

# Tenure still an issue for some

Career, family are often tough mix

BY MARY K. AYERS  
STAFF WRITER

While UNC has increased its number of female professors in recent years, they still face disproportionate challenges in upward mobility.

Donna Bickford, director of the Carolina Women's Center, said that women are often lost in the promotion process as they try to balance their career and family life, especially in the sciences.

Of UNC's 907 tenured professors, 221 are female, or about 24 percent, compared with 187 out of 928, or about 20 percent, in 2001.

Prime reproductive years overlap with what seem to be their prime research years, or at least their research years where they need to be making a case for tenure, Bickford said of female faculty attempting to rise through the ranks of tenure.

Bickford said that some people think that commitment to one's career means not taking time off to raise a family.

This view specifically impacts women, Bickford said, adding that women tend to take parental leave more often than men, and are consequently less likely to have the time necessary to work and earn tenure.

Penny Gordon-Larsen, a nutrition professor who received tenure this year, said she thinks mentorship focused on balancing career and family is important for anyone trying to secure tenure. She said that many graduate students worry about this while searching for jobs.

She has two children, who are 6 and 8 years old.

Gordon-Larsen said that she had many women above her who sup-



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Professor and department chair Laurie McNeil explains simple harmonic motion to one of her physics classes while the students listen. McNeil was the first female professor in the physics department to receive tenure.

ported her as she climbed the academic ladder, and they helped her juggle her career and her outside life. She said the issue was about more than just having children.

"It's about having a life outside of your job as well," she said.

Laurie McNeil did not have the same support. In 1990, McNeil, chair of the physics department, became the first female to receive tenure in her department.

While McNeil has no children, she said there are sometimes other barriers to success as a female professor. She said that while her male colleagues were supportive of her achievement in principle, they

were not always sure how to act around her.

McNeil said they knew how to treat their other colleagues, and they knew how to treat women, but were unsure how to treat her as both. "But they did their best," McNeil said.

McNeil said that there were still few women in her department and only one other woman — Louise Dolan — with tenure.

"Science tends to be a pretty white, male place," she said. "(Women) are by nature somewhat isolated."

McNeil is working with Bickford and other colleagues to secure an ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation. Bickford said

the grant would be worth close to \$400,000 for UNC.

The grant would go toward mentoring programs, equity and research leaves, lab space and graduate assistance.

Bickford said she is pleased with the University's efforts to support female faculty, but that there is always room for improvement.

"There's more than just lip service," Bickford said. "I think the University is absolutely committed to it as part of a way to support faculty in general."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Drilling off of N.C. coastline up for debate

Issue has fallen on party lines

BY SEAN DAVID CHILDERS  
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina could open its coastline to offshore oil and gas drilling if the legislation co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., passes through Congress.

This sponsorship marks a shift for Dole, who previously supported a federal moratorium on offshore oil exploration.

"I believe the state of North Carolina should have the option to open offshore areas to energy exploration as long as it is safe, clean and not visible from the land," Dole stated in a press release.

Dole stipulated that the drilling must be done at least 50 miles away from land so it is not visible from the shore.

This shift also follows support by other prominent Republicans, such as presidential candidate John McCain and President George Bush, who both recently voiced support for offshore exploration and drilling.

But the change has earned her accusations of flip-flopping lodged by her Democratic rival, N.C. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-Guilford.

Hagan, who opposes offshore drilling, said that Dole's shift is an election-year ploy and a political favor to oil and gas companies.

"We cannot drill ourselves enough oil to solve this problem," she said at a June debate hosted by UNC-TV.

Colleen Flanagan, a Hagan spokeswoman, said that the first

priority in dealing with high gas prices should be to "repeal the \$17 billion given to oil and gas companies by people like Elizabeth Dole."

She added that the Hagan campaign does not believe offshore drilling would actually lower gas prices, that drilling would hurt state tourism and that Dole has a history of voting against renewable energy in the Senate.

But Dole counters that her new legislation accelerates the production of batteries for hybrid vehicles.

Interest groups in the state now are lining up with positions on drilling exploration.

Molly Diggins, director of the N.C. Sierra Club, said she believes people won't support offshore drilling in the state.

Oil and gas exploration are usually done together to increase profits. Diggins said she doesn't think North Carolinians will risk the resulting chance of spillage on their coasts.

"At the end of the day, I think North Carolinians will stand by their historic opposition to offshore drilling," she said.

On the opposite side, Francis DeLuca, executive director of the conservative John W. Pope Civitas Institute, said the state's residents now "realize the need for increased exploration and drilling."

In May, a Civitas Institute-conducted poll found that 68 percent of registered N.C. voters would support oil and gas exploration off the coast of North Carolina, while 20 percent opposed exploration.

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

# Student Web site aimed at the GOP

BY DEVIN ROONEY  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Abby Alger, a rising senior at Duke University, who recently launched a blog site for young Republicans, has spent a lot of time apologizing for her conservative views.

She was tired of feeling embarrassed about her political positions, and she suspected that her peers were misinformed about politics.

Alger said she thinks most people between 16 and 25 years old started forming their political opinions during George Bush's presidential administration.

"I think most people would agree that the past eight years don't present the best picture of the Republican Party," she said.

That's why she started the site, [www.realworldrepublicans.com](http://www.realworldrepublicans.com).

"If it gets a reaction that's great, if it doesn't, my mom's reading it. She'll tell me I'm awesome," she said.

Alger said she wants the site to be a place for young Republicans to exchange ideas and change people's ideas about what the GOP can be.

"It's sort of twofold; one is reaching out to people I'd describe as teens and twenty somethings ... and sort of presenting politics as interesting and engaging and attracting people on the issues," she said.

Alger developed her vision for the blog after a discussion with her summer boss, David All, who designed the site and runs a political consulting firm in Washington, D.C.

All also hosts the site, but there

are no plans to make the site a profit-earning venture.

"That's not really what this is about. It's not about getting money from anywhere else, it's really about being frustrated and wanting to do something about it," she said.

Alger said she has found many people her age who have been made uncomfortable by the vocal Republicans who have crafted the public image of the party.

"I think there's plenty of room for disagreement, and I think that one of the things Republicans have to think about is making the tent bigger to have room for disagreement," she said.

UNC journalism professor Paul Jones said the site doesn't have any major flaws but lacks substance.

"There's nothing dumb about it except that there's no real content," he said. "I don't see a lot of participation yet."

Alger said the site had 1,161 page views and 247 unique visitors between June 26 and July 1.

Jones said that N.C. political sites like Alger's have helped build a lively political community in the state.

He said [orangeopolitics.org](http://orangeopolitics.org) is a popular Web site for local politicians.

"I think you could find more quotes and more direct interactivity with the mayor of Carrboro than with any print or electronic media," he said.

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

# N.C. senator criticized for fundraising efforts

Benefit held at home of convicted felon

BY HARRISON JOBE  
STAFF WRITER

N.C. Sen. Julia Boseman, D-New Hanover, has undergone several weeks of intense personal scrutiny in the wake of a child custody battle and allegations of unethical conduct.

Most recently, a mortgage she shared with her former partner was foreclosed, and she faced criticism by state Republican leaders for hosting a fundraiser in the Wilmington home of a convicted felon.

Boseman currently is seeking reelection to the state Senate for a third two-year term. Wilmington attorney Michael Lee is the Republican nominee for her seat.

In a press release issued last week, N.C. GOP Chairman Linda Daves called for Boseman to cancel Tuesday night's fundraiser.

"With Sen. Boseman's well-publicized legal troubles, failure to pay her taxes and other instances of poor judgment dominating the news the past two weeks, one would think Sen. Boseman would think twice before using the home of a convicted felon to collect money for her campaign," she stated in the press release.

The fundraiser was co-hosted by N.C. Sen. President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare.

Tom Keating, Boseman's campaign manager, criticized Daves' remarks, arguing that voters in Wilmington aren't interested in personal attacks.

"I don't think the constituents of New Hanover County are going to appreciate the state party participating in character assassination like that," he said.

Brent Woodcox, a spokesman for the N.C. Republican Party, also said that it was inappropriate for Sen. Boseman to hold the fundraiser.

"To start your campaign with a fundraiser with a convicted felon — at the home of a convicted felon — it just sends the wrong message about where our priorities lie," Woodcox said.

Keating emphasized that the felon whose home was used for the fundraiser was not present.

"The fact of the matter is that it was a fundraiser at the person's partner's house," Keating said. "The person involved has never contributed to our campaign."

The GOP has not called for



N.C. Senator Julia Boseman faces criticism for holding a fundraiser at the home of a convicted felon.

"She didn't let any of this personal stuff get in the way of doing her job."

TOM KEATING, CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR JULIA BOSEMAN

Boseman's resignation.

"It's the decision of the people of Wilmington, whether they want to retain Julia Boseman as their Senator," Woodcox said. "Whether that happens by her resignation or by her defeat in November."

Woodcox also criticized Boseman's legislative record.

"I think it's interesting that we have a Senator down in Wilmington who wants to go to Raleigh and vote for every single tax increase that ever comes across her desk," Woodcox said, "yet when the state

of North Carolina asks her to pay her own taxes, she refuses."

Keating noted that in 2005, Boseman was ranked as the second-most effective first-term N.C. senator ever by the North Carolina Center for Public Research Policy.

"She didn't let any of this personal stuff get in the way of doing her job."

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