University, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Greensboro, will gain access to 30 percent of the telescopes' time

beginning Jan. 1, 2006.

And beginning Aug. 1, 2006, the broader U.S. astronomy community will be awarded up to 10 percent of the observation time, Reichart said.

"It's a unique telescope ... there is no system like it on the planet," he said. "We're hoping that this is really just a starting point and that it will grow into a global network."

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

# Program just what the doctor ordered

BY LINDSAY MICHEL  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A pharmacy student in Elizabeth City presses a sensor.

Immediately, a microphone is activated and a camera is directed to the point of origin.

The student asks a question, and without delay, discussion is sparked in an identical classroom

in Chapel Hill.

Through state-of-the-art technology, a new partnership between UNC-Chapel Hill and Elizabeth City State University has been forged in order to help alleviate pharmacist shortages in North Carolina.

Inaugurated in August, the program is designed to bring high-caliber students and instruction to eastern North Carolina — an area in dire need of health care professionals.

"One of the goals was to create an environment and opportunity that could attract, train and retain future pharmacists for a section of the state that is underserved," said Robert Blouin, dean of the UNC-CH pharmacy school.

"If you look at the shortage, there are definitely areas that have more need," Blouin said. "So we, as a school, have tried to work carefully to put a proposal that makes

sense, that's cost-effective, that literally reaches out across the state to add value."

UNC-CH's pharmacy school is the only public institution of its kind in the state and is consistently ranked among the top in the nation.

The idea of joining Chapel Hill with Elizabeth City was presented to the two universities by Senate Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare, when he noticed the palpable need for pharmacists in his district in eastern North Carolina.

The proposal arose out of a governors study initiated in 2002.

"We hoped this program would help address this need, provide another option of study for students at ECSU and to possibly spur economic growth in eastern North Carolina," said Elizabeth City State Chancellor Mickey Burnim.

Students in the Elizabeth City State program must meet the same standards and requirements as students at UNC-CH, Blouin said.

Via the latest in videoconferencing technology, the students in Chapel Hill and Elizabeth City are taught identical curricula.

There are 14 other classrooms on the UNC-CH campus that are equipped with teleconferencing abilities, according to the Department of Information Technology Services Web site.

"We've really made a substantial investment with the state to really modernize our videoconference technology," Blouin said. "We built the technology to comply with our needs pedagogically for our students and our faculty."

Alesha Thomas, a transfer from UNC-CH, is one of the 14 first-year pharmacy students at Elizabeth City State.

Despite the obvious changes in instruction, Thomas said her experience at Elizabeth City State is not dissimilar from her time spent in UNC-CH classrooms.

"It doesn't feel really different to me than being in Chapel Hill," she said. "It's been going really smoothly."

Thomas is the only student who came from UNC-CH. Her class is comprised mostly of students who already have received their bachelor's degrees in areas like nursing and engineering.

Ronald Blackmon, vice chancellor for academic affairs at Elizabeth City State, said he has been impressed with the Elizabeth City State pharmacy students.

"I think these students are exceptional," he said. "They're pioneers, and they're aware of that, and they're doing well adapting to the situation."

Administrators said their ultimate hope is that students will remain in the Elizabeth City area.

Blouin said, if successful, the pharmacy program could spark other, similar efforts.

"The purpose of state institutions is to provide solid educational opportunities to all," Blackmon said.

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