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UNC students devote summers to helping migrant farmworkers

By Maria DiGiano

While some college students spend their summers helping Third World communities halfway around the globe, many overlook the opportunities to help communities within the state.

Students Organized for Farmworker Awareness is an outreach organization for the growing population of migrant workers in North Carolina. UNC students became involved in the program, which originated at Duke University, last year, and SOFA members hope to recruit volunteers from N.C. Central University this year.

"We are working to empower a population that really needs empowerment, said SOFA coordinator Kim Lawson, a junior public health major.

More than 44,000 migrant workers come to North Carolina every summer, Lawson said.

"The program involves students doing community work with migrant workers and working with farmworker advocacy groups in improving the health and education of the workers.

SOFA works toward this goal by placing students in 10-week summer internships with county and state agen-cies that aid migrant workers, including farmworker legal services, East Coast Migrant Head Start and county healthcare agencies.

"The agencies are underfunded and understaffed, and they always need work done by volunteers," Lawson said. Last summer, eight students from

UNC and four from Duke did internships in three N.C. migrant communities: Raleigh; Prospect Hill, located just north of Chapel Hill; and Newton Grove, the largest of the three communities located in the eastern part of the state.

"It is almost like being in a Third World country only an hour away from some very good universities," Lawson said. "I had no idea there was such a population (so close to) Chapel Hill."

This summer, SOFA members hope to send 15 to 20 interns from UNC,

Duke and NCCU to these communities. Through SOFA, students can serve the migrant community in many ways, from tutoring to performing tuberculo-

"(The community) has so many problems that students have a diverse range of opportunities in how to serve them," Lawson said.

Because the majority of the migrant workers are Hispanic, English tutoring for the migrant workers and their families is very important, she said. "Most farmworkers want to learn English, and they definitely want their kids to learn English."

Although most of the student interns are bilingual, it is not a prerequisite to join SOFA

'It is important not to discriminate against non-Spanish speakers," Lawson

Bilingual students can serve as translators in health-care clinics and in legal

Student interns also provide outreach services to migrant camps by administering health screening, providing educational programs on health care and tutoring English.

SOFA interns also help the migrant workers with transportation and other everyday problems. "We help out with simple stuff, like getting your driver's license," Lawson said.

The cost of each internship ranges from about \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the cost of living and "how you feel about peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches," she said.

Although students did their own fundraising last year, Lawson hopes the Center for Documentation at Duke will help students raise more money this year, she said.

Students are required to take a onehour course to prepare for the internships. Each week, guest lecturers, such as farmworkers, representatives from agencies and government staff, speak on migrant issues.

Students also must read current articles on migrant issues compiled in a coursepack and keep a weekly journal.

This summer, a Duke professor will conduct a class during the internship at Newton Grove, where the majority of the interns will be based.

Together, the class and the internship provide an excellent learning experience for students, Lawson said. "I learned a lot more last summer than from any class or any textbook.

Students interested in joining SOFA should attend a meeting at 8:30 p.m. today in 206 Union.

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -NASA decided Tuesday against easing its Challenger-inspired cold-weather launch rules, a move that could delay the liftoff of space shuttle Discovery on its secretive military mission.

Discovery was scheduled to blast off at 6:59 a.m. today with five astronauts and a Defense Department satellite believed to be a reconnaissance spacecraft. But unusually low temperatures were forecast for Wednesday, which could cause a delay.

Cold weather contributed to the deadly 1986 explosion of the Challenger, which was caused by a leak in a joint on the right solid fuel rocket booster. It was 36 degrees during Challenger's liftoff, 15 degrees lower than for any previous

Today's temperature was expected to be 47 degrees before launch with winds of 4 mph gusting to 7 mph.

Meteorologists put the odds of acceptable weather at 60 percent. Their only worry was that conditions might violate NASA's rule prohibiting launch if the temperature dipped below 47 degrees with winds below 5 mph for more than 30 minutes once fueling began.

Mission managers had considered easing the rule so Discovery would have

a better chance of lifting off as scheduled. Although data collected by a special engineering team suggested the guidelines were "extremely conservative," managers decided against changing the criteria so close to launch time.

'We're certainly not going to do anything that we don't feel is advisable," shuttle program manager Leonard Nicholson said.

Nicholson said the engineering team had been reviewing launch weather criteria for the past year to see whether the guidelines were too stringent, and they recently submitted proposed changes. As for this week's deliberation regarding Discovery's flight, he insisted, "It's not an 11th-hour activity."

Indian

riculum. The Carolina Indian Circle currently shares a room with three other campus groups.

be just as beneficial as courses," he said. 'If we take those steps, the situation for Native Americans would be much bet-

A final decision on temperature limits for future shuttle launches is expected before Endeavour's flight in mid-January, NASA said.

NASA has safely launched shuttles 26 times since the Challenger accident, which killed all seven astronauts aboard. Discovery's mission will be the 52nd shuttle flight and the eighth, and final, shuttle flight of the year. It is also planned to be the last shuttle mission dedicated to Defense Department work.

The crew of five military men are to deploy the satellite six hours after liftoff while orbiting 230 miles above Earth. A news blackout will be imposed from the time Discovery reaches orbit until the satellite is released from the cargo bay

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"A space anywhere would probably

McCormick said that he could not do anything about getting space for the group but that he would look into raising consciousness about the lack of Native American focused courses offered at UNC

At Rutgers University, where he served as dean of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, McCormick implemented a program to increase the number of minority faculty members. The efforts did not result in any Native-American hirings, however.

McCormick said he focused primarily on recruiting African-American faculty members at Rutgers.

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Kleinbaum

and not something else," he said. But Garland Hershey, vice chancellor for health affairs and Kleinbaum's

plagued all faculty salaries. "I think almost all of our professors are underpaid for what they do," he said, "We have a hard-working, highly respected group of faculty."

Hershey said UNC administrators gave equal consideration to teaching, research and public service when evaluating faculty

Barry Margolin, biostatistics department chairman, said creative teaching was rewarded the same as creative re-

"Not all teaching is innovative and clear," Margolin said. "It's more difficult to assess the creativity and innovativeness of good teaching. I think there's no policy of discrimination that I would be aware of."

Kleinbaum said faculty members also must examine the relative value of teaching and research after tenure was

"Just because you got tenure, promorable salary," he said.

"It's not simply the issue of tenure, but can the University keep people here with its attitude or will it lose people?" Kleinbaum won the Edward

McGavran Award, a faculty teaching award in the School of Public Health, in "In my case, I have produced in terms

of written stuff, but am widely known as a teacher," he said. "I can make complicated statistical things understandable to people without strong mathematical backgrounds. Kleinbaum said newly hired faculty

members in his department often began at the University with salaries comparable to his. "New people come in and get a salary

similar to mine," he said. "I never got a high raise, because I never brought in

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big bucks (through research grants)."

Kleinbaum said one assistant professor he knew was making \$12,000 a year Emory and the Center for Disease Control have said they would pay

Kleinbaum \$95,000 a year, a signifi-cant increase over the \$60,000 a year he currently earns at UNC. "We just couldn't compete on the salary level," Margolin said,

For a 22-year veteran of the faculty. \$60,000 is an unusually low salary. Kleinbaum said.

Although teaching is vital to UNC's reputation, Kleinbaum said he doubted that good teaching received the same compensation as good research.

People come here because of my teaching," Kleinbaum said. "I'm leaving because the University was not rewarding me for that.

"Because of the reward system, this University will lose a lot of good fac-

Kleinbaum emphasized that he would have stayed in Chapel Hill if his salary had even approached what he assessed as his worth.

"If my salary figure was anywhere close to what it is at Emory, I'd consider staying," Kleinbaum said.

The University currently does not even have the means to take special measures to try and keep departing faculty members, Kleinbaum said.

If the University had some sort of fund they could dip into to keep faculty they want to keep, they could have done something," he said. His teaching record was not enough

to make the University consider trying to keep him, Kleinbaum said.

"If I was bringing in big-time grant money, there would be more of an effort. to keep me," he said. "That makes some sense, but if they only consider grantgetters, they may lose good teachers, who can be employed elsewhere."

Kleinbaum has co-written two textbooks related to applied biostatistics. He said most of his work focused on developing new courses and teaching material.

"My feeling is if the University in some sense really cared about outstanding teaching, they would go out of their' way to keep someone of my credentials," he said.

Hershey said the University would' miss Kleinbaum, "There's no question; his departure is a loss."