

SCHOOL

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almost every day.
"We're a 12-month place. We're not a nine-month place," said Thomas Thornburg, associate dean of programs in the school.
Areas of expertise range from adolescent pregnancy and parenting law to solid waste management and fire protection law.
David Lawrence, an institute professor since 1968, specializes in local government law and legal aspects of public finance. "I might get anywhere from 40 to 70 or 80 phone calls a week," he said.
One person who keeps the schools' phone lines busy is Jan Winters, the Gastonia County manager.
"I could say honestly that we use them continually," he said.
Recently, Winters said, some questions arose concerning undocumented immigrants and their access to public health.
Members' office received an opinion from the school that he said was clear and well-substantiated with references to decisions of similar cases in other counties.

"They are an exceptionally valuable resource to, I believe, all of local governments in North Carolina," he said.
Hands-on learning
Newly elected county commissioners in Gastonia County are encouraged to attend an orientation program that the school runs, Winters said.
Veteran officials also enroll in the institute's continuing education programs.
Before taking on her role as Morehead City clerk, Jeanne Giblin worked a similar job in New York.
Despite her years of experience, Giblin said she learned a lot from the 10-day municipal clerk program she took when she began.
"It includes everything that you could possibly want to know to be a municipal clerk," she said.
Giblin said she continues to take the school's courses and subscribes to an institute-sponsored listserv for municipal clerks.
"It has been the most handy thing," she said.
In an age where information is readily available through scholarly Web sites and online courses,

Winters said he still turns only to UNC's school for information.
"I think that the school of government has a degree of credibility about affairs in North Carolina that is head and shoulders above anybody else," he said.
The school's experience-based teaching techniques outweigh the perks of online instruction, Lawrence said.
"We specialize in adult education and have spent a lot of time on teaching methods that adults respond well to," he said. "Beyond that, I think that one of the advantages of any in-person kind of teaching is when you're dealing with a lot of adults ... they have a lot to teach each other."
A think tank hidden from most of the public's eye, Smith said the school's Chapel Hill base and public interest keep its resources and availability wide open.
"We're not doing it because it's a piece of business that we generate revenue from," Smith said. "We're doing it because we think we can help someone, and we're going to be there in the long haul."
Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PERFORMER

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Memorial Hall, which seats slightly more than 1,400.
CAA President Justin Johnson said collaboration among the involved groups enabled them to attract a marquee performer such as Common, who currently is the opening act for Kanye West.
"The best option we have is to work together with other groups," he said.

Getting a great performer also has a lot to do with luck, Benson said, referring to the series of events that led to booking Common.
Last week, organizers said it was unlikely they would get Common to perform, citing negotiation complications with his management.
"We had the right act at the right time and the availability was right," he said Wednesday.
The Common performance will be one of many events leading up

to the Homecoming football game Nov. 5, Johnson said.
"Throughout the week we'll have different events going on in the Pit throughout the day."
He called this year's performance a turning point in the way Homecoming is perceived on campus.
"I think it's getting bigger and better every year."
Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

WILLIAMS

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onto the Hawks' bandwagon with more magnetism than a refrigerator door and a smile that should be copyrighted by Dr. Seuss.
But you can forgive Marvin Williams if he hasn't thought about any of this yet. First of all, the team hasn't even discussed such expectations — not publicly, at least. And secondly, he's got other things to figure out first.
"I can get from home to here and back," he says, referring to the Hawks' Philips Arena. "I can get to the airport. I can get to Wal-Mart. (Contemplative pause.) "That's it."
(Sheepish grin.)
Can you blame him? In a city like this, where there's a Peachtree Street and a West Peachtree Street, a Peachtree Road and a Peachtree Drive, a Peachtree Battle Avenue and a Peachtree Hills Avenue, maybe ignorance really is bliss. And besides, it's not like he's in a hurry to find his way around.
"My dad does most of the driving," Williams says. "It's a lot bigger than Chapel Hill. I can walk everywhere I need to be in Chapel Hill. Here, you gotta drive."
Yeah, and there are other differences, too. Small stuff, really.
For instance, Chapel Hill is home to the University of North Carolina, a blue-blooded charter member of college basketball's elite. Atlanta is home to the Hawks, a team that's elite only in the sense that it loses better than anyone — a team that's a real-life example of the phrase, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."
"These guys did lose a little bit last year, but hopefully I can come in and contribute and try to help that," Williams says. "You know, I did win a few games last year, and this year I hope I can turn around and do the same thing."
And Coach Mike Woodson, who played at Indiana under Bobby Knight, is vaguely familiar with the benefits a winning college program can provide.
"It can help him tremendously,"

he says. "I think any time you come out of college winning an NCAA title, that's one of 300, almost 400 schools. He's a talented kid, but again, it's a learning curve, coming from college to the pros."
"Now, he might shock us, he might come in and just be unbelievable. You never know. ... The sky's the limit."
That's the difference. At UNC, everyone *did* know. They knew the kid was good enough to start for any team in the country — his own included. They knew he could out-talent, out-jump and generally out-play just about anybody he matched up with.
Not anymore. In the NBA, Woodson says the kid will play the 3 and maybe some 4, but is less decided on whether he'll start. It's like George Clooney making "Return of the Killer Tomatoes!" six years before landing "ER." Even kings aren't born wearing their crowns.
"He can guard a point guard, and he can guard a 2 or a 3," says point guard Tyrone Lue. "He's a guy who's 6-9, and you can run pick-and-roll with him, pick-and-pop, he can post up, take you off the dribble. He'll take a little while to put it all together, but he definitely has the talent and the skills."
Still, the list of talented players who have flopped as high draft picks is long, and six Hawks besides Williams have entered the league before playing four years in college, including two — forwards Al Harrington and Josh Smith — who went straight from prom to the pros.
"It's hard to prepare for something you've never experienced," Williams says. "It's a lot easier (because) those guys are my age, so we can definitely relate. ... They'll definitely help my transition."
"The best advice I've gotten is, 'Take care of your body. Just work hard and make sure you take care of your body, and you'll have a good, long career.'"
But you can lift more weights than an Eastern European middle school and you can watch your diet more closely than Calista

Flockhart and accidents still can happen. That's a lesson Williams has had to learn the hard way.
Marvin Williams knows how to run. He did it under Roy Williams as a Tar Heel. He does it as Edgerin James in Madden NFL '06, which he plays "every day from 2 (p.m.) to 10 (p.m.)" at the Atlanta townhouse he shares with several friends from his hometown of Bremerton, Wash. And he'll do it under Woodson as a Hawk, a familiar strategy that figures to ease the transition a bit.
Right now, though, Marvin Williams is not running. All his teammates are; they're doing suicides to close out Tuesday morning's practice, the first official practice of the season. No. 24, however, is nowhere to be seen.
Just 20 minutes ago, Williams was riding a stationary bike on the far wall of the practice court that sits deep in the bowels of Philips Arena. Then he just sort of disappeared. No, he didn't go into the locker room to get fitted for his lime green throwback (one of the countless perks of being a Hawk).
And no, he didn't slip out early to play the soon-to-be-released College Hoops 2K6 video game with him on the cover. ("I don't play basketball games. Too much pride. They're too hard for me," he says.)
He *did* leave, but it was to go to the hospital for X-rays instead. This guy gives new meaning to the term "getting off on the right foot."
That's because the right foot is the one he sprained sometime last week during a voluntary workout at Philips Arena, a routine he's followed for the past two weeks.
The Hawks are listing him as day-to-day, and all accounts are that the injury — if you can even call it that — isn't serious.
Still, a first day on the job like the one Williams had is positive proof of a truth that he had to learn much too quickly: It's not quite so easy to find your way in the NBA.
Besides, you have to know how to find your way around your own city first.
Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

PEERS

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demic year already have been approved based on an existing slate of peers.
Jones said there is much to consider when creating a list of peer universities, including size of the institution, amount of research conducted, admissions selectivity and commitment to graduate education.
The first copy of the proposed peer institutes was sent to system chancellors during the summer, Jones said.
After reviewing the proposal, chancellors from the 16 universities replied with their personal recommendations.
"They came back and said,

"Well, some of these we have real heartburn with," Jones said.
Putting together the new list has required a good deal of back-and-forth with university administrators, he said.
"In several cases I said, 'Well, I can buy that.' Other times I said, 'I hear your cases, but I can't buy that.'"
After considering their responses, Jones said he re-evaluated his list and sent the latest version to the chancellors about a week ago.
"The campuses are in the process of reviewing the second iteration to see if they are in agreement with it or if they'd like to suggest changes," said Alan Mabe, UNC-system vice president for academic planning.

A finalized list of peers should be completed sometime during the winter, Davies said.
"I would expect by maybe February we would have a set of adopted peers," he said.
Mabe emphasized that the last say on the matter does not go to Jones or the chancellors.
"Eventually this would go to the Board of Governors," he said. "They would approve a peer list for each campus."
But the campuses will continue to have considerable input, Mabe added.
"We hope to ideally reach a kind of consensus with each of the campuses."
Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

DELL

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Dell already has upheld its socially conscious reputation by offering one of the first computers from the plant to a children's museum in Forsyth County and donating \$50,000 to a government program committed to relaying information about business skills to schools statewide.
But benefits from the move are not entirely one-sided.
Officials boasted that the area is equipped with a strong workforce and a location close to many of Dell's customers and is tied for the lowest business tax rate in the country.
"We're a lot closer to about 60 percent of our customers (here) than we are in Nashville and Austin," Parra said of Dell's other two manufacturing locations in the United States.
When Easley took the stage, he joked, "If I had known that this would have put you within 60 percent of your customers, we wouldn't have negotiated so hard."
The state enticed Dell with a \$242 million incentive package, to which Forsyth County and

Winston-Salem added a combined \$37 million.
Dell already has hired 350 employees for the manufacturing plant and promises to raise that number to 1,500 during the next five years.
"I'm very confident we have an outstanding team of North Carolinians who will raise the productivity, quality and safety bars to new levels," Parra said.
The plant also has drawn four suppliers to the area: APL Logistics, EGL Inc., Austin Foam Plastics Inc. and World Wide Technology Inc.
The idea is that additional suppliers will yield additional jobs.
Easley said he expects that the total increase in jobs to be about 6,500 and that the state will see an increase in gross product of \$24.5 billion during the next 20 years.
Advocates of the incentive deal, many of whom were in attendance, hail the opening as a boon to a struggling economy in need of stimulation.
But dissenters, such as Ralph Byrns, professor of economics at UNC-Chapel Hill, contend that the incentive package was bad public policy.

"We're a lot closer to about 60 percent of our customers (here) than ... in Nashville and Austin."
RO PARRA, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
"The tax breaks far exceed any reasonable approximation of benefit to North Carolinians," he said.
The tax cuts Dell will receive will be offset by higher taxes on other businesses and consumers, he said.
"Most of the major gains in employment over the past 30 years have been created by small start-up businesses rather than large corporations given to bureaucracy."
The rate of economic growth that the new plant spurs ultimately will determine whether the winning bid will be considered a victory for North Carolina.
Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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