

UNC among elite in graduating blacks

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

UNC admitted more black freshmen last year than any of the nation's 30 highest-ranked universities, and new statistics show that it beats out most of its public peers in helping those students receive their diplomas.

UNC ranks fourth among major public universities in graduation rates for black students, according to data compiled by the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

Of the black students who enrolled in UNC's class of 2005, 69 percent were able to walk through the gates of Kenan Stadium and receive a diploma.

The percentage falls behind those of the University of Virginia, the University of California-

Berkeley and the University of New Hampshire.

UVa. ranks first with 86 percent of black students graduating.

UNC's black graduation rate has improved 2 percent since 1998.

"It shows we are headed in the right direction," said Archie Ervin, associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs.

But many administrators and students said the figures leave room for improvement.

"Although the University is a leader in this area, we still have a lot of work to do," said Julius West, vice president of the Black Student Movement.

UNC officials attribute the ranking to a variety of programs offered to recruit and retain minority students.

"We have an excellent recruitment

plan," said Jerry Lucido, vice provost for admissions and enrollment management. "There's lots of outreach."

Cooperation between the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the admissions office helps increase minority enrollment, he said.

Every summer, for example, the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs hosts about 1,000 rising high-school seniors through Project Uplift.

And through Summer Bridge, a program hosted by Academic Services, incoming students can enroll in introductory classes during the summer before their freshman year.

Black students also benefit from mentoring programs, Lucido said.

"We have a strong cadre of black faculty who can mentor students

and do," he said.

Ervin cited intervention programs to help students get through their first year at UNC.

"There are opportunities to intervene to make academic success a reality for a large number of students," Ervin said.

The number of black students at an institution also can play a role in how many graduate.

A little more than 11 percent of this year's freshman class are black, though blacks are more of a minority on other college campuses.

"It's a little more difficult for black students to feel community," Lucido said.

BSM works to foster such a community.

It also offers academic skills sessions and programs to help students learn how to study for college

exams, West said.

West commended the efforts of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs to aid the success of black students.

Financial aid also has been considered a factor in the high rate of enrollment and graduation for black students.

UNC students can take advantage of Carolina Covenant, a financial aid program that enables students at or below 200 percent of the poverty level to graduate without debt.

"Because the University has a commitment to meeting students' needs, it does make a difference in terms of attracting students from all walks of life," Ervin said.

Contact the News Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Graduation rates

A recent report indicates that while UNC is highest in enrollment percentages of black students among flagship state schools, it is 4th in black graduation rates.

School	Percent black graduates
U. of Virginia	86
U. of California-Berkeley	79
U. of New Hampshire	70
U. of Michigan	67

School	Percent black first-year students
U. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	11.1
U. of Virginia	10.5
U. of Michigan	7.2
U. of California-Berkeley	6.8
U. of California-Los Angeles	2.7

SOURCE: JOURNAL OF BLACKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION
DTH/KURT GENTRY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

Commencement day: Senior class officers will hold an information session for those participating in Commencement on May 14.
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Great Hall

Student life: The student life committee of student government meets today.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Union 2501

Women's meeting: Women in Action will hold an organization-wide meeting today.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Murphey 112

Art show: Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will host a reception for the annual Visions Art Show. The reception today will be held for Glenwood, Frank Porter Graham, Rashkis, Seawell, Culbreth, Smith, Chapel Hill High and the PreK/Headstart program. The reception for the remaining schools will be Thursday.
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: Lincoln Center

Homelessness: The Orange County Partnership to end Homelessness steering committee will meet.
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Southern Human Services

Center on Homestead Road

Budget forum: The Chapel Hill mayor and Town Council will host a public forum to discuss the budget.
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Council chambers at Chapel Hill Town Hall

Investment: The Undergraduate Investment Club will meet to hold elections for next year's officers.
Time: 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Koury Auditorium

THURSDAY

Commissioners meeting: The Orange County Board of Commissioners will hold a work session.
Time: 12:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Location: Southern Human Services Center

Tuition workshop: A N.C. Residency for Tuition Purposes Workshop will be held today. The workshop is free and open to faculty, staff, graduate and professional students.
Time: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Manning 209

Marathon lecture: Ultra marathon runner Dean Karnazes will deliver a lecture. He will have a book signing preceding the talk.

Time: 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Gerrard Hall

Eastern medicine: Ferran Blasco, a licensed acupuncturist, will lecture on diet and detoxification, lifestyle and exercise. Call 942-0240 for more information.
Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Balanced Movement, 304 W. Weaver St.

Student comedy showdown: The Carolina Union Activities Board presents a free student comic battle for a chance to open for "Daily Show" veteran Lewis Black as part of the Carolina Comedy Festival.
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Union Cabaret

Performance: Company Carolina presents "Songs For a New World," a musical by Jason Brown. Tickets for students, faculty and the general public range from \$5 to \$12.
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Playmakers Theatre

To make a calendar submission, visit www.dailytarheel.com/calendar, or e-mail News Editor Brian Hudson at udesk@unc.edu with "calendar" in the subject line. Events will be published in the newspaper on the day and the day before they take place, and will be posted online when received. Submissions must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

POLICE LOG

■ A 42-year-old Carrboro man was arrested Monday on felony charges of larceny after he tried to steal a purse from Uniquities at 425 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

Jerry Wayne Williams, of 303 W. Poplar Ave., was arrested at 10:29 a.m. on charges of attempted larceny, reports state.

Police later found that Williams had a stolen debit card, according to reports.

Williams was placed under a \$450 secured bail, and he is scheduled to appear in District Criminal Court on April 17.

■ A Miami Subs employee was arrested Tuesday on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Alexander James Smith, 29, of 200 Westminister Drive, was arrested at 12:36 a.m. at 100 W. Rosemary St. on charges of carrying a 9mm handgun, reports state.

According to reports, he also

was arrested on charges of failure to appear in court for drug-related charges and driving without proper identification, reports state.

Smith was placed under a \$750 secured bail and is scheduled to appear in District Criminal Court on June 26.

■ A Top of the Hill employee was arrested early Tuesday on charges of driving while impaired, Chapel Hill police reports state.

Zachary Edgar Boone, 25, of 102 Elm St. in Carrboro, was arrested at 3:20 a.m. on the 100 block of Franklin Street after he was seen driving on a sidewalk, reports state.

According to reports, Boone's blood alcohol content was .11.

Boone was released on written promise and is scheduled to appear May 2 in District Criminal Court.

■ A 16-year-old male was arrested Monday on felony charges of burning a school house, Carrboro police reports state.

Honor Titus, of 2701 Homestead Road, was arrested on a warrant related to a Chapel Hill High School incident reported Friday, reports state.

According to Chapel Hill police reports, a suspect burned a flier that was hanging on the wall.

Titus was released in the custody of his mother and was scheduled to appear in District Criminal Court on Tuesday.

■ A Chapel Hill woman was arrested early Monday on charges of driving with a revoked license, University police reports state.

Reports state that Charmeri Elaine Elam, 29, of 302 Stonehill Road was arrested at 3:24 a.m. at 100 Raleigh St. after being stopped for an expired registration.

Elam was handcuffed, searched and transported to the magistrate's office in Hillsborough, where she was released on a written promise to appear, according to reports.

Elam is scheduled to appear in court May 2, reports state.

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Any incorrect information printed on the front page will result in a correction printed on the front page. Any incorrect information printed on any other page will be corrected at the top left of page 3. Errors committed on the Editorial Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.

Please contact Managing Editor Joseph Schwartz, at joseph_schwartz@unc.edu, with issues about this policy or to report corrections.

Think you know about Genital Herpes?

45 million Americans have genital herpes and...

Up to 90% of those infected with the virus don't know they have it.

Here are some other things you may not know:

- 1 in 5 Americans (teenage and over) have genital herpes.
- Most people infected with the genital herpes virus either don't recognize their symptoms or don't have symptoms at all.
- Genital herpes is often mistaken for other conditions. In addition to blisters and sores, other symptoms of herpes include bumps, cuts, itching, redness, or tingling around the genital area; vaginal discharge; or pain while urinating.
- One study found that up to 70% of people who had genital herpes got it from their partner when they had no signs or symptoms of an outbreak.
- Having genital herpes may double the risk of acquiring HIV.

There's a simple blood test that can tell you whether you have genital herpes.

Get tested and take charge of your sexual health. The more you know about herpes, the more you can do to reduce its impact on your life.

Call your health care provider to schedule a confidential appointment for a genital herpes test.



Peace Corps

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For additional information contact: Christine Bixones at: peacecorps@unc.edu or www.peacecorps.gov 800.424.8580