

# Pick made amidst tumbling ratings

## Bush reunites with former colleague

BY ERIN FRANCE  
STAFF WRITER

While his approval ratings continue to drop in the U.S., President Bush has enlisted long-time confidant Karen Hughes in the fight to win friends in the Middle East.

As the undersecretary for public diplomacy and public affairs in the U.S. State Department, sworn in last Friday by Bush, Hughes is responsible for facilitating communication, with an emphasis on relations between the United States and the Middle East.

Hughes is not unfamiliar with promoting Bush's image. She worked for him as the director of communications when he was governor of Texas.

And her appointment comes at an important time for the Bush administration.

Before Hurricane Katrina made landfall, Bush's approval rating at home already was at its lowest point — 40 percent — according to the Gallup poll from Aug. 26.

But the international community, which generally is more critical of the administration, has relented somewhat in its disapproval.

"The international opinion of the United States has improved somewhat since 2004," said Timothy McKeown, political science professor at UNC.

McKeown said he is unsure whether the appointment of Hughes will help improve relations with the

international community.

She is not well-known in the international community, McKeown said, and her past experiences on Bush's election campaigns in 2000 and 2004 might not help the administration communicate with the rest of the world.

"An ability to sell the Bush administration to the American public does not necessarily translate into selling the Bush administration internationally," he said.

But other political pundits said Hughes' experience in the field of communications will work to her advantage.

Joshua Fouts, executive director of the University of Southern California Center of Public Diplomacy, said Hughes' skills will lead to better global relations.

"She has the right pieces of the puzzle to do a good job," Fouts said. "The expertise that she has can easily be translated to an international audience."

He said her work on the election campaigns will be invaluable

to experiences in her new job. "The skill sets are largely similar, though the scope is bigger."

Fouts added, however, that other obstacles stand in front of Hughes. "She will be consolidating an office that has been without strong leadership for a few years."

Hughes is the third undersecretary for public diplomacy and public affairs in four years.

Bush, at Hughes' swearing-in ceremony, said he encourages education and exchange between the United States and Middle East countries.

"... Spreading the message of freedom requires an aggressive effort to share and communicate America's fundamental values," Bush said.

He said Americans should learn about the Arabic culture and language and likened the effort to the Cold War push for citizens to become familiar with the Russian language and culture.

Contact the State & National Editor at [stnidesk@unc.edu](mailto:stnidesk@unc.edu).

# Past racial conflict focus of discussion

## Mirrors summer reading selection

BY KELLY OCHS  
SENIOR WRITER

A black man was killed in the Pit in 1970, and only one undergraduate in a room of more than 100 people Monday night had heard about the murder.

"It's a shocking and sad murder right in the heart of campus," said David Brannigan, a groundskeeper and member of UE Local 150, the state's union for public service workers.

A panel discussion in Murphey Hall uncovered some of UNC's forgotten past — including the murder of James Lewis Cates on Nov. 21, 1970, during a brawl between several black men and white members of a Durham motorcycle gang.

The event, titled "Blood Done Sign Our Names: The Lessons of Censored History For Our Struggles Today," raised questions about how UNC's history affects students and workers today.

"This is the kind of history we want to bring back," said Donelle Boose, a senior at UNC and member of the Campaign for Historical Accuracy and Truth.

"It's a shame that (this murder) happened in Chapel Hill," said Matt Robinson, a local historian and writer who has researched Cates' murder for the past four years.

The 1970s was a decade of severe social disruption and racial tension that shook the country to its core, said Tim Tyson, author of this year's summer reading selection, "Blood Done Sign My Name."

And UNC was not immune to these struggles, members of the discussion said.

Barbara Prear, a former UNC housekeeper and leader of UE Local 150, said service workers at UNC still are fighting for a living wage — a fight that started decades ago.

Lenoir Dining Hall was closed in 1969 when workers went on strike demanding better working conditions and a pay raise.

"Collective bargaining is the only way that we will ever be able to sustain and live on this campus," Prear said.

The discussion was sponsored by the Campaign for Historical Accuracy and Truth, UE Local 150, local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Student Action with Workers, Campus Y and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

A petition for collective bargaining rights for service workers circulated during the panel discussion and was signed by dozens of attendees.

"When students and workers get together, the administration is completely outdone," Tyson said. "Sometimes students are tempted to think we live in a different world. A student is just a university worker a few years later."

Tyson said students can't ignore the past in their efforts to build a better future.

"We're going to try to do a little bit better today than we did yesterday," he said. "A lot of what happens to us is a function of the past."

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

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