

Kenan Professorship program helps retain outstanding faculty members

By HEATHER HAY
Staff Writer

In 1917, when multi-millionaire Mary Lily Kenan Flagler Bingham died and left the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill the money to establish the Kenan Professorships Fund, the University boasted 1,000 students and a total teaching staff of 66. Now, 66 years later, of the 1,917 faculty members who teach UNC's 21,757 students, 18 are Kenan professors.

Faculty members who are appointed Kenan Professors are nominated by the faculty and chosen by the University's chancellor, a practice which has been followed since the Kenan Professorship Fund was created in 1917. Kenan Professors receive a supplement to their regular salary.

Mary Lily Kenan was born on June 14, 1867 in Kenansville, N.C., a town named for her great-grandfather. In 1901, she married Henry M. Flagler, whose partnership with John D. Rockefeller became the Standard Oil Trust. When Flagler died 12 years later, he left the bulk of his fortune to his wife.

Three years later, she married newspaper publisher and mayor of Louisville, Ken., Judge Robert Worth Bingham. She died of a heart ailment eight months later. In her will, she left the University

the money to establish the Kenan Professorship Fund, in memory of her father, William R. Kenan and two of her uncles, Thomas S. Kenan and James G. Kenan. All three men were UNC alumni, and her father and her uncle Thomas Kenan had served on the Board of Trustees.

The sum which Bingham left the University was one of the largest individual gifts ever made to a public or private educational institution. The trustees named in her will were to pay the University \$75,000 a year for 21 years. At the end of the 21st year, the University was to receive a sum which at the rate of interest then current in North Carolina would produce an annual revenue of \$75,000.

After slight delays caused by protracted litigation over the Bingham estate by outside parties, the University was paid the money as stipulated by the will. In 1940, the Kenan family contributed an additional \$225,000 to the \$1,875,000 from Bingham's bequest, bringing the sum of the Kenan Professorship Fund to \$2,100,000.

"The original purpose (of the Kenan Professorships) was to keep professors from going to other schools with higher pay scales," said Steven Baxter, Kenan Professor of History. In 1917, before the bequest was made, the maximum salary for a full professor was \$2,750 per year, a

figure far below what many private universities and more-prosperous public institutions in other states could afford to pay.

Professors in any department can be nominated for the Kenan Professorship, University Provost Charles Morrow said. Of the 18 faculty members currently holding Kenan Professorships, nine teach in academic affairs and nine in health sciences, he said. One more Kenan Professor will probably be appointed this spring, Morrow said, adding that the nomination requests had already been sent out.

"A Kenan Professorship is a signal of academic distinction and outstanding peer respect," Chancellor Christopher Fordham said. Fordham appoints the Kenan Professors in addition to appointing the committee which provides recommendations based on faculty nominations for honorary professorships (including the Kenan).

"In choosing Kenan Professors, we look for distinction, scholarship and either promise of achievement or evidence of achievement in the academic discipline in which the professor is involved," Fordham said. "The Kenan Professorship serves the purpose of properly recognizing some of our outstanding faculty members. It also helps us recruit and retain outstanding faculty members."

The Kenan Professorships Fund is also used to finance "Kenan leaves." The leaves allow professors to devote full time to research while relieving them of academic duty. Those professors on Kenan leaves may take a semester at full pay or a year at half pay, Morrow said. "It's a very competitive award," he said. "Any professor may apply, and they must state in their applications what they intend to do on their leave. We usually grant about 10 a year."

SECS provides a listening ear

By CINDI ROSS
Special to the DTH

"Having relationship problems?" the ad asks. "Need a listening ear? (We have 76 of 'em.) Give us a call!! 962-5505. Sexuality Education and Counseling Service."

SECS, financed by student fees and located in Suite B of the Carolina Union, provides students with counselors to discuss problems, anxieties and frustrations about sexual and interpersonal relationships.

"This is an organization that's just run by peers," said Director Brian Richmond, a second-year graduate student in health education from Chapel Hill. "It's not a doctor or a professional psychologist. It's just friends talking to friends."

Richmond said the organization's \$4,733 budget this year breaks down to 20 or 25 cents per student. "And I feel that we really give people their money's worth if it's a crisis situation where somebody says, 'I can't go on,' and we're able to help that person realize that life isn't so bad, that he can go on."

Richmond says the service receives calls on such subjects as dealing with homosexuality, making friends, choosing a method of birth control, forming close relationships and recovering from relationships that have failed.

"We don't have the answers," he adds, "but we can listen and help people find their own answers."

John Reinhold, a clinical social worker with Student Health Services, said that SECS is a valuable program because it fulfills psychological needs at the peer level.

"Initially, students may be unwilling to go to a higher level with their problems," Reinhold says, "but they will talk to peers."

When dealing with a problem beyond their level of competence, the counselors will refer students to the appropriate expert, Reinhold said.

SECS counselors give people statistical information that may make them feel at ease with themselves, make referrals and listen, Richmond said.

"We may have a fellow calling in because he's had some homosexual contact and feels uncomfortable with that and wants to know if he's gay," he says. "We can pull out a statistic and say according to Kinsey, so many percent of all adult males have at least one homosexual contact, and that doesn't mean you're gay. So that person may feel relieved because of that."

"Or if someone calls in and is pregnant and wants to talk to someone about keeping the child and putting it up for adoption later on, we can refer her to different groups who can help her with that."

Richmond says that the most important thing the counselors do is listen. "In listening, we can sometimes pick up inconsistencies in what people are saying and what they're actually feeling."

Richmond credited much of the program's success to the counselors. "I think a lot of it has to do with the counselors' being able to say, 'That doesn't shock me. I can accept that, and I'm not going to criticize you for it.'"

Richmond attributes this open-mindedness to the diversity of counselors and to their training. Counselors are black, white, Oriental, graduate students, undergraduates, heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual. The staff has students majoring in psychology, chemistry, engineering and advertising.

Training sessions have been held by social workers, student health representatives, student legal services representatives and the American Institute of

Sexology.

"We are just nearing the ending of our training program," Richmond said. "And people are now wanting to get into the meat of it, start getting outreaches, start doing special programs."

SECS holds outreach programs for groups who want specific information about subjects such as contraceptives, sexually transmitted diseases and social values regarding sexuality.

This semester, SECS counselors plan to conduct a survey on campus to find out what kind of information students want them to provide, Richmond says. There are also planning a sexuality awareness day in The Pit on Valentine's Day and a week of speakers and forums on sexuality.

Most of the people who call SECS prefer to talk over the phone rather than coming in, Richmond said. Only about one person in 15 comes into the office to talk.

Handling calls and office visits is only part of the counselors' job.

"A lot of the counseling we do is outside of the office," Richmond says. "If we're meeting with a group of people and someone says, 'Boy, I really had a hard time last night, and I don't think my roommate and I are getting along,' that offers us an opportunity to say, 'Oh, can you tell me a little more about that — why you're not getting along?'"

"So that person tells us a little more about that, we ask some more questions, bring out some feelings. And we'll sit down and talk and be able to work through that problem with that person, and they don't realize that they're having an official counseling session. And that's how we'd like to keep it."

From page 1

library

on the first level of the new stacks, which will be moved early to Davis, just before Wilson closes, Alford said. Periodicals in the A classification receive sufficient heavy use to justify keeping them in the open library almost throughout the move, he said.

Charts posted in the lobby and at the circulation desk of Wilson will show which classifications of books are moved each day. Books moved to Davis in January will be available through a paging system, Alford said. Students who need books that have already been moved have to ask at the Wilson circulation desk to have the book recovered from Davis, he said, adding that it would take no more than 24 hours to page a book.

Both elevators in the new stacks will be reserved for the move and will be unavailable to students and

faculty, Alford said. The stairs and elevators in the old stacks will remain open, however. Because the old elevators do not go down to the first level, handicapped students will be allowed to page books from the first level, Alford said.

In mid- or late March, after the general collection has been moved, the special collections will be moved into the new stacks and the rest of the building will be closed for renovations, Alford said.

For information about which classifications of books have been moved each day call 962-1355.

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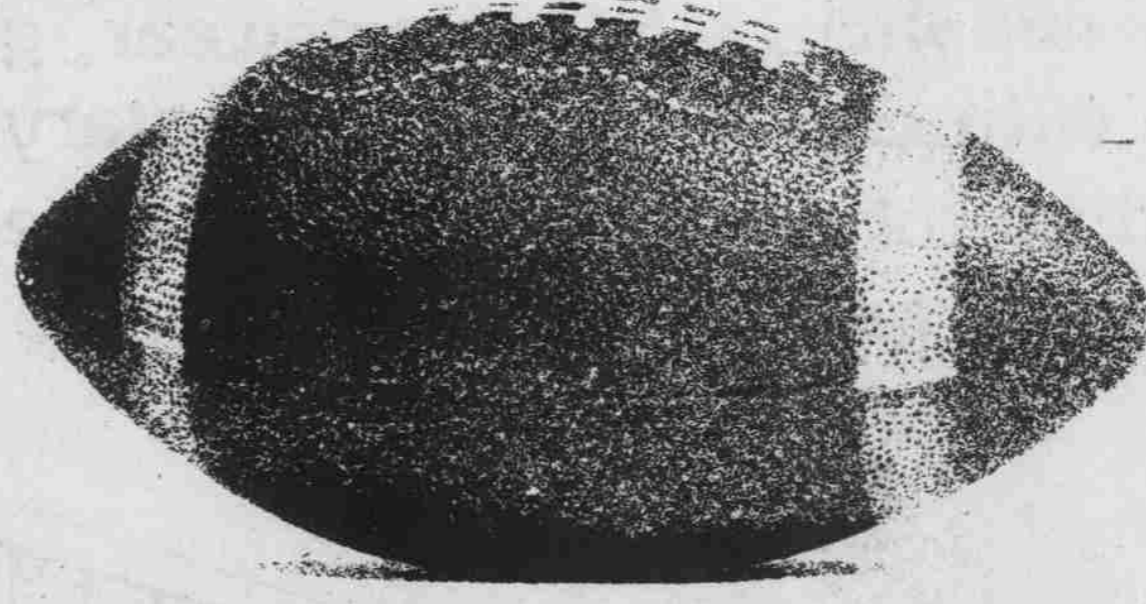
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