

**CAMPUS BRIEFS**

**UNC professor wins 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award**

Stephen Walsh, a UNC geography professor, received the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious award the association can confer. It is given annually to one geography scholar in November.

"Lifetime achievement is about the nominee's extensive body of work," said Derek Alderman, president of the association, adding that this includes research, teaching and contributions to the community.

Walsh has done research on Thailand, the Ecuadorian Amazon, the U.S. western mountains and the Galapagos Islands.

"Awards are always nice," Walsh said. "But they are not as important as research and the questions it addresses."

Of the 15 lifetime winners, UNC claims three. Risa Palm, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, won in 2001, and geography professor Stephen Birdsall won in 1995.

**Venable Hall knocked down; science project continues**

Venable Hall was torn down Wednesday so a new physical science building can take its place.

Construction of the science building replacing Venable Hall is scheduled to begin in mid-March and should be completed by August 2010, said Peter Krawchuk, assistant director of Facilities Planning and Construction.

The initial stages of the Venable demolition began Saturday, he said.

The new building will provide a home for the Marine Sciences Program, in addition to offering a 400-seat lecture hall and a new science library.

Krawchuk said the projected cost of the project is \$123 million, \$10 million dollars over budget.

Venable Hall's demolition represents the last part of the new Science Complex's construction, which began in 2001.

Visit [www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com) for the full story.

**UNC sports nation's second-highest endowment growth**

UNC ranked second in endowment growth, topping Duke University, which came in third place.

The National Association of College and University Business Officers ranked 76 different billion-dollar endowment schools.

According to findings, UNC grew its endowment by 32.1 percent, bringing it to \$2.16 billion.

Duke has a larger endowment at \$5.91 billion, but it only grew by 31.4 percent.

The University of Notre Dame grew their endowment by 34.7 percent and captured the top spot.

**CITY BRIEFS**

**OWASA hears residents on proposed water regulations**

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority's Board of Directors heard opinions from local residents and business owners Thursday about changing water regulation and ordinances.

OWASA postponed voting on any changes after owners flooded the forum with concerns about the effect of the amendments on their businesses.

The reconsideration of the ordinances came after an increase of water use in January. The changes included prohibiting all non-commercial portable irrigation at stage two water shortage restrictions and forbidding any irrigation at stage 3.

Visit [www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com) for the full story.

**Carrboro High School hosts college fair for students**

At a college fair Thursday night, juniors were able to get information on 10 different colleges and ask questions to college representatives.

"We want our students to experience a wide variety of colleges and opportunities," said Jeff Thomas, Carrboro High School principal.

The fair was the second held this year for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. The first was a district-wide event in the fall, said Sandy Tudor, Carrboro High School's career development coordinator.

Visit [www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com) for the full story.

**Chapel Hill hires new head for community celebrations**

Chapel Hill's parks and recreation department hired Wes Tilghman as its new supervisor for festivals and community celebrations. Tilghman has worked for the town as an arts and event specialist since April 2001.

— From staff and wire reports

**Weekend holds stress for ASG**

BY ERIC JOHNSON  
SENIOR WRITER

The UNC-system Association of Student Governments is facing a make-or-buy meeting this weekend in Greensboro.

The association spent all of last semester locked in a frustrating struggle for credibility, and members fear that a disorganized gathering this weekend could be a debilitating blow.

There is a pervasive fear that UNC system administrators, who have been exercising increased scrutiny of the ASG, could step in and drastically restructure the student-led group if there is no clear progress in Greensboro.

"This meeting is kind of like a test ground," said Greg Doucette, president of N.C. State University's student senate and one of the ASG's most active delegates.

"They want to see some tangible improvement at this meeting."

The ASG, which is composed of student body presidents and del-

egates from the system's 17 campuses, has been consumed with rumors about a possible shake-up. Members are concerned about losing the \$190,000 in student fee money that the group receives each year.

System administrators have repeatedly said the ASG's future will be up to its student members, but they have also refused to quell rumors about a possible funding reduction.

Kemal Atkins, the system's Director for Academic and Student Affairs, said the fee issue will be under discussion in the coming months.

ASG President Cody Grasty said he expects a solid turnout for the weekend meeting, which will be held on the campus of N.C. Agricultural & Technical State University. That alone would be an improvement over recent meetings, when the ASG has struggled to reach a quorum of delegates.

"Success is relative," Grasty said. "I can't tell you whether people will



ASG President Cody Grasty said he's unsure if delegates will leave feeling the meeting was a success.

walk away with a sense of accomplishment, or whether they'll walk away telling The Daily Tar Heel and other campus newspapers that it was a complete sham or a waste of time."

There is already concern among ASG members that the weekend will prove discouraging.

There is widespread discontent with Grasty, who took over in October after former president Cole Jones was forced from office.

Jones was mired in a months-long public relations battle because of a misdemeanor assault conviction, and Grasty promised stability after Jones' messy departure.

So far, however, that has proven

elusive.

"Every expectation of Cody has not been met," Doucette said. "I don't even know what's on ASG's agenda anymore."

Grasty cancelled a December meeting of student body presidents and twice postponed the meeting now scheduled for this weekend. ASG officers complained privately that Grasty dropped out of contact during much of December, leading to speculation that he might resign.

Former ASG President Derek Pantiel said he has never seen the organization in such a deep state of confusion. The group lacks a clear mission, he said.

"When GA has to intervene, there's a serious problem," Pantiel said, referring to UNC-system General Administration.

"The organization just needs leadership. Once they have leadership, they'll have a direction."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

*"The real goal is creating a culture where residents and motorists respect those who bike regularly."* MATT CZAJKOWSKI, TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER



DTH/JULIE TURKEWITZ

For a \$10 donation, participants in the Blue Urban Bikes Program can borrow bikes from any of five locations in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area. UNC graduate Holly Calkins shows off the Carolina blue bike kept in the back of Skylight Exchange, one of the program's locations.

**TOWN HALL BLUES**

**Blue Bikes rental program extends access**

BY JEFF WOODALL  
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill is looking to become more cyclist-friendly by renting bikes out of Town Hall.

This addition is in collaboration with the Blue Urban Bikes program, operated by the advocacy group Students United for a Responsible Global Environment.

The program is designed to encourage a cleaner and healthier community by providing easy access to renting bikes rebuilt by the ReCYCLery, a nonprofit organization located in Carrboro.

"(Blue Urban Bikes) is ultimately designed in the spirit of programs in Europe," said Chris Richmond, director of the ReCYCLery. "We want to get people out of the habit of jumping in their cars once

they get into the city."

The program expanded its operations after it received a \$15,000 grant from the Chapel Hill town council in March.

Chapel Hill's Town Hall will be the sixth hub in the program's growing network, and further expansion is expected.

"There are a lot of employees at Town Hall," Richmond said. "It's a great image for the town."

The group asked the Carrboro Board of Aldermen for similar help in providing "hubs" in Carrboro.

Members who pay a \$10 annual fee are able to check out a bike for up to 24 hours. After that, they must return the bikes but can sign out bikes an unlimited number of times.

In addition to Town Hall, there are Blue Urban Bikes hubs at several places up and

down Franklin Street, as well as in Carrboro.

Hubs have anywhere from three to five bikes. Richmond said the overall design of the program is to have more hubs than individual bikes, making it more convenient for every resident to have a location within walking distance.

"I would love to see at least one hub on the UNC campus," Richmond said. "We are in talks with the Student Union about a possible hub outside the building."

Supporting Blue Urban Bikes is town council member Matt Czajkowski, who said the program has many benefits.

An avid cyclist, Czajkowski made a commitment during his 2007 campaign to ride his bike to every council meeting. So far, he said, he has succeeded.

Although he hopes for success with bike rentals, Czajkowski said he doesn't see Blue

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**UNC tries out grass-fed beef**

BY SARA PEACH  
STAFF WRITER

Carolina Dining Services is finding that mixing local farmers and open pastures is a recipe for a successful burger.

Starting this month, students have been able to purchase locally produced, environmentally friendly hamburgers at Carolina Kitchen in Lenoir Dining Hall.

The meat in the burgers comes from cows raised at Harris Acres Farm in Pinetops about 100 miles east of Chapel Hill. Patrick Robinette of Harris Acres said the cows are grass-fed and free of antibiotics and pesticides.

Now about 400 of the 600 burgers sold daily are made from Robinette's beef.

At \$3.99 for a quarter-pounder and \$4.99 for a half-pound burger, they cost \$1 more than the conventional burgers sold in Lenoir.

"It's a dollar more, but I think it's worth it," said Aspen Price, a junior environmental studies major. She said she supports purchasing food from local farmers because it reduces the amount of fuel burned to transport food to consumers.



DTH/VELYSSA SHARP

Faye Fang, a freshman journalism and art history major, tries a burger made with grass-fed beef on Wednesday at Lenoir Mainstreet.

The introduction of the hamburgers results from a partnership between Carolina Dining Services and Fair, Local, Organic Food, a student organization that has asked dining services to serve more locally grown, organic food from companies with fair labor practices.

Scott Myers, director of food

and vending for Carolina Dining Services said he met Robinette at a FLO Food event in December.

The burgers went on sale at the beginning of the spring semester.

Senior David Hamilton, one of the leaders of FLO Food, said burg-

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**Panelists set to judge guitarists on 'airness'**

BY KELLY YANG  
STAFF WRITER

Those who've dominated "Guitar Hero" will get a chance to rock out, emulating the same moves — minus the guitar.

The Carolina Union Activities Board is hosting its first Air Guitar Championship at 8 p.m. today in Gerrard Hall.

Drawn up by CUAB's Fun Committee Chairwoman Amanda Kao, the championship is the culmination of a three-part event, which also featured a screening of "Air Guitar Nation" and a lecture by air guitarist Dan Crane, aka Bjorn Turoque.

Kao accepted entries until yesterday without requiring an audition.

"I don't want to reject people because everyone has an air guitar," she said.

Hosted by Bjorn Turoque, 10 contestants will perform in front of a panel of judges, which includes Student Body President Eve Carson,

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**Airport looking for new home**

**Southern site is one possibility**

BY MAX ROSE  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

As UNC pushes to close Horace Williams Airport, plans for its replacement are under way.

WCHL owner Jim Heavner said he is involved with a small group working to replace the airport with a new area landing strip. He said the planning is in early stages, and possible sites have not been identified.

"At this stage ... all of us have a lot more questions than answers," Heavner said. "Those of us who are involved are committed to helping the University in all the ways that we can."

UNC plans to build Carolina North, a mixed-use research campus, where the airport is located.

Horace Williams Airport is expected to stay open until construction of the Innovation Center is complete, Carolina North Executive Director Jack Evans said at a public hearing Wednesday. Eventually the University wants to find a site in southern Orange County for a new airport, Evans said.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Ward said that Wednesday was the first he had heard of a possible location.

"I would like the community to have a voice of determining the pros and cons of a southern Orange County location for general aviation," Ward said.

Horace Williams currently is used for transportation by Area Health Education Centers of North Carolina, which offers educational programs to help meet the health needs of the state.

Many have argued against the closing because of concerns about the impact on AHEC. Two members of N.C. Friends of Horace Williams spoke Wednesday at the hearing.

Evans said AHEC will move to a hangar at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, but Heavner said that option is "extremely temporary and very inadequate."

The need for a new, permanent home for AHEC has given the search a "sense of urgency," Heavner said.

Chancellor James Moeser pledged in his September State of the University address that UNC will work to find a site for a new airport.

"I think the University's been pretty clear about strong support for AHEC but needing the location of the Horace Williams Airport for Carolina North," Evans said.

Heavner said a new airport also would help UNC compete with other research universities to attract corporate interest.

"The University's corporate relationships are going to be significantly more important with the development of Carolina North," Heavner said.

Aaron Nelson, president and CEO of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, said that an airstrip could help attract corporations and that he has heard general support for a new site.

"We believe that a general aviation airport is an important economic development asset."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).



DTH/JULIE SPERLING

Bjorn Turoque demonstrates his skills as an air guitarist during a CUAB-sponsored lecture in the Union Auditorium Thursday night.