

Global education center aims to unite, innovate

Building set to open in March

BY LAUREN BERRY
STAFF WRITER

When the FedEx Global Education Center opens in March, campus leaders hope to make a strong statement of the University's international focus.

The center, which has faced two and a half months of delays, will combine student services, academic programs and research with the goal of creating a more integrated approach to international education.

Officials have pegged March 14 as the official opening date of the building, which has a \$39.6 million budget.

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said the building is open for partial occupancy. Construction began in November 2004.

Runberg said that contractor problems and design issues led to the delays. "It's going to be an excellent building and aesthetically we're pushing the envelope on the design," he said.

The center also will mark the first time the campus' various international efforts will all be in a central location.

Kevin Hewison, director of the Carolina Asia Center, said the move will mark the center's first permanent location.

"Moving into this wonderful new building makes us feel a real part of the campus and a real part of the international focus of the University," Hewison said.

Daniel Lebold, director of development for global education, said alleviating fragmentation was a



Javier Barilla works on brickwork outside of the University's new FedEx Global Education Center, which has faced two and a half months of delay.

major goal of creating the building.

"The primary issue is that all of our international programs have just been so fragmented, decentralized and difficult to find," Lebold said. "We saw that there needed to be a critical mass of resources that were easily identifiable on campus," he said.

Adam Versenyi, head of the curriculum in international and area studies, said students will benefit from an international center.

"We're all going to be in the same location now, so it will be a much easier thing for students to find out what's happening in global and international studies," he said.

FedEx Corp. gave \$5 million to the center last May. The donation led UNC to name the building after the company.

The gift makes up a large portion of the \$7.5 million the University needed to raise for the building in addition to bond money and

funds expected to be raised by the center's parking garage.

Leaders said they hope having different focuses in the same location also will allow for the sharing of ideas and the creation of multi-lateral approaches to issues.

"We wanted to create a place where ideas are popping up and advanced by being in the same place," said Marjorie Crowell, assistant provost for international programs. "We hope to see the synergy of all these different areas," she said.

Lebold said the center will further the University's international reputation. "There has never been an international anything on this campus," he said.

"But this is it. This is going to put Carolina on the international map."

Staff writer Aaron Fiedler contributed to this report. Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Program spreads technology

BY EMILY BALD
STAFF WRITER

These days, it's hard to imagine getting through high school without the Internet.

However, there are at least 100 students at East Chapel Hill High School whose families cannot afford the service.

This number is a big concern for Ginny Guilfoile, East Chapel Hill's Parent Teacher Student Association president who started a program to provide loaner computers and Internet access for students in need.

"I thought, how would it be if my kid didn't have a computer," Guilfoile said. "I knew there were kids that could not keep up with the other kids at East without the Internet."

Guilfoile said she received two checks over Christmas break for \$5,000 each.

These donations, in addition to the \$5,600 that had been raised before December, gave the PTSA a way to fund the program.

"The parents don't have to pay for any of it," Guilfoile said. "The money that we raise goes directly to this Internet access bill."

Ana Rider, coordinator of the district's home loaner program, said access to the Internet is important for students of all grade levels but is particularly important for high-school students.

"When you go to high school, all the homework and projects are posted online on Web sites," Rider said.

Rider meets with students in need of Internet access and discusses concerns they might have.

"They always feel frustrated when they don't have a computer at home because they have a lot of assignments that require a computer," she said.

Rider said that Internet access is provided in the school's media center until 5 p.m. on weekdays, but that going right from a seven-hour school day to doing homework assignments can be tiring for

students.

The district's Information Technology Division was able to form a partnership with Clearwire, a high-speed wireless Internet provider.

Ray Reitz, the district's chief technology officer, explained that by using Clearwire, the need for costly land-line phones or cable is eliminated.

"The cost of Internet access has been the main obstacle. The Clearwire solution is a completely wireless solution," Reitz said.

Dick O'Donnell, the company's account executive, said that because Clearwire does not require phone lines or cable, wireless Internet can be plugged in at students' houses as easily as a lamp.

O'Donnell said Clearwire's low cost and easy setup make it a good option for the district.

Rider said she has received very positive feedback from the 42 students to whom the program has

provided Internet access so far.

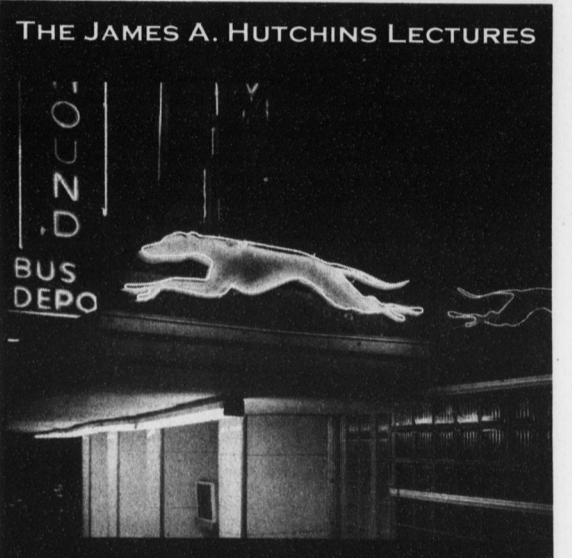
"One student told me the quality of her work improved because she had time in between going to school and working on assignments," Rider said. "Basically they all talk about the same thing — how it was very hard to do their work and how much easier it is right now."

Guilfoile said that although the program has been successful this year, the PTSA might not be able to sustain the funds needed to continue it unless they find a long-term source for funding.

Guilfoile said she hopes the success of this program will draw state support in the future and plans to write to state legislators to request funding.

"It is a priority of the state education system to get all kids connected."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.



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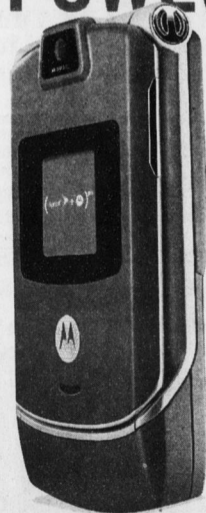
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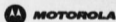
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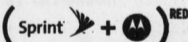


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