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UNC satellite submission is pushed back

November new goal for plans

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

The deadline for the final Carolina North concept plan to be submitted to the Chapel Hill Town Council has been pushed back to November.

UNC's Board of Trustees had requested that the proposal be submitted this month, but University officials said they want more time to revise the plan for the proposed satellite research campus.

"This is sort of like doing the last proofread of a paper before you turn it in," said Jack Evans, executive director of the project.

Once the plan is given to Chapel Hill officials, it likely will have to be reviewed by groups such as the town planning board before it goes to the council, Evans said.

"It would be some time before the plan came before the council," he said, noting that it would probably happen in early December.

Some town members have said the University should not rush the project. "I think it's good for people to be thoughtful and careful," Mayor Pro Tem Bill Strom said.

The deadline was set by trustees in May 2006 when they passed a resolution directing Chancellor James Moeser to ensure that UNC submit a plan to the town by Oct. 1, 2007.

Evans said the resolution stemmed from frustration voiced by some trustees about the efficiency of the process.

But now trustees, who unanimously approved the plan at their Sept. 26 meeting, are supportive of the new timeline, he said.

Trustee Bob Winston, chairman of the building and grounds committee, said planners want to wait for results of assessments including an environmental study, a physical impact study and profiles of roads involved in the project.

"There's a lot of information that's coming in," he said. "All the heavy-lifting work's still being

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UNC PROFESSOR WINS NOBEL PRIZE

Earns honor with two others for genetic targeting

BY KATE SULLIVAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Oliver Smithies, a UNC professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, received the Nobel Prize for medicine Monday, becoming the first full UNC professor to receive the honor.

"When I got the proverbial phone call from Stockholm this morning ... it was a peaceful feeling," Smithies, 82, said during a press conference Monday afternoon.

Smithies and his co-recipients, Mario Capecchi, of the University of Utah, and Sir Martin Evans, of Cardiff University, were honored for their work in the area of genetic targeting.

Their research has spanned several decades, beginning in the early 1980s.

Today the team's work on genetic targeting in mice is widely used in research physiology.

"I get a great deal of enjoyment in opening scientific magazines and seeing people using gene targeting," Smithies said.

The method of gene targeting focuses on selecting a certain gene in the genetic makeup of mice, specifically, and deleting it to see the effects that living without this gene has on the animal.

Smithies explained the genetic targeting method as a series of 3,000 books, in which a scientist selects a specific word out of one of the many books.

"We can alter that word or take it away and learn what happens," he said.

The process uses embryonic stem cells of mice to create offspring with the altered genetic makeup.

Smithies said using this process in lab animals can lead to breakthrough technologies for humans.

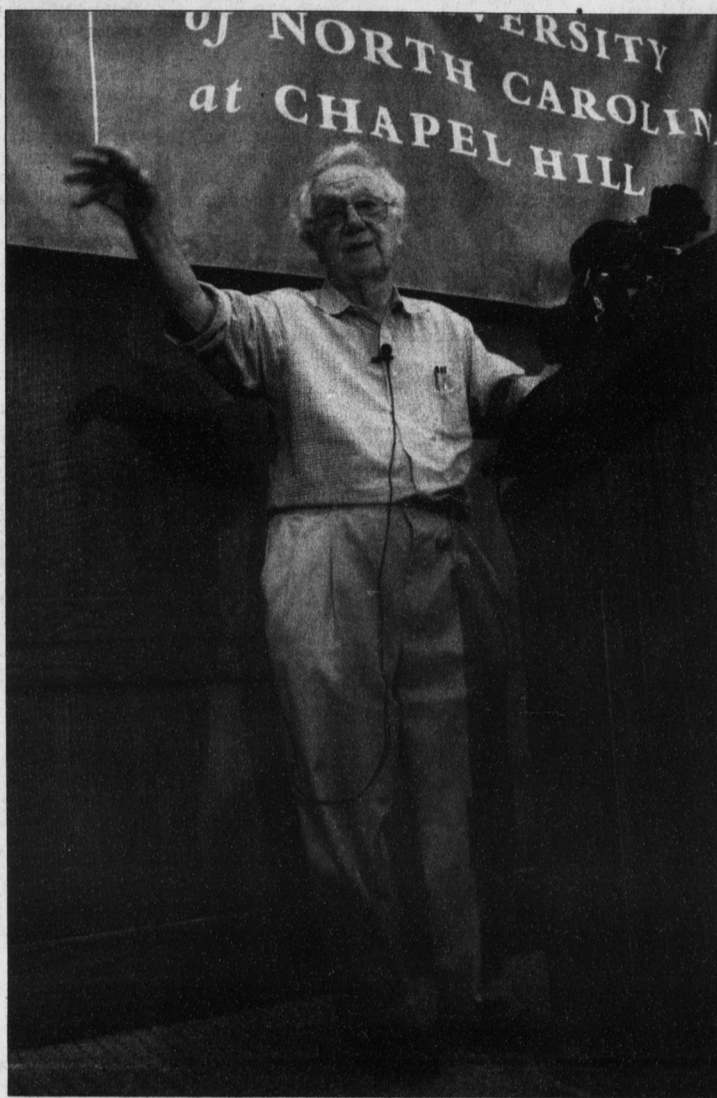
While Smithies was hesitant to say how much this technology has benefited humans so far — noting only that some of his findings have been used in furthering research on human cystic fibrosis — he said further research could lead to more human-related treatments.

"Much of a direct benefit is not obvious at this point," he said.

Smithies has been at UNC for the past 19 years and is the first full-time UNC faculty member to win a Nobel Prize.

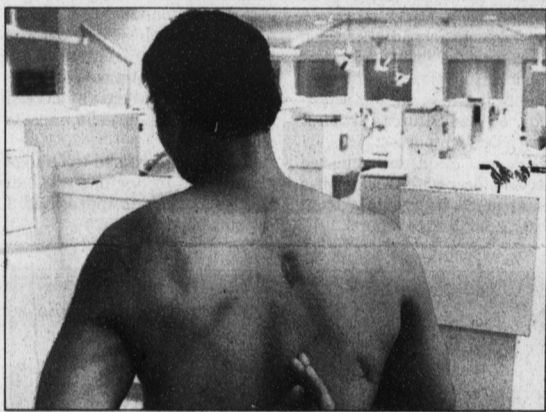
"It's really a pleasure to those of us who have been in science for a long time," said Bill Marzluff, associate dean for research at the School of Medicine.

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Oliver Smithies, a UNC professor of pathology and lab medicine, speaks at a press conference Monday about winning this year's Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

DTH/ZACH HOFFMAN



DTH/DAVID ENARSON

Hla Wai, one of more than 100 Burmese refugees employed by UNC housekeeping, shows a scar he received from shrapnel while in Burma.

Local Burmese remain hopeful

BY MAX ROSE
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill resident Ye Tun has not had contact with his family in Myanmar since Buddhist monks rose up against the military government in mid-September.

Though frustrated about being unable to talk with family, Tun said it is a small issue compared to those faced by most Burmese.

"Right now, people are very emotional because they have nothing to eat," he said.

Tun, 37, was in the first group of Burmese refugees to settle in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community 10 years ago. Many families have followed, and they are paying close attention to the uprising back home.

He recalled when he first arrived in the United States.

"The first thing is you can smell freedom," he said. "You can breathe freely. You can freely express your feelings. You can cry."

The Triangle Burmese population, made up mostly of Christians from the Karen state, has grown to about 70 families, said U Nandawantha, a monk and co-director of the Myanmar Buddhist Association in Jamestown, N.C.

Most still have family in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, and many fought the mil-

itary government before coming to the United States as refugees.

Chapel Hill resident Hla Wai, who had fought in a guerrilla war from the Thailand-Myanmar border, still has two sisters in Myanmar.

Wai, one of more than 100 Burmese refugees employed by UNC housekeeping, was a school-teacher before saying goodbye to his parents for the last time and going to the border at age 26.

Wai, who came to Chapel Hill in 1999, now has three kids in college in the United States and is the first Burmese housekeeping worker to be named a crew chief at UNC.

"Before I do everything, I never dreamed it," he said.

Protest at home

In recent weeks the Myanmar military rounded up and killed an unknown number of monks who had participated in protests demanding improved living conditions, political prisoners' freedom and national reconciliation.

The government-controlled media announced Sunday that it imprisoned at least 135 monks, but witnesses say the number of captives likely is in the thousands.

SEE BURMESE, PAGE 9

Nobel Prize winners with ties to UNC

Peter Agre

> Chemistry, awarded 2003
> Former fellow in hematology/oncology, 1978-1981

Robert F. Furchgott

> Physiology or medicine, 1998
> Alumnus, BA in chemistry, 1937; honorary doctorate, 1984

Louis Ignarro

> Physiology or medicine, 1998
> Honorary doctorate, 1984

Martin Rodbell

> Physiology or medicine, 1994
> Former adjunct professor

Rudolph Marcus

> Chemistry, 1992
> Post-doctoral fellow, 1951; faculty, 1951-1952

Gertrude B. Elion and George H. Hitchings

> Physiology or medicine, 1988
> Former adjunct professors

Prize is UNC's closest tie to laureates

BY KATY DOLL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC celebrated its first full-time faculty member to receive the Nobel Prize on Monday.

Faculty Chairman Joe Templeton said the selection of Oliver Smithies, who received the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine, is an important national recognition.

"We need a lot of stars, and we also need a superstar," he said. "What happened today was one of our own faculty colleagues has been recognized as a world science superstar."

But the historic announcement was not the first time UNC has been listed among Nobel winners. Besides Monday's winner, UNC has had several ties to former Nobel laureates.

Two former adjunct professors, an alumnus, a post-doctorate fellow, a fellow and an honorary doc-

torate have previously received the prize in medicine or chemistry.

But Smithies will bring a level of national recognition that the University has not reached before, said Holden Thorp, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"I think it's a qualitative change for Carolina," he said. "I think when you're on the network nightly news and you're the lead thing on (National Public Radio), that's a qualitatively different recognition than we get most other ways."

Many of UNC's peer universities have several laureates, such as the University of California at Berkeley with 15 full-time faculty laureates.

"It's certainly true that it gives you bragging rights when you've got a Nobel laureate — or more than one," Berkeley spokesman Robert Sanders said. "The students love to say that they've taken a course

from a Nobel laureate. It's a morale booster for the faculty, too."

The award also helps in fundraising, attracting students and retaining faculty, Sanders said.

Berkeley has had faculty win in physics, chemistry and economic sciences, which Sanders said demonstrates that the university is well-rounded in top academics.

"All around, it's a fun day when it's awarded, and it's a great year when you get one," he said.

Although this award marks an important step for UNC, officials stressed that it also was an important recognition for Smithies.

"It's just a crowning glory for a long career for Oliver Smithies and it's a boost to everyone on our campus," Templeton said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

UNC disputes athletics donation trend

BY EMILY STEPHENSON
STAFF WRITER

A recent article names UNC the No. 1 recipient of athletics donations in the nation, but University officials are protesting that a trend exposed by the article doesn't apply to UNC.

The article, in Friday's issue of "The Chronicle of Higher Education," lists UNC as the nation's leading recipient of donations to athletics. The University raised \$51 million in 2006.

The Chronicle claims that there is a national trend of increasing donations to athletics departments and shrinking funds for academics.

But some UNC officials said they think the article — titled "Growth in Sports Gifts May Mean Fewer Academic Donations" — describes a fundraising trend that isn't present at the University.

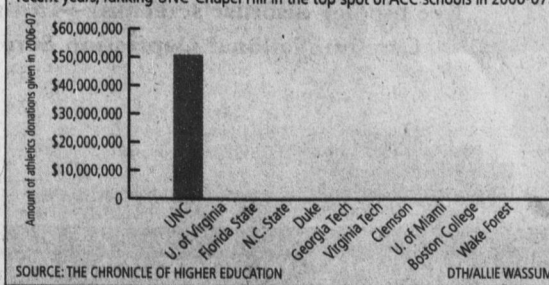
"If people read only that story they may get a misrepresentation of the facts," said Steve Kirschner, associate athletics director for communications.

The article prompted UNC Chancellor James Moeser to write a letter to the Chronicle, refuting the trend claims, said Scott Ragland, director of communications in the

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Athletics donations in the ACC

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that athletics donations have risen in recent years, ranking UNC-Chapel Hill in the top spot of ACC schools in 2006-07.



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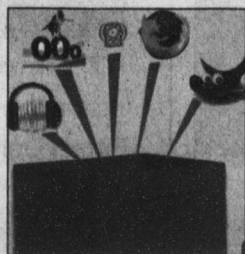
LUNCH CRUNCH CHCCS officials are looking to address increasing food costs.

MEDIA RELATIONS A symposium discusses issues for black women.

ARTS FORUM The year's first meeting focuses on collaboration and accessibility.

university | page 11

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL UNC alumnus and former DTH Editor Peter Wallsten will give a speech tonight about the power, politics and press of presidential elections.



plugged in | page 8

OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE With programs such as Mozilla Firefox, the open-source software movement is gaining popularity as a free alternative to programs such as Internet Explorer.

this day in history

OCT. 9, 1956 ...
A student committee is appointed to help select the chancellor to succeed Robert House. The students would submit concerns to the full committee.

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Sunny
H 93, L 64

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