

Durham Tech plans for Orange County campus

BY ELIZABETH JENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Durham Technical Community College will open its new Orange County campus in time for the summer session.

The first phase of construction is complete, resulting in a 40,000-square-foot building on the 20-acre campus between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough.

It's equipped with 22 classrooms, computer and science labs and flexible space for technical classes.

The satellite campus, located off Interstate 40 and N.C. 86, will give many students more centralized access when the first classes start May 2. Orange County residents make up 25 percent of Durham Tech students.

"We expect that number to rise with the opening of the new campus," said Pamela Senegal, dean of corporate education.

Orange County programs have been at public schools, churches and recreational centers.

"We'll just have more space that is actually on our campus," said Dina Logan, Durham Tech's director of Orange County centers.

The building will open for continuing education classes and basic skills classes during the summer. Full classes will be available in the fall.

"Well, right now we are looking at offering variety and looking to the community for their feedback," Logan said.

Programs that will be offered at the satellite campus include occupational health, computer technology, foreign language, English as a second language and university transfer programs.

"Community colleges are designed to work with the economic development in the community," career services coordinator Tom Russo said.

Companies sometimes come to the community college looking for students trained for specific jobs.

"We constantly train students to meet industry needs," he said.

The new campus will be a part of the mixed-use Waterstone Development, complete with businesses and housing options.

"It is really designed nicely to incorporate with the Waterstone community," Hillsborough Mayor Tom Stevens said.

The new campus has several environmentally friendly features, including the enhancement of natural lights, solar-assisted domestic water heating, rainwater collection and waterless urinals.

"It's a green building, and we are really excited about that," Russo said.

Contact the City Editor
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National and World News

FROM THE
CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Obama ahead of Clinton in donors

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Barack Obama raked in \$40 million in March, leaving Hillary Clinton and her \$20 million in the fundraising dust and stuffing his campaign treasury so he can outspend her in the crucial upcoming Pennsylvania primary.

Obama's haul in new donations also buttressed his argument to Democratic superdelegates that he has built a vast network of donors and volunteers that they wouldn't want to lose by denying him the nomination.

Clinton advocates for gay civil rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Democratic Sen. Hillary Clinton said she would defend gay rights as president and eliminate disparities for same-sex couples in federal law, including immigration and tax policy.

Clinton said states such as New Jersey and Massachusetts are extending rights to gay couples "and the federal government should recognize that and should extend the same access to federal benefits across the board. I will very much work to achieve that."

President loses hold in Zimbabwe elections; intimidation is looming

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Intruders ransacked offices of the main opposition party and police detained foreign journalists Thursday in an ominous sign that President Robert Mugabe might turn to violence in trying to maintain his 28-year rule.

Mugabe apparently launched his campaign for a run-off presidential ballot even before the official results of Saturday's election were announced, with state media portraying the opposition as divided and controlled by Britain.

Five days after the vote, election results weren't released despite

increasing international pressure, including from former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, who recently mediated Kenya's postelection violence.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change said its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, won the presidency outright, but said it was prepared to compete in any run-off.

Police raids came a day after results showed Mugabe had lost control of parliament's lower house. Results took time on the 60 elected seats in the Senate, the first returns released late Thursday giving five seats each to the opposition and ruling party.

States consider releasing inmates

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Lawmakers from California to Kentucky are trying to save money with a drastic and potentially dangerous budget-cutting proposal: releasing tens of thousands of convicts from prison, including drug addicts, thieves and even violent criminals.

Officials acknowledge that the idea carries risks, but they say they have no choice because of huge budget gaps brought on by the slumping economy.

If adopted, the early release programs could save an estimated \$450 million in California and Kentucky alone.

NATO supports U.S. missile plan

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — NATO allies gave President Bush strong support Thursday for a missile defense system in Europe, urging Moscow to drop its opposition. The unanimous decision strengthened Bush's hand for weekend talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia views the system as designed to weaken its military might and upsetting the balance of power in Europe. Bush argues that the shield is not for Russia but for Mideast countries like Iran.

Bush and Putin will meet this weekend in their last talks before Putin steps down in May.

Teen recognized for research

BY TRICIA THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Some people make excitement contagious, and when talking about his upcoming weekend, Joe Weiner is one of them.

The East Chapel Hill High School senior uses hurried words and long, animated sentences to explain his plan to change the world, or at least the part of it affected by Epidermolysis Bullosa, a rare disease that results in extremely sensitive skin and blisters.

This weekend he will present his research on bandages used to treat EB patients at the Young Epidemiology Scholars Competition in Washington, D.C.

He has been aware of the rare disease since the age of 4, when his mother and contest mentor Madeline Weiner began working with EB patients as a research nurse in 1995.

Joe wanted to help after hearing his mother talk on the phone with patients who couldn't afford the proper bandages for the disease.

"I saw my mom struggling to help these people and the people strug-

gling to live," he said.

"I've always wanted to help, but it wasn't until the project that I had a genuine opportunity to open up my research."

Contestants had to focus on a question or problem involving epidemiology, gather data and show its significance regarding the question.

For his project entry, Joe compared silicon and regular bandages and determined that silicon bandages cause fewer infections.

Lower-income people are unable to afford the silicon bandages and, according to his research, have a higher rate of infection.

"Right now the bandages are just being donated instead of reimbursed," he said. "I would really like to see the step taken for insurance companies to reimburse patients."

While many of his classmates worked on science projects focusing on video games, stress and the HPV virus, Joe wanted to work on something that would have an immediate impact.

"He didn't understand why some patients could get the bandages and some couldn't," his mother

said. "He wanted to find out if there was actually something tangible that patients could take to their insurance companies to provide reimbursement."

When his biology teacher, Judy Jones, presented the opportunity to enter the contest, Joe jumped on the opportunity to make a difference.

"I find him very curious and very interested," Jones said. "He will ask the question that you don't expect or make a connection with something that you don't expect. He has a way of looking at knowledge that is unique."

As a regional winner, Joe is competing this weekend for a final prize of \$50,000 awarded to the top two contestants.

"The scholarship takes a back seat to my main goal of helping these people," Joe said. "It is something that I'm passionate about working on way after the competition."

"There will be many, many years of research to come."

Contact the City Editor
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Alumnus campaigns for education

Leads business outreach efforts

BY BECCA DENISON
STAFF WRITER

UNC alumnus Doug Heye has been intimately involved in politics for 18 years, but this election season he is campaigning for an issue rather than a candidate for the first time.

Heye is in charge of business outreach for the ED '08 campaign, a \$60 million endeavor that strives to stimulate national discussion about education reform.

"It's outreach to business leaders to get them to sign on to our project," he said. "So that we can have a larger megaphone, if you will, to stress the importance of education."

The ED in '08 campaign aims to get presidential candidates to address its three priorities for improving education: consensus on educational standards, effective teachers in every classroom and more time and support for students to learn.

Because the ED in '08 campaign focuses on the issues, it does not stress specific legislation or candidates, Heye said.

Most of his experience has been in congressional campaigns and communication. He has worked on a variety of issues, such as the economy and national security, which he said are all intertwined with education.

"That's why this issue is so critical," he said.

Heye said that he enjoyed and learned from all of the campaigns he worked on but that he chose to get involved with ED in '08 because the issue of education is extremely important in this year's election.

Heye, a North Carolina-native who graduated from UNC in 1994, got his start in politics on Jesse Helms' 1990 senatorial campaign. He said he has always been drawn to public policy issues and political debates.

"I remember when I was little asking people if they were Reagan conservatives or Mondale liberals," he said.

Heye lived in Washington, D.C., and managed an unsuccessful California congressional campaign, worked for Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., and served as communications director for the House of Representatives' Committee on Resources before returning to North

Carolina.

He came home to work on Sen. Richard Burr's first senatorial campaign in 2004, doing communications work in 25 counties stretching from Mecklenburg County to Orange County.

"I got to see North Carolina close up in a way that I really hadn't," he said.

Despite being at UNC when the men's basketball team won the 1993 NCAA Tournament, Heye said his best memory was a political event.

When the late conservative political pundit and author William F. Buckley Jr. came to speak at UNC, Heye wrote him a letter before his arrival, expressing a desire to meet.

"I got invited on the spot to a dinner at Spanky's," Heye said. "I talked to him more than any of his hosts were able to."

Even after many years in politics, Heye still believes in the value of political activism.

"What we've learned is that if we don't expect a lot from our students, we don't get a lot," Heye said. "So we need to raise the standards."

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