

New chancellor takes reins July 1

Incoming Thorp an alum, N.C. native

BY BRIAN AUSTIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The chancellor of a university is sort of like the captain of a ship.

He charts where it's going, he hires folks to tend the day-to-day operations and when something serious happens, he's the first one to talk.

At the end of June, the current chancellor, James Moeser, will leave this post. The person hired to take over is a Fayetteville native and UNC alumnus named Holden Thorp.

And his hometown spirit is expected to prove an asset for Thorp when he begins his term July 1.

"He has an appreciation for the state and for the University's role within the state," UNC-system President Erskine Bowles said.

Before moving out on June 30, Moeser will have spent the last eight years as chancellor. He accomplished

many goals, including working to create opportunities for the underprivileged with the Carolina Covenant and overseeing the Carolina First campaign, which generated \$2.6 billion for the University.

So Thorp has a big office to fill. Thorp has been part of the administration as the dean of UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. Before that, he spent more than 10 years teaching chemistry at UNC and was here for his undergraduate days, too.

And proponents say his deanship has lent him vast knowledge as to the way the University works.

"The College is the heart and soul of this University," said William Andrews, the senior associate dean for fine arts and humanities. "So it's quite appropriate for the chancellor to come from the College."

Thorp was raised in Fayetteville and earned his Bachelor of Science

degree in chemistry from UNC in 1986. He then went on to receive a doctorate from the California Institute of Technology.

After joining N.C. State University's faculty as an assistant professor, he moved to Chapel Hill to join the faculty at UNC, and rose to the rank of full professor in 1999.

Thorp then served as the director of UNC's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, redirecting the program to educate the public in all sciences without neglecting the center's original astronomy focus.

His coworkers said Thorp's work at the planetarium showed his leadership capabilities immediately.

"He made it a place that was relevant and vital again," said Denise Young, planetarium director of education programs. "That hadn't been the case for a very long time."

In 2007, after spending two years as the chair of the chemistry department, Thorp was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, UNC's

largest academic division.

After a year-long national search, Thorp was elected to the chancellor's post by the UNC-system Board of Governors on May 9.

Some of the things on his agenda include planning for Carolina North, the 110-acre campus that is scheduled to begin development in 2009, and for the projected enrollment growth of 80,000 students into the UNC system in the next 10 years.

And he said he plans to do his research on those topics — and then jump in.

"I like to spend a lot of time digging into and getting information about what the issues are," Thorp told the DTH in May. "I think people will really appreciate that I'll be asking a lot of questions."

Suffice it to say he's got a difficult charge to navigate. And you'll all get to see him set sail.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



DTH/RACHEL RODEMANN

Holden Thorp, UNC's chancellor-elect, claps excitedly at the Board of Trustees meeting in May when he was named chancellor of the University.

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- 19 Vanguard Jazz Orchestra: The Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Legacy

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- 3 Buckwheat Zydeco with Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas
- 5 Anne Sophie Mutter and Camerata Salzburg
- 9/10 To Be Straight With You: DVB Physical Theatre
- 21 Vivien and The Shadows: Ong Keng Sen/Theatreworks
- 23 Hesperion XXI with Jordi Savall, conductor and viola da gamba
- 25 The Rite of Spring: Compagnie Heddy Maalem
- 29/30 The Shadow of the Glen and The Playboy of the Western World: Druid Theatre Company

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- 5 Shaker: Inbal Pinto Dance Company
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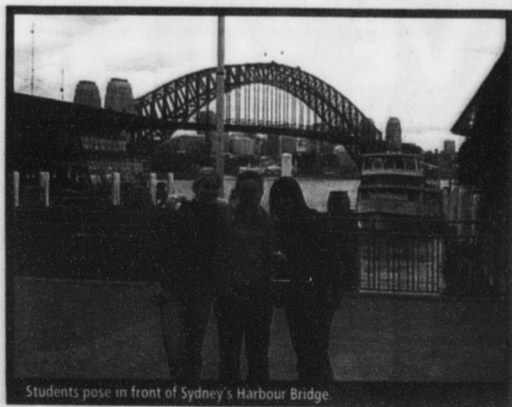
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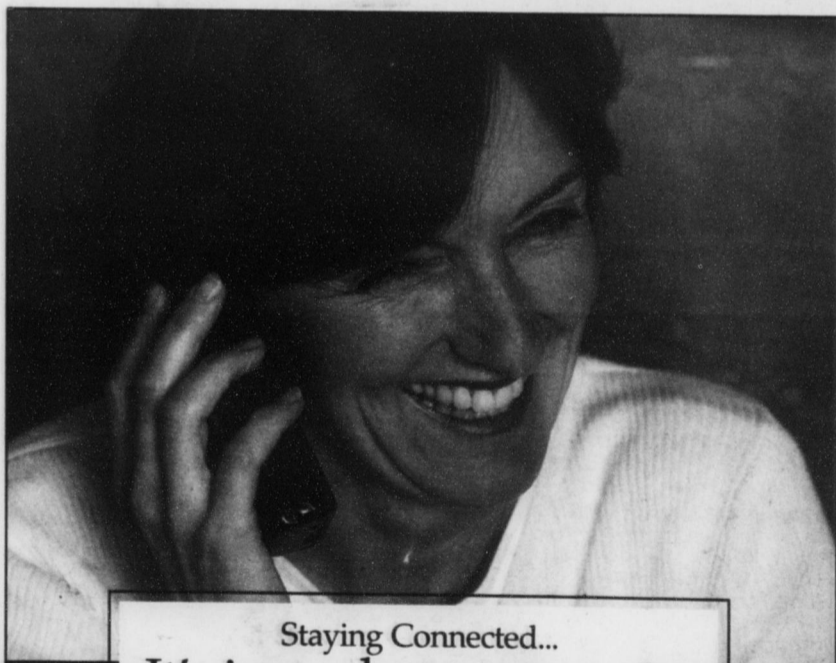
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