

CLINTON

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groups of the population. About 275 people made it inside, while the rest sat on the lawn outside the center and listened to the speech over loudspeakers.

Kim Drum and her daughter Brittany Bentley drove three hours from Hickory and received a speeding ticket to see Bill Clinton speak but didn't arrive early enough to get a seat inside.

Bentley said that after paying \$90 to fill up her Ford Explorer, she especially appreciated the emphasis on alternative energy.

Bill Clinton's involvement in his wife's campaign has introduced an unprecedented dynamic in the presidential race.

Cary resident Suzanne Graham said the former president would be an invaluable but not crucial advantage for Hillary.

"That's a wonderful asset, but I think she can stand on her own two feet," Graham said.

"She has a lengthy experience in domestic and worldwide issues." Charlotte audience member Diana Price said Bill Clinton's involvement could also have advantages for voters.

"With Hillary we get two for

one," she said.

But not all approved of his prominent participation in his wife's campaign.

"As an ex-president, he should not be in the campaign," said Cary resident Saadat Siddiqui, arguing that it tilted the field in Hillary's favor.

Bill Clinton used his time to talk at length about his wife's experience and spent little on her Democratic opponent, never referring to Barack Obama by name at either event.

Cary resident Gloria Neal said she was surprised Obama's name never came up.

"I thought that he should have named the other candidate," Neal said. "The omission was kind of glaring."

Even if not mentioned, Obama is still on the minds of North Carolinians. He spoke in Fayetteville on the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War on Wednesday.

His speech emphasized his anti-war stance, a position he charges that Hillary Clinton has taken only since the start of her presidential campaign.

Senior writers Sara Gregory and Max Rose contributed reporting. Contact the State & National Editor at statedesk@unc.edu.

Fund to help research melanoma

Development of drugs among goals

BY DANIEL PATE
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to a collaboration of researchers at UNC, the University Cancer Research Fund has directed a portion of its finances to the most fatal form of skin cancer.

An innovation award of \$190,000 from the fund, which was passed into law last summer, will allow doctors to research melanoma, which could lead to better treatments.

"What's exciting about our approach is that we may be able to uncover relationships between the physical qualities of melanoma cells, tumor genotype and patient outcomes," Charles Schmitt, manager of biological science programs at Renaissance Computing Institute and a co-investigator on the project, stated in a press release.

Although melanoma causes the most deaths of any skin cancer, it is completely curable if detected and treated early enough.

The cancer causes melanocytes, cells that give skin its color, to grow abnormally.

Often melanoma results in the formation of new moles and

can spread to other organs of the body.

It is estimated that the cancer will be diagnosed in more than 60,000 people in the United States, and more than 8,000 will die of it by the end of 2008.

But UNC officials hope the money will lead to an advancement in research that will decrease the number of melanoma cases.

"We want to use image analysis to improve melanoma classification, which we would expect to improve diagnosis and guide treatment recommendations," Nancy Thomas, associate professor of dermatology and the leader of the project, stated in a press release.

The fund has given \$25 million to UNC this year, and the donation for 2009 is expected to grow to \$50 million.

The primary mission of the fund is to reduce the number of victims by acquiring a better understanding of cancer and using the knowledge to create better treatments for patients across the state.

Bob Blouin, dean of the School of Pharmacy, told the Cancer Lines newsletter that the first

step to helping treat cancer patients is learning more about the disease. He added that the cancer fund has helped North Carolina attract world-renowned scientists.

Priorities for this year's funds have included developing drugs meant to attack cancer's vulnerabilities, monitoring patients' reactions to therapy and increasing innovative researching ideas.

Leaders of the fund also hold listening sessions across the state to allow residents to voice their opinions and ideas about how the fund can help their area, as the dis-

ussion of how best to use the fund continues.

Sessions were held earlier this year in Greenville, Asheville, Wilmington and Raleigh.

The major issues that have been discussed at these sessions include how to make medical services more available to rural areas and educate community members.

Future session locations include Greensboro on April 21 and Charlotte on May 20.

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DATHERIC VELARDE

Virginia Bluebells, also known as *mertensia virginica*, flowers early in the spring. The native plant is known for being drought-tolerant.

GARDEN TOUR

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ground.

Others have taproot systems similar to those of a carrot. The system allows the roots of the plant to grow vertically downward. This increases the sturdiness of the plant and aids its absorption of water.

Audrey Alexander, a patron of the nursery for more than 15 years, said she didn't realize the importance of the taproot. Alexander has attended several tours and said she continually learns something new.

On the tour, Lawson gave attendees tips on how to care for drought-resistant plants.

The majority of the land in Chapel Hill is piedmont soil, which consists mostly of clay. Clay soil

absorbs and drains water poorly and must be amended. Amending the soil requires tilling, adding organic material and then mulching, Lawson said.

Once the soil is sufficient for growth, you should implement basic watering techniques.

Use rain barrels to catch water and then water your garden. Water your plants in the cool of the day.

Consider buying soaker hoses, which can be laid at the roots of the plants and avoid spraying excess water.

Though these practices seem time-consuming, in the long run they will need less care which translates to less water, Lawson said.

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COMPANIES

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the dinner Yang realized the event was sponsored by a drug company.

Although the dinner was supposed to be educational, the drug company's names appeared on all of the plates, napkins and cups.

Yang said the dinner opened her eyes to the relationship some doctors have with drug companies. She has since taken the PharmFree pledge.

The increased publicity of PharmFree also will help people to think differently about pharmaceutical companies, said Alan Cross, the faculty adviser of PharmFree and chairman of social medicine at the School of Medicine.

"This is an important issue we really need to push forward on, but it will take time," he said.

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FEE

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for the end of this semester.

Wilson said the committee spent about 40 percent of the \$190,000 collected for the 2005-06 school year.

The leftover funds were used to pay for biodiesel fuel in the P2P buses for one year.

For the 2006-07 school year, the committee helped fund the construction of the N.C. Botanical Garden Visitor Education Center. Wilson said the building will incorporate many sustainable features. These efforts have earned the building the highest rating by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"We used to have to search for projects and knock on doors, and it took a lot of effort to get things going, and now we have

people come to us," Wilson said. "It's almost to the point where we'll have to start turning projects down because we can't fund everything."

Wilson said that this year the committee allocated \$150,000 to install solar thermal panels on the roof of Fetzer Gym.

She added that there also have been discussions about sustainability efforts in the new Genomic Sciences Building and the proposed Bell Tower parking deck.

"We take the vote on how funds are allocated and work closely with our advisers," said Elinor Benami, committee co-chairwoman.

"While we do make the final decision, a lot of reviewing and questioning goes on beforehand."

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WOMEN

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marshals will host an event.

"The idea to have an event came from the fact that a majority of our class is female, and we wanted to have a program specifically for the class of 2008," Senior Marshal Danielle Lee said.

The event, called "The 'F' Word," will focus on feminism for the modern woman. Marshals will show a film, "I Was a Teenage Feminist."

Although the week is about activism, some events touch on the emotional side of empowerment.

Project Dinah will participate in the nationwide Clothesline Project

for victims of sexual assault.

Participants can paint T-shirts in the Pit on Monday as a way to express feelings and emotions concerning sexual assault. Organizers will display the shirts all week.

Julie Chase, assistant director of Carolina Leadership Development and a member of the planning committee, said the week not only reaches all women but aims to connect them through activism.

"The nicest thing about the week is that it is a very diverse representation of women in our community," she said.

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