

New office manager to aid student leaders

Recent graduate third to take post

BY JENNY RUBY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Student government officials are getting help in day-to-day activities as the new office manager began her duties Monday.

Tara Taylor, a recent graduate from UNC's School of Public Health, was selected for the position from a pool of three applicants after Justin Meyers resigned three weeks ago.

"When I heard about the position I was very interested in it," Taylor said.

"It seemed like a good fit for me. I was looking for something where I would have a lot of contact with people."

Jon Curtis, assistant director for student activities and organizations, said Taylor's familiarity with UNC and willingness to commit to the entire academic year — which will last until May 10 — set her apart from the others.

"She fits the mold for exactly what we're looking for," said Student Body President Seth Dearmin.

"I'm really excited about Tara being on board."

As office manager, Taylor is responsible for fielding myriad questions relating to both student government and other student organizations.

"Despite expectations, I'm not chained to my desk," Curtis said. "When I step away, the office manager fields questions in my absence."

Curtis said Taylor also will assist him with the administrative task of managing the 551 recognized student organizations.

"That's a lot of paperwork to be managed and overseen," he said.

Daneen Furr, student body treasurer, said Taylor will prove valuable in the day-to-day tasks of student government.

"That helps us do our job more effectively," Furr said. "In turn, it helps us give back to the student body."

In 2004, Student Congress allotted \$13,000 in student fees to fund the creation of the office manager position.

And Furr said another \$14,000 is set aside from the Union operating fee.

"Ultimately it's all student fees," she said. "That isn't necessarily how much they get. That's just enough to cover half their salary. Anything that doesn't go to them we just revert back into student fees."

Curtis said because funding comes from a number of places, the permanence of the position is not guaranteed.

"It can be nipped in the bud in a number of places," Curtis said. "Hopefully, we can continue to build evidence that the position is

critical to both the success of my office and the success of the other student organizations that are housed in the suite."

During last year's student body president elections, candidate Tom Jensen called into question the necessity of the office manager — alleging that it is inappropriate for student fees to foot the bill.

But Dearmin said his administration is in full support of the position, noting the difficulty experienced in recent weeks since Meyers resigned.

"It's just more work on everyone," Dearmin said. "It's a really beneficial position to have."

He said that although Taylor just began, he is confident that she quickly will learn the ins and outs of the position.

"There's an obvious learning curve when you come into the position," Dearmin said. "She's got a really good grasp on the University."

And Taylor said she feels as though she will be able to make a transition into the position easily.

"This is only my second day, but it seems like a really well-functioning office," she said.

"I can definitely tell that everyone is motivated to get a lot of projects done for the students. I'm very happy to be working there and very excited about it."

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HILLSBOROUGH

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and experience, saying she would work to prevent Hillsborough from becoming a "bedroom community."

She called for a master plan for development but has said she will work to ensure that growth protects the environment.

Newton, who failed to take a seat on the board in the 2003 election, ran a campaign centered around more proactive leadership. He ran a campaign based on being a voice for the southern part of town, an area he has said is not amply represented.

Gering said he was glad Paul Newton had run as a challenger, saying it was healthy for the democratic process.

"It gives me the confidence and satisfaction that I've been elected to office because they've had a choice," he said.

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SPECIAL TAX

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that they use to shortchange our children," she said.

She added that she declined to vote on the referendum because she felt a vote either way would have been an inaccurate representation of her position.

"Do I want to drink hemlock or strychnine?" she asked. "You know what? Neither. Either way it would hurt our school children."

DIRTY SHIRT

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top of the dirty shirt while taking a lengthy run before passing the shirt off to Tuesday's contestant, sophomore Andy Blackmore.

Blackmore said that when Wallace removed the shirt and trash bag, he was steaming, and the shirt was soaked in sweat.

"I plan to go for a little jog and maybe try some Dumpster diving,"

County schools officials did not define how the money would be spent, saying rather that it would be added to existing funding.

Schools have been strapped for cash of late, as the district works both to meet operating expenses and to construct a third middle school for the district, a project that has seen massive budget overruns and opening delays.

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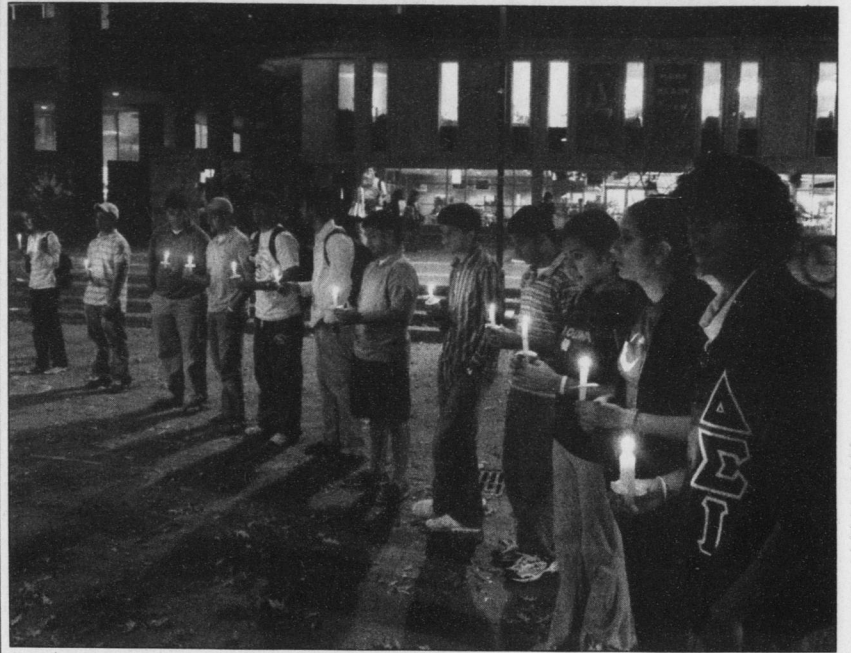
Blackmore said. "I'm in it for the long haul."

Although Wynia is not certain of future plans for the smelly shirt, he said that with better planning and more student involvement, the contest could turn into a fundraiser for charity.

"I'm hoping it'll become a UNC tradition."

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ONE MONTH LATER



DTH/BRANDON MAYNARD

Primit Patel (right), a senior, attends a vigil for earthquake relief in the Pit on Tuesday evening. About 40 students attended the event, which marked the one month anniversary of a 7.6-magnitude earthquake that hit Pakistan and India, killing 80,000. With winter approaching, UNC students are collecting funds to aid the 3 million who are now homeless. Visit www.dailytarheel.com for the full story.

CITY SCHOOLS

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Hemminger was appointed to her seat last December when Valerie Foushee was elected to the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Hemminger said she was "feeling very good" about the results.

She said she will be able to contribute more during this next term, having spent much of the previous months trying to familiarize her-

self with the work required of a school board member.

"I'm excited about another term on the board," she said "That will be fun."

Though he won't get to experience that — this time around at least — Danner said he still was glad he had a chance to run.

"I think for me it was a tremendous experience, getting to know people and understanding the community," he said.

He added that he would remain

an involved parent and school volunteer and would consider running again next time.

All candidates agreed that this campaign season had been a success. Through all of the forums and campaigning, they said they've had a great opportunity to get to know each other.

Stuckey said the group became "a little team."

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CONGRESS

FROM PAGE 3

looks bad for student government, and it could be said that it taints the legitimacy of the election."

Some Congress members expressed potential support for legislation that instead would add restrictions to speech in the elections.

Committee members were unable to reconcile their viewpoints. They voted to report unfavorably upon the bill to Congress, which will see the bill Tuesday as a full body.

The committee meeting was cut short because Rep. James Riley did not attend due to illness. A number of pieces of legislation on the agenda were proposed by Riley, but committee members chose not to discuss them in his absence.

One of these pieces of legislation proposes an instant runoff system for student body and Carolina Athletic Association presidential elections.

When voting, students would select a first and second choice for those positions.

If no candidate receives a majority, the last place candidate's second choice votes will be distributed to the other candidates.

The votes would be recounted, and the process would continue until a candidate receives a major-

ity of the vote. Currently, if no candidate receives a majority of the vote, one more week of campaigning is held for a runoff election.

Committee members also chose not to hear Riley's legislation that creates a formal review of the Student Constitution, the first section of the Code. They tabled the pieces of legislation indefinitely.

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