

SHORTAGES

FROM PAGE 1

ate to the enrollment increase that we hope will take place at the dental school," he said of the loan. "We hope we can attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds and hopefully encourage them to live and work in those areas."

Dr. Ken May, associate dean for administration at the school, said the dentists who die, retire or move out of state each year are not being replaced by the number of graduates entering the field. But he said the problem is also one of distribution, with rural areas being less able to attract young professionals.

"Just increasing the numbers is not going to address the access to care issue," he said. "That's why we need more programs like debt forgiveness. We need some more incentives to get them to those areas."

The school is in the initial planning stages of a new \$104 million building, he said, adding that the legislature approved \$2 million this session to proceed.

He said discussions of a possible dental school at East Carolina University are premature.

"Right now we think we can help address these issues by working with East Carolina by having community outreach programs," he said.

Luten said that while he doesn't know if there is need for another school at ECU, the need to educate more dentists is real.

"I do know we desperately need

more dentists in this state," he said. "I do believe that we need and are looking at increasing the number of students attending UNC."

May said that getting students into UNC-CH isn't all the University does to address the shortage. Recruiters go to schools across the state, as well as in Georgia and Virginia, providing information about the dentistry profession.

"We'd like them to come here," he said. "But if they went somewhere else, that's still putting folks into the work force."

At the School of Nursing, the question is not one of attracting students, as the school is at capacity.

Linda Lacey, associate director of research at the N.C. Center for Nursing, said the problem is a statewide one, with nursing programs turning away applicants every year.

"What we're facing is a bottleneck in our education system that doesn't allow us to produce the number of nurses we need to meet the growing demand," she said.

Still, Lacey said the state is doing well as far as its number of nurses. The problem lies in the future, with baby-boomers retiring.

"North Carolina is in better shape than a lot of other states," she said. "However, we do know that over the next ten years that will change, and it's likely to change very quickly."

The Center for Nursing predicts the state will face a shortage of 18,000 nurses by 2020.

While the nursing shortage is a problem that could be pre-empted

with the appropriate funding, the shortage of pharmacists in North Carolina is an immediate concern.

A 2002 report by the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research stated that the pharmacist supply did not keep pace with population growth during the past decade in 45 N.C. counties.

"The educational community has attempted to recognize the shortage and has tried to increase the number of graduates," said Fred Eckel, executive director of the N.C. Association of Pharmacists. "But that pipeline takes four years to complete."

Robert Blouin, dean of the UNC-CH School of Pharmacy, said the school increased its enrollment by 18 percent last year both on campus and through a new joint program with Elizabeth City State University.

Students in the satellite program at ECSU receive instruction from UNC-CH faculty both face-to-face and through teleconferencing.

"When you look at the number of applicants for our program, it far exceeds the number of seats we have available," Blouin said.

He added that the school will consider ways to continue increasing enrollment while working with the Area Health Education Centers across the state to ensure that students in their final year can do clinical training at quality sites.

"We're not the only school of pharmacy in the state," he said, adding that the other two are private. "I think as a public university we have an obligation to provide the manpower for the state."

BOWLES

FROM PAGE 1

ty and students. "I also will take the time to meet with our elected leaders from both sides of the aisle."

Dealing with legislators is a skill that many expect will come easily for Bowles, given his political past.

Bowles was appointed to director of the Small Business Administration by President Clinton in 1993.

From 1994-95 he served as deputy White House chief of staff and from 1996-98 as White House chief of staff, receiving praise for his work in budget negotiations.

He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 2002 and 2004, and now serves on three company boards.

Bowles was offered the position of system President in 1997 but did not consider it because of his appointment at the White House.

"In lots of strange ways I really believe like I have been preparing for this job my whole life," he said.

The issues that Bowles will see during his tenure as the system's fourth president will be a mixed bag including contentious issues like tuition autonomy.

The South's increasing role in U.S. higher education is another issue that Broad said will further challenge the system.

"The focus on the South and its role in carrying on the nation's higher education and creating jobs of the future is a very important priority for the next president because it is absolutely essential for the future of the University of North Carolina."

LEECHES

FROM PAGE 1

Hirudo medicinalis, a species native to the freshwater lakes and streams of Europe, is the only one of the 650 species of leeches found around the world that is approved for medicinal use. The creature's saliva secretes an anesthetic into the mammal's skin, as well as an anti-coagulant that prevents blood from clotting.

But the real reason the critter is so in demand is for its vasodilator, hirudin, the most powerful blood thinner known to man, says Michael Zenn, a microsurgeon at Duke University.

Zenn has used leeches for 15 years and says there are companies trying to mass-produce the chemical found naturally in the medicinal leech. For now, Zenn has easy access to the critters — Duke's pharmacy keeps them in stock in case of emergency.

And should he need more, tanks of the species are found at Burlington's Carolina Biological Supply, one of the two leech distributors in the United States.

The parasites are farm-raised by the Wales-based company, Biopharm International, and then shipped to Burlington.

Lisa Darro, a biologist with Carolina Biological Supply, says they sell tens of thousands of the leeches every year, and the demand is increasing as the practice becomes more accepted in the science community.

But Darro says that as a biologist, she doesn't get squeamish handling the leeches, especially since they are kept in clean, filtered water.

"There are worse things to han-

dle — we raise maggots."

Hultman says he once had to leech the inside of someone's mouth — the patient was sedated, he's quick to add.

Zenn once leeches a 10-year-old girl's reattached finger, and while they watched cartoons as a distraction, the leech crawled out of the cast and up her arm.

"They just want blood — you have to keep an eye on them," he says. "I have to remember sometimes that most patients are kind of freaked out by it."

But at eight dollars a pop, the parasites are a bargain.

Fifty leeches would cost about \$500, including shipping, as opposed to \$50,000 or \$100,000 for a reconstructive surgery, says Hultman.

"It's a miracle. It's cheaper than aspirin or Tylenol," he says.

But that could change if the slimy suckers become even more commonplace. With FDA approval comes the possibility of more regulation, paperwork, training and more general bureaucracy, he says.

The last time Hultman did a leeching was in April, and he says there's no telling when the next procedure will be.

When it happens, he will order up to 50 leeches — the patient can go through 20 in one sitting. The leeches, bloated from their last supper, will fall off within minutes before being disposed of as medical waste.

But Hultman says he hasn't gotten any negative feedback from animal — or parasite — rights groups like PETA.

"They die happy," he says.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

THE CAROLINA INN

We are looking for qualified individuals to join our team! We have several full-time and part-time positions available. Contact our Job Line at (919) 918-2769 or visit our Human Resources office for more information.

Mobil Travel Guide 2005
Four Diamond Award
HISTORIC HOTELS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

www.carolinainn.com
EOE/AA

Herpevac
Trial for Women

Volunteers Needed
Women Ages 18 - 30

UNC is looking for women between the ages of 18 and 30 with no history of oral or genital herpes to participate in a vaccine study to prevent herpes.

If you qualify, you will receive free screening tests for herpes and up to \$400 in compensation.

For More Information Call:
919-843-3174 in Chapel Hill
919-788-5333 in Raleigh

UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Next up in Carolina Athletics

Men's Soccer vs. Elon
TONIGHT @ 7:00 pm
Fetzer Field

Women's Soccer vs. Virginia
This Friday @ 7:00 pm
Fetzer Field

FREE ADMISSION WITH VALID UNC OneCard
Visit TarHeelBlue.com for more info and updates.

This is not a joke:

All games are

FREE

at the End Zone

No gimics, no tricks, no cost.

Stop in now and play all End zone games for FREE!

end zone