ADVISING

mary adviser to work with through-

out their college careers.

The name will never change unless students switch to majors outside their divisions or have conflicts with their advisers.

Some academic advisers said they hope that students will feel more connected when directly paired with an adviser

'You'd be surprised by the kinds of things that students share with us if they feel connected," said senior adviser Andrea Caldwell, adding that it's important to make sure students are "not just a PID number."

Involve the departments

Another change still in the works is requiring greater involve-ment from academic departments in advising students.

Exactly how each department will do that is unclear.

In the next few years, students ideally will go to faculty in their department for major-related questions, such as what a certain class is like or for professor recommendations, Cannon said.

They'll return to Steele Building advising for information about graduation requirements and the like, Cannon said.

Although the reviewers recommended a complete swap from academic advising to departmental advising after sophomore year, the department opted to use

"The more that we can blur the lines and really work collaboratively with our departments only helps our students," Caldwell

UNC plans to hire six faculty members who will split their time lecturing and coordinating advising for their departments. They will be placed in the six largest departments in fall 2009, with more probably hired later, Cannon

The academic advising implementation committee will soon ask the departments to submit plans for how they'll handle advis-ing, said Stephen Weiss, committee chairman and computer science

He added that some departments, including chemistry and psychology, already have strong after all, we are human." partmental advising systems.

In the psychology department, which graduates about 400 stu-

"It will never be perfect because after all, we are human."

CAROLYN CANNON, ASSOCIATE

dents each year, about six faculty advisers are available through office hours and by appointment, professor Beth Kurtz-Costes

The department also holds regular sessions about specific topics and spreads information through its Web site, e-mail and a psychology club.

Plans for how each department will advise students are due in April, according to documents from the May 2008 Board of Trustees meeting.

'It will never be perfect'

With some changes completed and more still to come, students and advisers can begin to weigh the benefits with the costs.

Although Cannon said she wasn't sure how much the changes would cost, she said the money is there from the College of Arts and Sciences for the restructure. She added that the advising

department's budget exceeds \$2 million a year. Cannon said advisers hope that the investment will pay off in more

satisfied students and happier Hearing negative comments from students had worn on some

advisers, she said. "It had just gotten to the point where some advisers really started becoming bitter," Cannon said. "It is a real challenge to keep

highly motivated, quality advisers engaged when they sometimes believe that they're not fully appreciated." And if this year's overhaul doesn't improve academic advis-

ing, more changes can always be made, she said. "This is not a process where we're going to try to develop a restructured system in one year and think that the system is per-fect," Cannon said. "We will con-

tinue to restructure and revise.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Other advising changes

Online degree audit system A new online degree audit system should be in place by fall 2010, reducing the need for paper work sheets, which the external reviewers' report stated were "so 20th century.

New technology position A full-time staff member, Angela Coley, began working in July to update the advising Web site and make more content available

Revamp mission statement Academic Advising has developed a comprehensive mission statement that includes advisers' and students' responsibilities. The statement says that students have "final responsibility" for graduation requirements

Advising program council
An academic advising program
council has been created that can take on assignments or create its own agenda

Professional development The reviewers recommended that advisers have more opportunities for professional development, such

Academic Advising Association.
Advisers have been told that UNC
will foot the bill if they present at
conferences, said Carolyn Cannon,
associate dean of academic advising progran

Reinforce advisers' impact The external review also recommended that academic advisers work to better understand and assess how their work affects

Eliminate part-time staff The only recommendation academic advising will not take is to send part-time assistant deans and part-time faculty advisers back to their departments

"We don't have enough advisers to advise students without them," Cannon said. "They bring a different kind of knowledge to this department that we wouldn't have



Lizzie Cato, 17, from Raleigh, leads her dog, Abbie, over the bar in the high jump competition for dogs lighter than 50 pounds. The event was held to raise money for the College of Veterinary Medicine at N.C. State University.

DOG OLYMPICS

of owner and pet

Some folks at the event turned out to simply enjoy the atmosphere and socialize their dogs

"We're just enjoying the dog-roderie," said Janice Sondys of Clayton, who attended the event with her 11-year-old dog, Launch

Nash, a black lab, took home first place in the wiener toss, catching a bit of hotdog that his owner Whitney Weeks, a secondyear veterinary student and event volunteer, threw from across the

"He likes to catch anything in his mouth and we took advantage of that," Weeks said.

For some of the nonathletic dogs, there was also the howling Frise named Clyde, took top hon-

ors.
"He's been practicing," Crumb
said. "I didn't know that he would be able to use his skills for any-thing other than being annoy-

The Frisbee star of the games was Bo from Raleigh with his owner Mike Murphy. Bo took first place in both the Frisbee for style and Frisbee for distance contests.

"We've been coming for six years," Murphy said. "We look for-

Get a head start in

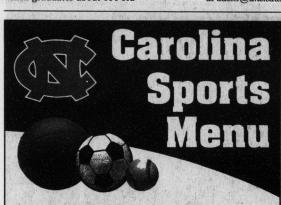
ward to coming out. Frisbee's his

Bo managed to catch two Frisbees while fully in the air, earning extra style points for having his

paws off the ground. He missed his final toss, however, and slipped under the fence to visit with other spectator

dogs.
"I think he got distracted at the end by the girls," Murphy said.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.



FRIDAY, SEPT. 19 FIELD HOCKEY vs. Old Dominion at 6:00 PM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20 **Alumni Meet***

FOOTBALL vs. Virginia Tech* *Times TBA

SUNDAY. SEPT. 21 FIELD HOCKEY vs. Radford at 1:00 PM

"Caution Dip Ahead" Try different dips at dinner in Top of Lenoir and Rams Head on Wednesday. September 17th





