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Thorp sets the year's priorities

Security, schools, recruitment top list

BY BRENDAN BROWN AND LINDSEY NAYLOR
PROJECTS CO-EDITORS

Chancellor Holden Thorp's three priorities for this year, which he will announce during his installation address on Oct. 12, reflect how outside forces can push certain University issues to the fore.

Campus safety is at the top of Thorp's list. Close behind is support for the schools of law and education, followed by increased efforts to recruit the best N.C. high school graduates.

The first is a response to recent off-campus crime; the second to the loud concerns of alumni and state officials; and the third to tougher competition from leading private universities.

Thorp will need to deal with a host of long-range problems in the next several years, from massive enrollment growth to lagging faculty salaries. But he said he chose this year's priorities because he felt they demand his immediate attention.

"Those three things are what's most intense right now, not what's the big picture," Thorp said in an interview.

Giving campus safety the prime spot signals an attempt to soothe the widespread anxiety after the killing of former Student Body President Eve Carson, which Thorp said was one of the main factors in his decision to make safety a priority.

The School of Law made the list largely because of alumni grumbling about the school's recent slide in the U.S. News & World Report rankings. Meanwhile, the School of Education is facing pressure from the UNC system and the state legislature to do more to address North Carolina's K-12 teacher shortage.

Both schools are under new or relatively new leadership, and Thorp said his role will be to support those deans as they plan for the future.

"These are the two deans that I think most need my help," Thorp

said. Recruiting high-achieving N.C. students got the third spot on the list because the University's well-endowed private competitors are wooing those students with more generous aid packages.

Of all the priorities, the last is most in tune with Thorp's long-term vision: "Having the students we want here is No. 1," he said.

To do that, the University will need to attract and retain high-quality faculty, boost research and development and shoulder the burden of a rapidly growing student body — the three challenges identified by the Chancellor Search committee as the issues that would demand the bulk of the new chancellor's attention.

A Daily Tar Heel series this week will examine each of them.

But for Thorp, who hopes to remain chancellor for many years, those larger challenges are simply steps along the road to academic excellence.

"Those three things are part of how you get there," he said. "But I'm thinking of what the destination is."

Campus Safety

Thorp said campus safety is his No. 1 priority this year because of several recent crimes, both on and off campus, in which students were the target.

Thorp will focus on students' safety off campus.

"Our campus is about as safe as we can make it," Thorp said. "The real challenge is how to secure our students in the town of Chapel Hill."

The state legislature responded to the UNC system's own emphasis on campus safety by allocating millions of dollars for security, and Thorp said he has no plans to pursue additional resources for UNC-CH.

Instead, administrators are working with the University's Department of Public Safety, town officials and student representatives to come up with creative ways to promote safety — though few specific plans are in the works.

Thorp said he might ask town leaders to install more street lights, for example, and DPS Police Chief Jeff McCracken said his department

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Chancellor Holden Thorp's priorities for the year

1. Enhance campus security
"People can't innovate if they don't feel safe, so that's No. 1."

2. Support the schools of education and law
"For very different reasons, we have two schools that whose (sic) academic status is causing concern among alumni and supporters that are close to the university."

3. Increase efforts to recruit best N.C. high school graduates

"Research ... shows that we are in a precarious position with regard to our yield of high-performing N.C. undergraduates."

Quotations from Aug. 7 email to UNC-system President Erskine Bowles from Thorp.

DTH ONLINE: Read Chancellor Thorp's complete e-mail to UNC-system President Bowles.



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SOCCER PUMPED AT WIN

First-year Chris Lebo's quick score, one minute after he stepped on the field, energized UNC to ultimately overtake N.C. State in the first overtime.

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WALKING CAMPAIGN

Former Sen. Bob Dole campaigned Friday in Hillsborough for his wife, Sen. Elizabeth Dole, who faces stiff competition from N.C. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-Guilford.



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SPICY FLAVORS

All kinds of chili could be tasted at the Hillsborough/Orange County Visitors Bureau's first-ever Chili and Salsa Cook-off.

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SPIRIT OF POETRY

Billy Collins, who was U.S. poet laureate from 2001 to 2003, will read from his latest book of poetry tonight at Memorial Hall.

online | dailytarheel.com

CHANCELLOR'S PICKS

Thorp narrows down his top three priorities in an e-mail.

CANINES COMPETE

View photos of the pooches in the annual Dog Olympics.

DTH IN ANN ARBOR

Updates from the Inter-City trip at dthannarbor.wordpress.com

this day in history

SEPT. 15, 1991

Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity tied up naked members and set them in the road at the corner of South Columbia Street and Cameron Avenue.

Monday weather

T-Storms
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Tuesday weather

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DOGS HARD AT WORK



DTH/LAUREN COWART

Nine-year-old Jordan Osborne of Apex tries to look more like his poodle, Domino, at the start of the look-alike competition at the 17th Annual Dog Olympics held at N.C. State's University Club in Raleigh on Saturday. Osborne and Domino placed third in the contest.

NCSU's Dog Olympics supports local shelters

BY KATY DOLL
SENIOR WRITER

Both sporting sunglasses and sandy blond hair, Jordan Osborne, 9, of Apex and his poodle Domino look like they could be as close as brothers.

The pair won third place in a pet-owner look-alike contest Saturday at N.C. State University's 17th Annual Dog Olympics.

At the event, Boxers to Bichon Frises took to the field to strut their stuff and flaunt their fetching abilities.

The event, sponsored by N.C. State's College of Veterinary Medicine, was held to raise money for local rescue shelters.

The entry fee for the event was \$1 per per-

DTH ONLINE: View more pictures of some of the furry athletes competing Saturday.

son and \$6 per man's best friend. The event raised about \$10,000 last year.

The NCSU student chapter of the American Animal Hospital Association hosts the Olympics, which usually draws between 1,000 and 1,500 visitors.

Osborne and his mom, Julie, were inspired to attend the event because they wanted to help other animals like Domino.

"He was a rescue dog and had a really rough start," said Julie, who adopted Domino for her son about a year ago.

Domino was one of several dogs that were available for foster homes, but Domino was the bravest. He was the only one who would walk up to Jordan, she said.

But Julie said Domino has come a long way, adding that this was a great week for

him because he just passed advanced manners class.

"I work at the vet school, but it's fun to play where you work," Julie said.

Several rescue organizations were present at the event, such as the Pawfect Match Rescue.

"It's all about the dogs. We're into putting them into homes," co-founder Dave Walters said, adding that they ensure the dogs will be a good fit in a household, focusing on connecting dogs and people rather than simple numbers of adoptions.

The Raleigh American Kennel Club also donated 100 microchips, providing one for each household.

Microchips are implanted into the dogs, and if the dog is ever lost, the chip will provide information that can lead to the reunion

SEE DOG OLYMPICS, PAGE 7

Advising changes meant to personalize system

Steele reopens with many reforms

BY KELLEN MOORE
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

First-year and transfer students no longer have academic advisers with names like Team 55.

Instead, they get paired with real people.

The elimination of the eight advising teams is just one change academic advising is making this year in an effort to improve the process for students and staff.

Other changes include matching each new student with one adviser and improving departmental advising.

The changes follow a frank external review and years of mixed

student feedback about the department's effectiveness.

"It has been an interesting and long process, but I think a good one, to re-examine those things that we do well and to focus on those things that we don't do as well," said Carolyn Cannon, associate dean of Academic Advising programs.

A team of two external reviewers, two UNC professors and two students examined the inner workings of academic advising in April 2007 and drafted a set of 10 recommendations for how it might be improved.

With recommendations in

hand, an academic advising implementation committee formed in fall 2007 to determine which of the changes UNC would pursue and how.

The Board of Trustees University Affairs Committee received the implementation committee's final report in May.

The changes mark the first academic advising overhaul since its formation in 1999.

'Not just a PID number'

Several alterations, including eliminating teams and assigning new students to one primary adviser, have been made with the intention of getting students necessary information from a person

who is invested in them.

"Students who changed from one intended area to another found themselves moved from team to team, having not only to establish new relationships ... but sometimes finding that their files did not always follow them," the external reviewers' report stated.

So the teams were eliminated at the end of summer school and were reorganized into three divisions of similar majors: fine arts and humanities; behavioral and social sciences; and natural sciences and mathematics.

Students can still see any adviser in their division for quick questions.

The larger divisions mean that students have more advisers who

can assist them, possibly alleviating long lines, Cannon said. And a larger body of advisers can fill in more easily if one must be away from the office.

But some divisions are still necessary so that advisers don't have to know about all 71 majors at UNC, she said.

"Some people would like us to be complete generalists, but quite frankly, there are too many majors on this campus for all of us to be experts in all of them," senior adviser Elizabeth Shuster said.

Within those divisions, all students entering UNC in fall 2008 or later receive the name of one pri-

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Code changes aren't applied

Revisions passed but not in place

BY KEVIN KILEY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Student Congress made significant changes to the Student Code five months ago, but technological and transition difficulties have kept those changes from reaching the student body.

The changes, which were signed into the Code by Student Body President J.J. Raynor this spring, have not been updated on either the executive branch's or Congress' online version of the Code.

"It has been a fairly bumpy game of making the transition," said Andrew Daub, student body secretary. "Honestly, some of the bills have just fallen through the cracks."

The bill, passed April 22 by Congress, makes alterations to Title VI of the Code, which pertains to election procedure.

It changes the way special elections are proposed, shifting the responsibility from the student body president to Congress. There will likely be a special election this semester to fill vacant seats in Congress.

The bill also altered Section 402, which deals with when and how candidates can campaign privately and publicly.

Bryan Weynand, speaker pro tem of Congress, said the changes are supposed to clarify election procedures.

While Congress proposes and votes on the law, it is the executive branch's responsibility to imple-

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