

VETERANS DAY

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wanted a career in public service, especially in the military.

She said the ceremony offered a glimpse of what her and her peers could face in a matter of years. "It just gives us a reminder of what we're going into as ROTC cadets."

Enrollment in UNC's ROTC program has remained steady despite continuing conflict in Iraq and a nationwide climate that has made it more difficult to recruit military candidates.

Cadets at UNC cited varying reasons that they signed up for the program.

"I definitely would love to have the honor that comes along with being a veteran," said sophomore Alex Miller, an Army ROTC cadet who said his goal after completing his service is to join the FBI.

Ray Vickery, a freshman Army cadet, said he joined the ROTC program to boost his resume and open up job opportunities.

Fellow cadet, junior Jeff Wright, said he also expects his enrollment in the program to open doors down the road. Wright, who plans to become a doctor, said the Veterans Day ceremony was a reminder of the importance of military service.

"To me, it's the greatest honor I could have to serve my country in this way," he said.

Events to honor veterans will continue throughout the week, including a breakfast Tuesday where those who have served in the military can discuss Veterans Affairs funding with U.S. Democratic Congressmen David Price, Bob Etheridge and Brad Miller of North Carolina.

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MILLENNIALS

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action than politics.

"A huge motivator for all the people at the Y, including myself, is that there are changeable, real results," she said, citing committees ranging from animal rights to assisting newly immigrated families.

The study reported that only 12 percent of students believe that politics is a route through which people can effect change. Almost 80 percent of high school seniors reported volunteer involvement, but only 48 percent of young college voters turned out for the 2000 elections.

For junior Jake Anderson, president of UNC Young Democrats, the idea that young people can make a difference and can make inroads in politics is far from absurd.

"If you ask the average Young Democrat who is heavily involved in the organization, I think that they would probably think that we can probably make a pretty big difference," he said.

"What we do is we give people an avenue, and I think that's a lot of what is lacking — the current political system doesn't give people a way to participate unless they're very wealthy."

The study sought to discover the origin of the Millennial Generation's seemingly heightened sense of social responsibility. In a 1993 study about Generation X, the center found that students of that generation were more individualistic and alienated.

Part of the change has been linked to the proliferation of ser-

vice-learning opportunities in high school. Many students attributed their civic engagement to high school civics classes and community service requirements that were not as prevalent a decade earlier.

The Center for Civic Education is an organization that promotes civic education in K-12 institutions, which it sees as more focused on career and individual development than social and civic development.

"Human beings aren't born with the capacity or the knowledge of the skills or the dispositions necessary for citizenship," said Joel Elliott, the center's assistant director of the Campaign to Promote Civic Education.

Study authors say they hope universities will take the study into consideration when strengthening or beginning their civic programs.

They said that giving students an opportunity to ask questions in a nonintimidating environment is one way to spark political engagement, as is helping students connect with those already involved.

Schuyler said UNC is one of those universities with a well-developed civic mission.

"There are so many groups on campus, and you know that it's such an active campus in general," she said. "There are great institutions all over the place that give us a chance to be socially responsible."

Study results were derived from interviews with 47 student focus groups on 12 college campuses nationwide.

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MUSEUMS

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campus.

It's a different situation than the one faced by UNC's own art museum, the Ackland, which rests on campus near the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets.

"We're in a lucky position," said Nic Brown, director of communications for the Ackland. "Being on campus is an integral part of our identity, and our location means that we're able to draw from foot traffic."

The student initiative

Still, the museums don't rely on prime location alone. Efforts are made by staff to bring in the collegiate crowd in additional ways.

Brown talked about Ackland's current exhibits, such as "The Art of Looking," and explained how they are related to education at UNC.

"At all times, it is curated by us and a University curator — a professor or instructor — who directly relates it to a class on campus," he said.

Several years ago the Ackland created an organization specifically for student appreciation of its works, called Student Friends of the Ackland. The group, in addition to promoting the Ackland, has taken its members on unofficial trips, like one to the "Monet in Normandy" exhibit at NCMA last year.

"Our member base is mostly art majors," said SFA president Elsa Hasenzahl. "But there's still a good handful who are just interested in art in general. It's a great asset to the art department, but the reach is far greater than just that."

While the NCMA doesn't have such an organization, Wheeler said the museum has a positive relationship with the Ackland and Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University's art museum. He said the three regularly lend each other artwork.

SOCCER

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before the end of the season, but Washington said the experience the Tar Heels have gained so far has prepared them well.

"I think it gives us a lot of confidence," she said. "We've been in pretty much every situation possible — overtime, penalty kicks — we've seen everything there is to see and overcome it, so I think we're ready for anything."

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"There's a lot of interplay between the university museums and here," Wheeler said. "The directors of those museums are good friends of mine, and we try to have a good relationship with professors at the universities so they encourage their students to check out material related to what they're studying."

Thinking outside the frame

Julie Chevalier, curator of education at the Nasher, said attracting students takes more than just publicizing regular events.

In addition to establishing a student advisory board to promote the museum, Chevalier said the Nasher also hosts a party for new students at the beginning of each year.

"We get a majority of undergrads in the museum during their first week (at Duke)," she said. "And the students there really spend a lot of time in the galleries. With a lot of other parties for adults, a lot of people don't look at the art work."

There is evidence that similarly themed events are perhaps the best method for attracting students, as Wheeler said that the one weekend night during each major exhibit that the NCMA stays open all night draws a lot of college-age people.

"We've been sold out every hour of the night on these occasions because it's always sort of a big social event to come out at 3 a.m. to watch an art exhibition," Wheeler said. "I'm very conscious of the university community surrounding us, and we try to program some new, young, contemporary artists with fairly avant-garde points of view about the world."

And there is at least some anecdotal evidence that museums' future efforts to draw the college crowd will be fruitful — regardless, perhaps, of the success of any specific efforts.

"I've definitely seen, throughout my college career, a rise in college students' interest in art in general," said UNC junior Damian Cabezas, who works for the Department of Art. "I don't think they even have to do anything special as long as they keep their doors open."

Brown said that as long as the museums work collectively, Cabezas' sentiments are realistic.

"It's important that the role of museums not be made out to be competitors," Brown said. "All of these museums enhance the arts community. And the more you foster an arts community, the more the museums themselves benefit."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

HOMELESS VETS

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changed from war to war.

"In the old days, they'd say, 'I'm homeless because I don't have a job,'" Williamson said. "Now it's because they have medical problems."

Only four homeless Iraq War veterans have found their way to the Durham VA Medical Center, Williamson said.

"We are slowly starting to see some veterans coming in from Iraq," he said. "Iraqi veterans tend to be much younger, and they tend to be more ready to move on with their lives quickly."

The VA identified about 1,500 veterans from current conflicts as homeless. In addition to drug, alcohol or PTSD counseling, the VA provides employment assistance and aims to provide affordable transitional housing to veterans. Nine veterans currently live in housing provided by the VA in Durham.

Mary Cunningham, director of the Homelessness Research Institute at the alliance, said that's where the solution lies. "You can't take care of your medical issues when you don't have housing."

Although federal law mandates that veterans have first priority in publicly listed jobs, Williamson said the training veterans received in the military might not translate into civilian work.

But Larry Parker, spokesman for the N.C. Employee Security Commission, said that military training is ideal for many jobs and that some employers specifically want veterans' skill sets.

"You would think that someone serving our country would be able to come back and find suitable employment," he said, adding that homeless veterans are an untapped source of labor.

The N.C. ESC will sponsor Employ-A-Vet Week, which began

"Our job isn't done as long as we have one veteran on the streets."

BOB WILLIAMSON, DURHAM VA MEDICAL CENTER'S HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM COORDINATOR Sunday and ends Saturday. The program targets the more than 20,000 veterans who exit the military each year in North Carolina.

With 93 offices across North Carolina, the ESC has placed more than 25,000 veterans into new jobs this year.

North Carolina's six military bases are vital to the state's economy, particularly in the communities surrounding the bases, Parker said. "When military personnel make up the bulk of the population, it's obviously a big impact."

Chris Moran, IFC executive director, said many veterans use IFC facilities, including a rising number of female veterans.

"I think that we have a lot of institutional failure in the country," Moran said, referring to mental health care, prisons and the VA.

"Don't we have a responsibility to reach out to them and provide greater services?"

Moran said the U.S. has yet to see the effects of the war in Iraq on soldiers, which he said will be similar to those suffered by veterans of previous conflicts.

"Part of the problem is that we wait till a crisis happens in this country," he said. "We should already have figured out that people come back broken."

"It's another thing that we have to face as a community. And more is to come."

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