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ANALYSIS

UNC keeps more faculty

72 percent retention rate highest in past five years

BY KEVIN KILEY
STAFF WRITER

Every year UNC competes to retain faculty members who receive offers from other universities. It's a battle that comes at a high cost and one that administrators expect to become more fierce.

It's a fight that administrators see as a major challenge but an area where the University has made slow, yet noticeable progress.

"Faculty bring a lot of expertise with them that

allows them to attract the best students and contribute to the overall academic reputation of a university," said Executive Associate Provost Steve Allred. "Retention is a fight we have every year."

The retention rate refers to the percentage of faculty members who received offers from other institutions but accepted counteroffers from UNC.

In 2003 UNC's retention rate was 40 percent. In 2006 it rose to 52 percent. It increased again this year to 72 percent — the highest level in five years.

Officials attribute the rise in retention rates in part to faculty salary increases approved by the General Assembly in the past two years.

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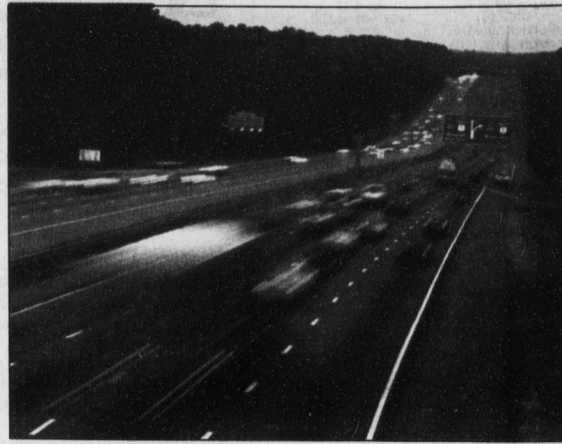
Faculty salaries and retention rates

Salary increases approved by the General Assembly:

- ▶ 2004-05: 4 percent
- ▶ 2005-06: 2 percent
- ▶ 2006-07: 7 percent
- ▶ 2007-08: 4 percent

UNC's faculty retention rates:

- ▶ 2004-05: 66 percent
- ▶ 2005-06: 52 percent
- ▶ 2006-07: 72 percent



DTH/ARMANDO ALTAMIRANO

Pollution from traffic on major highways such as Interstate 40 and the Raleigh Beltline are contributing to Raleigh's rising smog levels.

Study warns of Triangle smog level doubling

BY ALEXANDER TROWBRIDGE
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Raleigh and Chapel Hill could see twice the number of unhealthy smog days in 2050, according to a report that has experts and local advocacy groups debating appropriate solutions.

Grassroots advocacy group Environment North Carolina and the national nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council released the report Thursday. It found that high smog levels are a result of higher temperatures.

Their claim has some calling for measures to combat global warming and others questioning the prudence and motivation of that course.

"Certainly it's politicized on both sides," said state climatologist Ryan Boyles, adding that the emotional nature of the global-warming debate is due in large part to the mixing of science and advocacy. "They interpret science in the way they want to push."

The data in Thursday's report was compiled by a team, including NASA scientists, that used a set of climate change, air quality and meteorology models to develop its conclusions.

The report found that Asheville, Wilmington and Raleigh — and by extension Chapel Hill — are the N.C. cities facing a higher number of Orange Alert days. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines those days as posing a danger to ozone-sensitive groups of the population, including children, active adults and people with respiratory disorders.

Boyles said pollution has acted as a blanket in urban areas, preventing cooler temperatures at night and contributing to warming in those regions.

Michelle Bell, a Yale University professor of environmental health and co-author of the study on which Thursday's report is based, said Orange County already is exceeding EPA's recommended ozone level. She added that the problem would be exacerbated by further warming.

"The prospect of more bad air is a reason to limit global warming," said Elizabeth Ouzts, state director of Environment North Carolina.

But Roy Cordato, vice president for research at the Raleigh-based John Locke Foundation, called the report a scare tactic.

The earth has been warming since 1979, he said, but ozone actually has been declining since then.

"These are all facts that Environment North Carolina conveniently leaves out of the stories they want to tell," he said.

Inhaling ozone can cause acute respiratory problems and inflammation of lung tissue, aggravate asthma, lead to hospital admissions and emergency-room visits and impair the body's immune-system defenses, according to the EPA.

Ouzts suggested switching to cleaner sources of energy to fix the carbon-dioxide emissions problem. She said it would take an 80 percent reduction in global-warming pollution to avoid the worst projected effects.

Cordato said such a reduction would be irresponsible.

"It's a cure that's much worse than the disease," he said.

"The energy sources they want to propose are outrageously expensive. This whole thing is a cruel hoax on the poor."

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DTH/TIMOTHY REESE

"The Preacher," Al Green, performs Thursday night at Memorial Hall as the season opener for the Carolina Performing Arts. "I'm a bad mamma jamma," he said, after giving hugs and tossing red roses to women in the audience. The eight-time Grammy winner sang his hits and Motown favorites.

GREEN'S STILL GOT IT

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY
ARTS EDITOR

Known as one of the masters of classic soul music, Al Green brought a performance just as big as his name to the Memorial Hall stage Thursday night.

Green utilized his talents as a singer, entertainer and a minister to "spread love" to the sold-out audience that remained on its feet throughout many of the show's numbers.

"We've been to London two times; Madrid, Spain; East Coast; West Coast — Lord, North Carolina is the best," Green said to the audience after his opening number.

From the crowd's response — in size and applause — one might never have guessed

that Green was the second choice for Carolina Performing Arts' season-opening show.

But Emil Kang, UNC's executive director for the arts, said even the initial response to the cancellation of the original act — Aretha Franklin — was positive.

"I think it's still interesting to note when we learned Aretha was canceling, we were very nervous to find a replacement," Kang said.

"You see, it wasn't a regular concert. Very few people are as well-known as her."

Green's ability to communicate with the crowd both during his musical numbers and while speaking to the audience in between songs recalled the time he spent as a Pentecostal minister.

"Although I'm a preacher," Green said, "I'm still a man."

The multiple-Grammy winner took a break from secular music in 1980 to devote his time to preaching and performing religious songs.

During the performance, Green poked fun at the "baby-making music" label many of his 1970s hits have acquired.

Opener Lizz Wright performed a 45-minute set of original material and cover songs.

"She's very unusual, sultry, sexual and has a soulful voice," Kang said. "In that sense she's very similar to Al."

Sixteen-year-old Ben Harris said he had

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Mixed feelings on change plan

BY ANDY KENNEY
STAFF WRITER

Taz and his wife can be seen every day on the benches near the intersection of Franklin and South Columbia streets. They have a cardboard sign that reads, "Truly Homeless."

"The shelters don't help you," said Taz, who declined to give his full name. He can't take his wife, who asked to remain unidentified, to the shelter because it is a men's shelter, and he said his wife sometimes faces harassment there.

Real Change from Spare Change, an initiative of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership that is set

to launch next month, aims to discourage people from giving money directly to panhandlers such as Taz.

The program, which was endorsed by the Chapel Hill Town Council at its Monday night meeting, aims to encourage people to donate money to a central organization.

"The perception is that panhandlers have an immediate need for food, shelter and services, but the reality is that those are provided here in Chapel Hill," Liz Parham, executive director of the Downtown Partnership, said to the council.

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UNC making a splash in the MLS



COURTESY OF KANSAS CITY WIZARDS

Former UNC player Michael Harrington is a midfielder for the Kansas City Wizards in the MLS. He currently has three goals and four assists.

BY JESSE BAUMGARTNER
SPORTS EDITOR

After riding the bench in the MLS as a rookie last season, Dax McCarty's decision to forgo his final two years at North Carolina for the pros might have appeared questionable.

Fast-forward to year two, where the midfielder has already become a starter on FC Dallas and joined the U.S. national team for the U-20 World Cup this past summer.

"It was unbelievable. There's only a select number of players that can actually say that they played in any World Cup competition," he said. "And for me to be able to say that I was a part of that is ... spectacular."

While McCarty is enjoying some of the perks and recognition that

come with being a Major League Soccer player, he is just one of many UNC players who have migrated to the pros in recent years.

And although American soccer continues to struggle for recognition, former Tar Heels are making a habit of breaking onto the scene with a bang.

Life as a professional

There's little debate about the biggest differences between college soccer and the MLS.

"The thing that would be most different would probably be the speed of play," said 2006 senior Michael Harrington, now a starter for the Kansas City Wizards.

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this day in history

weather

CAVS AND HEELS CLASH

North Carolina and Virginia will meet each other at noon Saturday in Kenan Stadium. Both teams are 1-1 heading into the ACC football matchup.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Carrboro's El Centro Latino will host its third annual Fiesta de la Familia on Sunday. The event features mariachi music and Peruvian dance.



BARGAINING PITFALLS

Employees and students held a demonstration in the Pit on Thursday to call for collective-bargaining rights and to protest what they consider censorship.

SEPT. 14, 1982 ...

A UNC football player is arrested after police receive reports that the student assaulted a Granville Towers resident adviser, knocking out several of the RA's teeth.

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