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Graduates’ spirits are not dampened by rainy weather

Commencement weekend proved just how unpredictable — and changeable — North Carolina’s weather can be this time of year.

Before the May 10 hooding ceremony began in Memorial Hall, doctoral candidates waited outside under sunny skies and warm breezes. However, Mother Nature was not as benevolent during the next day’s celebration in Kenan Stadium.

Despite the steady rain that began shortly before the 9:30 a.m. start of the May 11 Commencement, nearly 15,000 people braved the wet conditions in the stadium. Of the 5,509 graduates awarded degrees, 5,492 received bachelor’s degrees, 1,214 received master’s degrees, 204 received doctoral degrees and 599 received professional degrees and certificates.

Shortly before the student processional into the stadium, Chancellor James Moeser conferred honorary degrees in the Kenan Stadium Football Center to Peter Agre, 2003 co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in chemistry; Philip Green III, professor of genome sciences at the University of Washington; Heather Munroe-Blum, principal and vice chancellor of McGill University; soprano Jessye Norman, one of America’s best-known performing artists; and Tony Rand, a prominent attorney, alumnus and state senator.

Moeser conferred the undergraduates’ degrees. They were led in the traditional turning of their mortarboard tassels by Senior Class President Ashley Shores.

Shores paid tribute to the late Eve Carson. Carson, a Morehead-Cain Scholar, North Carolina Fellow and student body president this past year, was awarded a bachelor of arts degree with highest distinction. She majored in biology and political science.

Shores told the graduates: “Go. Be that generation of change agents that Eve saw, that generation that Eve got giddily flustered over when trying to explain her passion for UNC students. Go. Be excited about the endless possibilities that your diploma grants you. Go. Use that power for good, for hope, for change. Your journey has not ended; it has only just begun. Set forth today and go.”

Moeser condensed the ceremony to about 35 minutes instead of its customary two hours so that people could get out of the rain.

Norman, the featured Commencement speaker, did not deliver her remarks as planned, although she spoke during the music department celebration later in the day. The text of her speech is posted at tinyurl.com/4h6oot. See Commencement, page 5

Carolina physician receives Board of Governors’ highest faculty honor

For nearly three decades, the work of acclaimed physician and researcher Myron S. Cohen has helped shed light on the transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Cohen, associate vice chancellor for global health and director of the Institute of Global Health and Infectious Diseases in the School of Medicine, recently was honored for his international leadership in advancing HIV research, treatment and prevention in countries around the globe. He received the O. Max Gardner Award from the Board of Governors at its May 9 meeting.

The awards, given annually since 1949, were established by the will of Gov. Oliver Max Gardner to recognize faculty who have “made the greatest contributions to the welfare of the human race.” It is the only award for which all faculty members of the 17 UNC system campuses are eligible. Recipients are nominated by their chancellors and selected by the Board of Governors. The 2008 award carries a $20,000 cash prize.

A University faculty member since 1980, Cohen is the J. Herbert Bate Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Public Health and has served as director of the medical school’s Division of Infectious Diseases since 1989.

Cohen joined the faculty the same year that AIDS was first identified. He was one of the first to recognize that any attempt to stem the AIDS epidemic would require an international program targeting improved care, treatment and research in developing countries.

He and his colleagues have built and sustained research and medical training projects in resource-poor countries such as Malawi, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and India. See Cohen, page 5
Five honored for distinguished service by alumni association

The General Alumni Association honored five people during Commencement weekend for outstanding service to the University.

Recipients of the 2008 Distinguished Service Medals were Chancellor James Moeser; Board of Trustees members Roger Perry, chair, and Rusty Carter, secretary; and Dennis and Joan Gillings, who last year committed $50 million to the School of Public Health and who also were honored for their previous service.

The medals were awarded at the association’s annual alumni luncheon on May 10. Since 1978, the association has awarded the medals to UNC alumni and others who have provided outstanding service to the association or the University.

Under the leadership of Moeser, who became the ninth chancellor in 2000, the University launched the Carolina Covenant, which began a national movement to make a debt-free college education possible for qualified low-income students. The first class of Carolina Covenant Scholars graduated this year.

$2.38 billion, and undertaking an ambitious building program that has transformed the physical campus.

Perry is president of East West Partners in Chapel Hill. He received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Carolina in 1971 and served on the University’s Board of Visitors from 1997 through 2001. Perry was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2003 and was elected chair last July. He

Other progress during Moeser’s tenure has included leading the successful Carolina First fundraising campaign, which raised

appointed the search committee for Carolina’s 10th chancellor and served as co-chair and a member. He is a guest lecturer at the

Mass Communication to honor his father. The Graduate School recently presented Carter with the Dean’s Award for Significant Contributions to Graduate Education.

In 2006, Dennis and Joan Gillings of Durham endowed the Dennis Gillings Professorship in Biostatistics at the School of Public Health, where he was a biostatistics professor before founding Quintiles Transnational, one of the world’s leading pharmaceutical services companies.

Last year the couple committed $10 million to help the school address pressing public health challenges facing North Carolina and the world. In recognition of their pledge, the School of Public Health will be renamed the Dennis and Joan Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Joan Gillings chairs the UNC-Wilmington Board of Visitors. Dennis Gillings is on the School of Public Health Dean’s Advisory Council, the Graduate School’s Graduate Education Advancement Board and the UNC Health Care Board of Directors.

FOR THE RECORD: The May 12 special edition of the Gazette incorrectly identified a member of the jazz band Equinox. The band member is Terri Houston, director of recruitment and multicultural programs, not Terry Rhodes. 

(Left) Steven Zeisel, center, director of the School of Public Health’s Nutrition Research Institute, talks to 2008 Tar Heel Bus Tour participants in the four-story atrium of the David H. Murdock Core Laboratory building on the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis on May 13, the second day of the tour. The campus is a 350-acre hub of biotechnology, nutrition and health research. The bus tour is a five-day trip across North Carolina that gives new faculty members and senior administrators a head start on learning about the state they serve and the issues affecting its citizens. (Right) Charlotte Boettiger, assistant professor in the psychology department, sits in the driver’s seat of a NASCAR simulator during a bus tour stop at Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman on May 16. Participants learned about the camp, established by Kyle and Pattie Petty to help children with medical and physical disabilities experience the joy of summer camp and NASCAR. All campers attend Victory Junction for free.
Four nominated for forum leadership positions

The effectiveness of the forum, he said, will depend on how well the members work as a “leadership team.”

“No one person can lead this group and get this kind of work done, but if we work together we can make a lot of changes,” Griffin said. During his previous term as chair, Griffin served as co-chair with Chancellor James Moeser on the Chancellor’s Task Force for a Better Workplace. The task force spawned such initiatives as the creation of an Ombuds Office.

**Other action**

In other action, the forum completed the first reading of a resolution introduced by outgoing vice chair David Brannigan that calls on the chancellor to convene an Emergency Gas Price Crisis Task Force to formulate “urgent and meaningful strategies” to help University employees, especially lower-paid employees who commute long distances to work, combat spiraling gasoline prices.

The resolution was referred to the forum’s Executive Committee for review and possible revisions.

Cookie Newsom, director of diversity education and assessment, center, is flanked by Black Faculty Staff Caucus (BFSC) award winners Kevin Fletcher, left, and Harold Woodard, right, at the group’s May 5 banquet. Don Luse, not pictured, also won the award.

Fletcher, programs/facilities coordinator in the Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, was commended for his conscientiousness and passion for serving those who are underrepresented. “The success of our programs would not be if not for the quiet diligence of this young man,” a nominator said. “He is highly respected among faculty, staff and students due to his wide network throughout the Carolina community.

Woodard, associate dean of student academic counseling and member of the BFSC steering committee, was honored for his unparalleled commitment and efficacy in working with students. “He is a tireless champion of students who face exceptional challenges of any kind. He loves Carolina and is a wonderful role model for both his colleagues and the students he mentors,” a nominator said. “Harold epitomizes the values of the BFSC.”

Luse, Carolina Union director, was honored for his long-standing leadership and support of minorities on campus. “He continually looks for ways to provide a forum for black faculty and staff to share concerns, issues and ideas,” a nominator said. “He has partnered with the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs to improve the social, intellectual and academic environment for black faculty, staff and students by co-sponsoring many of their minority recruitment programs.”

**EMPLOYEE FORUM**

Kevin Denzler, who currently serves as forum chair, will remain on the forum in an advisory capacity. The election of officers will be held June 4 during the forum’s annual retreat, planned for the fifth floor of the North Box in Kenan Stadium.

Perhaps the most familiar face among the slate of candidates was Tommy Griffin, the nominee for chair, who held that same office for almost 40 years, has also been involved with the forum in some fashion since its inception, he said.

Griffin said he would like the forum to “get off on the right foot” with the next chancellor. One way to do that, he said, is for the chancellor to attend the forums on a monthly basis.

Griffin also exhorted new members of the forum to find an area of interest and serve on a committee related to it. “You need to show up at every meeting,” he said. “You need to ask questions. You need to have input.”

The nominee for vice chair was Brenda Dietz, who currently serves as forum secretary and also edits the forum’s online newsletter, In Touch.

A University employee since 2001, Denzler is a public communication specialist for Division TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children).

Mike Hawkins, who now leads the forum’s Legislative Action Committee, was nominated to replace Denzler as secretary. Hawkins, network specialist for Information Technology Services, has been employed with the University since 2001.

Finally, Marshall Dietz was the nominee to be the forum’s treasurer. Dietz, who works in Energy Services, now serves on the forum’s Compensation and Wages Committee.

**Working as a leadership team**

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Chancellor James Moeser, as part of his charge to the Licensing Labor Code Advisory Committee (LLCAC) for the 2008-09 academic year, wants the committee to put both the Fair Labor Association (FLA) and the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) on notice that the University is dissatisfied with the rate and degree of progress with regard to compliance with the UNC labor code.

Moeser presented his charge to the committee in a May 6 letter to current co-chairs Don Horstein, a law professor, and Derek Lochtbaum, director of trademark licensing.

Moeser’s letter followed up the May 2 LLCAC meeting, which the chancellor said allowed all points of view to be heard in an orderly and respectful discussion.

Holding the FLA and WRC to a higher standard of performance, in part by doing a better job of coordinating the groups’ efforts, were resolutions that the LLCAC endorsed at the May 2 meeting and that Moeser also has now embraced.

“We are disappointed in the apparent inability of these two organizations to work together, and we implore them to do so,” Moeser wrote. “In the ideal world, these two organizations could complement one another — one having entrance to industry as well as academic and fair labor groups, the other consisting of students, universities and representatives of organized labor.”

Moeser said he understood that the issue was too complex, and the University’s influence too limited, to expect to solve the problem overnight. “I think we all realize the complexity of the issue — a global supply chain and the fact that collegiate licensed products are but a small fraction of this global industry.”

As a corollary to this portion of the charge, Moeser asked the committee to consider resigning from one or both organizations if they cannot find a way to work together or provide effective results.

Moeser said he was similarly disappointed that the University was no closer to having a system in place for evaluating and summarizing the state of compliance.

“I do not take a low level of complaints to mean that we have achieved widespread compliance,” Moeser wrote.

“Likewise, neither do complaints, even when documented about problems at a few specific factories, themselves indicate that we have widespread, general non-compliance. While I cannot expect the LLCAC, acting alone for UNC, to invent a system for evaluating, I think it would be reasonable for the LLCAC to advocate for something beyond the status quo.”

Moeser also said he had serious reservations about the proposed Designated Suppliers Program (DSP), at least in its present configuration, and suggested that the committee continue to analyze DSP and all policy options that might be available to the University.
Grant to give clearer picture of copyright law for images

A grant of $149,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the University will help investigators clarify when it is permissible to reproduce certain 20th-century photographs, images and other artistic works when their copyright status is uncertain. The research will enable scholars, libraries, museums and others to make effective decisions about using such items in publications and including them in digital collections for research and education.

The copyright status of artistic works is often difficult to determine, said Deborah Gerhardt, director of the Intellectual Property Initiative, adjunct professor of law and principal investigator for the grant. A proper analysis includes research into the copyright status of both the original work, such as a drawing or sculpture, and the photograph or other reproduction of it. Moreover, images, especially those in libraries or museums, frequently lack identifying information such as the name or address of a publisher who might hold rights.

Gerhardt calls navigating the images permissions process one of the greatest challenges in scholarly communications. Penalties for copyright infringement range up to $150,000 per instance. Many educational and cultural institutions may unnecessarily restrict the reproduction of photos and other items in their care, Gerhardt said. “They don’t always have the resources to investigate copyright on a case-by-case basis, and they’re worried about the consequences of a wrong decision,” she said.

Sarah C. Michalak, University librarian and associate provost for libraries, is enthusiastic about the grant’s potential, especially regarding libraries’ ability to scan and place items from their own collections online for teaching and research purposes. “Scholarship requires robust communications, but copyright questions have posed really difficult barriers,” Michalak said. “Clarifying these issues will be tremendously helpful to libraries, museums, authors and publishers.”

The grant will run through Oct. 31, 2009. In the first phase, Gerhardt and two law students will comb federal judicial decisions to see how the courts have interpreted copyright law. Gerhardt estimates that she and her students will uncover 300 to 500 cases that may be useful to researchers. Gerhardt will analyze for discernable patterns or categories of works that judges have consistently found to be protected by copyright or in the public domain and available for republication. She will also interview librarians and museum curators to identify the practical circumstances in which copyright questions tend to arise. She will summarize her conclusions in a law review article and will distill these findings to provide practical advice to librarians, educators and other non-legal audiences. The University Library will make Gerhardt’s data set permanently available via the Web for search and consultation by the public.

Editor’s note: Judy Panitch from the University Library contributed this article.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

Tiffany Allen, personnel librarian for the University Library and manager of the Library Personnel Office in Davis Library, left, received the Manager of the Year Award May 15 at the Carolina Club. At right is Kim Duval, University Managers Association president.

Allen, a Carolina employee since 1995, was nominated for her professionalism and management skills, her grasp of human resources (HR) policy and procedures, and her successful recruitment of library staff.

“She understands not just the rules and regulations that govern recruitment of both EPA and SPA candidates, but the spirit in which those regulations should be followed,” one nominator said. Another commented Allen for her “devotion to fairness, ethics and the desire to achieve the best for the University and the state.”

Several nominators commented on Allen’s management style.

“The personnel office must deal with all the HR issues of a large department, including many that are time-sensitive or delicate…” It is a tribute, I think, to Ms. Allen’s leadership, that her staff rises to all challenges with a service-oriented ethos, high morale and a track record of success,” one person wrote.

Meet ‘Magic Tree House’ author

Fans of the “Magic Tree House” children’s book series can meet author, Mary Pope Osborne, on June 7 during a Morehead Planetarium and Science Center fundraising event.

Osborne will join the audience for two special “Magic Tree House: Space Mission” premium shows in the planetarium. She will speak briefly before each show (9 a.m. and 11 a.m.), and she will sign books after each show for the children in the audience.

Tickets are $20 and may be reserved until May 28, online only. See www.moreheadplanetarium.org.

UNC earns financial reporting certificate for 13th consecutive year

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of many University offices, UNC has received its 13th consecutive Certificate for Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada recently awarded the certificate to the University for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2007. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The certificate can be viewed online: finance.unc.edu/finance-division/reports-data/reports-data.html.

UNC technology transfer subject of Innovation Awards deadline is June 12

Applications for the first round of the 2008 Innovations Awards must be received by 5 p.m. June 12. Refer to the Web site for guidelines (cancer.med.unc.edu/ucrf/grant).

June 9 seminar focuses on protein inhibitors in disease treatment

An international team of experts, including Michael Fried and Joseph Eron, both professors of medicine, will discuss the use of cyclophilin inhibitors in the treatment of human diseases in a June 9 meeting sponsored by SCYNEXIS Inc. Cyclophilins have been implicated in several diseases such as hepatitis C, HIV, muscular dystrophy and Huntington’s disease.

The free public program will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hilton Raleigh-Durham Airport at 4810 Old Page Road in Durham. Directions are online (www.hilton.com).

Video conference focuses on men’s health disparities

The School of Social Work’s auditorium is the site of the 14th annual Summer Public Health Research Video Conference on Minority Health. The program begins June 3 at 2 p.m. and will be broadcast by satellite and on the Internet.

For more information and to register, refer to www.minority.unc.edu/institute/2008.

2009–10 academic calendar online

The approved calendar for the 2009–10 academic year is posted on the registrar’s Web site (regweb.unc.edu). Paper copies are no longer distributed.
South Africa and Russia, as well as the United States.

Cohen’s team of researchers at Carolina developed sensitive assays to measure the concentration of the HIV virus in bodily fluids and was among the first to demonstrate that the presence of other sexually transmitted diseases can increase the likelihood of HIV transmission.

Their research provided the scientific foundation for the Center for Disease Control’s 2005 strategic plan for HIV prevention and led the National Institutes of Health to tap Carolina to help develop a safe and effective vaccine against HIV/AIDS.

Last fall, the University launched the Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases to expand interdisciplinary research efforts to improve the lives of people around the world. The institute, based in the School of Medicine, builds on the University’s current global health presence in about 50 countries.

The author of more than 400 articles, book chapters or books, Cohen is one of the most widely published infectious disease researchers in the United States. In recognition of his vast contributions to global health, he previously was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Rush Medical College, the Thomas Parran Award for Lifetime Achievement from the American Society of Venereal Diseases and a National Institutes of Health MERIT Award.

He also has served on a number of professional boards, scientific panels and editorial boards and currently is associate editor of the journal Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Cohen earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and his M.D. degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Michigan and a fellowship in infectious diseases at Yale University.
Baldwin to direct 2009 literary festival

Amy Alicia Baldwin has been named director of the 2009 North Carolina Literary Festival.

The free public festival, sponsored on a rotating basis by the libraries at UNC, Duke, N.C. Central and N.C. State universities, will take place on the Carolina campus Sept. 10-14, 2009.

Baldwin will develop the concept of the festival and will have overall responsibility for festival programming.

She was most recently the co-owner and vice president of development and marketing at NonLinear LLC, which developed and coordinated a three-day music and extreme sports festival in San Diego, Calif. She has also served as chief advancement officer and major gifts officer for the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter; in development and special events planning at Arizona State University; and as an events supervisor and volunteer coordinator for the Super Bowl XXX and XXXI host committees.

DEORATIONS & DISTINCTIONS

John Bradfield
Director of the Division of Laboratory Medicine and Chief University Veterinarian, Bradfield has been elected president of the AAALAC International Council (Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care).

The AAALAC is a private, nonprofit group that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs.

Garegin Papoian
Assistant professor of chemistry, Papoian has been named a 2008 Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar, given to outstanding young faculty in the chemical sciences.

The $75,000 award is given by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation of New York City, which was created in 1946 to promote the chemical sciences.

Danielle L. McGuire
A postdoctoral fellow in Southern studies, McGuire has received a 2008 Lerner-Scott Prize from the Organization of American Historians. The prize honors her dissertation, which is a revision of her fellowship at the Center for the Study of the American South.

The Lerner-Scott Dissertation Prize recognizes the year’s best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women’s history.

Donna Woody
Knect Widmayer
Woody, who works with Campus Health Services, and Widmayer, who works with Housing and Residential Education, were recognized with Division of Student Affairs Excellence Awards for SPA Employees this month. The awards recognize staff who have provided extraordinary service to students, the division and the University.

Online tutoring available from the comfort of home

It's dark and raining. A student needs help with a calculus problem, but doesn't want to leave the residence hall to go to the Math Help Center, which is about to close anyway. Help is just a few keyboard clicks away.

With support from ITS (Information Technology Services) Teaching and Learning this past academic year, two departments—physics and astronomy and mathematics—piloted a program offering students online tutoring from the comfort of their own rooms. Several instructors involved in the pilot also offered their office hours online.

As part of a collaborative software, students could join a tutoring session online. The tutor could evaluate each student’s need through text-based chat or a phone conference, then, using a syllabus and Tablett PC, could illustrate problems on a shared whiteboard that the students could access on their computers.

In the past, online tutoring for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines has been difficult because of the non-text elements involved.

Illustrating math notation didn’t translate well, especially in a real-time situation. Tutors were constrained by the keyboard,” said April Hofmeister, director of the Math Help Center.

“Tablet PC technology allows instructors to interact with students in much the same way as they would on a classroom whiteboard.”

Pre-calculus student Odalys Deochand used the online tutoring for homework and exam preparation. “It was an attractive option for me because it was at night when I was usually doing my math studies and I could access it from my own dorm room, which was very convenient.”

A recent survey administered by the department to 400 students enrolled in introductory physics and mathematics courses suggests that traditional support models may not fit the work habits of most students. For example, while the Physics Tutorial Center is typically open until 6 p.m. and the Math Help Center until 8 p.m., one in three students surveyed said they did most of their homework after 9 p.m., and 62 percent said they did most of their homework at their residences.

“Online tutoring updates traditional services and brings them more in line with student schedules and study habits,” said Duane Dear-dorf, director of Undergraduate Laboratories for Physics. “We are not replacing face-to-face tutoring, but in the second, and provide a cost-effective solution to meet a more diverse set of student needs.”

The hours for online tutoring services vary according to the department, the tutors’ schedules and exam dates. An updated schedule will be posted on the help centers’ Web sites this fall.

Whitmore, Burch receive awards for mentoring

Thomas Whitmore and Christina Burch received the Graduate School’s Faculty Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring during the May 10 doctoral hooding ceremony in Memorial Hall.

Whitmore is an associate professor in the geography department whose research interests focus on Latin America, particularly the broad intersection of the fields of population, medical and agricultural geography, and geographic cultural ecology. He joined the faculty in 1991.

Burch, an assistant professor in the biology department, studies many areas of evolutionary biology, including experiments using microorganisms to address widely ranging topics from kin selection to the evolution of habitat (or host) specialization.

The Administrative Board of the Graduate School established the doctoral mentoring award in 2006 to recognize the time, talent and knowledge that faculty mentors give to graduate students as they shepherd them through what is often the most challenging time of their academic careers.

Regular members of the graduate faculty are eligible to receive the award provided they have successfully guided at least one student through the completion of doctoral training. The award includes a plaque and a cash prize.

During her six years at UNC, Burch has had three doctoral students graduate and has had one postdoctoral student move on to a tenured research appointment. Among them was Jennifer L. Knies who, seven months after graduating, counts herself fortunate to have been one of Burch’s students.

“Christine encourages her Ph.D. students and postdocs to investigate several different research projects to find one that is feasible and a good fit for the student,” Knies said. She plans to make her thesis project a focal point of her future research.

Martin Ferris, who also worked with Burch as a mentor, said she deserved the award not only because of the quantifiable measures of future success her students enjoy, but because of the way Burch nurtures the welfare of her graduate students.

“Christina has worked tirelessly to ensure that her students were mentally and emotionally and financially supported throughout the entire process of graduate school,” Ferris said. “She has always encouraged her students’ pursuits of whatever career paths they choose, even if it is outside of the traditional academic research path. Most of all, she has been a mentor, friend and advocate to all her students, and that support means so much during the graduate process.”

Amanda Chunco, a fourth-year doctoral student, said Burch has been a positive role model for young women in the field and has actively recruited and retained women graduate students and new faculty members.

“She is undoubtedly an excellent scientist, but she stands out as someone who has found a balance between the work and personal life that so many women in academia deal with,” Chunco said.

Graduate students in the geography department hold Whitmore in such high regard, former student Timothy Baird said, because he gets excited about students’ accomplishments. Many of Whitmore’s students have landed top graduate fellowships and some of the most competitive jobs in geography.

“Perhaps the greatest praise that can be spoken of Tom is that he has excelled not just at advising students, but at advising students with considerably different research topics and methodologies,” Baird said.

“He has been able to engage students from every background in our department. Frequently, students approach him over their own advisers to consult on applications, essays, posters and conference talks ... Tom’s door is always open, his mood is always cheerful, and his feedback is the most thorough in the department.”

Doctoral student Clark Gray, who graduated this month, wrote in his nominating letter, "Tom has consistently distinguished himself as accessible, knowledgeable about opportunities in the field and willing to go the extra mile for students. Under Whitmore’s guidance, Gray won two multiyear graduate fellowships, three grants for preliminary field research and two large grants that funded his dissertation fieldwork in Ecuador.

“Research for adjusting opportunities, Tom has met with me to discuss strategy and subsequently to read multiple drafts, often on short notice. He is a keen-eyed and thoughtful editor who has substantially improved the focus and conceptual clarity of my writing.

“He has since applied the same unfailing energy in helping me to study for my comprehensive exams, to prepare conference presentations, to write manuscripts for publication, to design an undergraduate syllabus, to apply for faculty jobs and to write my dissertation. In all of these pursuits I have relied on Tom for quick, thorough and thoughtful advice.”
Understanding blood vessel formation key to cancer drug development

New blood vessels are generally beneficial to our bodies. They help our wounds heal, and they help our babies develop. But new blood vessels can also help turn a small, harmless group of cancerous cells into a malignant tumor. Experiments have shown that if you block blood vessel formation, specifically by inhibiting a protein called VEGF, you can block the growth of tumors. But VEGF is only one of the proteins involved in forming new blood vessels.

Now a team of Carolina researchers at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center has identified 55 more proteins involved in blood vessel formation in breast cancer tumors. They hope that further research will help identify which, if any, of these proteins could become targets for new cancer drugs.

The team, led by Nancy Klauber-DeMore, associate professor of surgery, examined vascular cells from both cancerous and normal breast tissues. When researchers looked at the genetic activity in these tissues, they found 55 genes that created either proteins or RNA at much higher rates than did the genes in the normal cells.

Then the team found that seven of those genes encode proteins that either sit on the surface of the vascular cell or get secreted from it, making them relatively easy targets for drug development.

Next, Klauber-DeMore and the Lineberger team will attempt to figure out which, if any, of these proteins actually trigger blood vessel formation. This work, which is now being conducted through Carolina’s University Cancer Research Fund, can then help in the development of new drugs to block blood vessel formation in tumors. (The University Cancer Research Fund, approved by the North Carolina General Assembly last year, will provide $50 million a year toward the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.)

A report of the study appeared in the American Journal of Pathology. Funding for the study came from the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense, the American Society of Surgical Oncology, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the Sidney Kimmel Foundation.

Provided by Research and Economic Development

Editor: Neil Caudle; Writer: Jason Smith

The graphic, provided by Nancy Klauber-DeMore, shows human breast vascular cells. The “before” pictures show blood vessels within a breast tumor before microdissection; the “after” pictures show the slide after the blood vessel has been removed. The “sample” shows the microdissected blood vessel that will be used to extract RNA.

DAY OF GIVING: CAROLINA BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR JUNE 3

Mark your calendars for the 20th annual Carolina Blood Drive, to be held June 3 from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Dean E. Smith Center. Free parking is available at the Smith Center, and donors will be eligible to win one of two $750 gas cards provided by the American Red Cross.

With more than 1,300 donors and 200 volunteers needed to make the blood drive a success, Carolina staff, faculty and students, and community members are encouraged to donate or volunteer. The theme for this year’s drive is “Heels Helping Heal … Carolina Blood Drive Celebrating 20 Years of Giving.” This year’s theme and logo winners are Elizabeth England from the School of Medicine (logo) and Linda McVey from the School of Government (theme), with additional design work provided by Glenn Haugh of UNC Printing. Pictured at right, Freddie the frog — the mascot of the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention who dresses to fit the season and every possible occasion — makes his donation of goodwill to get everyone at the center revved up for the drive.

To register as a donor or volunteer, go to www.unc.edu/blood or call 96-BLOOD (962-5663) to make an appointment. All members of the campus community and the community at large are invited to take part in this annual event.

STAR HEELS

Weight Watchers at Work

For those who are ready to stop dieting and start living, Work/Life Programs in the Office of Human Resources is offering an open house for the Weight Watchers at Work series, designed to help people learn about healthy eating and living so they can lose weight and keep it off. Participants in the most recent series lost more than 200 pounds during the program.

The open house will be held May 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Administrative Office Building, Room 1500C. There is no cost or obligation to attend the open house, but there is a fee to participate in the full series. To register, contact Aimee Krans, aimee_krans@unc.edu.
Calendar

MAY 22 – JUNE 18

READINGS | FILMS | PERFORMANCES

CAROLINA INN
www.carolinainn.com/events.htm.
Every Friday: Fridays on the Front Porch. 5-7 pm.

MOREHEAD PLANETARIUM
Call 948-8663 for show times or 962-1236, mhpplanet@unc.edu.
www.moreheadplanetarium.org. $ CLASS:
6/18 Starry Summer Nights. 7:30-9 pm.
6/20 Saturn, Moon. Jordan Lake’s Ebenezer Church Recreation Area. 9-11 pm.

SPECIAL EVENT:
6/7 Fundraiser: Meet Mary Pope Osborne, author of “Magic Tree House.” She will speak before two shows (9 am, 11 am) and sign books. See Web site to buy tickets for this event online only.

EXHIBIT:

NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN
HOURLY:
Mon-Fri, 8 am-5 pm; Sat, 9 am-6 pm; Sun, 1-6 pm.
Piedmont Nature Trails: Dawn to dusk daily.
Call 962-8522.
ART AT THE GARDEN:
TOURS/WALKS/HIKES
6/24, 31; 6/7, 14 Saturday morning tours of the plant displays. Meet in front of Tottern Cr. 10 am.

GALLERIES | EXHIBITS

ACKLAND ART MUSEUM
Wed-Sat, 10 am-5 pm; Sun, 1-5 pm. Call 843-1611 (ticket sales), 843-9478 (voice). TTY: ackland@email.unc.edu, www.ackland.org.
SPECIAL EVENT:
6/13 Art after Dark: Opening reception for “In and Around the Garden.” 6-8 pm.
■ Contemporary Drawings from the Ackland Collection.” Through 8/17.
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH
Love House, Hutchins Forum, 410 E. Franklin St. UNCSouth.org. Viewing Thursdays, 2-4:30 pm.

FPG STUDENT UNION GALLERY
■ “Families of Abraham.” Photo exhibit celebrates life and faith traditions of Jewish, Christian and Muslim families in Charlotte.

UNC GLOBAL
global.unc.edu. Contact Laura Griest, lauragr@unc.edu.

IT’S ALL ONLINE
The Gazette calendar is geared only toward items of general interest. ■ For complete listings of Carolina events, see the Carolina Calendar at www.unc.edu/calendar. For complete listings on Carolina athletics, see tarheelsblues.com.

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY
www.hsl.unc.edu.
■ “Great Minds/Great Finds.”

WILSON LIBRARY
Exhibit areas open Mon-Fri, 8 am-6 pm (NC Collection Gallery opens at 9 am.). Weekend hours vary by exhibit; call 962-0114 for details. NC Collection Gallery offers guided tours Wednesdays at 2 pm, other times by appointment. Call 962-1172.

SECOND MAIN FLOOR
■ The History of the North Carolina Collection. Hall.
■ Also, exhibits on Sir Walter Raleigh, UNC history, rare bird prints, Eng and Chang, plus historic rooms. NC Collection Gallery.
■ Recent Acquisitions, NC Collection Reading Room.

THIRD FLOOR

FOURTH FLOOR

LECTURES | SEMINARS | COLLOquia
FRIDAY, MAY 30 – SATURDAY, MAY 31
Adventures in Ideas, the Program in the Humanities and Human Values. "Religious Tolerance from Antiquity to the Middle Ages." www.unc.edu/depts/human/level_3/2008_Summer/summer08_list.htm. $”

MONDAY, JUNE 9

MONDAY, JUNE 9 – TUESDAY, JUNE 10
Office of Technology Development, School of Dentistry. Technology transfer workshop as kick-off for dental school’s “Working with Industry Seminar Series.” research.unc.edu/otd/seminar. E-mail Jennifer Cole to register (jcole@unc.edu).

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

NOTEWORTHY
BELL TOWER TOASTMASTERS
Contact Doug Strong: 843-5077, strongd@med. unc.edu. www.unc.edu/belltower/btmaster.htm.
Every Tuesday Practice formal and informal presentations with feedback. 6th floor confer room, Health Sciences Library. 11:45 am.-1 pm.

SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE
6/13 Heels Helping Heal. 20th Annual Carolina Blood Drive. Check Web site for donor, vol-unteer registration. Smith Cr. 7 am-6 pm.

HAVEN TRAINING (HELP ADVOCATE VIOLENCE ENDING NOW)
E-mail training@unc.edu. 6/17 HAVEN training workshop for faculty and staff. Location TBA. Noon-4 pm.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT AID
Call Michelle Mckens, 962-4176. E-mail michelle_klemens@unc.edu.
6/11 Training sessions for full-time permanent faculty and staff who wish to join the Fed-eral Work-Study program in order to begin making requests for students as early as Aug. 19. No registration required. Auld, Hanes Cr. 2-4 pm.

UNIVERSITY MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
E-mail duval@email.fpg.unc.edu. www.unc.edu.
6/3 Informal lunch. McAlister’s Deli. 11:45 am.
6/7 Third Wednesday Conversations – brown bag lunch. Campus Y. 11:45 am.

FITNESS | RECREATION | WELLNESS
CAMPUS RECREATION
203 Woollen Gym. Call 843-PLAY. pomerant@email.unc.edu, www.campusrec. unc.edu/events.html. Gym/pool privilege card required. For complete listings of campus recreation facilities and links to each program, refer to www.campusrec.unc.edu/Facilities.htm.

WALK FOR WELLNESS
E-mail lmganj@email.unc.edu. www.campusrec.unc.edu/heals.html.
Walks held through the week from various locations on campus. Refer to Web site for routes and more info.

EMPLOYEE RECREATION
Contact Lauren Mangili, lmangili@email.unc.edu. 962-7348. www.campusrec.unc.edu/heals.html. Employee fitness program. For complete listings of services, see Web site.

TRAINING
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
E-mail LearnIT@unc.edu. LearnIT@unc.edu. Refer to Web site for current schedule of work-shops that include information technology topics for faculty, staff, students.