

STATE AND NATIONAL

USA Today editor to lecture on diversity

By Rebecah Moore
Assistant State and National Editor

Karen Jurgensen, USA Today's editorial page editor, will address the need for diversity in mass communications during the Reed Sarratt Distinguished Lecture Monday night.

The Sarratt lecture series was begun to commemorate the death of Reed Sarratt, a UNC graduate and noted Southern journalist. Jurgensen, a 1971 UNC alumnus, will speak at 7:15 p.m. Monday in 104 Howell Hall.

John Sweeney, an associate professor of journalism and head of the committee that chooses possible lecturers, said that Jurgensen was chosen because of her contributions to the field and that she had decided to speak about the need

for diversity.

Chuck Stone, a UNC Walter Spearman professor of journalism, said Jurgensen was qualified to speak on diversity because of her work at USA Today, the nation's second-largest daily newspaper in terms of circulation.

USA Today's editors, under the guidance of founder Al Neuharth, have gone to great lengths to ensure a diverse newsroom.

"In the past, neither women nor minorities were represented in journalism," Stone said. "There is a great disparity between those in journalism schools and those in management positions."

Stone said USA Today's hiring practices and its policy of covering a large number of minority and women's is-

sues set the standard among national newspapers.

"USA Today stands alone as being the almost-perfect model in diversity and multiculturalism," he said.

Philip Meyer, UNC William Rand Kenan professor of journalism and a consultant for USA Today, said Jurgensen's ability to recognize the need for a diverse editorial board helped improve the overall appeal of USA Today.

"She understands it isn't feasible to have an editorial board run by white males over 50," he said.

Jurgensen first worked at The Charlotte News, where she was an editorial writer and columnist and also served as editorial page layout editor.

After moving to The Miami News in 1979, Jurgensen worked as assistant

lifestyle editor.

In 1982, she switched jobs once again, this time moving to USA Today, where she worked as topics editor in the life department. Jurgensen was promoted to editorial page editor in May of 1991.



World Briefs

Rebel leader threatens to attack Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan — Muslim rebels seized more territory Sunday and tried to put aside rivalries to avoid a bloody scramble for power. But one rebel leader renewed his threats to attack the besieged capital.

A non-communist official took charge of ousted President Najibullah's crumbling regime, but the government's power was virtually gone.

Leaders from 10 rebel groups met in Peshawar, Pakistan, and agreed to form an interim council to negotiate with the remnants of the Kabul government. A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman, Javed Hussein, said there was a "broad consensus" on an orderly transfer of power to end the 14-year-old civil war.

However, the most fundamentalist rebel faction, Hezb-i-Islami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, rejected the interim council plan.

"We don't see any prospect for a (peaceful) solution," said Hekmatyar's spokesman in Pakistan, Nawab Salim. "It is not a joke. Either the government in Kabul surrenders, or we will attack."

Hekmatyar's faction was once one of the biggest recipients of U.S. military aid despite his strong anti-American stance. He opposed any backing from Iran.

No violence was reported Sunday in or around Kabul, which was shrouded by mist and heavy rain.

Masood has announced plans to form

an Islamic government comprising all rebels — including Hekmatyar's group — as well as militia commanders and a high-ranking general from Najibullah's old government.

Masood held talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil outside Kabul on Friday and Saturday.

Grounded tanker spills oil on African coast

MAPUTO, Mozambique — Leaking oil from a grounded tanker has fouled beaches in Mozambique, and the vessel was in danger of breaking apart, a report said Sunday.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Service said the Maltese-registered Katina P had lost all the oil from at least one tank, but the London-based group did not give an estimate on the amount of oil spilled.

Mozambican authorities and South African salvage experts said that none of the oil had spilled and that ships were being sent to the area to try to transfer the oil.

The vessel was carrying 19.4 million gallons of oil when it ran aground on a sandbar in heavy seas late Thursday about 30 miles north of Maputo, officials said. No injuries were reported.

The tanker was carrying almost double the amount of oil spilled in 1989 from the tanker Exxon Valdez, which lost 10.92 million gallons of crude in Prince William Sound in Alaska.

—The Associated Press

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